

# **East Metropolitan Zone Minutes**

## **21 November 2024**

**Hosted by the City of Belmont  
Function Room, 215 Wright Street,  
Cloverdale**

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## 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.

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Zone Delegates were 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 were emailed 7 days prior to the meeting date.

Confirmation of Attendance An attendance sheet was circulated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

## 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
7. Native Vegetation Issues Paper

## 1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

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### 1.1 OPENING

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*WALGA representative, Mr Ian Duncan assumed the position of Chair and opened the meeting at 6:31pm.*

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### 1.2 ATTENDANCE

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#### MEMBERS

#### 2 Voting Delegates from each Member Council

Town of Bassendean	Cr Kathryn Hamilton Cr Jennie Carter
City of Bayswater	Cr Josh Eveson Cr Giorgia Johnson
City of Belmont	Cr George Sekulla Cr Bernard Ryan Mr John Christie, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
City of Kalamunda	Cr Brooke O'Donnell Cr David Modolo Mr Anthony Vuleta, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Mundaring	President Paige McNeil Cr John Daw
City of Swan	Cr Aaron Bowman Cr Haeden Miles

WALGA Secretariat	Mr Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure Ms Hannah Godsave, Manager Community Policy
Guest Speakers	Mr Nicholas Duff, Manager - Office of Homelessness

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### **1.3 APOLOGIES**

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Town of Bassendean	Mr Cameron Woods, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate Cr Emily Wilding
City of Baywater	Mr Jeremy Edwards, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
City of Kalamunda	Cr Dylan O'Connor
Shire of Mundaring	Mr Jason Whiteaker, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
City of Swan	Mr Stephen Cain, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

## **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.

Nil.

## **4 STATE COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVE - EXTRAORDINARY ELECTION**

*WALGA Secretariat assumed the Chair for the Election of Zone Chair and State Council Representative.*

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### **4.1 ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE EAST METROPOLITAN ZONE**

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Following the recent resignation of Cr Giorgia Johnson as Zone Chair, nominations had been sought to fill the office vacancy.

The WALGA Secretariat, Mr Ian Duncan carried out the election process.

Notice of this election was emailed to delegates and CEOs of the East Metropolitan Zone on 4 November 2024.

The election for the Chair was conducted and will be for the remaining term expiring in November 2025, in line with the terms of State Council representatives.

### Chair

At the time of Agenda distribution, the following written nomination was received for the position of Chair:

- Cr George Sekulla                                      City of Belmont

Further nominations were called from the floor. No further nominations were received.

### **DECLARATION**

**That Cr George Sekulla is elected as Chair of the East Metropolitan Zone for the remaining term until November 2025.**

### Deputy Chair

As Cr Sekulla previously held the position of Deputy Chair, an election for Deputy Chair was held to fill the vacancy.

The WALGA Secretariat, Mr Ian Duncan carried out the election process.

Nominations were called from the floor.

Nominations received from the floor were:

- Cr Brooke O'Donnell                                      City of Kalamunda

### **DECLARATION**

**That Cr Brooke O'Donnell is elected as Deputy Chair of the East Metropolitan Zone for the remaining term until November 2025.**

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## 4.2      ELECTION OF STATE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE - EXTRAORDINARY ELECTION

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Following the recent resignation of Cr Aaron Bowman as State Council Representative, nominations were sought from Zone Delegates for the extraordinary vacancy for one representative on the WALGA State Council from the East Metropolitan Zone.

A call for nominations was distributed to Zone Delegates via email on 4 October 2024. The term of office for this position will commence immediately following this election and will conclude the day before the Ordinary Meeting of State Council in December 2025.

Nominations received prior to the meeting as listed below:

- Cr Haeden Miles                                      City of Swan

Further nominations were called from the floor.

Nominations received from the floor as listed below:

- Cr Kathryn Hamilton Town of Bassendean

In accordance with the guidelines endorsed by State Council, candidates were invited to make a two-minute election bid prior to the secret ballot being taken.

As more than one nomination was received, ballot papers were distributed, and a secret ballot conducted.

## DECLARATION

**That Cr Haeden Miles is elected as State Council Representative of the East Metropolitan Zone for the remaining term until the day before the Ordinary Meeting of State Council in December 2025.**

*Cr George Sekulla assumed the position of Chair.*

## 5 DEPUTATIONS

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### 5.1 OFFICE OF HOMELESSNESS

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Mr Nicholas Duff, Manager, from the Department of Communities, provided an overview of the Office of Homelessness and the All Paths Lead to a Home strategy; priority work; and some data on homelessness.

Noted

## 6 AGENCY REPORTS

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

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

Noted

## 7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

### RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Haeden Miles  
Seconded: Cr Giorgia Johnson

**That the Minutes of the meeting of the East Metropolitan Zone held on 15 August 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.**

CARRIED 11/0

## 8 BUSINESS ARISING



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## 8.1 STATUS REPORT

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

**Noted**

## 9 ZONE BUSINESS

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### 9.1 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) GOVERNANCE

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*By Shire of Mundaring*

#### BACKGROUND

Artificial Intelligence (AI) offers transformative benefits empowering organisations to innovate and adapt in a fast-paced evolving landscape. AI can enable increased productivity, efficiencies and new avenues for growth. Local governments can leverage AI to improve data driven decision-making, enhance service delivery, anticipate community needs with predictive analytics and engage with their communities more effectively. However, these opportunities bring significant ethical dilemmas that require careful consideration by Council and Administration and ultimately require a robust governance framework to mitigate risk and guide ethical usage.

#### RESOLUTION

**Moved:** President Paige McNeil  
**Seconded:** Cr Haeden Miles

**That the East Metropolitan Zone requests WALGA to:**

- 1. Establish the fundamental principles and governance framework needed to ensure that Artificial Intelligence systems are developed and deployed ethically and responsibly across the Local Government sector; and**
- 2. Develop risk and opportunity guidelines for Artificial Intelligence usage that prioritises fairness, accountability, transparency, and inclusivity.**

**CARRIED 11/0**

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### 9.2 2025 PROPOSED MEETING DATES

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*By Chantelle O'Brien, Zone Executive Officer*

#### BACKGROUND

A schedule of the proposed meeting dates for 2025 for the East Metropolitan Zone has been prepared and is set out below. The dates have been set to coincide with the WALGA State Council meetings, which have been provided in the table below for information.

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

As with previous years, the City of Belmont has again kindly offered to continue hosting the Zone meetings.

In previous years there have been some members that are also a member of the East Metropolitan Regional Council (EMRC). To assist with potential meeting conflicts, the secretariat has consulted with the EMRC and found the only date to clash is the April meeting. Members may want to consider changing this date. Alternatively, this provides an opportunity for Deputy Delegates to attend if required.

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

<b>Zone Meeting Dates Thursday</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>HOST COUNCIL</b>	<b>State Council Meeting Date 2024</b>
20 February	6.30 pm	City of Belmont	Wednesday 5 March 2025
24 April	6.30 pm	City of Belmont	Regional Meeting Wednesday 7 May 2025
19 June	6.30 pm	City of Belmont	Wednesday 2 July 2025
21 August	6.30 pm	City of Belmont	Regional Meeting 4-5 September 2025
20 November	6.30 pm	City of Belmont	Wednesday 3 December 2025

**RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Cr Kathryn Hamilton  
**Seconded:** Cr John Daw

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

**CARRIED 11/0**

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**9.3 2025 MAY REGIONAL STATE COUNCIL MEETING**

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*By Meghan Dwyer, Executive Officer Governance*

**BACKGROUND**

Each year, the WALGA State Council meets in a regional location hosted by a Zone. There are generally two regional State Council meetings per year – one hosted by a Metropolitan Zone and another hosted by a Country Zone. Regional meeting hosts are rotated between the Zones.

Regional meetings afford State Council the opportunity to meet with Elected Members and senior officers from Local Governments within a Zone, to discuss issues of local and regional significance. They also allow State Councillors to meet with other regional groups of interest to gain a first-hand appreciation of the various issues confronting Local Governments in each Zone.

It is proposed that the May 2025 Regional State Council meeting be hosted by the East Metropolitan Zone. The East Metropolitan Zone last hosted a regional meeting in 2018 in the City of Kalamunda.

The date scheduled for the 2025 regional meeting is Wednesday, 7 May 2025.

An indicative program for the day is as below:

**State Council Business – 9:30am to 2:30pm**

9:30am - 10:00am Morning tea on arrival  
10:00am - 12:00pm State Council Strategic Forum  
12:00pm - 12:30pm Lunch  
12:30pm - 2:30pm State Council Meeting

**Zone Forum – 2:30pm to 5:00pm**

2:30pm – 3:00pm Afternoon Tea  
3:00pm - 5:00pm Introduction and Welcome  
Zone Member Presentations

**Sundowner – 5:00pm to 6:30pm**

The host Local Government is asked to provide a venue to accommodate the following:

Strategic Forum and State Council meeting	U-shaped seating for 24 people, plus head table for 6 people Additional seating for 20 people (observers) A screen with HDMI connectivity for screen sharing Microphones (at least one for the Chair)
Zone Forum	Theatre style seating for 40 people Lectern and table for presenters, microphone
General	Break out area for morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea, sundowner

WALGA requests the Local Government to set up facilities and arrange catering (including the sundowner), with WALGA to reimburse the cost of catering.

Following the appointment of a host Local Government, the WALGA secretariat will liaise with the host to plan the event.

**RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Haeden Miles  
Seconded: Cr John Daw

**That the East Metropolitan Zone endorse the proposal to host the May 2025 Regional State Council meeting and appoint the City of Swan as the host Local Government.**

**CARRIED 8/4**

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

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*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**

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## **9.5 REQUEST TO PRESENT**

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*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 Giorgia Johnson  
Seconded: Cr Jennie Carter

That the East Metropolitan Zone supports a deputation at a future Zone meeting in 2025 from the Building and Energy Division.

LOST 3/8

*The Zone recommended a presentation be provided to CEOs instead.*

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## 9.6 DEPUTATIONS PLANNING FOR 2025

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*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 East Metropolitan Zone, there is currently 1 Deputation requested for 2025.

- Building and Energy Division / Department of Energy, Mines, Industrial Relations and Safety (if supported)

The East Metropolitan Zone allows for one Deputation 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.

*The Zone provided the following suggestions for speakers and topics:*

- *Tony Brown, WALGA – Tranche 2 Local Government Act reforms*
- *Polyphagous shot hole borer – progress on control solutions*
- *Urban Canopy – funding and strategy*
- *State Infrastructure coordination*

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## **9.7 COOPERATION AND SHARED SERVICES**

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*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](mailto:tbrown@walga.asn.au) or Naoimh Donaghy – [ndonaghy@walga.asn.au](mailto:ndonaghy@walga.asn.au).

**Noted**

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## **9.8 NATIVE VEGETATION CLEARING ISSUES PAPER**

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*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](mailto: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 Aaron Bowman

Seconded: Cr David Modolo

That the East Metropolitan Zone:

1. Notes the Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations Issues Paper;
2. Notes that Local Governments may submit their written feedback directly to WALGA for consideration;
3. Provides the following feedback;
  - May be too difficult to achieve a single overarching statewide policy – consider variations for metropolitan and rural areas;
  - Need a streamlined, quick response from the regulator;
  - Safety is the priority, noting that straight wide roads are not necessarily safer;
  - Need an effective DWER-led offsets strategy.

**CARRIED 12/0**

## 10 STATE COUNCIL AGENDA – MATTERS FOR DECISION AND NOTING

*Zone delegates to read and consider the September 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.

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### 10.1 STATE COUNCIL MATTERS FOR DECISION

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#### 10.1.1 2024 Annual General Meeting Resolutions (State Council Agenda item 8.1)

*By Meghan Dwyer, Executive Officer Governance*

#### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. the item 7.1 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.

#### RESOLUTION



Moved: Cr Giorgia Johnson  
Seconded: Cr Haeden Miles

That the East Metropolitan Zone recommends that:

1. State Council do not endorse item 7.1 Amendments to *Cat Act 2011*- Allow Local Governments to Make Local Laws to Contain Cats to the Owner's Property.
2. WALGA develop a model Cat Local Law in consultation with and agreement with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, The Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation, and the WA Feral Cat Working Group that provides for the following:
  - a. Cats are to be confined to the cat owner's residence premises, unless under effective control;
  - b. Cats within public places are to be under effective control and not to create a nuisance at all times;
  - c. Cats are not allowed on other private properties where the cat does not have the expressed permission of the occupier of that premises, and are not to create a nuisance; and
  - d. Cats are prohibited from ecologically sensitive areas designated as Cat Prohibited Areas by Absolute Majority of Council, and clearly demarcated as such on a sign displayed at the area, without the need to modify the local law.

CARRIED 10/2

10.1.2 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 Local Government elections.*
2. *Councillors serve four-year terms with elections every two years and half of the Council positions spilled at each election.*
3. *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.*
2. *First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system for internal Council elections.*
3. *Councils holding elections by means of in-person, postal and/or electronic voting.*
4. *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 electing the President.*

#### 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 Paige McNeil  
**Seconded:** Cr Giorgia Johnson

That the East Metropolitan Zone endorse an amendment to point 1 of the WALGA recommendation in State Council Agenda item 8.2 as follows:

*The Local Government sector supports:*

1. *Compulsory participation in Class 1 and Class 2 Local Government elections and voluntary participation in Class 3 and Class 4 Local Governments elections.*

**LOST 5/7**

### **10.1.3 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.

#### **10.1.4 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.

#### **10.1.5 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.

**10.1.6 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.

**10.1.7 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.

#### **10.1.8 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 Haeden Miles  
Seconded: Cr Giorgia Johnson

That the East Metropolitan Zone supports the WALGA recommendations, as amended at 10.1.1, in the Matters for Decision as contained in the December 2024 State Council Agenda and as listed above.

CARRIED 12/0

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## 10.2 POLICY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

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### 10.2.1 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.

### 10.2.2 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.

**10.2.3 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.

**10.2.4 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.

**10.2.5 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 Giorgia Johnson

Seconded: Cr Haeden Miles

**That the East 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 12/0**



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### 10.3 MATTERS FOR NOTING/INFORMATION

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- 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 Kathryn Hamilton

Seconded: Cr John Daw

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

CARRIED 12/0

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### 10.4 KEY ACTIVITY REPORTS

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- 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: President Paige McNeil

Seconded: Cr Brooke O'Donnell

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

CARRIED 12/0

## **11 EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

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### **11.1 WALGA PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

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WALGA representative presented the President's Report. The report was attached within the Agenda.

**Noted**

### **11.2 STATE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT TO THE ZONE**

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State Councillor presented on the previous State Council meeting. A State Councillor report was attached within the Agenda.

**Noted**

## **12 OTHER BUSINESS**

Nil.

## **13 NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the East Metropolitan Zone will be held on Thursday, 20 February 2025 at the City of Belmont commencing at 6:30pm.

## **14 CLOSURE**

*There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8:44pm.*