



Gascoyne Country Zone

Minutes

10:00am
Friday, 23 April 2021

Via MS Teams

Gascoyne Country Zone

Meeting to be held via MS Teams

Videoconference

Commenced at 10:00am, Friday, 23 April 2021

Minutes

ATTENDEES

Shire of Carnarvon	President Eddie Smith Andrea Selvey – Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Exmouth	President Cr Matthew Niikkula Mathew Bird - Acting Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Upper Gascoyne	Sa Toomalati - Manager, Finance & Corporate Services
Shire of Shark Bay	President Cr Cheryl Cowell - Chair
WALGA	Mark Bondietti - Policy Manager Transport and Roads James McGovern - Manager Governance Samantha Adams - Road Safety Advisor

GUESTS

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries	Angele Gray - Regional Manager Laura Tracey
Gascoyne Development Commission	Simmone Van Buerle
Regional Development Australia – Mid West Gascoyne	Mark Holdsworth

APOLOGIES

Shire of Upper Gascoyne	President Cr Don Hammarquist OAM John McCleary - Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Shark Bay	Paul Anderson - Chief Executive Officer
LGISWA	Emma Horsefield - Safety Program Manager
Gascoyne Development Commission	Tym Duncanson - CEO GDC

Attachments

The following were provided as attachments to the agenda:

1. Previous Meeting Minutes – 19 February 2021 Meeting
2. President's Report

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Pursuant to our Code of Conduct, Councillors 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.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nil

3. DEPUTATIONS

Nil

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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

RESOLUTION

Moved	President Eddie Smith
Seconded	President Cr Cheryl Cowell

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Gascoyne Country Zone held on 19 February 2021 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

4.2 Business Arising

Nil

5. ZONE BUSINESS

5.1 Solar Eclipse 2023

Shire of Exmouth

Standing Item on the agenda relating to planning for the 2023 Solar Eclipse.

Tourism WA will be engaging a consultant to compile a report on the carrying capacity of the region. Tourism WA has appointed a dedicated employee to cover the event and is further expecting to appoint a senior leader.

Noted

5.2 Zone Status Report – April 2021

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Gascoyne C	2019 September 5 Zone Agenda Item 5.1 Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition	That the Gascoyne Zone request WALGA to establish a Working Group relating to the Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition issue as soon as possible, to allow the Working Group to develop possible options prior to meeting with Main Roads.	<p>The RAV Access working group met by teleconference in early December 2019. Based on the resolution of this meeting a letter detailing Local Government expectations was sent to Main Roads WA.</p> <p>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.</p>	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.	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Gascoyne C	2021 19 February Zone Agenda Item 5.2 Asset Preservation Model	That the Gascoyne Country Zone recommend the implementation of options 1 to 4 sequentially with report back at the conclusion of each phase for direction to proceed further.	Advice from all WALGA Zones has been analyzed and a recommendation regarding the next steps for a review of the Road Asset Preservation Model included in the May 2021 State Council Agenda.	April 2021	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.	Engagement with DFES is scheduled for 15 April but may be deferred due to TC Seroja	April 2021	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Gascoyne C	2021 19 February Zone Agenda Item 8.1 Rainfall Monitoring	That the Gascoyne Country Zone recommend that WALGA advocate to the Bureau of Meteorology to increase the density of automatic rain gauges towards a 50km grid coverage.	Under investigation, seeking to identify relevant stakeholders.	April 2021	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Gascoyne C	2019 June 20	That the Gascoyne Zone:	WALGA has commenced discussions with the Shire, the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and	Ongoing	Narelle Cant

	<p>Zone Agenda Item 5.1 Regional Strategy Carnarvon to Exmouth – Nynggulu (Ningaloo) Coastal Reserves, Draft Joint Management Plan</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Request WALGA continue to advocate to the State Government that an independent economic assessment of Wilderness Camping in the Shire of Exmouth and the broader Gascoyne Region be undertaken prior to any decisions being made; and, 2. Note that the Shire of Exmouth will draft a statement to be sent to Gascoyne Local Government Chief Executive Officers outlining concerns with the current proposal. 	<p>Attractions and the Gascoyne Development Commission on the development of the Regional Strategy, and the concerns raised by the Shire of Exmouth.</p>	<p>Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning ncant@walga.asn.au 9213 2078</p>
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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)

The full State Council Agenda can be found via link: [State-Council-Agenda-5-May-2021.pdf](#)

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

Matters for Decision

5.1 Local Government Financial Ratios

That WALGA:

1. Advocate to the Minister for Local Government to amend the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 to prescribe the following ratios:
 - a. Operating Surplus Ratio,
 - b. Net Financial Liabilities Ratio,
 - c. Debt Service Coverage Ratio, and
 - d. Current Ratio.
2. Recommend that Local Governments consider including Asset Management ratios in their Annual Report.
3. Request the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries to review the Asset Management ratios in consultation with the Local Government sector.
4. Continue the Local Government Financial Ratios Working Group as a reference group for the development of a Model set of Financial Statements and Budget Statements, and to establish new financial indicators.

5.2 Roads Asset Preservation Model Review

That WALGA:

1. Seek support from the WA Local Government Grants Commission to provide presentations on the inputs, operation of and outputs of the Road Asset Preservation Model at Zone or Regional Road Group meetings where requested.
2. Advocate to the WA Local Government Grants Commission to improve the formatting and labelling of the model and make it available via the Commission's website.

5.3 Western Australian Development Index

That the development and implementation of the Western Australian Development Index, led by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, be supported.

5.4 Review of the State Industrial Relations System

That WALGA:

1. Seek confirmation from the State Government on whether it intends to re-introduce legislation for Local Governments to operate solely in the State Industrial Relations System.
2. If the State Government reintroduces legislation to require all Local Governments to operate within the State Industrial Relations System, continue to advocate for the State Government to:
 - a. Amend the Industrial Relations Act 1979 (WA) to include additional provisions to modernise the State IR system; and
 - b. Provide adequate funding and resourcing to ensure Local Governments are equipped with the appropriate tools and training to enable a smooth transition.

Matters for Noting

- 6.1 New Regulations Update – Model Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates; and CEO Standards for Recruitment, Performance Review and Termination
- 6.2 State Election Campaign
- 6.3 Draft Position Statement: Dark Sky and Astrotourism
- 6.4 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC)

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Matthew Niikkula
Seconded: President Cr Eddie Smith

That the Gascoyne Country Zone

1. Supports all Matters for Decision as listed above in the 5 May 2021 State Council Agenda; and
2. Notes all Matters for Noting and Organisational Reports as listed in the 5 May 2021 State Council Agenda.

CARRIED

7. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

7.1 State Councillor's Report to the Zone

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

Noted

7.2 President's Report to the Zone

Mark Bondietti outlined the President's Report on behalf of Mayor Tracey Roberts JP.

Noted

7.3 Gascoyne Development Commission

Simmons Van Buerle 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.

Noted

7.5 Road Wise Update

Samantha Adams provided an update to the Zone on road safety issues

Noted

7.6 Regional Development Australia

Mark Holdsworth provided an update to the Zone from Regional Development Australia.

Noted

8. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1

President Eddie Smith stated that the Shire of Carnarvon has an unfunded backlog of approximately \$4m required for road preservation on commodity routes. Suggested the Zone explore funding sources for commodity routes possibly following the Wheatbelt model for secondary freight routes.

Action:

Mark Holdsworth to circulate business case examples from the Wheatbelt and convene workshop to explore further actions.

9. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting: 10:00am, Friday 25 June, in person, hosted by the Shire of Upper Gascoyne.

10. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 11:02am.