



GVROC Council Meeting to consider WALGA State Council Agenda Items

Agenda

Friday 20 February 2026
Zoom Videoconference, commencing at 9.00am

CONTENTS

1.	OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS	3
2.	DECLARATION OF INTEREST	3
3.	RECORD OF ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE	3
	3.1 Attendance	3
	3.2 Apologies	3
	3.3 Guests	4
	3.4 WALGA Representatives	4
4.	PRESENTATIONS	5
	4.1 Request to Present at next Meeting in April 2026– Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)	5
5.	MINUTES OF MEETINGS	6
	5.1 Minutes of a Meeting of GVROC to consider WALGA State Council Agenda Items held 24 November 2025	6
	5.2 Matters for Noting	6
6.	WALGA State Council Agenda	8
7.	Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Decision	9
	7.1 Aviation Advocacy Positions	9
8.	Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Noting/Information	13
	8.1 Water Management Discussion Paper update	13
	8.2 Consultation on Draft Climate Change Advocacy Position	15
	8.3 Draft Renewable Energy Planning Code	17
	8.4 2026-27 Federal Budget Submission	20
	8.5 Submission on the Terms of Reference for Inquiry into the Current State of the Australian Tyre Industry and Challenges and Opportunities within the Context of a Circular Economy 21	21
	8.6 Submission on the State Hazard Plan HAZMAT Annex B Space Re-Entry Debris (SPRED) 23	23
	8.7 Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund and Community Night Lights Program Funding Pause	25
	8.8 Flying Minutes Endorsed by State Council	27
9.	Other State Council Agenda Items	28
	9.1 Policy Team and Committee Reports or the Organisational Key Activity Reports State Council Agenda Items	28
	9.2 President’s Report	28
	9.3 Complete Status Report on State Council Resolutions - To the March 2026 State Council Meeting	28
10.	LATE ITEMS as notified, introduced by decision of the Meeting	29
11.	FUTURE MEETINGS	30
12.	CLOSURE OF MEETING	30

GOLDFIELDS VOLUNTARY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS (GVROC)

Videoconference meeting of the GVROC Council to consider WALGA State Council Agenda Items was held Friday 20 February 2026 at 9.00am

AGENDA

1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The purpose of the meeting is to provide advice to the GVROC WALGA State Council Representative, on the Agenda for the WALGA State Council Meeting to be held on 4 March 2026.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Pursuant to the Code of Conduct, Councillors and CEOs must declare to the Chairman any potential conflict of interest they may have in a matter before the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils as soon as they become aware of it. Councillors, CEOs and Deputies may be directly or indirectly associated with some recommendations of the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils. If you are affected by these recommendations, please excuse yourself from the meeting and do not participate in deliberations.

Nil.

3. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1 Attendance

Cr Paul Wilcox	President, Shire of Coolgardie
Cr Tracey Rathbone	Councillor, Shire of Coolgardie
Cr Wayne Johnson	Councillor, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder
Mr Mal Osborne	A/CEO, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder
Cr Laurene Bonza	President, Shire of Dundas (Chair)
Mr Peter Fitchat	CEO, Shire of Dundas
Cr Ron Chambers	President Shire of Esperance
Mr Shane Burge	CEO, Shire of Esperance
Mr Ty Matson	CEO, Shire of Leonora
Mr David Mosel	CEO, Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku
Mr Andrew Mann	Executive Officer, GVROC

3.2 Apologies

Ms Sabine Taylor	A/CEO, Shire of Coolgardie
Cr Sharon Warner	Councillor, Shire of Dundas
Cr Glenn Wilson	Mayor, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Mr Andrew Brien	CEO, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder
Cr Wes Graham	Councillor, Shire of Esperance
Cr Patrick Hill	President, Shire of Laverton
Cr Shaneane Weldon	Councillor, Shire of Laverton
Ms Jackie Hawkins	A/CEO, Shire of Laverton
Cr Peter Craig	President, Shire of Leonora
Cr Paul Warner	President, Shire of Menzies
Cr Jill Dwyer	Councillor, Shire of Menzies
Mr Rob Stewart	A/CEO, Shire of Menzies
Cr Tim Carmody	Councillor, Shire of Wiluna
Cr Jim Quadrio	Councillor, Shire of Wiluna
Mr Matt Macintyre	CEO, Shire of Wiluna
Cr Damian McLean	President, Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku

3.3 Guests

Nil.

3.4 WALGA Representatives

Chistina Colegate	Senior Policy Advisor - Community
Amberley Bradley	Policy Advisor – Emergency Management
Eli Gould	Manager Media and Communications

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Request to Present at next Meeting in April 2026– Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

BACKGROUND

WALGA has been approached by a representative from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) requesting support for a deputation to be provided at Zones meetings to facilitate a targeted, Elected Member/CEO-focused discussion on the Australian Census.

The ABS is seeking insight on local community considerations, participation challenges, and how Census engagement can be strengthened across Western Australia.

This proposal recognises that councillors have distinct responsibilities, insights, and perspectives that extend beyond operational Census delivery.

CEOs and Elected members will also have the opportunity to explore how Census data supports council planning, advocacy, and service delivery, while helping shape future engagement approaches.

The session is designed to be practical, collaborative, and responsive to the priorities and experiences of local governments.

The session would be framed as:

“We are here to listen — what would you like to ask, know, or see changed?”

Focus points:

- Elected-member perspectives
- Local challenges and insights
- Improvement and change
- Value for Local Governments
- Strengthened collaboration

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC agree to have the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to present at its next online WALGA Zone meeting to be held on Friday 24 April 2026.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: *Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie*
Seconded: *Mr Shane Burge, Shire of Esperance*

Carried

5. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

5.1 Minutes of a Meeting of GVROC to consider WALGA State Council Agenda Items held 24 November 2025

Minutes of the GVROC Council Meeting to consider WALGA State Council held Monday 24 November 2025 are presented for adoption (**Attachment 1**).

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Unconfirmed Minutes of the GVROC Council Meeting to consider WALGA State Council held Monday 24 November 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Paul Wilcox, Shire of Coolgardie**
Seconded: Mr Mal Osborne, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder

Carried

5.2 Matters for Noting

The following matters were presented for noting.

1. 2026 Local Government Honours Awards

The Honours Program recognises and celebrates the outstanding achievements and lasting contributions made by Elected Members and officers to their respective Local Government, the Local Government sector, WALGA and the wider community.

There are five awards in the 2026 Program:

1. Local Government Medal
2. Life Membership
3. Eminent Service Award
4. Merit Award
5. Young Achievers Award

All Local Government Elected Members and officers are eligible for nomination for each award.

Nominations are open now and will close at **5:00pm on Thursday, 2 April 2026**.

Further information about the 2026 Honours Program, including the nomination form and guidelines for preparing nominations, are available on the [WALGA website](#).

All awards will be presented later this year at the WALGA Local Government Awards event. More details about the event will be announced shortly.

For more information contact Habiba Farrag, State Council Governance Officer, on 9213 2050 or via email honours@walga.asn.au.

2. Disaster Ready Fund: Round 4 Anticipated to Open in March 2026

The Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) is the Australian Government's key funding program to support projects that reduce disaster risk and strengthen community resilience.

Round Four of the DRF is expected to open in March 2026 with approximately \$200 million available nationally. A strong focus on *construction-ready*, infrastructure-based mitigation projects with clear risk reduction benefits is expected. This is similar to Round 3 which prioritised infrastructure-based projects such as flood levees, cyclone shelters, warning systems. A list of Round 3 projects funded is available at [Disaster Ready Fund | NEMA](#)).

WALGA is providing early notice to Zones and member Local Governments to consideration of both individual and collaborative project opportunities, and pre-planning ahead of the formal announcement.

The DRF is administered by DFES, in Western Australia. Further information is available at [Disaster Resilience Grants - Department of Fire and Emergency Services](#) and by emailing DisasterResilienceGrants@dfes.wa.gov.au.

DRF Round 4 is likely to be released in March 2026, and encourage Local Governments to consider shared or individual disaster risk reduction projects

WALGA will advise the Sector when the DRF is formally announced.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the matters for noting as listed be received and noted.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie**
 Seconded: Mr Mal Osborne, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder

Carried

6. WALGA State Council Agenda

From: Chair GVROC

Background:

GVROC/Goldfields Esperance Zone Delegates are invited to read and consider the WALGA State Council Agenda for its meeting on 4 March 2026, which can be found at **Attachment 2** and can be found via the link [here](#).

The GVROC/Goldfields Esperance Zone can provide comment or submit an alternative recommendation on any of the items, including the items for noting. The GVROC/Goldfields Esperance Zone comment will then be presented to the State Council for consideration at their meeting.

The State Council Agenda items requiring a decision of State Council are extracted for GVROC/Goldfields Esperance Zone consideration in **Section 6** of this Agenda.

Section 8 of the is Agenda also lists those State Council matters for noting plus any additional items from WALGA for the GVROC/Goldfields Esperance Zone to note.

7. Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Decision

7.1 Aviation Advocacy Positions

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council endorse two new Advocacy Positions on Aviation as follows:

- 1. Regional Airports**
WALGA supports the sustainable operation of Local Government owned regional airports and advocates for proportionate regulatory frameworks, targeted funding, and operational guidance to ensure safe, efficient, and resilient airport infrastructure and services.
- 2. Regional and Remote Air Services**
WALGA advocates for reliable, affordable, and equitable regional air services, calling for greater oversight of airline pricing practices, including transparent fare structures and equitable access to discounted and lower-cost fares, to mitigate the impacts of limited competition and dynamic pricing on regional residents, businesses, and essential travel. WALGA also promotes the continued viability of essential routes and recognises regional aviation as an essential service supporting community access, workforce mobility, and regional economic development.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Two new Advocacy Positions are proposed to strengthen WALGA's aviation advocacy framework and to inform WALGA's response to future inquiries and/or consultation relating to aviation.
- The aim of the new positions is to provide clearer and more contemporary guidance on:
 - the sustainability and ongoing viability of Local Government-owned regional airports; and
 - the affordability, reliability and accessibility of regional and remote air services for Western Australian communities.
- The proposed positions will assist WALGA to advocate more effectively on behalf of its Members by:
 - clearly articulating the essential service role of aviation in regional, rural and remote Western Australia;
 - strengthening WALGA's capacity to engage with State and Commonwealth governments on aviation policy and funding; and
 - supporting Local Governments facing regulatory, financial and service-delivery challenges associated with regional aviation.
- The development of the proposed Advocacy Positions has been informed by engagement with a sample of Local Governments, which highlighted shared concerns regarding high regional airfares, service reliability, capacity constraints and the role of aviation in supporting health access, emergency response and regional economic development.
- WALGA currently has two existing aviation Advocacy Positions; however, feedback from Local Governments clarified that the inclusion of additional, targeted policy positions is essential to better reflect contemporary challenges and to strengthen support for Councils.
- The proposed positions build on existing WALGA policy and provide a stronger basis for:
 - sector advocacy;
 - engagement with State Council and Zones to seek feedback; and
 - informing WALGA's potential submission to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Regional Airfares.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The current [WALGA Advocacy Positions](#) relating to Aviation are positions 5.9 Aviation and 5.9.1 Airfare Pricing in Regional Western Australia. The proposed new positions would be in addition to these existing positions.

5.9 Aviation

Position Statement *The Local Government sector supports the Department of Transport's State Aviation Strategy 2020, with more focus required on non-RPT airports to ensure it is representative of all of WA, more focus on general aviation development across WA and noting that the preferred ownership and governance of Local Governments is Council Controlled Organisations. The Local Government sector advocates for a clear position on the economic benefit of airports in regional areas to be included in the future state wide Airports State Planning Policy.*

5.9.1. Airfare Pricing in Regional Western Australia

Position Statement *The Local Government sector supports:*

- 1. An evidence-based assessment commissioned by the State Government to determine the degree to which market structure and other factors influence the cost of providing air services on each route, the pricing structure offered and the actual prices paid.*
- 2. The State Government providing oversight of airfares ensuring transparency, encouraging partnerships between Local Governments and airline carriers to grow the market and the provision of subsidies in some situations.*

BACKGROUND

Aviation plays a critical role in Western Australia, particularly for regional, rural, and remote communities, by providing essential connectivity for access to healthcare, education, employment, and social engagement. Reliable and affordable air services are also vital to regional economic development, workforce mobility, and community resilience, especially where alternative transport options are limited.

WALGA's advocacy on aviation is underpinned by its existing policy framework, which emphasises the need for safe, reliable, and cost-effective air services across regional and remote Western Australia. These policies highlight the critical role of aviation in enabling regional connectivity, supporting service delivery, and contributing to economic development, while recognising the operational and regulatory responsibilities faced by Local Government–managed airports.

WALGA has also contributed to State-level policy development including the State Aviation Strategy 2020. This strategy supports key initiatives including regulating certain routes to support a sustainable service, the Regional Airfare Zone Cap, Regional Airports Development Scheme and regulation of closed charters in some situations. It is anticipated that the Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure will review and refresh the State Aviation Strategy in 2026-27.

At the national level, WALGA engaged in consultation processes leading to the Green and White Papers on Regional Transport and Aviation, representing Local Government perspectives and regional needs.

Two recently initiated inquiries — the Productivity Commission Inquiry into the determinants of regional airfares and the Senate (Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee) Inquiry into the State of Australia's Aviation Sector and its ability to deliver reliable and affordable services to rural, regional and remote communities — provide important opportunities to review and improve policies supporting regional aviation. Both inquiries have overlapping focus areas, including affordability, government intervention, and impacts on regional communities.

To inform its responses to both inquiries, WALGA has engaged with a sample of Local Governments to understand their experiences, challenges, and priorities for regional air services. This engagement has clarified the needs of Local Governments and communities, forming the basis for developing two proposed new Advocacy Positions to support Members and advocate for improved connectivity, affordability, and service sustainability across regional Western Australia.

NEW ADVOCACY POSITIONS

Regional Airports

Position Statement *WALGA supports the sustainable operation of Local Government owned regional airports and advocates for proportionate regulatory frameworks, targeted funding, and operational guidance to ensure safe, efficient, and resilient airport infrastructure and services.*

Background Regional airports are vital for connectivity, economic development, tourism, health access, and emergency response in Western Australia. Local Governments operating regional airports face increasing regulatory and operational pressures, including aviation security requirements, compliance obligations, ageing infrastructure, and limited staffing capacity. Many Council-owned airports cover day-to-day operating costs but lack sufficient capital to fund major infrastructure renewal or security upgrades. Airports that support both community access and FIFO activity can face additional funding constraints despite their ongoing role in servicing regional communities. These challenges highlight the need for regulatory settings and funding arrangements that reflect airport scale, risk profile, and regional operating conditions.

Regional and Remote Air Services

Position Statement *WALGA advocates for reliable, affordable, and equitable regional air services, calling for greater oversight of airline pricing practices, including transparent fare structures and equitable access to discounted and lower-cost fares, to mitigate the impacts of limited competition and dynamic pricing on regional residents, businesses, and essential travel. WALGA also promotes the continued viability of essential routes and recognises regional aviation as an essential service supporting community access, workforce mobility, and regional economic development.*

Background Regional communities rely on air services for essential travel, including access to health care, employment, education, and family connections, particularly where alternative transport options are limited. High airfares, limited availability of lower-cost seats, and opaque pricing structures reduce affordability for residents and businesses, even in markets with more than one airline. Regional air services are also vulnerable to sudden service reductions or route withdrawals, which can isolate communities and disrupt economic and social activity. These challenges underscore the importance of policy settings that support affordability, service continuity, and equitable access.

COMMENT

Engagement with a sample of Local Governments operating airports with Regular Passenger Transport (RPT) services highlighted operational, financial, and service delivery issues affecting both Council-owned airports and regional air services.

Key matters raised by Councils include:

- Airline pricing and equitable access: Complex, opaque, and highly variable fare structures; limited availability of lower-cost seats; competition does not always deliver affordable or equitable outcomes.
- Aviation security requirements: Standards designed for larger airports impose significant operational and financial burdens, with outdated equipment, regulatory ambiguities, and high upgrade costs creating compliance challenges.
- Funding and resource constraints: Many Councils operate airports with limited staff and capital; while day-to-day operating costs may be covered, major infrastructure renewal or expansion and security upgrades are often unfunded.
- Service continuity and reliability: Regional air services are fragile, with sudden route reductions or withdrawals impacting essential travel, community connectivity, and local economies.
- Coordination across governments and industry: Fragmented policy, regulatory, and funding arrangements limit Local Governments' ability to respond quickly to changes, highlighting the need for improved collaboration.
- Regional aviation as an essential service: Airports and air services underpin health access, emergency response, tourism, economic development, and social cohesion, demonstrating their broader value beyond transport alone.

Based on these issues and priorities identified through Local Government engagement, WALGA has developed the two proposed Advocacy Positions above on aviation – one focusing on regional airports and the other on regional and remote air services – to address the challenges of affordability, accessibility, operational sustainability, and service continuity for regional communities.

GVROC COMMENTS

The GVROC provides these additional comments regarding this matter for consideration by WALGA and the State Council.

- The increase in industry activity, in particular the mining industry with FIFO requirements, in regional and remote areas, places increased impacts on LGAs in provision of aviation services and facilities that normally may not be required or needed e.g. Shire of Coolgardie ramped up services and facilities for its airstrip in Kambalda that had previously not been utilised for some time. This industry impact needs to be accounted for when looking at the sustainability of regionally owned airports and the contributions that industry may need to make.
- Further to the above there also should be a better support mechanism provided to small regional LGAs to assist in the administration and management of aviation facilities so they can meet the requirements placed on them e.g. environmental, social and governance regulations.
- The current advocacy positions recommended are quite broad in description and the Shire of Esperance thought that they could be a bit more specific and detailed on certain requirements.
- Shire of Esperance was also recently advised by Minister Dawson that funding for airports is not a State Government responsibility but a Federal Government responsibility and LGAs should be going to the Federal Government with requests. The GVROC disagreed with this position and believes the State Government should provide more funding to upgrade airport facilities in regional WA and would like this to be advocated by WALGA.
- There are many smaller airstrips, some privately owned, around the vast area of the Goldfields Esperance region that are used by the Royal Flying Doctor Service, however many do not meet the requirements, and this poses a danger to the RFDS and regional communities in emergency situations. The GVROC would like WALGA to advocate for more funding to ensure region and remote RFDS used airstrips are kept maintained and up to standard to ensure adequate emergency services are in place when situations arise.

RECOMMENDATION

That the GVROC support the two new WALGA Advocacy Positions on Aviation as follows and also ask WALGA to consider its comments regarding this matter as listed above:

1. Regional Airports

WALGA supports the sustainable operation of Local Government owned regional airports and advocates for proportionate regulatory frameworks, targeted funding, and operational guidance to ensure safe, efficient, and resilient airport infrastructure and services.

2. Regional and Remote Air Services

WALGA advocates for reliable, affordable, and equitable regional air services, calling for greater oversight of airline pricing practices, including transparent fare structures and equitable access to discounted and lower-cost fares, to mitigate the impacts of limited competition and dynamic pricing on regional residents, businesses, and essential travel. WALGA also promotes the continued viability of essential routes and recognises regional aviation as an essential service supporting community access, workforce mobility, and regional economic development.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: *Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie*
Seconded: *Mr Shane Burge, Shire of Esperance*

Carried

8. Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Noting/Information

8.1 Water Management Discussion Paper update

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA has developed a Water Management in Western Australia Discussion Paper exploring issues for Local Governments in managing water resources.
- To inform the Discussion Paper, WALGA undertook research and direct engagement with the sector and reviewed existing Water Advocacy Positions and feedback from WALGA Zones.
- Based on this consultation, the Discussion Paper identifies water security and water efficiency as key themes.
- Feedback on the Discussion Paper will inform the development of a new water management advocacy position.
- Zones and Local Governments are encouraged to provide comments to WALGA by 12 March 2026.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This item relates to [WALGA Advocacy Positions](#) 3.1.1 Service Delivery to Aboriginal Communities, 4.3 Clearing Permits and Water Licenses and Permits, 6.10 Public Open Space (POS) and 6.14 Planning for Water.

ATTACHMENT

- [Water Management in Western Australia Discussion Paper](#)

BACKGROUND

Local Governments contribute to the management of water through strategic planning, land management, development approvals, community behaviour change and, in some cases, direct water service provision. Local Governments' role in water service provision includes drainage, water use and re-use and aspects of wastewater and sewerage services. The challenges for future water management are escalating across Western Australia due to population growth, climate change and increased competition for limited water resources.

To inform the Discussion Paper WALGA reviewed its existing Water Advocacy Positions and motions, feedback from WALGA Zones and undertook research and direct consultation with the sector. Consultation included workshops with both metropolitan and non-metropolitan Local Governments, an online session with 40 officers focused on water security and efficiency and a regionally focused session with 30 Local Government representatives exploring the barriers to being waterwise in a regional setting. In addition, WALGA conducted 14 one-on-one interviews with officers from 22 metropolitan, regional and remote Local Governments to better understand key issues. Further insights were gained through meetings with officers from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and the Water Corporation, as well as internal discussions with WALGA.

COMMENT

From consultation and research WALGA has undertaken with Local Government, two key themes consistently emerged - water security and water efficiency.

Water security relates to the reliable availability, adequate quantity and acceptable quality of water needed to support human health, economic development and environmental amenity. Issues identified include:

- Infrastructure: Funding to repair and upgrade aging Local Government water infrastructure including irrigation, drainage and stormwater systems and to improve reliability of State-managed assets.
- Alternative Sources: Diversifying water supply through non-traditional sources such as recycled water, stormwater harvesting, or desalination to support community assets.
- Licensing: Reforming the current water licensing system, including equity, access and regulatory enforcement.
- Access: Addressing barriers to equitable water access, particularly for regional and remote communities.

- Use: Planning for water allocation and consumption across sectors.

Water efficiency is focused on reducing unnecessary water loss through better practices, technologies and infrastructure. Issues identified include:

- Technology: Adopting waterwise technologies to enhance water efficiency.
- Water Literacy and behaviour change: Increasing water literacy within Local Government and the community to support change management and adaptation within communities.
- Water Sensitive Urban Design: Improving understanding to encourage the adoption of efficient technologies and design standards to reduce water consumption across public and private infrastructure.

Local Governments across Western Australia are addressing water security and efficiency through various actions across strategic infrastructure planning, innovative water management practices and community awareness. A new Water Management Advocacy Position will ensure WALGA can effectively advocate on behalf of the sector in relation to this issue. The Discussion Paper includes options to address these issues and questions for the sector relating to each of the key areas.

Feedback on the Discussion Paper will inform the development of a new water management advocacy position. All Zones and Local Governments are encouraged to provide comments to WALGA by 12 March 2026.

For discussion.

GVROC COMMENTS

The GVROC provide these additional comments for consideration by WALGA in finalising its Water Advocacy position as part of the Water Management Discussion Paper.

- The GVROC as part of its Regional Climate Alliance and in partnership with the Goldfields Esperance Development Commission has just recently completed the Goldfields Esperance Regional Drought Resilience Plan (GE RDRP). There is an action and implementation plan that has been agreed to by the GVROC out of the GE RDRP, that would be useful information for WALGA in developing its water advocacy position. The GE RDRP can be found at the attached link: [Goldfields-Esperance Regional Drought Resilience Plan - Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission \(GEDC\)](#)
- The regularity compliance requirements placed on LGAs for greywater reuse schemes is currently very onerous with years of testing having to be undertaken before approvals will be granted for its implementation, and then also continuing monitoring for compliance, that places a large burden on LGAs capacity and costs. The GVROC would like WALGA to consider this in its water management advocacy to the State Government to try and lessen this burden, given the high level of benefits that can be achieved for the climate and environment from grey water use by LGAs, especially in a drying climate.
- The City of Kalgoorlie Boulder also advised that it would be submitting a response directly back to WALGA on the discussion paper.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Note the Water Management Discussion Paper update as provided.
2. Encourage all GVROC LGAs to provide comments on the discussion paper directly back to WALGA by the 12 March 2026.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: *Mr Mal Osborne, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder*
Seconded: *Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie*

Carried

8.2 Consultation on Draft Climate Change Advocacy Position

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA is undertaking consultation on a revised Climate Change Advocacy Position.
- This Draft was developed following initial consultation, consideration by State Council in March 2025 and feedback from the Environment Policy Team of State Council.
- Since WALGA's current Advocacy Position and Policy Statement were endorsed in 2018, there have been significant legislative, policy, technological and scientific changes.
- An updated climate change advocacy position, which complements other WALGA advocacy positions, will provide a sound basis for WALGA's advocacy.
- WALGA is seeking Council endorsed feedback by 1 May 2026.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This item is intended to replace WALGA's 2018 Climate Change [Advocacy Position](#) and [Policy Statement](#).

ATTACHMENT

The Consultation Paper is available [online](#).

BACKGROUND

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

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

- The national *Climate Change Act 2022* and the Western Australian Climate Change Bill 2023.
- The *Local Government Amendment Act 2023*, which expanded Western Australian Local Governments' general function to include planning for, and mitigating, the risks associated with climate change.
- The release of the Australian Government's [National Climate Risk Assessment](#) and [National Adaptation Plan](#) in 2025.
- Escalation of the transition to renewable energy, uptake of electric vehicles and energy efficiency standards under the National Construction Code.
- Climate science and projections ([international](#), [national](#) and [WA specific](#)) have also become clearer regarding the risks posed by climate change and the need for action to address the consequential impacts.

COMMENT

It is important that the WALGA climate change advocacy position is updated to reflect these changes and the consequent needs and priorities of Local Governments. An updated climate change advocacy position, which complements other WALGA advocacy positions, will provide a sound basis for WALGA's advocacy.

Following initial consultation, consideration by State Council in March 2025 and feedback from the Environment Policy Team, WALGA has developed a revised, draft Climate Change Advocacy Position for Local Government feedback.

WALGA Environment and Waste Team members will be attending Zone meetings in April 2026 to support zone discussions on the draft Advocacy Position.

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

Following consideration of this feedback a final draft advocacy position will be developed and provided to Zones and State Council for consideration, expected to be in July 2026.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

- 1. Note the WALGA Climate Change Advocacy Position Consultation Paper currently out for comment and feedback as provided.**
- 2. Encourage all GVROC LGAs to provide feedback on the consultation paper directly back to WALGA by the 1 May 2026.**

RESOLUTION:

Moved: *Cr Paul Wilcox, Shire of Coolgardie*

Seconded: *Cr Ron Chambers, Shire of Esperance*

Carried

8.3 Draft Renewable Energy Planning Code

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA Advocacy Position 6.17 Renewable Energy Facilities calls for changes to the renewable energy State planning framework to ensure it is fit for purpose to guide the ongoing development of the sector.
- The State Government has released a draft Renewable Energy Planning Code and Guidelines with the aim of establishing a consistent assessment framework, clear development standards, and improved certainty around impacts such as noise, landscape, environmental considerations, and safety.
- The Code initially focuses on wind farms but is designed to expand to other renewable technologies, requiring detailed technical reporting and encouraging (but not regulating) community benefit-sharing agreements.
- Proposed regulatory amendments would align local planning schemes with the Code and classify renewable energy projects valued at \$20 million or more as mandatory significant development, shifting decision-making authority to the WAPC.
- WALGA strongly encourages consideration of the draft Code by Zones. Local Governments should make their own submissions on the draft Code by 10 April 2026 and provide feedback to WALGA to inform our submission on behalf of the sector by 27 February 2026. Council endorsed submissions are preferred.

ATTACHMENT

- [Draft Renewable Energy Planning Code and Guidelines](#)
- [Information Sheet - Proposed Amendments to Local Planning Scheme Regulations](#)
- [Information Sheet - Proposed Amendments to Significant Development Regulations](#)
- [WALGA summary of the draft Renewable Energy Planning Code](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

WALGA's proposed advocacy approach is consistent with WALGA [Advocacy Positions](#):

- 6.1 Planning Principles and Reform
- 6.4 State Development Applications and Decision Making
- 6.16 Energy Transition Engagement and Community Benefit Framework
- 6.17 Renewable Energy Facilities
- 6.18 Priority Agriculture.

BACKGROUND

The growth in the number, size, and complexity of renewable energy facilities across Western Australia is expected to continue as energy generation and other traditional industries de-carbonise their facilities and operations. As a result, the placement and management of renewable energy facilities have become contentious issues in local communities across Western Australia.

In September 2024, WALGA's State Council endorsed three advocacy positions to address concerns related to renewable energy. Advocacy Position 6.17 Renewable Energy Facilities noted that the existing Western Australian Planning Commission's (WAPC) Position Statement: Renewable energy facilities was inadequate to address these concerns, leading to inconsistent application and approvals of renewable energy facilities across the State.

The advocacy position calls for the existing Position Statement: Renewable Energy Facilities to be elevated to a State planning policy, to provide the highest level of planning policy control and ensure the state planning framework is fit for purpose to guide the ongoing development of the sector.

On 12 December 2025, the State Government released a draft Renewable Energy Planning Code (the Code) and associated Guidelines for public consultation. The Code has been prepared to provide guidance to industry, Local Government and communities by:

- introducing a consistent development assessment framework for renewable energy infrastructure across Western Australia.
- establishing clear development standards and application requirements.
- addresses potential land use and environmental impacts, such as noise and landscape considerations.

The initial focus of the Code is on wind farms, with flexibility to expand to other renewable energy developments, including solar farms and battery energy storage systems.

The draft Code covers key planning issues such as safety, noise, shadow flicker, landscape and visual impact, natural environment, natural hazards, aviation safety, electromagnetic interference, transport, construction, and decommissioning.

Under the proposed Code, development applications must include detailed technical reports, whilst community benefit-sharing agreements are encouraged, these agreements sit outside of the planning system.

To enable implementation of the Code, regulatory amendments are proposed to the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015* to support incorporation of the Code into local planning schemes through Model Provisions, introduce standard land-use definitions that will apply to all local planning schemes and guide assessment of new noise-sensitive development near existing or approved wind farms.

There are also proposed reforms to the *Planning and Development (Significant Development) Regulations 2024*, which will classify renewable energy development applications valued at \$20 million or more as mandatory significant development. These projects will be assessed and determined by the WAPC under the State Significant Development Pathway (under Part 11B of the *Planning and Development Act 2005*), and Local Governments role will be to provide commentary to the development application, but final decision-making authority will rest with the WAPC.

Consultation on the draft Code and Guidelines closes 10 April 2026.

COMMENT

WALGA's has advocated for changes to the renewable energy State planning framework to ensure orderly and proper planning of renewable energy facilities and therefore welcomes the release of the draft Renewable Energy Planning Code and Guidelines by the State Government for public comment. This draft Code represents a significant step toward establishing a consistent planning framework to guide the ongoing development of renewable energy facilities across WA - providing important clarity and guidance to WA Local Governments.

The proposed amendments to classify renewable energy projects over \$20 million as 'mandatory significant development' that must be determined by WAPC does not align with WALGA's Advocacy Position 6.4 State Development Applications and Decision Making, as it has the potential to erode Local Government decision making powers and community input. WALGA's position is that Part 11B should be abolished, or, if it is retained, the cost threshold should be raised to \$50 million.

WALGA considers it is essential that the requirement for community benefits be mandated. There are several options that should be examined as potential mechanisms to mandate community benefit-sharing agreements, including (but not limited to) amendments to existing planning or energy legislation or new, standalone legislation.

There is also a lack of guidance regarding appropriate land uses in particular zones, specifically protecting rural land for agricultural purposes, instead stating that wind farms are generally compatible with agricultural land uses. WALGA's position is that regulatory amendments are required to create a model zone through the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015* for land identified as high quality agricultural land (noting most of this land is located in the South West region) known as the 'Priority Agriculture'.

WALGA held two online information sessions on the Code alongside the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage on 5 and 9 February 2026 for Local Government officers and Elected Members respectively.

WALGA will prepare a submission to the State on behalf of the sector to ensure the draft Code delivers positive outcomes for Member Local Governments, communities and industry.

WALGA strongly encourages consideration of the draft Code by Zones. Local Governments should make their own submissions on the draft Code by 10 April 2026 and provide feedback to WALGA to inform our submission on behalf of the sector by 27 February 2026. Council endorsed submissions are preferred.

WALGA's submission will be provided to State Council by flying agenda to meet the submission deadline.

GVROC COMMENTS

The GVROC provide the following comments for WALGA consideration on this item for its submission on behalf of the LGA sector on the State Government Draft Renewable Energy Planning Code.

- Has any consideration been given regarding the clashes between pastoral versus mining leases in the development of the planning code?
- The GVROC understands that most renewable projects will end up going through the new State Government planning approval processes for projects of significance effectively by-passing local governments. This is a concern for the LGAs and local communities that will get a say in the planning and develop of these renewable projects, especially if they have a major impact on their towns. GVROC would like to see that LGAs have a role and are engaged in the approval process even when going through new State Government planning approval processes.
- The GVROC agree with WALGA regarding the \$20 million figure for the classification of renewable projects as mandatory significant development being increased to a minimum of \$50 million and even suggested to be \$100 million, given the current costs of designing and delivering a renewable project in the current economic climate are likely in most cases always to exceed \$20 million. This would make most projects a significant development bypassing the LGAs planning requirements.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. **Note the State Government Draft Renewable Energy Planning Code currently out for comment and feedback to WALGA to inform its submission on behalf of the LGA sector by 27 February 2026.**
2. **Note that Local Governments can make their own submissions on the draft Code due by 10 April 2026.**
3. **Encourage all GVROC LGAs to either provide feedback to WALGA or submit their own submission by the due dates above.**

RESOLUTION:

Moved: *Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie*
Seconded: *Mr Peter Fitchat, Shire of Dundas*

Carried

8.4 2026-27 Federal Budget Submission

BACKGROUND

The Federal Assistant Treasurer recently called for submissions for the 2026-27 Budget.

Each year, ALGA prepares a submission on behalf of the Local Government sector nationally. The 2026-27 ALGA submission requests funding for a range of initiatives across the following key themes:

- Financial sustainability;
- Housing infrastructure;
- Community infrastructure;
- Safer roads;
- Emergency Management; and
- Climate adaptation.

A copy of ALGA's 2026-27 Budget Submission is attached.

WALGA's submission (attached) supports ALGA's, and seeks a commitment to address additional issues of particular importance for WA Local Governments, including:

- Additional ongoing, formula-based targeted funding streams for Local Governments to provide certainty and enable effective planning for community needs.
- A funding contribution to match the Western Australian Government commitment to apply proven road safety countermeasures on 1,474km of regional roads, representing the prioritised sections of the proposed Regional Road Safety Program.
- A dedicated Coastal Hazard Adaptation program.
- Funding support to address the gaps in the Long-Term Cycle Network.
- Dedicated funding for Councils across Australia to improve mitigation and resilience and build their capacity and capability to respond to emergencies in our communities.
- Support for rural and remote Local Governments in Western Australia to cover the costs of providing essential primary healthcare services, until long-term funding and workforce solutions are in place.
- Extension and expansion of the Mobile Network Hardening Program to ensure reliable and resilient telecommunications in peri-urban, rural, regional and remote areas.
- Funding for Stage 2 of the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Routes.

ATTACHMENT

- [WALGA 2026-27 Federal Budget Submission](#)
- [ALGA 2026-27 Federal Budget Submission](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This submission supports existing WALGA Advocacy Positions.

COMMENT

The 2026-27 Federal Budget is an ideal opportunity to advocate for priority initiatives for the WA Local Government sector, following the 2025 Federal Election.

WALGA's submission has been provided to all WA Members of Federal Parliament to highlight these priority initiatives.

WALGA will be seeking opportunities to engage with WA Members of Federal Parliament on these priorities and other key issues for the sector.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC note the WALGA submission on the 2026-27 Federal Budget

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie
Seconded: Mr Mal Osborne, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder

Carried

8.5 Submission on the Terms of Reference for Inquiry into the Current State of the Australian Tyre Industry and Challenges and Opportunities within the Context of a Circular Economy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Industry, Innovation and Science has commenced an [Inquiry](#) into the current state of the Australian tyre industry, and any challenges and opportunities for the industry within the context of a circular economy.
- The first stage of the Inquiry seeks feedback on the Terms of Reference.
- WALGA has developed a short submission, aligned to the [Advocacy Position 7.15 Product Stewardship](#) and previous WALGA submissions on tyre product stewardship.
- The Submission was endorsed by the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) under delegated authority from State Council on 10 December 2025 and lodged with the Committee on 19 December 2025.

ATTACHMENT

- [WALGA submission on the Inquiry into the Current State of the Australian Tyre Industry](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The submission aligns with the current WALGA [Advocacy Position](#) 7.15 Product Stewardship.

7.15 Product Stewardship

- Position Statement
1. *Industry should take responsibility (physical and/or financial) for the waste that it generates through the entire life cycle of the products it produces through the implementation of effective product stewardship. Without effective Product Stewardship, there will be increasing costs for the community, resource recovery targets will be difficult to reach and a transition to a circular economy is unlikely.*
 2. *Effective Product Stewardship is characterised by:*
 - a. *Producers and importers taking responsibility for post consumption product impacts.*
 - b. *Schemes covering the entire cost of product recycling or recovery, including transport.*
 - c. *Leveraging existing Schemes and collection locations.*
 - d. *Being easy and convenient for the community to access.*
 - e. *Having equitable national coverage and access for all, including regional and remote locations.*
 - f. *Being evidence based.*
 - g. *Consistent regulation and implementation across Australia using national Product Stewardship legislation.*
 - h. *Timely action and industry cooperation during Scheme development and implementation.*
 - i. *Being demand based and aiming to recover the maximum amount of material, rather than being limited by targets.*
 - j. *No additional cost to consumers when the product is disposed of post consumption.*
 3. *Local Government calls on the Commonwealth Government to implement effective Product Stewardship schemes for all products that drive environmentally and socially sustainable outcomes through the design, manufacture and distribution of products that can be more easily reused, repaired, recovered or recycled.*
 4. *If national action is not progressed within a reasonable timeframe, or in a way that meets the needs of the Western Australian community, then Local Government supports a State based approach to Product Stewardship.*

BACKGROUND

The Parliament of Australia's Standing Committee on Industry, Innovation and Science has commenced an [Inquiry](#) into the current state of the Australian tyre industry and any challenges and opportunities for the industry within the context of a circular economy.

The first stage of the Inquiry is requesting feedback on the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry. Following this consultation, the Standing Committee will confirm the Terms of Reference and commence development of an inquiry report and recommendations.

The proposed Terms of Reference are:

1. Reviewing tyre manufacturing, distribution, importation, and retail trends.
2. Investigating current practices in tyre reuse, retreading, recycling, and resource recovery, including reviewing federal, state, and local regulations governing tyre production, disposal, and recycling.
3. Exploring technological advancements in tyre design, recycling processes, and alternative materials.
4. Identifying opportunities to develop high-value uses for waste tyres and tyre-derived materials, including applications in construction, manufacturing, and other commercial sectors.
5. Evaluating the effectiveness of the existing circular economy models and identifying opportunities for research and development to support improved sustainable practices.
6. Considering the role of commercially viable product stewardship schemes and whether these should be made mandatory, and identifying infrastructure gaps in collection, processing, and recycling facilities.
7. Investigating environmental, community, and health and safety concerns related to tyre waste and recycling operations.

COMMENT

In managing end of life tyres, waste providers and Local Governments are constrained by high collection costs, limited recycling options and transport costs to processors, along with the cost to recycle the material. Lack of widespread, accessible and affordable disposal options for community members leads to activities such as stockpiling and illegal dumping, creating environmental and health risks and amenity issues within communities.

WALGA [Advocacy Position 7.15 Product Stewardship](#) states effective product stewardship schemes should cover the entire cost of collection and recycling, have equitable coverage, including regional and remote locations, and impose no additional costs on consumers when the product is disposed of post consumption.

The submission focuses on the importance of mandatory product stewardship and identifying the issues Local Governments continue to experience in relation to tyre management. The Submission was endorsed by the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) under delegated authority from State Council on 10 December 2025 and lodged with the Committee on 19 December 2025.

WALGA will undertake further engagement with the sector when the next stage of the Inquiry is released.

GVROC COMMENTS

The GVROC provide the following additional comments for consideration by WALGA on this matter.

- The main issue for LGAs that wish to recycle the product and provide into the circular economy is that the end source production facility and companies need to be in place for this to work. Without them taking the raw or package tyre waste for processing, LGAs will be stuck with the product, even if they start the recycling process without an end production user.
- The danger that the GVROC see with this is that it will be another nice glossy report that will not result in anything unless the supply chain and producers can be identified and it needs at least two production facilities located in regional and metropolitan areas to process the tyres to work.
- The GVROC request that WALGA liaise with CEO at the Shire of Dundas, Peter Fitchat, for further feedback on this matter.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC note the WALGA submission on the Terms of Reference for Inquiry into the Current State of the Australian Tyre Industry and Challenges and Opportunities within the Context of a Circular Economy.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie
Seconded: Mr Peter Fitchat, Shire of Dundas

Carried

8.6 Submission on the State Hazard Plan HAZMAT Annex B Space Re-Entry Debris (SPRED)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The WA Police Force has completed a five yearly review of the State Hazard Plan HAZMAT Annex B Space Re-entry Debris (SPRED).
- WALGA submitted officer-level feedback on the proposed amendments on 22 December 2025, utilising WALGA's established Advocacy Positions and priorities outlined in State Council–endorsed documents, including The West at Its Best.
- WALGA's recommendations focus on clarifying roles and responsibilities, ensuring Local Governments are not assigned Hazard Management Agency functions, and reinforcing the need for strong State-level responsibility and coordination.

ATTACHMENT

- [WALGA submission - State Hazard Plan Annex B SPRED](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This submission related to the following existing WALGA [Advocacy Positions](#):

- 7.1 Waste Management Legislation,
- 8.1 Emergency Management Principles,
- 8.2 State Emergency Management Framework,
- 8.3 Sustainable Grant Funding Model for Emergency Management, and
- 8.11 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA).

BACKGROUND

The WA Police Force has completed a five yearly review of the State Hazard Plan HAZMAT Annex B Space Re-entry Debris (SPRED). Initial review and consultation occurred between January and August 2025 with the WA Space Debris Emergency Response Team, and representatives from the National Emergency Management Agency, Australian Space Agency, State Emergency Management Policy Branch, Department of Fire and Emergency Services (Recovery), Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Department of Health (Radiation Health), and the Department of Communities.

A 12-week broad consultation with the Local Government sector occurred between October and December 2025. The sector was notified via the Local Government Emergency Management e-network and e-newsletter. WALGA submitted officer-level feedback on the proposed amendments on 22 December 2025 via CEO Nick Sloan, guided by existing WALGA Advocacy Positions and budget submissions.

Stakeholder feedback is currently being considered, for which WALGA has received commentary against submission points, noting their acknowledgement and where relevant, their resulting amendments to the Plan.

COMMENT

The Annex outlines activities in line with the State Emergency Management Framework. There was minor reference to Local Government, however, WALGA still found value in reviewing to ensure consistency of responsibilities and providing Local Government representation.

WALGA's comments on the State Hazard Plan – HAZMAT Annex B Space Re-entry Debris (SPRED) draw on and align to previous WALGA State Council endorsed submissions and Advocacy Positions. WALGA's recommendations included to make clear the primary role of WA Police in preparedness and response to SPRED and remove any references to Local Government responsibility to plan for SPRED. It also recommended ensuring inclusion of Local Government in local level incident response structures, such as the Incident Support Group (ISG). The final recommendation was to ensure the SPRED is fully aligned with upcoming revisions to the State Emergency Management Framework.

RECOMMENDATION

That the GVROC note the WALGA submission on the State Hazard Plan HAZMAT Annex B Space Re-Entry Debris (SPRED).

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Paul Wilcox, Shire of Coolgardie**
 Seconded: Mr Peter Fitchat, Shire of Dundas

Carried

8.7 Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund and Community Night Lights Program Funding Pause

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF) and Club Night Lights Program (CNLP) are critical funding streams for Local Government and community sporting organisations investment in sports and recreation infrastructure.
- The 2025-26 budget committed \$88.8 million to the two programs over four years.
- In late 2025 the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport (CITS) informed WALGA that the CSRFF and CNLP funding rounds have been temporarily paused, including remaining funding allocations for 2025-26 and that these programs are being reviewed.
- WALGA understands that funding for these programs is being paused to focus on delivery of the State Government's 2025 sport and recreation election commitments.
- The Local Government sector has not been formally advised of the pausing of these programs, which will have a significant impact on the delivery of community infrastructure projects.
- The WALGA President wrote to the Minister for Sport and Recreation in December 2025 and is awaiting a response (see attachment) to stress the importance of these programs and seeking urgent advice regarding the Government's intention for the remaining 2025-26 funding allocations.
- WALGA is urgently seeking a meeting with the Director General of CITS.
- WALGA will continue to advocate for the ongoing, sustainable funding of the CSRFF and CNLP, separate to election commitments.
- Updates will be provided to State Council and Members as information becomes available.

ATTACHMENT

- [Letter to Minister Saffioti on CSRFF Funding](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This Item for Noting aligns to WALGA [Advocacy Position 3.7 Community Infrastructure](#):

Local Governments own, lease, and maintain vital community infrastructure across Western Australia that delivers essential benefits to local communities. Local Governments face significant funding pressures to ensure this infrastructure is effectively planned, developed, maintained, and enhanced to meet evolving community needs and population growth.

1. WALGA calls on the Australian Government to provide \$500 million per annum for community infrastructure through a national formula based, targeted Local Government funding program.
2. WALGA calls on the State Government to:
 - i. Provide \$60 million per annum for the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund, separate to the PlayOn WA 2030 Funding commitments.
 - ii. Provide \$60 million per annum for community arts and cultural infrastructure,
 - iii. Provide funding for retrofitting accessible design features to community infrastructure,
 - iv. Align all community infrastructure funding with existing State co-contribution of at least two-thirds.

September 2025 - 052.4/2025

BACKGROUND

The CSRFF is a well-established State Government funding program that provides financial assistance to Local Governments and community groups to develop infrastructure for sport and recreation. The CNLP provides financial assistance for sports floodlighting infrastructure. Both programs are well utilised by the sector with funding allocations oversubscribed in recent years.

The funding levels of the CSRFF is an existing priority for WALGA, included in the WALGA [2026-27 State Budget Submission](#) and [State Election priorities](#), and aligned to the Advocacy Position endorsed by State Council in September 2025 (3.7 Community Infrastructure, as included above).

[PlayOn WA](#) is an overarching initiative announced in 2025 to guide State Government investment in community sport and recreation infrastructure. The initiative aims to deliver "2030 by 2030": 2,030 community sport and recreation infrastructure items by 2030 in partnership with Local Governments, clubs and community groups.

In November 2025, WALGA became aware via Members that advertised funding rounds for CSRFF and CNLP had not opened. CITS advised that funding rounds for 2025-26 had been paused while a review of the programs was undertaken. Further information on the impact on current and future rounds was requested but not provided.

WALGA understands that funding for these programs is being paused to focus on delivery of the State Government's 2025 sport and recreation election commitments.

On 17 December 2025, WALGA wrote to the Minister for Sport and Recreation, the Hon Rita Safiotti, raising sector concerns and seeking urgent advice on the Government's intentions regarding the CSRFF and CNLP (see attachment) and requesting to meet to discuss the strategic direction of sport and recreation infrastructure funding. A response to this letter is yet to be received.

Concurrently, Lotterywest is undertaking a grant strategy review on the current state of Lotterywest grant-making and possibilities for its future state. Feedback from Local Governments indicates that this is impacting current grant applications. WALGA has been engaged in the consultation process.

WALGA emphasised the importance of dedicated funding for community sports and recreation infrastructure as part of the submission and Local Government joint hearing to the Inquiry into Community Use of WA Public School Facilities by the Education and Health Standing Committee in late 2025.

COMMENT

The CSRFF and CNLP are critical programs for investment in community infrastructure, based on identified need at the local level. WALGA is advocating strongly for the retention of, and increased funding for these programs, separate to the funding of election commitments and PlayOn WA.

WALGA is urgently seeking clarity and further information on the Government's intentions on this matter. Updates will be provided to State Council and Members as information becomes available.

GVROC COMMENTS

The GVROC provides the following additional comments for consideration of WALGA on this matter.

- The GVROC LGAs are very concerned about this matter and that it seems a stealth way of redirecting funds to election commitments to be delivered.
- This also severely impacts those LGAs that did not receive any election commitments to be delivered in their towns, given their elected Members of Parliament are not part of the current Labor Government but in opposition.
- GVROC support WALGA in requesting that the State Government immediately look at resourcing the Department to allow these grants to start being delivered again.

RECOMMENDATION

That the GVROC:

1. **Note the WALGA update on the State Governments pause of the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF) and Club Night Lights Program (CNLP).**
2. **Note WALGA is urgently seeking clarity and further information on the Government's intentions on this matter.**

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie
Seconded: Cr Paul Wilcox, Shire of Coolgardie

Carried

8.8 Flying Minutes Endorsed by State Council

The following Flying Minutes have been endorsed by State Council since the December 2025 meeting:

- 2026/27 State Budget Submission;
- Select Committee into Land Development and Planning Submission;
- Submission on the Statutory Review of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020*;
- Submission on the Draft State Waste Strategy;
- Submission to the Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability; and
- Sector consultation paper on Compulsory and Voluntary Voting and Election Frequency.
 - Based on State Councillor feedback collected during the Flying Agenda process, refinements will be made to the Discussion Paper. Once finalised the Electoral Reform Discussion Paper will be circulated to all Local Governments. The consolidated feedback would inform a report and proposed advocacy positions to be presented to State Council.

The full Flying Minutes are available on the [WALGA website](#).

RECOMMENDATION

That the GVROC note the WALGA Flying Minutes endorsed by State Council as listed above.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Paul Wilcox, Shire of Coolgardie**
 Seconded: Mr Ty Matson, Shire of Leonora

Carried

9. Other State Council Agenda Items

9.1 Policy Team and Committee Reports or the Organisational Key Activity Reports State Council Agenda Items

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

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC notes the Policy Team and Committee; and the Organisational Key Activity Reports to be presented at the meeting as received.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: *Mr Peter Fitchat, Shire of Dundas***
 Seconded: *Cr Paul Wilcox, Shire of Coolgardie*

Carried

9.2 President's Report

WALGA Recommendation

That the President's Report for March 2026 be received. (refer to Attachment 3)

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC notes the President's Report for March 2026 to be presented at the meeting as received.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: *Mr Peter Fitchat, Shire of Dundas***
 Seconded: *Cr Paul Wilcox, Shire of Coolgardie*

Carried

9.3 Complete Status Report on State Council Resolutions - To the March 2026 State Council Meeting

GVROC COMMENT:

Additional to the Complete Status Report on State Council Resolutions, **Attachment 4** provides the relevant Goldfields Esperance Country Zone Status Report.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC notes the Complete State Council Status Report to the March 2026 State Council meeting and the Goldfields Esperance Country Zone Status Report.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: *Mr Peter Fitchat, Shire of Dundas***
 Seconded: *Cr Paul Wilcox, Shire of Coolgardie*

Carried

10. LATE ITEMS as notified, introduced by decision of the Meeting

Nil.

11. FUTURE MEETINGS

The following suggested dates in 2026 have been set for the GVROC meetings.

- **27 March 2026** in Esperance (to be hosted by Shire of Esperance)
- **29 May 2026** in Wiluna (to be hosted by Shire of Wiluna)
- **31 July 2026** in Menzies (to be hosted by Shire of Menzies)
- **11 September 2026** in Norseman (to be hosted by Shire of Dundas)
- **16-18 September 2026** (WALGA LGA Convention and AGM in Perth)
- **13 November 2026** in Leonora (to be hosted by Shire of Leonora)

The following are the WALGA State Council meeting dates for 2026 with suggested GVROC Zoom video conference meeting dates prior to these to inform the GVROC's representatives attending the meetings with relevant input for State Council Agenda Items:

- 6 May 2026 WALGA State Council Meeting - GVROC meeting on **24 April 2026**
- 1 July 2026 WALGA State Council Meeting - GVROC meeting on **19 June 2026**
- 4 September 2026 WALGA State Council Meeting - GVROC meeting on **21 August 2026**
- 2 December 2026 WALGA State Council Meeting - GVROC meeting on **23 November 2026**

12. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9:54am.