

Central Country Zone

Minutes

22 August 2025

Hosted by the Shire of Beverley

Commenced at 9:34am

Policy and Advocacy Prioritisation Framework

The Central Country Zone adopted the Framework on 12 April 2024.

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)

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ATTACHMENTS

The following are provided as attachments to the Agenda

1. Item 3 Shire of Beverley Presentation
2. Item 5.1 Cohesis Presentation
3. Item 5.2 Telstra Response to Survey
4. Item 7.5 Western Power Presentation
5. Item 8.3 August Executive Committee Minutes
6. Item 8.2.2 Cost Shift Compliance Project Update

The full [State Council Agenda can be found on the WALGA website](#).

1. OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

1.1. OPENING

The meeting declared the meeting open at 9:34am.

1.2. HOUSEKEEPING – ZONE CHAIR

1. **Welcome:**
The Zone Chair, President Cr Des Hickey, welcomed Zone members and guests and provide OSH/bathroom/exit information to those in attendance.
2. **Share your name and Local Government:**
Delegates were reminded to ensure that they call their name and Local Government when taking the floor to allow for accurate Minutes to be recorded.

1.3. ATTENDANCE

Shire of Beverley	President Cr David White Cr Chris Lawlor Simmon Marshall, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Brookton	Cr Tamara de Lange Cr Rod Wallis Mr Gary Sherry Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Corrigin	President Cr Des Hickey (Chair) Deputy President Cr Sharon Jacobs Ms Natalie Manton, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Cuballing	Cr Adrian Kowald Mr Chris Paget Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Dumbleyung	Shire President Amy Knight Mr Gavin Treasure Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

Shire of Kulin	Cr Robbie Bowey
Shire of Lake Grace	President Cr Len Armstrong Mr Aaron Woolbridge, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Narrogin	President Leigh Ballard Cr Clive Bartron Mr Dale Stewart Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Pingelly	Deputy President Cr Peter Wood Mr Andrew Dover Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Quairading	President Cr Trevor Stacey Deputy President Cr Jonathan Hippisley
Shire of Wagin	Cr Greg Ball Dr Kenneth Parker, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Wandering	President Cr Sheryl Little Dr Alistair Pinto, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of West Arthur	Deputy President Cr Karen Harrington Mr Vin Fordham Lamont, Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Wickepin	President Cr Julie Russell Mr David Burton, Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Williams	President Cr Jarrad Logie Peter Stubbs, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Guests	
Main Roads WA	Yogesh Shinde, Operations Manager Narrogin
Telstra	Boyd Brown, Regional General Manager
Western Power	Kelly Nelson, Senior Community Engagement Specialist Will Wong, Principal Distribution Engineer Brett Dew, Team Leader, Operations South East Caimen Potts, Community Engagement Specialist (Regional LG Relationship Manager)
CBH Group	Kellie Todd, Manager Government and Industry Relations
Cohesis	Simon Cohen, Founder and Chief Information Officer
RDA Wheatbelt	Josh Pomykala, Director Regional Development
Wheatbelt Development Commission	Grant Arthur, Director Regional Development

Members of Parliament

Hon Steve Martin, MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region
Lachlan Hunter, Member for the Central Wheatbelt

WALGA

Nick Sloan, Chief Executive Officer
Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services
Kathy Robertson, Manager Association & Corporate Governance
Brian Ging, Contract Manager, Development
Sammy Jones, Member Services Executive Administrator

1.4. APOLOGIES

MEMBERS

Shire of Beverley	Deputy President Cr Dee Ridgway
Shire of Brookton	President Cr Katrina Crute
Shire of Cuballing	President Cr Eliza Dowling
Shire of Cuballing	Deputy President Cr Rob Harris
Shire of Dumbleyung	Deputy President Cr Grant Lukins
Shire of Kulin	President Cr Grant Robins
Shire of Kulin	Mr Alan Leeson (CEO) Non-Voting
Shire of Lake Grace	Deputy President Stephen Hunt
Shire of Lake Grace	Mr Alan George (CEO) Non-Voting
Shire of Pingelly	President Cr Jackie McBurney
Shire of Quairading	Ms Jen Green, Acting Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Wagin	President Cr Phillip Blight
Shire of Wagin	Deputy President Bryan Kilpatrick
Shire of Wandering	Deputy President Cr Alan Price
Shire of West Arthur	President Cr Neil Morrell
Shire of Wickiepin	Deputy President Cr Wes Astbury

GUESTS

Wheatbelt Development Commission	Rob Cossart, Chief Executive Officer
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon Sandra Carr, MLC
WALGA	Rodney Thornton, Regional Safety Advisor

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

NIL.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Zone acknowledges and extends its condolences to Rodney Thorton on the recent passing of both of his parents.

The Zone also wishes to acknowledge and congratulate Tony Brown on his recent appointment as Inspector of Local Government.

4. HOST COUNCIL PRESENTATION

President Cr David White, Shire of Beverley, provided a welcome to delegates and guests and provided a presentation on projects and issues facing the Shire of Beverley. **(Attachment 1)**

5. GUEST SPEAKERS/DEPUTATIONS

All Deputations have a time limit of 20 minutes, which includes questions time.

5.1. COHESIS

Simon Cohen, Founder and Chief Information Officer

Simon Cohen from Cohesis Group presented a brief Case Study of tendering experience throughout the six Local Government Associations who recently participated in a procurement process to seek prices for a new Enterprise Resource Planning System. The presentation is attached **(Attachment 2)**

NOTED.

5.2. TELSTRA

Boyd Brown, Regional General Manager

Boyd Brown provided a brief update to the Zone following the survey circulated in March/April of this year. Further a letter has been received from Boyd to address the survey results **(Attachment 3)**

NOTED.

6. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Any Members of Federal and State Government in attendance are invited to provide a brief update on matters relevant to the Zone.

The Zone was joined by;

- Lachlan Hunter MP, Member for Central Wheatbelt (*attended from 11am*).
- Hon Steve Martin MLC, Member for the Agriculture Region.

NOTED

7. AGENCY REPORTS

7.1. DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY REGULATIONS AND SAFETY

The Department of Local Government, Industry, Regulations and Safety was an apology for this meeting.

NOTED

7.2. WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Grant Arthur, Director Regional Development

Mr Grant Arthur provided a brief update to the Zone.

NOTED.

7.3. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA WHEATBELT

Josh Pomykala, Director Regional Development

Josh Pomykala provided a brief update to the Zone.

NOTED.

7.4. CBH GROUP

Kellie Todman, Manager - Government & Industry Relations

Kellie Todman provided a brief update to the Zone, provided an update on a grant that is available to be applied for until 31 August 2025.

NOTED.

7.5. WESTERN POWER

Kelly Nelson, Senior Community Engagement Specialist, Will Wong Principal Distribution Engineer

Kelly Nelson provided an agency update to the Zone with a focus on the maintenance of the network in the short term and the long-term strategic plan for the maintenance of the network and an update on their process of changing insulators on pole tops. **(Attachment 4)**

NOTED.

7.6. MAIN ROADS WA

Yogesh Shinde, Operations Manager Narrogin

Main Roads provided a brief update on the work completed during the 2024/25 Financial Year to the Zone.

The Meeting took a break at 11:14am and returned at 11:30am.

8. MINUTES

8.1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM THE CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE MEETING HELD ON 20 JUNE 2025

The Minutes of the Central Country Zone meeting held on 20 June 2025 have previously been circulated to Member Councils.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr David White

Seconded: President Cr Les Armstrong

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Central Country Zone held on 20 June 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

8.2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE MEETING HELD ON 20 JUNE 2025

8.2.1. AUDIT FEE 2025

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services - WALGA

BACKGROUND:

At the April meeting of the Zone, it was resolved;

That the Central Country Zone of WALGA writes to the Auditor General and WA Parliament Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations (cc the Minister for Local Government) to express concern that;

- 1. the Office of the Auditor General has increased the cost of audits by amounts greater than annual inflation again; and*
- 2. has, without consultation with local government, modified their invoicing practices and now require local government to pay 50% of their 2024/25 audit in this financial year*
- 3. that the Office of the Auditor General's commitment to greater transparency and cost control made to the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations has not been achieved*

The Executive Officer wrote to the Auditor General and the response is below:

AUDIT FEE 2025 AND CHANGE IN INVOICING PRACTICE

Thank you for your letter outlining the Central Country Zone's concerns regarding the 2025 audit fees, the Office's transparency commitment to the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations and modified invoicing practices. I understand Grant Robinson, Assistant Auditor General Financial Audit spoke with you on 3 July to briefly discuss your concerns.

Consistent with our correspondence to WALGA on 10 June 2025 the fee increases have largely been contained to moderate levels. The median increase in audit fees for all bands and regional councils in 2025 is 6.75% (this was applicable for 119 of the 147 local governments and regional councils), with the balance subject to increases reflecting

contract extension negotiations or market tenders. A small number of entities received decreases on their final billed 2024 audit fee. By comparison, 2024 median increases ranged from 10 – 25%. I have attached our fee infographic which is updated for the 2024-25 audit fees and process.

As we have previously advised, our fees are calculated to recover the OAG's costs, across our entire financial audit portfolio to deliver this year's audit work program. It considers a CPI increase of approximately 2.75% and cumulative public sector salary increases¹ of 9% since the prior year fee calculation (noting there is an additional 3% planned for 2026). The fees also include any directly related costs such as contract fees and travel expenses, as applicable. I confirm the maximum fee increase for entities within the Central Country region was 6.75% and three entities received a decrease.

While we have received significantly less adverse feedback on the proposed 2025 fees than in the prior year, we are cognisant of the cost pressures that local governments are under. I would like to reassure you that the fee increases were carefully assessed, and we have implemented measures to contain costs and continue to explore further efficiency initiatives.

In response to your request for an update on the Office's commitment to greater transparency and cost control we have included additional information for entities around the OAG's approach to audit fees, including our tendering (market testing) process, and is available on our website.

In addition, since the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations hearing on 11 September 2024, we delivered on our commitment to provide earlier notification of audit fees to local governments by 31 March 2025, in recognition that the late notification in 2024 was simply unacceptable.

Regarding the change in invoicing practice and our consideration to introduce interim billing, we have specifically considered feedback received from local governments and decided not to proceed for the Local Government sector for the time being. If introduced, my Office will provide adequate notice.

Thank you for bringing the Central Country Zone's concerns to my attention. Should you have any further questions, please contact Grant Robinson Assistant Auditor General Financial Audit on 6557 7526. Yours sincerely Caroline Spencer Auditor General for Western Australia 29 July 2025.

In addition the Zone wrote to the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations and received the following response:

"Thank you for your correspondence and updating us on this matter. The Committee is giving the issue consideration and has once again invited the Auditor General to a public hearing to discuss local government financial audit fees and practices. The hearing is scheduled for 10am on 17 September 2025.

The Committee has given your correspondence public status. It will be available on our website in relation to ongoing consultation with the Auditor General."

This item was presented at the Zone Executive Committee meeting where further discussion was had surrounding the upcoming hearing being held by the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations (SCEFO) on the 17 September 2025 and

additional requirements and requests from the Zone to the Executive Officer, these requests are detailed in the below recommendation.

RESOLUTION:

MOVED: Cr Greg Ball

SECONDED: President Cr David White

1. That the Central Country Zone write to the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations to request that the zone prepare a presentation on behalf of the sector.
2. That the Executive Officer circulate the meeting details to all Zone Members so that they can view the meeting via Livestream.
3. That the Central Country Zone advocacy in relation to audit includes a request to the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations and the Minister to conduct and publish a review into the effectiveness and cost to the community of the *Local Government Amendment Act (Auditing) 2017*

CARRIED.

8.2.2. COST SHIFT COMPLIANCE PROJECT UPDATE

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services - WALGA

BACKGROUND:

At the June 2025 meeting of the Zone, it was resolved:

That the Central Country Zone;

1. *Thanks 150Square for its work to date and acknowledges the presentation of the Cost Shifting and Compliance Report.*
2. *Does not accept the report in its current form.*
3. *Establishes a small working group, to update the Zone at the August Zone meeting, to:*
 - a. Work with 150Square to refine and strengthen the report.*
 - b. Develop clear recommendations for the August CCZ meeting that positions the report as an effective advocacy tool against Federal and State cost shifting impacting WA Local Governments.*
4. *Appoints the following Central Country Zone members to the working group (to work with 150 Square and the Zone Executive Officer)*
 - a. President Cr Katrina Crute*
 - b. President Cr Phillip Blight*
 - c. President Cr Des Hickey*

Comment:

Caroline Robinson, Director, 150 Square attended a meeting of the Working Group where it was decided to focus on 3 issues for the zone to advocate on being:

1. Cost Shifting
2. Audits
3. Provision of Doctors

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Deputy President Cr Karen Harrington

Seconded: President Cr Julie Russell

1. That the Zone endorse the attached paper on cost shifting and compliance including the zone position statements;
2. The Zone invite the Auditor General to an upcoming Zone meeting;
3. The Zone organise a delegation to appropriate Ministers to present the report.

CARRIED

8.3. MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 AUGUST 2025

The Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on 12 August 2025 are provided as an attachment (Attachment 5)

RESOLUTION:

Moved: President Cr Leigh Ballard

Seconded: Deputy President Cr Karen Harrington

That the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on 12 August 2025 be received.

CARRIED

8.4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FROM THE CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 AUGUST 2025

8.4.1. EXECUTIVE OFFICER SERVICE REVIEW

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services, WALGA

BACKGROUND

WALGA were appointed as the Executive Officer to the Central Country Zone in April 2021, commencing July 2021, for 12 months.

At the November 2021 meeting, the Executive Committee resolved to defer any review of the Executive Officer position for an additional 12 months, to November 2022. In November 2022, the Executive Committee conducted a review and decided to continue with WALGA's Executive Officer support to the Zone and again review in 2025.

WALGA take this role on voluntarily at no cost to the Zone. Should the Zone seek Expressions of Interest from external providers then this will need to be accounted for in future budgets. Prior to WALGA commencing as the Executive Officer, the 2020/2021 Financial Year consultant costs incurred were \$36, 000.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: President Cr Leigh Ballard

Seconded: President Cr Julie Russell

The Central Country Zone seek expressions of interests from external providers including WALGA for Executive Officer Services for a period of 2 weeks and bring back to the Central Country Zone Executive Committee prior to the November meeting

CARRIED

9. ZONE BUSINESS

9.1. 2025 WALGA HONOUR RECIPIENTS

By Chantelle O'Brien, WALGA Governance Support Officer

BACKGROUND

WALGA celebrated their 2025 Honours awards recipients at an event on Saturday, 19 July at the WA Museum Boola Bardip. Following the success of the inaugural standalone event last year, the awards night was held solely to acknowledge and appreciate the extraordinary efforts of Elected Members and Local Government Officers in service of their Local Government, the sector and the community.

There were 44 recipients of Honours awards in the 2025 program. Two new WALGA Life Members were also inducted.

5 Honours recipients were from the Central Country Zone:

President Cr Katrina Crute	Shire of Brookton	WALGA Life Membership
Mr Allen Hicks	Shire of Wagin	Merit Awards
President Cr Desmond Hickey	Shire of Corrigin	Eminent Service Award
President Cr Jarrad Wayne Logie	Shire of Williams	Eminent Service Award
Cr Natalie Major	Shire of Williams	Merit Award

Congratulations to all Honours recipients!

Nominations for the 2026 Honours Program will open early next year.

NOTED.

9.2. TO ADDRESS ANOMALIES ARISING FROM CHANGES TO THE AUDIT FUNCTION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Shire of Beverley

- Currently, the cost burden to small Local Governments is prohibitive;
- No demonstrable benefit has been found in the audit of the Shire of Beverley;
- As the signing Auditor, no personnel have visited the offices of the Shire of Beverley to carry out any actual work;
- There is no effective working relationship with the Office of Auditor General; and,
- Effective audits are based on a close but respectful relationship between the Auditor and client.

The audit of any organisation, requires a close but respectful relationship between the Auditing Firm, its personnel, and the client.

Visiting and attending the offices of the client is of paramount importance for the relationship to be built. The 'corridor conversations' are as vital as any review of systems, accounts, or records.

Apart from the attendance of personnel at the accounts sign-off in 2023, no personnel from the OAG have ever visited the offices of the Shire of Beverley.

These objectives are currently achieved through the working relationship with the 'contracting firm' with whom the Shire of Beverley has been working for 14 years, and not with the Office of Auditor General.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr David White

Seconded: Cr Tamara De Lange

That the Central Country Zone request WALGA to support a representation to the State Government to remove the Office of Auditor General (OAG) as the sole auditor of Local Government in Western Australia.

CARRIED

9.3. TO RATIONALISE THE AUDIT FUNCTION FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Shire of Beverley

IN BRIEF
• While opening the audit function up to competition, it is not envisaged that the quality of audit will suffer due to the strict requirements imposed by ASIC on those individuals who are registered with ASIC; • Local Governments are still able to choose the OAG as their auditor without having to have a two-tier structure to the audit; • Costs to Local Governments will reduce under this situation without any loss of probity; and, • Local Government will be able to tender it's audit and appoint a professional auditor at a competitive cost.

Removing the OAG as the mandated Auditor of all Local Governments in Western Australia will reduce costs of the audit function particularly to Band 3 and Band 4 Local Governments.

The requirements to be registered as a company auditor with ASIC an individual must:

1. Have obtained a degree that is accredited by a recognized professional accounting body;
2. Have a minimum of 3,000 hours of auditing experience under the supervision of a registered company auditor; and,
3. Have at least 750 hours of the experience spent supervising audits of companies.

An individual who is a Registered Company Auditor must maintain a high standard of professionalism under the ASIC requirements including, but not limited to, 120 hours of ongoing Continued Professional Development.

A firm of auditors may register in their Firm's name but only where all Partners of the firm are registered individually as company auditors.

The OAG will be able to tender for audits under this arrangement which will enable Local Governments to choose to remain with the OAG.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: President Cr David White

Seconded: Deputy President Cr Peter Wood

That the Zone request WALGA to advocate for the choice of an auditor of Local Governments in Western Australia be opened to individuals who are Registered Company Auditors with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) as well as the Office of Auditor General OAG).

CARRIED

9.4. ZONE EXPERIENCE SURVEY FEEDBACK

By Chantelle O'Brien, Zones Governance Officer

BACKGROUND

On 15 July a Zone Experience Survey was distributed to all WALGA-administered Zones. The audience captured in the survey were Delegates, Deputy Delegates, CEOs and Local Government staff that provide support to Delegates and CEOs.

The secretariat would like to thank everyone that completed the survey, which resulted in an impressive 136 responses received and 77 comments.

In summary, we are pleased to report that survey participants were generally very satisfied with how Zone meetings are coordinated. This included satisfaction with the timeliness of receiving Zone meeting papers, the format and contents of meeting papers, the communication of meeting schedules and updates, and overall support provided by the WALGA secretariat.

The comments received from survey participants were also generally positive, with many proposing possible process changes. These comments will be carefully considered and where possible, used to guide improvements to current processes.

It is proposed that this survey will be distributed on a 2-year basis so that continuous improvements can be made (next survey in late 2027). This will coincide with Zone Delegate membership terms.

Thank you again for your contributions and commitment to the betterment of our Zones process.

NOTED

10. ZONE REPORTS

10.1. CHAIR REPORT

President Cr Des Hickey

That the Zone Chair's report be received.

NOTED

10.2. WHEATBELT INTERAGENCY HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN ADVISORY GROUP

President Jackie McBurney

President Jackie McBurney was an apology for the meeting.

NOTED.

10.3. WALGA ROADWISE

Rodney Thornton, Regional Road Safety Advisor will provide a report.

Rodney Thornton was an apology for the meeting.

NOTED.

11. WALGA STATE COUNCIL EXECUTIVE REPORTS

11.1. WALGA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The WALGA president was not present at the meeting, WALGA CEO, Nick Sloan gave a brief update to the Zone.

RESOLUTION

Mover: President Cr Leigh Ballard

Seconded: President Cr David White

That the WALGA President's Report be received.

CARRIED

11.2. STATE COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cr Phillip Blight

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Julie Russell

Seconded: Cr Clive Barton

That the State Councillor Report be received.

CARRIED

11.3. STATUS REPORT

COMPLETE ZONE STATUS REPORT August 2025

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Central C	20 June 2025 Zone Agenda Item 9.4 Concerns Regarding the Delays in Electrical Connections by Western Power – Impact on Regional Development in Brookton	That the Central Country Zone request State Council to: 1. Engage with Western Power to review and improve timelines for electrical connections, particularly in regional areas; 2. Prioritise connections for essential infrastructure, residential housing, and commercial investment projects; and 3. Consider additional resourcing or regional service delivery strategies to ensure timely support for regional development.	The examples highlighted by the Central Country Zone are consistent with the experience of Local Governments, developers and customers across the Western Power service area including the Perth metropolitan area. Currently the Western Power website indicates that the expected time to complete relatively routine projects, such as those identified, is 15 months which is an improvement from recent years. In addition to the residential and economic development impacts identified, Local Government projects in the road reserve that require work by Western Power on its assets are being extensively delayed. WALGA has made it clear to Western Power that the current delays have serious safety and economic impacts. Recent advocacy with Western Power includes: 1. WALGA CEO and senior staff met with Western Power CEO Sam Barbaro and his executive team in October 2024 to explain the impacts of long waiting times for work on the network and connections; seek to understand the measures to improve the customer service and the target performance level. 2. WALGA staff subsequently met and engaged with senior Western Power staff on several occasions and facilitated a webinar for Local Government officers on 17 June 2025. This focused particularly on the MyWP projects portal. 3. Western Power stated that their prioritization is aligned with the State Government priorities, which are housing and major infrastructure projects. 4. Western Power have added further capacity to their design and construction panels. 5. Western Power have committed to a 30 project trial commencing September 2025 enabling Local Governments to undertake (or contract) the design and construction of streetlight projects. This is modelled on an option that previously existed and is used by commercial land developers. While probably not	August 2025	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031

			attractive to smaller Local Governments, the approach should free up resources within the Western Power system. Consideration is being given to if and how these services can be included within the scope of the Western Power Access Arrangement which regulates the services offered and prices charged by Western Power.		
Central C	14 February 2025 Zone Agenda Item 9.1.3 Support for Public Ownership of WA Freight Rail Network	That the Central Country Zone request WALGA to: 1. Supports State Government efforts to ensure the on-going sustainability and growth of freight rail in Western Australia; 2. Seeks a commitment from the in-coming State Government to: a. focus on ensuring a competitive freight rail network and services reduce freight on roads; providing road safety, environmental benefits; and b. work with Local Governments and other stakeholders to maximise the local economic growth opportunities provided through effective management of the rail network and corridors.	The Infrastructure Policy Team supported including the proposed advocacy position in a new or consolidated policy statement in relation to freight rail following consultation with Local Governments and other stakeholders to better define the social, economic and environmental benefits sought from a publicly controlled freight rail network.	August 2025	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Central C	2 July State Council Agenda Item 8.2 State Development Applications and Decision Making Advocacy Position		This point as been redrafted and relocated to 2.g in the composite recommendation to reinstate Councils ability to consider and provide a recommendation for a RAR. State Council Resolution That WALGA: 1. Replace Advocacy Position 6.4 Development Assessment Panels with the following: <i>WALGA calls on the State Government to:</i> 1. <i>Ensure that decision making on development applications (DAs) is:</i> a. <i>consistent and accountable</i> b. <i>accessible to local communities</i> c. <i>respectful of, and appropriately applies, local planning frameworks in line with their statutory weight, <u>as informed by objective, professional planning reports.</u></i> 2. <i>Reform the Development Assessment Panel (DAP) system to:</i>	August 2025	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039

			a. raise the DAP threshold from the current \$2 million to \$5 million and mandate periodic reviews of the threshold b. modify the composition of DAPs to provide equal representation of Specialist Members and Local Government Members c. review DAP processes to ensure proponents provide necessary information in a timely manner d. provide clear procedural guidance on the roles and functions of Local Government officers and Council, <u>including clarification on the ability for the Administration to provide advice to Council Members</u> e. allow access to the State Referral Coordination Unit for DAP applications to ensure timely and adequate referral responses from State Government agencies are provided to Local Governments f. <u>where appropriate, require meetings to be held within the relevant Local Government</u> g. <u>reinstate the ability for Council to consider and provide a recommendation for a Responsible Authority Report.</u> 3. Abolish the state significant development assessment pathway (Part 11B of the Planning and Development Act 2005). 4. If the significant development assessment pathway is retained, implement the following reforms: a. raise the cost threshold to \$50 million and mandate periodic reviews of the threshold b. align statutory timeframes with DAP and Local Government determined DAs c. ensure all developments are consistent with applicable local planning instruments and provide comprehensive guidelines for discretionary decision making, including applying extraordinary discretion d. delete references to 'mandatory significant development' to ensure the pathway remains entirely opt-in e. undertake periodic reviews of its operation and effectiveness. 5. <u>Include in any planning report to a decision making:</u> a. <u>the value of any direct financial benefit received by the applicant associated with the granting of development bonuses through a performance-based assessment.</u> b. <u>the value of any community benefit proposed in exchange for consideration of development bonus.</u>		
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			2. Notes the Development Assessment Panel 2011 – 2024 Review and State Development Pathway 2020 – 2025 Review reports. RESOLUTION 039.3/2025 CARRIED		
Central C	20 June 2025 Zone Agenda Item 13.1 Polyphagous shot-hole borer	That the Central Country Zone request WALGA to: 1. Call on the State Government to appropriately fund the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development given that the 2025-26 State Budget shows that investment in the Department will drop by \$166m in 2026-27 (35%) and be lower than the investment in 2023-24 which was insufficient to respond to the Polyphagous Shot-hole Borer. 2. Noting; The 2025-26 budget provides just \$50,000 for 'Biosecurity Incident and Emergency Management Response' grants in 2026-27 and no funding in the further out-years.	The Zone's resolution aligns with WALGA advocacy position 4.4 Post Border Biosecurity. WALGA is progressing a variety of advocacy in relation to biosecurity funding in the context of the <i>Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act</i> review and the Polyphagous shot-hole borer and shares the Zone's concerns about resourcing of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.	August 2025	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.a sn.au 9213 2039
Central C	11 April 2025 Zone Agenda Item 9.3 Advocacy for Statewide Community Enhancements Fund (CEF) Framework & Renewable Energy Guidelines	That the Central Country Zone of WALGA: 1. Supports the Shire of Narrogin's Community Enhancements Fund (CEF) Policy as a best-practice model for equitable benefit-sharing from large-scale renewable energy projects; 2. Requests WALGA State Council to advocate to the State Government for the development of a Statewide Community Enhancements Fund Framework, consistent with the key principles of the Shire of Narrogin's CEF Policy, including: - o A minimum indexed contribution from renewable energy proponents based on installed capacity; - o Local Government management of restricted cash reserves for community benefit; - o A dedicated component for Indigenous Nations Funds (recommended 10%);	Since the previous Zone Status Report, the State Government released a draft Guideline Benefits Guideline Consultation Paper for consultation. WALGA has prepared a submission on the Guideline on behalf of the Sector. 48 Local Governments provided feedback to this submission, including a joint submission on the Consultation Paper from 36 regional Local Governments. Relevant feedback from Local Governments was incorporated into the draft submission. All Local Governments were also encouraged to provide their own submissions to the State Government. The submission broadly supports many aspects of the State's draft Guideline, but recommends a specific focus on, or changes to, several aspects. This includes: • The need for the requirement for community benefits to be mandated. • Changes to the contribution rate, from the proposed range to a single, indexed figure floor for wind, solar and battery storage projects. • That benefit sharing arrangements should commence during the construction phase of projects. • Further clarity on the role of rates versus community benefits and that these be viewed separately. • That Local Government should determine the appropriate governance mechanisms.	August 2025	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.a sn.au 9213 2039

		○ Alignment with Local Government strategic planning; ○ Transparent governance, community engagement, and annual reporting. 3. Further requests WALGA to advocate for the adoption of a broader Renewable Industry Framework for WA as outlined in the Shire of Narrogin's Advocacy Position, including: ○ Consistent planning standards for renewable energy development (e.g., setbacks, zoning); ○ A State-mandated community engagement framework; ○ Legacy workforce housing solutions in lieu of short-term TWAs; ○ A uniform Payment in Lieu of Rates (PILoR) model for wind, solar and BESS facilities; ○ Empowerment of Local Governments to manage benefit-sharing and rating mechanisms.	• Clearer guidance on when developers should engage with neighbouring Local Governments. • The need for a statewide strategy to guide the rollout of the energy transition. • The need for State Government to lead and coordinate regional cumulative impact assessments for large scale renewable projects, in consultation with proponents and Local Governments. • Clarity on when the Guideline should apply to existing projects. WALGA will continue to advocate on behalf of the Sector on these points as well as ongoing work around infrastructure planning, rating and the release of the renewables planning code.		
Central C	5 March 2025 State Council Agenda Item 8.1 Climate Change Advocacy Position	That State Council replace the 2018 Climate Change Policy Statement Advocacy Position 4.1 Climate Change with the following advocacy position: WALGA calls on the Australian and Western Australian Governments to: 1. provide the necessary climate leadership, coordination, and action to deliver a climate change response that improves and maintains the quality of life for all Western Australians for generations to come. 2. provides funding and resources and support to Local Government to enable local communities to respond to the effects of climate change	At the March State Council meeting it was agreed: That State Council refer this advocacy item back to the Environment Policy Team for further development. RESOLUTION 003.1/2025 CARRIED At the 24 March 2025 Environment Policy Team meeting, it was agreed that WALGA would develop a consultation approach for consideration by the Policy Team. At the 29 May 2025 meeting, the Policy Team agreed to the proposed consultation approach, which involves providing the composite Advocacy Position to all Local Governments for a 10-week consultation period, with Council endorsed or CEO approved feedback preferred. An additional Policy Team meeting will be held to consider comments and a composite resolution. Consultation is expected to commence by September 2025.	August 2025	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039
Central C	26 August 2023 Zone Agenda Item 9.2 Water	That the Central Country Zone: 1. Rejects Water Corporation attempts to classify regional sites as a 'Non-Standard Water Service'	WALGA is developing a Background Paper for whole of sector consultation and reviewing its Water Advocacy Position/s, and has included the need for equitable	August 2025	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy

	Corporation – Non-Standard Water Services	(unless specific agreement is reached with a Local Government Authority); 2. Formally writes to Water Corporation and the Minister for Water confirming this position; 3. Requests that WALGA supports the position of the Central Country Zone and rejects the Water Corporation's attempts to classify regional sites as a 'Non-Standard Water Service'; and 4. Requests WALGA to engage with the Minister for Water to retain the current services, unless specific agreement is reached with a Local Government Authority.	access to drinking water as a key pillar. Some of the themes that have emerged from the consultation focus on water quality and security. In developing this paper, WALGA has undertaken significant targeted consultation with Local Government CEOs and officers across the State. WALGA has also raised this issue with Water Corporation representatives. Consultation on the Water Paper is expected to commence by September 2025.		nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039
Central C	19 November 2021 Zone Agenda Item 12.1 Sector ICT solution	That the Zone request WALGA to research providers and the viability of an in-house IT system.	Work continues to be undertaken to support Members seeking ICT solutions. WALGA has commenced work with an IT Consultant experienced in the development and assessment of ERP systems for Local Government. The engagement includes the development of Template Documents for an ERP Scope and an Evaluation Guide, these resources will be distributed to Members once finalised. An ERP Vendor scan through the PSP panel has also been initiated, with up-to-date ERP information to be collated and provided as a Member resource once completed. This work is ongoing and being led by WALGA's Commercial Development Team. Any queries can be directed to Brian Ging.	August 2025	Tony Brown Executive Director, Member Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au

RESOLUTION:

Moved: President Cr Lee Ballard

Seconded: Deputy President Cr Karen Harrington

That the Central Country Zone, WALGA Status Report for August 2025 be noted.

CARRIED

12. WALGA STATE COUNCIL AGENDA

Zone Delegates are invited to read and consider the WALGA State Council Agenda, which has been provided as an attachment (Attachment 10) with this Agenda and can be found via the link [HERE](#).

The Zone can provide comment or submit an alternative recommendation on any of the items, including the items for noting. The Zone comment will then be presented to the State Council for consideration at their meeting.

The State Council Agenda items requiring a decision of State Council are extracted for Zone consideration below

12.1. RATING OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.1)

By Kirsty Martin, Manager Commercial Management and Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA Members have expressed uncertainty in the rating of large-scale renewable energy facilities across the State which was confirmed through a resolution of the Peel Country Zone Meeting in April 2025.
- In response to the uncertainty, WALGA engaged Paxon Consulting Group to review the rating mechanisms available for Local Governments to recover costs associated with large scale renewable energy projects.
- The purpose of the review was to examine the current legislative framework, undertake a review across other Australian jurisdictions in respect to who rating for such facilities is managed, and provide recommendations for the rating of these facilities in Western Australia, including any required amendments to legislation.
- The Final Report outlined seven Key Findings which confirmed that legislative change would be required to enable Local Governments to rate renewable energy facilities with certainty.

ATTACHMENT

- [Local Government Rating of Renewable Energy Facilities Report](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item relates to WALGA's Strategic Pillars of Influence, Support and Expertise.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There is no current advocacy position for the rating of large-scale renewable energy facilities. Endorsement of this item will enable the establishment of a position.

BACKGROUND

Western Australia's energy industry is transforming to achieve the goal of net zero emissions by 2050. Project proponents are active in many rural, remote and regional areas, seeking to develop renewable energy projects.

The placement, management and impact of renewable energy facilities have become contentious issues nationally and in local communities across Western Australia. Concerns have been raised regarding:

- the location of these facilities on agricultural land,
- the suitability of regulatory frameworks to ensure local communities benefit from the investment,
- the inability of the planning framework to manage on and off-site impacts of proposals, and impact on agricultural land use.

There have been an increasing number of conversations around compensation and cost recovery for those communities housing large scale renewable energy projects. Compensation is typically done through some sort of community benefits arrangement and WALGA has recently developed a Renewable Energy Community Benefits and Engagement Guide to assist WA Local Governments navigate discussions with developers and their communities.

The ability for Local Governments to recover costs (ie road maintenance, additional services used etc) incurred as part of the roll out of large-scale renewable energy projects is equally important. There is a lack of clarity around the best mechanism for achieving cost recovery and Local Governments have been seeking clarification on the applicable land value rating method of these facilities and how best to approach this going forward.

In response to this, WALGA engaged Paxon Consulting Group (Paxon) to review the rating mechanisms currently available to Local Governments to recover costs and provide advice on whether amendments to legislation are required to ensure Local Governments are able to equitably and fairly rate renewable energy facilities. Paxon also undertook a review of other Australian jurisdictions and existing case law to determine the rating options available to Western Australian Local Governments.

The Key Findings of the report are outlined below:

1. Under the current legislative framework, there is no clear method that allows WA Local Governments to impose rates on renewable energy facilities in their area, with certainty.
2. Each rating option considered in this report would require some legislative change to become a more certain and reliable avenue for Local Governments in the rating of renewable energy facilities.
3. In each case, the legislative change could be achieved with fairly 'blunt' legislative amendments – that is, introduction of a new standalone provision (or set of standalone provisions), and minimal amendments required to existing legislation.
4. Any legislative amendments to tighten the rating approach and/or introduce PiLoR should not (in principle) need to be extensive or overly complex.
5. With the PiLoR framework in particular – whilst this may involve more substantial legislative drafting (given that a new framework is needed), if the Victorian model was to be generally followed, this framework would be relatively straightforward and self-contained. This makes it arguably a 'cleaner' approach than the other options, as a (mostly) standalone mechanism – and a clear process – that has minimal interference with existing rate setting processes. Of course, practical matters, namely reaching political alignment on the specifics of the mechanism (especially methodology) and the roll-out / application, may instead give rise to challenges.
6. On all the options considered, the exact nature of the amendments should be determined by which approach or position will be most palatable from a political and policy perspective. For example, whilst WA Local Governments may wish to avoid the time and uncertainty involved with a Ministerial determination / approval on any matters, it is unlikely that it can be avoided entirely (in which case the amendments would need to capture whatever approval rights would sit with the Minister).

7. Finally, if different options or permeations of rating options are used for different types of renewable energy assets, this would create another layer of legislative complexity and increase the scale of changes required.

The options for rating, including the advantages, limitations and ranking of each, are detailed in the Report. The rating options are ranked as follows:

1. PiLoR Framework
2. Differential Rating based on UV with no ratio limit
3. GRV Rating
4. Differential Rating based on GRV with no ratio limit

Although the PiLoR framework is more complex to implement, it is ranked first as it enables Local Governments to fairly and equitably rate renewable energy facilities through a cleaner, mostly standalone rating mechanism, bespoke to renewable energy assets, which is understood and accepted by the renewable energy sector.

The ability to apply a higher and uncapped differential rate determined by the Local Government is ranked second. This option is favoured over both the GRV options, as unlike the GRV options, this option does not require a valuation and is suitable for all renewable asset types.

The Report recommends the following:

1. WALGA to endorse support for the adoption of the PiLoR framework approach to the rating of renewal energy facilities.
2. WALGA to make representation to both the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety and the Department of Energy and Economic Diversification on the merits of the PiLoR framework.
3. WALGA to advocate for legislation amendment to enable WA Local Government to negotiate annual contributions with renewable energy proponents in lieu of rates.
4. WALGA should advocate to State Government to ensure any funds received through a potential community benefit arrangement are clearly identified as separate from the annual rates contributions.

COMMENT

WALGA acknowledges that even though the adoption of the PiLoR framework is the preferred option in the Report, it is also a more substantial change requiring the development of an entirely new framework across multiple State Government agencies.

This is likely to be a longer-term option and as such WALGA will advocate for this in parallel to the above legislative amendments. The adoption of a PiLoR framework in Western Australia would require a new legislative section(s) setting out:

- the legislative ability for an annual payment in lieu of rates;
- which land the process can apply to – noting in Victoria, it's land 'predominantly used' for the generation of electricity;
- the process for determining the quantum of the payment – ideally with a payment calculation methodology, at least as a 'fall back';
- a third party dispute resolution process; and
- any exemptions.

As identified in the Report, amendment to the current legislation pertaining to Local Government rating, is the most straightforward option. As such, WALGA will advocate for the following changes:

GRV Rating

For example, a new section to the effect that:

- if land has any renewable energy (RE) assets, the Minister will determine that the method of valuation is GRV for either the entire property, or the portion of (or lot(s) within) the property with RE assets, irrespective of the existing methodologies in the *Local Government Act 1995* (LG Act);
- when calculating the GRV under the *Valuation Land Act 1978* (VL Act), works effected to the land and items affixed to the land (including turbines, towers, masts and monitoring systems, panels, buildings, substations and connection points, roads, fencing, foundations cabling / connectors etc), are improvements, irrespective of whether above ground or underground, and irrespective of who owns the items.

Differential Rating (UV)

- A new section of the LG Act to the effect that the Minister's approval is not required where the (higher) differential rating category relates to land with RE Assets.
- This could / would be accompanied by a subsection with conditions or parameters on the setting of a higher differential rate, or requirement for compliance with a subsidiary document that contained such parameters.
- If the public consultation process (in s 6.36 of the LG Act) was to be removed or pared back for land with RE Assets, a new subsection in the LG Act would be required, to the effect that the process either did not need to be followed for this category, or setting out a more limited way in which it would apply.

Differential Rating (GRV)

As per legislative changes required under the GRV Rating and Differential Rating (UV) Options.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA advocate to the State Government for:

1. Legislative amendments to enable WA Local Governments to rate large-scale renewable energy facilities using current rating mechanisms (differential rating based on UV, differential rating based on GRV, or GRV alone) with certainty.
2. A commitment to implement a Payment in Lieu of Rates (PiLoR) framework in Western Australia.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Leigh Ballard
Seconded: Deputy President Cr Peter Wood

That the Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.1 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED

12.2. RATING OF MISCELLANEOUS LICENCES (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.2)

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Under section 6.26 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, all land is rateable unless specifically exempted.
- In a State Administrative Tribunal decision of 2024, it was determined that Crown land the subject of an occupied miscellaneous licence was non-rateable.
- Subsequently, the Shire of Mt Magnet appealed this decision to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court ruled that Crown land subject to a miscellaneous licence and occupied is rateable, overturning the State Administrative Tribunal decision.
- This ruling affirmed the principle that Local Governments may levy rates on such land, recognising the significant infrastructure and occupation associated with these licences.
- On 2 August 2025, the WA State Government announced its intention to legislate amendments to the *Local Government Act 1995* to exempt land under miscellaneous licences from rating.
- WALGA has been advocating for Local Governments to have the ability to rate these licences and a formal advocacy position is required.
- WALGA is seeking support from the WA Parliament for the appropriate committee to review the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under section 6.26 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

ATTACHMENT

- Supreme Court decision, [Shire of Mt Magnet v Atlantic Vanadium Pty Ltd \[2025\] WASC 274](#)
- [Ministers media release](#)
- [WALGA's media release](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item relates to WALGA's Strategic Pillars: Influence, Support and Expertise.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There is no specific advocacy position relating to miscellaneous licences. Endorsement of this item will enable the establishment of a position.

Current advocacy position 2.1.1 relates generally to Rating Exemptions Review:

Position Statement	<i>A broad review be conducted into the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under section 6.26 of the Local Government Act 1995.</i>
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BACKGROUND

Local Governments in Western Australia rely on property rates as a primary source of revenue to fund essential services and infrastructure. Under section 6.26 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, all land is rateable unless specifically exempted. Historically, exemptions have applied to land used for charitable, benevolent, religious, or public purposes, as well as small prospecting leases under 10 hectares and unoccupied miscellaneous licences.

A miscellaneous licence under the *Mining Act 1978* and the Mining Regulations 1981 (WA) sets out the purposes a miscellaneous licence may be granted for:

(a) a road; (b) a tramway; (c) an aerial rope way; (d) a pipeline; (e) a power line; (f) a conveyor system; (g) a tunnel; (h) a bridge; (i) taking water; (ia) a search for groundwater; (i) hydraulic reclamation and transport of tailings; (j) an aerodrome; (k) a meteorological station; (l) a sulphur dioxide monitoring station; (m) a communications facility; (n) a drainage channel; (o) a pump station; (p) a minesite accommodation facility; (q) a bore; (r) a bore field; (s) a water management facility; (t) a power generation and transmission facility; (u) a storage or transportation facility for minerals or mineral concentrate; (v) a minesite administration facility; [2025] (w) a workshop and storage facility; (x) a jetty.

In 2024, the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) determined that land under a miscellaneous licence was exempt regardless of occupation.

On an appeal from the Shire of Mt Magnet, in July 2025 the Supreme Court of Western Australia ruled that Crown land subject to a miscellaneous licence and occupied is rateable, overturning a previous SAT decision. This ruling affirmed the principle that Local Governments may levy rates on such land, recognizing the significant infrastructure and occupation associated with these licences.

However, the State Government has announced its intention to legislate amendments to the *Local Government Act 1995* to exempt land under miscellaneous licences from rating, citing the need to protect jobs and provide certainty to the mining sector.

WALGA has been advocating strongly for Local Governments to have the ability to rate these licences, however it is appropriate for State Council to endorse a formal position, aligning with existing advocacy position 2.1.1.

KEY ISSUES

- **Equity and Fairness:** Miscellaneous licences often support substantial infrastructure (e.g. roads, pipelines, bore fields, accommodation) that places demands on local services. Exempting such land from rates shifts the financial burden to residents and small businesses.
- **Legal Precedent:** The Supreme Court decision provides a clear legal interpretation that supports Local Governments' ability to rate occupied land under miscellaneous licences.
- **Community Impact:** Local Governments maintain infrastructure and services that benefit mining operations. Rates are a fair mechanism for mining companies to contribute to the communities they operate in.
- **State Government Proposal:** The proposed legislative change undermines the Supreme Court's decision and WALGA's advocacy for financial sustainability and fairness in rating practices.

COMMENT

WALGA strongly supports the Supreme Court's interpretation and opposes the State Government's proposed amendments. The Association maintains that:

- Occupied land under miscellaneous licences should be rateable.
- Mining companies should contribute to local communities through rates, just as other property owners do.

- Legislative changes should not override judicial decisions that promote equity and sustainability.

WALGA has advocated strongly on this issue following the State Governments announcement to legislate for a rating exemption for miscellaneous licences.

The following is a summary of WALGA's recent advocacy on this issue:

Thursday, 10 July 2025

- WALGA media statement – [Supreme Court decision supports critical role of Local Government](#)
- ABC Drive, [interview with Geraldine Mellet](#)

Saturday, 2 August 2025

- WALGA media statement - [WALGA condemns State Government move to legislate against Supreme Court decision](#)
- The West Australian, Rebecca Le May - [WA Local Government Association hits back as State Government shields miners from land rates](#)

Sunday, 3 August 2025

- The Sunday Times (pg. 5), Rebecca Le May – “Councils' fury over mining land rates’

Monday, 4 August

- ABC News online, Chloe Henville - [“Move to exempt miners from paying rates on miscellaneous licenses 'concerning’](#)
- ABC Mornings with Nadia Mitsopoulos – [“WALGA president Karen Chappel and AMEC CEO Warren Pearce discuss the State Government plan to prevent councils levying rates on miscellaneous licences”](#)
- 7 Regional News, Brandon Demura - [“State Government accused of re-writing rulebook for WA Councils”](#)
- ABC News Perth, Blake Kagi - [“Local Governments condemn State Government move”](#)

It is recommended that WALGA advocate for Local Governments to continue to have the ability to rate miscellaneous licences under the *Mining Act 1978*, and to oppose legislative amendments that seek to exempt occupied miscellaneous licence land from rating. In addition, continue to advocate that a broad review be conducted into the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under section 6.26 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA:

1. Advocate for Local Governments to continue to have the ability to rate miscellaneous licences under the *Mining Act 1978*; and
2. Oppose legislative amendments that seek to exempt occupied miscellaneous licence land from rating.
3. Continue to advocate for a broad review to be conducted into the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under section 6.26 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Clive Barton

Seconded: Cr Tamara de Lange

That the Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.2 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED

12.3. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY SPORTING AND RECREATION FACILITIES FUND ADVOCACY POSITIONS (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.3)

By Rebecca Hicks, Policy Officer Community

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Following a review of WALGA's Investing in Communities advocacy positions it is proposed that Advocacy Position 3.71 Community Infrastructure be updated, and that Advocacy Position 3.72 Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund be retired.
- The proposed revisions intend to align the positions with current advocacy approaches and combine them into one position.
- The proposed changes were noted by the Infrastructure Policy Team and endorsed by the People and Place Policy Team in July 2025.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Endorsing the advocacy position updates and retirement aligns with the WALGA 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, in particular:

- Influence – Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government.
- Influence – Empower the Local Government sector to build communities equipped for the future.
- Support – Anticipate, understand and respond to Member needs.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- The replacement of Advocacy Position 3.71 Community Infrastructure with an updated position.
- The retirement of Advocacy Position 3.72 Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund.

BACKGROUND

Local Governments own, lease, maintain and are major stakeholders in community infrastructure across Western Australia. This includes 233 public libraries, as well as cultural centres, performance spaces, galleries, recreation centres and playgrounds. Community infrastructure provides essential community benefits but requires significant capital and ongoing maintenance to upkeep the investment.

Advocacy Position 3.71 defines community infrastructure as including, but not limited to, community pools, sport and recreation facilities, community resource centres, visitor servicing centres, child health centres, community centres, parks, playgrounds, skate parks, public libraries, arts and cultural centres, and shared facilities that Local Governments operate.

The State Government Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF) was established in 1974 to provide financial support to Local Governments and community groups to develop sport and recreation infrastructure. The fund is well utilised by Local Governments and has been oversubscribed in recent years. The State Government's annual contribution to CSRFF was halved in the 2025-24 State Budget to \$12 million. Sector feedback indicates that rising construction costs have rendered current State CSRFF contributions insufficient to guarantee project viability. The Cook Government 2025 election commitments, confirmed in the 25-26 State Budget, provide funding for several new location-specific infrastructure investments.

The current CSRFF advocacy position includes a request for two million dollars per annum, quarantined for female representation. The 2025-26 State Budget included \$6 million to establish a 'Boosting Women and Girls Participation in Sport' grant program and \$23.9 million to support Local Governments and community sporting organisations to upgrade facilities for women at targeted locations.

There is no equivalent ongoing funding for community arts and culture infrastructure. Advocacy calling for this ongoing funding was included in [The West at its Best](#) as an identified priority need for the sector.

[WALGA's Federal election priorities](#) includes the call for \$500 million per year for community infrastructure through formula based targeted Local Government funding. This funding ask is not currently captured in the WALGA Advocacy Manual.

There are no current funding programs specifically for retrofitting accessible design features to community infrastructure. However, the importance of ensuring universal access to community infrastructure aligns with several State Government strategic documents, including the [State Infrastructure Strategy Recommendation 88](#) and [A Western Australia for Everyone: State Disability Strategy 2020-2030](#).

This advocacy position review was discussed by the Infrastructure Policy Team and endorsed by the People and Place Policy Team in July 2025.

3.7.1 Community Infrastructure

It is proposed that WALGA's **current** advocacy position:

The Association continues to advocate for better planning and support for community infrastructure and investment by the State, Australian and private partners.

be **replaced** with:

Local Governments own, lease, and maintain vital community infrastructure across Western Australia that delivers essential benefits to local communities. Local Governments face significant funding pressures to ensure this infrastructure is effectively planned, developed, maintained, and enhanced to meet evolving community need and population growth.

1. *WALGA calls on the Australian Government to provide \$500 million per annum for community infrastructure through a national formula based, targeted Local Government funding program.*
2. *WALGA calls on the State Government to:*

- a. *provide \$30 million per annum for the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund*
- b. *provide \$30 million per annum for community arts and cultural infrastructure,*
- c. *provide funding for retrofitting accessible design features to community infrastructure*
- d. *align all community infrastructure funding with existing State co-contribution of at least two-thirds.*

3.7.2 Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund

It is proposed that WALGA's **current** position be **retired**:

The Local Government sector advocates for the State Government to:

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

COMMENT

The proposed revisions provide a broad statement for ongoing investment in community infrastructure, reflecting the significant financial cost of upkeep, including costs associated with retrofitting accessible design features to existing infrastructure. Providing State and Australian Government funding through ongoing open grant programs provides a more equitable and sustainable funding source.

Combining the community infrastructure advocacy positions aims to streamline WALGA advocacy with specific points that reflect WALGA priorities as set out in the [2023-24 State Budget submission](#), [The West at its Best](#) and the [Federal Election Priorities](#), focused on sustainable stewardship of community infrastructure, including:

- Arts and culture
- Sports and recreation
- Accessible design features

The shift from a fifty per cent to a two-thirds State funding contribution reflects a strategic alignment of community infrastructure advocacy with prevailing funding frameworks in the broader infrastructure sector. This ensures consistency and reinforces the case for equitable investment across all infrastructure categories.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA:

1. Replace Advocacy Position 3.7.1 Community Infrastructure with the following:

Local Governments own, lease, and maintain vital community infrastructure across Western Australia that delivers essential benefits to local communities. Local Governments face significant funding pressures to ensure this infrastructure is effectively planned, developed, maintained, and enhanced to meet evolving community needs and population growth.

1. *WALGA calls on the Australian Government to provide \$500 million per annum for community infrastructure through a national formula based, targeted Local Government funding program.*
 2. *WALGA calls on the State Government to:*
 - a. *Provide \$30 million per annum for the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund,*
 - b. *Provide \$30 million per annum for community arts and cultural infrastructure,*
 - c. *Provide funding for retrofitting accessible design features to community infrastructure,*
 - d. *Align all community infrastructure funding with existing State co-contribution of at least two-thirds.*
2. Retire Advocacy Position 3.7.2 Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Julie Russell

Seconded: President Cr Sheryl Little

That the Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.3 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED

12.4. RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH SERVICES ADVOCACY POSITION (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.4)

By Hannah Godsave, Policy Manager Community

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The provision of healthcare services is both an Australian and State responsibility.
- The WALGA Local Government Primary Healthcare Services Survey provides a comprehensive dataset of the cost, nature and geographical location of Local Government support predominantly focused on General Practice services.
- The recommended revisions update the Advocacy Position to align with the data and recommendations of the Survey Report and provide a framework for further advocacy.
- The People and Place Policy Team considered and endorsed the proposed changes at its meeting on 9 July.

ATTACHMENT

- [Local Government Primary Healthcare Services Survey](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Revising Advocacy Position 3.2.2 aligns to the WALGA 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, in particular:

- Influence – Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government.
- Support – Provide practical sector-wide solutions based on research and evidence.
- Expertise - Foster relationships between our subject matter experts and stakeholders.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The replacement and renaming of Advocacy Position 3.2.2 Regional Health Services with an updated position titled Rural and Remote Health Services.

BACKGROUND

In 2023, WALGA commissioned Rural Health West (RHW) to survey WA Local Governments to ascertain the extent to which Local Governments were providing financial or in-kind support to secure primary healthcare services. The Survey Report provides a comprehensive dataset on the cost, nature, and geographical location of Local Government support, as well as evidence that Local Government support was predominantly focused on General Practice services.

This issue has been identified as a priority for the sector at a number of forums, including the October 2024 Band 4 Local Governments meeting, the May 2025 Zones meetings, priority responses and member advocacy being undertaken by the [Local Government Rural Health Funding Alliance](#).

WALGA has begun a renewed advocacy campaign, with targeted asks of the Australian and State Governments to improve access to primary health services in rural and remote areas, to remove the need for Local Government intervention.

The People and Place Policy Team considered and endorsed the proposed advocacy position changes at its meeting on 9 July.

It is proposed that WALGA's **current** Advocacy Position 3.2.2 Regional Health:

The Association supports continuing to work with affected Local Governments and key stakeholders to identify and develop collaborative strategies. The Association supports continuing to advocate to the State Government to prioritise regional health and the regional health workforce. The Association supports developing a policy connection with the Australian Local Government Association as a pathway for advocating for stronger specialised regional health workforces.

Be **replaced** with:

3.2.2 Rural and Remote Healthcare Services

The Western Australian and Australian Governments are responsible for ensuring that all West Australians have equitable access to primary healthcare services, regardless of their location. Local Governments should not have to step in to support the provision of these services for their communities.

1. *WALGA calls on the Western Australian and Australian Governments to address the systemic failures in the provision of rural and remote primary healthcare services, including through:*
 - a. *the development and implementation of adequate, appropriate and sustainable funding models.*
 - b. *incentivising rural and remote healthcare workforce recruitment and retention.*

2. *Local Governments should be reimbursed for costs incurred to support the provision of primary healthcare services until sustainable funding and workforce models are in place.*

COMMENT

Access to primary health is a critical issue for a large proportion of WALGA members. Local Government support of primary healthcare services creates a financial impost and diverts funding from other Local Government services and functions.

The proposed revisions provide a stronger position on the responsibility of the Australian and State Governments for primary healthcare provision and addressing the cost impost on Local Government, compelled to intervene where the current health system is failing.

The revised position aligns with the wider healthcare reform platform to enable advocacy partnerships and to provide a level of flexibility for the advocacy campaign in response to Government announcements. Terminology changes from regional health to rural and remote, aligns with the language used across healthcare advocacy and reflects that Local Government support for healthcare services is concentrated in areas of smaller populations. Framing the position around financial reimbursement enables sector diversity in response to community need and avoids implying an ongoing funding role for Local Government.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA replace Advocacy Position 3.2.2 Regional Health Services with the following:

The Western Australian and Australian Governments are responsible for ensuring that all West Australians have equitable access to primary healthcare services, regardless of their location. Local Governments should not have to step in to support the provision of these services for their communities.

1. ***WALGA calls on the Western Australian and Australian Governments to address the systemic failures in the provision of rural and remote primary healthcare services, including through:***
 - a. ***the development and implementation of adequate, appropriate and sustainable funding models***
 - b. ***incentivising rural and remote healthcare workforce recruitment and retention.***
2. ***Local Governments should be reimbursed for costs incurred to support the provision of primary healthcare services until sustainable funding and workforce models are in place.***

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Deputy President Cr Karen Harrington
Seconded: Deputy President Cr Jonathan Hippisley

That the Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.4 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED

12.5. HEALTH ADVOCACY POSITION (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.5)

By Hannah Godsave, Policy Manager Community

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Advocacy Position 3.2 relates to public health and predates the *Public Health Act 2016* and the commencement of Stage 5 of the Act in June 2024.
- The position is superseded by Advocacy Position 3.2.1 *Local Public Health Plans*, which was revised in September 2024 to align to the 2016 Act and specifically the implementation of Local Public Health Plans.
- The People and Place Policy Team considered and endorsed the retirement of Advocacy Position 3.2 Health at its meeting on 9 July.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Retiring Advocacy Position 3.2 aligns to the WALGA 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, in particular:

- Influence – Lead policy development for the Local Government sector.
- Expertise – Optimise organisational capability to service members' needs.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The retirement of Advocacy Position 3.2.1 Health.

BACKGROUND

Advocacy position 3.2.1 Health, endorsed in 2005, states:

The Association supports improving health outcomes for Western Australians through the investment in and provision of infrastructure and delivery of services in partnership with health professionals.

This position was last cited in a 2022 WALGA submission to the Department of Health relating to the Statutory Review of the *Food Act 2008*.

The position predates the commencement of the *Public Health Act 2016* and Stage 5 of the Act in 2024, which requires all Local Governments to develop and publish a Local Public Health Plan.

This position is superseded by advocacy position 3.2.1 relating to public health planning and specifically the implementation of Local Public Health Plans:

3.2.1 Local Public Health Plans

WALGA supports the objects and principles of the Public Health Act 2016.

The State Government must ensure that:

1. *Guidance, tools and resources are developed to support the development of Local Public Health Plans; and*
2. *Funding is provided for:*
 - a. *smaller rural and regional councils to support the development of Local Public Health Plans; and*
 - b. *the implementation of actions under Local Public Health Plans.*

The People and Place Policy Team endorsed the revisions to this position in September 2024.

COMMENT

Given changes in State public health legislation and the recent revisions to advocacy position 3.2.1 that cover the aspects of public health alluded to in advocacy position 3.2, this position is no longer required and should be retired.

The People and Place Policy Team considered and endorsed that Advocacy Position 3.2 Health be retired at its meeting on 9 July.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA retire Advocacy Position 3.2 Health.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: President Cr Leigh Ballard

Seconded: President Cr David White

That the Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.5 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED

12.6. ADVOCACY POSITIONS FOR ACTIVE TRANSPORT AND MICROMOBILITY (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.6)

By Negar Nili, Policy Officer Transport and Roads

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Six new advocacy positions are proposed, with the aim of providing a clear and unified framework to support Local Governments in planning, delivering, and advocating for walking, cycling, and other forms of Active Transport (AT).
- The new advocacy positions are intended to strengthen WALGA's voice in state and national forums, guide responses to legislative or policy changes, and ensure the sector is well-represented in cross-government initiatives related to AT.
- These positions reflect the growing role of AT in addressing key policy areas including health, sustainability, road safety, and urban liveability. The policy statements cover six key areas:
 - o Active Transport Vision and Strategy
 - o Funding
 - o Safety
 - o Education, Encouragement, and Community Engagement
 - o eRideables
 - o Active Travel to School
- The Infrastructure Policy Team considered and recommended the proposed AT advocacy positions for endorsement by State Council at its meeting on 4 August.

ATTACHMENT

- [Summary of Issues, Challenges for Active Transport in WA](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

The new advocacy positions align to the WALGA 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, in particular:

- Influence – Lead policy development for the Local Government sector.
- Support – Provide practical sector-wide solutions based on research and evidence.
- Expertise – Promote a dynamic, agile, high-performance culture.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The new advocacy positions will complement existing [Advocacy Positions](#):

- 5.2.5 The Role of Local Government in the Future Management of Warden Controlled Children's Crossings
- 5.2.7 Driving Change - Road Safety Strategy 2020-2030
- 5.3.3 Cycling on Footpaths
- 5.3.4 Licencing cyclists and registering bicycles
- 5.3.5 Active Travel to Schools
- 5.3.6 Pedestrian Crossings

BACKGROUND

In March 2024, State Council, through the Infrastructure Policy Team requested that WALGA organise a policy forum to better understand issues relating to Active Transport (AT) and develop an integrated policy and advocacy platform. This enhanced focus on AT formed the basis for extensive consultation with Local Governments over the last 18 months. The consultation process was primarily directed at identifying gaps in AT policy and AT infrastructure needs and involved extensive consultation with Local Government AT officers

as well as workshops with Elected Members and senior stakeholders from relevant State agencies.

The WALGA Transport and Roads team met with over 30 Local Government officers and held two workshops with diverse stakeholders to support the development and refinement of a discussion paper that examines AT and micromobility in the Western Australian, Local Government context. The consultation process with Local Governments highlighted a range of issues, challenges, and gaps facing AT initiatives in WA, offering valuable insights into Local Governments unique needs and perspectives as they work to enhance AT infrastructure and promote sustainable mobility. The information gathered was summarised into ten key challenges experienced across jurisdictions:

Strategic Issues	Challenges
1. Safety	- Speeding and inappropriate travel speed - Driver attitude towards vulnerable road users - Lack of safe crossing points and limited space
2. Amenities	Limited (no) funding for amenities
3. Network Gaps	Funding
4. Funding	Funding limits are a key challenge and focus of solutions
5. Integration in Plans and Programs	Low community uptake and behaviour change
6. Incentives and Disincentives	Car dependency and low awareness of active transport benefits
7. Public Transport Integration	Bikes not permitted on public transport during peak hours
8. Education and Community Engagement	- No dedicated lead - Fragmented efforts across multiple parties
9. E-Rideables	- Unclear regulation and enforcement
10. Travel to Schools	- Poor planning for AT in school areas - Limited school staff capacity to manage funding - Inaccessible or inadequate grant funding

These challenges have been addressed in six proposed advocacy positions:

- Active Transport Vision and Strategy
- Funding
- Active Transport Safety
- Education/Encouragement/Community Engagement
- eRideables
- Active Travel to School

ADVOCACY POSITIONS

Active Transport Vision and Strategy	
Position Statement	<i>Local Governments recognise the public health, environmental, community, economic and transport benefits offered by active transport and calls on all levels of government to work toward increasing active transport.</i>

	<i>WALGA calls on the State and Federal Governments to work with the Local Government sector to develop and implement an Active Transport vision, strategy and actions with measurable goals to increase mode share of active transport. The Active Transport Strategy should include allocation of responsibilities to agencies and identification of sustainable funding.</i> <i>The relationships to other strategic plans should be defined to align a whole-of-government approach.</i>
Background	Active Transport mode share in Western Australia is low compared with many global cities. Increasing the share of trips by active modes provides many benefits including reduced traffic congestion, less atmospheric pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions, improved health through incidental physical activity and opportunities for enhanced community interaction. Integrating an Active Transport Vision and Strategy with other strategic plans will encourage considerations for active travel to be embedded across all planning, design and operational processes.
Priority Actions	• Encourage Local Governments to embed measures to enable Active Transport in all Local Government operations, policies, and programs. • Call on the State Government to embed the provision of active transport infrastructure in State planning regulations and guidelines • Invest in stakeholders planning with clearly defined, shared outcomes. • Adopt a cross-government approach, with common performance measures across relevant departments to measure progress. • Promote a greater understanding of Active Transport user needs within all stages of planning and project delivery. • Normalise Active Transport in all infrastructure and policy discussions so that it becomes business as usual. • Better integrate active and public transport through: - o Advocating that the PTA provide appropriate end of trip facilities at public transport nodes including secure parking and storage. - o Calling on the PTA to provide for the carriage of bicycles and eRideables on all train services. - o Call on the PTA to explore opportunities to accommodate bicycles on buses. • Invest in data collection, management and analysis to inform investment in active transport infrastructure and programs including: - o Establishing a comprehensive, standardised data-sharing framework and platform for active transport information.

	- o Adopting video and AI-driven solutions to enhance the quality and efficiency of data collection, analysis and reporting. - o Develop a platform dedicated for comprehensive collection and analysis of Active Transport incident data, providing insights to improve safety, infrastructure design and strategic planning. • Require that design guidance for the public realm provides safe and attractive environment for active transport. • Provide safety through convenient priority road and rail crossing points for pedestrians and other active transport users and appropriate amenity including quality paths, drinking water at suitable intervals, shade and seating.
Key Challenges Addressed	- Closing network gaps - Travel to Schools - Safety

Funding	
Position Statement	<i>WALGA calls on Federal and State Governments to provide a step change in funding for Active Transport by providing consistent, long-term investment to support Local Governments in planning, delivering, and maintaining AT infrastructure, programs, and supporting initiatives.</i>
Background	Active Transport is vital to creating healthier, more connected, and sustainable communities. Despite this, funding to support AT—across infrastructure, programs, planning, and maintenance—remains limited, inconsistent, and often short-term. This restricts Local Governments' ability to deliver integrated, accessible AT options that meet community needs. Sustained and coordinated funding is essential to increase uptake, improve safety, and ensure the long-term success of active travel initiatives.
Priority Actions	• Committing to a ten-year allocated funding program to deliver the Long-Term Cycle Network, based on a co-founded model of up to one-third contribution from Local Government. • Providing non-competitive cost indexed grants based on the extent of the defined active transport network for renewal / maintenance to support appropriate levels of service and asset longevity. • Establish a new Local Destination Program to fund the development of safe and accessible routes to key community destinations, including schools, train stations, and activity centres. • Significantly increase overall investment in Active Transport to reflect its role in health, sustainability, and transport outcomes, and bring funding levels closer to international benchmarks.
Key Challenges Addressed	- Funding

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Active Transport Safety	
Position Statement	<i>WALGA calls on the State Government for the provision of safe, pedestrian/bicycle-priority crossing points; safer speeds on local roads and around community hubs, schools, and public transport nodes; and road diet treatments to support safer environments for all users of the road network.</i>
Background	High traffic volumes and vehicle speeds contribute significantly to unsafe conditions for people walking, cycling, and using other forms of Active Transport. Creating safer streets requires a combination of infrastructure improvements, speed management, and environmental design strategies that prioritise the most vulnerable users.
Priority Actions	• Improve safety for active transport users at existing roundabouts and intersections. • Seek reforms to Main Roads WA's speed zoning policies and processes to enhance Local Governments' influence in setting speed limits on local streets and distributor roads. • Support road design changes such as tree planting, lane narrowing, and other physical measures that promote slower, safer streets. • Reduce through-traffic volumes on all roads except Primary Distributors, especially in residential and mixed-use areas. • Target safety improvements in high-risk locations, including school precincts and public transport hubs. • Support complementary education initiatives to raise awareness of active transport user safety and responsible road use.
Key Challenges Addressed	- Safety - Travel to schools

Education/Encouragement/Community Engagement	
Position Statement	<i>When coupled with investment in infrastructure, education and encouragement programs effectively support the uptake of active transport modes and a cultural shift in attitudes toward active transport. WALGA calls on key stakeholders to form a coalition to advance mode shift to active transport initiatives, support infrastructure implementation, and realise a coordinated, multi-channel approach.</i>
Background	Education, encouragement, and community engagement are essential to increasing the uptake of Active Transport. Beyond infrastructure, shifting travel behaviour relies on building public understanding of the benefits, availability, and safe use of Active Transport options. Raising awareness among both the community and key stakeholders helps normalise Active

	Transport, promote safety, and support long-term behavioural change. Public education campaigns can highlight the benefits of walking, cycling, and micromobility, while also addressing knowledge gaps around safe practices and existing networks. Targeted engagement with schools, local communities, and service providers—such as transport operators and enforcement agencies—can foster a more supportive environment for AT use across all settings.
Priority Actions	• Call on the State Government to develop guidance and materials (e.g. toolkits) that support travel behaviour change and promote safe, responsible use of Active Transport and Micromobility. • Adopt a cross-government approach to deliver targeted training for relevant stakeholders on how to safely and respectfully interact with active transport users. • Support behaviour changes programs through incentives such as parking cash-out schemes, and other supportive measures. • Encourage Local Governments to provide a platform to raise public awareness of existing active transport facilities and the benefits of using them.
Key Challenges Addressed	- Education and community engagement

eRideables	
Position Statement	<i>WALGA calls on the State Government to develop and implement a comprehensive regulatory framework to address the safety, sale, and use of escooters and other eRideables in Western Australia. The State Government should consult with stakeholders, including Local Governments, to ensure that the framework is practical, enforceable, and responsive to on-the-ground challenges.</i>
Background	The use of eRideables—such as e-scooters and similar micromobility devices—is rapidly growing across Western Australia. While these devices offer affordable, low-emission transport options, the current regulatory framework has not kept pace with their adoption. Issues such as the sale of non-compliant devices, inconsistent enforcement, and public safety concerns—particularly in high pedestrian activity areas—are placing pressure on Local Governments and other stakeholders. There is a clear need for a coordinated, state-led response that balances innovation with safety, enforcement, and community wellbeing.

Priority Actions	• Introducing clear rules and enforcement to prevent the importation and sale of non-compliant or illegal eRideable devices. • Strengthen enforcement mechanisms and apply appropriate penalties to ensure compliance with existing laws. • Introduce and utilise equipment to verify compliance with legal performance limits. • Empower Local Governments to regulate the use of eRideables in high pedestrian activity areas, particularly on inner-city footpaths and shared spaces. • Develop a State-led eRideable Safety Action Plan in collaboration with key stakeholders. • Ensure that Local Governments are meaningfully engaged in this process, with WALGA providing formal representation. • Deliver targeted education and awareness initiatives for school-aged children and their parents to promote informed purchasing decisions, understanding of relevant rules, rider courtesy, and safe riding behaviour.
Key Challenges Addressed	- eRideables

Active Travel to School	
Position Statement	<i>WALGA recognises that enabling and encouraging active transport to and from schools delivers wide-ranging benefits — including improved public health, reduced traffic congestion, environmental sustainability, and stronger community wellbeing. Despite these benefits, barriers such as safety concerns, limited school resources, and lack of supportive infrastructure prevent the widespread uptake of active travel among students. WALGA supports a coordinated, long-term approach to embed active transport into the school environment, supported by targeted investment, planning, and program delivery.</i>
Background	Supporting children to walk, cycle, or scoot to school contributes to broader goals in public health, transport efficiency, environmental sustainability, and community safety. However, achieving these outcomes requires more than just physical infrastructure. Success depends on a collaborative approach involving schools, Local and State Government, parents, and community organisations. Active travel needs to be embedded as a normal, supported, and safe part of daily life for families. Addressing the existing barriers will require long-term coordination, consistent funding, and stronger alignment between education, transport, and planning systems.

Priority Actions	• Providing sustained investment in school and community-based active travel programs. • Ensure funding is accessible through clear grant processes and supported by dedicated officers to assist schools with limited staff capacity. • Increase incentives for Traffic Wardens at Children's Crossings. • Encourage car-free zones around schools, where appropriate, to improve safety. • Guidance for schools and local governments to undertake connectivity studies and prioritise low-cost, high-impact improvements. • Integrate active transport education into the school curriculum and culture. • Plan and deliver infrastructure that ensures children can travel safely and independently to school.
Key Challenges Addressed	- Closing Network Gaps - Travel to Schools - Education and community engagement - Funding

COMMENT

The proposed policy positions collectively address critical areas needed to advance AT across Western Australia. Each position strengthens WALGA's advocacy platform and supports Local Governments in addressing current and emerging challenges.

Active Transport Vision and Strategy

A clear, coordinated strategy is essential to embed AT across planning, infrastructure, and service delivery. Currently, efforts are fragmented and lack measurable goals or alignment between agencies. A shared vision and defined responsibilities will support integrated planning and prioritisation of resources at all levels of government.

Funding

Inconsistent, short-term funding limits Local Governments' ability to deliver and maintain Active Transport infrastructure and programs. A long-term, sustainable funding framework aligned with national and international benchmarks is critical to achieving health, environmental, and transport outcomes.

Active Transport Safety

High traffic speeds and unsafe infrastructure are key barriers to AT uptake. A safe, low-speed environment supported by appropriate design and policy measures is necessary to protect vulnerable road users and improve community confidence in walking, cycling, and other forms of active mobility.

Education, Encouragement, and Community Engagement

Behaviour change requires more than infrastructure. Effective education and engagement build public understanding, increase awareness, and help normalise Active Transport. A coordinated approach involving communities and relevant stakeholders is vital for shifting attitudes and increasing uptake.

eRideables

The rapid uptake of eRideables has outpaced the current regulatory framework, creating enforcement, safety, and infrastructure challenges. A comprehensive, State-led framework, developed with Local Government input is needed to address compliance, regulation, and safety in a rapidly evolving mobility landscape.

Active Travel to School

Despite its wide-ranging benefits, Active Travel to School remains low due to safety concerns, infrastructure gaps, and limited school resources. A more coordinated, long-term approach is needed, one that integrates planning, education, and investment to support safe, independent travel for students.

The proposed advocacy positions were endorsed by the Infrastructure Policy Team on 4 August.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA endorse the proposed advocacy positions on Active Transport and micromobility.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Tamara De Lange

Seconded: Deputy President Cr Karen Harrington

That the Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.6 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED

12.7. OTHER STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

NIL

13. EMERGING ISSUES

NIL

14. NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on 11 November 2025 commencing at 7:30am, via MSTeams.

The next Central Country Zone meeting will be held on 21 November 2025 commencing at 9:30am. This meeting will be hosted by the Shire of Brookton.

15. CLOSURE

Prior to closing the meeting, the Chair took a moment to acknowledge retiring Councillors President Katrina Crute, President David White and Deputy President Jonathan Hippisley for their service to Local Governments and the Central Country Zone.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 12:30pm.

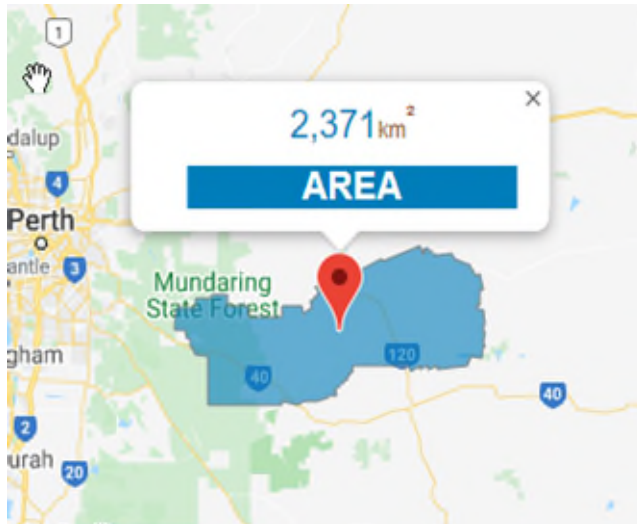
SHIRE OF BEVERLEY 20 AUGUST 2025

Presentation to Central Country Zone



SHIRE OF BEVERLEY - Beverley Roads Board 1871

Snap Shot



1,795
Population

1,421
Electors

8
Councillors

5%
Rate Growth

92
LGFI

28
FTE

\$9,562,183
Revenue+Capial Grants

\$7,997,300
Expenditure

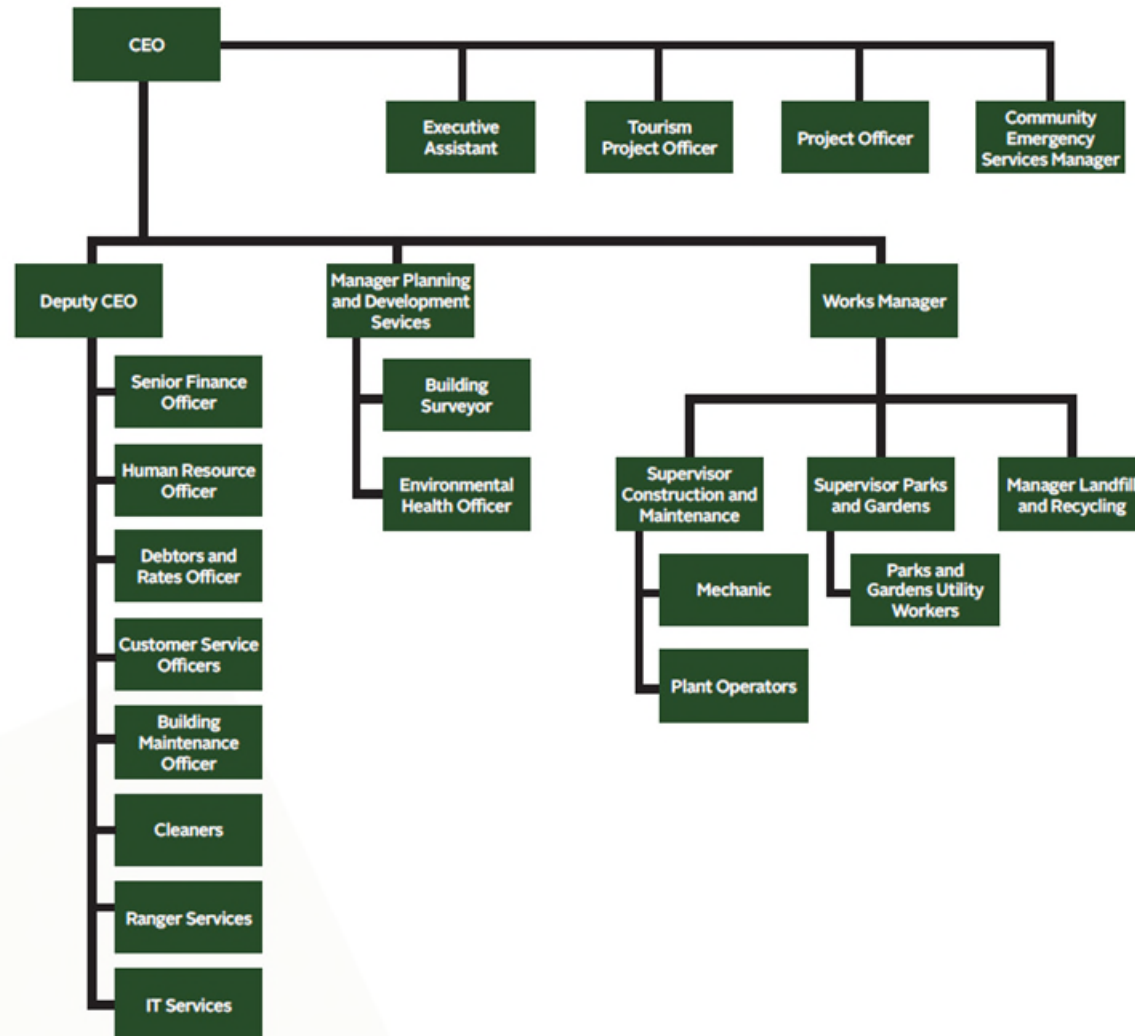
\$176,120,000
Nett Assets



4
SAT Band

956
Socio-Economic Index
Score

Shire of Beverley Organisational Chart



SHIRE OF BEVERLEY - KOKEBY BRIDGE



SHIRE OF BEVERLEY - KOKEBY BRIDGE



SHIRE OF BEVERLEY - BREMNER ROAD BRIDGE



SHIRE OF BEVERLEY - YORK WILLIAMS BRIDGE



Oval and Recreation Centre



Recreation Centre, Netball Courts, and Playground



Independent Living Units



Independent Living Units



Cornerstone Building



Community Resource Centre



Library



Visitor Centre



Silver Centenary



Cornerstone Charging Station.



Cornerstone Charging Station.



Achievements - Moort Wabiny Park



Moort Wabiny Park



Town and Lesser Halls



Lesser Hall Kitchen



Lesser Hall Kitchen



Reroofing Old School Building



Reroofing Old Courthouse



Old Courthouse Gymnasium



New Cottages



New Cottages



Water Harvesting Dam



Water Harvesting Dam



Vincent Street



Vincent Street



Old School Building - New Civic Centre



Civic Centre - New Council Chambers



Civic Centre - New Council Chambers



Council Chambers - New Kitchen



Repaved Parking Area behind Council Chambers



New Parking Area - Not everyone has the hang of parking!!!

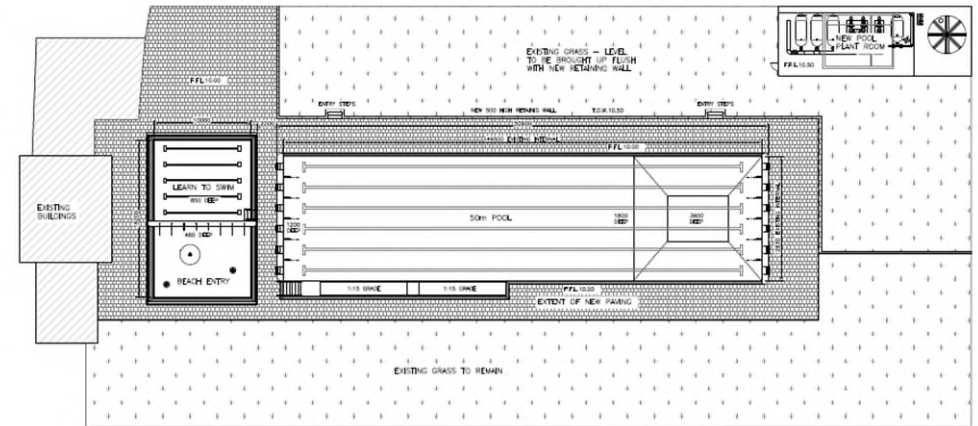


Shire Projects and Events - Beverley 2035



Current Projects: Swimming Pool Upgrade Stage 1

- ▶ Plant Room Demo & Upgrade
- ▶ New Toddlers Pool
- ▶ New Learn to Swim Pool
- ▶ Wetdecks to main pool
- ▶ New liner to main pool



Current Projects - Swimming Pool Upgrade Stage 1



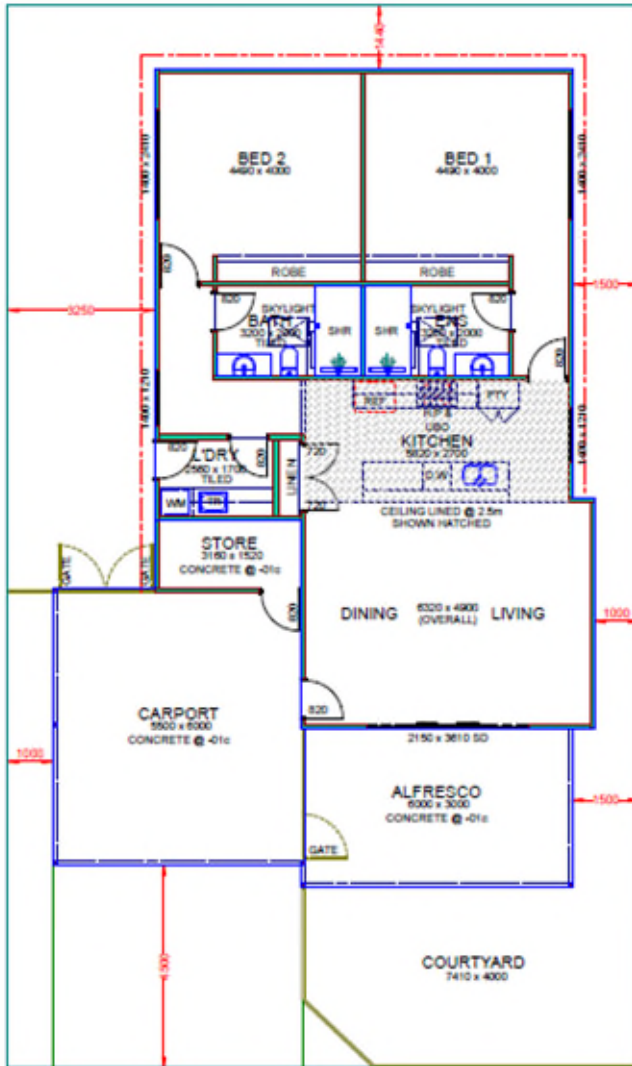
Current Projects - Swimming Pool Upgrade Stage 1



Current Projects: Workers Accommodation

To be located behind Hunt Road Village
(Chestillion Court)

- ▶ \$2.7M grant applied for, through the DPLH's Infrastructure Fund to develop 20 lots. \$1.1M was awarded.
- ▶ \$1.1M will develop the headworks.
- ▶ The Shire will develop 4 key worker dwellings. 2 x 2 bedroom and 2 x 4 bedroom.
- ▶ Design is indicative only.



Issues for Council - Beverley 2035

- ▶ Intergenerational Care
- ▶ Industrial Area
- ▶ Caravan Park Extension
- ▶ Residential Land Servicing
- ▶ Key Worker
Accommodation
- ▶ Avon River Park & Trails -
particularly Beverley to
Narrogin Walk Trail
- ▶ Creative & Cultural Spaces
- ▶ Relocation of Shire Depot

Beverley Medical Practice - Forest Street

Contract with the Shire of Beverley beginning in 1999



The Vines Medical Practice - Vincent Street



Proposed Retirement Village



Proposed Retirement Village



Proposed Retirement Village



Beverley Airshow in partnership with the Beverley Soaring Society and Paul Bennet Airshows



- ▶ 11 April 2026
- ▶ Attendance of approximately 6,000 - 10,000 people.
- ▶ \$2M potential boost to local WA economy.
- ▶ 30+ aircraft expected in both aerial and static display.
- ▶ Australia's best aerobatic pilots and performers.
- ▶ Over 50 exhibitors and activations.
- ▶ Council have committed \$300,000

Beverley Airshow 11 April 2026



The End!
Enjoy your day in Beverley



INTELLIGENT SOLUTIONS

TO TURBO-CHARGE YOUR BUSINESS



Kojonup
One community, many choices



SHIRE
OF
CUBALLING



6 SHIRES ERP SELECTION PROCESS

August 2025

1

WHO WE ARE





Simon Cohen

Founder, Cohesis

- ▶ Founded 2019
- ▶ Quickly established a footprint in WA LG
- ▶ WALGA Panel for ICT Consulting
- ▶ Services based on over 25+ years experience
- ▶ We don't just serve local governments
- ▶ Regional partners for international SaaS Vendors
- ▶ International clients
- ▶ 2021 – moved into Digitisation and Automation
- ▶ Specialise in Microsoft 365 Automation
- ▶ Microsoft ISV Partner

2

ERP SELECTION PITFALLS



Many Local Governments struggle with ERP selection due to:

- ❌ Lack of internal expertise to assess complex ERP solutions.
- ❌ High costs and risks associated with failed implementations.
- ❌ Limited collaboration and shared knowledge among local councils.
- ❌ Difficulty in aligning vendor capabilities with specific operational needs.
- ❌ The risk of making rushed ERP decisions without long-term sustainability in mind.
- ❌ Existing government-provided ERP solutions being underutilised due to excessive, non-essential features and lack of customisation for individual shires.



12 Common Pitfalls & Consequences

1 Overlooking Compliance & Statutory Reporting Needs

Consequence:

Audit & compliance breaches - missed deadlines, non-compliance with Local Government Act or audit requirements.

2 Underestimating Data Migration Complexity

Consequence:

Budget blowouts – unplanned costs for data cleaning, conversion, and fixing errors post-go-live.

3 Ignoring Integration Dependencies

Consequence:

Integration failures – core systems (rates, payroll, assets, records) not connected, leading to manual workarounds.

4 Making Decisions Based On Slick Sales Demos

Consequence:

System misfit – flashy features but poor fit for real council workflows.

5 Vague Or Incomplete Requirements

Consequence:

Procurement regret – the chosen system doesn't deliver what departments actually need.

6 Underestimating ongoing costs

Consequence:

Service delivery delays – budget constraints slow down rollout and support.

12 Common Pitfalls & Consequences

7 Poor Evaluation Of Workflow Fit

Consequence:

Low staff uptake – reverting to spreadsheets and bypassing the ERP entirely.

8 Ignoring Change Management & Training

Consequence:

Resource strain – staff overwhelmed by new processes without proper support.

9 Overlooking Scalability & Future-proofing

Consequence:

Locked into unsuitable contracts – system can't adapt to future legislative or service changes.

10 Weak Contracts & SLA Terms

Consequence:

Vendor underperformance – poor service, missed SLAs, and no recourse.

11 Misjudging Vendor Viability & Track Record

Consequence:

Erosion of public trust – vendor failure or project collapse visible to the community.

12 No Cross-department Representation

Consequence:

Decision regret – system fails to meet needs of overlooked departments, leading to rework

Key Risk Areas & Risk Management Strategies

Requirements

1

Risk: Missing or unclear business needs leads to system misfit.

Strategy: Capture detailed, documented requirements across all departments before going to market.

Vendor

2

Risk: Choosing a vendor based on sales pitches, not evidence.

Strategy: Perform due diligence, check WA local government track record, and use independent scoring.

Implementation

3

Risk: Unrealistic timelines and untested approaches cause delays and cost overruns.

Strategy: Validate approach with proof-of-concept or sandbox testing before full rollout.

Integration

4

Risk: ERP fails to connect with core council systems (rates, assets, payroll, records).

Strategy: Map all integration points early and test data migration plans before contract signing.

Change Management

5

Risk: Staff resistance and poor adoption undermine project success.

Strategy: Build realistic timelines, resource plans, and tailored training to prepare staff for new processes.

Contract

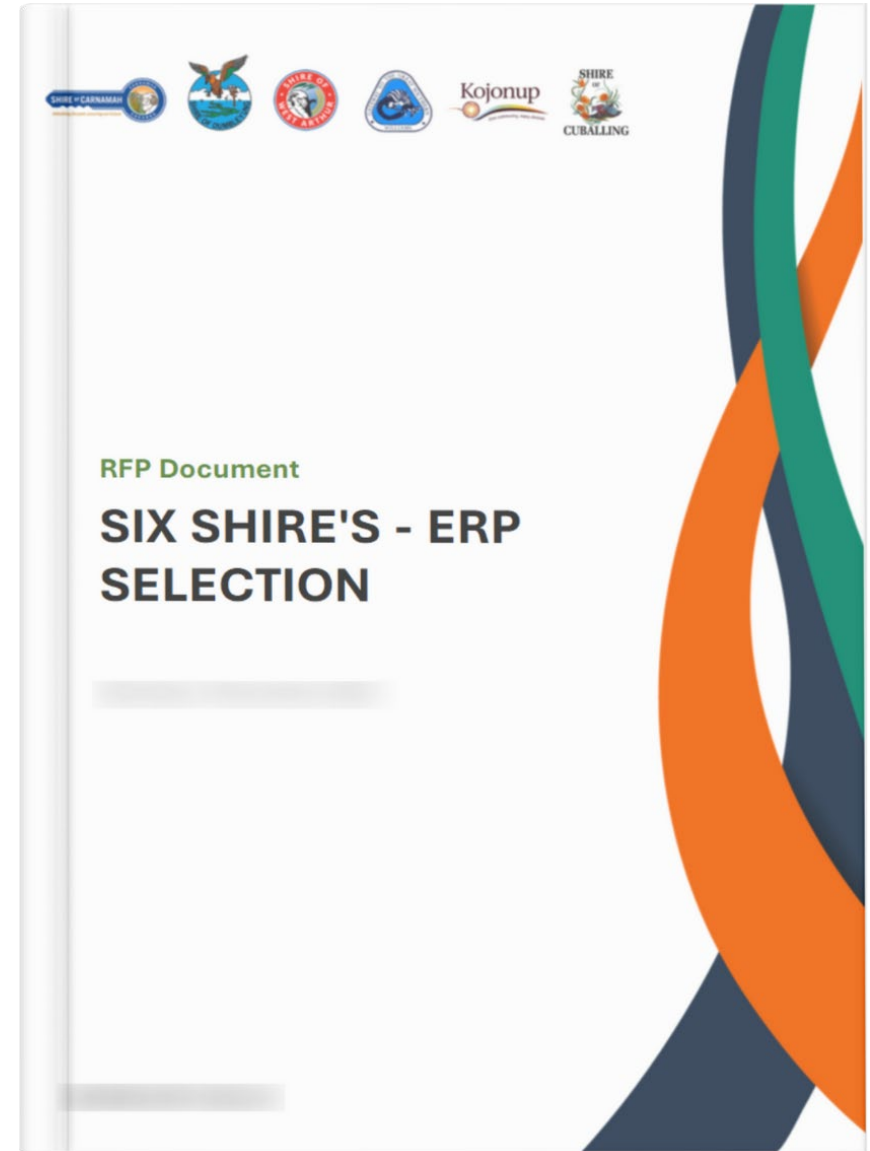
6

Risk: Weak terms leave council exposed to cost blowouts or poor service.

Strategy: Negotiate clear SLAs, penalties for non-performance, and exit clauses that protect the council.

3

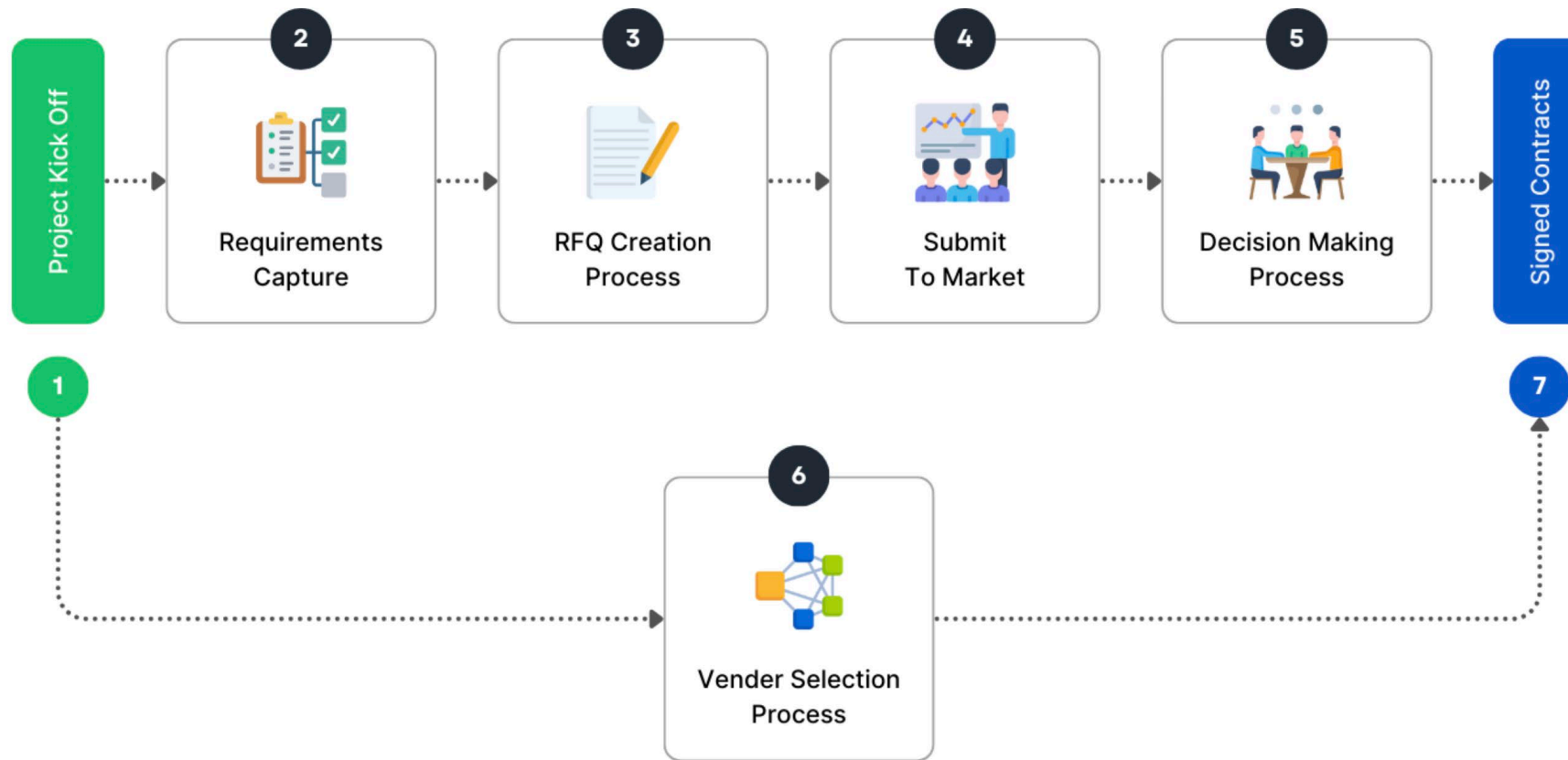
SIX SHIRES ERP SELECTION PROCESS



SIX SHIRES ERP SELECTION CASE STUDY

The Six Shires ERP Project was a collaborative initiative undertaken in 2023, where six local governments, **Shires of Williams, Dumbleyung, West Arthur, Kojonup, Cuballing and Carnamah**, joined forces to evaluate and select an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solution.







RFP Document

SIX SHIRE'S - ERP SELECTION

SIX SHIRE'S - ERP SELECTION

Reporting: ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒

Table 2: Primary Requirements

The Principals also expressed their interest with the below ERP modules. Kindly share any relevant information if these modules are present within your ERP solution.

Modules	Shire of Carnarvon	Shire of Dumbleyung	Shire of Dumbleyung	Shire of Dumbleyung	Shire of Dumbleyung	Shire of Dumbleyung
Contract Management	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Human Resources	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Intelligence	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Inspection	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Library	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Asset Registration	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Sparks Control Management	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Budget	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Cash Receiving	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Compliance	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒

Table 3: Additional Optional Requirements

In addition, the Principals have the following high-level non-functional requirements:

- System to be hosted on proven infrastructure.
- Data needs to comply with Data Sovereignty requirements (e.g. hosted in Australia).
- Regular backups to comply with the Shire's recovery aims.
- Support to be available between 9am and 5pm AEST.

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SIX SHIRE'S - ERP SELECTION

3.1.4 Shire of **Carnarvon** - Existing Application Map

System	Shire of Carnarvon	Shire of Dumbleyung	Shire of Dumbleyung	Shire of Dumbleyung	Shire of Dumbleyung	Shire of Dumbleyung
ERP	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
CRM	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
HRM	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Finance	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Procurement	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Asset Management	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Sparks Control	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Library	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Inspection	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Contract Management	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Human Resources	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Intelligence	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Compliance	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒

Figure 2: Existing Application Map

3.1.5 Shire of **Dumbleyung** - Existing Application Map

System	Shire of Dumbleyung	Shire of Dumbleyung	Shire of Dumbleyung	Shire of Dumbleyung	Shire of Dumbleyung	Shire of Dumbleyung
ERP	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
CRM	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
HRM	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Finance	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Procurement	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Asset Management	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Sparks Control	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Library	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Inspection	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Contract Management	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Human Resources	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Intelligence	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Compliance	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒

Figure 3: Existing Application Map

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SIX SHIRE'S - ERP SELECTION

6.2 Compliance Criteria

These compliance criteria are mandatory to respond to. Please select with a 'yes' or 'no' whether you have complied with providing the following compliance criteria responses. Supply details labelled with the appropriate heading.

Description of Compliance Criteria	Response Supplied
Compliance with the Conditions of this Request Respondents are to provide acknowledgment that their organization has submitted their Response in accordance with the Conditions of this Request including completion and signing of the Offer Form and provision of their pricing submitted in the format required by the Principals.	Yes / No ☐ ☐
Completed and Signed the Respondent's Form of Offer	Yes / No ☐ ☐
Completed Pricing Schedule (in full and in the format provided)	Yes / No ☐ ☐
Conflict of Interest Advice of any actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest in the performance of your obligations under the Contract, or if any such conflict of interest is likely to arise during the Contract.	Information Supplied Yes / No ☐ ☐ Is there a Conflict of interest? Yes / No ☐ ☐
Regional Price Preference Policy Advice of a regional address if you have a shop front within the SS for consideration of applying the Regional Price Preference to your submission.	Yes / NA ☐ ☐
Address: _____	
Local Government Authority: _____	

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SIX SHIRE'S - ERP SELECTION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Definitions

Contractor/ Consultant/ Supplier:	
Deadline:	
EDPS:	
ERT:	
ERP Software:	
GIS Mapping:	
HMS:	
Offer:	
OLAP:	
GIS:	
Principal(s):	
Response/ Submission:	
Requirement:	
SS:	
Tender/ Respondent(s):	

1.2 The Principals

The Shires of Carnarvon, Cuballing, Dumbleyung, Kojonup, West Arthur and Williams (the Principals) are presenting this joint RFP for the implementation of a new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System.

Page 1

SIX SHIRE'S - ERP SELECTION

3.1.6 Shire of - Existing Application Map

Finance	Asset Register	Human Resource	Timesheet	Payroll	Management
Reckon R	AssetsOnline	N/A	Manually With Paper	Reckon R	N/A
Contract Management	Inspection	Library	Squad Center	Records Management	Name & Address Register
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Reckon R
Property & Rating	Service Management	Field Service Management	Other	GIS System	Document Management
Relaink Online	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Dropbox File Shares

Figure 6: Shire of - Existing Application Map

3.2 Scope of Works

The Principals require a cloud-based ERP solution to replace the existing applications and provide integrated functionality in the following 8 main functional areas:

MODULES	SHIRE OF	SHIRE OF	SHIRE OF	SHIRE OF	SHIRE OF	SHIRE OF
Finance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Asset Management	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Customer Request Management	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Electronic Timesheet Management	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Name & Asset Register	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Property & Rating	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Records & Document Management	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓

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SIX SHIRE'S - ERP SELECTION

Table 7: Compliance Criteria

6.3 Qualitative Criteria

Before answering the qualitative criteria, Respondents shall note the following:

a) all information relevant to a Respondent's answer must be contained within their response to each criterion;

b) Respondents shall assume that the Evaluation Panel has no previous knowledge of their organisation, its activities or experience;

c) Respondents shall provide full details for any claims, statements or examples used to address the qualitative criteria; and

d) Respondents shall address each criterion outlined within the Qualitative Criteria.

6.3.1 Weightings

The Principals will use the following weightings when assessing the qualitative criteria of the responses.

SHIRE OF	SHIRE OF	SHIRE OF	SHIRE OF	SHIRE OF	SHIRE OF
Fit for Purpose					
20%	25%	25%	20%	15%	25%
Capacity, Resources and Key Personnel					
20%	10%	15%	20%	15%	15%
Relevant Project Experience					
15%	10%	15%	15%	10%	15%
Demonstrated Understanding & Implementation Methodology					
10%	5%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Price Consideration					
35%	50%	35%	35%	50%	35%

6SHIRES-RFP-2023.01Six Shire's - ERP SELECTIONPage 50

SIX SHIRE'S - ERP SELECTION

3.5 Implementation Timetable

The timely completion of the project is important to the Principals. Respondents are to include as part of their submission, a comprehensive project delivery timeframe/program for each implementation, in the form of a Gantt chart, showing expected project progress, lead times to source any critical components, from the date of contract award to practical completion.

The Principals anticipate their implementations will be delivered in series but the Respondents should articulate whether there are any benefits to specific Shire's implementing in parallel.

The Principals have different views on the urgency for their transition. The current thinking is that the order of implementation would be as shown in the table below. But this is subject to change based on the nature of the responses.

Current Anticipated Implementation Order	Principal	Desired Implementation Timeframe
1=	Shire of	FY 23/24
1=	Shire of	FY 23/24
3=	Shire of	FY 24/25
3=	Shire of	FY 24/25
3=	Shire of	FY 24/25
3=	Shire of	FY 24/25

Table 4: Implementation Timetable

This works program will form part of the Qualitative Criteria assessment. It is envisaged that the each of the Principals will have awarded the Contract for this Request will by the end of February 2024. Some Principals may decide to award earlier if they can. This will depend on the time required to adequately assess the responses. The schedule will be negotiated with the successful Contractor.

6SHIRES-RFP-2023.01Six Shire's - ERP SELECTIONPage 31

MANAGING ERP SELECTION RISKS - SIX SHIRES ERP SELECTION

cohesion

Chrome File Edit View History Bookmarks Profiles Tab Window Help

Typeform - Share x Six Shire ERP Selection x

form.typeform.com/to/rhFgMaDo

25 → Kindly select the additional ERP modules you would like to be included in the scope

Choose as many as you like

- ☒ A Contract Management ✓
- ☒ B Human Resources ✓
- ☒ C Infringement ✓
- ☒ D Inspection ✓
- ☒ E Library ✓
- ☒ F Animal Registrations ✓
- ☒ G Sports Center Management ✓
- ☐ H Other

OK ✓

Khristeene Gillamac

Grant (Kojonup) (...)

cohes

Simon Cohen

Khristeene Gillamac

Powered by Typeform



Approach & Methodology

ReportingTestFinancialModel 1

File Home Insert Modeling View Optimize Help

Get data Excel OneLake data SQL Enter Dataiverse Recent Transform Refresh New visual Text More New Quick Sensitivity Publish

Category	Sum of Actuals	Sum of Budget	Sum of Commitments Inclusive	Sum of Original Value	Sum of Residual Value
Infrastructure Assets	(\$13,217,352.40)	\$9,191,945.35	\$2,095,312.54		
Buildings and Fixed Equipment	\$11,542,861.80			\$362,782,214.75	\$0.00
Infrastructure - Airfield	\$3,394,366.07			\$26,416,815.65	\$0.00
Infrastructure - Airfield	\$4,000,000.00			\$343,157.01	\$0.00
defaming puzzling metronomic a	\$4,000,000.00			\$0.00	\$0.00
fishwife reciting bloodbath in	\$0.00			\$0.00	\$0.00
idiopathic typographer geopolit	\$0.00			\$0.00	\$0.00
irrespective maintainer evoluit	\$0.00			\$68,717.13	\$0.00
mullet suede emergencies solem	\$0.00			\$274,439.88	\$0.00
recycling inestimably suppress	\$0.00			\$0.00	\$0.00
sensationalistic witchhunt diz	\$0.00			\$0.00	\$0.00
spun associate instrument undi	\$0.00			\$0.00	\$0.00
start ultimatum smattering run	\$0.00			\$0.00	\$0.00
Infrastructure - Bridges	\$0.00			\$0.00	\$0.00
Infrastructure - Carparks	\$182,037.03			\$15,000.00	\$0.00
afterlife dogged cognac strapp	\$167,037.03			\$0.00	\$0.00
Test 2	\$15,000.00			\$15,000.00	\$0.00
Infrastructure - Drainage	\$130,697.10			\$10,477,063.00	\$0.00
Infrastructure - Footpaths & Crossovers	\$552,058.15			\$1,860,734.00	\$0.00
Infrastructure - Miscellaneous	\$0.00			\$64,462.61	\$0.00
Infrastructure - Parks, Reserves & Foreshores	\$260,190.74			\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	(\$0.00)	\$9,191,945.35	\$2,095,312.54	\$377,860,212.63	\$0.00

Sum of Current Book Value by Type

Type

- Infrastructure - Roads
- Buildings and Fixed Equipment
- Bridges
- Drainage
- Airfield
- Infrastructure - Parks, Reserves ...
- Plant, Machinery and Equipment

Page 1

Chamber

John Scott

Jacqui Devlin

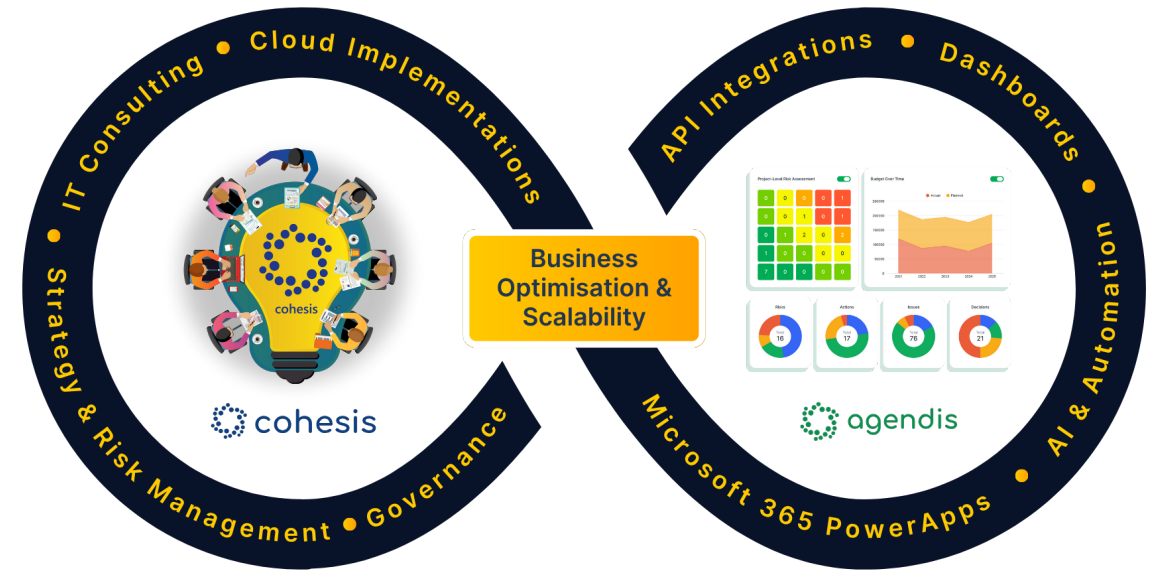
Glenn Cameron

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	
1			6 Shires RFQ Response Initial Scores														Cohesis 	
2																		
3																		
4																		
5	Raw Scores		SHIRE OF CARNAMAH	SHIRE OF CUBALLING	SHIRE OF DUMBLEYUNG	SHIRE OF KOJONUP	SHIRE OF WEST ARTHUR	SHIRE OF WILLIAMS										
6	Fit for Purpose		20%	25%	25%	20%	15%	25%										
7																		
8																		
9																		
10	Capacity, Resources & Key Personnel		20%	10%	15%	20%	15%	15%										
11																		
12																		
13																		
14																		
15	Relevant Project Experience		15%	10%	15%	15%	10%	15%										
16																		
17																		
18																		
19																		
20	Demonstrated Understanding & Implementation Methodology		10%	5%	10%	10%	10%	10%										
21																		
22																		
23																		
24																		
25	Price Consideration		35%	50%	35%	35%	50%	35%										
26																		
27																		
28																		
29																		

Totals	SHIRE OF CARNAMAH	SHIRE OF CUBALLING	SHIRE OF DUMBLEYUNG	SHIRE OF KOJONUP	SHIRE OF WEST ARTHUR	SHIRE OF WILLIAMS

4

HOW WE CAN HELP





- | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| | ERP Selection Process Management | | Procurement Management & Contract Negotiation |
| | Requirements Definition Workshops | | RFT Document Development |
| | Vendor Evaluation & Scoring | | Project Management Support |

Top 20 ERP Selection & Implementation Risks

**Vendor Lock-in:**

Becoming overly dependent on a single vendor, making it difficult and costly to switch in the future

**Hidden Costs:**

Unexpected fees or charges not clearly outlined in the initial contract.

**Data Ownership & Access:**

Ensuring the local government retains full ownership and access to its data.

**Compliance With WA Regulations:**

Verifying that the ERP system meets all relevant local government regulations and standards.

**Integration Challenges:**

Difficulties in integrating the ERP system with existing or future software applications.

**Scalability Limitations:**

The system's ability to grow and adapt to the local government's changing needs.

**Security & Data Protection:**

Ensuring robust security measures are in place to protect sensitive information.

**Service Level Agreements (SLAs):**

Clearly defined performance metrics & consequences for not meeting them.

**Customisation Restrictions:**

Limitations on the ability to tailor the system to specific local government needs.

**Vendor Financial Stability:**

The risk of the vendor going out of business or being acquired.

Top 20 ERP Selection & Implementation Risks



Upgrade & Maintenance Terms:

Clarity on the frequency, cost, and process for system updates and maintenance.



Training & Support:

Adequate provisions for staff training and ongoing technical support.



Data Migration:

Risks associated with transferring data from legacy systems to the new ERP.



Disaster Recovery & Business Continuity:

Clear plans for system recovery in case of unforeseen events.



Contract Termination Clauses:

Fair and clear terms for ending the contract if necessary.



Intellectual Property Rights:

Clarity on ownership of any customisations or developments.



Performance Guarantees:

Specific commitments to system performance and availability.



Change Management Provisions:

Flexibility to accommodate organisational changes.



Compliance With Audit Requirements:

Ensuring the system can meet local government audit needs.



Vendor's Subcontractor Management:

Clarity on the use and management of any third-party subcontractors.

The Benefits of the Six Shires Process



Shared Insight & Collective Learning

Each shire was able to draw on the others' experiences, reduce knowledge gaps, and explore options more thoroughly through open discussion.



Confidence In The Decision-making Process

Decisions were guided by structured evaluation, clear criteria, and the perspectives of multiple councils, reducing the risk of rushed or poorly informed choices.



Independent, Experienced Guidance

The process was facilitated by Cohesis with decades of ERP vendor experience.



Potential for Lower Group Pricing

Joint procurement and reduced duplication of effort lowered overall costs, with savings passed on to participating shires



Stronger Negotiating Position

Presenting a united front in the tender process improved bargaining power with vendors, resulting in better contract terms and pricing.

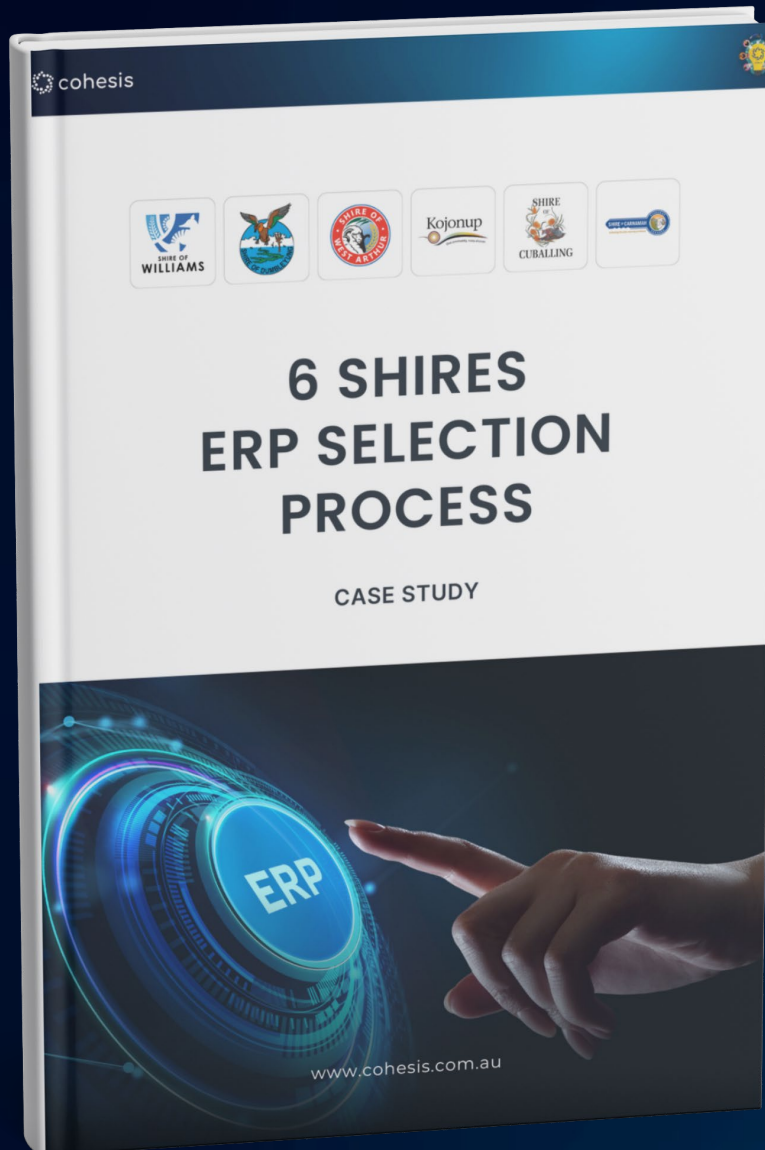


Faster Decision-making

Shared research and analysis saved time, helping shires reach well-informed decisions sooner.

ERP Implementations Are A Significant Cost

**Makes Sense To Invest \$10-15k
To Make the 'Right' Decisions and
Avoid Expensive Mistakes.**



Give Us A Call:

1300 792 430

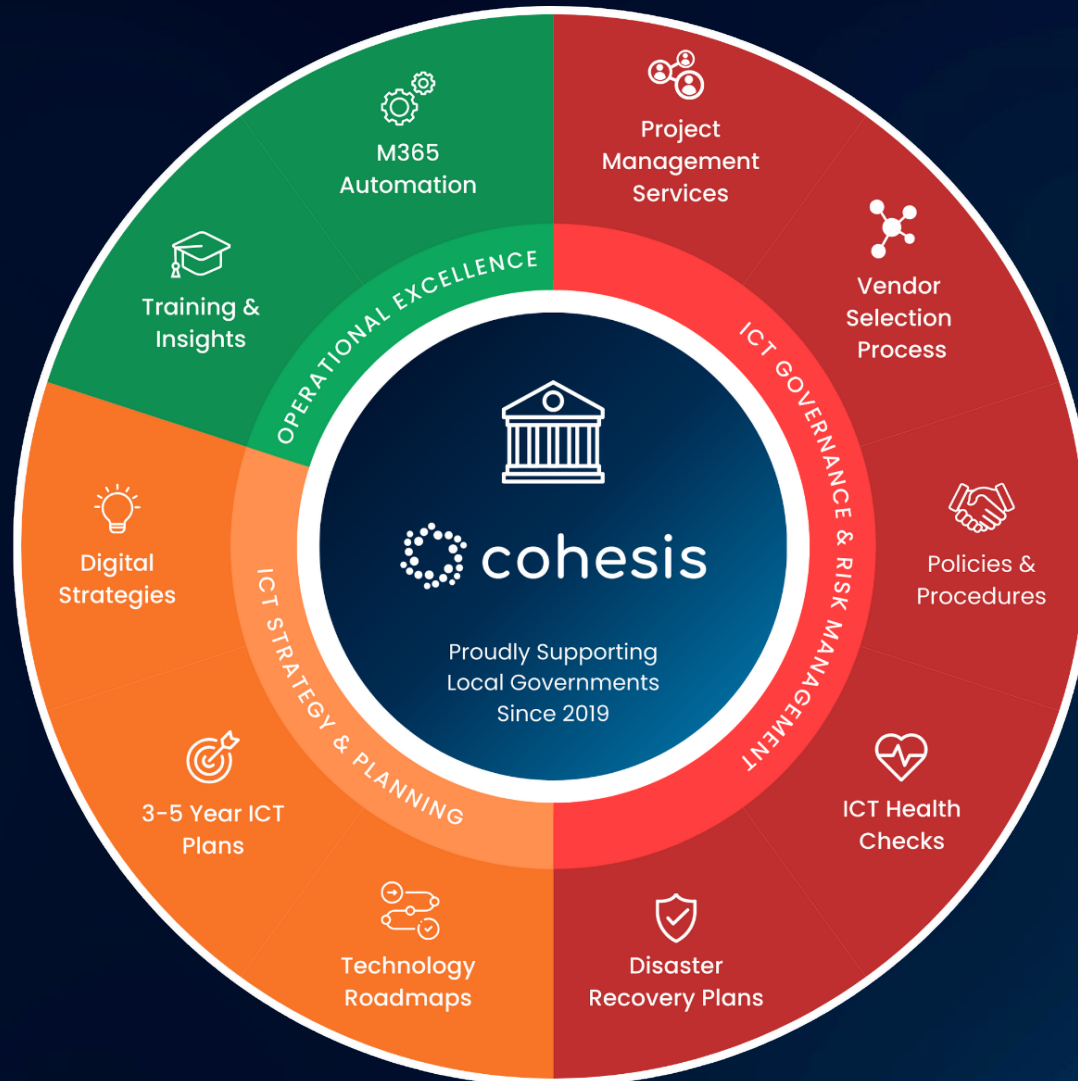
Email Us At:

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To Learn More, Visit:

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GET IN TOUCH WITH US TODAY!



Give Us A Call:

1300 792 430

Email Us At:

hello@cohesion.com.au

To Learn More, Visit:

cohesion.com.au

Hi,

I have gone back over the survey and unfortunately there are too many broad comments and general statements which make it very difficult to respond. Many of the locations when I check against our mobile coverage maps are not expected to be in hand-held mobile coverage areas, and an external antenna is required. This would have been the situation with 3G and now with 4G, this aspect has not changed.

Let me provide some overall commentary about the mobile network and mobile coverage and capacity, and then look at some of the more specific issues noted.

Like any other mobile network, coverage depends on where you are and the mobile device you are using. In some instances, you can experience poor coverage (e.g. in buildings) even though you are in a solid coverage area. How far you are from the nearest base station, as well as obstructions in the form of buildings, vehicles, trees, hills and building materials, can all reduce the signal level available for your mobile handset, tablet or mobile broadband device.

It's common for there to be areas beyond the fringe of our predicted and published coverage that have a useable signal due to peculiarities in the local environment and terrain that permit signal to extend further than expected. We don't include such areas in our published coverage, as the coverage is unpredictable and vulnerable to change over time due to local environmental factors (e.g. vegetation growth or building activity) and small changes in signal that may result when our mobile sites are upgraded, optimised or maintained. This means that it is possible there will be locations where prior to the 3G network closure, a call could be made in a location outside of our predicted mobile coverage maps. Today, in isolated instances this coverage may not exist, but note that since completion of the 4G rollout in advance of the 3G network closure, we have added around 400,000 square kilometres of additional mobile coverage nationally.

The Telstra mobile coverage maps displayed [Our Network Coverage & Rollout Maps - Telstra](#) have been created using tools that predict the likely areas of outdoor coverage. We have not individually tested every particular location within the identified outdoor coverage areas for coverage. This means that while the footprint of outdoor coverage outlined on the maps is generally accurate, there will be specific areas described as being within the outdoor coverage area where a customer's device will not work. This is a common characteristic of wireless systems. For example, actual outdoor coverage could be degraded or non-existent in specific locations due to certain geographic features or as a result of the device used. Geographic features that may reduce or block outdoor coverage could include formations such as hills and mountains or even trees.

Data throughput drops as a user moves further away from the base station source. All Wireless Operators have this issue and disclaim accordingly. The nature of cellular radio precludes certainty over many aspects, including data speeds, hence the disclaimer on Telstra's maps. As with any wireless data technology, actual user

throughput experience will vary with a range of network, device capability and other factors.

Prior to the closure of the 3G network in late October 2024, 4G was rolled out to all remaining mobile sites in WA. Currently we are upgrading our regional and metro mobile sites with 5G, medium and high band in CBD locations and low band in regional locations, this is possible as we have repurposed the 3G spectrum. The benefits of 5G over 3G are increased speeds and capacity, currently around 30% of WA regional mobile sites operate with 4G and 5G, and this will continue to grow. The spectrum used for 5G in regional areas is the low band frequency, the old 3G band. The 5G low band spectrum in regional areas has the benefit of managing additional data traffic, traveling further and penetrating building materials, see attached slide for further details on mobile spectrum.

There were simply too many locations and many too broad to pinpoint specifically regarding the predicted mobile coverage. My responses below are not intended to be in dispute with the feedback, but I would suggest that the individuals who provided the responses to you, check their location against our mobile coverage maps in the first instance. If we still have specific towns or areas that require further investigation, we can organize for our regional techs to be involved and this would include drive surveys, review of customer records and discussion around equipment and devices.

Responses to Appendix B

There is patchy mobile coverage along the section of Brookton Hwy and Westdale. A specific location has not been provided, there are certainly sections of Brookton Hwy that have good mobile coverage available. For the patchy sections, a TGO mobile repeater device is recommended in the vehicle.

For many of the locations noted we require more details, specific location, mobile handset make and model and mobile phone number with account details to review further.

Some of the notes are general commentary and difficult to respond. Please refer to our mobile coverage maps in the first instance for an indication as to the predicted mobile coverage at your location. We can assess further once provided with specific account details and address information. In building coverage can be variable, we cannot test or predict each location. Where in building coverage is poor either wifi calling is an option, or we can provide an assessment to determine if an external antenna with mobile repeater will improve the call quality and data speeds

Dumbleyung- New security systems installed and data speed inadequate to operate the systems. Systems were installed by ABA Security Albany.

Require more details, specific address location. The Security Company presumably are operating the security system via the 4G network. Was the mobile coverage assessed at the time of the install, and an external antenna recommended?

Kulin- Security cameras with Telstra SIM cards in are no longer working. We have replaced the SIM cards and they are still not working

Require more details around the sim cards and devices, address and account location to assist

**Quairading- 3G/4G need to reset manually when network signal out. So no calls coming in or out. Other selected boxes: No service or less service than before
Phone calls dropping out more often**

Require details of the device being used as unclear why reset is required. Also require account and address details, and further information about this issue

Quairading- T.V goes off on the program you are watching. Wi-Fi is poor, especially when trying to use the computer.

Refer prior comments about mobile coverage maps and in building connectivity. Is there a fixed broadband connection available as opposed to mobile connection as an NBN or Starlink service may be preferable based on location

Quairading- I have a farming property in the Wamenusking locality bordered by the Quairading/ Corrigin Road, Pannell Road and the Wamenusking East Road. Prior to the 3G closure I was able to make phone calls in some parts (not everywhere) across this property. At the very least I could send a text message. Since the changeover my phone (iPhone 13) regularly reverts to SOS when I am on this area of my farm meaning I can not send or receive even a text message. I can see a 50 m tower owned by Optus less than 1 km away and would ideally like to see federal government policies that would allow towers to be utilised by more than one telecommunications company that would benefit many travellers on this road and residents in the area

This location has patchy hand-held mobile coverage predicted. Telstra has enabled sms capability via Starlink when out of mobile coverage and the handset has reverted to SOS, which should now indicate a connection via satellite and sms can be sent and received. This service now operates for iPhone models 13 onwards and Samsung S25, note that you are required to download current software

Quairading- 3G/4G need to reset manually when network signal out. So no calls coming in or out.

Please refer attached information sheet regarding 3G/4G settings for external devices. If however this is relating to issues with Telstra 3G/4G where you need to manually reset your device to regain network connectivity for calls, it's likely related to the device's network settings or a problem with the network itself. Specifically, if the phone doesn't support VoLTE (Voice over LTE), it won't be able to make calls on 4G post the 3G shutdown.

Wickepin- I have a pacemaker and a heart monitor by my bed. Since October, the heart monitor hasn't worked. It is in working order. It has worked perfectly for four years

This is very concerning and would recommend contacting the device manufacturer to ensure it operates on the 4G network, as the 3G network was closed at the end of October

Lake Grace- At the hospital in Lake Grace (nurse at the hospital and need my phone to communicate with the Telehealth doctors) it is opposite harder and harder to be able to send emails with photo attachments since the 3G was turned off

In some instances, you can experience poor in-building coverage even though you are in a solid coverage area. This can be caused by factors such as: Building materials: Some building materials can significantly reduce signal penetration. Base station location: The base station distance from the building can impact the signal penetration. Height of building: On higher levels, base stations have a tendency to compete for signal, which can cause interference. Lack of in-building coverage is usually contained to underground car parks, lifts or in the core of the building where, due to the heavy concrete structures, the mobile signal from Telstra's external macro network is unable to sufficiently penetrate. Where technically and commercially possible, Telstra may deploy dedicated in-building coverage systems. It is important to note that, similar to other critical building infrastructure, such as power and Ethernet cabling, cost associated with the provision of dedicated coverage systems is funded by the building owner/developer

Lake Grace- I have a Celfire in my vehicle. I used to get pretty much reception all the way from Nth Burngup Rd all the way along Biddy Camm road to Lake Grace only dropping out in a couple of hollows Now it's hardly any connection. I have experienced the exactly the same travelling to Perth either going Albany Hwy or going Brookton Hwy. We have held off from fitting Celfire into the Lake Grace Ambulances as we would have to fit 2 of them but can't justify the cost if we are only going to get spasmodic connection. As for this scheme outlined, at what cost is it going to be to us especially if you are going to need several receivers to help run our businesses

Refer attached fact sheet to check settings are correct.

Wandering- 08 Down street wandering , my Wi-Fi is only operating on 5g has made half of my household tech redundant . As a single mother I can't go out and spend over 1k on new TVs and streaming tech to suit the new 5g crap

Need further details, account information, address and make/model of device. The wifi settings may need to be adjusted but would need to know further details of the issue.

Wandering- We live in Codjototine. Since the closure of the 3G network, we have no phone reception and rely completely on Wi-Fi, when that works. Our booster no longer works either, it was expensive and used to get 3G-4G reception.

Refer the attached fact sheets regarding external device, handset settings and information regarding external antennas

Wickepin & Dumbleyung Shires- 123 Gray Road. Harrismith, 6361 . As well as whilst driving around the Shire as a whole. We have noticed a huge drop in service availability. Gone from 3 or more bars to 1 if we are lucky

Note that there are no standards around bars on phones, between manufacturers. 1 bar of 4G can provide much faster speed than 3 bars of 3G signal. Also note that Telstra Blue-Tick devices are recommended and have been tested to provide the best regional and rural mobile coverage

Williams- 332 Narrakine Road, Williams. I have had to install point to point Wi-Fi extenders to extend my home internet to the sheds and yards so that I can use Wi-Fi calling in these areas as the reception has dropped markedly since the shut down of 3G. I have a phone booster on my house, and very regularly, the receive quality is POOR - and this is the tower signal that is being provided. If the signal is poor, then there is little we can do about it, as it means the booster will not work as effectively as it should/could. We have made complaints to Telstra, and they have

advised us that they are not legally obliged to provide a working phone network for rural customers, and that their resources are being directed to data in towns where it is more needed. This is a direct hit to rural and remote areas, primarily agricultural areas, where the phone service is relied on for safety - e.g.: workers working alone / fire reporting and management / farm security. We were assured that the shut down of 3G would have no impact on the service provision and quality. As regional customers, we have experienced the complete opposite. This location is near the edge of mobile coverage and will experience reduced performance. With regard the booster device please check the fact sheets to ensure settings are correct. The mobile tower that serves this location is operating as expected and there is no network congestion to the site. A poor signal is reflective of the received signal, not to be assumed it relates to the transmit signal.

Williams- Most of Albany highway has no reception at all now. Complete black spot. It's dangerous

Refer the following investment to new mobile sites along Albany Hwy over the past 10 years. There is very good continuous mobile coverage along much of the Hwy when using a mobile repeater in the vehicle. MBSP and RCP refers to the Mobile Blackspot and Regional Connectivity Programs that have been funded via the Commonwealth, State Government and Telstra

- **MBSP / RCP:**
 - 2014: Mawby
 - 2014: Arthur River
 - 2017: Boscabel
 - 2017: Cranbrook
 - 2017: Tenterden
 - 2017: Narrikup
 - 2017: Lumeah
 - 2018: West Tambellup
 - 2020: Narrikup West
 - 2020: Bannister
 - 2025: Arthur River North
- **Telstra funded:**
 - 2015: Sukey Hill
 - 2015: Beaufort River
 - 2016: Bokal
 - 2018: North Bannister
 - 2022: Tunney
- **Planned:**
 - ~September 2025: Tunney North



WALGA Central Country Zone

Network maintenance
August 2025





Western Power acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet,
and we recognise their continuing connection to lands, waters, and communities.
We also pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Introductions

- Nirav Shah - Principal Asset Management Engineer
- Brett Dew - Team Leader, Operations South East
- Kelly Nelson – Senior Community Engagement Specialist
- Caimen Potts – Community Engagement Specialist



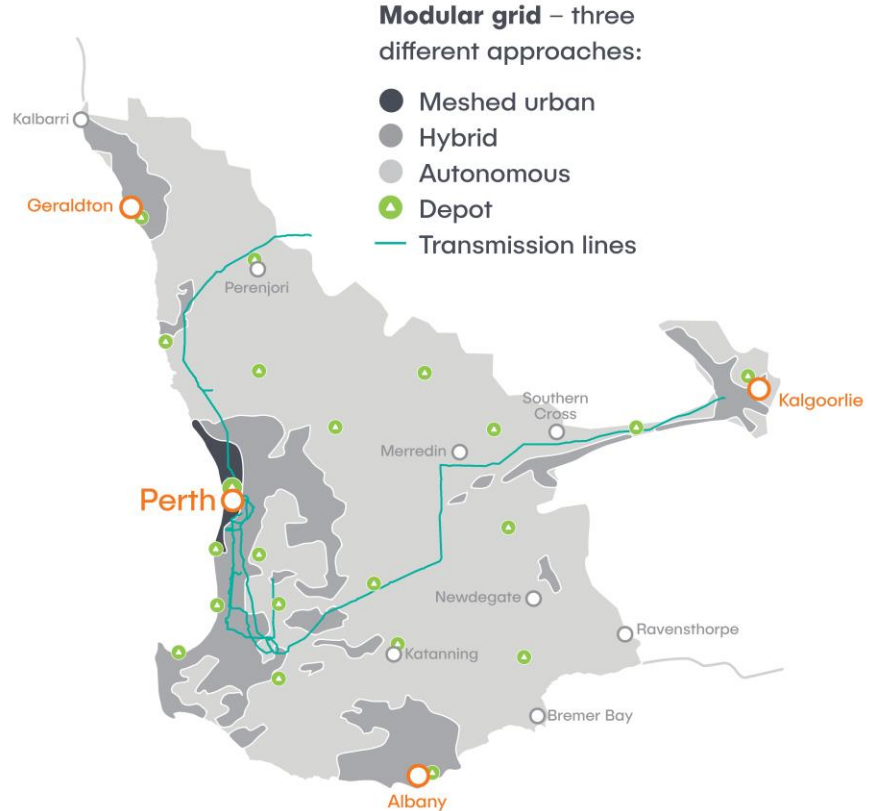
Agenda

- Discuss the short and long term maintenance of the network
- Provide an update on insulator replacements (pole top fire mitigation)

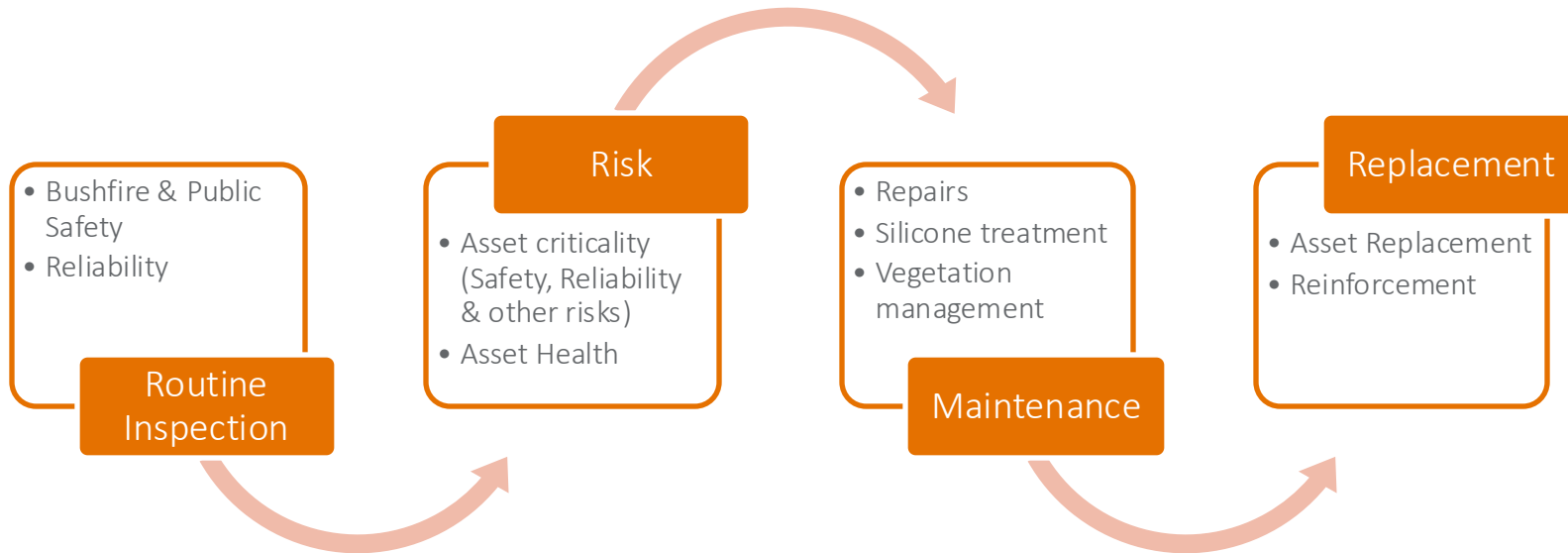


Optimising the modular grid

Meshed urban	Hybrid	Autonomous
Poles and wires		
Undergrounding		
	Microgrids	
	Stand-alone power systems	
Storage		
Renewables		
Transmission		



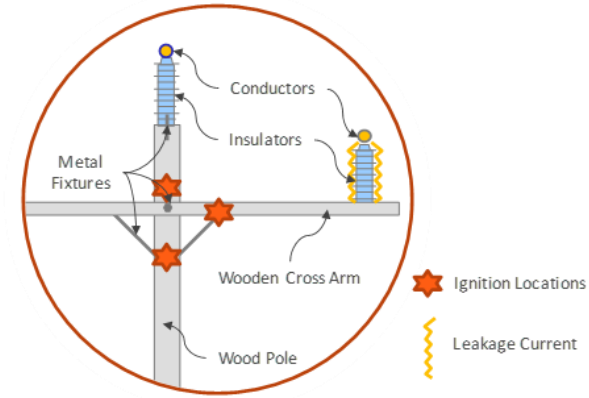
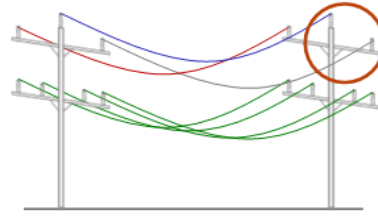
Distribution Network Asset Maintenance Plan



- Maintenance and replacement ahead of bushfire season
- Pole top fire mitigation
 - Crossarm & insulator replacement
 - Insulator silicone treatment & bonding

Pole top fires - cause

- Pole top fires occur when light rain or humidity mixes with built-up dust, salt, and pollution on power pole insulators.
- This can create a conductive path for electricity, leading to arcing that heats metal fixtures and ignites pole infrastructure.



Pole top fire mitigation

Pole top fire mitigation is a key focus area for Western Power.

Current proactive pole top fire mitigation measures based on Fire and Safety risk:

- Silicone treatment of insulators
- Insulator replacement
- Insulator replacement as part of Poles, Crossarm and Conductor replacement
- Bonding
- Remove or de-energise part of the network as part of SPS and undergrounding programs
- Early fault detection devices to detect early signs of leakage current
- Other solutions are being explored for effective pole top fire mitigation.

Completed and Planned Works

Category	Completed FY24 & FY25	Planned FY26
Pole Replacement & Reinforcement	1,591	1,302
Overhead Line Replacement	34km	6km
Crossarm (including Insulators) Replacement	320	148
Insulator Replacement	250	139
Silicone Treatment on Insulators – by # of Poles	8,752	0
Other Asset Replacement (transformer, recloser, switchgear, Conductor Clashing etc.)	351	358
Maintenance & Repairs	1,190	337

Stand-alone Power Systems

- 73% of customers experience better reliability
- Removal of 746km of remote lines and 3,478 power poles by FY25, reducing storm and fire faults



Regional Connect

- Testing remotely controlled devices and network reconfiguration to improve regional reliability of rural long feeders.
- Works include:
 - Upgrading and installation of protection devices and switches
 - Network reconfiguration and automation
 - High Voltage Injection Unit (Lancelin)
 - Battery (Lake King)
 - Possible back-up power solution (Newdegate)



High Voltage Injection Unit - Lancelin

Questions?



Central Country Zone Executive Committee

Minutes

12 August 2025

Commenced at 7:33am via MS Teams

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Minutes

Central Country Zone of WALGA

Executive Committee

Tuesday 12 August, 2025
Meeting commenced at 7:33am

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

The Chair declared the meeting open at 7:33am.

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendance

Cr Des Hickey (Zone Chair)	President, Shire of Corrigin
Cr Phil Blight (State Councillor)	President, Shire of Wagin
Cr Karen Harrington	Deputy President, Shire of West Arthur
President Leigh Ballard (Deputy Chair)	President, Shire of Narrogin

Guests

Caroline Robinson, Director	150 Square
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WALGA

Tony Brown, Executive Director, Member Services
Kathy Roberson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance
Richard May, Finance Manager
Sammy Jones, Member Services Executive Administrator

Apologies

Cr Julie Russell	President, Shire of Wickepin
Cr Katrina Crute	President, Shire of Brookton

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nil.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

5. ATTACHMENTS

1. Item 6.1 Executive Committee Minutes – Tuesday, 10 June 2025
2. Item 8.2 Audit Fee 2025 – Infographic from the Auditor General.
3. Item 8.3 Cost Shift and Compliance Report

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1. CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES – TUESDAY 10 JUNE 2025

Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 10 June 2025 have been previously circulated and are attached for confirmation. **(Attachment 1)**

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Karen Harrington

Seconded: Cr Philip Blight

That the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 10 June 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

6.2. BUSINESS ARISING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES – TUESDAY 10 JUNE 2025

Nil.

7. BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

7.1. FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED JUNE 2025

BACKGROUND

Presenting the Financial Report to the end of 30 June 2025

Consistent with accrual accounting, this includes the Profit and Loss Statement reporting income and expenses for the year to date against budget. Also provided is the Committee's Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2025 which shows a closing cash balance of \$83,828.00.

Comments:

Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet	
Central Country Zone of WALGA	
As at 30 June 25	
Account	30-Jun-25
Assets	
Bank	
CCZ Solutions Cash Reserve	\$ 29,264
CCZ Solutions One Account	\$ 54,565
Total Bank	\$ 83,828
	\$ -
WALGA Bank Account	\$ -
	\$ -
Total Assets	\$ 83,828
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
GST	-\$ 243
Accounts Payable	\$ 440
Accrued Expenses	\$ 1,025
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 1,222
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,222
Net Assets	\$ 82,606
Equity	
Current Year Earnings	\$ 8,701
General Reserve	\$ 20,915
Retained Earnings	\$ 52,990
Total Equity	\$ 82,606

Income statement

**Central Country Zone
WALGA
ABN 12 975 113 390
Statement of Income
and Expenditure as at
30 June 2025**

	Annual Budget	YTD Actual
Income		
General Subscriptions	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
Interest Earned	\$ 500	\$ 341
Total Income	\$ 15,500	\$ 15,341
Expenditure		
Zone Expenses - Audit Costs	\$ 1,248	\$ 1,025
Zone Expenses - In-Person Meetings	\$ 9,152	\$ 3,395
Zone Expenses - Agricultural Freight Group	\$ -	\$ -
Zone Expenses - Financial Management	\$ 2,892	\$ 2,220
Zone Expenses - Other	\$ 500	\$ -
Zone Representative - Honoraria	\$ 2,704	\$ -
Zone Representative - Meeting Fees	\$ 500	\$ -
Zone Representative - Travel Costs	\$ 1,000	\$ -
Consulting / Projects	\$ 30,000	\$ -
Total Expenditure	\$ 47,996	\$ 6,640
Surplus/(Deficit)	-\$ 32,496	\$ 8,701

NOTES

Income Statement

All subscriptions for the 2024-25 year amounting to \$15,000.00 have been invoiced and funds collected.

Financial management expenses of \$2,220.00 related to payments made to Xero for accounting ERP and Up2Date accounting for providing bookkeeping services.

In-Person Meetings Expenses of \$3,395.00 related to zone meeting catering.

Overall, the zone has delivered a surplus for the quarter of \$8,701.00 compared to the full year budget deficit of \$32,496.

At the Executive Committee Meeting Richard May, Manager Finance WALGA, advised that the zone will accrue \$15,000 In expenditure for the consultant expenses for the Cost Shift and Compliance Report. This will mean there will be a \$6,299 deficit. This Is still better than the budgeted position.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Leigh Ballard

Seconded: Karen Harrington

That the Statement of Income and Expenditure for the three months ended 30 June 2025 be received.

CARRIED

7.2. LIST OF ACCOUNTS PAID

Accounts paid for the **three months ended 30 June 2025** be received

Date	Payee	Description	Amount (inc GST)
8/04/2025	Xero	Xero Monthly Sub Apr 25	\$70.00
8/04/2025	Up to date Accounting	Up to date Accounting months of January & February	\$200.20
8/05/2025	Xero	Xero Monthly Sub May 25	\$70.00
10/06/2025	Xero	Xero Monthly Sub Jun 25	\$70.00
13/06/2025	Up to date Accounting	Up to date Accounting - Professional services rendered for the month of May 2025 as follows: + Preparation and lodgement of the March 2025 Quarterly Business Activity Statement	\$228.80
24/06/2025	Shire of West Arthur	Catering - Food and Refreshments for the Central Country Zone Meeting	\$2,025.00

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Karen Harrington

Seconded: President Leigh Ballard

The Accounts Paid for the three months ended 30 June 2025 totalling \$2,664.00 be endorsed.

CARRIED

Richard May, Manager Finance WALGA, retired from the meeting at 7.58am.

7.3. ZONE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The Zone endorsed the following items at the February 2025 Zone meeting:

1. Challenges face by Band 4 Local Governments relating to State/Federal Government services being provided by Local Governments together with Local government compliance requirements.
2. Essential Services - power, telecommunications and water.
3. Housing.

NOTED

7.4. SPEAKERS FOR THE AUGUST 2025 ZONE MEETING

7.4.1. CBH

Kellie Todman, CBH Group will present at the August Zone meeting, to provide a quick presentation and update on behalf of CBH Group.

NOTED

7.4.2. Cohesis

Cohesis were approved at the June Executive Zone Meeting to present a brief Case Study of tendering experience throughout the six Local Government Associations (LGA's) who recently participated in a procurement process to seek prices for a new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System.

NOTED

7.4.3. Telstra

At the April 2025 Zone Meeting, the Zone discussed the results of the Telstra Survey which was distributed in March/April of this year. The Zone invited Boyd Brown, Regional General Manager, WA to the June 2025 Zone Meeting, however he was unable to attend. Boyd Brown has confirmed his attendance for the August Zone Meeting.

NOTED

7.4.4. Western Power

Western Power have confirmed attendance at the August Zone meeting following approval at the June Executive Zone Meeting. Western Power will provide an "agency update" at the August meeting and the Executive have asked for a focus on:

- The maintenance of the network in the short term and the long-term strategic plan for the maintenance of the network.
- Update on their process of changing insulators on pole tops.

NOTED

7.5. SPEAKERS FOR THE NOVEMBER 2025 ZONE MEETING

7.5.1. Powering WA

At the June Zone Meeting the Committee was requested to extend an invite to Powering WA requesting an update since they last attended the Zone in November 2024. The Executive has extended this invite and Powering WA have confirmed their attendance for the November Zone Meeting.

NOTED

7.5.2. Lotterywest

Lotterywest were previously approved to present at the August Zone meeting, this approval was granted at the June Executive Zone Meeting. Lotterywest are wanting to raise the profile of funding opportunities available for Local Governments, and to better understand the issues and needs of the Wheatbelt region.

NOTED

7.5.3. District Emergency Management Advisor, DFES

The Executive Officer has received a request from Shelby Robinson, District Emergency Manager Advisor, DFES requesting to present at the November Zone Meeting to discuss their recent collaboration within the Great Eastern Country Zone and potential for collaboration with the Central Country Zone.

Approved for the November meeting.

8. ZONE AGENDA ITEMS

8.1. 2025 WALGA HONOUR RECIPIENTS

By Chantelle O'Brien, WALGA Governance Support Officer

BACKGROUND

WALGA celebrated their 2025 Honours awards recipients at an event on Saturday, 19 July at the WA Museum Boola Bardip. Following the success of the inaugural standalone event last year, the awards night was held solely to acknowledge and appreciate the extraordinary efforts of Elected Members and Local Government Officers in service of their Local Government, the sector and the community.

There were 44 recipients of Honours awards in the 2025 program. Two new WALGA Life Members were also inducted.

5 Honours recipients were from the Central Country Zone:

President Cr Katrina Crute	Shire of Brookton	WALGA Life Membership
Mr Allen Hicks	Shire of Wagin	Merit Award
President Cr Demond Hickey	Shire of Corrigin	Eminent Service Award
President Cr Jarrad Wayne Logie	Shire of Williams	Eminent Service Award
Cr Natalie Major	Shire of Williams	Merit Award

Congratulations to all Honours recipients!

Nominations for the 2026 Honours Program will open early next year.

NOTED

8.2. AUDIT FEE 2025

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services - WALGA

BACKGROUND:

At the April meeting of the Zone, it was Resolved;

That the Central Country Zone of WALGA writes to the Auditor General and WA Parliament Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations (cc the Minister for Local Government) to express concern that;

- 1. the Office of the Auditor General has increased the cost of audits by amounts greater than annual inflation again; and*
- 2. has, without consultation with local government, modified their invoicing practices and now require local government to pay 50% of their 2024/25 audit in this financial year*
- 3. that the Office of the Auditor General's commitment to greater transparency and cost control made to the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations has not been achieved*

The Executive Officer wrote to the Auditor General and the response is below:

AUDIT FEE 2025 AND CHANGE IN INVOICING PRACTICE

Thank you for your letter outlining the Central Country Zone's concerns regarding the 2025 audit fees, the Office's transparency commitment to the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations and modified invoicing practices. I understand Grant Robinson, Assistant Auditor General Financial Audit spoke with you on 3 July to briefly discuss your concerns.

*Consistent with our correspondence to WALGA on 10 June 2025 the fee increases have largely been contained to moderate levels. The median increase in audit fees for all bands and regional councils in 2025 is 6.75% (this was applicable for 119 of the 147 local governments and regional councils), with the balance subject to increases reflecting contract extension negotiations or market tenders. A small number of entities received decreases on their final billed 2024 audit fee. By comparison, 2024 median increases ranged from 10 – 25%. I have attached our fee infographic which is updated for the 2024-25 audit fees and process. **(Attachment 2)***

As we have previously advised, our fees are calculated to recover the OAG's costs, across our entire financial audit portfolio to deliver this year's audit work program. It considers a CPI increase of approximately 2.75% and cumulative public sector salary increases¹ of 9% since the prior year fee calculation (noting there is an additional 3% planned for 2026). The fees also include any directly related costs such as contract fees and travel expenses, as applicable. I confirm the maximum fee increase for entities within the Central Country region was 6.75% and three entities received a decrease.

While we have received significantly less adverse feedback on the proposed 2025 fees than in the prior year, we are cognisant of the cost pressures that local governments are under. I would like to reassure you that the fee increases were carefully assessed, and we have implemented measures to contain costs and continue to explore further efficiency initiatives.

In response to your request for an update on the Office's commitment to greater transparency and cost control we have included additional information for entities around the OAG's approach to audit fees, including our tendering (market testing) process, and is available on our website.

In addition, since the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations hearing on 11 September 2024, we delivered on our commitment to provide earlier notification of audit fees to local governments by 31 March 2025, in recognition that the late notification in 2024 was simply unacceptable.

Regarding the change in invoicing practice and our consideration to introduce interim billing, we have specifically considered feedback received from local governments and decided not to proceed for the Local Government sector for the time being. If introduced, my Office will provide adequate notice.

Thank you for bringing the Central Country Zone's concerns to my attention. Should you have any further questions, please contact Grant Robinson Assistant Auditor General Financial Audit on 6557 7526. Yours sincerely Caroline Spencer Auditor General for Western Australia 29 July 2025.

In addition, the Zone wrote to the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations and received the following response:

"Thank you for your correspondence and updating us on this matter. The Committee is giving the issue consideration and has once again invited the Auditor General to a public hearing to discuss local government financial audit fees and practices. The hearing is scheduled for 10am on 17 September 2025.

The Committee has given your correspondence public status. It will be available on our website in relation to ongoing consultation with the Auditor General."

The Executive Committee further discussed the hearing coming up on 17 September and requested the Executive Officer to advise the Zone that they can tune into this hearing.

Additionally, the Executive Committee requested that the Executive Officer write to the hearing inquiring whether the zone can provide a presentation.

The Executive Officer will also circulate the link to the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations for the hearing to all members.

RESOLVED

8.3. COST SHIFT AND COMPLIANCE PROJECT UPDATE

Item 8.3 was moved forward to 7.35am to allow Caroline Robinson to discuss this item with the Executive Committee.

BACKGROUND:

At the June 2025 meeting of the Zone, it was resolved:

That the Central Country Zone;

- 1. Thanks 150Square for its work to date and acknowledges the presentation of the Cost Shifting and Compliance Report.*
- 2. Does not accept the report in its current form.*
- 3. Establishes a small working group, to update the Zone at the August Zone meeting, to:*
 - a. Work with 150Square to refine and strengthen the report.*
 - b. Develop clear recommendations for the August CCZ meeting that positions the report as an effective advocacy tool against Federal and State cost shifting impacting WA Local Governments.*
- 4. Appoints the following Central Country Zone members to the working group (to work with 150 Square and the Zone Executive Officer)*
 - a. President Cr Katrina Crute*
 - b. President Cr Phillip Blight*
 - c. President Cr Des Hickey*

Comment:

An updated report is attached (**Attachment 3**) and Caroline Robinson from 150 Square will attend the Executive Committee meeting to discuss.

RESOLVED

The Executive Officer will include comments provided by the Executive Committee in the agenda presented at the Zone Meeting. The Executive Officer will also seek approval from the Zone to extend an invitation to the Auditor General for an upcoming Zone Meeting as well as a Zone delegation to the relevant ministers.

Caroline Robinson from 150 Square retired from the meeting at 7:54am.

8.4. SHIRE OF BEVERLEY - LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDITS

We are expecting an item from the Shire of Beverley regarding the requirement for the OAG to be responsible for Local Government audits.

NOTED

8.5. EXECUTIVE OFFICER SERVICE REVIEW

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services - WALGA

BACKGROUND:

WALGA were appointed as the Executive Officer to the Central Country Zone in April 2021, commencing July 2021, for 12 months.

At the November 2021 meeting, the Executive Committee resolved to defer any review of the Executive Officer position for an additional 12 months, to November 2022.

In November 2022, the Executive Committee conducted a review and decided to continue with WALGA's Executive Officer support to the Zone and again review in 2025.

WALGA provides this service at no cost to the Zone.

The Executive Committee to provide a recommendation to the Zone.

OPTION A:

That the Zone appoints WALGA as the Executive Officer to the Central Country Zone for a further 2 years and again review in 2027.

OPTION B:

The Zone seek expressions of interest from an external provider.

All WALGA staff left the meeting to allow confidential discussion at 8.08am and returned at 8:22am.

RESOLVED

The Zone Executive Committee recommended Option B to seek an expression of interest from an external provider for the Zones consideration.

9. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS – 4 – 5 September 2025

An updated report is attached and Caroline Robinson from 150 Square will attend the Executive Committee meeting to discuss.

Matters for Decision

- 8.1** Community Infrastructure and Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund Advocacy Positions
- 8.2** Rural and Remote Health Services Advocacy Position
- 8.3** Health Advocacy Position
- 8.4** Rating of Renewable Energy Facilities
- 8.5** Rating of Miscellaneous Licences under the Local Government Act 1995
- 8.6** Advocacy Positions for Active Transport and Micromobility

Matters for Noting

- 10.1** Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer (PSHB): Transition to Management
- 10.2** 2025 Local Government Emergency Management Survey
- 10.3** WALGA 2025 Local Government Emergency Management Forum

NOTED

10. OTHER BUSINESS

11. DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The next Central Country Zone Meeting – Friday, 22 August 2025 hosted by the Shire of Beverly

- The next Executive Committee Meeting – Tuesday, 11 November via MSTeams.

12. CLOSURE

There being no further business the chair, Cr Des Hickey declared the meeting closed at 8:27am.

WALGA Central Country Zone

COST SHIFTING AND COMPLIANCE



Executive Summary

Fifteen Local Governments in the WALGA Central Country Zone have significant financial burdens on their ratepayers due to the consistent increase in shifting of responsibilities from Federal and State Governments to Local Governments. This has been compounded by rising costs associated with statutory requirements, the rising costs of doing business and limited or no ability to generate revenue or recover costs.

The population and rate base varies across the Zone members but the legislative and regulation requirements do not.

A large number of Acts impose requirements on Local Governments to devote resources to implement Federal and State Government legislation and regulations. Often the resourcing costs are under-recognised, meaning that the true cost of performing these functions is not always adequately provided for and Local Governments are also unable to set appropriate fees and charges to recoup these costs – limited either by legislation, economics or community expectations.

Local Governments are committed to the delivery of their community's priorities however they are required to allocate resources to implement and meet Federal and State legislation and regulations without adequate funding, which diverts funds away from core services such as roads and community facilities.

Additionally, the need to provide essential services, which are typically the responsibility of State or Federal Governments—such as the provision of primary health services—due to market failures in rural areas, further exacerbates the financial strain.

What is Cost Shifting?

For the purposes of this report the following definition of cost shifting applies:

Cost shifting occurs when the responsibility for, or merely the cost of, providing a certain service, concession, asset or regulatory function is shifted from one sphere of government to another, without corresponding funding or revenue raising ability required to deliver that new responsibility. Cost shifting forces local governments to divert ratepayers' funds away from much-needed local infrastructure projects, to meet additional demands placed on them by state and federal governments.

Zone Snapshot

- Largest population base is 4779 (Shire of Narrogin) with rates income of \$5.446 million.
- Smallest population base is 356 (Shire of Wandering) with rates income of \$1,338,041.
- Rate base in majority of Zone members is stable to declining, whilst cost shifting by the State and Federal Government becomes more frequent and inadequately proportionate to costs directly incurred by Local Governments.
- The internal capacity to meet compliance set with regulatory and service shifting varies. The majority of Local Governments have an average of 32 employees with resource sharing across multiple Local Governments also in place to improve wider service delivery requirements (both within the Local Government's control and outside of it).

Key Findings

Third Sphere of Government administering State Government Legislation and Regulation

A key issue for Local Governments is the difficulty of raising sufficient revenue from rates to deliver the services they are required by law to provide or which their communities increasingly demand. This is particularly the case when Local Government responsibilities change – either because of statutory/regulatory change by another level of government, or because that other level of government fails to provide services in line with community expectations.

A large number of Acts impose requirements on Local Governments to devote resources to implement State Government legislation and regulations. Examples of such requirements include functions under the Planning and Development Act which has had no indexing since 2013; administering the emergency services levy on behalf of DFES with no increase in remuneration paid to Local Governments to do so for over a decade despite wages and the cost of doing business rising; and collecting on behalf of the State Government building levies and training fund levies (BCITF). To note is that the Local Government's also pay the BCITF levy for Shire infrastructure projects however can not access the training funds to develop its building and construction workforce.

The resourcing costs to implement these State Acts are under-recognised, meaning that the true cost of performing these functions is not always adequately provided for, remunerated by the State Government and Local Governments are also unable to set appropriate fees and charges to recoup these costs – limited either by legislation, economics or community expectations.

For example, the average cost per Development Application for Local Governments who undertook the first stages internally, then engaged an external larger Local Government with capacity was a net cost of \$2,003 per application. Recouping costs associated with Development Applications is heavily dependent on the type received. In 23/24 a Local Government in the Zone invoiced \$18,912 in charges and income was only \$10,873 incurring a loss of \$8,039. Another indicated that they provide advice to the applicant which cannot be recouped in Development Application fees.

Another example is Building Permits. The Shire of Corrigin received \$6,413 income for Building Permits in 2023/24. It is estimated that for the internal administration of Building Permits by the Shire of Corrigin and other Local Governments in the Zone, it costs \$836 per application. The Shire of Corrigin receives between 10-15 Building Permits each financial year, amounting to \$12,540 internal costs yet the Shire charges only the statutory fees to the applicant. In the 2023/24 year this left \$6,127 unaccounted for in costs that is borne by the ratepayer.

Local Governments in the Zone also forgo millions in rates as a result of section 6.26 of the Local Government Act.

Firstly, land owned by the CBH Group (a charity) that is used solely for the storage of grain and where there is a written agreement to make a contribution to the Local Government, is not rateable land.

Secondly, the costs to Local Government to provide a local and regional road freight network for industry such as the CBH Group is significant – particularly if there are no Main Roads in the network. Road construction and maintenance is borne by the Local Government.

For example, in the Shire of Williams, the Narrakine site has a total grain storage capacity of 573,810 tonnes and consists of 15 permanent open bulk heads, two silos and one permanent open bulkhead. It has seen an 8.5% increase in grain tonnage over the last five seasons (up from 607,660 in 2019/20 to 659,000 in 2023/24). Grain movements to the Narrakine site impact on the local and state road and bridge network. It is estimated that there are upwards of 10,000 truck movements to get grain to the Narrakine site each harvest. That grain is then moved out of the site via truck to ports or other markets. The Shire of Williams are responsible for maintaining and upgrading the local road network and bridges that connect growers to the CBH site. There is significant cost associated with this upkeep including expenditure on plant and equipment, staff and related overheads and capital improvements. Because the CBH Group is a charity (different to the mining industry), they cannot be rated appropriately and the State Agreement does not include road freight funding arrangements.

A number of years ago the State Government set the requirement that amendments to legislation and regulation had to undertake a regulatory impact assessment. The Zone believes that it should be mandatory for regulatory impact assessments to be undertaken for any amendments to legislation and regulation.

ZONE POSITION: Reinstate the requirement for a Regulatory Impact Assessment for all amendments to legislation and regulation.
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There should be transparency and a statement of benefits in State Agreements to reduce risk and financial costs on Local and State Governments.
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Audits

Audits for the Local Governments in the Zone can be either completed by the Office of Auditor General or subcontracted (CAFs) to a third party. Audits are a requirement by the State Government and the Zone members understand and support the requirement, however the audit process and costs associated with the annual financial audit have significantly changed in the past few years.

In 2024, 92% of all WA Local Government audits were contracted and of those, **two thirds were affected by increased prices from contract audit firms (CAFs).**¹

In the 2023/24 financial year across 11 Local Governments in the Zone, total fees for the annual audit were \$395,660.

¹ [Information-on-local-government-fees.pdf](#)

Over time the scope of the audit for Local Governments has increased. The Local Government is provided with a CAF or the Office of Auditor General (directive) and there is considerable time spent by Local Government staff preparing and educating auditors about Local Government. Additionally, if the CAF has completed the audit on behalf of the Office of Auditor General, there is additional time spent on liaising between three entities (Local Government, Auditor and Office of Auditor General) and in turn costs to the Local Government. One Local Government indicated that there was more than 40hrs spent preparing the audit alone.

Audit fees cannot be recouped by Local Governments and this is a direct cost to ratepayers.

Appointing an auditor previously involved a three-quote procurement process by the Local Government. Under the OAG process, this is not required.

The movement of annual audit costs for the Zone members between 2017/18 to 2023/24 ranges between 96% to a 276% increase. As an example, the Shire of West Arthur had annual audit fees of \$28,790 plus other audit fees for State Government grants of \$4,600 amounting to **1.6% of their rate income**. The Shire of Dumbleyung had a total of \$43,934 in audit fees in 2023/24 which was **2.1% of its rate base**.

All Band 4 Local Governments (fourteen members of the WALGA Central Country Zone are Band 4) experienced a median increase of 25% in annual audit fees in 2024/25 with annual audit costs ranging from \$29,600 to \$75,300.²

The additional compliance on the Zone members has necessitated the appointment of Governance Officers and engagement of external contractors to prepare and assist Local Governments through the audit process, further adding to the costs to complete this compliance.

The Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (Commonwealth) and Roads to Recovery (Commonwealth) grants required additional audits outside of the annual audit of the Local Government. As an example the Shire of Wickepin incurred an additional \$4,250 for the LCI Audit and \$1850 for the Roads to Recovery audit for a qualified audit on top of its \$26,500 annual audit cost (representing 2.16% of its rateable income). Not included in these fees are the internal cost of senior staff time preparing, submitting and reviewing the audit.

ZONE POSITION: That the Office of Auditor General review their costing formulae for Local Government audits and show constraint in audit costs, reflective of the Local Government Band.

That the Office of Auditor General provide a breakdown on the cost of the audit and justification for any variance to the estimate to the Local Government as part of the final billing process.

Provision of Doctors

In the absence of adequate State and Commonwealth health services, many rural Local Governments are required to fund or subsidise general practitioner (GP) and medical services to ensure basic access, and proximity to primary healthcare for their communities. These contributions often include cash contributions to the Practice, housing, vehicles, and facility maintenance, support for a Practice Manager—costs which are absorbed through rates and place considerable strain on limited rate bases.

Local governments are required to step into the space of primary health care because the per capita expenditure by the Commonwealth and States on health is lower in the regions, the viability of practices is challenged due to remote geography, increased business costs and less patients.

² [Information-on-local-government-fees.pdf](#)

For example, the Shire of Lake Grace allocates **\$250,000** cash annually to support the attraction and retention of a GP. In addition, the Shire of Lake Grace incurs costs for accommodation, two surgeries, a vehicle and fuel, representing **7.3% of its total rate income**. If there was no doctor in the town of Lake Grace or Newdegate, the closest distance a resident would have to travel is 184km one way.

The Shire of Corrigin reported annual costs of **\$222,340** to engage a GP practice, equating to approximately **7.4% of its rates revenue**. In addition, the Shire of Corrigin incurs costs for the provision of a medical centre, its maintenance, a house, vehicle and operational costs.

The cash contribution made by Local Governments are in addition to incentives provided by State and Federal Government for health and medical services in the regions and are necessary contributions due to significant shortfalls in funding by both tiers of Government.

ZONE POSITION – The Australian Government increase the Financial Assistance Grants to Local Governments in remote and very remote locations that are providing funding, sourced through their rates, to attract and retain general practitioners.

The Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor in the Financial Assistance Grants provided to Local Governments, administered by the WA Grants Commission, be increased to \$200,000.

Conclusion

The persistent and increasing trend of cost shifting from Federal and State Governments to Local Governments—without corresponding funding or revenue-raising ability or capacity—has placed a disproportionate burden on ratepayers and compromised the delivery of essential local services and core Local Government responsibilities. Local Governments are compelled to absorb costs that are beyond their core responsibilities and financial capabilities and cannot generate fees and charges accordingly as its directed by a higher tier of government.

This systemic issue erodes the Local Governments ability to invest in critical infrastructure and achieve priorities of communities. The examples provided illustrate the cumulative impact of unfunded mandates and regulatory compliance, which divert limited resources (rates) away from roads, facilities, and other vital services. There needs to be meaningful reform to increasing funding associated in the delivery of State Government regulations; a commitment to mandating regulatory impact assessments for amendments to legislation and regulations; transparency in State Government agreements; and an increase in funding arrangements under the Financial Assistance Grants if Local Governments are fulfilling the core responsibilities of the Commonwealth – such as primary health care.

It is imperative that Commonwealth and State Governments acknowledge the true cost of legislative and regulatory impositions and work collaboratively with Local Governments to ensure adequate funding, flexibility in revenue generation, and a fairer distribution of responsibilities. Only through such measures can Local Governments maintain their essential role in fostering resilient, well-served communities.

*Shire of Beverley | Shire of Brookton | Shire of Corrigin |
Shire of Dumbleyung | Shire of Kulin | Shire of Lake Grace |
Shire of Narrogin | Shire of Pingelly | Shire of Quairading |
Shire of Wagin | Shire of Wandering | Shire of West Arthur |
Shire of Wickepin | Shire of Williams |*

