



Great Eastern Country Zone

Minutes

Held at Merredin Recreation Centre

**Commenced at 9:30am
Thursday 26 November 2020**

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Great Eastern Country Zone

Meeting was held at Merredin Recreation Centre
Commenced at 9.30am, Thursday 26 November 2020

Minutes

1. OPENING AND WELCOME
2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Shire of Bruce Rock	President Cr Stephen Strange Cr Ramesh Rajagopalan Mr Darren Mollenoyux Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Cunderdin	Cr Alison Harris Mr Stuart Hobley Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Dowerin	Cr Darrel Hudson
Shire of Kellerberrin	President Cr Rodney Forsyth Mr Raymond Griffiths Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Kondinin	Ms Mia Maxfield Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Koorda	President Cr Jannah Stratford Mr Darren Simmons Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Merredin	President Cr Julie Flockart Mr Mark Dacombe Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Mount Marshall	Mr John Nuttall Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Narembeen	President Cr Rhonda Cole - Chair Cr Alan Wright - Deputy Cr Warren Milner - Observer
Shire of Nungarin	Cr Gary Coumbe Cr Eileen O'Connell Mr Leonard Long Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Tammin	Cr Glenice Batchelor Mr Neville Hale Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

Shire of Trayning	Cr Geoff Waters Ms Leanne Parola Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Westonia	President Cr Karin Day Mr Jamie Criddle Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Wyalkatchem	President Cr Quentin Davies Mr Peter Klein Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Yilgarn	Cr Bryan Close Mr Peter Clarke Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

WALGA Representatives:

Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Services
Garry Middle, Acting Environment Policy Manager
Naomih Donaghy, Governance and Organisational Services Officer

Guests:

Rachele Ferrari, Acting Regional Director, WA Country Health Service Wheatbelt
Rob Cossart, Wheatbelt Development Commission, CEO
Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt
Mike Roberts, Regional Manager, Goldfields and Agriculture Region, Water Corporation
Jennifer Collins Regional Manager Wheatbelt - Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
Julie Knight, Principal Strategy Officer, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
Craig Manton, Main Roads WA
Kathleen Brown, Electorate Officer, Mia Davies MLA Office

Apologies:

Shire of Cunderdin	Cr Dennis Whisson
Shire of Dowerin	Cr Adam Metcalf Ms Rebecca McCall Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Kellerberrin	Cr Scott O'Neill
Shire of Kondinin	President Cr Sue Meeking Cr Bev Gangell
Shire of Koorda	Cr Pamela McWha
Shire of Merredin	Cr Mal Willis
Shire of Mount Marshall	President Cr Tony Sachse – Deputy Chair Cr Nick Gillett
Shire of Mukinbudin	President Gary Shadbolt Cr Rod Comerford Mr Dirk Sellenger Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Narembeen	Cr Kellie Mortimore Mr Chris Jackson Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Nungarin	President Pippa DeLacey
Shire of Tammin	Cr Tania Daniels Mr Neville Hale Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Westonia	Cr Bill Huxtable
Shire of Wyalkatchem	Cr Owen Garner
Shire of Trayning	President Cr Melanie Brown
Shire of Yilgarn	President Wayne Della Bosca

Attachments

The following were provided as attachments to the agenda:

1. Minutes Great Eastern Country Zone 27 August 2020 Special minutes 22 September
2. Minutes GECZ Special Executive Committee Meeting September 22 2020
3. Minutes GECZ Executive Committee 12 November 2020
4. Letter from Hon David Littleproud MP – Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management
5. Letter from Minister Alannah MacTiernan MLC – Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Ports
6. WALGA Presidents Report December 2020
7. Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Minutes 5 October
8. Wheatbelt DEMC Meeting on Wednesday, 21st October
9. Recovery and resilience presentation S. Blyth 21 October 2020
10. Pre season weather outlook - Wheatbelt DEMC Oct 2020
11. eDoc - WB - COVID -19 Welfare Centre Guidelines - Oct 2020
12. RDA Wheatbelt update

State Council Agenda – via link: [State Council Agenda, December 2020](#)

Declarations of Interests

NIL

3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

4. **GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS**

4.1 Rachele Ferrari – WA Country Health Service Wheatbelt

Rachele Ferrari, Acting Regional Director of the WA Country Health Service Wheatbelt provided a presentation on the COVID-19 Road to Recovery for the region.

Presentation attached – Attachment 1

4.2 Wheatbelt Development Commission

Rob Cossart, Chief Executive Officer, presented the Wheatbelt Development Commissions Strategic Plan to the Zone.

Presentation attached – Attachment 2

5. MINUTES

5.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held Thursday 27 August 2020

The Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on Thursday 27 August 2020 have previously been circulated to Member Councils.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Harris
Seconded: Cr Rajagopalan

That the Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held Thursday 27 August 2020 are confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings noting the following apology amendments made:

Apology

Shire of Narembeen Cr Kellie Mortimore
Shire of Kondinin Cr Bev Gangell

CARRIED

5.2 Business Arising from the Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting Thursday 27 August 2020

NIL

5.3 Confirmation of Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone Special Meeting of the Executive Committee held Tuesday 22 September 2020

The Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Special Executive Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 22 September 2020 are for Noting.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Waters
Seconded: Cr Day

That the Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Special Executive Committee meeting held Tuesday 22 September 2020 be noted.

CARRIED

5.4 Business Arising from the Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Special Meeting Tuesday 22 September 2020

NIL

5.5 Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee Meeting held Thursday 12 November 2020

The recommendations from the Executive Committee Meeting have been extracted for the Zones consideration.

5.5.1 (Exec item 5.6) - Proposed Meeting Dates for 2021

BACKGROUND

Meeting dates for the Great Eastern Country Zone's Executive Committee and Zone meetings were presented to the Committee on 12 November 2020. Dates were generally accepted with the exception of the proposed April zone date which fell on a public holiday. As a result, please see new proposed dates for the zones endorsement with the April date now falling on a Tuesday.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS GREAT EASTERN COUNTRYZONE 2021

Zone Meeting Dates Monday	Time	HOST COUNCIL	State Council Meeting Dates 2021
22 February 2021	Monday 9.30am	Shire of Kellerberrin	Wednesday 3 March, 2021
27 April 2021	Tuesday 9.30am	Shire of Merredin	Wednesday 5 May, 2021
28 June 2021	Monday 9.30am	Shire of Kellerberrin	Wednesday 7 July, 2021
23 August 2021	Monday 9.30am	Shire of Merredin	Regional Meeting 2-3 September 2021
22 November 2021	Monday 9.30am	Shire of Kellerberrin	Wednesday 1 December 2021

The Zone Executive Committee dates are held 1.5 weeks prior to the Zone meeting, as per previous years, it is proposed that the Executive Committee meeting day remain on Thursday's.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS GREAT EASTERN COUNTRYZONE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2021

Exec Comm Meeting Dates Thursday	Time	HOST COUNCIL
11 February 2021	Thursday 7.30 am	Teleconference
15 April 2021	Thursday 7.30 am	Teleconference
17 June 2021	Thursday 7.30 am	Teleconference
12 August 2021	Thursday 7.30am	Teleconference
11 November 2021	Thursday 7.30 am	Teleconference

Please note WALGA's annual convention is being held September 19 & 20, 2021. Therefore all suggested meetings above will be held via teleconference.

RESOLVED

That the Great Eastern Country Zone endorse the proposed dates.

Moved: Cr Forsyth

Seconded: Cr Flockart

CARRIED

5.5.2 Minutes of the Executive Committee 12 November 2020

RESOLVED

That the remaining items contained in the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the Great Eastern Country Zone held 12 November 2020 be endorsed.

5.6 Business Arising from the Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Special Meeting Thursday 12 November 2020

NIL

5.6.1 Drought Summit Opportunity

Background:

At the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held 27 August 2020, the following was resolved:

RESOLVED

That the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee discuss at their next meeting the opportunity of working in collaboration with WALGA to coordinate a Summit in the near future.

Committee consideration:

At the Special Executive Committee meeting held on 22 September 2020, the Committee discussed the Great Eastern Country Zone hosting a drought summit in February 2021 as a half day forum involving the Great Southern and Central Country Zones

The Committee resolved as follows;

Resolved

- 1. That the GECZ Executive recommend to the Great Eastern Country Zone that the Zone host a Drought Summit in February 2021(via Flying Minute).*
- 2. Subject to approval on item 1, the Zone email other Zones seeking their interest in attending.*

At the Executive Committee meeting held on 12 November, the issue was further considered as arrangements had not progressed as information was received advising of concerns in attracting any politicians for a Summit in February 2021 due to the State Election.

The Committee discussed referring this item to the Zone meeting for a broader discussion with all members and resolved as follows;

Resolved:

That a Zone agenda item be proposed to further consider the merits of holding a drought summit

Comment

The item is brought forward for the Zones consideration on whether to hold a Drought summit.

To assist the following information is provided on the broader issue of Drought. The 2020 Annual General Meeting considered this issue and resolved as follows;

That WALGA:

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

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

WALGA has written to the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Water and Environment and a favourable response has been received in respect to the On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme (the Minister announced a further \$50m for the Scheme in October 2020, with a co-contribution expected from the State) and in acknowledging sector frustration with the then Drought Communities Program Extension Program. The Minister is now focused on finalising the details of the Local Government Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program with the WA State Government. Once the details are finalised, the successful undertaking and completion of these Plans by Local Government will inform decisions about future funding allocations by the State and Commonwealth.

Correspondence was also sent to the Western Australian State Minister for Agriculture and a positive response to reviewing the matter has been received, with the Minister committing to work with the Minister for Water to ensure that Local Governments optimally benefit from the Future Drought Fund, and that DPIRD and DWER will continue to work closely with WALGA to seek solutions to improve drought resilience throughout the state.

WALGA's Acting Policy Manager Environment, Garry Middle will be attending this meeting to assist with discussion.

ZONE DISCUSSION

The zone discussed that a drought summit is not advantageous at this point in time, the Zone will revisit at a later date.

RESOLUTION

That the Zone defer consideration of a Drought Summit at this point in time and retain a 'watching brief' on issues associated with drought funding.

6. ZONE BUSINESS

6.1 Inquiry into Local Government – Final Report

By Tony Brown, Executive Officer

Correspondence has been received from the Office of the Legislative Council Committee of Western Australia extending their thanks to the Great Eastern Country Zone of WALGA for assistance with its Inquiry into Local Government - [Please see report](#).

Noted

6.2 Cunderdin Agricultural College – Year 11 Student accommodation

The Great Eastern Country Zone earlier this year resolved as follows;

That the Great Eastern Country request the State Government provide funding assistance through the Business Case for infrastructure upgrades to the accommodation at the Cunderdin Agricultural College to address the oversubscription of students that will continue to support the Government in achieving its targets or regional prosperity and regional job creation.

Correspondence was sent to the Hon Sue Ellery, Minister for Education and Training. The Minister has responded as per the following;

Thank you for your letter dated 16 July 2020, advising of the support of the Great Eastern Country Zone for the upgrade of the residential accommodation at the WA College of Agriculture - Cunderdin.

The college has a long history of providing a high standard of agriculture and trade education and is continuing to attract interest from prospective students. As noted in your letter, each college has an overall cap, determined by the capacity of the farm enterprises to deliver appropriate educational experiences for students, and the residential accommodation needs to align with this capacity. The Department of Education is aware that the WA College of Agriculture - Cunderdin is a sought-after college. The Department is working with the college to prepare a Business Case and this will be considered when future capital works programs are compiled.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Noted

6.3 Mobile phone tower battery back up during emergencies

Background

Nick Sloan (WALGA CEO), Joanne Burges (WALGA Intergovernmental Relations and Risk) and Cr Stephen Strange met with Senator Dean Smith and Mark Thompson, Corporate Affairs Manager and Boyd Brown, WA Regional General Manager representing Telstra on Thursday 24 September, 2020.

The Senator had called the meeting as a follow up to our meeting of 22 July, 2020 when the Association assisted by Cr Stephen Strange, escalated the matter to the Commonwealth level via three fronts, Hon Melissa Price MP, Hon Mark Coulton MP and the Senator.

Telstra acknowledged that issues occur around 'unplanned' outages (as experienced in emergency situations) and that energy providers (Western Power and Horizon Power) should also be at the table to address this issue along with future proofing solutions.

Further, Telstra spoke of the Commonwealth's 'hardening' grant funding program (funded via Mobile Black Spot Funding), at which time we were able to outline some of the limitations of the fund.

Acknowledged one of the gaps is between the battery back-up 'going down' and the technician arriving.

Further, it was acknowledged that Telstra had distributed a 'Notifications' Fact Sheet as an outcome to previous advocacy by Zones and WALGA. (Currently notifications of 'planned' outages are going directly to the Local MP and the affected Local Governments).

Solutions discussed included but were not limited to:

- Investigating the actual 'cost' and options of a battery backup replacement and maintenance program to ensure longer back -up

- Investigating 'local' options and training for technicians
- Including Western Power and Horizon Power to seek a collaborative approach to both short term solutions and innovative solutions for the long term e.g. Gen Set/Solar/ Battery combination

Outcomes of the meeting included:

- The Senator to write to the Telstra CEO outlining the specific nuances and needs of Western Australia
- The Senator will write to the SEMC to encourage this matter as a standing item, suggesting Telstra, Western Power and Horizon Power attendance to seek a collaborative solution
- The Telstra WA Regional General Manager, Boyd Brown and WALGA CEO, Nick Sloan to meet in the near future to progress solution seeking options for the short, medium and long term

It was acknowledged that many of the options were currently prohibitive from a cost perspective, although the discussions did identify some options that could be explored further.

Where cost was seen as an issue, it was agreed that this should not limit investigating what is possible and to explore funding options that could be available now and into the future.

Most importantly, there is a commitment to keep exploring options.

Cr Strange updated the Zone on a conversation held with Richard Burnell, Department of Fire and Emergency Services. This issue has been elevated to the State Emergency Movement Committee (SEMC) and Emergency Services. Richard Burnell has requested to present at the next zone meeting.

7. ZONE REPORTS

7.1 Zone President Report

By Cr Rhonda Cole

RESOLVED

That the Zone President's Report be received.

7.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group

By Cr Julie Flockart

Cr Julie Flockart provided her report to the Zone. Minutes of the 5 October Local Government Agricultural Freight Group were attached with the Agenda.

ZONE DISCUSSION

The Zone Chair acknowledged the work carried out by former Cr Ricky Storer from the Shire of Koorda, President Cr Katrina Crute, Shire of Bookton and Garrick Yandle, CEO Shire of Kulin, for their efforts in respect the Wheatbelt Freight Route Project.

RESOLVED

That the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Report be received.

7.3 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee

By Cr Tony Sachse

The Minutes of the Wheatbelt DEMC Meeting on Wednesday, 21st October were attached. There were three guest speakers.

- (1) "State Recovery Coordination" by Suzanne Blyth DFES. Presentation was attached.
- (2) "Pre-Season Weather Outlook" by Gianni Golangelo BOM/DFES. Presentation was attached.
- (3) "Effect of Power Outages on Telstra Infrastructure" by Dan Clements. Note item 2.3 in Minutes.

Evacuation Centres and COVID-19 was discussed in a presentation from Ant Sadler (DFES). Since that meeting, the Department of Communities has sent out an eDoc relating to COVID-19 – Welfare Centre Guidelines (Oct 2020). The Operational Area Support Group (OASG) recommends discussion at LEMC level on Evacuation Centres relating to COVID-19 precautions before a response team from the DoCs arrives. I have attached this eDOC with this report, but you should already have received it through your LEMC's correspondence.

Please also note that if there are people self-isolating due COVID-19, and they need to leave due to Advice, Watch and Act or an Emergency Warning, then they should travel to a safe place (preferably a relative's residence), and contact WA Police. This detail of this is documented in the eDOC.

I have reported to the OASG Wheatbelt that smaller Local Government's do not have the resources to meet the precautions in the eDOC. Larger LGA's may be able to achieve this. Once the Department of Communities arrive then they will have the necessary resources. However, we are talking in the period where the evacuation centre is being set up and starting to receive people.

There will be a Wheatbelt Human Services Managers Forum Meeting on Thursday, 19th November 2020. Agenda topics include the Wheatbelt Education Engagement Plan (WEEP), CRTAFE Digital Skills Training Needs Survey, Early Years Working Party, Community Awareness Working Party and Education Engagement. I am currently representing Local Government on this Committee so if there is any feedback on these or other related topics please contact me.

Reports on the progress of the Wheatbelt DEMC were attached with the Agenda.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Davis
Seconded: Cr Waters

That the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee Report and attachments be received.

CARRIED

7.4 Wheatbelt Health MOU Group

By Cr Glenice Batchelor

Cr Batchelor reported on the Wheatbelt Health MOU at the meeting.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Waters
Seconded: Cr Harris

That the Wheatbelt Health MOU Group Report be received.

8. WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (WALGA) BUSINESS

8.1 State Councillor Report

Cr Stephen Strange

Cr Strange advised that a Special Meeting of State Council was held in early November and endorsed WALGA's new Corporate Strategy 2020-2025.

The development of WALGA's strategic plan has been an involved and significant process throughout this calendar year incorporating input from State Council, executive team and staff, a sample of members at senior levels, and external stakeholders including Directors General and other senior public servants.

The strategy identifies five key strategic themes:

- Advocating and facilitating sector policy and solutions
- Delivering member-centric, quality services
- Financial sustainability
- Contemporary systems
- Agile workforce

WALGA's annual convention will be moved for 2021 to the Crown Perth Plaza and will be held in mid-September. WALGA listened to the feedback from Delegates at the 2020 AGM held recently.

There was a cancellation fee required to break the contract from the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre and Tony Brown will advise the Zone on this cost via e-mail following the meeting.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Forsyth

Seconded: Cr Wright

That the State Councillor Report be received

CARRIED

8.2 WALGA Status Report

By Tony Brown, Executive Officer

BACKGROUND

Presenting the Status Report for August 2020 which contains WALGA's responses to the resolutions of previous Zone Meetings.

GREAT EASTERN COUNTRY ZONE STATUS REPORT August 2020

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Great Eastern C	2019 June 27 Zone Agenda Item 12.1 Government Regional Officer Housing	That the Zone request WALGA to advocate on the impact of Government Regional Officer Housing on retaining public sector professionals (Doctors, nurses, teachers) in the Great Eastern Country Zone.	<p>In May 2019, the McGowan Government deferred a planned increase to GROH rents in 2019-20. The next increase of \$30pw was due to come into effect 1 July 2019.</p> <p>https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2019/05/McGowan-Government-temporarily-defers-increase-to-GROH-rents.aspx</p> <p>WALGA notes and includes the Zones Recommendation in its advocacy for GROH and greater service support for regional and remote Western Australian Local Governments, acknowledging the importance of this topic in the coming months.</p> <p>WALGA has been advised by WAPOL and the relevant State Government agency who confirm the rental freeze to GROH properties will remain until the completion of the review of the GROH Tenant Rent Setting Framework. Further work has been done in strengthening the partnerships between WAPOL officers and key Local Government officers in specified areas of concerns.</p> <p>Department of Communities modelling and draft ERC proposal has been elevated within the Department. The Director General has called for a working group to be established to include representatives from GROH, of which the TSRF review will be included.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Joanne Burges A/Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning jburges@walga.asn.au 9213 2018</p>

			<p>In July 2020 WALGA wrote to the Director General at the Department of Communities seeking a response to WALGA State Council July resolution:</p> <p>That WALGA contact the Director General of the Department of Housing to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seek action and acknowledge the extra challenges in attracting and retaining public sector staff in remote and rural areas of the state 2. Immediately review and address the issue of insufficient GROH housing (and the high cost of subsidised rental) for public sector staff and actively seek and enter into Joint Venture arrangements with Councils to address the shortfall in accommodation 3. Request that the agencies be requested to engage with WALGA to seek a solution to the current short supply of GROH housing within all regions. <p>In August 2020, WALGA received a response from the Director General, Communities, which stated that the Department of Communities has diverted much of its resources towards the social and economic recovery of the State. Therefore work on the planned GROH review is placed on hold until the conclusion of the COVID-19 emergency period. It was acknowledged that GROH plays an important role in attracting and retaining staff in regional and remote communities. WALGA met with relevant staff from the Department of Communities on 21 August 2020 to further discuss the issue.</p>		
Great Eastern C	2019 March Zone Agenda Item 12.3 Telstra – Power Outages Effecting Communications	1. Requests WALGA to advocate through the State Emergency Management Committee for action in respect to power outages effecting telecommunications and the eligibility for Local Governments to turn generators on.	<p>WALGA have written to the SEMC to request action in respect to power outages effecting telecommunications.</p> <p>WALGA have advocated to the SEMC and the SEMC have included this item on their agenda at the meeting to be held 2 August 2019.</p> <p>WALGA tabled this issue at the August SEMC meeting requesting SEMC to formally write to the District Emergency management Committees and to provide WALGA with advice on this matter. SEMC have taken this as an action.</p>	Ongoing	Joanne Burges A/Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning jburges@walga.asn.au 9213 2018

			<p>The Zone will be provided with a copy of SEMC's response when received.</p> <p>This matter has been officially raised at SEMC, particularly the sector is still awaiting a response.</p> <p>WALGA tabled concerns of the sector at the State Emergency Management Committee on Friday 13th December 2019. Following this WALGA met with Telstra and discussed how we can better understand the Telstra notification systems and how Local Governments can access the information and key contacts should this happen.</p> <p>The key outcomes from the meeting were for Telstra to share a series of fact sheets on topics relevant to the issues being faced by your communities and provide key contact information in order for these matters to be escalated or referred should you need to.</p> <p>The first fact sheet provided by Telstra was on Power Outages and was disseminated to all regional councils.</p> <p>WALGA is currently assisting DFES with a Commonwealth grant application with the aim of enhancing battery back-up service to 206 base stations across Western Australia. A DFES representative is available to present to the Zone once the outcome of the application is known.</p>		
Great Eastern C	2020 February 26 Zone Agenda Item 7.1 Federal Government Drought Communities	That the Great Eastern Country Zone requests WALGA, in consultation with ALGA, to liaise with the WA State Government Ministers for Water, Agriculture and Environment to provide a coordinated holistic response in respect to the ongoing drying climate issues and access to the Drought Communities Funding Program.	<p>State Council Resolution</p> <p>That State Council endorse the recommendation from the Great Eastern Country Zone relating to the Federal Government Drought Communities Program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the Great Eastern Country Zone requests WALGA, in consultation with ALGA, to liaise with the WA State Government Ministers for Water, Agriculture and Environment to provide a coordinated holistic response in respect to the ongoing drying climate issues and access to the Drought Communities Funding Program. <p>RESOLUTION 37.1/2020</p> <p>WALGA has met with the WA Minister for Water Chief of Staff and is lobbying through both the State and ALGA for a third round of funding, bespoke to Western Australia.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Joanne Burges A/Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning jburges@walga.asn.au 9213 2018</p>

			<p>WALGA has written to the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Water and the Minister for Local Government on the issue, seeking their support to review the drought funding mechanisms for Western Australia. At the WALGA webinar on May 8th, the Minister for Agriculture committed to advocating to the Commonwealth in conjunction with WALGA.</p> <p>On August 7 the WALGA Deputy President met with Senator Dean Smith as part of the advocacy approach, and WALGA is now writing to all Western Australian Federal Government members to also request additional funding for the National On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme.</p> <p>WALGA has also met with Senator Brockman, and is also in discussion with Minister MacTiernans Chief of Staff on the issue.</p> <p>Correspondance from Minister Littleproud received in October highlighted that the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program details are still being worked through with the State Government, who are yet to commit to co-funding the program. WALGA is currently seeking an assurance from Minister MacTiernan that it will.</p>		
Great Eastern C	2018 November 29 Zone Agenda Item 7.3 Container Deposit Scheme Locations	<p>That the Great Eastern Country Zone requests that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All Local Governments be guaranteed, as a minimum, one flexible refund point in their area. 2. A flexible access point should be defined as a refund point which, as a minimum, is open 16 hours each two week period, including at least 8 hours at weekends <p>The State Government provide appropriate funding for the refund points.</p>	<p>The Container Deposit Scheme was launched in October 2020.</p> <p>Not all Shires received a flexible refund point in their area.</p> <p>A network of more than 200 refund points have opened across WA. This will expand to a minimum of 229 refund points by 30 June 2021. Refund point locations, hours of operation and contact details are available on the Containers for Change website.</p> <p>https://www.containersforchange.com.au/wa/</p>	November 2020	<p>Joanne Burges A/Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning jburges@walga.asn.au 9213 2018</p>
Grt Eastern C	2020 25 June Zone Agenda Item 7.3 Telecommunications – Minister Response	<p>That WALGA again raise the issue of lack of communication when power outages occur with the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) and the Federal/State Government politicians advising of the lack of response from Telstra on this issue and the extreme concern in an emergency situation that this causes.</p>	<p>WALGA has met with the Executive Manager of Corporate Services DFES to discuss a funding application to the Commonwealth for application to the Commonwealth resilience improvement funding package.</p> <p>It has several key pillars, namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. \$7m for installing 2000 satellite dishes onto fire stations 2. \$18m for hardening the mobile phone network - stage 1 of \$10m will be providing battery back-up 	November 2020	<p>Joanne Burges A/Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning jburges@walga.asn.au 9213 2018</p>

			<p>for towers and extending battery life – for those towers delivered in rounds 1 and 2 of the Mobile Black Spot Program. Also includes generators in some cases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - stage 2 will be a grants program for further hardening work <p>3. \$10m for the expansion of mobile satellite communications capability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$1.7m for NBN Co to expand its fleet of Sky Muster trucks and 12 portable satellite FlyAway kits - \$8.3m for competitive grants <p>WALGA is in discussion with DFES as to the priority elements that would constitute a WA funding bid to assist in resolving the telecommunications issue.</p>		
Grt Eastern C	2020 25 June Zone Agenda Item Zone Comment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That WALGA advocate to the Federal Government to request additional funding for the National On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme as the fund has been fully subscribed one year into a three year program. 2. That WALGA advocate to the State Government to reinstate the Farm Water Rebate Scheme. 	<p>On August 7 the WALGA Deputy President met with Senator Dean Smith as part of the advocacy approach, and WALGA is wrote to all Western Australian Federal Government members requesting additional funding for the National On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme.</p> <p>Correspondance received from Minister Littleproud on October 20 highlighted his announcement with Minister Pitt on October 2 that a further \$50m would be made available for the this financial year for the Scheme.</p> <p>WALGA is continuing discussions with the State Government for the reinstating of the Farm Water Rebate Scheme.</p>	November 2020	<p>Joanne Burges A/Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning jburges@walga.asn.au 9213 2018</p>
Grt Eastern C	2020 2 September State Council Agenda Item 5.5 Local Government Review Panel Final Report	<p>That the Great Eastern Country Zone supports all matters for decision on the September 2020 State Council Agenda, subject to the below:</p> <p>That WALGA's position on recommendation 25c be changed from support to oppose</p> <p>That WALGA's position on recommendation on 22 be changed from consult to oppose</p> <p>That WALGA's position on recommendation 38c to 38e be changed from support to conditionally support (request to be in conjunction of the 4 year cycle)</p>	<p>WALGA State Council considered all Zones positions on the Panel's report and resolved as follows;</p> <p>That WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acknowledges the panel report and the recommendations received from Zones and continue to work with the Government to undertake further consultation on the recommendations contained therein; 2. Requests a formal commitment from the Minister for Local Government that the Local Government Sector be consulted on the Draft Local Government Bill in line with the State / Local Government Partnership Agreement and that WALGA actively participates in the legislative drafting process to develop the new Local Government Act; and 	November 2020	<p>Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au</p>

		<p>That WALGA's position on recommendation to 46 be changed from support to conditionally support (one size doesn't fit all).</p> <p>That WALGA's position on recommendation to 54c be changed from support to oppose</p> <p>That WALGA's position on recommendation to 55h be changed from support to oppose</p> <p>That WALGA's position on recommendation to 55l be changed from support to oppose</p>	<p>3. Strongly encourages individual Local Governments to consider responding to the recommendations of the panel report and advise WALGA of their submissions by 31 October 2020.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 119.4/2020</p> <p>WALGA is preparing an advocacy document bringing together the outcomes of the 3 recent reports being;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel report • Select Committee report • City of Perth report <p>The paper will look at considering advocacy positions on 13 key issues. This paper will be considered as part of the December State Council agenda.</p>		
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ZONE COMMENT

This is an opportunity for Member Councils to consider the response from WALGA in respect to the matters that were submitted at the previous Zone Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Bachelor
Seconded: Cr Harris

That the Great Eastern Country Zone WALGA November 2020 Status Report be noted.

CARRIED

8.3 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Matters for Decision

Background

WALGA State Council meets five times each year and as part of the consultation process with Member Councils circulates the State Council Agenda for input through the Zone structure.

The full State Council Agenda can be found via link: [State Council Agenda - December 2020](#)

The Zone is able to provide comment or submit an alternative recommendation that is then presented to the State Council for consideration.

Matters for Decision

5.1 Local Government Act Review Advocacy Paper – Key Issues from Recent inquiries into Local Government

WALGA Recommendation

That:

1. Ongoing advocacy relating to the Review of the *Local Government Act 1995* be noted; and,
2. The Advocacy Positions for a New Local Government Act: *Key issues from recent Inquiries into Local Government* – be endorsed.

ZONE COMMENT

The Great Eastern Country Zone would like to highlight their opposition to a recommendation from the Local Government Act Review Panel in relation to Elected Members and Candidates having to declare any political affiliations. The Zone believe that politics should not be involved in Local Government.

5.2 Registration of Building Engineers

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA:

1. Advise the Department of Mines Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) that the registration of Building Engineers in WA is supported.

2. Request that DMIRS also consider the registration of Electrical Engineers, Façade Engineers, Energy Assessors, Bush Fire Consultants, Access consultants, Swimming pool, Patio installers and Demolition contractors.
3. Request that DMIRS clarify that dilapidation reports may only be undertaken by Registered Engineers.
4. Provide this report to Department of Mines Industry Regulation and Safety as feedback on the Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement.

5.3 Family and Domestic Violence

WALGA Recommendation

That:

1. WA Local Governments recognise the prevalence, seriousness and preventable nature of family and domestic violence and the roles that Local Governments can play in addressing gender equity and promoting respectful relationships in their local community.
2. WALGA advocates to the State Government:
 - a. to define and communicate the role, responsibilities and expectations of Local Governments in family and domestic violence.
 - b. for adequate funding for family and domestic violence programs and services, particularly in regional areas.
 - c. for appropriate resources and funding be allocated to Local Governments to implement any particular roles and actions addressing family and domestic violence as defined in the State Strategy.
 - d. to provide support to Local Government in the broader rollout of the Prevention Toolkit for Local Government.
 - e. to continue advocacy to the Commonwealth Government for additional funding and support.
3. WALGA organises presentations for Local Governments that address family and domestic violence, as part of relevant events or webinars.

5.4 Underground Power Policy

WALGA Recommendation

That Local Government supports the:

1. continuation of cooperative arrangements between the State Government, Western Power and Local Government to progressively replace the overhead electricity distribution network in residential areas with underground power.
2. development of a new approach to identifying and prioritizing areas for investment in underground power, initiated by the need to invest in the overhead network to meet safety, reliability and capability requirements.
3. development of a new approach to allocating State Government resources to facilitate projects proceeding in areas with a high electricity network need and lower economic capacity of ratepayers while retaining a commitment to funding an average of 25% of program costs.
4. opportunity for Local Governments to initiate projects to convert areas to underground power be retained with Western Power to continue to contribute the amount recoverable as an efficient investment as calculated by the New Facilities Investment Test (NFIT).

5.5 CEO Recruitment and Selection, Performance Review and Termination Standards Regulations

1. That WALGA support the establishment of CEO Recruitment, Selection and Performance Review Standards subject to:
 - a) removal from the Regulations the requirement to re-advertise CEO positions after 10 year's continual service;

- b) Encouraging, rather than mandating, the involvement of an independent person in the CEO Recruitment and Selection Process;
 - c) The retention of Regulation 18C of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations*;
 - d) Deletion of the requirement under Regulation 18FB(4) to provide a copy of a council resolution certifying compliance with the CEO standards to the Departmental CEO;
 - e) The conduct of an independent assessment of potential industrial and employment law consequences arising from the proposed regulations under Schedule 2, Division 4 'Standards for termination of employment of CEOs'; and
 - f) Deferral of Regulation 18FC pending an independent assessment of the Schedule 2, Division 4 'Standards for termination of employment of CEOs'.
2. Seek that the CEO Recruitment and Selection, Performance Review and Termination Working Group be reconvened to oversee the development of CEO Standards Regulations.

5.6 Model Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates Regulations

That WALGA generally supports the *Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2020* with the following recommendations:

- a) Amend Division 2, Clause 4(d) to read '*identify and appropriately manage any conflict of interest*';
- b) Does not support the inclusion of local level complaints about alleged behavioural breaches and Local Governments dealing with complaints provisions in Division 3, Clauses 10 and 11; and
- c) Supports an external oversight body to manage local level complaints involving council members as prefaced in the *Local Government Review Panel Report, City of Perth Inquiry Report* and *Select Committee into Local Government Report*, to be considered in a future Local Government Act.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Flockart

Seconded: Cr Wright

That the Great Eastern Country Zone supports all Matters for Decision as listed above in the 2 December 2020 State Council Agenda.

CARRIED

8.4 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Matters for Noting / Information
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- 6.1 Infrastructure WA Discussion Paper**
- 6.2 Draft Amendments to the Planning and Development LPS Regs 2015**
- 6.3 State Planning Policy 3.1 R-Codes**
- 6.4 State and Federal Budgets 2020**
- 6.5 Noongar Heritage Agreement LG**
- 6.6 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill Consultation**
- 6.7 LG Animal Welfare in Emergencies Grant**
- 6.8 2020 AGM Motions**
- 6.9 MWAC**

8.5 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Organisational Reports

7.1 Key Activity Reports

- 7.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Environment and Waste Unit**
- 7.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Governance and Organisational Services**
- 7.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure**
- 7.1.4 Report on Key Activities, People and Place**

8.6 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Policy Forum Reports

7.2 Policy Forum Reports

- 7.2.1 Mayors/Presidents Policy Forum**
- 7.2.2 Mining Community Policy Forum**
- 7.2.3 Container Deposit Legislation Policy Forum**
- 7.2.4 Economic Development Forum**

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr O’Connell
Seconded: Cr Flockhart

That the Great Eastern Country Zone notes the following reports contained in the WALGA December 2020 State Council Agenda.

- Matters for Noting/Information;**
- Organisational Reports; and**
- Policy Forum Report**

CARRIED

8.7 WALGA President’s Report

The WALGA President’s Report is attached to the Agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Waters
Seconded: Cr Day

That the Great Eastern Country Zone notes the WALGA President’s Report

CARRIED

9. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Kathleen Brown, Electorate Officer for Mia Davies MLA advised that Mia has been following the drought issue closely and has recently written to Federal Minister David Littleproud and will forward a copy of Mia's letter to the Zone for distribution to Members.

10. AGENCY REPORTS

10.1 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

Julie Knight and Jennifer Collins from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries updated the Zone.

Noted

10.2 Main Roads Western Australia

Mr Craig Manton provided an update to the next Zone meeting.

Presentation attached – Attachment 3

Noted

10.3 Wheatbelt RDA

Mandy Walker, RDA Wheatbelt presented to the Zone. Report was attached with the Agenda.

Presentation attached – Attachment 4

Noted

10.4 Water Corporation

Mike Roberts, Regional Manager, Goldfields and Agriculture Region, introduced himself and advised that he looks forward to working with all Local Governments in the Zone.

Noted

11. EMERGING ISSUES

11.1 Community Support

Cr Strange thanked the Zone for the support provided to the Shire of Bruce Rock following the fire destroying the Bruce Rock General Store. The support from neighbouring Local Governments and Communities was very much appreciated.

11.2 Shire of Mount Marshall

John Nuttall, CEO Shire of Mount Marshall, would like to thank neighbouring Local Governments and Communities for their support shown to the Shire President of Mount Marshall and the Mount Marshall community in respect to the recent tragedies in the area.

12. URGENT BUSINESS

NIL

13. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Great Eastern Country Zone will be held in Kellerberrin on Monday 22 February 2020, commencing at 9.30am.

14. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 12.14pm

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