

South West Country Zone Minutes

22 November 2024

**Hosted by the Shire of
Manjimup, Council Chambers**

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PRIORITISATION FRAMEWORK

The below Prioritisation Framework was endorsed at the April 2024 South West Country Zone meeting.

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 are requested to provide sufficient written notice, wherever possible, on amendments to recommendations within the State Council or Zone agenda to the Zone Chair and Secretariat prior to the Zone meeting.

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

Confirmation of Attendance An attendance sheet will be circulated prior to the commencement of the meeting, please register your attendance by printing your name against your Council on the attendance sheet.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Minutes of previous meeting
2. Flying Minute
3. November 2024 Update – Department of Local Government, Sports and Cultural Industries
4. Zone Status Report
5. President's Report
6. Cooperation and Shared Services document
7. Native Vegetation Issues Paper
8. Band 4 Local Governments meeting summary report

1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

1.1 OPENING

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:05am

1.2 ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS

1 Voting Delegates from each Member Council

Shire of August Margaret River	President Julia Meldrum Ms Andrea Selvey, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Boyup Brook	President Cr Richard Walker
Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes	President Cr Jenny Mountford Mr Mal Osbourne, Chief Executive Officer (Temporary), non-voting delegate
City of Bunbury	Cr Tresslyn Smith (deputy) Mr Alan Ferris, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
City of Busselton	Mayor Phill Cronin Mr Tony Nottle, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Capel	President Cr Doug Kitchen

	Mr Gordon MacMile, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Collie	President Cr Ian Miffling Mr Phil Anastasakis, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Dardanup	Mr André Schönfeldt, Chief Executive Officer, proxy delegate
Shire of Donnybrook Balingup	President Cr Vivienne McCarthy Mr Tim Clynch, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Harvey	President Cr Michelle Campbell Ms Annie Riordan, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Manjimup	President Cr Donnelle Buegge Mr Ben Rose, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Nannup	President Cr Tony Dean (Chair) Mr David Taylor, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
WALGA Secretariat	Mr Chris Hossen, Policy Manager Planning and Building Mr Dan Thomson, Manager Economics Ms Lisa Harwood, Principal Policy Advisor Economics
South West Development Commission	Mr Ashley Clements, A/Chief Executive Officer
RDA South West	Mr Charles Jenkinson, Director Regional Development
Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries	Mr Brendan McNally, Regional Manager Peel-South West
Australia's South West	Ms Catrin Allsop, Chief Executive Officer
Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	Ms Tanya Scudamore, Regional Workforce Transition Officer
Guest Speakers	
Department of Fire and Emergency Services	Mr Peter Sutton, Assistant Commissioner

1.3 APOLOGIES

Shire of Boyup Brook
City of Bunbury
Shire of Dardanup

Mr Leonard Long, Chief Executive Officer
Mayor Jaysen De San Miguel
President Cr Tyrrell Gardiner

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We, the South West Country Zone of WALGA, acknowledge the Bibbulmun people, the Traditional Custodians of this land, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and future.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

4 DEPUTATIONS

4.1 SHIRE OF MANJIMUP

President Cr Donnelle Buegge and Mr Ben Rose Chief Executive Officer

Shire of Manjimup President Cr Donnelle Buegge and CEO Mr Ben Rose provided an update to the Zone on current priorities and key projects.

Noted

5 AGENCY REPORTS

5.1 SOUTH WEST DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Mr Ashley Clements, A/Chief Executive Officer, provided an update to the Zone.

Noted

5.2 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA – SOUTH WEST

Mr Charles Jenkinson, Director Regional Development, provided a brief update to the Zone.

Noted

5.3 DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Mr Peter Sutton, Assistant Commissioner provided an update on the Local Government Grant Scheme to the Zone.

Noted

5.4 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SPORT AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES

Mr Brendan McNally, Regional Manager Peel South-West, provided an update to the Zone.

The November 2024 DLGSC update was attached with the Agenda.

Noted

5.5 AUSTRALIA'S SOUTH WEST

Chief Executive Officer at Australia's South West, Ms Catrin Allsop, provided a brief update to the Zone.

Noted

5.6 AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

Regional Workforce Transition Officer from the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, Ms Tanya Scudamore provided a brief update on clean energy and renewables.

Noted

5.7 WESTERN POWER

Due to unforeseen circumstances, representatives from Western Power are an apology.

Noted

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the South West Country Zone meeting held on Friday, 23 August 2024 and the Flying Minute distributed for decision on 15 October 2024 have previously been circulated to Member Councils and are provided as an attachment to the Agenda.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Michelle Campbell

Seconded: Mayor Phill Cronin

That

- 1. The Minutes of the meeting of the South West Country Zone held on 23 August 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings; and**
- 2. The 15 October 2024 Flying Minute be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the decision.**

CARRIED

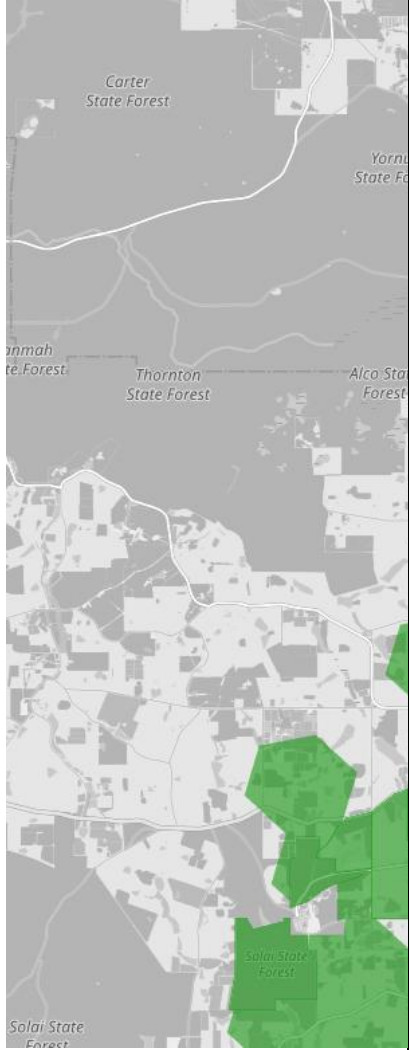
7 BUSINESS ARISING

7.1 STATUS REPORT

By Chantelle O'Brien, Zone Executive Officer

BACKGROUND

Below is the Zone Status Report for November 2024 which contains WALGA's responses to the resolutions of previous Zone Meetings.

Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
<p>23 August 2024 Zone Agenda Item 8.4 Telco Communication Coverage in Rural Areas</p>	<p>That WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> advocate through the State Government for an independent investigation into mobile phone coverage in rural Western Australia particularly the Lower South West land division and advocate via both the State and Federal Government for a greater and more reliable mobile coverage network throughout the rural areas of Western Australia. 	<p>The resolution of the South West Country Zone has been referred to the Infrastructure Policy Team, noting that it is similar in scope to an earlier resolution from the Great Southern Country Zone.</p>  <p>WALGA has an advocacy position (5.15 Regional Telecommunications) in relation to improving mobile telecommunications</p>	<p>November 2024</p>	<p>Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031</p>

		coverage, resilience and capacity. Submissions to the 2024 Regional Telecommunications Review (Commonwealth) and the Public Administration Committee Inquiry into regional telecommunications in Western Australia were endorsed by WALGA State Council earlier this year.		
23 August 2024 Zone Agenda Item 8.7 Review of Local Government Grant Scheme – Late Item	That WALGA: 1. Advocate through the State Government for an independent review and redesign of the LGGS, carried out in consultation with Local Governments, prior to releasing to the guidelines for the 2025/26 LGGS application process in December 2024. 2. Advocate for timely definition by DFES of minimum operating standards, equipment, training, and service requirements for BFB facilities, appliances and volunteers. 3. Advocate for DFES to undertake an audit of all existing BFB facilities within the 2024/25 Financial year, to inform the development of a comprehensive strategic Asset Management Plan to guide whole of life management of BFB facilities and future funding requests. Advocate the State Government to increase available funding in the 2025/26 State budget, for LGGS to sufficiently fund whole of life management of BFB facilities, in a manner compliant with the minimum standards DFES has set for VFRS facilities and sufficient to ensure BFB facilities can be managed in the accordance with obligations of the <i>Work Health and Safety 2020</i> Legislation.	Secretariat Comment As noted in the Item, the Zone's recommendation aligns with WALGA's existing LGGS advocacy position: 8.8 Local Government Grants Scheme Position Statement <i>Local Government supports:</i> 1. <i>A full, independent review of the LGGS to investigate and analyse how ESL funds are allocated to Local Government via the LGGS;</i> 2. <i>A redesign of the LGGS to remove the ineligible and eligible list and create a sustainable, modern, equitable grants program that funds Local Government emergency management activities across prevention, preparedness and response;</i> 3. <i>An audit of existing buildings, facilities, appliances, vehicles, and major items of equipment for both Local Government Volunteer Bushfire Brigades (BFB) and State Emergency Services (SES) to inform the preparation of a Comprehensive Asset Management Plan and to guide future funding requests; and</i> 4. <i>in the interim, an immediate increase in the quantum of State Government funding to enable the provision of funding of operating and capital grant applications in full, to provide all resources necessary for the safe and efficient operation of Local Government Bushfire Brigades, in accordance with obligations of the Work Health and Safety 2020 legislation.</i> July 2022 – 354.5/2022 WALGA is continuing to advocate strongly on this issue, including as a key 2025 WALGA State Election priority. WALGA would welcome further information and examples from Local Governments on their experience with LGGS applications to inform this advocacy. Ongoing	November 2024	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@w alga.asn.au 9213 2039

23 June 2023 Zone Agenda Item 7.2 - Mining Tenements Applications – DMIRS Procedural Review	That the South West Country Zone request the WALGA State Council to adopt an advocacy position that seeks the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety to undertake: 1.A formal review of the current statutory consultation procedures as they relate to mining tenements; and 2. Improved public consultation for mining tenement applications, particularly for private landowners, regardless of the depth of land applicable.	WALGA Secretariat has sent correspondence to the Director General of DEMIRS and will provide a response once one has been received from the DG.	November 2024	Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services, tbrown@walga.asn.au 9213 2051
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RESOLUTION

Moved: Mayor Phill Cronin
Seconded: President Cr Michelle Campbell

That the South West Country Zone November 2024 Status Report be noted.

CARRIED

8 ZONE BUSINESS

8.1 CESSATION OF CUSTOM KILL SERVICES IN SOUTH-WEST

By the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup

BACKGROUND

At its meeting held on 25 September 2024 Council considered an item relating to the establishment of an advocacy position and process for the subject of addressing the recent decision by a south-west abattoir to cease providing livestock custom kill services.

Council did determine a resolution that is solely focused on advocacy around the Western Australian Government working with local and regional farmers to develop an alternative custom kill provider in the South-West Region. There is no intent in the Council resolution to seek review of the commercial decision made by the abattoir company.

The wording of the Council resolution was:

That Council request the support of the Warren Blackwood Alliance of Councils and WALGA (via the South-West Country Zone) to advocate to the Minister for Agriculture for the Western Australian Government to support local, small-scale farmers in their efforts to locate or develop an alternative custom kill service provider in the South-West Region.

On 15 September 2024, the Dardanup Butchering Company (DBC) announced to their customers that, as of 11 October 2024, they would no longer be offering custom kills. DBC has provided this valuable and much appreciated service for decades. This service allows local farmers to have full traceability for their animals, have them killed, chilled, and transported to local butcher for processing, packaging and supply to customers, restaurants or to take directly to markets. This service enables paddock to plate consumption, it means people can know the farmer, how the animal was raised, buy local and it means that local farmers can showcase the meat raised in our region.

Note since then DBC has announced a deferral of this discontinuation until February 2025. This decision was made in response to strong agricultural industry and producers feedback about the implications of the cessation of custom kill services.

Feedback from stakeholders indicates that a viable solution to the issues caused by the DBC decision is possible. For example, mobile abattoirs are permissible in WA, no one has gone through the process yet, but a mobile abattoir built in WA has been in use in Victoria and Southern NSW for the last 4 years. It is understood that local farmers have called for an audience with the Minister for Agriculture and the Department of Health to actively work towards an acceptable solution for all parties.

Comment

A similar motion was supported by the Warren Blackwood Alliance of Councils at its meeting held on 1 October 2024.

Small businesses, resilient communities and economic prosperity are all important issues in the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup and indeed the whole of the South-West Region. WALGA can play a role in advocating for small businesses, such as small-scale, local farmers, like Marigold Lamb or small, local businesses, like Donnybrook Butchers that offer the cut and pack services for these custom kills. There are likely to be other affected businesses in other Shires of the South-West Region.

Resilient communities need young people and food security. Young people are moving away from farming communities, investors are moving in, and most smaller farms are no longer commercially viable. The average age of farmers in Australia is 63 and this is an increasing trend. If we want more young people with families moving to farming communities we need lower barriers of entry, and access for small scale farmers directly into the market. The vertical integration of DBC’s business reinforces the “get big or get out” mantra and has been the trend over the last few decades as the vast majority of local abattoirs have closed. The recent pandemic served as a stark reminder that short, local supply chains are essential to resilient communities.

It is considered this is a matter that has enough local significance for WALGA to take on an advocacy role. Supporting small business, buying local and growing WA’s food industries are State priorities and therefore adopting an advocacy position shouldn’t be regarded as contentious. Agriculture is the highest value industry in the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup and most of the other Shire in the South-West, so the issue is certainly relevant.

Risk Management

Like Councils, WALGA should consider the risk management implications in its decision-making processes. The table below addresses risk management implications of this issue.

Risk:	Likelihood:	Consequence:	Risk Rating:
Reputational	Unlikely	Insignificant	Low (2)
Risk Description:	Concerns that the WBAC advocacy position could be interpreted as a criticism of private enterprise withdrawing from custom kill services		
Mitigation:	The advocacy position is to be focused on finding solutions to the lack of custom kill services in the aftermath of private enterprise withdrawing from providing such a service		

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Vivienne McCarthy
Seconded: President Cr Julia Meldrum

1. That the South West Country Zone advocate to the Minister for Agriculture for the Western Australian Government to support local, small-scale farmers in their efforts to locate or develop an alternative custom kill service provider in the South-West Region
2. Reaffirm the South West Country Zone's commitment to a Regional Agribusiness Precinct in the South West as a regionally significant outcome, as adopted February 2024.

CARRIED

8.2 SOUTH WEST DAMA STATISTICS UPDATE - NOVEMBER 2024

By the Shire of Dardanup

BACKGROUND

Since the DAMA began in 2022 there has been 683 approved nominations from 11 LGA. Of these 683 nominations there has been 192 visas granted for employees and 193 visas granted for dependents of employees.

The City of Busselton and City of Bunbury make up 56% of all nominations with a total of 382.

The Hospitality Accommodation, Tourism and Retail Sector, in combination with the Healthcare and Social Assistance Sector continue to dominate demand and collectively account for around three quarters of the total nominations to date.

Please find below the statistics per LGA by industry, endorsed business and executed labour agreements.

Definitions in reference to the below statistics:

Nomination: A nomination refers to one individual job position. One Application may include several nominations.

Endorsed Business: This business has had their application endorsed by the South-West DAMA and now may move on to negotiating a Labour agreement with home affairs.

Executed Labour agreement: This business has successfully negotiated a labour agreement with home affairs and will move on to the nomination and visa application stage. **Please note from endorsement a business has 12 months to begin the negotiation processes for a labour agreement.**

Amy Bywaters

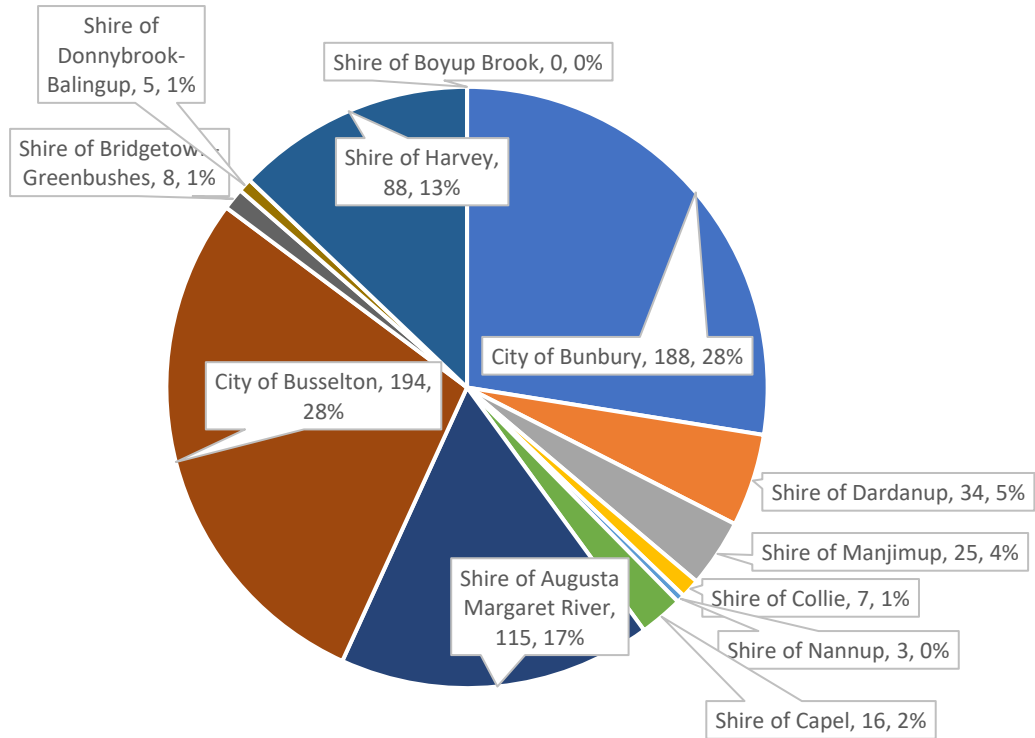
DAMA Officer

Shire of Dardanup

Life to Date Stats Update as at 07 November 2024 by Amy Bywaters

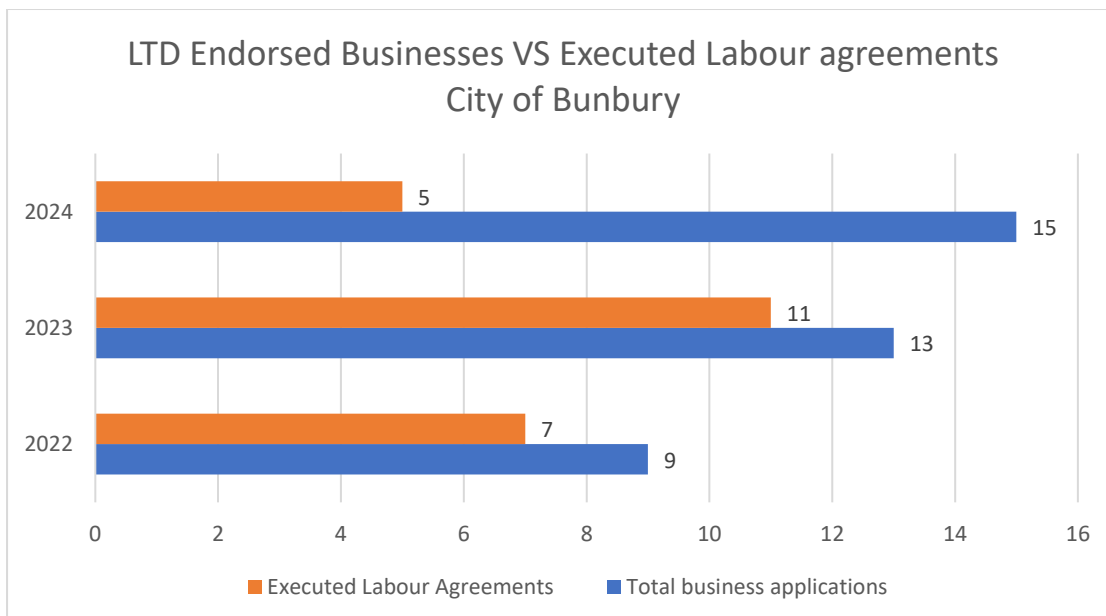
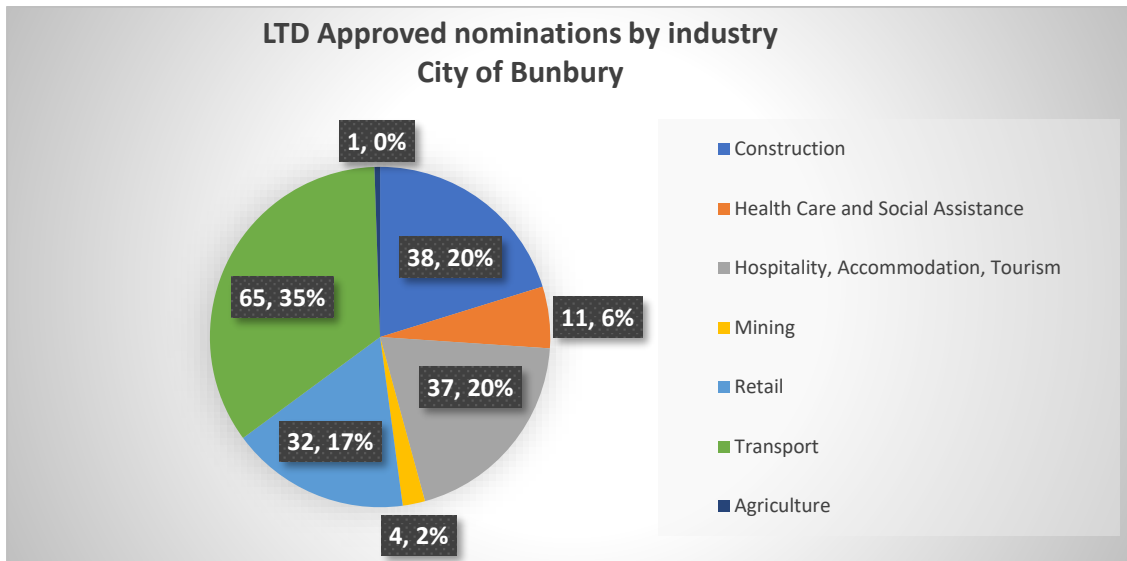
DAMA Life to Date Statistics Update

Total Nominations LTD

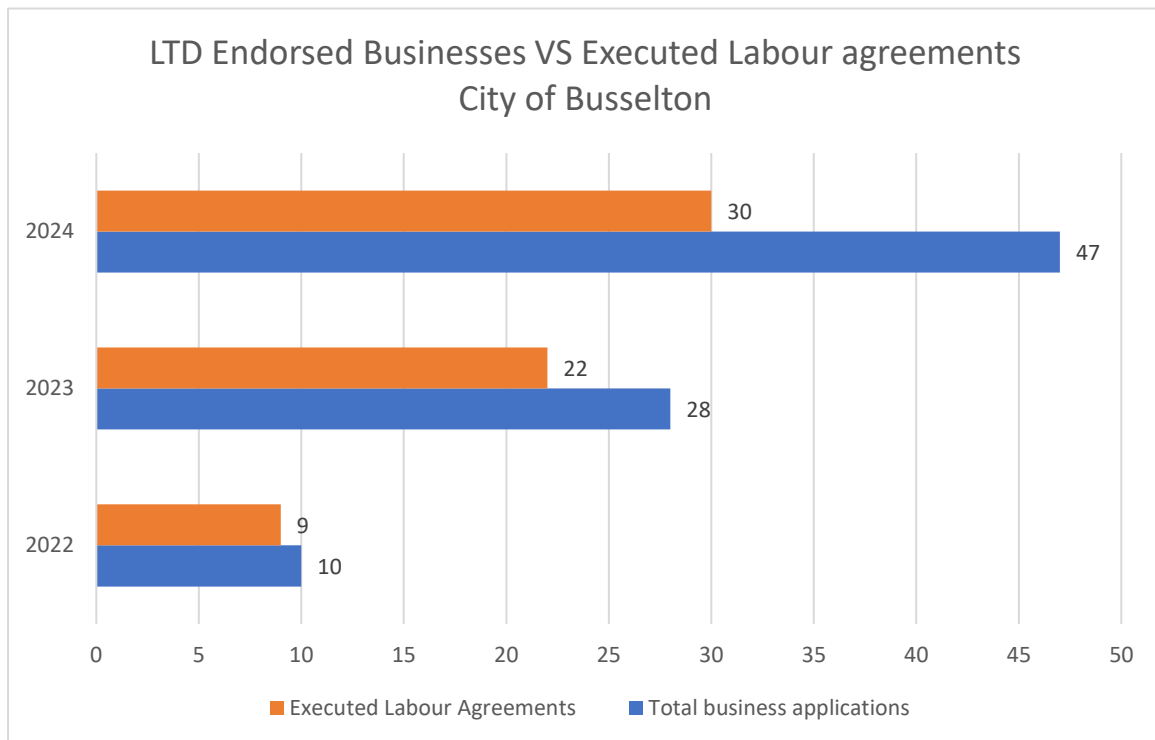
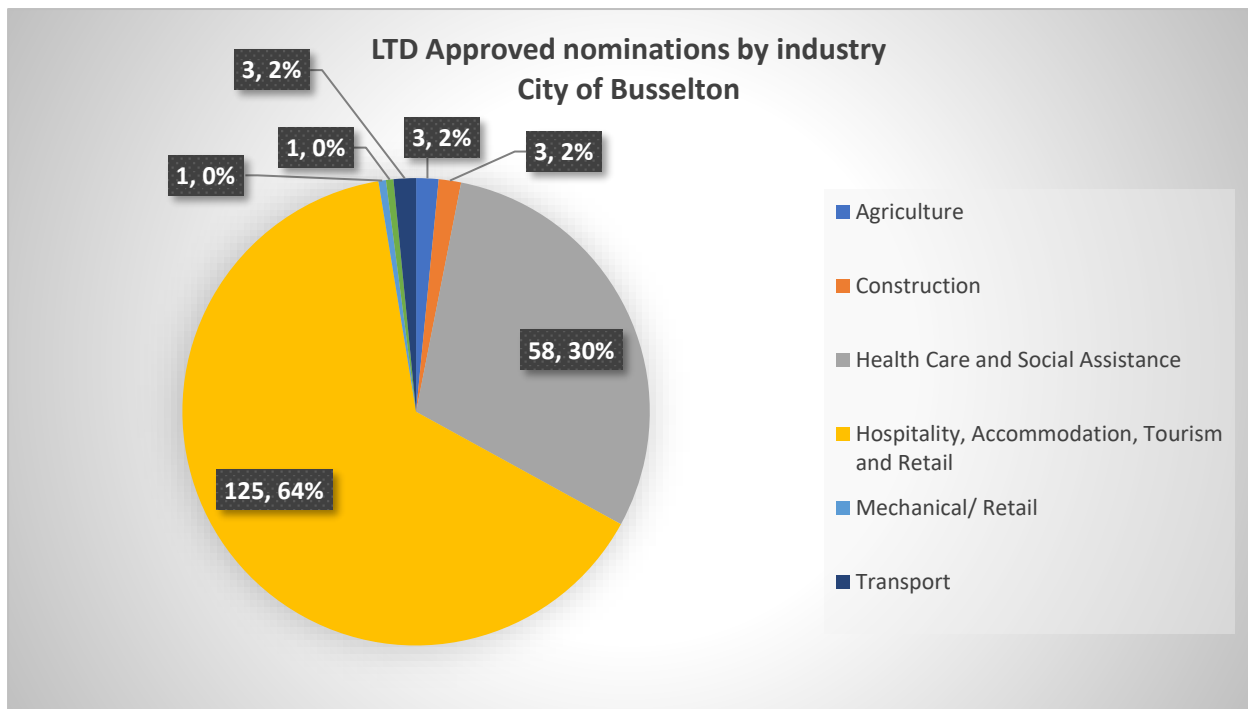


- City of Bunbury
- Shire of Dardanup
- Shire of Manjimup
- Shire of Collie
- Shire of Nannup
- Shire of Capel
- Shire of Augusta Margaret River
- City of Busselton
- Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes
- Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup
- Shire of Harvey
- Shire of Boyup Brook

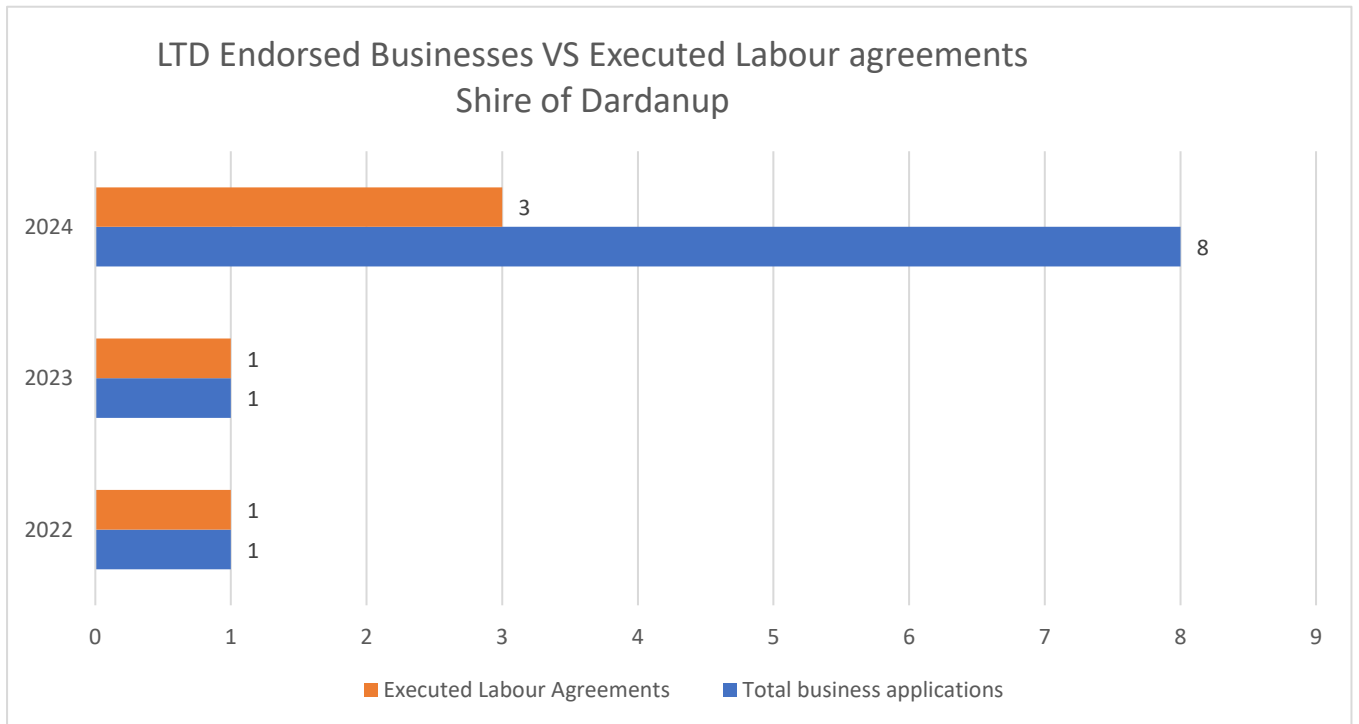
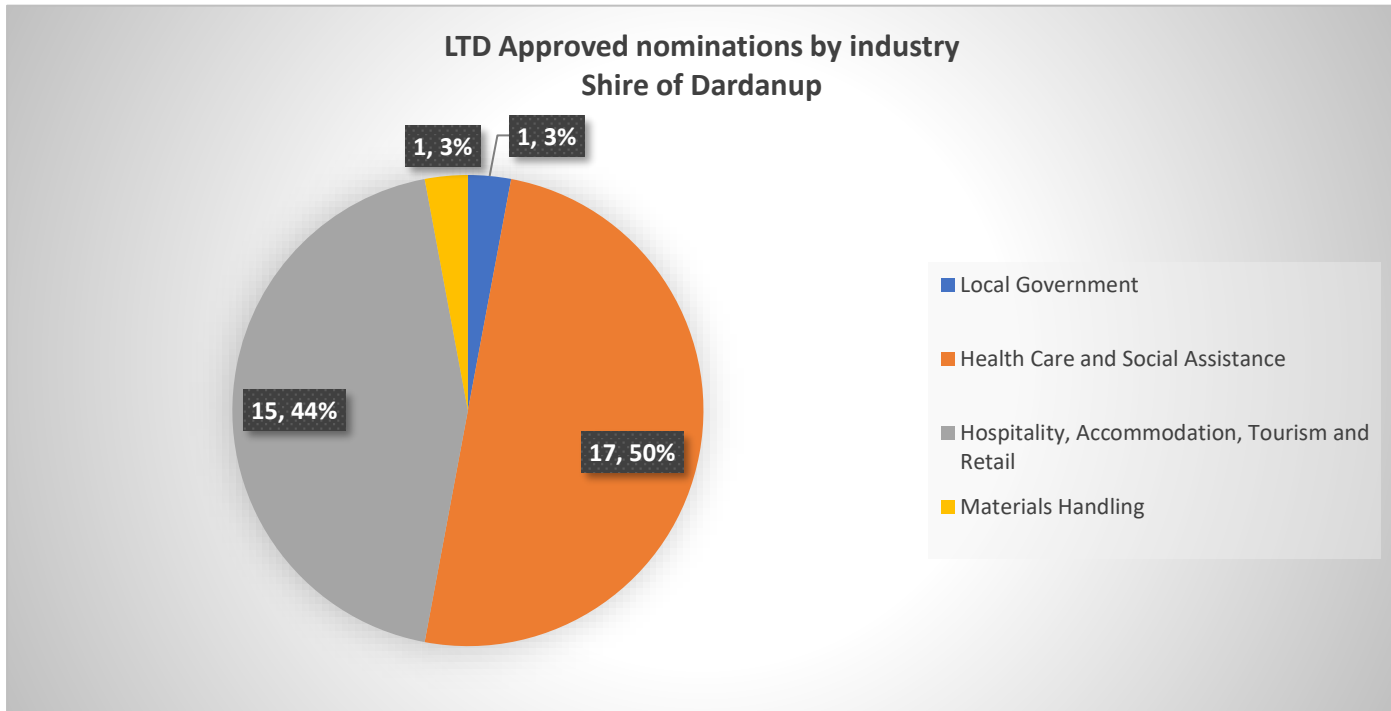
City of Bunbury



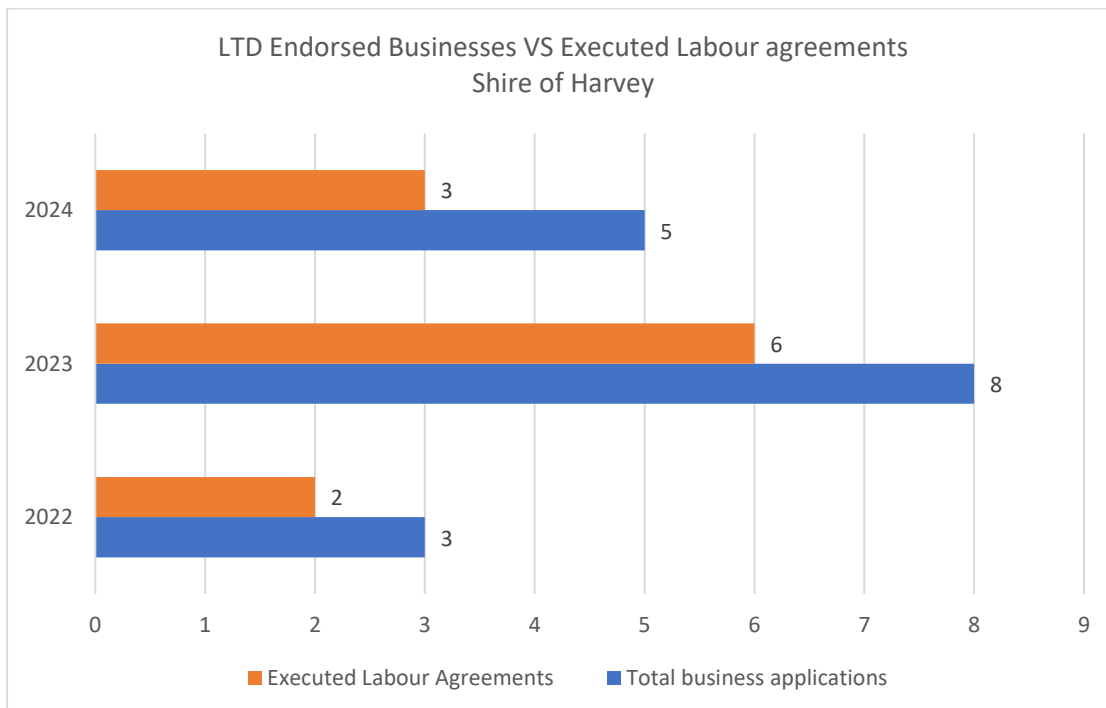
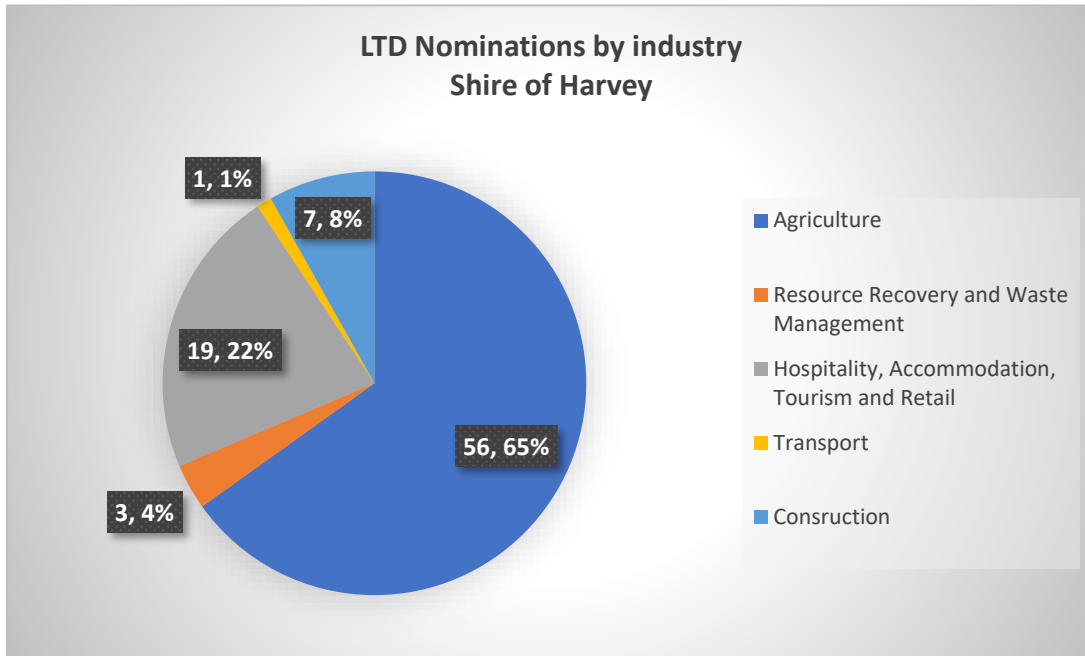
City of Busselton



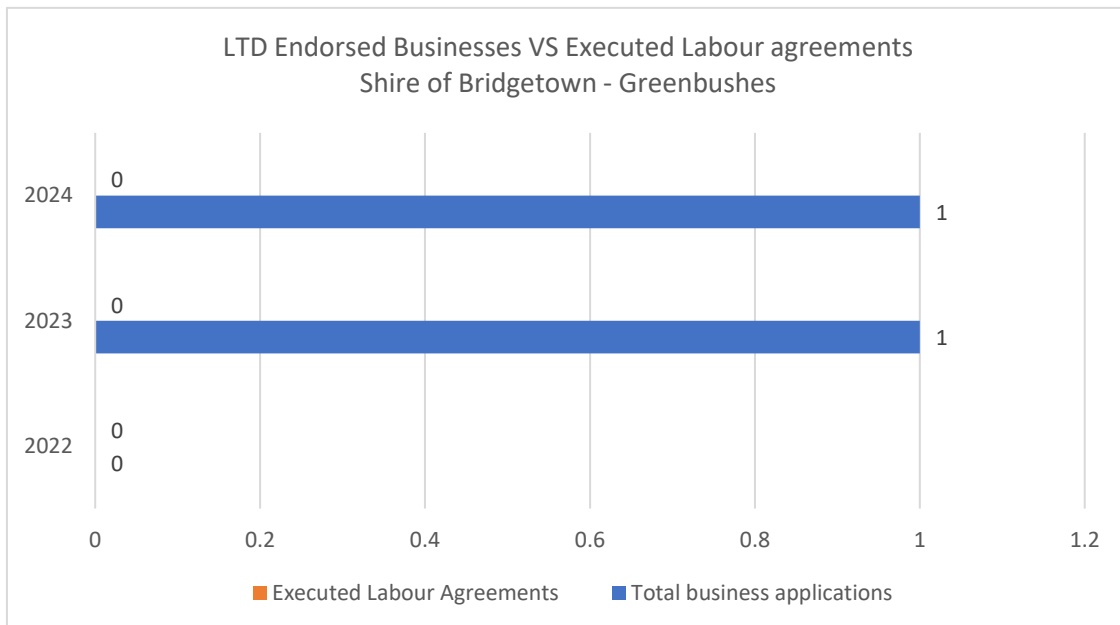
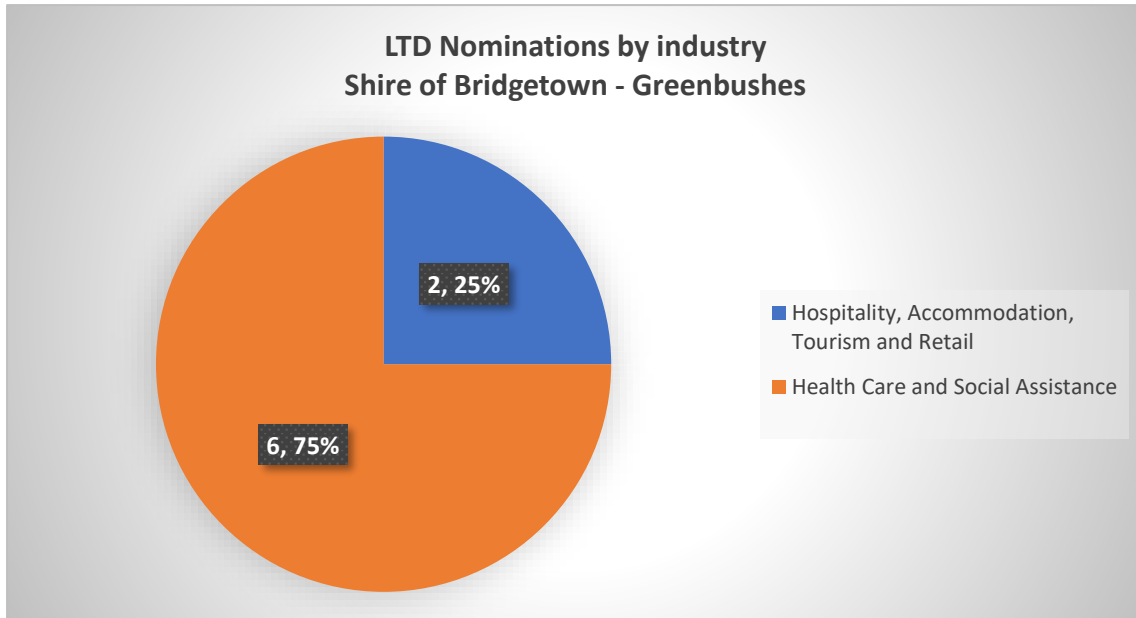
Shire of Dardanup



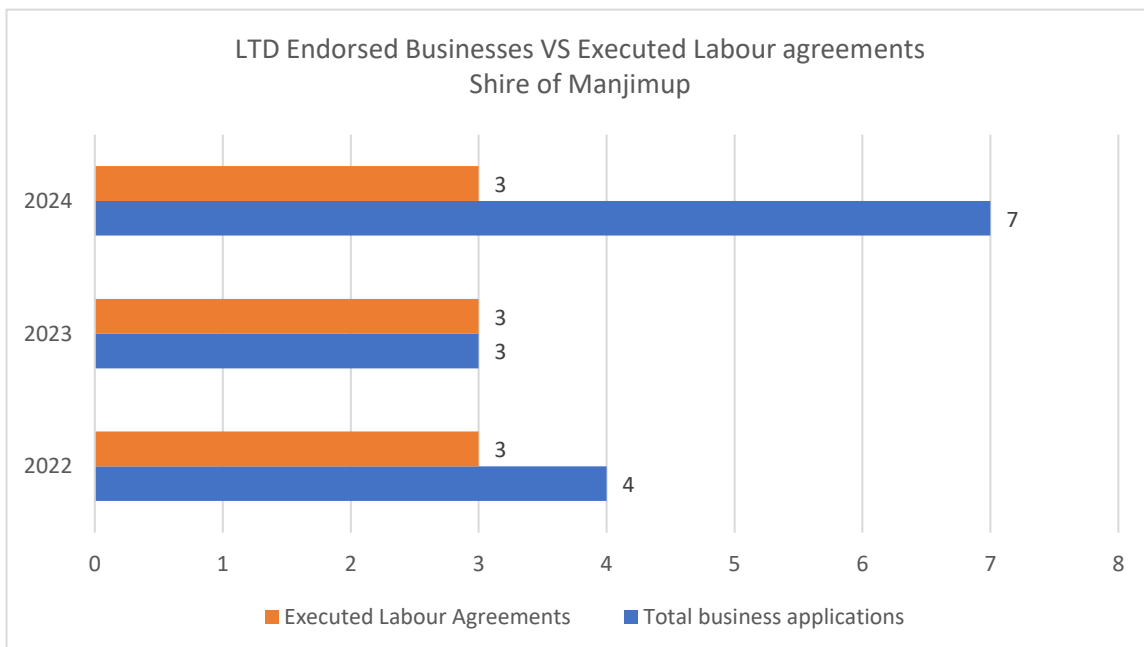
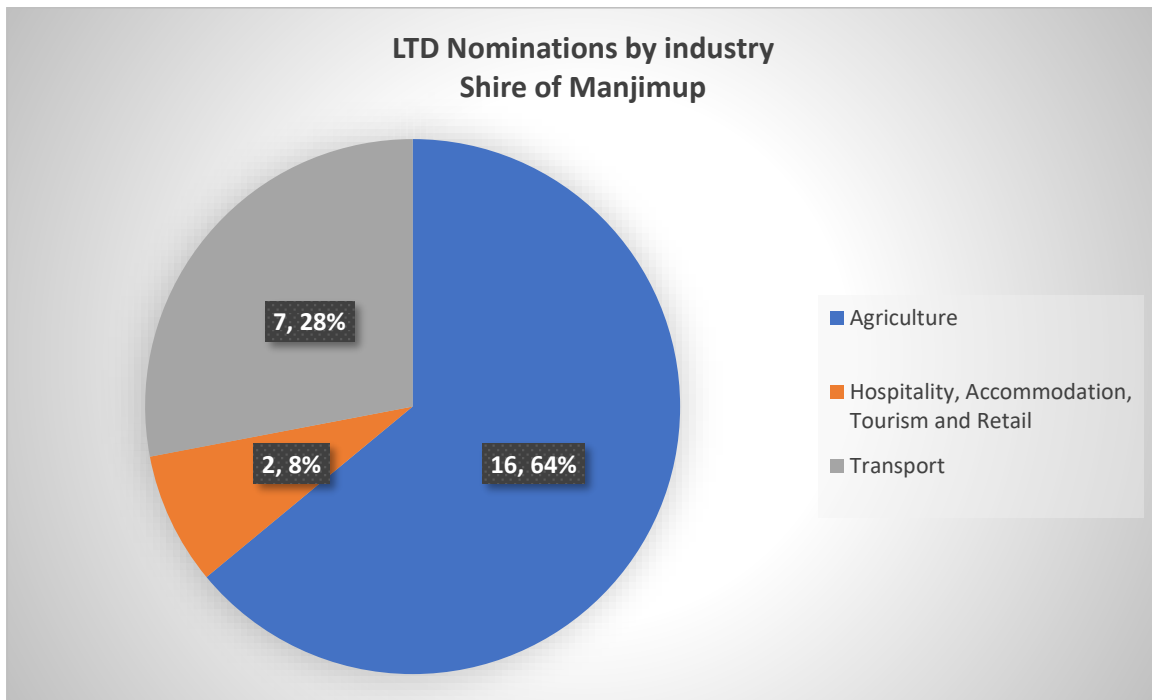
Shire of Harvey



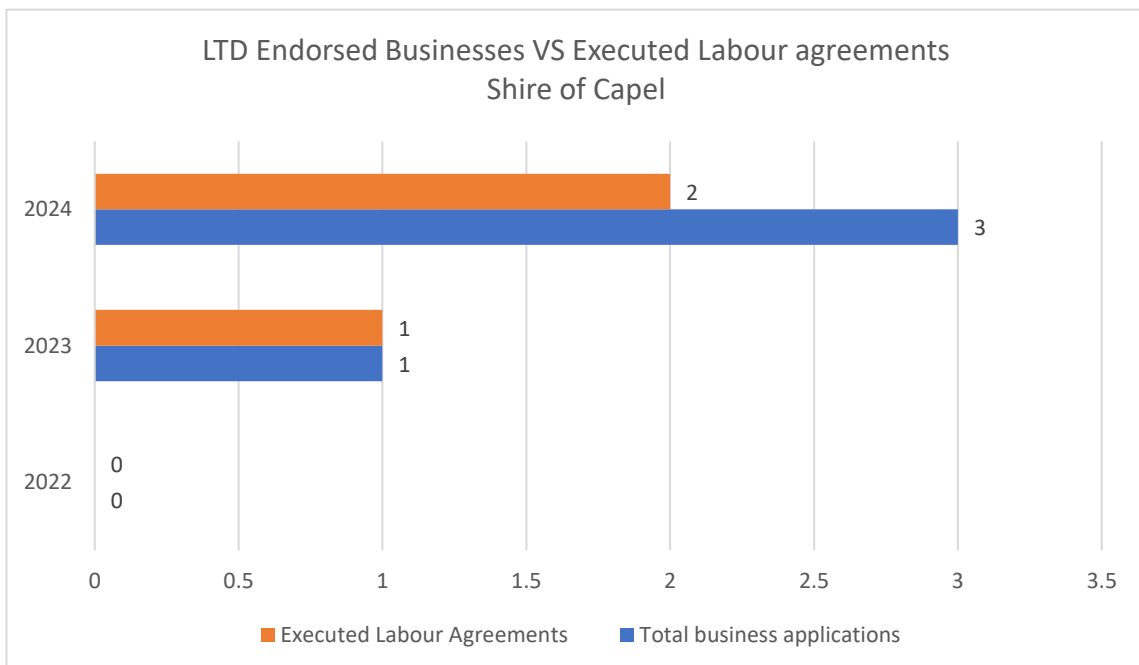
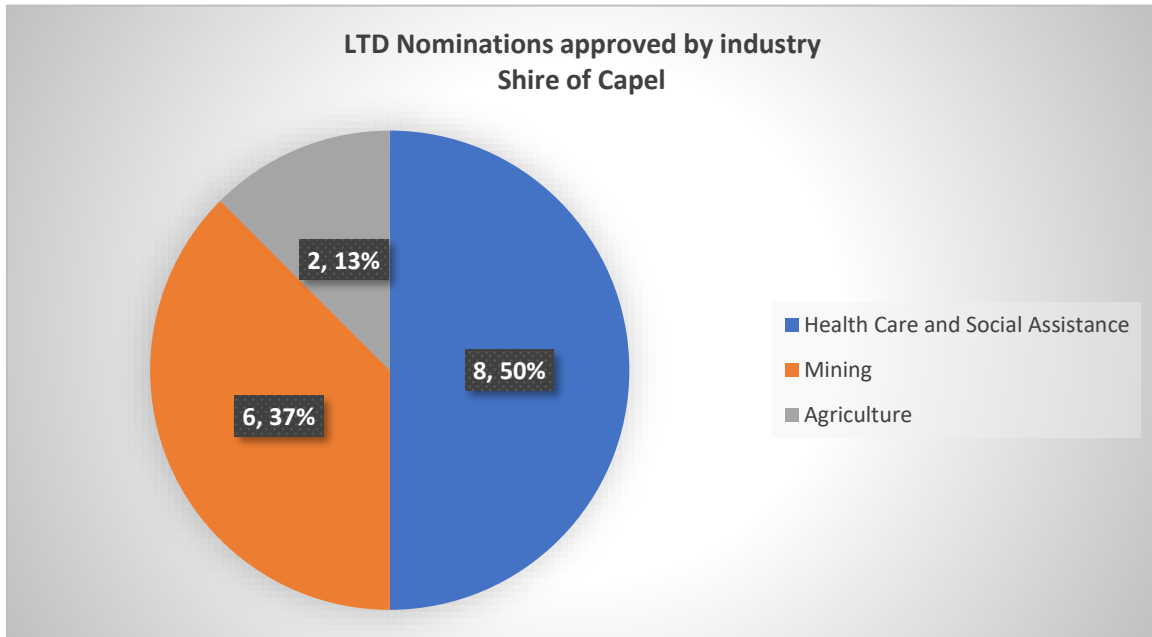
Shire of Bridgetown - Greenbushes



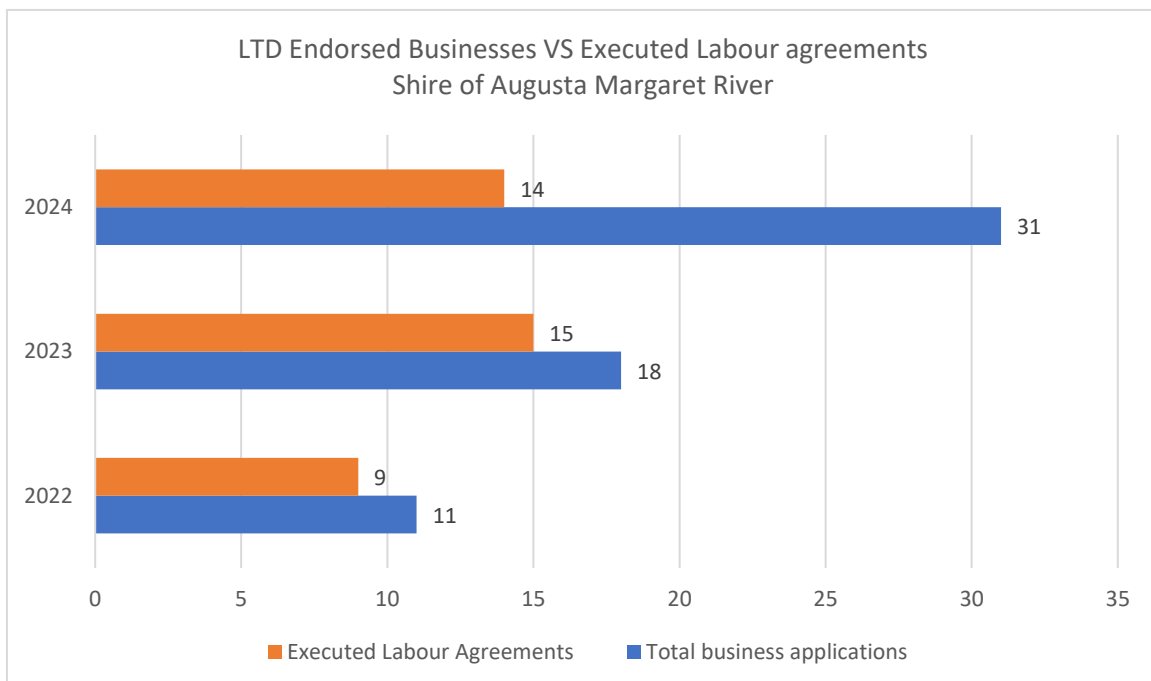
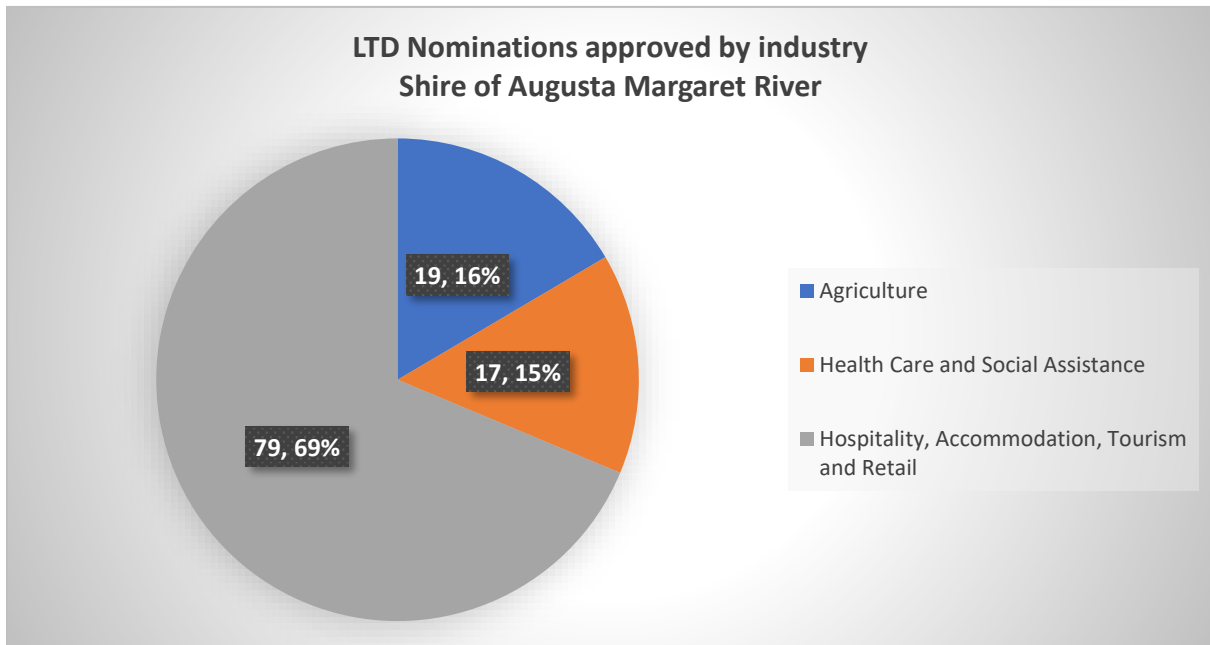
Shire of Manjimup



Shire of Capel

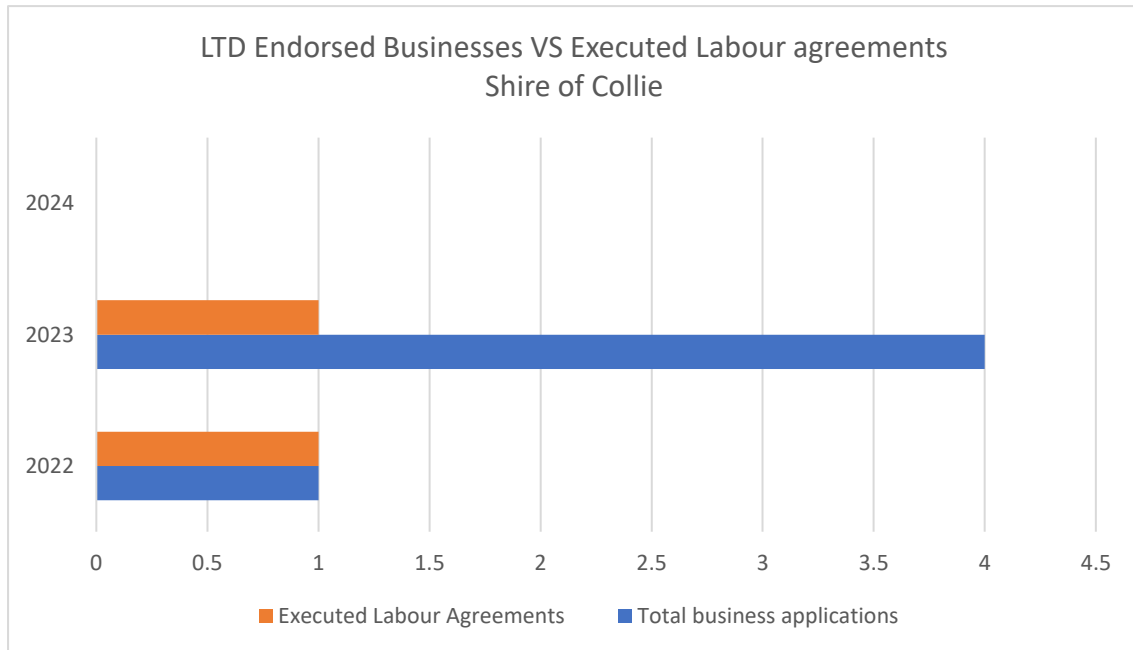


Shire of Augusta Margaret River

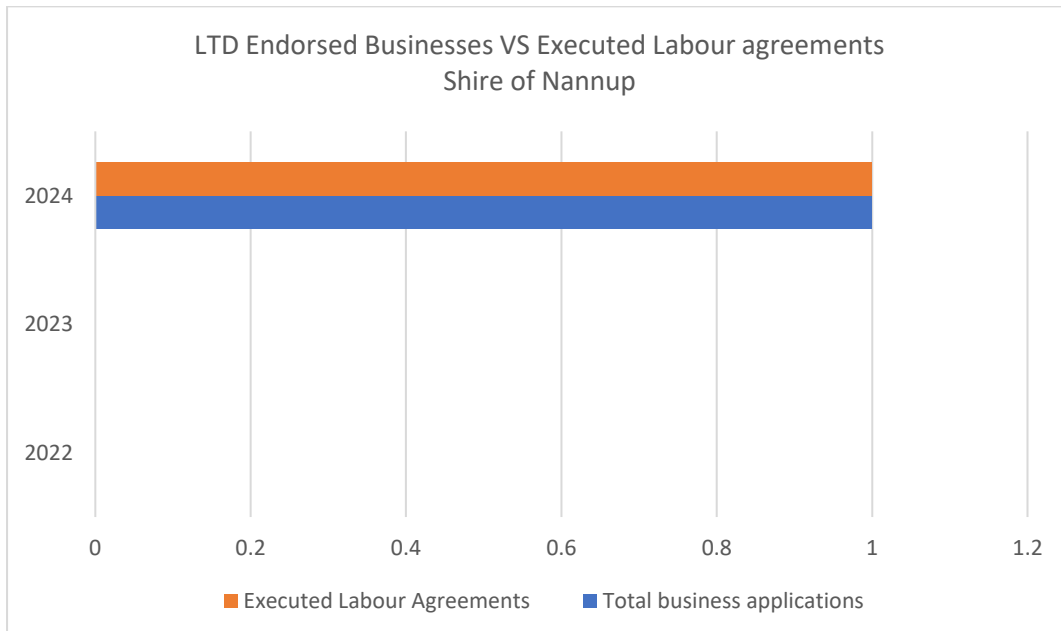
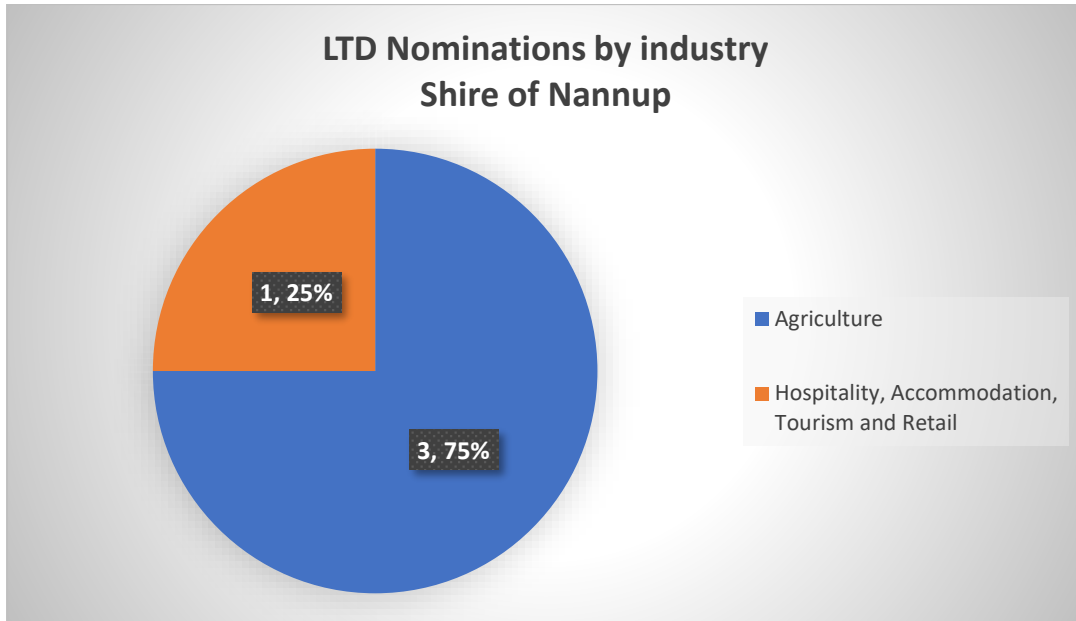


Shire of Collie

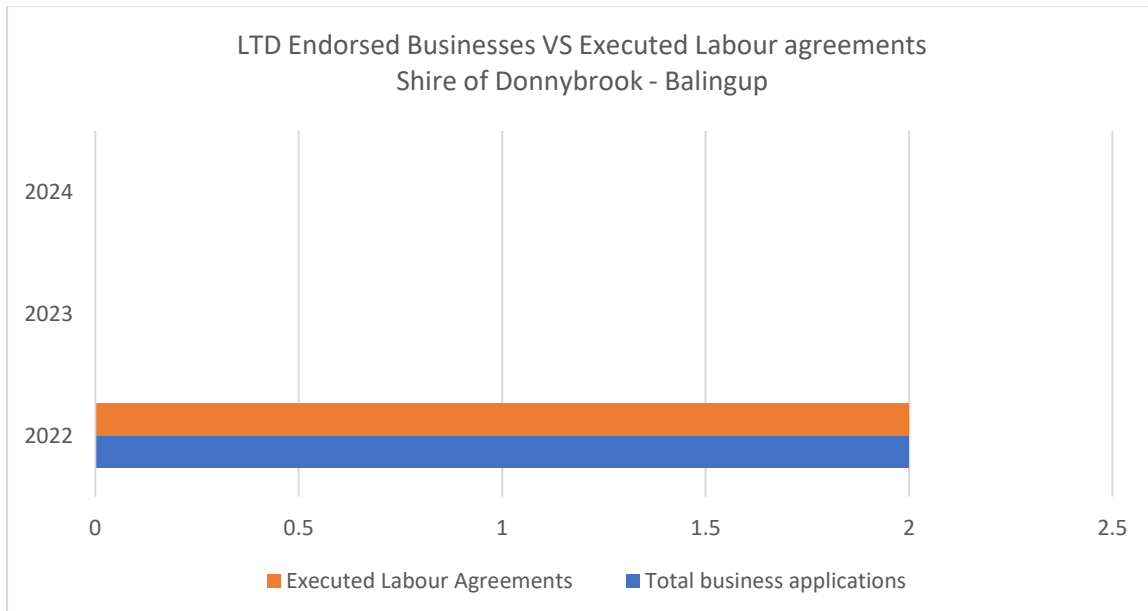
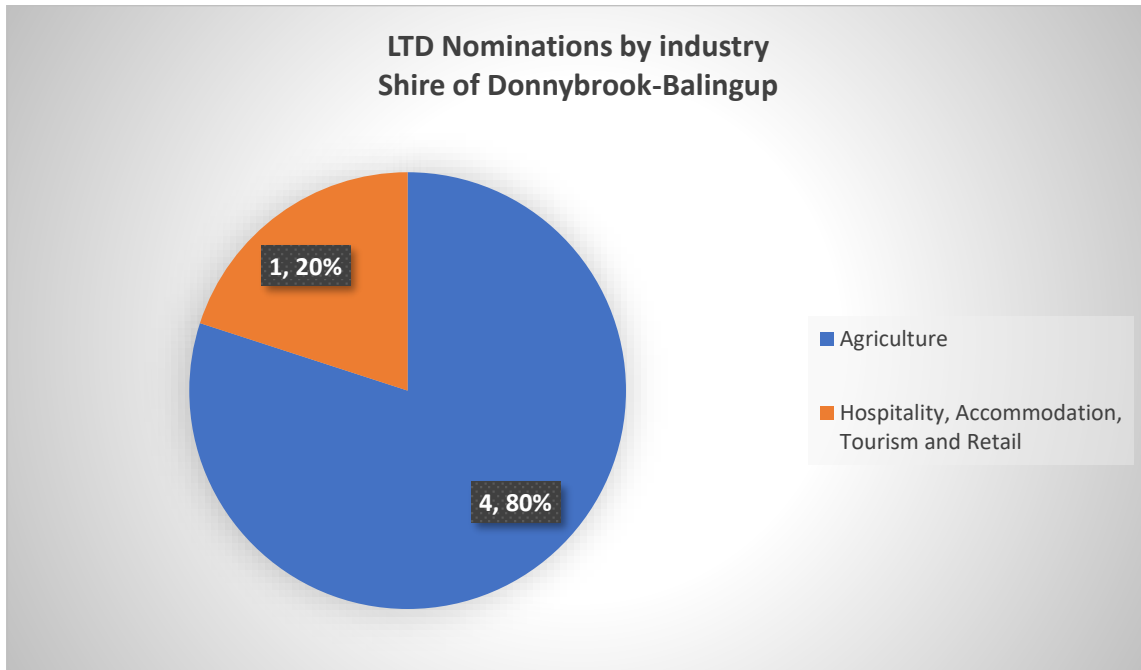
The Shire of Collie has 13 approved nominations all in the Hospitality, Accommodation, Tourism and Retail sector.



Shire of Nannup



Shire of Donnybrook - Balingup



DAMA Incoming Queries Overview as of 31 October 2024

In October the DAMA Officer received 13 applications for endorsement (for 33 nominated positions), from the following LGAs:

City of Bunbury (7), Shire of Augusta Margaret River (9), City of Busselton (1), Shire of Dardanup (6), Shire of Manjimup(2) and Shire of Harvey(3).

The nominated occupations are shown in the table below. To 31 October there are now 303 nominees in **37** occupations:

Nominations by Occupation	October	1 Jan - 31 Oct
Retail Supervisor	6	26
Vegetable Farm Worker		8
Cook	2	47
Waiter	4	29
Aged or Disabled Carer		9
Vineyard Worker		14
Child Care Worker (Non-group Leader)	3	31
Nursing Support Worker		17
Diesel Motor Mechanic		6
Earthmoving Plant Operator		6
Loader Operator		2
Truck Driver (General)	2	26
Accommodation and Hospitality Manager NEC		1
Fruit or Nut Farm Worker		3
Excavator Operator		1
Baker	1	9
Plant Operator		3
Waiter Supervisor		6
Bar Attendant - Supervisor		13
Head Housekeeper (Hotel Service Manager)	1	1
Concreter		3
Driller		10
Pastrycook		5
Child Care Worker (Group Leader)	3	9

Hospitality Worker NEC		1
Hospitality Worker (Tours)		1
Motor Mechanic		1
Restaurant Manager	3	3
Retail and Service Manager	1	1
Dairy Cattle Farm Worker	1	1
Café Manager	1	1
Earth Moving Plant Operator		2
Diver	2	2
Occupational therapist	1	1
Hotel Service Manager	1	1
Commercial Housekeeper	1	1
Sign Writer		2
Totals to 31 October	33	303

Attached with the Agenda was the email correspondence

RESOLUTION

Moved: Mr André Schönfeldt
 Seconded: Mayor Phill Cronin

That the South West Country Zone;

1. Notes the statistics provided per Local Government area
2. Notes that the request from the Shire of Denmark to join the SW DAMA has been declined by the Shire of Dardanup.

CARRIED

8.3 REQUEST TO PRESENT

By the WALGA Secretariat

Reconciliation WA

BACKGROUND

President Julia Meldrum has been in conversations with Reconciliation WA about the launch of their new website Kolbang Yanginy. In addition to this President Meldrum would like to share the 'Walking Together' strategy in collaboration with Recondition WA.

It is proposed that representatives from Reconciliation WA be invited to the February South West Country Zone meeting and provide a deputation on this matter.

Aboriginal Heritage Survey Program

The secretariat has been contacted by the Department of Planning, Lands and Cultural Heritage seeking interest from Country Zones to have a representative attend a future Zone meeting and provide further information on the Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage's 'Aboriginal Heritage Survey Program' (AHSP).

As Local Government authorities are eligible applicants under the AHSP, the Department believes that a discussion about the program would be an opportunity for Country Zone members to determine whether the AHSP would be right for their LGA.

A brief outline of the AHSP follows:

The State Government has committed to a 10-year fully funded Aboriginal heritage survey program across the State, to be managed by the Department. Its purpose is to:

1. Survey areas to:
 - Record Aboriginal heritage for inclusion on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System (ACHIS) and the Register of Places and Objects.
 - Ensure Aboriginal heritage information can be accessed easily and relied on as part of statutory approvals under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (Act) to use land where Aboriginal sites are located.
2. Accurately remap boundaries of Aboriginal sites and known Aboriginal heritage places where required.
3. Confirm locations where Aboriginal heritage has not been identified, meaning activities can be undertaken without the need for approval under the Act.

Further information relating to the AHSP can be found here: [Aboriginal-heritage-survey-program](#)

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Julia Meldrum
Seconded: President Cr Vivienne McCarthy

That the South West Country Zone:

1. Supports a representative from the Department of Planning, Lands and Cultural Heritage to attend a future Zone meeting in 2025 to discuss the Aboriginal Heritage Survey Program; and
2. Supports a deputation from Reconciliation WA at the February 2025 Zone meeting.

CARRIED

8.4 QUARTERLY UPDATE BUSSELTON MARGARET RIVER AIRPORT

By the City of Busselton

BACKGROUND

Please see below for the latest update.



QUARTERLY UPDATE BUSSELTON MARGARET RIVER AIRPORT

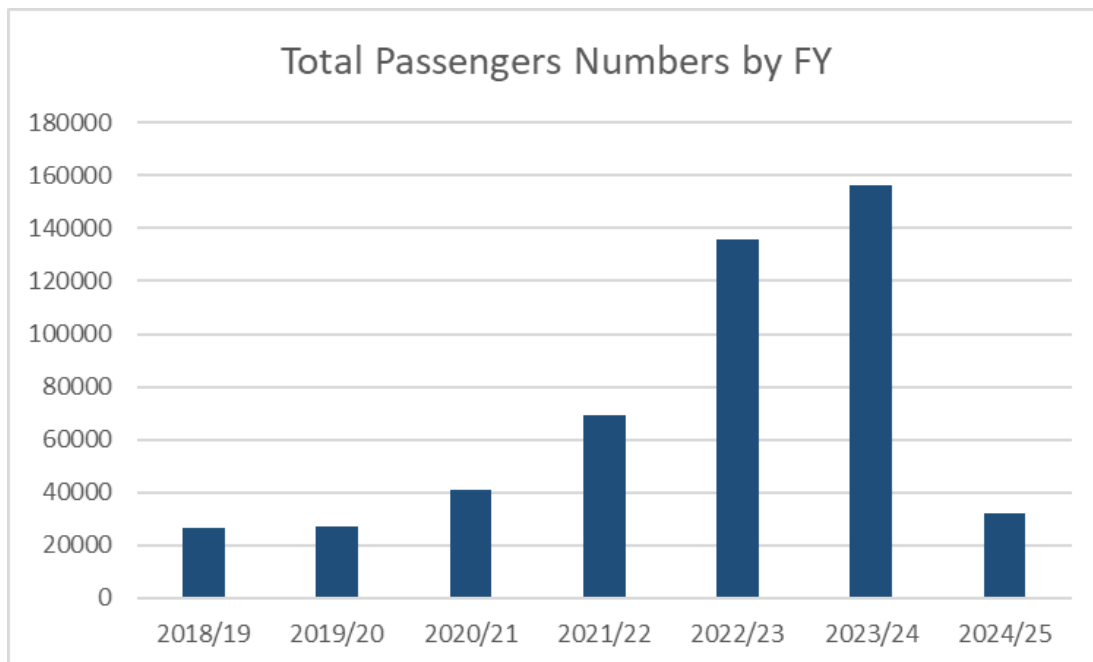
September 2024

The BMRA is consistently seeing an increase in passenger and aircraft movement numbers as the Airport business unit advances its business development opportunities and emphasizes operational improvement projects. We've also received several inquiries about the GA Hangar Precinct, leading to a draft lease being presented to the Council this month for the initial site.

PASSENGER NUMBERS

The total number of passengers for FY2024 was 156,095, an increase from 135,700 during the same period in 2022/23, which represents a growth of 15%. This ongoing rise in passenger numbers is driven by the growth in Jetstar passengers with the start of the Sydney services and growth in FIFO passengers, the total passenger numbers for 1 July 2024 – 31 August 2024 were 31,894 compared to 23,570 for the same period in 2023/24, representing an increase of 35%.

The total passenger numbers by financial year can be viewed below:



AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS

As of the end of September 2024, there were a total of 42 scheduled services per week at the BMRA, comprising 36 Fly in Fly out (FIFO) closed charter flights and 6 RPT services operated by Jetstar.

Five airlines are utilising BMRA for both RPT and closed charter services, with aircraft ranging from Dash 8/300 to A320 and B737/700, serving routes to Melbourne, Sydney, and various mining sites in Western Australia

Additionally, 13 formal landing approvals have been issued for private jet and charter operations to the beginning of October. The total number of landings for FY2024 was 7,032, compared to 5,202 landings recorded for the same timeframe in the fiscal year 22/23.

BUSINESS CASE

Consultants KPMG have been commissioned to develop a business case for building a new terminal and its associated landside and airfield infrastructure at BMRA. KPMG delivered a draft business case at the end of September which will be distributed to the Project Steering Group for final sign off in early October. The final business case is anticipated to be submitted to the Minister for Regional Development by the end of October. Additionally, the City has engaged a consultant to prepare a funding application for the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program, alongside requests for State Government funding and contributions from the City of Busselton towards the Terminal Project.

JETSTAR

The Melbourne flights have consistently performed well throughout the year and seem unaffected by typical tourism seasonality. The new Sydney route has seen a positive response, although passenger numbers were lower during the June to August period, however increased over the recent school holidays. To boost awareness of the direct Sydney flights from Busselton, the City has developed a local and regional marketing campaign featuring posts on the City's social media channels, advertising billboards, and websites and has contacted surrounding SW local governments and stakeholders to help share the awareness campaign through their relevant networks. Passenger numbers are anticipated to rise as spring and summer months approach, coinciding with numerous regional events. The City has been undertaking surveys of passengers on Melbourne and Sydney flights over the school holidays seeking information on passenger's residential postcode, reason for travel and feedback on airport facilities. A total of just over 200 surveys were collected from arriving and departing passengers with responses collated and a report prepared to identify improvements or if more targeted marketing is required.

PLANNED DEVELOPMENTS

Officers have been planning for the 2024/25 year with the following capital projects proposed in the draft budget:

- Construction of a new public car park: The current car park is nearing full capacity due to new Jetstar Sydney flights and an increase in closed charter services. A new 250-300 bay car park is currently under design, with construction expected to begin early in 2025.
- Onsite sewerage upgrade: The terminal's septic system is at full capacity and needs upgrading. The City has been discussing with the "Busselton Gateway" developer (Satterley) a potential collaboration to connect both the Busselton Gateway industrial area and the Airport to the mainline sewer.

Noted

8.5 STATE COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETING

By Meghan Dwyer, Executive Officer Governance

As discussed at previous Zone meetings, the WALGA Regional Country State Council is being hosted by the South West Country Zone in the City of Busselton from Thursday, 5 to Friday, 6 December.

Zone Delegates and CEO's were sent an email to register attendees. Responses were requested to be provided by Friday, 15 November. If any Local Governments have not responded, please do so as soon as possible.

If you have any questions about the meeting, please contact Meghan Dwyer, Executive Officer Governance at mdwyer@walga.asn.au.

Noted

8.6 SUBMISSIONS TO THE 2025 SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES TRIBUNAL REMUNERATION INQUIRY FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND ELECTED MEMBERS

By Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance

BACKGROUND

The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal (SAT) conduct an annual inquiry into Local Government Chief Executive Officer and Elected Member remuneration.

SAT generally advertises its intention to receive submissions in December for its inquiry and Determination in relation to the following financial year. The Tribunal will invite individual Local Governments, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, WALGA, Local Government Professionals WA and other interested individuals to provide information or submissions.

SAT will likely publish its Determination for 2025-2026 in April 2025.

COMMENT

In preparation for the inquiry to be undertaken early next year, a draft submission from WALGA has been prepared making recommendations to SAT on behalf of the sector in relation to Elected Member fees and allowances, Chief Executive Officer remuneration, the Regional/Isolation Allowance and Independent Audit Member fees. The draft WALGA submission is contained in the December State Council Agenda for Zone and State Council consideration.

Local Governments can also put forward a submission, particularly in relation to their own circumstances, including requests to be classified in a different Band.

WALGA encourages all Local Governments to make a submission to SAT.

Noted

8.7 PROPOSAL TO INCREASE PENSIONERS AND SENIORS REBATES

By City of Bunbury

BACKGROUND

At the City of Bunbury Ordinary Council Meeting on 13 August 2024, a Motion on Notice was endorsed requesting the City of Bunbury:

“Advocate through the South West WALGA Zone, the State Government, and Federal Government for increased rebates to eligible pensioners and seniors on local government rates, water service charges, emergency services levy, and underground electricity connection charges”.

The current rebate for pensioners and seniors, capped at \$750, now constitutes less than 50% of the minimum rates in many Local Government Areas (LGAs) due to escalating rates. Increasing the rebate from \$750 to \$1000 will better align with the original intent of the rebate scheme, offering greater financial assistance to eligible applicants.

Both State and Federal Governments frequently use cash injections or financial stimulus to manage the economy and address community needs. Increasing the rebate will serve as a cash injection, with pensioners and seniors likely to spend the funds, thereby stimulating the local economy. This spending triggers a multiplier effect, where the circulated money has a greater economic impact than its initial value. The increased economic activity will eventually benefit Government treasuries through higher revenue generated from taxation, stamp duty, and other levies.

Pensioner Concession Card or State Concession Card	
Rates and charges	Rebate amount
Local government rates	Up to 50%, limited (capped) to a maximum of \$750 (proposed \$1000)
Emergency services levy	Up to 50%
Underground electricity connection charges	Up to 50% on charges raised by the Local Government Authority
Water service charges	Up to 50%, limited (capped) to a maximum of \$600 (proposed \$800)
May defer local government rates, emergency services levy, underground electricity connection or water service charges.	

WA Seniors Card and Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (both cards must be held)	
Rates and charges	Rebate amount
Local government rates	Up to 50%, limited (capped) to a maximum of \$750 (proposed \$1000)
Emergency services levy	Up to 50%
Underground electricity connection charges	Up to 50% on charges raised by the Local Government Authority
Water service charges	Up to 50%, limited (capped) to a maximum of \$600 (proposed \$800)
May defer local government rates, emergency services levy, underground electricity connection or water service charges.	

WA Seniors Card	
Rates and charges	Rebate amount
Local government rates	Up to 25%, limited (capped) to a maximum of \$100 (proposed \$200)
Emergency services levy	Up to 25%
Underground electricity connection charges	Up to 25%, limited (capped) to a maximum of \$100 (proposed \$200) on charges raised by the Local Government Authority for the first year or part thereof that the charge is or was to be made
Water service charges	Up to 25%, limited (capped) to a maximum of \$100 (proposed \$200)
Cannot defer local government rates, emergency services levy, underground electricity connection or water service charges	

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

Upon introduction of a cap to pensioner rates rebates to \$750.00 in 2016, WALGA pursued advocacy that the rebate be subject to annual CPI increase. In December 2023, WALGA wrote to the Minister for Regional Development; Disability Services; Fisheries; Seniors and Ageing; Volunteering (Hon. Don Punch) seeking support for amendment to the *Rates and Charges (Rebates and Deferments) Act 1992* ('the Act') to the effect that:

- A new eligible pensioner concession or rebate entitlement applicable to residential waste charges; and
- Review the capped (since 2015) rebates applicable to Local Government rates, with a preference for removing the cap and reverting to the previous uncapped 50% pensioner rebate of the total Local Government rates paid and 25% rebate for WA Seniors Card (only) holders.
 - If the State chooses to retain the capped rebates, then legislation to increase rebates to reflect cost of living increases over the past eight years, with subsequent prescribed application of annualised CPI indexation is required.

Minister Punch informed in May 2024 that this request has been referred to the Minister for Finance to consider amending the Act in line with State Government's cost of living relief measures.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Tresslyn Smith
Seconded: President Cr Julia Meldrum

That the South West Country Zone advocate to the State Government and Federal Government for increased rebates to eligible Pensioners and Seniors in relation to their local government rates charges, water service charges, emergency services levy and underground electricity connection charges, as suggested in the three tables above.

CARRIED

8.8 BREAST CANCER DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC IN BUNBURY

By City of Bunbury

BACKGROUND

At the City of Bunbury Ordinary Council Meeting on 4 November, a Motion on Notice was endorsed requesting the City to propose the following motion to the SW WALGA Zone:

"The member councils write to Premier Hon Mr Roger Cook requesting a Breast Cancer Diagnostic Clinic to be expanded in Bunbury for the purposes of diagnosing further investigations of Breast Cancer for all the women within the Southwest"

Currently, there are only two breast cancer diagnostic clinics per month south of Perth, with only one held in Bunbury. This limited availability leads to unacceptably long waiting times for women seeking further diagnostic services, including specialist consultations and advanced diagnostic equipment. Bunbury, as WA's second city outside of Perth, already provides a range of regional health services, and the State Government has committed to expanding Bunbury Regional Hospital.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Tresslyn Smith
Seconded: Mayor Phill Cronin

That the South West WALGA Zone write to Premier Hon. Roger Cook, requesting the expansion of a Breast Cancer Diagnostic Clinic in Bunbury to enhance breast cancer diagnostic services for women in the South West.

CARRIED

8.9 BAND 4 LOCAL GOVERNMENTS MEETING

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services

BACKGROUND

On 3 September, the Minister for Local Government, Hon Hannah Beasley, hosted a roundtable meeting of all Band 4 Local Governments in WA.

To continue the discussion, WALGA hosted a further meeting of Band 4 Local Governments. The meeting was held on 11 October at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. Chief Executive Officers and Presidents from all 60 Band 4 Local Governments in the State were invited to attend.

Ahead of the meeting, WALGA emailed all Band 4 Local Governments asking for their top three priorities. Responses were received from 33 Local Governments. The top issues (in order of priority) are listed below:

1. Housing
2. Medical services
3. Audit fees
4. Financial Assistance Grants

5. Waste management funding
6. Compliance requirements
7. Financial sustainability
8. ICT systems
9. Renewable energy

These top 9 issues were separated into operational challenges and strategic issues at the meeting and presented for further discussion and comment.

The aim of the meeting was to identify and agree on the top issues facing Band 4 Local Governments, to enable the group to consider and develop potential solutions to these issues, before presenting to the Minister.

ATTACHMENT

- Band 4 Local Governments meeting summary report

COMMENT

Overall, 72 representatives from 48 Local Governments attended the meeting on 11 October.

Attached is a summary report from the meeting.

Please note that this report provides a summary of the discussion and feedback received from participants at the meeting. The comments and views are those of participants, and do not necessarily reflect the endorsed position of WALGA or its Members.

As the main outcome of the meeting, WALGA will undertake work on the top four issues identified by the group:

1. Housing;
2. Audit fees;
3. Medical services; and
4. Financial Assistance Grants

WALGA will provide a progress update to all Band 4 Local Governments early next year.

Noted

8.10 NATIVE VEGETATION CLEARING ISSUES PAPER

By Sarah Coles, Environment Policy Officer

BACKGROUND

WALGA has developed an Issues Paper on Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations based on input from Local Government and analysis of Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER), and Appeals Convenor, data. Drawing on this data and Local Government case studies, the Paper outlines challenges Local Governments have encountered in navigating the regulatory system and identifies opportunities for improvement.

WALGA's data analysis identifies that 60% of Local Government clearing permits applications relate to road construction or upgrade. Key challenges relate to the complexity of navigating the regulatory environment, costs associated with the process and the time taken (for assessment of permits and appeals). These challenges can delay road and

infrastructure projects and impact on Local Government's ability to attract and retain grant funding.

Based on discussions with the sector, and recommendations of previous submissions, WALGA has identified a range of potential opportunities to improve the native vegetation process. These focus on DWER process improvements, Local Government capacity building and taking strategic approaches to data collection, clearing permits and offsets:

1. The implementation of a State Government coordinated and funded biodiversity survey program.
2. Funding for a trial using Artificial Intelligence (AI) for biodiversity mapping.
3. DWER to develop a Strategic Offsets framework for Local Government.
4. The introduction of statutory timeframes for determination of referrals, permits and appeals and timely compliance and enforcement.
5. Increased support and capacity building for Local Governments to navigate the native vegetation clearing requirements.
6. Extended default periods for purpose permits and removal of the time limit requirement for maintenance in existing transport corridors.

The Issues Paper has been updated following consideration by the Environment and Infrastructure Policy Teams and is attached for Zones' consideration and feedback. In particular, Zones are requested to provide feedback on the following:

- a. Does the Issues Paper capture the challenges experienced by Local Government in relation to native vegetation clearing regulations?
- b. The opportunities identified for improving the native vegetation clearing process for Local Government.
- c. Any additional opportunities.

Discussion at the Zone meeting is encouraged. Any written feedback should be provided by Friday, 13 December, to environment@walga.asn.au.

The Zone can provide feedback at the meeting as well as Local Governments can email WALGA direct by 13 December.

Following all Zones feedback an item will be prepared for the Zones and State Council in February/March 2025.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Julia Meldrum
Seconded: President Cr Donnelle Buegge

That the South West Country Zone:

1. **Notes the Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations Issues Paper**
2. **Notes that Local Governments may submit their written feedback directly to WALGA for consideration**
3. **Recommends the State Government consider developing a statewide biodiversity strategy and plan to identify priority areas where offset planting could occur.**

CARRIED

8.11 COOPERATION AND SHARED SERVICES

By Tony Brown, WALGA

BACKGROUND

Please find attached (Attachment 5) the latest version of the Cooperation and Shared Services document. This document was created to capture the collaborative work between Local Governments, showcasing ways to maximise resources to deliver outcomes that would be difficult to achieve alone. Local Governments have contributed to this resource and will be consulted again next year for further updates/modifications.

All CEO's have received this document and were encouraged to share with Councillors and staff to fully display all collaborative work happening within Local Government.

WALGA will be promoting this to Government agencies to display the collaborative work that happens in our sector.

If you have any questions or queries, please contact Tony Brown – tbrown@walga.asn.au or Naoimh Donaghy – ndonaghy@walga.asn.au.

Noted

8.12 DEPUTATIONS PLANNING FOR 2025

By Chantelle O'Brien, Zone Executive Officer

BACKGROUND

As we approach the new year, it's an excellent time to reflect on the opportunities ahead. One of the most impactful ways for Zones to focus their efforts and have meaningful discussions is by inviting knowledgeable speakers to future Zone meetings.

There is a standing item on all Zone Agendas for Deputations. Zones are asked to endorse all proposals for Deputations, allowing Delegates full control as to what kinds of guest presenters and topics they would like to have on each Zone Agenda.

For the South West Country Zone, there are currently three Deputations that have been requested for 2025 if all supported at Item 8.3 above.

- Sustainability Plan – August Margaret River
- Reconciliation WA
- Aboriginal Heritage Survey Program)

The South West Country Zone has previously allowed for two Deputations per meeting.

COMMENT

To assist the Zone Executive Officer in organising Deputations for 2025 that are most relevant to the interests of the Zone, Delegates are invited to consider any potential guest presenters or topics for next year's meetings.

Below are some ideas to consider when thinking about potential Deputations:

- Current trends: consider inviting speakers who can discuss the latest trends and developments in the sector.
- Consider inviting a Minister: Ministers often have deep expertise in their respective fields, whether it's education, health, infrastructure, or another area. Their insights can provide valuable information and updates on policies, programs, and initiatives that directly impact the community. This creates an excellent networking opportunity for Delegates to connect with key decision-makers and build valuable relationships.
- University professors: experts in public administration, political science, or urban studies can provide evidence-based insights and research findings.
- Nonprofit Executives: leaders from influential nonprofits can discuss community needs, partnerships and collaborative projects.
- Urban planning and development: experts in urban planning can discuss sustainable development, zoning laws and infrastructure projects.

The Zone may wish to discuss their suggestions for potential speakers or topics for 2025.

Noted

9 STATE COUNCIL AGENDA – MATTERS FOR DECISION AND NOTING

Zone delegates to consider the Matters for Decision contained in the WA Local Government Association State Council Agenda and put forward resolutions to Zone Representatives on State Council.

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

9.1 STATE COUNCIL MATTERS FOR DECISION

9.1.1 2024 Annual General Meeting Resolutions (State Council Agenda item 8.1)

By Meghan Dwyer, Executive Officer Governance

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. the item 71 Amendments to *Cat Act 2011*- Allow Local Governments to Make Local Laws to Contain Cats to the Owner's Property be endorsed.
2. the following resolutions from the 2024 WALGA Annual General be referred to the Environment Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:
 - 7.2 Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land-Banking
 - 7.4 Action on Asbestos for Western Australia
 - 7.6 Advocacy for Accessibility.
3. the following resolutions from the 2024 WALGA Annual General be referred to the Governance Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:
 - 7.2 Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land-Banking
 - 7.3 Advocacy for Expansion of Differential Rating to Include Long Term Unoccupied Commercial Buildings (Property Activation Levy).

4. the following resolution from the 2024 WALGA Annual General be referred to the People and Place Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:
- 7.5 Addressing the Impracticality of Local Governments Funding Department of Communities and GROH Houses.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA's 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 9 October.
- The meeting resolved for WALGA to act in relation to six Member Motions:
 - Amendments to the *Cat Act 2011*- Allow Local Governments to Make Local Laws to Contain Cats to the Owner's Property
 - Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land-banking
 - Advocacy for Expansion of Differential Rating to Include Long Term Unoccupied Commercial Buildings (Property Activation Levy)
 - Action on Asbestos for Western Australia
 - Addressing the Impracticality of Local Governments Funding Department of Communities and Government Regional Officer Housing
 - Advocacy for Accessibility
- The action proposed to be taken in relation to each of the resolutions has been summarised for State Council's information.

9.1.2 **Local Government Elections Advocacy Positions (State Council Agenda item 8.2)**

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services and Jason Russell, Senior Governance Specialist

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA adopt the following Elections Advocacy Positions:

The Local Government sector supports:

1. *Voluntary participation in Local Government elections.*
2. *Councillors serve four-year terms with elections every two years and half of the Council positions spilled at each election.*
3. *First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system for Local Government elections. If Optional Preferential Voting (OPV) remains as the primary method of voting, the sector supports the removal of the 'proportional' part of the voting method for general elections.*
2. *First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system for internal Council elections.*
3. *Councils holding elections by means of in-person, postal and/or electronic voting.*
4. *Current legislative provision of Mayor/President of Class 1 and Class 2 Local Governments being directly elected by the community and Class 3 and Class 4 Local Government Councils electing the President.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This report presents the findings of sector-wide consultation on WALGA's Elections Advocacy Positions.
- Consultation addressed key areas elements of the current Advocacy Positions:
 1. Voluntary participation,

2. Terms on Council and election cycles,
3. Voting systems for public elections,
4. Voting systems for internal elections,
5. Methods for holding elections,
6. Ability to choose how Mayors/Presidents are elected.

9.1.3 Aboriginal Communities Advocacy Positions (State Council Agenda item 8.3)

By Rebecca Hicks, Policy Officer Community

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council:

1. Replace Advocacy Position 3.1.2 Reconciliation with the following:

WALGA:

1. *Acknowledges the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to Country, culture and community and embraces the vast Aboriginal cultural diversity throughout Western Australia.*
 2. *Supports the efforts of Local Governments to progress reconciliation at the local level.*
2. Remove Advocacy Position 3.1.3 Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.
 3. Replace Advocacy Position 3.1.4 *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021* and South West Native Title Settlement with the following:

3.1.4 Aboriginal Heritage Protection

1. *WALGA supports the recognition, protection, conservation and preservation of Aboriginal cultural heritage and recognises the fundamental importance of Aboriginal cultural heritage to Aboriginal people and the State.*
2. *The State Government must:*
 - a. *Ensure that legislative requirements balance the need to protect Aboriginal heritage with the need for Local Government to undertake activities in a timely and affordable manner.*
 - b. *Provide adequate resourcing to ensure all parties have the capacity, capability and resources to discharge their statutory obligations.*
 - c. *Provide support and guidance to Local Governments to ensure that they have the resources, capacity and capability to effectively and efficiently deliver essential services to community while protecting Aboriginal heritage.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Following a review of WALGA's Aboriginal Community advocacy positions it is proposed that Advocacy Positions 3.1.2 Reconciliation and 3.1.4 *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021* and South West Native Title Settlement be updated and that Advocacy Position 3.1.3 Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People be removed.

- The intent of the proposed revisions is to reflect contemporary approaches to key issues in Aboriginal Affairs policy and legislation as they relate to Local Government.
- The People and Place Policy Team considered and endorsed the proposed advocacy position changes at its meeting on 25 October.

9.1.4 Family and Domestic Violence Advocacy Position (State Council Agenda item 8.4)

By Rebecca Hicks, Policy Officer Community

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council replace Advocacy Position 3.10.1 Family and Domestic Violence with the following:

3.10.1 Family and Domestic Violence

1. *Family and domestic violence is unacceptable and has devastating and long-term impacts on individuals, families and communities.*
2. *Preventing family and domestic violence requires commitment from all levels of government, different sectors, and members of the community.*
3. *WALGA calls on the State and Australian governments to provide adequate funding and support for family and domestic violence programs and services, in particular:*
 - a. *Funding for collaborative and connected family and domestic violence programs and services that are place-based and people-centred; and*
 - b. *Better integration of family and domestic violence initiatives, including capacity building across all tiers of government and community services.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- It is proposed that Advocacy Position 3.10.1 Family and Domestic Violence be updated.
- The revised position makes a clear statement on the Local Government sector's condemnation of family and domestic violence and the collective responsibility of governments and the community in prevention.
- The revised position provides a framework for WALGA advocacy to the Australian and State Government, without impinging on individual Local Government's approach to this issue, which will be dependent on their capacity, capability, local context and strategic direction.
- The People and Place Policy Team endorsed the revised Advocacy Position at its meeting on 25 October.

9.1.5 Container Deposit System Policy Statement and Advocacy Position (State Council Agenda item 8.5)

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council replace the existing Container Deposit Systems Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 7.6 Container Deposit Systems with the following:

7.6 Container Deposit Systems

- 1. Local Government supports the WA Containers for Change Scheme and acknowledges its contribution to reducing litter, increasing material recovery and providing employment opportunities across the state.*
- 2. To maximise the benefits of the WA Scheme, Local Government calls on the State Government to:*
 - a. Maintain a resource recovery target of 85% for eligible containers and a focus on litter reduction.*
 - b. Expand the range of containers accepted in the Scheme, by:*
 - i. 2027: to include wine bottles, spirit bottles and larger sizes of currently eligible containers,*
 - ii. 2030: to include plain milk and milk alternative containers and composite container types, and*
 - iii. 2035: other container types.*
 - c. Ensure national alignment of the materials covered by the Scheme and consistent messaging.*
 - d. Maintain a State-based and managed Scheme.*
 - e. Review the deposit amount to appropriately incentivise community engagement.*
 - f. Increase the number of refund and donation points to ensure community access, including in public places and at events.*
 - g. Ensure refund points are financially sustainable.*
 - h. Leverage the refund point collection network to provide drop off points for other materials covered by effective product stewardship schemes.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA's 2008 Container Deposit Systems (CDS) Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 7.6 Container Deposit Systems, formed the basis of WALGA's advocacy for the introduction and design of a WA CDS, Containers for Change, which commenced on 1 October 2020.
- The current Advocacy Position and many elements of the Policy Statement have been achieved. However, there are aspects of the Scheme that Local Government has identified as important to improve.
- The focus of the updated Advocacy Position is:
 - building on the environmental, social and economic benefits of the current Scheme;
 - expanding the range of containers covered by the Scheme;
 - increasing community access and incentives to use the Scheme; and
 - leveraging the refund point network to collect other materials covered by effective product stewardship schemes.
- The Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) endorsed the new Policy Statement and Advocacy Position at its meeting on 23 October.

9.1.6 Bus Stop Infrastructure Agreement (State Council Agenda item 8.6)

By Negar Nili, Policy Officer Transport and Roads

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse the proposed Bus Stop Infrastructure Partnership Agreement between WALGA and the Public Transport Authority 2024/25 to 2028/29.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA has negotiated a new Bus Stop Infrastructure Partnership Agreement (Agreement) with the Public Transport Authority (PTA). If agreed this will be the third such Agreement, with validity through to 2028/29.
- The Agreement seeks to provide the foundation for an effective working relationship between the PTA and Local Governments.
- The purpose of the Agreement is to clarify the roles, responsibilities and discretion of PTA and Local Governments in the provision and maintenance of bus stop infrastructure in areas with regular public transport SmartRider ticketed services, including regional cities and towns.
- The Agreement defines the roles and responsibilities of the PTA and Local Governments in various scenarios including when bus routes are changed, bus stops are added or removed, and bus stop infrastructure is upgraded.
- The Agreement provides a funding contribution to Local Governments for the maintenance and installation of bus shelters.

9.1.7 2025 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members (State Council Agenda item 8.7)

By Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse the submission to the 2025 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal (SAT) conduct an inquiry into Local Government Chief Executive Officer and Elected Member remuneration annually.
- In preparation for the inquiry to be undertaken early next year, WALGA has prepared a draft submission to SAT that makes recommendations in relation to Elected Member fees and allowances, Chief Executive Officer remuneration, the Regional/Isolation Allowance and independent audit, risk and improvement committee member fees.
- The submission recommends:
 - an increase to Elected Member Fees and Allowances (including maximum reimbursable expenses) of 4%;
 - an increase to Chief Executive Officer remuneration bands of 4%;

- an increase to the Regional/Isolation Allowance payable for Local Governments that are particularly isolated, long distances from population centres, and lacking in amenities;
- the publication of clear guidance to the Local Government sector outlining how the Regional/Isolation Allowance is applied in terms of methodology, criteria and weightings;
- the creation of a new fee category for independent audit, risk and improvement committee members without bands, and that the fee be set at a suitable level to recognise the skills and knowledge required for such a role; and
- that the new category provide a fee for the independent chair position as well as the independent member position.
- SAT will likely publish its determination for 2025-2026 in April 2025.
- The Governance Policy Team endorsed the submission at its meeting on 4 November.

9.1.8 Submission on the draft State Hazard Plan - Fire (State Council Agenda item 8.8)

By Rachel Armstrong, Policy Manager Emergency Management

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse the submission on the draft State Hazard Plan - Fire.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The State Hazard Plan - Fire (SHP Fire) outlines the arrangements for the management of fire in Western Australia including fire prevention, preparedness, response and initial recovery.
- Local Governments have a critical role in bushfire management, including statutory responsibilities for mitigation, prevention and response under the *Bush Fires Act 1954* (BF Act) and responsibility for community-led recovery, as provided in the *Emergency Management Act 2005* (EM Act).
- The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) has undertaken a comprehensive review of the SHP Fire and is seeking comments on the revised draft Plan by 9 December ([Engage WA Emergency Management](#)).
- WALGA's draft submission on the draft SHP Fire incorporates feedback from 33 Local Governments and LGIS.
- The submission focusses on the key issues that underpin Local Government's capacity to implement their roles and responsibilities for the hazard of fire including:
 - Emergency Services Funding;
 - The State Emergency Management Framework and Consolidated Emergency Services Legislation; and
 - Bush Fire Brigade management and Work Health and Safety (WHS).
- A detailed list of proposed specific changes to plan is also included.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Mayor Phill Cronin
Seconded: President Cr Donnelle Buegge

That the South West Country Zone supports Items 9.1.1 to 9.1.7 in the Matters for Decision as contained in the December 2024 State Council Agenda and as listed above.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION

Moved: Mayor Phill Cronin
Seconded: President Cr Donnelle Buegge

That the South West Country Zone supports Item 9.1.8 in the Matters for Decision as contained in the December 2024 State Council Agenda, subject to the Recommendations 2 and 3 being amended to read:

2. Implement a new, integrated funding model that consolidates various funding streams into a single, transparent, risk based, equitable system which ensures consistent and adequate funding for all aspects of bush fire emergency management responsibilities the State has delegated to local governments including, prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery
3. Provide additional resources, support and education materials specifically for community capacity and resilience building activities, ensuring communities are better prepared and more resilient to preparing, responding and recovering from bushfire disasters.

CARRIED

9.2 POLICY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.2.1 Infrastructure Policy Team Report (State Council Agenda item 9.1)

By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager, Infrastructure

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the report from the Infrastructure Policy Team meeting for the 6 December 2024 meeting.

9.2.2 People and Place Policy Team Report (State Council Agenda item 9.2)

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the report from the People and Place Policy Team to the 6 December 2024 meeting.

9.2.3 Governance Policy Team Report (State Council Agenda item 9.3)

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council:

1. Note the report from the Governance Policy Team for the 6 December 2024 meeting.
2. Determine to:
 - a. retain the following Advocacy Positions with amendment:
 - i. Advocacy Position 2.8.1 Industry Award Coverage
 - ii. Advocacy Position 2.8.3 Registration of WALGA as an Employer Organisation
 - b. retire Advocacy Position 2.8.2 Local Government Long Service Leave Regulations.

9.2.4 Environment Policy Team Report (State Council Agenda item 9.4)

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the report from the Environment Policy Team to the 6 December 2024 meeting.

9.2.5 Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Report (State Council Agenda item 9.5)

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the report from the Municipal Waste Advisory Council to the 6 December 2024 meeting.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Julia Meldrum
Seconded: President Cr Vivienne McCarthy

That the South West Country Zone:

1. notes all Policy Team and Committee Reports as contained in the December 2024 State Council Agenda; and
2. supports the WALGA recommendations in the Governance Policy Team Report as contained in the December 2024 State Council Agenda and as listed above.

CARRIED

9.3 MATTERS FOR NOTING/INFORMATION

- WALGA Strategic Planning Update (State Council Agenda item 10.1)
- Submission on Reform of Packaging Regulation (State Council Agenda item 10.2)
- Submission on The Draft State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies (State Council Agenda item 10.3)
- Local Government Primary Healthcare Survey Report (State Council Agenda item 10.4)
- Renewable Energy Survey Highlights (State Council Agenda item 10.5)
- Flying Agenda: Submission to Main Roads WA on the Revised Western Australia Traffic Signals Approval Policy and Process (State Council Agenda item 10.6)
- Flying Minute: Submission on the Draft Objectives and Priorities for the Upcoming State Public Health Plan (State Council Agenda item 10.7)
- Flying Minute: Submission On the Draft Regional Education Strategy (State Council Agenda item 10.8)
- Flying Minute: Submission on Derbal Yiragan (Swan) Djarlgarro (Canning) Draft River Protection Strategy (State Council Agenda item 10.9)
- Flying Minute: Submission on the State Hazard Plan - Human Biosecurity (State Council Agenda item 10.10)

Noted

9.4 KEY ACTIVITY REPORTS

- Report on Key Activities, Advocacy Portfolio (State Council Agenda item 111.1)
- Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure Portfolio (State Council Agenda item 111.2)
- Report on Key Activities, Member Services Portfolio (State Council Agenda item 111.3)
- Report on Key Activities, Policy Portfolio (State Council Agenda item 111.4)

Noted

10 OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

11 EXECUTIVE REPORTS

11.1 WALGA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Chris Hossen, Zone Executive Officer provided a brief update to the Zone on behalf of the WALGA President. The report was provided as an attachment.

Noted

11.2 WALGA STATE COUNCILLOR REPORT

President Cr Tony Dean, State Councillor presented on the previous State Council meeting.

Noted

12 FINANCIAL REPORT

12.1 SOUTH WEST COUNTRY ZONE FINANCIAL REPORT

**South West Country Zone
Cashflow
Period Ending 30 Sept 2024**

	Actual	Comments
	-	
	\$	
Opening Cash Balance	26,501	
Income		
Subscription Income	170	Shire of Manjimup
	<hr/>	
Total Income	170	
Expenses		
Bank Charges	16	
Meeting expenses	-	
Plaques	-	
	<hr/>	
Total Expenses	16	
Closing Cash Balance	26,655	

RESOLUTION

Moved: Mayor Phill Cronin
Seconded: President Cr Doug Kitchen

That the South West Country Zone financial report for November 2024 be received.

CARRIED

12.2 SOUTH WEST COUNTRY ZONE SUBSCRIPTIONS

BACKGROUND

As with previous years, Zone member subscriptions are due for the 2024-25 financial year.

Should the Zone wish to continue to contribute a \$600 subscription fee to fund regional projects and Zone activities when they arise, the Secretariat is seeking the Zone's endorsement to prepare invoicing for each member of the South West Country Zone.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Doug Kitchen

Seconded: Mayor Phill Cronin

That member Local Governments be requested to contribute \$600 to the South West Country Zone account for the 2024-25 financial year.

CARRIED

13 EMERGING ISSUES

Nil

14 2025 MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS

14.1 2025 PROPOSED MEETING DATES

Meeting dates for 2025 have been prepared to coincide with the State Council meeting timeframes. These dates are listed below with the Host Council's continuing in alphabetical order.

Please note if any changes need to be made.

MEETING DATE	HOST LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Friday, 21 February 2025	Augusta-Margaret River
Thursday, 24 April 2025 *	Nannup
Friday, 20 June 2025	Boyup Brook
Friday, 22 August 2025	Bridgetown-Greenbushes
Friday, 21 November 2025	Bunbury

**Note the change of day to accommodate the Friday Public Holiday*

15 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the South West Country Zone will be held on Friday, 21 February 2025 at the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River commencing at 9am.

16 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 12:01pm.