



Northern Country Zone

MINUTES

29 AUGUST 2022

Hosted by the Shire of Mingenew
Mingenew Sports Pavilion
commencing at 10:02am



Table of Contents

1.	OPENING, APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATE TO PRESIDE, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS	3
1.1.1	Opening.....	3
1.1.2	Appointment of Delegate to Preside.....	3
1.1.3	Acknowledgment of Country.....	4
1.1.4	Welcome.....	4
1.1.5	Announcements.....	4
2.	ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES	4
3.	DECLARATION OF INTEREST	6
4.	ADJOURNED BUSINESS	6
5.	MINUTES	6
5.1	Confirmation of Minutes.....	6
5.2	Business Arising from Minutes.....	6
6.	STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR DECISION	6
6.1	(5.1) 2023-24 State Budget Submission (05-0001-03-0006 DM).....	7
6.2	(5.2) Proposed Advocacy Position on Management of Bush Fire Brigades (05-024-02-0059 SM).....	7
7.	STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION	8
7.1	(6.1) Local Government Homelessness Knowledge Hub (05-086-03-0004 VB).....	8
7.2	(6.2) State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement 2023/24 (05-001-03-0001 ID).....	9
7.3	(6.3) Paid Family and Domestic Violence Leave Entitlements Update (05-034-01-0001 DH).....	9
7.4	(6.4) Proposed State Industrial Relations Transition (05-034-01-0001 DH).....	10
7.5	(6.5) 2023-24 State Budget Submission Approach (05-0001-03-0006 DM).....	10
8.	REPORTS	11
8.1	Zone President's Report August 2022.....	11
8.2	WALGA State Council Representative's Report August 2022.....	11
8.3	WALGA President's Report September 2022.....	12
8.4	Zone Status Report August 2022.....	12
9.	ZONE MATTERS FOR NOTING/DECISION	12
9.1	Correspondence.....	12
9.1.1	Correspondence Out.....	12
9.1.2	Correspondence In.....	13
9.2	Audit 2021 - 2022.....	14
9.3	Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 29 July 2022.....	14
9.4	Review of the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007: Consideration of WALGA Discussion Paper.....	15
9.5	Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review project.....	17
9.6	WALGA Best Practice Governance Review Principles – AGM Item.....	18
10.	DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS	19
10.1	Western Power (11:00 – 11:45am).....	19
11.	GENERAL BUSINESS	20
11.1	Guests Address Meeting.....	20
11.2	Regional Issues.....	22
11.3	Regional Tourism Initiatives.....	22
11.4	Other General Business.....	22
12.	DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING	23
13.	MEETING CLOSURE	23

ATTACHMENTS TO THE MINUTES

- Item 5.1: Minutes NCZ Meeting 22 June 2022
- Item 6/7: WALGA State Council Agenda 9 September 2022
- Item 8.1: Zone President's Report
- Item 8.3: WALGA President's Report September 2022
- Item 8.4: Zone Status Report August 2022
- Item 9.1.1: Correspondence Out
 - a. Ms Anne Finlay – Thank you letter
- Item 9.1.2: Correspondence In
 - a. Ms Louise Adamson Main Roads – Mid West Secondary Grain Freight Routes Funding Update/Priority Costings Spreadsheet
 - b. DLGSC Update Key Milestone in Industrial Relations Reform for Local Governments
 - c. WALGA Flying Agenda 20220718 State Budget Submission
 - d. Ms Louise Adamson Main Roads – Mid West Secondary Grain Freight Routes Funding Clarification
 - e. Local Government Agricultural Freight Group re CBH Presentation
 - f. WALGA Flying Agenda 20220811 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act Codesign Phase 2
 - g. Northern Biosecurity Group – Evaluation of Funding Model for RBGs
 - h. Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association – Development of Management Strategy for Pest Birds
- Item 9.2: Audit Report 2021-2022; 30 June 2022 Bank Statement
- Item 9.3: 29 July 2022 Bank Statement
- Item 9.4: WALGA Discussion Paper BAM Act Review
- Item 9.5: WALGA LEMA Review issues Paper
- Item 10.1: Western Power Update
- Item 11.1: DLGSC Update

Zone Delegates were 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, APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATE TO PRESIDE, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Executive Officer took the Chair for the Appointment of a Delegate to preside in the absence of the President and Deputy President.

1.1.1 Opening

The Meeting was declared open at 10:02 am.

1.1.2 Appointment of Delegate to Preside

Matter for Consideration:

A Delegate is to be chosen to Chair the meeting as both the President and Deputy President are apologies for today's meeting.

Comment:

Item 11.2 of the Northern Country Zone Standing Orders states that in the absence of both the President and Deputy President then the Zone shall choose by resolution a Delegate present to preside at the meeting.

Voting Procedure:

If there is more than one nomination, then a vote will take place. If there is only one nomination, then that nominee will preside at the meeting.

Nominations:

Cr Merle Isbister nominated Cr Isabelle Scott.

As no-one else was nominated, Cr Scott was handed the Chair to preside at the meeting.

1.1.3 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.

1.1.4 Welcome

Cr Scott welcomed members and Guests

1.1.5 Announcements

The Executive Officer asked members and guests to sign the Attendance Register.

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

MEMBERS

NB: One Voting Delegate from each Member Council

Shire of Carnamah

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

Shire of Chapman Valley

Cr Kirrilee Warr - President (Tentative)
Cr Darrell Forth - Deputy President
Mr Jamie Criddle - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Coorow

Ms Mia Maxfield - Chief Executive Officer (Proxy)

City of Greater Geraldton

Mr Ross McKim - Chief Executive Officer (Proxy)

Shire of Irwin

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

Shire of Mingenew

Cr Hellene McTaggart
Cr Jon Holmes
Mr Maurice Battilana - Acting Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Morawa

Cr Ken Stokes - Deputy President
Mr Scott Wildgoose - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Northampton

Mr Garry Keeffe – Chief Executive Officer (Proxy)

Shire of Three Springs

Cr Chris Lane - President
Mr Keith Woodward - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

EXECUTIVE

Ms Dianne Daniels - Northern Country Zone Executive Officer
Mr Ian Duncan - WALGA Executive Manager Infrastructure

INVITED GUESTS

Mid West Development Commission	Mr Nils Hay - Chief Executive Officer Mr Tony Emmott - Principal Local Content Advisor
Regional Development Midwest Gascoyne	Ms Karin Grima - Project Manager RDA & Murchison GeoRegion Ms Yvonne Messina - Chair
Dept of Local Government Sport & Cultural Ind	Mr Craig Vinci - Regional Officer Mid West Gascoyne
Main Roads WA	Ms Louise Adamson - Network Manager Mid West-Gascoyne
Western Power	Mr Nicholas Fitzgerald - Community Engagement Manager Mr Ben Bristow - Head of Grid Transformation

APOLOGIES

Shire of Coorow	Cr Moira Girando- President Cr Bruce Jack – Deputy President
City of Greater Geraldton	Cr Jerry Clune
Shire of Mingenew	Cr Gary Cosgrove - President
Shire of Morawa	Cr Karen Chappel – President
Shire of Northampton	Cr Elizabeth Sudlow – President Cr Robert Horstman – Deputy President
Shire of Perenjori	Cr Chris King – President Mr Paul Anderson – Chief Executive Officer
Member for Moore	Mr Shane Love MLA
Member for Geraldton	Ms Lara Dalton MLA
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon. Sandra Carr MLC
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon. Shelley Payne MLC
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon. Darren West MLC
Regional Development Mid West Gascoyne	Mr Mark Holdsworth - Director of Regional Development/Executive Officer
Main Roads WA	Ms Janet Hartley-West - Regional Manager Mid West-Gascoyne
Dept of Local Govt Sport and Cultural Ind	Ms Angele Gray - Regional Manager Mid West Gascoyne

Please note that the item DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS were moved to a position on the agenda prior to GENERAL BUSINESS, to allow the Western Power representatives time to travel to Mingenew following their flight to Geraldton.

3. 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 Helen McTaggart declared a financial interest in Items 9.4 and 9.5

4. ADJOURNED BUSINESS

Nil

5. MINUTES

Attachments: Minutes of the Meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA 27 June 2022

5.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 27 June 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Lane

Seconded: Cr Warr

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 27 June 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Carried

5.2 Business Arising from Minutes

Nil

6. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR DECISION

Attachment: State Council Agenda 9 September 2022

The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 9 September 2022. The Matters for Decision are numbered 5.1 to 5.2 in the State Council Agenda. The Recommendation and Brief only have been included below. Please refer to the attached PDF version of the State Council Agenda for more detail.

6.1 (5.1) 2023-24 State Budget Submission (05-0001-03-0006 DM)

Prepared by: Dana Mason, Manager Economics

Recommendation:

That the 2023-24 State Budget Submission be endorsed.

Executive Summary:

- Each year, WALGA prepares a submission to the State Government outlining the sector's priorities for the upcoming budget.
- The identified priorities will help to deliver a number of important objectives for the future of the State, including:
 1. Supporting industry and diversifying our economy
 2. Taking action on climate change
 3. Supporting the wellbeing of all Western Australians
 4. Delivering a legislative environment that meets the needs of our modern economy and society
- The proposed approach to the 2023-24 Submission and priorities were endorsed by State Council in July via [Flying Minute](#).

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Lane

Seconded: Cr Stokes

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

Carried

6.2 (5.2) Proposed Advocacy Position on Management of Bush Fire Brigades (05-024-02-0059 SM)

Prepared by: Susie Moir, Policy Manager, Resilient Communities

Recommendation:

That the following Advocacy Position on Management of Bush Fire Brigades be endorsed.

Management of Bush Fire Brigades

1. *Bush Fire Brigade volunteers play a critical role in helping to protect their local communities. Local knowledge and skills are integral to bushfire management in Western Australia.*
2. *Future management and funding of volunteer Bush Fire Brigades must:*
 - a) *Recognise the changing risk environment, including work health and safety requirements, and the increasing intensity and frequency of bushfires;*
 - b) *Take account of the differing circumstances of Bush Fire Brigade units and regional variations in bush firefighting approaches; and*
 - c) *Be adequately and equitably resourced through the Emergency Services Levy.*
3. *The State Government, through the Consolidated Emergency Services Act and/or other mechanism's must:*
 - a) *establish a clear framework to enable transfer of Bush Fire Brigades to the State Government if a Local Government decides to do so;*
 - b) *Consult on the process, timeline, and implications for transfer of responsibility for Bush Fire Brigades in accordance with 3(a) through the establishment of a working group comprising representatives of Local Government, Bush Fire Brigades, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES);*
 - c) *Provide for mandatory and minimum training requirements and recognition of competency and prior learning for Bush Fire Brigade volunteers, supported by a fit-for-purpose and universally*

accessible training program, designed in consultation with Bush Fire Brigade representatives, Local Government and LGIS, and managed by DFES; and

d) *Develop a co-designed suite of relevant management guidelines and materials to assist in the management of Bush Fire Brigades.*

4. *The State Government to consider the most appropriate operational model for State Government management of Bush Fire Brigades, which may include the establishment of an independent Rural Fire Service, as recommended in the 2016 Ferguson Report.*

Executive Summary:

- Under the Bush Fires Act 1954, Local Governments have responsibility for the establishment and management of volunteer Bush Fire Brigades (BFBs).
- It is timely for the sector to consider its position on the most appropriate future management arrangements for BFBs as:
 - the State Government is currently preparing the *Consolidated Emergency Services Act*, which is expected to be released for consultation in early 2023; and
 - the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* (WHS Act), enacted in March 2022, has raised the sector's concerns regarding risk and liability in the management of BFBs.
- WALGA consulted the sector on this issue from 24 May to 29 July 2022 through a paper, *Arrangements for management of Bush Fire Brigades: Proposed Advocacy Position* (the Paper).
- A total of 89 submissions were received from Local Governments, representing 64% of the Local Government sector and 77% of Local Governments that manage BFBs.
- Based on the feedback received, a revised Advocacy Position on Management of BFBs is proposed for State Council consideration.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Warr

Seconded: Cr McTaggart

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

Carried

7. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

Attachment: State Council Agenda 9 September 2022

The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 9 September 2022. The Matters for Noting/Information are numbered 6.1 to 6.5 in the State Council Agenda. The Recommendation and Brief only have been included below. Please refer to the attached PDF version of the State Council Agenda for more detail.

7.1 (6.1) Local Government Homelessness Knowledge Hub (05-086-03-0004 VB)

Prepared by: Vikki Barlow, Senior Policy Advisor Community

Recommendation:

That the completion of the Local Government Homelessness Knowledge Hub be noted.

Executive Summary:

- Shelter WA was awarded Lotterywest funding to develop an Online Homelessness Knowledge Hub to provide resources and tools to assist Local Government in responding to homelessness.
- WALGA supported the development of the Hub through a Memorandum of Understanding with Shelter WA and Local Government Professionals WA.

- The Knowledge Hub, which includes a website and training for Local Government, was launched on Friday, 5 August as part of Homelessness Week 2022.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Mr Keeffe

Seconded: Ms Maxfield

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA asks WALGA to investigate the Local Government Homelessness Hub further to ensure there is not a shift of responsibility from State Government to Local Government.

Carried

7.2 (6.2) State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement 2023/24 (05-001-03-0001 ID)

Prepared by: Ian Duncan, Executive Manager, Infrastructure

Recommendation:

That the update on negotiations toward a new State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement be noted.

Executive Summary:

- WALGA has commenced discussions with Main Roads WA concerning the framework and content of an agreement with the State Government that would apply a share of revenue hypothecated from motor vehicle licence fees to Local Government roads. The proposed agreement would supersede the current five-year agreement that expires in June 2023.
- Local Governments are seeking incremental improvement to the existing arrangements and increased funding.
- Both Main Roads WA and WALGA support retaining the broad structure of the current agreement.
- The State Government is seeking to maximise wider benefits from investment in roads managed by Local Governments through stronger commitments to increased employment of Aboriginal people and businesses in road construction, more extensive use of recycled materials in road construction and an increased emphasis on safety outcomes.
- Subject to progress, State Council may need to consider a proposed agreement prior to the December meeting.

7.3 (6.3) Paid Family and Domestic Violence Leave Entitlements Update (05-034-01-0001 DH)

Prepared by: Davina Hunter, Employee Relations Service Manager

Recommendation:

That the update on Paid Family and Domestic Violence Leave Entitlements be noted.

Executive Summary:

- Local Governments operating in the Federal and State industrial relations (IR) systems are currently required to provide employees with a minimum of five days of unpaid family and domestic violence leave (FDVL).
- The Full Bench of the Fair Work Commission (FWC) undertook a review of FDVL entitlements and sought submissions on whether an entitlement to 10 days of paid FDVL should be introduced in modern awards, including the Federal Local Government Industry Award 2020 (Federal Award).
- WALGA made a submission to the FWC on behalf of WA Local Governments and other Local Government Associations supporting the introduction of five days of paid FDVL as a minimum entitlement in the Federal Award.
- In May 2022 the FWC published its provisional view that 10 days of paid FDVL should be included in modern awards.
- In July 2022 the Federal Government introduced a bill to provide all employees in the Federal IR system with 10 days of paid FDVL.

- If this bill is successfully passed, there will be no need for the FWC to amend any modern awards, including the Federal Award, to include an entitlement to paid FDVL as it will become a minimum legislative entitlement in the National Employment Standards (NES) in the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Cth) (FW Act).
- The bill proposes to extend the entitlement of paid FDVL to non-national system employees, meaning that if the bill is successfully passed, Local Governments operating in the State IR system would also be required to provide employees with a minimum of 10 days of paid FDVL.

7.4 (6.4) Proposed State Industrial Relations Transition (05-034-01-0001 DH)

Prepared by: Davina Hunter, Employee Relations Service Manager

Recommendation:

That the update on the proposed State industrial relations (IR) transition be noted.

Executive Summary:

- Although the State IR legislation was Proclaimed on 20 June 2022, it is still unclear whether any declaration that all Local Governments are not “national system employers” for the purpose of the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Cth) (FW Act) will be endorsed by the Federal Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations.
- Therefore the proposed transition and the timeframe for commencement of any transition is also still unclear.
- WALGA continues to advocate on behalf of Local Governments as per item 2.6.1 of WALGA’s Advocacy Positions Manual.

7.5 (6.5) 2023-24 State Budget Submission Approach (05-0001-03-0006 DM)

Prepared by: Dana Mason, Manager Economics

Recommendation:

That the approach for the 2023-24 State Budget Submission, which was endorsed via Flying Minute, be noted.

Executive Summary:

- Each year, WALGA prepares a submission to the State Government outlining the sector’s priorities for the upcoming budget.
- The attached presentation outlines WALGA’s proposed approach and priorities for the 2023-24 submission.
- The Association’s approach to the State Budget Submission was endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute.
- The final submission is provided for the State Council’s endorsement at [Agenda item 5.1](#).

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Isbister

Seconded: Cr Stokes

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes State Council Agenda Items 6.2 – 6.5.

Carried

8. REPORTS

8.1 Zone President's Report August 2022

The Zone President's Report was circulated on Sunday 28 August 2022.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Stokes

Seconded: Ms Maxfield

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the August 2022 report from the Zone President.

Carried

8.2 WALGA State Council Representative's Report August 2022

Cr Moira Girando

Firstly please accept my apologies for being unable to attend this meeting in person, as I am currently on leave.

I have voted on the recent flying agenda item 2022-23 State Budget Submission Approach in the affirmative and forwarded all comments received from member councils to WALGA along with my(our) vote.

All matters pertaining to the WALGA State Council Agenda were forwarded to WALGA for inclusion in the State Council Agenda for the meeting held July 6th 2022. As the zone supported all agenda items I voted accordingly. Results of this meeting can be seen in the published minutes.

State Council was addressed by the Hon John Carey in his capacity as Minister for Local Government mainly on his ambitions for the revised Local Government Act. He did stress that it will be some time before the changes come in to being because of the need to get it right and not rush legislation through. The Minister showed his willingness to listen to the sector and was well received.

State Council was also addressed by Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas on his vision to the City of Perth.

Included in the meeting was the adoption of WALGA'S annual budget - again this can be read in detail on WALGA'S website.

Since the last NCZ meeting I have represented the Zone and WALGA by attending WALGA's Strategic Forum, 2 WALGA Finance and Services Committee Meetings - 2 WALGA Selection Committee meetings and a State Council Info Forum on August 3rd via teams.

Moira J Girando JP
18.08.2022

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Isbister

Seconded: Cr McTaggart

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the WALGA State Council Representative's Report for August 2022.

Carried

8.3 WALGA President's Report September 2022

The WALGA President's Report is attached.

Mr Ian Duncan spoke to the report, noting that the LG Legislative Reform Working Group had met twice so far and the WALGA President and CEO had met with Minister Carey. Mr Duncan highlighted several points that came from the meeting:

- Legislative Reform will not be introduced this calendar year; it will most likely be introduced in March/April 2023;
- The Minister will be writing to all local governments shortly, encouraging them to commence the work on reducing Elected Member numbers or abolishing wards ahead of the 2023 Local Government elections. Mr McKim asked if it is likely that there would be a full spill of Councillors and Mr Keeffe replied that it would only be those that would be up for election anyway – this had been checked with the Department of LG;
- Preferential voting will be optional;
- Twenty one councils will need to work on the election of a Mayor;
- There will be no Wards in Bands 3 and 4 Local Governments.

Mr Duncan also highlighted that WALGA was preparing an item regarding proposed changes to its Constitutional arrangements to present at the upcoming AGM – it is important that Delegates talk to their Councils regarding the proposed changes.

He also noted that if any Councils held issue with the latest ABS population statistics, then it was important to contact the ABS.

He commended the upcoming Local Government Convention to members.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Lane

Seconded: Cr McTaggart

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the WALGA President's Report for September 2022.

Carried

8.4 Zone Status Report August 2022

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

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr McTaggart

Seconded: Ms Maxfield

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

Carried

9. ZONE MATTERS FOR NOTING/DECISION

9.1 Correspondence

9.1.1 Correspondence Out

9.1.1 (a) 15/08/2022 Ms Anne Finlay

Attachment: Letter to Ms Anne Finlay

Following a request from the June 2022 meeting, a thank you letter was sent to Ms Anne Finlay for her contribution to communities in the Mid West during her time working with the Mid West Development Commission.

9.1.2 Correspondence In

9.1.2 (a) 28/06/2022 Main Roads WA

Attachment: Email from Ms Louise Adamson

An update on the Mid West Secondary Grain Freight Routes funding, including a spreadsheet highlighting the high priority roads that were successful in the funding round and a request for the relevant local governments to confirm costings/relevance and to confirm that the allocated funds can be spent in the timeframe proposed – 2022 – 2024.

9.1.2 (b) 07/07/2022 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

Attachment: Email LG Alert

An alert regarding a key milestone in industrial relations reform for local government.

9.1.2 (c) 19/07/2022 WALGA Flying Agenda 20220718 2023-24 State Budget Submission Approach

Attachment: Flying Agenda 20220718 (Forwarded to members 19/07/2022)

State Council have recently requested a modification to the interim submission / Flying Agenda process to better include feedback from the Zones. Flying Agendas are used when WALGA submissions requiring State Council endorsement have a submission date that falls outside of the State Council meeting cycle and are distributed electronically to State Councillors and open to responses for 5-7 days.

Going forward, when a Flying Agenda is distributed to State Council, it will also be sent to all Zone Executive Officers for distribution to Zone Delegates. Zone Delegates are then invited to review the Flying Agenda and provide any feedback they may have directly to their respective State Council representative(s).

The closing date for comments for this Flying Agenda was midnight Monday 25 July 2022.

9.1.2 (d) 26/07/2022 Main Roads WA

Attachment: Email from Ms Louise Adamson

Updated advice on the Mid West Secondary Grain Freight Routes funding.

9.1.2 (e) 10/08/2022 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group

Attachment: Email from Mr Robert Dew

Information regarding a presentation by CBH on their 5/10 year Network Plan.

9.1.2 (f) 11/08/2022 WALGA Flying Agenda 20220811 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act Codesign

Attachment: WALGA Flying Agenda 20220811 (Forwarded to members 11/08/2022)

The Flying Agenda was open for comment until 9am Thursday 18 August 2022.

9.1.2 (g) 16/08/2022 Northern Biosecurity Group

Attachment: Email from Marieke Jansen (Forwarded to NCZ Corella Control Working Group 16/08/2022)

Information about a proposed Stakeholder Workshop at the Geraldton office of DPIRD in the week of 29 August relating to an evaluation of the current funding mechanism for the Declared Pest Rate and Account and Recognised Biosecurity Groups.

9.1.2 (h) 17/08/2022 Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association

Attachment: Email from Linda Vernon (Forwarded to NCZ Corella Control Working Group 17/08/2022)

An invitation to a DPIRD/Strickland Park Economics workshop being held as part of the work being done to develop an overarching management strategy to manage pest birds – corellas, rainbow lorikeets, sulphur crested cockatoos and parakeets.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Warr

Seconded: Cr Keeffe

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes Correspondence Out at Item 9.1.1 (a) and receives Correspondence In at Items 9.1.2 (a) through to 9.1.2 (h).

Carried

9.2 Audit 2021 - 2022

*Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer
Attachments: Audit Report 2021-2022
30 June 2022 Bank Statement*

Recommendation:

That the 2021-2022 Audit Report for the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be received.

Comments:

In the opinion of the Auditor, Mr Dwayne Woollorton of North Midlands Accounting Services, the accounts present fairly the financial position of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA for the financial year ending 30 June 2022. There were no qualifications.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Mr McKim

Seconded: Cr Stokes

That the 2021-2022 Audit Report for the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be received.

Carried

9.3 Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 29 July 2022

*Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer
Attachments: Bank Statement July 2022*

Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 29 July 2022.

Comments:

The Detailed Income Statement shown below represents the cash position of NCZ at 29 July 2022, as reconciled to the Bank Statement.

NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA				
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT				
<i>For the period ending</i>				
29-Jul-22				
	<i>Date</i>	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Description</i>
Statement Balance B/F	01-07-22		10,059.48	
Deposits			10,500.00	2022-23 Membership Subscriptions x 7
			0.00	Interest received
TOTAL RECEIPTS			10,500.00	
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE			20,559.48	
Payments Made	11-07-22		-3,130.66	Internet Tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 222301 - EO Services 12/05/2022-01/07/2022; Travel; Extraordinary meeting (Zoom)
	28-07-22		-275.00	Internet Tsf - North Midlands Accounting - Inv 2023-000003 - 21-22 Audit
	29-07-22		-370.57	Internet Bpay - Shire of Mingenew - Inv 9966 - Reimburse Catering June 2022 meeting
TOTAL PAYMENTS MADE			-3,776.23	
Closing Cash Balance	29-07-22		16,783.25	

NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA				
BANK RECONCILIATION SUMMARY				
<i>For the period ending</i>				
29-Jul-22				
Statement Balance B/F	01-07-22		10,059.48	
Deposits and Credits			10,500.00	
Cheques and Payments			-3,776.23	
Total Cleared Transactions	29-07-22		16,783.25	
Add back o/s			0.00	
Reconciled Balance			16,783.25	
Bank Statement	29-07-22		16,783.25	
Difference I&E to Bank Statement			0.00	

Northern Country Zone Resolution:**Moved:** Cr Isbister**Seconded:** Mr Keefe

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 29 July 2022.

Carried

10:32am Cr McTaggart left the room.

9.4 Review of the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007: Consideration of WALGA Discussion Paper

*Prepared by: Rebecca Brown, Manager Environment and Waste
Attachment: WALGA Discussion Paper BAM Act Review*

Recommendation:

That the Zone endorse the following recommendations:

1. Strategic direction and regional priorities: The State Government develop a strategic framework that enables the prioritisation of biosecurity threats in geographically defined regions and sets targets for declared pest management.
2. Agency responsibilities: The roles and responsibilities of each State Government department responsible for biosecurity management need to be a clearly defined and communicated, a formalised structure for different agencies to work together established, and increased investment made in declared pest management on State Government managed land.
3. Declared Pest Rate and Recognised Biosecurity Groups: If the Declared Pest Rate and Recognised Biosecurity Groups (RBGs) are to continue to be key mechanisms for the management of widespread and established declared pests, changes are required to improve their operation and effectiveness to better support the concept of shared responsibility.
4. Environmental biosecurity: A more balanced view of biosecurity that has a greater focus on environmental biosecurity is required, through increased recognition and management of pest species that have significant ecological impacts.
5. Responses to incursions: Increased and more equitable distribution of funding is required to ensure each step of the biosecurity continuum is adequately resourced for all stakeholders, including Local Government.
6. Management of declared pests in urban areas: Declared pest management in all urban areas requires support through an appropriate funding mechanism.
7. Problematic non-declared pests: The process for the listing of declared pests needs to be timely and transparent to ensure that land managers, including Local Government, are not resourcing the control of an increasing number of problematic non-declared pest species.
8. Sustainable funding model: A sustainable and equitable funding model is required to manage the increasing biosecurity management threat.
9. Compliance and enforcement: The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Developments responsibility for compliance and enforcement needs to be adequately resourced and enacted.
10. Monitoring, research and innovation: Strategic monitoring, use of new technologies and the establishment of data management systems are required to inform biosecurity investment decisions and support adaptive management.
11. Community education and involvement: A stronger focus on community education to increase understanding and awareness will improve engagement with biosecurity management programs and assist with timely incursion responses.

Background:

The first 10-year [statutory review](#) of the [Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007](#) (BAM Act) is currently underway; this is a key opportunity for Local Government to influence the how post-border biosecurity is managed in Western Australia.

The [Independent Panel](#) undertaking the review, is using a three-stage engagement process:

- Stage 1 (closed) - open submissions and a survey to identify major themes and issues
- Stage 2 - stage 1 will 'provide the foundation for participatory processes to further explore themes and issues'
- Stage 3 - broader engagement to get feedback on the findings and potential solutions, expected to take place in late 2022/early 2023.

The Independent Panel is required to make its report, including any recommended amendments to the Act, to the Minister for Agriculture and Food by March 2023.

WALGA prepared a [Discussion Paper](#) to inform comment on the Review, which includes 11 key biosecurity themes and related recommendations reflecting issues raised by Local Government, and those identified in the [Auditor General's 2013 and 2020 Reports](#).

Policy Implications:

WALGA's current Policy Position on Biosecurity, was endorsed in 2017 and is available in the [Advocacy Positions Manual](#) (Section 4.5).

Comment:

WALGA is seeking Zones' consideration of the recommendations included in the Discussion Paper to inform its submission to the Review on behalf of the sector and the development of an updated Biosecurity Advocacy Position. WALGA intends to put an updated Policy Position to the December State Council meeting. Local Governments are also strongly encouraged to make their own submissions to the review as appropriate in Stage 2 and 3.

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

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendations included in the 'Biosecurity Management in Western Australia' Discussion Paper.

Carried**9.5 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review project**

*Prepared by Susie Moir, Policy Manager, Resilient Communities
Attachment: WALGA LEMA Review Issues Paper*

WALGA and the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) Business Unit are working in partnership with key stakeholders to identify options to improve LEMA processes. WALGA has received AWARE funding to undertake the Local Government consultation for the LEMA Review.

WALGA will be delivering a series of workshops with Local Government to contribute to the design of a more streamlined, scalable, and fit-for-purpose LEMA model. The outcomes of the workshops will inform a LEMA Improvement Plan that will be prepared by the SEMC Business Unit.

Interactive workshops are being held in several locations with complimentary refreshments provided.

Target Audience: Chief Executive Officers, Emergency Management staff and Elected Members.

Workshop details below:

- Geraldton 7 September – Geraldton Multipurpose Centre 10.30am – 2:00pm
- Stirling 12 September – City of Stirling Civic Centre, Stirling Room 9:00am – 12:00pm
- Katanning 13 September – Katanning Leisure Centre 10.30am – 2:00pm
- Bunbury 14 September – City of Bunbury Administration, Function Room 10.30am – 2:00pm
- Northam 15 September – Bilya Koort Boodja Centre 10.30am – 2:00pm
- Victoria Park 16 September – Town of Victoria Park Administration Building 9:00am – 12:00pm
- Online workshops – date TBC

Registration

To register for a free LEMA Review workshop, [click here](#) and choose your relevant date and location.

Read more in the [WALGA LEMA Review Issues Paper](#). (attached) Local Governments are also encouraged to provide written feedback by COB Friday 15 October 2022.

For further information please email [Simone Ruane](#), WALGA's LEMA Review Project Lead, or call 92 13 2049.

Mr McKim encouraged members to attend one of the workshops.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Mr McKim

Seconded: Ms Maxfield

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the LEMA Review workshop details.

Carried

10:36 am Cr McTaggart returned to the room and was informed of the outcome of Items 9.4 and 9.5.

9.6 WALGA Best Practice Governance Review Principles – AGM Item

Prepared by: Tim Lane, Manager Strategy and Association Governance

Background:

In March 2022, State Council commissioned the WALGA Best Practice Governance Review (BPGR) with the aim of ensuring WALGA's governance model is contemporary, agile and maximises engagement with members. The BPGR, overseen by a Steering Committee appointed by State Council, is now well underway. The BPGR Steering Committee have formulated a set of governance principles to guide the development of potential governance models.

At a special meeting on 22 August, State Council endorsed the principles, along with an AGM Agenda item which seeks endorsement of the principles by members at the 2022 Annual General Meeting on 3 October. The purpose of the AGM item is to gauge member support for progressing the BPGR to the development of potential models.

Following consideration of the principles at the 2022 AGM, an extensive consultation and engagement process will be undertaken with members on these potential governance models. This will occur during October, November and December, with the intention of using the member feedback to inform a final report. This report will then be considered at Zone meetings in February 2023 and subsequently the March 2023 State Council meeting.

Once the final report is endorsed, Constitutional amendments will be prepared for consideration by State Council, followed by the broader membership at the 2023 AGM. As per WALGA's Constitution, amendments to the Constitution require endorsement by a 75 percent majority at both State Council and a general meeting of members.

Comment:

The AGM Agenda is due to be distributed in late August, ahead of the AGM on Monday, 3 October at Crown Perth.

It is recommended that once the AGM Agenda is distributed, members consider the item and governance principles and inform their registered Voting Delegates on how to vote

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Mr McKim

Seconded: Ms Maxfield

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the WALGA Best Practice Governance Review Principles – AGM Item.

Carried

Item 10.1 Western Power Presentation was given after parts of Further Business had been considered, as the meeting was running slightly early.

10. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

10.1 Western Power (11:00 – 11:45am)

Attachment: Western Power Update

Nicholas Fitzgerald Community Engagement Manager
Ben Bristow Head of Grid Transformation

Mr Fitzgerald and Mr Bristow elaborated on Western Power's planned implementation of the recommendations in the Shepherd Report, their AA5 regulatory submission and their broader strategy for regional customers over the next five years. Questions were then taken.

Subjects covered during the Q&A session:

The possible extension of the 330 KVA power line; Big developers are not investing in the Mid West because of the limitations to power capacity and limitations on the current line not letting green energy back into the grid;

There is a 6-12 months analysis of the future needs of the South West Interconnected System currently underway to decide what transmission infrastructure needs to be built. A decision won't be made on an extension of the 330 KVA line until the analysis is complete.

Households in the regions are limited to 32 amp whereas in the city it is 64 amp; Why the difference?

There is a review underway of the regional and rural standard supply allocations to ensure they are fit for purpose and to support and facilitate the use of renewable energy.

Why has cleaning of power lines in Mullewa tapered off over the last few years?

There are safety concerns around the washing of insulators, so insulators that are more resilient have been installed.

There was talk a few years back that infrastructure would be installed so that WP could turn off certain items, such as airconditioners. What became of that plan?

Mr Fitzgerald and Bristow are to follow up on this.

Telstra and WP working together to put in stand-alone power solutions at strategic towers;

Telstra is a private company and as such needs to invest in its own infrastructure. There is no obligation for them to sit at the table with Western Power. However, if Zone members let Mr Bristow know which Towers are critical (say five from each council area), he can approach Telstra with a proposed solution (which Telstra would then need to pay for).

WP response during periods of Total Fire and Harvest Bans; Western Power Call Centres telling callers that it is a Local Government responsibility, because of the Total Fire and Harvest Bans;

The Government Policy arm, DFES and WP need to sit down together to work through this. Mr Bristow will get in touch with the contracted Call Centre management to ensure there is a proforma response to power outages that does not include blaming LG.

Management/Maintenance of stand-alone systems; Will local farmers/electricians be accredited to maintain them?

At the moment, contractors that install the systems maintain them, but the intention is to upskill the WP workforce to maintain them. WP currently have an arrangement with an electrician in Kalbarri and one in Perenjori to maintain the mini-grids, but not sure whether or not this will be extended.

Who would pay for capacity upgrades to stand-alone systems;

The technology is modular, so that more batteries/solar/inverters can be added to the system as required, but the cost allocation has not been finalised.

Will there be a Terms of Reference for the analysis of potential investment options for the South West Interconnected System to ensure it becomes carbon neutral by 2050 and can service future demand?

There will be a Terms of Reference and consultation regarding network needs/funding model.

Putting power underground in small towns, such as Perenjori, is a waste because the problems come from the feeder lines;

WP is looking at putting power underground in townsites so that there are fewer environmental factors impacting on reliability, but it's not cost effective to put the long feeder wires underground. Once there is a very reliable system in town, then the feeder lines can be managed.

Astrotourism and the impact of LED street lights;

The LED street lights are more directional, but perhaps there is room to discuss a switch or dimmers that can be accessible to councils.

Cr Scott thanked Mr Fitzgerald and Mr Bristow for their presentation

11. 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.

11.1 Guests Address Meeting

The Chair invited Guests to address the meeting. (*this was done in three tranches, with Mr Hay and Mr Emmott addressing the meeting prior to the Western Power presentation, Ms Grima after the WP presentation and then Mr Craig Vinci and Ms Louise Adamson after Other Business*).

Mr Nils Hay, CEO, Mid West Development Commission

Mr Hay noted that he has now been in the new role as CEO of the Mid West Development Commission for just on two weeks and has stepped into a Strategic refresh – what does the Commission do; better engagement with stakeholders and up to State Government. As there is only a small staff, they will focus on a few key areas such as housing, power.

There is a Local Government position available on the board, with applications closed last week. Mr Hay thanked Cr Chappel for her contribution, as the outgoing Local Government Board member.

The Round 5 Regional Economic Development Grants has closed. It was once again oversubscribed and successful applicants should be notified in late October/November.

Information on the Mid West Gascoyne Major Projects 2022 event can be found at:

<https://www.informa.com.au/event/conference/resources/midwest-gascoyne-major-project-update/>

Information on the Tourism WA Regional Events Grants can be found at:

<https://tourismwares.smartygrants.com.au/>

In closing, Mr Hay reminded members that there is an eclipse in Exmouth in April next year and the community may wish to organise events either side of it, to capture some of the over 1,000 tourists expected to attend.

Mr Tony Emmott, Principal Local Content Advisor, Mid West Development Commission

Mr Emmott briefly addressed the meeting, explaining his role being about demand and supply. On the demand side, he promotes opportunity for local business across government in the Midwest region and on the supply side, he is finding out what businesses are out there and helping them identify pathways to expand and build capacity.

Tony's contact details are:

Tony Emmott | Principal Local Content Advisor
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
20 Gregory Street Geraldton WA 6530
Mob 0428 210 701

Ms Karin Grima, Project Manager, Regional Development Midwest Gascoyne & Murchison Georegion

Ms Grima mentioned the upcoming Jobs and Skills Summit, noting that regional roundtables will be fed into the Summit. More information can be found at treasury.gov.au.

Building Resilient Regional Leaders Initiative (Pilot) was also mentioned and Northampton and Mingenew were mentioned for their excellence in community leadership during a crisis situation.

The StoryTowns podcasts add a local layer to great work already being done by Tourism WA and Australia's Golden Outback.

Cr McTaggart asked if there was any opportunity to have online forums for the Leadership WA Forum in November as it is in the middle of harvest. Ms Grima thought that would be a possibility, but there were already 50-80 participants, so there could be no guarantee with flexibility.

Ms Yvonne Messina – Chair, Regional Development Midwest Gascoyne

Ms Grima had nothing further to add but thanked members for inviting her to the meeting. She enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with them all, even if she couldn't always attend.

Mr Craig Vinci, Regional Officer Mid West Gascoyne, DLGSC

Mr Vinci noted that the Culture & Arts online grants page was now open. The Sport and Recreation Grant (less than \$300k) closes on 31/08 and the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (over \$300k) closes on 30/09.

Sport West has been undertaking a study of local sport. The study shows that local sport brings health and monetary benefits to a community.

Cr McTaggart queried if there was any flexibility in the time to get funded projects completed, due to the difficulty in getting infrastructure work done at the moment.

Mr Vinci had not received an update on this matter.

He mentioned that the Regional Trails Masterplan was complete and had copies available for members.

Ms Louise Adamson, Network Manager Mid West Gascoyne, Main Roads WA

Ms Adamson noted that she will keep members advised on management of the Mid West Secondary Grain Freights Routes Funding.

Mr McKim queried the Geraldton Mt Magnet project and asked if all the money had been spent. Ms Adamson responded that the project (\$17 m to improve and widen shoulders; no overlays) had been paused due to weather, but it will ramp up again in October. There is another \$80 million set aside to put in some overtaking lanes.

Cr Warr asked how the recruitment was going to bring works back in-house and if there would be any impact on infrastructure works underway. Ms Adamson responded that the changeover was to be complete in November; numbers were good and there should be no shortfall. The idea behind this initiative is to bring more money back into the regions.

Cr Warr also brought to the attention of Ms Adamson that Chapman Valley Rd is not on the Mid West Secondary Grain Freight Route as it is a State managed road. However, it received a ranking of 8 in the RAC's top ten risky roads for 2022, which is strong community feedback that it's not good enough.

11.2 Regional Issues

Background:

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

Nil

11.4 Other General Business

The Chair called for Other General Business

11.4.1 Public Consultation West Coast Demersal Scalefish Resource

Mr Garry Keeffe expressed concern that the proposed changes to the WA recreational fishing rules that will see fishers prevented from targeting demersal species for nine months of the year will have an adverse effect on tourism and see businesses closing right down the coast.

The following resolution came out of the discussions.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Mr Keeffe

Seconded: Ms Maxfield

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA send a submission to the Minister for Fisheries and Department of Fisheries including:

- a) that a nine month closure not be implemented; and
- b) that our region be included in the Gascoyne Bioregion or request concessions within the existing Bioregion.

Carried

11.4.2 Independent Review into Christmas 2021 Power Outages Recommendation 4 Working Group

Cr Warr voiced concern that not all members were aware of the call from WALGA for nominees to contribute to the Review. So far, the Northern Country Zone had six expressions of interest to take part.

The following Resolution came from the ensuing discussion.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Warr

Seconded: Cr Stokes

That if Northern Country Zone of WALGA nominees are accepted as part of the WALGA Delegation participating in the Independent Review into Christmas 2021 Power Outages Recommendations 4 Working Group, then their names are to be circulated and discussions and findings are to be reported back to the Zone by the Delegates.

Carried

12. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Recommendation:

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be held on Monday 28 November 2022, by Flying Minute.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Lane

Seconded: Cr Maxfield

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be held on Monday 28 November 2022, by Flying Minute.

Carried

13. MEETING CLOSURE

Meeting declared closed at 12:36pm.