

North Metropolitan Zone Minutes

20 November 2024

**Hosted by the City of Wanneroo
23 Dundobar Road, Wanneroo**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | |
|----------|--|-----------|
| 1 | OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES..... | 5 |
| 1.1 | Opening | 5 |
| 1.2 | Attendance | 5 |
| 1.3 | Apologies | 6 |
| 2 | ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY | 6 |
| 3 | DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST..... | 6 |
| 4 | DEPUTATIONS..... | 6 |
| 4.1 | Office of Homelessness..... | 6 |
| 5 | AGENCY REPORTS | 7 |
| 5.1 | Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Representative Update Report..... | 7 |
| 6 | CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES | 7 |
| 7 | BUSINESS ARISING..... | 7 |
| 7.1 | Status Report..... | 7 |
| 8 | ZONE BUSINESS | 7 |
| 8.1 | Request to Raise a Matter in Relation to State Planning Policy 3.6 - Infrastructure Contributions (Community Infrastructure Cap) | 7 |
| 8.2 | PetsWA Centralised Registration Database | 10 |
| 8.3 | 2025 Proposed Meeting Dates | 11 |
| 8.4 | Submissions to the 2025 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members | 12 |
| 8.5 | Request to Present..... | 13 |
| 8.6 | Deputations Planning For 2025 | 14 |
| 8.7 | Cooperation and Shared Services..... | 15 |
| 8.8 | Native Vegetation Clearing Issues Paper | 15 |
| 9 | STATE COUNCIL AGENDA – MATTERS FOR DECISION AND NOTING..... | 16 |
| 9.1 | STATE COUNCIL MATTERS FOR DECISION..... | 17 |
| 9.1.1 | 2024 Annual General Meeting Resolutions (State Council Agenda item 8.1)..... | 17 |
| 9.1.2 | Local Government Elections Advocacy Positions (State Council Agenda item 8.2)..... | 18 |
| 9.1.3 | Aboriginal Communities Advocacy Positions (State Council Agenda item 8.3) | 21 |
| 9.1.4 | Family and Domestic Violence Advocacy Position (State Council Agenda item 8.4) | 22 |
| 9.1.5 | Container Deposit System Policy Statement and Advocacy Position (State Council Agenda item 8.5)..... | 22 |
| 9.1.6 | Bus Stop Infrastructure Agreement (State Council Agenda item 8.6) .. | 23 |
| 9.1.7 | 2025 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members (State Council Agenda item 8.7) | 24 |
| 9.1.8 | Submission on the draft State Hazard Plan - Fire (State Council Agenda item 8.8) | 25 |
| 9.2 | POLICY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS | 25 |
| 9.2.1 | Infrastructure Policy Team Report (State Council Agenda item 9.1) | 26 |
| 9.2.2 | People and Place Policy Team Report (State Council Agenda item 9.2)..... | 26 |
| 9.2.3 | Governance Policy Team Report (State Council Agenda item 9.3)..... | 26 |
| 9.2.4 | Environment Policy Team Report (State Council Agenda item 9.4) | 26 |

| | | | |
|-----------|-------|--|-----------|
| | 9.2.5 | Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Report (State Council Agenda item 9.5) | 26 |
| | 9.3 | MATTERS FOR NOTING/INFORMATION | 27 |
| | 9.4 | KEY ACTIVITY REPORTS | 27 |
| 10 | | EXECUTIVE REPORTS | 28 |
| | 10.1 | WALGA President's Report | 28 |
| | 10.2 | State Councillor's Report to the Zone | 28 |
| | 10.3 | State Council Minutes | 28 |
| 11 | | OTHER BUSINESS | 28 |
| 12 | | NEXT MEETING | 28 |
| 13 | | CLOSURE | 28 |

PRIORITISATION FRAMEWORK

How to use the Framework:

- If the majority of the factors are towards the left column, the issue is a high priority.
- If the majority of the factors are towards the middle, the issue requires action, but is not a high priority.
- If the majority of the factors are towards the right column, the issue is a low priority.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Zone Delegates were requested to provide sufficient written notice, wherever possible, on amendments to recommendations within the State Council or Zone agenda to the Zone Chair and Secretariat prior to the Zone meeting.

Agenda Papers were emailed 7 days prior to the meeting date.

Confirmation of Attendance An attendance sheet was circulated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Minutes of previous meeting
2. November 2024 Update – Department of Local Government, Sports and Cultural Industries
3. Zone Status Report
4. President's Report
5. Standing Orders
6. Cooperation and Shared Services document
7. Native Vegetation Issues Paper

1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

1.1 OPENING

The Chair declared the meeting open at 6:31pm.

1.2 ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS

4 Voting Delegates from each Member Council

City of Joondalup

Cr Russ Fishwick JP
Cr Lewis Hutton
Cr John Raftis
Cr Adrian Hill (Deputy)
Mr Jamie Parry, Director Governance and Strategy – non-voting delegate

City of Stirling

Cr Michael Dudek
Cr Stephanie Proud JP

City of Wanneroo

Cr James Rowe - **Chair**
Cr Bronwyn Smith
Cr Jacqui Huntley
Cr Jordan Wright (Deputy)
Ms Vicki Coles, Executive Manager Governance and Legal – non-voting delegate
Mr Pas Bracone, Manager Strategic Land Use, Planning and Environment
Ms Kirstie Davis, Director of Community and Place
Ms Kirsten Thrush, Coordinator Community Safety and Emergency Management

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| WALGA Secretariat | Cr Paul Kelly, Deputy President Mr Chris Hossen, Policy Manager Planning and Building Ms Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance |
| Guest Speaker | Gayle Mitchell, A/Executive Director, Office of Homelessness |

1.3 APOLOGIES

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| City of Joondalup | Mayor Hon. Albert Jacob JP Mr James Pearson, Chief Executive Officer – non-voting delegate |
| City of Stirling | Cr Joe Ferrante Cr David Lagan Mr Stevan Rodic, Chief Executive Officer – non-voting delegate Mr Jamie Blanchard, Manager Governance – non-voting delegate |
| City of Wanneroo | Mr Bill Parker, Chief Executive Officer – non-voting delegate Cr Marizane Moore |

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We, the Zone members acknowledge the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to Country, culture and community. We embrace the vast Aboriginal cultural diversity throughout Western Australia, including Boorloo (Perth), on the land of the Whadjuk Noongar People, where this meeting is being held and we acknowledge and pay respect to Elders past and present.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Nil.

4 DEPUTATIONS

4.1 OFFICE OF HOMELESSNESS

Ms Gayle Mitchell, Acting Executive Director of the Office of Homelessness, provided a deputation to the Zone providing more information on the Office of Homelessness and their current initiatives.

Noted

5 AGENCY REPORTS

5.1 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SPORT AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE REPORT

The November 2024 report from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) was enclosed as an attachment in the Agenda.

Noted

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Lewis Hutton
Seconded: Cr Bronwyn Smith

That the Minutes of the meeting of the North Metropolitan Zone held on 22 August 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7 BUSINESS ARISING

7.1 STATUS REPORT

A Status Report outlining the actions taken on the Zone's resolutions was enclosed as an attachment in the Agenda.

Noted

8 ZONE BUSINESS

8.1 REQUEST TO RAISE A MATTER IN RELATION TO STATE PLANNING POLICY 3.6 - INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRIBUTIONS (COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE CAP)

BACKGROUND

At the August Zone meeting a procedural motion was endorsed for this item to be held over until the next meeting and following receipt of further information from WALGA.

An update has been provided in the Status Report as well as additional questions that were raised by Cr Lagan.

The original item, submitted by the City of Wanneroo, is included below.

BACKGROUND

The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) on behalf of the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) prepared SPP3.6, which was approved in April 2021, inclusive of a \$5000 cap per dwelling on community infrastructure.

Community infrastructure includes structures, facilities and land which help communities and neighbourhoods to function effectively and includes specific infrastructure items such as sports and recreation facilities, sporting pavilions, multi-purpose courts/buildings, libraries, and other community services facilities.

Since April 2021, the DPLH has retained the \$5000 per dwelling cap, however the costs of providing community infrastructure have been escalating significantly based on construction costs indexes and CPI over the past few years.

Various submissions and representations were made by Council during the preparation of SPP3.6 (through WALGA and the Growth Alliance Perth and Peel), however there has been no confirmation provided by the DPLH that the cap will be indexed to reflect increasing costs of delivering the infrastructure.

COMMENT

SPP3.6 requires the DCP costs to be prepared and annually reviewed to reflect construction and land acquisition costs. These costs have increased significantly since 2021 and will likely continue to increase over time. Current projections for cost escalation for the Building Price Index (BPI), suggest that cost indexation will continue at high levels before reducing in the medium term. The following assumption were provided by the DPLH as part of their recent proposal for the East Wanneroo District DCP.

| Year | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| BPI (%) | 5.4% | 4.1% | 3.5% | 3.0% | 2.5% | 2% |

The impact of increasing construction costs can be identified in numerous construction projects, including the Dordaak Kepap Community Library, where costs rapidly increased from \$12.1 million to \$17.9 million, as part of a competitive tendering process (refer Report AS02-05/24).

Without indexation of the cap, the relevance of the cap value diminishes, and any shortfalls would mean that increased pressure will occur on the City to secure alternative funding sources, including municipal funding and grants. This could also result in the facilities not being delivered, delays in delivery timeframes or a reduction in the scope of works that can be provided. In this regard, the need for the new facilities is generated by the new development and this should fund the delivery of the new community infrastructure, noting that the operational costs of managing and renewal of the infrastructure would be funded through the municipal budget.

The methodology for indexation should be determined having regard to SPP 3.6 and in consultation with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and any other key stakeholders to closely align with the actual costs of infrastructure.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

WALGA, through its State Council endorsed submission to State Planning Polic 3.6 – Infrastructure Contributions, opposed the introduction of caps on community infrastructure. Since the gazettal of SPP3.6 in April 2021, WALGA has regularly sought guidance from DPLH on whether the current cap will be subject to review in line with cost escalations, no formal confirmation on a review of the cap has been forthcoming.

WALGA shares the concerns of the North Metropolitan Zone that the current cap will limit the delivery of critical community infrastructure in growth communities.

WALGA is currently working with the Growth Alliance Perth and Peel (GAPP) group of Local Governments to develop a list of DCP recommendations, for consideration by the GAPP CEOs, and then for possible advocacy by the group. WALGA is currently facilitating a GAPP DCP Officer Group to refine initial recommendations, for presentation to the GAPP CEO Group. Once these recommendations are finalised, the GAPP Local Governments may then wish to seek WALGA form an advocacy position on this matter, through their respective Zones.

RECOMMENDATION

*Moved: Cr Bronwyn Smith
Seconded: Cr Stephanie Proud*

That WALGA advocate to the state government for indexation of the community infrastructure cap defined in State Planning Policy 3.6 (SPP3.6) - Infrastructure Contributions.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

*Moved: Cr Joe Ferrante
Seconded: Cr David Lagan*

That this item be held over until the next Zone meeting, pending receipt of further information from WALGA.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION

**Moved: Cr Bronwyn Smith
Seconded: Cr Jordan Wright**

That WALGA advocate to the state government for indexation of the community infrastructure cap defined in State Planning Policy 3.6 (SPP3.6) – Infrastructure Contributions.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.2 PETSWA CENTRALISED REGISTRATION DATABASE

By City of Wanneroo

BACKGROUND

The Stop Puppy Farming initiative has been a long journey, commencing in 2016 with legislation assented to in 2021 (Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act 2021). This legislation makes provision for a centralised registration system, known as PetsWA, to be managed by State Government. The Department of Local Government, Sports and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) has been tasked with the implementation of the system.

City of Wanneroo Officers have been involved in the consultation process to determine the form of the system.

On 27 August 2024, officers from a variety of service units attended a webinar on the new PetsWA system implementation. In this webinar it was indicated that there would be no integration with Local Government (LG) systems, that the Community would be able to lodge complaints regarding animals through the system and that infringements would be issued through the system.

Officers are concerned about the increased scope and the additional workload that would be placed on Local Government Officers who would effectively need to work with two separate systems (Local Government systems and PetsWA system) with no integrations between the two.

Officers are aware that other Local Governments are also concerned.

An email was sent to DLGSC 4 October 2024, expressing Administration's concerns. This was responded to by DLGSC 7 October 2024.

The response from DLGSC indicates that the complaints functionality will form part of the PetsWA solution. This includes barking dogs, nuisance animals, wandering/stray animals, dog attacks, deceased pet and other pet related concerns. The complaint is captured in PetsWA, it is not routed to or managed by DLGSC. The location recorded against the complaint will route it to the work queue of the relevant local government.

This will mean that City of Wanneroo (City) Officers will need to log into the system to check if there are any customer complaints and then creating the complaint within the City's Customer Reference Management system.

DLGSC have recognised that having infringements in the PetsWA system will be problematic for LG's. They are having a workshop in November to explore this.

Ranger visits will be required to be entered into PetsWA. Once again this creates double workload as we will also need the same information within our City systems.

No integration is proposed with LG systems. This creates the largest issue as there is no single source of the truth and there is no easy reconciliation for financials or for address changes.

The biggest concerns for Administration are:

- The increase in scope to now include customer complaints and infringements

- The lack of integration with City systems

City Officers have contacted Western Australian Local Government Association (**WALGA**) to question whether they had received concerns from other LGs. They responded that they had heard limited anecdotal commentary on implied concerns. It was suggested that raising via the WALGA Zone process would be a good idea as this formally brings matters to WALGA's attention.

Administration strongly support a Centralised Registration System and see a number of benefits for the City and the Community as a whole. However, the scope needs to be carefully considered and not duplicate systems that are already in place within the City, creating additional workloads for officers. It should also integrate with City systems so that there is one source of the truth regarding data such as names and addresses.

The City of Wanneroo would like WALGA to advocate on all LG behalf to contain the scope of PetsWA to just the centralised registration system (not complaints or infringements) and for it to integrate with LG own systems.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

WALGA adopted Advocacy Position 2.12 in relation to Puppy Farming, which includes support for a centralised system:

1. The WA Local Government sector:

c) Supports a centralised dog registration system that is developed, operated and maintained by State Government

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Stephanie Proud

Seconded: Cr Bronwyn Smith

That WALGA advocate to the State Government for the PetsWA Centralised Registration Database scope to be restricted to a centralised registration system (excluding complaints and infringements) that integrates with Local Government's existing corporate systems.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.3 2025 PROPOSED MEETING DATES

By Chantelle O'Brien, Zone Executive Officer

BACKGROUND

A schedule of the proposed 2025 meeting dates for the North Metropolitan Zone has been prepared and is set out below. The dates have been set to coincide with the WALGA State Council meetings.

The proposed meeting dates for the North Metropolitan Zone for 2025 require adoption by delegates.

Meeting dates of the Mindarie Regional Council and Catalina Regional Council have been taken into consideration and due to these conflicting with Thursday meetings of the Zone, it is proposed that the Zone meeting days are changed to Wednesdays.

As with previous years, the venue for each meeting has been rotated amongst Members.

**NOTICE OF MEETINGS
NORTH METROPOLITAN ZONE MEETING
2025**

| Zone Meeting Dates Wednesday | Time | HOST COUNCIL | State Council Meeting Dates 2025 |
|---|----------------------|---------------------|---|
| 19 February | Wednesday 6.30 pm | City of Joondalup | Wednesday 5 March 2025 |
| 23 April | Wednesday 6.30 pm | City of Stirling | Regional Meeting Wednesday 7 May 2025 |
| 18 June | Wednesday 6.30 pm | City of Wanneroo | Wednesday 2 July 2025 |
| 20 August | Wednesday 6.30 pm | City of Joondalup | Regional Meeting 4-5 September 2025 |
| 19 November | Wednesday 6.30 pm | City of Stirling | Wednesday 3 December 2025 |

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Lewis Hutton
Seconded: Cr Stephanie Proud

That the 2025 proposed schedule of meetings for the North Metropolitan Zone be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**8.4 SUBMISSIONS TO THE 2025 SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES TRIBUNAL
REMUNERATION INQUIRY FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICERS AND ELECTED MEMBERS**

By Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance

BACKGROUND

The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal (SAT) conduct an annual inquiry into Local Government Chief Executive Officer and Elected Member remuneration.

SAT generally advertises its intention to receive submissions in December for its inquiry and Determination in relation to the following financial year. The Tribunal will invite individual Local Governments, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, WALGA, Local Government Professionals WA and other interested individuals to provide information or submissions.

SAT will likely publish its Determination for 2025-2026 in April 2025.

COMMENT

In preparation for the inquiry to be undertaken early next year, a draft submission from WALGA has been prepared making recommendations to SAT on behalf of the sector in relation to Elected Member fees and allowances, Chief Executive Officer remuneration, the Regional/Isolation Allowance and Independent Audit Member fees. The draft WALGA submission is contained in the December State Council Agenda for Zone and State Council consideration.

Local Governments can also put forward a submission, particularly in relation to their own circumstances, including requests to be classified in a different Band.

WALGA encourages all Local Governments to make a submission to SAT.

Noted

8.5 REQUEST TO PRESENT

By Chantelle O'Brien, Zone Executive Officer

WALGA Secretariat has been contacted by Jason St Martin, from the Building and Energy Division requesting to attend Zone meetings in 2025 and deliver a deputation on arboriculture contractors carrying out powerline vegetation control work engaged by Local Governments.

Local Governments frequently procure the services of arboriculture contractors to carry out powerline vegetation control work. Due to a number of incidents that have resulted in life changing injuries and death, Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulations and Safety (DEMIRS) agencies Building and Energy and WorkSafe have launched campaigns to make this industry safer.

All stakeholders, including Local Governments have a duty of care and a role to play in this effort. Managing Senior Electrical Inspector Jason St Martin will explain what legislation applies to this industry and how engaging only properly qualified workers is one way to significantly reduce the risk of serious injury and death.

The secretariat will schedule the deputation based on each Zones availability for those that support this deputation and members will be informed by the relevant agenda.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Michael Dudek
Seconded: Cr Jacqui Huntley

That the North Metropolitan Zone supports a deputation at a future Zone meeting in 2025 from Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulations and Safety.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.6 DEPUTATIONS PLANNING FOR 2025

By Chantelle O'Brien, Zone Executive Officer

BACKGROUND

As we approach the new year, it's an excellent time to reflect on the opportunities ahead. One of the most impactful ways for Zones to focus their efforts and have meaningful discussions is by inviting knowledgeable speakers to future Zone meetings.

There is a standing item on all Zone Agendas for Deputations. Zones are asked to endorse all proposals for Deputations, allowing Delegates full control as to what kinds of guest presenters and topics they would like to have on each Zone Agenda.

For the North Metropolitan Zone, there is currently one Deputation scheduled for 2025.

- Department of Energy, Mines, Industrial Relations and Safety (if item 8.4 above is supported)

The North Metropolitan Zone previously preferred to have only one Deputation per meeting.

COMMENT

To assist the Zone Executive Officer in organising Deputations for 2025 that are most relevant to the interests of the Zone, Delegates are invited to consider any potential guest presenters or topics for next year's meetings.

Below are some ideas to consider when thinking about potential Deputations:

- Current trends: consider inviting speakers who can discuss the latest trends and developments in the sector.
- Consider inviting a Minister: Ministers often have deep expertise in their respective fields, whether it's education, health, infrastructure, or another area. Their insights can provide valuable information and updates on policies, programs, and initiatives that directly impact the community. This creates an excellent networking opportunity for Delegates to connect with key decision-makers and build valuable relationships.
- University professors: experts in public administration, political science, or urban studies can provide evidence-based insights and research findings.
- Nonprofit Executives: leaders from influential nonprofits can discuss community needs, partnerships and collaborative projects.
- Urban planning and development: experts in urban planning can discuss sustainable development, zoning laws and infrastructure projects.

The Zone may wish to discuss their suggestions for potential speakers or topics for 2025.

For Discussion

Recommendations provided by Zone Delegates below (no priority to recommendations):

- *Cr Jordan Wright – Local Government Minister and Planning Minister (post- State Government election)*
- *Cr Lewis Hutton – DWER to discuss the Tamala Park odour issues and how these are affecting the North Metropolitan Zone Local Governments (preference to have*

them attend sooner rather than later as the peak period for the odour issue is in the winter)

- *Cr Jacqui Huntley – DWER to speak on native bush decimation/environmental impact of development in the North Metropolitan area*
- *Cr Stephanie Proud – DPIRD to speak on PSHB*
- *Cr Bronwyn Smith – Department of Health and Department of Communities to discuss guidelines provided for evacuation centres*
- *Cr John Raftis – Western Power/Water Corp/Synergy to discuss upgrading infrastructure to manage population increase and infill in the North Metropolitan area*
- *Cr James Rowe – a representative from DLGSC*

The Zone also commented that they would be happy to allow for two deputations per meeting where it would be worthwhile (that is, the preference for one deputation per meeting is not a strict rule).

8.7 COOPERATION AND SHARED SERVICES

By Tony Brown, WALGA

BACKGROUND

Please find attached (Attachment 6) the latest version of the Cooperation and Shared Services document. This document was created to capture the collaborative work between Local Governments, showcasing ways to maximise resources to deliver outcomes that would be difficult to achieve alone. Local Governments have contributed to this resource and will be consulted again next year for further updates/modifications.

All CEO's have received this document and were encouraged to share with Councillors and staff to fully display all collaborative work happening within Local Government.

WALGA will be promoting this to Government agencies to display the collaborative work that happens in our sector.

If you have any questions or queries, please contact Tony Brown – tbrown@walga.asn.au or Naoimh Donaghy – ndonaghy@walga.asn.au.

Noted

8.8 NATIVE VEGETATION CLEARING ISSUES PAPER

By Sarah Coles, Environment Policy Officer

BACKGROUND

WALGA has developed an Issues Paper on Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations based on input from Local Government and analysis of Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER), and Appeals Convenor, data. Drawing on this data and Local Government case studies, the Paper outlines challenges Local Governments have encountered in navigating the regulatory system and identifies opportunities for improvement.

WALGA's data analysis identifies that 60% of Local Government clearing permits applications relate to road construction or upgrade. Key challenges relate to the complexity of navigating the regulatory environment, costs associated with the process and the time taken (for assessment of permits and appeals). These challenges can delay road and infrastructure projects and impact on Local Government's ability to attract and retain grant funding.

Based on discussions with the sector, and recommendations of previous submissions, WALGA has identified a range of potential opportunities to improve the native vegetation process. These focus on DWER process improvements, Local Government capacity building and taking strategic approaches to data collection, clearing permits and offsets:

1. The implementation of a State Government coordinated and funded biodiversity survey program.
2. Funding for a trial using Artificial Intelligence (AI) for biodiversity mapping.
3. DWER to develop a Strategic Offsets framework for Local Government.
4. The introduction of statutory timeframes for determination of referrals, permits and appeals and timely compliance and enforcement.
5. Increased support and capacity building for Local Governments to navigate the native vegetation clearing requirements.
6. Extended default periods for purpose permits and removal of the time limit requirement for maintenance in existing transport corridors.

The Issues Paper has been updated following consideration by the Environment and Infrastructure Policy Teams and is attached for Zones' consideration and feedback. In particular, Zones are requested to provide feedback on the following:

- a. Does the Issues Paper capture the challenges experienced by Local Government in relation to native vegetation clearing regulations?
- b. The opportunities identified for improving the native vegetation clearing process for Local Government.
- c. Any additional opportunities.

Discussion at the Zone meeting is encouraged. Any written feedback should be provided by Friday, 13 December, to environment@walga.asn.au.

The Zone can provide feedback at the meeting as well as Local Governments can email WALGA direct by 13 December.

Following all Zones feedback an item will be prepared for the Zones and State Council in February/March 2025.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Bronwyn Smith
Seconded: Cr Stephanie Proud

That the North Metropolitan Zone:

1. **Notes the Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations Issues Paper; and**
2. **Notes that Local Governments may submit their written feedback directly to WALGA for consideration;**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Zone delegates to read and consider the September 2024 WALGA State Council Agenda, which has been provided as an attachment with this Agenda.

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

9.1 STATE COUNCIL MATTERS FOR DECISION

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Stephanie Proud

Seconded: Cr Bronwyn Smith

That the North Metropolitan Zone supports the WALGA recommendations in Matters for Decision State Council Agenda items 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6 and 8.8 as contained in the December 2024 State Council Agenda and as listed below.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cr Adrian Hill left the meeting at 8:18pm and did not return.

9.1.1 2024 Annual General Meeting Resolutions (State Council Agenda item 8.1)

By Meghan Dwyer, Executive Officer Governance

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. the item 71 Amendments to *Cat Act 2011*- Allow Local Governments to Make Local Laws to Contain Cats to the Owner's Property be endorsed.
2. the following resolutions from the 2024 WALGA Annual General be referred to the Environment Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:
 - 7.2 Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land-Banking
 - 7.4 Action on Asbestos for Western Australia
 - 7.6 Advocacy for Accessibility.
3. the following resolutions from the 2024 WALGA Annual General be referred to the Governance Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:
 - 7.2 Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land-Banking
 - 7.3 Advocacy for Expansion of Differential Rating to Include Long Term Unoccupied Commercial Buildings (Property Activation Levy).
4. the following resolution from the 2024 WALGA Annual General be referred to the People and Place Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:
 - 7.5 Addressing the Impracticality of Local Governments Funding Department of Communities and GROH Houses.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Bronwyn Smith
Seconded: Cr John Raftis

That the North Metropolitan Zone supports point 1 of the WALGA recommendation in State Council Agenda item 8.1 as listed above.

CARRIED (6/3)

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Bronwyn Smith
Seconded: Cr Michael Dudek

That the North Metropolitan Zone supports points 2, 3 and 4 of the WALGA recommendation in State Council Agenda item 8.1 as listed above.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA's 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 9 October.
- The meeting resolved for WALGA to act in relation to six Member Motions:
 - Amendments to the *Cat Act 2011*- Allow Local Governments to Make Local Laws to Contain Cats to the Owner's Property
 - Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land-banking
 - Advocacy for Expansion of Differential Rating to Include Long Term Unoccupied Commercial Buildings (Property Activation Levy)
 - Action on Asbestos for Western Australia
 - Addressing the Impracticality of Local Governments Funding Department of Communities and Government Regional Officer Housing
 - Advocacy for Accessibility
- The action proposed to be taken in relation to each of the resolutions has been summarised for State Council's information.

9.1.2 Local Government Elections Advocacy Positions (State Council Agenda item 8.2)

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services and Jason Russell, Senior Governance Specialist

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA adopt the following Elections Advocacy Positions:

The Local Government sector supports:

- 1. Voluntary participation in Local Government elections.*
- 2. Councillors serve four-year terms with elections every two years and half of the Council positions spilled at each election.*
- 3. First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system for Local Government elections. If Optional Preferential Voting (OPV) remains as the primary method of voting, the sector supports the removal of the 'proportional' part of the voting method for general elections.*

4. *First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system for internal Council elections.*
5. *Councils holding elections by means of in-person, postal and/or electronic voting.*
6. *Current legislative provision of Mayor/President of Class 1 and Class 2 Local Governments being directly elected by the community and Class 3 and Class 4 Local Government Councils electing the President.*

MOTION

Moved: Cr Michael Dudek
Seconded: Cr Bronwyn Smith

That the North Metropolitan Zone supports point 1 of the WALGA recommendation in State Council Agenda item 8.2 as listed above.

LOST

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Russ Fishwick
Seconded: Cr Stephanie Proud

That the North Metropolitan Zone supports compulsory participation in Local Government elections.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Stephanie Proud
Seconded: Cr Bronwyn Smith

That the North Metropolitan Zone supports point 2 of the WALGA recommendation in State Council Agenda item 8.2 as listed above.

CARRIED

MOTION

Moved: Cr Stephanie Proud
Seconded: Cr Jordan Wright

That the North Metropolitan Zone supports First-Past-the-Post (FPTP) voting system for Local Government elections.

LOST (4/5)

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr John Raftis
Seconded: Cr Michael Dudek

That the North Metropolitan Zone supports Optional Preferential Voting (OPV) voting system for Local Government elections.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Michael Dudek
Seconded: Cr Lewis Hutton

That the North Metropolitan Zone supports the removal of the 'proportional' part of the voting method for general elections.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Dudek
Seconded: Cr Huntley

That the North Metropolitan Zone supports point 4 of the WALGA recommendation in State Council Agenda item 8.2 as listed above.

CARRIED

MOTION

Moved: Cr Lewis Hutton
Seconded: Cr Jacqui Huntley

That the North Metropolitan Zone supports points 5 and 6 of the WALGA recommendation in State Council Agenda item 8.2 as listed above.

AMENDMENT

Moved: Cr John Raftis
Seconded: Cr Michael Dudek

That the reference to "electronic voting" be removed.

THE AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND CARRIED (5/4)

That the North Metropolitan Zone supports points 5 and 6 of the WALGA recommendation in State Council Agenda item 8.2 subject to the removal of the reference to "electronic voting" in point 5.

THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION AS AMENDED WAS PUT AND CARRIED (8/1)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This report presents the findings of sector-wide consultation on WALGA's Elections Advocacy Positions.
- Consultation addressed key areas elements of the current Advocacy Positions:
 1. Voluntary participation,
 2. Terms on Council and election cycles,
 3. Voting systems for public elections,
 4. Voting systems for internal elections,
 5. Methods for holding elections,
 6. Ability to choose how Mayors/Presidents are elected.

9.1.3 Aboriginal Communities Advocacy Positions (State Council Agenda item 8.3)

By Rebecca Hicks, Policy Officer Community

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council:

1. Replace Advocacy Position 3.1.2 Reconciliation with the following:

WALGA:

1. *Acknowledges the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to Country, culture and community and embraces the vast Aboriginal cultural diversity throughout Western Australia.*
2. *Supports the efforts of Local Governments to progress reconciliation at the local level.*

2. Remove Advocacy Position 3.1.3 Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

3. Replace Advocacy Position 3.1.4 *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021* and South West Native Title Settlement with the following:

3.1.4 Aboriginal Heritage Protection

1. *WALGA supports the recognition, protection, conservation and preservation of Aboriginal cultural heritage and recognises the fundamental importance of Aboriginal cultural heritage to Aboriginal people and the State.*
2. *The State Government must:*
 - a. *Ensure that legislative requirements balance the need to protect Aboriginal heritage with the need for Local Government to undertake activities in a timely and affordable manner.*
 - b. *Provide adequate resourcing to ensure all parties have the capacity, capability and resources to discharge their statutory obligations.*
 - c. *Provide support and guidance to Local Governments to ensure that they have the resources, capacity and capability to effectively and efficiently deliver essential services to community while protecting Aboriginal heritage.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Following a review of WALGA's Aboriginal Community advocacy positions it is proposed that Advocacy Positions 3.1.2 Reconciliation and 3.1.4 *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021* and South West Native Title Settlement be updated and that Advocacy Position 3.1.3 Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People be removed.
- The intent of the proposed revisions is to reflect contemporary approaches to key issues in Aboriginal Affairs policy and legislation as they relate to Local Government.

- The People and Place Policy Team considered and endorsed the proposed advocacy position changes at its meeting on 25 October.

9.1.4 Family and Domestic Violence Advocacy Position (State Council Agenda item 8.4)

By Rebecca Hicks, Policy Officer Community

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council replace Advocacy Position 3.10.1 Family and Domestic Violence with the following:

3.10.1 Family and Domestic Violence

1. *Family and domestic violence is unacceptable and has devastating and long-term impacts on individuals, families and communities.*
2. *Preventing family and domestic violence requires commitment from all levels of government, different sectors, and members of the community.*
3. *WALGA calls on the State and Australian governments to provide adequate funding and support for family and domestic violence programs and services, in particular:*
 - a. *Funding for collaborative and connected family and domestic violence programs and services that are place-based and people-centred; and*
 - b. *Better integration of family and domestic violence initiatives, including capacity building across all tiers of government and community services.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- It is proposed that Advocacy Position 3.10.1 Family and Domestic Violence be updated.
- The revised position makes a clear statement on the Local Government sector's condemnation of family and domestic violence and the collective responsibility of governments and the community in prevention.
- The revised position provides a framework for WALGA advocacy to the Australian and State Government, without impinging on individual Local Government's approach to this issue, which will be dependent on their capacity, capability, local context and strategic direction.
- The People and Place Policy Team endorsed the revised Advocacy Position at its meeting on 25 October.

9.1.5 Container Deposit System Policy Statement and Advocacy Position (State Council Agenda item 8.5)

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council replace the existing Container Deposit Systems Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 7.6 Container Deposit Systems with the following:

7.6 Container Deposit Systems

1. *Local Government supports the WA Containers for Change Scheme and acknowledges its contribution to reducing litter, increasing material recovery and providing employment opportunities across the state.*
2. *To maximise the benefits of the WA Scheme, Local Government calls on the State Government to:*
 - a. *Maintain a resource recovery target of 85% for eligible containers and a focus on litter reduction.*
 - b. *Expand the range of containers accepted in the Scheme, by:*
 - i. *2027: to include wine bottles, spirit bottles and larger sizes of currently eligible containers,*
 - ii. *2030: to include plain milk and milk alternative containers and composite container types, and*
 - iii. *2035: other container types.*
 - c. *Ensure national alignment of the materials covered by the Scheme and consistent messaging.*
 - d. *Maintain a State-based and managed Scheme.*
 - e. *Review the deposit amount to appropriately incentivise community engagement.*
 - f. *Increase the number of refund and donation points to ensure community access, including in public places and at events.*
 - g. *Ensure refund points are financially sustainable.*
 - h. *Leverage the refund point collection network to provide drop off points for other materials covered by effective product stewardship schemes.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA's 2008 Container Deposit Systems (CDS) Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 7.6 Container Deposit Systems formed the basis of WALGA's advocacy for the introduction and design of a WA CDS, Containers for Change, which commenced on 1 October 2020.
- The current Advocacy Position and many elements of the Policy Statement have been achieved. However, there are aspects of the Scheme that Local Government has identified as important to improve.
- The focus of the updated Advocacy Position is:
 - building on the environmental, social and economic benefits of the current Scheme;
 - expanding the range of containers covered by the Scheme;
 - increasing community access and incentives to use the Scheme; and
 - leveraging the refund point network to collect other materials covered by effective product stewardship schemes.
- The Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) endorsed the new Policy Statement and Advocacy Position at its meeting on 23 October.

9.1.6 **Bus Stop Infrastructure Agreement (State Council Agenda item 8.6)**

By Negar Nili, Policy Officer Transport and Roads

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse the proposed Bus Stop Infrastructure Partnership Agreement between WALGA and the Public Transport Authority 2024/25 to 2028/29.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA has negotiated a new Bus Stop Infrastructure Partnership Agreement (Agreement) with the Public Transport Authority (PTA). If agreed this will be the third such Agreement, with validity through to 2028/29.
- The Agreement seeks to provide the foundation for an effective working relationship between the PTA and Local Governments.
- The purpose of the Agreement is to clarify the roles, responsibilities and discretion of PTA and Local Governments in the provision and maintenance of bus stop infrastructure in areas with regular public transport SmartRider ticketed services, including regional cities and towns.
- The Agreement defines the roles and responsibilities of the PTA and Local Governments in various scenarios including when bus routes are changed, bus stops are added or removed, and bus stop infrastructure is upgraded.
- The Agreement provides a funding contribution to Local Governments for the maintenance and installation of bus shelters.

9.1.7 2025 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members (State Council Agenda item 8.7)

By Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse the submission to the 2025 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr John Raftis
Seconded: Cr Lewis Hutton

That the North Metropolitan Zone supports the WALGA recommendation in State Council Agenda item 8.7 as listed above, subject to the following changes to the submission:

1. amend recommendations 1 and 2 in the submission from "4%" to "at CPI"; and
2. include a new recommendation for the Tribunal to undertake a review of the current number of Local Government Bands.

The meeting voted on each of the above points separately.

POINT 1 – CARRIED (5/4)

POINT 2 – CARRIED (7/2)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal (SAT) conduct an inquiry into Local Government Chief Executive Officer and Elected Member remuneration annually.
- In preparation for the inquiry to be undertaken early next year, WALGA has prepared a draft submission to SAT that makes recommendations in relation to Elected Member

- fees and allowances, Chief Executive Officer remuneration, the Regional/Isolation Allowance and independent audit, risk and improvement committee member fees.
- The submission recommends:
 - an increase to Elected Member Fees and Allowances (including maximum reimbursable expenses) of 4%;
 - an increase to Chief Executive Officer remuneration bands of 4%;
 - an increase to the Regional/Isolation Allowance payable for Local Governments that are particularly isolated, long distances from population centres, and lacking in amenities;
 - the publication of clear guidance to the Local Government sector outlining how the Regional/Isolation Allowance is applied in terms of methodology, criteria and weightings;
 - the creation of a new fee category for independent audit, risk and improvement committee members without bands, and that the fee be set at a suitable level to recognise the skills and knowledge required for such a role; and
 - that the new category provide a fee for the independent chair position as well as the independent member position.
- SAT will likely publish its determination for 2025-2026 in April 2025.
- The Governance Policy Team endorsed the submission at its meeting on 4 November.

9.1.8 Submission on the draft State Hazard Plan - Fire (State Council Agenda item 8.8)

By Rachel Armstrong, Policy Manager Emergency Management

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse the submission on the draft State Hazard Plan - Fire.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The State Hazard Plan - Fire (SHP Fire) outlines the arrangements for the management of fire in Western Australia including fire prevention, preparedness, response and initial recovery.
- Local Governments have a critical role in bushfire management, including statutory responsibilities for mitigation, prevention and response under the *Bush Fires Act 1954* (BF Act) and responsibility for community-led recovery, as provided in the *Emergency Management Act 2005* (EM Act).
- The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) has undertaken a comprehensive review of the SHP Fire and is seeking comments on the revised draft Plan by 9 December ([Engage WA Emergency Management](#)).
- WALGA's draft submission on the draft SHP Fire incorporates feedback from 33 Local Governments and LGIS.
- The submission focusses on the key issues that underpin Local Government's capacity to implement their roles and responsibilities for the hazard of fire including:
 - Emergency Services Funding;
 - The State Emergency Management Framework and Consolidated Emergency Services Legislation; and
 - Bush Fire Brigade management and Work Health and Safety (WHS).
- A detailed list of proposed specific changes to plan is also included.

9.2 POLICY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.2.1 Infrastructure Policy Team Report (State Council Agenda item 9.1)

By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager, Infrastructure

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the report from the Infrastructure Policy Team meeting for the 6 December 2024 meeting.

9.2.2 People and Place Policy Team Report (State Council Agenda item 9.2)

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the report from the People and Place Policy Team to the 6 December 2024 meeting.

9.2.3 Governance Policy Team Report (State Council Agenda item 9.3)

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council:

1. Note the report from the Governance Policy Team for the 6 December 2024 meeting.
2. Determine to:
 - a. retain the following Advocacy Positions with amendment:
 - i. Advocacy Position 2.8.1 Industry Award Coverage
 - ii. Advocacy Position 2.8.3 Registration of WALGA as an Employer Organisation
 - b. retire Advocacy Position 2.8.2 Local Government Long Service Leave Regulations.

9.2.4 Environment Policy Team Report (State Council Agenda item 9.4)

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the report from the Environment Policy Team to the 6 December 2024 meeting.

9.2.5 Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Report (State Council Agenda item 9.5)

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the report from the Municipal Waste Advisory Council to the 6 December 2024 meeting.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Bronwyn Smith

Seconded: Cr James Rowe

That the North Metropolitan Zone:

- 1. notes all Policy Team and Committee Reports as contained in the December 2024 State Council Agenda; and**
- 2. supports the WALGA recommendations in the Governance Policy Team Report as contained in the December 2024 State Council Agenda and as listed above.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.3 MATTERS FOR NOTING/INFORMATION

- WALGA Strategic Planning Update (State Council Agenda item 10.1)
- Submission on Reform of Packaging Regulation (State Council Agenda item 10.2)
- Submission on The Draft State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies (State Council Agenda item 10.3)
- Local Government Primary Healthcare Survey Report (State Council Agenda item 10.4)
- Renewable Energy Survey Highlights (State Council Agenda item 10.5)
- Flying Agenda: Submission to Main Roads WA on the Revised Western Australia Traffic Signals Approval Policy and Process (State Council Agenda item 10.6)
- Flying Minute: Submission on the Draft Objectives and Priorities for the Upcoming State Public Health Plan (State Council Agenda item 10.7)
- Flying Minute: Submission On the Draft Regional Education Strategy (State Council Agenda item 10.8)
- Flying Minute: Submission on Derbal Yiragan (Swan) Djarlgarro (Canning) Draft River Protection Strategy (State Council Agenda item 10.9)
- Flying Minute: Submission on the State Hazard Plan - Human Biosecurity (State Council Agenda item 10.10)

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Bronwyn Smith

Seconded: Cr Russ Fishwick

That the North Metropolitan Zone notes all Matters for Noting/Information as contained in the December 2024 State Council Agenda.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.4 KEY ACTIVITY REPORTS

- Report on Key Activities, Advocacy Portfolio (State Council Agenda item 11.1.1)
- Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure Portfolio (State Council Agenda item 11.1.2)
- Report on Key Activities, Member Services Portfolio (State Council Agenda item 11.1.3)
- Report on Key Activities, Policy Portfolio (State Council Agenda item 11.1.4)

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jacqui Huntley
Seconded: Cr Jordan Wright

That the North Metropolitan Zone notes all Key Activity Reports as contained in the December 2024 State Council Agenda.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10 EXECUTIVE REPORTS

10.1 WALGA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

WALGA Deputy President, Cr Paul Kelly presented the President's Report. The report was attached within the Agenda.

Noted

10.2 STATE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT TO THE ZONE

WALGA State Councillors jointly presented on the previous State Council meeting.

Noted

10.3 STATE COUNCIL MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous State Council meeting are provided in the link below.

[State-Council-Full-Minutes-4-September-2024](#)

11 OTHER BUSINESS

Cr Jacqui Huntley indicated that she would provide an item for circulation to Zone Delegates and possible discussion at the next Zone meeting.

12 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the North Metropolitan Zone will be held on Wednesday, 19 February 2025 at the City of Joondalup commencing at 6:30pm.

13 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9:33pm.