



GOLDFIELDS VOLUNTARY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

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Council Meeting

Friday 2 May 2014
Teleconference
Commencing at 9.00am

MINUTES

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**GOLDFIELDS VOLUNTARY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS
AND
GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA**

**Teleconference Meeting to be held on Friday 2 May 2014
commencing at 9.00am**

MINUTES

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Pursuant to the Code of Conduct, Councillors and CEOs must declare to the Chairman any potential conflict of interest they may have in a matter before the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils and Goldfields Esperance Country Zone of WALGA as soon as they become aware of it. Councillors, CEOs and Deputies may be directly or indirectly associated with some recommendations of the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils and the Goldfields Esperance Country Zone of WALGA and the WALGA State Council. If you are affected by these recommendations, please excuse yourself from the meeting and do not participate in deliberations.

Cr Goldfinch declared an impartiality interest with respect to Item 4.1 (51 Interim Submission to the Inquiry into the Management of WA's Freight Rail Network). Cr Goldfinch is a former board member of CBH.

Mayor Yuryevich declared an interest with respect to Item 4.4 (7.2.1 Metropolitan Reform Implementation Policy Forum). Mayor Yuryevich is a member of the Local Government Advisory Board.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The purpose of the meeting is to consider and provide advice to the WALGA State Council Representative, Mayor Ron Yuryevich AM, RFD.

3. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

3.1 Attendance

Mayor Ron Yuryevich AM RFD (Chair)
Mr Don Burnett
Cr Mal Cullen
Mr Paul Webb
Ms Rhonda Evans

Cr Malcolm Heasman
Cr Beverley Stewart
Mr Matthew Scott
Cr Patrick Hill
Mr Steve Deckert
Mr Jim Epis
Cr Greg Dwyer
Mr Chris Paget
Cr Ian Goldfinch
Cr Ken Norman

Mayor, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
CEO, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
President, Shire of Coolgardie
CEO, Shire of Coolgardie (left the meeting at 9.07am)
Manager Administration Services, Shire of Coolgardie (entered the meeting at 9.07am)
President, Shire of Esperance
Councillor, Shire of Esperance
CEO, Shire of Esperance
President Shire of Laverton
CEO, Shire of Laverton
CEO, Shire of Leonora
President, Shire of Menzies (entered meeting at 9.05am)
CEO, Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku
President, Shire of Ravensthorpe
Councillor, Shire of Ravensthorpe

Ms Helen Westcott Joint Executive Officer

3.2 Apologies

Mr Richard Brookes	CEO, Shire of Dundas
Cr Rob Wedge	Deputy President, Shire of Laverton
Cr Beatrice Fuamatu	Councillor, Shire of Laverton
Cr Peter Craig	President, Shire of Leonora
Mr Peter Crawford	CEO, Shire of Menzies
Mr Pascoe Durtanovich	CEO, Shire of Ravensthorpe

Mr Bruce Wittber Joint Executive Officer

3.3 WALGA Representatives

Mr Zac Donovan, Executive Manager Marketing and Communications
Ms Erin Fuery, Senior Community Policy Officer

4. WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (WALGA) BUSINESS
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Zone delegates to consider the Matters for Decision contained in the WA Local Government Association State Council Agenda and put forward resolutions to Zone Representatives on State Council

4.1 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Decision
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From Executive Officer

Background:

WALGA State Council meets five times each year and as part of the consultation process with Member Councils circulates the State Council Agenda for input through the Zone structure.

The Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (GVROC) is able to provide comment or submit an alternate recommendation that is then presented to the State Council for consideration.

5.1 Interim submission to the Inquiry into the Management of WA's Freight Rail Network (05-006-02-0005 PS)

WALGA Recommendation

That the Association's interim submission to the Economics and Industry Standing Committee's Inquiry into the Management of WA's Freight Rail Network.

ZONE COMMENT:

5.2 Zone Tax Offset Reform (05-055-03-0002 PS)

WALGA Recommendation

That the Association advocate to the Federal Government for:

1. The following increases in the fixed component of the zone tax offset: Zone A, from \$338 to \$584; Zone B, from \$57 to \$99; Special Areas, from \$1173 to \$2028. The variable components of the zone tax offset (i.e., notional offsets) should be increased by the same proportion as the fixed components.
2. Indexation of zone tax offsets to reflect changes in the Australian Consumer Price Index.
3. Eligibility changes to ensure the zone tax offset only applies to permanent residents of the zones.
4. A review of the zones so that they reflect a more contemporary definition of remoteness.
5. A review of higher income earners' eligibility for the zone tax offset.
6. Any savings that are made from better targeting of the zone tax offset should go towards further increasing the amount of the offset for those taxpayers who remain eligible.

ZONE COMMENT:

GVROC support WALGA Recommendation.

5.3 Interim submission to the Productivity Commission's Draft Report on Public Infrastructure (05-088-03-0001 PS)

WALGA Recommendation

That the Association's interim submission to the Productivity Commission's Draft Report on Public Infrastructure be endorsed.

ZONE COMMENT:

GVROC support WALGA Recommendation.

5.4 Senate Economics References Committee: Inquiry into Affordable Housing in Australia – WALGA Submission (05-036-03-0020 CG)**WALGA Recommendation**

That State Council endorse the interim submission to the Senate Economics References Committee regarding the Inquiry into Affordable Housing in Australia.

Executive Officer Comment:

This matter was discussed at the GVROC Council Meeting held Friday 28 February 2014 at which the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder made some comments and suggestions on the matter of affordable housing. Some, including the difficulty in defining “affordable housing”, have been included within the interim submission.

The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder might wish to add further comment.

ZONE COMMENT:

GVROC support WALGA Recommendation.

5.5 Review of the Australian Citizenship Ceremonies Code 2009 (05-091-03-0001 JH)**WALGA Recommendation**

That the Associations’ interim submission to the Hon Scott Morrison MP, Minister for Immigration and Border Protection’s Review on Australian Citizenship Ceremonies Code (2009) be endorsed.

ZONE COMMENT:

GVROC support WALGA Recommendation.

5.6 WA Police and WALGA Memorandum of Understanding for the Provision of Crime Statistics (05-019-03-0006JH)**WALGA Recommendation**

The proposed Memorandum of Understanding between WA Police and WA Local Government Association for the provision of crime statistical information be endorsed.

ZONE COMMENT:

The following is an extract from the State Council agenda:

In Brief

- *Local Governments and the Association have been advocating for many years for access to better statistical data on crime from WA Police to assist Local Governments with Community Safety and Crime Prevention planning.*
- *In 2011 as part of the State Government’s Community Crime Prevention Plan 2011-2014, the WA Police advised Local Government that they were developing a new system for collection of crime data and sought feedback.*
- *In 2013 WA Police and WALGA representatives met to discuss the best way to progress Local Government access to the WA Police crime statistics.*
- *The development of the MOU is significant advocacy win for Local Governments and acknowledges the partnership between WA police and Local Government.*

GVROC support WALGA Recommendation.

5.7 Local Government & Provision of Facilities for Child Health Centres (05-019-03-0006JH)

WALGA Recommendation

That:

1. The final AEC Report *Local Government and Provision of Facilities for Child Health Centres* be forwarded to the Hon Kim Hames, Minister for Health and the Hon Tony Simpson, Minister for Local Government and Communities seeking a commitment to the following outcomes:
 - a. The Department of Health and the Department of Local Government and Communities working with Local Government to develop a strategic plan for the provision of child health services, which identifies priority locations requiring maternal and child health services based on population growth and demographic data, and provides a sustainable framework for future investment by the State Government; and
 - b. The Departments working with WALGA and its members to establish sustainable and equitable funding and leasing arrangements between the State and Local Governments for the provision of facilities from which child health services are delivered in Western Australia;
2. WALGA develop and conduct a Local Government Early Years Forum to enable Local Governments to discuss the key issues facing the sector.

ZONE COMMENT:

GVROC support WALGA Recommendation.

5.8 Review of the State / Local Government Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services (05-012-03-0001JH)

WALGA Recommendation

1. That an extension to the current State / Local Government Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services to June 2015 is supported;
2. That WALGA is requested to conduct a broad review and visioning process on the future of public library services comprised of:
 - a. a background paper on trends, priorities and innovation in library services in other jurisdictions;
 - b. a series of visioning workshops and forums with elected members, CEO's, managers, public librarians and community groups;
 - c. an analysis of the financial contributions of the State and Local Governments to libraries, the socio-economic benefits derived from this investment and potential sources of funding; and
 - d. development of a paper outlining the vision of WA Local Governments for public library services in 2025 and the strategies to achieve this;and provide a report to State Council on the outcomes of the process by March 2015.

Executive Officer Comment:

The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder has previously made comments on matters involved with the arrangements around funding for the provision of library services. The City might wish to make comment on the matters currently under consideration.

ZONE COMMENT:

GVROC support WALGA Recommendation.

5.9 Interim Submission to the Department of the Environment's Emission Reduction Fund – Green Paper (05-028-03-0016CP)

WALGA Recommendation

That the Association's interim submission to the Department of the Environment's Emission Reduction Fund – Green Paper be endorsed.

ZONE COMMENT:

GVROC support WALGA Recommendation.

ADDITIONAL COMMENT:

The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder raised concerns around both Items 5.7 and 5.8.

The City's CEO noted that the City believed the issue of a local government's responsibility for infrastructure it did not manage should be included in any discussions relating to the provisions of child health care facilities.

He also noted that the City considered that any review of the financial contributions by the State and Local Governments to libraries should also include an analysis of the regional library service.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils endorses all recommendations contained in the WALGA State Council Agenda other than those recommendations separately considered.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Cullen** **Seconded: Cr Goldfinch**

That the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils endorses all recommendations contained in the WALGA State Council Agenda other than the recommendations relating to Items 5.7 and 5.8.

In relation to Item 5.7 (Local Government & Provisions of facilities for Child Health Centres (05-019-03-0006JH) the Recommendation should read as follows:

That:

- 1. The final AEC Report *Local Government and Provision of Facilities for Child Health Centres* be forwarded to the Hon Kim Hames, Minister for Health and the Hon Tony Simpson, Minister for Local Government and Communities seeking a commitment to the following outcomes:

 - a. The Department of Health and the Department of Local Government and Communities working with Local Government to develop a strategic plan for the provision of child health services, which identifies priority locations requiring maternal and child health services based on population growth and demographic data, and provides a sustainable framework for future investment by the State Government;**
 - b. The Departments working with WALGA and its members to establish sustainable and equitable funding and leasing arrangements between the State and Local Governments for the provision of facilities from which child health services are delivered in Western Australia; and**
 - c. Should a Local Government wish to transfer the title or management order to the State or Health Department at no cost then the State or Health Department should give a commitment to accept the property or management transfer.****
- 2. WALGA develop and conduct a Local Government Early Years Forum to enable Local Governments to discuss the key issues facing the sector.**

In relation to Item 5.8 (review of the State / Local Government Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services (05-12-3-001JH) the Recommendation should read as follows:

- 1. That an extension to the current State / Local Government Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services to June 2015 is supported;**
- 2. That WALGA is requested to conduct a broad review and visioning process on the future of public library services comprised of:**

- a. a background paper on trends, priorities and innovation in library services in other jurisdictions;
 - b. a series of visioning workshops and forums with elected members, CEO's, managers, public librarians and community groups;
 - c. an analysis of the financial contributions of the State and Local Governments to libraries and the regional library service, the socio-economic benefits derived from this investment and potential sources of funding; and
 - d. development of a paper outlining the vision of WA Local Governments for public library services in 2025 and the strategies to achieve this;
- and provide a report to State Council on the outcomes of the process by March 2015.
CARRIED

4.2 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Noting

6.1 Local Government Reform and Poll Provisions (05-034-01-0015)

Executive Officer Comment:

This matter arises from the discussion at the GVROC Meeting on 28 February 2014 in response to an item submitted by the Shire of Wagin. A number of GVROC's Member Councils have provided support to the Shire of Wagin's request for assistance with this matter.

The WALGA State Council Agenda notes that the purpose of the report is:

to inform the sector about the process that has been adopted to address this issue and to stimulate discussion within the sector. The opportunity for the sector to decide on the issue and form part of the Association's policy development process will be through the Zone process leading to the 2 July 2014 State Council meeting where a formal policy position will be taken for advocacy to the State Government.

The WALGA President's Report also makes reference to the fact that the issue was considered at the Metropolitan Local Government Reform Implementation Committee meeting.

6.2 Review of 2013 Local Government Elections – Member Feedback (06-024-01-001JMc)

4.3 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Organisational Reports

7.1 Key Activity Reports

7.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Environment and Waste Unit (01-006-03-0017 MJB)

7.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Governance and Strategy (01-006-03-0007 TB)

7.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure (05-001-02-0003 ID)

7.1.4 Report on Key Activities, Planning and Community Development (01-006-03-0014 AH)

Executive Officer Comment:

Included in this Key Activities Report are the following matters:

Regional Planning and Infrastructure Frameworks

Regional Planning and Infrastructure Frameworks for the State's country planning regions, with the following Regional Planning and Infrastructure Frameworks currently available for comment until the 5th June 2014: -

- Goldfields-Esperance Regional Planning and Infrastructure Framework
- Wheatbelt Regional Planning and Infrastructure Framework
- South West Regional Planning and Infrastructure Framework
- Great Southern Regional Planning and Infrastructure Framework
- Kimberley Regional Planning and Infrastructure Framework

This matter was covered at the GVROC Council Meeting held Friday 28 March 2014.

Patient Assistance Travel (PATS) Review

Funded by Royalties for Regions, the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS) provides a subsidy towards the cost of travel and accommodation for eligible patients travelling long distances to seek certain categories of specialist medical services. To find out more about the scheme please visit <http://www.wacountry.health.wa.gov.au/index.php?id=628#c1120>

The Committee on Public Administration has initiated a Parliamentary Inquiry into the State Government's Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS). The inquiry is examining how adequately PATS delivers assistance to regional people accessing specialist medical care including the level of funding provided for travel and accommodation, eligibility criteria and administration of the scheme. WALGA has circulated an Infopage to all members seeking feedback to inform the development of a WALGA submission by 9 May 2014.

This matter was covered at the GVROC Council Meeting held Friday 28 March 2014.

4.4 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Policy Forum Reports
7.2 Policy Forum Reports**7.2.1 Metropolitan Reform Implementation Policy Forum****7.2.2 Country Reform Policy Forum****7.2.3 Mining Community Policy Forum****7.2.4 Container Deposit Legislation Policy Forum****7.2.5 Metropolitan Mayors Policy Forum****RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils notes the following reports contained in the WALGA State Council Agenda:

- Matters for noting;
- Organisational reports; and
- Policy Forum reports.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Cullen

Seconded: Cr Stewart

1. That the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils notes the following reports contained in the WALGA State Council Agenda:
 - Matters for noting;
 - Organisational reports; and
 - Policy Forum reports.
2. That the Technical Officers Working Group be given delegated authority to prepare a submission on the Goldfields-Esperance Regional Planning and Infrastructure Framework for submission to the Department of Planning prior to the submission period closing on 5 June 2014, with the submission to be ratified by the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils when it meets on Friday 13 June 2014.

CARRIED
4.5 WALGA President's Report (Attachment)

The WALGA President, State Councillor or WALGA Officer will deliver this report.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the WALGA President's Report be noted.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Hill** **Seconded: Cr Cullen**

That the WALGA President's Report be noted.

CARRIED

4.6 WALGA Status Report (Attachment)

From Executive Officer

BACKGROUND:

Presenting the Status Report for April 2014 which contains WALGA's responses to the resolutions of previous Zone Meetings.

ZONE COMMENT:

This is an opportunity for GVROC's Member Council to consider the response from WALGA in respect to the matters that were submitted at the previous Council Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the WALGA Status Report for April 2014 be noted.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Stewart** **Seconded: Cr Hill**

That the WALGA Status Report for April 2014 be noted.

CARRIED

4.7 State Councillor / Goldfield Esperance Zone President's Report

Mayor Ron Yuryevich, AM RFD

In his report to Member Councils, Mayor Yuryevich noted the following points:

- The second meeting of the Goldfields Esperance Revitalisation Advisory Group will take place on 12 May 2014;
- At a recent meeting with the Minister for Indigenous Affairs the matter of the closure of some short stay indigenous housing was discussed and the problems associated with its closure. The Minister was unaware of this matter. The matter of the normalisation of indigenous townsites was also discussed but as yet there has been no agreement between the Commonwealth and the State Governments on this matter.

5. REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

5.1 Department of Local Government and Communities (Attachment)

The Department of Local Government and Communities has provided an update of its recent activities for Member Councils information.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Department of Local Government and Communities April 2014 Update be noted.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Dwyer** **Seconded: Mr Epis**

That the Department of Local Government and Communities April 2014 Update and State Councillor – Goldfields Esperance Zone President's Report be noted.

CARRIED

6 URGENT BUSINESS as permitted by the Chair

Nil

7 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Date	Meeting	Venue
Friday 16 May 2014	An in-person meeting of the GVROC Technical Officers Working Group to be held in Kalgoorlie commencing at 8.00am	Kalgoorlie
Friday 13 June 2014	An in-person meeting of the GVROC Council/GERCG Board	Kalgoorlie

9. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.38am

DECLARATION

These minutes were confirmed by the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils at the meeting held 13 June 2014

Signed _____

Person presiding at the meeting at which these minutes were confirmed