

Northern Country Zone

Minutes

24 JUNE 2019



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Zone Delegates are 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 vote on the alternative recommendation.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE AGENDA

- Item 5: Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held 29 April 2019 (Flying Minute)
- Item 8.1: Bank Statement
- Item 9.1: DLGSC Update – National Redress
- Item 10: State Council Agenda
- Item 13.1: WALGA President’s Report to the Zone July 2019
- Item 13.2: Zone Status Report

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

The Chair declared the meeting open at 10:05 am, introduced Guests and noted Apologies.

Nick Sloane, the CEO of WALGA was invited to introduce himself - his comments are summarised below.

Mr Sloan introduced himself and mentioned that Mark Batty, Executive Manager Environment & Waste at WALGA had also attended the meeting with him.

He has been in the CEO role at WALGA for two months, coming from a background in State Government. The last four and a half years were spent with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries which saw him spend a great deal of time in regional WA and made him aware of the important role of Local Government in the regions. There has been significant pressure on State Public Service to find efficiencies which in turn has put pressure on Local Government to provide services previously provided by the State. The Local Government sector is currently facing significant disruptive pressures which makes it important to reflect why we have WALGA – to empower and embolden the elected member group.

WALGA is currently reviewing its governance structure. There is a perception that WALGA is a bureaucracy but it’s important that it is shown that there is a well-considered democratic process behind decisions made – every member has a say and issues are then considered by State Council. However, there is a need to look at the decision-making process to ensure that WALGA is as nimble as possible. Over the next year, WALGA will be consulting with members on how well WALGA represents them and how effective it is at providing support to the sector.

In closing, Mr Sloan noted that there is currently legislative reform at State level and it’s important that the Local Government Sector is strongly engaged in the process. Local Government tends to be passive when State Government is going through reform, but it will be at Local Government’s peril if it is passive at the moment – it needs to be strong and vocal.

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

MEMBERS

Shire of Carnamah Cr Merle Isbister

Shire of Chapman Valley Mr Maurice Battilana, Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate

Shire of Coorow Cr Moira Girando
Mr Peter Crispin, Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate

City of Greater Geraldton Cr Tarleah Thomas
Mr Ross McKim, Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate

Shire of Irwin Cr Ian West
Mr Shane Ivers, Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate

Shire of Mingenew Cr Helen Newton
Mr Nils Hay, Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate
Cr Robert Newton

Shire of Morawa Cr Karen Chappel (Chair)
Mr Chris Linnell, Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate

Shire of Northampton Cr Craig Simkin
Mr Garry Keeffe, Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate

Shire of Perenjori Cr Laurie Butler

Shire of Three Springs Cr Chris Lane
Sylvia Yandle, Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate

GUESTS

Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage Vaughan Davies - Assistant Director General, Heritage Services
Ben Harvey - Executive Director, Heritage Services
Callum Crofton - Manager Heritage Support Services

WA Country Health Service Midwest Jamie Robson - Manager Midwest Mental Health Service
Di Franklin - Acting Operations Manager, Midwest and Murchison

CBH Group Rob Dickie - Government and Industry Relations Advisor
Duncan Gray - Geraldton Zone Manager

Member for Moore Mr Shane Love MLA

Member for Agricultural Region Hon. Laurie Graham MLC

Department of Sport, Local Government and Cultural Industries Richard Malacari - Regional Manager Midwest Gascoyne

Mid West Development Commission Mr Gavin Treasure - Chief Executive Officer

Regional Development Midwest Gascoyne Mark Holdsworth - Director of Regional Development/Executive Officer
Yvonne Messina - Chair

WALGA	Nick Sloan	- Chief Executive Officer
	Mark Batty	- Executive Manager, Environment & Waste
	Sam Adams	- Safety Advisor, Roadwise

APOLOGIES

City of Greater Geraldton	Mayor Shane Van Styn
Shire of Chapman Valley	Cr Kirra Warr Cr Anthony Farrell
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon. Darren West MLC
Shire of Carnamah	Sean Fletcher, Acting Chief Executive officer
Member for Geraldton	Ian Blayney

3. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage

Vaughan Davies	- Assistant Director General, Heritage Services
Ben Harvey	- Executive Director, Heritage Services
Callum Crofton	- Manager Heritage Support Services

Mr Crofton gave a presentation on the Heritage Act 2018 including an overview covering elements of the Heritage Act 2018 as well as key provisions that remain from the current Act. This took into account areas that particularly affect, or are relevant to, local government.

A FAQ sheet was circulated and business cards left with the Executive Officer for those members who required one.

3.2 WA Country Health Service Midwest

Jamie Robson	- Manager Midwest Mental Health Service
Di Franklin	- Acting Operations Manager, Midwest and Murchison

A presentation on Mental Health Services in the Midwest was made by Mr Robson.

The take-home message was:

- Stop people progressing through the levels;
- There are good services available;
- MMHS is working hard to reform;
- Continuity of Care.

There being no questions from members, the Order of Business was changed, as the CBH representatives had not yet arrived for their presentation.

4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Pursuant to our Code of Conduct, Councillors 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.

Nil

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 29 April 2019 (by Flying Minute) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr West

Seconded: Cr Lane

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 29 April 2019 (by Flying Minute) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Carried

6. BUSINESS ARISING

Nil

7. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR / STATE COUNCILLOR – 24 June 2019

Northern Country Zone of WALGA
Presidents Report 24 June 2019

The last few months have been taken up with setting the Budget at WALGA, interim submissions and the Local Government Act Amendment Bill and its path through parliament. Hopefully it will pass through the Legislative Council soon.

The State Library Strategy has implications for all of us. We need to make sure that there is funding for the implementation and that recurrent funding follows.

The report on Local Government Road Assets and Expenditure is sobering reading. Road maintenance and construction costs continue to be the largest cost for all of us and one that is not going to lessen. It was good to see the Federal Budget had increases for Roads to Recovery, Bridges and Black Spot.

The WALGA President has formed a working group to consider WALGAs' structure. I will be participating in the studies of the working group and the first meeting is June 25th at WALGA.

I am off to ALGA tomorrow and will bring a verbal report back on Monday the 24th.

Please remind all Councillors to consider attending the WALGA conference in August. Registrations are currently open.

If you wish for a presentation to come before the Zone please let our Executive Officer know - we always welcome visitors. It would be great to have a forum somewhat like Cue Parliament.

Karen Chappel
Zone President.

The Chair updated the meeting on the ALGA National General Assembly 2019, which she had recently attended, a summary of which is given below:

There were 800 delegates, 60 of whom were from WA and 121 motions were dealt with during the conference; There was a strong focus on a green world and housing affordability, with presentations from Hon Mark Colton, Minister for Regional Services, Decentralisation and Local Government; Hon Michael McCormack MP, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport & Regional Development; and from Hon Jason Clare MP, Shadow Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government; A strong message came through that infrastructure funding is coming; Kurt Fearnley spoke at the end, which was a highlight – how well do we consider people with disabilities? The City of Stirling took out the award for Excellence in Local Government in Australia; There is a campaign under way to restore Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants to at least 1% of Commonwealth tax revenue; and There was a motion passed that the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to take a lead on climate change.

In closing her report, the Chair noted that she had asked the Executive Officer to forward the link to the Revitalising Agricultural Region Freight Strategy – its important to give feedback on the Strategy.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Girando

Seconded: Cr Isbister

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the report from the Chair/State Councillor for 24 June 2019.

Carried

8. FINANCE

8.1 Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 31 May 2019

Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer
Attachments: Bank Statements April and May 2019

Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31 May 2019.

Comments:

The Detailed Income Statement shown below represents the cash position of NCZ at 31 May 2019, as reconciled to the Bank Statement.

NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

For the period ending 31 May 2019

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Description</i>
Statement Balance B/F	01-07-18		32,822.20	
Deposits			350.00	Attendance at State Council Dinner x 10
			3,400.00	2017-18 subscription x 2
			3,036.00	\$3036 paid in error by Perenjori - refunded 23/11/2018
			592.00	WALGA reimburse NCZ for catering at LGA Reform Forum 22/10/18
			17,000.00	2018-19 subscriptions x 10
Bank Interest Received			2.72	
TOTAL RECEIPTS			24,380.72	
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE			57,202.92	
Payments Made	01-08-18		-2,478.60	Chq 370 - Jenni Law EO services 1 May - 30 June 2018
(o/s 30/06/2018)	07-08-18		-254.99	Chq 369 - Reimburse Shire of Mingenew for catering NCZ meeting 26/02/2018
	07-08-18		-363.00	Chq 372 - Reimburse Shire of Mingenew for Catering NCZ meeting 25/06/2018
	12-10-18		-3,248.00	Internet tsf - Jenni Law EO services 1 July - 30 September 2018
	12-10-18		-300.00	Internet tsf - Reimburse Shire of Mingenew for catering NCZ meeting 27/08/2018
	25-10-18		-592.00	Internet tsf - Dagleish Catering morning tea for 40 at LGA review forum 22/10/2018
	31-10-18		-275.00	Internet tsf - North Midlands Accounting Service - 2017-18 Audit
	23-11-18		-3,036.00	Internet tsf - Refund payment received in error to Perenjori
	28-11-18		-2,800.00	Internet tsf - Dianne Daniels - EO services 1/10/18-26/11/2018
	01-04-19		-127.60	Internet tsf - Norris & Hyde IT - Domain registration and annual mailbox subscription
	01-04-19		-2,857.57	Internet tsf - Dianne Daniels - EO services 27/11/2018 - 25/03/2019; travel; stationery
	30-04-19		-2,600.00	Internet tsf - Dianne Daniels - EO services 26/03/2019 - 30/04/2019
	21-05-19		-302.50	Internet tsf - Shire of Mingenew - Reimburse NCZ catering for meeting 21/03/2019
TOTAL PAYMENTS MADE			-19,235.26	
Closing Cash Balance	31-05-19		37,967.66	

NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA

BANK RECONCILIATION SUMMARY

For the period ending 31 May 2019

Statement Balance B/F	01-07-18	32,822.20	
Deposits and Credits		24,380.72	01/07/2018 to 29/03/2019
Cheques and Payments		-19,235.26	01/07/2018 to 29/03/2019
Total Cleared Transactions	31-05-19	37,967.66	
Add back o/s			
Reconciled Balance		37,967.66	
Bank Statement	31-05-19	37,967.66	
Difference I&E to Bank Statement		0.00	

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Simkin

Seconded: Cr Newton

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31 May 2019, subject to amending the dates in the right hand column of the Bank Reconciliation Summary from '1/07/2018 to 29/03/2019' to '1/07/2018 to 31/05/2019'.

Carried

3.3 CBH Group

Rob Dickie - Government and Industry Relations Advisor, CBH Group
Duncan Gray - Geraldton Zone Manager, CBH Group

An update was given by Mr Dickie on the latest from CBH with regards to:

- The progress of the Network Strategy ie restructure to '100 sites of the future', down from the 135 or so receival sites that are utilised in an average year; and
- The process for closure of non-Network Strategy sites over time.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 DLGSC Update

Refer attached update from the State Government on Engagement with WA Local Government regarding participation in the National Redress Scheme.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Simkin

Seconded: Cr Isbister

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the Update from the State Government on Engagement with WA Local Government regarding participation in the National Redress Scheme.

Carried

10. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR DECISION

The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 3 July 2019.

The Matters for Decision in the State Council agenda are numbered 5.1 to 5.6.

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

10.1 (5.1) National Redress and Local Government (05-086-03-0004 KD)

By Kirstie Davis, Policy Manager Community

Recommendation:

That WA Local Government participation in the State's National Redress Scheme declaration with full financial coverage by the State, be endorsed in principal, noting that further engagement with the sector will occur in the second half of 2019.

In Brief:

- The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (the Royal Commission) was established in January 2013.
- The WA Parliament passed the legislation required to allow the Government and WA based non-government institutions to participate in the Scheme. The National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Act 2018 (WA) took effect on 21 November 2018.
- The Association, together with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) consulted with the Local Government sector to develop the Western Australian State Government

Child Safety Implementation Plan which was provided as an Item for Decision at the WALGA State Council December 2018 meeting.

- From February 2019, DLGSC has been consulting Local Government on their preference and capacity to join the National Redress Scheme, with one option to join as a State Government agency under the definitions contained within the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018 (Cth).
- This report outlines outcomes from this consultation and provides a recommendation for final endorsement that is then subject to State Government consideration.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: CEO Battilana

Seconded: Cr West

The member Councils of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA agree to join the National Redress Scheme as State Government Entities under the following conditions:

1. Local Government's Child Safety Officer positions from existing staff positions:

- a) This position must be fully funded by the State and/or Commonwealth government and cost is not an imposition on the local government (ie not another costs-shifting exercise);
- b) A regional approach could be considered by a group of local government authorities if this is considered appropriate and effective, rather than expecting every individual local government authority to establish a new position, or incorporate the tasks required of the position into existing staff profiles;
- c) There must be stringent legal processes and protections in place to ensure the reporting officer is not exposed for not reporting an incident, or reporting something, which is false or vexatious.

2. Areas of the local government to establish the Child Support Officer designation in supporting the community to create child safe environments:

- a) There is no specific position in small local government authorities, which is best suited to undertaking the role as a Child Safety Officer and this should be determined by the individual local government authority;
- b) The Working with Children Check should be all a sporting and recreation institution, including arts, culture and hobby groups, engaging with or providing services to children should be required to implement and comply with the Child Safety Standards (i.e. the status quo to remain for these groups);

3. Training, resources and support required by the local government to successfully implement designated Child Safety Officers:

- a) Initial and ongoing training, resources and support of the local government authority and the proposed Child Support Officer needs to be fully funded by the Commonwealth and/or State government and not be at the cost of the local government;

- b) Any agency established for administering the reporting requirements of local government authorities must be there to support the process, not simply a regulatory body with a focus on compliance by a local government authority;
- c) Help desk, legal support and advice needs to be provided and readily available to the Child Support Officer and the local government authority, with this being the predominant purpose of any such agency.

4. Supporting local government with the implementation of Child Safety Officers

- a) Any agency established for accepting and determining outcomes of matters reported by the local government should provide legal representation on behalf of the local government and any staff in the event of legal action taken against the Child Support Officer and/or local government. Any legal costs must not be the local government authority's responsibility;
- b) Legislation introduced for the proposed reportable conduct scheme must incorporate stringent processes and protections in place to ensure the reporting officer and local government authority is not legally exposed for not reporting an incident, or reporting something, which is proven to be false or vexatious;
- c) There must be strong legal processes and procedures in place to deal with the vexatious complainants creating issues based on conspiracy theories, rumour and innuendo and for those proven to have submitted complaints without basis dealt with under any proposed legislation (e.g. prosecution, infringement).

5. Source and Provide Records

Agree to being responsible for sourcing and providing records within prescribed timeframes under the condition such responsibility will not result in any additional resources being required of the Shire;

6. Deliver and Provide Personal Response

Agree to being responsible for delivery of a Direct Personal Response in the requested manner timeframes under the condition such responsibility will not result in any additional resources being required of the Shire;

7. Financially Compensate the Claim

The State Government is responsible for financial compensation of all claims;

8. Insurance

The Local Government Government's insurance policies and premiums are in no way adversely affected by its agreement to join National Redress Scheme as a State Government entity.

Carried

10.2 (5.2) Draft Guidelines for Local Heritage Surveys and *Heritage Act 2018* Proclamation Regulations (05-071-03-0003 SM)

Susie Moir, Policy Officer, Community

Recommendation:

That the interim submission on the Draft Guidelines for Local Heritage Surveys and *Heritage Act 2018* Proclamation Regulations be endorsed.

In Brief:

- State Parliament passed the *Heritage Bill 2017* on 12 September 2018, effectively giving Western Australia a new Heritage Act (to be known as the *Heritage Act 2018*).
- Before the new Act can be proclaimed, a series of regulations must be approved by the Governor to ensure the new Act will have its intended effects. The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) sought input on the draft Proclamation Regulations and various supporting guidelines and publications, including Draft Guidelines for Local Heritage Surveys (previously called Heritage Inventories).
- Consultation with Local Government was undertaken between January and April 2019.
- An interim submission was prepared to meet the submission deadline of 3 May 2018 and is now presented to State Council for final endorsement.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Isbister

Seconded: Cr Lane

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

Carried

10.3 (5.3) Review of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (Phase Two) (05-032-01-0001 SM)

By Susie Moir, Policy Officer, Community

Recommendation:

That the interim submission on the Aboriginal Heritage Act Review Phase Two be endorsed.

In Brief:

- In March 2018 the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs initiated a review of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (the AHA). More than 130 written submissions were received by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (including from WALGA). Feedback received during the 2018 review indicated that the scope and the purpose of the AHA needed to change and new legislation was needed.
- In March 2019, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs released a Discussion Paper and additional materials setting out proposals for a new Aboriginal heritage system that will recognise, protect, manage and celebrate the places and objects that are important to Aboriginal people while providing an efficient land use proposal framework.
- Consultation with Local Government was undertaken between March and May 2019.
- An interim submission was prepared to meet the submission deadline of 31 May 2019 and is now presented to State Council for final endorsement.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:**Moved:** Cr Thomas**Seconded:** Cr Newton

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

Carried

10.4 (5.4) Planning for Bushfire Guidelines: Element 3 Vehicular Access (05-024-02-0056 CH)

By Christopher Hossen, Senior Planner – People & Place

Recommendation:

That:

1. the interim submission to the Western Australian Planning Commission on the proposed modifications to Appendix 4 Element 3: Vehicular Access of the Planning for Bushfire Guidelines, be endorsed; and
2. WALGA formally advise the Western Australian Planning Commission that draft Appendix 4 Element 3 is not supported, due to significant concerns with the proposed modifications to road designs and difficulties in implementing the draft Guidelines.

In Brief:

- In late January 2019, the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) released proposed modifications to Appendix 4 Element 3 of the Planning for Bushfire Protection Guidelines for targeted stakeholder comment.
- The interim submission does not support the proposed modifications to Element 3.
- The comment period closed on the 12 April 2019 therefore an interim submission was prepared.

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

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 5.4.

Carried

10.5 (5.5) Remote Area Tax Concessions (05-001-03-0006 DM)

By Nebojsa Fanich, Policy Manager - Economics

Recommendation:

That WALGA's interim submission to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Remote Area Tax Concessions be endorsed.

In Brief:

- Treasurer Josh Frydenberg has provided the Productivity Commission with a terms of reference to undertake a study into the zone tax offset and related remote area tax concessions and payments.
- WALGA has for a number of years called for the review and reform of the zero tax offset. The Association's submission has been prepared on the basis of existing State Council policy positions, the Economic Development project and feedback from individual Local Governments. Members were also provided the opportunity to contribute to the submission.
- The interim submission was provided to the Executive Committee out of session, and has been submitted to the Productivity Commission.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Lane

Seconded: Cr Isbister

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 5.5.

Carried

10.6 (5.6) Directions Paper for the 10 Year Strategy on Homelessness (05-018-02-0007 JB)

By Joanne Burges, Executive Manager People & Place

Recommendation:

That the interim submission to the Directions Paper for the 10-Year Strategy on Homelessness be endorsed.

In Brief:

- In March 2019, the Department of Communities released a Directions Paper for the 10-Year Strategy on Homelessness: Western Australia 2019-2029
- The Association garnered input to an Interim Submission through the normal communication channels and provided this by the deadline of 17 May 2019.
- The Association has been represented on the Supporting Communities Forum Homelessness Working Group by senior staff since its inception in mid-2018.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Newton

Seconded: Cr Lane

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 5.6.

Carried

11. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 3 July 2019.

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.

11.1 (6.1) Report on Local Government Road Assets and Expenditure 2017/18 (0600-703-0016 MB)

By Mark Bondiotti, Policy Manager Transport and Roads

Recommendation:

That State Council note the Report on Local Government Road Assets and Expenditure 2017 /18

In Brief:

- The Report on Local Government Road Assets and Expenditure 2017/18 has been finalised.

- This Report provides information, statistics and trends on:
 - the length and types of roads and bridges managed by Local Governments;
 - sources of funding and the use of funds in expanding, upgrading, renewing and maintaining roads, paths and bridges;
 - actual expenditure relative to that needed to sustainably maintain the road network.

The Report is intended to underpin advocacy for continued and increased Federal and State funding for Local Government roads and to support Councils wishing to benchmark aspects of their own roads' programs with similar or neighbouring areas.

11.2 (6.2) 2019-2020 State and Federal Budgets (05-088-03-0001 NF)

By Nebojsa Franich, Policy Manager, Economics

Recommendation:

That State Council note the key outcomes for Local Governments in the 2019-20 State and Federal Budgets.

In Brief:

State Budget

- The 2019-20 State Budget provides a balance between the need for fiscal restraint and spending on important community priorities. Most importantly, the expected surplus in 2019-20 will allow the State Government to begin the task of paying down the State's record levels of debt. This will free up future funds to be used for critical services and infrastructure, rather than interest repayments on debt.
- It is pleasing that the State Government is continuing to deliver on its election commitments and progress important Local Government priorities including METRONET, the container deposit scheme, insurance payments for volunteer bush fighters, and additional funding for local roads.
- There were some key Local Government initiatives that were not progressed in the 2019-20 State Budget, including funding for the implementation of the State Public Library Strategy and a review of Local Government Fees and Charges.

11.3 (6.3) Public Library Assets (05-012-03-0001 KD)

By Kirstie Davis, Policy Manager, Community

Recommendation:

That State Council note the pending consultation to the public library collection assets.

In Brief:

- The Western Australian Public Libraries Strategy Consultation Report was endorsed by WALGA State Council and the Library Board of WA in July 2018.
- The Public Libraries Working Group (PLWG), with representatives from State and Local Governments identified the development of a new tiered model for public library service delivery across WA with support for regional and remote public library services as the initial priority.
- WALGA State Council and the Library Board of WA respectively endorsed the new Public Library Tiered Service Model at their May 2019 meetings.
- The PLWG are now progressing with the next priority to consult on reforming public library assets to a more effective, efficient and flexible model that will deliver better value for money and deliver essential outcomes to community members.
- A Forum is being held on 21 June 2019 at WALGA to consult members on the proposed repurposing of funds and asset management for public library materials.

11.4 (6.4) Climate Change Policy Advocacy Update (05-028-04-0002 LS)

By Laura Simes, Environment Policy Advisor

Recommendation:

That State Council note this update on WALGA’s key climate change advocacy priorities, the development of the State Climate Change Policy and related initiatives.

In Brief:

- The WALGA Climate Change Policy Statement represents the consolidated view of the sector and forms the basis of WALGA’s climate change advocacy.
- Drawing on the Climate Change Policy Statement, WALGA has identified five key areas for advocacy to the State Government:
 1. Accelerated action and fast tracked reform to remove regulatory barriers and facilitate the transition to a low carbon, energy efficient economy;
 2. The setting of a State based emissions reduction target and/or renewable energy target;
 3. Planning for climate proof communities (including funding for innovative climate change projects);
 4. Comprehensive, effective adaptation planning; and
 5. Role for the EPA in emissions reduction.
- WALGA is pursuing these priorities with the State Government through direct representations and submissions on the development of the State Climate Change Policy (a release of a discussion paper is expected in mid-June 2019) and other related initiatives including the EPA Greenhouse Gas Guidelines, the WA Climate Health Inquiry and the implementation of the Energy Transformation Strategy.
- WALGA will keep the Sector informed of opportunities to input to these processes and encourages Local Governments to make submissions directly and/or contribute to WALGA’s submissions.

11.5 (6.5) Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) (01-006-03-0008 RNB)

By Rebecca Brown, Manager, Waste & Recycling

Recommendation:

That State Council note the resolutions of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council at its 17 April 2019 meeting.

In Brief:

- This item summaries the outcomes of the MWAC meeting held on 17 April 2019.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr West

Seconded: Cr Isbister

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

Carried

12. BUSINESS

Nil

13. REPORTS

13.1 WALGA President’s Report to the Zone

The July 2019 WALGA President’s Report to the Zone is attached.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Girando

Seconded: Cr Isbister

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the July 2019 WALGA President's Report to the Zone.

Carried

13.2 Zone Status Report

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

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Newton

Seconded: Cr Isbister

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the June 2019 Status Report outlining actions taken on the Zone's resolutions.

Carried

14. OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair offered Mr Shane Love MLA and the Hon Laurie Graham MLC the opportunity to address the meeting, which they did.

The Chair noted that Northampton had requested a discussion on fracking and invited Cr Simkin to address the meeting.

14.1 Hydraulic Fracking

Cr Simkin commented that Thursday week ago there was a meeting in Binu. An energy company had done 60 exploration holes on Coolcalalaya Station, which has recently reverted to Unallocated Crown Land. On November 27 2018, the State Government lifted a state wide fracking ban in the Kimberley, South West, Metro and Peel. This has extended to the Midwest. Northampton are requesting support from the Zone in regard to fracking.

Mr Mark Batty, Executive Manager Environment & Waste for WALGA referred to several State Government media releases which reported that 98% of WA was protected from fracking. Fracking was permitted on existing petroleum and gas exploration leases/licences, but consent was required from farmers and traditional owners.

Mr Love concurred that fracking was allowed where petroleum and gas exploration/licensing was already permitted, but private landowners can reject advances. This is government policy but not legislated.

The following motion was put and carried.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Simkin

Seconded: Cr Isbister

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA works with WALGA to confirm the State Government Policy with respect to hydraulic fracking in coal seam gas.

Carried

14.2 (a) Regional Issues

Background:

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

The Chair invited several guests to address the meeting.

Mr Gavin Treasure, CEO Mid West Development Commission, updated the meeting on tourism and infrastructure projects in the Midwest and noted upcoming grants;

Mr Mark Holdsworth, CEO of the Regional Development Australia Midwest Gascoyne, gave some background to RDA and noted upcoming grants;

Mr Richard Malacari, Regional Manager Midwest Gascoyne, Department of Sport, Local Government and Cultural Industries noted upcoming grants and prospective projects in the regions;

Sam Adams, Safety Advisor WALGA Roadwise noted that a crash map of the region is being prepared.

14.2 (b) Regional Tourism Initiatives

Background:

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

Nil forthcoming.

Prior to closing the meeting, the Chair congratulated Cr Butler for 21 years of service to his community and wished him well in his retirement. Cr Butler thanked Tony Brown and James McGovern for their valued assistance.

15. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Recommendation:

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA will be held on Monday 26 August 2019 commencing at 10 am, at the Mingenew Sports Pavilion.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Isbister

Seconded: Cr West

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA will be held on Monday 26 August 2019, commencing at 10:00 am, at the Mingenew Sports Pavilion.

Carried

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 12:15 pm.