

South West Country Zone Minutes

26 August 2022

**Harvey Room, Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre
2 Blair St, Bunbury**

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South West Country Zone

Meeting to be held at

Harvey Room, Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre, 2 Blair St, Bunbury

Commenced at 9.00am, Friday 26 August 2022

Minutes

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair, President Cr Tony Dean, opened the meeting at 9:06am.

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

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendance

Shire of Augusta Margaret River	President Cr Paula Cristoffanini Mr Nick Logan, Director Sustainable Development and Infrastructure non-voting delegate
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Shire of Boyup Brook	President Cr Richard Walker Mr Dale Putland, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
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Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes	President Cr Jenny Mountford
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City of Bunbury	Mayor Jaysen de San Miguel Cr Tresslyn Smith (Observer) Cr Maria Quain (Observer) Cr Ben Andrew (Observer) Mr Mal Osborne, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
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City of Busselton	Cr Paul Carter (Deputy) Mr Tony Nottle, Director Finance and Corporate Services non-voting delegate
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Shire of Capel	Ms Tanya Gillet, Director Infrastructure and Development
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Shire of Collie	President Cr Sarah Stanley Mr Rick Miller, Director Technical Services non-voting delegate
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Shire of Dardanup	President Cr Michael Bennett Mr, André Schönfeldt, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
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Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup President Cr Leanne Wringe
Mr Ben Rose, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

Shire of Harvey President Cr Paul Gillett

Shire of Manjimup Hon President Cr Paul Omodei
Mr Brian Robinson, A/Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

Shire of Nannup President Cr Tony Dean (Chair)

WA Local Government Association Secretariat Nick Sloan, Chief Executive Officer
Tim Lane, Manager, Association and Corporate Governance (executive officer)

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Danielle Uniza, Director LG Support & Engagement
Any Noon, Senior Project Officer, Local Government
Mr Brendan McNally, Regional Manager Peel-South West

South West Development Commission Mellisa Teede, Chief Executive Officer
Ashley Clements, Director Regional Development, Infrastructure and Lands
Andrew McRobert, Director Business and Industry
Christie Silva, Regional Development Officer, Business and Industry
Obby McDonald, Regional Development Officer, Infrastructure and Lands

RDA South West Charles Jenkinson, Director Regional Development

Australia's South West Catrin Allsop, Chief Executive Officer

Guests Hon Kristy McBain MP, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories (via videoconference – 10:00am-10:30am)

Ms Christine Comer, Team Leader, WA and SA, Engagement, National Recovery and Resilience Agency
Ms Sam Ramsay, National Recovery and Resilience Agency

Dr Chun-Zhu Li, Chief Executive Officer, Renergi Pty Ltd

Apologies

Shire of Augusta Margaret River Ms Stephanie Addison-Brown, Chief Executive Officer

Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes Mr Tim Clynych, Chief Executive Officer

City of Busselton	Mayor Grant Henley
Shire of Capel	President Cr Doug Kitchen Mr Gordon MacMile, Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Collie	Mr Stuart Devenish, Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Harvey	Ms Annie Riordan
Shire of Manjimup	Mr Andrew Campbell, Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Nannup	Mr David Taylor, Chief Executive Officer

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

4.1 Attachments

The following were provided as attachments to the agenda:

1. South West Country Zone Minutes – 24 June 2022
2. WALGA President's Report
3. State Council Agenda – September 2022

5. GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS

5.1 City of Bunbury

Mayor Jaysen de San Miguel and Mr Mal Osborne, Chief Executive Officer

Mayor Jaysen de San Miguel and Mr Mal Osborne, Chief Executive Officer, provided an update to the meeting on priorities and key projects.

5.2 Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories (10:00am-10:30am, via videoconference)

Hon Kristy McBain MP, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories

The Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, Hon Kristy McBain MP, joined the meeting from 10:00am until 10:30am via videoconference.

Minister McBain presented to the meeting.

5.3 National Recovery and Resilience Agency (After morning tea)

Ms Christine Comer, Team Leader, WA & SA, Engagement Branch, National Recovery and Resilience Agency

Ms Comer provided an overview of the National Recovery and Resilience Agency and future direction, with specific focus on how the Agency relates to Local Government in WA.

6. MINUTES

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the South West Country Zone meeting held Friday 24 June 2022 (Attachment 1)

The Minutes of the South West Country Zone meeting held on Friday 24 June 2022 have previously been circulated to Member Councils and were provided as an attachment to the agenda.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Michael Bennett

Seconded: President Cr Paul Gillet

That the minutes of the South West Country Zone meeting held Friday 24 June 2022 are confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

6.1.1 Business Arising

Nil.

7. ZONE BUSINESS

7.1 Cat Control Measures and Advocacy for Reforms to the Cat Act

Shire of Capel

RESOLUTION

Moved: Ms Tanya Gillet

Seconded: President Cr Michael Bennett

That the South West Country Zone request WALGA to support and advocate that the State Government progress remaining reforms of the *Cat Act 2011*.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

The Western Australian Government through the (then) Department of Local Government released a Discussion Paper (January 2011) titled *Proposal for Domestic Cat Control Legislation*. This consultation and

proposed reform process ultimately led to the *Cat Act 2011* (Cat Act) receiving Royal Assent on 1 November 2012.

The Cat Act fully commenced in 2013 and was introduced to:

- provide for the control and management of cats; and
- promote and encourage the responsible ownership of cats, and for related matters.

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) commenced a statutory review of the *Cat Act 2011* and the *Dog Amendment Act 2013* in May 2019. The review undertaken by DLGSC was tabled in the WA Parliament by the Minister for Local Government on 27 November 2019.

Findings of the Review in relation to Cat Act included:

1. Registration of cats is strongly supported. The current three options for periods of registration should remain.
2. Registration periods for cats and dogs should be the same.
3. A central registration database for cats should be explored.
4. Feedback indicated that the wearing of collars and tags achieves the purpose of enabling a cat to be identified by rangers — including making it obvious that it is a domestic cat that has an owner. There is strong support for this to continue with no change.
5. Strong support from the public, local governments and industry exists for the practice of microchipping cats to continue.
6. Improvements could be made to the way microchip details are stored — this could be in either a national or State-based database.
7. Feedback indicated that education on the current requirements of microchipping, focusing on obligations of owners/breeders/rescues when a cat is transferred to a new owner and the need to keep information up-to-date, is necessary to achieve the desired outcomes of reuniting pets with their owners and the obligations of being a responsible cat owner.
8. There is strong support for cat numbers and confinement/curfews of cats to be implemented State-wide (in legislation) rather than through individual local laws — to provide consistency among local governments.
9. As a means of controlling cat numbers, there were multiple requests in the feedback received for the Cat Act to be brought into alignment with the Dog Act by placing greater restrictions on cat owners in relation to the number of cats that people can own.
10. The provisions in the Cat Act for cats to be sterilised should remain.
11. Feedback indicated that the age of cat sterilisation should be lowered, although further expert consultation on this will be needed.

Outcomes from the statutory review were:

- The *Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act 2021* received Royal Assent on 22 December 2021 with the aim to:
 - to amend the Dog Act 1976 to provide for matters relating to the sterilisation and breeding of dogs and the supply of dogs to and by relevant pet shop businesses; and
 - to amend the Dog Act 1976 and the Cat Act 2011 to provide for a centralised registration system; and
 - to make other amendments to the Dog Act 1976

No further amendments nor reforms of the Cat Act 2011 have occurred since.

SHIRE OF CAPEL NOTICE OF MOTION

The Shire of Capel Ordinary Council Meeting on 27 July 2022 endorsed a Notice of Motion regarding Cat Control Measures and Advocacy for Reforms of the Cat Act.

The Motion also endorsed:

1. The CEO to arrange for a review of the Shire of Capel Cat Control Local Laws with consideration of the following matters:
 - a. Compulsory Cat Registration
 - b. Compulsory Cat Sterilisation
 - c. Compulsory Micro-chipping
 - d. Cat prohibited area and fauna protected buffer zones
 - e. Cat curfews – to be retained at their place of residence / registration.
 - f. Cat curfew enforcement system to be proposed.
2. For the Shire to develop and deliver a Responsible Cat Ownership Education Program to cover the following:
 - i. The devastating impact of domestic and feral cats on the birdlife and small native animals of Australia
 - ii. Construction of Cat Enclosures
 - iii. Cat proof fences
 - iv. Cat proof door locks
 - v. Cat collars with more than two bells
 - vi. Cat Bibs
 - vii. Cat Sterilisation
 - viii. Cat Microchipping
 - ix. Cat Trapping Information signage and notifications.
3. That the Shire write to DBCA requesting increased cat trapping on Shire Reserves.
4. That the Shire write to the Ministers for Local Government, the Environment, and others with related portfolios requesting progress on reforms to the Cat Act.
5. That the Shire submit a recommendation requesting support and advocacy for the State Government to progress reforms of the Cat Act, to be presented at the August 2022 South West WALGA zone meeting and (subject to endorsement) to be considered by WALGA State Council.

SHIRE OF CAPEL COMMENT

- Any proposed changes to cat control measures should include public consultation.
- The Shire also hopes the State Government proceeds with reforms of the Cat Act, similar to recent reforms with the Dog Act and Animal Welfare regulations.
- The Shire of Capel has supported a review of current cat control measures and to look at initiatives to better protect native wildlife, along with an accompanying education campaign.
- Many local governments throughout the State have looked at similar reforms recently.
- Shire understands that many people in the community love cats, with reforms looking to find a balance between valued family pets and protecting our unique and in some cases, endangered native animals.

7.2 Renergi Waste Processing

Shire of Collie

MOTION

Moved: President Cr Sarah Stanley
Seconded: President Cr Michael Bennett

That the South West Country Zone requests the WA Local Government Association (WALGA) to:

- 1. Adopt a position that supports the utilisation of emerging waste processing technologies; and**
- 2. Call on the Minister for Environment to support regulatory arrangements administered by the Department of Water, Environment and Regulation that will allow new technologies that improve material recovery and recycling, including the processing of FOGO waste.**

At 10:00am, debate on the motion was adjourned to facilitate the Minister's presentation as per 5.2. Debate on the motion resumed at 10:32am.

AMENDMENT

Moved: Cr Paul Carter
Seconded: President Cr Richard Walker

That point 2 be replaced with the following:

Advocate to the Minister for Environment to review the regulatory framework surrounding environmental approvals and operational obligations to allow new, alternative treatment processes and technologies that will reduce landfill reliance by improving resource recovery rates, including the processing of FOGO and un-separable, co-mingled material.

CARRIED

The Motion as amended was PUT:

RESOLUTION

That the South West Country Zone requests the WA Local Government Association (WALGA) to:

- 1. Adopt a position that supports the utilisation of emerging waste processing technologies; and**
- 2. Advocate to the Minister for Environment to review the regulatory framework surrounding environmental approvals and operational obligations to allow new, alternative treatment processes and technologies that will reduce landfill reliance by improving resource recovery rates, including the processing of FOGO and un-separable, co-mingled material.**

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

Renergi Pty Ltd has developed a technology to convert combustible waste into value-added products. Renergi's technology is new, utilising a low temperature pyrolysis process to recycle and reprocess waste into high-value commercial products such as biochar, bio-oil and wood vinegar. The process achieves CO₂ sequestration, resulting in a negative carbon emission.

The project makes a considerable contribution to the circular economy by diverting waste from landfill, optimising recycling and turning waste into energy and other beneficial products.

Financial support of \$3.9 million has been achieved from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) and \$2 million from the WA State Government. Private funding is also provided through a consortium of investors.

A prototype has been demonstrated at Curtin University's laboratory at Technology Park. The technology is to be pioneered at commercial-scale at the Shire of Collie landfill site, operating in conjunction with the Shire's waste services. Commencement of operation is expected in the first half of next calendar year.

SHIRE OF COLLIE COMMENT

While the technology is capable of accepting all waste that is otherwise combustible, the terms of the approval issued by the Department of Water, Environment and Regulation (DWER) for the plant at Collie strictly limits the nature of waste that can be accepted and processed by the plant. That is, the plant can only accept forestry waste/plantation biomass or municipal solid waste (from the general household waste bin).

The inability to accept other waste, including food organics and garden organics (FOGO) limits the benefits that can be achieved and constrains the application of the new waste processing technology.

Approval for Renergi to accept all waste suited to the technology, including FOGO waste offers multiple benefits:

- Create flexibility in the way Council's manage kerbside waste collection, offering practical benefits to the community and operational cost savings for local government;
- Allow excess FOGO waste that cannot be processed by the to be recycled (such as the 25,000 tonnes of FOGO held by the Bunbury Harvey Regional Council);
- Avoid the need for contaminated FOGO (between 30-40%) to be redirected to landfill;
- Increase resource recovery rates;
- Increase recycling efficiency;
- Reduce overall waste to landfill;
- Generate commercial value products from waste;
- Utilise a process that has less environmental impact; and
- Optimise financial investments of the Federal and State Governments in the Renergi process, along with private investment.

Importantly, the new technology is advancing the Western Australia Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 and will support the key objectives, targets and strategies.

- **Objective 1: Avoid:** Western Australians generate less waste
- **Objective 2: Recover:** Western Australians recover more value and resources from waste.
- **Objective 3: Protect:** Western Australians protect the environment by managing waste responsibly.

The proposal also aligns with 2030 Strategy five key principles (aligned with legislation and driving future decisions); *Shared responsibility and partnership-owning your impact; Innovation and growth; Better practice; Waste as a resource; Intergenerational equity.*

The recycling of waste as planned by Renergi is an initiative complimentary to other activities such as FOGO. It is important to remain flexible and responsive to incorporate emerging technologies to assist targets and benchmarks.

The plant at Collie is expected to demonstrate commercial scale waste processing. Anticipating this, support is sought from the local government sector to fully utilise the technology which can improve waste management practices and provide long-term waste solutions.

The meeting adjourned at 10:37am for morning tea and reconvened at 10:50am.

7.3 Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) Incoming Queries Overview as at 31 July 2022

Shire of Dardanup

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Michael Bennett

Seconded: President Cr Paul Gillet

That the update relating to incoming queries relating to the Designated Area Migration Agreement be noted.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

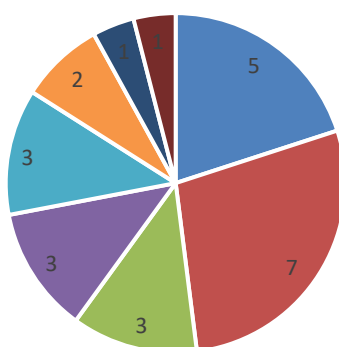
The following is an overview of the incoming queries relating to the DAMA since it was signed in December 2021.

Applications for Endorsement for the South-West DAMA

To date, we have had twenty-four (24) applications for endorsement, these have come from the following Local Governments:

- Shire of Augusta Margaret River (5)
- City of Busselton (7)
- City of Bunbury (3)
- Shire of Donnybrook (3)* One application operates over two LGAs
- Shire of Harvey (3)
- Shire of Manjimup (2)
- Shire of Dardanup (1)
- Shire of Collie (1)

Applications for Endorsement under the South-West DAMA



■ Shire of Augusta Margaret River ■ City of Busselton ■ City of Bunbury
■ Shire of Donnybrook ■ Shire of Harvey ■ Shire of Manjimup
■ Shire of Dardanup ■ Shire of Collie

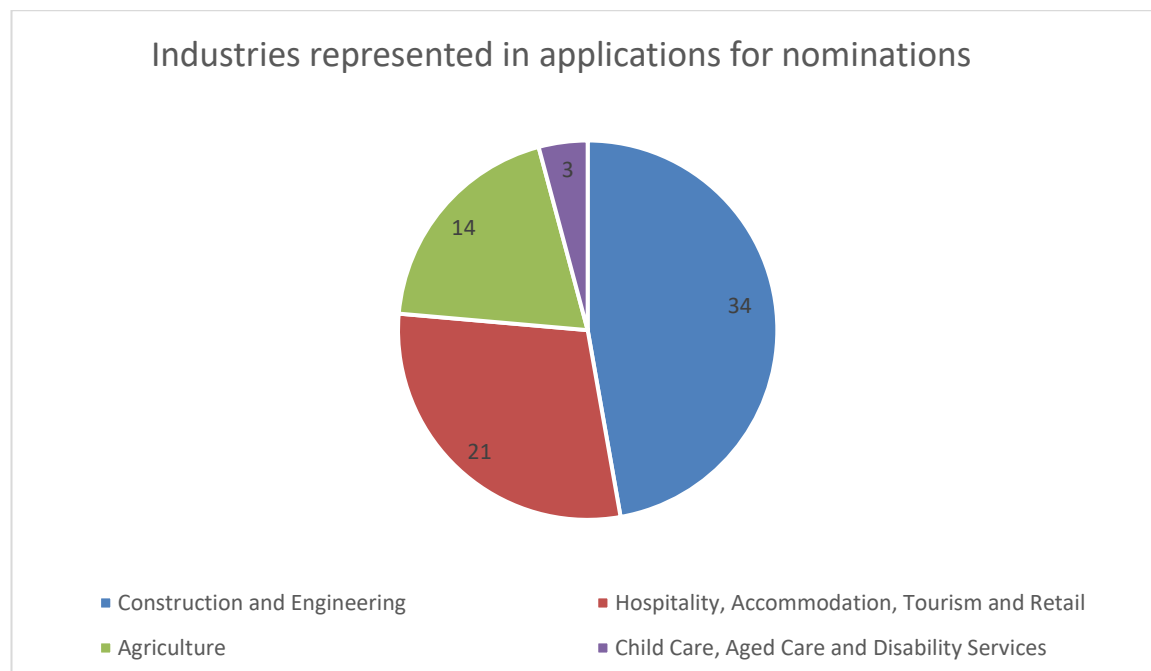
Of these 24 applications, 17 have received a positive endorsement from the Shire of Dardanup. The remaining seven applications are yet to be finalised, due to awaiting further documentation or payment.

Applications for Endorsement – Occupations

As of 31 July 2022, 72 positions have been nominated of an annual ceiling of 200 positions (due for renewal Dec 2022). The nominated occupations are as follows:

No. of positions	Occupation
25	Earthmoving Plant Operators
11	Fruit and Nut Farm Workers
5	Bar Supervisors
3	Cooks
3	Diesel Mechanics
3	Truck Drivers
7	Bakers
3	Child Care Workers
2	Steel Fixers
1	Mushroom Picker
1	Pastrycook
2	Restaurant Managers
1	Construction Project Manager
1	Motor Vehicle Parts and Accessories Fitter
3	Retail Managers
1	Driller
72	TOTAL

These following industries are represented in the nominations received so far:

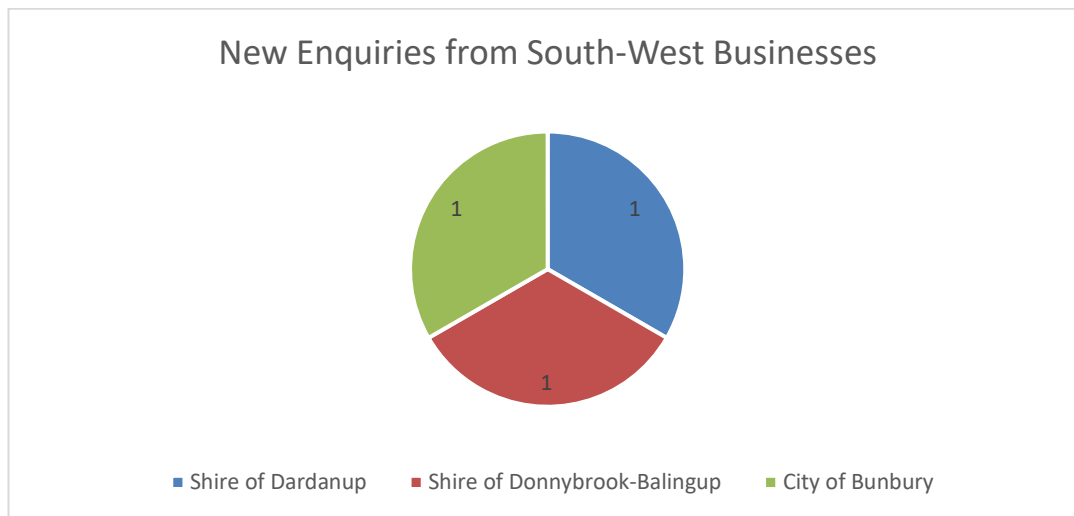


Businesses in the South-West

New enquiries from businesses in the South-West (01 June 2022 – 31 July 2022)

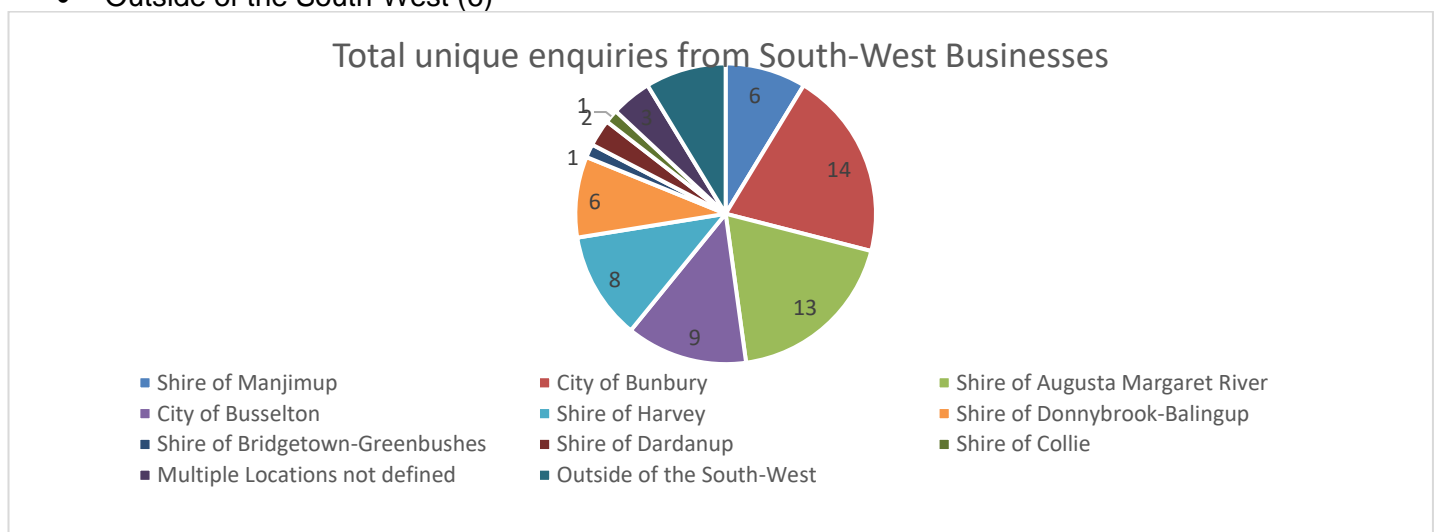
There have been 3 new unique enquiries from businesses since the last update, these are from the following Local Governments:

- Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup (1)
- Shire of Dardanup (1)
- City of Bunbury (1)



The total number of unique queries (to 31 Jul 2022) from businesses in the South-West are represented by the following LGAs:

- City of Bunbury (14)
- Shire of Augusta Margaret River (13)
- Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes (1)
- City of Busselton (9)
- Shire of Harvey (8)
- Shire of Manjimup (6)
- Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup (6)
- Shire of Dardanup (2)
- Shire of Collie (1)
- Multiple South-West locations not defined (3)
- Outside of the South-West (6)

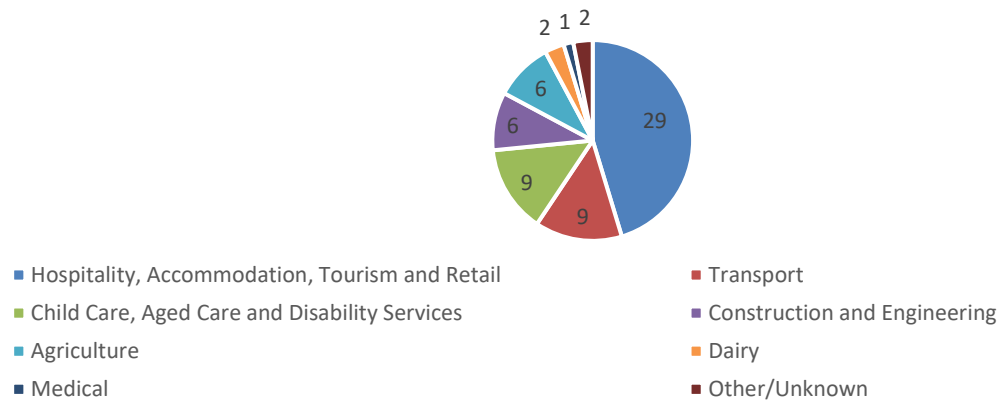


The inquiries to date that we have received from businesses are from the following industries:

- Hospitality, Accommodation, Tourism and Retail (29)

- Transport (9)
- Child Care, Aged Care and Disability Services (9)
- Construction and Engineering (6)
- Agriculture (6)
- Dairy (2)
- Medical (1)
- Other/unknown (2)

Industries represented in Enquiries to South-West DAMA



8. WALGA BUSINESS

8.1 Review of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*: Consideration of WALGA Discussion Paper

By Rebecca Brown, Manager Environment and Waste

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Richard Walker

Seconded: President Cr Michael Bennett

That the Zone endorse the following recommendations:

- 1. Strategic direction and regional priorities:** The State Government develop a strategic framework that enables the prioritisation of biosecurity threats in geographically defined regions and sets targets for declared pest management.
- 2. Agency responsibilities:** The roles and responsibilities of each State Government department responsible for biosecurity management need to be a clearly defined and communicated, a formalised structure for different agencies to work together established, and increased investment made in declared pest management on State Government managed land.
- 3. Declared Pest Rate and Recognised Biosecurity Groups:** If the Declared Pest Rate and Recognised Biosecurity Groups (RBGs) are to continue to be key mechanisms for the management of widespread and established declared pests, changes are required to improve their operation and effectiveness to better support the concept of shared responsibility.
- 4. Environmental biosecurity:** A more balanced view of biosecurity that has a greater focus on environmental biosecurity is required, through increased recognition and management of pest species that have significant ecological impacts.
- 5. Responses to incursions:** Increased and more equitable distribution of funding is required to ensure each step of the biosecurity continuum is adequately resourced for all stakeholders, including Local Government.
- 6. Management of declared pests in urban areas:** Declared pest management in all urban areas requires support through an appropriate funding mechanism.
- 7. Problematic non-declared pests:** The process for the listing of declared pests needs to be timely and transparent to ensure that land managers, including Local Government, are not resourcing the control of an increasing number of problematic non-declared pest species.
- 8. Sustainable funding model:** A sustainable and equitable funding model is required to manage the increasing biosecurity management threat.
- 9. Compliance and enforcement:** The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Developments responsibility for compliance and enforcement needs to be adequately resourced and enacted.
- 10. Monitoring, research and innovation:** Strategic monitoring, use of new technologies and the establishment of data management systems are required to inform biosecurity investment decisions and support adaptive management.
- 11. Community education and involvement:** A stronger focus on community education to increase understanding and awareness will improve engagement with biosecurity management programs and assist with timely incursion responses

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

The first 10-year [statutory review](#) of the [Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007](#) (BAM Act) is currently underway; this is a key opportunity for Local Government to influence the how post-border biosecurity is managed in Western Australia.

The [Independent Panel](#) undertaking the review, is using a three-stage engagement process:

- Stage 1 (closed) - open submissions and a survey to identify major themes and issues
- Stage 2 - stage 1 will 'provide the foundation for participatory processes to further explore themes and issues'
- Stage 3 - broader engagement to get feedback on the findings and potential solutions, expected to take place in late 2022/early 2023.

The Independent Panel is required to make its report, including any recommended amendments to the Act, to the Minister for Agriculture and Food by March 2023.

WALGA prepared a [Discussion Paper](#) to inform comment on the Review, which includes 11 key biosecurity themes and related recommendations reflecting issues raised by Local Government, and those identified in the [Auditor General's 2013 and 2020 Reports](#).

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

WALGA's current Policy Position on Biosecurity, was endorsed in 2017 and is available in the [Advocacy Positions Manual](#) (Section 4.5).

COMMENT

WALGA is seeking Zones' consideration of the recommendations included in the Discussion Paper to inform its submission to the Review on behalf of the sector and the development of an updated Biosecurity Advocacy Position. WALGA intends to put an updated Policy Position to the December State Council meeting. Local Governments are also strongly encouraged to make their own submissions to the review as appropriate in Stage 2 and 3.

8.2 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review Project

By Susie Moir, Policy Manager, Resilient Communities

WALGA and the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) Business Unit are working in partnership with key stakeholders to identify options to improve LEMA processes. WALGA has received AWARE funding to undertake the Local Government consultation for the LEMA Review.

WALGA will be delivering a series of workshops with Local Government to contribute to the design of a more streamlined, scalable, and fit-for-purpose LEMA model. The outcomes of the workshops will inform a LEMA Improvement Plan that will be prepared by the SEMC Business Unit.

Interactive workshops are being held in several locations with complimentary refreshments provided.

Target Audience: Chief Executive Officers, Emergency Management staff and Elected Members.

Workshop details below:

- Geraldton 7 September – Geraldton Multipurpose Centre 10.30am – 2:00pm
- Stirling 12 September – City of Stirling Civic Centre, Stirling Room 9:00am – 12:00pm
- Katanning 13 September – Katanning Leisure Centre 10.30am – 2:00pm
- Bunbury 14 September – City of Bunbury Administration, Function Room 10.30am – 2:00pm

- Northam 15 September – Bilya Koort Boodja Centre 10.30am – 2:00pm
- Victoria Park 16 September – Town of Victoria Park Administration Building 9:00am –12:00pm
- Online workshops – date TBC

Registration

To register for a free LEMA Review workshop, [click here](#) and choose your relevant date and location.

Read more in the [WALGA LEMA Review Issues Paper](#). Local Governments are also encouraged to provide written feedback by COB Friday 15 October 2022.

For further information please email [Simone Ruane](#), WALGA's LEMA Review Project Lead, or call 9213 2049.

NOTED

8.3 WALGA Status Report

By Tim Lane, Zone Executive Officer

BACKGROUND

Status Report for August 2022 which contains WALGA's responses to the resolutions of previous Zone Meetings.

Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
2021 19 November Zone Agenda Item 8.5 Legislative Council Reform	That the South West Country Zone request WALGA to advocate to the Minister for Electoral Affairs and the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal to provide additional allowances to Members of the Legislative Council (MLC), on the proviso they have an office in country areas, to facilitate a regional presence of MLCs.	The Zones position was endorsed by State Council and a new advocacy position has been endorsed.	August 2022	Tony Brown Executive Director, Member Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Michael Bennett
Seconded: President Cr Paul Omodei

That the South West Country Zone WALGA August 2022 Status Report be noted.

CARRIED

8.4 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda

BACKGROUND

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

The full State Council Agenda can be found via link: <https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/b517f698-7681-40e8-a7ac-c0673a0dbbea/State-Council-Agenda-9-September-2022.pdf>

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

Matters for Decision

5.1 2023-24 State Budget Submission

Moved: President Cr Richard Walker
Seconded: President Cr Paul Gillet

That the 2023-24 State Budget Submission be endorsed.

CARRIED

5.2 Proposed Advocacy Position on Management of Bush Fire Brigades

Moved: President Cr Paula Cristoffanini
Seconded: President Cr Michael Bennett

A. That the following Advocacy Position on Management of Bush Fire Brigades be endorsed.

Management of Bush Fire Brigades

- 1. Bush Fire Brigade volunteers play a critical role in helping to protect their local communities. Local knowledge and skills are integral to bushfire management in Western Australia.**
- 2. Future management and funding of volunteer Bush Fire Brigades must:**
 - a) Recognise the changing risk environment, including work health and safety requirements, and the increasing intensity and frequency of bushfires;**
 - b) Take account of the differing circumstances of Bush Fire Brigade units and regional variations in bush firefighting approaches; and**
 - c) Be adequately and equitably resourced through the Emergency Services Levy.**
- 3. The State Government, through the Consolidated Emergency Services Act and/or other mechanism's must:**
 - a) establish a clear framework to enable transfer of Bush Fire Brigades to the State Government if a Local Government decides to do so;**
 - b) Consult on the process, timeline, and implications for transfer of responsibility for Bush Fire Brigades in accordance with 3(a) through the establishment of a working group comprising representatives of Local Government, Bush Fire Brigades, the**

- Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES);
 - c) Provide for mandatory and minimum training requirements and recognition of competency and prior learning for Bush Fire Brigade volunteers, supported by a fit-for-purpose and universally accessible training program, designed in consultation with Bush Fire Brigade representatives, Local Government and LGIS, and managed by DFES; and
 - d) Develop a co-designed suite of relevant management guidelines and materials to assist in the management of Bush Fire Brigades.
4. The State Government to consider the most appropriate operational model for State Government management of Bush Fire Brigades, which may include the establishment of an independent Rural Fire Service, as recommended in the 2016 Ferguson Report.

B. That WALGA be advised that:

1. None of the proposed models, including the Hybrid Model appear to address or achieve the issues of liability under the WHS Act or recommendations of the Ferguson Report.
2. The Zone recommends that WALGA engage fully with DFES and key stakeholders around a desired structure for volunteer BFB's with the key objective of maximising the capability of the service.
3. Key factors to be considered in that process should be seeking a sound position on the implications and responses to address WHS legislation including:
 - a. development of resources, capability and capacity
 - b. training
 - c. RPL process
 - d. consequential implications of the CES Act
4. That WALGA advocate for changes in the WHS Act that
 - a. Expands the definition of a dangerous operation to include Volunteer Emergency Services Workers. or
 - b. Expand the definitions section to include fire ground operations – means the performance of a function, or the exercise of a power, of a emergency services worker in circumstances where the performance of the function, or the exercise of the power, is not reasonably practicable without exposing a ESW to a serious risk to the ESW health or safety emanating from an immediate or imminent exposure to a hazard.
5. That WALGA advocate for protection for Authorised Officers similar to that provided to those that provide WHS services relating to work health and safety under 26A(1)(b)(iii) emergency services provided by police officers, or other emergency services personnel, in situations where there is a serious risk to the health or safety of any individual.

CARRIED

Matters for Noting / Information

- 6.1 Local Government Homelessness Knowledge Hub
- 6.2 State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement 2023/24
- 6.3 Paid Family and Domestic Violence Leave Entitlements Update

6.4 Proposed State Industrial Relations Transition

6.5 2023-24 State Budget Submission Approach

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Paul Omodei

Seconded: President Cr Paul Gillet

That the South West Country Zone notes all Matters for Noting as listed in the 9 September 2022 State Council Agenda.

CARRIED

8.5 WALGA President's Report

WALGA Chief Executive Officer, Nick Sloan, provided an update on behalf of the WALGA President, Cr Karen Chappel.

Noted

9. AGENCY REPORTS / PRESENTATIONS

9.1 South West Development Commission

Chief Executive Officer, Mellisa Teede, and the South West Development Commission Team provided a brief update to the Zone.

Noted

9.2 Regional Development Australia – South West

Executive Officer, Charles Jenkinson, provided a brief update to the Zone.

Noted

9.3 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

Danielle Uniza, Director LG Support & Engagement and Brendan McNally, Regional Manager Peel South-West provided a brief update to the Zone.

Noted

10. FINANCIAL REPORT AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

10.1 Financial Report – End of Year

As at 30 June 2022		
	Actual YTD	Comments
	\$	
Opening Cash Balance	9,071	
Income		
Subscription Income	7,200	12 @ \$600 each
Total Income	7,200	
Expenses		
Bank Charges	64	12 months @ \$6
Jobs Forum	92	
SW Zone Brochure	3,367	
Total Expenses	3,522	
Closing Cash Balance	12,748	

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Paul Omodei

Seconded: President Cr Paul Gillet

That the Financial Report be received.

CARRIED

11. EMERGING ISSUES

12. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS

12.1 Future Meeting Dates

Meeting dates for 2022 and early 2023 are listed below.

MEETING DATE	HOST LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Friday 25 November 2022	Boyup Brook
Friday 17 February 2023	Augusta Margaret River
Friday 21 April 2023	Bridgetown Greenbushes
Friday 23 June 2023	Nannup

12.2 Next Meeting

MEETING DATE	HOST LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Friday 25 November 2022	Shire of Boyup Brook

13. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 12:19pm.