



# Northern Country Zone

# MINUTES

Monday 25 November 2024

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



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## ATTACHMENTS TO THE AGENDA

- Item 3.1:** In the Wake of the Storm Presentation  
In the Wake of the Storm - Environmental Guidelines
- Item 3.2:** CBH Strategy and Harvest Update Presentation
- Item 3.3:** Western Power Summer Preparedness Presentation
- Item 3.4:** Shire of Mingenew Presentation
- Item 6.1:** Minutes of Northern Country Zone of WALGA Meeting 26 August 2024
- Item 7.0/8.0:** State Council Agenda 6 December 2024
- Item 9.2:** State Council Representative Report
- Item 9.3:** WALGA President's Report December 2024
- Item 9.4:** Zone Status Report November 2024
- Item 9.5:** DLGSC November 2024 Report
- Item 10.1:** Corro Out 10.1.1a - Letter to Ms Merome Beard MLA
- Item 10.2:** Aug/Sep/Oct 2024 Bank Statements
- Item 10.5:** Cooperation and Shared Services Document
- Item 10.6:** WALGA Band 4 Meeting Summary
- Item 10.7:** Native Vegetation Clearing Issues Paper

The **Policy and Advocacy Prioritisation Framework** shown below, adopted 22 April 2024, is used to guide Zone Delegates' decision making.

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

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## **1. OPENING, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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### **1.1 Opening**

The Meeting was declared open at 10:03 am.

### **1.2 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.

### **1.3 Welcome**

The President welcomed members and guests.

### **1.4 Announcements**

Nil

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## **2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

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### **MEMBERS**

### **NB: One Voting Delegate from each Member Council**

#### **Shire of Carnamah**

Cr Merle Isbister - President  
Mr Rob Paull - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

#### **Shire of Chapman Valley**

Cr Kirrilee Warr - President (NCZ Deputy President and State Council Rep)  
Mr Jamie Criddle - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

#### **Shire of Coorow**

Cr Guy Sims - President

#### **City of Greater Geraldton**

Mayor Jerry Clune  
Mr Ross McKim - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

#### **Shire of Irwin**

Cr Isabelle Scott  
Mr Shane Ivers - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

#### **Shire of Mingenew**

Cr Gary Cosgrove - President  
Mr Matt Fanning - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

#### **Shire of Morawa**

Cr Karen Chappel - President (NCZ President)  
Ms Jackie Hawkins - Acting Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

#### **Shire of Northampton**

Cr Elizabeth (Liz) Sudlow - President (State Council Deputy Rep)  
Mr Andrew Campbell - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

#### **Shire of Perenjori**

Cr Jude Sutherland - President  
Mr Paul Anderson - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting))

#### **Shire of Three Springs**

Mr Keith Woodward - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

## **EXECUTIVE**

Ms Dianne Daniels - NCZ Executive Officer

## **GUESTS**

Member for North West  
Central

Ms Merome Beard MLA

Main Roads WA

Ms Janet Hartley-West - Director Mid West-Gascoyne

Mid West Development  
Commission

Mr Nils Hay - Chief Executive Officer  
Mr Kyle Williams - Senior Regional Development Officer

## **PRESENTERS**

NACC NRM

Mr Kane Watson - Programs and Operations Manager  
Ms Jarna Kendel - Biodiversity Program Coordinator  
Chad Barron - Consultant  
Jenny Borger - Consultant

CBH

Ms Kellie Todman - Manager Govt & Industry Relations  
Wade Mackintosh - Network Planning

Western Power

Mr Andrew Cook - General Counsel  
Mr Shane Duryea - Head of Networks Operations  
Ms Denise Morton - Media and Communications Specialist  
Ms Kelly Nelson - Senior Communications Specialist

## **APOLOGIES**

Federal Member for  
Durack

Hon. Melissa Price MP

Member for Moore

Mr Shane Love MLA

Member for Geraldton

Ms Lara Dalton MLA

Member for Agricultural  
Region

Hon. Colin De Grussa MLC

Member for Agricultural  
Region

Hon. Darren West MLC

Member for Agricultural  
Region

Hon. Martin Aldridge MLC

Member for Agricultural  
Region

Hon. Sandra Carr MLC

Member for Agricultural  
Region

Hon. Shelley Payne MLC

Shire of Chapman Valley

Cr Trevor Royce

Shire of Coorow

Ms Mia Maxfield - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Mingenew

Cr Hellene McTaggart

Shire of Morawa	Cr Ken Stokes - Deputy President
Shire of Northampton	Cr Robert Horstman - Deputy President
Shire of Perenjori	Cr Leslie Hepworth - Deputy President
Shire of Three Springs	Cr Chris Lane - President Cr Nadine Eva - Deputy President
Department of Fire and Emergency Services	Mr Mark Bowen - Superintendent Midwest Gascoyne Region
Dept of Local Government	Mr Craig Vinci - Acting Regional Manager Mid West Gascoyne Sport & Cultural Ind
Regional Development Midwest Gascoyne	Mr Mark Holdsworth – Director Regional Development/Executive Officer Ms Yvonne Messina – Chair
WALGA	Mr Ian Duncan - WALGA Executive Manager Infrastructure

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### **3. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

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#### **3.1 NACC NRM**

*Attachments: In the Wake of the Storm Presentation  
In the Wake of the Storm - Environmental Guidelines*

Mr Kane Watson	Programs and Operations Manager
Ms Jarna Kendel	Biodiversity Program Manager
Mr Chad Barron	Consultant
Ms Jenny Borger	Consultant

A presentation of the Guidelines that have been developed from the 'In the Wake of the Storm' project - Environmental Recovery and Preparedness following Cyclone Seroja.

#### **3.2 CBH**

*Attachment: CBH Strategy and Harvest Update Presentation*

Ms Kellie Todman	Manager Govt & Industry Relations
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Harvest update and other topical subjects.

*The Western Power contingent's flight was delayed by 2 hours and so their presentation was delivered later in the meeting, between Items 11.1 and 11.2*

#### **3.3 Western Power**

*Attachment: Western Power Summer Preparedness Presentation*

Mr Andrew Cook	General Counsel
Mr Shane Duryea	Head of Networks Operations
Mr Craig Tirant	Field Operations Team Leader, Operations North
Ms Kelly Nelson	Senior Communications Specialist

A presentation on network initiatives and investment undertaken to minimise bushfire risk ahead of summer.

### **3.4 Shire of Mingenew**

Cr Gary Cosgrove  
Mr Matt Fanning

President  
Chief Executive officer

A presentation on projects recently completed, underway and planned and challenges being faced by the Shire.

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## **4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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Nil

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## **5. ADJOURNED BUSINESS**

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Nil

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## **6. MINUTES**

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*Attachments: Minutes of the Meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA August 26 2024*

### **6.1 Confirmation of Minutes**

#### **Recommendation:**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on August 26 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

#### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Isbister

**Seconded:** Cr Sims

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on August 26 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

**Carried**

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## **7. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR DECISION**

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***The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 6 December 2024. The WALGA Officer's Recommendation and Executive Summary only have been included. Please refer to the attached PDF version of the State Council Agenda for more detail. The Matters for Decision in the State Council agenda are numbered 8.1 to 8.8.***

### **7.1 (SC 8.1) 2024 Annual General Meeting Resolutions**

*Prepared by: Meghan Dwyer, Executive Officer Governance*

#### **WALGA Recommendation:**

That:

1. the item 7.1 Amendments to *Cat Act 2011* - Allow Local Governments to Make Local Laws to Contain Cats to the Owner's Property be endorsed.

2. the following resolutions from the 2024 WALGA Annual General be referred to the Environment Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:
  - 7.2 Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land-Banking
  - 7.4 Action on Asbestos for Western Australia
  - 7.6 Advocacy for Accessibility.
3. the following resolutions from the 2024 WALGA Annual General be referred to the Governance Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:
  - 7.2 Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land-Banking
  - 7.3 Advocacy for Expansion of Differential Rating to Include Long Term Unoccupied Commercial Buildings (Property Activation Levy).
4. the following resolution from the 2024 WALGA Annual General be referred to the People and Place Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:
  - 7.5 Addressing the Impracticality of Local Governments Funding Department of Communities and GROH Houses.

**Executive Summary:**

- WALGA's 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 9 October.
- The meeting resolved for WALGA to act in relation to six Member Motions:
  - Amendments to the *Cat Act 2011* - Allow Local Governments to Make Local Laws to Contain Cats to the Owner's Property
  - Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land-banking
  - Advocacy for Expansion of Differential Rating to Include Long Term Unoccupied Commercial Buildings (Property Activation Levy)
  - Action on Asbestos for Western Australia
  - Addressing the Impracticality of Local Governments Funding Department of Communities and Government Regional Officer Housing
  - Advocacy for Accessibility
- The action proposed to be taken in relation to each of the resolutions has been summarised for State Council's information.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Sutherland

**Seconded:** Cr Sudlow

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA supports the WALGA Officers' recommendation for Item 8.1 in the 6 December 2024 State Council Agenda.

**Carried**

**7.2 (SC 8.2) Local Government Elections Advocacy Positions**

*Prepared by: Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services, and Jason Russell, Senior Governance Specialist*

**WALGA Recommendation:**

That WALGA adopt the following Elections Advocacy Positions:

The Local Government sector supports:

1. Voluntary participation in Local Government elections.
2. Councillors serve four-year terms with elections every two years and half of the Council positions spilled at each election.
3. First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system for Local Government elections. If Optional Preferential Voting (OPV) remains as the primary method of voting, the sector supports the removal of the 'proportional' part of the voting method for general elections.
4. First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system for internal Council elections.
5. Councils holding elections by means of in-person, postal and/or electronic voting.
6. Current legislative provision of Mayor/President of Class 1 and Class 2 Local Governments being directly elected by the community and Class 3 and Class 4 Local Government Councils electing the President.



### Executive Summary:

- This report presents the findings of sector-wide consultation on WALGA's Elections Advocacy Positions.
- Consultation addressed key areas elements of the current Advocacy Positions:
  1. Voluntary participation,
  2. Terms on Council and election cycles,
  3. Voting systems for public elections,
  4. Voting systems for internal elections,
  5. Methods for holding elections,
  6. Ability to choose how Mayors/Presidents are elected.

### Northern Country Zone Resolution:

**Moved:** Cr Warr

**Seconded:** Cr Sudlow

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA supports the WALGA Officers' recommendation for Item 8.2 in the 6 December 2024 State Council Agenda.

**Carried**

*Items 7.3 to 7.8 were considered en bloc.*

### **7.3 (SC 8.3) Aboriginal Communities Advocacy Positions**

*Prepared by: Rebecca Hicks, Policy Officer Community*

### **WALGA Recommendation:**

That State Council:

1. Replace Advocacy Position 3.1.2 Reconciliation with the following:

*WALGA:*

  1. *Acknowledges the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to Country, culture and community and embraces the vast Aboriginal cultural diversity throughout Western Australia.*
  2. *Supports the efforts of Local Governments to progress reconciliation at the local level.*
2. Remove Advocacy Position 3.1.3 Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.
3. Replace Advocacy Position 3.1.4 *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021* and South West Native Title Settlement with the following:
  - 3.1.4 *Aboriginal Heritage Protection*
    1. *WALGA supports the recognition, protection, conservation and preservation of Aboriginal cultural heritage and recognises the fundamental importance of Aboriginal cultural heritage to Aboriginal people and the State.*
    2. *The State Government must:*
      - a. *Ensure that legislative requirements balance the need to protect Aboriginal heritage with the need for Local Government to undertake activities in a timely and affordable manner.*
      - b. *Provide adequate resourcing to ensure all parties have the capacity, capability and resources to discharge their statutory obligations.*
      - c. *Provide support and guidance to Local Governments to ensure that they have the resources, capacity and capability to effectively and efficiently deliver essential services to community while protecting Aboriginal heritage.*

### Executive Summary:

- Following a review of WALGA's Aboriginal Community advocacy positions it is proposed that Advocacy Positions 3.1.2 Reconciliation and 3.1.4 *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021* and South West Native Title Settlement be updated and that Advocacy Position 3.1.3 Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People be removed.
- The intent of the proposed revisions is to reflect contemporary approaches to key issues in Aboriginal Affairs policy and legislation as they relate to Local Government.
- The People and Place Policy Team considered and endorsed the proposed advocacy position changes at the meeting on 25 October.

## **7.4 (SC 8.4) Family and Domestic Violence Advocacy Position**

*Prepared by: Rebecca Hicks, Policy Officer Community*

### **WALGA Recommendation:**

That State Council replace Advocacy Position 3.10.1 Family and Domestic Violence with the following:

#### *3.10.1 Family and Domestic Violence*

1. *Family and domestic violence is unacceptable and has devastating and long-term impacts on individuals, families and communities.*
2. *Preventing family and domestic violence requires commitment from all levels of government, different sectors, and members of the community.*
3. *WALGA calls on the State and Australian governments to provide adequate funding and support for family and domestic violence programs and services, in particular:*
  - a. *Funding for collaborative and connected family and domestic violence programs and services that are place-based and people-centred; and*
  - b. *Better integration of family and domestic violence initiatives, including capacity building across all tiers of government and community services.*

### **Executive Summary:**

- It is proposed that Advocacy Position 3.10.1 Family and Domestic Violence be updated.
- The revised position makes a clear statement on the Local Government sector's condemnation of family and domestic violence and the collective responsibility of governments and the community in prevention.
- The revised position provides a framework for WALGA advocacy to the Australian and State Government, without impinging on individual Local Government's approach to this issue, which will be dependent on their capacity, capability, local context and strategic direction.
- The People and Place Policy Team endorsed the revised Advocacy Position at its meeting on 25 October.

## **7.5 (SC 8.5) Container Deposit System Policy Statement and Advocacy Position**

*Prepared by: Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste*

### **WALGA Recommendation:**

That State Council replace the existing Container Deposit Systems Policy Statement and Advocacy Position

7.6 Container Deposit Systems with the following:

#### *7.6 Container Deposit Systems*

1. *Local Government supports the WA Containers for Change Scheme and acknowledges its contribution to reducing litter, increasing material recovery and providing employment opportunities across the state.*
2. *To maximise the benefits of the WA Scheme, Local Government calls on the State Government to:*
  - a. *Maintain a resource recovery target of 85% for eligible containers and a focus on litter reduction.*
  - b. *Expand the range of containers accepted in the Scheme, by:*
    - i. *2027: to include wine bottles, spirit bottles and larger sizes of currently eligible containers,*
    - ii. *2030: to include plain milk and milk alternative containers and composite container types, and*
    - iii. *2035: other container types.*
  - c. *Ensure national alignment of the materials covered by the Scheme and consistent messaging.*
  - d. *Maintain a State-based and managed Scheme.*
  - e. *Review the deposit amount to appropriately incentivise community engagement.*
  - f. *Increase the number of refund and donation points to ensure community access, including in public places and at events.*
  - g. *Ensure refund points are financially sustainable.*
  - h. *Leverage the refund point collection network to provide drop off points for other materials covered by effective product stewardship schemes.*

### **Executive Summary:**

- WALGA's 2008 Container Deposit Systems (CDS) Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 7.6 Container Deposit Systems, formed the basis of WALGA's advocacy for the introduction and design of a WA CDS, Containers for Change, which commenced on 1 October 2020.
- The current Advocacy Position and many elements of the Policy Statement have been achieved. However, there are aspects of the Scheme that Local Government has identified as important to improve.
- The focus of the updated Advocacy Position is:
  - building on the environmental, social and economic benefits of the current Scheme;
  - expanding the range of containers covered by the Scheme;
  - increasing community access and incentives to use the Scheme; and
  - leveraging the refund point network to collect other materials covered by effective product stewardship schemes.
- The Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) endorsed the new Policy Statement and Advocacy Position at its meeting on 23 October.

## **7.6 (SC 8.6) Bus Stop Infrastructure Agreement**

*Prepared by: Negar Nili, Policy Officer Transport and Roads*

### **WALGA Recommendation:**

That State Council endorse the proposed Bus Stop Infrastructure Partnership Agreement between WALGA and the Public Transport Authority 2024/25 to 2028/29.

### **Executive Summary:**

- WALGA has negotiated a new Bus Stop Infrastructure Partnership Agreement (Agreement) with the Public Transport Authority (PTA). If agreed this will be the third such Agreement, with validity through to 2028/29.
- The Agreement seeks to provide the foundation for an effective working relationship between the PTA and Local Governments.
- The purpose of the Agreement is to clarify the roles, responsibilities and discretion of PTA and Local Governments in the provision and maintenance of bus stop infrastructure in areas with regular public transport SmartRider ticketed services, including regional cities and towns.
- The Agreement defines the roles and responsibilities of the PTA and Local Governments in various scenarios including when bus routes are changed, bus stops are added or removed, and bus stop infrastructure is upgraded.
- The Agreement provides a funding contribution to Local Governments for the maintenance and installation of bus shelters.

## **7.7 (SC 8.7) 2025 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members**

*Prepared by: Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance*

### **WALGA Recommendation:**

That State Council endorse the submission to the 2025 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members.

### **Executive Summary:**

- The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal (SAT) conduct an inquiry into Local Government Chief Executive Officer and Elected Member remuneration annually.
- In preparation for the inquiry to be undertaken early next year, WALGA has prepared a draft submission to SAT that makes recommendations in relation to Elected Member fees and allowances, Chief Executive Officer remuneration, the Regional/Isolation Allowance and independent audit, risk and improvement committee member fees.
- The submission recommends:
  - an increase to Elected Member Fees and Allowances (including maximum reimbursable expenses) of 4%;

- an increase to Chief Executive Officer remuneration bands of 4%;
  - an increase to the Regional/Isolation Allowance payable for Local Governments that are particularly isolated, long distances from population centres, and lacking in amenities;
  - the publication of clear guidance to the Local Government sector outlining how the Regional/Isolation Allowance is applied in terms of methodology, criteria and weightings;
  - the creation of a new fee category for independent audit, risk and improvement committee members without bands, and that the fee be set at a suitable level to recognise the skills and knowledge required for such a role; and
  - that the new category provide a fee for the independent chair position as well as the independent member position.
- SAT will likely publish its determination for 2025-2026 in April 2025.
  - The Governance Policy Team endorsed the submission at its meeting on 4 November.

## **7.8 (SC 8.8) Submission on the Draft State Hazard Plan - Fire**

*Prepared by: Rachel Armstrong, Policy Manager Emergency Management*

### **WALGA Recommendation:**

That State Council endorse the submission on the draft State Hazard Plan – Fire.

### **Executive Summary:**

- The State Hazard Plan - Fire (SHP Fire) outlines the arrangements for the management of fire in Western Australia including fire prevention, preparedness, response and initial recovery.
- Local Governments have a critical role in bushfire management, including statutory responsibilities for mitigation, prevention and response under the *Bush Fires Act 1954* (BF Act) and responsibility for community-led recovery, as provided in the *Emergency Management Act 2005* (EM Act).
- The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) has undertaken a comprehensive review of the SHP Fire and is seeking comments on the revised draft Plan by 9 December ([Engage WA Emergency Management](#)).
- WALGA's draft submission on the draft SHP Fire incorporates feedback from 33 Local Governments and LGIS.
- The submission focusses on the key issues that underpin Local Government's capacity to implement their roles and responsibilities for the hazard of fire including:
  - Emergency Services Funding;
  - The State Emergency Management Framework and Consolidated Emergency Services Legislation; and
  - Bush Fire Brigade management and Work Health and Safety (WHS).
- A detailed list of proposed specific changes to plan is also included.

### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Warr

**Seconded:** Cr Cosgrove

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA supports the WALGA Officers' recommendation for Items 8.3 through to 8.8 in the 6 December 2024 State Council Agenda

**Carried**

## **8. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA – MATTERS FOR NOTING**

***Please refer to Items 9, 10 and 11 of the 6 December 2024 State Council Agenda for details of the following Policy Team and Committee Reports, Matters for Noting/Information and Organisation Reports for Noting.***

### **Recommendation:**

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes State Council Agenda Items 9.0 through to 11.0 as detailed in the 6 December 2024 State Council Agenda.

## **8.1 (SC 9.0) Policy Team and Committee Reports**

- Item 9.1 SC Agenda - Infrastructure Policy Team Report
- Item 9.2 SC Agenda - People and Place Policy Team Report
- Item 9.3 SC Agenda - Governance Policy Team Report
- Item 9.4 SC Agenda - Environment Policy Team Report
- Item 9.5 SC Agenda - Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Report

## **8.2 (SC 10.0) Matters For Noting / Information**

- Item 10.1 SC Agenda - WALGA Strategic Planning Update
- Item 10.2 SC Agenda - Submission on Reform of Packaging Regulation
- Item 10.3 SC Agenda - Submission on the Draft State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies
- Item 10.4 SC Agenda - Local Government Primary Healthcare Survey Report
- Item 10.5 SC Agenda - Renewable Energy Survey Highlights
- Item 10.6 SC Agenda - Flying Agenda: Submission to Main Roads WA on the Revised Western Australia Traffic Signals Approval Policy and Process
- Item 10.7 SC Agenda - Flying Minute: Submission on the Draft Objectives and Priorities for the Upcoming State Public Health Plan
- Item 10.8 SC Agenda - Flying Minute: Submission on the Draft Regional Education Strategy
- Item 10.9 SC Agenda - Flying Minute: Submission on Derbal Yiragan (Swan) Djarlgarro (Canning) Draft River Protection Strategy
- Item 10.10 SC Agenda - Flying Minute: Submission on the State Hazard Plan – Human Biosecurity

## **8.3 (SC 11.0) Organisation Reports For Noting**

- Item 11.1 SC Agenda - Key Activity Reports
  - Item 11.1.1 – Advocacy Portfolio
  - Item 11.1.2 - Infrastructure Portfolio
  - Item 11.1.3 - Member Services Portfolio
  - Item 11.1.4 - Policy Portfolio
- Item 11.2 SC Agenda - President's Report
- Item 11.3 SC Agenda - CEO's Report

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**  
**Moved:** Cr Sims

**Seconded:** Cr Scott

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes State Council Agenda Items 9.0 through to 11.0 as detailed in the 6 December 2024 State Council Agenda.

**Carried**

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## **9. REPORTS**

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### **9.1 Zone President's Report**

Refer to WALGA President's Report

### **9.2 WALGA State Council Representative's Report**

The WALGA State Council Representative's Report for November 2024 is attached.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Sudlow

**Seconded:** Cr Isbister

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the WALGA State Council Representative's Report for November 2024.

**Carried**

**9.3 WALGA President's Report**

The WALGA President's Report for December 2024 is attached.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Sudlow

**Seconded:** Cr Sutherland

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the WALGA President's Report for December 2024.

**Carried**

**9.4 Zone Status Report**

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

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Cosgrove

**Seconded:** Cr Sims

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the November 2024 Status Report outlining actions taken on the Zone's resolutions.

**Carried**

**9.5 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Update**

An update from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries is attached.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Scott

**Seconded:** Cr Isbister

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the November 2024 Update from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

**Carried**

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**10. ZONE MATTERS FOR NOTING/DECISION**

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**10.1 Correspondence**

**10.1.1 Correspondence Out**

**10.1.1 (a) 28/08/2024 Ms Merome Beard MLA**

*Attachment – Letter to Ms Beard*

A letter was sent to Ms Beard notifying her that members had voted in favour of inviting her to future meetings.

## 10.1.2 Correspondence In

### 10.1.2 (a) WALGA - Flying Agendas

The following Flying Agendas (that were out to State Council for Decision), have been received from WALGA since the last NCZ meeting. They were sent to members for their feedback on the dates shown in italics. Please note, this is for reference only and the documents aren't attached again.

- 23/08/2024 Submission on the draft objectives and priorities for the upcoming State Public Health Plan (*sent to members 23/08/2024*)
- 25/09/2024 Submission on Regional Education Strategy (*sent to members 27/09/2024*)
- 04/10/2024 Submission on Derbal Yiragan (Swan) Djarlgarro (Canning) Draft River Protection Strategy (*sent to members 05/10/2024*)
- 29/10/2024 Submission on the State Hazard Plan – Human Biosecurity (*sent to members 29/10/2024*)
- 05/11/2024 Submission on the Productivity Commission Inquiry - Opportunities in the Circular Economy (*sent to members 11/11/2024*)

#### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Sims

**Seconded:** Cr Sudlow

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes Correspondence Out at Items 10.1.1 (a) and Correspondence In at 10.1.2 (a).

**Carried**

## **10.2 Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 31 October 2024**

*Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer*

*Attachments: Bank Statements Aug/Sep/Oct 2024*

#### **Recommendation:**

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31 October 2024.

#### **Comments:**

The Detailed Income Statement shown below represents the cash position of NCZ at 31 October 2024, as reconciled to the Bank Statement.

**NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT**

*For the period ending  
31-Oct-24*

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Description</i>
Statement Balance B/F	01-07-24		9,813.37	
Deposits			16,200.00	2024-2025 Membership Subscriptions x 9
			0.45	Interest Earned
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>			<b>16,200.45</b>	
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</b>			<b>26,013.82</b>	
Payments Made	18-07-24		-2,747.42	Internet Tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 242501 - EO Services 25/04/2024 - 30/06/2024; Travel
	13-08-24		-875.00	Internet Tsf - Shire of Irwin - Inv 18436 - Reimburse Catering for 24 June 2024 NCZ Meeting
	13-08-24		-275.00	Internet Tsf - North Midlands Accounting - Inv 2025-000048 - Audit Report 23-24
	29-08-24		-2,994.06	Internet Tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 242502 - EO Services 01/07/2024 - 28/08/2024; Travel
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS MADE</b>			<b>-6,891.48</b>	
<b>Closing Cash Balance</b>	<b>31-10-24</b>		<b>19,122.34</b>	

**NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA**

**BANK RECONCILIATION SUMMARY**

*For the period ending  
31-Oct-24*

Statement Balance B/F	01-07-24	9,813.37	
Deposits and Credits		16,200.45	
Cheques and Payments		-6,891.48	
<b>Total Cleared Transactions</b>	<b>31-10-24</b>	<b>19,122.34</b>	
Add back o/s		0.00	
<b>Reconciled Balance</b>		<b>19,122.34</b>	
<b>Bank Statement</b>	<b>31-10-24</b>	<b>19,122.34</b>	
<b>Difference I&amp;E to Bank Statement</b>		<b>0.00</b>	

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Isbister

**Seconded:** Cr Sutherland

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31 October 2024.

**Carried**

**10.3 Meeting Dates 2025**

*Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer*

**Recommendation:**

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA meets on the following dates in 2025: Monday 24 February 2025; Monday 28 April 2025; Monday 23 June 2025; Monday 25 August 2025; Monday 24 November 2025.

**Background:**

As has been the case in the past, State Council Ordinary meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of March, May, July and December in 2025. The September Regional meeting will be held on Thursday 4 and Friday 5 September 2025.



**Comment:**

Northern Country Zone meetings are scheduled to fall on the Monday of the week prior to State Council meetings, to ensure that NCZ meeting minutes can be delivered to WALGA in a timely manner.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Sudlow

**Seconded:** Cr Isbister

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA meets on the following dates in 2025: Monday 24 February 2025; Monday 28 April 2025; Monday 23 June 2025; Monday 25 August 2025; Monday 24 November 2025.

**Carried**

**10.4 Submissions to the 2025 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members**

*Prepared by: Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance*

**Recommendation:**

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the call for all Local Governments to provide a submission to the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal for its Inquiry and Determination into Local Government Chief Executive Officer and Elected Member Remuneration for 2025-2026.

**Background:**

The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal (SAT) conduct an annual inquiry into Local Government Chief Executive Officer and Elected Member remuneration.

SAT generally advertises its intention to receive submissions in December for its inquiry and Determination in relation to the following financial year. The Tribunal will invite individual Local Governments, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, WALGA, Local Government Professionals WA and other interested individuals to provide information or submissions.

SAT will likely publish its Determination for 2025-2026 in April 2025.

**Comment:**

In preparation for the inquiry to be undertaken early next year, a draft submission from WALGA has been prepared making recommendations to SAT on behalf of the sector in relation to Elected Member fees and allowances, Chief Executive Officer remuneration, the Regional/Isolation Allowance and Independent Audit Member fees. The draft WALGA submission is contained in the December State Council Agenda for Zone and State Council consideration.

Local Governments can also put forward a submission, particularly in relation to their own circumstances, including requests to be classified in a different Band.

WALGA encourages all Local Governments to make a submission to SAT.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Sudlow

**Seconded:** Mayor Clune

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the call for all Local Governments to provide a submission to the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal for its Inquiry and Determination into Local Government Chief Executive Officer and Elected Member Remuneration for 2025-2026.

**Carried**

## **10.5 Cooperation & Shared Services**

*Prepared by: Tony Brown, WALGA  
Attachment: Cooperation and Shared Services Document*

### **Recommendation:**

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the latest version of the Cooperation and Shared Services document.

### **Comment:**

Please find attached the latest version of the Cooperation & Shared Services document. This document was created to capture the collaborative work between Local Governments, showcasing ways to maximise resources to deliver outcomes that would be difficult to achieve alone. Local Governments have contributed to this resource and will be consulted again next year for further updates/modifications.

All CEO's have received this document and were encouraged to share with Councillors and staff to fully display all collaborative work happening within Local Government.

WALGA will be promoting this to Government agencies to display the collaborative work that happens in our sector.

If you have any questions or queries, please contact Tony Brown – [tbrown@walga.asn.au](mailto:tbrown@walga.asn.au) or Naoimh Donaghy – [ndonaghy@walga.asn.au](mailto:ndonaghy@walga.asn.au)

### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Sutherland

**Seconded:** Cr Isbister

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the latest version of the Cooperation and Shared Services document.

**Carried**

## **10.6 Band 4 Local Governments Meeting**

*Prepared by: Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services  
Attachment: WALGA Band 4 Meeting Summary*

### **Recommendation:**

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the background behind the WALGA hosted Band 4 Local Governments meeting, the main outcome from that meeting and the Summary Report attached.

### **Background:**

On 3 September, the Minister for Local Government, Hon Hannah Beasley, hosted a roundtable meeting of all Band 4 Local Governments in WA.

To continue the discussion, WALGA hosted a further meeting of Band 4 Local Governments. The meeting was held on 11 October at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. Chief Executive Officers and Presidents from all 60 Band 4 Local Governments in the State were invited to attend.

Ahead of the meeting, WALGA emailed all Band 4 Local Governments asking for their top three priorities. Responses were received from 33 Local Governments. The top issues (in order of priority) are listed below:

1. Housing
2. Medical services
3. Audit fees
4. Financial Assistance Grants
5. Waste management funding
6. Compliance requirements

7. Financial sustainability
8. ICT systems
9. Renewable energy

These top 9 issues were separated into operational challenges and strategic issues at the meeting and presented for further discussion and comment.

The aim of the meeting was to identify and agree on the top issues facing Band 4 Local Governments, to enable the group to consider and develop potential solutions to these issues, before presenting to the Minister.

#### **ATTACHMENT**

- Band 4 Local Governments meeting summary report

#### **COMMENT**

Overall, 72 representatives from 48 Local Governments attended the meeting on 11 October.

Attached is a summary report from the meeting.

Please note that this report provides a summary of the discussion and feedback received from participants at the meeting. The comments and views are those of participants, and do not necessarily reflect the endorsed position of WALGA or its Members.

As the main outcome of the meeting, WALGA will undertake work on the top four issues identified by the group:

1. Housing;
2. Audit fees;
3. Medical services; and
4. Financial Assistance Grants

WALGA will provide a progress update to all Band 4 Local Governments early next year.

#### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Isbister

**Seconded:** Cr Sutherland

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the background behind the WALGA hosted Band 4 Local Governments meeting, the main outcome from that meeting and the Summary Report attached.

**Carried**

*10.7 and 10.8 were considered en bloc.*

#### **10.7 Native Vegetation Clearing Issues Paper**

*Prepared by: Sarah Coles, Environment Policy Officer*

#### **Recommendation:**

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA:

1. Notes the Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations Issues Paper; and
2. Requests that Members submit their written feedback directly to WALGA for consideration.

#### **Background:**

WALGA has developed an Issues Paper on Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations based on input from Local Government and analysis of Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER), and Appeals Convenor, data. Drawing on this data and Local Government case studies, the Paper outlines challenges Local Governments have encountered in navigating the regulatory system and identifies opportunities for improvement.

WALGA's data analysis identifies that 60% of Local Government clearing permits applications relate to road construction or upgrade. Key challenges relate to the complexity of navigating the regulatory environment, costs

associated with the process and the time taken (for assessment of permits and appeals). These challenges can delay road and infrastructure projects and impact on Local Government's ability to attract and retain grant funding.

Based on discussions with the sector, and recommendations of previous submissions, WALGA has identified a range of potential opportunities to improve the native vegetation process. These focus on DWER process improvements, Local Government capacity building and taking strategic approaches to data collection, clearing permits and offsets:

1. The implementation of a State Government coordinated and funded biodiversity survey program.
2. Funding for a trial using Artificial Intelligence (AI) for biodiversity mapping.
3. DWER to develop a Strategic Offsets framework for Local Government.
4. The introduction of statutory timeframes for determination of referrals, permits and appeals and timely compliance and enforcement.
5. Increased support and capacity building for Local Governments to navigate the native vegetation clearing requirements.
6. Extended default periods for purpose permits and removal of the time limit requirement for maintenance in existing transport corridors.

The Issues Paper has been updated following consideration by the Environment and Infrastructure Policy Teams and is attached for zones' consideration and feedback. In particular Zones are requested to provide feedback on the following:

- a. Does the Issues Paper capture the challenges experienced by Local Government in relation to native vegetation clearing regulations?
- b. The opportunities identified for improving the native vegetation clearing process for Local Government.
- c. Any additional opportunities.

Discussion at the Zone meeting is encouraged. Any written feedback should be provided by Friday, 13 December, to [environment@walga.asn.au](mailto:environment@walga.asn.au).

The Zone can provide feedback at the meeting as well as Local Governments can email WALGA direct by 13 December. Following all Zones feedback an item will be prepared for the Zones and State Council in February/March 2025.

## **10.8 Aboriginal Heritage Survey Program**

*Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer*

### **Recommendation:**

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the Aboriginal Heritage Survey Program and that Local Governments are eligible applicants under the Program.

### **Background:**

The Executive officer received an email on 12/11/2024 from Leah Murphy, Project Officer | Heritage and Property Services Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, requesting that information regarding the 'Aboriginal Heritage Survey Program' (AHSP) be included in a Zone meeting agenda, for your information.

As Local Government authorities are eligible applicants under the AHSP, the Department believes that a discussion about the program would be an opportunity for Northern Country Zone members to determine whether the AHSP would be right for their LGA.

### **Comment:**

A brief outline of the AHSP follows:

The State Government has committed to a 10-year fully funded Aboriginal heritage survey program across the State, to be managed by the Department. Its purpose is to:

1. Survey areas to:
  - o Record Aboriginal heritage for inclusion on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System (ACHIS) and the Register of Places and Objects.

- Ensure Aboriginal heritage information can be accessed easily and relied on as part of statutory approvals under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (Act) to use land where Aboriginal sites are located.
- 2. Accurately remap boundaries of Aboriginal sites and known Aboriginal heritage places where required.
- 3. Confirm locations where Aboriginal heritage has not been identified, meaning activities can be undertaken without the need for approval under the Act.

Further information relating to the AHSP can be found here: [Aboriginal-heritage-survey-program](#)

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Sims

**Seconded:** Cr Isbister

**Item 10.7**

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA

1. Notes the native Vegetation Clearing Regulations Issues Paper; and
2. Requests that Members submit their written feedback directly to WALGA for consideration.

**Item 10.8:**

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the Aboriginal Heritage Survey Program and that Local Governments are eligible applicants under the Program.

**Carried**

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**11. GENERAL BUSINESS**

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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.

**11.1 Call to Guests to Address the Meeting**

The President called on Guests to address the meeting.

Ms Merome Beard; Ms Janet Hartley-West and Mr Nils Hay took the opportunity to update Members on matters of relevance to them.

Mr Hays Mentioned to Members that he would send links to his discussion points. They are inserted below:

**Tourism WA Strategies:**

Tourism WA Destination Management Plans:

<https://assets.australiasgoldenoutback.com/images/AGO-TDMP-Final.pdf>

<https://www.australiascoralcoast.com/acc-tourism-destination-management-plan>

Mid West Regional Tourism Development Strategy

<https://assets.australiasgoldenoutback.com/images/MID-WEST-RTDS.pdf>

**Data Snapshots:**

Mid West Economic Snapshot:

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:caef012f-9fec-4f0e-abe7-db9baa59ce7d>

Mid West Construction & Housing Snapshot:

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:6730e023-ce4b-4411-aec7-01a113fff986>

Batavia Coast Sub-Region Economic Snapshot:

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:4f3a2e0e-7472-4388-892f-5ba1cdc4a38d>

**Mid West Creative Ecology Summit:**

<https://regionalartswa.org.au/programs/mid-west-creative-ecology-summit-2025/>

*Western Power gave their Presentation at this point (refer Item 3.3)*

**11.2 Regional Issues**

**Background:**

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

Nil

**11.3 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

**11.4 Other General Business**

Nil

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**12. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

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**Recommendation:**

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be held on Monday 24 February 2025, commencing at 10 am, hosted by the Shire of Northampton.

Cr Sudlow suggested to Members that the meeting be held in Kalbarri rather than Northampton. Those that wanted to, could come up and stay the night of Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> and a dinner would be organised; then on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am there would be a bus tour, to display the recovery works that have been underway since Cyclone Seroja. For those that didn't want to stay the night, the meeting could be pushed out to 10:30am, as it's quite a long drive for some.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Scott

**Seconded:** Cr Cosgrove

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be held on Monday 24 February 2025, commencing at 10:30am, hosted by the Shire of Northampton in Kalbarri.

**Carried**

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**13. MEETING CLOSURE**

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Meeting declared closed at 12:30pm.