



CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE

Minutes

**Friday 30 November 2018
Williams Recreation Pavilion
Pinjarra-Williams Road
Williams**

Commencing at 9.31am

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Minutes

Central Country Zone of WALGA

Friday 30 November 2018, commencing at 9.31am

1.0 OPENING AND WELCOME

Cr Conley welcomed all to the Meeting and invited Cr John Cowcher, President Shire of Williams to extend a welcome to delegates and guests.

Cr Cowcher provided an overview of recent projects within the Shire including the 4WDL Well Aged Housing, new fire services infrastructure/equipment and new health centre.

2.0 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendance

Cr Mark Conley (Chair)	President, Shire of Cuballing
Cr Katrina Crute	President, Shire of Brookton
Mr Ian D'Arcy	CEO, Shire of Brookton
Ms Vicki Morris	DCEO, Shire of Brookton
Cr Lyn Baker	President, Shire of Corrigin
Ms Natalie Manton	CEO, Shire of Corrigin
Cr Eliza Dowling	Deputy President, Shire of Cuballing
Mr Gary Sherry	CEO, Shire of Cuballing
Mr Matthew Gilfellon	CEO, Shire of Dumbleyung
Cr Barry West	President, Shire of Kulin
Cr Steve Hunt	Deputy President, Shire of Lake Grace
Ms Denise Gobbart	CEO, Shire of Lake Grace
President Leigh Ballard	Deputy President, Shire of Narrogin
Mr Dale Stewart	CEO, Shire of Narrogin
Cr Bill Mulrone	President, Shire of Pingelly
Cr Peter Wood	Councillor, Shire of Pingelly
Cr Brett McGuinness	Deputy President, Shire of Quairading
Mr Graeme Fardon	CEO, Shire of Quairading
Cr Phillip Blight	President, Shire of Wagin
Cr Greg Ball	Councillor, Shire of Wagin
Mr Peter Webster	CEO, Shire of Wagin
Cr Brendan Whitely	President, Shire of Wandering
Cr Ian Turton	Councillor, Shire of Wandering
Ms Amanda O'Halloran	CEO, Shire of Wandering
Cr Ray Harrington	President, Shire of West Arthur
Ms Nicole Wasmann	CEO, Shire of West Arthur
Cr Sarah Hyde	Councillor, Shire of Wickepin
Mr Mark Hook	CEO, Shire of Wickepin
Cr John Cowcher	President, Shire of Williams
Cr Alex Watts	Councillor, Shire of Williams
Ms Heidi Cowcher	Economic Development Officer, Shire of Williams

Mr Bruce Wittber, Joint Executive Officer

WALGA Representatives

Mr Tim Lane, Manager Strategy and Association Governance

Ms Lyn Fogg, Governance Advisor

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

Ms Jodie Holbrook, Director, Local Government Policy and Engagement

Guests

Mr Craig Manton	Regional Manager, Wheatbelt Region Main Roads WA
Ms Louise Adamson	Operations Manager, MRWA Central Wheatbelt Region
Ms Mandy Walker	Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt Inc
Mr Jordan Langford-Smith	Senior Director, Financial Audit Auditor General's Office

Apologies

Shire of Beverley	
Cr Rodney Duckworth	Deputy President, Shire of Kulin
Cr Jeanette De Landgraft	President, Shire of Lake Grace
Cr Tim Weise	Deputy President, Shire of Narrogin
Mr Gavin Pollock	CEO, Shire of Pingelly
Cr Wayne Davies	President, Shire of Quairading
Cr Julie Russell	President, Shire of Wickiepin
Mr Geoff McKeown	CEO, Shire of Williams

Hon Mia Davies MLA	Member for Central Wheatbelt
Hon Martin Aldridge MLC	Member for Agricultural Region
Hon Jim Chown MLC	Member for Agricultural Region
Hon Colin De Grussa MLC	Member for Agricultural Region
Hon Laurie Graham MLC	Member for Agricultural Region
Hon Darren West MLC	Member for Agricultural Region

Mr Rick Wilson MP	Member for O'Connor
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Ms Pip Kirby	Wheatbelt Development Commission
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Ms Helen Westcott	Joint Executive Officer
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3.0 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil

4.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nil

5.0 GUEST SPEAKERS

5.1 Auditor General's Office and Shire of Brookton – Local Government Audit (9.45am)

Mr Jordan Langford-Smith, Senior Director, Financial Audit Auditor General's Office (AGO) and representatives from the Shire of Brookton.

The Shire of Brookton has undertaken an audit process using the AGO and the presentation from the AGO and the Shire will focus on the learnings from both parties.

10.31am Meeting adjourned for morning tea

10.50am Meeting resumed following morning tea

6.0 MINUTES

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes – Friday 31 August 2018 (Attachment)

Presenting the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Meeting held on Friday 31 August 2018.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Central Country Zone held Friday 31 August 2018 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Baker** **Seconded: Cr Ball**

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Central Country Zone held Friday 31 August 2018 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

6.2 Business Arising from Minutes Zone Meeting Friday 31 August 2018

6.2.1 Item 7.4 - 6.1 State and Local Government Partnership Agreement Update (04-001-03-0001 TL)

At the last Zone Meeting in considering the State and Local Government Partnership Agreement Update the Zone resolved as follows:

RESOLUTION: *Moved: Cr Baker* *Seconded: Cr Pepper*

That the Central Country Zone notes the report on the State and Local Government Partnership Agreement and requests that WALGA in future update reports include details of where the intent of the State and Local Government Partnership Agreement has not been met and what action was taken to address the concern.

CARRIED

WALGA in response resolved as follows:

That State Council note the update on the State and Local Government Partnership Agreement and the secretariat continue to advise State Council of any details on where the intent of the partnership agreement has not been met.

Noted

6.3 Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting – Wednesday 14 November 2018 (Attachment)

Presenting the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 14 November 2018

Executive Officer Comment:

Any recommendations from the meeting are included as separate agenda items.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee held Wednesday 14 November 2018 be received.

EN BLOC RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Blight** **Seconded: Cr Crute**

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee held Wednesday 14 November 2018 be received.

CARRIED

6.4 Minutes of the Special Executive Committee Meeting – Wednesday 24 October 2018 (Attachment)

Presenting the Minutes of the Special Executive Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 24 October 2018

Executive Officer Comment:

Any recommendations from the meeting are included as separate agenda items.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee held Wednesday 24 October 2018 be received.

EN BLOC RESOLUTION: Moved: Cr Blight Seconded: Cr Crute

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee held Wednesday 24 October 2018 be received.

CARRIED

6.5 Local Government Act Review Working Group Meeting – Tuesday 30 October 2018 (Attachment)

Presenting the Minutes of the Local Government Act Review Working Group Meeting held on Tuesday 30 October 2018.

Executive Officer Comment:

Any recommendations from the meeting are included as separate agenda items.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Local Government Act Review Working Group Meeting held on Tuesday 30 October 2018 be received.

RESOLUTION: Moved: Cr Baker Seconded: Cr Crute

That the Minutes of the Local Government Act Review Working Group Meeting held on Tuesday 30 October 2018 be received.

CARRIED

7.0 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (WALGA) BUSINESS

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

7.1 State Councillor Report (Attachment)

Cr Phillip Blight

7.2 WALGA Status Report (Attachment)

From Executive Officer

BACKGROUND:

Presenting the Status Report for November 2018

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Central Country Zone notes the:

- State Councillor Report; and
- WALGA Status Report.

RESOLUTION: Moved: Cr Whitely Seconded: Cr West

That the Central Country Zone notes the:

- State Councillor Report; and
- WALGA Status Report.

CARRIED

7.3 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Decision

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

5.1 Proposed Removal by Main Roads WA of the "Letter of Approval" Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition (05-006-03-0001 MB)

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA:

1. Opposes withdrawal of the "Letter of Approval" Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition until an acceptable alternative is developed;
2. Supports the position that Local Governments not use provision of the Letter of Authority to charge transport operators to access the Restricted Access Vehicle network;
3. Supports the development of standard administrative procedures including fees and letter formats; and

4. Supports the practice of Local Governments negotiating maintenance agreements with freight owners/ generators in cases where the operations are predicted to cause extraordinary road damage.

ZONE COMMENT:

In the State Council Agenda, the following "In Brief" comments give an overview of the matter:

- *Current Main Roads policy allows Local Governments to request that Main Roads WA impose a condition on some or all roads included in the Restricted Access Vehicle (RAV) or Accredited Mass Management Scheme (AMMS) networks to require that Restricted Access Vehicle operators obtain and carry a current letter of approval from the Local Government (CA07 condition) when using those roads.*
- *Main Roads advised WALGA that advice they have received from the State Solicitor's Office concludes the practice of some Local Governments in charging transport operators (e.g. transport company or truck owner) a fee for the letter of approval is likely unlawful and they are intending to abolish the CA07 condition.*
- *WALGA has engaged affected Local Governments to understand current practices and assess the consequences of withdrawing the CA07 condition.*
- *Seventy Local Governments were surveyed and the overwhelming majority consider the CA07 condition an essential management tool and oppose its removal.*
- *The CA07 condition assists Local Governments to manage the quantity and timing of RAV movements without compromising the safety of other vehicle users.*
- *Most Local Governments do not charge transport operators a fee for the letter of approval.*
- *The CA07 condition alerts Local Governments to transport tasks that are likely to cause extraordinary road damage and provides an opportunity to negotiate a maintenance agreement with the freight owner/ generator (e.g. mining company, timber company). Abolishing the condition may jeopardise current and future agreements.*
- *It is concluded that the concerns raised can be resolved by Main Roads WA informing Local Governments that it is unlawful to charge transport operators for the CA07 letter of approval and by standardising administrative procedures.*

Zone supports the WALGA recommendation.

5.2 Bus Stop Infrastructure Partnership Agreement 2018/19-2022/23 (05-001-03-0037 MM)

WALGA Recommendation

That the Bus Stop Infrastructure Partnership Agreement be endorsed.

ZONE COMMENT:

This does not impact upon the Central Country Zone Members

Zone supports the WALGA recommendation.

5.3 2019-20 State Budget Submission (05-001-03-0006 DM)

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA's submission to the State Government in advance of the 2019-20 Budget be endorsed.

ZONE COMMENT:

The detail of the Budget submission priority areas for spending and microeconomic reform is outlined in the State Council Agenda and submission.

Zone supports the WALGA recommendation.

5.4 Interim Submission: Cost Recovery for Clearing Permits and Water Licences and Permits – DWER Discussion Paper (05-064-02-0022 MB)

WALGA Recommendation

That the WALGA interim submission which opposes increased cost recovery for clearing permits and water licences and permits by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation be endorsed.

ZONE COMMENT:

This issue was considered by the Zone at its meeting on 31 August 2018 when it resolved as follows:

RESOLUTION: Moved: Mr Stewart Seconded: Cr Ron Walker

That WALGA be advised that the Central Country Zone is of the view that where a "Purpose Permit" application is from a local government and relates to road clearing for a public benefit, the application should be exempt from a fee.

CARRIED

In the State Council Agenda, the following "In Brief" comments give an overview of the matter:

In Brief

- *The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) has released a discussion paper proposing increased fees and charges via a cost recovery approach to assessing both clearing permits (under the Environmental Protection Clearing of Native Vegetation Regulations (2004)), and water licenses and permit applications (under the Rights in Water Irrigation Act (1914)).*
- *The Discussion Paper proposes significant increases in application fees for permits to clear native vegetation and for water licenses, which will have financial and program implications for Local Governments.*
- *Cost increases are exponential to the base rate of existing fees and charges.*
- *The increase costs will particularly impact on local governments undertaking road maintenance activities or seeking additional access to water supplies.*

The State Council Report notes:

Analysis by WALGA of existing DWER Local Government water licences and permits (2016/17 data) indicates that if the proposed cost regime was applied to current licences and permits, it would represent an additional cost shift of some \$2.36M to the sector.

Zone supports the WALGA recommendation

5.5 Waste Levy Policy Statement (05-037-04-0001 RNB)

WALGA Recommendation

That the Waste Levy Policy Statement 2018 be endorsed.

ZONE COMMENT:

Zone supports the WALGA recommendation.

5.6 Standard Development Conditions Guidelines (05-036-04-0005 AR)

WALGA Recommendation

That the Standard Development Conditions Guideline, be endorsed and that WALGA recommends use of the resource by Local Governments when reviewing and/or preparing standard development conditions.

ZONE COMMENT:

Zone supports the WALGA recommendation.

5.7 WALGA Paper – Off Road Vehicles and Local Government (05-053-03-008 EDR)

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA advocates for the State Government to:

1. Conduct a review of current legislation to align registration and licensing of Off Road Vehicles (ORVs) with other vehicle types and users.
2. Allocate funding for feasibility studies to identify suitable sites for new ORV Permitted Areas throughout the State, which considers environmental values, future land use planning impacts, public safety, amenity and environmental issues and Local Government risk and liability issues.
3. Develop and implement, in collaboration with WALGA and ORV stakeholders, educational resources and training suitable to the specific needs of ORV users, stakeholders and Local Governments. Resources should include; guidance on compliance and enforcement arrangements aligned with the *Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act 1978* and other relevant legislation, user and permitted area operational safety, signage standards, insurance and liability mitigation strategies.
4. Develop and implement, in collaboration with ORV vendors, resources and practices that ensure ORV buyers are informed at the point of sale about ORV registration, regulation and restrictions applicable to ORV vehicle use and consequences of non-compliance.
5. Consider and consult on the regulation of the vendor's role in providing information to buyers regarding ORV registration, regulation and restrictions.
6. Develop and implement, in collaboration with stakeholders and industry representatives, resources to educate and raise community awareness about the proper use of ORVs, ORV permitted and prohibited areas, and the consequences of non-compliance.
7. Ensure that the WA Police Force allocates resources to address unlawful ORV use in consultation with Local Government law enforcement.

ZONE COMMENT:

Zone supports the WALGA recommendation.

5.8 Submissions – Public Health Act 2016 Regulation Review Program (05-031-01-0001 EDR)

WALGA Recommendation

That the interim submissions provided to the Department of Health Public Health Act 2016 Discussion Papers on Regulations for Construction Sites Facilities, Temporary Toilets and Cloth Materials be endorsed.

ZONE COMMENT:

Zone supports the WALGA recommendation.

5.9 Aboriginal Advocacy and Accountability Office Interim Submission

WALGA Recommendation

That the interim submission to An Office for Advocacy and Accountability in Aboriginal Affairs in Western Australia: Discussion paper be endorsed.

ZONE COMMENT:

Zone supports the WALGA recommendation.

5.10 Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (05-086-03-0004 KD)

WALGA Recommendation

That the interim submission: Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse: A Local Government Response to the Western Australian State Government Child Safety Implementation Plan be endorsed.

ZONE COMMENT:

Zone supports the WALGA recommendation.

5.11 Partnering with Local Government for Youth (05-065-04-0001 KD)

WALGA Recommendation

That the following amended policy statement be endorsed:

The Local Government sector supports the development and well-being of children and young people through strategic partnerships and a combination of services and facility provision. The Association advocates that the State and Commonwealth should continue to invest in the wellbeing of young West Australians.

ZONE COMMENT:

Zone supports the WALGA recommendation.

5.12 Managing Alcohol in our Communities Guide (06-045-01-0001 EB)

WALGA Recommendation

That the Managing Alcohol in our Communities (MAIOC) Guide be endorsed.

ZONE COMMENT:

In the State Council Agenda, the following "In Brief" comments give an overview of the matter:

In Brief

- *The aim of the Guide is to support existing Local Government activities, responsibilities and processes to address alcohol-related issues within their communities. The Guide promotes a prevention and risk management approach to create a safe and healthy place for people to work, live and play.*
- *The Guide has been developed in partnership with the Mental Health Commission (MHC), the Public Health Advocacy Institute of Western Australia (PHAIWA) and WALGA.*
- *WALGA will hold a launch with the key project partners on Friday, 1 March 2019.*

Zone supports the WALGA recommendation

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Central Country Zone endorses all recommendations being matters contained in the WALGA State Council Agenda other than those recommendations separately considered.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Ball

Seconded: Cr Crute

That the Central Country Zone endorses all recommendations being matters contained in the WALGA State Council Agenda other than those recommendations separately considered.

CARRIED

7.4 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Noting/Information

- 6.1 Local Government Act Review (05-034-01-0001 TB)
- 6.2 Economic Development Project (05-088-03-001 DM)
- 6.3 Report: Review of Local Government Car Parking Requirements in Western Australia (05-036-03-0063 AR)
- 6.4 Event for Elected Members – Health Services in Regional Areas (05-031-01-0001 EDR)
Executive Officer Comment:
The event is targeted toward Elected Members and CEOs of regional areas. WALGA are proposing to organise a webinar option so all Local Government staff will be welcome to attend online.
- 6.5 Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH) (05-018-04-0004 KD)
Executive Officer Comment:
The Zone has previously discussed this issue. The issue of GROH housing is however not solely related to Police housing as it covers all public sector agencies.
- 6.6 National Redress Scheme (05-086-03-0004 KD)
- 6.7 Family and Domestic Violence (05-086-03-0004 KD)
- 6.8 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) (01-006-03-0008 RNB)
- 6.9 Draft National Biosecurity Statement (05-028-03-0011 NM)
- 6.10 Release of the Better Urban Forest Planning Guide (05-038-04-2211 CP)
- 6.11 WALGA Reconciliation Action Plan (03-047-01-0001 RA)

7.5 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 Organisational Services (01-006-03-0007 TB) (Attachment)
 - 7.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure (05-001-02-0003 ID)
 - 7.1.4 Report on Key Activities, People and Places (01-006-03-0014 JB)

7.6 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Policy Forum Reports

- 7.2 Policy Forum Reports
 - 7.2.1 Mayors/Presidents Policy Forum
 - 7.2.2 Mining Community Policy Forum
 - 7.2.3 Container Deposit Legislation Policy Forum
 - 7.2.4 Economic Development Policy Forum

7.7 WALGA President's Report (Attachment)

Presenting the WALGA President's Report for December 2018.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Central Country Zone notes, other than those recommendations separately considered, the following reports contained in the WALGA State Council Agenda:

- Matters for Noting/Information;
- Organisational Reports;
- Policy Forum Reports; and
- WALGA President's Report.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr McGuinness** **Seconded: Cr Mulroney**

That the Central Country Zone notes, other than those recommendations separately considered, the following reports contained in the WALGA State Council Agenda:

- **Matters for Noting/Information;**
- **Organisational Reports;**
- **Policy Forum Reports; and**
- **WALGA President's Report.**

CARRIED

8.0 FINANCE

8.1 Central Country Zone 2017/2018 Audit (Attachments)

Reporting Officer: Bruce Wittber, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose

Date: 16 November 2018

Attachments: 2017/2018 Financial Report and Management Letter

Background:

Presenting the finalised Financial Report and Management Letter

Executive Officer Comment:

The finalised Financial Report and Management Letter have been received and presented to the Zone Executive Committee held 24 October 2018 for review and recommendation to the Zone.

The Zone Executive Committee having reviewed the Audited Financial Report, Audit Report and Management Letter resolved as follows:

RESOLUTION: *Moved: Cr De Landgraff* *Seconded: Cr Crute*

1. *That the Central Country Zone Executive Committee endorse the Representation Letter and Draft Financial Statement and authorise the Zone President and Executive Officer, as appropriate, to sign the documents.*
2. *That the Audited Financial Statements be submitted to the Zone Meeting on Friday 30 November 2018 for acceptance.*

CARRIED

The Audit was undertaken by Anderson Munro & Wylie and was undertaken efficiently and in a timely manner.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Central Country Zone 2017/2018 Audited Financial Report and Management Letter be accepted.

RESOLUTION: *Moved: Cr Blight* *Seconded: Cr Baker*

That the Central Country Zone 2017/2018 Audited Financial Report and Management Letter be accepted.

CARRIED

9.0 ZONE REPORTS

9.1 Zone President's Report

Cr Mark Conley

9.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (Attachment)

Cr Katrina Crute

9.2.1 Minutes of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group held on Friday 12 October 2018 (Attachment)

Presenting the minutes of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group held on Friday 12 October 2018

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group held on Friday 12 October 2018 be received.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr McGuinness** **Seconded: Cr Crute**

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group held on Friday 12 October 2018 be received.

CARRIED

9.2.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Delegate Report

Presenting the Cr Crute's Delegate's Report of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG) meeting held on Friday 12 October 2018.

In Person meeting at WALGA

- **CA07 LG Condition of Access – Heavy Vehicle Permits**
WALGA has completed their initial investigations and there are some very different uses of the CA07 with three distinct areas, Mining Industry, Timber Industry and Agricultural Industry. The report has gone to Main Roads and the Minister for Transport, WALGA just waiting for a response.
- **Revitalising Ag Freight Region Strategy**
Draft is with Minister for Transport, WALGA pushing for public consultation period to be in early 2019 rather than over the Christmas period.
- **Towed Ag Implements**
WA Farmers Federation will hopefully share the next draft paper. The online training option was rejected by Main Roads.

I welcome your feedback, suggestions or concerns whether by phone or email.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Delegate Report of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG) meeting held on Friday 12 October 2018 be received.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Baker** **Seconded: Cr West**

That the Delegate Report of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG) meeting held on Friday 12 October 2018 be received.

CARRIED

9.3 Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC)

President Ballard

9.4 Wheatbelt South Regional Road Group

Cr Katrina Crute, Chair of Wheatbelt South Regional Road Group

WBS Regional Road Group Update

Chairs Meeting – Local Government Convention (August)

- State Government to Local Government Agreement
- CA07 Letter – Investigation

WBS RRG – Technical Group Meeting – 4th October

- 19/20 Road Projects
- 16/17 Outstanding Projects
- LG Staff Training – Road Traffic Counters and data interpretation, and Bridge Inspection, if your Subgroup hasn't organised this training please make it a priority. I hope that all LG's have road traffic counters out on their Secondary Freight Roads so up to date data is being collected.

Secondary Freight Network Project:

Teleconference – Melissa Price – 3 October

Meeting with Deputy Prime Minister (Manjimup) – 13 October

Meeting with Minister for Transport – 7 November

Meeting with Department of Transport, Main Roads – 16 November

Much of my time to do with RRG is being taken up with the Secondary Freight Network we have been exploring different funding opportunities to try and secure funds for the Design and Planning Stage (estimated at \$5 million). The meeting with the Deputy PM was very worthwhile and he was extremely impressed with the amount of work and collaboration 42 Local Governments had done. Whilst he didn't commit to funding, we are confident that something will come from that meeting. The meeting with Rita Saffioti was about briefing her prior to her meeting in Canberra with the Deputy PM the following day. Whilst yet again she wouldn't give us direct support she was impressed with the work we had done.

Garrick Yandle together with Juliet Grist put together our BBRF funding application, thank you to everyone for sorting the letters of support we needed for this application. Due to the lack of support from the State we had to revise our application to only include the \$250,000 from LG's which meant we could only apply for \$750,000; this has resulted in us having to stage the Planning & Design phase of the project. Due to Garrick's move from Dandaragan to Kulin, Koorda kindly agreed to be the applicant for the BBRF application.

We have also applied for \$1m from Commodity Route Funding for the project.

The meeting with the Department of Transport, Main Roads and members of Minister Saffioti's staff was about looking at other funding opportunities and how we might be able to progress this project.

The RAFR strategy is hopefully going to be released shortly in a draft format for consultation and the consultation will extend beyond Christmas.

With the support of the 42 LG's the WSNF team will review this document and provide feedback to the Department of Transport. Our work has greatly influenced what is in the document for the Wheatbelt region, it has also provided the Department with a format to be able to consult in a similar manner with the Great Southern and Midwest to produce an overall map for the Secondary Freight routes for the Ag region.

I have asked the Sub Group Chairs to circulate the most recent briefing paper to LG's; I ask that you share this with all your councillors to ensure everyone is aware of the project and where we are at.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Report of the Chair of Wheatbelt South Regional Road Group be received.

RESOLUTION: Moved: Cr McGuinness Seconded: Cr Dowling
That the Report of the Chair of Wheatbelt South Regional Road Group be received.

CARRIED

10.0 ZONE BUSINESS - MEMBER COUNCIL MATTERS

10.1 Matters for Noting (Attachments)

▪ Country Ambulance Strategy

On Friday 28 September 2018 the Minister for Health, Hon Roger Cook BA GradDipBus MBA MLA, released the draft Country Ambulance Strategy for public consultation. The media statement announcing the release of the draft strategy can be found by following the link shown below:

<https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2018/09/New-strategy-to-strengthen-WA's-country-ambulance-services-.aspx>

Due to the size of the document a copy of the Summary Draft Strategy can be found at <https://wacountryambulance.com.au>.

▪ ILUA Registration Decisions released by Native Title Registrar

The Native Title Registrar on 17 October 2018 registered all [six South West Native Title Settlement Indigenous Land Use Agreements](#).

See the National Native Title Tribunal's [media statement](#), Minister Wyatt's [media release](#), and the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council's [Latest News](#).

Executive Officer Comment:

In reviewing the media statement about the registration of the Six South West Native Title Settlement Agreements, the Executive Officer noted on the SW Native Title Settlement website that WALGA and SWALSC were “*working together to develop a suitable Local Government-specific Noongar Heritage Agreement template that will tailor the NSHA to align with Local Government regulations and policies*”.

The issue was raised with WALGA who advised that work is continuing on the development of the Local Government specific Noongar Standard Heritage Agreement.

▪ Local Government Procurement – Auditor General’s Report (Attachment)

In mid-October 2018 the Auditor General tabled a report on Local Government Procurement.

The Report notes in the Auditor General’s Overview:

My report highlights weaknesses in procurement controls, processes and documentation across the 8 local governments we audited, as well as the need for them to build procurement capability to give staff the knowledge and skills to effectively carry out their jobs. These generally reflect areas for improvement identified in our previous audit reports about State Government entities as well as other public reports.

Some local governments disagreed with the significance of a number of control weaknesses identified. Local governments considered that a finding was not worthy of a ‘significant’ rating if the control weakness did not result in a breach of regulations or the audit did not find evidence of wrongdoing. While legislation places minimum specific requirements on local governments, they still need to ensure they have strong internal controls and good governance. Controls prevent things going wrong and are particularly important in financial management processes, where there is an inherent risk of financial misappropriation. I welcome discussion on this matter and am pleased all local governments have committed to amending their policies and procedures and improving internal controls over purchases, where required.

▪ **Report of the Inquiry into the Shire of Wiluna (Attachment)**

In October the Minister for Local Government tabled in the Parliament a Report of the Inquiry into the Shire of Wiluna prepared by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.

The Terms of Reference for the inquiry included the following:

The Terms of Reference directed the inquiry to the following aspects of the Shire of Wiluna (the Shire) and its operations and affairs beginning 1 July 2015 to:

- a. the Council's relationship with, and management of, the Shire's former Chief Executive Officer, Mr Dean Taylor;*
- b. the conduct of the Council and employees of the Shire including but not limited to:
 - i. tendering, purchasing and procurement and contract management; and*
 - ii. improper or undue influence;**
- c. the appointment of Executive and other employees at the Shire and the appropriateness of the processes used for those appointments;*
- d. the manner in which open and accountable policies and procedures are adhered to;*
- e. whether the Shire of Wiluna has provided good governance in respect of these matters; and*
- f. any other issues that are determined to be of relevance to the above.*

A copy of the report is attached to this agenda.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the matters listed for noting be received.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Whitely** **Seconded: Cr Ball**

That the matters listed for noting be received.

CARRIED

10.2 Central Country Zone Meeting Dates 2019

Reporting Officer: Bruce Wittber, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose

Date: 16 November 2018

Attachments: Nil

Background:

The Central Country Zone agreed to change the meeting structure for 2018 to reduce the number of in-person meetings to four and conduct several teleconferences to deal only with WALGA State Council related matters.

The meeting schedule for 2018 was adopted as follows:

Meeting Date	Type of Meeting	Consideration of WALGA State Council
Friday 23 February 2018	In-person meeting	Yes
Friday 27 April 2018	Teleconference	Yes and only WALGA business
Friday 25 May 2018	In-person meeting	No
Friday 22 June 2018	Teleconference	Yes and only WALGA business
Friday 31 August 2018	In-person meeting	Yes
Friday 30 November 2018	In-person meeting	Yes

WALGA has advised that the meeting schedule for State Council for 2019 is as follows:

State Council Meeting Dates 2019	Preferred dates for 2019 Zone meetings
Wednesday 6 March	Between Friday 22 Feb to Friday 1 March
Wednesday 8 May	Between Friday 23 April to Friday 3 May
Wednesday 3 July	Between Friday 21 June to Friday 28 June
Friday 6 September (Regional TBA)	Between Friday 23 August to Friday 30 August
Wednesday 4 December	Between Friday 22 November to Friday 29 November

Executive Officer Comment:

When adopting the new meeting format in June 2017 it was agreed to review the structure prior to setting the dates for 2019.

Whilst this agenda item refers to the dates for 2019 Zone Meetings it also provides an opportunity to consider the appropriateness of the meeting structure.

From the Executive Officer's viewpoint, the meeting structure appears to be working effectively with holding four in-person meetings a year and two teleconferences both of which deal solely with WALGA State Council business. These two teleconferences dealing solely with WALGA business in April and June also appears to work well given that these dates clash with busy schedules for some delegates.

The Central Country Zone Executive Committee considered the meeting dates at its meeting on Wednesday 14 November 2018 when it resolved as follows:

RESOLUTION: *Moved: Cr McGuinness* *Seconded: Cr Blight*

That the Central Country Zone Executive Committee recommend to the Central Country Zone Meeting on Friday 30 November 2018 that the 2019 meeting schedule be as follows:

Meeting Date	Type of Meeting	Consideration of WALGA State Council
<i>Friday 22 February 2019</i>	<i>In-person meeting</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Friday 3 May 2019</i>	<i>Teleconference</i>	<i>Yes and only WALGA business</i>
<i>Friday 24 May 2019</i>	<i>In-person meeting</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Friday 21 June 2019</i>	<i>Teleconference</i>	<i>Yes and only WALGA business</i>
<i>Friday 30 August 2019</i>	<i>In-person meeting</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Friday 29 November 2019</i>	<i>In-person meeting</i>	<i>Yes</i>

CARRIED

Meeting Additional Comment:

The Executive Officer advised that since the distribution of the Zone Meeting Agenda in which it is recommended that the February 2019 Meeting is an in-person meeting scheduled for Friday 22 February 2019, WALGA has advised that to enable State Council to consider Local Government submissions to the Local Government Act Review process (which are due by 31 March 2019), the March State Council meeting has been moved to Tuesday 26 March 2019.

Consequently, WALGA has requested that Zone meetings be held during the week prior 15 March 2019 to 22 March 2019.

Following discussion, it was agreed to hold the meeting on Friday 15 March 2019.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Central Country Zone adopt, the following meeting schedule for 2019:

Meeting Date	Type of Meeting	Consideration of WALGA State Council
Friday 22 February 2019	In-person meeting	Yes
Friday 3 May 2019	Teleconference	Yes and only WALGA business
Friday 24 May 2019	In-person meeting	No
Friday 21 June 2019	Teleconference	Yes and only WALGA business
Friday 30 August 2019	In-person meeting	Yes
Friday 29 November 2019	In-person meeting	Yes

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Mulroney** **Seconded: Cr Whitely**

That the Central Country Zone adopt, the following meeting schedule for 2019:

Meeting Date	Type of Meeting	Consideration of WALGA State Council
Friday 15 March 2019	In-person meeting	Yes
Friday 3 May 2019	Teleconference	Yes and only WALGA business
Friday 24 May 2019	In-person meeting	No
Friday 21 June 2019	Teleconference	Yes and only WALGA business
Friday 30 August 2019	In-person meeting	Yes
Friday 29 November 2019	In-person meeting	Yes

CARRIED

10.3 Review of *Local Government Act 1995* WALGA Process (Attachment)

Reporting Officer:	Bruce Wittber, Executive Officer
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date:	19 November 2018
Attachments:	Local Government Act Review Forum Facilitators Report – Narrogin 11 October 2018

Background:

At the Zone Meeting on Friday 31 August 2018 it was agreed to establish a Working Group to assist the Zone develop its response to the Local Government Act Review.

The Working Group met on 30 October 2018 and is progressively developing its position in respect to the DLGSC Discussion Papers. A progress report will be dealt with later in this meeting.

However, it was thought appropriate to provide the Zone Member Councils with details of the WALGA process for developing a sector position in respect of the review.

Executive Officer Comment:

To assist in the review the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) released a series of Discussion Papers covering the broad topics of Agile, Smart and Inclusive.

The consultation period is open until **Sunday 31 March 2019**.

The DLGSC and WALGA also ran a number of Forums across the state including a Forum in Narrogin on Thursday 11 October which was attended by 25 local government elected members and staff. It was noted that a number of members of the Local Government Act Review Working Group took the opportunity to attend.

The Department and WALGA have now released the Facilitator's Report from the Forum a copy of which forms an attachment to this agenda.

In addition, recently WALGA provided the Executive Officer with details of the process it will be following in relation to developing the sector position.

- On 16 November 2018 – WALGA distributed an InfoPage requesting Local Governments (Council decision required) to provide a submission on the Act review process. **A submission to WALGA is requested by 1 February 2019**. This will enable Councils to consider an item at their December meetings. The InfoPage also included details of WALGA's Advocacy Positions in relation to the review.
- In the December 2018 State Council Agenda – Item for noting that will cover information on the review process and a summary of the forums held in October/November and general themes coming through.
- Late January/Early February 2019 – State-wide Forum on the future of Local Government – The forum will include a review of the information coming through from the review forums and submissions, in addition there will be guest speakers presenting on the future of Local Government.
- February Zone Meetings/March 2019 State Council Meeting – Item for Decision on sector positions following feedback from Local Government submissions.

WALGA is encouraging Member Councils to consider the Local Government Act Review at their December Council Meetings so the Council position can be provided to WALGA by 1 February 2019.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Facilitator Report for the Forum held in Narrogin on 11 October 2018 and the WALGA process for developing the sector position be noted.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Ball** **Seconded: President Ballard**

That the Facilitator Report for the Forum held in Narrogin on 11 October 2018 and the WALGA process for developing the sector position be noted.

CARRIED

10.4 Review of *Local Government Act 1995* Central Country Zone Position (Attachment)

Reporting Officer: Bruce Wittber, Executive Officer
Disclosure of Interest: Nil
Date: 20 November 2018
Attachments: Central Country Zone Local Government Act Review Working Group's Submission

Background:

At the Zone Meeting on Friday 31 August 2018 it was agreed as per the below resolution to establish a Working Group to assist the Zone with the Local Government Act Review:

RESOLUTION: Moved: Cr Hunt Secinded: Cr Baker

That:

- 1. A Working Group of elected members and officers (CEOs) be formed by the Central Country Zone to review in detail proposed changes applicable to (but not limited to) those issues listed in Local Government Act Phase 2 review with recommendations and a draft submission being presented back to the Central Country Zone for its consideration at its meeting on Friday 30 November 2018; and*
- 2. The Working Group be formed at the Central Country Zone meeting on Friday 31 August 2018*

CARRIED

The Zone further resolved in relation to the membership of the Working Group:

RESOLUTION: Moved: Cr Watkins Secinded: Cr Kilpatrick

That Cr Mark Conley, Cr Phillip Blight, Cr Katrina Crute, Cr Brett McGuinness, Ms Natalie Manton, Mr Mark Hook, Cr Julie Russell, Mr Matthew Gilfellon, Cr Ian Turton and Ms Denise Gobbart be appointed to the Local Government Act Phase 2 Working Party.

CARRIED

The Working Group has met once to date on Tuesday 30 October 2018.

The goal of the Working Group's deliberation was to consider all the discussion papers and to then formulate a submission or Zone position that can be provided in a submission to both the DLGSC and WALGA.

Executive Officer Comment:

At the meeting on Tuesday 30 October 2018 the Working Party "worked" through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, Discussion Papers covering the following topics:

Agile

- Beneficial organisations (council controlled organisations)
- Financial management
- Rates, fees and charges

Details of the Working Group's response to the questions on beneficial enterprises, financial management and rates, fees and charges are outlined on the attached Working Group response and it was agreed that the responses be submitted to this Zone meeting for consideration.

The current WALGA position in respect to the three topics has also been incorporated into the Working Group response.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Draft Response prepared by the Local Government Act Review Working Group in respect to beneficial organisations, financial management and rates, fees and charges, as attached, be endorsed and submitted to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and WALGA as the Central Country Zone's position.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Ball** **Seconded: Cr Whitely**

That the Draft Response prepared by the Local Government Act Review Working Group in respect to beneficial organisations, financial management and rates, fees and charges, as attached, be endorsed and submitted to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and WALGA as the Central Country Zone's position.

CARRIED

10.5 Customer Service Standards for Collection Network of Container Deposit Scheme – Shire of Cuballing

Reporting Officer: Gary Sherry, CEO Shire of Cuballing
Bruce Wittber, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Date: 20 November 2018

Attachments: Nil

Background

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) has released the draft Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) Customer Service Standards for consultation. This document proposes locations where the community will be able to return eligible beverage containers. Once finalised, the CDS Customer Service Standards will inform the negotiations between Government and the Preferred Scheme Coordinator on specific criteria, targets and reporting of the Scheme Coordinator, and detail the establishment and implementation of the CDS.

The preferred approach will result in a minimum of 196 refund points across Western Australia:

- 111 full time refund points: 95 Perth/Yanchep, 1 Kimberley, 2 Pilbara, 0 Gascoyne, 2 Mid-West, 3 Goldfields-Esperance, 0 Wheatbelt, 0 Peel, 6 South West, 2 Great Southern.
- 85 flexible refund points: 1 Rottneest, 10 Kimberley, 7 Pilbara, 4 Gascoyne, 6 Mid-West, 8 Goldfields-Esperance, 27 Wheatbelt, 4 Peel, 12 South West, 6 Great Southern.

The approach used is consistent with that used in other jurisdictions where schemes have been, or are proposed to be, introduced, with additional consideration also given to the size, remoteness and population density of WA.

The document considers two options, each of which would provide a distribution of refund points that would achieve the minimum service standards for approximately 98.8 per cent of the state's population.

The preferred option is comprised of a full-time refund point for every 20,000 people as an overarching target, subject to:

- one full time refund point for major regional centres with a population between 10,000 and 20,000;
- at least two full time refund points for major regional centres with a population over 20,000; and
- a population threshold of 500 for a flexible refund point.

The modelling suggests a minimum of 196 refund points, comprising 111 full time refund points and 85 flexible refund points, would be required to meet the recommended minimum service standards.

An alternative option is considered which varies from the preferred option by providing a full-time refund point for every 15,000 people. Under this option, a minimum of 228 refund points would be required, comprising 143 full time refund points and 85 flexible refund points. This alternative option does not impact the Wheatbelt Region.

Refund point population thresholds

Remoteness category	Recommended minimum service standards population thresholds		Alternative minimum service standards population thresholds	
	1st refund point	Subsequent refund points	2nd refund point (Full Time)	Subsequent refund points
Statewide	20,000 (Full Time)	20,000 (Full Time)	15,000 (Full Time)	15,000 (Full Time)
Major Regional Centres	10,000 (Full Time)	20,000 (Full Time)	10,000 (Full Time)	20,000 (Full Time)
Inner Regional	500 - 19,999 (Flexible)	20,000 (Full Time)	500	15,000 (Full Time)
Outer Regional				
Remote and Very Remote				

Travel distance to refund point for remoteness category

Remoteness area category	Maximum travel distance to refund point
Perth metropolitan area	5 km
Inner Regional	50 km
Outer Regional	100km
Remote and very remote	200 km

The Wheatbelt communities that would be entitled to a refund point include:

Town group name	Full time refund points	Flexible refund points	Town population group	Towns	Population (Census 2016) UCL
Beverley		1	925	Beverley	925
Brookton		1	584	Brookton	584
Bruce Rock		1	527	Bruce Rock	527
Cervantes		1	528	Cervantes	528
Corrigin		1	741	Corrigin	741
Cunderdin		1	779	Cunderdin	779
Dalwallinu		1	699	Dalwallinu	699
Gabbadah		1	1,488	Gabbadah	671
				Woodridge Estate	644
				Guilderton	173
Gingin		1	851	Gingin	851
Goomalling		1	902	Goomalling	524
				Dowerin	378
Jurien Bay		1	1,430	Jurien Bay	1,430
Kellerberrin		1	1,081	Kellerberrin	878
				Tammin	203
Lake Grace		1	501	Lake Grace	501
Lancelin		1	718	Lancelin	718
Merredin		1	2,634	Merredin	2,634
Moora		1	1,573	Moora	1,573
Muccha		1	1,356	Lower Chittering Valley	592
				Muccha	764
Narrogin		1	5,037	Narrogin	4,275
				Williams	407
				Cuballing	355
Northam		1	6,545	Northam	6,545
Pingelly		1	814	Pingelly	814
Quairading		1	611	Quairading	611
Southern Cross		1	634	Southern Cross	634
Toodyay		1	981	Toodyay	981
Wagin		1	1,355	Wagin	1,355
Wongan Hills		1	723	Wongan Hills	723
				Bakers Hill	721
Wundowie		1	2,135	Wundowie	944
				Wooroloo	470
York		1	2,544	York	2,544
Totals	0	27			

Shire of Cuballing Comment:

The Shire of Cuballing is concerned over the lack of refund points in smaller Wheatbelt Councils and have issues over the lack of refund points in the smaller communities of the Wheatbelt. Its concerns are:

1. Lack of consideration of district/Shire population

The *Draft customer service standards for collection network* ignores a considerable number of Local Governments by using population figures based on townsites, rather than the totality of the local government. Effectively local governments with a number of townsites or with residents who live outside a townsite receive less consideration for service under the CDS. A number of Wheatbelt local governments are not considered in the report.

2. The consideration of distance

The service standard of outer regional areas to provide a collection point within 100kms is too large. Travelling two hours to access a collection point is too great a distance and will discourage participation in the CDS.

Small Wheatbelt local governments provide relatively comprehensive, if small scale, waste management facilities. These facilities including the management of recycling schemes including DrumMuster and waste oil. Some type of small agency arrangement where small collection sites conduct smaller collections should be able to be included in the CDS collection network.

3. Lack of local refund points reducing impacting on use of CDS

Wheatbelt communities, with their extended lengths of roads contaminated by container waste, have been long-time supporters of a CDS scheme, primarily as a means to reduce this roadside litter.

The lack of local collection points could significantly reduce the positive impacts of the CDS in the Wheatbelt. It is likely that the opportunity costs to collect, store and transport containers to a collection point distant from your residence will outweigh the financial return of participating in the CDS.

Executive Officer Comment:

The draft document setting out the CDS collection network is open for comment until 6 December 2018.

The Executive Officer has sought some comment from WALGA on current/proposed advocacy around this issue. WALGA has advised that an InfoPage was distributed to all Councils on 1 November 2018 seeking a response to a number of questions as well as general comment by 16 November to enable a submission to be made by the 6 December.

Mark Batty, Executive Manager, Environment and Waste, advised that WALGA is aware of the lack of proposed permanent sites in the Wheatbelt (and other areas) and is making representations accordingly. It would appear that DWER has based its approach on the model NSW used, which has a vastly different population density profile to WA, so it's really missing the mark.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Central Country Zone make a submission to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation in relation to the draft Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) Customer Service Standards pointing out the three concerns being, lack of consideration of district/Shire population, consideration of distance and lack of local refund points reducing impacting on use of CDS raised by the Shire of Cuballing in this agenda item.

RESOLUTION: Moved: Mr Fardon Seconded: Cr West

1. That the Central Country Zone make a submission to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation in relation to the draft Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) Customer Service Standards pointing out the following concerns:
 - lack of consideration of district/Shire population – Central Country Zone is of the view that within the Zone the minimum requirement in respect to refund point population thresholds should be the district population and not town population;
 - consideration of distance - the service standards of outer regional areas to provide a collection point within 100kms and travelling two hours to access a collection point is too great and will discourage participation in the CDS; and
 - lack of local refund points reducing impacting on use of CDS - the lack of local collection points could significantly reduce the positive impacts of the CDS in the Central Country Zone.
2. That a representative of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation with knowledge of the Container Deposit Scheme and proposed Customer Service Standards be invited to attend the next meeting of the Zone.

CARRIED

10.6 State Government Consultation within the Wheatbelt

Reporting Officer: Bruce Wittber, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Date: 21 November 2018

Attachments: Nil

Background:

An issue that has been of concern to the Executive Officer and no doubt Member Councils generally is number of times that State Government Agencies undertake both community and/or local government consultation and seemingly “bypass” the Wheatbelt as locations for consultation.

An example that has recently come across the Executive Officer’s desk relates to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) conducting a review of its sport and recreation financial resources to identify systemic innovation, current core priorities, sector change and innovation and to demonstrate the importance of sport and recreation.

A series of workshops are being held in regional WA being Bunbury, Albany, Geraldton and Broome. In addition, there were three workshops held in the Metropolitan area.

Executive Officer Comment:

Whilst the background outlines one example Councillors and CEOs will have numerous other examples of where the Wheatbelt has been “bypassed” and the community are expected to travel considerable distance to attend any consultation session.

Given the considerable amount of community consultation that is being undertaken by both the Federal and State Governments it is not unreasonable to expect that communities do not have to travel long distances to participate in the process.

A good example of how consultation can be undertaken within regional WA is the manner in which the DLGSC and WALGA undertook the Local Government Act Review Forums.

The Executive Officer is of the opinion that WALGA should include in discussions with appropriate Ministers instances of when there is inadequate opportunity for community comment on consultation being undertaken by government agencies.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Central Country Zone write to the Minister for Regional Development expressing concern that on occasions State Government Agencies, in conducting community and local government consultation, fail to hold consultations in locations within the Wheatbelt which prevent relevant community input.
2. That a copy of the correspondence to the Minister be also sent to Hon Darren West MLC and Hon Laurie Graham MLC.

RESOLUTION: Moved: President Ballard Seconded: Cr Ball

1. **That the Central Country Zone write to the Minister for Regional Development expressing concern that on occasions State Government Agencies, in conducting community and local government consultation, fail to hold consultations in various locations within the Wheatbelt which prevent relevant community input.**
2. **That a copy of the correspondence to the Minister be also sent to all Members of Parliament representing the Central Country Zone.**

CARRIED

RESOLUTION: Moved: Cr Mulroney Seconded: Cr Blight
That the late Agenda item relating to Country Ambulance Strategy be accepted.

CARRIED

11.54am Cr McGuinness declared an interest in the following matter and left the meeting.

10.7 Country Ambulance Strategy

Reporting Officer: Bruce Wittber, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Date: 27 November 2018

Attachments: Nil

Background:

On Friday 28 September 2018 the Minister for Health, Hon Roger Cook BA GradDipBus MBA MLA, released the draft Country Ambulance Strategy for public consultation. The media statement announcing the release of the draft strategy can be found by following the link shown below:

<https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2018/09/New-strategy-to-strengthen-WA's-country-ambulance-services.aspx>

Executive Officer Comment:

The draft strategy notes that a significant component of the strategy development process was widespread regional engagement, with Local Government included in the six-week consultation process. Figure 2 in the summary report shows where regional engagement was held.

The regional engagement process highlighted many of the concerns previously articulated by Member Councils when the issue of ambulance services across the Wheatbelt has been raised. To quote from the summary report (page 9):

It was made clear throughout the stakeholder consultation phase that for a sustainable ambulance service there needs to be greater support for the volunteers. The type of support identified as required includes:

- ▶ *Administrative support to assist with the management of the Sub Centre's*
- ▶ *Greater access to training and provision of nationally recognised formal training*
- ▶ *Investment into improved technology including communications systems which will enable ambulance officers and paramedics to reach higher level advice when on scene and when transporting patients between sites*
- ▶ *Greater Sub Centre financial support particularly in relation to debt management and major equipment provision*
- ▶ *Increased clinical support through increased numbers of community paramedics employed.*

The Draft Strategy presents 19 recommendations, each set out against each strategic theme as detailed within the strategy. Each recommendation is detailed below and the organisation listed in brackets is the recommended agency the action and completion of the recommendation.

Policy and System:

1. Establish clear state-wide policy on ambulance services as a minimum and consider enacting legislation in line with other states and territories. (Department of Health)
2. Define the level of ambulance service (both Inter Hospital Patient Transfers (IHPT) and Primary Response) provided to country communities in line with the state-wide policy (WA Country Health Service) and include this within the Clinical Services Framework. (Department of Health)
3. Plan state-wide service delivery using demand modelling then work with providers to design appropriate service delivery models in all locations (existing and new) and include measurable performance indicators in contracts. (WA Country Health Service led)
4. Form an engagement forum comprising WACHS, country volunteers, community representatives and paramedics to discuss ongoing service design and service improvement. (WA Country Health Service)

5. Transfer responsibility for the contract management of country ambulance services to WACHS. (Department of Health)
6. Implement the remaining recommendations from the Auditor General's Report *Delivering Western Australia's Ambulance Services* (2013) as a matter of priority. (Department of Health)
7. Complete implementation of the WA Health Patient Transport Strategy 2015-2018 to fulfil the goal of ensuring that the WA community has access to an effective patient transport system. (Department of Health)

Timely Access:

8. Introduce contemporary contracts for ambulance services that define IHPT and Primary Response as two distinct services which have their own scope of services and key performance targets as a minimum. (WA Country Health Service led)

Patient Safety:

9. Mandate consistent clinical governance principles in all patient transport contracts and report jointly on progress and collaborative initiatives to improve patient outcomes and clinical performance. (WA Country Health Service led)
10. Ensure every ambulance - regardless of location - can communicate reliably with all necessary parties at all times. (St John Ambulance¹)

System Coordination:

11. Implement a clinical prioritisation system to inform safe, effective and transparent coordination of inter hospital patient transfers across WACHS. (WA Country Health Service)
12. Implement formal escalation mechanisms to ensure safe transfer of inter hospital patients in line with clinically indicated timeframes. (WA Country Health Service)
13. Commission WACHS to lead the development and coordination of state-wide inter hospital patient flow. (Department of Health)

Sustainable & Skilled Workforce:

14. Provide sufficient administrative and corporate support direct to country ambulance Sub Centres in order to free up volunteers to focus on service delivery. (St John Ambulance)
15. Provide the volunteer ambulance workforce with the opportunity to obtain qualifications through an articulated structured training pathway which aligns with the Australian Qualification Framework and supports career progression. (WA Country Health Service led)
16. Research, trial and implement alternate workforce and training models (including the use of shared staffing and virtual support) and prioritise this at locations which have difficulty maintaining a sustainable workforce. (St John Ambulance)
17. Expand the Community Paramedic model in FY18/19 as a priority in order to relieve pressures in those locations currently having the most difficulty in recruiting, supporting and retaining volunteers. (St John Ambulance)

Value for Money:

18. Mandate transparent reporting on allocation of funds and costs of ambulance service delivery in ambulance contracts, detailing allocations between service locations and between IHPT and Primary Response services. (WA Country Health Service led)
19. Ensure contract periods align with contemporary best practice and are long enough to enable providers to invest for effective service delivery. (WA Country Health Service led)

¹ Noting that St John Ambulance WA Inc. are the contracted service provider, any future providers would also be required to provide reliable communications.

Following public consultation and in principle endorsement by the WACHS Board, it is expected that the Department of Health, WACHS and SJA will act immediately to implement the Strategy, based on the six themes and recommendations outlined in the draft strategy.

The Draft Country Ambulance Strategy is open for public comment until Monday 10 December 2018.

The Executive Officer raised the issue with WALGA to ascertain if a sector wide submission was going to be developed by WALGA given the significance of the issue to the rural and remote communities.

WALGA advised that it is going to assess whether there is sector wide interest in the issue and it was for that purpose that the matter was listed in Local Government News of the 23 November. Whilst time is limited there may be an opportunity to have WALGA prepare a submission on behalf of the sector.

That said recognising the tight timeframe between the Zone Meeting and the closure of public comment it may not be practical for WALGA to make a formal submission. However, if Member Councils feel that the issue warrants some comments and have already made a submission (or proposing to do so) then it may be practical for the Zone to provide correspondence to the consultation outlining some key points.

In discussions with another Group on the issue the Executive Officer has been made aware of the following observations:

- **Declining Volunteer Numbers**

Whatever recommendations are implemented the Strategy's success is heavily premised on the ongoing use of locally based volunteers. This is a dangerous premise to use because the number of suitably qualified and interested people is not coming through in sufficient numbers to replace those retiring either because of age or "burnout". Whilst some subcentres have strong volunteer numbers that is not the case across all communities. The demographic profile for the Wheatbelt region generally is one of a declining population that is amongst the oldest in Australia.

- **Implementation of the Strategy's Recommendations – Transfer of Responsibilities from St John Ambulance to WA Country Health Service**

A number of the Strategy's 19 Recommendations are WACHS led. Where this involves a transfer of control from St John Ambulance (SJA) to WACHS may be problematic if SJA is reluctant to relinquish responsibility. This is understandable and every effort should be made to ensure transfer of responsibility is transitioned smoothly and without detriment to the delivery of ambulance services across regional WA.

- **Viability of St John Ambulance Subcentres**

There could be some concerns regarding the potential adverse impact the outsourcing of Country Ambulance contracts to WACHS may have on the viability of a number of SJA Sub-Centres.

- **Adoption of a Paid Staff Model**

To quote from the Overview of the Draft Ambulance Strategy:

Western Australia (WA) has the greatest reliance on volunteer ambulance officers of any Australian State and is the only State where the service is not state operated. The situation is complicated by the vast geography and widely dispersed population outside the Perth metropolitan area.

If a community can't get volunteers to assist in the operation of ambulances within its community then paid staff would need to be employed. This would be the only way country ambulance services could be provided to that community's residents and would be required to ensure the provision on an essential component of the State's health system.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Central Country Zone prepare correspondence to the public consultation on Country Ambulance Strategy incorporating the above issues together with any other matters raised by Member Councils.
2. That a copy of the correspondence submitted to the public consultation on Country Ambulance Strategy be forwarded to WALGA for information.

1. That the Central Country Zone prepare correspondence to the public consultation on Country Ambulance Strategy incorporating the following issues:
 - Declining volunteer numbers;
 - Transfer of Responsibilities from St John Ambulance to WA Country Health Service;
 - Viability of St John Ambulance Sub-centres;
 - Adoption of a Paid Staff Model;
 - Developing improved relationships with local governments;
 - Improved quality of health and hospital services to remove the requirement for inter hospital transfers; and
 - Change to WA Country Health Service policy that does not enable patients to be transported to the most appropriate hospital facility.
2. That a copy of the correspondence submitted to the public consultation on Country Ambulance Strategy be forwarded to WALGA for information and action.

CARRIED

12.16pm Cr McGuinness returned to the meeting

11.0 ZONE BUSINESS - OTHER BUSINESS/URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

12.0 ZONE BUSINESS - EMERGING ISSUES

(The intent of the item is to enable Member Councils to bring to the attention of the delegates a matter that is developing. It is proposed that the matter will be tabled for discussion but not decision and then enable Member Councils to take the information away and consider an outcome for possible consideration at the next Zone meeting.)

Nil

13.0 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Nil

14.0 OTHER REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

14.1 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

Ms Jodie Holbrook, Director, Local Government Policy and Engagement

14.2 Wheatbelt Development Commission (Attachment)

The Wheatbelt Development Commission provided a report that was received too late to be incorporated in to the agenda papers but is distributed with the Meeting Minutes.

14.3 Regional Development Australia (RDA) Wheatbelt (Attachment)

Ms Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt Inc

Presenting Zone Update Report November

14.4 Main Roads WA

Mr Craig Manton, Regional Manager, Wheatbelt Region Main Roads WA
Ms Louise Adamson, Operations Manager, MRWA Central Wheatbelt Region

15.0 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Friday 15 March 2019 – Venue TBD

16.0 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 12.39pm.

DECLARATION

These minutes were confirmed by the Central Country Zone at the meeting held on 15 March 2019

Signed _____

Person presiding at the meeting at which these minutes were confirmed