



# Northern Country Zone MINUTES

## 23 AUGUST 2021

Hosted by the Shire of Mingenew  
Mingenew Sports Pavilion  
commencing at 10:00am



<b>1.</b>	<b>OPENING, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS</b> .....	<b>3</b>
1.1.1	Opening.....	3
1.1.2	Acknowledgment of Country.....	3
1.1.3	Welcome.....	3
1.1.4	Announcements.....	3
<b>2.</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS</b> .....	<b>5</b>
3.1	Regional Early Education and Development Inc (REED).....	5
3.2	Department of Fire and Emergency Services.....	6
3.3	Main Roads.....	6
<b>4.</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>ADJOURNED BUSINESS</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>MINUTES</b> .....	<b>7</b>
6.1	Confirmation of Minutes.....	7
6.2	Business Arising from Minutes.....	7
6.2.1	Coordinated Corella Control Working Group – Invitation to Attend CWBA Board Meeting.....	7
<b>7.</b>	<b>STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR DECISION</b> .....	<b>9</b>
7.1	(5.1) External Oversight of Local Level Complaints (05-034-01-0001 JM).....	9
7.2	(5.2) Tender Exemption Provisions – General Practitioner Services (05-034-01-0005 TB).....	9
7.3	(5.3) Phase 2 Planning Reform Submission (05-047-02-0015 CH/RP).....	10
<b>8.</b>	<b>STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION</b> .....	<b>11</b>
8.1	(6.1) Stop Puppy Farming Legislation (05-034-01-0001 FM).....	11
8.2	(6.2) Regional Telecommunications Resilience (05-059-03-003 JB).....	11
8.3	(6.3) Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) (01-006-03-0008 RNB).....	12
8.4	(6.4) 2021-22 State Budget Submission (05-001-03-0006 DM).....	12
8.5	(6.5) WALGA Submission: Inquiry into the Delivery of Ambulance Services in Western Australia (05-030-03-0001 BW).....	12
<b>9.</b>	<b>REPORTS</b> .....	<b>13</b>
9.1	Zone Chair/State Councillor’s Report – August 2021.....	13
9.2	WALGA President’s Report.....	13
9.3	Zone Status Report.....	14
9.4	Midwest Mental Health Action Group.....	14
9.5	CA07 Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition Working Group.....	14
9.6	Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Update.....	14
<b>10.</b>	<b>ZONE MATTERS FOR NOTING/DECISION</b> .....	<b>15</b>
10.1	Correspondence.....	15
10.1.1	Correspondence Out.....	15
10.1.2	Correspondence In.....	15
10.2	Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 30 July 2021.....	16
10.3	Audit 2020-2021.....	17
10.4	2021 Local Government Elections – Zone Office Bearer Elections.....	17
10.5	Social Housing Economic Recovery Package Grant Funding.....	18
10.6	Drought Advocacy Update.....	19
10.7	Regional Telecommunications Review.....	21
<b>11.</b>	<b>GENERAL BUSINESS</b> .....	<b>23</b>
11.1	Regional Issues.....	23
11.2	Regional Tourism Initiatives.....	23
11.3	Other General Business.....	23
<b>12.</b>	<b>DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING</b> .....	<b>23</b>
<b>13.</b>	<b>MEETING CLOSURE</b> .....	<b>24</b>

## ATTACHMENTS TO THE AGENDA

- Item 3.1: Introduction to REED
- Item 3.2: DFES Presentation Regional Telecommunications Resilience Improvements
- Item 6.1: Minutes of the Flying Minute Meeting 30 June 2021
- Item 7/8: State Council Agenda 3 September 2021
- Item 9.1: Zone Chair's August 2021 Report
- Item 9.2: WALGA President's Report September 2021 and Addendum to President's Report
- Item 9.3: Zone Status Report August 2021
- Item 9.4: Mid West Mental Health Action Group Meeting Agenda 28 July 2021
- Item 9.6: DLGSC Record of Key Initiatives Webinar 11 August 2021
- Item 10.1.1: Correspondence Out
  - a. Minister Saffioti re MWSGFR Funding Application
- Item 10.1.2: Correspondence In
  - a. DLGSC Local Matters Newsletter
  - b. School Bus Services re Operational Aspects of Service Delivery
  - b. Media Statement School Bus Service Referred to Parliamentary Committee
  - c. Minutes WALGA State Council Meeting July 2021
  - d. Northern Biosecurity Group – Corella Control
  - e. Minister Saffioti re MWSGFR Funding Application
- Item 10.2: Bank Statement 30 July 2021
- Item 10.3: Audit Report and Bank Statement 30 June 2021
- Item 10.7: Regional Telecommunications Review Issues Paper

***Zone Delegates were requested to provide written notice on amendments to recommendations within the State Council agenda ASAP to the Zone Chair and Secretariat, to allow Zone Members time to consider the alternative recommendation. None were received.***

---

## 1. OPENING, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

### **1.1.1 Opening**

The meeting was declared open at 10:03 am.

### **1.1.2 Acknowledgment of Country**

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA acknowledged the Yamatji people, who are the Traditional Custodians of the land on which they met and paid its respects to their Elders past and present.

### **1.1.3 Welcome**

The Chair welcomed members and guests.

### **1.1.4 Announcements**

#### **COVID-19 Information**

At the time of writing, WA has no gathering size limits. Please note that social distancing and good hygiene still apply. People displaying any cold or flu symptoms should not attend the meeting. Please ensure that you sign the attendance register that will be circulated at the meeting.

---

## 2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

---

### **MEMBERS**

**NB: One Voting Delegate from each Member Council**

<b>Shire of Carnamah</b>	Cr Merle Isbister – President Mr Vin Fordham Lamont - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
<b>Shire of Chapman Valley</b>	Cr Anthony Farrell - President Mr Maurice Battilana - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
<b>Shire of Coorow</b>	Ms Mia Maxfield – Chief Executive officer (non-voting)
<b>City of Greater Geraldton</b>	Mr Ross McKim - Chief Executive Officer (Proxy)
<b>Shire of Irwin</b>	Cr Ian West Mr Shane Ivers - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
<b>Shire of Mingenew</b>	Cr Gary Cosgrove - President Mr Nils Hay - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
<b>Shire of Morawa</b>	Cr Karen Chappel - President Mr Scott Wildgoose - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
<b>Shire of Northampton</b>	Cr Craig Simkin - President Mr Grant Middleton – Deputy Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
<b>Shire of Perenjori</b>	Cr Chris King - President Mr Mario Romeo – Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
<b>Shire of Three Springs</b>	Cr Chris Lane - President Cr Chris Connaughton – Deputy President

**EXECUTIVE**

Ms Dianne Daniels – Executive Officer  
Mayor Tracey Roberts – WALGA President (by audio)  
Mr Ian Duncan – WALGA Infrastructure – Executive Manager

**INVITED GUESTS**

Member for Agricultural Region	Hon. Sandra Carr MLC
Mid West Development Commission	Ms Anne Finlay – Acting Chief Executive Officer
Main Roads WA	Ms Janet Hartley-West – Regional Manager Mid West-Gascoyne
Regional Early Education and Development Inc.	Ms Suzanne Woods- Board Member
Department of Fire and Emergency Services	Mr Richard Burnell – Executive Director Corporate Services Mr Brendan Wilson – TC Seroja Recovery Ms Samantha Edwards – Community Recovery Officer

**APOLOGIES**

Shire of Chapman Valley	Cr Kirra Warr - Deputy President
Shire of Coorow	Cr Moira Girando - President Cr Bruce Jack – Deputy President

City of Greater Geraldton	Mayor Shan Van Styn Cr Tarleah Thomas – Deputy Mayor (NCZ Deputy Chair)
Shire of Irwin	Cr Mike Smith - President
Shire of Northampton	Mr Garry Keefe – Chief Executive officer
Shire of Three Springs	Mr Keith Woodward – Chief Executive Officer
WALGA – Roadwise Regional Safety Advisor Mid West	Ms Sam Adams
Member for Geraldton	Ms Lara Dalton MLA
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon. Steve Martin MLC
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon. Colin de Grussa MLC
Member for Moore	Mr Shane Love MLA
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon Darren West MLC
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon Martin Aldridge MLC
Regional Development Midwest Gascoyne	Mr Mark Holdsworth

---

### **3. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

---

#### **3.1 Regional Early Education and Development Inc (REED)**

*Attachment: Introduction to REED*

Ms Lucy King

Board Member

A presentation on the sustainability of Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) services in regional Western Australia - a challenge faced by many services over many years. REED is currently the Approved Provider for 19 services, several of which were previously directly provided by Shires. Services that have merged with REED have consistently identified issues such as lack of knowledge of awards and employer obligations, limited knowledge and experience in dealing with childcare Legislation, Regulations, National Quality Standards and policy development, difficulties in attracting and retaining qualified staff and difficulties in attracting volunteers where services are operated by local management committees.

In response to questions, Ms Woods noted that REED are happy to offer support and expertise to Centres that are trying to get funding for upgrades; and fees may go up if an established Centre merges with REED, but it depends where fees sat initially – Centres run by volunteers usually have a very low fee structure. REED is able to help families maximise government rebates.

### **3.2 Department of Fire and Emergency Services**

*Attachment: Presentation Regional Telecommunications Resilience Improvement*

Mr Richard Burnell

Executive Director Corporate Services

A presentation on Telecommunications Resilience Improvement.

*10:40am Cr West left the meeting and returned at 10:43am*

In answer to questions asked during the presentation, Mr Burnell noted that STAND 2 Round 1 macro cell resilience funding was not informed by Cyclone Seroja, but was based on the Telco's priorities. Telstra would not allow LG's to plug generators into their equipment after the cyclone, but since the forming of the Working Group (WALGA, DFES, DPIRD, Western Power, Horizon Power, NBN, Telstra, TPG and Optus), they are becoming less hard-nosed about it.

Cr King asked if there were different priorities since Cyclone Seroja, such as standalone power systems. Mr Burnell responded that only four of the sites shown on the STAND 2 macro cell resilience Round 1 map (the Map) will get standalone power as the infrastructure needs to be located within 200 metres of the location that requires power. It was designed primarily for use on farms.

Cr Farrell noted that there were only four towers in the Chapman Valley, not thirteen as shown on the Map, none of which were approved for STAND 2 Round 1 funding. They are only getting three hours out of the back-up batteries when power is down.

Ms Carr was concerned that upgrading failing batteries to 12 hour batteries as part of the STAND 2 initiative, would just delay response time.

It is not yet known which sites will be approved for upgrade as part of STAND 2 Round 2.

*The Order of Business was changed to bring in Mayor Tracy Roberts by videolink (ZOOM), to present her report. Mayor Roberts could not get audio on the ZOOM meeting, so she was connected to the meeting by mobile phone. (refer Item 9.2)*

### **3.3 Main Roads**

Ms Janet Hartley-West

Regional Manager Mid West-Gascoyne

A brief on the WA Agricultural Supply Chain Improvements Consultation Panel.

*11:25am Cr Farrell left the meeting and returned at 11:27am*

Chair, Cr Chappel opened by summarising a Teams meeting she and Cr Cosgrove were involved in on Friday 20 August 2021 (*with Mr Richard Farrell - Senior Legal and Policy Advisor, Office of the Director General, Department of Transport; Mr Des Lock – ASCI Working Group (DoT); Mr Maurice Cammack - Director Budget & Investment Planning (Main Roads WA), Minister Price and De-Arne O'Neil from Minister Price's Geraldton electorate office*), which came about after the request to meet with Minister Saffioti re the Mid West Secondary Grain Freight Routes (MWSGFR) funding application.

The following topics were on the agenda:

- History and current status of MWSGFR funding application
- Consideration for Stage 2 ASCI Business Case
- Consideration for ASCI \$200m Package 1 Funding
- Consideration for future ASCI Funding Packages
- Relationship between rail freight investments and road freight investments in Midwest

Cr Cosgrove noted that there is \$180 million left of the ASCI Package 1 Funding and it is likely it will be pushed north and south ie the central wheatbelt will be missed, leaving the Mid West in a positive position, as Albany are still developing their funding application.

*11:34am Cr Lane left the meeting and returned at 11:38am*

CEO Battilana was concerned that the Chapman Valley Road is not designed for road trains but always falls through the funding net. Cr Chappel noted that CBH have farm to port data that would be useful to access.

The Department of Transport have asked for MWSGFR funding application v1 to be forwarded to them, so that they have perspective of the overall need.

---

#### **4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

---

Delegates must declare to the Chairperson 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.

Nil

---

#### **5. ADJOURNED BUSINESS**

---

Nil

---

#### **6. MINUTES**

---

*Attachment: Minutes of the Flying Minute Meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA for 30 June 2021*

##### **6.1 Confirmation of Minutes**

###### **Recommendation:**

That the Minutes of the Flying Minute meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 30 June 2021 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

###### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Isbister

**Seconded:** Cr West

That the Minutes of the Flying Minute meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 30 June 2021 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

**Carried**

##### **6.2 Business Arising from Minutes**

###### **6.2.1 Coordinated Corella Control Working Group – Invitation to Attend CWBA Board Meeting**

*Prepared By: Dianne Daniels, Executive officer*

**Recommendation:**

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the report of Cr Chris Connaughton to the Coordinated Corella Control Working Group, following his attendance at the Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association's 26 July 2021 meeting in Dalwallinu.

**Background:**

At the 30 June 2021 meeting, members endorsed that one or more members of the Coordinated Corella Control Working Group attend the Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association Board meeting on Monday 26 July 2021 in Dalwallinu and report back to NCZ on the meeting.

**Comment:**

Cr Chris Connaughton attended the meeting and reported back to the Working Group. His comments are below:

I went to the Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association meeting in Dalwallinu on Monday (26<sup>th</sup> July) to talk to the group about taking on corella control, putting this on their target list species. Although supportive of our group and recognised a need for corellas to be controlled, they weren't able to commit to dealing with the birds at this stage.

- They would offer any support they could in the way of endorsements
- If funding was to become available for control of the birds they would try and do this as a side-line to their current projects if they were able to.
- Acknowledge that biosecurity groups like theirs will eventually be the avenue to be dealing with this issue

But

- Would not put Corellas as part of their declared pests as they would have to then submit a pest management plan then actively spend \$ and time dealing with the birds and are not in a position to do so
- The group have no experience with dealing with this pest
- The people currently on the ground have no time to be dealing with another pest
- Shooting around town sites is not comfortable with the biosecurity's risk management (trapping and baiting of dogs/pigs/rabbits is never done close to town areas for this reason)
- Funding through rural rates, they see the Corellas as not just a town problem but the majority of damage is in town and so perhaps towns people should be rated to contribute as the rural damage would be minimal in comparison.

My feelings are the members of this group came together to be able to control wild dogs in the area and this seems to be the primary objective of the group. Now they say having to deal with the feral pig/rabbit issue is also a learning curve to them so to add a different dynamic like Corellas to the list is something they aren't prepared for.

Regards,

Chris Connaughton

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Farrell

**Seconded:** CEO McKim

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the report of Cr Chris Connaughton to the Coordinated Corella Control Working Group, following his attendance at the Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association's 26 July 2021 meeting in Dalwallinu.

**Carried**



---

## 7. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR DECISION

---

*Attachment: State Council Agenda 3 September 2021*

**The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 3 September 2021**

**The Matters for Decision in the State Council agenda are numbered 5.1 to 5.3**

**The Recommendation and Brief only have been included. Please refer to the attached PDF version of the State Council Agenda for more detail.**

### **7.1 (5.1) External Oversight of Local Level Complaints (05-034-01-0001 JM)**

*Prepared by: James McGovern, Manager Governance and Procurement*

#### **Recommendation:**

That WALGA advocate for an external oversight model for local level behavioural complaints made under Council Member, Committee Member and Candidate Codes of Conduct, that is closely aligned to the Victorian Councillor Complaints Framework.

#### **Executive Summary:**

- The *Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021* were Gazetted on 3 February, with a requirement that all Local Governments adopt Code of Conduct based on the Model within three months;
- Division 3 of the Model Code introduced new provisions for behavioural complaints to be made and managed at the local level, with the Model Code requiring Local Government to deal with complaints and arrive at findings;
- The Local Government sector has expressed concern that the new system of local level complaints will give rise to actual or perceived conflicts of interest, particularly where Councillors who are the complainant or respondent are involved in dealing with the complaint.
- WALGA's Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team considered this matter on 6 July, resolving:

*That the Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team SUPPORT the preparation of an agenda item to the next State Council meeting in September 2021, summarising the external oversight models in other jurisdictions and make recommendation for the adoption of a model closely aligned to the Victorian Councillor Complaints Framework.*

#### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Farrell

**Seconded:** Cr King

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 5.1.

**Carried**

### **7.2 (5.2) Tender Exemption Provisions – General Practitioner Services (05-034-01-0005 TB)**

*Prepared by: Tony Brown, Executive Manager, Governance and Organisational Services*

#### **Recommendation:**

That WALGA:

1. Adopt a new Advocacy Position Statement under 'Local Government Legislation - Tender Exemption General Practitioner Services':

WALGA advocates for the inclusion of a tender exemption for General Practitioner (GP) services under Part 4, Division 2 of the Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996, to support Local Governments to secure and retain necessary primary health care services for their communities; and

2. Undertake additional research in support of the Advocacy Position with the following aims:
  - a. Identify State and Federal Government policy settings and other factors contributing to gaps in primary health care services in regional communities; and
  - b. Quantify the number of regional Local Governments that have current contracts, or are proposing to enter into contracts, for General Practitioner services and the associated costs to Local Government incurred.

**Executive Summary:**

- Local Governments advise that:
  - There is a limited pool of General Practitioners (GPs) willing to relocate to regional areas, let alone remain long term as a part of the community;
  - Communities place high value on local GP services and therefore, value Local Government exercising general competence powers to attract and retain GP services;
  - GP services are acquired by either directly engaging a GP as an employee of the Local Government, or by tendering for services;
  - Community expectations are inconsistent with Local Government tender obligations where a community expects the Local Government to retain a well-regarded GP that is willing to continue in the role, but compliance requires Local Government to re-market GP services initially acquired by a tender process with potential risk that the current service provider may not engage in the new tender process.
- WALGA advocacy for a 'size and scale' regional tender exemption for GP services will support regional Local Governments and their communities to secure necessary primary health care.
- Further research is proposed to support WALGA's proposed advocacy.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr King

**Seconded:** Cr West

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 5.2.

**Carried**

**7.3 (5.3) Phase 2 Planning Reform Submission (05-047-02-0015 CH/RP)**

*Prepared by: Chris Hossen, Policy Manager, Planning and Building & Ruby Pettit, Policy Officer Planning*

**Recommendation:**

That the submission to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage on Phase 2 Planning Reform be endorsed.

**Executive Summary:**

- Phase 2 of the *Action Plan for Planning Reform* has been released for comment by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH). Phase 2 builds upon the reforms initiated through the Independent Planning Reform Team's Green Paper (2018) and the State Government's Action Plan for Planning Reform.
- Phase 2 proposes 28 reform initiatives under three overarching goals, while also requesting community and stakeholders submit their own ideas for additional reforms of the planning system.
- WALGA's submission provides a response to all relevant reform initiatives as well as detailed commentary on suggested further areas for reform. Broadly the Association's suggested reforms aim to enhance liveability and sustainability, as well as improve efficiency and role definition within the planning system.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Simkin

**Seconded:** Cr Cosgrove

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 5.3.

**Carried**

---

**8. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION**

---

*Attachment: State Council Agenda 3 September 2021*

***The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 3 September 2021.***

***The Matters for Noting/Information in the State Council agenda are numbered 6.1 to 6.5.***

***The Recommendation and Brief only have been included. Please refer to the attached PDF version of the State Council Agenda for more detail.***

**8.1 (6.1) Stop Puppy Farming Legislation (05-034-01-0001 FM)**

*Prepared by: Felicity Morris, Governance Specialist*

**Recommendation:**

That the update on the Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill 2021 be noted.

**Executive Summary:**

- State Council adopted a detailed position in relation to the Stop Puppy Farming Initiative, and subsequently sought the withdrawal of the Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill 2020 (the 2020 Bill).
- The Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill 2021 (the 2021 Bill) was introduced on 2 June 2021. The 2021 Bill is substantially similar to the 2020 Bill but provides an exemption from sterilisation for livestock working dogs.
- There may be an opportunity to engage with DLGSC on remaining issues of significance to the sector, primarily cost recovery through fees and charges.

It was noted that the Bill passed through the Lower House after the agenda was issued and included exemptions for working dogs and cost recovery for LGs.

**8.2 (6.2) Regional Telecommunications Resilience (05-059-03-003 JB)**

*Prepared by: Joanne Burges, Senior Advisor, Intergovernmental Relations & Risk*

**Recommendation:**

That the update on Regional Telecommunications Resilience be noted.

**Executive Summary:**

- At the National level, WALGA continues to access the knowledge and influence of key parliamentarians to ensure all Western Australians can access equitable, affordable and reliable telecommunication that is appropriate for emergencies.
- The Association is contributing to a Working Group established at the request of the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner, consisting of the State Government agencies of the Departments of Fire and

Emergency Services (DFES), Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and Power and Telecommunication providers seeking a collaborative approach to telecommunication resilience.

- Regional Telecommunications Review Issues Paper released 16 July 2021 with the Committee accepting submissions until 30 September 2021.
- Each WALGA Zone requested to consider the Regional Telecommunications Review as part of the Agenda for their August round of meetings.

### **8.3 (6.3) Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) (01-006-03-0008 RNB)**

*Prepared by: Rebecca Brown, (Manager, Waste & Recycling)*

#### **Recommendation:**

That State Council note the resolutions of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council at its 30 June meeting.

#### **Executive Summary**

- This item summaries the outcomes of the MWAC meeting held on 30 June 2021.

### **8.4 (6.4) 2021-22 State Budget Submission (05-001-03-0006 DM)**

*Prepared by: Dana Mason, Principal – Economics and Strategic Projects*

#### **Recommendation:**

That the Immediate Priorities for State Government policy platform, which was endorsed via Flying Minute, be noted.

#### **Executive Summary:**

- Each year, WALGA prepares a submission to the State Government outlining the sector's priorities for the upcoming budget.
- The proposed approach to the 2021-22 Submission and priorities were endorsed by State Council in May via Flying Minute (Resolution 201.FM/2021).
- Since then, WALGA has received further information from the State Government about its focus for the budget and timeframes for the 2022-23 State Budget. As a result of this new information, WALGA has adjusted its approach to the State Budget Submission to ensure the initiatives have the best chance for success.
- While there has been no fundamental change to the priority initiatives, the context has been reframed. Instead of focusing just on the 2021-22 Budget, the document has shifted to a more strategic policy platform identifying the immediate spending priorities for the McGowan Government in its second term. It is intended that this submission would cover the next two budget periods, 2021-22 and 2022-23.
- The final submission was endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute (Resolution 205.FM/2021).

### **8.5 (6.5) WALGA Submission: Inquiry into the Delivery of Ambulance Services in Western Australia (05-030-03-0001 BW)**

*Prepared by: Bec Waddington, Policy Officer, Resilient Communities*

#### **Recommendation:**

That the submission to the Standing Committee on Public Administration on the Inquiry into the Delivery of Ambulance Services in Western Australia, which was endorsed via Flying Minute, be noted.

#### **Executive Summary:**

- The Standing Committee on Public Administration commenced an inquiry into the delivery of ambulance services in Western Australia on 23 June with submissions due by 23 July.
- Given the short time frame WALGA emailed all CEOs directly and put an article in LG News encouraging submissions and that WALGA would also make a submission if there was sufficient sector interest.

- Three regional Local Governments provided feedback to WALGA that expressed support for the current volunteer based ambulance system in regional Western Australia and highlighted the potential risk to service levels if it is taken over by the State Government.
- The submission was endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute (Resolution 206.FM/2021).

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Cosgrove

**Seconded:** Cr Isbister

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes State Council Agenda Items 6.1 to 6.5.

**Carried**

---

**9. REPORTS**

---

**9.1 Zone Chair/State Councillor's Report – August 2021**

*Attachment: Zone Chair's August 2021 Report*

The August 2021 Report from the Chair was circulated prior to the meeting.

Cr Chappel brought it to the attention of members that RRG funds were underspent by \$23 million and Local Government needed to address this, or they would lose funding.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr West

**Seconded:** Cr Farrell

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the report from the Chair/State Councillor for August 2021.

**Carried**

*NB: The Order of Business was changed and Item 9.2 WALGA President's Report, was delivered at 11:10am, after Item 3.2, but considered in agenda order.*

**9.2 WALGA President's Report**

*Attachment: WALGA President's Report September 2021  
Addendum to President's Report*

WALGA President, Mayor Tracey Roberts, delivered her report via mobile phone. She thanked members for hosting the visits after Cyclone Seroja.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Isbister

**Seconded:** Cr Lane

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the WALGA President's Report and Addendum for September 2021.

**Carried**

### **9.3 Zone Status Report**

*Attachment: Northern Country Zone Status Report August 2021*

A Status Report outlining the actions taken on the Zone's resolutions is attached.

#### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Isbister

**Seconded:** Cr Cosgrove

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the August 2021 Status Report outlining actions taken on the Zone's resolutions.

**Carried**

### **9.4 Midwest Mental Health Action Group**

*Attachment: Midwest Mental Health Action Group Meeting Agenda 28 July 2021*

The Northern Country Zone's Standing Invitee to the Midwest Mental Health Action Group is Merle Isbister.

The inaugural meeting of the Midwest Mental Health Action Group was held on 28 July 2021 which Cr Isbister was unable to attend. The meeting agenda is attached but minutes are yet to be circulated. Cr Isbister had a free day to attend their next meeting on 25 August 2021, but it has been deferred.

#### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Lane

**Seconded:** Cr King

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the August Report from Cr Isbister, the Standing Invitee to the Midwest Mental Health Action Group.

**Carried**

### **9.5 CA07 Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition Working Group**

The Northern Country Zone's representative on the CA07 Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition Working Group is Gary Cosgrove.

There is nil to report and as there is nothing planned in the foreseeable future, the item will be removed from the Agenda.

#### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Cosgrove

**Seconded:** CEO McKim

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the status of the Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition Working Group.

**Carried**

### **9.6 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Update**

*Attachment: Record of Key Initiatives Webinar 11 August 2021*

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries held a Webinar at 3:30pm Wednesday 11 August and intends to hold one prior to each round of Zone meetings to update members on key initiatives. A record of that Webinar is attached.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Farrell

**Seconded:** Cr Isbister

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the Update from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

**Carried**

---

## **10. ZONE MATTERS FOR NOTING/DECISION**

---

### **10.1 Correspondence**

#### **10.1.1 Correspondence Out**

##### **10.1.1 (a) 29/07/2021 Hon Rita Saffioti MLA**

*Attachment: Letter to Minister Saffioti*

Meeting request re the Mid West Secondary Grain Freight Routes funding application.

#### **10.1.2 Correspondence In**

##### **10.1.2 (a) 21/06/2 DLGSC**

*Attachment: Email from DLGSC with link to Local Matters Newsletter (Forwarded to members 25/06/2021)*

##### **10.1.2 (b) 24/06/2021 School Bus Services**

*Attachment: Letter from Mr John Bailly, Manager School Bus Services  
Media Statement – School Bus Services Referred to Parliamentary Committee*

A letter summarising the 30 March 2021 meeting between Mr John Bailly, Mr Martin White, Cr Chappel and Cr King.

Cr Chappel drew members's attention to a media statement from Minister Saffioti's Office, issued since the agenda was distributed, stating that Regional School Bus Services had been referred to Parliamentary Committee – this is the first review since 1998-99.

##### **10.1.2 (c) 12/07/2021 WALGA**

*Attachment: Email from WALGA with link to State Council Minutes July 2021 (Forwarded to members 13/07/2021)*

##### **10.1.2 (d) 25/07/2021 Northern Biosecurity Group**

*Attachment: Letter from Marieke Jansen, Executive Officer NBG*

A letter summarising NBG position on corella control after Cr King attended their March 2021 Board meeting.

**10.1.2.(e) 06/08/2021 Hon. Rita Saffioti MLA**

*Attachment: Email from Minister Saffioti's Office (Forwarded to Cr Chappel and Cr Cosgrove 7/08/2021)*

Response from Minister Saffioti's Office to the request to meet with NCZ representatives re the MWSGF Routes funding application.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**  
**Moved:** Cr Isbister **Seconded:** Cr West

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes Correspondence Out at Item 10.1.1 (a) and receives Correspondence In at Items 10.1.2 (a) through to 10.1.2 (e).

**Carried**

**10.2 Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 30 July 2021**

*Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer*  
*Attachments: Bank Statement July 2021*

**Recommendation:**

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 30 July 2021.

**Comments:**

The Detailed Income Statement shown below represents the cash position of NCZ at 30 July 2021, as reconciled to the Bank Statement.

<b>NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA</b>				
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT				
<i>For the period ending</i>				
<i>30-Jul-21</i>				
	<i>Date</i>	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Description</i>
Statement Balance B/F	01-07-20		16,104.12	
Deposits			3,000.00	2021-22 Membership Subscriptions x 3 Interest received
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>			<b>3,000.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</b>			<b>19,104.12</b>	
Payments Made	29-07-21		-2,600.00	Internet Tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 212201 - EO Services 29/04/2021-30/06/2021
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS MADE</b>			<b>-2,600.00</b>	
<b>Closing Cash Balance</b>	<b>30-07-21</b>		<b>16,504.12</b>	
<b>NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA</b>				
BANK RECONCILIATION SUMMARY				
<i>For the period ending</i>				
<i>30-Jul-21</i>				
Statement Balance B/F	01-07-21		16,104.12	
Deposits and Credits			3,000.00	
Cheques and Payments			-2,600.00	
<b>Total Cleared Transactions</b>	<b>30-07-21</b>		<b>16,504.12</b>	
Add back o/s			0.00	
<b>Reconciled Balance</b>			<b>16,504.12</b>	
<b>Bank Statement</b>	<b>30-07-21</b>		<b>16,504.12</b>	
<b>Difference I&amp;E to Bank Statement</b>			<b>0.00</b>	



**Northern Country Zone Resolution:****Moved:** Cr Simkin**Seconded:** Cr Isbister

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 30 July 2021.

**Carried****10.3 Audit 2020-2021**

*Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer*

*Attachments: Audit Report 2020 – 2021*

*30 June 2021 Bank Statement*

**Recommendation:**

That the 2020-2021 Audit Report for the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be received.

**Comments:**

As has happened historically, the 2020-2021 financial accounts for the Northern Country Zone of WALGA have been audited by Mr Dwayne Woollorton of North Midlands Accounting Services.

In the opinion of the Auditor, the accounts present fairly the financial position of the NCZ for the financial year ending 30 June 2021. There were no qualifications.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:****Moved:** Cr King**Seconded:** Cr West

That the 2020-2021 Audit Report for the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be received.

**Carried (9/0)****10.4 2021 Local Government Elections – Zone Office Bearer Elections**

*Prepared by: Chantelle O'Brien, Zone Executive Officer*

**Recommendation:**

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the process for election of Zone Representative and Deputy Representative to the WALGA State Council.

**Background:**

With the bi-annual Local Government elections being held Saturday, 16 October 2021, Zones will also be required to hold an election process for State Council representatives.

A chronological overview of the process is detailed below:

- Local Government elections occur on Saturday, 16 October 2021.
- Member Councils to elect/appoint their Zone Delegates and to advise the Zone Executive Officer, as soon as possible but preferably by 5 November 2021 – so appointments will need to be made at the October 2021 Ordinary Council meeting, or a Special Council meeting, following the 16 October 2021 LG elections.
- For the purpose of electing their representatives and deputy representatives to the WALGA State Council, the zones are required to hold these elections at their November 2021 meeting.
- Zones to advise WALGA, in writing, of their elected State Council representative and deputy representative immediately following the 2021 November Zone meeting.

- State Councillor Induction Session – morning of **1 December 2021**.
- New State Council will take office at the Ordinary Meeting of State Council on **1 December 2021**.
- The position of President and Deputy President of WALGA, will be elected at the March 2022 State Council Meeting.

If in relation to the nominations and election process to be followed by each Zone in electing a representative and deputy representative to the WALGA State Council, the below process has been instituted by State Council:

1. *Zone Executive Officer to write to all Member Councils no later than 1 month prior to the Zone meeting at which the election is to be held calling for nominations from delegates to the Zone for the positions of representative and deputy representative to State Council. The correspondence is to state that all nominations are to be made in writing to the Zone Executive Officer, and only Elected Members who are a nominated Zone delegates are eligible to nominate. The time period for the receipt of nominations is to be **one week prior** to the Zone meeting at which the election will be held.*
2. *Zone Executive Officer to receive written nominations from Zone delegates for the positions of representative and deputy representative to State Council and then provide written confirmation to Member Councils of the nominations received.*
3. *Elections are to be held at the next Zone meeting as the first item of business. Where there is more than one nomination for each vacant position, an election will be conducted using a secret ballot, with the Zone Executive Officer to represent WALGA as the returning officer for the election. Prior to the ballot, nominees for each position are to be extended the opportunity to provide a 2 minute election bid to delegates.*
4. *All voting delegates to the Zone are entitled to cast one (1) vote in the ballot process. The candidate with the greater or greatest number of votes is elected to the office.*
5. **Tied vote** – *in the event of a tied vote, election will be determined by drawing names from a box. The Secretariat will put the names of the candidates concerned in a box and the first name drawn is the Elected Member.*
6. *Zone Executive Officer to advise WALGA in writing immediately following the Zone meeting of the outcome of their elections.*

If you have any questions or require further information in relation to the above mentioned process, please contact Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services on 9213 2051 or email [tbrown@walga.asn.au](mailto:tbrown@walga.asn.au).

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr King

**Seconded:** CEO McKIm

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the process for election of Zone Representative and Deputy Representative to the WALGA State Council.

**Carried**

**10.5 Social Housing Economic Recovery Package Grant Funding**

*Prepared by: Kelly McManus, Principal Policy and Advocacy WALGA*

**Recommendation:**

**That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes:**

- Local Governments are eligible for grants to support the construction, refurbishment and maintenance of community housing properties as part of the State Government’s Social Housing Economic Recovery Package (SHERP) Program.
- The next round of SHERP grants open on Monday 1 September 2021.
- The Department of Communities will provide further formation on the SHERP grants at a WALGA webinar to be held at 1:30pm on Monday 1 September.

**Background:**

The \$319 million [Social Housing Economic Recovery Package \(SHERP\)](#) is part of the State Government's COVID-19 Recovery Plan announced in June 2021.

The Program aims to provide safe and secure housing outcomes for vulnerable Western Australians by supporting the construction of new community housing properties and the refurbishment of existing properties to extend their useful life or increase their capacity. Grants are also available to fund maintenance works within remote Aboriginal communities.

Local Governments are eligible to apply for SHERP grants and partner with existing social housing providers and community groups within their communities.

The next round of SHERP funding opens on Monday 1 September 2021.

**Comment:**

Further information on the eligibility requirements and application process for the SHERP grants will be provided by the Department of Communities at a webinar to be hosted by WALGA on **Monday 1 September** from 1.30pm – 2.30pm.

Local Government officers wishing to attend can register for the Webinar [here](#) or through the [WALGA events page](#).

The Livestream presentation from the 11<sup>th</sup> August is available to view on the Department of Communities website and provides valuable information about the grant process.

In preparation for the session, we encourage local governments to:

Visit the Department of Communities website on the 1<sup>st</sup> September to familiarise yourself with the grant guidelines, application process and frequently asked questions.

Submit any questions you have in advance through the registration form. There will also be the opportunity to ask additional questions on the day.

Further information on the SHERP program is available on the [Department of Communities website](#) or by contacting Kelly McManus, Principal Policy and Advocacy, WALGA on 0429 483 273 or [kmcmanus@walga.asn.au](mailto:kmcmanus@walga.asn.au).

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:****Moved:** Cr King**Seconded:** Cr Lane

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes:

- Local Governments are eligible for grants to support the construction, refurbishment and maintenance of community housing properties as part of the State Government's Social Housing Economic Recovery Package (SHERP) Program.
- The next round of SHERP grants open on Monday 1 September 2021.
- The Department of Communities will provide further formation on the SHERP grants at a WALGA webinar to be held at 1:30pm on Monday 1 September.

**Carried****10.6 Drought Advocacy Update**

*Prepared by: Nicole Mathews, Acting Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning*

The following is an update on drought and WALGA's advocacy;

WALGA has made representations on this issue including to the Hon David Littleproud MP, Minister for Agriculture, and Northern Australia; the Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC, Minister for Regional Development and Food, Hydrogen Industry; and WA Federal Government members, including meetings between the WALGA Deputy President and Senators Dean Smith and Slade Brockman. WALGA has also met with Minister MacTiernan's Chief of Staff and WA Government officials.

Correspondence from Minister Littleproud received in October 2020 indicated that details of the Commonwealth's Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program were still being worked through with the WA Government, which was yet to commit to co-funding the program. WALGA subsequently sought an assurance that Minister MacTiernan remained committed to 'working with the Minister for Water to ensure WA local government optimally benefit from the Future Drought Fund'.

On 4 July 2021 it was announced that the WA Government had secured \$1.33 million of the \$9.85 million available under the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program for 2021-22 to undertake planning for the Northern Midwest, Southern Wheatbelt and Great Southern Inland regions. This work will be led by Regional Development Commissions working with Local Governments and is due for completion by 30 June 2022. The WA Government has not provided a cash contribution towards this program.

On 3 February 2021 the WA Government announced a \$7.3 million infrastructure plan to upgrade and refurbish 70 community dams in the State's Wheatbelt and Great Southern regions with half to be funded from the National Water Grid Fund, however the State's application for funding was unsuccessful.

The WA Government has also made a request for funding as part of the National Water Grid Connections funding round, which will provide \$20 million for each state and territory to deliver projects with a Commonwealth contribution of up to \$5 million per project. A decision on this funding is expected by end August.

On 15 April 2021, the Commonwealth announced that an additional \$2.8 million would be provided to pay rebates for eligible water infrastructure installed on-farm to all WA farmers who submitted their application prior to 20 January 2021.

In addition, WALGA was advised on 11 August 2021 that the State Government has been successful in securing National Water Grid Connections funding for 9 projects (spanning Water Corporation, DPIRD and DWER):

- Cave Springs Road Tail Water Return System  
Two water recycling systems will be constructed in the Ord River Irrigation Area resulting in 2400 megalitres per annum of water savings.
- Agricultural Area Dams and Strategic Community Water Supplies  
Infrastructure facilities will be constructed including pipework, tanks, solar pumps and standpipes at 70 dam sites. This will increase resilience and water security in farming communities in the region.
- Katanning to Kojonup Pipeline Enhancement  
A number of sections of the existing pipeline between Katanning and Kojonup will be replaced, increasing water reliability and supply to all farmland customers.
- Jerramungup Dam Catchment Improvement  
Degraded bitumen will be replaced with plastic liner enabling increased runoff and water storage, and improving reliability to almost 100 per cent of water users in the Jerramungup catchment.
- Gascoyne Irrigation Scheme Augmentation and Modernisation  
Essential infrastructure in the Gascoyne region will be upgraded, including additional production bores and modernisation of irrigation systems. This will increase horticultural production capability in the region.
- Community Water Supplies Partnership Program with Local Government  
Up to 40 new and improved non-potable water supplies will be developed in priority areas for farming communities to access.
- Ravensthorpe Dam Catchment Extension

The catchment area of the Ravensthorpe dam will be increased by 5 hectares, increasing the volume of water in the dam by approximately 7 megalitres per annum.

- Cranbrook Dam Catchment Improvement  
Degraded bitumen will be replaced in Cranbrook Dam 1 catchment, increasing the volume of water in the dam by 15 megalitres per annum, for agricultural and primary industry use.
- Wongutha Independent Water Security Pilot  
A small-scale, solar powered water reverse osmosis desalination system pilot will be installed, producing an additional 7.3 megalitres per annum of fresh water.

Total funding for these projects is \$43.8 million, \$23.8 million State Government and other partners, \$20 million Commonwealth.

In addition with assistance from ALGA, WALGA has secured a seat on the Commonwealth Agriculture Minister's Meeting Working Group on Drought which has representatives from the Commonwealth, all State/Territory Jurisdictions, National Farmers Federation and ALGA.

Finally, on the Drought Resilience Planning Program, given Minister MacTiernan's decision to direct this funding to Regional Development Commissions rather than Local Governments, I've had initial discussions with DPIRD regarding the need for Local Governments to be involved in the process. I understand that DPIRD was meeting with the Regional Development Commissions last week and I expect to have further information in the next week or so.

Councillor Farrell spoke against the item, suggesting that most of the funds would be spent on consultants, with nothing achieved.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Isbister

**Seconded:** Cr Lane

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes WALGA's drought advocacy update.

**Carried**

**10.7 Regional Telecommunications Review**

*Prepared by: Jo Burges, Senior Advisor Intergovernmental Relations and Risk, WALGA*

*Attachment: Regional Telecommunications Review 2021 Issues Paper*

**Recommendation:**

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA

1. Note the Regional Telecommunication Review 2021; and
2. Provides the following input to the WALGA submission:

**Background:**

A Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee (the Committee) is established every three years under Part 9B of the *Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Act 1999* to conduct a review into telecommunications services in regional, rural and remote parts of Australia.

The Committee for the 2021 Regional Telecommunications Review (the Review) was appointed on 1 June 2021.

The 2021 Committee is comprised of the Hon Luke Hartsuyker (Chair); Ms Kristy Sparrow; Professor Hugh Bradlow; Mr Michael Cosgrave; and Ms Sue Middleton.

The Committee is also conducting consultation sessions and as the dates for these are announced via their website Local Governments within the area being consulted are being advised via email of the upcoming process and encouraged to participate.

As part of the Review, the Committee will consider:

- the impact of Government policies and programs to improve regional connectivity and digital inclusion;
- insights from COVID-19 on the changing digital needs of regional, rural and remote areas;
- service reliability issues which impact regional communities and options for mitigating them;
- the role of emerging technologies in delivering telecommunications services in regional Australia;
- ways of encouraging further investment in regional telecommunications;
- the role of telecommunications in supporting broader regional development goals;
- ways to improve co-ordination between government and industry in telecommunications investment; and
- consumer awareness and education regarding telecommunications options in regional areas.

The full Terms of Reference for the Review are at Appendix B of the Issues Paper.

The Consultation Period runs from 6 July, 2021 09:00 to September 30, 2021 with WALGA receiving submissions until COB Thursday 16 September 2021.

### **WALGA Engagement Process**

Local Governments were advised in mid-July, via Councillor Direct, of the appointment of the Committee and the release of the Issues Paper, and that WALGA would be developing a sector wide submission.

WALGA, in developing a submission to this important review is seeking the views of members to address the wide range of telecommunications issues outlined by the Committee in the Regional Telecommunications Review 2021 – Issues Paper (the Issues Paper)

<https://www.communications.gov.au/>

Local Governments have been requested to provide their submissions or information to inform the sector wide submission to the Association to ensure all matters are addressed.

This agenda item provides a Zone level opportunity to provide feedback to the WALGA submission to assist in ensuring all Local Governments have had a chance for input.

### **Comment:**

Zones are requested, however not limited to, consider the items outlined at the dot points and /or the individual questions outlined at the end of each section or at Appendix A of the Issues Paper or provide input on any related matter for inclusion in the submission.

By way of example the WALGA Submission will include, in part, commentary on Question 12 that asks:

*'How can different levels of Government, the telecommunications industry and regional communities better co-ordinate their efforts to improve telecommunications in regional Australia?'*

The Association response will include an example of the Regional Telecommunications Resilience Working Group established in May comprising key planning/technical staff from Telstra, Optus, Western Power, Horizon Power, WALGA, DFES and DPIRD. This working group will share data more openly to allow robust and coordinated planning which results in better overall service delivery and value for money for all concerned. The working group began its work in June 2021 and have scheduled monthly meetings that increase as Funding programs or issues emerge.

WALGA advocates on specific issues identified by its members at the Working Group, in particular to explore opportunities for sustainable solutions e.g. Stand Alone Power provision, utilising a combination of solar, batteries and generators.

The Association is keen to provide a comprehensive submission on this important matter and welcomes Zone input.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Cosgrove

**Seconded:** Cr King

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the Regional Telecommunication Review 2021.

**Carried**

---

## **11. GENERAL BUSINESS**

---

As per Item 35 of the Zone Standing Orders, a Delegate may under General Business introduce a motion relating to any item of interest to Local Government, but not otherwise.

### **11.1 Regional Issues**

**Background:**

As per the resolution at Item 9.1 of the February 2018 minutes, Regional Issues were open for discussion.

Nil

### **11.2 Regional Tourism Initiatives**

**Background:**

As per the resolution at Item 10.1 of the April 2019 minutes, Regional Tourism Initiatives were open for discussion.

Nil

### **11.3 Other General Business**

Cr Chappel informed members that Minister MacTiernan's Office had contacted her to find out if any Local Governments in the Zone had staff they would like to release to work on harvest. The consensus was, that LG's would still need their staff, as roads needed maintenance during harvest because they were heavily used. Cr King suggested that prisoners could be used on day release, but supervision could be a problem.

There was a discussion regarding the Census and grave concerns that the results would be swayed by poor participation.

Ms Anne Finlay, the Hon Sandra Carr MLC, Mr Brendan Wilson and Mr Ian Duncan updated members in their respective areas of expertise.

Cr Simkin, President of Northampton Shire and Cr West, Irwin Shire informed members that they were not re-nominating for their respective Councils at the October 2021 elections and therefore this would be their last meeting. Cr Chappel thanked them for their service and wished them both well.

---

## **12. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

---

**Recommendation:**

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be held on Monday 22 November, commencing at 10 am, at Mingenew Sports Pavilion.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Lane

**Seconded:** Cr Isbister

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be held on Monday 22 November, commencing at 10:00 am, at Mingenew Sports Pavilion.

**Carried**

---

**13. MEETING CLOSURE**

---

Meeting declared closed at 12:20pm