



THE
**KIMBERLEY
ZONE**

Meeting Minutes

24 April 2026



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1. Kimberley Country Zone Meeting Open: 9:03am

Chair acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the different lands on which people met today, and paid respect to all the Elders past, present and emerging.

2. Attendance and Apologies

Name	Shire / Council / Organisation	Method
Members		
Cr David Menzel	Zone Chair, and President, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	Zoom
Cr Desiree Male	Deputy President, Shire of Broome	Zoom
Peter McCumstie	President, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Zoom
Observers		
Tamara Clarkson	CEO, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Zoom
Vernon Lawrence	CEO, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	Zoom
Susan Leonard	CEO, Shire of Halls Creek	Zoom
Executive Support Team		
Michelle Mackenzie	Principal Mira Consulting	Zoom
Rebecca Billing	Administrative Assistant, NAJA Business Consulting	Zoom
Apologies		
Steven Pereira	President, Shire of Christmas Island	
David Price	CEO, Shire of Christmas Island	
Isa Minkom	President, Cocos (Keeling) Islands	
Matthew Scott	CEO, Cocos (Keeling) Islands	
Tony Lacy	Cocos (Keeling) Islands	
Cr Azah Badlu	Cocos (Keeling) Islands	
Cr Chris Mitchell	President, Shire of Broome	
Sam Mastrolembo	CEO, Shire of Broome	
James Watt	Director Corporate Services, Shire of Broome	

Name	Shire / Council / Organisation	Method
Cr Tony Chafer	Deputy Shire President, SWEK	
Cr Brenda Garstone	President, Shire of Halls Creek	
Paul Rosair	Principal NAJA Business Consulting	
Jane Lewis	Principal Redit Research	
Guests		
Nick Sloan	CEO, WALGA	Zoom
Mark Irwin	President, WALGA	Zoom
Shannon Wood	Manager, Board Governance and Reporting for Local Government Grants Commission, Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety	Zoom

3. Disclosures, Conflicts and Declarations of Interest:

Financial Interest / Impartiality

Member	Item Number	Item	Nature of Interest
Nil			

4. Kimberley Country Zone State Council Agenda:

Attachments:

1 President's Report

2 Reports from Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety Report

3 WALGA State Council Agenda and Report on State Council Actions (Separately Attached)

1.1 Presidents Report – Attachment 1



President's Report

May 2026

Introduction

As the newly elected WALGA President, I am proud to represent our 139 Member Local Governments and advance the sector's priorities at both the State and National level.

I would like to acknowledge the significant contribution of outgoing President Karen Chappel AM JP and Deputy President Paul Kelly. As a sector, we have benefited from the selfless and determined leadership demonstrated by Karen and Paul across the last four years.

As your President, I am committed to maintaining strong, collaborative relationships across all levels of Government, ensuring the perspectives of Western Australia's Local Governments are reflected in policy development, and engagement occurs at the times it matters most.

I also acknowledge the election of WALGA Deputy President Chris Antonio from the Shire of Northam, and I look forward to working closely with him to progress WALGA's strategic objectives and reinforce the strong voice of Local Government in Western Australia.

Political Engagement

Since commencing in the role, I have been humbled by the messages of support I have received from all levels of Government. I have made it a priority to engage with key State Government Ministers, Members of the Opposition and Federal Members of Parliament to seek early meetings and explore opportunities for constructive collaboration.

Strengthening these relationships is a priority, and I am focused on ensuring WALGA is well positioned to engage proactively on matters of importance to the Local Government sector.

Media Engagement

In my first weeks as President, I have actively engaged with media on relevant matters. I have spoken to a range of outlets on topics including Renewable Energy, Local Government reform, State Government priorities and the long-term challenges facing the sector, as well as attending pertinent events.

Media has included interviews with the ABC Radio and TV, 6PR, and The West Australian, emphasising the importance of community benefit, protecting local voice, and ensuring Local Governments are not required to absorb costs arising from major policy and infrastructure decisions.

I have also had the opportunity to share my vision for WALGA and how I plan to build on the success to-date, working with the State Government to ensure the best outcomes for WA Local Governments and their communities.

On Tuesday, 10 March, I attended the Energy Exchange Australia event with Minister for Energy and Decarbonisation Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA where Premier Hon Roger Cook MLA announced the State of Energy initiative.

On Thursday, 12 March, I attended UDIA WA's first industry breakfast for 2026 where Deputy Premier and Treasurer the Hon Rita Saffioti MLA delivered a keynote address emphasising housing supply without increasing demand and the importance of community engagement. This provided an opportunity for me to discuss with her the critical role Local Governments play in supporting new housing developments across WA.

It was also great to see Minister for Local Government the Hon Hannah Beazley MLA acknowledge WALGA's new leadership and the work of the Association in Parliament.

Fuel Security

Fuel supply constraints continue to impact Local Governments across Western Australia, particularly in regional areas, and WALGA has remained actively engaged in the State's coordinated response. WALGA has been meeting regularly with Mr Rob Cossart, the State Fuel Security State Controller, which has provided the opportunity for information sharing, and the provision of on-the-ground feedback regarding fuel availability and impacts.

Feedback from the sector highlights ongoing supply disruptions, particularly from independent suppliers, affecting Local Governments' ability to maintain adequate reserves and plan operations with certainty. Emerging delays to waste collection and landfill services have prompted contingency planning across several communities. Members have also reported supplier-driven cost increases and workforce challenges, including staff unable to travel or undertake fuel-dependent duties.

WALGA will continue to meet weekly with the State Controller and provide timely updates to the sector as the situation evolves.

Electoral Reforms

Following the electoral reform announcement made by the Hon Hannah Beazley MLA, Minister for Local Government at 2025 WALGA Convention, WALGA distributed a Discussion Paper to ensure the current Advocacy Position still reflects the sectors views.

WALGA received over 100 submissions from Members and the results will be utilised to update existing advocacy positions.

Sector wide engagement with Aboriginal Elected Members and communities

In my first week as President, I participated in WALGA's second Aboriginal Elected Member Roundtable, followed the next day by the annual Aboriginal Engagement Forum. Established and newly elected Aboriginal Elected Members from twelve Local Governments joined myself, WALGA's Senior Executive Team and the Director General of the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS) to share their experience of leading and representing their communities on Council. It was a great opportunity to listen to Aboriginal Councillors from vastly diverse communities across WA and gain a stronger understanding of their experience as Elected Members and community and cultural leaders.

Representatives from LGIRS also joined the Roundtable to hear directly what support is required to enable Aboriginal Elected Members to thrive in their Council roles. These insights will enable WALGA to work collaboratively with LGIRS to fulfil the Department's

commitment to support Aboriginal Elected Members made at the 2025 Aboriginal Engagement Forum.

2026 Aboriginal Engagement Forum

The 2026 Aboriginal Engagement Forum was held at the State Reception Centre, Kaarta Gar-up | Kings Park, on 18 March 2026. The program theme was Empowerment in Action | Kaarditjin kwop Koorliny and focused on opportunities for Local Government to build pathways to employment, business and leadership. The event sold out with approximately 250 attendees, and a record number of Aboriginal Elected Members, Aboriginal Local and State Government officers and community partners. I would like to thank my fellow State Councillors who attended the Forum and helped to promote the event.

Large Scale Renewable Energy Projects - Community Benefit Framework

The State Government's release of the Community Benefits Guideline for Large-scale Renewable Energy Projects in the South West Interconnected System marks a key step in ensuring regional communities share in opportunities created by the energy transition.

The Guideline follows strong advocacy from WALGA for meaningful local benefits and builds on the release of WALGA's Renewable Energy Community Benefits and Engagement Guide in July 2025.

These community benefits arrangements have the potential to deliver and accelerate priorities of local communities. The Guideline will establish the development of Community Benefits Plans and the formation of Community Benefits Advisory Groups.

Local Governments will have a central role in developing Community Benefits Plans and as part of the Community Benefits Advisory Groups to be established to ensure that the plans align with community priorities.

This is a significant advocacy outcome, however the focus on ensuring these benefits remain distinct from the way Local Governments apply rates to land that has undergone a change of use, which is essential for cost recovery, will continue.

Finally, I'd like to extend my best wishes on behalf of WALGA to the communities impacted by Tropical Cyclone Narelle. This event is a sobering reminder of the destructive power of these natural events across the State. I am in awe of the strength and resilience of our sector during these events, and I'd like to acknowledge State Councillors Matt Nikkula, the Shire of Exmouth President and Audra Smith the President from the Shire of Ashburton. Audra and Matt, along with every other Elected Member and officer in communities impacted by TC Narelle make us all proud and we will continue to do everything in our power to support them during the long recovery ahead.

Mark Irwin
WALGA President

President's Contacts

The President's contacts since 4 March 2026 and scheduled before 8 May 2026 are as follows:

State and Commonwealth Government Relations

- Hon Hannah Beazley MLA, Minister for Local Government; Disability Services; Volunteering; Youth; Gascoyne
- Hon John Carey MLA, Minister for Planning and Lands; Housing and Works; Health Infrastructure
- Housing Industry Roundtable with Deputy Premier, Hon Rita Saffioti MLA and Hon John Carey MLA
- Ride Safe Inquiry Briefing with Hon Hannah Beazley MLA and Hon Jessica Stojkovski MLA
- Ms Kirrilee Warr MLA, Shadow Minister for Local Government
- Labor Leaders Forum lunch with Premier, Hon Roger Cook MLA
- Labor Leaders Forum lunch with Hon Paul Papalia MLA
- 500 Club Event – Basil Zempilas – A Vision for 2026 Luncheon and Q&A
- Leader of the Opposition, Vasil Zempilas MLA and Shadow Minister for Housing, Sandra Brewer MLA
- Department of Energy and Economic Diversification & Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety
 - Director General, Rebecca Brown (DEED)
 - Coordinator of Energy, Jai Thomas
 - Director General, Lanie Chopping (DLGIRS)
- Ms Lanie Chopping, Director General, Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety
- Mr Leon McIvor, Director General, Department of Housing and Works

Zone Meetings

- Murchison Country Zone
- Northern Country Zone
- South East Metropolitan Zone
- Pilbara Country Zone
- Peel Country Zone
- East Metropolitan Zone
- Kimberley Country Zone
- Great Southern Country Zone

Local Government Relations

- **State Council Meetings**
 - State Council Meeting, 4 March
 - State Council Information Forum, 1 April
 - Finance & Services Committee
- **ALGA**
 - Board Meeting, 19 March

Conferences, Workshops, Public Relations

- Energy Exchange Australia 2026
- Regional Capital Alliance WA meeting (RCAWA)
- Safe Systems for Local Government Workshop
- WALGA Aboriginal Elected Member Roundtable
- 2026 WALGA Aboriginal Engagement Forum
- WALGA 2026 Mayors and Presidents Forum
- Property Council of Australia – Lunch with the Treasurer

1.2 Reports from Representatives

WALGA –

- Mark Irwin, President
- Nick Sloan, CEO

5.2.1 Reports from Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety Report

Refer Attachment 2



Department of Local Government,
Industry Regulation and Safety

Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety

Local Government Division Report

March 2026

Local Government Reforms

Local Government Inspector

- The Office of the Local Government Inspector (the Inspector) formally commenced operations from 1 January 2026.
- The Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS) also commenced regulations to support the functions and role of the Inspector at this time.
- Parts 8A and 8B introduced by the *Local Government Amendment Act 2024* were proclaimed concurrently to enable these regulations to take effect from 1 January 2026.
- The Inspector regulations deal with:
 - new requirements for complaints handling;
 - the appointment of monitors;
 - powers of authorised officers of the Inspector; and
 - offences under the *Local Government Act 1995* that may be infringeable.
- A number of consequential amendments have also been made to other regulations as a result of these changes.
- Local governments are reminded that they need to readopt their Code of Conduct in accordance with section 5.104(2) of the *Local Government Act 1995* by 31 March 2026.
- Local government CEOs also need to update the employee Code of Conduct to require the disclosure of secondary employment.
- Local governments should also ensure familiarity with the new requirements for closed meetings which took effect on 1 January 2026.
- The Regulations Working Group (RWG) provided valuable feedback in the development of these regulations that support the operational requirements of the Inspector.
- For further information visit the Department's website – [Inspector Regulations](#).

Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees (ARIC)

- New requirements for Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees (ARICs) took effect on 1 January 2026.
- The ARIC must have an independent chair and a deputy to the chair, to ensure a level of independence and provide impartial oversight.
- The functions of an ARIC include the:
 - review of reports related to compliance audits and systems reviews;
 - making of recommendations to council on improvements, where applicable;
 - review of actions a local government has taken to improve the effectiveness of its operations in accordance with its compliance obligations.

For further information, visit the Department's website – [Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees](#).

Other Reforms

- LGIRS continue to work on developing regulations to implement other reform projects including regulations dealing with:
 - Rates and Revenue Policy;
 - Communications Agreements;
 - Standardised Meeting Procedures;
 - Online Registers;
 - Council Plans (IPR).

Reform updates

- LGIRS conducted a webinar on 17 December 2025 to explain the abovementioned changes related to the commencement of the Inspector and the new requirements for ARICs.
- The webinar is available on the LGIRs website and contains an update on the status of other local government reforms – [Webinar 15:17 December 2025](#).
- The RWG will continue to assist with providing feedback on the various regulations reform projects.
- The IPR Working Group will continue to assist with developing regulations and supporting materials for council plans.
- Further updates on the status of local government reforms will be made ahead of implementation.
- Regarding local government local laws and the Standardised Meeting Procedures Regulations, local governments are encouraged to continue to make local law changes where required for practical or operational purposes. Once the Regulations are finalised, they will apply uniformly across the sector and will override any inconsistent provisions in existing local laws. LGIRS will provide implementation guidance to the sector on these matters when the Regulations take effect.
- The LG Act Reform team can be emailed directly at actreview@lgirs.wa.gov.au.

Model Financial Statements (MFS)

- The sector was invited to provide feedback on the 2024-25 model financial statements and guidance materials by Friday, 6 February 2026.
- The feedback received is now being considered for the 2025-26 revisions, due for release in April 2026.

Non-Financial Asset Valuation Guidelines

- The [Non-Financial Asset Valuation Guidelines](#) were published on 5 March 2026.
- An LG Alert will soon be published, with a webinar scheduled for Tuesday, 14 April 2026.

Local Government Grants Commission

Financial Assistance Grants funding

- The total funding allocation to WA local governments for 2025-26 is \$423,375,700 (consisting of \$261,451,711 in general purpose funding and \$161,923,989 in local road funding and special projects) compared to \$400,140,692 in 2024-25. This total includes the advance payment provided in June 2025 to local governments.
- Local governments received their first three quarterly payments of remaining 2025-26 funds in August and November 2025 and February 2026. The final payment will be made in mid-May. The grant schedule is available on the Grants Commission website.
- No advice can be provided regarding the likelihood of an advance payment of 2026-27 funds.
- If local governments have any other questions regarding their grant allocation, the methodology or wish to make a submission regarding the process of allocation finds, they can be directed to grants.commission@lgirs.wa.gov.au.

Local Government Advisory Board

- While it is still some time away, local governments are reminded that ward and representation changes and district boundary adjustments, must be received by 31 January 2027 if they want to ensure changes are in place for 2027 local government elections.
- It is important for local governments to factor in whether there is a need for public consultation (which needs to occur prior to submission) when considering a proposal to the Board.
- The Board requests that local governments provide proposals as early as possible to allow sufficient time for implementation.
- Documents outlining the requirements and processes are available on the Advisory Board's website, or alternatively you can email advisoryboard@lgirs.wa.gov.au for guidance.

Child Safeguarding Project

- LGIRS commenced delivery of an initial series of in person workshops focused on capability uplift in child safeguarding practice within a local government context. Providing participants the opportunity to increase their awareness and understanding on contextual adoption of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.
- Two workshops were hosted on 9 March and 12 March 2026 targeted to metropolitan local governments. A further 8 workshops will be promoted for delivery prior to 30 June.
- The Local Government Child Safety Network Project Reference Group continue to assist with ensuring the engagement approach and identified engagement methods are suitable and relevant to the sector.
- LGIRS are working with the Ombudsman Western Australia as they develop their Scheme of independent oversight for organisations engaged in child related work who will be mandated to implement the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

Stop Puppy Farming

- On 26 May 2025, only pet shops that hold pet shop approval can sell dogs and puppies that are sourced from holders of a dog supply approval.
- Further regulation changes are being developed in relation to implementing the Stop Puppy Farming reforms.

PetsWA

- The PetsWA project is in a reset phase, with Government considering the options for the future of the project.
- Local governments will need to continue existing pet registration programs and engagement with pet owners for annual registration and renewal processes.

Cat Containment

- The Cat Amendment (Local Laws) Bill 2026 was introduced into the Legislative Assembly in February 2026.
- The Bill provides for the power for local governments to make local laws in relation to cat containment. It is awaiting debate and passage through Parliament.
- The [Cat Act Review](#) has also now commenced, with submissions closing on 5 pm, Monday 31 August 2026.

Off-Road Vehicles

- The State Government is progressing key reforms arising from the *Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Amendment Act 2025*, which was assented to on 22 August 2025.
- The reform program will deliver the following milestones:
 - proclamation of the remaining sections of the ORV Amendment Act;
 - commencement of the ORV Amendment Regulations to give effect to the relevant provisions of the ORV Amendment Act;
 - deployment of DoTDirect system upgrades to enable all ORV transactions, including registration, renewal, and transfers.
- Further information on these changes, including proposed commencement dates, is expected to occur in the coming months.
- Local governments with projects approved under the \$4.8 million Off-road Vehicle Areas Grants Program continue to receive scheduled payments in line with project milestones and funding agreements.
- This includes development of new ORVAs and upgrades to existing areas.

LGIRS Contacts

LG Support and Engagement Includes MyCouncil queries	lghotline@lgirs.wa.gov.au
Statutory Approvals (Differential rates, budget and audit extensions)	legislation@lgirs.wa.gov.au
LG Policy and Legislation	LGpolicy@lgirs.wa.gov.au
Stop Puppy Farming	stoppuppyfarming@lgirs.wa.gov.au
Local Government Child Safeguarding Project	csproject@lgirs.wa.gov.au
Grants Commission – Financial Assistance Grants	Grants.commission@lgirs.wa.gov.au
LG accounting or financial enquiries	LG.accounting@lgirs.wa.gov.au
LG Act Reform	actreview@lgirs.wa.gov.au
LG Advisory Board	advisoryboard@lgirs.wa.gov.au
Off-Road Vehicles	orv@lgirs.wa.gov.au
Local Government Child Safeguarding Project	csproject@lgirs.wa.gov.au

5.3 Reports from Kimberley Country Zone

Zone Delegates are invited to read and consider the WALGA State Council Agenda, which has been provided as an attachment with this Agenda and can be found via the link [here](#).

The Zone can provide comment or submit an alternative recommendation on any of the items, including the items for noting.

The Zone comment will then be presented to the State Council for consideration at the meeting on 7 May 2026. The State Council Agenda items requiring a decision of State Council are extracted for Zone consideration below.

5.3.1 Item/Matters for Decision

Item / Matters for Decision As per State Council Agenda	Recommendations
<p>8.1 Protecting Council Member and Employee Privacy Advocacy Position</p>	<p>RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>That the Zone support the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.1 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided below.</p> <p>WALGA RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>That State Council endorse the following new Advocacy Position:</p> <p><i>Protecting Council Member and Employee Privacy</i></p> <p><i>That WALGA advocates to the State Government to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Undertake a review of disclosure requirements for Local Government Council Members and employees under the Local Government Act 1995,</i> 2. <i>Undertake the necessary legislative amendments to strike an appropriate balance between transparency, personal safety, and contemporary community expectations of privacy, including:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Amend section 5.95(1) to prescribe that the right to inspect primary and annual returns contained in the register of financial interests under s.5.94(b) does not extend to the full residential address of the relevant person, and is instead limited to the suburb or locality.</i> b. <i>Amend Form 7 of the Local Government (Constitutional) Regulations 1998 to remove the requirement to disclose a full residential address when making the declaration of office.</i>

Item / Matters for Decision As per State Council Agenda	Recommendations
	<p>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The South East Metropolitan Zone resolved to request WALGA advocate to amend s.5.95(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> to specify that the right to inspect Primary and Annual Returns (Returns) contained in the Register of Financial Interests under s.5.94(b) does not extend to the residential address of the relevant person. • Returns may include residential addresses, which are then made publicly accessible, creating privacy and safety risks. • Council Members and employees are increasingly reluctant to disclose residential addresses due to safety and security risks, demonstrating that current legislation no longer aligns with contemporary expectations of privacy. • Recent parliamentary scrutiny of similar requirements for Members of Parliament led to recommendations to remove full residential address disclosures, which the Government supported. • In addition to Returns, Council Members must also provide a residential address when making their declaration of office. • It would be appropriate for a review of all public disclosure requirements under the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> to occur to ensure that they remain contemporary, effective, and aligned with modern standards of accountability and personal security. • The Governance Policy Team endorsed the proposed advocacy position at its meeting on 23 March 2026. <p>ATTACHMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jurisdictional Comparison – Address Information in Council Member Returns and Declarations of Office (included below). <p>STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS</p> <p>The proposed advocacy position aligns to the WALGA 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influence – Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government. • Support – Anticipate, understand and respond to Member needs. <p>POLICY IMPLICATIONS</p> <p>The recommendation is for State Council to endorse a new Advocacy Position.</p> <p><i>Protecting Council Member and Employee Privacy</i></p> <p><i>That WALGA advocates to the State Government to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Undertake a review of disclosure requirements for Local Government Council Members and employees under the Local Government Act 1995.</i> 2. <i>Undertake the necessary legislative amendments to strike an appropriate balance between transparency, personal safety, and contemporary community expectations of privacy, including:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Amend section 5.95(1) to prescribe that the right to inspect primary and annual returns contained in the register of financial interests</i>

Item / Matters for Decision As per State Council Agenda	Recommendations
	<p><i>under s.5.94(b) does not extend to the full residential address of the relevant person, and is instead limited to the suburb or locality.</i></p> <p>b. <i>Amend Form 7 of the Local Government (Constitutional) Regulations 1998 to remove the requirement to disclose a full residential address when making the declaration of office.</i></p>
<p>8.2 Water Management Advocacy Position</p>	<p>RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>That the Zone support the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.2 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided below.</p> <p>WALGA RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>1. Endorse the following new Advocacy Position:</p> <p><i>Water Management</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Access to consistent, reliable and adequate water supplies is critical for Local Government operations, community health, amenity, environmental sustainability and economic activity.</i> 2. <i>WALGA is calling on the State Government to:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Modernise water management legislation and regulation, including:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>undertaking a review of the water licensing and allocation system to ensure equitable access and prioritise high value community use including for public open space</i> ii. <i>developing a state-wide framework for integrated regional and catchment-scale water planning.</i> b. <i>Adequately, sustainably and equitably fund critical water infrastructure programs for Local Government, including:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>drainage and irrigation upgrades</i> ii. <i>alternative water sources (recycled water, stormwater harvesting, desalination and groundwater replenishment) and disused water asset transfer</i> iii. <i>small-scale sewerage infrastructure headworks and infill sewerage.</i> c. <i>Expand the Waterwise Council Program statewide and provide:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>increased support and resources to assist Local Government in delivering water efficiency measures</i> ii. <i>incentives for Local Governments to undertake water efficiency initiatives.</i> d. <i>Improve water data access and capability for Local Governments to ensure evidence-based decision making.</i> e. <i>Provide effective leadership, guidance, education and enforcement to address the impacts of stormwater runoff.</i> <p>2. Retires Advocacy Position 6.14 <i>Planning for Water.</i></p>

Item / Matters for Decision As per State Council Agenda	Recommendations
	<p>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new Water Management Advocacy Position and the retirement of position 6.14 Planning for Water is proposed. • The new Position has been developed following consultation and feedback on WALGA's <i>Water Management in Western Australia Discussion Paper</i>. • 28 Local Governments provided more than 200 comments on the paper, with the main issues being: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ equitable access to consistent and reliable water; ○ water licensing and allocation; ○ integrated regional and catchment-scale water planning; ○ water for Public Open Space (POS); ○ funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ for critical infrastructure - drainage and irrigation, alternative water sources and sewerage infill and headworks. ▪ for water efficiency and water sensitive urban design initiatives. ○ expanding and improving the Waterwise Council Program; ○ access to data and information to inform decision making; and ○ addressing the impacts of stormwater runoff. • The outcomes sought in 6.14 Planning for Water have been realised in the recently released State Planning Policy 2.9. • The Environment Policy Team endorsed retiring the position and the new position at its meeting on 19 March 2026. <p>ATTACHMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Management Discussion Paper • Water Management Consultation Summary Report <p>STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS</p> <p>This item relates to the following WALGA Strategic Pillars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government. ○ Empower the Local Government sector to build communities equipped for the future. • Support - Anticipate, understand and respond to Member needs. <p>POLICY IMPLICATIONS</p> <p>It is proposed that the following new Advocacy Position be endorsed:</p> <p>Water Management</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Access to consistent, reliable and adequate water supplies is critical for Local Government operations, community health, amenity, environmental sustainability and economic activity.</i> 2. <i>WALGA is calling on the State Government to:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Modernise water management legislation and regulation, including:</i>

Item / Matters for Decision As per State Council Agenda	Recommendations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>Undertaking a review of the water licensing and allocation system to ensure equitable access and prioritise high value community use including for public open space.</i> ii. <i>Developing a State-wide framework for integrated regional and catchment-scale water planning.</i> <p>b. <i>Adequately, sustainably and equitably fund critical water infrastructure programs for Local Government, including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>Drainage and irrigation upgrades.</i> ii. <i>Alternative water sources (recycled water, stormwater harvesting, desalination and groundwater replenishment) and disused water asset transfer.</i> iii. <i>Small-scale sewerage infrastructure headworks and infill sewerage.</i> <p>c. <i>Expand the Waterwise Council Program statewide and provide:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>Increased support and resources to assist Local Government in delivering water efficiency measures.</i> ii. <i>Incentives for Local Governments to undertake water efficiency initiatives.</i> <p>d. <i>Improve water data access and capability for Local Governments to ensure evidence-based decision making.</i></p> <p>e. <i>Provide effective leadership, guidance, education and enforcement to address the impacts of stormwater runoff.</i></p> <p>It is proposed that the following Advocacy Position be retired:</p> <p>6.14 Planning for Water <i>As part of the Water Management Report endorsement process, formal support from the relevant Local Government should be required where:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>It is intended that the Local Government will become the infrastructure asset manager; or</i> 2. <i>The proposed location of water infrastructure assets will impact Local Government assets or facilities.</i> <p>The outcomes sought in Position 6.14 have been realised in the recently released State Planning Policy 2.9.</p>
<p>8.3 Off Roads Vehicles Advocacy Position</p>	<p>RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>That the Zone support the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.3 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided below.</p> <p>WALGA RECOMMENDATION That State Council retire Advocacy Position 3.12 <i>Off Road Vehicles</i>.</p>

Item / Matters for Decision As per State Council Agenda	Recommendations
	<p>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is proposed that Advocacy Position 3.12 Off Road Vehicles (ORV) be retired. • The <i>Control of Vehicles (Off-road Vehicles) Act 1978</i> (the ORV Act) provides the legislative framework for the use of off-road vehicles within permitted areas in WA. • Nine Local Governments own and maintain Off Road Vehicle (ORV) areas. • Advocacy Position 3.12 Off Road Vehicles was adopted by State Council in 2018 in response to concerns from Members about the use of permitted ORV areas. • Amendments to the ORV Act in 2025 address the core objectives of the ORV Advocacy Position, particularly as it relates to registration and enforcement. • The retirement of the ORV Advocacy Position was endorsed by the People and Place Policy Team at its meeting on 19 March 2026. <p>ATTACHMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Amendment Act 2025 <p>STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS</p> <p>Retiring this Advocacy Position aligns with the following WALGA Strategic Pillars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government. ○ Empower the Local Government sector to build communities equipped for the future. • Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Anticipate, understand and respond to Member needs. <p>POLICY IMPLICATIONS</p> <p>It is proposed that Advocacy Position 3.12 Off Road Vehicles be retired.</p> <p><i>Legislation relating to off road vehicles should be reviewed to align registration and licensing of off-road vehicles with other vehicle types are users. In addition, educational resources should be developed in consultation with users, regulators, and vendors relating to safety, regulatory compliance and other associated matters.</i></p>
<p>8.4 Homelessness Advocacy Position</p>	<p>RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>That the Zone support the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.4 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided below.</p> <p>WALGA RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>That State Council replace Advocacy Position 3.11 Homelessness with the following:</p>

Item / Matters for Decision As per State Council Agenda	Recommendations
	<p><i>WALGA calls on the Western Australian and Australian Governments to provide leadership, support and funding to prevent and respond to homelessness, in particular:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Ensuring specialist homelessness services are responsive to need, place-based and people-centred.</i> 2. <i>Investing in social and affordable housing and wraparound services.</i> <p>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is proposed that the 2019 Advocacy Position 3.11 Homelessness be updated. • While responding to homelessness is a State and Australian Government responsibility, the impacts of homelessness intersect with multiple areas of Local Government service delivery and requires them to manage community expectations. • Western Australian Local Governments are reporting increased numbers of people experiencing homelessness, including Local Governments that have historically experienced minimal impact. • WALGA undertook a survey of Members in early 2026 to better understand the impact on the sector and inform a review of the current Advocacy Position. • The updated Position reflects the sector's view that the Australian and Western Australian Government should provide leadership, support and funding to prevent and respond to homelessness, in particular specialist services, social and affordable housing and wraparound services. • The People and Place Policy Team endorsed the revised position at its meeting on 19 March 2026. <p>STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS</p> <p>This item relates to the following WALGA Strategic Pillars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government. ○ Empower the Local Government sector to build communities equipped for the future. • Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Anticipate, understand and respond to Member needs. <p>POLICY IMPLICATIONS</p> <p>It is proposed that the existing Advocacy Position 3.11 Homelessness:</p> <p><i>WALGA recognises that Local Government through its planning, health, community development and regulatory powers can facilitate positive local and regional responses to end homelessness, however does not see that it has a lead role. Rather, Local Government's role is one of a stakeholder that requires early engagement in the understanding of collaborative approaches that improve the quality of life for people experiencing homelessness in all of its manifestations.</i></p>

Item / Matters for Decision As per State Council Agenda	Recommendations
	<p>be replaced with a new Advocacy Position as follows:</p> <p><i>WALGA calls on the Western Australian and Australian Governments to provide leadership, support and funding to prevent and respond to homelessness, in particular:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Ensuring specialist homelessness services are responsive to need, place-based and people-centred.</i> <i>2. Investing in social and affordable housing and wraparound services.</i>

1.6 Other State Council Agenda Items

Zone Delegates are invited to raise for discussion, questions or decision any of the items in the State Council Agenda, including the items for noting, Policy Team and Committee Reports or the Key Activity Reports.

1.4 Status Report on State Council Resolutions

Meeting	Resolution	Comment	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
4 March 2026 Item 9.1 Aviation Advocacy Positions	<p>That State Council endorse two new Advocacy Positions on Aviation as follows:</p> <p>1. Regional Airports WALGA supports the sustainable operation of Local Government owned regional airports and advocates for proportionate regulatory frameworks, targeted funding, and operational guidance to ensure safe, efficient, and resilient airport infrastructure and services.</p> <p>2. Regional and Remote Air Services WALGA advocates for reliable, affordable, and equitable regional air services, calling for greater oversight of airline pricing practices, including providing adequate capacity net of contracted (FIFO) seats, transparent fare structures and equitable access to discounted and lower-cost fares, to mitigate the impacts of limited competition and dynamic pricing on regional residents, businesses, and essential travel. WALGA also promotes the continued viability of essential routes and recognises regional aviation as an essential service supporting community and emergency access, workforce mobility, and regional economic development.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 003.1/2026</p>	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.	COMPLETE	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure
4 March 2026 Item 9.2 Proposed Amendments to AGM Standing Orders	<p>That State Council endorse the updated AGM Standing Orders.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 004.1/2026</p>	The WALGA AGM Standing Orders have been updated and are available on the WALGA website .	COMPLETE	Rachel Horton Executive Manager Advocacy

<p>4 March 2026 Item 9.3 Request for Delegated Authority – State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee (SAC)</p>	<p>That State Council approves by Flying Minute confirmation of the three appointments to the vacant positions on the State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee (SAC) as recommended by the Selection Committee.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 005.1/2026</p>	<p>The three vacant positions on SAC were advertised to Members. Applications have now closed. A special meeting of the Selection Committee will be held on 7 April to consider applications received. A Flying Agenda including the recommendations of the Committee will be distributed to State Council for endorsement immediately following the special meeting.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Rachel Horton Executive Manager Advocacy</p>
<p>3 December 2025 Item 7.1 Transport Oriented Development Advocacy Position</p>	<p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State Council request WALGA to prepare an Advocacy Position in consultation with members, regarding the transport and planning principals required to ensure quality outcomes in the newly announced "Station Precinct Improvement Plans and Schemes" in Metropolitan Perth and regional stations if included. 2. The Advocacy Position includes transport and place-making outcomes on both government controlled and private land that maximise liveability and use of the public transport network. <p>RESOLUTION 069.5/2025</p>	<p>WALGA has commenced development of a draft position. Council Reports and Recommendations in relation to the 10 Train Station Precincts have been analysed and WALGA's Planning Advisory Group has been engaged to provide input into the content of the advocacy position.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p>
<p>3 December 2025 Item 8.1 2025 Annual General Meeting Resolutions</p>	<p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the following resolutions from the 2025 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the People and Place Policy Team for further work to be undertaken: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7.1 Provision of Medical Services in Remote and Very Remote Local Governments 	<p>In relation to AGM item 7.1 – Improving access to primary healthcare services in rural and remote areas remains an advocacy priority for WALGA, supported by the WALGA 2025 General</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p>

	<p>7.2 Homelessness – Short-term Accommodation Solutions</p> <p>RESOLUTION 070.5/2025</p> <p><i>The AGM resolutions are as follows:</i></p> <p>7.1 Provision of Medical Services in Remote and Very Remote Local Governments <i>That WALGA calls on the Western Australian Government and WA Grants Commission to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>increase the total funding and then the Medical Facilities Cost Adjuster component of the Financial Assistance Grants to Local Governments; and</i> 2. <i>recalculate distributions to those Local Governments that are providing block cash payments to attract and retain general practitioners to allow affected Council to redirect ratepayer funds to Local Government responsibilities.</i> <p>7.2 Homelessness – Short-term Accommodation Solutions <i>That WALGA advocate to the State Government to provide culturally appropriate short term accommodation options and wrap-around support services that provide sustainable homelessness solutions in all Local Governments across Western Australia.</i></p>	<p>Practice Support Survey Report published in January 2026.</p> <p>This advocacy priority is also reflected in the current Federal and State Budget Submissions and aligned to the revised Advocacy Position endorsed by State Council in September 2025.</p> <p>WALGA is exploring opportunities for partnership advocacy on this matter with health sector stakeholders. This work includes developing solution options. Progress will be shared with State Council in due course.</p> <p>In relation to AGM item 7.2 – WALGA undertook a Local Government Homelessness Survey in February 2026 to inform a review of the current WALGA homelessness Advocacy Position that includes the need for funding for social and affordable housing and wraparound services. Item 8.5 refers to this.</p>		
<p>3 December 2025 Item 8.1 2025 Annual General Meeting Resolutions</p>	<p>That: ... 2. the following resolution from the 2025 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the Governance Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:</p>	<p>This item has been referred to the Governance Policy Team for further consideration.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services</p>



	<p>7.4 Rating Exemption Advocacy Position</p> <p>RESOLUTION 070.5/2025</p> <p><i>The AGM resolution is as follows:</i></p> <p>7.4 Rating Exemption Advocacy Position <i>That WALGA, in addition to its current advocacy positions 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 relating to rating exemptions, advocate to the WA Government for the introduction of a reimbursement model, whereby the WA Government repays Local Government the greater of:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 75% of the value of rates lost in applying the charitable purposes exemption; or 2. 1% of the total rate revenue of the Local Government. 	<p>WALGA's current advocacy positions call for a broad review into the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories, with a particular focus on the charitable purpose's exemption. WALGA has also included funding for a review of rates in its most recent State Budget submission.</p> <p>Additional concerns regarding rating and rating exemptions have arisen. Further scoping work is being undertaken to consider the most effective way to address these concerns.</p>		
<p>3 December 2025 Item 8.1 2025 Annual General Meeting Resolutions</p>	<p>That: ... 3. the following resolution from the 2025 WALGA Annual General Meeting be endorsed: 7.5 Rateability of Miscellaneous Licences</p> <p>RESOLUTION 070.5/2025</p> <p><i>The AGM resolution is as follows:</i></p> <p>7.5 Rateability of Miscellaneous Licences <i>That WALGA:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Formally oppose any move by the Local Government Minister to introduce amendments to the Local Government</i> 	<p>Advocacy position 2.1.18 Rating of Miscellaneous Licences was adopted by State Council in September 2025.</p> <p>Correspondence has been sent to the Premier and Minister for Local Government. Opposition parties have been briefed.</p> <p>The Bill has been deferred in the Legislative Council.</p>	<p>COMPLETE</p>	<p>Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services</p>

	<p><i>Act to restrict the application of rates on Miscellaneous Licenses.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. <i>Develop an advocacy position on sector consultation prior to any amendment to the Local Government Act.</i> 3. <i>Undertake a financial analysis of the cost to the Mining Industry of the rating of Miscellaneous Licenses compared to the benefit to the Local Government sector.</i> 	<p>Funding for the broad review of rating exemptions is included in the State Budget submission.</p>		
<p>3 December 2025 Item 8.2 2026 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members</p>	<p>That State Council endorse the submission to the 2026 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members, with the following additions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A new recommendation that the Regional/Isolation Allowance be reviewed in full, noting that the application of the Allowance is inequal and inconsistent. 2. A new recommendation that an appropriate fee be set for the deputy to the presiding member of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees to attend meetings. 3. A new recommendation that the travel costs incurred while driving a privately owned or leased vehicle be calculated at the same rate contained in the <i>Public Service Award 1992</i> to bring it in parity with the public sector. 4. The percentage values in recommendations 1 and 2 of the submission be amended from 3% to 4%. 5. Include a work-value argument regarding Elected Member remuneration to strengthen the case for an increase to Elected Member fees and allowances, and to refer the request to reclassify Elected Members as not volunteers to the relevant Policy Team. <p>RESOLUTION 073.5/2025</p>	<p>The submission to SAT was updated to include those additional points and provided to the Tribunal on 6 January 2026.</p> <p>The Advocacy Positions Manual has also been updated to reflect the recommendations contained in the submission.</p> <p>The request to reclassify Elected Members as not volunteers (as per point 5 of the resolution) has been referred to the Governance Policy Team for further consideration.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Rachel Horton Executive Manager Advocacy</p> <p>Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services</p>

<p>3 December 2025 Item 8.5 Electoral Material – Authorisation Statement Address Requirements</p>	<p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WALGA advocate to the State Government to amend section 4.87 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Replace the requirement to include the name and address of the person authorising the electoral material, with a requirement to include the name and locality of the person authorising the material. b. Remove the requirement for the name and business address of the electoral material printer to appear at the end of the electoral material. 2. The suggestion from the South East Metropolitan Zone to advocate to amend section 5.95 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> to specify that the right to inspect Primary and Annual Returns contained in the Register of Financial Interests under s.5.94(b) does not extend to the residential address of the relevant person be referred to the Governance Policy Team so that a full report can be presented to State Council for consideration. <p>RESOLUTION 077.5/2025</p>	<p>The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.</p> <p>A new advocacy position addressing Resolution 2 was considered by the Governance Policy Team on 23 March 2026. Item 8.1 relates to this matter.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services</p>
<p>5 September 2025 Item 8.2 Rating of Miscellaneous Licences</p>	<p>That WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advocate for Local Governments to continue to have the ability to rate miscellaneous licences under the <i>Mining Act 1978</i>; and 2. Oppose legislative amendments that seek to exempt occupied miscellaneous licence land from rating. 3. Continue to advocate for a broad review to be conducted into the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under section 6.26 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i>. <p>RESOLUTION 050.4/2025</p>	<p>The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.</p> <p>Correspondence has been sent to the Premier and Minister for Local Government. Opposition parties have been briefed.</p> <p>The Bill has been deferred by the Legislative Council.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services</p>

		In addition, funding for the broad review of rating exemptions is included in the State Budget submission .		
2 July 2025 Item 8.1 Suspension and Disqualification for Offences Advocacy Position	That WALGA defers consideration of this matter for further work, including: a. defining appropriately serious offences for intervention; and b. addressing the role of the Local Government Inspector. c. evaluating whether advocacy for disqualification based on convictions under the Planning and Development Act 2005 and Building Act 2011 should be retained. RESOLUTION 037.3/2025	Work has commenced on defining appropriately serious offences for intervention. Further work will be undertaken pending clarification of the role of the Office of the Inspector.	Ongoing	Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services
5 March 2025 Item 9.1 Infrastructure Policy Team Report	That State Council: 1. Note the report from the Infrastructure Policy Team for the 5 March 2025 meeting. 2. Determine to: a. Delete Advocacy Position 5.2.8 (Towards Zero Road Safety Strategy 2008 – 2020). b. Amend the title of Advocacy Position 5.2.7 from Road Safety Strategy (Imagine Zero) to Driving Change Road Safety Strategy 2020-2030. 3. Undertake further policy development and consultation with Members regarding the default open road speed limit in Western Australia. RESOLUTION 013.1/2025	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated. The Infrastructure Policy Team resolved to recommend WALGA engage an independent specialist to develop a framework to support the Local Government sector in decision making and advocacy relating to speed limits.	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure
6 December 2024 Item 8.1 2024 Annual General Meeting Resolutions	That: 1. the item 7.1 Amendments to <i>Cat Act 2011</i> - Allow Local Governments to Make Local Laws to Contain Cats to the Owner's Property be endorsed. ...	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated. <i>Cat Amendment (Local Laws) Bill 2026</i> was introduced on 25 February 2026,	COMPLETE	Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services

	<p>3. the following resolutions from the 2024 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the Governance Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:</p> <p>7.2 Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land-Banking</p> <p>7.3 Advocacy for Expansion of Differential Rating to Include Long Term Unoccupied Commercial Buildings (Property Activation Levy).</p> <p>RESOLUTION 089.5/2024</p>	<p>which will allow Local Governments to include cat containment in Local Laws. WALGA will continue to engage with Local Government and advocate for a collaborative, and resourced, approach will be needed.</p> <p>WALGA sought legal advice which confirmed that amendments to the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> (the Act) would be required to allow differential rating based on occupancy status.</p> <p>A joint meeting of the Governance and Environment Policy teams was held on 12 September. The Joint Policy Teams considered that there was a significant level of risk associated with the proposal and that it should not proceed. Instead, incentives and activation programs can be explored by Local Governments to encourage occupancy of buildings.</p>		
<p>6 December 2024 Item 8.2 Local Government Elections Advocacy Positions</p>	<p>That item 1 be deferred, and the Secretariat further investigate implications of compulsory and voluntary participation in Local Government elections and report back to State Council.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 090.5/2024</p> <p>That WALGA adopt the following Elections Advocacy Positions: <i>The Local Government sector supports:</i></p>	<p>The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.</p> <p>Correspondence has been sent to the Minister for Local Government advising on the five Advocacy Positions endorsed.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Councillors serve four-year terms with elections every two years and half of the Council positions spilled at each election.</i> 2. <i>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.</i> 3. <i>First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system for internal Council elections.</i> 4. <i>Councils holding elections by means of in-person, postal and/or electronic voting.</i> 5. <i>Current legislative provisions of Mayor/President of Class 1 and Class 2 Local Governments being directly elected by the community and Class 3 and Class 4 Local Governments determining whether its Mayor or President is elected by the Council or by the community.</i> <p>RESOLUTION 091.5/2024</p>	<p>Investigation of the implications of compulsory and voluntary voting continued with engagement from the Governance Policy Team.</p> <p>State Council endorsed a Discussion Paper for the purpose of sector consultation by Flying Minute on 20 January 2026.</p> <p>Sector consultation has been undertaken and an item has been included in the May State Council Agenda. Item 8.2 relates to this matter.</p>		
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1.5 COMPLETE ZONE STATUS REPORT

Nil.

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>People Place Prosperity Performance</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Advocate Facilitate Partner Fund Promote Monitor</p> </div>	Nil	
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
<p>The Kimberley Country Zone:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted the report from the WALGA President 2. Noted the State Council Agenda Items as circulated 3. Supported the recommendations in the Matters for Decision contained within the State Council Agenda 4. Acknowledged the Items for noting 5. Acknowledged the Status Report on State Council Resolutions 6. Noted the Kimberley Zone Status Report 			
Moved:	Shire of Broome	Responsible:	-
Seconded:	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Due date:	-
Carried:	4/0		

5. Conclusion of Zone Matters: 10:12am

6. Consultation on Draft Climate Change Advocacy Position

For Noting

Submitted by: Rebecca Brown, WALGA Policy Manager Environment and Waste

Executive Summary

- WALGA is undertaking sector consultation on a revised draft Climate Change Advocacy Position.
- This draft position was developed following initial consultation, consideration by State Council in March 2025 and feedback from the Environment Policy Team of State Council.
- WALGA is seeking **Council endorsed feedback by 1 May 2026**.

Policy Implications

WALGA's 2018 Climate Change [Policy Statement](#) and Advocacy Position state:

Local Government acknowledges:

1. *The science is clear: Climate change is occurring and greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are the dominant cause.*
2. *Climate change threatens human societies and the Earth's ecosystems.*
3. *Urgent action is required to reduce emissions, and to adapt to the impacts from climate change that are now unavoidable.*
4. *A failure to adequately address this climate change emergency places an unacceptable burden on future generations.*

Local Government is committed to addressing climate change.

Local Government is calling for:

1. *Strong climate change action, leadership and coordination at all levels of government.*
2. *Effective and adequately funded Commonwealth and State Government climate change policies and programs.*

July 2018 – 72.5/2018

The draft Advocacy Position in the Consultation Paper is:

1. *Local Government acknowledges the risks associated with, and is committed to, addressing climate change.*
2. *WALGA calls on the Australian and Western Australian Governments to provide:*
 - a. *the necessary climate leadership, coordination and action to ensure an orderly transition to achieve emission reduction targets and address the impacts of climate change*
 - b. *dedicated funding, guidance and practical support to assist Local Governments to undertake emissions reduction and adaptation actions.*

Attachment

The WALGA Climate Change Advocacy Position Consultation Paper is available [online](#).

Background

Climate change, and related legislation, policy and action, have implications for many aspects of Local Governments' operations and services. More frequent and severe droughts, heatwaves, bushfires, extreme rainfall events and warming, rising sea levels are increasing the costs and complexity of delivering critical services, infrastructure and ensuring community wellbeing.

In 2018, State Council endorsed a [Climate Change Policy Statement](#) and advocacy position, following extensive sector consultation. Since this Advocacy Position was adopted there have been significant legislative, policy, technological and scientific changes, including:

- The national *Climate Change Act 2022* and the Western Australian Climate Change Bill 2023.
- The *Local Government Amendment Act 2023*, which expanded Western Australian Local Governments' general function under Part 3 s3.1(1A) of the *Local Government Act 1995* to:
 - a. to promote the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the district; and
 - b. **to plan for, and to plan for mitigating, risks associated with climate change**; and
 - c. in making decisions, to consider potential long-term consequences and impacts on future generations.
- The release of the Australian Government's [National Climate Risk Assessment](#) and [National Adaptation Plan](#) in 2025.
- Escalation of the transition to renewable energy, uptake of electric vehicles and energy efficiency standards under the National Construction Code.
- Climate science and projections ([international](#), [national](#) and [WA specific](#)) have also become clearer regarding the risks posed by climate change and the need for action to address the consequential impacts.

Comment

Following initial consultation, consideration by State Council in March 2025 and feedback from the Environment Policy Team, WALGA has developed a revised, draft Climate Change Advocacy Position for Local Government feedback which is currently out for consultation with feedback due by 1 May 2026. WALGA has received feedback from some Councils and understands a number of Councils will be considering this matter in April. Zone delegates are encouraged to take this item to their Councils.

The Central Country Zone passed a motion at its February 2026 meeting which included writing to all other zones highlighting its alternative Advocacy Position (proposed in March 2025). WALGA worked to incorporate the Central Country Zone feedback prior to the release of the Consultation Paper.

WALGA is seeking **Council endorsed feedback** on the draft Climate Change Advocacy Position by **COB Friday, 1 May 2026**. Feedback should be provided to environment@walga.asn.au.



Following consideration of this feedback a final draft Advocacy Position will be developed and provided to zones and State Council for consideration.

Resolution/s	Action(s)
Noted	