



Northern Country Zone

MINUTES

26 APRIL 2022

Hosted by the Shire of Mingenew
Mingenew Sports Pavilion
commencing at 10am



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- Item 2.0: Elected Member Prospectus 2021
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State Council Representative Nomination - Cr Isabelle Scott
- Item 4.1: Western Power AA5 Review - Issues Paper
- Item 4.2: Rural Aid Australia - The Community Builders Program
- Item 4.2: Rural Aid Australia – The Community Builders Program Presentation
- Item 7.1: Minutes 14 February 2022
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- Item 8/9: State Council Agenda 4 May 2022
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- Item 11.1.1 Correspondence Out:
a: Geraldton Guardian - MWSGFR Working Group Press Release
- Item 11.1.2 Correspondence In:
a: WACHS - February 14 2022 PowerPoint Presentation
b: Tourism WA - Tourism Experience Workshop
c: Dept of Premier & Cabinet - Managing COVID-19 - Small Business
d: CGG - Request for Feedback on proposed Pilot Renewable Energy Scheme
e: WALGA - Press Release re New President Cr Karen Chappel
f: MWDC - ICA Tour of WA Mid West
g: Hon Melissa Price MP - Successful MWSGFR Funding
- Item 11.2: Feb and March 2022 Bank Statements

Zone Delegates are requested to provide written notice on amendments to recommendations within the State Council agenda ASAP to the Zone President and Secretariat, to allow Zone Members time to consider the alternative recommendation.

1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1.1 Opening

The Meeting was declared open at 10:03 am.

The Order of Business was Amended to Acknowledge Country.

3.1 Acknowledgment of Country

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA acknowledges the Yamatji people, who are the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today and pays its respects to their Elders past and present.

1.2 Announcements

COVID-19 Information

At the time of writing the Agenda and as of 31 March 2022, Level 1 measures took effect in WA, which means that masks are to be worn indoors (except in the home) and the total number of people at a gathering can't exceed more than 1 person per square metre. The Sports Pavilion at Mingenew has a capacity of 70 based on those numbers. Please note that social distancing and good hygiene still apply. People displaying any cold or flu symptoms should not attend the meeting. An attendance register was circulated at the meeting.

2. ELECTION OF WALGA STATE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

*Attachments: Elected Member Prospectus
Nomination Form and Bid Letter – Cr Moira Girando
Nomination Form and Bid Letter – Cr Isabelle Scott*

Election Process for WALGA State Council Representative:

Guidelines for the election and Nomination Forms were distributed to Member Councils by email dated 7 March 2022, calling for nominations for State Council Representative. The closing date for nominations was COB Monday 18 April 2022.

Only Elected Members who are also a Zone Delegate for their Council are eligible to nominate for a position.

If no nominations are received, nominations may be accepted from the floor immediately prior to the ballot and not otherwise.

Where there is more than one nomination for a position, an election will be conducted using a secret ballot and the person with the most votes will fill the position. In the event of a tied vote, the election will be determined by drawing names from a box. The Executive Officer will put the names of the candidates concerned in a box and the first name drawn will fill the position.

If there is only one nominee for a position, then that nominee will fill the position unopposed.

Matter for Consideration:

A WALGA State Council Representative is to be elected for a term commencing immediately following the election until and including the day prior to the December 2023 meeting of State Council.

Comment:

WALGA is governed by a President and a 24 member State Council, elected from the Zones for a two year period.

A Prospectus providing information on WALGA, the State Council, the role of State Councillors and what makes an effective State Councillor was distributed to members by email dated 11 April 2022 and is attached to the Agenda.

Nominations Received:

Cr Moira Girando	Shire of Coorow	Zone Delegate appointed by Council 20/10/2021
Cr Isabelle Scott	Shire of Irwin	Zone Delegate appointed by Council 26/10/2021

The Candidates were afforded the opportunity to make a two minute election bid and both nominees addressed the meeting. A secret ballot was then conducted.

Declaration of Election Result:

That Cr Moira Girando, of the Shire of Coorow, be elected as the WALGA State Council Representative for the Northern Country Zone of WALGA for a term commencing immediately following the election until and including the day prior to the December 2023 meeting of State Council.

The Zone President assumed the Chair

3. WELCOME, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

3.1 Acknowledgment of Country

The order of Business was amended to Acknowledge Country immediately following the Opening.

3.2 Welcome, Attendance and Apologies

Welcome to Delegates and guests.

MEMBERS	NB: One Voting Delegate from each Member Council
Shire of Carnamah	Cr Merle Isbister - President Mr Paul Sheedy – Acting Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Chapman Valley	Cr Kirilee Warr – President Mr Darrell Forth - Deputy President Mr Jamie Criddle - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Coorow	Cr Moira Girando - President Ms Mia Maxfield - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
City of Greater Geraldton	Cr Jerry Clune - Deputy Mayor Mr Ross McKim - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Irwin	Cr Isabelle Scott - Deputy President Cr Mike Smith - President Mr Shane Ivers - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Mingenew	Cr Gary Cosgrove - President Mr Nils Hay - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Morawa	Cr Karen Chappel - President Mr Ken Stokes - Deputy President Mr Scott Wildgoose - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Northampton	Cr Elizabeth (Liz) Sudlow - President Mr Grant Middleton - Acting Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Perenjori	Cr Chris King - President
Shire of Three Springs	Cr Chris Connaughton - Deputy President
EXECUTIVE	Ms Dianne Daniels - Executive Officer
INVITED GUESTS	
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon. Sandra Carr MLC
Mid West Development Commission	Ms Anne Finlay - Acting Chief Executive Officer
Regional Development Midwest Gascoyne	Mr Mark Holdsworth - Director of Regional Development/Executive Officer
Dept of Local Government Sport and Cultural Ind	Ms Angele Gray - Regional Manager
Main Roads WA	Ms Louise Adamson - Network Manager

Bank of IDEAS Mr Peter Kenyon – Director

Labour Candidate for Durack Mr Jeremiah Riley

APOLOGIES

Shire of Mingenew Cr Hellene McTaggart

Member for Agricultural Region Hon. Steve Martin MLC

Regional Development Midwest Gascoyne Ms Yvonne Messina

Main Roads WA Ms Janet Hartley-West - Regional Manager Mid West-Gascoyne

Member for Geraldton Ms Lara Dalton MLA

Member for Agricultural Region Hon. Darren West MLC

Shire of Northampton Cr Robert Horstman - Deputy President

Shire of Perenjori Mr Paul Anderson – Chief Executive Officer

Shire of Three Springs Cr Chris Lane – President

Shire of Three Springs Mr Keith Woodward – Chief Executive Officer

WALGA Mr Tim Lane – Manager Strategy and Association Governance

Member for Moore Mr Shane Love MLA

Economic Regulation Authority Mr Steve Edwell - Chair
Ms Jenness Gardner – Chief Executive Officer

4. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Economic Regulation Authority (10:05 - 10:45)

This presentation did not occur as the presenter's (*Mr Steve Edwell - Chair and Ms Jenness Gardner - CEO*) flight was re-scheduled. The Zone President will organise a Zoom Meeting with the ERA for early June.

Attachment: Western Power AA5 Review – Issues Paper

The Economic Regulation Authority is commencing its five-yearly review of Western Power's access arrangement, which sets the amount of revenue that Western Power can recover from its customers and establishes service standards that they must meet or be financially penalised. A big focus for this review – in light of recent outages – is security and reliability of power supplies, particularly in the regions.

Mr Edwell and Ms Gardner had planned to summarise the ERA's process and call for feedback from attendees about their experiences with energy supply and any issues the ERA may be able to address through this access arrangement.

4.2 Bank of I.D.E.A.S (10:45 – 11:15)

Attachment: Rural Aid Australia – The Community Builders Program and Presentation

Mr Peter Kenyon Director

In the early 2000's, the Community Builder Leadership initiative ran in many regions of WA as part of 'Doing More with Agriculture', but a change of State Governments saw the loss of its funding. However, the program concept has continued in many regions across Australia and this year the national charity Rural Aid decided to support the rebirth of the initiative in three states, including WA. Rural Aid want to begin the three sites (one from each state) from mid-2022. The six month program operates across a natural cluster of small rural communities, thus the interest in North Midlands/Mid West. The other optional site in WA is South Central Wheatbelt – Pingelly to Wagin, Darkin to Wickiepin.

Rural Aid are not looking for financial partners. They will fund the operation in the three sites across Australia but do want to work together with clusters of communities who would like to evolve their unique leadership development model.

Mr Kenyon described the potential of the Community Builders program and how it may function in the North Midlands/Mid West region. He remained for lunch to ascertain the level of interest from members.

5. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillors must declare to the Zone President any potential conflict of interest they have in a matter before the Zone as soon as they become aware of it. Councillors and deputies may be directly or indirectly associated with some recommendations of the Zone and State Council. If you are affected by these recommendations, please excuse yourself from the meeting and do not participate in deliberations.

Cr Karen Chappel, as President of WALGA, is on the Board of LGIS, the Lord Mayors Distress Fund and ALGA. She made a Standing Declaration for any current or future items that may be presented to the Northern Country Zone, relating to those positions.

6. ADJOURNED BUSINESS

Nil

7. MINUTES

7.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the 14 February 2022 Meeting

Attachment: Minutes of the 14 February 2022 Meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 14 February 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr King

Seconded: Cr Isbister

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 14 February 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Carried

7.2 Confirmation of Minutes of Flying Minute 220303

Attachment: Minutes of Flying Minute 220303

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA Flying Minute 220303 – Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting - be confirmed as a true and accurate record of results.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Sudlow

Seconded: Cr Cosgrove

That the Minutes of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA Flying Minute 220303 – Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting - be confirmed as a true and accurate record of results.

Carried

7.3 Business Arising from Minutes

7.3 (a) Exemption for Western Power to Attend to Power Outages During Total Fire Bans and Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans

*Attachments: NCZ April 28 2020 Meeting Minutes Excerpt Item 11.3.1
NCZ April 2021 Zone Status Report
Issue Paper – Shire of Mingenew*

Recommendation:

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA requests that the Economic Regulation Authority, as part of its five yearly review of Western Power's (WP) access arrangements, implements measures to ensure that WP has the capacity and incentive to restore power during periods of Total Fire Ban and Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans.

Background:

At Item 12.3 Other General Business of the 14 February 2022 meeting, Cr Cosgrove, Shire of Mingenew, brought to the table a request that Western Power be granted an exception from DFES to attend to power outages during times of Total Fire Ban and/or Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans. The Zone President asked that the request be brought to the next meeting as a report and CEO McKim suggested that a representative from Western Power be invited to present at our next Zone meeting.

Comment:

This issue had previously been raised by Chapman Valley at the April 28 2020 meeting (*refer excerpt from Minutes attached – Item 11.3.1*) and appeared on the Zone Status Report up until April 2021, when it was addressed by WALGA (*refer April 2021 Zone Status Report attached*).

In summary of the Zone Status Report April 2021, Western Power has a TFB Exemption which expires on 30/06/22. The exemption applies to Western Power, employees and contractors. This provides Western Power with the capacity to undertake planned and unplanned work on a TFB day as long as they follow the conditions in their exemption. When the forecast fire danger rating (FDR) is issued as catastrophic, then all planned work must cease. Unplanned work may continue as long as the conditions in their exemption are being met. For unidentifiable faults re instalment of power, it is only to be undertaken on a falling and not before the FDR falls below 32. In an emergency, DFES may request the reinstalment of power by the network operator.

The Shires of Chapman Valley and Northampton have recently been in discussion with Western Power Representatives and the Hon Bill Johnston, Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Energy; Corrective Services; Industrial Relations, regarding regular power outages leading to telecommunications problems in their regions.

The Shire of Mingenew considered an Issues Paper at their Wednesday 20 April meeting. The Issue Paper was sent to Members on Saturday 23 April as a further attachment to this item.

Many members were concerned that the recommended resolution did not allow for consultation with Local Government during times of Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans, although Cr King felt that the recommended resolution was clear as it stood. Consulting with Local Government just adds another level of complexity. Cr Cosgrove suggested an amendment to the recommended resolution and the substantive motion was carried, as shown below.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Scott

Seconded: Cr Girando

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA requests that the Economic Regulation Authority, as part of its five yearly review of Western Power's (WP) access arrangements, implements measures to ensure that WP has the capacity and incentive to restore power during periods of Total Fire Ban except during Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans.

Carried

8. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR DECISION

The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 4 May 2022

The Matters for Decision in the State Council agenda are numbered 5.1 to 5.3

The Recommendation and Brief only have been included. Please refer to the attached PDF version of the State Council Agenda for more detail.

8.1 (5.1) Submission to Statutory Review of the Food Act 2008 (05-031-01-0006 BW)

Prepared by: Bec Waddington, Policy Officer, Resilient Communities

Recommendation:

That the submission to the Department of Health relating to the Statutory Review of the *Food Act 2008* be endorsed.

Executive Summary:

- The Department of Health (DOH) is undertaking a Statutory Review of the *Food Act 2008* (the Act) and has invited stakeholders to provide submissions. Local Governments were required to submit a Council endorsed submission.
- Overall, feedback from Local Governments is that the Act is an effective piece of legislation. The enforcement tools of improvement notices and infringements provisions have proved very successful for Local Governments.
- The submission highlights areas for improvement which largely relate to the systems that support the Act, rather than the Act itself.
- The engagement process has highlighted some communication issues between DOH and the Local Government sector. WALGA recommends that DOH further engage with the Local Government sector, as a key enforcement agency, to work collaboratively on improving the framework underpinning the Act.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Girando

Seconded: Cr King

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 5.1.

Carried

8.2 (5.2) Local Government Grant Scheme Funding (05-024-03-0006 VJ)

Prepared by: Vanessa Jackson, Senior Policy Advisor, Emergency Management

Recommendation:

That WALGA advocates to the Minister for Emergency Services and the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner for:

1. An allocation of Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) funding to undertake an audit of existing facilities, appliances, vehicles, and major items of equipment for both Local Government Volunteer Bushfire Brigades (BFB) and State Emergency Services (SES).
2. Following the completion of the audit, an allocation of funding through the Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) to prepare a Comprehensive Asset Management Plan that:
 - a. Aligns with the principles in the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' (DLGSC) Asset Management National Framework and Guidelines, and the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.
 - b. Forecasts the emergency response needs of communities across Western Australia over the next 10 years, to estimate the quantum of the facilities, appliances, vehicles, and major items of equipment that will be needed.
 - c. Outlines a 10 year forward plan of modifications, replacements and additions required.
 - d. Investigates the extent to which future BFB facilities can be co-located with other emergency services facilities.
3. The establishment of a Working Group involving WALGA, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and LGIS to oversee the preparation of the Comprehensive Asset Management Plan.
4. Support for the Comprehensive Asset Management Plan to be reviewed every five years.
5. Support for an increase in Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) funding to support the unsuccessful capital grants funding applications by Local Governments to the 2020-21 LGGS Capital Grants Committee.

Executive Summary:

- The Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) was established in 2003-04 as a funding source for Local Government Volunteer Bushfire Brigades (BFB) and State Emergency Services (SES) units. LGGS funds are derived from the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) and are administered by DFES.
- Despite an increase in LGGS funding over the years, the funding has not grown at a sufficient rate to account for the increasing costs of assets, in particular buildings and vehicles.
- Currently there is no centralised comprehensive asset management plan for Local Government emergency services facilities or equipment for BFBs or SES, as this information is contained within each Local Governments asset management register.
- It is recommended that a facilities and capital equipment audit be undertaken to establish a baseline of existing assets. This information would enable the preparation of a Comprehensive Asset Management Plan which outlines a forward plan of modifications, replacements, and additions.

Cr King asked if the LGGS could include funding for ambulance and paramedic services. The Zone President noted this and said she would pass the suggestion forward.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Isbister

Seconded: Cr Warr

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 5.2.

Carried

8.3 (5.3) Draft Active Travel to School Roadmap (05-001-03-0051 SDS)

Prepared by: Sebastian Davies-Slate, Policy Officer Transport and Roads

Recommendation:

That WALGA:

1. Endorses the Draft Active Travel to School Roadmap, subject to amending Urban Environment Initiative No 1 to “*Consult local governments to identify sub-regional school transport challenges and amend existing planning guidelines and develop new guidelines where gaps exist*”; and
2. Works with the Department of Transport to finalise the Roadmap and encourage Local Government participation in the initiatives identified where these offer solutions to the local issues encountered in each area.

Executive Summary:

- The Director-General of Transport has formally requested WALGA endorse the Department of Transport (DOT) Draft Active Travel to School Roadmap.
- The Roadmap includes an initiative which, as worded in the current draft, states that Local Governments will identify sub-regional challenges to active travel to school, and amend or introduce planning guidelines to address these challenges.
- A Local Government officer was present on the working group that informed the guidelines, and this position on the working group has recently passed to WALGA staff.
- WALGA has advised DOT officers that it is not appropriate for this working group or the Department to assign tasks or policy positions to Local Governments without consultation. These DOT officers have agreed to revise this initiative, so as to state that the DOT will consult with Local Governments to achieve the objective outlined in the Roadmap.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Girando

Seconded: Cr Cosgrove

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers’ recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 5.3.

Carried

9. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 4 May 2022

The Matters for Noting/Information in the State Council agenda are numbered 6.1 to 6.9.

The Recommendation and Brief only have been included. Please refer to the attached PDF version of the State Council Agenda for more detail.

9.1 (6.1) Draft National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children (05-086-03-0004 VB)

Prepared by: Vikki Barlow, Senior Policy Advisor Community

Recommendation:

That the letter in relation to the Draft National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children consultation be noted.

Executive Summary:

- The Australian Government is developing the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032 (Draft National Plan).
- The Department of Social Services undertook consultation on the [Draft National Plan](#) between 14 January and 25 February 2022.
- WALGA submitted a letter supporting the aims, vision, and pillars of the Draft National Plan, consistent with the Association’s Advocacy Position Statement on Family and Domestic Violence.

- The letter highlights the need for clearer definition of the role and responsibilities of Local Government in family and domestic violence, as well as ongoing funding to support the implementation of the Prevention Toolkit for Local Government.

9.2 (6.2) Feedback on Community Disaster Resilience Strategy Discussion Paper (05-024-02-0067 VJ)

Prepared by: Vanessa Jackson, Senior Policy Advisor, Emergency Management

Recommendation:

That the feedback provided to the State Emergency Management Committee on the Community Disaster Resilience Strategy Discussion Paper be noted.

Executive Summary:

- The State Government released a Community Disaster Resilience Strategy Discussion Paper for public consultation between 31 October 2021 and 31 March 2022.
- The Discussion Paper outlines a number of transformational shifts and change initiatives, however, due to limited detail in the paper, it is unclear what the exact impact of these proposed initiatives on Local Government's operations may be.
- Feedback on the Discussion Paper by way of letter from the President has been prepared, requesting a formal consultation period on the draft Community Disaster Resilience Strategy be provided in due course.

9.3 (6.3) 2021 CoastWA Local Government Survey (06-085-01-0002 LS)

Prepared by: Lucy Sheehy, CoastWA Local Government Facilitator

Recommendation:

That the CoastWA Local Government Survey Outcomes Report be noted.

Executive Summary:

- The CoastWA Local Government Survey was implemented to improve understanding of the challenges and barriers to coastal hazard risk management and adaptation planning (CHRMAP) for Local Government. 32 responses were received.
- Broadly the Survey found that CHRMAPs were assisting Local Governments to better manage current and future coastal hazards and that the resources currently available to Local Governments were helpful. However, a number of challenges were identified for both developing and implementing CHRMAPs and that implementation of CHRMAP actions were generally behind schedule.
- Eight recommendations are made based on the findings of the Survey. If implemented these recommendations would further support Local Governments to develop and implement coastal hazard risk management and adaptation plans.
- The Report and its recommendations will inform the review and development of WALGA advocacy positions relating to coastal planning and its support of coastal and estuarine Local Governments.

9.4 (6.4) Update on draft WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026 (05-012-03-0001 SM)

Prepared by: Susie Moir, Policy Manager, Resilient Communities

Recommendation:

That the update on the draft WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026 be noted.

Executive Summary:

- The Public Libraries Working Group (PLWG) has been overseeing the development of a new WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026 (draft Strategy) with a focus on strengthening communities, digital inclusion and the value placed on public libraries.

- A mixed methods consultation approach has been undertaken, with workshops targeted at public library professionals, stakeholder interviews through a targeted selection of metropolitan, regional and remote Local Government public libraries, and public consultation via an [online survey](#) (open until 8 April 2022).
- An implementation plan is being developed to outline the actions required to achieve the outcomes described by the draft Strategy and assign responsibility and timelines to these actions, and an evaluation framework to measure the success or otherwise of these actions.
- The new Strategy will support the work of 232 public libraries operated by Local Government around Western Australia.

9.5 (6.5) Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review Project (05-024-03-0040 SR)

Prepared by: Simone Ruane, LEMA Project Lead

Recommendation:

That the update on the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review Project be noted.

Executive Summary:

- Under the *Emergency Management Act 2005*, Local Governments are required to prepare and maintain local emergency management arrangements (LEMA).
- In 2019, WALGA proposed a review of LEMA be undertaken, which was endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC).
- The aim of the LEMA Review Project is to develop a LEMA Improvement Plan that outlines options for effective and fit-for-purpose emergency management at the local level.
- The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) has been granted Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) funding to undertake the LEMA Review Project.
- WALGA has been allocated \$140,040 of All West Australians Reducing Emergencies (AWARE) grant funding to lead consultations with Local Government for the project.

9.6 (6.6) Comment on Draft Health Promotion Strategic Framework 2022-2026 (05-031-03-0005 BW)

Prepared by: Bec Waddington, Policy Officer Community

Recommendation:

That the letter submitted to the Department of Health on the Draft Health Promotion Strategic Framework 2022-2026 be noted.

Executive Summary:

- The Department of Health released the [Draft Health Promotion Strategic Framework 2022-2026 \(HPSF\)](#) for comment in December 2021.
- WALGA has submitted a letter in support of the draft HPSF which brings opportunities for Local Governments to work with the State Government and other organisations to reduce chronic disease and enhance community health and wellbeing.

9.7 (6.7) Wooroloo Bushfire Independent Review Final Report (05-024-03-0011 CM)

Prepared by: Cassandra Mora, Policy Officer, Emergency Management

Recommendation:

That the Independent Review of the Wooroloo Bushfire Final Report be noted.

Executive Summary:

- The Final Report on the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC) Independent Review into the Wooroloo Bushfire (Independent Review) was released on Tuesday, 29 March 2022 (the Report).

- WALGA provided a letter of support to the Independent Review highlighting key issues identified in WALGA Policy Positions and in submissions to recent emergency reviews and inquiries, which was endorsed at the December 2021 State Council meeting.
- The Report makes 13 recommendations, with five making direct reference to Local Government, relating to bushfire risk mitigation planning, development control as it relates to planning and building in bushfire prone areas, traffic management, impacts assessments, and telecommunications.

9.9 (6.9) Local Government Emergency Management Survey Results (05-024-03-0042 CM)

Prepared by: Cassandra Mora, Policy Officer, Emergency Management

Recommendation:

That the results of the 2021 Local Government Emergency Management Survey Results be noted.

Executive Summary;

- WALGA undertook a Local Government Emergency Management Survey in late 2021 to gauge the sentiment of the sector towards its emergency management roles and responsibilities generally, and in relation to managing volunteer bushfire brigades in particular.
- The survey builds on the feedback received in WALGA's 2019 Emergency Management Survey and is being used to inform WALGA's policy and advocacy on current and emerging emergency management issues.
- Findings from the survey indicate that the Local Government sector is seeking increased resourcing and funding to discharge its emergency management responsibilities and changes to the current arrangements for Local Government management of volunteer Bushfire Brigades.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Cosgrove

Seconded: Cr King

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes State Council Agenda Items 6.1 to 6.7 and 6.9.

Carried

9.8 (6.8) 2022-23 Federal Budget Update (05-088-03-0002 DT)

Prepared by: Daniel Thomson, Economist

Recommendation:

That the 2022-23 Federal Budget Update be noted.

Executive Summary:

- The 2022-23 Federal Budget was handed down on 29 March ahead of an election expected in May.
- The Budget forecasts a strong rebound from the pandemic with the economy growing as private expenditure replaces Government stimulus.
- The Budget focuses on short-term cost payments to alleviate cost of living pressures, investments in infrastructure, defence and increasing the skilled workforce.
- A significant proportion of Financial Assistance Grants are to be brought forward into 2021-22 and the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program has been extended to 2024-25.

Cr Girando asked for this item to be considered separately as she is concerned that having the Financial Assistance Grants brought forward to the current financial year interferes with the ratios – the funding needs to be quarantined.

Zone President Chappel noted that this has been bought up at ALGA before and Cr King noted that the Auditor General has indicated that the ratio in question may be removed as part of the legislative review.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Girando

Seconded: Cr Sudlow

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes State Council Agenda Item 6.8.

Carried

10. REPORTS

10.1 Zone President/State Councillor's Report

Northern Country Zone of WALGA
Presidents Report April 2022

How marvellous was the news in the Federal Budget that our Agricultural Freight Route Strategy has been partially funded to the tune of 22million. Thanks to the Hon Melissa Price for her advocacy on this submission. Of course the advocacy will continue and as will the work to ensure the funds are distributed to projects as prioritised.

We have all marked the anniversary of Cyclone Seroja in our own way, each community has its own memories and challenges, but I believe we are keen to move on yet still support those in need.

Most of our towns have or are currently experiencing positive COVID cases, the information and communication coming from WACHS has been welcomed and valued. If you wish to be added to the list receiving their updates please advise me or EO Dianne Daniels.

As stated in my WALGA Presidents report I feel very privileged to be Elected as the President of WALGA. I will work hard in the best interests of the sector never forgetting my roots. It is the support of this Zone that has given me this opportunity and I thank you.

Please do not hesitate to call me any time, I am keen to keep up to date with what is happening in our region.

Karen Chappel

Cr Chappel spoke to the report, making particular note of the receipt of funding for the Mid West Grain Freight Route Project. Once it is clear how the funds are to be distributed, a governance structure needs to be established to manage the funds.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Sudlow

Seconded: Cr Clune

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the April 2022 Report from the Zone President/State Councillor

Carried

10.2 WALGA President's Report

The WALGA President's Report to the Zone for May 2022 is attached to the Agenda.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:**Moved:** Cr Cosgrove**Seconded:** Cr King

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the May 2022 WALGA President's Report to the Zone.

Carried**10.3 Zone Status Report**

A Status Report outlining the actions taken on the Zone's resolutions is attached.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:**Moved:** Cr Isbister**Seconded:** Cr Connaughton

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the April 2022 Status Report outlining actions taken on the Zone's resolutions.

Carried

11. ZONE MATTERS FOR NOTING/DECISION

11.1 Correspondence**11.1.1 Correspondence Out****11.1.1 (a) 05/04/2022 Editor Geraldton Guardian**

Attachment: Email to Editor

Press Release from the Mid West Secondary Grain Freight Routes Working Group regarding the \$22.4 million funding received in the recent Federal Budget, towards the project.

11.1.2 Correspondence In**11.1.2 (a) 21/02/2022 – WACHS**

Attachment - 14 February 2022 PowerPoint Presentation (Forwarded to members 21/02/2022)

11.1.2 (b) 25/02/2022 – Tourism WA

Attachment – Invitation to Tourism Experience Workshop (Forwarded to members 25/02/2022)

11.1.2 (c) 01/03/2022 – Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Attachment - Email from DPC (Forwarded to members 03/03/2022)

An email announcing that the DPC's small business '[Managing COVID-19 Staff Communication Guide](#)' went live on 1 March. The guide aligns with the Small Business Development Corporation's (SBDC) [Managing COVID-19 in your workplace: Small Business Toolkit](#), and is designed to support businesses through the next stage of COVID-19 (borders open).

11.1.2 (d) 02/03/2022 – City of Greater Geraldton

Attachment – Email from Rajiv Kapur, Manager Urban and Regional Development (Forwarded to members 03/03/2022)

A letter from Rajiv Kapur which requested feedback from members (by 04/03/2022) on a proposed Pilot Renewable Energy Project. The proposed licence is to facilitate investigatory works associated with proposed development of offshore windfarms in relation to Pilot Energy's Mid West Renewables project. The Project contemplates the development of offshore wind, onshore wind, and onshore solar energy generation which may result in the production of renewable hydrogen.

11.1.2 (e) 03/03/2022 – WALGA

Attachment – Press Release re new WALGA President, Cr Karen Chappel (Forwarded to members 03/03/2022)

11.1.2 (f) 16/03/2022 – Mid West Development Commission

Attachment – Press Release from the Insurance Council of Australia (Forwarded to members 18/03/2022)

A Press Release from ICA informing Seroja impacted communities that ICA and insurers would be available for consultations, by appointment, with those impacted by the cyclone, on 22 and 23 March in Kalbarri, Northampton, Mingenew and Morawa.

11.1.2 (g) 31/03/2022 – Hon. Melissa Price MP

Attachment – Notification from Minister Price, on her Facebook page, that the Mid West Secondary Grain Freight Routes project had received \$22.4 million in funding in the recent Federal Budget (Forwarded to members 05/04/2022).

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr King

Seconded: Cr Sudlow

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes Correspondence Out at Items 11.1.1 (a) and receives Correspondence In at Items 11.1.2 (a) through to 11.1.2 (g).

Carried

11.2 Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 31 March 2022

Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer

Attachments: Bank Statements Feb and Mar 2022

Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31 March 2022

Comments:

The Detailed Income Statement shown below represents the cash position of NCZ at 31 March 2022, as reconciled to the Bank Statement.

NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

*For the period ending
31-Mar-22*

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Description</i>
Statement Balance B/F	01-07-21		16,104.12	
Deposits			10,000.00	2021-22 Membership Subscriptions x 10
			1.29	Interest received
TOTAL RECEIPTS			10,001.29	
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE			26,105.41	
Payments Made	29-07-21		-2,600.00	Internet Tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 212201 - EO Services 29/04/2021-30/06/2021
	26-08-21		-275.00	Internet Tsf - North Midlands Accounting - Inv 2022-000134 - 20-21 Audit
	26-08-21		-2,805.66	Internet Tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 212202 - EO Services 01/07/2021-25/08/2021; Travel
	14-09-21		-513.48	Internet Bpay - Shire of Mingenew - Inv 9595; 9322; 9427 - Reimburse Catering August and November 20 Meetings
	25-11-21		-2,805.66	Internet Tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 212203 - EO Services 26/08/2021 - 24/11/2021; Travel
	12-01-22		-309.55	Chq 375 - Shire of Mingenew - Inv 9754 - Reimburse catering for November 2021 meeting.
	04-03-22		-2,890.76	Internet Tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 212204 - EO Services 25/11/2022 - 16/02/2022; Travel; Reimbursements
	31-03-22		-581.18	Internet Bpay - Shire of Mingenew - Inv 9859 - Reimburse Catering February 2022 Meeting
TOTAL PAYMENTS MADE			-12,781.29	
Closing Cash Balance	31-03-22		13,324.12	

NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA

BANK RECONCILIATION SUMMARY

*For the period ending
31-Mar-22*

Statement Balance B/F	01-07-21		16,104.12
Deposits and Credits			10,001.29
Cheques and Payments			-12,781.29
Total Cleared Transactions	31-03-22		13,324.12
Add back o/s			0.00
Reconciled Balance			13,324.12
Bank Statement	31-03-22		13,324.12
Difference I&E to Bank Statement			0.00

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Girando

Seconded: Cr Connaughton

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31 March 2022.

Carried

11.3 WALGA Training to Deliver Emergency Management for Local Government Leaders

Recommendation:

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA is interested in holding an Emergency Management for Local Government Leaders course following the June/August/November 2022 meeting (*delete whichever is not applicable*),

or

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA is not interested in holding an Emergency Management for Local Government Leaders course.

Background:

WALGA is considering delivering the Emergency Management for Local Government Leaders course in conjunction with future upcoming Zone meetings in June, August or November 2022.

A specialised and approved trainer will come to the Zone to deliver the 3.5 hour course. The course is targeted at CEO's, Directors, Managers, Mayors/Presidents and Elected Members.

Course Overview

As the sphere of Government closest to the community, Local Government is a key player when it comes to local Emergency Management preparedness, prevention, response and recovery. In a disaster, the community turns first to their Local Government for trusted leadership.

This course provides an essential overview of the role of Local Government leaders before, during and after an emergency. With a focus on the skills necessary to excel as a leader under pressure, this course will equip leaders with invaluable skills and tools to draw upon when your community is impacted by an emergency.

More information can be obtained at <https://walga.asn.au/training/book-a-course/emergency-management-courses/emergency-management-for-local-government-leaders>

The Zone consideration is requested to see if there is any interest in holding a training session on this subject following a future Zone meeting in June, August or November 2022.

Comment:

The fee cost is \$3,300 in total, plus travel and accommodation. This updated information on costs was emailed to members 20 April 2022, after the Agenda was issued.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr King

Seconded: Cr Warr

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA is interested in holding an Emergency Management for Local Government Leaders course following the 29 August 2022 meeting.

Carried/Lost

12.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

As per Item 35 of the Zone Standing Orders, a Delegate may under General Business introduce a motion relating to any item of interest to Local Government, but not otherwise.

12.1 Regional Issues

Background:

As per the resolution at Item 9.1 of the February 2018 minutes, Regional Issues are open for discussion.

Nil

12.2 Regional Tourism Initiatives

Background:

As per the resolution at Item 10.1 of the April 2019 minutes, Regional Tourism Initiatives are open for discussion.

Nil

12.3 Other General Business

12.3.1 Office of the Auditor General – Mandatory Audits Costs

Background

The Shire of Irwin resolved, at Item 9.2.3 of its 22 March 2022 meeting, to raise the issue of increased costs associated with mandatory Office of the Auditor General audits at the next Northern Country Zone of WALGA meeting.

Comment

Cr Scott opened the discussion, noting that the Shire of Irwin was concerned that since the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) had been directed to undertake the annual audits of Local Government, that costs had tripled. The OAG was never equipped or resourced to undertake this directive and did not have the required experience – council staff have needed to train OAG Auditors, which compounds the issue.

This concern was mirrored by other members.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Scott

Seconded: Cr King

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA writes to WALGA to investigate:

- the increased costs of Office of the Auditor General audits; and
- the inexperience of auditors provided, leading to cost overruns and delays.

Also, the Zone requests that the State Government fully subsidise the cost of Office of the Auditor General audits.

Carried

The Zone President thanked Ms Anne Finlay for her contribution to the Mid West during her time as Acting CEO of the Mid West Development Commission and congratulated Mr Nils Hay for his appointment as CEO of the Mid West Development Commission, commencing 4 July 2022.

The Hon. Sandra Carr MLC, Mr Jeremiah Riley, Mr Mark Holdsworth, Ms Louise Adamson and Ms Anne Finlay addressed the meeting. Ms Finlay brought to members attention two dates to put in their calendars – 13 May Budget Breakfast and 8/9 June Aboriginal Business Forum.

Cr Chappel noted that her term on the Mid West Development Commission Board ended on 30 June 2022. She encouraged members to attend a National Reconciliation Week Virtual Breakfast to be held on 27 May 8-10 am. (*this is a free event - book at <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/886493>*); and the upcoming ALGA conference (19-22 June 2022), noting that the Shire of Northampton are attending this year.

Cr King voiced his support for the Rural Aid Community Builders Program – it can re-energise a tired community.

Finally, CEO Nils Hay thanked everyone for their well wishes and for their support during his time as CEO of Mingenew Shire. He'll be back at future meetings, but in his new role as CEO of the Mid West Development Commission.

13. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Recommendation:

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be held on Monday 27 June 2022, commencing at 10 am, at Mingenew Sports Pavilion.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Isbister

Seconded: Cr Cosgrove

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be held on Monday 27 June 2022, commencing at 10:00 am, at Mingenew Sports Pavilion.

Carried

14. MEETING CLOSURE

The Zone President thanked Mingenew for hosting the meeting and declared it closed at 11:37 am.