

East Metropolitan Zone

Minutes

18 June 2026

Hosted by the City of Belmont
Function Room, 215 Wright Street,
Cloverdale

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PRIORITISATION FRAMEWORK

How to use the Framework:

- If the majority of the factors are towards the left column, the issue is a high priority.
- If the majority of the factors are towards the middle, the issue requires action, but is not a high priority.
- If the majority of the factors are towards the right column, the issue is a low priority.

Impact on Local Government Sector Impact on Local Government sector without intervention	High	Medium	Low
Reach Number of member Local Governments affected	Sector-wide	Significant (multiple regions, Zones, or bands)	Few
Influence Capacity to influence decision makers	High	Medium	Low
Principles Alignment to core principles such as autonomy, funding, general competence	Strong	Partial	Peripheral
Clarity Policy change needed is clear and well-defined	Clear	Partial	Unclear
Decision-maker support Level of support among decision-makers (political and administrative)	High	Medium	Low
Public support Level of support among the public or other stakeholders	High	Medium	Low
Positive consequences for WALGA Prospect of positive consequences for WALGA. E.g. enhanced standing among members or leverage for other issues.	High	Medium	Low
Negative consequences for WALGA Prospect of negative consequences for WALGA for not undertaking the advocacy effort. E.g. diminished standing among members or other stakeholders.	High	Medium	Low
Partnerships Potential for partnerships with other stakeholders	Yes (3+)	Possibly (1-2)	No (0)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Zone Delegates were requested to provide sufficient written notice, wherever possible, of amendments to recommendations within the State Council or Zone Agenda to the Zone Chair and Secretariat prior to the Zone meeting.

Agenda Papers were emailed 7 days prior to the meeting date.

Confirmation of Attendance An attendance sheet was circulated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

1. LGIRS Local Government Division Report
2. Minutes of previous meeting
3. Zone Status Report
4. President's Report
5. East Metropolitan Zone Standing Orders

1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

1.1 OPENING

The Zone Chair, Cr George Sekulla opened the meeting at 6:31pm.

1.2 ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS	2 Voting Delegates from each Member Local Government
Town of Bassendean	Cr Hayden Long Cr Ken John Mayor, Cr Kath Hamilton (observer)
City of Bayswater	Deputy Mayor, Cr Elli Petersen-Pik Mr Jeremy Edwards, Chief Executive Officer
City of Belmont	Cr George Sekulla (Chair) Cr Bernard Ryan Mayor Robert Rossi (observer) Mr John Christie, Chief Executive Officer – non-voting
City of Kalamunda	Cr Brooke O'Donnell Mayor Margaret Thomas Mr Anthony Vuleta, Chief Executive Officer – non-voting
Shire of Mundaring	President Paige McNeil Cr Ben Heptinstall
City of Swan	Cr Cate McCullough Cr Rod Henderson
WALGA Secretariat	President Chris Antonio, Deputy President Mr Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure Ms Rebecca Hicks, Policy Advisor Community

Guest Speaker Nil

1.3 APOLOGIES

City of Bayswater	Cr Michelle Sutherland
Town of Bassendean	Mr Cameron Woods, Chief Executive Officer – non-voting
City of Swan	Mr Stephen Cain, Chief Executive Officer – non-voting
Shire of Mundaring	Mr Jason Whiteaker, Chief Executive Officer – non-voting

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We, the Zone members acknowledge the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to Country, culture and community. We embrace the vast Aboriginal cultural diversity throughout Western Australia, including Boorloo (Perth), on the land of the Whadjuk Noongar People, where this meeting is being held and we acknowledge and pay respect to Elders past and present.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Nil.

4 DEPUTATIONS

Nil.

5 AGENCY REPORTS

5.1 LGIRS LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIVISION REPORT

The June 2026 report from the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS) Local Government Division was enclosed as an attachment.

The East Metropolitan Zone REQUESTS that WALGA seek a road map of reform changes from LGIRS to clarify timeframes for implementation.

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The previous meeting Minutes of the East Metropolitan Zone have been circulated to Zone Delegates and is provided as an attachment to the Agenda.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Cate McCullough
Seconded: Mayor Margaret Thomas

That the Minutes of the meeting of the East Metropolitan Zone held on 23 April 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED 12/0

7 BUSINESS ARISING

7.1 STATUS REPORT

A Status Report outlining any recent updates and/or actions taken on the Zone's previous meetings resolutions for both State Council and Zone items was enclosed as an attachment. These item updates will remain on the Status Report until completed or no further action is required by WALGA.

Noted

8 ZONE BUSINESS

8.1 COUNCILLOR USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND APPLICABILITY OF THE STATE RECORDS ACT 2000

By Shire of Mundaring

BACKGROUND

The increasing use of social media by Elected Members, and its potential intersection with the *State Records Act 2000*, has created uncertainty across the Local Government sector regarding recordkeeping obligations, compliance requirements, and governance risk. A consistent, sector-wide approach is required to prioritise advocacy and policy development.

The absence of clear legislative guidance on whether Councillor social media content constitutes a "State record" has resulted in inconsistent practices across Local Governments. This uncertainty creates challenges in relation to recordkeeping compliance, administrative burden, and reputational risk.

Shire President Paige McNeil has provided the following rationale for the motion:

Council Members are not employees of the Local Government and the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal has previously noted that Council Members operate, in some respects, as volunteers. Council Members do not operate within, nor form part of, the Local Government's administrative organisation. The behaviour of Council Members (and candidates) is governed by the Council Member Code of Conduct.

Social media pages created by Council Members are administered and controlled by the individual, not by the Local Government, and the Local Government has no ownership rights, access rights, or administrative role in relation to these accounts, posts, or attached media.

As a result of these distinctions, uncertainty arises regarding whether content created and published by Council Members on their individually administered social media accounts constitutes a “record” under the State Records Act 2000. Given that these platforms are not Local Government resources, it is necessary to question whether any record-keeping or retention obligations fall to the Local Government or to the individual Council Member.

Social media has become a prevalent and cost-effective tool for Council Members to communicate with their communities. It is widely used for sharing information, promoting events, campaigning and demonstrating accountability to the people they are elected to represent. Given social media’s role in contemporary civic engagement, clarity around any record-keeping obligations associated with this communication channel is required.

WALGA is the representative of its 139 Local Government financial members and is well placed to undertake an investigation into this matter. Should the investigation determine that Council Member social media posts must be retained by Local Governments as official records, WALGA should also seek to advocate to the Department of Local Government Industry Regulation and Safety for a clear, practical, and workable procedure for doing so, ensuring any obligations are realistic and consistently applied, without imposing unreasonable administrative burdens on either Local Governments or individual Council Members.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

The [State Records Act 2000](#) (the Act) applies to Council Members and records they create in the performance of their functions, including through social media accounts.

Section 3 of the Act defines a *government record* to include records created or received by “a government organisation employee in the course of the employee’s work for the organisation”. However, the definition of a *government organisation employee* includes:

a person who, whether or not an employee, alone or with others, governs, controls or manages a government organisation
[s.3, emphasis added]

This expanded definition captures Council Members as members of the governing body of a Local Government. As a result, records created or received by a Council Member in the course of their duties are government records for the purposes of the Act.

The State Records Commission (SRC) has adopted [SRC Policy: Local Government Council Members' Records](#) that confirms the general responsibilities of Council Members and Local Governments. The State Records Office publishes guidance for [Local Government Council Members' Records](#) which provides more practical information on the scope of Council Member obligations.

This advice specifies that social media posts or comments should be captured as records if they:

- create interest from the public or media
- communicate decisions or commit the local government to an action

- seek feedback
- address issues of safety, and/or
- relate to sensitive or contentious issues.

This advice is not limited to official accounts administered by the Local Government. Posts or comments that meet these criteria are Local Government records even on individually administered Council Member social media accounts.

Importantly, the [Freedom of Information Act 1992](#) also applies to all government records, including records created or received by Council Members.

WALGA's [Council Member Essentials Serving on Council](#) and the [Elected Member Record Keeping Fundamentals](#) courses each address these legislative requirements and the State Records Office guidance.

Each Local Government is responsible for developing a procedure for Council Members to forward these records for capture on the Local Government's record keeping system. This may vary between Local Governments, depending on their record keeping plans, systems and procedures. Council Members who are unclear about how to meet their record keeping obligations are encouraged to seek advice from their Local Government's CEO.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Paige McNeil

Seconded: Cr Ben Heptinstall

That the East Metropolitan Zone request WALGA to form a draft advocacy position for the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety to provide a clear, practical, and workable procedure that doesn't impose unreasonable administrative burdens on either Local Governments or individual Council Members.

CARRIED 9/3

8.2 INVITATION TO PROVIDE A DEPUTATION

By President Paige McNeil

President Paige McNeil would like to recommend that Hon Samantha Rowe MLC, be invited to a future East Metropolitan Zone meeting to provide a Deputation on the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF). As Hon Samantha Rowe MLC is leading the review on CSRFF, it is suggested that she be invited to an upcoming Zone meeting to outline the scope of the review and provide an opportunity for the Zone to give feedback on the local perspective.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Paige McNeil

Seconded: Cr Ben Heptinstall

That the East Metropolitan Zone invites Hon Samantha Rowe MLC to a future Zone meeting to speak about the review of the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF).

CARRIED 12/0

9 WALGA STATE COUNCIL AGENDA

Zone Delegates are invited to read and consider the WALGA State Council Agenda which 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.

9.1 CLIMATE CHANGE ADVOCACY POSITION

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

ATTACHMENT

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

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item aligns with WALGA's Strategic Pillars:

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

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

Local Government acknowledges:

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

Local Government is committed to addressing climate change.

Local Government is calling for:

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

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

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

BACKGROUND

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

- The national *Climate Change Act 2022* and the Western Australian Climate Change Bill 2023.
- Increased legislative responsibilities, including the *Local Government Amendment Act 2023*, which expanded Western Australian Local Governments' general function under Part 3 s3.1(1A) of the *Local Government Act 1995*:
 - a. To promote the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the district;
 - b. To plan for, and to plan for mitigating, risks associated with climate change; and
 - c. In making decisions, to consider potential long-term consequences and impacts on future generations
- The release of the Australian Government's [National Climate Risk Assessment](#) and [National Adaptation Plan](#) in 2025.
- Escalation of the transition to renewable energy, uptake of electric vehicles and energy efficiency standards under the National Construction Code.

- Climate science and projections ([international](#), [national](#) and [WA specific](#)) have also become clearer regarding the risks posed by climate change and the need for action to address the consequential impacts.

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

COMMENT

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

- 18 (44%) supported the draft Advocacy Position:
 - Metropolitan: Joondalup, Stirling, Bayswater, Kalamunda, Bassendean, Canning, Cockburn, Melville, Rockingham, Cambridge, Subiaco and Serpentine Jarrahdale.
 - Regional: Harvey, Victoria Plains, Gnowangerup, Kalgoorlie Boulder, Ngaanyatjarraku and Karratha.
- 18 (44%) were supported with comment and/or proposed changes:
 - 7 sought minor wording refinements or small additions:
 - Metropolitan: Belmont, Gosnells and Kwinana.
 - Regional: Dumbleyung, West Arthur, York and Mingenew.
 - 11 proposed more substantial amendments:
 - Metropolitan: Mundaring, Armadale, Victoria Park, East Fremantle, Fremantle, Perth and Vincent.
 - Regional: Augusta Margaret River, Busselton, Kent and Cocos (Keeling) Islands.
- Four (10%) did not support the draft Advocacy Position and proposed an alternative position:
 - Regional: Waroona (alternative position). Quairading, Wagin and Cue provided the Central Country Zone position.
- One (2%) did not support the draft Advocacy Position and did not provide an alternative:
 - Regional: Collie.

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

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

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

- *"to meet the needs of their communities"* has been added to Point 1 to better reflect Local Government context.
- Point 2b has been revised to:

- Include explicit reference to increasing risk and expanded legislative requirements and align with language in the Local Government Act (mitigation, rather than emissions reduction).
- Be clear that Local Government must be provided with the funding, guidance and practical support required to meet increasing risk and legislative requirements.

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

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

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

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Elli Petersen-Pik

Seconded: Cr Brooke O'Donnell

That the East Metropolitan Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.1 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED 8/4

9.2 TRAIN STATION PRECINCTS ADVOCACY POSITION

By Coralie Claudio, A/Manager Planning and Building

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

ATTACHMENT

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

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item aligns with WALGA's Strategic Pillars:

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

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

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

1. *The Local Government sector supports an efficient and effective planning system guided by legislation, policy, and processes that:*
 - a. *facilitates the creation of sustainable and liveable communities and places;*
 - b. *has a focus on strategic planning that delivers on long-term objectives and outcomes that balance social, environmental, cultural, and economic interests;*
 - c. *is easy to understand, accessible and transparent;*
 - d. *recognises the diversity of Western Australia and ensures that local environment, context, communities and character are appropriately reflected in planning frameworks and decision making;*
 - e. *ensures decisions are made by the level of government closest to and most impacted by a planning proposal; and*
 - f. *establishes consistent planning frameworks and streamlines planning processes where there is a demonstrated benefit in doing so.*
2. *Reforms to the planning system should:*
 - a. *be guided by the above principles;*
 - b. *deliver community benefit;*

- c. promote system efficiency, including through the use of technology;*
- d. be evidence-based and informed by robust, transparent data;*
- e. proceed at an appropriate pace to enable effective implementation;*
- f. be informed by engagement with the community; and be amended only with WALGA involvement and consultation with Local Government.*

BACKGROUND

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

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

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

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

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

At its December 2025 meeting, State Council resolved that:

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

RESOLUTION 069.5/2025

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

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

- Promote housing density, diversity and delivery while ensuring place-responsive and transit-oriented development outcomes.
- Recognise the State Government's critical role in coordination and investment, including redevelopment of underutilised State land.
- Call for recognition of existing and progressing local planning frameworks and meaningful engagement with Local Governments and communities.
- Support a strategic, evidence-based and transparent approach to identifying and delivering future State-led station precincts.

The draft advocacy position was circulated to the sector for feedback over a two-week period until 7 May. WALGA received 22 responses, all from metropolitan Local Governments, including nine of the 14 Local Governments directly affected by the initial ten identified train station precincts.

COMMENT

This Advocacy Position is intended to enable WALGA to make timely and direct representations to the State Government on the sector's priorities for State-led train station precincts.

The proposed new Advocacy Position will complement WALGA's planning Advocacy Position, 6.1 Planning Principles and Reform, which notes that planning frameworks and decision-making should reflect local environment, context, communities and character, and that decisions should be made by the level of government closest to and most impacted by a planning proposal.

The draft position has been informed by a review of relevant Council resolutions and Local Government officer input, including feedback from WALGA's Planning Advisory Group.

The draft advocacy position was refined following sector consultation to emphasise that a planning framework alone will not deliver on-the-ground outcomes. Instead, it highlights the substantial scale of State Government collaboration, coordination and funding required to enable and accelerate precinct delivery, including a stronger focus on the redevelopment of underutilised State Government land.

The position was also refined to avoid blanket support for all State Improvement Plans and Schemes, instead clarifying the circumstances in which State-led planning may be appropriate for future station precincts.

The Environment Policy Team recommended that State Council endorse the position at its meeting on 18 May 2026.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse the following new Advocacy Position:

Train Station Precincts

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

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Rod Henderson

Seconded: Cr Cate McCullough

That the East Metropolitan Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.2 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above subject to the amendments below:

- **Point 2: Remove the word should and replace with must.**
- **Addition of point 2(f): Exclude rezoning and development on State owned land designed Park lands including Bush Forever sites, environmental reserves and similar lands.**

CARRIED 11/1

9.3 SUBMISSION ON THE CAT ACT REVIEW

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager Environment and Waste and Felicity Morris, Manager Governance and Procurement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

ATTACHMENT

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

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item aligns with WALGA's Strategic Pillars:

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

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

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

And previous submissions and positions on the legislation.

BACKGROUND

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

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

The submission provides recommendations on provisions in the Cat Act and identifies some of the issues Local Governments experience with implementing the legislation. WALGA

used current Advocacy Positions, previous submissions, a webinar with the sector and opportunity to comment on a draft submission to gather feedback.

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

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

COMMENT

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

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

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

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

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

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

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Elli Petersen-Pik
Seconded: Cr Brooke O'Donnell

That the East Metropolitan Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.3 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above subject to the following amendments:

- 1. that the Cat and Dog Acts are not consolidated; and**
- 2. that the number of cats permitted is prescribed in each Local Government's local law.**

CARRIED 10/2

9.4 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.

9.4.1 WALGA 2025 Local Government Emergency Management Survey Findings – State Council Agenda Item 10.1

The 2025 WALGA Local Government Emergency Management Survey, undertaken in partnership with Edith Cowan University (ECU), highlights ongoing resource, workforce and funding pressures across the Local Government sector, including rising emergency management expectations, structural funding challenges, grant access difficulties, and increasing staffing and capacity constraints.

An additional confidential attachment was available for Zone Delegates.

Noted

10 EXECUTIVE REPORTS

10.1 WALGA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

WALGA Deputy President, Chris Antonio presented the President's Report. The report was enclosed as an attachment.

Noted

10.2 STATE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT TO THE ZONE

East Metropolitan Zone State Councillor, Cr Cate McCullough provided an update on the activities of State Council since the last Zone meeting.

Noted

11 OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

On behalf of the East Metropolitan Zone the Zone Chair, Cr George Sekulla, acknowledged and thanked Ian Duncan for his work and service to the East Metropolitan Zone and for the broader WALGA organisation prior to Ian's forthcoming retirement.

12 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the East Metropolitan Zone will be held on Thursday, 20 August 2026 at the City of Belmont commencing at 6:30pm.

13 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 7:38pm.