



MINUTES

Annual General Meeting

Friday, 25 September 2020

Crown Perth

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AGENDA

WALGA

Annual General Meeting

Held at

Crown Perth, Grand Ballroom

Friday 25 September 2020

The meeting commenced at 4pm

1 Annual General Meeting – Order of Proceedings

1.1 Record of Apologies

- City of Albany
- Town of Bassendean
- Shire of Boyup Brook
- Shire of Carnarvon
- Shire of Coorow
- Shire of Dumbleyung
- Shire of Halls Creek
- Shire of Meekatharra
- Shire of Murchison
- Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku
- Shire of Sandstone
- Shire of Shark Bay
- Shire of Three Springs
- Shire of Williams
- Shire of Woodanilling
- Cr Thomas Oversby Shire of Boyup Brook
- Cr Helen O'Connell Shire of Boyup Brook
- Cr Brett McGuinness Shire of Quairading
- Cr Len Armstrong Shire of Lake Grace
- Cr Ian Mickel Shire of Esperance
- Cr Amanda Yip City of Bunbury
- Cr Anthony Farrell Shire of Chapman Valley
- Mayor Dan Bull City of Bayswater
- Cr Cheryl Kozisek City of Bunbury
- Cr Steven Carter Shire of Dalwallinu
- Cr Keith Carter Shire of Dalwallinu
- Cr Sue Meeking Shire of Kondinin
- Cr Julie Russel Shire of Wickepin
- Cr Steven Martin Shire of Wickepin
- Cr Dot Newton City of Wanneroo
- Mr Tony Nottle City of Busselton
- Cr Jason Russell Shire of Mundaring

1.2 Adoption of Standing Orders

RESOLUTION:

Moved Mayor Shane Van Styn, City of Greater Geraldton
Seconded Cr Julie Brown, City of Gosnells

That the AGM Association Standing Orders be adopted.

CARRIED

1.3 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the 2019 WALGA Annual General Meeting were contained within the AGM Agenda.

RESOLUTION:

Moved Cr Paul Kelly, Town of Claremont
Seconded Mayor Logan Howlett, City of Cockburn

That the Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

CARRIED

2.0 Adoption of Annual Report

Annual Report including audited Financial Statements were distributed to members separately.

RESOLUTION:

Moved President Cr Michelle Rich, Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale
Seconded Mayor Shane Van Styn, City of Great Geraldton

That the 2020 Annual Report including the 2019/20 Audited Financial Statements be received.

CARRIED

3.0 Consideration of Executive and Member Motions

As per motions listed.

4.0 Closure

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 4:29pm.

3. Consideration of Executive and Member Motions

3.1 Drought in Western Australia

Shire of Dundas Delegate to move

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas
Seconded: Cr Rasa Patupis, Shire of Dundas

That WALGA:

- 1. Requests assistance from the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Water and Environment, to reconsider the Federal Government's approach when determining the criteria on what areas are eligible for drought assistance; and**
- 2. Requests the State Minister for Agriculture and Food, to reconsider the State Government approach of not assisting with the drought situation, and if the State cannot help under their Water Deficiency Program that is implemented to cart water, then an alternative assistance package be considered.**

IN BRIEF

The Australian Government has released a drought response, resilience and preparedness plan.

The plan is focused on three themes:

- Immediate action for those in drought.
- Support for the wider communities affected by drought.
- Long-term resilience and preparedness.

Read the detail in the:

[Australian Government's Drought Response, Resilience and Preparedness Plan.](#)

Most regions in WA did not form part of the Drought Program

CARRIED

MEMBER COMMENT

In relation to the above the Hon David Littleproud MP, Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management announced on 1 July 2020 that the Australian Government was investing \$3.9 billion (growing to \$5 billion) in the Future Drought Fund.

This long-term, sustainable investment will make \$100 million available each year to help farmers and communities become more prepared for, and resilient to, the impacts of drought. The first of the Future Drought Funds Programs were announced and began to roll out from July 2020, funding farm business planning, greater access to information for decision-making, adoption of research and technologies, and building the drought resilience of natural resources such as soil and vegetation in agricultural landscapes.

Communities will also benefit through improved regional planning, strengthening networks, leadership and community capabilities and small-scale infrastructure projects.

The eight programs, totalling \$89.5 million, are:

1. The \$20m Farm Business Resilience program will provide farm businesses with training to strengthen their strategic business management skills and develop a farm business plan to build risk management capacity and drought resilience.
2. The \$10m Climate Services for Agriculture program will fund the development and delivery of interactive digital 'climate information services' for the agriculture sector to assist farmers to make real-time decisions.

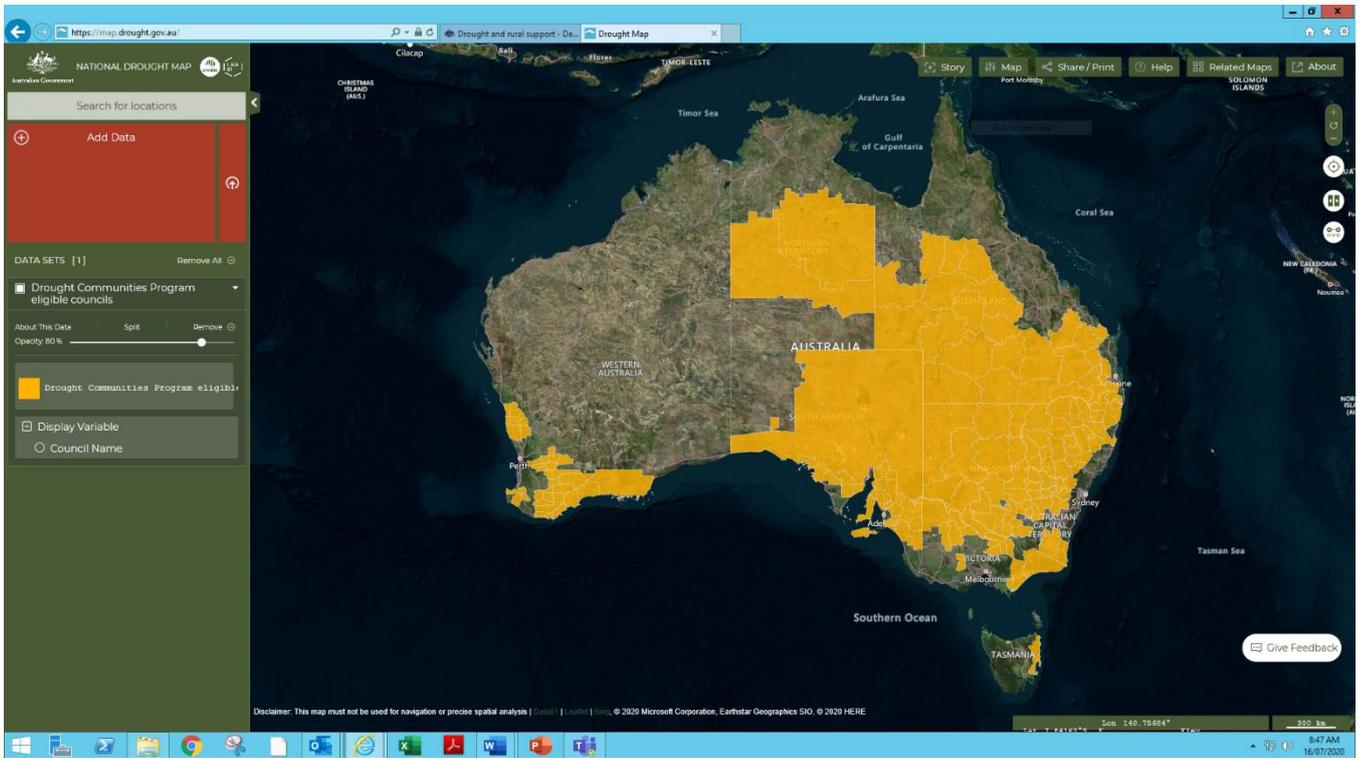
3. The \$3m Drought Resilience Self-Assessment Tool will provide an online self-assessment tool for farmers to self-identify drought risks based on a range of social, economic and environmental indicators, and take action to build the drought resilience of their farm business.
4. The \$20.3m Drought Resilience Research and Adoption program will establish two regionally located Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs, and Innovation Grants will become available to research organisations, private sector, industry, not-for-profit organisations and community groups.
5. The \$15m Natural Resource Management (NRM) Drought Resilience program will fund regional NRM bodies to undertake projects to build drought resilience of natural resources on agricultural landscapes, and there will also be grants available to organisations, farmer groups and individuals to undertake NRM projects to build the drought resilience of natural resources on small scales.
6. The \$3.75m Networks for Building Drought Resilience program will support community-driven projects that enhance drought resilience and strengthen networks, including small-scale infrastructure projects to make community facilities drought resilient.
7. The \$7.45m Drought Resilience Leaders program will develop leadership capability in communities and include a mentoring component to foster uptake of innovative practices to build drought resilience of farmers and their businesses.
8. The \$10m Regional Drought Resilience Planning will provide funding to consortia of local councils or equivalent entities to develop Regional Drought Resilience Plans for agriculture and allied industries.

In response to the above announcements on the 1 July 2020, the Western Australian Government was critical of these as they had bypassed critical WA projects that had been presented in a WA Government submission. WA's submission included research and development projects to regenerate degraded and dehydrated lands, projects to prove and promote on-farm desalination, a boost to Strategic Community Water Supplies in the grainbelt and support for horticulture on the Gnangara Mound. While any Federal drought funding is welcomed by the State Government, they felt that this program represents a lost opportunity for WA farmers in need of long-term drought support.

Despite its disappointment with the outcome, the McGowan Government stated it will work with the Federal Government to deliver programs in WA and will continue to push for projects to deal with systemic dry conditions in WA.

Recently the State Government has also declared a water deficiency in another area of the Goldfields Esperance Region in the Shire of Esperance - Cascade area. This is the 12th declaration since May 2019. A declaration is made as a last resort, after continued dry conditions due to climate change have depleted on-farm and State Government managed community water supplies.

<https://map.drought.gov.au/>



The above map identifies the Shires or Regions eligible for this funding. Unfortunately most areas in WA are excluded from any assistance for these programs, and it is important to highlight the Western Australian position as severely impacted with a lack of understanding or support from both Federal and State Governments.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

The motion is in keeping with the State Council resolution of March 2020, requesting WALGA, in consultation with ALGA, to liaise with the WA State Government Ministers for Water, Agriculture and Environment to provide a coordinated holistic response in respect to the ongoing drying climate issues and access to the Drought Communities Funding Program. RESOLUTION 37.1/2020

3.2 State Owned Unallocated Crown Land (UCL) House Blocks

Shire of Dundas Delegate to move

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas
Seconded: Cr Rasa Patupis, Shire of Dundas

That WALGA request the Minister for Local Government, Hon. David Templeman to consider a review into the justification and fairness of the State Government not paying rates on Unallocated Crown Land (UCL).

IN BRIEF

Local Governments impose rates to raise revenue to fund the services and facilities.

The State Government do not pay rates on unallocated crown land.

Request a review into the justification and fairness of the State not paying rates on UCL land.

CARRIED

MEMBER COMMENT

The Shire of Dundas is concerned that the State Government does not pay rates on Unallocated Crown Land. What is not considered is the roads in front of these properties still need to be sealed every ten years, the drains need repairs and verges need to be mowed, not to mention the portion of rates that contribute to the landfill, footy grounds, town-hall, public amenities, swimming pool and the general beautification of the Town.

The Shire of Dundas has 679 Town-site Properties.

The Shire of Dundas has 352 lots of Crown Land within the Town Boundary not paying rates or not vested to anyone to pay rates.

This is just over 50% of blocks in our community that does not pay rates while the infrastructure in-front of these blocks of land has to be maintained by the rest of our community. This equates to \$158,400.00 per year that the community has to find to maintain the infrastructure in front of these properties, which is 16% of the Shire's rates revenue.

The Shire of Dundas believes that the State should review the rate exemption provisions into the justification and fairness of the State Government not paying rates on Unallocated Crown Land (UCL).

An alternative may be for the State to pay a minimum annual maintenance charge on each block to Local Governments to mitigate fire risk and asset management costs for roads, footpaths, drainage etc.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

The above motion is consistent with WALGA's current policy of requesting for a broad review to be conducted into the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under Section 6.26 of the Local Government Act. This would include the current exemption for State Government Unallocated Crown Land (UCL).

It is also worth noting that the Local Government Review Panel have recommended that "*The Economic Regulation Authority (ERA) should be asked to undertake a review of the rating system, including a thorough examination of the case for the current wide range of exemptions*".

DECLARATION

These minutes will be confirmed at the meeting held August 2021.

Signed

 Person presiding at the meeting at which these minutes were confirmed