



Central Country Zone

Minutes

Held at:
Wandering Community Centre
Down Street, Wandering.

Commenced at 9:30am
Friday 19 November 2021

Table of Contents

1	ELECTIONS	4
1.1	Elections of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Central Country Zone.....	4
1.2	Elections of State Council Representatives and Deputy State Council Representatives to the Central Country Zone	4
1.3	Election of up to three (3) Zone Executive Committee Members of the Central Country Zone.....	5
1.4	Election of Local Government Agricultural Freight Group of the Central Country Zone – 1 Delegate and 1 Deputy Delegate	6
1.5	Election of Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee of the Central Country Zone – 1 Delegate and 1 Deputy Delegate.....	7
1.6	Election of the Regional Health Advocacy Representative of the Central Country Zone – 1 Delegate and 1 Deputy Delegate	8
	OPENING AND WELCOME	9
3.	ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES	9
	Attendance	9
	Central Country Zone Delegates and CEO’s	9
4.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	12
5.	GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS	12
5.1	Work Health and Safety Presentations	12
5.1.1.	Bill Mitchell - General Manager, Regulatory Support Division, Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety & David Eyre, Senior Policy Officer, Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety.....	12
5.1.2	Dave Gossage, President, Bushfires Volunteers	12
5.2	Mitchell Davies, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.....	12
6.	MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT	12
7.	MINUTES	13
7.1	Confirmation of Minutes from the Central Country Zone meeting held Friday 20 August 2021 (Attachment 1)	13
7.2	Business Arising from the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Meeting Friday 25 June 2021.....	13
7.2.1	Item 5.3.2, Strategic Priorities for the 2020/2021 Financial Year	13
7.2.2	Item 5.3.3, Red Tape Reduction.....	13
7.3	Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee held Wednesday 11 October 2021.....	15
7.3.2	Item 5.3, Proposed meeting dates 2022.....	15
7.3.3	Item 5.4, Engagement at meetings.....	16
7.4	Confirmation of Minutes from the Central Country Zone Meeting of the Executive Committee held Wednesday 11 October 2021 (Attachment 2)	17
8.	WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (WALGA) BUSINESS	17
8.1	State Councillor Report.....	17
8.2	WALGA Status Report.....	18
8.3	Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Matters for Decision.....	20

8.4	WALGA President’s Report	24
9.	ZONE REPORTS	24
9.1	Zone President Report.....	24
9.2	Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG).....	24
9.3	Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC)	24
9.4	Regional Health Advocacy Representative	24
10.	ZONE BUSINESS – MEMBER COUNCIL MATTERS.....	24
10.1	Zone Item Agenda process.....	24
10.2	Agricultural Freight Group feedback request.....	25
10.3	Police Resources in the Region	25
10.4	Local Government Legislative Reform	26
10.5	Work Health and Safety (WHS) Legislation Update	27
10.6	Bridges Renewal Program	29
10.7	Social Housing Information Item	29
11.	ZONE BUSINESS – OTHER BUSINESS/URGENT BUSINESS.....	30
12.	ZONE BUSINESS – EMERGING ISSUES	30
13.	OTHER AGENCY REPORTS	31
13.1	Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries	31
13.2	Wheatbelt Development Commission	31
13.3	Main Roads Western Australia	31
13.4	Wheatbelt RDA.....	31
14.	DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS	31
15.	CLOSURE.....	31

Central Country Zone

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Commenced at 9.30am, Friday 19 November 2021

Minutes

1 ELECTIONS

1.1 Elections of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Central Country Zone

Pursuant to the WALGA Constitution, the Secretariat shall assume the Chair for conducting the election of office bearers.

Guidelines for elections were distributed to Member Councils via email dated 20 October 2021.

The election for the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson shall be conducted and the term set at two years expiring in November 2023, in line with the terms of State Council representatives and in sync with Local Government Elections.

Zone Chairperson:

The following nomination was received for the positions of Chair for 2 years, November 2021 to November 2023.

- Cr Brett McGuinness, Shire of Quairading

DECLARATION

That Brett McGuinness be elected as Chairperson of the of the Central Country Zone for the term of 2 years, November 2021 to November 2023.

Deputy Zone Chairperson:

No written nominations were received for the position of Deputy Chairperson. Nominations will be called from the floor.

- Cr Des Hickey, Shire of Corrigin
- President Leigh Ballard, Shire of Narrogin

DECLARATION

That:

President Leigh Ballard be elected as Deputy Chairperson of the Central Country Zone for the term of 2 year, November 2021 to November 2023.

1.2 Elections of State Council Representatives and Deputy State Council Representatives to the Central Country Zone

Pursuant to the WALGA Constitution, the Secretariat shall assume the Chair for conducting the election of representatives and deputy representatives to the State Council.

Guidelines for elections were distributed to Member Councils via email dated 20 October 2021.

WALGA incorporates a 24 members State Council with its members derived from Metropolitan and Country Zones. The State Council is chaired by the Association President.

In accordance with sub-clause 9(3) of the WALGA Constitution representatives and deputy representatives to the State Council shall be elected by Zones of the Metropolitan and Country constituencies for two (2) year terms, commencing from the Ordinary Meeting of State Council in December 2021 and concluding at the Ordinary Meeting of State Council two years later.

For the Central Country Zone, there is one (1) representative positions on State Council and one (1) deputy representative positions. The term is from the Ordinary Meeting of State Council in December 2021 and concluding at the Ordinary Meeting of State Council in December 2023.

State Councillor:

The following written nominations were received for the position of State Council Representative:

- Cr Phillip Blight, Shire of Wagin
- Cr Katrina Crute, Shire of Brookton

In accordance with the guidelines endorsed by State Council, candidates will be afforded the opportunity to make a 2 minute election bid prior to the secret ballot being taken.

DECLARATION

That:

Cr Phillip Blight be elected as State Council Representative of the Central Country Zone to the State Council for the term of 2 years, December 2021 to December 2023.

Deputy State Councillor:

No written nominations were received for the position of Deputy State Council Representative. Nominations will be called from the floor.

DECLARATION

That:

Cr Katrina Crute, Shire of Brookton, be elected as Deputy State Council Representative of the Central Country Zone to the State Council for the term of 2 years, December 2021 to December 2023.

We ask the elected delegates to note the following details:

WALGA will host a 'State Councillor Induction Session' on 24 November at 4pm.

Further information will be e-mailed shortly.

1.3 Election of up to three (3) Zone Executive Committee Members of the Central Country Zone

Automatic Executive Committee membership will include the Zone President, Deputy Zone President and the State Councillor Representative.

The election for the Zone Executive Committee representatives shall be conducted and the term set at two years expiring in November 2023, in line with the terms of Zone Delegates and in sync with Local Government Elections.

Nominations for up to three Zone Executive Committee Representatives will be taken from the floor.

Should a ballot be required, nominees will be afforded the opportunity to provide a two (2) minute election bid.

Each voting delegate will be entitled to cast one (1) vote in the ballot process.
The candidates with the greater number of votes will be elected.

- Cr Katrina Crute, Shire of Brookton
- Cr Des Hickey, Shire of Corrigin
- Cr Julie Russell, Shire of Wickepin

DECLARATION

That Cr Katrina Crute, Cr Des Hickey and Cr Julie Russell be elected as Zone Executive Committee representative for the term of 2 years, November 2021 to November 2023.

1.4 Election of Local Government Agricultural Freight Group of the Central Country Zone – 1 Delegate and 1 Deputy Delegate

The election for the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group delegates of the Central Country Zone shall be conducted.

Delegate

Nominations for the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Delegate will be taken from the floor.

Each voting delegate will be entitled to cast one (1) vote in the ballot process.
The candidate with the greater number of votes will be elected.

- Cr Katrina Crute, Shire of Brookton

DECLARATION

That Cr Katrina Crute, be elected as Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Delegate of the Central Country Zone.

Deputy Delegate

Nominations for the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Deputy Delegate will be taken from the floor.

Each voting delegate will be entitled to cast one (1) vote in the ballot process.
The candidate with the greater number of votes will be elected.

- Cr Des Hickey, Shire of Corrigin

DECLARATION

That Cr Des Hickey, be elected as Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Deputy Delegate of the Central Country Zone

We ask the elected delegates to note the details of the next meeting of the Agricultural Freight Group:

on **FRIDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2021**
at **WATTLE ROOM, WALGA**
170 RAILWAY PARADE, WEST LEEDERVILLE
commencing **1.00 PM**

1.5 Election of Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee of the Central Country Zone – 1 Delegate and 1 Deputy Delegate

The election for the Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee of the Central Country Zone shall be conducted.

Delegate

Nominations for the Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee will be taken from the floor.

Each voting delegate will be entitled to cast one (1) vote in the ballot process. The candidate with the greater number of votes will be elected.

- President Leigh Ballard, Shire of Narrogin

DECLARATION

That **President Leigh Ballard**, be elected as the **Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee Delegate of the Central Country Zone**.

Deputy Delegate

Nominations for the Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee Deputy Delegate will be taken from the floor.

Should a ballot be required, nominees will be afforded the opportunity to provide a two (2) minute election bid.

Each voting delegate will be entitled to cast one (1) vote in the ballot process. The candidate with the greater number of votes will be elected.

- Cr Phillip Blight, Shire of Wagin

DECLARATION

That **Cr Phillip Blight**, be elected as **Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee Deputy Delegate of the Central Country Zone**

1.6 Election of the Regional Health Advocacy Representative of the Central Country Zone – 1 Delegate and 1 Deputy Delegate

The election for the Regional Health Advocacy Representative of the Central Country Zone shall be conducted.

Delegate

Nominations for the Regional Health Advocacy Representative will be taken from the floor.

Should a ballot be required, nominees will be afforded the opportunity to provide a two (2) minute election bid.

Each voting delegate will be entitled to cast one (1) vote in the ballot process.

The candidate with the greater number of votes will be elected.

- Ms Natalie Manton, CEO, Shire of Corrigin

DECLARATION

That Ms Natalie Manton, be elected as the Regional Health Advocacy Representative Delegate of the Central Country Zone.

Deputy Delegate

Nominations for the Regional Health Advocacy Representative Deputy Delegate will be taken from the floor.

Should a ballot be required, nominees will be afforded the opportunity to provide a two (2) minute election bid.

Each voting delegate will be entitled to cast one (1) vote in the ballot process.

The candidate with the greater number of votes will be elected.

- Cr Moya Carne, Shire of Williams

DECLARATION

That Cr Moya Carne, be elected as the Regional Health Advocacy Representative Deputy Delegate of the Central Country Zone

OPENING AND WELCOME

2.1 Announcements

NIL

2.1.1 Richard Chadwick

We wish to acknowledge the passing of Richard Chadwick earlier this year. Richard was a Councillor with the Shire of Narrogin from 2003, and held the position of Shire President from 2005 to 2016. He also served as the Central Country Zone's Chairperson for a number of years. The Zone passes our condolences to the Chadwick family, and the Narrogin community.

2.1.2 Housekeeping

The Zone Chair welcomed Zone members and provided OSH/bathroom/exit information to those in attendance.

To all Delegates, please ensure you call your name and Local Government when taking the floor to ensure accurate Minutes are recorded.

2.2 Host Welcome – President Ian Turton, Shire of Wandering

Cr Ian Turton, President Shire of Wandering, extended a welcome to Delegates and guests. His welcome included welcoming newly elected Delegates as well as giving an overview of the Town. The Shire is currently in the process of renovating the 1987 community building in which our meeting took place. New Tourism initiatives are being taken in establishing new chalets at the caravan park as well as improvements taking place at the campground.

Cr Turton highlighted plans to develop the Council owned fuel station in the town. This will tie in nicely with proposed new road upgrades. In addition to the above, Cr Turton mentioned that the valuation process to the rural areas of the Shire has been changed after four years of review and consultation.

He thanked the volunteer groups in the community who are a credit to the Shire, they put tremendous work into building the Community within the Shire.

Initiatives and developments are in place to allow the Shire's older citizens to remain in their current homes for longer, in comfort and safety.

Cr Turton highlighted the significance of the efforts needed by smaller Local Governments, to ensure their offices are run in a financially sustainable manner. Credit must be given to the CEO's who manage to do this so well.

3. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendance

Central Country Zone Delegates and CEO's

Shire of Beverley	President Cr David White
	Deputy President Cr Chris Lawlor
	Mr Steve Gollan, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate

Shire of Brookton	President Cr Katrina Crute Deputy President Cr Neil Walker Mr Paul Sheedy, Acting Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Corrigin	President Cr Des Hickey Ms Natalie Manton, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Cuballing	President Cr Eliza Dowling Deputy President Cr Rob Harris Mr Garry Sherry, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Dumbleyung	President Cr Julie Ramm Deputy President Cr Amy Knight Mr Gavin Treasure, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Kulin	Cr Barry West Cr Robbie Bowey Mr Garrick Yandle, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Lake Grace	President Cr Len Armstrong Deputy President Cr Ross Chappell Mr Alan George, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Narrogin	President Leigh Ballard Cr Graham Broad Mr Dale Stewart, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Quairading	Cr Brett McGuinness Cr Jonathan Hippisley Mr Graeme Fardon, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Wagin	President Cr Phillip Blight Deputy President Cr Gregory Ball Mr Bill Atkinson, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Wandering	President Cr Ian Turton Mr Ian Fitzgerald, Acting Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of West Arthur	President Cr Neil Morrell Cr Karen Harrington Mr Ian McCabe, Acting Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Wickepin	President Cr Julie Russell Mr Mark Hook, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Williams	President Cr Jarrad Logie Cr Moya Carne Mr Geoff McKeown, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate

WALGA Representatives

Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Services
Nick Sloan, Chief Executive Officer
Naoimh Donaghy, Governance and Organisational Services Officer

Guests

Rick Wilson MP, Federal Member for O'Connor
Hon Shelley Payne MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region
Bill Mitchell, General Manager, Regulatory Support Division, Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety
David Eyre - Senior Policy Officer, Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety
Darren Brown, Bushfires Volunteers
Mitchell Davies, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.
Greg Durell, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.
Ammar Mohammed, A/Regional Manager Wheatbelt, Main Roads
Brad Pearce, Main Roads
Kate Pryce, Research Officer, Office of Steve Martin MLC

Apologies

Deputy President Cr Mike Weguelin, Shire of Corrigin
President Cr Grant Robins, Shire of Kulin
President Cr Bill Mulroney, Shire of Pingelly
Deputy President Cr Jackie McBurney, Shire of Pingelly
Mr Andrew Dover, Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Pingelly
Deputy President Cr Paul Treasure, Shire of Wandering
Ms Belinda Knight, Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Wandering
Deputy President Cr Wes Astbury, Shire of Wickelpin
President Cr Jarrod Logie, Shire of Williams

Hon Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt (Leader of the Opposition)
Kathleen Brown, Electorate Officer, Office of Hon Mia Davies MLA
Hon Martin Aldridge MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region
Hon Peter Rundle MLA, Member for Roe
Hon Colin de Grussa MLC
Hon Steve Martin MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region
Hon Darren West MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region

Ms Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt Inc
Ms Clare Atkins, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Mr Grant Arthur, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Rob Cossart, Wheatbelt Development Commission – Chief Executive Officer

Attachments

The following were provided as attachments to the agenda:

- 1 7.1, Minutes, 20 August 2021, Zone Meeting
- 2 7.4, Minutes, 11 October 2021, Executive Committee Meeting
- 3 8.4, WALGA President's Report
- 4 10.4, Local Government Reform Initiatives
- 5 10.5 WHS, Shire of Wagin reference documents
- 6 13.4, Wheatbelt RDA

State Council Agenda – via link: [State Council Agenda December 2021](#)

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

NIL

5. GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS

5.1 Work Health and Safety Presentations

5.1.1 Bill Mitchell - General Manager, Regulatory Support Division, Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety & David Eyre - Senior Policy Officer, Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

David Eyre, presented on the Work Health and Safety Act, and Volunteers.

Presentation attached – “Presentation 1”

Mr Eyre took questions from the floor.

Noted

5.1.2 Darren Brown, Bushfires Volunteers Association

Darren Brown presented on the Work Health and Safety Act and Volunteers.

Noted

5.2 Mitchell Davies, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

Mr Davies, the Department’s Regional Operations Manager, Parks and Wildlife Service for the Wheatbelt region, presented to the Zone on volunteer bush fire fighters access to DBCA reserves while also covering some general information.

Presentation attached – “Presentation 2”

Mr Davies was accompanied by Greg Durell, Regional Manager.

Noted

6. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

6.1 Rick Wilson MP, Federal Member for O’Connor

Rick spoke to Members and highlighted some funding programs currently in progress. Emphasis was put on a local level grant program, “Stronger Communities” – he encouraged Community Groups to seek funding for smaller projects which will have a big impact on their organisations. Collaboration is happening with various other Ministers to secure more money for the regions. Ricks jurisdiction has widened from 38 Local Governments to 58 Local Governments.

Questions were taken from the floor with a focus on phone towers and black spots in the region.

Noted

6.2 Shelley Payne MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region

Shelley commended the Central Country Zone on their vaccination rates, nearly all Local Governments are over 80% vaccination.

She also commended the Shire of Wandering for a fantastic camp out event held earlier this year.

Noted

7. **MINUTES**

7.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the Central Country Zone meeting held Friday 20 August 2021 (Attachment 1)

The Minutes of the Central Country Zone meeting held on Friday 20 August 2021 have previously been circulated to Member Councils.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Barry West

Seconded: President Leigh Ballard

That the Minutes of the Central Country Zone meeting held Friday 20 August 2021 are confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

7.2 Business Arising from the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Meeting Friday 25 June 2021

7.2.1 Item 5.3.2, Strategic Priorities for the 2020/2021 Financial Year

Following the August meeting, the Executive Officer issued an invite to the Minister for Local Government to discuss Local Government Act amendments and Red Tape Reduction. The Minister is unable to attend the November meeting, however tentative meeting dates have been shared of the 2022 Central Country Zone in the hope he may be able to attend at another time.

An update will be provided at the next Zone meeting.

Noted

7.2.2 Item 5.3.3, Red Tape Reduction

At the August meeting of the Zone, it was resolved:

Zone Recommendation:

That the Central Country Zone Local Governments submit items for the Zone to consider prioritising and submitting to the Zone Executive Officer no later than 30 September 2021 in respect to potential red tape reduction items.

The Zone Executive Officer invited responses via e-mail and received the following four replies:

1. Shire of Narrogin:
 - Development of Model Local Laws such as Health and Standing Orders for easy adoption by reference if there are no 'significant' variations or changes. Simplification, consistency and standardisation and reduction of bureaucracy benefits.
 - Removal of the need for Annual General Meeting of Electors – mandatory public question time has removed the need for this.

2. Shire of Cuballing:

The Shire forwarded the following example of where they believe Red Tape has been needlessly increased:

Local Government (Elections) Regulations 1997:

The DLGSC recently amended *Reg 24 Candidate's Profile* from:

The profile of a candidate required by section 4.49(b) —

(a) is to be in the English language and is not to contain more than 150 words (not counting the words needed to comply with paragraph (d)); and

to

The profile of a candidate required by section 4.49(b) —

(a) is to be in the English language and is not to contain more than 800 characters and spaces (but not counting the characters and spaces needed to comply with paragraph (d)); and

This regulation amendment has resulted in:

- Increased difficulty for candidates in preparing their candidate's profile;
- Increased likelihood of errors in the preparation of their profile by candidates delaying the nomination process; and
- Increased effort to ensure compliance by Returning Officers.

3. Shire of Williams:

Abandoned Vehicles:

Local Government are obliged to collect abandoned vehicles left on roadsides and other reserves they manage.

When the vehicle is impounded the LG starts the process of contacting the owner.

A request is made to the Department of Transport for ownership information with the payment of a fee of \$3.40 and the LG can wait several days or weeks for the information to be provided.

LGs that are Agents of the Department of Transport could access the information immediately but are not permitted to do so.

This could be overcome with an appropriate note/comment made on the inquiry transaction at the time of searching the ownership information.

It would speed up the process of dealing with abandoned vehicles.

I would be interested to know if other LGs have the same issue.

4. Shire of Brookton:

Clearing Permits:

I would suspect that relevant red tape issues for this Shire would have already been identified and submitted by other local governments. From a wider local government CEO view one ongoing issue (am sure others would have identified it) is the red tape and time frame involved in local governments obtaining clearing permits for road verges associated with annual road works, which whilst improved is still unsatisfactory and a unreasonable long process.

Comment:

The meeting noted that the item raised by the Shire of Narrogin is being considered in the current legislative reform program.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Katrina Crute

Seconded: Cr Ross Chappell

The Central Country Zone wish for the above listed concerns, excluding that of the Shire of Narrogin, to be progressed to the Minister for consideration.

CARRIED

7.3 Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee held Wednesday 11 October 2021

The recommendations from the Executive Committee Meeting that require Zone consideration have been extracted for the Zones consideration.

7.3.2 Item 5.3, Proposed meeting dates 2022

BACKGROUND

Meeting dates for the Central Country Zone's Executive Committee and Zone meetings were presented to the Committee on 11 October 2021. Dates for both the Committee and Zone meetings were accepted.

At the Zone meeting, an error was highlighted in the August Executive calendar, this has been updated.

The Executive Committee dates are 1.5 weeks prior to the Zone meeting. Zone meetings are scheduled to align with State Council meetings.

**NOTICE OF MEETINGS
CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE 2022
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Exec Comm Meeting Dates	Time	HOST COUNCIL
Wednesday		
9 February	Wednesday 8 am	In-person – Location TBC
13 April	Wednesday 8 am	Teleconference
15 June	Wednesday 8 am	Teleconference
10 August	Wednesday 8 am	Teleconference
16 November	Wednesday 8 am	Teleconference

ZONE

Zone Meeting Dates Friday	Time	Host Council	State Council meeting Dates 2022
18 February	Friday 9.30 am	West Arthur	Wednesday 2 March
22 April	Friday 9.30 am	Wickepin	Wednesday 4 May
24 June	Friday 9.30 am	Williams	Wednesday 6 July
19 August	Friday 9.30 am	Beverley	Regional Meeting 1-2 September
25 November	Friday 9.30 am	Brookton	Wednesday 7 December

ZONE RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Katrina Crute

Seconded: Cr Jonathan Hippisley

That the Central Country Zone endorse the proposed dates.

CARRIED

7.3.3 Item 5.4, Engagement at meetings

Background:

The Committee reflected on past Zone meetings and the interaction from Zone members at those meetings. Zone meetings are held in an effort to ensure all Local Governments and their communities have a voice and that their needs are heard.

Recommendation:

- 1. Provide a process with the Zone on how members can be encouraged to add items to the Agenda for consideration.*
- 2. A survey of members on suggestions to increase participation.*
- 3. The survey will include questions in relation to emerging and/or local issues for each Local Government.*
- 4. Ideally, meeting rooms will be laid out to accommodate face to face interaction with all members, with a clear view of the chair and screen.*
- 5. Attendance confirmation will be requested prior to the meeting to ensure seating is arranged appropriately for those in attendance.*

Comment:

In respect to the first recommendation, an Item has been added to Zone Business.

For recommendations 2 and 3, due to Local Government elections and new Zone Delegates, a survey will be issued in the coming weeks to all Central Country Zone Delegates, proxys and CEO's.

The fourth recommendation will be coordinated between the host Council and the Executive Officer.

The fifth recommendation will be a standard practise moving forward.

NOTED

7.4 Confirmation of Minutes from the Central Country Zone Meeting of the Executive Committee held Wednesday 11 October 2021 (Attachment 2)

The Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 11 October 2021 are for endorsement.

RECOMMENDATION:

Moved: Cr Barry West

Seconded: Cr Phillip Blight

That the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held Wednesday 11 October 2021 be endorsed.

CARRIED

8. WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (WALGA) BUSINESS

Zone delegates to consider the Matters for Decision contained in the WA Local Government Association State Council Agenda and put forward resolutions to Zone Representatives on State Council

8.1 State Councillor Report

Cr Phillip Blight spoke to the State Councillor Report Guide, December 2021 (Attachment 7)

Noted

8.2 WALGA Status Report

By Tony Brown, Executive Officer



BACKGROUND

Presenting the Status Report for November 2021 which contains WALGA's responses to the resolutions of previous Zone Meetings.

COMPLETE ZONE STATUS REPORT NOVEMBER 2021

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Central C	2019 Nov 29 Zone Agenda Item 10.8 Western Australia's Share of Fuel Excise	That WALGA prepares and endorses a strategy to obtain transparency of the distribution of the fuel excise with the intent to maximise the return to Western Australia for road maintenance.	<p>The resolution was been referred to the Infrastructure Policy Team and based on direction provided further research to support an advocacy position is being carried out.</p> <p>The Association met with the RAC and received access to a 2020 revision of a report commissioned by the RAC quantifying motorist taxation and Federal Government investment in WA transport infrastructure.</p>	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Central C	2021 20 August Zone Agenda Item 8.4 Social Housing Economic Recovery Package Grant Funding	<p>1. That the Zone notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">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 Wednesday 1 September 2021.The Department of Communities will provide further information on the SHERP grants at a WALGA webinar to be held at 1:30pm on Wednesday 1 September. <p>2. Request WALGA to advocate for more State funding for housing in the regions.</p>	<p>Applications for the SHERP Grants Program closed on of 27 October for refurbishments and 30 November 2021 for new builds. Applications for remote aboriginal communities' maintenance will remain open until funding has been expended.</p> <p>WALGA has submitted feedback to the SHERP Team at Department of Communities advocating for an extension of time. Representations have been made to Minister Carey, on Monday 25 October, regarding the request for extension to New Build closing date of 30 November. Requests have also been made for funding extension to refurbishment of</p>	November 2021	Nicole Matthews A/Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039

			<p>Government Regional Officer Housing properties owned by Local Government.</p> <p>WALGA is investigating advocacy options for land development costs to be covered by this program, through Development WA and Minister Buti and for this program to extend to Key Worker Housing construction in regional areas.</p>		
Central C	<p>2020 February 21 Zone Agenda Item 12.1 General Practitioner Services in Rural Areas - Shire of Corrigin</p>	<p>That WALGA be requested to investigate tendering issues around General Practitioner Services in Rural Areas with consideration given to including an exemption from tendering for such services under the Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996.</p>	<p>State Council agenda item 5.2 considered this issue and recommends as follows;</p> <p>That WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopt a new Advocacy Position Statement under 'Local Government Legislation - Tender Exemption General Practitioner Services': <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>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 retain necessary primary health care services for their communities; and</i> 2. Undertake additional research in support of the Advocacy Position with the following aims: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	November 2021	<p>Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au <u>u</u></p>

ZONE DISCUSSION

Ms Natalie Manton, CEO Shire of Corrigin, let the Members know that she recently met with the Minister and shared some comparative dollar statistic between Regional and Metro Local Governments to highlight the issue of General Practitioner Services in Rural Areas.

ZONE COMMENT

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

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Julie Russell

Seconded: Cr Des Hickey

That the Central Country Zone WALGA November 2021 Status Report be noted.

Noted

8.3 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Matters for Decision

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 [State Council Agenda December 2021](#)

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

Matters for Decision

5.1 Paid Family and Domestic Violence Leave Entitlements

That WALGA:

Endorse the submission to the Fair Work Commission (FWC) regarding paid family and domestic violence leave (FDVL) which:

1. highlights that FDVL for employees is an important issue for the sector;
2. supports the introduction of a new entitlement in modern awards for employees to receive five days' paid FDVL per year;
3. advocates for employees to be able to access their paid personal/carer's leave in circumstances of family and domestic violence; and
4. opposes the introduction of a new entitlement in modern awards for employees to receive 10 days' paid FDVL per year as sought by the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU).

Zone Comment:

The Zone supports the WALGA recommendation.

5.2 Payment to Independent Committee Members

That WALGA request the Minister for Local Government to amend the *Local Government Act 1995* to allow the payment of meeting attendance fees to, and/or defined reimbursements for time committed by, 'other persons' appointed as Committee members under s.5.8 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Zone Comment:

The Zone supports the WALGA recommendation.

5.3 2021 Annual General Meeting

That:

1. The following resolutions from the 2021 WALGA Annual General Meeting be endorsed for action:

Cost of Regional Development

That WALGA makes urgent representation to the State Government to address the high cost of development in regional areas for both residential and industrial land, including the prohibitive cost of utilities headworks, which has led to market failure in many regional towns.

CSRFF Funding Pool and Contribution Ratios

That WALGA lobby the State Government to:

1. Increase the CSRFF funding pool to \$25 million per annum and revert the contribution ratio to 50% split to enable more community programs and infrastructure to be delivered.
2. Increase the \$1 million per annum quarantined for female representation to \$2 million per annum.

Regional Telecommunications Project

That WALGA strongly advocates to the State Government to increase funding for the Regional Telecommunications Project to leverage the Federal Mobile Black Spot Program and provide adequate mobile phone coverage to regional areas that currently have limited or no access to the service.

2. The following resolution passed at the 2021 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the Mining Communities Policy Forum and the People and Place Policy Team for advocacy work to be undertaken:

Review of the Environmental Regulations for Mining

Regarding a review of the Mining Act 1978:

1. To call on Minister Bill Johnston, Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Energy; Corrective Services to instigate a review of the 43-year-old Mining Act to require mining companies to abide by environmental regulations, and to support research and development into sustainable mining practices that would allow mining without detriment to diversification and community sustainability through other industries and development.
2. That abandoned mines in regional Western Australia receive a priority action plan with programmes developed to work with rural and remote communities to assist in the rehabilitation of these mines as a job creation programme, with funding allocated for diversification projects for support beyond mine life across Western Australia.

Zone Comment:

The Zone supports the WALGA recommendation.

5.4 Review of advocacy positions relating to the Building Act 2011 and Building Regulations 2012

That State Council endorses the replacement of Section 6.7: Building Act and Fees of WALGA's advocacy positions document relating to the *Building Act 2011* and Building Regulations 2012 with the following:

1. Support the retention of Local Government as the primary permit authority in Western Australia for decisions made under the *Building Act 2011*.
2. Supports mandatory inspections for all classes of buildings, however, Local Government should not be solely responsible for all mandatory inspections.
3. Advocate for the State Government to urgently prioritise legislative reform that addresses systemic failures in the current building control model and to provide clarification on the role of Local Government in building control to ensure building legislation supports the following objectives:
 - a. Quality buildings that are cost efficient.
 - b. Functional, safe and environmentally friendly buildings.
 - c. Good decision making in all aspects of building.
 - d. Efficiency and effectiveness in building management, administration and regulation.
 - e. Openness and accountability with respect to all building matters.
 - f. Recognition of the rights and responsibilities of all parties in building matters in an equitable manner.
4. Existing and proposed building control related fees and charges to be cost recovery for Local Government.
5. WALGA will work with members, state agencies and industry groups to develop training opportunities and to promote the Local Government building surveying profession to ensure sustainability of Local Government building control services.
6. WALGA supports the Australian Building Codes Boards Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings by supporting Local Governments to meet community strategic objectives of a net zero carbon future by 2050 through work with members, state agencies and industry groups.

Zone Comment:

The Zone supports the WALGA recommendation.

5.5 Draft WA Building Surveyors Code of Conduct

That WALGA:

1. Recommend to the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) that the Draft WA Building Surveyors Code of Conduct be reviewed to ensure it addresses the following matters:
 - a) The impact of the obligations recommended in the draft Code be considered in relation to the current Western Australian building control model to ensure Local Government are able to maintain their statutory functions in line with community expectations.
 - b) That other building reform that will greatly impact the role of Local Government in the current Western Australian building control model, such as mandatory inspections and minimum documentation, be formalised prior to the Code of Conduct being introduced to ensure Local Government in Western Australia are able to maintain their statutory functions in line with community expectations.
 - c) Ensure that communities in remote and regional areas are considered when developing policy to restrict building surveyors being involved in design consultation work.
2. Endorse the attached consultation response summary on the draft Code.

Zone Comment:

The Zone supports the WALGA recommendation.

Matters for Noting

- 6.1 Local Government Support for Single Use Plastic Bans**
- 6.2 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council**
- 6.3 WALGA submission on the National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy**
- 6.4 Closing the Gap Update**
- 6.5 Submission to the Senate Inquiry into Provision of General Practitioner and related primary health services to outer metropolitan, rural, and regional Australians**
- 6.6 Wooroloo Independent Review Letter of Support**
- 6.7 State Budget Outcomes**
- 6.8 Foundations for a Stronger Tomorrow – Submission to the Draft State Infrastructure Strategy**
- 6.9 Regional Telecommunications Review 2021**
- 6.10 WALGA submission on Guideline: Native Vegetation Referral, Part V Environmental Protection Act 1986**
- 6.11 WALGA submission on Draft Native Vegetation Policy for Western Australia**
- 6.12 Submission on Cost Recovery Part IV of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 – assessments by the Environmental Protection Authority**
- 6.13 Student Transport Assistance Policy Framework Inquiry – WALGA Submission**

Key Activity Reports

- 7.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Commercial and Communications Unit**
- 7.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Governance and Organisational Services Unit**
- 7.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure**
- 7.1.4 Report on Key Activities, Strategy, Policy and Planning Unit**
- 7.2 Policy Forum Report**

RECOMMENDATION:

Moved: Cr Katrina Crute
Seconded: Cr Len Armstrong

That the Central Country Zone endorses all recommendations being matters contained in the WALGA State Council Agenda.

CARRIED

8.4 WALGA President's Report

The WALGA President's Report was circulated prior to the meeting (Attachment 3).

WALGA CEO Nick Sloan, addressed attendees to share some highlights from the report:

- Current WALGA President Tracey Roberts will chair her final State Council meeting on 1 December.

A portion of the reporter covered the mandatory vaccine legislation. Questions from the floor included:

- Clarity around what category road and construction workers will fall under.
- Can Local Governments demand employee vaccination information.

Further information was also offered on what qualifies as an "independent officer" for the purpose of the audit committee.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Julie Ramm

Seconded: Cr Jonathan Hippisley

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

CARRIED

9. ZONE REPORTS

9.1 Zone President Report

NIL

9.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG)

NIL

9.3 Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC)

NIL

9.4 Regional Health Advocacy Representative

NIL

10. ZONE BUSINESS – MEMBER COUNCIL MATTERS

10.1 Zone Item Agenda process

All Zone Members are welcomed and encouraged to provide input into the Zone Agenda.

Approximately five weeks prior to a scheduled meeting, the Zone Executive Officer will e-mail all Delegates and CEO's a *Notice of Meeting*. This notice contains the meeting details, as well as invites any Agenda Items Members wish included in the Agenda.

If you have an Item, please reply to the e-mail by the date listed within. Items are requested 2-3 weeks in advance of the meeting.

If you need assistance with how to present an item, please speak with the Executive Officer who will provide guidelines.

If you have any questions or require further information in relation to the above mentioned process, please contact Tony Brown, Zone Executive Officer on 9213 2051 or email tbrown@walga.asn.au.

Noted

10.2 Agricultural Freight Group feedback request

Zone Executive Officers have been asked to provide feedback from the Agricultural Freight Group's member Zones as to the continuation of the Group. Feedback is requested on the role it should play particularly with regards to advocacy to the State Government and the frequency of meetings. The Group's current objectives are

1. To achieve an integrated road/rail network to support the agricultural freight task.
2. To facilitate the development of local government policy and capacity for a coordinated efficient approach to the use of roads by heavy vehicles in the agricultural freight task.
3. To provide input to the Western Australian Local Government Association on the agricultural freight task.
4. To provide a forum to promote and advocate an understanding of the issues associated with local roads supporting the agricultural freight task.
5. To advocate a community and industry understanding of the issues associated with the agricultural freight task.

Zone Comment:

Cr Crute shared that the Agricultural Freight Group has not met in almost 12 months. The Group does not have a full board at the moment. However as the Central Country Zone representative, Cr Crute asked for feedback and issues to be raised by the Zone so as to fully utilise the Agricultural freight group.

RECOMMENDATION

The Central Country Zone resolved to continue the group, with more feedback to the Zone Delegate.

RESOLVED

10.3 Police Resources in the Region

Graeme Fardon, Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Quairading

The Shire of Quairading and the Community have become increasingly concerned at the recent increase in Crime in the District (some 7 Home Burglaries in a week or so) and also in surrounding Shires, and especially in the light that the OIC has just transferred to Quairading and WA Police have been unable to fill the Second Officer's Position at the Quairading Police Station for many months after the 2IC was transferred to Brookton. There is concern that personal and property safety is at very real threat.

This situation has seen the sole Police Officer (OIC) working solely or with remote assistance from neighbouring Police Stations. Further the Quairading Officer is also expected to provide cover for Kellerberrin, Tammin and Cunderdin Communities.

The Community has recently written to the Premier, Commissioner of Police and Mia Davies as Local Member and Leader of the Opposition calling for Action to resolve the Issue.

Mia Davies convened an urgent Meeting with Concerned Community Members (mostly Seniors) last Saturday and in excess of 50 Community Members attended.

The Shire of Quairading would like this issue raised with Zone Member Councils at the forthcoming Meeting, so as to highlight the extreme shortage of Police Resources stationed in the Region and also the risk to existing Officers of working without a full complement at each Station.

There may also be again the argument offered by Government that if a Station cannot be adequately resourced that the "2 Person Police Stations" are not operationally safe and therefore are closed and resources then retained only in the Regional Centres such as Narrogin, Northam and Merredin.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Jonathan Hippisley

Seconded: Cr Ross Chappell

That the CCZ call upon WALGA to advocate to State Government on the shortage of police and housing in regional and remote areas.

CARRIED

10.4 Local Government Legislative Reform

Tony Brown, Executive Manager, Governance and Organisational Services, WALGA

Background

The Minister for Local Government, the Hon John Carey, MLA announced Local Government legislative reform initiatives on Wednesday 10 November 2021.

The reform proposals are based on the following six major themes:

1. Earlier intervention, effective regulation and stronger penalties
2. Reducing red tape, increasing consistency and simplicity
3. Greater transparency and accountability
4. Stronger local democracy and community engagement
5. Clear roles and responsibilities
6. Improved financial management and reporting.

The reform proposals are based on consultation undertaken over the last five years, and have been developed considering:

- The Local Government Review Panel Final Report (mid 2020)
- The City of Perth Inquiry Report (mid 2020)
- Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) consultation on Act Reform (2017-2020)
- The Victorian Local Government Act 2020 and other State Acts
- The Parliament's Select Committee Report into Local Government (late 2020)
- Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) Submissions
- Direct engagement with local governments
- Correspondence and complaints
- Miscellaneous past reports.

The information on the reform initiatives can be found [here](#) and is attached (Attachment 4).
The State Government have advised of a 3 month consultation period ending on 4 February 2022.

Comment

Many of the initiatives outlined as a part of this package have been informed by engagement between our Members and the Minister for Local Government. The Local Government sector will welcome the tiered approach to many requirements according to the differing size and scale of Local Governments.

The Local Government sector has been advocating for the following reform initiatives including:

- introduction of a contemporary intervention framework
- greater clarity of roles and responsibilities of Elected Members and Chief Executive Officers
- tiered compliance approach to financial reporting requirements according to size and scale of Local Governments
- model financial statements and fit for purpose financial ratios
- improved processes relating to regional subsidiaries to facilitate collaborative service delivery
- reducing unnecessary red-tape and a more flexible approach to enable resource sharing
- retention of current election cycle for Elected Members, and
- simplification of strategic planning processes and community engagement models.

WALGA will prepare information to the sector analysing the proposals against current sector positions and recommending positions on proposals that currently do not have a formal position. Sector feedback will be requested with a view to providing a sector response to all of the proposals.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Neil Walker

Seconded: Cr Julie Russell

That the Zone Executive Committee be given delegated authority to consider a Zone response.

CARRIED

10.5 Work Health and Safety (WHS) Legislation Update

Susie Moir, Policy Manager, Resilient Communities

Executive Summary

1. The Work Health and Safety Act 2020 (WHS legislation) was passed by the West Australian Parliament in November 2020, and is expected to come into effect in January 2022 with the Regulations and transition period still to be finalised.
2. The new WHS legislation introduces a number of new legal terms and concepts, including the term Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU). Further, volunteers are now included in the definition of Workers.
3. The Local Government sector has expressed concern with the new WHS legislation, particularly around the implications for the management of volunteer bushfire brigades (BFBs).
4. A Duty of Care may be shared with others, and if more than one person has a duty in relation to the same matter, they must consult, cooperate and coordinate their activities, which adds additional complexity in the case of BFBs.
5. WALGA and LGIS are working to provide support and resources to the sector to assist with the transition to the new WHS legislation.

Background

The Work Health and Safety Act 2020 was passed by the West Australian Parliament in November 2020, and is expected to come into effect in January 2022 with the Regulations and transition period still to be finalised.

The main changes in the new legislation are:

- The primary duty holder is the 'person conducting a business or undertaking' (PCBU) which is intended to capture a broader range of contemporary workplace relationships;
- A broader definition of 'worker' which specifically includes volunteers, including BFB volunteers;
- Broader and overlapping duties of care attach to those who have the capacity to exercise influence and control over health and safety matters and a duty to consult with other duty holders;
- A positive duty of due diligence for officers of a PCBU; and
- Increased penalties for offences under the WHS legislation and the introduction of industrial manslaughter provisions;

On 31 August WALGA and LGIS delivered a webinar on the new WHS legislation which was attended by more than 140 people from 80 Local Governments. A panel of presenters from LGIS, Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), McLeods Barristers and Solicitors, and the City of Mandurah shared their knowledge and experience in relation to the new legislation, WHS obligations, and BFB volunteer training and management. The webinar is available on the WALGA website and a FAQ document is being developed jointly by LGIS and DFES. LGIS has also prepared a Volunteer Handbook and CEO Briefing Note on the WHS legislation available on their website.

Comment

WALGA and LGIS are continuing to liaise with DFES and DMIRS on these issues, recognising the need for further information and clarification regarding the implications and requirements of the WHS legislation for the sector's management of bushfire brigade volunteers. Other activities that WALGA is undertaking include:

- Meetings with the Workplace Commissioner Darren Kavanagh and other groups responsible for Volunteer organisations and DFES to discuss the concerns being raised by volunteers and relevant organisations.
 - This was a positive meeting with all wanting to put in place reasonable and practical measures to assist Local Governments and Volunteers. The Workplace Commissioners' department DMIRS has released a Guide to Work health and safety for volunteer organisations which WALGA provided feedback on.
 - On 12 November DMIRS delivered a webinar for volunteers and volunteer organisations;
- LGIS is obtaining legal advice about which Local Government officers are considered 'officers' for the purposes of the WHS legislation which will be provided to the sector;
- WALGA is developing a scope of works for a WHS consultant to develop additional tools and resources to support the sector; and
- WALGA will advocate to the Minister for the commencement of the WHS legislation for Local Governments to be delayed until June 2022 to allow additional time to ensure that safe work practices are implemented for volunteers.

To inform its advocacy on this and sector emergency management issues more generally, WALGA is also undertaking an Emergency Management Survey of Local Governments to ascertain the sentiment of the sector to their emergency management obligations, and to understand how they are undertaking their management of BFBs. The survey includes questions about the types of additional

support that Local Governments require in order to comply with the WHS legislation. Preliminary survey feedback indicates:

- Local Governments need more information on Work Health and Safety and Guidelines and templates to support compliance with the legislation;
- Further work is needed to ensure that Local Governments are well prepared to meet WHS requirements in relation to:
 - Providing up to date Standard Operating Procedures and directives for incident response;
 - Training for use of vehicles and equipment use;
 - Ensuring Bush Fire brigade stations do not present a risk to health and safety; and
 - Providing for volunteer fatigue management and access to welfare services; and
- Local Governments generally feel well prepared in relation to WHS regarding provision of personal protective equipment for volunteers.

Attachments:

The Shire of Wagin have provided a copy of their 'Management of Bushfire Volunteer Policy' and 'RPL Assessment Form/Competency Certificate' (Attachment 5)

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: President Leigh Ballard

Seconded: Cr Katrina Crute

That the Central Country Zone request WALGA, LGIS, DFES, DMIRS and Bushfire Volunteers to urgently provide a template recommending minimum procedures for induction, PPE and training, for all registered volunteer bush fire fighters to satisfy duty of care obligations of Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Executive Management as employers of these 'volunteers' under the Work Health and Safety Act 2020.

LOST

Noted

10.6 Bridges Renewal Program

The Liberal and Nationals Government are investing \$250 million in initiatives that will improve heavy vehicle safety, keep freight moving and create new economic opportunities and jobs.

Applications are now open for the Bridges Renewal Program (BRP) and the Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program (HVSPP).

The Media release can be found [Here](#) , and Further information and links to apply can be found [Here](#)

Noted

10.7 Social Housing Information Item

The Hon John Carey MLA, Minister for Housing; Local Government; released this press release, [Regional WA to benefit from record investment in social housing](#), in early September. The release outlines a record social housing investment to deliver up to 275 new regional homes by mid-2023. Please see link for further information.

Noted

11. **ZONE BUSINESS – OTHER BUSINESS/URGENT BUSINESS**

11.1 **Graeme Fardon, CEO, Quairading**

During his closing address, Zone Chair Cr Brett McGuinness thanked CEO Graeme Fardon for his many years of service to the sector, and particularly to the Shire of Quairading.

This was Graeme's last Zone meeting before his retirement.

12. **ZONE BUSINESS – EMERGING ISSUES**

12.1 **Sector ICT solution:**

Cr Jonathan Hippisley, Shire of Quairading.

Cr Hippisley raised the topic of researching a sector wide ICT solution, bespoke to Local Government. This may create more opportunity for sharing of resources and a reduction in overall running costs of ICT systems, particularly with the incoming requirement to audio record and save all Council meetings.

Zone Comment:

CEO Mark Hook mentioned the market share Synergy Soft currently holds in the sector and that most staff are trained on this system.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Jonathan Hippisley

Seconded: Cr Katrina Crute

That the Zone request WALGA to research providers and the viability of an in-house IT system.

CARRIED

12.2 **Executive Officer Service Review**

Cr Brett McGuinness, Shire of Quairading

Cr McGuinness raised the Executive Officer Service Review for discussion.

Zone Comment:

Feedback from the floor was the Zone have other more timely matters they want to progress and focus on. It was also mentioned that WALGA have only facilitated two meetings to date, and a review at this time may be too early.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Katrina Crute

Seconded: Cr Julie Russell

The Central Country Zone Executive Committee defer any review of the Executive Officer position for 12 months to November 2022.

CARRIED

OTHER AGENCY REPORTS

13.1 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

The was no representative in attendance.

Noted

13.2 Wheatbelt Development Commission

The was no representative in attendance.

Zone Comment:

It was noted that the Zone has not had a representative present from the Wheatbelt Development Commission for a number of meetings. The Zone Executive Officer has been asked to contact the Commission.

Noted

13.3 Main Roads Western Australia

Ammar Mohammed, A/Regional Manager Wheatbelt, Main Roads, provided an update to the Zone.

Noted

13.4 Wheatbelt RDA

Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development RDA Wheatbelt is an apology for this meeting, however has proved the attached report (Attachment 6)

Mandy has asked for any feedback to be forwarded to her on mandy.walker@rdawheatbelt.com.au

Noted

13. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Central Country Zone will be held in West Arthur on Friday 18 February 2022, commencing at 9.30am.

14. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 1.08