

# **Central Country Zone Minutes**

## **16 August 2024**

**Hosted by the Shire of Wagin  
Wagin Golf Club, Rifle Street,  
Wagin 6315**

**Commenced at 9.30am**

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## Policy and Advocacy Prioritisation Framework

The Central Country Zone adopted the Framework on 12 April 2024.

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.

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

## ATTACHMENTS

The following are provided as attachments to the Minutes

1. Item 5.1 Main Roads Presentation
2. Item 10.4 WALGA Roadwise Report

The full 4 September State Council Agenda [can be found here](#).

## 1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

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### 1.1 OPENING

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The Chair declared the meeting open at 9.30am.

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### 1.2 HOUSEKEEPING – ZONE CHAIR

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1. **Welcome:**  
The Zone Chair, President Cr Des Hickey, welcomed Zone members and provide OSH/bathroom/exit information to those in attendance.
2. **Share your name and Local Government:**  
Delegates were reminded to ensure that they call their name and Local Government when taking the floor to allow for accurate Minutes to be recorded.

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### 1.3 ATTENDANCE

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<b>Shire of Beverley</b>	Cr Don Davis Mr Steve Gollan, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Brookton</b>	President Cr Katrina Crute Deputy President Cr Tamara de Lange Mr Gary Sherry, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Corrigin</b>	President Cr Des Hickey Deputy President Cr Sharon Jacobs Ms Natalie Manton, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Cuballing</b>	Deputy President Cr Rob Harris Cr Adrian Kowald Mr Stan Scott, Chief Executive Officer
<b>Shire of Lake Grace</b>	President Cr Len Armstrong Mr Alan George, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Narrogin</b>	Deputy President Cr Graham Broad Cr Clive Bartron Mr Dale Stewart, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

<b>Shire of Pingelly</b>	Deputy President Cr Peter Wood Mr Andrew Dover, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Quairading</b>	President Cr Jo Haythornthwaite Deputy President Cr Trevor Stacey Ms Natalie Ness, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Wagin</b>	President Cr Phillip Blight Deputy President Cr Bryan Kilpatrick Cr Greg Ball Dr Kenneth Parker, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Wandering</b>	President Cr Ian Turton Deputy President Cr Sheryl Little Mr Alan Hart, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of West Arthur</b>	President Cr Neil Morrell Deputy President Cr Karen Harrington Mr Vin Fordham Lamont, Chief Executive Officer
<b>Shire of Wickepin</b>	Ms Kellie Bartley, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Williams</b>	President Cr Jarrad Logie Mr Peter Stubbs, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Guests</b>	
Main Roads	John Pintabona, Manager Heavy Vehicle Transport Compliance
Main Roads WA	Mohammad Siddiqui, Director Wheatbelt Region
<b>Members of Parliament</b>	Hon Steve Martin MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region
<b>WALGA</b>	Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager Environment and Waste Naoimh Donaghy, Governance and Organisational Services Officer

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## 1.4 APOLOGIES

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Shire of Beverley	President Cr David White Deputy President Cr Dee Ridgway
Shire of Cuballing	President Cr Eliza Dowling
Shire of Dumbleyung	President Cr Amy Knight Deputy President Cr Grant Lukins Mr Gavin Treasure, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Kulin	President Cr Grant Robins Cr Robbie Bowey Mr Alan Leeson, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Lake Grace	Deputy President Cr Stephen Hunt

Shire of Narrogin  
Shire of Pingelly  
Shire of Wickiepin

President Leigh Ballard (Chair)  
President Cr Jackie McBurney  
President Cr Julie Russell  
Deputy President Cr Wes Astbury

Hon Shelley Payne MLC, Member for Agricultural Region  
Hon Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt

CBH Group

Kellie Todman, Manager Government and Industry Relations

Water Corporation

Michael Roberts, Regional Manager Goldfields & Agricultural Region

Department of Local Government, Sport, & Cultural Industries

Samantha Cornthwaite, Regional Manager Wheatbelt

Regional Development Australia WA

Josh Pomykala, Director Regional Development

Wheatbelt Development Commission

Susan Hall, Chief Executive Officer

Wheatbelt Development Commission

Renee Manning, Principal Regional Development Officer - Central East

Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

Sam Stewart, Principal Policy Analyst, Market Development and Coordination Division – *Powering WA*

Rick Wilson MP, Federal Member for O'Connor

Hon Peter Rundle MLA, Member for Roe

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC, Member for Agricultural Region

Hon Darren West MLC, Member for Agricultural Region

Hon Colin de Grussa MLC, Member for Agricultural Region

Hon Sandra Carr MLC, Member for Agricultural Region

WALGA

Rodney Thornton, Regional Road Safety Advisor

## 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

## 3 HOST COUNCIL PRESENTATION

President Cr Phil Blight, Shire of Wagin, extended a welcome to delegates and guests and provided a presentation on projects and issues facing the Shire of Wagin.

President Cr Blight highlighted the below:

Wagin's Woolarama event attracts 25,000 attendees annually, utilizing all accommodation options within 100km of Wagin. This is truly a regional event.

This event is largely volunteer run and could not happen without the continued support and action of the Wagin community.

The cost of running this event would be unattainable by the Shire if not for the volunteers and the Agricultural Society grant.

President Cr Blight placed huge emphasis on the importance of volunteers throughout the Shire, and the costs they bear in order to contribute to the community.

**NOTED**

## 4 ANNOUNCEMENTS

N/A

## 5 GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS

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### 5.1 SPEAKER FOR THE AUGUST ZONE MEETING

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#### Main Roads

John Pintabona, Manager Heavy Vehicle Transport Compliance presented to the Zone. John focused on road safety and road conditions in the region, with reference to the regulatory road user compliance requirements, in respect to road transport operators not adhering to the load requirements for heavy haulage transport across the Wheatbelt.

Presentation is attached (**Attachment 1**)

**NOTED**

## 6 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

*Any Members of Federal and State Government in attendance are invited to provide a brief update on matters relevant to the Zone.*

Hon Steve Martin MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region

**NOTED**



## 7 AGENCY REPORTS

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### 7.1 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SPORT AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES

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*Samanta Cornthwaite, Regional Director Wheatbelt*

The DLGSC report was submitted for the Zone.

**NOTED**

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### 7.2 WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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*Rob Cossart, Chief Executive Officer*

The Wheatbelt Development Commission was an apology for this meeting.  
Rob Cossart will be presenting the Commissions *Strategic Plan* at the November meeting.

**NOTED**

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### 7.3 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA WHEATBELT

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*Josh Pomykala, Director Regional Development*

Josh Pomykala was an apology, a report was been provided.

**NOTED**

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### 7.4 MAIN ROADS WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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*Mohammad Siddiqui, Regional Manager Wheatbelt*

Mohammad provided a report in advance of the meeting.

**NOTED**

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### 7.5 CBH GROUP

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*Kellie Todman, Manager - Government & Industry Relations*

CBH was an apology for this meeting.

**NOTED**

*The meeting took a ten minute interval at 10.52am, resuming at 11.02am*

## 8 MINUTES

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### 8.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM THE CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE MEETING HELD ON 14 JUNE 2024

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The Minutes of the Central Country Zone meeting held on 14 June 2024 had previously been circulated to Member Councils.

#### RESOLUTION

**Moved:** Deputy President Karen Harrington  
**Seconded:** President Cr Katrina Crute

**That the Minutes of the meeting of the Central Country Zone held on 14 June 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.**

**CARRIED**

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### 8.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FROM THE CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE MEETING HELD ON 14 JUNE 2024

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### 8.3 MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6 AUGUST 2024

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The Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on 6 August 2024 were provided as an attachment to the Agenda.

#### RESOLUTION

**Moved:** President Cr Katrina Crute  
**Seconded:** Deputy President Karen Harrington

**That the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on 6 August 2024 be received.**

**CARRIED**

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### 8.4 ITEMS FROM THE CENTRAL COUNTRY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6 AUGUST 2024 – FOR DECISION

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#### 8.4.1 (Item 6) Cost Shift and Compliance Survey

##### **BACKGROUND:**

At the August Executive Committee Meeting, the Cost Shift and Compliance Survey was presented to the Executive Committee and Members of the Zone who joined the meeting (**Attachments 5 and 6**).

##### Comment:

The Meeting noted that the responses from the Local Governments look inconsistent and it would be worth contracting a consultant to review the figures of all Local Governments. The Executive Committee noted that there are funds in this years budget for consulting.

The Executive Committee Resolved:

*Moved: Mr Ian Turton*

*Seconded: President Cr Phil Blight*

*That the Zone engage an independent consultant to review the figures of the top four Cost Shift Items and top four Compliance Costs, following which the Item will be brought back to the Executive Committee for further action.*

*CARRIED*

## **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: President Cr Ian Turton**

**Seconded: President Cr Katrina Crute**

- 1. That the Executive Committee resolution be endorsed by the Central Country Zone.**
- 2. The Zone authorises the Executive Committee to engage an independent consultant within the constraints of the Central Country Zone budget.**

**CARRIED**

### **8.4.2 (Item 7.2.1) Enhanced and Alternative Education Opportunities for Regional WA**

#### **BACKGROUND:**

At the April Zone meeting, it was resolved that;

*That the Central Country Zone:*

- 1. Supports the call to action to reduce regional disadvantage in educational opportunities, with a focus on:
  - I. The allocation of permanency to teachers who are then not based in the school for which they have been granted permanency.*
  - II. Requesting clarity about how schools are classified as "hard to staff"
    - a. What is being done to adequately staff and house teachers in regional WA.***
- 2. Agrees to write to the Minister for Education requesting action; and*
- 3. Requests WALGA to advocate to State Government on this matter.*

The Executive Officer wrote to the Minister for Education and received a reply.

#### **Comment:**

The Executive Officer shared the Departments draft Regional Education Strategy prior to the meeting. This strategy was referenced during the meeting.

The Executive Committee recommended that a Zone submission should be prepared based on issues identified by the Zone at the August meeting.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Deputy President Karen Harrington**

**Seconded: Deputy President Cr Graham Broad**

**That the Zone prepare a submission to the Draft Regional Education Strategy on the following issues:**

- 60% of students in remote schools are not meeting NAPLAN proficiency benchmarks**

- **Lack of quality education is a major impediment to attracting and retaining skilled and unskilled labour in Western Australia's regions and accordingly a major impediment to economic growth and standards of living**
- **Lack of quality education in regional areas is a significant source of social stratification and exacerbates socio-economic inequality in regional areas**
- **The interests of schools as organisations and educators are not necessarily aligned with the best interests of students or regional communities**
- **Housing and staff issues**
- **Subsidising teaching degrees to encourage teachers to move to regional and rural areas.**
- **Overall costs of operating schools (Operating costs of school ovals - subsidy needed) and (Funding for regional students for excursions).**

**CARRIED**

### **8.4.3 (Item 8.6.1) Live sheep export ban, no-confidence motion**

#### **BACKGROUND**

*At the June meeting, it was resolved:*

*That the Central Country Zone representing the Local Governments of Beverley; Brookton; Corrigin; Cuballing; Dumbleyung; Kulin; Lake Grace; Narrogin; Pingelly; Quairading; Wagin; Wandering; West Arthur; Wickiepin; Williams resolves that:*

- *The Governance process by which the decision was made does not accord with good public policy principles. It does not fit the science, did not involve genuine engagement and appears to be based on political ideology which does not serve the regional, state or national interest.*
- *the Federal Government withdraws its current Export Control Amendment (Ending Live Sheep Exports by Sea) Bill 2024.*
- *express disappointment in the Federal Government and lack of acknowledgement and understanding of the impact on regional communities that decisions like this have.*
- *a letter to the Prime Minister be written detailing the above be signed by the President of the Central Country Zone on behalf of members.*

#### Secretariat Comment:

The Executive Officer wrote to the Prime Minister and received a response.

#### The Executive Committee Resolved:

*Moved: President Cr Phil Blight*

*Seconded: President Cr Katrina Crute*

*That the Zone invite the new Federal Minister for Agriculture to the November 2024 meeting. If unable to attend, an invite will be issued for the 2025 meetings of the Zone.*

**CARRIED**

In addition to the above, the Executive Officer received a letter on behalf of the Pilbara Country Zone supporting the Central Country Zone's stance on this issue.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: President Cr Ian Turton**

**Seconded: Deputy President Bryan Kilpatrick**

**That the Zone invite the new Federal Minister for Agriculture to a future Zone meeting.**

**CARRIED**

#### **8.4.4 (Item 8.6.4) Zone meeting format**

*Shire of Kulin*

##### **BACKGROUND**

The Executive Officer received a request to consider rotating the Zone meetings between being in person and online via MSTeams.

##### Executive Committee Comment:

The Committee noted the difficulty in managing an online meeting of approximately 45 participants.

##### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: President Cr Katrina Crute**

**Seconded: Deputy President Cr Sharon Jacobs**

**That Zone meetings continue to be in person with the exception of extenuating circumstances.**

**CARRIED**

## **9 ZONE BUSINESS**

### **9.1.1 Clearing Permit Issues and Challenges for Local Governments in Wheatbelt Region**

*Shire of Corrigin*

##### BACKGROUND

The Shire of Corrigin present a discussion paper on Clearing Permit Issues and Challenges for Local Governments in Wheatbelt regions.

At the Shire of Corrigin's most recent Ordinary Council Meeting, the Shire resolved:

*That Council submit the following draft proposals to the next WALGA Central Country Zone and work with local governments to advocate for:*

- 1. Amendment of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and associated Regulations to exempt the extension, widening or realignment of an existing regional or local distributor road from requiring a clearing permit for permitted purpose of road safety. Major projects involving clearing outside the agreed clear zone such as major road corridor realignment, additional lanes or minor local road may still require clearing permit.*
- 2. The development of an approved policy as described in the Environmental Protection Act 1986 Schedule 6 2 (v) permitting clearing of all hazards in the clear zone or within 8 metres of the centre line on regional and local distributor roads based on the road safety principles and Austroads Guide to Road Design.*
- 3. The Department Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) to implement changes to the standard clearing permit conditions to remove unnecessary red tape and compliance cost burden on local government based on a perceived risk by a third party rather than evidence of actual non compliance of revegetation by the permit holder.*
- 4. Simplification of the clearing permit process to clarifying ambiguous terms and provide clearer guidelines to enhance understanding and compliance with conditions while maintaining high environmental standards.*

5. *A whole landscape approach to maintaining habitat for black cockatoos including management of crown reserves, bush fire prevention and salinity control.*

## **RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Deputy President Cr Graham Broad

**Seconded:** Deputy President Cr Sharon Jacobs

**That the Central Country Zone:**

- **Write to the Minister for Environment, including the Minister for Transport, seeking to exempt Local Governments and Main Roads from any native vegetation clearing requirements in road reserves;**
- **Submit the Shire of Corrigin's Discussion Paper to WALGA for consideration and inclusion, regarding WALGA's Native Vegetation paper, for the next Zone meeting.**

**CARRIED**

### **9.1.2 (Item 8.6.3) South West Native Title Settlement – Noongar Land Estate**

*Shire of Dumbleyung*

#### **BACKGROUND**

The South West Native Title Settlement is a landmark native title agreement reached between the State Government and the six Noongar Agreement Groups. The six requisite Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUA's) were conclusively registered leading to the Settlement commencing on 25 February 2021. The Settlement recognises the Agreement Groups as the Traditional Owners of the south west of Western Australia, while resolving native title in exchange for a negotiated package of benefits.

A key negotiated benefit is the delivery of a 320,000 hectare Noongar Land Estate, in accordance with the Noongar Land Base Strategy. The Noongar Land Estate will contain up to 300,000 hectares of land transferred in reserve or leasehold, and up to 20,000 hectares of land transferred in freehold. The Landholding Body for all land transferred is the Noongar Boodja Land Sub Pty Ltd, which will hold and manage the land in the Noongar Land Estate in consultation with the soon to be established Noongar Regional Corporations. All land will be used and managed in line with Noongar cultural, social and economic aspirations for the benefit of future generations.

The Department of Planning Lands & Heritage (DPLH) is the lead State Government agency tasked with the responsibility of identifying, negotiating and facilitating the necessary arrangements to transfer existing parcels of State owned land across to the Landholding Body. Up until now, DPLH has only engaged LGAs when specific land parcels are prioritised by the Noongar People for transfer consideration. Part of this engagement effort invites a LGA to consider each land site being proposed for transfer and provide feedback on the LGAs position usually within a relatively tight timeframe i.e. 42 calendar days. These deadlines don't allow for broader key stakeholder and community engagement to properly occur.

A letter was sent to DPLH on 7th June 2024 seeking an update on the status of unallocated Crown land and unmanaged reserves within the Shire of Dumbleyung, which are under consideration for possible inclusion in the Noongar Land Estate. DPLH responded confirming that 183 land parcels, totalling 1,456 hectares are currently under consideration within the Shire's boundaries. This would appear to cover all current State Government controlled land holdings. DPLH also confirmed a process that as land progresses through the phases of a Noongar Land Base Strategy, it may be prioritised or discontinued, depending on the aspirations of the Noongar People. DPLH advise that the 101 LGAs within the boundaries of the Settlement are acknowledged as important stakeholders

in the delivery of this commitment and will be consulted on an ongoing basis in accordance with section 14 of the Land Administration Act 1997.

#### Comment

DPLH has initiated formal contact with the Shire of Dumbleyung (by email) on each occasion a land holding is being earmarked for transfer. Each proposal is considered on its own merits usually taking into account current or neighbouring uses, existing access corridors & routes, strategic alignment and/or importance, potential or previous land use conflicts, applicable planning requirements, etc. Due to limited timeframes for provision of a response, there is no opportunity for a broader proper community engagement process to be initiated.

DPLH confirm that there are currently 6 land parcels (511.22 hectares) that have already been offered by the State Government for transfer in the Shire of Dumbleyung. This is despite some of these parcels having already been formally considered and rejected by the Dumbleyung Shire Council for various reasons. There are a number of Shire of Dumbleyung concerns in relation to the current State Government land consideration and transfer approach:-

1. Limited timeframe capacity for Local Government to properly engage the community.
2. No DPLH feedback given once a Local Government considers and responds to each land transfer request.
3. Clarification required on how Local Government rating will be able to be facilitated once each land is transferred, particularly land set aside for economic use.
4. Increased transparency on the overall engagement requirements (under the Land Administration Act 1997); noting it currently feels like a one sided 'tick the box' exercise.

#### **Comment:**

In the absence of the Shire of Dumbleyung at the august meeting, this item was deferred to the November meeting of the Zone.

#### **RESOLVED:**

**That this item be deferred to the November 2024 meeting of the Zone**

### **9.1.3 Audit Fees**

#### BACKGROUND:

At the August Executive Committee Meeting, President Cr Phil Blight raised the issue of Audit Fees. The below is an extracted item from the September State Council Agenda.

The WALGA State Council considered an Emerging Issue item at the July State Council meeting on Office of the Auditor General increased audit fees.

In June, many Local Governments were advised that the costs of the 2023-24 audit (which is well underway) would increase substantially. The correspondence advised that the average fee increase across the sector would be 21%. In many Local Governments, especially, smaller local governments the fee increase is much higher.

The WALGA State Council resolved as follows:

#### *That State Council:*

1. *Objects to the Office of the Auditor General's audit fees increases for the 2023-24 audits of accounts and annual financial report of Local Governments; and*

2. *Requests the Legislative Council's Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations to conduct an Inquiry into the OAG's performance of audits and increased audit fees to Local Governments.*

A copy of the agenda item was attached.

Correspondence has been sent to the Legislative Council's Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations and WALGA is waiting on a response.

## **NOTED**

### **9.1.4 WALGA Honours Recipients**

*By Chantelle O'Brien, Governance Support Officer*

#### **BACKGROUND**

WALGA celebrated their 2024 Honours awards recipients at an event on Friday, 2 August at Winthrop Hall. For the first time, a WALGA awards event was held solely to acknowledge and appreciate the extraordinary efforts of Elected Members and Local Government Officers in service of their Local Government, the sector and the community.

There were 46 recipients of Honours awards in the 2024 program, including two Local Government Medal recipients. Four new WALGA Life Members were also inducted.

5 Honours recipients were from the Central Country Zone:

President Cr Phillip Blight	Shire of Wagin	Life Membership
Cr Greg Ball	Shire of Wagin	Merit Award
Mrs Moya Carne	Shire of Williams	Merit Award
Mr Andrew Dover	Shire of Pingelly	Local Government Distinguished Officer Award
Mr Geoffrey McKeown	Shire of Williams	Local Government Distinguished Officer Award

Congratulations to all Honours recipients!

Nominations for the 2025 Honours Program will open early next year.

#### **Comment:**

President Cr Katrina Crute highlighted this being WALGA's first year presenting Honours Awards, independent of the WALGA Convention. President Cr Katrina Crute congratulated President Cr Phillip Blight on his Life Membership award, as well as congratulating WALGA on a fantastic event.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** President Cr Katrina Crute

**Seconded:** President Cr Des Hickey

**CARRIED**

### **9.1.5 Wheatbelt Forum – Event reminder**

Zone Members are encouraged to attend the Avon-Midland Country Zone's *Wheatbelt Forum* event. An agenda has been requested and will be distributed to the Zone if received prior to the meeting.



Event details:

Date: 23 August 2024, start time TBC

Location: Northam Recreation Centre

Contact to register interest in attending:

Robert Dew; Avon-Midland Country Zone Executive Officer, with your expression of interest in attending this event.

Phone - (08) 9620 1234

Mobile - 0429 962 013

E-mail - [tambin@westnet.com.au](mailto:tambin@westnet.com.au)

**NOTED**

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## **10 ZONE REPORTS**

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### **10.1 CHAIR REPORT**

*President Cr Des Hickey*

**President Cr Des Hickey advised that he had no new items to raise with the Zone.**

**NOTED**

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### **10.2 GREAT SOUTHERN DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (DEMC)**

*President Jackie McBurney*

President Jackie McBurney was an apology.

**NOTED**

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### **10.3 WHEATBELT INTERAGENCY HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN ADVISORY GROUP**

*President Jackie McBurney*

President Jackie McBurney was an apology.

**NOTED**

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### **10.4 WALGA ROADWISE**

Rodney Thornton, Regional Road Safety Advisor was an apology.

The attached report has been provided for the Minutes (**Attachment 2**)

**NOTED**

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## **11 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION BUSINESS**

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### **11.1 STATE COUNCILLOR REPORT**

*Cr Phillip Blight*

The September 2024 State Councillor report was attached

**RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Deputy President Cr Graham Broad**  
**Seconded: President Cr Len Armstrong**

**That the State Councillor Report be received.**

**CARRIED**

## 11.2 WALGA STATUS REPORT

By Tony Brown, Executive Officer

# INCOMPLETE ZONE STATUS REPORT August 2024

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Central C	26 August 2023 Zone Agenda Item 9.2 Water Corporation – Non-Standard Water Services	That the Central Country Zone: 1. Rejects Water Corporation attempts to classify regional sites as a 'Non-Standard Water Service' (unless specific agreement is reached with a Local Government Authority); 2. Formally writes to Water Corporation and the Minister for Water confirming this position; 3. Requests that WALGA supports the position of the Central Country Zone and rejects the Water Corporation's attempts to classify regional sites as a 'Non-Standard Water Service'; and 4. Requests WALGA to engage with the Minister for Water to retain the current services, unless specific agreement is reached with a Local Government Authority.	WALGA is continuing to advocate on this matter including raising the issues as part of the consultation on the Review of the National Water Initiatives to inform the next National Water Agreement. WALGA has also requested that ALGA raise this matter as part of the Meeting of Water Minister. WALGA is reviewing the Water Advocacy Position and will include the need for equitable access to drinking water, as a key pillar.	September 2024  Ongoing	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039
Central C	12 April 2024 Zone Agenda Item 9.3 Wind Energy Facilities	That the Central Country Zone requests WALGA to make a submission on behalf of local governments in Western Australia to the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC), urging the State Government, through its agency Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH), to develop a more comprehensive and effective approach to guide the management and placement of renewable energy facilities; including but not limited to wind, solar, battery renewable diesel and any associated infrastructure.	Draft advocacy positions in relation to planning for renewable energy facilities; the need for improvements to the State planning framework to provide sufficient statutory protections for areas that have been identified as High Quality Agricultural Land; and for the State Government to develop a robust and comprehensive framework for engagement with Local Government and communities to manage impacts and realise community benefits from projects are included in the September State Council meeting agenda as items for decision.  WALGA has raised these issues with the Minister for the Environment; Energy; Climate Action and Powering WA.	August 2024	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039
Central C	12 April 2024 Zone Agenda Item 9.1 Enhanced and Alternative Education Opportunities for Regional WA	That the Central Country Zone: 1. Supports the call to action to reduce regional disadvantage in educational opportunities, with a focus on:	WALGA notes that the Central Country Zone supports the call to action raised by the Great Southern Zone to reduce regional disadvantage in educational opportunities and that the Zone will write to the Minister for Education on the matter with a focus on matters set out at 1a – 1c.	August 2024	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039

		<p>a. Disruption to schools arising from policies relating to permanency for teachers;</p> <p>b. Requesting clarity about how schools are classified as “hard to staff; and</p> <p>c. Improving housing for teachers in regional WA;</p> <p>2. Agrees to write to the Minister for Education requesting action; and</p> <p>3. Requests the WALGA Secretariat to advocate to State Government on this matter.</p>	<p>WALGA understands that the Great Southern Zone received a response to their letter to the Minister of Education on this issue on 24 April 2024. The letter references a number of initiatives including a \$7.1 million funding boost for the School of Isolated and Distance Education, a proposed expansion of VET certificates in the coming years, Education and Training Participation Plans, the support provided by the School of Special Educational Needs: Behaviour and Engagement located in Albany, the recently announced federally funded two new Regional University Study Hubs, further financial investment in the attraction and retention payments/packages, and a developing Regional Education Strategy.</p> <p>WALGA is also aware that the Great Southern Zone has raised these issues directly with Department of Education representatives at recent Zone meetings.</p> <p>WALGA notes that 2024-25 State Budget included an additional \$10 million for the School of Isolated and Distance Education.</p> <p>WALGA is continuing to advocate broadly on issues that intersect with regional education such as Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH). WALGA has written to the Department of Communities Deputy Director General, Housing and Assets on this matter. Department of Communities officials will present on the GROH program at the July State Council Strategic Forum.</p> <p>On the 22 July, the Department of Education released a draft <a href="#">Regional Education Strategy</a>. The Strategy aims to provide a framework to guide more effective delivery of regional education, focusing on improved educational and wellbeing opportunities across four pillars:</p> <p>Pillar 1: Build the capability of our regional workforce  Pillar 2: Expand curriculum delivery  Pillar 3: Strengthen support for student wellbeing  Pillar 4: Develop partnerships to create opportunity</p> <p>Country zones and Local Governments are strongly encouraged to provide feedback on the strategy, particularly given the relevance of the Strategy to matters raised by the Great Southern Zone with support from other country zones.</p> <p>The consultation period closes on Friday 20 September 2024. <a href="#">More information is available here.</a></p>		
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			<p>WALGA has partnered with the Department of Education to facilitate an information and feedback session on the Strategy priority pillars. The session will be held online on Wednesday 21 August 2:30 - 3.:30pm. A registration link will be sent via LG Direct.</p>		
<b>Central C</b>	14 June Zone Agenda Item 9.1.2 Country Local Government Fund (CLGF)	That the Central Country Zone requests WALGA to lobby and advocate to the State government, Treasurer, and Minister for Local Government to provide a program similar to the CLGF for Country Local Governments, with an allocation of \$8 million in the current and ongoing future Budgets.	<p>WALGA's current advocacy position is as follows:</p> <p>The Country Local Government Fund should be reinstated at a level commensurate with its original intent of addressing country Local Governments' infrastructure backlog.</p> <p>WALGA's State Government election strategy includes funding requests for the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disaster Resilient Infrastructure</li> <li>• Coastal Erosion</li> <li>• Emergency Services Funding</li> <li>• Telecommunications Coverage and Resilience</li> <li>• Transport: Public EV Charging infrastructure</li> <li>• Safer Roads - Provide \$276 million over four years to fund the State's contribution to applying proven road safety countermeasures on 439 Local Government roads, totalling 8,208km</li> <li>• Safer student crossings</li> <li>• Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund – Increase to \$30 million per annum</li> <li>• Community Arts and Cultural Facilities Fund - \$30 million per annum to support the development and enhancement of arts and cultural infrastructure across WA</li> <li>• Libraries</li> </ul>	<b>August 2024</b>	<p><b>Tony Brown</b> Executive Director, Member Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au</p>
<b>Central C</b>	19 November 2021 Zone Agenda Item 12.1 Sector ICT solution	That the Zone request WALGA to research providers and the viability of an in-house IT system.	<p>WALGA is able to explore the feasibility of a group procurement project for Council Business Systems (ERP) by running an aggregated buying process through its Preferred Supplier Panel. The project would entail initial engagement to assess interest, followed by the technical scoping of requirements. The Commercial Team at WALGA will include the initiation of engagement and research into its business planning for the 2024-25 financial year.”</p>	<b>June 2024</b>	<p><b>Tony Brown</b> Executive Director, Member Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au</p>
<b>Central C</b>	17 November 2023 Zone Agenda Item 11.4 2023 Resolution for changes to Electoral Process	That the Central Country Zone request WALGA to advocate for a change to the current electoral system for Local Government to:	<p>WALGA's governance staff are conducting a review of Local Government elections for the period 2015-2023. This will include the issue of vote counting system for Local Government elections and for internal elections.</p>	<b>June 2024</b>	<p><b>Tony Brown</b> Executive Director, Member Services 9213 2051</p>

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. remove the compulsion of those Local Government entities within the Band 3 and 4 categories to opt out of the Optional Preferential Voting System to return to the First Past the Post voting system; and</li> <li>2. remove the compulsion for internal elections to be carried out by optional preferential voting and return to First Past the Post method of voting.</li> </ol>	<p>A report, together with proposals for an alternative engagement strategy that provides for an independent assessment of WALGA's election advocacy is being prepared.</p> <p>WALGA has surveyed staff and Elected Members and Officers and is currently collating the feedback.</p> <p>WALGA is awaiting the report from the WAEC on the 2023 elections. Following receipt of this information a report is anticipated to be submitted for the August/September round of Zone and State Council meetings.</p>		tbrown@walga.asn.au
<b>Central C</b>	14 April 2023 Zone Agenda Item <b>9.1 Financial Burden to Local Governments of Optional Preferential Voting</b>	<p>That WALGA forms a policy position and advocates that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. any Western Australian Electoral Commission fee increases for the 2023 Local Government elections are capped at 10% when compared with the 2021 rates; and</li> <li>2. the CountWA software from Western Australian Electoral Commission is provided to Local Governments free of charge for the 2023 and subsequent Local Government elections.</li> </ol>	<p>WALGA's Governance Policy Team has considered this matter and has requested WALGA staff to conduct a review of Local Government elections 2015 – 2023 and provide a summary of findings in a future report, together with proposals for an alternative engagement strategy that provides for an independent assessment of WALGA's election advocacy.</p> <p>This work will inform advocacy to the State Government on the cost and processes involved in the WAEC conducting the elections including cost.</p> <p>Report expected to be prepared in time for the July 2024 Governance Policy Team meeting and referred to Zones in August 2024.</p>	<b>June 2024</b>	<p><b>Tony Brown</b>  <b>Executive Director,</b>  <b>Member Services</b>  <b>9213 2051</b>  tbrown@walga.asn.au</p>

### Zone Comment

This is an opportunity for Member Councils to consider the response from WALGA in respect to the matters that were submitted at the previous Zone Meeting.

### RESOLUTION

**Moved: Deputy President Cr Graham Broad**  
**Seconded: President Cr Len Armstrong**

**That the Central Country Zone notes the Status Report for August 2024 be noted.**

**CARRIED**

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### 11.3 WALGA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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The WALGA President's Report is attached

#### RESOLUTION

**Moved:** President Cr Phillip Blight  
**Seconded:** Deputy President Karen Harrington

**That the Central Country Zone notes the WALGA President's Report.**

**CARRIED**

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### 11.4 STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS – 4 SEPTEMBER 2024

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#### Background

WALGA State Council meets five times each year and as part of the consultation process with Member Councils circulates the State Council Agenda for input through the Zone structure.

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 full [4 September State Council Agenda](#).

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#### 11.4.1 Matters for Decision

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### 8.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS ANALYSIS 2015-2023

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*By Emma Heys, Governance Specialist*

#### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA advocate to the State Government:

1. *For an independent Local Government election audit, focusing on the Western Australia Electoral Commission's (WAEC) **service delivery** and cost allocation methods and costing applications used, to confirm that marginal cost recovery principles are applied and that the costing program is being effectively managed.*
2. *For the requirement for the WAEC to develop and implement Service Level Agreements with Local Governments, similar to those agreements currently used in New South Wales and Victorian Local Government elections and that includes:*
  - a. *transparency of costing methodology,*
  - b. *direct engagement with Local Governments pre and post elections, and*
  - c. *the roles and responsibilities of the WAEC and Local Governments in the conduct of elections.*

3. *For the introduction of a provision for private service providers to enter the market for the conduct of Local Government elections.*
4. *For a mandated WAEC Report to Parliament specific to Local Government elections post each election cycle, outlining costs, results, voter turnout and matters for improvement both in the conduct of elections and the legislation, if relevant.*

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This report presents the findings of a comprehensive review and analysis of five election cycles up to and including the 2023 Local Government election against the backdrop of legislative reforms to the Local Government electoral process in Western Australia.
- With a focus on postal elections conducted exclusively by the Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC), the analysis has found evidence of the rising cost of conducting Local Government elections in Western Australia.
- Elected Member feedback, costs vs service comparisons and engagement by the sector with WALGA's governance services over the 2023 Local Government election period, are the basis for the recommendations as outlined above.
- The Governance Policy Team considered this item at its meeting of 7 August and endorsed the position for consideration by State Council

#### RESOLUTION

**Moved: President Cr Phil Blight**

**Seconded: Deputy President Cr Sharon Jacobs**

**That the Zone supports WALGA's Recommendation for Item 8.1, with the inclusion of the term "Service Delivery" in item 1 of the recommendation.**

**CARRIED**

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## 8.2 ENERGY TRANSITION ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY BENEFIT FRAMEWORK ADVOCACY POSITION

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*By Daniel Thomson, Manager Economics*

#### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse a new Energy Transition Engagement and Community Benefit Framework Advocacy Position as follows:

*It is essential that the energy transition currently underway delivers economic opportunities, ensures reliable and affordable electricity, and the greatest possible benefits for the community.*

*WALGA calls on the State Government to develop a comprehensive framework to manage the impact of the energy transition that includes local engagement and the realisation of **Local** community benefits from energy transition projects as a priority.*



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Western Australia's energy industry is transforming to achieve the goal of net zero emissions by 2050.
- In Western Australia there is no framework that provides a consistent approach to how proponents of major energy projects consult with local communities and how they can share in the benefits.
- WALGA will advocate for the State Government to develop a framework to guide consultation and benefit sharing with local communities during the energy transition.
- A joint meeting of the Environment Policy Team and Infrastructure Policy Team held on 10 July endorsed the position for consideration by State Council.
- This draft advocacy position should be considered in conjunction with the accompanying draft WALGA advocacy positions Renewable Energy Facilities (Item 8.3) and Priority Agriculture (Item 8.4).

## RESOLUTION:

**Moved: President Cr Phil Blight**

**Seconded: President Cr Katrina Crute**

**That the Zone supports WALGA's Recommendation for Item 8.2, with the inclusion of the word "Local" in the second paragraph of the advisory position.**

**CARRIED**

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## 8.3 RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES ADVOCACY POSITION

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*By Kieran McGovern, Policy Officer Planning*

### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse a new Renewable Energy Facilities Advocacy Position as follows:

*The growth in the number, size, and complexity of renewable energy facilities across Western Australia is expected to continue as energy generation and other traditional industries de-carbonise their facilities and operations. The renewable energy state planning framework requires changes to ensure it is fit for purpose to guide the ongoing development of this sector.*

*WALGA calls on the State Government to:*

1. *Adopt a new State Planning Policy for renewable energy facilities, to replace the existing Position Statement: Renewable energy facilities, that:*
  - a. *Facilitates the orderly development of renewable energy facilities across Western Australia;*
  - b. *Outlines the key planning and environmental considerations, for the location, siting, design and operation of renewable energy facilities and their associated infrastructure;*

- c. *Provides a framework that clearly stipulates the minimum required documentation and technical reports that need to be submitted with proposals for renewable energy facilities;*
  - d. *Supports the development of Local Planning Policies by Local Governments to further guide locally appropriate planning consideration of renewable energy facilities;*
  - e. *Provides a clear relationship with:*
    - i. *State Planning Policy 2.5 - Rural planning and Development Control Policy 3.4 - Subdivision of rural land, to ensure planning decisions adequately balance the need to protect and preserve rural land for rural purposes;*
    - ii. *State Planning Policy 2.4 - Planning for Basic Raw Materials to ensure proposals for renewable energy facilities consider their impact on basic raw material supply at the earliest stage of the planning process; and*
    - iii. *State Planning Policy 2.9 - Planning for Water to ensure water resources impacted by renewable energy facilities are identified and adequately managed.*
  - f. *Includes policy measures to address:*
    - i. *concerns relating to the location of these facilities and their associated infrastructure on agricultural land, their proximity to lot boundaries, town sites and sensitive land uses, and potential impact on airport operations and rural activities;*
    - ii. *planning for renewable energy facilities in industrial areas in relation to the coordination of these facilities, their appropriateness in the 'General Industry' zone and impacts and suitable location on heavy industry sites;*
    - iii. *the need for local engagement and the realisation of community benefits from the development of renewable energy facilities.*
2. *Review the definition of 'renewable energy facility' considering the increasing size and scope of facilities and consider creating definitions based on the scale of the facility (Utility-scale and other), and the form of facility (solar energy and wind energy).*
  3. *Provide guidance to Local Governments on the consideration of green hydrogen production facilities on rural land where it is an incidental use to a renewable energy facility.*

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A 2023 WALGA Annual General Meeting resolution and subsequent resolution by the Great Eastern Country Zone requested *WALGA establish and promote policies to protect and prioritise the preservation of agricultural land against its displacement by non-agricultural activities that lead to a net reduction of the State's productive agricultural land.*

The Central Country Zone resolved to request WALGA to advocate to the State Government *to develop a more comprehensive and effective approach to guide the management and placement of renewable energy facilities; including but not limited to wind, solar, battery renewable diesel and associated infrastructure.*

The existing State Government *Position Statement: Renewable energy facilities* does not adequately address these concerns, leading to inconsistent application and approvals of renewable energy facilities across the State.

WALGA will advocate for the existing *Position Statement: Renewable energy facilities* to be amended and elevated to a State Planning Policy, including more nuanced provisions which provide greater guidance to Local Governments and applicants, and allow for renewable energy land uses to be classified as either small or large facilities.

A joint meeting of the Environment Policy Team and Infrastructure Policy Team on 10 July endorsed the position for consideration by State Council.

This draft advocacy position should be considered in conjunction with accompanying draft WALGA advocacy positions Energy Transition Engagement and Community Benefit Framework (Item 8.2) and Priority Agriculture (Item 8.4).

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## 8.4 PRIORITY AGRICULTURE ADVOCACY POSITION

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*By Kieran McGovern, Policy Officer Planning*

### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse a new Priority Agriculture Advocacy Position as follows:

*The state planning framework should provide sufficient statutory protections for areas identified as high quality agricultural land.*

*WALGA calls on the State Government to:*

- 1. Amend the Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015 to:
  - a. Create a new model zone under Schedule 1, Part 3, Clause 16 for land identified as high quality agricultural land known as the 'Priority Agriculture' zone, with the following objectives:
    - i. to retain priority agricultural land for agricultural purposes; and*
    - ii. limit the introduction of sensitive land uses which may compromise existing, future and potential agricultural production.**
  - b. Define 'Priority Agriculture' zone under Schedule 2, Part 1, Clause 1 to align with the definition provided in State Planning Policy 2.5 - Rural planning.**
- 2. Review the areas which have been identified by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development as high quality agricultural land and expand the extent of mapping to address the whole of Western Australia.*
- 3. Undertake a 'health check' of State Planning Policy 2.5 - Rural planning and Development Control Policy 3.4 - Subdivision of rural land, in consultation with relevant stakeholders.*

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A 2023 WALGA Annual General Meeting resolution and subsequent resolution by the Great Eastern Country Zone have requested *that WALGA establish and promote policies to protect and prioritise the preservation of agricultural land against its displacement by non-agricultural activities that lead to a net reduction of the State's productive agricultural land.*

- WALGA prepared a *Research Paper: Protection of Productive Agricultural Land* that provides policy context, previous WALGA advocacy and analysis of State and Local Government approaches to agricultural land use protections.
- This work identified that a lack of consistency between the sub-regional planning strategies across the different regions of WA has impeded the implementation of best practice planning controls into local planning frameworks, and thus inconsistent application across the State.
- This advocacy position recommends statutory protections of areas that have been identified as high quality agricultural land, through amending the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015* to include a model zone for 'Priority Agriculture'. This will provide the ability for Local Governments to adopt the model zone into their local planning schemes.
- A joint meeting of the Environment Policy Team and Infrastructure Policy Team endorsed the position for consideration by State Council on 10 July 2024.
- This draft advocacy position should be considered in conjunction with accompanying draft WALGA advocacy positions Energy Transition Engagement and Community Benefit Framework (Item 8.2) and Renewable Energy Facilities (Item 8.3).

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## 8.5 PLANNING PRINCIPLES AND REFORM ADVOCACY POSITION

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*By Coralie Claudio, Senior Policy Advisor Planning*

### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council:

1. Retire Advocacy Position 6.2 Planning Reform; and
2. Replace Advocacy Position 6.1 Planning Principles with the following:

#### *6.1 Planning Principles and Reform*

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

- d. be evidence-based and informed by robust, transparent data;*
- e. proceed at an appropriate pace to enable effective implementation;*
- f. be informed by engagement with the community; and*
- g. be amended only with WALGA involvement and/or consultation/involvement with Local Government.*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- It is proposed that the Advocacy Positions 6.1 Planning Principles and 6.2 Planning Reform be replaced with a new contemporary combined position that reflects the current planning system and planning reform agenda.
- The updated position identifies key elements that would create an effective and efficient planning system and how planning reform can be developed, prioritised, and implemented to achieve this.
- The updated position has been informed by feedback from Local Government officers, including WALGA's Planning Advisory Group and previous WALGA submissions on State Government planning reform initiatives.
- The Environment Policy Team endorsed the advocacy position at their meeting on 29 July.

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## 8.6 PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP POLICY STATEMENT AND ADVOCACY POSITION

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

### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council:

1. Rescind the existing Extended Producer Responsibility Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 7.5 Extended Producer Responsibility.
2. Endorse a new Product Stewardship Advocacy Position as follows:
  1. *Industry should take responsibility (physical and/or financial) for the waste that it generates through the entire life cycle of the products it produces through the implementation of effective product stewardship. Without effective Product Stewardship, there will be increasing costs for the community, resource recovery targets will be difficult to reach and a transition to a circular economy is unlikely.*
  2. *Effective Product Stewardship is characterised by:*
    - a. *Producers and importers taking responsibility for post consumption product impacts.*
    - b. *Schemes covering the entire cost of product recycling or recovery, including transport.*
    - c. *Leveraging existing Schemes and collection locations.*
    - d. *Being easy and convenient for the community to access.*

- e. *Having equitable national coverage and access for all, including regional and remote locations.*
- f. *Being evidence based.*
- g. *Consistent regulation and implementation across Australia using national Product Stewardship legislation.*
- h. *Timely action and industry cooperation during Scheme development and implementation.*
- i. *Being demand based and aiming to recover the maximum amount of material, rather than being limited by targets.*
- j. *No additional cost to consumers when the product is disposed of post consumption.*

3. *Local Government calls on the Commonwealth Government to implement effective Product Stewardship schemes for all products that drive environmentally and socially sustainable outcomes through the design, manufacture and distribution of products that can be more easily reused, repaired, recovered or recycled.*

4. *If national action is not progressed within a reasonable timeframe, or in a way that meets the needs of the Western Australian community, then Local Government supports a State based approach to Product Stewardship.*

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Extended Producer Responsibility \(EPR\) Policy Statement](#) was first endorsed in 2004 and reviewed and amended in 2008.
- The Statement outlines the rationale for Local Government support for EPR, as a way of ensuring producers take responsibility for their products at the end of life, and some of the key elements of successful Schemes.
- WALGA's [Local Government Principles for Product Stewardship](#) was endorsed in 2022. The Principles provided more detail on key design elements for Schemes and have been used to inform advocacy.
- Following discussion at the April Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) and Officers Advisory Group meetings it was agreed to review the EPR Policy Statement and incorporate the Local Government Principles into a new Product Stewardship Policy Statement and Advocacy Position.
- The Product Stewardship Policy Statement and Advocacy Position has been updated to:
  - Include a greater focus on the potential for Product Stewardship to influence the design of products, as well as their post consumption disposal.
  - Identifying the increasing cost burden on Local Government and the community of increasing complex products.
  - Focus on ensuring all products have a clear and funded end of life pathway.
- The MWAC endorsed the new Policy Statement and Advocacy Position in June.

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## 8.7 SUBMISSION ON THE DRAFT STATE WASTE STRATEGY

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

## WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse the Draft State Waste Strategy Submission.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Draft State Waste Strategy](#) (Draft Strategy) and [State Waste Infrastructure Plan](#) were released on 29 May. This follows the release of the [Strategy Directions Paper](#) in May 2023. WALGA provided a comprehensive [Submission](#) on the Directions Paper.
- Given the significant impact of the Strategy on Local Government, WALGA was granted an extension to the deadline to allow the draft submission to be considered by WALGA Zones and State Council.
- The focus of the Draft Strategy is:
  - Better outcomes for regional and Aboriginal communities
  - Increasing our focus on waste avoidance
  - Better management of priority materials
  - Realising the economic potential of recycling
  - Contingency planning and climate resilience.
- New Targets are also proposed for each of the Avoid, Recover and Protect areas.
- WALGA's draft submission on the Draft Strategy was informed by Local Government written feedback and feedback received at a webinar held on 19 July.
- This Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) endorsed the draft submission on 31 July 2024.

### RESOLUTION

**Moved:** Cr Clive Barton  
**Seconded:** President Cr Neil Morrell

**That the Zone supports WALGA recommendations for Items 8.3 - 8.7, and Items 8.1 & 8.2 as Resolved above, in the Matters for Decision as contained in the September 2024 State Council Agenda and as listed above.**

**CARRIED**

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## 11.4.2 POLICY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

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### 9.1 ENVIRONMENT POLICY TEAM REPORT

*By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy*

## WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the report from the Environment Policy Team to the 4 September 2024 meeting.

### 9.2

## GOVERNANCE POLICY TEAM REPORT

*By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services*

### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the report from the Governance Policy Team meeting for the 4 September 2024 meeting.

## 9.3 INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY TEAM REPORT

*By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager, Infrastructure*

### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council:

1. Note the report from the Infrastructure Policy Team to the 4 September 2024 meeting.
2. Determine to retire the following Advocacy Positions:
  - a. 5.2.4 Seat Belt Legislation
  - b. 5.8 Ports
  - c. 5.12 Infrastructure WA

## 9.4 PEOPLE AND PLACE POLICY TEAM REPORT

*By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy*

### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council:

1. Note the report from the People and Place Policy Team to the 4 September 2024 meeting.
2. Determine to:
  - a. retain the following Advocacy Positions with amendment:
    - i. 3.2.1 Local Public Health Plans
  - b. rescind the following Advocacy Position:
    - i. 3.5 Crime Prevention



## 9.5 MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL (MWAC) REPORT

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

### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the report from the Municipal Waste Advisory Council to the 4 September 2024 meeting.

### RECOMMENDATION

**Moved: President Cr Katrina Crute**

**Seconded: President Cr Neil Morrell**

**That the Zone:**

- 1. notes all Policy Team and Committee Reports as contained in the September 2024 State Council Agenda; and**
- 2. supports the WALGA recommendations in the Infrastructure and People and Place Policy Team Reports as contained in the September 2024 State Council Agenda and as listed above.**

**CARRIED**

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### 11.4.3 MATTERS FOR NOTING/INFORMATION

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10.1 Local Government Legislative Reform

10.2 Report on Local Government Road Assets and Expenditure 2022/23

### RECOMMENDATION

**Moved: President Cr Len Armstrong**

**Seconded: President Cr Katrina Crute**

**That the Zone notes all Matters for Noting/Information as contained in the September 2024 State Council Agenda.**

**CARRIED**

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### 11.4.4 KEY ACTIVITY REPORTS

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11.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Advocacy Portfolio

11.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure Portfolio

11.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Member Services Portfolio

11.1.4 Report on Key Activities, Policy Portfolio

### RECOMMENDATION

**Moved: Deputy President Karen Harrington**

**Seconded: President Cr Jo Haythornthwaite**

**That the Zone notes all Key Activity Reports as contained in the September 2024 State Council Agenda.**

**CARRIED**

## **12 EMERGING ISSUES**

## **13 NEXT MEETING**

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on 5 November 2024 commencing at 8.00am, via MSTeams.

The next Central Country Zone meeting will be held on 15 November 2024 commencing at 9.30am. This meeting will be hosted by the Shire of Wandering.

## **14 CLOSURE**

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 12.48pm.