



Gascoyne Country Zone

Minutes

10:00am

Friday, 18 February 2022

Meeting hosted by
Shire of Carnarvon

Gascoyne Country Zone

Meeting was hosted by Shire of Carnarvon

5 Francis Street, Carnarvon (9941 0000)

and via MS Teams

Friday, 18 February 2022 commenced at 10:10am

Minutes

ATTENDEES

Shire of Carnarvon	President Eddie Smith Andrea Selvey, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Exmouth	Cr Anne McCarrol Ben Lewis, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Upper Gascoyne	President Cr Don Hammarquist OAM John McCleary, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Shark Bay	President Cr Cheryl Cowell (Chair) Dale Chapman, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
WALGA	Mark Bondiotti, Policy Manager Transport and Roads* Willem Bower, Governance Specialist*

GUESTS

Roadwise	Jo Malcolm, Road Safety Officer*
Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries	Angele Gray, Regional Manager Mid-West Gascoyne* Benita Perkins, Regional Officer
Gascoyne Development Commission	Tym Duncanson, Chief Executive Officer*
Regional Development Australia – Mid West Gascoyne	Mark Holdsworth, Executive Officer

GUEST SPEAKERS

Office of the Auditor General WA Country Health Services	Grant Robinson, Assistant Auditor General* Wendy Newman, Deputy Board Chair* Melissa Vernon, Executive Director Service and Operations Hub Development and EOC*
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APOLOGIES

Nil

* Attended virtually

Attachments

The following were provided as attachments to the Agenda:

1. Previous Meeting Minutes – 19 November 2021 Meeting
2. President's Report
3. State Council special meeting Agenda, 23 February 2022

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nil

3 DEPUTATIONS

3.1 Office of the Auditor General

Grant Robinson, Assistant Auditor General, from the Office of the Auditor General, provided an update to the Zone.

3.2 WA Country Health Service

Wendy Newman, Deputy Board Chair, and Melissa Vernon, Executive Director Service and Operations Hub Development and EOC, from the WA Country Health Service, provided a presentation to the Zone regarding COVID preparedness in the regions.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the 19 November 2021 Meeting of the Gascoyne Country Zone

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Eddie Smith
Seconded: Cr Anne McCarrol

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Gascoyne Country Zone held on 19 November 2021 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings, with an amendment re the Shire of Exmouth representative changed from President Cr Darlene Allston to Cr Anne McCarrol

CARRIED

4.2 Business Arising

Nil

5. ZONE BUSINESS

5.1 Solar Eclipse 2023

Update provided by the Shire of Exmouth CEO, Ben Lewis. The Tourism WA Working Group will be visiting the Shire on 2nd March 2022. Zone delegates will be invited to attend.

5.2 Gascoyne Regional Road Working Group - Update

Mark Holdsworth from Regional Development Australia - Mid West Gascoyne (RDAMWG), provided an update on the Gascoyne Regional Road Working Group.

Mark advised that pre-feasibility studies were being undertaken around the scope (geographic) and the growth of interest from Wiluna, Meekatharra, Ashburton and Murchison Shires. A report will be tabled at the next zone meeting, clarifying specific issues for each shire.

Noted

5.3 Zone Status Report – February 2022

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Gascoyne C	2021 19 November Zone Agenda Item 6.3 Driving on Closed Roads	That WALGA: 1. Investigate technologies available to physically close roads remotely and provide costings for such; 2. Investigate the current legislative frameworks and provide comment on the remedies practicality of enforcing such; 3. Investigate and make comment on what other State Jurisdictions legislative interventions are used and the remedies provided thereunder to discourage motorists driving on closed roads.	This matter was referred to the Infrastructure Policy Team who resolved to seek advice from WALGA Zones with large, remote unsealed road networks regarding the significance of damage from vehicles being operated on closed, wet roads. This will assist to inform decisions about the scope and priority of addressing this matter. The following questions have been referred to the Zones: 1. Have Shires estimated the frequency of and costs incurred to repair damage to roads caused by vehicles being driven on them while closed due to wet conditions? 2. Are Shires aware of situations where offenders have been successfully prosecuted (under the Road Traffic (Administration) Act 2008 or Local Laws) and the extent to which these cases have been effective in deterring others? 3. Have Shires identified any practices that are more effective in increasing compliance with road closures during wet conditions?	February 2022	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Gascoyne C	2021 19 February Zone Agenda Item 5.4 Issues with the DRFAWA Claims and Approvals Process	That the Gascoyne Country Zone recommend WALGA request DFES to form a working group of participants from affected Shires to review the current process and report back on outcomes and solutions.	Data has been collected from a sample of Councils that have recently suffered declared disasters and is being analyzed to inform engagement with DFES.	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Gascoyne C	2019 March 22 Zone Agenda Item 5.2 Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition	That the Gascoyne Zone request WALGA to: 1. Advocate for thorough consultation with the Local Government sector regarding alternative approaches to the CA07 operating condition; and, 2. Establish a Working Group consisting of representatives from MRWA, WALGA, LGIS, DoT and the Local Government sector incorporating at least one member from each affected WALGA Zone to consider alternative approaches.	The RAV Access working group met by teleconference in early December. Based on the resolution of this meeting a letter detailing Local Government expectations was sent to Main Roads WA. The Association discussed this matter with Main Roads WA in November 2020. They are engaging with the State Solicitors Office prior to a proposed consultation with Local Government concerning a proposed approach. WALGA has subsequently met with Main Roads who confirm that the status quo remains until further notice.	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Gascoyne C	2021 25 June Zone Agenda Item 8.1 Road Closures	That WALGA be tasked to compile a guidance note on the drafting of a local law to apply fines to drivers ignoring road closure signage and on the use of the Traffic Administration Act to recover compensation for road damage.	This item is being considered by the Infrastructure Policy Team and the Governance Policy Team. Updates on progress will be provided to the Zone.	February 2022	Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au

Noted

6. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA – MATTERS FOR DECISION

(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)

6.1 Special State Council Meeting Agenda – 23 February 2022

The full State Council special meeting Agenda is enclosed as an attachment to the Agenda and can be found via link: [State Council Special Meeting Agenda 23 February 2022](#)

President Cr Eddie Smith will be attending this Special State Council Meeting (via Teams) in the absence of the Chair of the Zone. It was noted that following the action item from the November 2021 meeting, the Chief Executive Officers of Shark Bay and Carnarvon Shires compiled a consolidated Gascoyne Zone response which was subsequently submitted to WALGA.

Matters for Decision

3.1 Local Government Reform Proposal Submission

1. That the recommendations contained in the 'Local Government Reform Proposal Submission' be endorsed.
2. That WALGA: a. seek assurance from the Minister for Local Government that further detail on the proposed reforms will be provided to the sector for comment prior to the formulation of a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill; and b. seek a formal commitment from the Minister for Local Government that WALGA actively participates in the legislative drafting process necessary to formulate a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Eddie Smith

Seconded: Cr Don Hammarquist

That the Gascoyne Country Zone supports all Matters for Decision as listed above in the Special State Council Meeting Agenda – 23 February 2022.

CARRIED

6.2 Ordinary State Council Meeting Agenda – 2 March 2022

The full State Council Agenda can be found via link: [State Council Agenda 2 March 2022](#)

Matters for Decision

5.1 Short-Term Accommodation Regulatory Scheme

That the draft Short-Term Accommodation Regulatory Reform submission be endorsed

Matters for Noting

- 6.1 COVID-19 – Update
- 6.2 2022-23 Federal Budget Submission
- 6.3 Detection of Polyphagous Shot-hole Borer and Implications for Local Government
- 6.4 State Planning Policy 2.9: Planning for Water - Submission
- 6.5 Submission to Salaries and Allowances Tribunal – Local Government Remuneration Inquiry

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Anne McCarrol
Seconded: Cr Don Hammarquist

That the Gascoyne Country Zone

1. Supports Matters for Decision, item 5.1 as listed above in the March 2022 State Council Agenda; and
2. Notes all Matters for Noting and Organisational Reports as listed in the March 2022 State Council Agenda.

CARRIED

7. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

7.1 State Councillor's Report to the Zone

President Cr Cheryl Cowell provided an update on the previous State Council meeting.

With regard to Domestic Violence Leave, the question was raised about whether this issue was still relevant when those in Local Government on a Federal Award were possibly moving to a State Award.

Answer: currently many Local Government staff were still a part of the Federal Award, and even if a change occurred, which had not been confirmed, there would likely still be a 2-year transitional period.

Noted

7.2 President's Report to the Zone

Mark Bondietti from WALGA summarised the President's Report.

Noted

7.3 Gascoyne Development Commission

Chief Executive Officer, Tym Duncanson, provided an update to the Zone.

Noted

7.4 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

Angele Gray provided an update to the Zone on DLGSC matters. Zone members were advised that a Gascoyne Recreation Forum for LGA's will be conducted on 16 March in Exmouth.

Noted

7.5 Roadwise Report

Jo Malcolm, Road Safety Systems Specialist provided an update to the Zone.

Sam Adams is currently on long service leave until 1 April 2022 – for support or advice please contact roadwise@walga.asn.au.

Jo Malcolm has commenced a new WALGA role (Road Safety Systems Specialist). Jo will be supporting Local Governments to adopt a Road Safety Management System based around ISO 39001. For further information go to [Road Safety Management Systems Service » RoadWise Program](#).

Noted

7.6 Regional Development Australia - Mid West Gascoyne

Mark Holdsworth, Director of Regional Development/Executive Officer, provided an update to the Zone and advised that there will be no more grant funding rounds available until after the Federal election has been conducted.

Noted

8. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 No other business

9. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting: 10:00am on Friday, 22 April 2022, via video conference.

10. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at **12:33am**.