



Pilbara Country Zone

Minutes

22 February 2021

Pilbara Country Zone

Held via MS Teams

WALGA, Wattle Meeting Room

Monday 22 February 2021, commenced at 11:23 am

Minutes

MEMBERS

2 Voting Delegates from each Member Council

City of Karratha

Mayor Peter Long – **Chair**
Mr Chris Adams, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

Town of Port Hedland

Mayor Peter Carter
Mr Carl Askew, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate

Shire of East Pilbara

President Cr Lynne Craigie OAM
Cr Anthony Middleton
Ms Lisa Clack, Acting Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

Shire of Ashburton

President Kerry White
Cr Linton Rumble (Deputy)
Mr Kenn Donohoe, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

WALGA Secretariat

Mayor Tracey Roberts, President
Dale Chapman, Procurement and Category Manager

Guests

Nil

Guest Speakers

Olivia Birkett, A/CEO Tennis West

APOLOGIES

Shire of Ashburton

Cr Peter Foster

Town of Port Hedland

Deputy Mayor Renae Coles

City of Karratha

Cr Daniel Scott

WALGA

Chantelle O'Brien, Governance Support Officer

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Zone Delegates were requested to provide sufficient written notice, wherever possible, on amendments to recommendations within the State Council or Zone agenda prior to the Zone meeting to the Chair and Secretariat.

Agenda Papers were emailed 7 days prior to the meeting date to your Council for distribution to Zone Delegates.

Confirmation of Attendance attendance was noted prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Acknowledgement of Country All attendees acknowledged the traditional owners of the land that the meeting is held on and paying respects to Elders past, present and future.

ATTACHMENTS WITH THE AGENDA

1. President's Report
2. Status Report

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Elected Members must declare to the Chairman any potential conflict of interest they have in a matter before the Zone as soon as they become aware of it. Councillors and deputies may be directly or indirectly associated with some recommendations of the Zone and State Council. If you are affected by these recommendations, please excuse yourself from the meeting and do not participate in deliberations.

2. DEPUTATIONS

All Deputations have a time limit of 20 minutes, which includes questions time.

2.1 Tennis West

Olivia Birkett presented to the Zone on Thriving Tennis Communities.

An attachment of the presentation was provided with the Agenda.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION

Moved: Mayor Peter Carter
Seconded: President Cr Lynne Craigie

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Pilbara Country Zone held on 23 November 2020 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING

4.1

Nil

4.2 Status Report

A Status Report outlining the actions taken on the Zone's resolutions was enclosed as an attachment.

Noted

5. BUSINESS

5.1 North West Defence Alliance Project

By City of Karratha

Background

The four Pilbara Shires and four Kimberley Shires as a collective are called the North West Defence Alliance, Mayor Peter Long is the Chair of this group. The Terms of Reference of this group were attached with the Agenda.

The Alliance have been asked to write an article for the July edition of WA Defence review and to include a large advertisement in it. Part of this project will involve establishing an NWDA website and email address as well as some other work. As an estimate, funds required to achieve this work would be less than \$1000 each for the eight member councils.

As a suggestion, it is requested that \$1000 each, or \$4000 together out of the reserve left in the Pilbara Regional Council for the four Pilbara Councils, be put forward for this project and the each of the Kimberley Councils will also be requested to put forward the same.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Linton Rumble
Seconded: Mayor Peter Carter

That the four Pilbara Shires agree to forward \$4000 from Pilbara Regional Council funds to the City of Karratha to be held in trust for the North West Defence Alliance to:

- **Pay for a double page advertisement in the July edition of WA Defence review (which is to feature defence of the north of Australia)**
- **Establish a NWDA website**
- **Establish a NWDA email address for communication with the Alliance Coordinator**
- **Pay for artistic and other professional assistance to establish the above.**

And that NWDA Coordinator Peter Long contact the Shire of East Pilbara, current administrator for the PRC, to enable the transaction.

CARRIED

5.2 Proposed Review of the Road Asset Preservation Model (APM)

By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure WALGA

Recommendation

That the Zone:

- Provide feedback to the WALGA Infrastructure Policy Team regarding a preferred advocacy approach to any review of the Road Asset Preservation Model (APM).

Executive Summary

- A Zone Council recommendation to review the Road Asset Preservation Model (APM) was referred to the Infrastructure Policy Team in December 2020. The Policy Team resolved to seek views from Zones before recommending the development of a formal State Council agenda paper.
- This paper sets out options to guide the development of a Zone resolution.
- The Asset Preservation Model was developed as a Commonwealth requirement for the distribution of Commonwealth Government road grants among Local Governments in an efficient and equitable manner, taking account of local asset preservation needs and costs. It is currently used to distribute a range of Federal and State Government grant funding allocations.
- Despite being used to allocate large sums of public funding, operation of the APM is not well understood within the Local Government sector.
- The APM is not readily accessible to Local Governments. Limited documentation and complexity means that more open access alone would not be helpful in achieving strong understanding of the processes that underpin the output.
- Complexity of the APM makes it difficult to predict the effects on funding allocations of changes to the model or input parameters.
- This paper proposes five options that could be considered to address this issue, for WALGA to advocate to the Grants Commission.
- The options are not mutually exclusive, and some could be combined as a staged approach.
- The five options are:
 1. Re-format and re-label the model, to improve its legibility for all users and make it available to the Local Government sector in a form that would enable stakeholders to understand it.
 2. Review the parameters within the model, in order to increase the accuracy of road maintenance costs within the model.
 3. Advocate to the Grants Commission to undertake a review of the cost regions and minimum standards to ensure that these appropriately reflect the costs faced by Local Government and the current development of the road network
 4. Advocate to the Grants Commission to undertake an appropriately-resourced process to review and rebuild the road Asset Preservation Model. This new model should be as simple as possible while still delivering an equitable distribution of funding among Local Governments. Its variables and assumptions should be easily indefinable to model users, being clearly labelled and documented.

5. Accept the status quo with no further action

Background

A Zone Council recommendation to review the APM was referred to the Infrastructure Policy Team in December 2020. The Team resolved to seek feedback from the Zones as the matter had not been widely identified as an issue of concern.

The Asset Preservation Model was developed by Main Roads WA and Local Government representatives, to distribute the untied roads component of the Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants between Local Governments.

The WA Local Government Grants Commission took over responsibility for distributing the identified Commonwealth road funds and undertook a comprehensive review of the Asset Preservation Model and modified and refined it. Application of the APM has since been broadened and it is now used to determine the distribution between Local Governments of a range of state and federal funding.

To assist Local Governments make decisions regarding preferred approaches to the use and development of the Asset Preservation Model a manual has been developed by WALGA describing the APM and how it functions. The manual can be viewed [here](#).

Problem Statement

The Road Asset Preservation Model is used to allocate large sums of funding. Despite the importance of the model, it is not widely understood, due to its complexity and limited documentation. This results in a lack of transparency, risk of corporate memory loss, the risk of unfair or otherwise inappropriate allocations of funding, and the reputational risk due to funds distribution not being fully explainable and region allocations being subject to question.

Options

There are five options identified in the text below, and the table on the final page of this paper. Note that the options are not mutually exclusive and all or some of them could be recommended to be implemented in phased approach.

1. Advocate to the Grants Commission to re-format and re-label the APM, to improve its legibility for all users. A detailed record should also be made of the model's parameters, and the process that was used for determining their values.
2. Advocate to the Grants Commission for a review of the various parameters contained within the APM, such as the array of annual maintenance costs for different asset types, road reconstruction frequencies and the components of reconstruction costs. This option would increase the accuracy of road maintenance costs within the model, although would not address the underlying problems of excessive complexity and a lack of transparency and predictability.
3. Advocate to the Grants Commission to undertake a review of the cost regions and minimum standards to ensure that these appropriately reflect the costs faced by Local Government and the current development of the road network.
4. Advocate to the Grants Commission to undertake an appropriately-resourced process to review and rebuild the APM. This new model should be as simple as possible while

still delivering an equitable distribution of funding among Local Governments. Its variables and assumptions should be easily indefinable to model users, being clearly labelled and documented.

5. Retain Status quo.

It should be noted that these are all advocacy positions. The Road Asset Preservation Model is controlled by the WA Local Government Grants Commission and any decisions regarding development of the model or use of a different approach would be made by the Commission. It must be noted that if Options 2, 3 or 4 are implemented, there is a risk of some Local Governments receiving a lower grant allocation. This risk may be mitigated by advocating for increased funding from the State or Federal Governments, although there is no guarantee that such funding would be forthcoming.

The current membership of the WA Local Government Grants Commission is:

- Chairperson — Hon Cr Fred Riebeling AM JP
- Deputy Chairperson — Mr Luke Stevens, Legal Counsel, DLGSC
- Metropolitan Member — Cr Deb Hamblin, Deputy Mayor, City of Rockingham
- Country Urban Member — Dr Wendy Giles, Councillor, City of Bunbury
- Country Rural Member — Cr Ian West, Shire of Irwin
- Deputy to the Deputy Chairperson — Ms Darrelle Merritt, A/Director - Strategic Initiatives, DLGSC
- Deputy Metropolitan Member — Vacant
- Deputy Country Urban Member — Cr Deborah Botica, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
- Deputy Country Rural Member — Cr Moira Girando, President, Shire of Coorow

Analysis of the Options

The options have varying levels of cost, effort and risk attached to them.

Changes to the APM would affect the funding allocation between Local Governments in ways that are difficult to predict, due to the complexity of the model. The total available funding is fixed, so an increase in one Local Government's funding would necessarily reduce the level of funding available to others, unless additional funding can be secured.

There are also risks associated with no change being made to the APM. The model's complexity and incomplete documentation and labelling creates a risk of corporate memory loss. There is also a reputational risk associated with large sums of money being allocated based on a model that is not well understood by the Local Government sector.

Comparatively simple and lower-cost changes can be made to the APM, under Options 1, 2 and 3. These options would address some of the concerns raised here, but do not address the underlying problems noted above.

Next Steps

Resolutions made by the Zones will guide the development of an agenda item for the next meeting of State Council, to provide WALGA with direction on the sector's preference for its advocacy position regarding the Road Asset Preservation Model.

	<i>Option 1</i>	<i>Option 2</i>	<i>Option 3</i>	<i>Option 4</i>	<i>Option 5</i>
	Reformat and label	Review model cost parameters	Review cost regions/ min. standards	Full model review and rebuild	Status quo
Advantages	<p>Improves operation of existing model.</p> <p>Helps retain corporate memory.</p> <p>Improves transparency.</p> <p>Low risk and cost, in the short term.</p>	<p>Improves link between funding allocation and road maintenance costs.</p>	<p>Addresses concerns about inappropriate groupings of Local Governments.</p>	<p>Opportunity to review the model objectives.</p> <p>Improvement in transparency.</p> <p>Opportunity to incorporate contemporary modelling and user functionality.</p>	<p>Avoids conflict between Local Governments over funds distribution.</p> <p>Lowest short-term risk.</p> <p>No direct cost.</p>
Disadvantages	<p>Does not address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> questionable parameter values. complexity and transparency. 	<p>May require some additional resourcing.</p> <p>Does not address complexity and transparency.</p> <p>Possible reduction in funding for some LGs.</p>	<p>May require some additional resourcing.</p> <p>Does not address complexity and transparency.</p> <p>Likely reduction in funding for some LGs.</p>	<p>If no material impact on funds distribution, the rationale for the exercise may be questionable.</p> <p>Would require additional resourcing.</p>	<p>Does not address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> questionable parameter values. complexity and transparency corporate memory issues.
Risks / Dependencies	<p>Reputational risk, due to funds distribution not being fully explainable.</p>	<p>Reputational risk, due to funds distribution not being fully explainable.</p>	<p>Reputational risk, due to funds distribution not being fully explainable.</p>	<p>Difficult to predict the distribution of funds.</p> <p>A review may trigger disagreement between Local</p>	<p>Reputational risk, due to funds distribution not being fully explainable and regional allocations</p>



			Continued risk of corporate memory loss.	Governments over the distribution of funds. The Grants Commission may not agree to implement.	being subject to question. Continued risk of corporate memory loss.
Effort / Cost	Low-medium	High	Medium	Very high	None
Notes		Assumes Option 1 also undertaken: reformat and labelling.		Mutually exclusive of the other options or as an aspirational addition.	Mutually exclusive of the other five options.

ZONE RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Lynne Craigie
 Seconded: Cr Linton Rumble

That the Pilbara Country Zone considers WALGA should proceed with Option 1, but in addition, lobby to increase the size of the fund, rather than how it is administered.

CARRIED



6. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR DECISION

(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)

The full State Council Agenda can be found via link: [3 March State Council Agenda](#)

The Zone is able to provide comment or submit an alternative recommendation that is then presented to the State Council for consideration.

Matters for Decision

5.1 External Oversight and Intervention – Authorised Inquiries and Show Cause Notices

That WALGA:

1. Continues to advocate for the State Government to ensure that there is proper resourcing of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries to conduct timely inquiries and interventions when instigated under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1995; and
2. Requests the Minister for Local Government to:
 - a. Engage with affected Local Governments in order to attempt to resolve identified issues, improve performance and achieve good governance before considering an intervention under Part 8 of the Local Government Act 1995;
 - b. Provide written reasons prior to issuing any Show Cause Notices;
 - c. Require regular progress reports to be provided to any Local Government that is the subject of any Authorised Inquiry; and
 - d. Require that any Authorised Inquiry be conducted within a specified timeframe that may be extended with the approval of the Minister.

5.2 Cost of Revaluations

That WALGA advocate to the State Government for the equal distribution of valuation costs for properties where the Water Corporation, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and the Local Government require the valuation.

5.3 Eligibility of Slip On Fire Fighting Units for Local Government Grants Scheme Funding

That WALGA:

1. Supports the inclusion of capital costs of Slip On Fire Fighting Units including for Farmer Response Brigades (for use on private motor vehicles) on the Eligible List of the Local Governments Grants Scheme (LGGGS).
2. Requests the Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group to include this matter on the Agenda of their next Meeting (expected March 2021).
3. Requests WALGA to work with the Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group to develop appropriate operational guidelines and procedures for the safe use of Slip On Fire Fighting Units funded in accordance with the LGGS.
4. Supports the update of the WALGA membership of the Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group to include one Local Government Elected Member and one Local Government Officer, with these appointments determined through the WALGA Selection Committee process.

Matters for Noting

- 6.1 Local Government Car Parking Guideline – Western Australia
- 6.2 Submission – Draft Local Government Regulations Amendment (Employee Code of Conduct) Regulations 2020
- 6.3 Submission – Proposed Reportable Conduct Scheme for Western Australia
- 6.4 Submission – Draft State Planning Policy 4.2: Activity Centre
- 6.5 Submission – Registration of Builders (and Related Occupations) Reforms
- 6.6 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC)

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Lynne Craigie

Seconded: Mayor Peter Carter

That the Pilbara Country Zone

1. **Supports all Matters for Decision as listed above in the March 2021 State Council Agenda; and**
2. **Notes all Matters for Noting and Organisational Reports as listed in the March 2021 State Council Agenda.**

CARRIED

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

9. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

9.1 President's Report to the Zone

The WALGA President, Mayor Tracey Roberts, presented her Report.

Noted

9.2 State Councillor's report to the Zone

WALGA State Councillor presented on the previous State Council meeting.

Noted

9.3 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Representative Update Report.

Please see link below for update

[DLGSC Zone Update Feb 2021](#)

Noted

9.4 Topics for next meeting update by the DLGSC

To assist the content of the DLGSC's updates each Zone meeting, feedback is sought on what topics may be of particular relevance to the Zone. The DLGSC's portfolio is as follows:

DLGSC business areas

- Local Government
- Racing, Gaming and Liquor
- Infrastructure
- Sport and Recreation
- Regional Services
- Culture and the Arts
- Aboriginal History Unit
- Office of Multicultural Interests

The Zone would like an update and/or information on the following topics at the next Zone meeting.

- Juvenile Crime

- Indigenous Youth

Noted

10. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

That the next ordinary meeting of the Pilbara Country Zone be held on 27 April 2021, hosted by Shire of East Pilbara - Newman, commencing at 11.30pm.

Noted

11. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 12.13pm.