

# Central Country Zone Minutes

## 13 February 2026

Hosted by the Shire of Corrigin  
24 Larke Crescent, Corrigin  
Commencing at 9:30am

*Tea/Coffee will be served from 9:00am*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1.</b>	<b>OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES.....</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1.	Opening .....	4
1.2.	Attendance .....	4
1.3.	Apologies .....	5
<b>2.</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>HOST COUNCIL PRESENTATION .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS .....</b>	<b>7</b>
5.1.	Speakers for the February Zone Meeting .....	7
5.1.1.	Department of Lands, Planning and Heritage .....	7
5.2.	Speakers for the April Zone Meeting .....	7
5.3.	Speakers for the June Zone Meeting.....	8
<b>6.</b>	<b>MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>AGENCY REPORTS .....</b>	<b>9</b>
7.1.	Department of Local Government, Industry Regulations and Safety .....	9
7.2.	Wheatbelt Development Commission .....	9
7.3.	Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt .....	9
7.4.	Main Roads Western Australia .....	9
7.5.	CBH Group .....	9
7.6.	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage .....	10
<b>8.</b>	<b>MINUTES.....</b>	<b>10</b>
8.1.	Confirmation of Minutes from the Central Country Zone Meeting held 21 November 2025.....	10
8.2.	Business Arising from the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Meeting held on 21 November 2025 .....	11
8.3.	Business Arising from the Central Country Executive Committee Meeting held on 3 February 2026 .....	14
8.3.1.	Standing invites for Members of Parliament.....	14
8.3.2.	Zone Strategic Priorities.....	14
8.3.3.	Future Speakers for Zone Meetings.....	15
<b>9.</b>	<b>ZONE BUSINESS .....</b>	<b>16</b>
9.1.	Wheatbelt Freight Network Submission for Funding.....	16
11.1	WALGA President’s Report .....	18
9.2.	Renewable Energy Planning Code .....	18
9.3.	Main Roads WA Speed Zoning Policy.....	19
9.4.	2026 Regional State Council meeting – Shire of Pingelly.....	21
9.5.	2026 Local Government Honours Awards.....	22
9.6.	Water Management Discussion Paper Update .....	22
9.7.	Consultation on Draft Climate Change Advocacy Position.....	24
9.8.	Disaster Ready Fund .....	26
9.9.	Draft Renewable Energy Planning Code.....	26
9.10.	Western Power Pole Top Fires and Network Response .....	29
<b>10.</b>	<b>ZONE REPORTS .....</b>	<b>31</b>
10.1.	Zone Chair Report.....	31
10.2.	WALGA RoadWise Report .....	32
<b>11.</b>	<b>WALGA EXECUTIVE REPORTS .....</b>	<b>32</b>
11.1.	WALGA President’s Report .....	32
11.2.	State Councillor Report .....	32
11.3.	Status Report.....	34

<b>12.</b>	<b>WALGA STATE COUNCIL AGENDA .....</b>	<b>40</b>
12.1.	Matters for Decision.....	40
12.1.1.	Aviation Advocacy Positions.....	40
12.1.2.	Other State Council Agenda items.....	44
<b>13.</b>	<b>EMERGING ISSUES .....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>14.</b>	<b>NEXT MEETING.....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>15.</b>	<b>CLOSURE .....</b>	<b>44</b>

## ATTACHMENTS

The following are provided as attachments to the Agenda:

1. Item 7.4 – Main Roads WA Presentation
2. Item 7.6 – Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage Presentation

The full [State Council Agenda can be found on the WALGA website](#).

## 1. OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

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### 1.1. OPENING

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The Chair declared the meeting open at 9:35am.

### 1.2. ATTENDANCE

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<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>2 Voting Delegates from each Member Council</b>
<b>Shire of Beverley</b>	President Cr Dee Ridgway Mr Stephen Gollan, Chief Executive Officer
<b>Shire of Brookton</b>	President Cr Rod Wallis Cr Gary Crouch Mr Gary Sherry, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Corrigin</b>	President Cr Sharon Jacobs Cr Des Hickey (Chair) Cr Heather Talbot, non-voting Ms Natalie Manton, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Cuballing</b>	President Cr Adrian Kowald
<b>Shire of Dumbleyung</b>	President Cr Amy Knight Mr Gavin Treasure, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Kulin</b>	President Cr Grant Robbins Cr Robbie Bowey Mr Alan Leeson, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Lake Grace</b>	President Cr Len Armstrong Deputy President Stephen Hunt Mr Alan George, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Narrogin</b>	President Cr Leigh Ballard Cr Clive Bartron Deputy President Cr Graham Broad, non-voting Mr Dale Stewart, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Pingelly</b>	Deputy President Cr Peter Wood Cr Bryan Hotham

	Mr Andrew Dover, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Quairading</b>	Deputy President Cr Jo Hayes Nic Warren, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Wagin</b>	President Cr Phillip Blight Deputy President Cr Bryan Kilpatrick Dr Kenneth Parker, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Wandering</b>	President Cr Sheryl Little Dr Alistair Pinto, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of West Arthur</b>	President Cr Karen Harrington Deputy President Cr Duncan South Mr Rajinder Sunner, Manager Corporate Services, non-voting
<b>Shire of Wickepin</b>	President Cr Julie Russell Deputy President Cr Tyron Miller Mr David Burton, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Williams</b>	Nil

#### **GUESTS**

Main Roads WA	Mr Mohammad Siddiqwui, Operations Manager Mr Ganesh Ganeshan, Operations Manager
Regional Development Australia WA	Mr Josh Pomykala, Director Regional Development
Wheatbelt Development Commission	Mr Rob Cossart, Chief Executive Officer
CBH Group	Mr Tim Roberts, Lead – Planning Approvals
Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH)	Ms Janine Egan, Planning Director Ms Samantha Ferguson, Senior Policy & Project Officer Ms Sarah Cosstick, Principal Policy Planner
Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network (WSFN)	Mr John Nuttall, Program Director

#### **MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT**

Nil

#### **WALGA**

Mr Paul Kelly, Deputy President WALGA  
Ms Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance  
Ms Sammy Jones, Member Services Executive Administrator

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### **1.3. APOLOGIES**

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#### **MEMBERS**

<b>Shire of Beverley</b>	Deputy President Cr Alan Sattler
<b>Shire of Brookton</b>	Cr Tamara De Lange

<b>Shire of Cuballing</b>	Deputy President Cr Rob Harris Mr Chris Paget, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Dumbleyung</b>	Deputy President Cr David Head
<b>Shire of Pingelly</b>	President Cr Jackie McBurney
<b>Shire of Quairading</b>	President Cr Trevor Stacey
<b>Shire of Wandering</b>	Deputy President Cr Alan Price
<b>Shire of West Arthur</b>	Mr Vin Fordham Lamont, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Williams</b>	Cr Heidi Cowcher President Cr Jarrad Logie Mr Peter Stubbs, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

#### **MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT**

Hon Sandra Carr MLC	Member for Western Australia, Deputy Chair of Committees
Hon Steve Martin MLC	Shadow Minister for Transport; Ports; Communities
Mr Peter Rundle MLA	Member for Roe, Shadow Minister for Water; Sports and Recreation
Mr Lachlan Hunter MLA	Member for Central Wheatbelt
Hon Sabine Winton MLA	Minister for Education; Early Childhood; Preventative Health; Wheatbelt
Mr Rick Wilson MP	Member for O'Connor; Deputy Chair of Joint Standing Committee on Trade and Investment Growth

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil.

## **3. HOST COUNCIL PRESENTATION**

President Cr Sharon Jacobs, Shire of Corrigin, welcomed all delegates and guests and provided a verbal update on current projects and issues within the Shire. Her update included an overview of the Shire's recent harvest achievements, improvements made to Town safety, successful grant funding for streetscape enhancements, and upgrades to the recreation centre, including the improved reticulation at the oval.

President Cr Sharon Jacobs then presented a video slideshow showcasing key attractions and features of Corrigin. The presentation highlighted the Dog Cemetery, the Wildflower Drive, Gorge Rock Reserve, various town streetscapes, aerial views of Corrigin Centre, and other notable local sights.

## **4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Nil.

## 5. GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS

*All Deputations have a time limit of 20 minutes, which includes time for questions.*

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### 5.1. SPEAKERS FOR THE FEBRUARY ZONE MEETING

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#### 5.1.1. DEPARTMENT OF LANDS, PLANNING AND HERITAGE

The Department of Lands, Heritage and Planning (DPLH) attended at 11:00am to present on the Draft Renewable Energy Code, details of the presentation can be found below at [item 7.6](#).

**Noted**

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### 5.2. SPEAKERS FOR THE APRIL ZONE MEETING

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The Zone has received three requests for presentations at the April Zone meeting in Cuballing.

#### **NBN**

Ms Bethany Findlay, Regional Development and Engagement Manager at NBN has requested to present at a future meeting of the Zone. Ms Findlay advised the best month for NBN to attend would be April.

#### **TELSTRA**

Mr Boyd Brown, Regional General Manager of Telstra has requested to attend an upcoming meeting of the Zone. Upon reviewing the dates for the 2026 Zone meetings, Mr Brown has requested to attend the April meeting in Cuballing.

#### **Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)**

WALGA has been approached by a representative from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) requesting support for a deputation to Zones to facilitate a targeted, Elected Member/CEO-focused discussion on the Australian Census. The ABS is seeking insight on local community considerations, participation challenges, and how Census engagement can be strengthened across Western Australia.

This proposal recognises that councillors have distinct responsibilities, insights, and perspectives that extend beyond operational Census delivery. CEOs and Elected members will also have the opportunity to explore how Census data supports council planning, advocacy, and service delivery, while helping shape future engagement approaches. The session is designed to be practical, collaborative, and responsive to the priorities and experiences of Local Governments.

The session would be framed as: "*We are here to listen – what would you like to ask, know, or see changed?*", focussing on:

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

## RESOLUTION

**Moved:** President Cr Karen Harrington  
**Seconded:** President Cr Adrian Kowald

**That the Central Country Zone approve the following deputations for the April 2026 Zone meeting:**

1. **NBN**
2. **Telstra; and**
3. **the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).**

**CARRIED**

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### 5.3. SPEAKERS FOR THE JUNE ZONE MEETING

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#### **Water Corporation**

The Executive Officer has been liaising with the Water Corporation to request their attendance at a 2026 Zone meeting. Mr Adrian Stewart, Regional Manager, Great Southern Region has indicated that they would like attend either the June or August meeting this year.

## RESOLUTION

**Moved:** Cr Robbie Bowey  
**Seconded:** Deputy President Cr Bryan Kilpatrick

**That the Central Country Zone approve the Water Corporation to attend and present at either the June or August 2026 Zone meeting.**

**CARRIED**

## 6. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Any Members of Federal and State Government in attendance are invited to provide a brief update on matters relevant to the Zone. No Federal or State Government Members were in attendance at the meeting.

#### **Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network**

Prior to commencing with Agency Reports, Zone Chair Cr Des Hickey invited Mr John Nutall, Program Director from Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network (WSFN) to provide an update on the recent State Government funding decision.

The WSFN is a jointly funded program between Commonwealth, State and 42 Wheatbelt Local Governments working together to strategically improve the regional road freight safety and efficiency across the key transport routes that support the region's major industries.

Recently, the State Government opted not to include WSFN on their short list for funding as part of the next State budget. WSFN have reached out to the Minister for Transport, Hon Rita Saffioti MLA for a meeting, and has started the process of speaking with the Federal Government to confirm their funding commitment.

Mr Nutall took questions and suggestions from the floor on this matter. [Item 9.1](#) below relates to this issue.

## 7. AGENCY REPORTS

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### 7.1. DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY REGULATIONS AND SAFETY

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The DLGIRS report was attached to the Agenda.

**Noted**

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### 7.2. WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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*Mr Rob Cossart, Chief Executive Officer*

Mr Cossart provided a verbal report to the Zone.

**Noted**

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### 7.3. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA WHEATBELT

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*Mr Josh Pomykala, Director Regional Development*

The RDA Wheatbelt report was attached to the Agenda.

**Noted**

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### 7.4. MAIN ROADS WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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*Mr Mohammad Siddiqui and Mr Ganesh Ganeshan, Operations Managers*

Mr Siddiqui and Mr Ganeshan provided a presentation to the Zone. A copy of this presentation is attached. **(Attachment 1)**

**Noted**

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### 7.5. CBH GROUP

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*Mr Tim Roberts, Lead – Planning Approvals*

Mr Roberts provided a verbal report to the Zone.

**Noted**

*The meeting broke for a brief ten-minute break at 10:50am.*

*The meeting returned at 11:02am.*

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## 7.6. DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, LANDS AND HERITAGE

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*Ms Janine Egan, Planning Director, Ms Samantha Ferguson, Senior Policy & Project Officer, and Ms Sarah Cosstick, Principal Policy Planner*

The Department of Lands, Heritage and Planning (DPLH) attended the Zone meeting to present on their recently released draft Renewable Energy Planning Codes. The DPLH presented over a period of 75 minutes and took several questions from the Zone Members. A copy of the presentation is attached. **(Attachment 2)**

The DPLH encouraged all Local Governments to make a submission online: [Renewable Energy Planning Code | Have Your Say, WA!](#) before the submission closure on **10 April**.

Further information on the code can be found on the Departments website: [Draft Renewable Energy Planning Code](#). The Department also welcome questions via email to: [renewableenergyplanning@dplh.wa.gov.au](mailto:renewableenergyplanning@dplh.wa.gov.au)

**Noted**

## 8. MINUTES

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### 8.1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM THE CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE MEETING HELD 21 NOVEMBER 2025

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The Minutes of the Central Country Zone meeting held on 21 November 2025 have previously been circulated to Delegates. The Minutes were attached to the Agenda.

Delegates raised two corrections for the 21 November Minutes. These will be addressed and the Minutes re-circulated to the Zone.

#### RESOLUTION

**Moved: President Cr Dee Ridgway**  
**Seconded: President Cr Karen Harrington**

**That the Minutes of the meeting of the Central Country Zone held on 21 November 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings after correction to the following points:**

- 1. In the attendance list Cr Tyron Miller is listed as both attending and an apology, Cr Tyron Miller was an apology.**
- 2. In item 10.3 the wrong delegate was stated as pulling the name out of the hat for the tie break, this is to be amended to President Cr Rod Wallis.**

**CARRIED**

## 8.2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE MEETING HELD ON 21 NOVEMBER 2025

Item Number & Name	Resolution	Action
9.6.1 Cost Shifting Compliance Report Project Update	<p><i>That the Central Country Zone:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>resolve to action each Position as follows:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <i>Position 1 be referred to State Council for consideration as a WALGA Advocacy Position.</i></li> <li>b. <i>A letter be sent to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum in relation to Position 2.</i></li> <li>c. <i>Position 3 to be dealt with as a separate issue given recent communications with the Office of the Auditor General.</i></li> <li>d. <i>Position 4 be amended to remove the reference to the Financial Assistance Grants, to read: "The Australian Government increase the support to Local Governments in <u>rural</u>, remote and very remote locations that are providing funding, sourced through their rates, to attract and retain general practitioners."</i></li> </ol> </li> <li>2. <i>supports sharing a copy of the report with the other Wheatbelt Zones (Avon-Midland and Great Eastern Country Zones), seeking their support for the four Positions.</i></li> <li>3. <i>Supports sharing a copy of the report with the Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport's</i></li> </ol>	<p>Resolution 1(a) is for Position 1 to be referred to State Council for consideration as a WALGA Advocacy Position. At the December 2025 meeting, State Council resolved to refer this item to the Policy Portfolio for consideration and appropriate action.</p> <p>Resolution 1(b) resolved for a letter to be sent to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, Hon David Michael. A letter was prepared and sent to Hon David Michael on 19 December 2025 and a response was received on 5 January 2026 to advise that as this is a matter within the remit of the Minister for Local Government, the letter has been forwarded to Hon Hannah Beazley. A copy of this letter was attached to the Agenda.</p> <p>Resolution 1(d) requested an amendment within the original report. The amendment has been actioned and an updated copy of the report is attached. A copy of this updated report was attached to the Agenda.</p> <p>Resolution 2 resolved to share a copy of the report with the other Wheatbelt Zones (Avon-Midland and Great Eastern). This has been actioned.</p>

	<i>new Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability.</i>	Resolution 3 resolved to share a copy of the report with the Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport's new Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability. A cover letter and copy of the report were submitted on 22 December 2025. A copy of the cover letter was attached to the Agenda.
10.1 Wheatbelt Regional Crematorium	<i>That the Central Country Zone:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>support the Avon-Midland Country Zone's proposal in relation to the establishment of a regional Crematorium and Chapel; and</i></li> <li>2. <i>join the Avon-Midland Country Zone in its advocacy efforts with State and Federal Governments for the investigation, planning and establishment of a regional Crematorium and Chapel.</i></li> </ol>	The Zone supported Avon-Midland's proposal as is, except the preference that the new Crematorium and Chapel be located at the Northam Cemetery.  The Executive Officer has contacted the Avon-Midland Country Zone Executive Officer, Robert Dew, to express the Central Country Zone's support of the proposal. A copy of this correspondence was attached to the Agenda.
10.5 Consideration of Correspondence to Minister for Local Government regarding Local Government Elections	<i>That the Central Country Zone write to the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Wheatbelt and Shadow Minister for Local Government stating the Zone's opposition to compulsory voting and full Council elections every four years.</i>	Letters were sent to the Minister for Local Government, Minister for the Wheatbelt and Shadow Minister for Local Government in December, a copy of these letters was attached to the Agenda.
10.6 Telstra Site Firebreaks	<i>That the Central Country Zone write to the Federal Minister for Communications raising the matter of bush fire mitigation in communications facilities in regional Australia.</i>	The Executive Officer wrote to the Federal Minister for Communications in December; a copy of this letter was attached to the Agenda. We are yet to receive a response.

10.7 Regulations Working Group	<i>That the Central Country Zone write to the Minister seeking that representation on the Regulations Working Group be extended to include two representatives from each local government band and include representation from both elected members and officers as well representation from remote and regional Western Australia.</i>	The Executive Officer wrote the Minister of Local Government; we are yet to receive a response. A copy of this letter was attached to the Agenda.
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**Noted**

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### **8.3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CENTRAL COUNTRY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3 FEBRUARY 2026**

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The Central Country Zone Executive Committee met on 3 February 2026. A copy of the Minutes of the meeting was attached to the Agenda. Business arising from that meeting requiring Zone attention is listed below.

#### **8.3.1. STANDING INVITES FOR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT**

The Zone has a protocol of standing invites for all Members of Parliament within the Central Country Zone. The invites are sent out at the same time as the notice of meeting to Delegates, approximately two months prior to the meeting.

Any MPs who attend a Zone meeting are given the opportunity to briefly address the meeting.

MPs that currently receive a standing invite are as follows:

- Hon Sandra Carr, MLC, Member for Western Australia, Deputy Chair of Committees
- Mr Lachlan Hunter, MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt, Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Food; Racing and Gaming.
- Hon Steve Martin, MLC, Member for Western Australia, Shadow Minister for Transport; Ports; Communities.
- Mr Peter Rundle, MLA, Member for Roe, Shadow Minister for Water; Sports and Recreation.
- Hon Sabine Winton, MLA, Member for Wanneroo, Minister for Education; Early Childhood; Preventative Health; Wheatbelt.
- Mr Rick Wilson, MP, Member for O'Connor; Deputy Chair of Joint Standing Committee on Trade and Investment Growth.

The Executive Committee considered whether to continue the standing invite protocol as is for 2026 Zone meetings.

The Executive Committee resolved to send personalised invites to the Members of Parliament listed above with the inclusion of all MLCs and Hon Stephen Dawson. These invites will be sent by the Executive Officer prior to each meeting.

**Noted**

#### **8.3.2. ZONE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

In February 2024, the Zone endorsed the following strategic priorities:

1. Challenges faced by Band 4 Local Governments relating to State/Federal Government services being provided by Local Governments together with Local Government compliance requirements.
2. Essential Services – power, telecommunication and water.
3. Housing

These priorities were shortlisted from a longer list identified by the Zone during a strategic planning workshop in August 2023.

As it has been some time since both the workshop and the Zone's endorsement of the priorities, the Executive Committee discussed reviewing these priorities with the Zone to ensure they are still accurate.

During discussion it was decided that each Delegate would take this item to their Council to seek feedback on the current Strategic Priorities of the Zone. An item will be prepared for the April or June meeting to host a workshop prior to the meeting to establish these priorities.

**Noted**

### **8.3.3. FUTURE SPEAKERS FOR ZONE MEETINGS**

The Executive Committee discussed speakers who have requested or have been invited to attend upcoming Zone meetings. The details of these are as follows below.

#### **Auditor General**

The Auditor General, Ms Caroline Spencer, was originally confirmed to attend the February Zone meeting, however due to parliamentary requirements Ms Spencer was unable to attend. The Office of the Auditor General requested to meet with the Zone electronically. The Executive Committee requested that the Executive Officer approach the OAG again to request in person attendance.

The Executive Officer spoke to the Office of the OAG and discussed attendance at any of the 2026 meetings and advised that there would not be the standard 20-minute time constraint provided to speakers, however the OAG has advised that they still cannot commit to any 2026 dates at this point in time.

**Noted**

#### **HC Construction Services Pty Ltd**

WALGA was approached by HC Construction Services Pty Ltd requesting an opportunity to attend various Country Zone meetings to provide a deputation on how to navigate through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA).

HC Construction Services is a WA based company specialising in project management, consultancy and construction delivery. HC is a WALGA Preferred Supplier and has worked with several Local Governments to manage disaster relief funding claims. This includes by way of road condition video using their internally developed RF Vid Assist system.

The proposed presentation would include some tips, dos and don'ts, advice on pre disaster evidence requirements, and lessons learnt on three or four case studies where applicants have encountered problems. The presentation would also include information on how Local Governments can prepare a funding application, so they receive the maximum funding available in the event of a natural disaster.

The Executive Committee discussed whether the topic of this presentation was of high priority for the Zone. Given there are already several presentations lined up for 2026, the Committee suggested that HC Construction only be invited to a future meeting if the agenda is lacking in deputations and time permits.

**Noted**

## 9. ZONE BUSINESS

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### 9.1. WHEATBELT FREIGHT NETWORK SUBMISSION FOR FUNDING

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*By Shire of Narrogin*

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network (WSFN) is overseen by a Steering Committee comprised of the representatives from the Wheatbelt North and Wheatbelt South Regional Road Groups, Main Roads Western Australia, the WA Local Government Association, Wheatbelt Development Commission and Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt.

The Wheatbelt region produces 41 per cent of the State's total gross value of agricultural production, worth \$3.35 billion in 2015/16 (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development 2018 Western Australia Gross Regional Product).

According to the road safety statistics collated by the Western Australian Road Safety Commission, the Killed and Serious Injury (KSI) rate within the Wheatbelt Region of Western Australia is more than double the rate of any other region within the State. By upgrading the roads along these routes, safety of the roads will be increased as the geometry of the roads will be improved and through the increase in the size of vehicles used for the freight, the number of trucks on the road will be reduced. These will result in an improved in the KSI rate for the Region.

#### **COMMENT**

The application for continued funding of the WSFN did not make the final shortlist for consideration in the upcoming State budget, despite being supported and presented by Main Roads WA. Whilst the majority of the WSFN funding is provided by the Commonwealth, the commitment of the State is imperative to underwrite a funding request to the Commonwealth.

The WSFN program is crucial for reducing transport costs and improving road user safety across the Wheatbelt. This is especially pertinent given the bumper harvest currently being delivered.

All the Local Governments involved in the WSFN are very grateful for the funding provided to date. Significant progress has been made across hundreds of kilometres of Wheatbelt roads. It would be extremely disappointing should this unique program not continue to be funded and all of the progress (especially reducing the trauma of serious road accidents in statistically the worst region in Western Australia) be lost.

The WSFN has been an extremely valuable program for the Shire of Narrogin and our growers and freight sector, delivering real improvements to road safety, access, and productivity across the agricultural supply chain. It would be deeply disappointing if this highly successful Commonwealth–State–Local Government partnership – one of the most effective regional road funding programs in a generation – could not be continued.

Mr Dale Stewart, Chief Executive Officer of the Shire of Narrogin, wrote to Hon Rita Saffioti MLA, Minister for Transport, Sport and Recreation to encourage her to reconsider the decision not to shortlist the WSFN for funding. A copy of this letter was attached to the Agenda.

## SECRETARIAT COMMENT

Approximately 4,400km of roads across 42 Local Government areas have been identified as important parts of the industry supply chains in the Wheatbelt region.

A program to upgrade prioritised sections of the road network was developed and has been progressively implemented since first funded by the Commonwealth and State Governments in 2019-2020. Nearly 1,100km of road improvements will be completed using the funding provided to date.

There remains much work to do to provide a road network that will meet current and future industry and community needs. Financial support from the State and Commonwealth Governments is crucial to maintaining the program.

Aligned, proactive support from all Local Governments in the region has been highlighted in previous WALGA advocacy with both State and Federal Governments and their Departments. The [WALGA 2026-27 Federal Budget Submission](#) seeks a commitment to further funding for the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network.

## RECOMMENDATION

That the Central Country Zone:

1. Does not support the decision to not include continued funding of the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network in the upcoming State budget;
2. Supports the Shire of Narrogin's advocacy efforts to encourage Minister Saffioti to reconsider the decision;
3. and Writes to Minister Saffioti on behalf of all Local Governments in the Zone asking for the Minister to reconsider.

## RESOLUTION

**Moved: President Leigh Ballard**

**Seconded: President Cr Dee Ridgway**

**That the Central Country Zone:**

1. **Requests the Minister for Transport, Hon Rita Saffioti MLA to review the decision to discontinue funding of the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network in the upcoming State Budget;**
2. **Supports the Shire of Narrogin's advocacy efforts to encourage Minister Saffioti to reconsider the decision; and**
3. **Writes to Minister Saffioti on behalf of all Local Governments in the Zone asking for the Minister to reconsider and;**
4. **Requests a meeting with Minister Saffioti and Minister for Regional Development, Hon Stephen Dawson MLC.**

**CARRIED**

*The meeting broke for a 30-minute lunch break at 12:30pm.*

*The meeting resumed at 1:00pm.*

*Item 11.1 WALGA Presidents Report was brought forward to allow WALGA Deputy President Cr Paul Kelly to present this report.*

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## **11.1 WALGA PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

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A copy of the WALGA President's Report was attached to the Agenda.

Deputy President Paul Kelly attended the meeting and spoke to this report on behalf of President Karen Chappel.

### **Noted**

*WALGA Deputy President Cr Paul Kelly left the meeting at 1:10pm and did not return.*

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## **9.2. RENEWABLE ENERGY PLANNING CODE**

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*By Shire of Wagin*

### **BACKGROUND**

In December 2025, the State Government released the first part of the Draft Renewable Energy Planning Code.

Part 1 of the code deals with wind farms. The remaining parts which deal with transmission lines, solar farms, and battery energy storage systems are yet to be published by the State Government.

The State Government is requesting feedback on the code by 10 April 2026. WALGA will also be preparing feedback on behalf of Local Governments as a whole. WALGA is requesting feedback by 27 February 2026.

The renewable energy transition will have a potentially significant impact for a portion of Central Country Zone Local Governments and the communities that Central Country Zone Local Governments' serve.

The consultation period on the draft Code represents an opportunity for the communities in regional Western Australia who will be most affected by the transition to advocate for better outcomes for our communities.

A draft submission has been prepared below for the Zone's consideration. The draft submission is based on the draft submission prepared by the Shire of Wagin administration for the Shire of Wagin's Council's consideration.

While this paper asks that Zone members endorse a Zone submission, it is equally recommended that Shire's take the opportunity to make a submission.

### **COMMENT**

The draft submission makes ten recommendations across five topic areas:

- Noise
- Neighbouring landowner rights and setbacks
- Construction
- Bushfire and Aerial Fire Fighting
- Decommissioning

Overall, the State Government's Draft Code provides a lower level of protection than that provided in other planning codes across Australia.

#### **ATTACHMENT**

- A copy of the draft submission on the Draft Renewable Energy Planning Code was attached to the Agenda.

#### **SECRETARIAT COMMENT**

WALGA recognises the potentially significant impacts that renewable energy developments may have on Local Governments and communities, including those in the Central Country Zone. WALGA notes the draft submission to the Renewable Energy Planning Code, and will take this into consideration as we prepare a submission to the State on behalf of the sector, to ensure the draft Code delivers positive outcomes for Member Local Governments, communities and industry. WALGA strongly encourages Local Governments to make their own submission on the draft Code by 10 April 2026 and provide feedback to WALGA to inform our sector submission by 27 February 2026. Council endorsed submissions are preferred.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: President Cr Phil Blight**

**Seconded: President Leigh Ballard**

**That the Central Country Zone:**

- 1. Adopts the draft submission to the Draft Renewable Energy Planning Code; and**
- 2. Provides the submission to WALGA and the Western Australian Planning Commission.**

**CARRIED**

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### **9.3. MAIN ROADS WA SPEED ZONING POLICY**

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*By Shire of Kulin*

#### **Background**

The Shire of Kulin has recently raised concerns directly with Main Roads Western Australia (MRWA) regarding the application of revised speed zoning on the eastern approach into Corrigin along Brookton Highway.

In response, MRWA has confirmed that the removal of traditional speed transition buffers (for example, 110 km/h to 80 km/h to 50–60 km/h) is being implemented as a matter of State-wide policy, rather than as a legislative or regulatory requirement. This policy position reflects a broader shift in speed zoning practice and is now being applied across rural and regional Western Australia.

The Corrigin eastern entry provides a clear and practical example of how this policy is being applied in a regional context. At this location:

- the speed environment drops directly from 110 km/h to 60 km/h;
- the reduced speed zone commences well outside the built-up area and within a clearly rural road environment; and
- two separate "60 km/h Ahead" warning sign assemblies have been installed leading into the adjusted speed zone.

## **Issue**

From the Shire of Kulin's perspective, the Corrigin example highlights several concerns with the current policy approach.

The direct reduction from 110 km/h to 60 km/h does not align with driver expectation in a rural setting and is likely to result in low compliance. The absence of an intermediate 80 km/h transition removes a graduated behavioural cue that historically assisted drivers in adjusting speed on town approaches.

In addition, the installation of two "60 km/h Ahead" warning sign sets has increased roadside signage and associated installation and maintenance costs. This outcome appears counterintuitive when compared with a traditional arrangement that would have required only a single set of 80 km/h signs between the 110 km/h and 60 km/h zones.

The Shire considers that these outcomes raise broader questions about whether the current policy is achieving its intended road safety objectives in rural and regional environments.

## **Discussion**

While this matter has been raised initially by the Shire of Kulin, it is now being presented to the Central Country Zone to seek broader Local Government support and recognition that this is a systemic regional issue rather than an isolated location-specific concern.

Zones have an established role in advocating on regional issues and providing direction to WALGA on matters of State-wide relevance to Local Government. Given the increasing application of this policy across regional WA, there is an opportunity for the Central Country Zone to seek WALGA's assistance in engaging with MRWA at a policy level.

## **Request to WALGA**

That WALGA, on behalf of the Central Country Zone, formally approach MRWA to request a review of the policy position relating to the removal of speed transition buffers on approaches to rural and regional townsites, with a view to adopting a more pragmatic, context-sensitive and evidence-based approach.

## **SECRETARIAT COMMENT**

WALGA does not have a policy position on this issue. The Main Roads Speed Zoning Policy and Application [Guidelines](#) (currently under review) addresses Speed Zone Transitions in Section 4.4 and it is our understanding that Speed Zone Transitions will continue be addressed in similar fashion in the subsequent version of the Guidelines document. A Safe System approach to road safety supports aligning the speed limit to the associated environmental context and road infrastructure elements, but information on the road safety implications of intermediate speed limit signs versus speed reduction warning signs is not clear.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** President Cr Grant Robbins

**Seconded:** Cr Robbie Bowey

**That the Central Country Zone supports the Shire of Kulin and resolves to request WALGA to formally approach Main Roads Western Australia seeking a review of the policy-based removal of speed transition buffers across rural and regional Western Australia.**

**CARRIED**

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#### 9.4. 2026 REGIONAL STATE COUNCIL MEETING – SHIRE OF PINGELLY

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*By Kathy Robertson, Zone Executive Officer*

The Zone has agreed to host the 2026 Country Regional State Council meeting. Following discussion and a vote at the November meeting, the Shire of Pingelly was agreed as the host Local Government.

Since the November meeting, WALGA (on the suggestion of a State Councillor) has decided to swap the dates for the Country and Metropolitan Regional meetings for this year. That is, where it was previously advised that the meeting in Pingelly would be in September, it will instead be held in May.

The Country Regional meeting is a two-day event, giving State Councillors plenty of time to network and interact outside of the boardroom. Pulling the event forward to May would give new State Councillors an opportunity to get to know their colleagues better, earlier in their term.

Mr Andrew Dover, Chief Executive Officer at Pingelly, has confirmed that the Shire can host the meeting if it were to be moved to **Wednesday, 6 to Thursday, 7 May**. Preliminary plans are already underway with Pingelly.

All Elected Members and senior officers from the Zone are invited to attend parts of the Regional meeting program. Zone Delegates in particular are strongly encouraged to attend.

The key part of the program that requires Zone input is the Zone Forum. The Zone Forum is an initiative of State Council that aims to foster meaningful discussion and exchange of information between Zone members and State Councillors. Generally, the Forum goes for 2-3 hours and includes presentations from each of the Local Governments within the Zone.

Given that there are 15 Local Governments in the Central Country Zone, an alternative format may need to be considered.

The last time the Zone hosted the Regional meeting back in 2015, the Zone Forum included presentations from the Zone Chair, Wheatbelt Development Commission and Regional Development Australia (RDA) Wheatbelt. The Great Southern Country Zone, which is of a similar size, hosted in 2023. Their Zone Forum included joint presentations from member Local Governments on specific topics (e.g. the Shires of Gnowangerup and Cranbrook presented on the Bush Fire Mitigation Activity Fund, the Shires of Broomehill-Tambellup and Kojonup presented on Planning Policy for Renewable Energy and the City of Albany gave an overview of the Albany Bicentennial).

There will also be time in the program for a bus tour of Pingelly and surrounds, which is a great opportunity to show State Council firsthand any buildings, amenities or projects in the area.

The Executive Committee considered the process for compiling a program for the Zone Forum at the last Committee meeting. It was decided to ask Zone Delegates to nominate some potential subjects or topics of presentations and based on these suggestions the Executive Committee will then compile a program and liaise with relevant Delegates and/or Local Governments.

## RESOLUTION

**Moved:** President Cr Phillip Blight  
**Seconded:** President Cr Adrian Kowald

**That Zone Delegates provide suggested presentation topics to the Executive Officer by 23 March for consideration and determination by the Executive Committee.**

**CARRIED**

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### 9.5. 2026 LOCAL GOVERNMENT HONOURS AWARDS

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*By Habiba Farrag, WALGA State Council Governance Officer*

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

There are five awards in the 2026 Program:

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

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

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

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

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

For more information contact Habiba Farrag, State Council Governance Officer, on 9213 2050 or via email [honours@walga.asn.au](mailto:honours@walga.asn.au).

#### **Noted**

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### 9.6. WATER MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION PAPER UPDATE

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*By Rebecca Brown, WALGA Policy Manager Environment and Waste*

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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

- Zones and Local Governments are encouraged to provide comments to WALGA by 12 March 2026.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

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

### **ATTACHMENT**

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

### **BACKGROUND**

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

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

### **COMMENT**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Noted**

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## **9.7. CONSULTATION ON DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE ADVOCACY POSITION**

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*By Rebecca Brown, WALGA Policy Manager Environment and Waste*

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

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

### **ATTACHMENT**

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

### **BACKGROUND**

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

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

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

## COMMENT

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

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

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

WALGA is seeking Council endorsed feedback on the draft Climate Change Advocacy Position to be submitted to [environment@walga.asn.au](mailto:environment@walga.asn.au) by **COB Friday, 1 May 2026**.

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

## RESOLUTION

**Moved: President Cr Phillip Blight**

**Seconded: President Cr Dee Ridgway**

**That the Central Country Zone:**

1. **Reiterates its position resolved at the February 2025 Zone meeting that the WALGA Advocacy Position on Climate Change should be that:**

***WALGA calls on the Australian and Western Australian Governments to:***

1. ***provide the necessary climate leadership, coordination, and action to deliver a climate change response that improves and maintain quality of life for all Western Australians for generations to come***
  2. ***provide funding and resources and support to Local Government to enable local communities to respond to the effects of climate change***
2. **Rejects any WALGA Advocacy Position or policy that binds or attempts to bind Local Governments to a course of action or actions; and**
  3. **Writes to all other WALGA Zones to advise them of the Central Country Zone's position on matters 1 and 2 above.**

**CARRIED**

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## 9.8. DISASTER READY FUND

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*By Rachel Armstrong, WALGA Policy Manager Emergency Management*

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

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

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

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

DRF Round 4 is likely to be released in March 2026, and encourage Local Governments to consider shared or individual disaster risk reduction projects WALGA will advise the sector when the DRF is formally announced.

### **Noted**

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## 9.9. DRAFT RENEWABLE ENERGY PLANNING CODE

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*By Kieran McGovern, WALGA Senior Policy Advisor, Planning*

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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

## ATTACHMENT

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

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

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

## BACKGROUND

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **COMMENT**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WALGA's submission will be provided to State Council by Flying Agenda to meet the submission deadline.

## **Noted**

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### **9.10. WESTERN POWER POLE TOP FIRES AND NETWORK RESPONSE**

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*By Alan Leeson, Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Kulin*

#### **BACKGROUND**

Over the past 36 hours, the Shire of Kulin has experienced multiple pole top fires across its district. Reports indicate that similar incidents have occurred in neighbouring Wheatbelt Shires within the Central Country Zone.

These ignition events have occurred concurrently with the recent tropical low weather system (ex-Tropical Cyclone Mitchell), which brought elevated humidity, intermittent rainfall and unstable atmospheric conditions across the region.

Western Power's recent public statements have outlined a mitigation program across the Midwest and Wheatbelt, including treatment and replacement of insulators to reduce pole top fire risk. The clustering of pole top fires during this regional weather event raises serious concerns regarding network resilience.

It is also noted that a number of the affected poles and associated infrastructure within the Shire of Kulin are recently installed, suggesting that the issue cannot simply be attributed to ageing infrastructure.

#### **ISSUES**

The recent spate of pole top fires highlights significant concerns regarding mitigation effectiveness, network resilience, emergency response protocols and volunteer safety.

Local volunteer bush fire brigades have responded to and extinguished each of the pole top fires. There has been no observable Western Power fire suppression presence. This reliance on volunteer emergency response resources for electricity network related ignitions is concerning and not sustainable.

Of critical importance are delays in Western Power isolating downed or compromised power lines. These delays place volunteer bush fire brigade members at significant risk.

In practical operational terms, volunteers are often unable to access and suppress fires where live power lines remain active. Brigades are required to hold position, sometimes for extended periods, until confirmation is received that lines have been isolated. During this time, fires may continue to burn unchecked.

This creates an unsafe working environment and introduces unacceptable risk exposure. Volunteer responders should not be placed in a position where they are operating adjacent to potentially live electrical infrastructure.

There has also been no proactive communication acknowledging the cluster of incidents or advising local governments of heightened risk conditions.

## **DISCUSSION**

The concurrence of pole top fire ignitions during the ex-TC Mitchell weather event effectively acted as a real-time stress test of network performance in the Wheatbelt.

The outcome raises legitimate regional questions regarding mitigation effectiveness, preparedness, timeliness of line isolation, and coordination with local governments and volunteer brigades.

Given the significant bushfire risk profile of the Wheatbelt, this issue extends beyond infrastructure reliability and directly into community safety and volunteer protection.

## **SECRETARIAT COMMENT**

The impact of pole top fires on power reliability and bushfire risk continues to be addressed in advocacy with Western Power and the Economic Regulation Authority.

WALGA State Council recently endorsed a submission to the Economic Regulation Authority concerning the Framework and Approach for Western Power Access Arrangement 6. This includes a request that the Economic Regulation Authority require the next Access Arrangement include power reliability performance measurement reporting and incentives / penalties at a regional or sub-regional level. This recognises that without a regional approach, areas with very poor power reliability will not receive adequate attention, as their impact on statewide reliability is relatively small. The submission also encourages consideration of additional reference services that support distributed, smaller-scale electricity generation across regional areas to allow for a more resilient network and reduce outage times.

In relation to pole top fires, the submission specifically requests that the Access Arrangement provides Local Government with an understanding of which poles are most at-risk for pole top fires, as this will support efforts to mitigate fire risk in bushfire-prone areas. A risk-modelling approach would also be welcome to support silicone treatments/protective insulator treatment and accelerated asset renewal of at-risk poles, while reporting on pole-top fire frequency and outcomes in an annual report would also be helpful.

This continues advocacy by the Association in 2022, where the WALGA submission to the Economic Regulation Authority for Access Arrangement 5 included:

“Silicone treatments are currently used to reduce the incidents of pole top fires. In the draft Access Arrangement, Western Power proposes to reduce the volume of silicone treatments and incur increased costs in total, due to a change in policy or regulation that requires these treatments be applied only to de-energised lines. Local Governments in peri-urban and regional areas have raised concerns about an increase in pole-top fires. The submission requests that the ERA seek from Western Power alternative approaches to efficiently mitigate the risk of pole top fires, rather than accept the increased risk.”

In response, detailed analysis of cost effective measures to mitigate the risks of pole top fires undertaken by Western Power and consultants engaged by the Economic Regulation Authority are set out in [Western Power's Revised AA5 Proposal](#) pages 77 – 82.

Pole top fires continue to be an important cause of power failures and risks to the community, including in the metropolitan area as was clearly demonstrated in January and March 2025 when tens of thousands of households and business were without power for an extended period as a result of over 50 concurrent pole top fires in the metropolitan area alone on each occasion.

If supported, the proposed Zone resolution will be strengthen on-going advocacy with Western Power, the Minister for Energy and the Economic Regulation Authority. It also adds specific advocacy in relation to response times for Western Power crews and communications between Western Power and Local Governments that are not included in the current advocacy scope.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: President Cr Grant Robbins**

**Seconded: Cr Robbie Bowley**

**That the Central Country Zone:**

- 1. Recognises the recent spate of pole top fires during the ex-Tropical Cyclone Mitchell weather event as a serious regional and State-wide rural safety concern.**
- 2. Notes that while this matter has been raised by the Central Country Zone, the issues identified are not confined to Zone Local Governments and are likely to affect rural and regional communities across Western Australia.**
- 3. Requests WALGA to assume a State-wide advocacy role on behalf of rural and regional local governments in relation to:**
  - a. Pole top fire mitigation effectiveness in high-risk agricultural environments;**
  - b. Network performance;**
  - c. Timely isolation of downed or compromised power lines during emergency incidents;**
  - d. Protection of volunteer bush fire brigade members operating near live electrical infrastructure; and**
  - e. Improved transparency, reporting and communication protocols between Western Power and local governments.**
- 4. Requests WALGA to formally engage with Western Power and the Minister for Energy seeking systemic review, strengthened operational response protocols and enhanced safety protections for volunteer emergency responders across rural and regional Western Australia.**
- 5. Requests that WALGA report back to Member Local Governments on advocacy actions undertaken and outcomes achieved.**

**CARRIED**

## **10. ZONE REPORTS**

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### **10.1. ZONE CHAIR REPORT**

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*Cr Des Hickey, Zone Chair*

Cr Hickey did not have any updates to provide.

**Noted**

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## 10.2. WALGA ROADWISE REPORT

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*Mr Rodney Thornton, WALGA Regional Road Safety Advisor*

Rodney provided a verbal update to the Zone.

**Noted**

## 11. WALGA EXECUTIVE REPORTS

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### 11.1. WALGA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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A copy of the WALGA President's Report was attached to the Agenda.

*WALGA Deputy President Cr Paul Kelly presented this report earlier in the meeting.*

**Noted**

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### 11.2. STATE COUNCILLOR REPORT

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*Cr Phillip Blight, Central Country Zone State Council representative*

#### **8.2 2026 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry For Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members**

Several variations were included in the composite recommendation and then additional amendments carried.

**That State Council endorse the submission to the 2026 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members, with the following additions:**

- 1. A new recommendation that the Regional/Isolation Allowance be reviewed in full, noting that the application of the Allowance is unequal and inconsistent.**
- 2. A new recommendation that an appropriate fee be set for the deputy to the presiding member of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees to attend meetings.**
- 3. A new recommendation that the travel costs incurred while driving a privately owned or leased vehicle be calculated at the same rate contained in the Public Service Award 1992 to bring it in parity with the public sector.**
- 4. The percentage values in recommendations 1 and 2 of the submission be amended from 3% to 4%.**
- 5. Include a work-value argument regarding Elected Member remuneration to strengthen the case for an increase to Elected Member fees and allowances and to refer the request to reclassify Elected Members as not volunteers to the relevant Policy Team.**

**RESOLUTION 073.5/2025 CARRIED**

#### **8.3 Tourism Advocacy Position Update**

Proposed amendments by the Central Country Zone were believed to be covered within the policy.

**That State Council replace Advocacy Position 3.9 Tourism with an updated position as follows:**

**WALGA calls on the State Government to:**

1. **Fund the implementation of the WA Visitor Economy Strategy and the supporting Tourism Destination Management Plans and Regional Tourism Development Strategies, including for:**
2. **maintenance and renewal of Local Government assets and services that underpin a positive visitor experience**
3. **new and existing tourism infrastructure**
4. **improving telecommunications infrastructure**
5. **measures to reduce the cost and improve the scheduling and routes of regional air services**
6. **accredited Visitor Centres.**
7. **Ensure that tourism destinations with a significant seasonal visitor influx have adequate medical and emergency services and reliable telecommunications.**
8. **Articulate a clear tourism governance framework with defined roles and responsibilities to facilitate coordination and collaboration of tourism activities across the State.**
9. **Adequately consult and consider Local Government when undertaking strategic tourism planning across Western Australia.**
10. **Provide improved access to affordable, timely and granular data that delivers LGA-level insights on visitation, spend and event impacts.**

**RESOLUTION 074.5/2025 CARRIED**

### **Rural and Remote Healthcare Advocacy**

Following State Council's endorsement of the Rural and Remote Healthcare Services advocacy position at the September meeting, a survey has been completed to provide 2024-25 data on sector support for General Practice (GP) services amongst regional Local Governments. 74 responses (69%) from regional Local Governments were received. Key findings include:

- over half of respondents (56%) are supporting GP services in FY 2024-25, Local Governments provided over \$9 million (net) reported in support for GP services. A \$3.3 million increase in 3 years.

### **Statutory Review of the Work Health and Safety Act 2020**

- WorkSafe invited submissions on the Statutory Review of the Work Health and Safety Act 2020 (WHS Act). This review is critically important to the Local Government sector, particularly in light of the application of the WHS Act to volunteers and Council Members. Since the introduction of the WHS Act, Local Governments have become Persons Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU) for approximately 18,000 Bush Fire Brigade volunteers across Western Australia. This presents significant challenges, given the inherently high-risk nature of the role and the complexities involved in meeting WHS obligations effectively. In addition, complexities have arisen for Local Governments in understanding the rights and responsibilities of Council Members as 'other persons' under the WHS Act.
- WALGA was granted an extension for its submission until 12 December 2025. The draft submission was provided to State Council for consideration by Flying Minute. All Local Governments were requested to provide their feedback to WALGA via [em@walga.asu.au](mailto:em@walga.asu.au) (cc. [governance@walga.asn.au](mailto:governance@walga.asn.au)) by Monday 17 November, and to consider providing feedback directly to WorkSafe by 28 November 2025. Further information, including the discussion paper and submission guidelines, is available [here](#).

### **Noted**

11.3. STATUS REPORT

## COMPLETE ZONE STATUS REPORT February 2026

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Central C	20 June 2025 Zone Agenda Item 9.4 Concerns Regarding the Delays in Electrical Connections by Western Power – Impact on Regional Development in Brookton	That the Central Country Zone request State Council to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Engage with Western Power to review and improve timelines for electrical connections, particularly in regional areas;</li> <li>2. Prioritise connections for essential infrastructure, residential housing, and commercial investment projects; and</li> <li>3. Consider additional resourcing or regional service delivery strategies to ensure timely support for regional development.</li> </ol>	<p>WALGA CEO and senior officers again met with senior Western Power staff in October to follow up resource and process changes made to improve timelines for electrical connections.</p> <p>Focus is aligned to Government priorities; housing, health, essential services, schools and childcare infrastructure (telecommunications, Black Spot / roads).</p> <p>There is not a separate process for regional projects. The major delays are in design rather than construction, but this may change as the design bottlenecks are removed.</p> <p>Additional design consultants have been engaged by Western Power.</p> <p>Large land developers have seen improvements in service delivery, by arranging more of the design and conformance review work themselves. The trial enabling Local Governments to directly contract design and construct streetlights has achieved relatively low uptake to date.</p> <p>The next working group meeting with Western Power is scheduled for 9 February 2026.</p> <p>WALGA is preparing a submission to the Economic Regulation Authority on the Framework and Approach to AA6, which will propose that at least some of these services that are only able to be delivered by Western Power be included within the scope of the Western Power Access Arrangement which regulates the services offered and prices charged.</p>	February 2026	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure <a href="mailto:iduncan@walga.asn.au">iduncan@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2031
Central C	14 February 2025 Zone Agenda Item 9.1.3 Support for Public Ownership of	That the Central Country Zone request WALGA to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Supports State Government efforts to ensure the on-going sustainability and growth of freight rail in Western Australia;</li> <li>2. Seeks a commitment from the in-coming State Government to:</li> </ol>	The Infrastructure Policy Team supported including the proposed advocacy position in a new or consolidated policy statement in relation to freight rail following consultation with Local Governments and other stakeholders to	August 2025	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure

	<b>WA Freight Rail Network</b>	<p>a. focus on ensuring a competitive freight rail network and services reduce freight on roads; providing road safety, environmental benefits; and</p> <p>b. work with Local Governments and other stakeholders to maximise the local economic growth opportunities provided through effective management of the rail network and corridors.</p>	better define the social, economic and environmental benefits sought from a publicly controlled freight rail network.		<b>iduncan@walg a.asn.au</b> 9213 2031
<b>Central C</b>	22 August 2025 Zone Agenda Item <b>9.3 To Rationalise the Audit Function for Local Government in WA</b>	That the Zone request WALGA to advocate for the choice of an auditor of Local Governments in Western Australia be opened to individuals who are Registered Company Auditors with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) as well as the Office of Auditor General OAG).	<p>This item will be referred to the Governance Policy Team for consideration.</p> <p>The Zone will be informed of the outcome.</p>	<b>November 2025</b>	<b>Kirsty Martin, Executive Manager, Member Services</b> 9213 2051 kmartin@walg a.asn.au
<b>Central C</b>	22 August 2025 Zone Agenda Item <b>9.2 To Address Anomalies Arising from Changes to the Audit Function of Local Government in WA</b>	That the Central Country Zone request WALGA to support a representation to the State Government to remove the Office of Auditor General (OAG) as the sole auditor of Local Government in Western Australia.	<p>This item will be referred to the Governance Policy Team for consideration.</p> <p>The Zone will be informed of the outcome.</p>	<b>November 2025</b>	<b>Kirsty Martin, Executive Manager, Member Services</b> 9213 2051 kmartin@walg a.asn.au
<b>Central C</b>	19 November 2021 Zone Agenda Item <b>12.1 Sector ICT solution</b>	That the Zone request WALGA to research providers and the viability of an in-house IT system.	<p>WALGA developed template documents for the procurement of ERP services. These resources are available to download through Vendorpanel (Preferred Supplier Program).</p> <p>COMPLETED</p>	<b>February 2026</b>	<b>Kirsty Martin, Executive Manager, Member Services</b> 9213 2051 kmartin@walg a.asn.au
<b>Central C</b>	3 December State Council Agenda Item <b>8.3 Tourism Advocacy Position Update</b>	That the Central Country Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.3 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above with the inclusion of a new point 1(f) "regional travel directions and destinations".	<p><b>SECRETARIAT COMMENT</b></p> <p>Signage, wayfinding and directions are important considerations for tourists. In order to keep the advocacy position brief and simplified, it is considered that this is adequately captured in the first two parts of the first section of this position, namely:</p> <p>a) <i>maintenance and renewal of Local Government assets and services that underpin a positive visitor experience</i></p> <p>b) <i>new and existing tourism infrastructure</i></p>	<b>February 2026</b>	<b>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</b> nmatthews@w alga.asn.au 9213 2039

			<p><b>State Council Resolution</b></p> <p>That State Council replace Advocacy Position 3.9 Tourism with an updated position as follows:</p> <p>WALGA calls on the State Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fund the implementation of the WA Visitor Economy Strategy and the supporting Tourism Destination Management Plans and Regional Tourism Development Strategies, including for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. maintenance and renewal of Local Government assets and services that underpin a positive visitor experience</li> <li>b. new and existing tourism infrastructure</li> <li>c. improving telecommunications infrastructure</li> <li>d. measures to reduce the cost and improve the scheduling and routes of regional air services</li> <li>e. accredited Visitor Centres.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Ensure that tourism destinations with a significant seasonal visitor influx have adequate medical and emergency services and reliable telecommunications.</li> <li>3. Articulate a clear tourism governance framework with defined roles and responsibilities to facilitate coordination and collaboration of tourism activities across the State.</li> <li>4. Adequately consult and consider Local Government when undertaking strategic tourism planning across Western Australia.</li> <li>5. Provide improved access to affordable, timely and granular data that delivers LGA-level insights on visitation, spend and event impacts.</li> </ol> <p>RESOLUTION 074.5/2025      CARRIED</p>		
<b>Central C</b>	21 November 2025 Zone Agenda Item <b>9.6.1 Cost Shift Compliance Project Update</b>	That the Central Country Zone refer Position 1 in the Zone's Cost Shifting and Compliance Report to State Council for consideration as a WALGA Advocacy Position. That is, to "reinstate the requirement for a Regulatory Impact Assessment for all amendments to legislation and regulation".	At the December State Council meeting, the Zone resolution was referred for consideration and action. An item will be progressed through the relevant Policy Team.	<b>February 2026</b>	<b>Kirsty Martin,</b> Executive Manager, Member Services 9213 2051 kmartin@walg a.asn.au

<p><b>Central C</b></p>	<p>11 April 2025 Zone Agenda Item <b>9.3 Advocacy for Statewide Community Enhancements Fund (CEF) Framework &amp; Renewable Energy Guidelines</b></p>	<p>That the Central Country Zone of WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Supports the Shire of Narrogin's Community Enhancements Fund (CEF) Policy as a best-practice model for equitable benefit-sharing from large-scale renewable energy projects;</li> <li>2. Requests WALGA State Council to advocate to the State Government for the development of a Statewide Community Enhancements Fund Framework, consistent with the key principles of the Shire of Narrogin's CEF Policy, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A minimum indexed contribution from renewable energy proponents based on installed capacity;</li> <li>○ Local Government management of restricted cash reserves for community benefit;</li> <li>○ A dedicated component for Indigenous Nations Funds (recommended 10%);</li> <li>○ Alignment with Local Government strategic planning;</li> <li>○ Transparent governance, community engagement, and annual reporting.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Further requests WALGA to advocate for the adoption of a broader Renewable Industry Framework for WA as outlined in the Shire of Narrogin's Advocacy Position, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Consistent planning standards for renewable energy development (e.g., setbacks, zoning);</li> <li>○ A State-mandated community engagement framework;</li> <li>○ Legacy workforce housing solutions in lieu of short-term TWAs;</li> <li>○ A uniform Payment in Lieu of Rates (PILoR) model for wind, solar and BESS facilities;</li> <li>○ Empowerment of Local Governments to manage benefit-sharing and rating mechanisms.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p>In August, the State Government released a draft Community Benefits Guideline Consultation Paper.</p> <p>WALGA has prepared a submission on the Guideline on behalf of the Sector. 48 Local Governments provided feedback to this submission, including a joint submission on the Consultation Paper from 36 regional Local Governments. Relevant feedback from Local Governments was incorporated into the draft submission. All Local Governments were also encouraged to provide their own submissions to the State Government.</p> <p>The submission broadly supports many aspects of the State's draft Guideline, but recommends a specific focus on, or changes to, several aspects. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The need for the requirement for community benefits to be mandated.</li> <li>● Changes to the contribution rate, from the proposed range to a single, indexed figure floor for wind, solar and battery storage projects.</li> <li>● That benefit sharing arrangements should commence during the construction phase of projects.</li> <li>● Further clarity on the role of rates versus community benefits and that these be viewed separately.</li> <li>● That Local Government should determine the appropriate governance mechanisms.</li> <li>● Clearer guidance on when developers should engage with neighbouring Local Governments.</li> <li>● The need for a statewide strategy to guide the rollout of the energy transition.</li> <li>● The need for State Government to lead and coordinate regional cumulative impact assessments for large scale renewable projects, in consultation with proponents and Local Governments.</li> <li>● Clarity on when the Guideline should apply to existing projects.</li> </ul> <p>Powering WA has not yet provided a response to the feedback received on the Community Benefits Guideline Consultation Paper</p> <p>On 12 December 2025, the State Government released a draft Renewable Energy Planning Code (the Code) and associated Guidelines for public consultation. WALGA held two online information sessions on the Code alongside the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage on 5 and 9 February for Local Government officers and Elected Members respectively. WALGA is preparing a submission on the draft Codes that will be considered by State Council via flying minute. Comments on the draft Codes are due to DPLH the 10 April 2026.</p>	<p><b>February 2026</b></p>	<p><b>Nicole Matthews</b>  <b>Executive Manager Policy</b>  <b>nmatthews@walgga.asn.au</b>  <b>9213 2039</b></p>
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<p><b>Central C</b></p>	<p>5 March 2025 State Council Agenda Item <b>8.1 Climate Change Advocacy Position</b></p>	<p>That State Council replace the 2018 Climate Change Policy Statement Advocacy Position 4.1 Climate Change with the following advocacy position:</p> <p>WALGA calls on the Australian and Western Australian Governments to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. provide the necessary climate leadership, coordination, and action to deliver a climate change response that improves and maintains the quality of life for all Western Australians for generations to come.</li> <li>2. provides funding and resources and support to Local Government to enable local communities to respond to the effects of climate change</li> </ol>	<p>WALGA has been working on an updated Draft Advocacy Position for consideration by Local Government. The Draft Advocacy Position, and accompanying Background Paper, will be released for a 12-week period to provide feedback.</p> <p>COMPLETE</p>	<p><b>February 2026</b></p>	<p><b>Nicole Matthews</b> Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@w alga.asn.au 9213 2039</p>
<p><b>Central C</b></p>	<p>26 August 2023 Zone Agenda Item <b>9.2 Water Corporation – Non-Standard Water Services</b></p>	<p>That the Central Country Zone:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rejects Water Corporation attempts to classify regional sites as a 'Non-Standard Water Service' (unless specific agreement is reached with a Local Government Authority);</li> <li>2. Formally writes to Water Corporation and the Minister for Water confirming this position;</li> <li>3. Requests that WALGA supports the position of the Central Country Zone and rejects the Water Corporation's attempts to classify regional sites as a 'Non-Standard Water Service'; and</li> <li>4. Requests WALGA to engage with the Minister for Water to retain the current services, unless specific agreement is reached with a Local Government Authority.</li> </ol>	<p>WALGA is currently consulting to develop a Water Management Advocacy Position. The concerns raised by the Central Country Zone have been included in the Paper.</p> <p>A Zone Item for Noting on the Water Management Discussion Paper will be provided to the February Zone meetings.</p> <p>WALGA has extended the deadline for the Discussion Paper to 12 March 2026 to ensure all Zones and Local Governments have the opportunity to provide input.</p>	<p><b>February 2026</b></p>	<p><b>Nicole Matthews</b> Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@w alga.asn.au 9213 2039</p>
<p><b>Central C</b></p>	<p>3 December 2025 State Council Agenda Item <b>8.2 2026 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members</b></p>	<p>That the Central Country Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.2 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above <u>with the inclusion of an extra recommendation that the Regional/Isolation Allowance be fully reviewed.</u></p>	<p><b>SECRETARIAT COMMENT</b></p> <p>The submission highlights that the availability and amount of the Regional/Isolation Allowance is an issue of high importance for WALGA's Members, and reiterates WALGA's previous calls for greater transparency regarding the methodology of application for the Allowance. In the 2025 Determination, SAT resolved to conduct a comprehensive survey of all WA Local Governments, the results of which would go towards reviewing the Allowance to ensure that it is fit for purpose and achieving the desired outcome. The survey was conducted earlier this year, and the results will inform any changes to the Allowance in the 2026 Determination. In anticipation of this, a new recommendation, reiterating WALGA's previous requests for a full review of the Allowance, can be added to the submission.</p> <p><b>State Council Resolution</b></p>	<p><b>February 2026</b></p>	<p><b>Rachel Horton,</b> Executive Manager Advocacy <a href="mailto:rhorton@walga.asn.au">rhorton@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2038</p>

			<p>That State Council endorse the submission to the 2026 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members, with the following additions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A new recommendation that the Regional/Isolation Allowance be reviewed in full, noting that the application of the Allowance is inequal and inconsistent.</li> <li>2. A new recommendation that an appropriate fee be set for the deputy to the presiding member of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees to attend meetings.</li> <li>3. A new recommendation that the travel costs incurred while driving a privately owned or leased vehicle be calculated at the same rate contained in the <i>Public Service Award 1992</i> to bring it in parity with the public sector.</li> <li>4. The percentage values in recommendations 1 and 2 of the submission be amended from 3% to 4%.</li> <li>5. Include a work-value argument regarding Elected Member remuneration to strengthen the case for an increase to Elected Member fees and allowances and to refer the request to reclassify Elected Members as not volunteers to the relevant Policy Team.</li> </ol> <p>RESOLUTION 073.5/2025</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>		
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## 12. WALGA STATE COUNCIL AGENDA

Zone Delegates are invited to read and consider the WALGA State Council Agenda, which was provided as an attachment to the Agenda and can be found via the link [here](#).

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

The State Council Agenda items requiring a decision of State Council are extracted for Zone consideration below.

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### 12.1. MATTERS FOR DECISION

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#### 12.1.1. AVIATION ADVOCACY POSITIONS

*By Negar Nili, Policy Officer Transport and Roads*

##### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

### 5.9 Aviation

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

#### 5.9.1. Airfare Pricing in Regional Western Australia

**Position Statement** *The Local Government sector supports:*

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

## BACKGROUND

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **NEW ADVOCACY POSITIONS**

### **Regional Airports**

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

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

### **Regional and Remote Air Services**

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

*aviation as an essential service supporting community access, workforce mobility, and regional economic development.*

## Background

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

## COMMENT

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

Key matters raised by Councils include:

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

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

## WALGA RECOMMENDATION

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

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

## RESOLUTION

**Moved: President Cr Phillip Blight**

**Seconded: President Leigh Ballard**

**That the Central Country Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 9.1 as contained in the March 2026 State Council Agenda and as provided above.**

**CARRIED**

### 12.1.2. OTHER STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

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

## 13. EMERGING ISSUES

*President Cr Dee Ridgway requested that the Central Country Zone write a letter to outgoing WALGA President, Cr Karen Chappel, acknowledging her work and commitment to Local Government throughout her tenure as President for WALGA. The Zone supported this request, and echoed Cr Ridgway's sentiments.*

## 14. NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, 7 April 2026 commencing at 7:30am, via MSTeams.

The next Central Country Zone meeting will be held on Friday, 17 April 2026 commencing at 9:30am. This meeting will be hosted by the Shire of Cuballing.

## 15. CLOSURE

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 1:50pm.



# Wheatbelt Region

## WALGA Zone Meetings February 2026



# Wheatbelt Region

## Snapshot 1 July 2025-1 Feb 2026

- Responded to 307 customer complaints, requests and enquiries
- 8,536 potholes fixed
- 720 signs installed
- Reconstructed 11.6 km of road
- Replaced 1 bridge with another planned
- Refurbished 1 bridge with another 5 planned
- 104.86 km shoulder sealing
- Provided assistance at 98 incidents
- 3,543km line marking (this calendar year)

# Capital works

## Major Capital Works Program

Road Name	Project Description	Status
Great Eastern Hwy	Walgoolan to Southern Cross - PACKAGE 8B, Reconstruction and Seal 11km Moorine Rock - Southern Cross.	Public tender Q2 2026 <b>(Subject to Funding)</b> (18 month contract)
Great Eastern Hwy	Coates Gully (STAGE - 2) Realignment including Construct 2 Passing Lanes, Intersections upgrades.	Construction commence Sept 2026 <b>Subject to WP completion of work</b>

## Regional Road Safety Program (Shoulder Sealing) – Tranche 8

Road Name	Project Description	Project Status
Chidlow-York Rd	Shoulder sealing (Asphalt widening) AEL and ACL Horton Rd - Ashworth Rd	Commenced 12 Jan 2026 and scheduled to complete by 30 Mar 2026.
Midlands Rd	Shoulder sealing, AEL and ACL Emu Pde - Scott Rd	Work commenced on 14 Jan 2026, complete by end Apr 2026.
Collie -Lake King Rd	Shoulder sealing and install audible edge line Baxters Rd - Katanning-Dumbleyung Rd.	???
Collie -Lake King Rd	Shoulder asphalt, AEL and ACL Fourteen Mile Rd - Newdegate Townsite.	Due to complete asphalt end of Feb. Line marking in March
York- Merredin Rd	Shoulder sealing, AEL and ACL Halbert Rd - Jacobs Well Rd.	Work scheduled to commence on 19 Feb 2026
York- Merredin Rd	Shoulder sealing Darling Rd & Ingham Rd- Shackleton Bilbarin Rd.	Complete

## **HVSPP - Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program**

Expansion of the Northam Road Train Assembly Area (RTAA). Due for completion in March 2026

**FVPIP (Freight Vehicles Productivity Improvement Program)**

Road Name	Project Description	Status
Collie -Lake King Rd	Construction of Passing Lane, west bound, 4kms west of Darkan Town site.	Construction commences in March 2026

## Black Spot Program

Road Name	Project Description	Status
Bindoon Moora Rd	Curve widening, install safety barrier and Chevron Alignment Markers (CAMs)	In Planning
York – Merredin Rd	Install safety Barrier – Various locations	In planning
Northam - Toodyay Rd	Install Safety Barrier – Various locations	In Planning

## Bridge Program

### Replacement

- Bridge 3197 on York Williams Road in Beverley with T Roff beam bridge and associated roadworks - COMPLETE
- Bridge 661- Weld Street-Gingin- Tender assessment in progress. Anticipated to be awarded in February and commence from April 2026.

### Refurbish

- Bridge 3195A – Stage 1 on Waterhatch road in Beverley (Wingwall and Pier works). Stage 2 design being finalised and plan tender by April 2026
- Bridge 332 on Northam Cranbrook Road in Cuballing- Substructure repairs complete
- Bridge 729 on Vincent Street in Beverley – Works commenced and anticipated to be completed by April 2026
- Bridge 383 on Brookton Highway in Brookton- Works to commence after 729 in April 2026
- Bridge 737- on Arthur River - Dinninup Rd in West Arthur. Tender closed and assessment in progress

## Pavement Repairs

Road	SLK	Status
Great Eastern Hwy	81	Complete
	132-185	Complete
	72-69	Complete
Northam Pithara Rd	7.18-11.41	Complete
	51.82-88.6	Complete
Great Northern Hwy	106.37-43.15	Complete
Albany Hwy	131.29-142.1	Scheduled Feb
	142.57-144.7	
	147.37-141.5	
	184.04-184.48	
	195.76-195.87	
	196.75-200.57	
Collie Lake King Rd	305.83-319.08	Scheduled Feb

## Reseals

Road	SLK	Status
Gorge Rock Rd- Lake Grace Rd	89-101.43	Complete
Narrogin -Kondinin Rd	122.95-136.53	Scheduled Feb
Narrogin – Kondinin Rd	75.6-93.01	Scheduled Feb
Northam – Cranbrook Rd	97.51-99.49	Scheduled Feb
Northam Cranbrook Rd	92.7-97.47	Scheduled Feb
York – Merredin Rd	73.11-78.47	Scheduled March
Goomalling – Merredin Rd	0.00-0.06	Scheduled March
Northam – Pithara Rd	46.16-51.28	Scheduled March
Northam Pitharra Rd	44.52-45.62	Scheduled March
Goomalling – Toodyay Rd	0.72-1.00	Scheduled March
Collie-Lake King Rd	181..73-197.13	Scheduled March

**Thank you**  
**Questions welcome**

# Draft Renewable Energy Planning Code

**For Public Consultation**

WALGA Central Country Zone Meeting, 13 February 2026



*The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage acknowledges Aboriginal people as the traditional custodians of Western Australia. We pay our respects to the Ancestors and Elders, both past and present, and the ongoing connection between people, land, waters and community. We acknowledge those who continue to share knowledge, their traditions and culture to support our journey for reconciliation. In particular, we recognise land and cultural heritage as places that hold great significance for Aboriginal people.*

# Agenda

1. Purpose
  2. Renewable Energy Planning Code
  3. Local Planning Scheme Regulation Amendments
  4. Significant Development Regulation Amendments
  5. Next Steps
- 

# Purpose – Renewable Energy (RE) Planning Framework

1. To provide a **clear and consistent development assessment framework** for energy infrastructure that supports the generation, storage and transmission of renewable energy across Western Australia.
2. To establish **clear development provisions** and **application requirements**.
3. To **improve certainty** in **managing potential** land use, environmental and amenity **impacts**.
4. To promote **meaningful community and stakeholder engagement** through planning process.
5. To provide for **streamlined** and **consistent decision making**.



# Renewable Energy Deliverables

## **RE Planning Code & Guidelines**

- Sets out objectives and development provisions for energy infrastructure development
- Identifies materials required to accompany development applications

## **Amendments to Local Planning Scheme Regulations**

- Facilitates RE Planning Code being read into local planning schemes
- Introduces development approval requirements for new noise-sensitive land uses near wind farms
- Introduces standardized energy infrastructure land use definitions

## **Amendments to Significant Development Regulations**

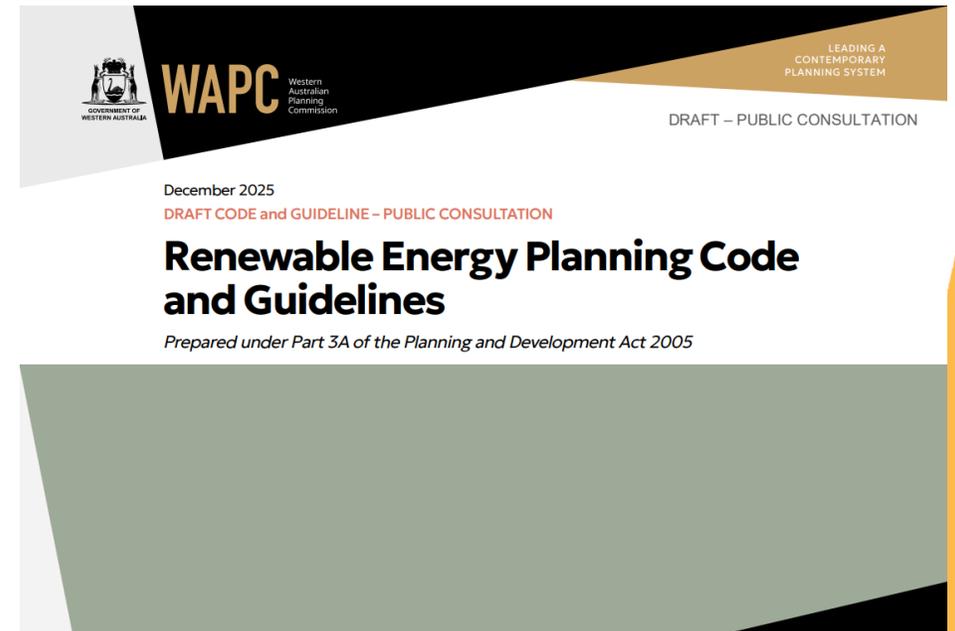
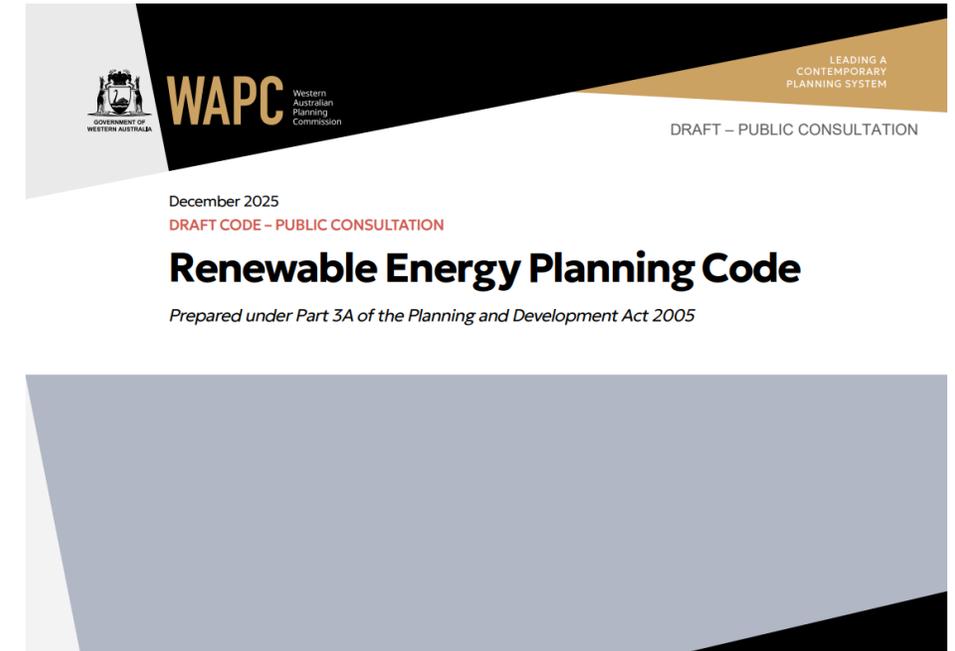
- Introduces mandatory Part 11B application and decision-making pathway for significant renewable energy projects

# Renewable Energy Planning Code



# About the RE Planning Code

1. Purpose is to provide a **clear and consistent development assessment framework** for energy infrastructure across WA.
2. **Initial focus on wind farms**, with flexibility to expand to address other types of renewable energy infrastructure.
3. RE Planning Code has statutory provisions that can be **read into local planning schemes**. Accompanied by supporting Guidelines.
4. RE Planning Code and Guidelines will **replace WAPC Position Statement – Renewable Energy Facilities**



# RE Planning Code Development

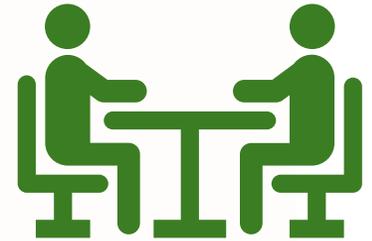
## Jurisdictional Analysis



## Preliminary Stakeholder Engagement



## Cross-Agency Collaboration



# RE Planning Code and Guidelines -Content/Structure

## RE Planning Code and Guidelines – Composite Version

Includes **RE Planning Code – Statutory Provisions**, plus **supporting Guidelines**:

- **Consultation** including **Preliminary Engagement**
- **Wind Farms** – turbine components & key measurements
- **Interrelationship with LPS Regulations** – noise sensitive land uses
- **Material to Accompany DA**– required reports and plans
- **Reports/Plans likely to be required as DA conditions**

**Appendix 3 – Preliminary Engagement**

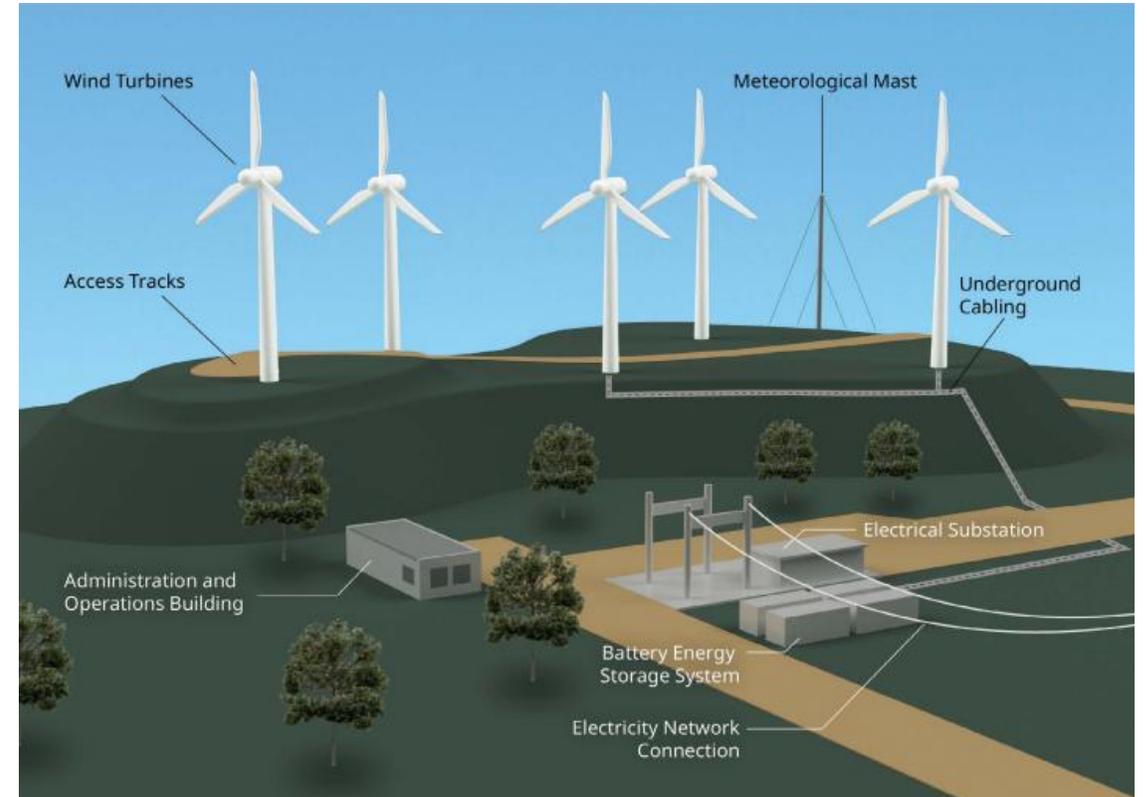
**Appendix 4 – LVIA Methodology**

**Appendix 5 – Example Single House Development  
Potential Assessment**

# Part 2 - Wind Farms

## Elements

1. Safety
2. Noise
3. Single House Development Potential
4. Landscape
5. Shadow Flicker
6. Natural Environment
7. Natural Hazards (including Bushfire)
8. Aviation
9. Electromagnetic Interference
10. Transport
11. Construction
12. Decommissioning and Rehabilitation

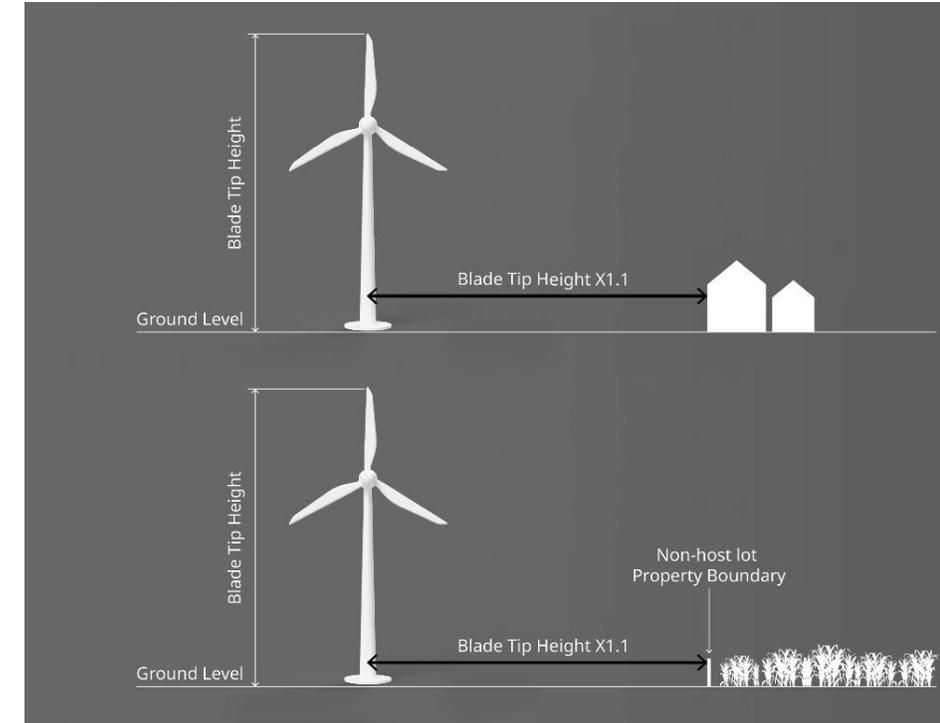


Each Element includes:

- **Context** – describes and identifies the issue
- **Objective(s)** - clear statement of what the Code aims to achieve for that element
- **Performance Outcome** and/or **Acceptable Outcome** –provisions for meeting the Element Objective

# Element 1: Safety

Element Objectives	Performance Outcome	Acceptable Outcome
<b>WF-EO1.1</b> Wind turbines are sited to minimise the risks to people, property and infrastructure arising from hazards such as blade throw, wind turbine collapse and other safety incidents.	<i>Not applicable – Acceptable Outcome applies.</i>	<b>WF-AO1.1</b> Wind turbines are set back a minimum of 1.1 times blade tip height from non-host lots, reserves (including road reserves), and existing and approved habitable buildings on host lots and non-host lots.
<b>WF-EO1.2</b> Wind turbines are designed and constructed to ensure structural integrity and operational safety over their lifecycle.	<i>Not applicable – Acceptable Outcome applies.</i>	<b>WF-AO1.2</b> Wind turbines are designed and constructed in accordance with relevant Australian and international standards.



## Supporting plans and Reports:

Accompany DA	<b>Site plan</b> showing location of turbines to demonstrate setback compliance
Condition of DA	<b>Engineering Certification Report</b> pre and post-construction to demonstrate turbines (including foundations) designed & built to meet relevant standards

# Element 2: Noise

Element Objectives	Performance Outcome	Acceptable Outcome
<p><b>WF-EO2.1</b> Wind farms are sited, designed and operated to avoid an unreasonable noise impact on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. any existing or approved noise sensitive land use; and</li> <li>b. areas identified for the future development of noise sensitive land uses.</li> </ul>	<p><b>WF-PO2.1</b> Wind turbines and other associated infrastructure are sited, designed and operated to avoid an <b>unreasonable noise impact</b> on any existing or approved noise sensitive land use located on a host or non-host lot.</p> <p><b>WF-PO2.2</b> Wind turbines and other associated infrastructure are sited to avoid an unreasonable noise impact on areas identified for future urban and rural residential development in WAPC endorsed State and local planning frameworks to ensure these areas can be developed without constraint from wind farm noise impacts.</p>	<p><i>Not applicable – Performance Outcome applies.</i></p>

## Key term:

**Unreasonable noise impact** – means a level of noise impact that exceeds the lowest assigned level permitted for a “Noise sensitive premises: highly sensitive area” in Table 1 of the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997.

## Supporting plans and Reports:

Accompany DA	<b>Noise Impact Assessment</b>
Condition of DA	<b>Noise Monitoring Plan</b> <b>Noise Monitoring Report</b> <b>Operational Management Plan</b>

# Element 3: Single House Development Potential

Element Objectives	Performance Outcome	Acceptable Outcome
<p><b>WF-EO3.1</b> Wind farms are sited to ensure non-host lots without an existing or approved single house retain sufficient land outside the wind farm's noise impact area that is suitable for accommodating a future single house.</p>	<p><b>WF-PO3.1</b> A wind farm's noise impact area may extend onto a non-host lot where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The non-host lot retains a suitable and sufficient area of land outside the noise impact area(s) of the wind farm and any other nearby existing or approved wind farms, for a future single house, which:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. is permissible under the local planning scheme;</li> <li>ii. is not affected by development constraints such as conservation areas or flood-prone land; and</li> <li>iii. can be practically serviced, including with vehicle access and utility services; or</li> </ol> </li> <li>b. The non-host lot forms part of a broader contiguous landholding used for agricultural purposes, where a single house already exists on another lot within the same holding, and the non-host lot is not intended or required to accommodate a separate single house.</li> </ol>	<p><b>WF-AO3.1</b> The non-host lot is located entirely outside of the wind farm's noise impact area.</p>

## Supporting plans and Reports:

Accompany DA

**Single House Development Potential Impact Assessment**

Condition of DA

Not applicable

# Element 4: Landscape

Element Objectives	Performance Outcome	Acceptable Outcome
<p><b>WF-EO4.1</b> Wind farms are sited and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on significant landscapes and significant views, particularly areas of recognised State, national or international importance.</p> <p><b>WF-EO4.2</b> Wind farms are sited and designed with sensitivity to their landscape setting to minimise unnecessary visual disruption and prominence where practical opportunities exist, with the understanding that visual change to the landscape is an inevitable outcome of wind farm development.</p>	<p><b>WF-PO4.1</b> Where a wind farm may affect a significant landscape or significant view, it is sited and designed to avoid or minimise unnecessary visual disruption and prominence and adverse landscape and visual impacts.</p> <p><b>WF-PO4.2</b> In all settings, wind farms are sited and designed to utilise practical opportunities available within the landscape setting to minimise unnecessary visual disruption and the prominence of wind turbines.</p> <p><b>WF-PO4.3</b> Lighting associated with wind turbines is designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on views and landscapes, while ensuring compliance with aviation safety requirements.</p> <p><b>WF-PO4.4</b> Wind turbine blades are finished with a surface treatment of low reflectivity to minimise glint.</p>	<p><i>Not applicable – Performance Outcome applies.</i></p>

## Key terms:

**Significant landscape** – means a landscape area or feature that holds special importance or value, formally recognised in international, national or state legislation or policy and which warrants consideration in planning and development decisions. May include World Heritage areas, national and state parks.

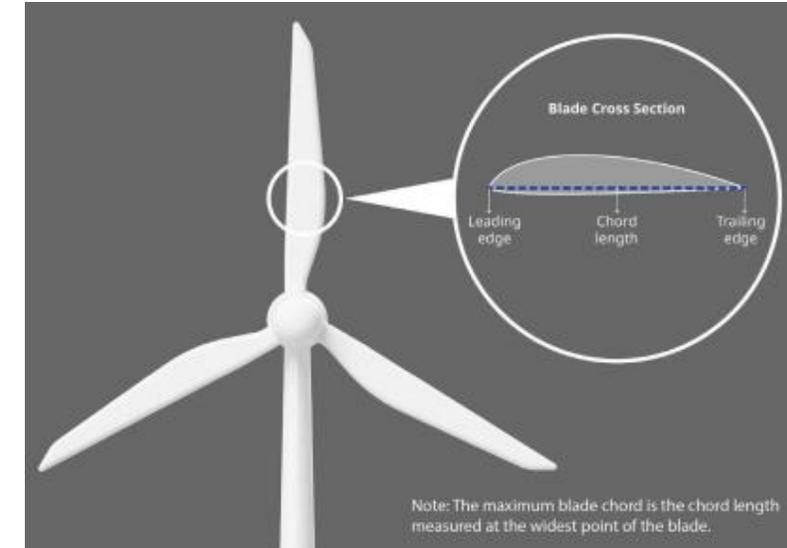
**Significant view** - means a public view that holds special importance or value for its visual qualities or economic or cultural significance, formally recognised in international, national or state legislation or policy which warrants consideration in planning and development decisions. May include views from iconic scenic or tourist routes, trails and lookouts.

## Supporting plans and Reports:

Accompany DA	<b>Landscape &amp; Visual Impact Assessment</b> (Append. 4 Methodology)
Condition of DA	<b>Landscape Plan</b> – where tree planting recommendation to reduce impact <b>Lighting Management Plan</b> - where mitigation required for dark skies/astrotourism

# Element 5: Shadow Flicker

Element Objectives	Performance Outcome	Acceptable Outcome
<p><b>WF-EO5.1</b> Wind turbines are sited, designed and operated to minimise shadow flicker impacts on any existing or approved visually sensitive land use located on a <b>non-host lot</b>.</p>	<p><b>WF-PO5.1</b> Wind turbines are sited and operated to ensure that shadow flicker at any visually sensitive land use on non-host lots does not exceed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30 hours per year and 30 minutes on any single day, based on theoretical shadow flicker modelling; or</li> <li>10 hours per year, based on predicted actual shadow flicker modelling.</li> </ol>	<p><b>WF-AO5.1</b> Wind turbines are set back a minimum distance of 265 times the maximum blade chord length from any existing or approved visually sensitive land use on non-host lots.</p>



## Supporting plans and Reports:

Accompany DA | **Shadow Flicker Assessment** (where applying **WF-PO5.1**)

Condition of DA | **Operational Management Plan** (if curtailment proposed)

## Key term:

**Visually sensitive land use**— means a land use where people live or regularly spend extended periods of time, including residential dwellings, short-stay accommodation, schools, hospitals, recreation areas and generally excludes commercial or industrial premises.

# Element 6: Natural Environment (Fauna, Flora)

Element Objectives	Performance Outcome	Acceptable Outcome
<p><b>WF-EO6.1</b> Wind farms are sited, designed, constructed and operated to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on flora and fauna, in particular threatened species, migratory species and threatened ecological communities.</p>	<p><b>WF-PO6.1</b> Wind farms are sited outside and sufficiently set back from: conservation areas, threatened ecological communities, known habitats of threatened species, and migration paths.</p> <p><b>WF-PO6.2</b> Wind farms are sited to avoid or minimise native vegetation clearing where practicable.</p> <p><b>WF-PO6.3</b> Wind turbines are designed and operated to reduce adverse impacts on birds and bats, in particular threatened species and migratory species.</p> <p><b>WF-PO6.4</b> Land management practices are undertaken during the operation of the wind farm to reduce the attractiveness of the site to birds and bats and maintain biosecurity.</p>	<p><i>Not applicable – Performance Outcome applies.</i></p>

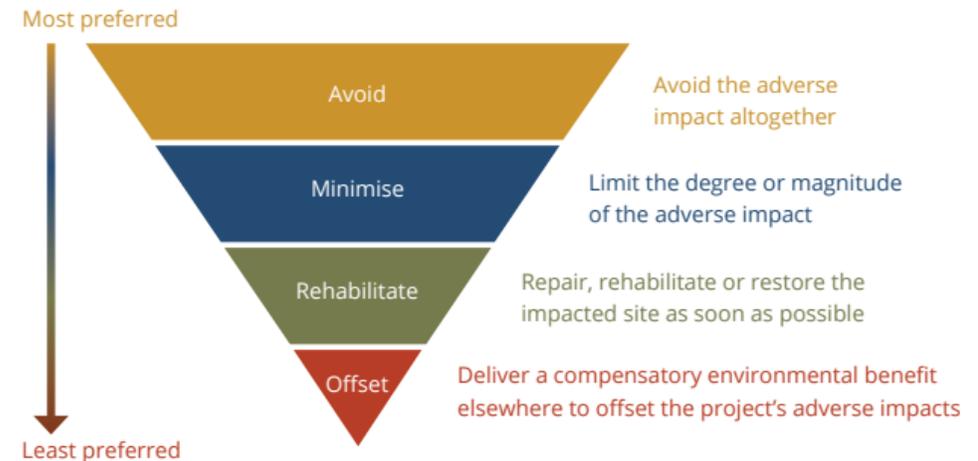
## Supporting plans and Reports:

Accompany DA

**Environmental Report  
Bird & Bat Management Plan**

Condition of DA

**Environmental Management Plan**



# Element 6: Natural Environment (Water & Land)

Element Objectives	Performance Outcome	Acceptable Outcome
<p><b>WF-EO6.2</b> Wind farms are sited, designed and constructed to avoid or minimise land degradation and adverse impacts on the quantity and quality of water resources and in particular sensitive water resources, public drinking water source areas and significant wetlands.</p>	<p><b>WF-PO6.1</b> Wind farms are sited, designed and constructed in accordance with the draft <i>Statement of Planning Policy 2.9 Planning for Water</i> (WAPC, 2021) and draft <i>Planning for Water Guidelines</i> (WAPC, 2021). This includes but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. siting wind farms outside and sufficiently set back from waterways, wetlands and dams;</li> <li>b. siting wind turbines outside areas with high water tables or areas likely to disrupt natural drainage flows, water resources, public drinking water areas and dams; and</li> <li>c. designing and constructing stormwater, groundwater and sediment management systems (including rehabilitation and stabilisation of disturbed areas) to maintain water quantity and quality.</li> </ul> <p><b>WF-PO6.2</b> Wind farms are sited and designed to avoid or minimise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. disturbance of contaminated land or acid sulphate soils; and</li> <li>b. salinity mobilisation and erosion.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Not applicable – Performance Outcome applies.</i></p>

## **Supporting plans and Reports:**

Accompany DA	<b>Environmental Report</b> <b>Water Management Report</b>
Condition of DA	<b>Environmental Management Plan</b>

# Element 7: Natural Hazards

Element Objectives	Performance Outcome	Acceptable Outcome
<p><b>WF-EO7.1</b> Wind farms are sited, designed, constructed and operated to avoid or minimise risks to people, property and infrastructure arising from natural hazards.</p>	<p><b>Fire: WF-PO7.1</b> Wind turbines and associated infrastructure are sited:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>outside bushfire prone areas where possible; or</li> <li>within bushfire prone areas where pre-development radiant heat impact does not exceed Bushfire Attack Level (BAL)-29 (29kW/m<sup>2</sup>); or</li> <li>where (a) or (b) cannot be achieved, with asset protection zones to reduce post-development radiant heat impact to BAL-29 or below</li> </ol> <p><b>WF-PO7.2</b> Wind turbines and associated infrastructure are spaced apart (min. 300m) to reduce risk of fire spreading and enable safe aerial firefighting.</p> <p><b>WF-PO7.3 – WF-PO7.6</b> Wind farms incorporate features to minimise ignition risk and support emergency response (i.e. non-combustible materials, aviation lighting, fire detection systems, vehicle access, water supply, fire fighting infrastructure, firebreaks/APZs).</p> <p><b>WF-PO7.7</b> Habitable buildings comply with Statement Planning Policy 3.7 – Bushfire.</p> <p><b>Other Hazards: WF-PO7.8</b> Wind farms sited, designed, constructed &amp; operated to avoid or minimise risks associated with other hazards - coastal erosion, flooding, cyclones, earthquakes, landslides / movement</p>	<p><i>Not applicable – Performance Outcome applies.</i></p>

## Supporting plans and Reports:

Accompany DA	<p><b>BAL Contour Map</b> - where wholly or partly within bushfire prone area.</p> <p><b>Bushfire Management Plan</b> - where WF in bushfire prone area &amp; predevelopment radiant heat impact exceeds BAL-29 or habitable buildings wholly or partly in bushfire prone area (per SPP3.7 requirements) .</p> <p><b>Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaption Plan &amp; Geotechnical Assessment</b> – may also be required.</p>
Condition of DA	<b>Emergency Management Plan</b>

# Element 8: Aviation

Element Objectives	Performance Outcome	Acceptable Outcome
<p><b>WF-EO8.1</b> Wind farms maintain the safety, efficiency and operational integrity of airports, aerodromes, aircraft landing areas and associated aviation operations and navigation, including low-flying aviation activities.</p>	<p><b>WF-PO8.1</b> Wind turbines and associated infrastructure are sited, designed, constructed and operated to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. avoid hazards or unacceptable risks to aircraft safety;</li> <li>b. avoid or minimise impacts on the safety, efficiency or operational integrity of:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. airports, aerodromes and aircraft landing areas and associated aviation operations and navigation; &amp;</li> <li>ii. low-flying aviation operations, including aerial agricultural activities, recreational aviation, military aviation, helicopter operations and emergency air services;</li> </ul> </li> <li>c. avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the development and operation of future aviation infrastructure identified in State and local planning frameworks.</li> </ul> <p><b>WF-PO8.2</b> Where aviation risks and impacts cannot be fully avoided, they are minimised through effective mitigation measures.</p> <p><b>WF PO8.3</b> Wind turbines and associated infrastructure incorporate lighting and marking (while minimising impacts).</p>	<p><i>Not applicable – Performance Outcome applies.</i></p>

## Supporting plans and Reports:

Accompany DA	<b>Aviation Impact Assessment</b>
Condition of DA	<b>Operational Management Plan</b>

# Element 9: Electromagnetic Interference

Element Objectives	Performance Outcome	Acceptable Outcome
<p><b>WF-EO9.1</b> Wind farms avoid or minimise EMI, ensuring the ongoing reliability and functionality of essential services, including communications, radar, weather monitoring, television and radio broadcasting and radio astronomy.</p>	<p><b>WF-PO9.1</b> Wind farms are sited, designed and operated to avoid EMI wherever practicable, ensuring reliable and functional essential services consistent with regulatory and operational requirements, ensuring continuity for civilian, government and commercial systems.</p> <p><b>WF-PO9.2</b> Where EMI to essential services cannot be fully avoided, it is minimised through effective mitigation measures, including adjusting wind turbine siting and design, or implementing technical solutions (for example, filters or signal boosters) to maintain service performance.</p>	<p><i>Not applicable – Performance Outcome applies.</i></p>

## **Supporting plans and Reports:**

Accompany DA	<b>Electromagnetic Interference Assessment</b>
Condition of DA	<b>Signal Strength Testing Report</b> <b>Operational Management Plan</b>

# Element 10: Transport

Element Objectives	Performance Outcome	Acceptable Outcome
<p><b>WF-EO10.1</b> The movement of people, materials and equipment associated with a wind farm is managed to minimise impacts to transport networks, property, infrastructure and vegetation.</p>	<p><b>WF-PO10.1</b> Transport routes for oversize overmass (OSOM) vehicle movements are selected, and vehicle movements are scheduled to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. maintain road and rail user safety;</li> <li>b. avoid unreasonable disruption to local and regional transport networks;</li> <li>c. avoid or minimise the need for modifications to road / rail infrastructure and utility services or impacting vegetation impacts on adjoining properties.</li> </ul> <p><b>WF-PO10.2</b> Workforce vehicular access points are sited to minimise disruption to local and regional transport networks.</p>	<p><i>Not applicable – Performance Outcome applies.</i></p>

## Supporting plans and Reports:

Accompany DA	<b>Transport Impact Assessment</b>
Condition of DA	<b>Construction Traffic Management Plan</b> <b>Pre &amp; Post Construction Road Pavement Survey</b> <b>Railway Safety Management Plan</b>

# Element 11: Construction

Element Objectives	Performance Outcome	Acceptable Outcome
<p><b>WF-EO11.1</b> Wind farms are constructed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the environment, amenity and safety;</li> <li>maintain sustainable use and management of local resources and infrastructure; and</li> <li>maintain safe and efficient movement of people, materials and equipment.</li> </ol>	<p><b>WF-PO11-1 – 11.6</b> Provisions relating to managing construction to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid/minimise environmental impacts</li> <li>Rehabilitation of disturbed areas</li> <li>Maintain safety during construction</li> <li>Sustainable use of local resources and infrastructure</li> <li>Effective waste management</li> <li>Minimise disruption to transport</li> </ul>	<p><i>Not applicable – Performance Outcome applies.</i></p>

## Supporting plans and Reports:

Accompany DA	<b>Construction Management Plan</b>
Condition of DA	No requirement

# Element 12: Decommissioning and Rehabilitation

Element Objectives	Performance Outcome	Acceptable Outcome
<p><b>WF-EO12.1</b> Wind farms are decommissioned upon ceasing operation to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the environment, amenity and safety;</li> <li>facilitate sustainable waste management</li> <li>maintain safe, efficient movement of people and equipment.</li> </ol> <p><b>WF-EO12.2</b> Wind farm host lots are rehabilitated upon decommissioning to their pre-development state or a condition compatible with intended use.</p>	<p><b>WF-PO12.1</b> Wind farms are decommissioned and rehabilitated within 18 months of ceasing operation.</p> <p><b>WF-PO12.2</b> Wind farms are decommissioned by removing: above-ground infrastructure, unless retention is agreed with the landowner for repurposing (for example, access tracks); and below-ground infrastructure to the extent necessary to support future land uses.</p> <p><b>WFPO-12.3 – 12.7</b> Provisions to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land rehabilitated for future use</li> <li>Environmental impacts are avoided/minimised</li> <li>Site safety</li> <li>Waste responsibly managed</li> <li>Disruption to transport networks is minimised</li> </ul>	<p><i>Not applicable – Performance Outcome applies.</i></p>

## Supporting plans and Reports:

Accompany DA	<b>Preliminary Decommissioning &amp; Rehabilitation Plan</b>
Condition of DA	<b>Detailed Decommissioning &amp; Rehabilitation Plan.</b>

# Micro-siting

## Purpose

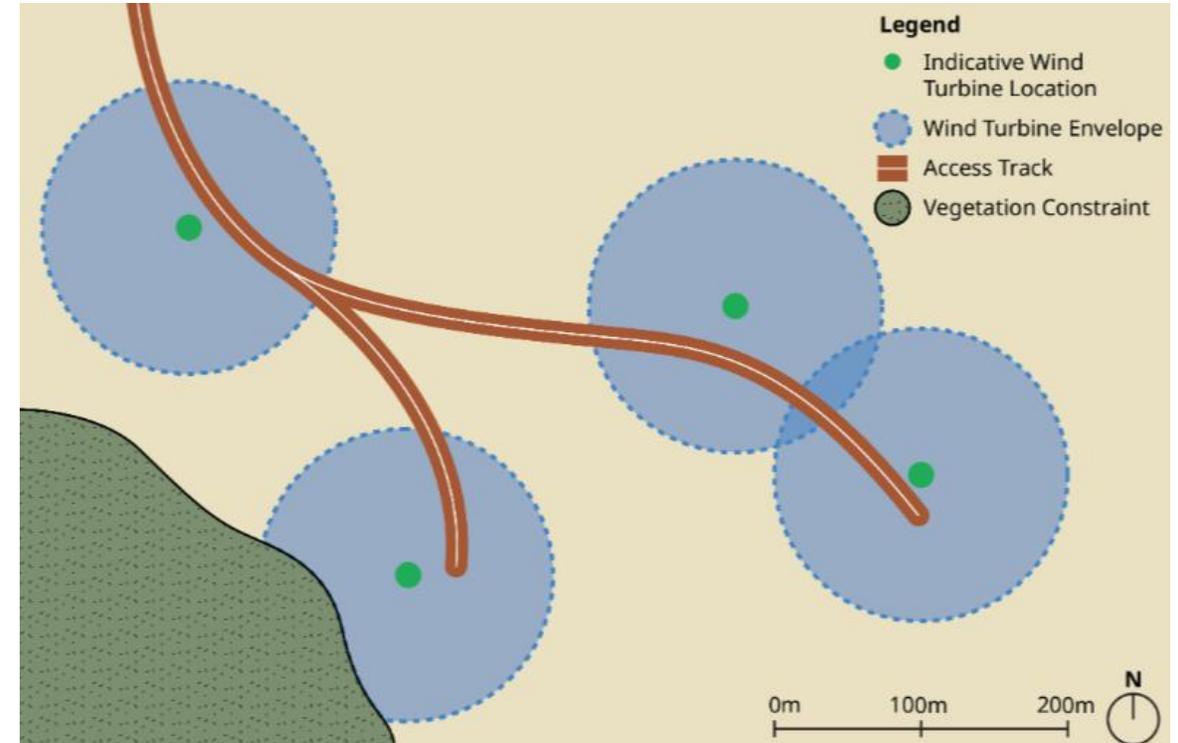
- Micro-siting – identification of wind turbine envelopes within which wind turbines will be located.
- Provides flexibility for minor adjustments to turbine locations in response to detailed site investigations post-development approval.

## When it applies

- Applies only when applicant elects to use micro-siting and requires turbine envelopes to be included in development application to enable it.

## Key Requirements

- Max. envelope size: 100 m radius
- Turbine, foundation and supporting structures must be fully within envelope.
- Envelopes must avoid constraints and comply with the Code
- Access tracks may be realigned provided decision-maker satisfied no additional environmental, safety or amenity impacts.
- Post-construction: provide GPS coordinates and a plan of final turbine and track locations



*Example site plan showing wind turbine envelopes for micro-siting post-development approval*

# Engagement Guidance

- **Early engagement before lodging an application is encouraged** to understand local values, identify issues and mitigation options, explore potential community benefits and support social licence.
- Engagement should be **proportionate to the scale and sensitivity** of the proposal, with **clear information** and **meaningful opportunities for input**.
- Development applications should include a **Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report** outlining engagement undertaken and how it has shaped the proposal.
- **Community benefit-sharing agreements** and **private landowner agreements** may be established but sit outside the planning system and do not influence the planning decision.
- In addition, **minimum statutory advertising requirements** apply to lodged applications under the Deemed Provisions that are administered by the decision-maker.
- Decision-makers **must have regard** to any submissions received when determining an application.



Source: Clean Energy Council

# Who Should be Engaged

Appendix 3 identifies the parties proponents should engage with early:

- Nearby landowners and occupiers
- Local governments of the host and adjoining districts
- Local communities and community groups, including Aboriginal communities, resident groups and business associations
- Energy agencies and network operators where grid connection is proposed
- Relevant public and statutory authorities, particularly those issuing other approvals

It advises local governments should be consulted for further advice on who to engage and appropriate methods of engagement.

## Wind Farms:

Authorities/ Stakeholders	Wind Farm Elements											
	1 - Safety	2 - Noise	3 - Single House Devt Potential	4 - Landscape	5 - Shadow Flicker	6 - Natural Environment	7 - Natural Hazards	8 - Aviation	9 - Electromagnetic Interference	10 - Transport	11 - Construction	12 - Decommissioning
<b>State Government:</b>												
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions	X			X		X						
Department of Fire and Emergency Services	X <sup>1</sup>						X <sup>1</sup>	X <sup>1</sup>	X <sup>1</sup>			
Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety	X								X			
Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage							X <sup>2</sup>					
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development						X	X				X	
Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure							X <sup>2</sup>			X		
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation		X				X	X				X	

*Appendix 3 Table identifies the government agencies and other stakeholders to be consulted for each Code Element.*

# Amendments - Local Planning Scheme Regulations



# Amendments to LPS Regulations - Scope

## Model Provisions:

1. Add provision to facilitate incorporation of RE Planning Code into local planning schemes via scheme amendments and reviews.

## Deemed Provisions:

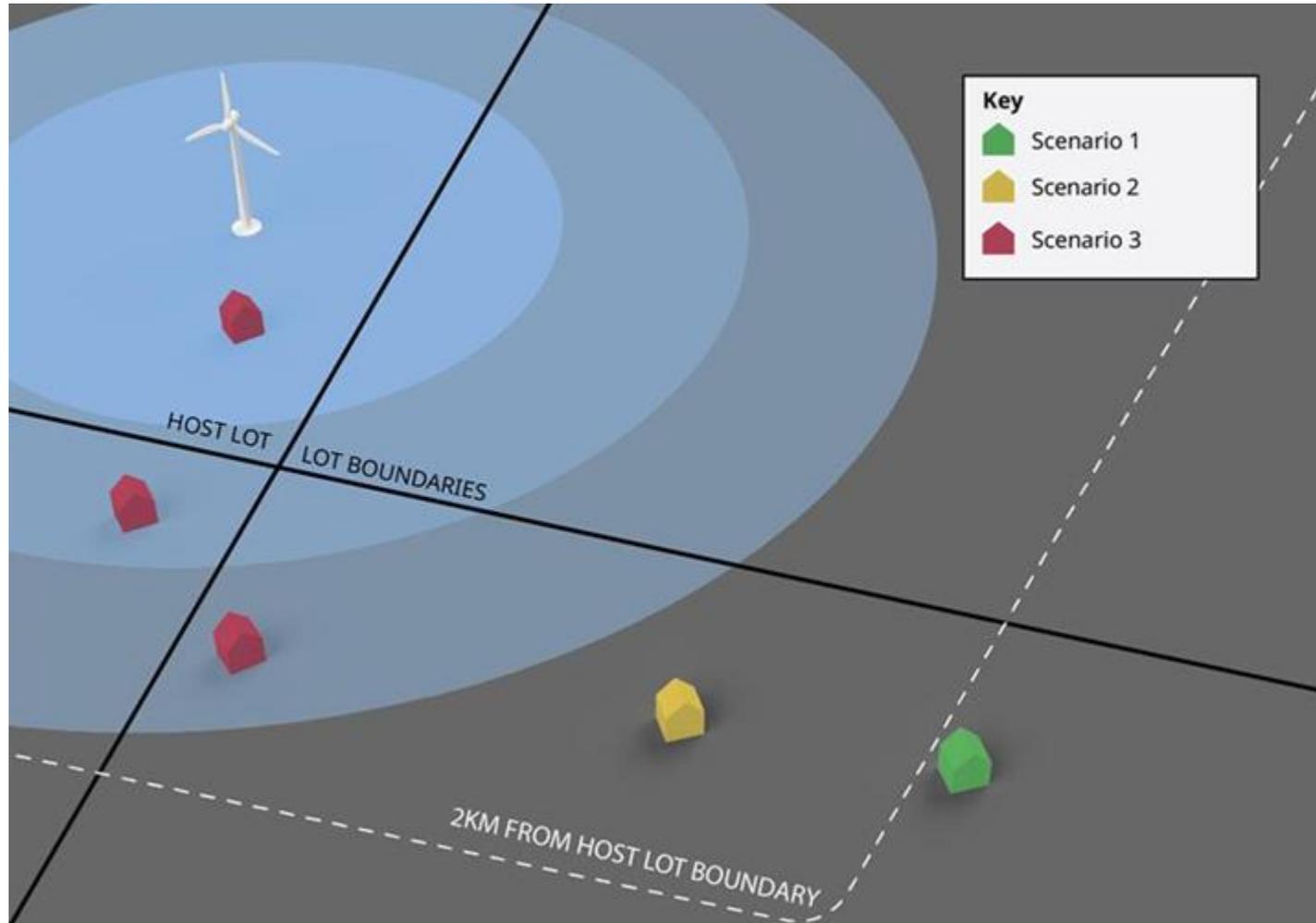
1. Include a requirement that a local government must not proceed with or approve a local planning policy or local development plan that is inconsistent with an approved Planning Code.
2. Recognise approved Planning Code as a specific matter that local governments are to give due regard to in development assessment (even when not yet read into the local planning scheme).
3. Introduce development approval requirements for single houses and other noise sensitive land uses within the vicinity of wind farms, treating them as discretionary uses that will allow assessment of amenity impacts when determining development applications.
4. Introduce additional renewable energy-related land use terms and definitions.



### **DWER Noise Regulations Review**

The DWER review aims to improve clarity, consistency, and confidence in how wind farm noise is regulated for new houses and other noise-sensitive premises that may arise near wind farms. This work seeks to ensure a consistent and transparent approach across planning and environmental regulatory frameworks.

# Wind Farm Noise & New Noise Sensitive Uses



- **Scenario 1 – Proposed house is located more than 2km from boundary of host lot.** *No change to existing development approval requirements or exemptions.*
- **Scenario 2 – Proposed house is located within 2km of host lot.** *Review proposal against wind farm noise impact area. Proposal located outside of noise impact area - development approval not required (unless required otherwise by the scheme).*
- **Scenario 3 – Proposed house is located within 2km of the host lot or within the host lot.** *Review proposal against wind farm noise impact area. Proposal located within noise impact area. Development approval required and decision discretionary.*

# Amendments - Significant Development Regulations



# Amendments Significant Development Regulations

	EXISTING			FUTURE
	Local Gov (LG)	Development Assessment Panel (DAP)	Significant Development (opt-in)	Significant Development (mandatory)
<b>Decision-maker</b>	<b>LG</b>	<b>DAP</b>	<b>WAPC</b>	<b>WAPC</b>
<b>Thresholds/ Eligibility</b>	Nil	\$2 million	\$20M - Perth & Peel \$5M - elsewhere	\$20M
<b>Exclusions</b>	Nil	Public works by public authorities and GTEs	Public works by public authorities and GTEs	Public Works by public authorities and GTEs <sup>1</sup> .

- Mandatory WAPC determination under Part 11B - Significant Development pathway for significant renewable energy development.
- Minimum value threshold – \$20 million
- Applies to renewable energy facilities, hydrogen and ammonia production, battery storage, transmission infrastructure

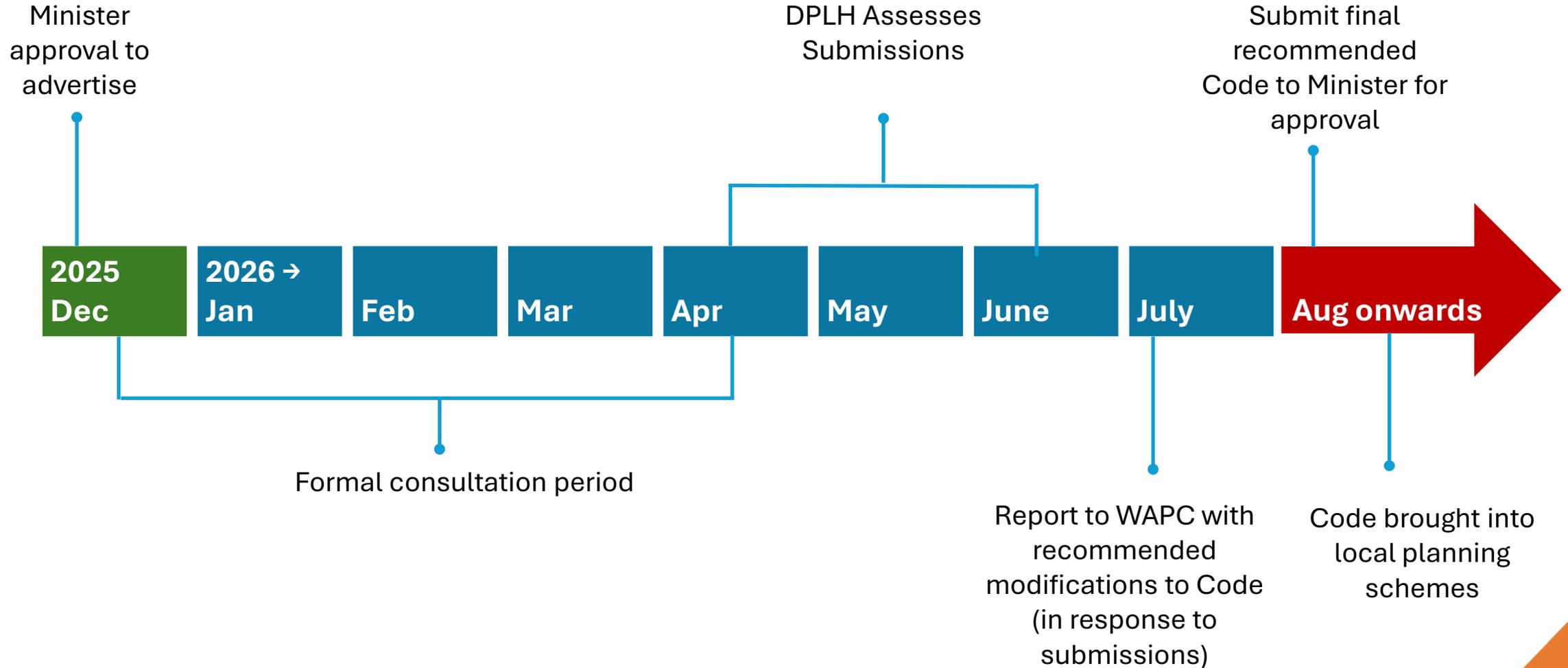
# Consultation and Next Steps



# Consultation

- Consultation period on draft RE Planning Code commenced on 12 December 2025 and concludes on **10 April 2026**.
- Further details of the draft RE Planning Code and Guidelines as well as how you can provide feedback can be found on the Department's Have Your Say webpage: [Renewable Energy Planning Code | Have Your Say, WA!](#)
- Any queries can be directed to - [renewableenergyplanning@dplh.wa.gov.au](mailto:renewableenergyplanning@dplh.wa.gov.au)

# Anticipated Timeframes



Thank you :)

