



WALGA

Great Southern Zone

MINUTES

for an Ordinary Zone Meeting
(2 voting delegates per council)

held on

Friday 28 August 2020

Venue:
Woodanilling Recreation Centre Pavilion
Yairabin Street
Woodanilling

1. OPEN: 10.11am Welcome by Shire President, Cr Russel Thomson, Shire of Woodanilling

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Cr Ronnie Fleay
Annabel Paulley

Zone President (Shire of Kojonup)
Zone Executive Officer

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

Stuart Jamieson, Manager Governance and Risk, City of Albany
Cr Michael White, Cr Carl Letter and CEO Keith Williams
Cr Phil Horrocks and CEO Peter Northover
Nil
Cr Fiona Gaze, Cr Keith House and CEO Bob Jarvis
Cr Rob Lester, Cr Andrew Price and CEO Martin Cuthbert
Cr Liz Guidera and Cr John Goodheart
CEO Rick Miller (from 12.26pm)
Cr John Benn and Rick Mitchell-Collins
Cr Chris Pavlovich, Cr Jon Oldfield and Acting CEO Paul Sheedy
Cr Russel Thomson, Cr Dale Douglas and CEO Stephen Gash

Total of 15 out of a possible 22 voting delegates were in attendance at the start of the meeting.

Guests

Jo Burges, Intergovernmental Relations and Risk, WALGA
Gemma Cook, Policy Officer, Environment, WALGA
Jessica van der Waag, Great Southern Development Commission
Cr Len Handasyde, Chair, Great Southern Regional Road Group
Cr Kevin Gale, Shire of Kojonup (observer)

Apologies

Carl Beck, Road Safety Adviser, WALGA RoadWise
Peter Rundle, MLA, Member for Roe
Terry Redman, MLA, Member for Warren-Blackwood
Kelly Waterhouse, Acting Regional Manager – Great Southern, Dept of Local Government
Mayor Dennis Wellington, Cr Greg Stocks and CEO Andrew Sharpe, City of Albany
CEO Julian Murphy, Shire of Katanning
Cr Mark Paganoni, Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup
Cr Scott Crosby and Cr Kate Johnston, Shire of Kent
Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
Bruce Manning, Great Southern Development Commission
Cr Ruth Bigwood, Shire of Cranbrook

3. GUEST SPEAKERS

Guest speakers listed below were cancelled by request of Zone President due to anticipated lengthy discussion on the WALGA State Council Agenda Item 5.5 - Local Government Review Panel Final Report.

- Murray Carter, Executive Director, Rural Fire Division, Dept of Fire and Emergency Services
- Ben Headlam - Palmerston Services Great Southern
- Simon Lyas, Regional Development Great Southern

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4.1 Cr Ronnie Fleay declared an interest in State Council agenda item 5.3 - Development Assessment Panels as she is a member of the WA Planning Commission.

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

Road issues

Cr Chris Pavlovich

- Cr Pavlovich has been appointed to the State Road Funds to Local Government Committee.
- 20% of licence fees go to State and Local roads. 2 years into 5-year agreement. Will be lobbying to get that percentage increased. \$28.5 million underspend on roads last year. Difficult to get increase when there's an underspend.
- Also underspend of Regional Road Group money. RRGs can put better systems in place to acquit all of the funds. Councils need to submit paperwork in the same financial year.

Cr Len Handasyde, Chairman, Great Southern Regional Road Group

- State and Federal Blackspot projects - spending target is 90% but have only met this target once in 5 years. Ditto for other funding. KPIs - meeting % of roads assessed. Meeting Safe Systems but not database loading. **Main Roads know what projects are completed but councils need to submit paperwork in same financial year.** Have made improvements but need further improvement. Need to reach 100% target. What are the impediments? Sometimes services relocation, boundary adjustments, clearing permits, etc. 3 year rolling average might service better. Everything got funded for 2020-21 so councils need to carry out the work. **Cut off date to submit paperwork is 16 June 2021. Needs to be serious discussion about reaching the target.** GSRRG has advocated for more passing lanes on Albany Highway and improvements on State roads such as Chester Pass Road and Muir Highway. **Zone requested to have a position statement on these roads.** Need to link with CBH's 100 receival sites for the future. Statement from Zone would benefit GSRRG. Lower level of local roads maintained from Local Government funds - standard of these roads needs to improve.

Cr Fleay

- **Zone needs to advocate and treat this as an emerging issue.**
- **Could have Zone working group to advocate for road improvements.**

Stephen Gash

- State road agreement - RRG is on that committee. Can put roads to identified bucket of money.

5. MINUTES

5.1 Confirmation of Minutes

5.1.1 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY ZONE MEETING – 26 June 2020

MOVED Cr Fiona Gaze

SECONDED Cr Michael White

That the minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Great Southern Zone of the WALGA held on Friday 26 June 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings with the inclusion of Ian Graham as being present for Shire of Gnowangerup.

CARRIED 15-0

5.1.2 MINUTES OF THE WALGA STATE COUNCIL MEETING – 1 July 2020

MOVED Cr John Benn

SECONDED Cr Russel Thomson

That the Minutes of meeting of the State Council of WALGA held on 1 July 2020 be received.

CARRIED 15-0

6. STATUS REPORT FROM WALGA TO THE ZONE

Status Report from WALGA to the Zone dated August 2020 was circulated.

Extra updates from Jo Burges:

- Issue with GROH (Government Regional Officer Housing) in Nyabing is progressing.
- Decommissioning of fire vehicles - came out of Ferguson Report recommendations. SEMC meeting was going to closed off this issue but WALGA said it was still live matter in Great Southern. Richard Burnell at DFES is handling this. DFES has declined trial of new fire appliance fit out but agreed to consultation in regards to how to equip bush fire fighting appliances. Mr Burnell is willing to attend Zone meeting to discuss.
Woodanilling is pursuing vehicle de-commissioning issue through Upper Great Southern ROAC. There are some anomalies which need to be considered. WALGA is advising DFES about what Local Governments are experiencing. Future Fleet has been resolved and is called Operational Fleet Programme.
- Recommend asking DFES representative about Code of Conduct for DFES Bushfire Fire Brigade members. Refer to attachments from MLA Terry Redman.

7. ACTION REGISTER

- 7.1 Refer to attached updated Action Register.
- 7.2 Discussion about roads funding. Refer to letter from Libby Mettam dated 25 August 2020.

8. KEY STRATEGIC ZONE ISSUES FOR 2020

- 8.1 Refer to updated Key Strategic Zone Issues register attached.
- 8.2 Great Southern Regional Health Forum – see attached draft programme for feedback.

MINISTERIAL AND / OR DIRECTOR GENERAL ATTENDANCE AT REMAINING 2020 ZONE MEETINGS - LINKED TO KEY STRATEGIC ZONE ISSUES

Councils to decide which Ministers, Politicians, Directors General and other speakers they wish to attend remaining Zone meetings in 2020.

Zone meeting dates	Guest Speakers
Friday 28 August in Woodanilling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Murray Carter, DFES• Simon Lyas, RDA Great Southern – Regional University Centre• Ben Headlam, Palmerston Services Great Southern – drug and alcohol issues in the region and COVID-19 impact. Also, lack of rehabilitation centre in the region. <p><i>Note: all guest speakers were cancelled due to anticipated in-depth discussion on recommendations in Local Government Review Panel Final Report.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minister for Education & Training Sue Ellery due to meeting with four Zone councils in Albany on Thursday 27 August 2020.
Monday 23 November in Nyabing, Shire of Kent (Joint meeting with Great Southern Regional Road Group)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zone AGM and ordinary meeting• Murray Carter and/or Richard Burnell, DFES.• Roads discussion with GSRRG.

Outstanding or suggested speakers

- Presentation by Office of the Auditor General.
Subject: Update on local government auditing so far and look at a few of OAG's recent Local Government financial and performance audits. Include issues raised by CEO Julian Murphy and Cr Rob Lester.
- Housing Minister Peter Tinley to talk about extension of First Home Owners Grant and parity home lending requirements between regional areas and the metropolitan area, as raised at November meeting by the Shire of Plantagenet.
- Water is becoming a serious issue, so meet with Dept of Water and Water Corporation.
- Invite people in Government with influence before the next State Election.
- Ask Premier Mark McGowan to first meeting of 2021 before State Election - meet in Albany.

9. REVIEW OF WALGA STATE COUNCIL AGENDA – 2 September 2020

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

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

9.2 State Council Representative's Report - Cr Ronnie Fleay

All are watching Victoria regarding COVID-19. Need to be vigilant so we don't get in the same situation.

9.3 Matters for Decision – Zone consideration required

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

MOVED Cr John Benn

SECONDED Cr Jon Oldfield

That the Great Southern Zone supports the recommendations for Matters for Decision Items 5.1, 5.2 and 5.4 in the September 2020 WALGA State Council Agenda.

CARRIED 15-0

Cr Ronnie Fleay left the room at 11.46am and did not take part in the vote for Item 5.3.

Item 5.3 - Development Assessment Panels

MOVED Cr Keith House

SECONDED Cr Rob Lester

That the Great Southern Zone supports the recommendations for Matters for Decision Items 5.1, 5.2 and 5.4 in the September 2020 WALGA State Council Agenda.

CARRIED 14-0

Cr Ronnie Fleay re-entered the room at 11.47am.

The meeting had a short refreshment break from 11.48am - 12.02pm.

Item 5.5 – Local Government Review Panel Final Report

The Great Southern Zone considered each of the 65 recommendations and provided feedback in the attached document.

CEO Rick Miller entered the meeting at 12.26pm.

The meeting broke for lunch at 1.02pm.

The meeting re-convened after lunch at 1.36pm.

9.4 Matters for Noting – Zone information

Noted

9.5 State Council Status Report

Noted

10. ZONE BUSINESS

10.1 COVID-19 Pandemic – Further Update from WALGA

Please refer to attached report from WALGA and Impact on Local Economies document. These are to be read in conjunction with Item 6.1 of the State council Agenda – Items for Noting.

MOVED Cr Michael White

SECONDED Cr John Benn

That the COVID-19 Pandemic further update and Impact on Local Economies reports be noted.

CARRIED 15-0

Additional comments from Jo Burges:

Still in a stable position in WA but deaths are increasing in Victoria. WA Chief Medical Officer has been in Victoria and brought back his findings. WA did the right thing by placing restrictions early but we cannot get complacent. WA being approached to have events but they will need to adhere to restrictions.

11. EMERGING ISSUES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Member Councils reported on emerging issues over the past few months.

City of Albany

- Albany Airport will have flights increase to 13 a week from 31 August 2020.
- Record months for accommodation in Albany due to State border restrictions leading people to holiday on south coast.

Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup

- Broomehill fire station completed.
- Issues with Water Corporation.
- DEMC - raised issue of labourers for farmers due to restricted overseas travel.

Cr Michael White, Cr Carl Letter and CEO Keith Williams left the meeting at 2.45pm. 13 voting delegates remained.

Shire of Cranbrook

- Business as usual. Drought funding projects.

Shire of Denmark - not present to report.

Shire of Gnowangerup

- Drought Communities grant application lodged.
- Community Water Supply grant application lodged.
- Two roads nominated to Federal Government for funding - waiting for response.
- Generally back to normal in the Gnowangerup community.

12. FINANCIAL REPORT

12.1 Financial Report for the period 1 June to 30 June 2020 is attached.

Opening balance as at 1 June 2020	\$2,628.23
Total debits	(\$214.00)
Total credits	\$2,805.00
Closing balance as at 30 June 2020	\$5,219.23

12.2 Financial Report for the period 1 July to 31 July 2020 is attached.

Opening balance as at 1 July 2020	\$5,219.23
Total debits	(\$1,108.00)
Total credits	Nil
Closing balance as at 31 July 2020	\$4,111.23

MOVED Cr John Benn

SECONDED Cr Keith House

That the financial statements for the periods 1 June to 30 June 2020 and 1 July to 31 July 2020 be accepted as true and accurate records of the Zone finances.

CARRIED 13-0

13. Zone Annual General Meeting and Ordinary Meeting in November

Resolved: Joint meeting with Great Southern Regional Road Group in Nyabing, Shire of Kent on Monday 23 November 2020.

Focus on discussion about roads.

Richard Burnell of DFES to be the only guest speaker.

Cr Gaze, Cr House and CEO Bob Jarvis left the meeting at 2.51pm. 11 voting delegates remained.

11. Emerging Issues for Local Government - continued

Shire of Jerramungup

- Drought projects are not being signed off but still required have funds expended by late June 2021.
- Still without a permanent doctor servicing Jerramungup and Bremer Bay.
- \$4.2 million funding for swimming pool.
- Appointed a Bushfire Risk Mitigation Officer who starts on 14 September.

Shire of Katanning

- Talking with WALGA about changes to Code of Conduct for bushfire volunteers.

Shire of Kent

- Getting positive results by lobbying for teacher housing. State Government is keen to engage with councils who have the ability to contribute funds to build housing.
- Water is a big issue everywhere. Pingrup's small sub-division housing initiative will have lots available for the future but the Water Corporation says the water system has limitations and is at capacity.
- Drought Communities grant application submitted. They will assess applications and then recommendation to Minister - could take at least 8 weeks. The time lag is disappointing as communities need to spend funds by late June 2021.
- Submitted application for Heavy Vehicle Productivity Grant.
- Feedback on Native Title Settlement - Nyabing has Dept of Education land which could be part of settlement package. Shire of Kent is working with Dept of Planning, Lands & Heritage to oppose this.

- Peter Northover advised that there were delays in getting access to drought money on the government portal.

Shire of Kojonup

- Sport and Recreation funding - disappointing that they are dictating what the money is spent on. Lack of flexibility.
- Re-wiring at airstrip.
- Medical Centre should be completed in about 6 weeks.
- Housing project almost up to lock up stage.

Shire of Plantagenet

- Due to earlier concerns about declining population in rural areas, the Shire of Plantagenet spent money to upgrade the town with landscaping and improving boardwalks with a view to attracting new residents and tourists.
- Swimming pool building will be replaced after Christmas.

Shire of Woodanilling

- Overlap with Bushfire and DFES advisory committees. Minimum training standards for volunteers. Aim to make it more flexible and relevant - Katanning, Broomehill-Tambellup and Woody met with DFES. Training is 2 days at a time but struggling to get volunteers for 1 day. Consulted LGIS and their lawyers - advised that scheme will cover all volunteers, defined as someone at the direction of the CBFO. Local Governments have same duty of care as an employer. If there is an incident, could mean LGs are liable. Has caused a dilemma. Woody is seeking further information from DFES. This is an emerging issue which could gain some traction going forward.
- Emerging opportunity - renewed momentum for tourist rail down Great Southern railway line. EOI going out for parties to become involved. Kevin Gale has done a lot of work on this. Any shire along the railway line will become a stakeholder. ARC Infrastructure supports having this on the rail line.

14. REPORTS

No	Organisation / Delegates	Updates / Info
14.1	Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG) Delegate: Cr Russel Thomson (Shire of Woodanilling) Proxy: Cr Scott Crosby (Shire of Kent)	Minutes of 10 July 2020 meeting are attached. <i>June update:</i> Note: Zone feedback and comments requested on <i>Item 7.2 – Movement of Agricultural Machinery</i> . What do Zones want to do? Cr Thomson - want to promote a change with approval of Zones. ACTION: Cr Fleay to talk with Ian Duncan at WALGA about this. <i>August update:</i> Jo Burges, Cr Fleay and Cr Thomson discussed prior to start of Zone meeting. Progressing.
14.2	Great Southern District Leadership Group (formerly Great Southern Human Services Forum) Representative: Rani Param (City of Albany)	Cr Fleay has not be able to attend a meeting recently.
14.3	Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) – CEO Keith Williams.	Last meeting was held in early July 2020. Keith was going to take the issue of mobile phone towers back to the DEMC.
14.4	South Coast Natural Resource Management (SCNRM) Delegate: CEO Keith Williams Proxy: Cr Jon Oldfield (Plantagenet)	ACTION: Keith Williams to follow up on how the Zone will be involved.

14.5	Great Southern Development Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RED grants closed. \$4.7 million worth of grant applications for just under \$800,000 on offer. • Great Southern Treasures Bloom Festival information is out. • Taste Great Southern is seeking businesses to become involved. Jessica can forward details to those interested. • Planning for water. • Harvest Road launched Leeuwin Coast brand for aquaculture. • Premier's Recovery Plan available on internet. • Four more mobile towers were activated under Blackspot programme.
14.6	Great Southern RoadWise – Carl Beck	Report dated August 2020 is attached. ACTION: Carl Beck to provide crash statistics for before and after installation of rumble strips.
14.7	Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils to advise if they receive the 'Local Matters' circular by Director General Duncan Ord via email direct from the Department. • Community Resilience Scorecard attached. Does the Zone want a presentation tailored to the Zone to discuss the outcomes of the report, research methodology or analysis with our research partner Catalyse?
14.8	Executive Officer	Nil

Cr Fleay encouraged councils to look at the marketing research for the region which WALGA sent out recently.

On behalf of the Zone, Cr Fleay offered best wishes to CEO Peter Northover for his retirement.

Close: 3.17pm.