

**MINUTES OF THE ZONE MEETING**

held at the Toodyay Recreation Centre, Burt Park Way, Toodyay  
Friday 19 June 2026 commencing at 10:00 am

**1 OPENING, WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**1.1 Opening**

The Zone President and Chair of the meeting, Cr Chris Antonio, opened the meeting, welcomed delegates, and provided an Acknowledgement of Country.

**1.2 Welcome**

Cr Shelly Dival, Deputy President Shire of Toodyay, welcomed everyone to Toodyay and commented on –

- Apologises from the Shire President, Cr McKewon.
- Housing project.
- A brief history of sport in Toodyay.

**1.3 Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**2 ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES**

**2.1 Attendance**

Delegates -

Cr Chris Antonio	Shire of Northam (Zone President)
Cr Lincoln Stewart	Shire of Gingin (Zone Deputy President)
Cr David Dewar	Shire of Chittering
Cr Tony O’Gorman	Shire of Dandaragan
Cr Julie Chester	Shire of Goomalling
Cr Ken Seymour	Shire of Moora
Cr Shelly Dival	Shire of Toodyay
Cr Suzanne Woods	Shire of Victoria Plains
Cr Stuart Boekeman	Shire of Wongan-Ballidu
Cr Denese Smythe	Shire of York

Observers –

Cr Mary Angus	Shire of Chittering
Ms Melinda Prinsloo	Shire of Chittering
Cr Linda Balcombe	Shire of Gingin
Mr James Bayliss	A/CEO, Shire of Gingin
Mr Sam Bryce	Shire of Goomalling
Cr Attila Mencshelyi	Shof Northam
Ms Debbie Terelinck	Shire of Northam
Mr Alan Hart	Temporary CEO, Shire of Toodyay
Ms Predit Kaur	Executive Services Officer, Shire of Toodyay
Cr Neil Smith	Shire of Victoria Plains
Mr Sean Fletcher	CEO, Shire of Victoria Plains
Ms Alina Behan	Shire of York
Ms Rebecca Brown	Policy Manager Environment and Waste, WALGA
Mr Josh Pomykala	Director Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt
Ms Elise Woods	Director of Lumen Wheatbelt Study Hubs
Ms Hannah Crute	Projects & Communications Officer, Lumen Wheatbelt Regional University Study Hub
Ms Elizabeth Davies	Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Main Roads Wheatbelt
Mr Grant Arthur	Director Regional Development, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Ms Kelly-Anne Murray	EO, Avon Midlands Peri-Urban Partnership
Mr Chukwumeka Ajah	State Manager, Engagement & Inclusive Strategies, Census of Population & Housing, Australian Bureau of Statistics

Ms Shen Sekhon	Australian Bureau of Statistics
Ms Emma Haak	Planning & Approvals Lead, CBH Group
Ms Kathy Balt	Senior Advisor – Customer & Stakeholder, Goldfields & Agricultural Region, Water Corporation
Mr Lachlan Hunter MLA	Member for Central Wheatbelt (from 10:29 am)
Robert Dew	Zone Executive Officer

## 2.2 **Apologies**

Cr Frank Peczka	Shire of Chittering
Cr Keith Carter	Shire of Dalwallinu
Cr John Gibbons	Shire of Goomalling
Cr Michael McKeown	Shire of Toodyay
Mr Sam Dolzadelli	CEO, Shire of Wongan-Ballidu
Cr Chris Gibbs	Shire of York
Ms Tracey Peacock	Road Safety Advisor, WALGA Roadwise
Mr Joe Mills	Regional Manager, Goldfields & Agricultural Region,
Hon Steve Martin MLC	Member for Western Australia

## 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. 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.

There were no declarations of interest.

## 4 **GUEST SPEAKER**

Representatives from the Australian Bureau of Statistics attended the April meeting and provided an update on the 2026 census and discussed local community considerations. At the Zone's invitation ABS representatives will be attending this meeting to follow up on the actions agreed. The Zone to consolidate issues / ideas to provide to ABS to improve data collection.

Mr Chukwuemeka Ajah provide an update on the 2026 Census and answered questions from delegates.

Following the meeting Mr Ajah provided Census materials to support promotion by local governments (copies provided to members). Material able to be circulated through newsletters, community groups, websites and social media to help raise awareness and encourage participation in the Census –

- Census factsheet (overview of participation and key information)
- Community Field Officer recruitment materials and flyers.
- Stakeholder toolkit with key messaging and promotional content.
- Census Multicultural stakeholder kit.

Mr Lachlan Hunter MLA entered the meeting at 10:29 am.

## 5 MINUTES

### 5.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Zone Meeting held 24 April 2026 at Goomalling. Copies of these Minutes have been circulated to all member Councils.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held on 24 April 2026, as printed and circulated, be confirmed.

#### RESOLUTION

**Cr J Chester moved and Cr D Smythe seconded –**

**That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held on 24 April 2026, as printed and circulated, be confirmed. CARRIED**

### 5.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

#### (a) Cost Shifting Compliance Project (Item 4.2)

Last meeting discussed the project and resolved to seek a quote (including both a survey of members and report) from a suitably qualified consultant to undertake a Cost Shifting Compliance project for the Zone. Cr Smythe, Cr Stewart and Cr Antonio to review the quote before the request is made.

This matter is being progressed.

See also Item 10.1.

**NOTED**

#### (b) Western Power Response and Mitigation Measures for Pole Top Fires in Rural Communities (Item 9.1 20/2/2026)

The February 2026 meeting endorsed the Shire of Gingin's advocacy request to progress representation to the WA Local Government Association, Western Power and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. The April meeting noted that this matter is ongoing and WALGA to provide an update.

**NOTED**

#### (c) Advocacy for Better Understanding by Hire Car Users of Road Rules (Item 12.1 22/8/2025)

The August 2025 meeting supported the Shire of Gingin approaching the WA Local Government Association seeking advocacy to ensure a better understanding by users of hire cars (particularly international drivers) of traffic regulations and driving conditions in WA.

The April meeting noted (a) a response from Road Safety Commissioner to WALGA raising these concerns with the Road Safety Commission; and (b) that the matter is ongoing and WALGA to provide an update.

**NOTED**

#### (d) Other

No other matters were brought forward.

## 6 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

### 6.1 WALGA State Council Agenda

Review of the Agenda for the State Council meeting to be held Wednesday 1 July 2026. The Zone can provide comment or submit alternate recommendations to State Council for consideration.

#### (a) Matters for Decision

#### 8.1 Climate Change Advocacy Position (Page 8)

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

### WALGA 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.*

### WALGA 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.

### RESOLUTION

**Cr T O’Gorman moved and Cr D Smythe seconded –**

**That the Zone supports the WALGA recommendation to State Council.**

**CARRIED**

8.2 Train Station Precincts Advocacy Position (Page 12)

By Coralie Claudio, A/Manager Planning and Building

**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.*

**WALGA 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.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr L Stewart moved and Cr S Dival seconded –**

**That the Zone supports the WALGA recommendation to State Council.**

**CARRIED**

8.3 Submission on the Cat Act Review (Page 16)

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

**WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

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

### **WALGA 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 5:00 pm 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.

### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr S Boekeman moved and Cr D Smythe seconded –**

**That the Zone supports the WALGA recommendation to State Council.**

**CARRIED**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the above recommendations and comments be endorsed.

#### **(b) Other State Council Agenda Items**

Delegates are invited to raise for discussion, questions or decision any of the items in the State Council Agenda including for Policy Team and Committee Reports, Matters for Noting / Information and Key Activity Reports

#### **Policy Team & Committee Reports**

- 9.1 Infrastructure Policy Team Report (Page 25)
- 9.2 People and Place Policy Team Report (Page 27)
- 9.3 Governance Policy Team Report (Page 29)
- 9.4 Environment Policy Team Report (Page 31)
- 9.5 Municipal Waste Advisory Council Report (Page 33)

#### **Matters for Noting/Information**

- 10.1 WALGA 2025 Local Government Emergency Management Survey Findings (Page 34)
- 10.2 Planning and Building Performance Monitoring Project (Page 36)
- 10.3 WALGA Bushfire Management Roundtable (Page 38)
- 10.4 Flying Minutes Endorsed by State Council (Page 39)

#### **Key Activity Reports**

- 11.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Advocacy Portfolio (Page 41)
- 11.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure Portfolio (Page 46)
- 11.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Member Services Portfolio (Page 50)
- 11.1.4 Report on Key Activities, Policy Portfolio (Page 52)

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Policy Team and Committee Reports, Matters for Noting/Information and Key Activity Reports be noted.

### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr K Seymour seconded –**

**That the Policy Team and Committee Reports, Matters for Noting/Information and Key Activity Reports be noted**

**CARRIED**

## **6.2 WALGA President's Report**

Presentation of the WALGA President's Report. (Attached to Agenda).

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the WALGA President's Report be received.

### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr S Woods seconded –**

**That the Zone write to the Minister for Agriculture and Food regarding the response to the Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer infestation transitioning from eradication to long-term management and request details of actions being taken to ensure that the Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer does not spread into the Zone's member local governments districts. CARRIED**

The meeting's attention was drawn to recent media reports that the Australia's Fuel Supply Taskforce Coordinator's salary for a 3 month contract was \$233,676 (about \$1m if annualised). The meeting requested that information be sought to confirm the Coordinator's salary.

### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr L Stewart moved and Cr S Woods seconded –**

**That the WALGA President's Report be received. CARRIED**

Mr G Arthur advised that the WA Fuel Security State Controller, Mr Rob Cossart, intends to visit all Zones in the next 12 months.

## **6.3 Zone State Councillor's Report**

Presentation of State Councillor's report. (Attached to Agenda).

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the State Councillor's Report be received.

### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr K Seymour moved and Cr S Boekeman seconded –**

**That the combined State Councillor's and Zone President's Report be received. CARRIED**

## **6.4 Zone Status Report**

Report by WA Local Government Association on status of Zone resolutions for action by the Association – June 2026. (Attached to Agenda).

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the June 2026 Status Report be received.

### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr S Woods moved and Cr J Chester seconded –**

**That the June 2026 Status Report be received. CARRIED**

## **7 ZONE REPORTS**

### **7.1 Zone President**

Combined with Zone State Council Member 's Report (see Item 6.3).

**NOTED**

### **7.2 ALGA National General Assembly 2026**

Cr Stewart to report on his attendance on behalf of the Zone at the National General Assembly to be held in Canberra 23-29 June 2026.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Report on the ALGA National General Assembly 2026 be received.

Cr L Stewart presented his report.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr S Boekeman moved and Cr T O’Gorman seconded –**

**That the Report on the ALGA National General Assembly 2026 be received.**

**CARRIED**

**7.3 Wheatbelt District Leadership Group**

Report by Cr Antonio on the Wheatbelt District Leadership Group.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Report on the Wheatbelt District Leadership Group be received.

Cr C Antonio reported –

- The Leadership Group still has no funding from the State Government. The Group is continuing to advocate for funding.
- Living Well in the Wheatbelt is a useful guide to assist local governments in preparing their Public Health Plans.
- The Leadership Group’s subgroups are continuing to work in the background.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr L Stewart moved and Cr D Smythe seconded –**

**That the Report on the Wheatbelt District Leadership Group be received.**

**CARRIED**

**7.4 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee**

Report on Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Report on the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee be received.

Cr L Balcombe reported -

- The Committee had recently held a couple of webinars.
- Presidents of all local governments are Invited to attend Committee meetings and she encourages them to do so.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr L Stewart moved and Cr D Smythe seconded –**

**That the Report on the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee be received.**

**CARRIED**

**7.5 Wheatbelt Forum 2026**

Report on the Wheatbelt Forum 2026.

A meeting of the Forum Working group will be held following the Zone meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Report on the Wheatbelt Forum 2026 be received.

Ms R Brown reported –

- Sponsorship requests have been made.
- Program should be finalised at the meeting to be held following the Zone meeting.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr K Seymour seconded –**

**That t the Report on the Wheatbelt Forum 2026 be received.**

**CARRIED**

**Wheatbelt Development Commission Strategic Priorities Meeting**

Report by Cr L Stewart. (Attached to Agenda).

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Report on the Wheatbelt Development Commission Strategic Pirities meeting be received.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr S Boekeman moved and Cr S Woods seconded –**

**That the Report on the Wheatbelt Development Commission Strategic Pirities meeting be received.**

**CARRIED**

<b>12 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT</b>
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Item 12, brief comments by Members of Parliament, was brought forward.

Mr L Hunter MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt commented on –

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## 8 AGENCY REPORTS

### 8.1 Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety

- (a) Presentation of the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety, Local Government Division's report. (Attached to Agenda).
- (b) Consideration of any topics or presentations the Zone would like the Department to give to the next Zone meeting.

Last meeting requested presentations on –

- Grant and funding opportunities; and
- Local government legislative reform, in particular timeframes and clarity on the exact role of the Local Government Inspector.

#### RECOMMENDATION

For Noting

**NOTED**

#### RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr L Stewart seconded –**

**That the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety Local Government Division's Report be received.**

**CARRIED**

The meeting requested that the request for presentations to the Zone by the Department be followed up.

### 8.2 RDA Wheatbelt

- (a) Presentation of the RDA Wheatbelt Report (Attached to Agenda).

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the RDA Wheatbelt report be received.

#### RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr S Woods seconded –**

**That the RDA Wheatbelt report be received.**

**CARRIED**

- (b) Update on the Lumen Wheatbelt Study Hubs

Ms E Woods gave an update -

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### 8.3 RoadWise (Wheatbelt North)

No Report. The Road Safety Advisory has requested that the following be noted –

Elected Members and staff are encouraged to attend the Safe System for Local Government Workshop being held at The University Club of WA (UWA), Tuesday 4 – Thursday 6 August 2026. These workshops are designed to provide Local Governments across Western Australia with practical strategies to apply the Safe System approach and create safer roads for their communities. Delegates can email Main Roads at [SSLG@mainroads.wa.gov.au](mailto:SSLG@mainroads.wa.gov.au) for more information on how to register.

**NOTED**

Mr S Bryce advised that the Shire of Goomalling had been trying to join RoadWise for 3 years without success.

#### **8.4 Transport Portfolio (Main Roads, Department of Transport, Public Transport Authority)**

Presentation of Main Roads Wheatbelt report.

##### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Main Roads Wheatbelt report be received.

Ms E Davies advised that she would be available to answer questions from delegates following the meeting. The Main Roads Report would be provided for circulation after the meeting.

#### **8.5 CBH Group**

No report. Ms Emma Haak happy to answer questions from delegates.

#### **8.6 Water Corporation**

No report. Ms Kathy Balt happy to answer questions given on notice.

The following questions were submitted -

##### Shire of Dalwallinu

###### Background:

The Shire is in the process seeking approval from DPLH for a partial closure of a ROW in Wubin, Shire of Dalwallinu local government area. The Shire is seeking the closure to allow for contiguous properties (incorporating portions of the ROW) to be amalgamated allowing for suitable septic systems to be installed in the expectation that the existent 'common sewerage system' will be required to cease operating in the near future as it does not have requisite approval from either Department of Health or DWER. During the public consultation process the Shire sought comment from Water Corporation. The response, "Wcorp objects to the proposal" was from an unnamed entity from the 'Protection of Services Enquiries Team' (9 July 2025). The only Water Corporation officer that the Shire has been able to subsequently access, advised "that he is unable to give this any priority and that he doesn't have the authority to make any decisions on the matter". The fact that the Shire cannot receive an adequate response endangers the continuity of three of the four business entities (roadhouses x2 & hotel/motel) located in the small wheatbelt town.

###### Question:

Can Water Corporation demonstrate its commitment to helping Local Government by providing the contact details of a Water Corporation officer who has the necessary authority and willingness to give this matter the priority that it deserves and discuss with the Shire of Dalwallinu a way forward in seeking to address the concerns that Water Corporation may have as to the proposed ROW closure.

###### Answer

Ms Balt advised that she believed she had found the right people for the Shire of Dalwallinu to talk to and that she had asked them to get in touch the Shire. She will let the Shire know.

##### Shire of Chittering

###### Background

We understand that the DWER groundwater water allocation for Water Corporation's Bindoon water supply has limited remaining capacity, with potentially less than 100 residential connections remaining.

###### Question

Given the Bindoon townsite has planned residential expansion, which will require many more reticulated water connections, is Water Corporation making provision to increase its capacity to ensure it can service the Bindoon townsite into the future?

Answer

Following the meeting Ms Balt advised that she had spoken to the Shire of Chittering CEO and let her know that Mr John Darcy, Water Corporation Mid-West Region had been trying to contact her without success. She had passed on Mr Darcy's contact details.

Mr L Hunter left the meeting at 12:08 pm.

**8.7 Wheatbelt Development Commission**

Presentation of the Wheatbelt Development Commission Report.

**Recommendation**

That the Wheatbelt Development Commission report be received.

Mr G Arthur commented –

- Good to see the comments on the Commission's Strategic Priorities presented to the meeting.
- The Commission is continuing to promote the Wheatbelt with Government.
- Biofuels.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr S Woods seconded –**

**That the Wheatbelt Development Commission report be received.**

**CARRIED**

Ms K Balt left the meeting at 12:11 pm.

**8.8 Other**

There were no other reports.

<b>9 FINANCE</b>
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**9.1 Financial Reports**

Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Report for the period ending 31 May 2026 are attached to the agenda.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the financial reports for the period ending 31 May 2026, as attached, be received.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr S Boekeman moved and Cr T O'Gorman seconded –**

**That the financial reports for the period ending 31 May 2026, as attached, be received.**

**CARRIED**

**9.2 Accounts for Payment**

The following accounts are submitted for payment –

<u>Payee</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Amount</u>
R W & S Dew	Recoup Starlink Service – Standby Fee (May to June)	32.00
	TOTAL	<u><u>\$32.00</u></u>

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the accounts as listed totalling \$32.00 be approved for payment.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr S Woods seconded –**

**That the accounts as listed totalling \$32.00 be approved for payment.**

**CARRIED**

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr T O’Gorman moved and Cr L Stewart seconded –**

**That a Debit Card facility be authorised to be set up for payment of Starlink’s monthly fees.**

**CARRIED**

Cr C Antonio declared his interest in Item 9.3. He vacated the Chair and left the meeting at 12:13 pm.  
Cr L Stewart assumed the Chair.

**9.3 Zone Honorariums**

**BACKGROUND**

The Zone pays an honorarium to the Chair of Zone meetings on a pro rata basis in accordance with the number of meetings chaired. For 2025/2026 the amount was set at \$650.

**COMMENT**

For 2025/2026 there were 5 Zone meetings (including this meeting). Approval is sought to pay the honorarium to the respective Chairs of the Zone’s 2025/2026 meetings. All meetings were chaired by Cr Chris Antonio.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That payment of the 2025/2026 honorarium to the Chairs of Zone meetings be approved.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr S Woods moved and Cr D Smythe seconded –**

**That payment of the 2025/2026 honorarium to the Chairs of Zone meetings be approved.**

**CARRIED**

Cr C Antonio returned to the meeting and resumed the Chair at 12:14 pm.

**10 ZONE BUSINESS**

**10.1 Cost Shifting to Local Government – Great Southern Country Zone Advocacy**

**BACKGROUND**

The Chair of the Great Southern Country Zone has written to all Zones expressing their Zone’s position regarding the increasing and unsustainable impacts of cost shifting onto Local Governments. The Zone is requesting Avon-Midland Zone’s support in progressing this advocacy effort and welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively on this important issue.

**GREAT SOUTHERN COUNTRY ZONE COMMENT**

Local Governments across our Zone are frequently required to allocate significant resources to implement Federal and State legislation, regulations, and policy initiatives. However, the true cost of delivering these functions is often under-recognised and inadequately funded. This growing imbalance is placing considerable pressure on already constrained local resources.

Our recent observations across the Zone highlight substantial variation in circumstances, organisational structures, and operating systems among Local Governments. These differences directly influence the extent and impact of cost shifting, yet a consistent theme remains: Local Governments are increasingly expected to absorb responsibilities more appropriately held by State or Federal Governments, often without clear legislative frameworks or sufficient financial support.

This trend is evident across several key areas, including:

- a. Provision of housing to support State Government workforces;
- b. Expanding emergency management responsibilities;
- c. Increasing social and community service pressures; and
- d. Managing local impacts associated with the energy transition.

In particular, the State Government's commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 has not been accompanied by a clear or legislated planning framework for renewable energy development. As a result, Local Governments are left to manage complex land use conflicts, respond to heightened community concerns, and carry significant assessment risks without adequate policy guidance or resourcing.

The cumulative effect of these pressures is that Local Governments are being forced to divert ratepayer funds away from core services and infrastructure — including roads, sport and recreation facilities, waste management, and community amenities — towards functions that are externally imposed. Critically, many of these responsibilities do not provide mechanisms for revenue generation and are not supported by appropriate administrative funding from higher levels of government. This situation is not sustainable.

The Great Southern Country Zone strongly believes there is an urgent need for earlier, coordinated, and genuine collaboration between all tiers of government. Policy priorities must be developed in partnership with Local Government before implementation, ensuring that roles, responsibilities, and funding arrangements are clearly defined.

Accordingly, the Great Southern Country Zone is seeking the support of Zones to request that WALGA advocate on behalf of the sector to both State and Federal Governments on this issue. This advocacy should aim to:

- e. Raise awareness of the cumulative financial and operational impacts of cost shifting;
- f. Promote fair and transparent funding arrangements aligned with responsibilities;
- g. Ensure Local Governments are not disproportionately burdened with functions beyond their core role; and
- h. Reinforce the need for proper policy frameworks, particularly in emerging areas such as renewable energy and climate transition.

We believe a unified position across Zones will strengthen our collective voice and improve outcomes for Local Governments and the communities we serve.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Avon-Midland Country Zone support the Great Southern Country Zone's request that WALGA advocate on behalf of the sector to both State and Federal Governments on the impact of cost shifting onto local governments. Advocacy to:

- (a) Raise awareness of the cumulative financial and operational impacts of cost shifting;
- (b) Promote fair and transparent funding arrangements aligned with responsibilities;
- (c) Ensure Local Governments are not disproportionately burdened with functions beyond their core role; and
- (d) Reinforce the need for proper policy frameworks, particularly in emerging areas such as renewable energy and climate transition.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr S Woods seconded –**

**That That the Avon-Midland Country Zone support the Great Southern Country Zone's request that WALGA advocate on behalf of the sector to both State and Federal Governments on the impact of cost shifting onto local governments. Advocacy to:**

- (a) Raise awareness of the cumulative financial and operational impacts of cost shifting;**
- (b) Promote fair and transparent funding arrangements aligned with responsibilities;**
- (c) Ensure Local Governments are not disproportionately burdened with functions beyond their core role; and**
- (d) Reinforce the need for proper policy frameworks, particularly in emerging areas such as renewable energy and climate transition.**

**CARRIED**

## **10.2 Guests – November 2026 Meeting**

Department of Fire & Emergency Services

Mr Murray Carter, Executive Director, Rural Fire Division

WA Country Health Service – Wheatbelt

Mr Danny Rogers, Executive Director

Discussion with delegates on the Zone’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to the provision of health services including how WACHS can work collaboratively with local governments in the area.

**NOTED**

**11 URGENT BUSINESS (as permitted by the Presiding Member)**

No business was brought forward.

**12 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT**

Brief comments by Members of Parliament. Dealt with earlier.

**13 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

Future meetings of the Zone are scheduled for –

20 August 2026	Video Conference
21 August 2026	Shire of Chittering (Wheatbelt Forum)
20 November 2026	Shire of Northam
19 February 2027	Shire of Gingin
23 April 2027	Shire of Dalwallinu

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the next ordinary meeting of the Zone be held Thursday 20 August by video conference.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr K Seymour seconded –**

**That the next ordinary meeting of the Zone be held Thursday 20 August by video conference commencing at 4:30 pm.** **CARRIED**

Cr L Stewart advised that the National General Assembly business papers were now available for download. There were 372 motions, delegates are requested that any amendments be submitted to ALGA by 22 June 2026 and he asked for any input from delegates.

**14 CLOSURE**

There being no further business the Chair thanked attendees for their participation, the Shire of Toodyay for hosting the meeting and declared the meeting closed at 12:18 pm.

**CERTIFICATION**

These Minutes were confirmed by the meeting held on .....

Signed: .....  
(Chairman of meeting at which the Minutes were confirmed)