



GVROC Council Meeting to consider WALGA State Council Agenda Items

Minutes

Friday 19 June 2026
Zoom Videoconference, commencing at 9.00am

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GOLDFIELDS VOLUNTARY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS (GVROC)

Videconference meeting of the GVROC Council to consider WALGA State Council Agenda Items was held Friday 19 June 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 1 July 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 Laurene Bonza	President, Shire of Dundas	(Chair)
Mr Peter Fitchat	CEO, Shire of Dundas	
Cr Paul Wilcox	President, Shire of Coolgardie	
Cr Tammy Keast	Councillor, Shire of Coolgardie	(Proxy for Cr Anthony Ball)
Ms Sabine Taylor	A/CEO, Shire of Coolgardie	
Cr Glenn Wilson	Mayor, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder	
Mr Mal Osborne	A/CEO, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder	
Mr Shane Burge	CEO, Shire of Esperance	
Cr Patrick Hill	President, Shire of Laverton	(joined meeting at 9:25am)
Mr Ty Matson	CEO, Shire of Leonora	
Cr Jim Quadrio	Councillor, Shire of Wiluna	
Mr Matt McIntyre	CEO, Shire of Wiluna	
Mr David Mosel	CEO, Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku	
Mr Andrew Mann	Executive Officer, GVROC	

3.2 **Apologies**

GVROC

Cr Sharon Warner	Councillor, Shire of Dundas
Cr Anthony Ball	Councillor, Shire of Coolgardie
Cr Wayne Johnson	Councillor, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder
Cr Ron Chambers	President Shire of Esperance
Cr Wes Graham	Councillor, Shire of Esperance
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 Damian McLean	President, Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku
Cr Tim Carmody	Councillor, Shire of Wiluna

Other

Mayor Mark Irwin	WALGA President
Christine Colgate	WALGA Senior Policy Advisor Community

3.3 **Guests**

Shannon Wood	Manager, Board Governance and Reporting, Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety
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3.4 **WALGA Representatives**

Nil

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety

Shannon Wood - Manager, Board Governance and Reporting at the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety provided a presentation on the Local Grants Commission and provision of grants to Local Governments – **see attached Presentation slides with the minutes.**

5. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

5.1 Minutes of a Meeting of GVROC to consider WALGA State Council Agenda Items held 24 April 2026

Minutes of the GVROC Council Meeting to consider WALGA State Council held Monday 24 April 2026 are presented for adoption (**Attachment 1**).

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Unconfirmed Minutes of the GVROC Council Meeting to consider WALGA State Council held Monday 24 April 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Paul Wilcox, Shire of Coolgardie**
 Seconded: Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton

Carried

5.2 Matters for Noting

The following matters were presented for noting.

1. **DLGIRS** Local Government Division Report – June 2026 (see **Attachment 2**)
2. **DLGIRS** Local Government Alert dated 22 May 2026 on [2026-2027 Differential rate and minimum payment applications](#)
3. **DLGIRS** Local Government Alert dated 28 May 2026 on [Off-road Vehicles Area Grants Program](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

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

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton**
 Seconded: Mayor Glenn Wilson, 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 1 July 2026, which can be found at **Attachment 3** 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 Climate Change Advocacy Position

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council replace the Climate Change Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 4.1 with a new Climate Change Advocacy Position as follows:

1. *Local Government acknowledges the risks associated with, and is committed to addressing, climate change to meet the needs of their communities.*
2. *WALGA calls on the Australian and Western Australian Governments to:*
 - a. *Provide the necessary climate leadership, coordination and action to ensure an orderly transition to achieve emission reduction targets and address the impacts of climate change.*
 - b. *Ensure that Local Government has the funding, guidance and practical support required to meet increasing risk and expanded legislative requirements to plan for, mitigate and adapt to climate impacts.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A new climate change Advocacy Position is proposed to replace the position endorsed by State Council in 2018.
- WALGA released a Consultation Paper and draft Climate Change Advocacy Position in January 2026 for Council endorsed feedback by 1 May 2026.
- 39 Council endorsed submissions and two officer level comments were received:
 - 18 (44%) supported the draft Position.
 - 18 (44%) supported the draft Position with comments and/or proposed changes.
 - four (10%) did not support the draft Position and proposed an alternative.
 - one (2%) did not support the Advocacy Position.
- The draft Advocacy Position has been refined in response to the feedback received, noting that the majority of submissions either supported the draft position in its entirety or supported with comment and/or amendment:
 - “to meet the needs of their communities” has been added to Point 1 to better reflect Local Government context.
 - Point 2b has been revised to:
 - Include explicit reference to increasing risk and expanded legislative requirements and align with language in the *Local Government Act* (mitigation, rather than emissions reduction).
 - Be clear that Local Government must be provided with the funding, guidance and practical support required to meet increasing risk and legislative requirements.
- At its meeting on 25 May 2026, the Environment Policy Team considered this item and recommended that State Council replace the current Climate Change Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 4.1 with the new Advocacy Position.

ATTACHMENT

- [Climate Change Advocacy Position Consultation Report](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item aligns with WALGA's Strategic Pillars:

- **Influence:** Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government and lead policy development for the Local Government sector.
- **Support:** Anticipate, understand and respond to Member needs.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

It is proposed that the [Climate Change Policy Statement](#) and **current** Advocacy Position 4.1 Climate Change as follows:

Local Government acknowledges:

1. *The science is clear: Climate change is occurring and greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are the dominant cause.*
2. *Climate change threatens human societies and the Earth's ecosystems.*
3. *Urgent action is required to reduce emissions, and to adapt to the impacts from climate change that are now unavoidable.*
4. *A failure to adequately address this climate change emergency places an unacceptable burden on future generations.*

Local Government is committed to addressing climate change.

Local Government is calling for:

1. *Strong climate change action, leadership and coordination at all levels of government.*
2. *Effective and adequately funded Commonwealth and State Government climate change policies and programs.*

be **replaced** with (changes following consultation underlined):

1. *Local Government acknowledges the risks associated with, and is committed to addressing, climate change to meet the needs of their communities.*
2. *WALGA calls on the Australian and Western Australian Governments to:*
 - a. *provide the necessary climate leadership, coordination and action to ensure an orderly transition to achieve emission reduction targets and address the impacts of climate change.*
 - b. *ensure that Local Government has the funding, guidance and practical support required to meet increasing risk and expanded legislative requirements to plan for, mitigate and adapt to climate impacts.*

BACKGROUND

In 2018, State Council endorsed a [Climate Change Policy Statement](#) and Advocacy Position, following extensive sector consultation. Since this 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.
- Increased legislative responsibilities, including the *Local Government Amendment Act 2023*, which expanded Western Australian Local Governments' general function under Part 3 s3.1(1A) of the *Local Government Act 1995*:
 - a. To promote the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the district;
 - b. To plan for, and to plan for mitigating, risks associated with climate change; and
 - c. In making decisions, to consider potential long-term consequences and impacts on future generations
- 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.

Work commenced on the review of the current position in 2024. An updated draft position was considered at the March 2025 State Council meeting, with the position referred back to the Environment Policy Team for further development. In January 2026, WALGA released a Consultation Paper and draft Advocacy Position, with Council endorsed feedback requested by 1 May 2026.

COMMENT

Responses were received from 41 Local Governments, 39 Council endorsed submissions and two officer level comments (Karratha and Melville):

- 18 (44%) supported the draft Advocacy Position:
 - Metropolitan: Joondalup, Stirling, Bayswater, Kalamunda, Bassendean, Canning, Cockburn, Melville, Rockingham, Cambridge, Subiaco and Serpentine Jarrahdale.
 - Regional: Harvey, Victoria Plains, Gnowangerup, Kalgoorlie Boulder, Ngaanyatjarraku and Karratha.
- 18 (44%) were supported with comment and/or proposed changes:
 - 7 sought minor wording refinements or small additions:
 - Metropolitan: Belmont, Gosnells and Kwinana.
 - Regional: Dumbleyung, West Arthur, York and Mingenew.

- 11 proposed more substantial amendments:
 - Metropolitan: Mundaring, Armadale, Victoria Park, East Fremantle, Fremantle, Perth and Vincent.
 - Regional: Augusta Margaret River, Busselton, Kent and Cocos (Keeling) Islands.
- Four (10%) did not support the draft Advocacy Position and proposed an alternative position:
 - Regional: Waroona (alternative position). Quairading, Wagin and Cue provided the Central Country Zone position.
- One (2%) did not support the draft Advocacy Position and did not provide an alternative:
 - Regional: Collie.

Responses were received from Local Governments across all Metropolitan Zones and from all but two Country Zones.

Across both metropolitan and regional submissions, Local Governments emphasised that the roles and responsibilities of each level of government in climate change mitigation and adaptation remain unclear, while legislative obligations placed on Local Governments have expanded without a sustainable funding model to support implementation. Small, rural and remote Local Governments raised concerns about their communities' heightened exposure to heat, extreme weather and infrastructure failure, combined with limited local capacity and resources to respond effectively.

The draft Advocacy Position has been refined in response to the feedback received, noting that the majority of submissions either supported the draft position in its entirety or supported with comment and/or amendment:

- “*to meet the needs of their communities*” has been added to Point 1 to better reflect Local Government context.
- Point 2b has been revised to:
 - Include explicit reference to increasing risk and expanded legislative requirements and align with language in the Local Government Act (mitigation, rather than emissions reduction).
 - Be clear that Local Government must be provided with the funding, guidance and practical support required to meet increasing risk and legislative requirements.

The Position has been kept high level, noting that many of the specific matters raised in the feedback are included in other WALGA Advocacy Positions (or will be incorporated when these positions are reviewed) and/or will inform WALGA's more detailed climate advocacy.

A [Climate Change Advocacy Position Consultation Report](#) providing a summary of feedback received and rationale for the changes to the position is attached.

At its meeting on 25 May 2026, the Environment Policy Team considered this item and recommended that State Council replace the existing Climate Change Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 4.1 with the new Climate Change Advocacy Position.

RECOMMENDATION

That the GVROC requests WALGA and the State Council to consider the following points in relation to WALGA's proposed new Climate Change Policy Statement and Advocacy Position before it is endorsed:

- 1. While the advocacy recommendation has been changed, the policy statement has not changed to reflect this new advocacy position, so it is the GVROCs opinion that it does not align with the new recommendations. There needs to be a further review of the policy statement to better align with the new advocacy position.*
- 2. The GVROC would also like to see more focus on regional and local adaptation work not just mitigation of climate change risks, which will allow local communities to build resilience. The GVROC Regional Climate Alliance has examples of what it is doing in relation to adaption projects rather than just mitigation.*
- 3. There requires more attention on funding to address the financial sustainability and capability for local governments to meet the requirements of the climate change policy that is being implemented by State and Federal Governments.*

RESOLUTION:

Moved: *Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton*

Seconded: *Mr Matt McIntyre, Shire of Wiluna*

Carried 10 to 2

Opposed by Mayor Glenn Wilson, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder as not aligned with the City's original response provided to WALGA in the submission process.

Opposed by Cr Paul Wilcox, Shire of Coolgardie, while not against the decision of GVROC, does not feel that the position will be onerous for local governments as currently proposed by WALGA.

7.2 Train Station Precincts Advocacy Position

WALGA Recommendation:

That State Council endorse the following new Advocacy Position:

Train Station Precincts

1. *Local Government supports a coordinated approach to the planning and development of train station precincts that is transport-orientated, place responsive and provides for increased housing density and diversity.*
2. *In developing Train Station Precinct Improvement Plans and Schemes the State Government should:*
 - a. *Respect, acknowledge and build on existing and progressing local planning frameworks.*
 - b. *Ensure effective collaboration, partnerships and coordination across Government agencies and with Local Government.*
 - c. *Prioritise redevelopment of State-owned land to deliver optimal housing and mixed-use outcomes.*
 - d. *Undertake meaningful and ongoing community engagement.*
 - e. *Directly fund and/or implement funding mechanisms to deliver public realm and infrastructure requirements.*
3. *Decisions on any future State-led train station precincts must be evidence-based, transparent and made in consultation with Local Government.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- In November 2025, the State Government [announced](#) it would commence the preparation of Improvement Plans and Improvement Schemes for ten train station precincts across the Perth metropolitan region.
- A new Train Station Precinct Advocacy Position is proposed, which identifies the need for collaborative, place-based, and infrastructure-led precinct planning that enables housing delivery while respecting local planning frameworks and maintaining community confidence, supported by strong State Government coordination and funding.
- The position is intended to support timely and direct engagement with the State Government on sector priorities for current and future State-led train station precincts.
- The draft position has been informed by a review of Council resolutions and feedback from Local Governments, including those associated with the initial ten identified train station precincts.
- The Environment Policy Team endorsed the position at its meeting on 18 May 2026.

ATTACHMENT

- [Rationale New Advocacy Position: Train Station Precincts](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item aligns with WALGA's Strategic Pillars:

- **Influence** – Lead advocacy on issues that are important to Local Government, including coordinated precinct planning and housing delivery.
- **Support** – Anticipate, understand, and respond to Member needs, ensuring Local Governments are effectively engaged in State-led precinct planning processes.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

It is proposed that the **new** Train Station Precincts Advocacy Position be **endorsed**.

This draft position is consistent with, and builds upon, Advocacy Position 6.1 Planning Principles and Reform:

1. *The Local Government sector supports an efficient and effective planning system guided by legislation, policy, and processes that:*
 - a. *facilitates the creation of sustainable and liveable communities and places;*
 - b. *has a focus on strategic planning that delivers on long-term objectives and outcomes that balance social, environmental, cultural, and economic interests;*
 - c. *is easy to understand, accessible and transparent;*

- d. *recognises the diversity of Western Australia and ensures that local environment, context, communities and character are appropriately reflected in planning frameworks and decision making;*
 - e. *ensures decisions are made by the level of government closest to and most impacted by a planning proposal; and*
 - f. *establishes consistent planning frameworks and streamlines planning processes where there is a demonstrated benefit in doing so.*
2. *Reforms to the planning system should:*
- a. *be guided by the above principles;*
 - b. *deliver community benefit;*
 - c. *promote system efficiency, including through the use of technology;*
 - d. *be evidence-based and informed by robust, transparent data;*
 - e. *proceed at an appropriate pace to enable effective implementation;*
 - f. *be informed by engagement with the community; and be amended only with WALGA involvement and consultation with Local Government.*

BACKGROUND

Planning around train stations, including the establishment of local planning frameworks and the determination of development applications, has historically been the responsibility of Local Governments.

In November 2025, the State Government announced it was commencing the establishment of Improvement Plans and Schemes around ten train station precincts across the Perth metropolitan region to streamline planning and development and facilitate housing development. Through this process, the State would become responsible for setting planning frameworks, including elements such as height and zoning, and determining development applications.

The ten station precincts, involving 14 directly affected Local Governments, are listed below:

- Ballajura (City of Swan);
- Bassendean (Town of Bassendean);
- Carlisle/Oats Street (Town of Victoria Park);
- Claisebrook (City of Perth and City of Vincent);
- Cottesloe (Town of Cottesloe and Shire of Peppermint Grove);
- Glendalough (City of Vincent and City of Stirling);
- Morley (City of Bayswater);
- Mosman Park (Town of Mosman Park and Shire of Peppermint Grove);
- Redcliffe (City of Belmont); and
- Swanbourne (Town of Claremont, City of Nedlands and Town of Cottesloe).

Improvement Plans and Schemes for the Ballajura and Redcliffe stations were already underway prior to this announcement. Importantly, the announcement noted these were only the first stations, indicating additional state-led station precincts may be identified in the future.

At its December 2025 meeting, State Council resolved that:

1. *State Council request WALGA to prepare an Advocacy Position in consultation with Members, regarding the transport and planning principles required to ensure quality outcomes in the newly announced "Station Precinct Improvement Plans and Schemes" in Metropolitan Perth and regional stations if included.*
2. *The Advocacy Position will include transport and place-making outcomes on both government controlled and private land that maximise liveability and use of the public transport network.*

RESOLUTION 069.5/2025

To inform the development of the Advocacy Position, WALGA sought feedback from Local Governments associated with the initial ten station precincts, including collecting and reviewing relevant Council reports and resolutions from ten Local Governments.

The draft position supports a coordinated approach to station precinct planning and makes the following key recommendations to support effective development and implementation of Improvement Plans and Schemes:

7.3 Submission on the Cat Act Review

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council endorse the submission on the Review of Cat Act 2011.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- On 13 February 2026 the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS) opened consultation on the second statutory review of the *Cat Act 2011* (the Cat Act).
- All elements of the Cat Act are under review, including registration, enforcement/ compliance, sterilisation, microchipping, breeding and limits on the number of cats.
- WALGA used current Advocacy Positions, previous submissions, a webinar with the sector and opportunity to comment on a draft submission to gather feedback.
- The submission identifies that reform to the legislation is required, in relation to:
 - Consolidation of the Cat Act and *Dog Act 1976*;
 - Stronger provisions for consistent non-compliance;
 - Clear definitions for owned and unowned cats;
 - Development of a Model Cat Local Law;
 - A limit on the number of cats; and
 - Lowering the age of sterilisation.
- Consultation by LGIRS closes at 5:00pm on Monday, 31 August 2026.
- A joint meeting of the Governance and Environment Policy Teams on 25 May 2026 recommended that State Council endorse the submission.

ATTACHMENT

- [Submission on the Review of the Cat Act 2011](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item aligns with WALGA's Strategic Pillars:

- **Influence:** Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government and lead policy development for the Local Government sector.
- **Support:** Anticipate, understand and respond to Member needs.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This submission has been developed based on current WALGA [Advocacy Positions](#):

- 2.12.1 Review of the *Cat Act 2011* and *Dog Act 1976*; and
- 2.12.2 Dog and Cat Management.

And previous submissions and positions on the legislation.

BACKGROUND

On 13 February 2026, the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS) opened [consultation](#) on the review of the *Cat Act 2011* (the Cat Act), the second statutory review of the legislation. The previous review was undertaken in 2019. The Cat Act provides for the control and management of cats and aims to promote and encourage the responsible ownership of cats, and for related matters.

As articulated in the Second Reading Speech, the Cat Act was introduced with the aim to reduce the number of stray cats being euthanised each year, encourage responsible cat ownership and provide for better management of the unwanted impacts of cats on the community and environment.

The submission provides recommendations on provisions in the Cat Act and identifies some of the issues Local Governments experience with implementing the legislation. WALGA used current Advocacy Positions, previous submissions, a webinar with the sector and opportunity to comment on a draft submission to gather feedback.

The webinar, held on 26 March 2026, had 61 registrations from Local Government. Feedback was received, and incorporated, on the draft submission.

The submission was considered, and is recommended to State Council for endorsement, by a joint meeting of the Governance and Environment Policy Teams on 25 May 2026.

COMMENT

In this submission WALGA has identified several areas where reform to the legislation is required, including:

- Consolidation of the Cat Act and *Dog Act 1976*;
- Stronger provisions for consistent non-compliance;
- Clear definitions for owned and unowned cats;
- Development of a Model Cat Local Law;
- A limit on the number of cats; and
- Lowering the age of sterilisation.

In drafting the submission, WALGA has also identified implementation challenges for the sector in particular low registration rates for cats, the lack of a centralised database for registration and limited resourcing.

Cat containment is out of scope of this submission, as the State Government is progressing the [Cat Amendment \(Local Laws\) Bill 2026](#) to enable Local Governments to make cat containment Local Laws. WALGA is engaging separately with the sector on this matter.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC supports the WALGA submission on the Review of *Cat Act 2011*.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: *Mr Ty Matson, Shire of Leonora***
 Seconded: *Mr Matt McIntyre, Shire of Wiluna*

Carried

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

8.1 WALGA 2025 Local Government Emergency Management Survey Findings

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The 2025 WALGA Local Government Emergency Management Survey, undertaken in partnership with Edith Cowan University (ECU), highlights ongoing resource, workforce and funding pressures across the Local Government sector, including rising emergency management expectations, structural funding challenges, grant access difficulties, and increasing staffing and capacity constraints.
- Bushfire risk continues to dominate Local Government emergency management activity, shaping hazard workload, planning, and resource allocation. Reported preparedness for complex, emerging risks (such as cyber and biosecurity threats) remains limited, and Local Governments strongly support improved State-led risk tools to support local risk assessment, Local Government Grants Scheme funding reform, and strengthened sector support.
- 100 Local Governments (73% of sector) completed the survey.
- The 2025 survey findings were presented at the WALGA State Council Strategic Forum session on 4 March 2026, via a sector webinar held on 30 April and at the WALGA Emergency Management Forum on 26 May 2026.
- Key survey findings will be used to inform WALGA advocacy, including a planned review of WALGA's Emergency Management Advocacy Positions during 2026-27.

ATTACHMENT

- [WALGA Emergency Management Survey Summary Report](#)
- [2025 Local Government Emergency Management Survey Report](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This submission is relevant to and affirms WALGA's existing Emergency Management [Advocacy Positions](#):

- 8.1 Emergency Management Principles;
- 8.2 State Emergency Management Framework;
- 8.3 Sustainable Grant Funding Model for Emergency Management;
- 8.8 Local Government Grants Scheme;
- 8.9 Expansion of the Community Emergency Services Manager Program; and
- 8.10 Management of Bush Fire Brigades.

BACKGROUND

WALGA's Local Government Emergency Management Survey has been conducted every two years since 2019 and provides a comprehensive picture of key emergency management pressures and emerging issues across the Local Government sector. Delivered in partnership with Edith Cowan University's (ECU) Survey Research Centre, the 2025 survey achieved strong sector participation, with 100 of Western Australia's 137 Local Governments contributing (73%). The results offer a robust and representative snapshot covering 23 metropolitan and 77 regional councils, all Local Government Bands, and 85 Local Governments with Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade (VBFB) responsibilities, alongside 15 without.

COMMENT

The quantitative summary findings and full data report from the 2025 survey are attached to this item.

2025 Survey Insights at a Glance

Insight One: Expectations are outpacing Local Government capacity

~90% of Local Governments have maintained or increased their emergency management investment, but emergency demands are growing faster. 54% of Local Governments report staffing is insufficient to meet their current emergency management responsibilities. *Local Governments are not under-investing; they are absorbing increasing system demand without a proportional increase in capacity.*

Insight Two: Local Government capacity is under systemic strain

Local Governments are facing critical system-driven workforce, funding, and capability pressures. 80% are now topping up VBFB funding to maintain essential capability. 48% consider the current range of emergency management grant programs (including Disaster Ready Fund, AWARE, Mitigation Activity Fund Grants program as well as Local Government Grants Scheme) to be inadequate.

Insight Three: Proven models should be scaled

Scaling proven models, like the Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) program, is a clear and practical way to strengthen system capability. Targeted capability support delivers results. Among Local Governments without a CESM, 53% would like to have one.

Insight Four: Bushfire is shaping system pressures

Bushfire is dominating the system and forcing structural questions. 91% of Local Governments rank bushfire in their top five hazards; 66% say bushfire crowds out all-hazards work; 41% support transfer of VBFB responsibility to the State, and 55% now support reconsideration of an independent Rural Fire Service.

Insight Five: One State, many realities

Local Governments operate in fundamentally different risk and capacity environments. A single emergency management model cannot meet these diverse needs, reinforcing the importance of a differentiated, risk-based approach, as recognised through the LEMA Improvement Program.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC notes the WALGA 2025 Local Government Emergency Management Survey findings as presented.

RESOLUTION:

**Moved: *Mr Shane Burge, Shire of Esperance*
Seconded: *Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton***

Carried

8.2 Planning and Building Performance Monitoring Project

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA has undertaken the Local Government Performance Monitoring Project annually since 2017.
- The Project collects a range of data on Local Government planning and building regulatory functions and seeks to provide a representative and evidence-based analysis of the performance of the sector.
- The findings of the project are used to build sector capacity and inform and support WALGA's advocacy and policy development, particularly in relation to planning and building regulation reform.
- 52 Local Governments participated in 2024-25, representing approximately 92% of Western Australia's population and 96% of the State's total population growth.
- The 2024-25 data shows that Local Governments continue to maintain high levels of performance in undertaking their strategic and statutory planning and building functions.
- The findings of the Project are available as an online interactive dashboard publicly available through the [WALGA website](#).

ATTACHMENTS

- [Key Indicator Snapshot](#)
- [List of Participating Local Governments](#)
- [Local Government Performance Monitoring Dashboard](#)
- [State Development Assessment Pathways Monitoring Dashboard](#)

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Performance Monitoring Project (the Project) and associated Local Government Performance Monitoring Report (the Report) were initiated by the Growth Alliance Perth and Peel (GAPP) group and WALGA in 2017, in response to inaccurate and misleading reporting of the planning performance of metropolitan Local Governments. The Project and Report have been undertaken annually since that time, with the number of participating Local Governments increasing from 11 to 52 in 2024-25.

The Project collects a range of data on Local Government planning and building regulatory functions and seeks to provide a representative and evidence-based analysis of the performance of the sector.

The findings of the Project are available via a Power BI dashboard on the WALGA website that provides a collated view of all participating Local Governments across the nine years of the Project, and allows Local Governments to analyse and compare performance by year, region or against individual Local Governments.

The dashboard does not compare individual Local Government performance, however it allows individual Local Governments to draw their own comparisons between themselves and other Local Governments, which may be useful for those who have similar development pressures and resourcing.

The data collected via the Project is the only source of Local Government performance monitoring information available in the State, and as such, the State Government relies on this data when reporting to the Commonwealth Government.

COMMENT

52 Local Governments participated in the Project in 2024-25. These Local Governments represent approximately 92% of Western Australia's population and 96% of the State's total population growth between 2023 and 2025. Collectively, they provide a strong indication of how the Local Government sector in Western Australia is performing in the areas of strategic and statutory planning and building regulation.

Key findings from the 2024-25 data:

- Participating Local Governments determined 73,642 applications (development applications, subdivision referrals and building permits), a 17% increase on the previous year.
- The timeliness data is relatively consistent with previous years despite the increase in applications, with 85% of these being determined or responded to within statutory timeframes.
- The participants determined 21,555 development applications in 2024-25, equating to a value of \$10.48b.

- 99% of all development applications were approved.
- 98% of all development applications were determined under delegated authority.
- Over the same period, Development Assessment Panels and the Significant Development Pathway determined 268 and 17 development applications respectively, with a value of \$7.18b and \$1.75b.
- Whilst there is an increase in the number of applications being determined, the average number of FTE have decreased.

There is a low standard deviation within most measures, and average sector performance year on year is consistent, providing a high degree of confidence that the reported performance is reflective of the sector, and that high levels of performance by some larger Local Governments are not impacting sector averages.

The process of collecting and reporting data for 2024-25 has been refined and improved. Whilst a consultant had previously been engaged to collect and review the data, WALGA has completed this process internally this year to provide a more critical in-depth analysis of the data and reporting.

WALGA will continue to utilise this data to inform policy development, advice and advocacy relating to the planning and building functions of Local Government.

WALGA is encouraging additional Local Governments to participate in the 2025-26 financial year reporting period, with a focus on the last remaining metropolitan and peri-urban Local Governments.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC notes the WALGA Local Government Planning and Building Performance Monitoring findings as presented.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: *Mr Shane Burge, Shire of Esperance*

Seconded: *Cr Jim Quadrio, Shire of Wiluna*

Carried

8.3 WALGA Bushfire Management Roundtable

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA convened the third annual Bushfire Management Roundtable on 23 March, providing a forum for Local Government Chief Executive Officers to engage directly with senior leaders from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and LGIS on system-level bushfire management issues.
- The Roundtable reaffirmed the value of regular senior-level engagement at a time of increasing bushfire risk, extended fire seasons and escalating work health and safety responsibilities for Local Governments under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020*.
- Local Governments highlighted increasing pressure on volunteer bush fire brigades, including workforce sustainability challenges, fatigue and growing liability exposure.
- CEOs provided strong feedback on the need for clearer statewide guidance and more consistent frameworks to support cross-boundary bushfire operations and during transfer of control.
- The importance of long-term, predictable bushfire mitigation funding and continued reform of the Local Government Grants Scheme to better reflect bushfire risk and operational demand was reinforced.
- A detailed summary of issues raised and agreed follow-up is provided in the attached Summary Report.
- This item was also noted at the People and Place Policy Team meeting on 19 May.

ATTACHMENT

- 2025 WALGA Bushfire Management Roundtable Summary Report

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item aligns with WALGA's Strategic Pillars:

- **Influence** – Lead advocacy on issues that are important to Local Government.
- **Support** – Provide practical sector-wide solutions based on research and evidence.
- **Expertise** – Foster relationships between our subject matter experts and stakeholders.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The [Advocacy Positions](#) relevant to the Roundtable are the following:

- 8.4 Consolidated Emergency Services Act;
- 8.7 Emergency Services Levy;
- 8.8 Local Government Grants Scheme;
- 8.9 Expansion of the Community Emergency Services Manager Program; and
- 8.10 Management of Bush Fire Brigades.

BACKGROUND

The WALGA Bushfire Management Roundtable is held annually to provide Local Government Chief Executive Officers with a direct forum to engage with State agencies on strategic bushfire management issues, emerging risks and system performance. The third Roundtable was held on 23 March at the Bushfire Centre of Excellence and brought together Chief Executive Officers from the following Local Governments:

- City of Albany
- City of Armadale
- City of Busselton
- Shire of Bruce Rock
- Shire of Carnarvon
- Shire of Gingin
- Shire of Katanning
- Shire of Nannup
- Shire of Waroona.

The Roundtable also included representatives from WALGA, DFES, DBCA and LGIS.

COMMENT

The Roundtable confirmed that Local Governments remain committed to managing bushfire risk but are operating under increasing workforce, safety, funding and governance pressures. Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades continue to experience recruitment, retention and fatigue challenges, compounded by longer fire seasons and increased cross boundary deployments. CEOs also raised growing concern about

meeting obligations under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* in the absence of consistent procedures, particularly where deployments occur between Local Governments and where control is transferred between agencies.

Reform of the Local Government Grants Scheme remains critical to addressing inequities and capability gaps, particularly for ageing infrastructure, appliances and communications. Ongoing governance complexity and a lack of role clarity between State and Local Government continue to present operational and risk challenges. Local Governments reiterated the need for long-term, predictable mitigation funding and improved coordination across land managers. Overall, the Roundtable highlighted the importance of continued senior level engagement and coordinated State and Local Government action to ensure bushfire management arrangements remain fit for purpose as risk, expectations and obligations continue to evolve.

Actions included for DFES to work with WALGA and Local Governments on volunteer fitness for work options, informed by approaches used in other jurisdictions, and to progress reform to the Local Government Grants Scheme.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC notes the report on the WALGA Bushfire Management Roundtable as presented.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: *Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton*

Seconded: *Mr Matt McIntyre, Shire of Wiluna*

Carried

8.4 Flying Minutes Endorsed by State Council

The following Flying Minutes have been endorsed by State Council since the May 2026 meeting:

- Selection Committee Special Meeting Minutes – 7 April 2026;
- WALGA Submission on the National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement (NEBRA);
- WALGA Submission on the Exposure Draft of the National Environmental Standard for Matters of National Environmental Significance; and
- State Hazard Plan Hostile Act – WALGA Submission.

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

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC note the Flying Minutes endorsed by State Council since its last meeting in May 2026.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: *Cr Paul Wilcox, Shire of Coolgardie*

Seconded: *Mayor Glenn Wilson, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder*

Carried

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

10.1 Government Decision of the Rateability of Miscellaneous and Mining Leases

Cr Paul Wilcox, Shire of Coolgardie, raised the item to inform those that may have not seen that the *Local Government Amendment (Rating of Certain Mining Licences) Bill 2025* was passed by the WA Parliament and announced on 17 June 2026 (see [Miscellaneous and small prospecting licences exempt from rates | Western Australian Government](#)).

This was in despite of the advocacy and lobbying by WALGA and the GVROC in support of the Shire of Mt Magnet and the local government sector.

The GVROC Chair advised of her disappointment in the result and has written to the Opposition Leader, Hon Basil Zemplis, requesting clarification for their support of the Bill following the meeting held with him just prior to this passing Parliament where he stated that the legislation was rushed, that there had been no meaningful consultation with the Local Government sector, that no comprehensive modelling had been undertaken to assess the likely impacts or unintended consequences, and that the outcome appeared manifestly unfair (**see Attached letter**).

It was agreed that this decision by the Government be raised at our next meeting with the local member for Kalgoorlie also based on her previous comments about Government getting involved in court decisions and the Chair also advised she would share the Opposition Leader's response outlining the rationale for the Liberal Party's support of this legislation, including what consideration was given to the financial, governance and legal implications for Local Governments across Western Australia if one is received.

11. FUTURE MEETINGS

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

- **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:

- 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 10:25am.