



Northern Country Zone

MINUTES

Monday 24 February 2020

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



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1. OPENING, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Zone Delegates were requested to provide written notice on amendments to recommendations within the State Council agenda ASAP to the Zone Chair and Secretariat, to allow Zone Members time to vote on the alternative recommendation. None were received.

The meeting was declared open at 10:02 am by the Northern Country Zone President, Cr Karen Chappel.

She welcomed invited guests and new CEOs.

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

MEMBERS

NB: One Voting Delegate from each Member Council

Shire of Carnamah

Cr Merle Isbister - President
Mr Vincent Fordham Lamont - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Chapman Valley

Cr Anthony Farrell - President
Cr Kirra Warr - Deputy President
Mr Maurice Battilana - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Coorow

Cr Moira Girando - President
John Merrick - Acting Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

City of Greater Geraldton

Cr Tahleah Thomas - Deputy Mayor
Mr Ross McKim, Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Irwin

Cr Mike Smith - President
Cr Ian West
Mr Shane Ivers - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Mingenew

Cr Gary Cosgrove, President
Mr Nils Hay - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Morawa	Cr Karen Chappel - President Mr Rob Paull - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Northampton	Cr Craig Simkin - President Mr Garry Keeffe - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Perenjori	Mr Mario Romeo – Acting Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Three Springs	Cr Chris Lane - President Mr Keith Woodward - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
EXECUTIVE	Ms Dianne Daniels – Executive Officer, NCZ Mr Ian Duncan – Executive Manager Infrastructure, WALGA
INVITED GUESTS	
Member for Moore	Mr Shane Love MLA
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon. Laurie Graham MLC
Mid West Development Commission	Mr Gavin Treasure - Chief Executive Officer
Regional Development Midwest Gascoyne	Ms Yvonne Messina - Chair Mr Mark Holdsworth - Director of Regional Development/Executive Officer
Dept of Local Government Sport & Cultural Ind	Mr Richard Malacari - Regional Manager Mid West Gascoyne
Dept of Local Government Sport & Cultural Ind	Mr Ben Armstrong - Senior Policy Officer Ms Chloe Papasergio – Business Support Officer
Telstra	Mr Boyd Brown – Regional General Manager
Dept of Premier & Cabinet	Debbie Fletcher - Director of State Agreements Bethan Smillie - Policy Officer

APOLOGIES

Member for Agricultural Region	Hon. Darren West MLC
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon. Martin Aldridge MLC
City of Greater Geraldton	Mayor Shan Van Styn
Main Roads WA	Mr Bernie Miller – Regional Manager Mid West-Gascoyne

3. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (10:05 am – 10:20 am)

Mr Ben Armstrong Senior Policy and Project Delivery Officer.

Mr Armstrong gave a presentation on the National Redress Scheme and specifically what the local government's involvement in the scheme will entail over the coming months. A PDF version was made available for distribution to members with the minutes.

Cr Anthony Farrell, Shire of Chapman Valley, noted that council members were concerned that staff didn't have the skills required to deal with this and because of that, the Shire of Chapman Valley may not join the scheme.

Mr Armstrong responded that training will be available to delegated staff to help them deal with the emotive side of the issue.

3.2 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (10:20 am – 10:35 am)

Richard Malacari Regional Manager Mid West Gascoyne

Mr Malacari gave an overview of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries business areas. A PDF version of the presentation was emailed to members 23 February 2020.

3.3 Department of Premier and Cabinet (10:35 am – 11:05 am)

Debbie Fletcher Director of State Agreements
Bethan Smillie Policy Officer

Ms Fletcher gave a presentation on the content of the Yamatji Nation Indigenous Land Use Agreement (YNILUA) (*originally the Geraldton Alternative (Aboriginal) Settlement Agreement (GASA)*) and its implications for local government. A hard copy of the presentation was distributed to members during the meeting.

The YNILUA will be lodged on the Department of the Premier and Cabinet website:
<https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-the-premier-and-cabinet>

The earliest that the YNILUA can be registered would be July 2020, if no objections are received.

After the presentation, the Zone President called for questions from the floor.

Mr Garry Keefe, CEO Northampton, made the comment that there was a dearth of information around the Lucky Bay area of land on which the Shire of Northampton runs a business and the Pink Lakes area, both of which have been given away with no negotiation.

Ms Fletcher commented that the parties to the YNILUA negotiation were placed under confidentiality constraints by the Federal Court until early February, but DPC is more than happy to meet with any Council in the affected area regarding the Agreement.

Mr Ross McKim, CEO City of Greater Geraldton, asked if the Yamatji would be liable to pay rates on the land to be transferred as part of the YNILUA, noting that charitable organisations may be eligible to apply for rates exemption under section 6.26 of the Local Government Act 1995.

Ms Fletcher noted that the YNILUA is silent on the issue of rates, but the Corporation understands they will be liable to pay rates.

Cr Anthony Farrell, President Chapman Valley Shire, asked what would happen in the event that the Corporation decided not to take up some of the UCL land made available under the YNILUA.

Ms Fletcher responded that Native Title would be surrendered for all intents and purposes, but land not transferred as part of the YNILUA within the specified time-frame, could then be subject to claims by due process at the end of that time-frame.

Mr Nils Hay, CEO Shire of Mingenew, asked what would happen if someone else was interested in that land over the next five years.

Ms Fletcher noted that if the land had been transferred to the Corporation then any interested party would need to approach the Corporation, but if the land had not been transferred, then the interested party would need to approach the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage to facilitate an arrangement with the Corporation.

Mr Ian West, Councillor at the Shire of Irwin asked what would become of mining groups etc who were already operating on the land.

Ms Fletcher responded that they would continue, as their agreements were made prior to the YNILUA.

3.4 Telstra (11:05 am – 11:20 am)

Boyd Brown Regional General Manager

Mr Brown made himself available for a question and answer session regarding the concerns that some members have regarding the Telstra service in the area defined by the Northern Country Zone.

He initially addressed the comments made at the November NCZ meeting that the Telstra service in the region is working at third world standard. Mr Brown noted that Australian telecommunications are rated 4th and 5th in the world for coverage and speed. Also, the comment that power to towers is turned down if a site is not economic is incorrect - they run at full capacity when built and the only time this might be adjusted is if two towers are working in unison. Under the Federal Blackspot Program, 350 sites were built across the area, with no requirement to build in redundancy, but batteries have now been installed to all sites.

Issues with the service can be contributed to:

- in the last two years there has been a swing away from fixed line to mobile service;
- the mobile service carries about 25% of data traffic but there is a 45% compounding increase in this year on year;
- Over a ten-year period, there has been a swing from 99% of the traffic on the mobile network being calls to 98% of the traffic now being data;
- 5G is being rolled out to keep up with this and 3G will be switched off in mid-2024;
- The bulk of the mobile towers are backed up with batteries, which normally last about 8 hrs; battery life is shortened by unplanned outages; need to get from 8 hrs to 8 days battery life, but rely on advances in technology for this to happen;
- All faults set off alarms in Clayton Victoria and the fires and floods have impacted on the workload at the call centre;
- All towers have a full coverage area and an external antenna coverage area. If you are in the external antenna coverage area, then you will require external equipment such as vehicle antenna;
- mobile phones should not be used for emergency communication because connectivity cannot be guaranteed; instead use landline if available and/or satellite/NBN.

The Zone President called for questions from the floor.

Cr Girando, President Shire of Carnamah, conveyed a complaint from Warradarge that a 16km length of Brand highway was without mobile coverage for 17 days.

Mr Boyd was aware of the problem at Warradarge and noted that it was one of the older sites that is connected into a radio site that requires parts from the eastern states. It was an intermittent problem between either 3G or 4G not working and was impacting people further out from the tower. Warradarge has been nominated under the next round of Blackspot funding.

Cr Gary Cosgrove, Shire of Mingenew and Cr Anthony Farrell, Shire of Chapman Valley both gave examples of being able to see towers but mobile connectivity being poor or non-existent.

Mr Boyd reiterated that more capacity was needed on sites so they take more traffic but it was likely that they are in the external antenna area. 5 G will deal with extra data usage, but the roll-out will take time.

In closing, Mr Boyd commented that problems weren't always related to a 240 outage, but Telstra needs to work more closely with Western Power and Horizon Power to get key infrastructure on sites.

4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

Nil

5. ADJOURNED BUSINESS

Nil

6. MINUTES

Attachments: Minutes of the Meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA 29 November 2019

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 29 November 2019 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Cosgrove

Seconded: Cr Simkin

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 29 November 2019 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Carried

6.2 Business Arising from Minutes

Nil

7. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR DECISION

The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 4 March 2020.

The Matters for Decision in the State Council Agenda are numbered 5.1 to 5.3

The Recommendation and Executive Summary only have been included. Please refer to the attached PDF version of the State Council Agenda for more detail.

7.1 (5.1) National Redress Scheme – Future Participation of WA Local Governments (05-086-03-0004 KD)

By Kirstie Davis, Policy Manager Community

Recommendation:

That State Council:

1. Acknowledge the State Government's decision to include the participation of Local Governments in the National Redress Scheme as part of the State's declaration;
2. Endorse the negotiation of a Memorandum of Understanding and Template Service Agreement with the State Government; and
3. Endorse by Flying Minute the Memorandum of Understanding prior to execution, in order to uphold requirements to respond within legislative timeframes.

Executive Summary:

- The National Redress Scheme (the Scheme) commenced on 1 July 2018.
- The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries has led an information and consultation process with the WA Local Government sector about the Scheme since January 2019.
- In July 2019 State Council endorsed, in principle, to participation by WA Local Government in the State's National Redress Scheme declaration emphasising the need for full financial coverage by the State Government.
- A significant advocacy outcome has been achieved with the State Government considering the sector's position and reaching a final position in December 2019 to endorse State Council's position, including the commitment to cover costs relating to redress payments to survivors.
- State Government agencies will again engage with Local Governments in early 2020, to inform of the:
 1. State Government's decision and the implications for the sector;
 2. support to Local Government (financial and administrative) to be provided by the State; and
 3. considerations and actions needed to prepare for participation in the Scheme.
- State Government agencies will work with WALGA and all Local Governments over upcoming months to ensure that the necessary agreements, decisions, delegations, actions and preparations are in place to commence participation in the Scheme from 1 July 2020.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Isbister

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Thomas

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

Carried 6/3

7.2 (5.2) Submission on Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy (05-032-03-0011 SM)

By Susie Moir, Policy Officer Community

Recommendation:

That the submission to the Department of Premier and Cabinet in response to the Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy be endorsed.

Executive Summary:

- WALGA has prepared a submission to the Department of Premier and Cabinet in response to the Discussion Paper '*A Path Forward: Developing the Western Australian Government's Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy*'.
- The Submission supports the development of an Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy to deliver a strategic foundation that enables the State Government to work more coherently as a whole, to work better with Aboriginal people, communities and organisations, Commonwealth and Local Governments, the private and philanthropic sectors and broader society, and which ensures transparency and accountability to the Western Australian community.
- The Submission advocates for:
 1. The inclusion of principles that specifically recognise the central importance of:
 - Acknowledging the impact of intergenerational trauma and shame and supporting Aboriginal peoples healing and wellbeing.
 - Fostering young Aboriginal peoples' positive aspirations for their future.
 - Education about Aboriginal culture for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.
 - Truth telling.
 2. Involving Local Government in the design, development and implementation of State, regional and local action and implementation plans under the Strategy, recognising that the capacity, resources, staff levels and strategic priorities of all Local Governments are different.
 3. The clear articulation of the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders, including Local Government, in the State, regional and local action and implementation plans.
 4. Alignment of the measurement and evaluation of the outcomes of the Strategy to a recognised outcomes measurement framework.
 5. Alignment of the Strategy with the Reconciliation Action Planning framework to support Local Governments to deliver outcomes that empower Aboriginal people.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:**Moved:** Cr Girando**Seconded:** Cr Lane

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

Carried

7.3 (5.3) WALGA Submission on Independent Review of the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)*

By Nicole Matthews, Environment Policy Manager

Recommendation:

That the submission on the Independent Review of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC)* be endorsed.

Executive Summary:

- The EPBC Act is Australia's central piece of national environmental law, focusing on matters of national environmental significance (MNES).
- The EPBC Act must be independently reviewed every 10 years. Professor Graeme Samuel AC, has been appointed to undertake the second review of the Act which will report in October 2020.

- A Discussion Paper seeking comment on the operation of the EPBC Act was released in November 2019, closing on 17 April 2020. It is intended that responses to the discussion paper will help inform the next steps in the review.
- The WALGA submission recognises the significant interaction that WA Local Governments have with environmental legislation at both the State and Commonwealth level and highlights and makes recommendations on matters of concern to the sector.
- The submission notes that many Local Governments find the Commonwealth assessment process both confusing and cumbersome, strongly supports the need for a bilateral agreement between the State and Commonwealth to facilitate a single environmental assessment and approval process and recommends an increased emphasis on strategic assessments and bioregional planning rather than assessments of individual actions, better engagement with Local Government and other improvements to the EPBC Act.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Isbister

Seconded: Cr Simkin

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 5.3.

Carried

8. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 4 March 2020.

The Matters for Noting/Information in the State Council agenda are numbered 6.1 to 6.9.

The Recommendation and Executive Summary only have been included. Please refer to the attached PDF version of the State Council Agenda for more detail.

8.1 (6.1) Draft Position Statement: Residential Aged Care – Submission (05-036-03-0053 AR)

By Ashley Robb, Project Officer, Planning and Improvement

Recommendation:

That the submission to the *Draft Position Statement: Residential Aged Care* be noted.

Executive Summary:

- In October 2019 the Western Australian Planning Commission released the *Draft Position Statement: Residential Aged Care* for consultation.
- The purpose of the position statement is to remove planning process barriers and encourage the provision of an appropriate supply and diversity of residential aged care options.
- Submissions were due by 19 January 2020, prior to the next WALGA State Council meeting. Consequently, the submission was processed through WALGA's interim submission process, endorsed by State Council by Flying Minute on 17 January 2020 and submitted.

8.2 (6.2) Managing Housing Health Risks in WA (05-031-01-0001 BW)

By Bec Waddington, Policy Officer Community

Recommendation:

That the submission to the Department of Health in response to the Managing Housing Health Risks in WA discussion paper be noted.

Executive Summary:

- The *Public Health Act 2016* is progressing through a five-stage process of implementation and is currently at Stage 4. All regulations from the previous *Health Act 1911* will be repealed and replaced with new regulations at the commencement of Stage 5, which is anticipated to commence in 2021.
- The Department of Health released the 'Managing Housing Health Risks in WA' discussion paper for public comment with three options for consideration.
- WALGA's Submission discusses the Local Governments preference for Option C to develop new, updated regulations to manage public health housing risks.
- The People and Place Policy team reviewed the submission and State Council endorsed it via Flying Minute on 19 December 2019.

8.3 (6.3) Submission on Modernising the *Environmental Protection Act (1986)*

By Nicole Matthews, Environment Policy Manager

Recommendation:

That WALGA's submission on Modernising the *Environmental Protection Act (1986)* (EP Act) to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation be noted.

Executive Summary:

- The State Government is seeking to make amendments to the EP Act, and have released an Exposure Draft Bill and Discussion Paper explaining the reasons for the proposed changes.
- Officers prepared a draft submission, which was sent out to the sector for comment, with some changes made to the draft.
- The Environment Policy Team met on Wednesday, 16th January and endorsed the revised draft submission subject to minor changes.
- The revised draft was sent out to State Council members as a Flying Minute for endorsement, and was endorsed on Friday, 24 January (Resolution 189.FM/2020).
- State Council is to note the final WALGA submission as submitted to the Department as the consolidated position of the sector on the EP Act review.

8.4 (6.4) Submission to the Productivity Commission on the National Transport Regulatory Reform (05-006-03-0013 ID)

By Sebastian Davies-Slate, Policy Officer Transport and Roads

Recommendation:

That the submission to the Productivity Commission be noted.

Executive Summary:

- WALGA has prepared a submission to the Productivity Commission on the National Transport Regulatory Reform.
- The Infrastructure Policy Team endorsed WALGA's submission, which contains the following recommendations:
 1. the Rail Safety National Law be amended to remove the requirement for Interface Agreements for rail crossings on disused rail lines, to allow limited resources to be focussed on those crossings where there is a material risk.
 2. transport regulation requirements be considered within the framework of the Safe System principles set out in the National and various State Road Safety Strategies.
 3. the authority responsible for management of the roads (specifically Local Governments) being considered for heavy vehicle access must remain central to the decision-making process.
 4. performance criteria be established and monitored in relation to the accuracy of access decisions.
 5. to encourage the use of pre-approved networks, mechanisms should be in place to ensure road managers are notified of significant changes to the volume of heavy movements on relevant parts

of the network, particularly access roads which would be expected to carry relatively low volumes of heavy vehicle traffic.

6. mechanisms to rapidly review access provision and / or respond with a suitable funding arrangements are required to be put in place to address damage caused by extraordinary freight loads.
 7. regulations ensure certainty around the powers of Local Governments, as road managers, to provide clarity in negotiations with freight generators.
 8. the Australian Government support the road development and maintenance costs associated with the movement of heavy vehicles on Local Government roads.
 9. an independent data hub be established to collate data on heavy vehicle movements for use by road managers, and a requirement for telematics and reporting be progressively implemented.
 10. the presence of modal competition be introduced as a criterion that can be used by Local Government road managers to make heavy vehicle access decisions.
- Submissions were due to close on 13 January 2020, but the Productivity Commission granted a two-week extension for WALGA's submission. The submission was submitted on 28 January 2020.
 - The WALGA State Council endorsed the submission by Flying Minute as per resolution number 190.FM/2020.

8.5 (6.5) Submission to Joint Select Committee on Road Safety (05-009-03-0050 MS)

By Mal Shervill, Policy Officer Road Safety

Recommendation:

That the submission to the Joint Select Committee on Road Safety be noted.

Executive Summary:

- In August 2019, Federal Parliament appointed a Joint Select Committee on Road Safety *to inquire and report on steps that can be taken to reduce Australia's road accident rates, trauma and deaths on our roads.*
- Submissions close on 31 January 2020.
- The Infrastructure Policy Team endorsed WALGA's submission, which contains the following recommendations:
 1. Develop authentic partnership arrangements built on a common vision and goals, with appropriate resources (knowledge, funding, skills, data, etc.) that enables Local Governments to participate fully and effectively in their role to reduce road trauma.
 2. Consider introducing Government policies to encourage and support the accelerated renewal of the vehicle fleet in Australia.
 3. Provide national leadership and political support to plan and design an inherently safe road transport system suited to the progressive introduction of increasing levels of autonomous vehicles in Australia.
 4. Identify and quantify the differences and gaps in road standards to understand the extent of the task required to bring the network up to safe system standard.
 5. Develop a program that supports innovation through funding of demonstration projects and encourages others by show casing effective projects (e.g. national safe infrastructure awards).
 6. Develop and fund a program to assess and apply a star rating to the local road network
 7. Support and encourage targeted speed limit reductions planned in consultation with Local Governments and where possible involve community road safety partnerships.
 8. Review current standards including maintenance standards of road lining and signing to ensure these methods adequately inform road users of appropriate behaviours and travel speed.
 9. Develop a means of monitoring the level and extent of implementation (process evaluation) to understand what effort achieves certain results and to identify the gaps in implementation.
 10. Provide Local Governments with access to consistent accurate and timely road trauma and crash incident data to guide decision-making.
 11. Explore opportunities to develop and apply a systems-based methodology to road crash investigations, similar to aviation industry investigations.
 12. With the States and Territories, develop a method of collating data so that "serious injury" information is reportable for Australia.

13. Align the next National Road Safety Strategy with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to link with global objectives.
14. Consider a road safety framework allowing for the mix of personal, social, economic and environmental factors that contribute to road trauma.
15. Define/identify who can/should contribute to road safety then measure and monitor the capacity of the identified parties.
16. Introduce a formal structure, instrument and processes to enable regular and meaningful consultation and engagement with the Local Government sector.
17. Initiate research to identify and develop a more sophisticated safe-system aligned approach as an evolutionary step for the Australian Government Black Spot program.
18. Increase the percentage of funding allocated on the basis of road safety audits to proactively drive safe system transformation of the road network.

The WALGA State Council endorsed the submission by Flying Minute as per resolution number 191.FM/2020.

8.6 (6.6) WALGA Submission on Native Vegetation in Western Australia Issues Paper

Garry Middle, Environment Policy Advisor

Recommendation:

That the WALGA submission on the Native Vegetation in Western Australia Issues Paper be noted.

Executive Summary:

- The Native Vegetation in Western Australia Issues Paper was released for public comment in November 2019 for a three month period, closing on 10 February 2020.
- Officers prepared a draft submission, which was sent out to the sector for comment, with some changes made to the draft.
- The Environment Policy Team met on 22 January and endorsed the revised draft submission subject to minor changes.
- The revised draft was sent out to State Council members as a Flying Minute for endorsement, and was endorsed on 31 January (RESOLUTION 192.FM/2020).
- The submission highlights key areas of concern and makes a number of recommendations for improvement, including that implementation be supported by a collaborative governance framework and that WALGA and Local Governments have the opportunity to participate in this process, and
- The WALGA submission was sent to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) on 6 February 2020.

8.7 (6.7) Proposed Amendments to the Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015 for Container Deposit Scheme Infrastructure (05-036-03-0064 VJ)

By Vanessa Jackson, Policy Manager, Planning and Improvement

Recommendation:

That the submission on the proposed amendments to the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Scheme) Regulations 2015*, to exempt certain types of Container Deposit Infrastructure, be noted.

Executive Summary:

- Minister for Planning sought public comment on proposed amendments to the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015* that would help to facilitate the implementation of the Container Deposit Scheme.
- The proposed amendments are not supported as justification for the adoption of additional legislative provisions has not been provided, Local Government will be required to undertake compliance action if any CDS applicant incorrectly applies the proposed exemption clauses, and inappropriate site selection could undermine the intent and objectives of a particular zone within the Local Planning Scheme.

- The submission was due by 7 February 2020, prior to the next WALGA State Council meeting. Consequently, the submission was processed through WALGA's interim submission process, endorsed by State Council by Flying Minute on 5 February 2020 and submitted.

8.8 (6.8) Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) (01-006-03-0008 RNB)

By Rebecca Brown, Manager Waste and Recycling

Recommendation:

That State Council note the resolutions of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council at its 11 December 2019 meeting.

Executive Summary:

- This item relates to the MWAC meeting held on 11 December 2019, key outcomes of this meeting included:
 1. Agreement to send correspondence to the Environment Minister seeking clarification regarding the trajectory of the Waste Levy for 2020/21.
 2. Formalisation of the Consistent Communications Collective, a group which brings together Local and State Government and the waste industry to agree consistent approaches to waste management messages.
 3. Consideration of key issues relating to the introduction of Food Organic Garden Organic collection systems, including funding programs and representation on a State Government Reference Group.
 4. Agreement to send correspondence to the Premier regarding opportunities to encourage battery recycling in WA.
 5. Endorsement of Submissions on two Senate Inquires and the proposed Export Bans for glass, plastic, paper/cardboard and tyres.

8.9 (6.9) 2019 Annual General Meeting Status Update (01-003-02-0003 TL)

By Tim Lane, Manager Strategy and Association Governance

Recommendation:

That the update relating to actions taken on 2019 Annual General Meeting resolutions be noted.

Executive Summary:

- Nine motions were adopted at the 2019 WALGA Annual General Meeting held on 7 August 2019.
- The motions were forwarded to the relevant Policy Teams of State Council for action.
- State Council resolved that a report be prepared for the March 2020 State Council agenda detailing action taken on each of the motions.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Isbister

Seconded: Cr Cosgrove

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes State Council Agenda Items 6.1 to 6.9

Carried

9. REPORTS

9.1 Zone President/State Councillor's Report – February 2020

Northern Country Zone of WALGA
President's Report February 2020

The last two months have been a little busier than in recent years. WALGA is implementing the new way of considering submissions via the Board Effect platform. There have been quite a few in this last month. It is envisaged in time that these will not be out of session and so urgent.

The Member for Durack Melissa Price contacted both Cr Cosgrove as Chair of the Regional Road Group and myself as President of the Zone asking that we develop a Grain Freight strategy along the lines of the Wheatbelt Strategy. There is an agenda item outlining how we went about this and possible steps going forward.

I wish to thank Bernie Miller (MRWA), Gavin Treasure (MWDC), Anne Finlay (MWDC) Dianne Daniels (NCZ) and going forward Ian Duncan (WALGA) and Mark Holdsworth (RDA) for their contribution to the plan around this funding application. It has a short time frame and the commitment from everyone to see if we can get it pulled together and endorsed quickly is appreciated.

The Health Forum planned for the end of March is coming along really well. The Executive Officer of the Zone has organised this event, at times has struggled to find speakers but has nearly got a full list of presenters and is to be sincerely thanked for all the work that has gone into the development of this forum. Please encourage your members to come along.

I continue to work with the WALGA on the review of the State Agreement for Road Funding. We met with Peter Woronzow and Maurice Cammack in December and we have a meeting planned with Minister Saffioti in early March to progress the review.

Karen Chappel

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Lane

Seconded: Cr Farrell

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the February 2020 report from the Zone President/State Councillor.

Carried

9.2 WALGA President's Report

The WALGA President's Report to the Zone for February 2020 was emailed to members on Thursday 20 February 2020, after the Agenda was issued.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Simkin

Seconded: Cr Cosgrove

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the February 2020 WALGA President's Report to the Zone.

Carried

9.3 Zone Status Report

A Status Report outlining the actions taken on the Zone's resolutions was emailed to members on Tuesday 18 February 2020, after the Agenda was issued.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Isbister

Seconded: Cr Simkin

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the February 2020 Status Report outlining actions taken on the Zone's resolutions.

Carried

9.4 Midwest Suicide Prevention Steering Group Report

The Northern Country Zone's Standing Invitee to the Midwest Suicide Prevention Steering Group (MSPSG) is Merle Isbister.

Cr Isbister was unable to attend the meeting of the MSPSG on 22/01/2020 due to training in Mt Magnet.

An action item that came out of the Zone's November meeting was that a copy of the Midwest Gascoyne Support after Suicide Procedures was to be emailed to members. Cr Isbister hasn't received a copy yet and will follow up on this.

Cr Isbister noted that there was another meeting coming up in May.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Lane

Seconded: Cr Girando

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the February 2020 status report from the Standing Invitee to the Midwest Suicide Prevention Steering Group.

Carried

9.5 CA07 Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition Working Group

The Northern Country Zone's Representative on the CA07 Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition Working Group is Gary Cosgrove.

Cr Cosgrove noted that there had been no meeting and no information back to him.

Mr Ian Duncan noted there had been a teleconference in December, which had been reported back to Main Roads, but the status quo remains.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Cosgrove

Seconded: Cr Farrell

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the February 2020 status report from the Zone's representative to the Midwest Prevention Steering Group.

Carried

10. ZONE MATTERS FOR NOTING/DECISION

10.1 Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 31 January 2020

Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer

Attachments: Bank Statements Nov 2019, Dec 2019, Jan 2020

Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31 January 2020.

Comments:

The Detailed Income Statement shown below represents the cash position of NCZ at 31 January 2020 as reconciled to the Bank Statement.

NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE O+A1:E40F WALGA				
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT				
<i>For the period ending</i>				
31-Jan-20				
	<i>Date</i>	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Description</i>
Statement Balance B/F	01-07-19		37,968.63	
Deposits				
Bank Interest Received			1.64	
TOTAL RECEIPTS			1.64	
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE			37,970.27	
Payments Made	03-07-19		-2,805.66	Internet tsf - Dianne Daniels - EO services 01/05/2019 - 30/06/2019; Travel expenses
	12-08-19		-275.00	Internet tsf - North Midlands Accounting - Inv 2020-00041 2018-19 Audit
	29-08-19		-203.46	Internet BPay - Shire of Mingenew - Inv 8802 Reimburse catering for meeting 26/08/2019
	29-08-19		-396.00	Internet BPay - Shire of Mingenew - Inv 8803 Reimburse catering for meeting 26/06/2019
	29-08-19		-2,822.04	Internet tsf - Dianne Daniels - EO services 01/07/2019 - 26/08/2019; Travel expenses
	16-10-19		-2.19	Internet tsf - Norris & Hyde IT - Inv 25237 Align Email payment with 1st of month billing cycle
	03-12-19		-2,927.50	Internet tsf - Dianne Daniels - EO services 29/08/2019 - 30/11/2019; Travel & reimbursements
	31-12-19		-750.00	Internet tsf - Gybes - Health Forum venue hire deposit and bond
	20-01-20		-396.00	Internet BPay - Shire of Mingenew - Inv 8939 Reimburse catering for meeting 29/11/2019
	20-01-20		-30.00	Internet tsf - Norris & Hyde It - Inv 33914 Reset password on email
TOTAL PAYMENTS MADE			-10,607.85	
Closing Cash Balance	31-01-20		27,362.42	
NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA				
BANK RECONCILIATION SUMMARY				
<i>For the period ending</i>				
31-Jan-20				
Statement Balance B/F	01-07-19		37,968.63	
Deposits and Credits			1.64	
Cheques and Payments			-10,607.85	
Total Cleared Transactions	31-01-20		27,362.42	
Add back o/s			0.00	
Reconciled Balance			27,362.42	
Bank Statement	31-01-20		27,362.42	
Difference I&E to Bank Statement			0.00	

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Isbister

Seconded: Cr Lane

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31 January 2020.

Carried

10.2 Correspondence Out

Nil

10.3 Correspondence In

10.3.1 Ms Kirsty Davis, WALGA Policy Manager, Community

Attachment: Email dated 02/10/2019

Email trail from David Bowman-Bright (Executive Director, Stronger Communities Network) to Jo Burges and Kirsty Davis regarding the North Midlands Project and giving a brief on the Stronger Communities Network Learning Partnership.

Please note: WALGA can offer the councils of the Northern Country Zone assistance in this space.

10.3.2 Cr Karen Chappel, NCZ Chair

Attachment: Email dated 21/12/2019

Email regarding the 17/12/2019 meeting between Cr Chappel, Mr Nils Hay, Cr Girando, Minister Papalia and Mr Eddie Wajon regarding the Wildflower Rating Scheme.

10.3.3 Mr Ross McKim, CEO City of Greater Geraldton

Attachment: Email dated 15/01/2020

Email trail regarding Batavia Health ceasing practice at the Dongara Medical Centre from 25 January 2020 due to inability to attract a full-time Doctor to Dongara.

10.3.4 Mr Ross McKim, CEO City of Greater Geraldton

Attachment: Email dated 16/01/2020

Email trail including an update from WACHS on the Mullewa Hospital Upgrade.

10.3.5 Mr Mark Batty, Executive Manager, Environment and Waste, WALGA

Attachment: Email dated 14/02/2020

Email regarding the Commonwealth Drought Funding issues.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Simkin

Seconded: Cr Lane

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives correspondence in at Items 10.3.1 through to 10.3.5.

Carried

10.4 Review of Constitution and Standing Orders

*Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer
Attachments: Constitution and Standing Orders*

Recommendation:

That the revisions to the Constitution and Standing Orders, as agreed at this meeting, be adopted.

Background:

WALGA was formed in 2001 with the merging of the WA Municipal Association, the Local Government Association of WA, the Country Urban Councils Association and the Country Shire Councils Association.

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA, at its inaugural meeting, carried a motion to develop a Constitution to guide it. The Constitution and Standing Orders were adopted in March 2003 after a review of Draft documents throughout 2002 and in February 2003. Another amendment was made in February 2014.

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA, at its November 29 2019 meeting resolved '*That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA commence the review of the attached March 2003 Constitution and Standing Orders at the February 2020 meeting*', in order to align them with current practice and current WALGA documents and practices.

Comment:

Both documents are presented with suggested changes shown in red. The changes are suggested to align the documents with current practice and procedure which differs in some instances from the practice and procedures in place when the documents were first adopted. For example, each member Council is entitled to representation by two delegates, rather than by a delegate and a deputy delegate however only one delegate or the other is entitled to vote, not both together; the Zone Secretary is now called the Executive Officer; the timing for election of office bearers has changed; the financial year is 1 July to 30 June rather than 1 January to 31 December; and not all meetings are held in person, to name a few of the differences.

As per the Constitution, a majority of not less than 75% of Ordinary Members who are eligible to vote must be present and a notice period of 30 days must have been given to all members before amendments can be made.

In order to meet the notice period of 30 days, it was decided to amend the resolution so that the changes are brought back to the June meeting.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Girando

Seconded: Cr Isbister

That the revisions to the Constitution and Standing Orders, as presented, be adopted at the June meeting.

Carried

10.5 Mid West Secondary Grain Freight Routes Priority Roads Funding Project

*Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, NCZ, Executive Officer
Bernie Miller, MRWA, Regional Manager Mid West-Gascoyne
Gary Cosgrove, North Midlands Regional Road Group, Chair
Attachment: RARFS North Midlands and Coastal RRG Priority Roads Spreadsheet
RARFS North Midlands and Coastal Priority Roads Maps*

Presented by Cr Gary Cosgrove

Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA, for the purpose of preparing a secondary grain freight route funding submission to the Federal Government, endorses the prioritisation of roads as prepared by the North Midlands and Coastal Regional Road Groups for the Revitalising Agricultural Region Freight Strategy (RARFS). Further, that each Northern Country Zone member takes an agenda item to their Council's March 2020 meeting for endorsement of the RARFS priority roads.

Background:

Wednesday 27th March 2019 saw an announcement of the Federal Government's \$70 million commitment through the Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) initiative for the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Route (WSFR).

ROSI will deliver works such as road realignments, road sealing, strengthening and widening, flood immunity, pavement rehabilitation and bridge and culvert upgrades, creating a more reliable and safer road network and improve access for higher capacity vehicles. The road upgrades are part of the Australian Government's \$3.5 billion nationwide investment over the next decade through ROSI, to ensure the nation's key freight roads efficiently connect agricultural and mining regions to ports, airports and other transport hubs.

The WSFR project is being driven by local government (42 in number) with a Working Group established consisting of representatives from the following organisations:

- Wheatbelt North Regional Road Group
- Wheatbelt South Regional Road Group
- WA Local Government Association
- Regional Development Australia - Wheatbelt
- Main Roads WA-Wheatbelt Region
- Wheatbelt Development Commission

Over a period of several years prior to the funding announcement, the 42 local governments collaborated to:

- identify WSFR roads based upon simple criteria developed by RRG;
- determine basic project framework and minimum design standards;
- prepare a road condition assessment against minimum design standards;
- prepare a high level scope of works and order of magnitude costs for upgrades required;
- prepare a feasibility business case; and
- prepare a cost benefit analysis.

The \$70 million ROSI funding came after much work and planning and going forward, the WSFR Working Group aims to obtain \$500 million over a 10-20 year period to bring the WSFR roads up to a fit for purpose standard.

Comment:

Armed with the above knowledge and with encouragement from the Federal Member for Durack, Minister Melissa Price, a meeting was held at the offices of the Mid West Development Commission on Wednesday 22 January 2020, attended by:

Mid West Development Commission – Gavin Treasure, CEO and Anne Finlay, Project Manager
Northern Country Zone of WALGA – Karen Chappel, Chair and Dianne Daniels, EO
Main Roads WA - Bernie Miller, Regional Manager, Mid West-Gascoyne
North Midlands Regional Road Group – Gary Cosgrove, Chair

The purpose of the meeting was to produce a prioritised list of Mid West secondary grain freight roads to attract Federal funding.

It was decided that the governance structure would be a Working Group made up of representatives from the Mid West Development Commission, Main Roads WA, North Midlands and Coastal sub-groups of the RRG (represented by Gary Cosgrove) and the Northern Country Zone of WALGA. Regional Development Australia

Mid West, will also be invited to join the Working Group. Gary Cosgrove was invited to Chair the Working Group, herein called the Mid West Secondary Grain Freight Routes Working Group (the Working Group)

A list of the Mid West Secondary Grain Freight Routes (MWSGFR) had already been identified, prioritised and costed by the North Midlands and Coastal sub-groups of RRG, with assistance from Main Roads MWG Region. That list is attached to this agenda item for review. The list was prepared for the Revitalising Agricultural Region Freight Strategy (RARFS) and as the MWSGFR project is considered a sub-set of RARFS, the Working Group are keen to see it endorsed in its current form to provide consistency in the funding application.

As the list was collated some months ago now, the Working Group understands that, with possible changes to Councillors and CEO's over that time, there may be some differences of opinion regarding the priorities. The Working Group would like to reassure affected Councils that there are other funding opportunities for roads they feel should be on the list and reiterates the importance of consistency with RARFS.

Mr Maurice Battilana questioned if all roads shown as priorities on the maps should be included on the spreadsheet and was reassured that this was meant to be the case. He was concerned that Chapman Valley Roads on the map had been left off the spreadsheet.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Cosgrove

Seconded: Cr Farrell

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA, for the purpose of preparing a secondary grain freight route funding submission to the Federal Government, endorses the prioritisation of roads as prepared by the North Midlands and Coastal Regional Road Groups for the Revitalising Agricultural Region Freight Strategy (RARFS). Further, that each Northern Country Zone member takes an agenda item to their Council's March 2020 meeting for endorsement of the RARFS priority roads.

Carried

10.6 Update on Northern Country Zone 30 March 2020 Health Forum

*Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer
Attachments: NCZ Health Forum Program*

Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the Program and arrangements for the 30 March 2020 Health Forum and endorses the budget as presented.

Background:

At the November 29 2019 meeting of the Northern Country Zone there was general agreement from Members that the Executive Officer work with WALGA to organise a Health Forum for early February. This followed comments from Mr Shane Love regarding November State Council Agenda Item 8.13 (5.13) - Wheatbelt Regional Health Services noting that health in the Northern Country Zone also needs championing – all regional towns are struggling to recruit/retain Doctors and we need to work as a region to try and solve that.

Comment:

Shortly after the meeting, the Executive Officer emailed a set of questions to all members in order to get a clearer picture of what outcome was expected from the forum. Answers were collated, a program devised and with the endorsement of the Zone President, invitations were sent to proposed speakers and the venue and caterer were booked. During the process, members were emailed with the suggestion that early February was too soon to be able to pull everything together and so it was decided to change the date to 30 March (8 out of 10 members responded in the affirmative) and this is the date that went out with the invitations.

An invitation was sent to both the Federal Minister for Health and State Minister for Health to present the Federal and State positions respectively, but both have sent their apologies. Minister Melissa Price, as member

for Durack, has kindly agreed to present the Federal position and Mr Shane Love MLA, as a member of the State Education and Health Standing Committee, has agreed to present the State position. Representatives from all Allied Health Services are now confirmed.

I have been liaising with WALGA's Marissa MacDonald, Senior Policy Advisor Community and she and Kirstie Davis, Policy Manager Community, will be attending to facilitate the workshop and will also prepare a final report for distribution to members.

The estimated costs for the Forum are as follows:

Gybes Events and Functions	Venue Hire	\$ 650.00
	Staff	\$ 170.00
	Bond (refundable if no damage)	\$ 500.00
Dagleish Catering	Say max 65 attendees x \$40 (morning tea/lunch)	\$2,600.00
Executive Officer	'Additional Activities' per contract (approx. 24 hrs x \$50)	\$1,200.00
Sub-Total		\$5,120.00
Assume Bond Refund		-\$ 500.00
Estimated Cost		\$4,620.00

The attendees allowed for in the catering cost include up to four representatives per Member, plus the ten speakers, twelve invited guests as per page three of the program, the Executive Officer and the two WALGA Officers.

As it was decided that there would be no Northern Country Zone Conference this year, and as there is more than sufficient funds in the bank, I suggest that the Northern Country Zone could cover the cost of the Health Forum without charging Members. However, if Members would like to invite more than four people, then they could be charged \$40 per person extra to cover catering.

All speakers on the attached program have been confirmed. If any members would like to make any additions or amendments to their representatives and guests, please have changes to me by Friday 28 February. The finalised Program will then be sent to all members, speakers and guests in the first week of March.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Lane

Seconded: Cr Isbister

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the Program and arrangements for the 30 March 2020 Health Forum and endorses the budget as presented.

Carried

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

As per Item 35 of the Zone Standing Orders, a Delegate may under General Business introduce a motion relating to any item of interest to Local Government, but not otherwise.

11.1 Regional Issues

Background:

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

11.1.1 Drought Funding

The motion below was suggested by Cr Chappel and endorsed by the meeting:

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Cosgrove

Seconded: Cr Isbister

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses WALGA's advocacy on behalf of local government around eligibility criteria for the drought funding program.

Carried

11.2 Regional Tourism Initiatives

Background:

As per the resolution at Item 10.1 of the April 2019 minutes, Regional Tourism Initiatives are open for discussion.

Nil

11.3 Other General Business

The Zone President invited Guests to address the meeting if they so wished.

Mr Gavin Treasure, CEO Mid West Development Commission, noted that the next round of Regional Economic Development Grants would be available in April and handed out flyers on the North Midlands Digital Farms program, which is 80 % complete.

Mr Mark Holdsworth, Executive Officer, Regional Development Australia, gave members a brief overview of RDA and noted that a practical initiative underway at the moment is that a workshop on how to source good grant information, grant applications and grant acquittal has been held in Mingenew with another scheduled for Morawa in the near future. He also noted that RDA had moved office to 283 Marine Tce Geraldton.

The Hon. Laurie Graham MLC and Mr Shane Love MLA both decided to catch up with members over lunch, as the meeting had run over time.

There was a general conversation at the table regarding the RAC advocating to reduce country speed limits. The Zone President noted that WALGA have a policy to not support reduction. The Zone President suggested that the outcome of the Road Safety Commission review (due Wednesday) may give some guidance on this matter.

12. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Recommendation:

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be held on Tuesday 28 April 2020 by Flying Minute.

This item was missed at the meeting.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved:

Seconded:

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be held on Tuesday 28 April 2020 by Flying Minute.

Carried/Lost

13. MEETING CLOSURE

Meeting declared closed at 12:27 pm.