



**WALGA**

# Great Southern Zone of WALGA

## **MINUTES**

of an Ordinary Meeting  
(2 voting delegates per council)

held on

**Monday 23 November 2020**

Venue:  
Sports Centre Pavilion  
Martin Street  
Nyabing  
Shire of Kent

1. OPEN: 9.25am Cr Fleay acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land.

## 2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Cr Ronnie Fleay  
Annabel Paulley

Zone President  
Zone Executive Officer

**City of Albany**  
**Broomehill / Tambellup**  
**Cranbrook**  
**Denmark**  
**Gnowangerup**  
**Jerramungup**  
**Katanning**  
**Kent**  
**Kojonup**  
**Plantagenet**  
**Woodanilling**

Cr Paul Terry and Cr Matt Benson-Lidholm  
Cr Mark Paganoni, Cr Douglas Barritt and CEO Keith Williams  
Cr Phil Horrocks and CEO Greg Blycha  
Cr Janine Phillips  
Cr Greg Stewart and CEO Bob Jarvis  
Cr Rob Lester and CEO Martin Cuthbert  
Cr Liz Guidera, Cr John Goodheart & CEO Julian Murphy  
Cr Scott Crosby, Cr Kate Johnston and CEO Rick Miller  
Cr John Benn  
Cr Chris Pavlovich, Cr Jon Oldfield and Acting CEO Paul Sheedy  
Cr Russel Thomson, Cr Dale Douglas and CEO Stephen Gash

Total of 18 out of a possible 22 voting delegates were in attendance at the start of the meeting.

### Guests

Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure, WALGA  
Marissa McDonald, Senior Policy Advisor, Community, WALGA  
Bruce Manning, CEO, Great Southern Development Commission  
Cr Len Handasyde, Chair, Great Southern Regional Road Group  
Carl Beck, Road Safety Adviser, WALGA RoadWise  
Andrew Borrett, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries  
Peter Rundle, MLA, Member for Roe  
Cr Ned Radford and Cr Kevin Gale, Shire of Kojonup (Observers)

### Apologies

Terry Redman, MLA, Member for Warren-Blackwood  
Cr Michael White, Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup  
CEO Andrew Sharpe and Cr Chris Thomson, City of Albany  
Cr Keith House, Shire of Gnowangerup  
Cr Andrew Price, Shire of Jerramungup  
David Schober, CEO, Shire of Denmark  
CEO Rick Mitchell-Collins, Shire of Kojonup

## 3. GUEST SPEAKERS

### 3.1 Department of Fire and Emergency Services presentation starting at 10am.

Richard Burnell – Executive Director Corporate Services  
Brad Delavale – Assistant Commissioner Asset Management  
Refer to attached list of issues and questions.

### Discussion

- **Sourcing Appliances**

Shire of Kent - request to keep vehicles with 20,000kms in the system and allow rural bushfire brigades to have them. When fighting Katanning fires, Kent bushfire brigades were left vulnerable.

Brad Delavale will have a look at this request. Currently done on years of service. Will need data from Local Governments.

Shire of Woodanilling wants to look at procurement options as well. There are exemptions on State and Local Government procurement which could be looked at. Finance Regulation changes are having an impact. Have no control over fire vehicles. Have raised this as an

emerging issue with the Office of the Auditor General. **Would like LG the first option before fire vehicles go to auction.**

Brad Delavale - have established a working group to formulate a future plan for fire vehicles. Still some questions to be answered and will answer these out of session.

Rick Miller - would like DFES to look at the bigger picture of its responsibilities and look at some options. Do some different trials and then do some analysis and costings on the options. Would like Local Government and DFES to work together to look at some solutions.

Brad Delavale - keen to look at options.

Richard Burnell - something is happening through the Bushfire Operations Committee

- **WA Recovery Plan update**

61 water tanks allocated in first round. Brad Delavale has a list of the 61 because recipients have not been notified yet. Next round will be for strategically-located water tanks.

- **Gnowangerup Bushfire Brigade** - When are motorised roller doors going to arrive?

**ACTION: Brad will find out and advise Shire of Gnowangerup.**

- **Possible future funding**

If councils have shovel-ready projects, there might be another round of funding coming soon.

- **Telecommunications Resilience** - Richard Burnell

Funding to drive prioritisation according to bushfire risk - looked at some 800 towns. Telecomms are only as good as the power supply. Richard has fed telecomm issues back to Canberra and gave top 21 sites in WA for pilots. (Check presentation). Satellite services will be NBN-based. BFBs will have to establish contracts with telecomm service providers - either Telstra or Optus. Still waiting for clarity on what will happen.

Telstra won't allow SES crews to connect generators to mobile towers because they have not been trained to do this. Richard requested that if they do nothing else, increase the life of base station batteries from 3 to 12 hours and they agreed to this as a minimum standard. Waiting to find out which base stations will be upgraded.

Telstra has large communication truck based in Perth which can be deployed to disaster areas.

- **Code of Conduct** - Richard Burnell

If there are any operational issues, they can be escalated through local DFES office. If DFES volunteers, they need to abide by DFES Code of Conduct and if Local Government volunteers, they abide by Local Government Code of Conduct.

Steve Gash - need more flexible training modules - we are now getting this and they will support a pilot project. Worked with WALGA and LGIS as to where volunteers sit. Definition of volunteers, they are under the CBFBO and are covered by insurance. Gave update on training discussions.

Cr Jon Oldfield - need to take into account RPL and bushfire fighting experience - flexibility for volunteer farmers. What training will they be required to do or do they need any training to operate a bushfire fighting vehicles?

**ACTION: Brad to provide clarification about how this sits.**

- **Administration of storm damage claims - transition from WANDRRA** - Shire of Plantagenet

**ACTION: Brad to follow up with David Lynch at Shire of Plantagenet out of session.**

Bob Jarvis queried the need to provide photographic evidence within 3 years of storm event or may get claim rejected.

**ACTION: Brad Delavale to provide clarification about this query.**

Ian Duncan - will be getting DFES speakers to address February Transport and Roads forum. Karratha has had good experiences but Plantagenet and others have not. Reimbursement of salaries and wages. Information presented.

**ACTION:** Executive Officer to circulate DFES presentation to Zone councils.

**ACTION:** Executive Officer to send additional questions and include relevant contact names and phone numbers.

#### **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- Cr Ronnie Fleay declared an interest in WALGA State Council agenda 'Items for Noting' in connection with her membership of the WA Planning Commission.

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

#### **5. MINUTES**

##### **5.1 Confirmation of Minutes**

###### **5.1.1 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY ZONE MEETING – 28 August 2020**

**MOVED** Cr John Benn

**SECONDED** Cr Russel Thomson

That the minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Great Southern Zone of the WALGA held on Friday 28 August 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

**CARRIED 18-0**

###### **5.1.2 MINUTES OF THE WALGA STATE COUNCIL MEETING – 2 September 2020**

**MOVED** Cr Chris Pavlovich

**SECONDED** Cr Russel Thomson

That the Minutes of meeting of the State Council of WALGA held on 2 September 2020 be received.

**CARRIED 18-0**

#### **6. STATUS REPORT FROM WALGA TO THE ZONE**

- 6.1 **Status Report from WALGA to the Zone dated November 2020.**  
Received without discussion.

#### **7. ACTION REGISTER**

- 7.1 **Updated Action Register** - attached.

#### **8. KEY STRATEGIC ZONE ISSUES FOR 2020**

- 8.1 Refer to updated Key Strategic Zone Issues register attached.
- 8.2 Great Southern Regional Health Forum – draft programme previously circulated and feedback received.

**RESOLVED:** Health Forum to be held in late March or April 2021 depending on outcome of State Election and Easter.

## MINISTERIAL AND / OR DIRECTOR GENERAL ATTENDANCE AT 2021 ZONE 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.

### Discussion about speakers for 2021

- **Water issues - February 2021 meeting**

Adrian Stewart from Water Corporation and Water Minister David Kelly or Director General of DWER. Also Richard George who is doing work for DPIRD and Water Corporation.

Pingrup - supply is at maximum and cannot develop anymore blocks because of this. Same in Broomehill and Tambellup.

Dams have been decommissioned.

Bob Jarvis - Water Corporation is starting to improve the catchments to dams.

Federal Government - water funding \$3 billion - water development and infrastructure.

Bob - drought resilience funding and other funding for South West - money will go to hubs - short timeframe.

GSDC is working on a hub for the South West Land Division.

| Zone meeting dates  | Guest Speakers  |
|---|---|
| Friday 19 February 2021<br>City of Albany   | Premier McGowan - awaiting response from his office.<br>Minister Water, David Kelly<br>Adrian Stewart, GS Regional Manager, Water Corporation.<br>Richard George, Principal Research Officer - Irrigated Agriculture, DPIRD |
| Friday 23 April 2021<br>(joint meeting with Great Southern Regional Road Group)   | Minister for Transport  |
| Friday 25 June 2021   | TBA   |
| Friday 20 August 2021   | TBA   |
| Monday 25 October 2021<br>(Joint meeting with Great Southern Regional Road Group) | TBA   |

### Outstanding or suggested speakers

- Ask Premier Mark McGowan to February 2021 meeting before State Election - meet in Albany.
- Invite people in State Government with influence before the next State Election.
- Water is becoming a serious issue, so meet with Dept of Water and Water Corporation.
- Simon Lyas, RDA Great Southern – Regional University Centre
- 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.
- 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. Include issues raised by CEO Julian Murphy and Cr Rob Lester.
- Housing Minister Peter Tinley to talk about extension of First Home Owners Grant and parity home lending requirements between regional areas and the metropolitan area, as raised at November meeting by the Shire of Plantagenet.

## 9. REVIEW OF WALGA STATE COUNCIL AGENDA – 2 December 2020

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

WALGA President Mayor Tracey Roberts' report for December 2020 was received.

### 9.2 State Council Representative's Report - Cr Ronnie Fleay

Enquiries about Regulation 9 - Premier has told WALGA to support.

Ian Duncan, WALGA, did not object to Zone changes to Regulation 9 as shown in recommendation because it had not been put to WALGA and there was no position on this. It was amended and then the amendment was reversed which resolves Zone concerns.

Ian Duncan encouraged Local Governments to be really engaged in what is happening with the Local Government Act Review.

### 9.3 Matters for Decision – Zone consideration required

Consideration of the December 2020 WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Decision.

**MOVED** Cr Chris Pavlovich

**SECONDED** Cr John Benn

**That the Great Southern Zone supports the recommendations for Matters for Decision Items 5.2 - 5.5 in the December 2020 WALGA State Council Agenda.**

**CARRIED 18-0**

Item 5.1 - If we support Independent Assessor, we may be giving it powers which Local Government does not agree to.

**ACTION: Councils to feedback any comments and concerns about this to Cr Fleay by COB on 27 November 2020.**

Cr Guidera - concerned about Dept of Local Government not being aware of what's going on on the ground and how these changes will affect Local Government? Is Local Government being heard?  
Ian Duncan - WALGA is trying to hone the recommendations down to the most important ones.

Item 5.3 Family and Domestic Violence - Cr Guidera - how is Local Government going to deal with this? It states quite clearly that Local Government will not be resourced. Concerned that they are heading in this direction.

The recommendations for additional items 5.5 and 5.6 were read aloud.

Item 5.6 - Paul Sheedy would like to see stronger direction.

Bob Jarvis - this will add an extra level to elections.

Support for retaining the Standards Panel and not the new Independent Assessor.

Amended Recommendation Item 5.6

(c) - support the retention of the adequately-resourced Standards Panel.

**ACTION: Re-word (c) and send circulate amendment for endorsement out-of-session.**

Amendment to Recommendation for Item 5.1

Add: 'support retention of adequately-resourced Standards Panel.'

Item 5.1 - comments from Cr Guidera about Councillors' roles and responsibilities. See page 30 - have a broader discussion about this. Early intervention.

**ACTION: Send email with changes to recs to Zone President and Ian Duncan for feedback. Send out to Zone councils on 24 November and request feedback by COB on Thursday 26 November. Send to WALGA by Friday 27 November.**

### 9.4 Matters for Noting – Zone information

Cr Fleay declared interest in Planning Items for Noting 6.2 and 6.3.

### 9.5 State Council Status Report

No questions. Noted.

## 10. ZONE BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 No agenda items received.

### 10.2 Water Supply and Infrastructure issues in the Great Southern

Letter sent to Ministers for Water and Regional Development – Dave Kelly & Alannah MacTiernan dated 27 October 2020 - see attached. No response to date.

### 10.3 Local Government Act Review Panel Recommendations

Letter sent to Minister for Local Government David Templeman dated 16 October 2020.

Reply received on 17 November 2020. See attachments.

Also refer to the December 2020 WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Decision Item 5.1 and Status Report from WALGA to the Zone dated November 2020.

## 11. EMERGING ISSUES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

No emerging issues were raised.

## 12. FINANCIAL REPORT

12.1 Financial Report for the period 1 August to 31 October 2020 is attached.

|                                    |                    |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Opening balance as at 1 June 2020  | <b>\$4,111.23</b>  |
| Total debits                       | (\$3,412.03)       |
| Total credits                      | \$10,285.00        |
| Closing balance as at 30 June 2020 | <b>\$10,984.20</b> |

**MOVED Cr John Benn**

**SECONDED Cr Russel Thomson**

**That the financial statements for the periods 1 August to 31 October 2020 be accepted as true and accurate records of the Zone finances.**

**CARRIED 18-0**

## 13. REPORTS

| No   | Organisation / Delegates   | Updates / Info  |
|------|--|---|
| 13.1 | Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG)<br>Delegate: Cr Russel Thomson (Shire of Woodanilling)<br>Proxy: Cr Scott Crosby (Shire of Kent) | 13.1.1. Minutes of 5 October 2020 meeting are attached.<br>Next meeting: 12 February 2021.<br>13.1.2. Info on condition of Great Southern Highway.<br><br><i>June update:</i><br>Note: Zone feedback and comments requested on <i>Item 7.2 – Movement of Agricultural Machinery</i> .<br>What do Zones want to do? Cr Thomson - want to promote a change with approval of Zones.<br><b>ACTION: Cr Fleay to talk with Ian Duncan at WALGA about this.</b><br><i>August update:</i><br>Jo Burges, Cr Fleay and Cr Thomson discussed prior to start of Zone meeting. Progressing.<br><i>November update:</i><br>Nothing further to report. |

|      |   |   |
|------|---|---|
| 13.2 | Great Southern District Leadership Group (formerly Great Southern Human Services Forum) – Cr Ronnie Fleay               | No further comment.<br><b>ACTION: Executive Officer to ask the GSDLG to find another delegate to represent Local Government.</b>  |
| 13.3 | Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) – CEO Keith Williams                                      | Last meeting was held in early July 2020. Keith was going to take the issue of mobile phone towers back to the DEMC.<br><i>November update:</i><br>Many meetings related to COVID-19.<br>Labour shortages in transport and hospitality industries.  |
| 13.4 | South Coast Natural Resource Management (SCNRM)<br>Delegate: CEO Keith Williams<br>Proxy: Cr Jon Oldfield (Plantagenet) | SCNRM is having community meetings but no formal meetings.<br>Nothing to report.  |
| 13.5 | Great Southern Development Commission   | Key points:=<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Released last round of Regional Economic Development grants.</li> <li>Filming in the region, eg. Rams.</li> <li>Local Content for contracts, eg. Albany Ring Road.</li> <li>Investments in aquaculture - Harvest Road investing \$6 million in Emu Point in Albany.</li> <li>Attended Noongar Emerging Leadership Group meeting.</li> <li>Albany Artificial Surf Reef.</li> <li>GSDC supported local shows Eg. Kojonup and Katanning.</li> <li>GS Culture and Heritage Strategy.</li> <li>Tourism is performing well in the region, particularly accommodation bookings. 20-40% increase in consumer spending.</li> <li>Labour shortages - Pacific Island workers being recruited.</li> <li>Demand is outstripping supply in trades - prices have increased.</li> <li>Rental housing.</li> <li>GSDC thanked Local Governments for their cooperation during COVID-19 lockdown period.</li> </ul> <p>The GS Zone Chair expressed gratitude to CEO Bruce Manning for his extensive support to the GS Region in his time with the GS Development Commission and wished him well in his future endeavours. Bruce has been a true champion for economic growth, tourism and social well-being across the region and leaves a lasting legacy.</p> |
| 13.6 | Great Southern RoadWise – Carl Beck   | 13.6.1. Report dated November 2020 is attached.<br>GS Road Safety Forum in Cranbrook on 26 November 2020.<br>13.6.2. Info about crash statistics for before and after installation of rumble strips.  |
| 13.7 | Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Councils to advise if they receive the 'Local Matters' circular by Director General Duncan Ord via email direct from the Department.</li> </ul> <p><b>Does the Zone want a presentation tailored to the Zone to discuss the outcomes of the report, research methodology or analysis with our research partner Catalyse?</b></p> <p><i>November update:</i><br/>Andrew Borrett felt that pier pressure would ensure Elected Member training coverage. Will take on board the Zone's comments about training.</p>   |



|      |                   |  |
|------|-------------------|--|
|      |                   | <p>Local Government Act Review process is being pushed very hard and it's important that Local Governments continue to present their views on the important issues.</p> <p>CEO support programme is available. New CEOs are contacted direct.</p> <p>Paul Sheedy - Local Government Amendment Act<br/>Is the Department sending out circular when different amended sections of the Act are gazetted?<br/>Andrew Borrett - some information is being sent out but not sure if it's keeping up.</p> |
| 13.8 | Executive Officer | Nil  |

#### 14.0 Zone Position Statement on Great Southern Roads

##### 14.1 Joint discussion with Great Southern Regional Road Group members.

Cr Len Handasyde reiterated funding outcome figures mentioned at August Zone meeting. Need to achieve 100% acquittals. Need to find out what the issues are for the road networks and decide how to resolve those issues. Where does RARFS sit?

Suggested roads workshop in February 2021 to progress the position statement to form a plan with costings. Can then seek further funding for roads. Look at what the Wheatbelt region has done as an example.

Cr Chris Pavlovich sits on the State Advisory Committee for Local Road funding. It's very hard to argue the case for extra funding if Local Governments are not acquitting the funding they already have. 5-year road State funding to Local Government Agreement is up for review in the near future.

**RESOLVED: Great Southern Zone and Great Southern Regional Road Group to organise roads workshop in February 2021 and circulate details to Zone councils.**

##### 14.2 Peter Rundle

- Congratulated Local Governments on dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Legislative Council changes to environmentally sensitive areas - Mr Rundle urged councils to update themselves about these changes relating to ESA's attached to land.
- Various COVID-19 legislation changes went through.
- Workers in the regions.
- Preparedness if we get a second wave of COVID-19.
- Mr Rundle acknowledged the contribution made to the region by outgoing GSDC CEO Bruce Manning and congratulated him on a fantastic regional career.

Close: 12.12pm.