



Great Southern Zone of WALGA

MINUTES

of an Ordinary meeting
(2 voting delegates per council)

held on

Friday 20 August 2021

Venue:
Cranbrook Sporting Club
King Street
Cranbrook

1. OPEN: 10.08am Welcome by Shire of Cranbrook CEO Garry Adams

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Cr Ronnie Fleay	Zone President and Chair of the meeting
Annabel Paulley	Zone Executive Officer
City of Albany	Nil
Broomehill / Tambellup	Cr Michael White
Cranbrook	Cr Phil Horrocks (from 10.52am) and CEO Garry Adams
Denmark	Nil
Gnowangerup	Cr Fiona Gaze (from 10.26am), Cr Keith House and CEO Bob Jarvis
Jerramungup	Cr Andrew Price and CEO Martin Cuthbert
Katanning	Cr Liz Guidera, Cr John Goodheart and CEO Julian Murphy
Kent	Acting CEO Rob Stewart
Kojonup	Cr John Benn and CEO Grant Thompson
Plantagenet	Cr Chris Pavlovich, Cr Ken Clements and CEO Cameron Woods
Woodanilling	Cr Russel Thomson and CEO Stephen Gash

Total of 10 out of a possible 22 voting delegates were in attendance at the start of the meeting.
A quorum was not achieved at the start of the meeting.

Guests

Jo Burges, Senior Advisor Intergovernmental Relations and Risk, WALGA
Ruby Pettit, Policy Officer Planning, WALGA
Katherine Celenza, Regional Road Safety Adviser, RoadWise WALGA
Boyd Brown, Telstra
Rick Wilson, Federal Member for O'Connor (via video link)
Katina Bowie, nbnc (via video Link)
Natalie Contos, Dept of Premier and Cabinet (via video link)
Trish Standish, Manager Corporate and Community, Shire of Cranbrook
Kay O'Neill, Manager finance/Admin, Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup
Cr Kevin Gale, Shire of Kojonup (observer)

Apologies

Cr Dale Douglas, Shire of Woodanilling
Cr Rob Lester, Shire of Jerramungup
Cr Scott Crosby and Cr Kate Johnston, Shire of Kent
Cr Mark Paganoni, Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup
Cr Jon Oldfield, Shire of Plantagenet
CEO Keith Williams, Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup
CEO Andrew Sharpe, Cr Emma Doughty and Cr Matt Benson-Lidholm, City of Albany
Simon Lyas, Andrus Budrikis and John Gates - Regional Development Australia Great Southern
Natasha Monks and Jarrad Gardner, Great Southern Development Commission

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 3.1 Cr Fleay declared an interest in State Council Matters for Decision tem 5.3 - Phase 2 Planning Reform Submission due to her being a member of the WA Planning Commission.
Cr Fleay left the room and did not take part in the discussion or vote on this item.
- 3.2 Cr Pavlovich declared an interest in RAV discussions due to owning a transport business.
Cr Pavlovich remained in the room during discussions on the CA07 issue at item 5.1 below.

REMINDER: All delegates present at a Zone meeting shall vote, as per Zone Standing Order 28.1

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – ZONE AND WALGA STATE COUNCIL

4.1 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY ZONE MEETING – 25 June 2021

MOVED Cr Russel Thomson

SECONDED Cr John Benn

That the minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Great Southern Zone of the WALGA held on Friday 25 June 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

CARRIED 11-0

4.2 MINUTES OF THE WALGA STATE COUNCIL MEETING – 7 July 2021

MOVED Cr Russel Thomson

SECONDED Cr John Benn

That the Minutes of meeting of the State Council of WALGA held on 7 July 2021 be received.

CARRIED 11-0

5. WALGA UPDATES & REVIEW OF WALGA STATE COUNCIL AGENDA – 3 September 2021

5.1 **Status Report from WALGA to the Zone**

The report dated August 2021 was received and the following items were discussed:

Specific Criteria for Roadside Clearing Permits to be considered by DWER CEO

Cr Fleay advised that WALGA's environment policy team has recommended that the road network be mapped to identify hotspots.

Julian Murphy advised that the hockey stick mapping system has been done and every council should be aware of rare and endangered flora.

Stephen Gash advised that two studies completed by the Roadside Conservation Council had mapped roads. This is more widely used because it worked with what total remnant vegetation was for each council area.

ACTION: Zone councils to consult their roadside conservation plans before submitting roadside clearing permits.

CA07 Condition on RAV approvals

Cr Pavlovich advised that Main Roads WA (MRWA) has somewhat come to a stalemate with WALGA's policy position to keep the CA07 condition to allow LGAs to have ultimate control over RAV vehicles using LGA roads. RAV4 and RAV7 fill the majority of applications in the southern regions of West Australia. MRWA want a more consistent access and controls for these types of trucks over municipal boundaries. Cr Pavlovich asked councils to consider what their main issues are? RAV rating is aligned to MRWA guidelines for predominantly safety reasons without any increase in axle loadings. Alternatively, AMMS mass increases can affect the durability of road pavements. The model suggests this is contributing to up to 90% of the road damage in older or unsealed networks. Maybe MRWA looks after RAV control and LGAs look at giving permissions for extra mass loading. Do the councils want to retain the administrative control over RAV or AMMS control over the axle loadings on our networks?

Cr Fiona Gaze entered the meeting at 10.26am and a quorum was achieved of 11 voting delegates.

Cr House felt that CA07 system was giving LGA the ability to charge businesses if they were damaging the roads. Cr Pavlovich indicated this may not be the case from recent history and to close roads for heavy vehicles under the Act is pretty much the only tool available to Local Governments.

Stephen Gash - would be better to separate the loading from the access rights. MRWA would do the road inspection and possibly request road upgrades before approving RAV permits. Users are assuming that pavement strength is the same for all roads. Any discussions within councils must include works

managers and the Great Southern Regional Road Group's Technical Working Group. CA07 letters recover the cost of engineers inspecting roads before and after use by periods of high truck movements such as harvest.

Cr House raised a point about new businesses which expected to be accessed by a high number of trucks. Stephen Gash - councils need a process to cover this issue. It is better to not have roads on Roads 2030 because then councils can have access to Commodity Route funding. Works Managers should be across this situation.

Cr Pavlovich - TIRES inspects the roads but user financial compensation may not be legally enforceable. If road is assessed for AMMS3 and it goes on the network, it's on there forever for everyone to use. Could look at something like Harvest Mass Management last mile and councils could issue a temporary access permit subject to industry maintaining a safe road condition for all users.

Cr House - WALGA needs to give LGAs some options. This issue needs to stay on Status Report so that WALGA can keep lobbying.

Stephen Gash - industry complained about having to deal with different councils, each with different conditions. Need to look at the WALGA model which Mark Bondiotti created.

Joanne Burges said the model needed to be tested.

ACTIONS:

- Stephen Gash to contact Mark Bondiotti about the WALGA model.
- Zone councils to discuss the CA07 condition within their councils in preparation for making a decision about this issue at the November 2021 Zone meeting.
- WALGA to check CA07 thread of discussion is consistent with LGAs' views.

Due to a quorum being present, the motions at 4.1 and 4.2 above were then voted on.

5.2 WALGA State Council President's Report - Mayor Tracey Roberts JP

5.2.1. WALGA President's report dated September 2021.

5.2.2. Addendum to the WALGA President's Report – Skills Summit

Received and taken as read. No further discussion.

5.3 State Council Representative's Report - Cr Ronnie Fleay

• **Naming of Places, Geographic Features, Roads and Localities**

Charles Hiew (Team Leader Location Data Maintenance) and Glenn Christie (Consultant for Geographic Names and Addresses) from Landgate gave a presentation to the State Council Strategic Forum to share information on appropriate processes for Local Government dual naming and renaming projects. Albany has already developed plan for dual naming in their locality through the Restoring Menang Noongar Place Names project which can be found on the City website.

• **Hon James Hayward MLC, Shadow Minister for Local Government; Water; Regional Cities**

The Shadow Minister for Local Government; Water; Regional Cities, the Hon James Hayward MLC addressed the State Council Strategic Forum to discuss key Local Government sector issues.

Cr Phil Horrocks entered the room at 10.52am making 12 voting delegates.

5.4 Matters for Decision – Zone consideration required

Consideration of the September 2021 WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Decision.

5.1 External Oversight of Local Level Complaints.

5.2 Tender Exemption Provisions – General Practitioner Services.

ACTION: Cr Fleay to ask WALGA's policy team how the Tender Exemption Provisions can be linked to leasing provisions, and to raise this issue at the September State Council meeting.

MOVED Cr Chris Pavlovich

SECONDED Cr Andrew Price

That the Great Southern Zone supports the recommendations for Matters for Decision Items 5.1 and 5.2 in the September 2021 WALGA State Council Agenda.

CARRIED 12-0

Cr Fleay left the room at 10.54am and did not participate in the discussion or vote on item 5.3.

5.3 Phase 2 Planning Reform Submission.

MOVED Cr Michael White

SECONDED Cr Fiona Gaze

That the Great Southern Zone supports the recommendation for Matters for Decision Item 5.3 in the September 2021 WALGA State Council Agenda.

CARRIED 11-0

Cr Fleay returned to the room at 10.55am.

5.5 Matters for Noting – for Zone information

No further discussion.

5.6 State Council Status Report

No further discussion.

ACTION: Executive Officer to ask WALGA to send separate attachment for WALGA status report or extract status report pages from the PDF State Council Agenda document before circulating to Zone councils.

6. ACTION REGISTER

6.1 Action Register - attached.

ACTION: Superloop information to be circulated to Zone Councils.

7. KEY STRATEGIC ZONE ISSUES FOR 2021

7.1 Key Strategic Zone Issues Register - attached.

GUEST SPEAKERS AT 2021 MEETINGS - LINKED TO KEY STRATEGIC ZONE ISSUES

Councils to decide which Ministers, Politicians, Directors General and other speakers they wish to attend Zone meetings in 2021.

Zone meeting dates	Guest Speakers
Friday 29 October 2021 (Joint meeting with Great Southern Regional Road Group)	Minister Rita Saffioti Ian Clarke, CEO, Albany Youth Support Association. Note: WA Government Cabinet meetings are always held on Mondays, so it is doubtful the Minister will be available. Hence changing to a Friday meeting.

Outstanding or suggested speakers

- Invite State Government Ministers and Directors General after March 2021 State Election.
- Ben Headlam, Palmerston Services Great Southern – drug and alcohol issues in the region and COVID-19 impact. Also, lack of rehabilitation centre in the region. Look at presentation in 2022.
- Forest Industries Federation WA - briefing on the timber industry in WA and particularly regarding the South West Timber Hub, noting that forestry is a significant industry in the Great Southern. Look at presentation in 2022.
- Presentation by Office of the Auditor General.
Subject: Update on local government auditing so far and look at a few of OAG's recent Local Government financial and performance audits.
August 2021 update: The Office of the Auditor General emailed the Zone on 9 August 2021 advising that it is now responsible for all WA local government and regional council financial audits. If your zone has any questions about our financial audit process or performance audit program/reports, the OAG would be happy to provide a presentation at a future Zone meeting.
- Dr Lenore Lyons has offered to give a short presentation to update Zone Councils on Outdoors Great Southern (formerly GSCORE).

8. ZONE BUSINESS

8.1 REGIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS REVIEW

By Jo Burges, Senior Advisor Intergovernmental Relations and Risk, WALGA

Background

A Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee (the Committee) is established every three years under Part 9B of the *Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Act 1999* to conduct a review into telecommunications services in regional, rural and remote parts of Australia.

The Committee for the 2021 Regional Telecommunications Review (the Review) was appointed on 1 June 2021.

The 2021 Committee is comprised of the Hon Luke Hartsuyker (Chair), Ms Kristy Sparrow, Professor Hugh Bradlow, Mr Michael Cosgrave and Ms Sue Middleton.

The Committee is also conducting consultation sessions and as the dates for these are announced via their website, Local Governments within the area being consulted are being advised via email of the upcoming process and encouraged to participate.

As part of the Review, the Committee will consider:

- the impact of Government policies and programs to improve regional connectivity and digital inclusion;
- insights from COVID-19 on the changing digital needs of regional, rural and remote areas;
- service reliability issues which impact regional communities and options for mitigating them;
- the role of emerging technologies in delivering telecommunications services in regional Australia;
- ways of encouraging further investment in regional telecommunications;
- the role of telecommunications in supporting broader regional development goals;
- ways to improve co-ordination between government and industry in telecommunications investment; and
- consumer awareness and education regarding telecommunications options in regional areas.

The full Terms of Reference for the Review are at Appendix B of the Issues Paper.

The Consultation Period runs from 6 July, 2021 09:00 to September 30, 2021 with WALGA receiving submissions until COB on Thursday 16 September 2021.

WALGA Engagement Process

Local Governments were advised in mid-July, via Councillor Direct, of the appointment of the Committee and the release of the Issues Paper, and that WALGA would be developing a sector wide submission.

WALGA, in developing a submission to this important review is seeking the views of members to address the wide range of telecommunications issues outlined by the Committee in the Regional Telecommunications Review 2021 – Issues Paper (the Issues Paper) <file:///C:/Users/joanne/AppData/Local/Temp/regional-telecommunications-review-2021-issues-paper-1.pdf>

Local Governments have been requested to provide their submissions or information to inform the sector wide submission to the Association to ensure all matters are addressed.

This agenda item provides a Zone level opportunity to provide feedback to the WALGA submission to assist in ensuring all Local Governments have had a chance for input.

Comment

Zones are requested, however not limited to, consider the items outlined at the dot points and /or the individual questions outlined at the end of each section or at Appendix A of the Issues Paper or provide input on any related matter for inclusion in the submission.

By way of example the WALGA Submission will include, in part, commentary on Question 12 which asks:

'How can different levels of Government, the telecommunications industry and regional communities better co-ordinate their efforts to improve telecommunications in regional Australia?'

The Association response will include an example of the Regional Telecommunications Resilience Working Group established in May comprising key planning/technical staff from Telstra, Optus, Western Power, Horizon Power, WALGA, DFES and DPIRD. This working group will share data more openly to allow robust and coordinated planning which results in better overall service delivery and value for money for all concerned. The working group began its work in June 2021 and have scheduled monthly meetings that increase as Funding programs or issues emerge.

WALGA advocates on specific issues identified by its members at the Working Group, in particular to explore opportunities for sustainable solutions e.g. Stand Alone Power provision, utilising a combination of solar, batteries and generators.

The Association is keen to provide a comprehensive submission on this important matter and welcomes Zone input.

Discussion

Jo Burges encouraged councils to take their issues to the Review Committee and to contribute to the WALGA submission. Councils should ideally put forward solutions to issues. WALGA is taking an holistic approach right across the state.

Online consultations being held on 26 August and 1 September 2021.

MOVED Cr Fiona Gaze SECONDED Cr Russel Thomson

That the Great Southern Zone of WALGA:

- 1. Notes the Regional Telecommunication Review 2021; and**
- 2. Provides input to the WALGA submission.**

CARRIED 12-0

8.2 Native Title Settlement presentation

Natalie Contos, Principal Policy Officer, Aboriginal Engagement, Department of Premier & Cabinet (DPC), joined the meeting via video link at 11.39am.

Apologies from Vanessa Kickett, Implementation Manager, South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) and Angela Elder, Assistant Director, Aboriginal Engagement, DPC.

Traditional acknowledgement.

Some key points:

- Settlement negotiated with 6 Noongar groups and this set in place a range of initiatives.
- Documents were signed in 2015. After delays caused by legal proceedings, Settlement has finally started – formally commenced in February 2021.
- SWALSC is working to bring groups together to set up their 6 regional corporations. SWALSC is also intending to transition to become the Central Services Corporation which supports all 6 Corporations – subject to the support of the majority of the groups.
- Settlement initiatives are designed to improve cultural, social and economic development outcomes for Aboriginal people, and include transfers of land and housing, land access and land management arrangements.

- Perpetual Trustee Company is Noongar Boodja Trustee for first 12 years and then will handover to a Noongar trustee. Trustee will hold and manage funds, properties and other assets being transferred under the Settlement.
- Noongar Agreement group meetings are happening until mid-September 2021; at these meetings each of the 6 groups are passing the resolutions necessary to establish their corporations, including electing initial Directors.
- Some further steps are then required, including voting for Member Directors and Elders Committees who will provide the Corporations with advice to inform cultural decisions; also endorsement of the Corporations by the WA Government and the Trustee based on principles of inclusivity and operational readiness, so likely to be mid-2022 before corporations are funded by the Trustee and 'open for business'.
- Trustee plus 6 Regional Corporations plus Central Services Corporation collectively comprise the Noongar governance structure under the Settlement.
- On 13 April 2021, Native Title was resolved over the entire South West of Western Australia. Native Title Act no longer applies and is replaced with the arrangements under the Settlement (Aboriginal Heritage Act also continues to apply).
- In July 2021, the WA Government started transferring parcels of land to Noongar Boodja Trust; the process will span 5 years with a total of 320,000 hectares to be transferred.
- LGAs is being consulted by DPLH about the parcels of land being considered for transfer, and will be provided with quarterly updates in their areas confirming those parcels that are transferred.

Q&A session

1. Cr Gaze asked when the regional corporation meeting for this area was happening.

Response: the meeting for the Wagyl Kaip/Southern Noongar group was being held in Gnowangerup on 11 September 2021 (rescheduled from an earlier date) (see: <https://www.noongar.org.au/preincorporation> for all 6 meetings dates and further information).

ACTION: Natalie Contos to send map of regional corporation areas to the Zone.

2. Stephen Gash flagged an emerging issue of fire risk on crown land for the Trustee to take on board – DFES currently have responsibility for fire risk management on UCL in towns but seem to be backing away from it; when land is transferred to Trustee this may become an issue.

Response: The Noongar Boodja Trustee was very conscious of the land management responsibilities that will accompany the land transfers; partnership arrangements may be explored in terms of fire management; will pass this concern on to the Trustee for their attention (action complete).

3. Cr Pavlovich's question: In regard to regional meetings, has there been consultation with local Noongar family groups for direction in each traditional area? There is a cultural issue for outsiders controlling these extended family regions when there are existing Aboriginal Corporations representing family groups in many of these areas.

Response: The Regional Corporations are being established to represent all Noongar traditional owners in each area, and they must demonstrate inclusivity in how they have been established, in order for the WA Government and the Trustee to endorse them as the representative corporations in each area. All Noongar traditional owners across the Wagyl Kaip/Southern Noongar area have been invited to attend the Gnowangerup meeting to take part in establishing their Corporation. All Noongar traditional owners are entitled to become members of the Regional Corporations and put their hand up to be Directors or on the Cultural Advice (Elder) Committees, which provides an opportunity for broad representation. Further, the Regional Corporations are not there to displace existing local Aboriginal Corporations; they are likely to work alongside, support and be a conduit for them.

For further information on the Settlement, see: <https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-the-premier-and-cabinet/south-west-native-title-settlement>; or <https://www.noongar.org.au/about-settlement-agreement>

8.3 Boyd Brown, Regional General Manager WA, Telstra

Mr Brown addressed the 4 questions put by the Zone.

He talked about the 3G, 4G and 5G networks. 5G has low, medium and high bands. 3G will become low 5G.

ACTIONS:

- Councils to email specific issues in their areas to Boyd Brown at Telstra.
- Executive Officer to email Boyd Brown's contact details to Zone councils.

Mr Brown met with City of Albany yesterday. Telstra will look at keeping the public phone box at Elleker and see if the usage increases now that calls from public phone boxes are free of charge.

8.4 Katina Bowie, Community Engagement Manager (South East Region WA), nbnco.

Key points:

- Working with communities to help them understand the nbn network.
- Three main technologies supporting digital capability.
- Digital capability survey and using the data to inform nbnco's approach. Working through CRCs, men's sheds, etc, doing digital literacy information sessions.

ACTION: Katina to circulate this information.

- nbnco's \$300 million Regional Co-investment Fund across Australia covers local network enhancements and programmes for governments and industry. Fund closes in February 2022.

ACTIONS:

- Zone councils encouraged to contact Katina Bowie who is based in Bridgetown.
- Executive Officer to circulate contact details for Katina Bowie.
- Katina Bowie to provide information about any minimum population requirements, as requested by Stephen Gash.

8.5 Rick Wilson

Key points:

- Regional communications are vital for people in regional communities.
- Contributions by Telstra and nbnco were acknowledged.
- More mobile phone towers are what people are demanding.
- Federal programme has funded new tower at Tunney North in the Great Southern.
- \$80 million committed to round 6 of that Federal programme.
- 2021 Regional Telecommunications Review - online forum on 1 September starting at AEST 4pm.

Cr John Benn left the room at 1.16pm, leaving 11 voting delegates.

8.6 2021 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS – ZONE OFFICE BEARER ELECTIONS

By Chantelle O'Brien, Zone Executive Officer

Background

With the bi-annual Local Government elections being held Saturday 16 October 2021, Zones will also be required to hold an election process for State Council representatives.

A chronological overview of the process is detailed below:

- Local Government elections occur on Saturday, 16 October 2021.
- Member Councils to elect/appoint their Zone Delegates and to advise the Zone Executive Officer, as soon as possible but preferably by 5 November 2021.
- For the purpose of electing their representatives and deputy representatives to the WALGA State Council, the zones are required to hold these elections at their November 2021 meeting.
- Zones to advise WALGA, in writing, of their elected State Council representative and deputy representative immediately following the 2021 November Zone meeting.
- State Councillor Induction Session – morning of **1 December 2021**.
- New State Council will take office at the Ordinary Meeting of State Council on **1 December 2021**.
- The position of President and Deputy President of WALGA, will be elected at the March 2022 State Council Meeting.

In relation to the nominations and election process to be followed by each Zone in electing a representative and deputy representative to the WALGA State Council, the below process has been instituted by State Council:

1. *Zone Executive Officer to write to all Member Councils no later than 1 month prior to the Zone meeting at which the election is to be held calling for nominations from delegates to the Zone for the positions of representative and deputy representative to State Council. The correspondence is to state that all nominations are to be made in writing to the Zone Executive Officer, and only Elected Members who are a nominated Zone delegates are eligible to nominate. The time period for the receipt of nominations is to be **one week prior** to the Zone meeting at which the election will be held.*
2. *Zone Executive Officer to receive written nominations from Zone delegates for the positions of representative and deputy representative to State Council and then provide written confirmation to Member Councils of the nominations received.*
3. *Elections are to be held at the next Zone meeting as the first item of business. Where there is more than one nomination for each vacant position, an election will be conducted using a secret ballot, with the Zone Executive Officer to represent WALGA as the returning officer for the election. Prior to the ballot, nominees for each position are to be extended the opportunity to provide a 2-minute election bid to delegates.*
4. *All voting delegates to the Zone are entitled to cast one (1) vote in the ballot process. The candidate with the greater or greatest number of votes is elected to the office.*
5. **Tied vote** – *in the event of a tied vote, election will be determined by drawing names from a box. The Secretariat will put the names of the candidates concerned in a box and the first name drawn is the Elected Member.*
6. *Zone Executive Officer to advise WALGA in writing immediately following the Zone meeting of the outcome of their elections.*

If you have any questions or require further information in relation to the above mentioned process, please contact Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services on 9213 2051 or email tbrown@walga.asn.au.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Great Southern Zone of WALGA notes the process for election of Zone Representative and Deputy Representative to the WALGA State Council.

8.7 SOCIAL HOUSING ECONOMIC RECOVERY PACKAGE GRANT FUNDING

By Kelly McManus, Principal Policy and Advocacy WALGA

Background

The \$319 million [Social Housing Economic Recovery Package \(SHERP\)](#) is part of the State Government's COVID-19 Recovery Plan announced in June 2021.

The Program aims to provide safe and secure housing outcomes for vulnerable Western Australians by supporting the construction of new community housing properties and the refurbishment of existing properties to extend their useful life or increase their capacity. Grants are also available to fund maintenance works within remote Aboriginal communities.

Local Governments are eligible to apply for SHERP grants and partner with existing social housing providers and community groups within their communities.

The next round of SHERP funding opens on Monday 1 September 2021.

Comment

Further information on the eligibility requirements and application process for the SHERP grants will be provided by the Department of Communities at a webinar to be hosted by WALGA on **Monday 1 September** from 1.30pm – 2.30pm.

Local Government officers wishing to attend the register for the Webinar [here](#) or through the [WALGA events page](#).

The Livestream presentation from the 11 August is available to view on the Department of Communities website and provides valuable information about the grant process.

In preparation for the session, we encourage local governments to visit the Department of Communities website on the 1 September to familiarise yourself with the grant guidelines, application process and frequently asked questions.

Submit any questions you have in advance through the registration form. There will also be the opportunity to ask additional questions on the day.

Further information on the SHERP program is available on the [Department of Communities website](#) or by contacting Kelly McManus, Principal Policy and Advocacy, WALGA on 0429 483 273 or kmcmanus@walga.asn.au.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Zone notes:

- Local Governments are eligible for grants to support the construction, refurbishment and maintenance of community housing properties as part of the State Government's Social Housing Economic Recovery Package (SHERP) Program.
- The next round of SHERP grants open on Monday 1 September 2021.
- The Department of Communities will provide further information on the SHERP grants at a WALGA webinar to be held at 1:30pm on Monday 1 September.

8.8 DROUGHT ADVOCACY UPDATE – for noting

By Nicole Mathews, Acting Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning

The following is an update on drought and WALGA's advocacy.

WALGA has made representations on this issue including to the Hon David Littleproud MP, Minister for Agriculture, and Northern Australia; the Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC, Minister for Regional Development and Food, Hydrogen Industry; and WA Federal Government members, including meetings between the WALGA Deputy President and Senators Dean Smith and Slade Brockman. WALGA has also met with Minister MacTiernan's Chief of Staff and WA Government officials.

Correspondence from Minister Littleproud received in October 2020 indicated that details of the Commonwealth's Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program were still being worked through with the WA Government, which was yet to commit to co-funding the program. WALGA subsequently sought an assurance that Minister MacTiernan remained committed to 'working with the Minister for Water to ensure WA local government optimally benefit from the Future Drought Fund'.

On 4 July 2021 it was announced that the WA Government had secured \$1.33 million of the \$9.85 million available under the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program for 2021-22 to undertake planning for the Northern Midwest, Southern Wheatbelt and Great Southern Inland regions. This work will be led by Regional Development Commissions working with Local Governments and is due for completion by 30 June 2022. The WA Government has not provided a cash contribution towards this program.

On 3 February 2021 the WA Government announced a \$7.3 million infrastructure plan to upgrade and refurbish 70 community dams in the State's Wheatbelt and Great Southern regions with half to be funded from the National Water Grid Fund, however the State's application for funding was unsuccessful.

The WA Government has also made a request for funding as part of the National Water Grid Connections funding round, which will provide \$20 million for each state and territory to deliver projects with a Commonwealth contribution of up to \$5 million per project. A decision on this funding is expected by end August.

On 15 April 2021, the Commonwealth announced that an additional \$2.8 million would be provided to pay rebates for eligible water infrastructure installed on-farm to all WA farmers who submitted their application prior to 20 January 2021.

In addition, WALGA was advised on 11 August 2021 that the State Government has been successful in securing National Water Grid Connections funding for 9 projects (spanning Water Corporation, DPIRD and DWER):

- Cave Springs Road Tail Water Return System

Two water recycling systems will be constructed in the Ord River Irrigation Area resulting in 2400 megalitres per annum of water savings.

- Agricultural Area Dams and Strategic Community Water Supplies

Infrastructure facilities will be constructed including pipework, tanks, solar pumps and standpipes at 70 dam sites. This will increase resilience and water security in farming communities in the region.

- Katanning to Kojonup Pipeline Enhancement

A number of sections of the existing pipeline between Katanning and Kojonup will be replaced, increasing water reliability and supply to all farmland customers.

- Jerramungup Dam Catchment Improvement
Degraded bitumen will be replaced with plastic liner enabling increased runoff and water storage, and improving reliability to almost 100 per cent of water users in the Jerramungup catchment.
- Gascoyne Irrigation Scheme Augmentation and Modernisation
Essential infrastructure in the Gascoyne region will be upgraded, including additional production bores and modernisation of irrigation systems. This will increase horticultural production capability in the region.
- Community Water Supplies Partnership Program with Local Government
Up to 40 new and improved non-potable water supplies will be developed in priority areas for farming communities to access.
- Ravensthorpe Dam Catchment Extension
The catchment area of the Ravensthorpe dam will be increased by 5 hectares, increasing the volume of water in the dam by approximately 7 megalitres per annum.
- Cranbrook Dam Catchment Improvement
Degraded bitumen will be replaced in Cranbrook Dam 1 catchment, increasing the volume of water in the dam by 15 megalitres per annum, for agricultural and primary industry use.
- Wongutha Independent Water Security Pilot
A small-scale, solar powered water reverse osmosis desalination system pilot will be installed, producing an additional 7.3 megalitres per annum of fresh water.

Total funding for these projects is \$43.8 million, \$23.8 million State Government and other partners, \$20 million Commonwealth.

In addition, with assistance from ALGA, WALGA has secured a seat on the Commonwealth Agriculture Minister's Meeting Working Group on Drought which has representatives from the Commonwealth, all State/Territory Jurisdictions, National Farmers Federation and ALGA.

Finally, on the Drought Resilience Planning Program, given Minister MacTiernan's decision to direct this funding to Regional Development Commissions rather than Local Governments, I've had initial discussions with DPIRD regarding the need for Local Governments to be involved in the process. I understand that DPIRD was meeting with the Regional Development Commissions last week and I expect to have further information in the next week or so.

EN BLOC RESOLUTION

MOVED Cr Ken Clements

SECONDED Cr Liz Guidera

That the Great Southern Zone notes the reports in items 8.6, 8.7 and 8.8 above.

CARRIED 11-0

9. EMERGING ISSUES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

City of Albany

Not present to report.

Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup

- About to appoint a new CEO.
- Struggling to find replacement councillors for October Elections.

Shire of Cranbrook

- Plenty of applicants for Local Government Elections due to community recruitment campaign.
- New CEO starts in late September. Thanked Garry Adams for his time as Acting CEO.

Shire of Denmark

Not present to report.

Shire of Gnowangerup

- Housing issue - will put resolution to WALGA for Zone council support.

Shire of Jerramungup

- Still without a doctor but Council has changed medical service provider which is looking more positive.

Shire of Katanning

- Six positions up for election. Going from 9 to 7 councillors.

Shire of Kent

- Advertising for new CEO has closed. Applications shortlisted. Will conduct interviews on 7 September.
- Roads tour of the shire completed. Significant number of washouts.
- Signed off Local Planning Scheme No 3.

Shire of Kojonup

- Grant Thompson is new CEO.
- Talking with Main Roads about the hole in the road in the centre of Kojonup.

Shire of Plantagenet

- Shortage of housing.
- Shortage of labour to fulfil economic drivers.

Shire of Woodanilling

- About to start advertising for a new CEO as Stephen Gash will be leaving in January 2022.
- Issues with OAG changes relating to supplementary audits.

10. FINANCIAL REPORT

10.1 Financial Report for the period 1 June to 30 June 2021 - attached.

Opening balance as at 1 June 2021	\$3,899.97
Total debits	(\$10.00)
Total credits	0
Closing balance as at 30 June 2021	\$3,889.97

MOVED Cr Russel Thomson

SECONDED Cr Fiona Gaze

That the financial statement for the period 1 June to 30 June 2021 be accepted as true and accurate records of the Zone's finances.

CARRIED 11-0

10.2 Financial Report for the period 1 July to 31 July 2021 - attached.

Opening balance as at 1 July 2021	\$3,889.97
Total debits	(\$850.00)
Total credits	83.00
Closing balance as at 31 July 2021	\$3,122.97

MOVED Cr Russel Thomson

SECONDED Cr Fiona Gaze

That the financial statement for the period 1 July to 31 July 2021 be accepted as true and accurate records of the Zone's finances.

CARRIED 11-0

11. REPORTS

No	Organisation / Delegates	Updates / Info
11.1	Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG) Delegate: Cr Russel Thomson (Shire of Woodanilling) Proxy: Cr Scott Crosby (Shire of Kent)	9 July 2021 meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19 lockdown in Perth <i>Ongoing issue - Movement of Agricultural Machinery.</i>
11.2	Great Southern District Leadership Group (formerly Great Southern Human Services Forum)	Stephen Gash registered his interested in representing Local Government on this group but is now leaving Woodanilling. ACTION: Executive Officer to liaise with Dept of Communities about new Local Government representative.
11.3	Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) – CEO Keith Williams	Will need to elect a new DEMC rep as Keith Williams will be leaving Broomehill-Tambellup.
11.4	South Coast Natural Resource Management (SCNRM) Delegate: CEO Keith Williams Proxy: Cr Jon Oldfield (Plantagenet)	SCNRM has community meetings but no formal meetings.
11.5	Great Southern Development Commission	No-one present to report.
11.6	Great Southern RoadWise - Katherine Celenza	Refer to attached report. New Great Southern Road Safety Adviser is Vivien Gardner from Albany who starts in mid-September.
11.7	Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries	Refer to link to webinar below.
11.8	Executive Officer	Planning Reform session being held in Albany on Thursday 26 August for Shire Presidents, CEOs and Planning staff. RSVP to Debbie Clark at the City of Albany.
11.9	Outdoors Great Southern	Possible presentation at future Zone meeting.

Click the link below for webinar with new Dept of Local Government Director General, Lanie Chopping.

<https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2F6vBUwwEzFX8&data=04%7C01%7Ccliz.toohey%40dlqsc.wa.gov.au%7C8774b9fafa964320482a08d95df82b0f%7Cc1ae0ae2d5044287b6f47eafd6648d22%7C0%7C0%7C637644142724168818%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ikk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=4mYEiG1KaiToWX8Z3noMKn7DR52VWt%2Brk5XIQg9z6Jl%3D&reserved=0>

12. Remaining Zone meetings for 2021

Friday 19 November
Confirmed with GSRRG

Shire of Plantagenet (Mt Barker)

Joint meeting with Regional Road Group
AGM and ordinary meeting

Guest speaker: Minister for Transport Rita Saffioti - to be confirmed.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 Great Southern Communications Capacity Audit Report - Regional Development Australia Great Southern (RDAGS)

Refer to attached report.

ACTION: Executive Officer to circulate RDAGS email address to Zone Councils for them to provide feedback on the audit report.

13.2 State Government Announcement on New Telecommunications Towers

On 26 July 2021, the WA State Government announced that it will invest a further \$3.37 million towards 14 new telecommunication towers along major road networks and in tourist hotspots. The only tower in the Great Southern is at Tunney North on Albany Highway. The McGowan Government has invested more than \$30 million towards regional telecommunications over the past four years.

Regional Development Minister Alannah MacTiernan said: "Through programs such as the Regional Telecommunications Project and Digital Farm Grants Program, we will continue to deliver improved mobile and broadband connectivity across the State."

Close: 1.30pm.