



WALGA

Great Southern Zone

MINUTES

of Zone 1-Day Conference
(2 voting delegates per council)

held on

Friday 26 June 2020

Venue:
Plantagenet District Hall
Corner of Memorial Road and Albany Highway
Mt Barker
Shire of Plantagenet

1. OPEN: 10.00am Welcome by Shire President, Cr Chris Pavlovich, Shire of Plantagenet

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Cr Ronnie Fleay Zone President (Shire of Kojonup)
Annabel Paulley Zone Executive Officer

City of Albany	Nil
Broomehill / Tambellup	Cr Mark Paganoni, Cr Michael White and CEO Keith Williams
Cranbrook	CEO Peter Northover
Denmark	Cr Janine Phillips and Acting CEO David Schober
Gnowangerup	Cr Fiona Gaze and Cr Keith House
Jerramungup	Cr Rob Lester and Cr Andrew Price
Katanning	Cr Liz Guidera, Cr John Goodheart and CEO Julian Murphy
Kent	Cr Scott Crosby, Cr Kate Johnston and CEO Rick Miller
Kojonup	Cr John Benn and CEO Rick Mitchell-Collins
Plantagenet	Cr Chris Pavlovich, Cr Jon Oldfield and CEO Rob Stewart
Woodanilling	Cr Russel Thomson and Cr Dale Douglas

Total of 17 out of a possible 22 voting delegates were in attendance at the start of the meeting.

Guests

Mark Batty, Executive Manager Environment and Waste, WALGA
CEO Bruce Manning, Duane Schouten and Jarrad Gardner, Great Southern Development Commission
Carl Beck, Road Safety Adviser, WALGA RoadWise
Cr Marie O'Dea and Cr Len Handasyde (observers), Shire of Plantagenet
Rick Wilson, Federal Member for O'Connor
Libby Mettam, Shadow Transport Minister
Duncan Ord, Director General, Dept of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (via video link)
Chris Thompson, Regional Manager, Dept of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
Steve Martin, Liberal Candidate for the Agricultural Region
Cr Ian Graham, Shire of Gnowangerup (observer)

Apologies

Alannah MacTiernan, Minister for Regional Development, Agriculture and Food
Peter Watson, Member for Albany
Peter Rundle, MLA, Member for Roe
Mayor Dennis Wellington, Cr Greg Stocks and CEO Andrew Sharpe, City of Albany
Cr Phil Horrocks and Cr Ruth Bigwood, Shire of Cranbrook
Cr Ian Osborne, Shire of Denmark
CEO Stephen Gash, Shire of Woodanilling
CEO Bob Jarvis, Shire of Gnowangerup
CEO Martin Cuthbert, Shire of Jerramungup

3. GUEST SPEAKERS

3.1 GSDC CEO Bruce Manning on behalf of Alannah MacTiernan, Minister for Regional Development, Agriculture and Food.

Key points:

- COVID-19 impact on WA and Great Southern. 25,000 usual job count but in the last 3 months, there has been a fall in employment of about 13% - mainly in tourism, hospitality, retail & accommodation.
- Positive results of response to the pandemic.
- To date, the State Government has invested \$2.3 billion in economic relief and stimulus measures.
- Regional Economic Development (RED) Grants round closes on 7 July 2020. Also, Regional New Industries Fund. **Councils were encouraged to invite the GSDC's Local Content Advisor, Charlotte McIntyre, to speak to them.**

- Screen Fund, Regional Events Scheme and aquaculture / marine industry assistance,
- JobSeeker and JobKeeper end in September 2020 - potential 'cliff'. 3,783 on JobSeeker and 1,796 employees on JobKeeper payments.
- Recovery Plan due for release in early July 2020 with sub-areas of health, regional, social, industry and economic development.
- Asian Engagement Strategy will look further than China, with more focus on Indonesia.
- DPIRD is exploring other markets for barley but not a short-term fix.

Q&A Session

Cr O'Dea - any further Lotterywest COVID-19 funding? Difficult for events like the Bloom Festival and Great Southern Art and Craft Trail to get Regional Events Scheme funding as they don't have paid staff and have mainly non-ticketed events.

Bruce Manning - good feedback Bloom is already funded. Will discuss Art & Craft Trail. Not sure if Lotterywest will have more funding but could be announced in early July in Recovery Plan.

Cr Crosby - \$60 million loss on barley so it's a big ticket item.

Bruce Manning - acknowledged. DPIRD exploring other markets for barley.

Cr O'Dea - when will interstate borders re-open?

Bruce Manning - Premier has said it maybe early August but waiting to see what happens in Victoria.

Bruce Manning read out latest COVID-19 data as at week ending 19 June 2020.

- Only 4% of businesses not trading since late January.
- Land sales are lifting.
- Rental market is continuing to tighten.
- 'Seek' employment website shows job adverts have recovered to around 85% of pre-COVID-19 levels.

ACTION: GSDC to send powerpoint presentation to Zone for distribution to member councils.

3.2 Rick Wilson Member for O'Connor

Key points:

- COVID-19 Pandemic has seen significant decisions made, some with unintended consequences.
- Australia shutdown flights from China at end of January, and from Italy and Europe in February. WA has done an incredible job of reducing cases in the state.
- Mr Wilson thanked Local Governments for putting measures in place to protect their communities.
- Investment by Federal Government equivalent to 16.9% of Australia's gross domestic product.
- JobKeeper will end and if people become unemployed, they will be expected to look for work.
- Home Builder Programme is working well - will keep building and construction industry busy over the next 12 months. Can start building from 12 December 2020 and have 12 months to complete.
- Shire of Woodanilling has now received drought funding.
- National Water Infrastructure Fund ran out of money but confident there will be more money to come eg. to clean out dams.
- Barley to China - trade relationship with China is going to be very interesting over the next few years. Australia has become so dependent on China. Half of meat exports are going to China. Barley issue has been going on for some time via World Trade Organisation. Federal Government will not be doffing hat to China but will be working through WTO to make sure China trades fairly. Will be working with other markets. Middle East is largest buyer of feed barley.

Q&A Session

Cr Pavlovich - will paying back the COVID-19 debt have any bearing on Financial Assistance Grants?

Rick Wilson - Prime Minister has made it clear that it wants to grow the economy. Don't think there will be any threat in the short and medium term. It will take a long time to pay back the debt. Looking at streamlining the approvals process (eg. EPBC) to get projects underway.

Cr O'Dea - animal health pandemics would be dramatic in this part of the world. Eg. foot & mouth, and African swine fever.

Rick Wilson - biosecurity has increased dramatically across the board. Drop in international visitors. Better plant and animal biosecurity now. Have increased penalties from \$500 to \$2,500 if incoming visitors incorrectly complete declaration forms.

Cr Guidera - thanked Federal Government for drought funding which will be important going forward into summer if we don't get rain. Need to embed good water security.

Rick Wilson - used a rolling formula taking into account rainfall over a 12 month period. Shires like Woodanilling and Kondinin initially missed out. Other shires might become eligible. He would like to see the Future Drought Fund contributions split, with 25% from WA Government, 25% from Federal Government and 50% from farmers to build significant-sized dams on farming properties, exceeding 10,000 yards, as part of water plans.

Rick has asked for more pest and weed control money. For example, camels are coming into pastoral properties destroying stock water infrastructure.

Cr Crosby - any thoughts about getting New Zealand shearers into WA? We cannot instantly upskill people to be shearers.

Rick Wilson - people can still come into the country, they just have to isolate for 2 weeks. Will look at the backpacker situation and am sure a commonsense decision will be made to extend their time provided they are doing the right thing.

Cr O'Dea - Federal Government is providing support to Ag Societies who have had to cancel their shows. Cr Guidera said the Katanning Show was still going ahead.

Rick Wilson said he was uncomfortable with paying people not to do things.

Keith Williams thanked Rick Wilson and Federal Government for regional housing project funding which has built 52 houses in the Great Southern region.

Rick Wilson encouraged councils to advertise vacant blocks in their towns.

Federal Government budget will be handed down on 6 October this year.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4.1 Cr Russel Thomson declared an interest in item 7.2

REMINDER: All delegates present at a Zone meeting shall vote, as per Zone Standing Order 28.1

Bruce Manning and GSDC staff left the meeting at 11.13am.

5. MINUTES

5.1 Confirmation of Minutes

5.1.1 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY ZONE MEETING – 24 February 2020

MOVED Cr John Benn

SECONDED Cr Scott Crosby

That the minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Great Southern Zone of the WALGA held on Monday 24 February 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

CARRIED 17-0

5.1.2 MINUTES OF THE WALGA STATE COUNCIL MEETING – 6 May 2020

MOVED Cr Scott Crosby

SECONDED Cr Chris Pavlovich

That the Minutes of meeting of the State Council of WALGA held on 6 May 2020 be received.

CARRIED 17-0

6. STATUS REPORT FROM WALGA TO THE ZONE

6.1 Status Report from WALGA to the Zone dated June 2020 circulated.

6.2 Mark Batty, WALGA

Key points:

- Bill to amend the Environmental Protection Act has passed Lower House and is now in Upper House. Will be good to get harmony between State and Federal Environmental legislation.
- DWER processes hundreds of applications each year. They have committed to forming a dedicated Local Government clearing permit assessment team. Mark has a meeting with DWER next week to bed this down.
- Key amendment would see CEO of DWER having the ability under delegated authority to make a determination on minor applications, where this are no rare flora, about if a permit is actually required or not.
- Minister has said that Local Government should not get caught up in bureaucracy which is meant for the resources sector.
- Minister MacTiernan is willing to work on drought funding criteria issues. WA Water Minister Dave Kelly is putting in an application for Federal funding for community water resilience.

7. ACTION REGISTER

Action Register was updated - see attachment.

8. KEY STRATEGIC ZONE ISSUES FOR 2020

8.1 Refer to updated Key Strategic Zone Issues register attached.

MINISTERIAL AND / OR DIRECTOR GENERAL ATTENDANCE AT REMAINING 2020 ZONE MEETINGS - LINKED TO KEY STRATEGIC ZONE ISSUES

Councils to decide which Ministers, Politicians, Directors General and other speakers they wish to attend remaining Zone meetings in 2020.

Zone meeting dates	Guest Speakers
Friday 28 August in Woodanilling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minister for Education & Training Sue Ellery – to be confirmed.• Presentation by DLGSC – if requested by Zone.• Simon Lyas, RDA Great Southern – confirmed.• Ben Headlam, Palmerston Services Great Southern
Mon 23 November in Kojonup (Joint meeting with Regional Road Group)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minister for Local Government David Templeman or Minister for Transport, Rita Saffioti – to be confirmed.• Reserve speaker – WA Minister for Communications / Emergency Services – to be confirmed.

Outstanding or suggested speakers

- Presentation by Office of the Auditor General
Subject: Update on local government auditing so far and look at a few of OAG's recent Local Government financial and performance audits. Include issues raised by CEO Julian Murphy and Cr Rob Lester.
- Housing Minister Peter Tinley to talk about extension of First Home Owners Grant and parity home lending requirements between regional areas and the metropolitan area, as raised at November meeting by the Shire of Plantagenet.
- Water is becoming a serious issue, so meet with Dept of Water and Water Corporation.
- Invite people in Government with influence before the next State Election.
- Ask Premier Mark McGowan to first meeting of 2021 before State Election - meet in Albany.

ACTION: Executive Officer to follow up with MPs Rick Wilson, Peter Rundle and Terry Redman about attendance at Zone meetings via emails.

Outcome: Refer to No 23 on Action Register attached.

8.2 Libby Mettam, Shadow Transport Minister - verbal presentation and discussion

Member for Vasse. Elected in 2014.

Key points:

- Need to think differently post-COVID-19 pandemic. 62,000 jobs destroyed in a single month. WA has largest unemployment rate in the country. Hit to supply chain and tourism industry.
- Reports say that infrastructure spending would need to double now to support communities and provide jobs.
- Governments can play a role in decentralising to regional areas.
- More than 185,000 kms of road in WA.
- Road safety and least cost pathway to market are key issues for WA transport.

Top 2 priorities road issues for the Zone:

1. *Regional Road Group funding should be prioritised towards road re-construction and new seal projects, not road preservation.*
2. *RARFS needs to be funded, say, over a 20-year timeframe.*

Response from Ms Mettam

She has been hearing many comments about these issues. Seeing greater pressure on road networks. Important that we do see investment in RARFS. Important to look at major CBH sites such as Broomehill and Cranbrook as to where we invest. Will be looking at driving economic growth, improving transport and road safety, and creating jobs.

Q&A Session

Cr O'Dea - outer harbour strategy and the port. Is this likely to be a distraction?

Ms Mettam - \$10 million has been invested in west port taskforce so far. Report finalised in March this year. No value in unnecessarily duplicating infrastructure ahead of time. Liberals will be opposing the shutdown of Fremantle Port. Liberals are committed to Roe 8 & 9.

Cr Pavlovich - Main Roads has committed \$2 million to Albany Ring Road and South Coast Highway. No funding for other projects going forward. Upgrade old roads or fund Roe 8?

Ms Mettam - she has identified quite a few roads in Great Southern as priorities. Passing lanes which Liberals committed to were well received.

Cr Benn - 100kms of Albany Highway north of Kojonup need work, also Chester Pass Road, etc.

Ms Mettam - State funding to Local Government has declined over years and there is opportunity to invest in roads including connector routes.

Cr Paganoni - funding announced recently by Transport Minister Rita Saffioti. We need a more strategic approach over longer periods instead of edge lines and sealing shoulders.

Cr House - wasting money putting new bitumen and stone on poor base. Better to spend money on reconstruction.

ACTION: Libby Mettam to contact Zone to get feedback when Minister releases the funding announcement.

Rick Wilson said the Wheatbelt Development Commission worked with Main Roads to prioritise road funding in the Wheatbelt. He urged the Great Southern to do the same.

Cr Thomson recently spent time driving around the Wheatbelt in a truck and their roads made Great Southern roads look like goat tracks. The Great Southern is years behind what the Wheatbelt has achieved. We should work on getting our fair share of the funding cake.

Ms Mettam read the RARFS priorities aloud and ask if the Zone was satisfied with the priorities?

Cr O'Dea suggested getting data on rural gravel road closures due to heavy rainfall.

Rick Wilson raised issue with taxis. Losing taxi services in small country towns. Affecting people with disabilities. State Government de-regulated taxis but did not de-regulated the fees they can charge. Important issue for country communities for the upcoming State Election.

Ms Mettam - have raised these issues in Parliament. Real concern for seniors and vulnerable people. She will continue to pursue this.

Cr Janine Phillips advised that DFES has requirement that volunteers are not allowed to raise issues with State or Federal MPs. Volunteers have said they are going to resign over it so who are we going to get to run our emergency services? They have a democratic right to see anyone they want to see about anything. Refer to Hansard from 23 June for comments by MP Terry Redman.

ACTION: Get clarification about what this means and the impacts of it.

Libby Mettam - had a suspension of standing orders on last day of Parliament about this. You are correct, volunteers are not allowed to raise issues with State or Federal MPs. This is a live issue and we will be working with our National colleagues on this.

9. REVIEW OF WALGA STATE COUNCIL AGENDA – 1 July 2020

9.1 WALGA State Council President's Report - Mayor Tracey Roberts JP

WALGA President Mayor Tracey Roberts' report was circulated.

9.2 State Council Representative's Report - Cr Ronnie Fleay

ACTION: Cr Fleay's report to be circulated with the minutes.

9.3 Matters for Decision – Zone consideration required

Consideration of the July 2020 WALGA State Council Agenda - Emerging Issues & Matters for Decision.

MOVED Cr John Benn

SECONDED Cr Rob Lester

That the Great Southern Zone supports the recommendations for Emerging Issue Item 4.1 and Matters for Decision Item 5.1 in the July 2020 WALGA State Council Agenda.

CARRIED 17-0

9.4 Matters for Noting – Zone information

Received and noted.

9.5 State Council Status Report

Received and noted.

MOVED Cr John Benn

SECONDED Cr Rob Lester

That items 9.1 to 9.5 be accepted enbloc.

CARRIED 17-0

The meeting broke for lunch at 1.04pm

The meeting resumed after lunch at 1.52pm with 14 voting delegates in attendance.

Duncan Ord, Director General, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (via video link from Perth)

Key points:

- Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Phase 4 easing of restrictions come into effect in WA at midnight on Friday 26 June 2020.
- Keen to listen to Local Governments.
- State Government announced new lending opportunities for Local Governments.
- Lifted the cap on borrowings and tender cap for Local Government.
- Relaxation and suspension of various regulations and provisions to assist communities during the pandemic.
- Minister is keen to go back to business as usual and go back to meeting with Local Governments.
- Encouraged councils to contact the Department via email at: lgresponse@dlgsc.wa.gov.au and hotline@dlgsc.wa.gov.au
- Deadline for COVID-19 impact statement submissions is 3 July 2020. Impact Statements will feed into COVID-19 Response Plan.
- Arts grants of \$1 million. Re-purposing grants.
- \$13 million programme from Lotterywest, partly \$8 million to compensate groups for cancellation of events and \$5 million to help with recovery.
- Mental health issues through not being able to take part in sports and the arts.
- \$13 million for sport and recreation funding. Bringing forward funds to be able to approve more projects.

Q&A Session

Cr Benn - relaxation of rules and regulations has been good. Would like to keep these in the future.

Mr Ord - where we can retain some of those measures, we would be keen to do so. Minister is keen to release the report by Experts Group which has put up some good proposals around the Act. Balance between prescription and freedom. Review is calling for more autonomy for Local Government. Need Local Governments to group together to take advantage of the opportunities to come. Minister is looking to release something in the next couple of months.

Cr Guidera - Zoom meetings provided great efficiencies for staff and councillors. Would like to keep this for decision-making meetings of Council. When will the Dept's enquiry in Town of Cambridge be concluded? Was it helpful to issue Show Cause before the enquiry was finalised?

Mr Ord - will be handing down the report and findings on 30 June 2020.

Cr O'Dea - query with arts grants and sports organisations. Where community organisations don't have paid employees, applying for grants is a problem. When the arts grant opens on 1 July, will smaller groups with no paid employees be given more consideration?

Mr Ord - we have supported the professional end of arts but not community arts. Yes, we are intending to get to community arts groups. We will look at opportunities to engage with volunteer community arts and sports groups. This has been very strongly raised as an issue.

Chris Thompson, Great Southern Regional Manager, Sport & Recreation (DLGSC)

Regional Recovery Plan for the Great Southern for sport and recreation. Full report attached.

Key points included:

- Compiled a recovery plan using existing strategies in hand.
- Also consulted with Great Southern Development Commission and Great Southern Recreational Advisory Group.
- 3 essential pillars = infrastructure, events and community engagement, and workforce development.
- Albany Motor Sports Park, Artificial Surf Reef, Regional Tennis Facility, aquatic facilities eg Mt Barker, Boxwood Hills facilities, Denmark - recycled water, Frankland River Country Club, refurbishment of Broomehill Sporting Complex, Denmark's second oval, Albany Surf Life Saving Club upgrade, Katanning's Quartermaine Oval upgrades & LED lighting upgrade in Gnowangerup.
- Trail developments - Walpole paddle experience, Great Southern Treasures Recreation Circuit, Albany Heritage Park trails network, Mt Barker Hill trails network, DBCA Bald Head trail upgrade and William Bay hiking trail network upgrade.
- GSCORE will take central lead in training regional people, including Local Government staff, in trails construction and maintenance.
- Outdoor recreation did not suffer during COVID-19 pandemic.
- Events - Southern Peaks downhill mountain bike event. Princess Royal Sailing Club has potential to hold Asian sailing championships.
- Active Regional Communities funding open to sport and recreation groups and Local Governments.
- Mr Thompson encouraged Local Governments to contact the Department in Albany.

Cr Pavlovich, Cr House and Cr Gaze left the meeting,

Cr Marie O'Dea replaced Cr Chris Pavlovich as a Shire of Plantagenet voting delegate.

There were 13 voting delegates remaining.

10. ZONE BUSINESS

10.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS SCHEME - CAPITAL GRANTS FOR VEHICLES / APPLIANCES - Shire of Kent

The purpose of this report is to seek clarification from DFES regarding the current embargo on applications for additional vehicles/appliances through the LGGs Capital Grants program.

Background

The summer of 2019/20 and the associated fire season has been the hottest and driest on record for many parts of Australia and has changed how the community and emergency management agencies view the risk of bush fires.

For local governments this includes working with stakeholders to review the bush fire risk to their communities and attempting to ensure that their communities are adequately resourced commensurate to the risk.

With the increased size and duration of fires recently experienced, there is an additional need for local governments to provide assistance to their neighbouring shires, which has placed increased demand on existing resources. While always willing to help neighbours, local brigades also need to consider if sending resources away will expose their own community to increased risk.

Where a resource gap has been identified, local governments have traditionally requested additional capital resources (such as fire appliances) by submitting a Resource to Risk (R2R) Business Case to the

Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES). The Business Case is reviewed by the ESL Capital Grants Committee (CGC).

However this avenue of funding appears to have been temporarily closed. The DFES Local Government Grants Scheme (LGGGS) letter of offer for 2020/21 included the following statements:

New and additional appliance/vehicle requests will, as a general principal, be unlikely to be considered for approval. The CGC has resolved:

'That with the sustainability assessment that has recently been undertaken, and given the number of current reviews/projects such as light fleet review, crew cab protection initiatives and future fleet project, the CGC agreed that pending the outcome of the reviews, funding be directed towards providing facilities for those appliances/vehicles housed on private property or in the open as a priority against additional vehicles'.

The DFES LGGGS Manual for Capital and Operating Grants states that the appliance/vehicle replacement program works on a 'like for like' basis:

The appliance/vehicle offers are based on 'like for like' type replacement however, the actual models delivered will be determined from the outcomes of DFES' Operational Fleet2 procurement processes.

As in previous years, additional fleet requests are unable to be considered. To guarantee current fleet sustainability, future resourcing needs will be subject to the outcomes of the Operational fleet initiatives and a revised resource to risk assessment process currently under development. DFES is currently finalising the procurement process for the heavy and light fleet and it is not anticipated that the timelines for the award of all contracts will result in all scheduled fleet assets being delivered in 2019/20.

Comment

Due to the final specifications of future replacement vehicles not yet being finalised, DFES has effectively blocked the only avenue open to local governments to obtain additional capital resources (apart from sheds in which to house their current appliances).

At the end of the Operational Fleet Project, there will still be distinct classes of fire appliances, such as light tankers, rural tankers and urban pumps. So, for example, if a local government requests a light tanker the CGC should be able to assess the application and determine the validity of the request based on risk, regardless of the final specifications for a light tanker.

This situation has been going on for few years already, with no clear indication of when the CGC is likely to recommence considering applications for vehicles/appliances. This leaves some local governments in limbo and forced to consider other methods of providing adequate resources to its volunteer bush fire brigades and protecting their communities.

Options that have been proposed locally include providing bush fire brigades with refurbished appliances that have been recently retired from the DFES fleet replacement program. This could be conducted as a trial by DFES with interested local governments to model and monitor the mix of newer and older fleet to measure the cost/benefits and improvements to risk mitigation.

Financial Implications

Many rural local governments are already dependant on farmers responding to fires in their privately owned vehicles. This is perceived as inequitable by some farmers who pay their ESL for the provision of emergency services but are still having to spend money on the sourcing, upkeep and running of private fire units.

As additional appliances are currently not being considered through the LGGGS Capital Grants program, community groups are starting to request that local governments step up to fill the gap by financing shire-owned appliances that would be maintained outside of the LGGGS program at additional cost to ratepayers.

MOVED Cr Scott Crosby

SECONDED Cr Mark Paganoni

That the WALGA writes to DFES to seek clarification on:

- 1. When the outcomes of the sustainability assessments and the various specified reviews, that has stopped the approval of new appliances, will be completed and advice provided to councils;**
- 2. If any other avenues of sourcing fit for purpose (new and not new) appliances are available during this review period; and**
- 3. If DFES would consider a trial of refurbished appliances being used by councils which volunteer to be a trial site.**

CARRIED 13-0

10.2 COVID-19 REGIONAL LEVEL VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS – WALGA

To assist Local Governments as they look to provide the most appropriate response and recovery packages in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, WALGA has been assessing the extent to which each local community in WA will be impacted by COVID-19. As a way of doing this, WALGA analysed a range of demographic and social data that provide an indication of the COVID-19 health and economic vulnerability of each Local Government Area in WA.
Refer to attached analysis document.

The indicators analysed for each Local Government Area include:

Health vulnerability

- Share of people aged over 70
- Share of lone person households
- Share of households with no motor vehicles
- Share of people who need assistance with core activities
- Population density

Economic Vulnerability

- Share of people who work in impacted industries
- Share of businesses in impacted industries
- Share of non-employing businesses
- Share of businesses with less than \$2m in annual turnover
- Share of households with no internet access

Over 60 individual Local Governments have been provided with an analysis pack specific to their district, and now WALGA have aggregated and reported on this data at the WALGA Zone level.

Received and noted by the Great Southern Zone.

11. EMERGING ISSUES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Member Councils reported on emerging issues over the past few months.

City of Albany - not present

Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup

- Drought funding
- Housing named shortly and tenants ready to move in.
- Water Corporation telling us we cannot put in new standpipes because they haven't got enough water in the pipeline.

- New fire station in Broomehill should be completed in September.
- Pledges are enough to put a deposit on the Broomehill pub. Looking for more money though.

Shire of Cranbrook - not present

Shire of Denmark - nothing to report

Shire of Gnowangerup - not present

Shire of Jerramungup - not present

Shire of Katanning

- Reports of families looking for food. Trying to find out who these people are. Note that JobSeekers are getting double payments.
- Minister MacTiernan rang Cr Guidera last week to ask about current situation with Early Childhood Centre. Will re-look at this now that the environment has changed.
- Piesse Park development is progressing.
- Austral Terrace upgrades progressing.

Shire of Kent

- Challenges with housing for teachers in Nyabing. Only one house for principal. Looking at having 4 teachers with no houses next year. Suggestion to engage with GROH through housing initiative. Need to have good accommodation in rural areas. Dept of Education seems to have lost sight of this. Rents are too high for teachers coming from the metro area. If there is not good quality housing, small country towns won't attract teachers and Police officers. Cr Janine Phillips stated that it was not Local Government's responsibility to sort out this problem. This should be a Zone issue to raise through WALGA.

ACTION: Shire of Kent to draft information for Zone to take through WALGA State Council meeting on Wednesday 1 July 2020.

Shire of Jerramungup may have had a similar issue.

ACTION: Shire of Kent to discuss with Shire of Jerramungup.

Shire of Kojonup

- Housing initiative is 85% complete.
- \$500,000 upgrading kitchen at aged care facility.
- \$250,000 grant for airstrip upgrades.
- Application for drought funding.
- Mature aged Noongar trainee at Kodja Place.
- Public toilet audit.

Shire of Plantagenet

- Extension of medical centre.
- Beautification of Albany Highway.
- Walk trail on Mt Barker Hill.
- Business Centre - looking at how it will be managed going forward. Doing community consultation.
- Acknowledged outgoing CEO Rob Stewart who will be retiring in July 2020 after 19 years in the job.

Shire of Woodanilling

- Meeting being held on Monday 29 June with CEOs of Woodanilling, Katanning and Broomehill-Tambellup plus fire chiefs. Notified by DFES Great Southern that 1-day training will be 2 days training. Was told that WALGA signed off on this. Will be hard to get volunteers to attend 2 days' training. Want to go back to 1 day.
- Planning approval for Beaufort River Meats abattoir to expand cutting room with 13 new jobs.
- Approved Fletchers abattoir feedlot for 90,000 sheep.
- Quite a bit of stress over Beaufort River paleo channel. How much water is there and how it can be managed as a regional asset. DWER not interested because it is not a claimed water resource. Great Southern Development Commission is working with Shire of Woodanilling on this.

12. REPORTS

No	Organisation / Delegates	Updates / Info
12.1	Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG) Delegate: Cr Russel Thomson (Shire of Woodanilling) Proxy: Cr Scott Crosby (Shire of Kent)	Minutes of 3 April 2020 meeting and the Agricultural Pilot Requirements Flow Chart attached. Note: Zone feedback and comments requested on <i>Item 7.2 – Movement of Agricultural Machinery</i> . What do Zones want to do? Cr Thomson - want to promote a change with approval of Zones. ACTION: Cr Fleay to talk with Ian Duncan at WALGA about this.
12.2	Great Southern District Leadership Group (formerly Great Southern Human Services Forum) Representative: Rani Param (City of Albany)	Late report received. Cr Fleay sits on the District Leadership Group. ACTION: Cr Fleay to consider representing the Zone.
12.3	Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) – CEO Keith Williams.	100 meetings all focused on COVID-19. Meeting to be held next week. Keith will take issue of mobile phone towers back to the DEMC.
12.4	South Coast Natural Resource Management (SCNRM) Delegate: CEO Keith Williams Proxy: Cr Jon Oldfield (Plantagenet)	Structure has changed. ACTION: Keith Williams to follow up on how the Zone will be involved.
12.5	Great Southern Development Commission	Refer to 3.1 above.
12.6	Great Southern RoadWise – Carl Beck	Report dated June 2020 was circulated. Mobile phone fines increase will now come into effect on 1 September 2020, not 1 July 2020. ACTION: Carl Beck to provide crash statistics for before and after installation of rumble strips.
12.7	Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries	Update by Director General Duncan Ord via video link. Link to Circular as follows: http://mailchi.mp/dlgsc.wa.gov.au/zone-update-from-the-department-of-local-government-sport-and-cultural-industries-1096213
12.8	Executive Officer	Nil.

13. FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report for the period 1 February to 31 May 2020 is attached.

Opening balance as at 1 February 2020	\$7,234.52
Total debits	(\$4,805.29)
Total credits	\$199.00
Closing balance as at 31 May 2020	\$2,628.23

MOVED Cr Scott Crosby

SECONDED Cr John Benn

That the financial statement for the period 1 February to 31 May 2020 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the Zone finances.

CARRIED 13-0

Close: 3.20pm