



Great Eastern Country Zone

Minutes

Kellerberrin Recreation & Leisure Centre

Wednesday 26 February 2020

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Great Eastern Country Zone

Meeting held at the Kellerberrin Leisure Centre
Commenced at 9.30am, Wednesday 26 February 2020

Minutes

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Shire of Bruce Rock	President Cr Stephen Strange Deputy President Cr Ramesh Rajagopalan
Shire of Cunderdin	Cr Dennis Whisson Cr Alison Harris Mr Stuart Hoble, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Dowerin	Ms Rebecca McCall, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Kellerberrin	Kate Dudley, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Kondinin	Ms Mia Maxfield, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Merredin	President Cr Julie Flockart Deputy President Cr Mal Willis Mr Mark Dacombe, (Temp) Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Mount Marshall	President Cr Tony Sachse – Deputy Chair Mr John Nuttall, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Narembeen	President Cr Rhonda Cole – Chair Cr Alan Wright Mr Scott Wildgoose, Acting Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Nungarin	President Pippa DeLacey Cr Eileen O’Connell Mr Adam Majid Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Tammin	President Cr Michael Greenwood Deputy President Cr Glenice Batchelor Mr Neville Hale, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Trayning	Deputy President Cr Geoff Waters
Shire of Westonia	President Cr Karin Day Jasmine Geier, Manager Corporate Services
Shire of Wyalkatchem	Deputy President Cr Owen Garner
Shire of Yilgarn	President Bryan Close Cr Wayne Della Bosca Mr Peter Clarke Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

WALGA Executive Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Development
Mark Batty, Executive Manager, Environment and Waste
Lyn Fogg, Governance Advisor, Sector Support and Advice

GUESTS Hon Dave Kelly, Minister for Water; Forestry; Innovations and ICT; Science; Youth
Hon Laurie Graham MLC, Agricultural Region
Emma Collyer, Policy Advisor, Minister for Water Office
Kathleen Brown, Electorate Officer, Mia Davies MLA Office
Patricia Pedlety, Water Corporation

DLGSC Ms Jennifer Collins, Regional Manager, Wheatbelt
Mr Gordon MacMile, Director Strategic Coordination and Delivery Planning and Service Delivery

Main Roads WA Ms Janet Hartley-West, Network Manager

RDA Wheatbelt Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development

REED - Regional Early Education & Develop. Ms Helen Creed, Chairperson

APOLOGIES

Shire of Bruce Rock Mr Darren Mollenoyux Chief Executive Officer, Non-voting Delegate

Shire of Dowerin Cr Julie Chatfield
Cr Darrel Hudson

Shire of Kellerberrin President Cr Rodney Forsyth
Cr Scott O'Neill
Mr Raymond Griffiths, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

Shire of Kondinin President Cr Sue Meeking
Cr Bev Gangell

Shire of Koorda President Cr Ricky Storer
Cr Pamela McWha
Mr Darren Simmons Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

Shire of Mount Marshall Cr Nick Gillett

Shire of Mukinbudin President Gary Shadbolt
Cr Sandie Ventris
Mr Dirk Sellenger Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

Shire of Nungarin Deputy President Cr Gary Coumbe

Shire of Tammin Cr Tania Daniels

Shire of Trayning Cr Melanie Brown
Mr Brian Jones, Chief Executive Officer, Non-voting Delegate

Shire of Westonia Cr Bill Huxtable
Mr Jamie Criddle Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

Shire of Wyalkatchem President Cr Quentin Davies
Ms Taryn Dayman Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

GUESTS Hon. Martin Aldridge MLC, Agricultural Region
Mr Craig Manton, Main Roads WA
Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt

ATTACHMENTS

The following were provided as attachments to the agenda:

1. Great Eastern Country Zone Minutes 28 November 2019.
2. Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee Minutes 13 February 2019.
3. State Emergency Management Committee Agenda
4. Telstra Fact Sheet
5. President's Report
6. RDA Wheatbelt Update
 - Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Attachments - State Council Agenda – via link: <https://walqa.asn.au/getattachment/23e6a5d1-55b5-4244-a8c7-2cf682088bac/Agenda-State-Council-4-March-2020.pdf>

The following documents are attached to the minutes;

7. REED – Regional Early Education and Development presentation
8. Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Update and National Redress Scheme presentations.
9. Hon. Mia Davies – copy of correspondence to Federal Minister for Water

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cr Eileen O'Connell, Shire of Nungarin disclosed an interest in Item 7.1 - Federal Government Drought Communities Program.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair, President Cr Rhonda Cole, introduced the Hon. Dave Kelly, Minister for Water; Forestry; Innovations and ICT; Science; Youth and the Hon Laurie Graham MLC, Agricultural Region, who is attending this meeting to hear and address the Zone's concerns - refer Item 7.1 - Federal Government Drought Communities Program.

The Minister addressed the meeting regarding the following matters:

- COAG Minister's Forum in Tasmania (week of 17-21 Feb 2020) received a climate outlook update from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) – key take away points included:
 - Australia is facing a drier climate with the south west of WA continuing in a long term drying pattern;
 - Australia will get hotter, with consequential impacts on weather generally and therefore agriculture;
 - Australia will experience less cyclonic events, however cyclonic events will become more intense.
- Usually only 2 districts with declarations of water deficiency, however 9 such declarations are currently in place.
- State Government now carting water for animal welfare and to supplement scheme water for 8 town sites. End of financial year costs to State Government estimated at \$11m.
- State Government has spent \$1.5m on community water supply improvement projects.

- Water Department has identified a further 90 Strategic Community Water Supply Projects.
- Minister is seeking to resolve lack of coordination between Water Corporation, Department of Water, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and Local Governments. Minister has implemented regular meetings with these agencies to better coordinate State Government responses.
- Federal Government drought expenditure of \$14 billion – 95% spent on east coast, approx. 2% in WA.
- Federal Government Drought Communities Program round one included 100 Local Governments in WA – nil qualified. Second round resulted in 52 local governments funded nationally of which 48 were in WA. State Government has met with Federal Minister, David Littleproud and is advocating for a third round of funding, so that WA drought areas may be better funded. Expressed 'surprise' that the Federal Government had not sought to consult with the State Government nor WALGA when determining funding.
- Noted commentary from the Ernst Young review of the Federal program, that data that informed Federal Government funding decisions was primarily based on rainfall data from the Murray/Darling basin – no WA data used.
- Minister would like to speak with WA Local Governments that were funded / not funded to better understand the issues.
- Noted that Federal "Future Drought Fund" has potential to provide \$100m per annum in funding – State Government therefore advocating for Federal funding for:
 - The identified 90 strategic community water supply projects;
 - Investigating on farm small scale desalination plants (currently on trial at Muresk);
 - Urban horticulture projects.
- Goldfields water pipeline replacement / undergrounding project – is the continuance of the ongoing maintenance program however now packaged as a 50 year plan to facilitate Federal funding approvals.
 - Confirmed that parts of the pipeline relevant to tourism / heritage will remain above ground.

The Minister then took questions and comments from Zone Members:

- Mount Marshall – Government drought responses lack understanding of the importance of rainfall patterns in WA (rather than focus only on total volume of rainfall) i.e. rain at wrong time of year can have greater detrimental impact.
- Narembeen – This lack of understanding increases potential for wrong projects to be funded, value lost in the rush to spend money.
- Kondinin – No BOM data collected within the Kondinin District, contributing to difficulties for the Shire to successfully apply for drought funding. Currently carting water into the District and consider that there is a massive water supply problem ahead with stock feed lots substantially jeopardised.
- Yilgarn – Raised concerns with the Water Corp change in policy for access to and fees charged for water supplies from standpipes and particularly the agreements Water Corp requires Local Governments to enter into. Noted that similar concerns arise for the Shires of Kellerberrin and Westonia. Have written to Minister on 27 November 2019, however no response yet received. Minister advised that the delay in response was attributable to him seeking clarification on the advice provided by Water Corp. Minister advised a response will be provided.
- Bruce Rock – Raised concerns that the Federal Government was responding to individual Local Governments, suggested WALGA to coordinate a sector response / advocacy. Minister advised that he was supportive of working with the sector to coordinate a WA response.
- Bruce Rock – Aging infrastructure is contributing to substantial water wastage. Minister advised that the State has prioritised continued funding of the program to address this issue.
- Narembeen – Noted concerns with standpipe access / equity and cost issues, particularly how changes to Water Corp protocols now require Local Governments to pick up costs for maintaining standpipes whilst Water Corp collects the fees.

- Yilgarn – Additional dams required in strategic locations to contribute to drought proofing the area. Minister advised that some dams in disrepair have been identified for inclusion in the '90 Strategic Community Water Supply Projects'.
- Narembeen – Noted that dams don't just fall into disrepair and that the State Government's withdrawal of resources in regional areas has contributed to the failure of infrastructure to be appropriately maintained.
- WALGA – Mark Batty advised the Zone that the WALGA Secretariat required political direction from the sector to direct future advocacy. Noted that the Ernst Young Report identified poor methodology and Federal Government funding of some Local Governments that did not meet the selection criteria. Commented on the absence of 'joined up' advocacy – State Government / Local Government, and the need for the National Resource Steering Committee to be reconvened including Ministerial representation from all relevant portfolios – water, environment, infrastructure.
- Tammin – Expressed support for the re-establishment of the National Resource Steering Committee. Minister advised that he was open to suggestions for how to formalise the reconvening of the National Resource Steering Committee.

10.25am The Great Eastern Country Zone agreed that for the convenience of the Minister for Water and for Zone Members that Item 7.1 would be brought forward for discussion.

7.1 Federal Government Drought Communities program (Brought Forward)

By WALGA Executive Manager Environment & Waste, Mark Batty

Background

Drought Funding Update

There are a number of funding streams relevant to Local Government under the Commonwealth Drought Response, Resilience and Preparedness Plan 2019.

https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/aust-govt-drought-response-plan_0.pdf

Future Drought Fund

The Drought Response, Resilience and Preparedness Plan 2019 identifies the establishment and operating of a Future Drought Fund (still in preparation and due to be presented to the Australian Parliament in February 2020).

The Australian Government's initial \$3.9 billion upfront contribution will be invested by the Future Fund with earnings to be reinvested until the balance reaches \$5 billion. It will provide a sustainable and ongoing source of funding to make agriculture more productive and profitable and enhance the wellbeing of our farming communities and the sustainability of our farming landscapes.

The Fund will provide support to assist primary producers and regional communities to prepare for the impact of drought, as well as to encourage them to adopt self-reliant approaches to manage exposure to drought. The Fund will support initiatives that enhance the public good (that is benefits that are not solely for individual farm entities), including:

- invest in research, innovation, extension and adoption
- assist in the adoption of new and existing technology
- improved environmental and natural resource management
- infrastructure and community initiatives.

From 2020–21, \$100 million will be available for drought-resilience initiatives. A Consultative Committee has been established to advise on the Drought Resilience Funding Plan, which will be developed in consultation with farmers and regional communities. The Funding Plan will guide the selection and prioritisation of drought-resilience projects. There was only limited public consultation in the

development of the draft plan by the Consultative Committee (Merredin, Perth - state agencies only – and Geraldton).

Drought Communities Programme Extension

This programme has been designed as a rapid economic stimulus package to the current drought conditions being experienced nationally. 128 Local Governments were initially identified (all eastern states Local Governments), plus the recent addition of 35 Local Governments in Western Australia. Up to \$1 million per announcement for local community infrastructure and other drought relief projects.

This is the program that is causing the consternation across the sector with regard to eligibility criteria. Significant portions of the SWLD and pastoral regions are ineligible due to the narrow scope and interpretation of the three primary selection criteria - based on rainfall deficiency data from the Bureau of Meteorology and population and industry data from the 2016 census.

WALGA has been working with ALGA in order to gain some greater clarity on the rationale for selection criteria, which is by default creating a sense of 'winners and losers', with over twenty additional Local Governments in WA now seeking inclusion into the Drought Communities Programme Extension. WALGA will be seeking a review of the eligibility criteria, as both the criteria used, and the interpretation of it in determining Local Government eligibility is entirely unsatisfactory in the WA context of ongoing drought conditions.

President Craigie gave public voice to the emerging concerns across the sector in her column in the West Australian on Tuesday 11 February.

State Government assistance across the south west land division is largely focussed on the Water Deficient Declared Areas (e.g. parts of Shires of Esperance, Lake Grace, Jerramungup, Ravensthorpe), and is also focussed on carting water to Denmark, Cranbrook, Grass Patch, Hyden, Lake King, Rocky Gully, Wellsted, Salmon Gums, Ravensthorpe and Walpole. At this stage there is little apparent coordination between the State and Commonwealth drought assistance processes.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Tony Sachse
Seconded: President Cr Stephen Strange

That the Great Eastern Country Zone requests WALGA, in consultation with ALGA, to liaise with the WA State Government Ministers for Water, Agriculture and Environment to provide a coordinated holistic response in respect to the ongoing drying climate issues and access to the Drought Communities Funding Program.

CARRIED

The GECZ Chair, President Cr Rhonda Cole, extended the Zone's thanks to the Hon. Dave Kelly, Minister for Water; Forestry; Innovations and ICT; Science; Youth and the Hon Laurie Graham MLC, Agricultural Region, for attending the Zone meeting.

10.35am Hon. Dave Kelly, Minister for Water; Forestry; Innovations and ICT; Science; Youth, Emma Collyer, Policy Advisor, Minister for Water Office, Kathleen Brown, Electorate Officer, Mia Davies MLA Office, Patricia Pedlety, Water Corporation and Mark Batty, WALGA – left the meeting.

5. GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS

5.1 Helen Creed - Regional Early Education and Development

Helen Creed, Chairperson, Regional Early Education and Development provided a presentation to the Zone. The presentation is provided as Attachment 7.

11.00am Helen Creed left the meeting.

5.2 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

As resolved at the November Zone meeting, a representative from the Department presented to the Zone on relevant key projects for this first Zone meeting of 2020. The Department will continue to provide an update to each future Zone meeting based on the topics of interest that are provided from the Zone.

Ms Jennifer Collins, Regional Manager, Wheatbelt spoke to matters related to DLGSC services and activities and Mr Gordon MacMile, Director Strategic Coordination and Delivery spoke regarding National Redress Scheme. The presentation is provided in Attachment 8.

11.40am The Chair, President Cr Rhonda Cole, adjourned the meeting.

11.52am The meeting was reconvened.

11.53am Ms Jennifer Collins, Regional Manager, Wheatbelt spoke to matters related to DLGSC services and activities and Mr Gordon MacMile, Director Strategic Coordination and Delivery – left the meeting.

6. MINUTES

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held Thursday 28 November 2019

The Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on Thursday 28 November 2019 have previously been circulated to Member Councils.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ramesh Rajagopalan
Seconded: President Cr Karin Day

That the minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held Thursday 28 November 2019 are confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

6.2 Business Arising from the Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting Thursday 28 November 2019

NIL.

6.3 Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee Meeting held Thursday 13 February 2019

The recommendations from the Executive Committee Meeting have been extracted for the Zones consideration.

6.3.1 (Executive committee item 5.3) Budget 2020/21

Background:

Preparation of the draft budget for the 2020/21 reporting year will soon commence. This will then be tabled at the April of the Executive committee.

To support the preparation of the budget, the committee was invited to discuss and provide guidance on the following:

- Whether it wishes to provide any budget allocation for a Convention or similar events,
- Other new items of activity, like regional Elected Member training
- Subscription options.

The Committee needs to be aware that total cash currently held is \$184,599 and that this year's subscription was reduced by 50 percent. In determining the subscription, the committee may wish to consider potential activities beyond next year.

Executive Committee Resolved

That the Subscriptions be retained at \$1750 for the 20/21 financial year.

Resolved

The GECZ requested WALGA to provide advice detailing the potential costs if the Zone funded the Council Member Essentials Training for Zone Members, including if the Zone refunds in-person and / or eLearning training costs already incurred by Zone member Local Governments for the April Zone meeting.

ZONE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Alan Wright
Seconded: Cr Wayne Della Bosca

That the Subscriptions be retained at \$1750 for the 20/21 financial year.

CARRIED

6.3.2 Minutes of the Executive Committee 13 February 2020

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Julie Flockart
Seconded: President Cr Pippa DeLacey

That the remaining items contained in the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the Great Eastern Country Zone held Thursday 13 February 2020 be endorsed.

CARRIED

7. ZONE BUSINESS

7.1 Federal Government Drought Communities program (Refer page 8 above)

Item 7.1 was, by agreement, discussed earlier in the meeting.

7.2 Wheatbelt Conference 2020

By Executive Officer, Tony Brown

Background

At the August 2019 Great Eastern Country Zone meeting, it was resolved as follows:

That the Great Eastern Country Zone consider the future of the Wheatbelt Conference after the October 2019 Local Government Elections.

The Executive Committee then resolved at the November meeting,

4.2.1 Wheatbelt Conference

The status on the Wheatbelt conference is that the other 2 Zones were not supportive of a 2020 Wheatbelt Conference.

Great Eastern Country Zone resolved to review after the 2019 Local Government elections. This item will come up at the March 2020 Zone Meeting for further consideration.

Noted: GECZ suggested that a proposal for a 2021 or 2022 Wheatbelt Conference be discussed with other Wheatbelt Zones at the 2020 WALGA Convention.

7.3 Sports Infrastructure Forum

By Executive Officer, Tony Brown

Background

At the November 2019 Zone meeting, the Zone requested the secretariat to obtain feedback and report back to the Zone on the outcomes of the Sports Infrastructure Forum.

The information below has been previously emailed to Zone members and is provided for discussion and noting.

Local Government have requested that WALGA continues to advocate for funding, support and resources from the State Government to assist with meeting the needs of communities and support for improved health outcomes of which sporting facilities and programs play an integral role. In acknowledging that sporting clubs and facilities can be the backbone to social cohesion in any community, extensive work has been undertaken by Local Governments to identify opportunities to address strategic planning and resourcing of community and regional scale sporting facilities.

At the WALGA Convention in August 2019, a concurrent session was held to assist Local Governments to better understand the strategic and funding environment that will assist Councils in continuing to provide low or no cost facilities and support the ongoing development of programs for recreation organisations. The session was well received and called to action stronger advocacy in this space. As a result, a Sports Infrastructure Roundtable was held on 4 November 2019 as an integral step in hearing the perspectives of a number of stakeholders and collectively designing potential opportunities that anticipate meeting the needs of the community.

It was a great opportunity to bring together key representatives for a discussion around the future of sports infrastructure whilst opening the prospect of strengthened relationships and aligned advocacy for effective statewide decision making. Participants on the day were representatives from Local Government Growth Alliance Perth And Perth (GAPP), Chaired by the City of Swan, and the Local Government Metropolitan Recreational Advisory Group (MARAG) currently Chaired by the City of Bayswater. Also participating on the day were representatives from Infrastructure WA, State Government agencies Department Planning, Lands and Heritage and the Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries, the peak State Sport Association (SSA), SportWest who

was accompanied by a few state sporting associations and Local Government Elected Members and Officers.

Participants in the Roundtable are collectively supportive of State Government in establishing a separate funding allocation for Regional level sports facilities and the allocation of an appropriate level of funding for the CSRFF program, together with ongoing advocacy across all tiers of Government.

WALGA, has been working with its members to address strategic planning and resourcing of community and regional scale sporting facilities. The Roundtable was an integral step in hearing the perspectives of all key stakeholders and collectively designing potential opportunities that anticipate meeting the needs of the community whilst contributing to the achievement of the State's priorities.

It was confirmed at the Roundtable, that the Minister is aware of the shortcomings of CSRFF but a commitment from State Government was still to be made on the best way to address the gaps.

A key component to addressing funding for sports facilities is to clearly demonstrate social and economic benefit for investment into infrastructure which is an area in need of improvement across all Western Australian Local and State Government sporting facilities. Of which Local Governments together with SSAs can provide through statistical data, such as usage statistics, as fundamental mechanisms to drive funding. This is currently being done well by the WA Cricket Association who have adopted a significant value for participation perspective.

One of the options discussed at the Roundtable, was to increase CSRFF significantly, as mentioned in the email below. This option would address more of the immediate need and include advice to State Government to develop a framework for the regional business case (and hold off funding business case development for future facility funding). The risk of choosing this option is that the CSRFF funding pool will still be susceptible to funding for regional facilities and the amount available to Local Governments for local facilities would be much the same as the current situation.

To counter this risk it was discussed and collectively agreed that the development of a regional business case, developed synergistically with a significant increase to CSRFF in the immediate State Government budget 2020-21, was the preferred measure. This option would address immediate concerns for Local Governments at the same time presenting an opportunity for longer term sustainability through the development of an investment strategy.

Therefore, a key outcome from the meeting was the aligned advocacy and collective action for the future of sports infrastructure in WA as was outlined in the WALGA Pre Budget Submission and stated:

- an increase in the annual amount of grant funding available in the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF) to \$25 million (recurrent), and
- an additional \$2.3 million over four years (2020-21 to-2023-24) for the development of a Regional Sports Facilities Investment Strategy that reviews the current and future need for regional sporting facilities across WA, identifies and prioritises future regional level sport infrastructure projects, and provides a framework for how these projects will be funded.

It is important to note that where we can get an aligned message we have seen greater successful outcomes. WALGA is working with key partners to ensure aligned messaging for this State Budget ask on CSRFF and an additional Regional Sports Facilities Investment Strategy across Western Australia and seeks your support with this messaging. We are also conscious that this is the last State budget before the elections in 2021 and in that light are also building an election campaign to promote a collective voice to leverage outcomes for Local Government in conducting one of their functions of facility provision through to community.

If anyone would like to discuss this in further detail, please don't hesitate to contact Kirstie Davis, Policy Manager Community kdavis@walga.asn.au or contact on mobile 0438 231 710.

Noted

7.4 Local Government Telecommunications Case Studies

Background

WALGA appreciates the Zone Local Governments forwarding through all the valuable information regarding your challenges with telecommunications and your interactions with Telstra. As per previous commitments, WALGA took these concerns to the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) meeting on Friday 13th December and I wanted to communicate our advocacy and key outcomes from the discussions.

WALGA received information from fourteen members and consolidated that into a single document which is attached. This was tabled with all members of the SEMC, along with the Telstra representatives, the day prior to the meeting. This was to ensure your concerns were formally on the table and provided Telstra with an opportunity to frame their presentation to cover off on the issues raised.

Telstra brought four representatives to the meeting including Mr Malcolm De Silva – State Manager Enterprise and Government, Mr Paul Harrison – National Emergency Manager, Mr Shane Kinnear – WA Emergency Service Liaison, Mr Brian Young – WA Deputy Emergency Services And Mr Mark Thompson - Corporate Affairs Manager.

The National Manager led a presentation which focused primarily on their capacity to deal with large scale emergencies and did not go into much detail with respect to the key areas of interest of our members. The SEMC Chair gave WALGA the opportunity to speak to your concerns and in doing so WALGA relayed the following:

- WALGA have circulated concerns raised by our members so that all SEMC members were aware of the ongoing challenges in telecommunications particularly in regional communities. Some of these concerns date back to 2016.
- We recognise that Telstra is but one service provider and that they will not be able to speak to each of these issues.
- There are common themes throughout the examples tabled, which include:
 - Blackspots
 - Battery backup failures
 - unreliability/lack of consistency and duration of the battery back-up for the Telstra Exchange in the event of a sustained power outage, and the time it takes for Western Power to deliver and install a generator.
 - The Telstra Exchange is powered by Western Power, and this supply is supplemented by battery back-up which automatically starts in the event of a power outage.
 - The battery back-up is intended to provide support to the Exchange for three hours but this is often not the case.
 - Outages – which have led to loss of landlines and mobiles
 - This has significant impact on LG capability to communicate before, during and after an emergency.
 - LGs rely on mobile networks to notify stakeholders of Harvest vehicle movement bans, communication with and deployment of volunteers, impacts day to day operations and community services.
 - Telstra Notification Systems
 - LGs report that often when they contact Telstra they are advised that Telstra were unaware of the outages. Correspondence has indicated that Telstra explain that it is intended to be an automated notification of outages but this seems to be failing.
- LGs are not only concerned about their ability to fulfil their obligations during emergencies, it clearly has consequences for residents living in these communities who are unable to ring 000, access data (in some instances) and lose communications themselves.

- We are tabling these with the SEMC as Local Governments have identified risks to their communities and to date, have not been able to resolve these issues through the various channels available to them.

Telstra acknowledged that communication with Local Governments and other stakeholders is an area to work on. State agency heads also raised this as a major concern. Telstra acknowledged that in order to resolve these issues they would look into how they could better engage with Local and District emergency management committees on a consistent basis to provide more timely advice and information on the matters as they are raised. They were also cognisant of the interdependencies with the power companies but did not offer tangible solutions to the issues raised.

Noting WALGAs concerns, Telstra have agreed to a separate meeting to discuss the matters we have raised on your behalf. My office is currently working on the timing of this meeting as a matter of urgency and WALGA will communicate with you all again once this is known. State Councillor Stephen Strange, will also attend to provide leadership from our members at this meeting.

Attached with the Agenda (Attachment 3) was the Agenda from the State Emergency Management Meeting from 13 December 2019.

Following the State Emergency Management Meeting, Telstra reached out for a follow up meeting. WALGA is pleased to say we met with Telstra, where we discussed how we can better understand the Telstra notification systems and how Local Governments can access the information and key contacts should this happen.

State Councillor Stephen Strange, WALGAs Policy Manager for Emergency Management, Mel Pexton and WALGA CEO, Nick Sloan hosted a meeting with WA Telstra representatives on Wednesday 18 December. The Reps included:

- Malcolm De Silva, State Manager Enterprise and Government
- Shane Kinnear, WA Emergency Service Liaison
- Mark Thompson, Corporate Affairs Manager
- Naomi Evans, Regional team

The key outcomes from the meeting were for Telstra to share a series of fact sheets on topics relevant to the issues being faced by your communities and provide key contact information in order for these matters to be escalated or referred should you need to.

The first fact sheet to be provided by Telstra is on Power Outages and was attached (Attachment 4) for your information. Please make note of the key contacts and make use of these as required.

Further to this information, WALGA has requested Telstra to review their local contractor arrangements to see if there are opportunities for more local content which may have an impact on expediting service reinstatement in regional areas.

WALGA recognise the interdependent nature of power supply and telecommunications, and we will be meeting with the sector in 2020. We have agreed to host a telecommunications and power info session in early 2020.

Discussion President Cr Stephen Strange provided an update on the 18 December 2019 meeting held with Telstra Representatives (noted above).

Noted.

7.5 Government Regional Housing (GROH)

By Policy Manager, Community, Kirstie Davis

Background

WALGA's Community Policy area has been dealing with this matter through recommendations made by Great Eastern Country Zone.

The response has been centralised around housing options of quality and quantity of stock, and other cost and workforce associated challenges for Police, however the GROH Framework considers all teachers also. The formal communication trail includes:

- After consultation and advocacy between WALGA, Local Government and relevant State Government agencies and key industry bodies, the McGowan Government deferred a planned increase to GROH rents in 2019-20 in a media statement released in May 2019. <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2019/05/McGowan-Government-temporarily-defers-increase-to-GROH-rents.aspx>
- WALGA has been advised by WAPOL and the relevant State Government agency who confirm the rental freeze to GROH properties will remain until the completion of the review of the GROH Tenant Rent Setting Framework. Further work has been done in strengthening the partnerships between WAPOL officers and key Local Government officers in specified areas of concerns through one on one meetings to discuss challenges and develop opportunities for change.
- Department of Communities modelling and draft ERC proposal has been elevated within the Department. The Director General has called for a working group to be established to include representatives from GROH, of which the Tenant Rent Setting Framework review will be included.
- Since the very public Department of Communities corruption disruption in the weeks leading up to Christmas, the area responsible for GROH has confirmed the GROH profile is undergoing a restructure with no further advice currently available.

WALGA notes and includes all Zones Recommendations and advice received from Local Governments in its advocacy for GROH and greater service support for regional and remote Western Australian Local Governments, acknowledging the importance of this topic.

As further information is made available, WALGA will remain in contact with the Zones to provide timely feedback and advice.

Noted.

7.6 Wheatbelt Health MOU

Background:

The Zone has received correspondence from WALGA CEO Nick Sloan, seeking each of the WALGA Wheatbelt Zones support, to re-establish the Wheatbelt Health MOU and invite the nomination of a representative to participate in a working group that will commence in February 2020.

By way of background, earlier this year the North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils (NEWROC) approached WALGA to deliver a regional health forum in the Wheatbelt. All Wheatbelt Local Governments were invited to attend this Forum held in Trayning on 20 September 2019. The forum was held with key service providers and stakeholders; WA Country Health Service (WACHS), St John Ambulance, WA Primary Health Alliance, Royal Flying Doctor Service, Regional Development Australia and the Hon Mia Davies MLA.

After the presentations from the key service providers and stakeholders, WALGA coordinated a workshop with the participants where key recommendations were captured. A report titled 'Wheatbelt Regional Health Services Summary Report' was then prepared.

The Wheatbelt Regional Health Services Summary Report along with its recommendations from the workshop were presented to WALGA State Council for endorsement on 4 December 2019. The following recommendations were endorsed:

That WALGA:

1. Re-establishes a working group to progress a Memorandum of Understanding with Local Governments in the Wheatbelt region and the WA Country Health Service, based on the previous work by the former Wheatbelt Health MOU Group, which outlines communication, responsibilities and strategic priorities unique to the region; and
2. Work with key service providers and stakeholders to engage with Local Government to further discuss the issues and develop solutions in the aged care services sector.

RESOLUTION 154.7/2019 CARRIED

The Wheatbelt Health MOU Group was previously established in December 2006 to be an advocacy group and to provide an avenue for Local Governments and stakeholders to work together to improve the delivery and availability of health services in the Wheatbelt. It was a partnership between the Avon Midland Country Zone, Central Country Zone and Great Eastern Country Zone; Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt; WACHS; and the Wheatbelt Development Commission. The group ceased operating in 2015. WALGA was not previously involved with the former MOU.

WALGA has written to the Chief Executive Officer, WACHS, Mr Jeffrey Moffet, Chief Executive Officer, WA Primary Health Alliance, Ms Learne Durrington and the Acting Chief Executive Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission, Mr Gavin Robins to also seek their support.

ZONE RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Julie Flockart
Seconded: Cr Ramesh Rajagopalan

- That Cr Glenice Batchelor (Shire of Tammin) be put forward to represent the Zone on the Wheatbelt Health MOU Group.
- That Cr Alison Harris (Shire of Cunderdin) be the Proxy representative.

CARRIED

7.7 Review of State Council and Zone Structure Process - Update

By Executive Officer, Tony Brown

An overview of the recent changes to WALGA's State Council and Zone processes will be provided at the meeting.

Noted

8. ZONE REPORTS

8.1 Zone President Report

By Cr Rhonda Cole

The Chair, President Cr Rhonda Cole advised the meeting that it would be good for the Zone to write as follows;

- **Outgoing WALGA President, Cr Lynne Craigie** – expressing the Zone's appreciation for Cr Craigie's leadership and service to the Local Government sector.
- **Newly elected WALGA President (once elected)** – congratulating them on their election and inviting them to attend a GECZ meet and greet, that could include all Council Members and CEO's from Zone Members.

The Chair also asked if the WALGA Secretariat could again coordinate / extend an invitation for WALGA CEO, Nick Sloan to also attend a GECZ meeting.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Wayne Della Bosca
Seconded: Cr Alan Wright

That the Zone President's Report be received.

CARRIED

8.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group

By Cr Rod Forsyth

Cr Forsyth is an apology for this meeting.

8.3 Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Group

The Chair, President Cr Rhonda Cole, tabled a report on behalf of President Cr Ricky Storer as WBS delegate to WSNF steering committee.

"Firstly like to thank Cr Rhonda Cole for stepping into the position, at least for the interim, as WBS delegate to the WSNF Steering committee. I would also like to thank and congratulate the Shire of Bruce Rock for taking on the role as host council for the Project Manager, and thank Darren for his assistance in conducting the interviews for this position.

We are pleased to welcome Mr Stephen Thompson, currently with the Shire of Brookton into the position of Project Manager. Stephen comes highly credentialed and recommended and will be, I'm sure, a valuable asset to the project. Stephen begins his role on the 3rd of March when he will firstly monitor work on the 2 pilot projects and also begin working with Local Governments to develop and ensure compliance of the 20/21 projects.

We are still waiting for the data from the TSD machine (expected in the next week or so), to finalise the prioritisation of the projects.

After quite a delay, the first instalment of \$4 million of the Federal ROSI funds were approved and the Shires of Victoria Plains and Quairading were able to proceed in the tendering process. Works in Vic Plains has begun with clearing the 2.75 km section of the Mogumber/Yarawindah Road. Quairading will begin widening and drainage works later this month. \$2 million is allocated to the pilot projects with the balance of a further \$2 million will be used for project development.

The construction phase of the Project was very successfully launched in Mogumber last Wednesday. The Deputy Prime Minister Hon Michael McCormack and State Transport Minister Hon Rita Saffioti jointly participated in the proceedings. Over 40 people attended including Melissa Price, Mia Davies, Laurie Graham, Shane Love, and Martin Aldridge, several Shire Presidents, councillors CEO's and staff as well various media representatives.

I would like to thank all who attended and apologise for the change in time which prevented many from attending due to other commitments."

RESOLUTION

Moved: Deputy President Cr Geoff Waters
Seconded: President Cr Julie Flockart

That the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Group Report be received.

CARRIED

8.4 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee

By Cr Tony Sachse

Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee Report – GECZ February 2020

The Wheatbelt DEMC last met on Wednesday, 19th February, 2020 at the St John WA District office in Northam. At this point the minutes are not yet available but for information and reference the Agenda and attachments were included in this report. The meeting was attended by Cr Julie Flockart and Cr Tony Sachse as delegates for the GECZ. There was a good attendance of agencies at the meeting.

Item 3: Guest Presentation “Global and Local Developments – Coronavirus” by Merridy Hoffman (Clinical Nurse Specialist – Disease Control – Wheatbelt Public Health Unit):

- Respiration Infections Disease Emergency Response (RIDER) Plan “How to Prepare and Respond” was already set up and has held Australia in good standing for Coronavirus.
- Up to 17/02/2020 there were around 73,000 confirmed cases.
- At present “Pandemic Potential” [Not called a Pandemic yet].
- There were around 1,200 deaths from Influenza strains in Australia in 2019.
- Wuhan Province in China has 10 – 11 million people and the infection rate has been 0.01%. Most people have mild illness but those over 60 years old or with secondary health problems are more at risk.
- Surgical masks can be worn but should be changed every hour. Hand hygiene is important. It was probably not the best management to quarantine the “Diamond Princess”.
- Coronavirus Incubation is 5 – 14 days. Headache, runny nose, may start to cough are symptoms. The common cold is a coronavirus. So was SARS.

Strategies: Some medication works but is only effective if taken in first 48 hours. Indonesia is not currently testing. Some of the staff on the cruise ship were Indonesian. Australia will run out of medication if it becomes a pandemic. Put off overseas travel, especially if have underlying medical condition. At this point authorities don’t believe it travels through vents on aircraft.

Discussion: Vaccine availability especially for those involved in Emergency Management is really important. Agencies should provide Influenza vaccine for their employees. The influenza vaccine only lasts for 4 months so timing is really important. Attempting to produce vaccines which will last up to 5 years.

Item 5: Shire of Dowerin and Shire of Wyalkatchem have completed the 5-year review of their LEMA’s.

State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) request for the DEMC debrief. This is currently underway.

SEMC Communique and Update – Telstra Power Outages. This communique really only confirms the current position of Telstra with mobile and landline communication during power outages. As the Wheatbelt DEMC and the GECZ have identified, the current position of Telstra Towers being affected with power outages is of great concern as residents cannot call for assistance in an emergency. The Wheatbelt DEMC will continue to monitor and advocate for a better outcome. The Wheatbelt DEMC encourages all LGA’s to continue to lobby Government in this regard.

Item 6.3.1: The Shire of Kellerberrin’s LEMA has been considered compliant.

Item 6.3.2: Please see appendix 2 for LEMA currency, LEMC functionality and LEMC and exercise schedules.

Item 7: General discussion on closing/opening roads and communication with Main Roads. These could be better explained in the Incident Management Plan (IMP). The Incident Management Team (IMT) and Incident Support Group (ISG) could have more local advice through LGA's (Mayor's, Presidents etc.).

Item 8: DPIRD have completed their Animal Welfare in Emergencies Document.

Most Agencies reported business as usual.

DFES reported that mitigation works are continuing with LGA's.

Parks and Wildlife reported that over half a million hectares had been burnt in the Southern region, mostly in the multiple Forrestonia fires. The Large Aerial Tanker (LAT) has been in use and helped at the fire front in the recent Katanning fire. It can take a while to load and with retardant but has been effective. Currently based in Pearce airbase. DPAW also reported their chopper/roller has been working well with mitigation.

WA Police have said that a Special Methylamphetamine Truck is now deployed in Northam. This will also be used with RBT's, traffic operations and emergency management.

The GECZ report thanked all the agencies for their support of LGA's. Thanks also for the training and support of our volunteers', especially St John Ambulance and Department of Fire and Emergency Services. The workload on volunteers is always a concern for Local Government, but the continued support from the different Agencies is very much appreciated.

Northern Wheatbelt Emergency Management and Recovery Training Workshop and exercise for Local Governments and LEMC members: This will be held in Dowerin on Tuesday, 10th March, 2020 from 10.15am until 2.30pm (lunch included). Please see attached flyer with more details. RSVP to yvette.grigg@dfes.wa.gov.au by 3rd March, 2020.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Tony Sachse
Seconded: President Cr Julie Flockart

That the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee Report and attachments be received.

CARRIED

9. WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (WALGA) BUSINESS

9.1 State Councillor Report

Cr Stephen Strange

Cr Strange provided the following State Councillor report:

The December meeting of State Council was the first meeting of the new State Council: State Councillors were elected from Zones in November 2019 following the Local Government elections in October. Six new State Councillors were elected to join 18 continuing State Councillors.

The following key issues were considered:

- Emerging Issue – Bushfire Fighting Vehicles
State Council considered and endorsed an emerging issue brought forward by the Goldfields-Esperance Country Zone relating to issues with the current fleet of bushfire fighting vehicles.
- State Budget Submission

State Council considered WALGA's submission to the State Government in advance of their 2020/21 budget deliberations. The submission aims to align with the State's priorities, demonstrate value for money, and be specific, clear and succinct.

- Mandatory Code of Conduct and Guidelines for CEO Recruitment and Selection
Two draft outputs from phase one of the Local Government Act 1995 review were considered by State Council:
 1. Mandatory Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates; and,
 2. Standards and Guidelines for CEO Recruitment and Selection, Performance and Termination.

In both cases, State Council identified a number of issues and concerns that require further clarification. State Council resolved to request the Government to reconvene the working groups to work through the issues identified by the sector in the consultation process.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Stephen Strange
Seconded: Cr Alan Wright

That the State Councillor Report be received

CARRIED

9.2 WALGA Status Report to be updated

By Tony Brown, Executive Officer

BACKGROUND

Presenting the Status Report for February 2020 which contains WALGA's responses to the resolutions of previous Zone Meetings.

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Great Eastern C	2019 June 27 Zone Agenda Item 12.1 Government Regional Officer Housing	That the Zone request WALGA to advocate on the impact of Government Regional Officer Housing on retaining public sector professionals (Doctors, nurses, teachers) in the Great Eastern Country Zone.	<p>In May 2019, the McGowan Government deferred a planned increase to GROH rents in 2019-20. The next increase of \$30pw was due to come into effect 1 July 2019.</p> <p>https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2019/05/McGowan-Government-temporarily-defers-increase-to-GROH-rents.aspx</p> <p>WALGA notes and includes the Zones Recommendation in its advocacy for GROH and greater service support for regional and remote Western Australian Local Governments, acknowledging the importance of this topic in the coming months.</p> <p>WALGA has been advised by WAPOL and the relevant State Government agency who confirm the rental freeze to GROH properties will remain until the completion of the review of the GROH Tenant Rent Setting Framework. Further work has been done in strengthening the partnerships between WAPOL officers and key Local Government officers in specified areas of concerns.</p> <p>Department of Communities modelling and draft ERC proposal has been elevated within the Department. The Director General has called for a working group to be established to include representatives from GROH, of which the TSRF review will be included. As further information is made available, WALGA will remain in contact with the Zones to provide timely feedback and advice.</p>	Ongoing	Joanne Burges Executive Manager, People and Place jburges@walga.asn.au 9213 2018
Great Eastern C	2019 June 27 Zone Agenda Item 7.1 WALGA Advocacy Regarding Greenfinch Mine Expansion	That the Great Eastern Country Zone 1. Supports the Shire of Westonia's position to seek clearing and mining approval for the proposed Greenfinch mining operation.	Clearing permits have now been issued by DWER, and WALGA is working with the Shire to fast track the lad declaration process for the road reserve through the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage.	February 2020	Mark Batty Executive Manager Environment and Waste Mbatty@walga.asn.au 9213 2078

		2. Requests WALGA to raise the issue with relevant authorities to ensure that the Greenfinch Project has every chance of success.	Ongoing.		
Grt Eastern C	2018 November 29 Zone Agenda Item 7.4 Water Corporation - New management and billing structure for standpipes	That the Great Eastern Country Zone request WALGA to advocate opposing the WA Water Corporation proposed fee structure in remote parts of the eastern Wheatbelt and; 1. Request the Water Corporation look to possible subsidised billing to remote user standpipes for users without any other possible means of potable water; Write to the Department of Water suggesting that as a result of the increased Standpipe water costs that they re-introduce the Farm Water Grants to allow effected landholders the ability to create on-farm water storage and water connections	Considered by the Infrastructure Policy Team at its March meeting and further follow-up with Councils requested with feedback to the next meeting.	February 2020	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure jduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Grt Eastern C	2019 March Zone Agenda Item 12.3 Telstra – Power Outages Effecting Communications	1. Requests WALGA to advocate through the State Emergency Management Committee for action in respect to power outages effecting telecommunications and the eligibility for Local Governments to turn generators on.	WALGA have written to the SEMC to request action in respect to power outages effecting telecommunications. WALGA have advocated to the SEMC and the SEMC have included this item on their agenda at the meeting to be held 2 August 2019. WALGA tabled this issue at the August SEMC meeting requesting SEMC to formally write to the District Emergency management Committees and to provide WALGA with advice on this matter. SEMC have taken this as an action. The Zone will be provided with a copy of SEMC's response when received. This matter has been officially raised at SEMC, particularly the sector is still awaiting a response. WALGA tabled concerns of the sector at the State Emergency Management Committee on Friday 13th December 2019. Following this WALGA met with Telstra and discussed how we can better understand the Telstra notification systems and how Local Governments can access the information and key contacts should this happen. The key outcomes from the meeting were for Telstra to share a series of fact sheets on topics relevant to the issues being faced	Ongoing	Joanne Burges Executive Manager, People and Place jburges@walga.asn.au 9213 2018

			by your communities and provide key contact information in order for these matters to be escalated or referred should you need to. The first fact sheet provided by Telstra was on Power Outages and was disseminated to all regional councils.		
Grt Eastern C	2018 November 29 Zone Agenda Item 7.3 Container Deposit Scheme Locations	That the Great Eastern Country Zone requests that: 1. All Local Governments be guaranteed, as a minimum, one flexible refund point in their area. 2. A flexible access point should be defined as a refund point which, as a minimum, is open 16 hours each two week period, including at least 8 hours at weekends The State Government provide appropriate funding for the refund points.	170 refund points will be operational on June 2 2020 – the commencement date for the CDS - with over 220 refund points to be operational by June 2021. The minimum refund points for the Wheatbelt region will be 1 full time point and twenty six flexible refund points. The hours of operation are covered under the DWER Minimum network standards, which stipulates is to be open 16 hours each two week period, including at least 8 hours at weekends. The CDS is funded by drink manufacturers, distributors and importers who first supply eligible beverage containers into Western Australia fund the scheme. Business which first supply an eligible beverage container into Western Australia will fund the scheme on a cost-per-container returned basis.	February 2020 Ongoing	Mark Batty Executive Manager Environment and Waste Mbatty@walga.asn.au 9213 2078
Grt Eastern C	State Council Agenda 4 Dec 2019 Item 5.5 Local Government Financial Ratios	That the item be deferred and that WALGA form a sector reference group to further review the ratios and provide recommendations to the March 2020 State Council meeting.	This item was put forward due to concerns from the sector with the current ratios and indicators. The feedback from the sector through the Zone process has been very useful and it is appropriate to defer this item and form a Sector Reference Group to fully review the ratios. Due to Christmas/New Year period, it is suggested that a report come back to the April/May 2020 Zone/State Council meeting cycle. State Council resolved as per below; That the item on Financial Ratios be deferred and that WALGA form a Sector Reference Group to further review the ratios including all Zone feedback and provide recommendations to the May 2020 State Council meeting. RESOLUTION 146.7/2019 CARRIED	February 2020	Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au

ZONE COMMENT

This is an opportunity for Member Councils to consider the response from WALGA in respect to the matters that were submitted at the previous Zone Meeting.

Noted that the Shire of Westonia Item (27 June 2019 Zone Item 7.1) can be removed.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ramesh Rajagopalan
Seconded: Cr Wayne Della Bosca

That the Great Eastern Country Zone WALGA February 2020 Status Report be noted.

CARRIED

9.3 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Matters for Decision

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 full State Council Agenda can be found via link: <https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/23e6a5d1-55b5-4244-a8c7-2cf682088bac/Agenda-State-Council-4-March-2020.pdf>

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

5.1 National Redress Scheme – Future Participation of WA Local Governments

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council:

1. Acknowledge the State Government's decision to include the participation of Local Governments in the National Redress Scheme as part of the State's declaration;
2. Endorse the negotiation of a Memorandum of Understanding and Template Service Agreement with the State Government, and
3. Endorse by Flying Minute the Memorandum of Understanding prior to execution, in order to uphold requirements to respond within legislative timeframes.

The Shire of Westonia raised concerns in respect to costs associated with Local Government staff attending training and costs associated with how the program will operate.

5.2 Submission on Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy

WALGA Recommendation

That the submission to the Department of Premier and Cabinet in response to the Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy be endorsed.

5.3 WALGA Submission on Independent Review of the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

WALGA Recommendation

That the submission on the Independent Review of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC) be endorsed.

The Shire of Tammin advised that this item will require a watching brief.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Karin Day
Seconded: Deputy President Cr Glenice Batchelor

That the Great Eastern Country Zone supports all Matters for Decision as listed above in the March 2020 State Council Agenda, subject to Item 5.1:

- **State Council noting that the Great Eastern Country Zone has reservations about the National Redress Scheme and potential costs to Local Government for attending training and other potential operating costs.**

CARRIED

9.4 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Matters for Noting / Information

- 6.1 **Draft Position Statement: Residential Aged Care – Submission**
- 6.2 **That the submission to the Department of Health in response to the Managing Housing Health Risks in WA discussion paper be noted.**
- 6.3 **Submission on Modernising the Environmental Protection Act**
- 6.4 **Submission to the Productivity Commission on the National Transport Regulatory Reform**
- 6.5 **Submission to Joint Select Committee on Road Safety**
- 6.6 **WALGA Submission on Native Vegetation in Western Australia Issues Paper**
- 6.7 **Proposed Amendments to the Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015 for Container Deposit Scheme Infrastructure**
- 6.8 **Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC)**
- 6.9 **2019 Annual General Meeting Status Update**

Noted.

9.5 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Organisational Reports

- 7.1 **Key Activity Reports**
 - 7.1.1 **Report on Key Activities, Environment and Waste Unit**
 - 7.1.2 **Report on Key Activities, Governance and Organisational Services**

- 7.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure
- 7.1.4 Report on Key Activities, People and Place

Noted.

9.6 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 Forum

Noted.

9.7 WALGA President's Report

The WALGA President's was attached to the Agenda.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Deputy President Cr Glenice Batchelor
Seconded: Deputy President Cr Geoff Waters

That the Great Eastern Country Zone notes the following reports contained in the WALGA March 2020 State Council Agenda.

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

CARRIED

10. AGENCY REPORTS

10.1 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

As per the presentation at the commencement of the meeting, a Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries representative will update the Zone at all future meetings on topics of interest to the Zone that have been provided prior.

Please see link below for the full update:

[DLGSC Zone Update February – March 2020](#)

Noted.

10.2 Topics for next meeting

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

- **Office of the Auditor General** – status of audit services (noted OAG took 4 months to complete a Zone Member's annual audit)

- **Federal Court decision to uphold South West Native Title Claim** (noted this presentation will likely be provided by another relevant State agency, rather than DLGSC).

Noted.

10.2 Main Roads Western Australia

Mr Craig Manton was an apology for this meeting. Ms Janet Hartley-West, Network Manager provided an update to the Zone.

Noted.

10.3 Wheatbelt RDA

Mandy Walker, RDA Wheatbelt presented to the Zone. The report was attached with the Agenda.

Noted.

10.4 Wheatbelt Development Commission

President Cr Julie Flockart. **TBA**

11. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

11.1 Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt

Hon. Mia Davies MLA, was an apology however, on her behalf, Kath Brown tabled on her behalf a copy of a letter to the Federal Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance, Natural Disaster and Emergency Management, be tabled – refer Attachment 9.

12. EMERGING ISSUES

12.1 Landgate – Delays in receiving valuations (Shire of Mt Marshall)

The Shire of Mt Marshall raised concerns at the delays in receiving valuation updates. They have examples of interim valuations taking up to 10 Months to receive.

Action:

Request WALGA to inquire with Landgate in respect to the delays in receiving interim valuations.

13. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

14. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Great Eastern Country Zone will be held in Merredin on Thursday 30 April, commencing at 9.30am.

15. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 1.04pm.

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