

Central Metropolitan Zone Minutes

21 November 2024

Hosted by the City of Subiaco
Level 2, 388 Hay Street, Subiaco

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES.....	5
1.1	Opening	5
1.2	Attendance	5
1.3	Apologies	6
2	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY	7
3	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.....	7
4	DEPUTATIONS.....	7
4.1	Speed Limit Initiative.....	7
5	AGENCY REPORTS	8
5.1	Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Representative Update Report.....	8
6	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	8
7	BUSINESS ARISING.....	8
7.1	Status Report.....	8
8	ZONE BUSINESS	8
8.1	2025 Proposed Meeting Dates	8
8.2	Deputations Planning For 2025	9
8.3	Submissions to the 2025 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members.....	10
8.4	Request to Present.....	11
8.5	Cooperation and Shared Services	12
8.6	Native Vegetation Clearing Issues Paper	12
9	STATE COUNCIL AGENDA – MATTERS FOR DECISION AND NOTING.....	13
9.1	STATE COUNCIL MATTERS FOR DECISION	14
9.1.1	2024 Annual General Meeting Resolutions (State Council Agenda item 8.1)...	14
9.1.2	Local Government Elections Advocacy Positions (State Council Agenda item 8.2)	14
9.1.3	Aboriginal Communities Advocacy Positions (State Council Agenda item 8.3)	16
9.1.4	Family and Domestic Violence Advocacy Position (State Council Agenda item 8.4)	17
9.1.5	Container Deposit System Policy Statement and Advocacy Position (State Council Agenda item 8.5).....	18
9.1.6	Bus Stop Infrastructure Agreement (State Council Agenda item 8.6).....	19
9.1.7	2025 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members (State Council Agenda item 8.7).....	20
9.1.8	Submission on the draft State Hazard Plan - Fire (State Council Agenda item 8.8)	21
9.2	POLICY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS	22
9.2.1	Infrastructure Policy Team Report (State Council Agenda item 9.1)	22
9.2.2	People and Place Policy Team Report (State Council Agenda item 9.2).....	22
9.2.3	Governance Policy Team Report (State Council Agenda item 9.3)	22
9.2.4	Environment Policy Team Report (State Council Agenda item 9.4)	22
9.2.5	Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Report (State Council Agenda item 9.5)	23
9.3	MATTERS FOR NOTING/INFORMATION.....	23
9.4	KEY ACTIVITY REPORTS.....	24
10	EXECUTIVE REPORTS	24

10.1	WALGA President's Report	24
10.2	State Councillor's report to the Zone.....	24
11	OTHER BUSINESS.....	24
12	NEXT MEETING.....	24
13	CLOSURE	24

PRIORITISATION FRAMEWORK

How to use the Framework:

- If the majority of the factors are towards the left column, the issue is a high priority.
- If the majority of the factors are towards the middle, the issue requires action, but is not a high priority.
- If the majority of the factors are towards the right column, the issue is a low priority.

Impact on Local Government Sector Impact on Local Government sector without intervention	High	Medium	Low
Reach Number of member Local Governments affected	Sector-wide	Significant (multiple regions, Zones, or bands)	Few
Influence Capacity to influence decision makers	High	Medium	Low
Principles Alignment to core principles such as autonomy, funding, general competence	Strong	Partial	Peripheral
Clarity Policy change needed is clear and well-defined	Clear	Partial	Unclear
Decision-maker support Level of support among decision-makers (political and administrative)	High	Medium	Low
Public support Level of support among the public or other stakeholders	High	Medium	Low
Positive consequences for WALGA Prospect of positive consequences for WALGA. E.g. enhanced standing among members or leverage for other issues.	High	Medium	Low
Negative consequences for WALGA Prospect of negative consequences for WALGA for not undertaking the advocacy effort. E.g. diminished standing among members or other stakeholders.	High	Medium	Low
Partnerships Potential for partnerships with other stakeholders	Yes (3+)	Possibly (1-2)	No (0)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Agenda Papers are emailed 7 days prior to the meeting date.

Confirmation of Attendance An attendance sheet will be circulated prior to the commencement of the meeting, please register your attendance by printing your name against your Council on the attendance sheet.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Minutes of previous meeting
2. November 2024 Update – Department of Local Government, Sports and Cultural Industries
3. Zone Status Report
4. President's Report
5. Standing Orders
6. Cooperation and Shared Services document
7. Native Vegetation Issues Paper

1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

1.1 OPENING

The Chair, Cr Paul Kelly opened the meeting at 6:03pm.

1.2 ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS

2 Voting Delegates from each Member Council

Town of Cambridge

Cr Kate Barlow
Cr Ben Mayes

Town of Claremont

Cr Paul Kelly - **Chair**
Cr Shelley Hatton

Town of Cottesloe

Cr Sonja Heath
Cr Helen Sadler
Cr Chilla Bulbeck (late arrival)

Town of Mosman Park

Mayor Paul Shaw
Cr Sarah Corbyn (Observer)
Mr Mark Newman, Acting Chief Executive Officer
non-voting delegate

City of Nedlands

Cr Kerry Smyth (late arrival)
Cr Rebecca Coghlan (late arrival)

Shire of Peppermint Grove

Cr Charles Hohnen

City of Perth	Cr Liam Gobbert
City of Subiaco	Cr Penny O'Connor
City of Vincent	Mayor Alison Xamon Mr David MacLennan Chief Executive Officer – non-voting delegate Mr Luke McGuirk, Manager Engineering (Guest Speaker)
WALGA Secretariat	Ms Rachel Horton, Executive Manager Advocacy Ms Millie Redden, Administration Assistant Policy and Advocacy Ms Negar Nilie, Policy Officer, Transport and Roads

1.3 APOLOGIES

Town of Claremont	Ms Liz Ledger, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Town of Cambridge	Mr Kelton Hincks, A/Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Town of Cottesloe	Mr Matthew Scott, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate Cr Chilla Bulbeck
Town of Mosman Park	Cr Russell Armstrong
City of Nedlands	Ms Keri Shannon, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Peppermint Grove	President Karen Farley Mr Don Burnett, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
City of Perth	Cr David Goncalves Ms Michelle Reynolds, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
City of Subiaco	Cr Mark Burns Mr Colin Cameron, Chief Executive Officer - non-voting delegate
City of Vincent	Cr Jonathan Hallett

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We, the Zone members acknowledge the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to Country, culture and community. We embrace the vast Aboriginal cultural diversity throughout Western Australia, including Boorloo (Perth), on the land of the Whadjuk Noongar People, where this meeting is being held and we acknowledge and pay respect to Elders past and present.

3 DECLARATIONS 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.

- Cr Helen Sadler declared a conflict of interest regarding item 9.1.3 Aboriginal Communities Advocacy Positions as a Board member for Reconciliation WA.

4 DEPUTATIONS

4.1 SPEED LIMIT INITIATIVE

In 2018 the City of Vincent proposed a 40km/h speed zone trial within Vincent's southern suburban residential areas to study the impact of slower speed limits. The objective was that the trial would make neighbourhood streets safer and provide a better street environment for all road users and residents living close by.

The trial was a success and in 2023 Main Roads WA (MRWA) approved permanent 40km/h speed limits in parts of North Perth, in addition to an existing trial area in Vincent's southern-most suburbs. This covered 40 per cent of City of Vincent's local access roads.

Community consultations by City of Vincent demonstrated significant support for the reduction of the speed limits, with almost 60 per cent of respondents showing they were in favour of the change.

MRWA has now granted approval for the speed to be permanently reduced on all local access roads within the City of Vincent. The 40km/h speed limits will apply to local access roads only.

City of Vincent Chief Executive Officer, David McLennan provided a presentation and further information on this initiative's success.

Noted

5 AGENCY REPORTS

5.1 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SPORT AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE REPORT

The November 2024 report from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) is provided as an attachment.

Noted

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Helen Sadler
Seconded: Cr Charles Hohnen

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Central Metropolitan Zone held on 22 August 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

7 BUSINESS ARISING

7.1 STATUS REPORT

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

Noted

8 ZONE BUSINESS

8.1 2025 PROPOSED MEETING DATES

By Chantelle O'Brien, Zone Executive Officer

BACKGROUND

A schedule of the proposed 2025 meeting dates for the Central Metropolitan Zone has been prepared and is set out below. The dates have been set to coincide with the WALGA State Council meetings.

The proposed meeting dates for the Central Metropolitan Zone for 2025 require adoption by delegates.

As with previous years, the venue for each meeting has been rotated amongst Members.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS
**CENTRAL METROPOLITAN ZONE MEETING
 2025**

Zone Meeting Dates Thursday	Time	HOST COUNCIL	State Council Meeting Dates 2025
20 February	Thursday 6.00 pm	City of Vincent	Wednesday 5 March 2025
24 April	Thursday 6.00 pm	Town of Cambridge	Regional Metro Wednesday 7 May 2025
19 June	Thursday 6.00 pm	Town of Claremont	Wednesday 2 July 2025
21 August	Thursday 6.00 pm	Town of Mosman Park	Regional Meeting 4-5 September 2025
20 November	Thursday 6.00 pm	City of Nedlands	Wednesday 3 December 2025

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Kerry Smyth
 Seconded: Cr Kate Barlow

That the 2025 proposed schedule of meetings for the Central Metropolitan Zone be adopted.

CARRIED

8.2 DEPUTATIONS PLANNING FOR 2025

By Chantelle O'Brien, Zone Executive Officer

BACKGROUND

As we approach the new year, it's an excellent time to reflect on the opportunities ahead. One of the most impactful ways for Zones to focus their efforts and have meaningful discussions is by inviting knowledgeable speakers to future Zone meetings.

There is a standing item on all Zone Agendas for Deputations. Zones are asked to endorse all proposals for Deputations, allowing Delegates full control as to what kinds of guest presenters and topics they would like to have on each Zone Agenda.

For the Central Metropolitan Zone, there are currently three Deputations organised for 2025.

- Landgate (1)
- Office of the Homelessness (2)
- Department of Energy, Mines, Industrial Relations and Safety (if supported – see item 8.4 below)

The Central Metropolitan Zone has previously allowed at times for two Deputations per meeting.

COMMENT

To assist the Zone Executive Officer in organising Deputations for 2025 that are most relevant to the interests of the Zone, Delegates are invited to consider any potential guest presenters or topics for next year's meetings.

Below are some ideas to consider when thinking about potential Deputations:

- Current trends: consider inviting speakers who can discuss the latest trends and developments in the sector.
- Consider inviting a Minister: Ministers often have deep expertise in their respective fields, whether it's education, health, infrastructure, or another area. Their insights can provide valuable information and updates on policies, programs, and initiatives that directly impact the community. This creates an excellent networking opportunity for Delegates to connect with key decision-makers and build valuable relationships.
- University professors: experts in public administration, political science, or urban studies can provide evidence-based insights and research findings.
- Nonprofit Executives: leaders from influential nonprofits can discuss community needs, partnerships and collaborative projects.
- Urban planning and development: experts in urban planning can discuss sustainable development, zoning laws and infrastructure projects.

The Zone may wish to discuss their suggestions for potential speakers or topics for 2025.

For Discussion

The Zone discussed that it would suit if Landgate could present in February and the Office of Homelessness in April.

8.3 SUBMISSIONS TO THE 2025 SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES TRIBUNAL REMUNERATION INQUIRY FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND ELECTED MEMBERS

By Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance

BACKGROUND

The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal (SAT) conduct an annual inquiry into Local Government Chief Executive Officer and Elected Member remuneration.

SAT generally advertises its intention to receive submissions in December for its inquiry and Determination in relation to the following financial year. The Tribunal will invite individual Local Governments, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, WALGA, Local Government Professionals WA and other interested individuals to provide information or submissions.

SAT will likely publish its Determination for 2025-2026 in April 2025.

COMMENT

In preparation for the inquiry to be undertaken early next year, a draft submission from WALGA has been prepared making recommendations to SAT on behalf of the sector in

relation to Elected Member fees and allowances, Chief Executive Officer remuneration, the Regional/Isolation Allowance and Independent Audit Member fees. The draft WALGA submission is contained in the December State Council Agenda for Zone and State Council consideration.

Local Governments can also put forward a submission, particularly in relation to their own circumstances, including requests to be classified in a different Band.

WALGA encourages all Local Governments to make a submission to SAT.

Noted

8.4 REQUEST TO PRESENT

By Chantelle O'Brien, Zone Executive Officer

WALGA Secretariat has been contacted by Jason St Martin, from the Building and Energy Division requesting to attend Zone meetings in 2025 and deliver a deputation on arboriculture contractors carrying out powerline vegetation control work engaged by Local Governments.

Local Governments frequently procure the services of arboriculture contractors to carry out powerline vegetation control work. Due to a number of incidents that have resulted in life changing injuries and death, the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulations and Safety (DEMIRS) agencies Building and Energy and WorkSafe have launched campaigns to make this industry safer.

All stakeholders, including Local Governments have a duty of care and a role to play in this effort. Managing Senior Electrical Inspector Jason St Martin will explain what legislation applies to this industry and how engaging only properly qualified workers is one way to significantly reduce the risk of serious injury and death.

The secretariat will schedule the deputation based on each Zones availability for those that support this deputation and members will be informed by the relevant agenda.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Shelley Hatton

Seconded: Cr Helen Sadler

That the Central Metropolitan Zone does not support a deputation at a future Zone meeting in 2025 from Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulations and Safety.

CARRIED

8.5 COOPERATION AND SHARED SERVICES

By Tony Brown, WALGA

BACKGROUND

Please find attached (Attachment 6) the latest version of the Cooperation and Shared Services document. This document was created to capture the collaborative work between Local Governments, showcasing ways to maximise resources to deliver outcomes that would be difficult to achieve alone. Local Governments have contributed to this resource and will be consulted again next year for further updates/modifications.

All CEO's have received this document and were encouraged to share with Councillors and staff to fully display all collaborative work happening within Local Government.

WALGA will be promoting this to Government agencies to display the collaborative work that happens in our sector.

If you have any questions or queries, please contact Tony Brown – tbrown@walga.asn.au or Naoimh Donaghy – ndonaghy@walga.asn.au.

Noted

8.6 NATIVE VEGETATION CLEARING ISSUES PAPER

By Sarah Coles, Environment Policy Officer

BACKGROUND

WALGA has developed an Issues Paper on Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations based on input from Local Government and analysis of Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER), and Appeals Convenor, data. Drawing on this data and Local Government case studies, the Paper outlines challenges Local Governments have encountered in navigating the regulatory system and identifies opportunities for improvement.

WALGA's data analysis identifies that 60% of Local Government clearing permits applications relate to road construction or upgrade. Key challenges relate to the complexity of navigating the regulatory environment, costs associated with the process and the time taken (for assessment of permits and appeals). These challenges can delay road and infrastructure projects and impact on Local Government's ability to attract and retain grant funding.

Based on discussions with the sector, and recommendations of previous submissions, WALGA has identified a range of potential opportunities to improve the native vegetation process. These focus on DWER process improvements, Local Government capacity building and taking strategic approaches to data collection, clearing permits and offsets:

1. The implementation of a State Government coordinated and funded biodiversity survey program.
2. Funding for a trial using Artificial Intelligence (AI) for biodiversity mapping.
3. DWER to develop a Strategic Offsets framework for Local Government.

4. The introduction of statutory timeframes for determination of referrals, permits and appeals and timely compliance and enforcement.
5. Increased support and capacity building for Local Governments to navigate the native vegetation clearing requirements.
6. Extended default periods for purpose permits and removal of the time limit requirement for maintenance in existing transport corridors.

The Issues Paper has been updated following consideration by the Environment and Infrastructure Policy Teams and is attached for Zones' consideration and feedback. In particular, Zones are requested to provide feedback on the following:

- a. Does the Issues Paper capture the challenges experienced by Local Government in relation to native vegetation clearing regulations?
- b. The opportunities identified for improving the native vegetation clearing process for Local Government.
- c. Any additional opportunities.

Discussion at the Zone meeting is encouraged. Any written feedback should be provided by Friday, 13 December, to environment@walga.asn.au.

The Zone can provide feedback at the meeting as well as Local Governments can email WALGA direct by 13 December.

Following all Zones feedback an item will be prepared for the Zones and State Council in February/March 2025.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Penny O'Connor
Seconded: Cr Kate Barlow

That the Central Metropolitan Zone:

1. Notes the Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations Issues Paper; and
2. Notes that Local Governments may submit their written feedback directly to WALGA for consideration.

CARRIED

9 STATE COUNCIL AGENDA – MATTERS FOR DECISION AND NOTING

Zone delegates to read and consider the December 2024 WALGA State Council Agenda, which has been provided as an attachment with this Agenda.

The Zone can provide comment or submit an alternative recommendation that will then be presented to the State Council for consideration.

9.1 STATE COUNCIL MATTERS FOR DECISION

9.1.1 2024 Annual General Meeting Resolutions (State Council Agenda item 8.1)

By Meghan Dwyer, Executive Officer Governance

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. the item 71 Amendments to *Cat Act 2011*- Allow Local Governments to Make Local Laws to Contain Cats to the Owner's Property be endorsed.
2. the following resolutions from the 2024 WALGA Annual General be referred to the Environment Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:
 - 7.2 Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land-Banking
 - 7.4 Action on Asbestos for Western Australia
 - 7.6 Advocacy for Accessibility.
3. the following resolutions from the 2024 WALGA Annual General be referred to the Governance Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:
 - 7.2 Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land-Banking
 - 7.3 Advocacy for Expansion of Differential Rating to Include Long Term Unoccupied Commercial Buildings (Property Activation Levy).
4. the following resolution from the 2024 WALGA Annual General be referred to the People and Place Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:
 - 7.5 Addressing the Impracticality of Local Governments Funding Department of Communities and GROH Houses.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA's 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 9 October.
- The meeting resolved for WALGA to act in relation to six Member Motions:
 - Amendments to the *Cat Act 2011*- Allow Local Governments to Make Local Laws to Contain Cats to the Owner's Property
 - Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land-banking
 - Advocacy for Expansion of Differential Rating to Include Long Term Unoccupied Commercial Buildings (Property Activation Levy)
 - Action on Asbestos for Western Australia
 - Addressing the Impracticality of Local Governments Funding Department of Communities and Government Regional Officer Housing
 - Advocacy for Accessibility
- The action proposed to be taken in relation to each of the resolutions has been summarised for State Council's information.

9.1.2 Local Government Elections Advocacy Positions (State Council Agenda item 8.2)

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services and Jason Russell, Senior Governance Specialist

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA adopt the following Elections Advocacy Positions:

The Local Government sector supports:

1. *Voluntary participation in non-metropolitan Local Government elections*
2. *Mandatory participation in metropolitan local governments elections.*
3. *Councillors serve four-year terms with elections every two years and half of the Council positions spilled at each election.*
4. *First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system for Local Government elections. If Optional Preferential Voting (OPV) remains as the primary method of voting, the sector supports the removal of the 'proportional' part of the voting method for general elections.*
5. *First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system for internal Council elections.*
6. *Councils holding elections by means of in-person, postal and/or electronic voting.*
7. *Current legislative provision of Mayor/President of Class 1 and Class 2 Local Governments being directly elected by the community and Class 3 and Class 4 Local Government Councils may elect the President or can choose to have them popularly elected.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This report presents the findings of sector-wide consultation on WALGA's Elections Advocacy Positions.
- Consultation addressed key areas elements of the current Advocacy Positions:
 1. Voluntary participation,
 2. Terms on Council and election cycles,
 3. Voting systems for public elections,
 4. Voting systems for internal elections,
 5. Methods for holding elections,
 6. Ability to choose how Mayors/Presidents are elected.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Charles Hohnen

Seconded: Cr Helen Sadler

That the Central Metropolitan Zone supports State Council Agenda item 8.2 as noted above.

AMENDMENT

Moved: Cr Liam Gobbert

Seconded: Cr Kerry Smyth

That:

1. Point 1 of the Local Government Elections Advocacy Position be amended to read: *Voluntary participation in non-metropolitan Local Government elections.*
2. An additional Point 2 be added that reads: *Mandatory participation in metropolitan Local Government elections.*

CARRIED

AMENDMENT

Moved: Cr Paul Kelly
Seconded: Cr Helen Sadler

That point 6 be amended to read:

6. Current legislative provision of Mayor/President of Class 1 and Class 2 Local Governments being directly elected by the community and Class 3 and Class 4 Local Government Councils may elect the President or can choose to have them popularly elected.

CARRIED

THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION AS AMENDED WAS PUT AND CARRIED

9.1.3 Aboriginal Communities Advocacy Positions (State Council Agenda item 8.3) *By Rebecca Hicks, Policy Officer Community*

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council:

1. Replace Advocacy Position 3.1.2 Reconciliation with the following:

WALGA:

1. *Acknowledges the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to Country, culture and community and embraces the vast Aboriginal cultural diversity throughout Western Australia.*
2. *Supports the efforts of Local Governments to progress reconciliation at the local level.*

2. Remove Advocacy Position 3.1.3 Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

3. Replace Advocacy Position 3.1.4 *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021* and South West Native Title Settlement with the following:

3.1.4 Aboriginal Heritage Protection

1. *WALGA supports the recognition, protection, conservation and preservation of Aboriginal cultural heritage and recognises the fundamental importance of Aboriginal cultural heritage to Aboriginal people and the State.*
2. *The State Government must:*
 - a. *Ensure that legislative requirements balance the need to protect Aboriginal heritage with the need for Local Government to undertake activities in a timely and affordable manner.*
 - b. *Provide adequate resourcing to ensure all parties have the capacity, capability and resources to discharge their statutory obligations.*
 - c. *Provide support and guidance to Local Governments to ensure that they have the resources, capacity and capability to effectively and*

efficiently deliver essential services to community while protecting Aboriginal heritage.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Following a review of WALGA's Aboriginal Community advocacy positions it is proposed that Advocacy Positions 3.1.2 Reconciliation and 3.1.4 *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021* and South West Native Title Settlement be updated and that Advocacy Position 3.1.3 Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People be removed.
- The intent of the proposed revisions is to reflect contemporary approaches to key issues in Aboriginal Affairs policy and legislation as they relate to Local Government.
- The People and Place Policy Team considered and endorsed the proposed advocacy position changes at its meeting on 25 October.

9.1.4 Family and Domestic Violence Advocacy Position (State Council Agenda item 8.4)

By Rebecca Hicks, Policy Officer Community

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council replace Advocacy Position 3.10.1 Family and Domestic Violence with the following:

3.10.1 Family and Domestic Violence

- 1. Family and domestic violence is unacceptable and has devastating and long-term impacts on individuals, families and communities.*
- 2. Preventing family and domestic violence requires commitment from all levels of government, different sectors, and members of the community.*
- 3. WALGA calls on the State and Australian governments to provide adequate funding and support for family and domestic violence programs and services, in particular:*
 - a. Funding for collaborative and connected family and domestic violence programs and services that are place-based and people-centred; and*
 - b. Better integration of family and domestic violence initiatives, including capacity building across all tiers of government and community services.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- It is proposed that Advocacy Position 3.10.1 Family and Domestic Violence be updated.
- The revised position makes a clear statement on the Local Government sector's condemnation of family and domestic violence and the collective responsibility of governments and the community in prevention.
- The revised position provides a framework for WALGA advocacy to the Australian and State Government, without impinging on individual Local Government's approach to this issue, which will be dependent on their capacity, capability, local context and strategic direction.

- The People and Place Policy Team endorsed the revised Advocacy Position at its meeting on 25 October.

9.1.5 Container Deposit System Policy Statement and Advocacy Position (State Council Agenda item 8.5)

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council replace the existing Container Deposit Systems Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 7.6 Container Deposit Systems with the following:

7.6 Container Deposit Systems

1. *Local Government supports the WA Containers for Change Scheme and acknowledges its contribution to reducing litter, increasing material recovery and providing employment opportunities across the state.*
2. *To maximise the benefits of the WA Scheme, Local Government calls on the State Government to:*
 - a. *Maintain a resource recovery target of 85% for eligible containers and a focus on litter reduction.*
 - b. *Expand the range of containers accepted in the Scheme, by:*
 - i. *2027: to include wine bottles, spirit bottles and larger sizes of currently eligible containers,*
 - ii. *2030: to include plain milk and milk alternative containers and composite container types, and*
 - iii. *2035: other container types.*
 - c. *Ensure national alignment of the materials covered by the Scheme and consistent messaging.*
 - d. *Maintain a State-based and managed Scheme.*
 - e. *Review the deposit amount to appropriately incentivise community engagement.*
 - f. *Increase the number of refund and donation points to ensure community access, including in public places and at events.*
 - g. *Ensure refund points are financially sustainable.*
 - h. *Leverage the refund point collection network to provide drop off points for other materials covered by effective product stewardship schemes.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA's 2008 Container Deposit Systems (CDS) Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 7.6 Container Deposit Systems, formed the basis of WALGA's advocacy for the introduction and design of a WA CDS, Containers for Change, which commenced on 1 October 2020.
- The current Advocacy Position and many elements of the Policy Statement have been achieved. However, there are aspects of the Scheme that Local Government has identified as important to improve.
- The focus of the updated Advocacy Position is:
 - building on the environmental, social and economic benefits of the current Scheme;

- expanding the range of containers covered by the Scheme;
- increasing community access and incentives to use the Scheme; and
- leveraging the refund point network to collect other materials covered by effective product stewardship schemes.
- The Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) endorsed the new Policy Statement and Advocacy Position at its meeting on 23 October.

9.1.6 Bus Stop Infrastructure Agreement (State Council Agenda item 8.6)

By Negar Nili, Policy Officer Transport and Roads

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse the proposed Bus Stop Infrastructure Partnership Agreement between WALGA and the Public Transport Authority 2024/25 to 2028/29.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA has negotiated a new Bus Stop Infrastructure Partnership Agreement (Agreement) with the Public Transport Authority (PTA). If agreed this will be the third such Agreement, with validity through to 2028/29.
- The Agreement seeks to provide the foundation for an effective working relationship between the PTA and Local Governments.
- The purpose of the Agreement is to clarify the roles, responsibilities and discretion of PTA and Local Governments in the provision and maintenance of bus stop infrastructure in areas with regular public transport SmartRider ticketed services, including regional cities and towns.
- The Agreement defines the roles and responsibilities of the PTA and Local Governments in various scenarios including when bus routes are changed, bus stops are added or removed, and bus stop infrastructure is upgraded.
- The Agreement provides a funding contribution to Local Governments for the maintenance and installation of bus shelters.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Helen Sadler
 Seconded: Mayor Alison Xamon

1. That WALGA seek to negotiate with the PTA to:
 - a. Remove the word "typically" from clauses describing PTA's activities;
 - b. Seek indexation of funding provided under the Bus Shelter Subsidy Program (BSSP) and Bus Shelter Maintenance Assistance Scheme (BSMAS) during or at the end of the Agreement;
 - c. Request the PTA to expand the range of shelter designs to offer shade when installed in different orientations.
2. That the Central Metropolitan Zone endorse the proposed Bus Stop Infrastructure Partnership Agreement between WALGA and the Public Transport Authority 2024/25 to 2028/29 following conclusion of the above negotiations.
3. That WALGA develop an advocacy position that Commonwealth Disability Standards have a provision for minimum standards of public transport shelter.

CARRIED

Comments from the Zone:

Background and rationale

- *The word "typically" on pages 16 and 20 of the agreement is in regard to the PTA adding, removing, upgrading or modifying bus stop infrastructure. "the PTA typically undertakes community consultation, where Transperth patrons and relevant entities like Local Governments are invited to make comment for its consideration". Removing the word "typically" strengthened the requirement for PTA to consult to ensure local knowledge is considered before decisions are made*
- *Seeking indexation of funding is to ensure that the amount of money available to LGs to build and maintain bus shelter is not eroded by inflation over time*
- *Currently bus shelter designs do not take into consideration the orientation of the shelter in order to provide protection from the sun e.g. a bus stop on the southern side of a street that runs east-west provides no solar protection. Protection from the elements at all bus shelters will not only improve comfort (and hopefully uptake or usership), it is often an essential safety/health element for the young/elderly and those with disability.*
- *For background, the Commonwealth Disability Standards do not include any provision for shelter. This would need to become an advocacy position with the Commonwealth, if WALGA is to pursue this.*

9.1.7 2025 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members (State Council Agenda item 8.7)

By Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse the submission to the 2025 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal (SAT) conduct an inquiry into Local Government Chief Executive Officer and Elected Member remuneration annually.
- In preparation for the inquiry to be undertaken early next year, WALGA has prepared a draft submission to SAT that makes recommendations in relation to Elected Member fees and allowances, Chief Executive Officer remuneration, the Regional/Isolation Allowance and independent audit, risk and improvement committee member fees.
- The submission recommends:
 - an increase to Elected Member Fees and Allowances (including maximum reimbursable expenses) of 4%;
 - an increase to Chief Executive Officer remuneration bands of 4%;
 - an increase to the Regional/Isolation Allowance payable for Local Governments that are particularly isolated, long distances from population centres, and lacking in amenities;
 - the publication of clear guidance to the Local Government sector outlining how the Regional/Isolation Allowance is applied in terms of methodology, criteria and weightings;
 - the creation of a new fee category for independent audit, risk and improvement committee members without bands, and that the fee be set at a suitable level to recognise the skills and knowledge required for such a role; and

- that the new category provide a fee for the independent chair position as well as the independent member position.
- SAT will likely publish its determination for 2025-2026 in April 2025.
- The Governance Policy Team endorsed the submission at its meeting on 4 November.

9.1.8 Submission on the draft State Hazard Plan - Fire (State Council Agenda item 8.8)

By Rachel Armstrong, Policy Manager Emergency Management

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse the submission on the draft State Hazard Plan - Fire.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The State Hazard Plan - Fire (SHP Fire) outlines the arrangements for the management of fire in Western Australia including fire prevention, preparedness, response and initial recovery.
- Local Governments have a critical role in bushfire management, including statutory responsibilities for mitigation, prevention and response under the *Bush Fires Act 1954* (BF Act) and responsibility for community-led recovery, as provided in the *Emergency Management Act 2005* (EM Act).
- The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) has undertaken a comprehensive review of the SHP Fire and is seeking comments on the revised draft Plan by 9 December ([Engage WA Emergency Management](#)).
- WALGA's draft submission on the draft SHP Fire incorporates feedback from 33 Local Governments and LGIS.
- The submission focusses on the key issues that underpin Local Government's capacity to implement their roles and responsibilities for the hazard of fire including:
 - Emergency Services Funding;
 - The State Emergency Management Framework and Consolidated Emergency Services Legislation; and
 - Bush Fire Brigade management and Work Health and Safety (WHS).
- A detailed list of proposed specific changes to plan is also included.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Kate Barlow
Seconded: Cr Liam Gobbert

That the Central Metropolitan Zone supports all WALGA recommendations in the Matters for Decision as contained in the December 2024 State Council Agenda and as listed above, subject to the amendment to State Council Agenda items 8.2 and 8.6 as above.

CARRIED

9.2 POLICY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.2.1 Infrastructure Policy Team Report (State Council Agenda item 9.1)

By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager, Infrastructure

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the report from the Infrastructure Policy Team meeting for the 6 December 2024 meeting.

9.2.2 People and Place Policy Team Report (State Council Agenda item 9.2)

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the report from the People and Place Policy Team to the 6 December 2024 meeting.

9.2.3 Governance Policy Team Report (State Council Agenda item 9.3)

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council:

1. Note the report from the Governance Policy Team for the 6 December 2024 meeting.
2. Determine to:
 - a. retain the following Advocacy Positions with amendment:
 - i. Advocacy Position 2.8.1 Industry Award Coverage
 - ii. Advocacy Position 2.8.3 Registration of WALGA as an Employer Organisation
 - b. retire Advocacy Position 2.8.2 Local Government Long Service Leave Regulations.

9.2.4 Environment Policy Team Report (State Council Agenda item 9.4)

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the report from the Environment Policy Team to the 6 December 2024 meeting.

9.2.5 Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Report (State Council Agenda item 9.5)
By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the report from the Municipal Waste Advisory Council to the 6 December 2024 meeting.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Charles Hohnen

Seconded: Cr Paul Kelly

That the Central Metropolitan Zone:

- 1. notes all Policy Team and Committee Reports as contained in the December 2024 State Council Agenda; and**
- 2. supports the WALGA recommendations in the Governance Policy Team Report as contained in the December 2024 State Council Agenda and as listed above.**

CARRIED

9.3 MATTERS FOR NOTING/INFORMATION

- WALGA Strategic Planning Update (State Council Agenda item 10.1)
- Submission on Reform of Packaging Regulation (State Council Agenda item 10.2)
- Submission on The Draft State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies (State Council Agenda item 10.3)
- Local Government Primary Healthcare Survey Report (State Council Agenda item 10.4)
- Renewable Energy Survey Highlights (State Council Agenda item 10.5)
- Flying Agenda: Submission to Main Roads WA on the Revised Western Australia Traffic Signals Approval Policy and Process (State Council Agenda item 10.6)
- Flying Minute: Submission on the Draft Objectives and Priorities for the Upcoming State Public Health Plan (State Council Agenda item 10.7)
- Flying Minute: Submission On the Draft Regional Education Strategy (State Council Agenda item 10.8)
- Flying Minute: Submission on Derbal Yiragan (Swan) Djarlgarro (Canning) Draft River Protection Strategy (State Council Agenda item 10.9)
- Flying Minute: Submission on the State Hazard Plan - Human Biosecurity (State Council Agenda item 10.10)

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Charles Hohnen

Seconded: Cr Paul Kelly

That the Central Metropolitan Zone notes all Matters for Noting/Information as contained in the December 2024 State Council Agenda.

CARRIED

9.4 KEY ACTIVITY REPORTS

- Report on Key Activities, Advocacy Portfolio (State Council Agenda item 11.1.1)
- Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure Portfolio (State Council Agenda item 11.1.2)
- Report on Key Activities, Member Services Portfolio (State Council Agenda item 11.1.3)
- Report on Key Activities, Policy Portfolio (State Council Agenda item 11.1.4)

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Charles Hohnen

Seconded: Cr Paul Kelly

That the Central Metropolitan Zone notes all Key Activity Reports as contained in the December 2024 State Council Agenda.

CARRIED

10 EXECUTIVE REPORTS

10.1 WALGA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Cr Paul Kelly presented the President's Report. The report was attached within the Agenda.

Noted

10.2 STATE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT TO THE ZONE

Cr Helen Sadler presented on the previous State Council meeting.

Noted

11 OTHER BUSINESS

Nil.

12 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Central Metropolitan Zone will be held on Thursday, 20 February 2025 at the City of Vincent commencing at 6:00pm.

13 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8:06pm.