Local governments working together.

At LGIS, protecting our local government members is what we do.

We make sure our members have the right cover to suit their needs. If disaster strikes, our local government specialists help get them, and their community, back on their feet as soon as possible.

It’s our members who make Western Australia such a great place to live – their roads get us around, we meet in their libraries and recreation centres, they manage our waste, and provide connection for the elderly. Every day they provide the countless services and support which makes us a community.

We believe that’s worth protecting.

To find out how you can get the most out of your LGIS membership, visit lgiswa.com.au or call 9483 8888.

Civic Legal is one of the leading law firms in Western Australia’s Local Government sector.

Our team of highly experienced lawyers strive for clarity and excellence in our legal advice to our clients.

Speak to us today to find out how our team can prevent, manage and solve the legal issues that face your Local Government.

Contact us today
For any queries, contact admin@civiclegal.com.au
ph: 9200 4900

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT Peer Support Team

A practical way to provide mediation and conciliation support to Local Governments in Western Australia.

The Peer Support Team is an initiative between the WA Local Government Association (WALGA) and Local Government Professionals WA.

The team was formed to provide conciliation, negotiation and mediation support to Local Governments that identified issues of relationship conflict between Councillors, or between Councillors and senior staff.

The key objective is to assist Local Governments resolve these issues of conflict and reduce the need for formal investigations or enquiries.

The team will meet with the affected Councillors and staff individually, as well as in a group setting, allowing all parties to freely express their views in a neutral environment.

The team will then assist the Local Government to develop outcomes and a path forward that is suitable for all involved.

So, to head off possible conflict or for the best resolution in situations where it already exists, call one of the team on the Hotline Numbers below.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
PEER SUPPORT TEAM HOTLINE NUMBERS

Nick Sloan
CEO
WALGA
Tel 9213 2025

Candy Choo
CEO
LG Professionals WA
Tel 9271 1136
Welcome to Issue 110 of Western Councillor

COVER:
The City of Joondalup, 21-metre-high stairway at the Whitfords Nodes Health & Wellbeing Hub
Good afternoon and welcome to WALGA’s 2020 AGM. I am absolutely honoured to be here as your President, and I want to thank each and everyone of you for joining us today.

It does not come as a surprise that this has been a very challenging year as a sector.

Last year, we experienced an already difficult fiscal climate faced by our State and nation. This year, a colossal curveball came in the shape of a global pandemic.

COVID-19 sent shockwaves through the country, and the world.

Despite this difficult period, our sector has shone in its steadfastness and ability to collaborate.

We saw Councils immediately prioritise the most vulnerable members within the community. Neighbouring Local Governments rallied together to provide aid and support.

Such strong community initiatives continue to ensure that no one in our communities are isolated or left behind.

These are remarkable achievements when the sector is facing financial pressure, along with a sudden change in work environment.

Local Government may be varied in scale and capacity – but the one thing we have in common is our resilience and ability to work together.

WALGA has further enhanced the spirit of collaboration by spearheading various communication channels with other spheres of government.

The weekly State Briefing to the Sector Webinars gave our Councils the opportunity to engage with the State Government, Police and other agencies.

There were 42 (and counting) webinars to assist Local Governments connect with up-to-date political decisions and operational priorities.

These webinars saw speakers from various Government Portfolios, including Deputy Premier Roger Cook, Minister David Templeman, Minister Alannah McTiernan, the Auditor General Caroline Spencer, Valuer General Lester Cousins, Police Commissioner Chris Dawson and the State Government Recovery Controller Sharyn O’Neill.

WALGA’s COVID-19 response team took on the task of disseminating the latest information from the National Cabinet meetings of the Prime Minister and State Premiers, and studied the ever-changing State and Federal restrictions to provide clarity for the sector.

To aid Councils in stimulating the local economy, WALGA underwrote access for Members to the VendorPanel Marketplace local supplier management platform.

The platform gave Local Governments the ability to engage and source quotations from a local supplier market. It demonstrated support for local businesses by providing new opportunities to access contracts.

Together with our pre-existing enterprise arrangement, this has seen ten million dollars’ worth of work pass to local business through the Vendorpanel Marketplace platform since May, which is a great result for both our Members and local businesses across the State.

Such extraordinary efforts in responding to the pandemic have proven to be effective – but it is not over. The focus has now shifted to recovery, in the immediate and long term.

As part of the recovery process, WALGA has developed a key advocacy document titled “Rebooting Local Economies”.

This document highlights the $512 million in financial relief and direct economic support from the Local Government sector - an astounding effort in the absence of the Federal Jobkeeper program.

It also proposes that the State Government support capital and maintenance work worth $514 million, including investment in shovel ready projects across the State to provide immediate economic stimulus.

This document has been provided to the State Government for consideration as it develops the State’s Recovery Plan.

The Association also produced the COVID-19 Health and Economic Vulnerability Analysis for each Member Local Government.

This analysis provides useful snapshots of demographic groups for Local Governments to focus on during the recovery planning process.

The Association also represented the sector across a significant number of agencies and committees, reinforcing the scope of Local Government operations and its strong connectivity with the community.
WALGA, as part of the State Health Incident Coordination Centre and the State Pandemic Coordination Centre, provides valuable input into operational issues and strategies as they relate to Local Government.

Despite the sudden challenge of a global pandemic, WALGA’s advocacy efforts are still going strong – a total of 42 submissions were compiled and put forward this year, along with various campaigns to contribute to the positive profile of the sector.

For a complete list of our advocacy efforts which span across environment, governance, community and planning, I invite you to read the Annual Report, which succinctly demonstrates that WALGA has been working for Local Government.

The WALGA LGIS Service continues to enable the sector to protect ourselves and our communities. Members are delivered $6 million in surplus distributions, with two thirds electing for it to be applied as a credit off their contributions.

Following the outbreak of the pandemic, the LGIS Board, championed by WALGA representatives and endorsed by the State Council, released a further $7 million from reserves to provide financial relief.

This will support our Members at their time of need.

The result is that Member Local Governments will have significantly reduced contribution requirements for the next financial year, which comes at a time when there is likely to be significant pressure in maintaining revenue.

I’m pleased to advise that the LGIS Chairman Peter Forbes will address us during the AGM and provide more information on the performance of the scheme.

In the sphere of procurement, the Association continues its focus of delivering value-for-money products and solutions to our Members.

In the last financial year, the Preferred Supplier Program facilitated $380 million worth of access to goods, services and works to Members.

This resulted in $30.8 million worth of savings to our Members, in addition to process efficiencies and contractual benefits.

During the year, the Association refreshed and enhanced the Preferred Supplier Panels for seven panels, along with establishing new contracts for two other panels.

As a registered training organisation, WALGA has delivered 177 training courses to more than 5000 Elected Members and Officers.

In addition, WALGA’s eLearning program saw 3400 enrolments during the financial year, along with offering virtual training since April as a response to COVID-19.

This has proven to be very popular and will continue to be offered as an alternate training platform into the future.

Shortly, we will proudly present a number of awards that recognise the incredible and dedicated community representatives we have in our sector, across the State.

A short while ago, we had a lunch to recognise our award winners, many who will be presented with their award at this AGM.

One of them is my predecessor, President Councillor Lynne Craigie.

Lynne has been a staunch champion for the Local Government sector, and as loyal as they come.

Lynne, thank you for your contribution to WALGA, which is immeasurable. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with you, and you are a deserving recipient of the Local Government Medal.

This year also heralded a new organisational structure in WALGA, carefully considered by our CEO Nick Sloan.

Supported by the State Council, Nick outlined and implemented the organisational restructure process in a staged approach.

The process saw the reduction in business areas from six to four. This will ensure efficiencies in service delivery, re-orientate each business area for a continued Member-based focus and improve coordination across the administration.

I would like to thank Nick for leading the Executive Team and all WALGA staff for delivering positive outcomes to our Members.

Looking forward, WALGA will continue to advocate and promote the sector’s strengths through the next phase of recovery. This is especially timely with the upcoming State Elections next March.

Through what has been a very challenging year as a sector, we have clearly demonstrated our commitment, loyalty and support for our communities.

This process has already seen encouraging results in the form of advocacy wins achieved by WALGA this year, in spite of the turbulent climate.

I thank the State Council and all WALGA Members for their ongoing support and all those who have helped to bring about the sector’s achievements during the year.

We are the closest tier of governance to our communities and we work incredibly hard to support our residents, businesses, community groups.

Often, we lose focus on our own wellbeing and distracted from our family commitments and I would like to acknowledge all that you do and sincerely thank you for all your hard work! Thank you.
Firstly, I would like to congratulate the newly elected Lord Mayor, Mayor, Shire President and Councillors at the City of Perth, Town of Port Hedland and Shire of Perenjori. The extraordinary elections held on 17 October have provided the communities of those towns and the City with a fresh start and a positive path forward for the future.

I would also like to congratulate those Councillors elected to single vacancies at Cambridge, York, Boddington and Lake Grace.

It is a great honour and a great responsibility to represent your community and it can be equally challenging and rewarding. I urge the newly Elected Members to familiarise themselves with the Inquiry into the City of Perth report, engage in the training required for the role, seek support from the Department where needed and to approach the task with a willingness to collaborate and make decisions in the interests of the wider community.

Our community deserves good leadership and good governance from their Local Governments and my role as Minister for Local Government is to ensure good governance. While I will am a strong supporter of Local Government, I have demonstrated a willingness to be active in addressing issues and using the powers available to me. The actions that I took with the Local Governments of Perth, Port Hedland and Perenjori are examples of using those powers to address concerns and unacceptable situations.

These situations and the review of the Local Government Act 1995 have drawn attention to the inadequacy of the interventions available to the Minister and the Department when addressing such issues. They have highlighted that a Show Cause Notice is one of the few interventions available to me as a Minister.

My actions regarding the Town of Cambridge came out of concerns being raised with my office and the Department by Elected Members, the community and employees. As a result of these matters, in 2018 an Authorised Inquiry was commenced, which will conclude shortly. The investigation identified issues that required me to act, ahead of the finalisation of the Authorised Inquiry. On the basis of Departmental and legal advice a Show Cause Notice was issued, to provide the Town with an opportunity to respond to these concerns.

The Town chose to take the matter to court, as is their right, as opposed to responding. I am disappointed by the Court’s decision and while it was focussed on the exercise of my powers, my concerns regarding the Town of Cambridge are valid. I maintain my concern for the community and employees of the Town to this day.

This ruling will, however, provide some judicial guidance for future actions and inform reforms of the Act.

As we head into the festive season and the government heads to the polls in March 2021, I would like to wish everyone well for the holidays and thank all Local Governments for their hard work, particularly in 2020 with the challenges of COVID.

I look forward to working collaboratively with you in 2021 and continuing with the drafting of green bill to reform the sector for the 21st century.
Can I just congratulate WALGA, before I start, on a very successful year - you’ve obviously achieved a lot, I got exhausted listening to Tracey outline all of the things that you’ve been doing, so congratulations on another successful year.

I’d also like to acknowledge the Minister for Local Government, the Honourable David Templeman, of course Tracey, the President of WALGA and Mayor of Wanneroo, CEO of WALGA Nick Sloan and the many Mayors, Presidents, Councillors and CEOs that are here today that I have met over my many years in the public sector.

I’ve only been the shadow Minister for Local Government for 12 months, it’s been a bit of a fast learning curve, and there’s been a lot of very thick reports that have come out in recent times that I’ve had to read – I haven’t finished the Select Committee’s report yet.

But just to give you a bit of background, just to reflect on the Councils I’ve had association with during my life – I was born in Kalgoorlie, I started schooling in Wittenoom and I grew up in Bunbury. In my working life, these are the Councils I’ve lived in: City of Bunbury, Shire of West Kimberley, City of Nelders, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, City of Bayswater, City of South Perth, City of Armadale, and the City of Perth – and my apologies to those Councils I have not yet managed to live in!

As Tracey said, I am a civil engineer and in my time at Main Roads I had a lot of association with Local Governments, particularly around road grants and Local Government roads, including planning and design. In my role at Main Roads I also got involved in the National Road Standards Development and also National road research monitoring. Another interesting job I had before I entered Parliament, in fact, before I became a consultant with Syme Marmion, I was unemployed – and I got a six week job with the Local Government Association during the period they were going through the process of the formation of WALGA. My role was actually to be involved in that, so I spent six weeks liaising with the Department of Commerce, making sure that when the other representative bodies which included the Country Shire Councils Association and another one – the President’s Association, I think – they had to be dissolved in a certain order so that WALGA could take over their assets. So that was in 2002 and so I was involved on the payroll of what is now WALGA.

I just want to acknowledge that the Government and the Minister have achieved something in the three and a half years, he didn’t mention his achievements but I don’t mind on his behalf congratulating him on getting three Bills through Parliament. The first one was the Local Government Amendment Auditing Bill in 2017, and I know in this morning’s forum there were some mixed feelings about this that were raised. I think the fact that the Auditor General is now responsible for doing financial audits for all Councils is a good thing – the other aspect about that which was raised this morning was whether there needs to be a bit of a tiered system so that the smaller Councils don’t get hit with the same sort of regulatory regime of the very large Councils, and I certainly support that idea.

The other Bills that he brought in, the Local Government Suspension and Dismissal Bill, that was really about the problem that the Minister has, if there’s something going wrong with a Council, this new change to the Act allows him to just dismiss one or two Councillors rather than the whole Council – I don’t believe that has been enacted yet – or I don’t believe the Minister has used that power.

And finally, the Local Government Legislation Amendment Bill of 2019 which brought in some other issues around training, online induction for candidates and universal training for Elected Members, and also some regime around gifts which the Leader of the Opposition Liza Harvey spoke about this morning.

And there is a bit of a difference between what we as State Government Politicians have to account for versus the Local Governments, and I think there’s probably opportunities to make sure they’re consistent.

So where are we at now? This morning I congratulated WALGA on putting together a very good forum which surprisingly got four parties together at this particular time and indeed, the leaders of those parties – and it’s an acknowledgement that WALGA can attract the leaders of all the parties in Western Australia to such a forum. And that’s because you are important.
Local Government provides very important services to the community, the community recognises that and I do recognise some of the Mayors in this room, some of whom are from my electorate who I regularly meet with. I acknowledge the pressure you are under in the community, and, certainly in the western suburbs, Mayors and Councillors get a lot of local media attention and they run more stories about Local Government than State Government. So I actually don’t mind that! When you’re a Minister you don’t like it so much, but when you’re Shadow Minister it’s not so bad.

Certainly I do know there’s a lot of personal pressure that comes on mayors and Councillors because when you make a decision, there’s no decision you’ll make that everyone will agree to. None!

And I learnt that as a very young lad from my father. And so you’re always going to get people grizzling about a decision made – even if you get 90% of people onside which is an unbelievable amount of people – ten percent is still a large number and in fact those 10%, or even half of a percent can actually cause such a big stir that it puts a lot of pressure on you.

But you have to show leadership and if you’re making decisions for the best interests of your community, that’s what you have to do.

And it’s the same for the Minister and myself as State Members of Parliament, we’re charged with making the best decisions for the people of Western Australia. So we actually have something very much in common.

I do want to also mention the two reviews that have been done, the one by the Minister and also the one by the Select Committee. And I do suggest that everyone reads them – they are fairly similar – I think the review by the Government is a little bit more prescriptive in where it wants to go whereas I think the review by the Select Committee Report, although it’s longer, is probably a bit more high level and it does raise some very important issues which I think the sector, your sector should form an opinion on.

This morning was all about coming along and hearing about what all the parties were going to do with these recommendations and I think you all heard that we’ll be listening to you – we in fact deliberately haven’t developed any specific policies, we’ve thought about a few, until the select committee’s report came down. So now we’re in a position and I am in a position as a Shadow Minister for Local Government to now formulate some policies and get my party to agree to those. But I won’t be doing that in isolation of WALGA and Local Governments.

I’ve only been in the job for 12 months, I have met lots of Councils prior to that in my other portfolios over my time and I’m trying to catch up with as many as possible and I lot of people I know have spoken to me today and I’m trying to set up meetings in the next few months and I look forward to those meetings.

I just want to conclude with some of the comments that our leader made this morning, because I think they are probably worth repeating.

She told delegates this morning that a Harvey Liberal Government will engage WALGA in a mature and genuine way to make sure that both levels of Government are pushing in the same direction.

Liza also emphasised that another major commitment of any government she leads is to guarantee that the State will sign a formal partnership agreement with the Local Government sector.

And this pact is vitally important to the relationship between our two levels of government.

She also highlighted that a new approach within the existing framework should be created to make sure more strategic and action-orientated outcomes can be achieved.

I also mentioned that a Harvey Liberal Government will retain Local Governments’ ability to choose which industrial relations regime you wish to join. So I made that quite clear this morning and I’ve had that ticked off by the Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations.

And a Harvey Liberal Government would also be very open to the idea of identifying agreed focus areas where both levels of government would work collaboratively to secure common sense results in key issues – so quicker, cheaper and more beneficial outcomes can be achieved by all parties.

And importantly our leader made it quite clear here this morning that a Harvey Liberal Government has no intention whatsoever of setting Local Government rates.

So can I conclude by thanking WALGA for allowing me to speak here at your AGM and I look forward to great progress in the next 12 months.
With the 2020 WA Local Government Convention being cancelled, a number of events were instead held alongside the Association’s delayed AGM, held on Friday, 25 September at Crown Perth.

A breakfast featuring former leading Fremantle Dockers player, former coach of South Fremantle Football Club (WAFL) and sports broadcaster, Paul Hasleby was held in the morning, sponsored by Marketforce. Paul shared highlights of his football and coaching career, revealing Northampton’s AFL success (with nine players from a population of just 800) is the result of a supportive community and role models.

Later that morning, around 250 Local Government Chief Executive Officers, Mayors, Presidents (or their Deputies), attended a political forum designed to provide attendees the opportunity to get an understanding of the various party policies and platforms. Facilitated by journalist Liam Bartlett, speakers included WA Premier Hon Mark McGowan; Leader of the Opposition Hon Liza Harvey; Leader of the Nationals WA Hon Mia Davies and Minister for Local Government Hon David Templeman MLA.

Nearly 350 delegates were registered for this year’s AGM, held in the afternoon. As part of the program, 31 Local Government Elected Members and Officers received a Local Government Honours Award, with Shire of East Pilbara President Cr Lynne Craigie OAM recognised for her exceptional service to the Local Government sector with a Local Government Medal.

To view all Honours Awards recipients, please see article on page 10.

The following pages feature pictures from throughout the day.
Shire of East Pilbara President Cr Lynne Craigie OAM has been recognised for her exceptional service to the Local Government sector with a Local Government Medal.

The highest honour in the WA Local Government Association’s honours program, the Medal is bestowed upon those providing exceptional service in advancing the goals of WALGA and Local Government as well as the personal contribution given in pursuit of benefits for the community.

WALGA President Mayor Tracey Roberts congratulated Cr Craigie on her award and her many achievements across her 17 years’ service in the sector.

“Lynne is widely acknowledged and respected for her collaborative, engaging and inclusive leadership style, and has been an inspiration to many Elected Members throughout her service at both the Shire of East Pilbara and WALGA,” Mayor Roberts said.

“As the WALGA President, she was instrumental in numerous advocacy and organisational achievements, including negotiations for a new agreement with the State on shared vehicle licence revenues and rejuvenation of the State Local Government Partnership agreement.”

Mayor Roberts said Cr Craigie’s contribution to the sector received a prestigious commendation in 2019 with a Medal of the Order of Australia and WALGA is proud to award her their highest honour in the Local Government Medal.

“Cr Craigie has a passion for her community and has been a stalwart of the Local Government sector,” she said.

“She has worked tirelessly to unite the sector and drive positive projects and programs as a proactive community representative.

“We thank her for what she has done for the East Pilbara region and the entire sector.”

Cr Craigie was among the 31 Local Government Elected Members and Local Government Officers who received a Local Government Honours Award, announced as part of the 2020 WALGA Annual General Meeting.

“These awards recognise the leaders who, through many years of hard work and personal commitment, created communities that thrive and prosper, even in the face of global adversity,” Mayor Roberts said.
# 2020 Honours Award recipients

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEDAL

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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Cr Lynne Craigie OAM</td>
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## LONG AND LOYAL SERVICE AWARD

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<td>Cr David Boothman JP</td>
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<td>Brian Caporn</td>
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<td>Ian (Sam) Collard</td>
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## MERIT AWARD

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<td>Cr Joe Ferrante</td>
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<td>Lynn Fisher</td>
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<td>Mayor Mark Irwin</td>
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<td>Geraldine Hinkley</td>
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<td>Cr Shelley Hmeljak</td>
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<td>Douglas Kelly</td>
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<td>Michael Meredith</td>
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<td>Cr Stephanie Proud JP</td>
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<td>Cr Joy Stewart</td>
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Federal Budget Funds Will Help NSW Councils Drive a Locally Led Economic Recovery

A range of Federal Budget funding announcements will help NSW Councils drive a locally led economic recovery – but there is still more to do, Local Government NSW (LGNSW) said.

LGNSW President Linda Scott said the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was writ large on the Federal Budget handed down by Treasurer Josh Frydenberg.

“The economic devastation wreaked by drought, floods, bushfires and COVID has hit all levels of Government, including Councils,” Cr Scott said.

“Councils provide a vast range of community infrastructure and services, and are ready to drive a locally led recovery which creates local jobs and keeps money flowing through local economies.

“It would have been great to see a boost in Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) beyond the $1.24 billion allocated, to support this process.

“But Local Government recognises the pressure on federal funds and there is still a lot in the Budget that will directly benefit Councils and the communities they serve."

Key among the announcements were a range of road and local infrastructure packages, including:

- Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program - $1 billion over two years, taking total funding of this initiative to $1.5 billion.
- National Road Safety Program – a $2 billion commitment over two years to improve safety conditions on roads.
- Infrastructure Investment NSW – $2.7 billion from 2020-21 for priority road and rail projects in NSW to support economic recovery and jobs, increasing the Government’s total commitment to transport infrastructure in NSW to over $39 billion.
- Black Spot Program - $137 million to improve the safety of road sites that have been identified as high-risk areas for serious crashes.
- Bridges Renewal Program - $89.7 million to replace or upgrade bridges across the nation.
- Roads to Recovery – more than $590 million for national roads maintenance, an increase of more than $90 million from 2019-20.

“NSW Councils manage and maintain 90% of the state’s roads, so this funding is lifeline for them, while the investment in community infrastructure recognises the critical role played by Councils in keeping local workers in job,” she said.

Cr Scott also welcomed the announcement of $190 million to kickstart the Recycling Modernisation Fund – designed to complement state funding for new infrastructure to sort, process and remanufacture waste.

“Building a circular economy with homegrown waste solutions is a critical component of LGNSW’s Save Our Recycling campaign, and I would urge the NSW Government to come to the party through the use of the $800 million Waste Levy collected each year,” she said. Other positive initiatives included:

- Building Better Regions Fund – an additional $200 million funding, including $100 million dedicated for tourism infrastructure
- Resilience funding - $100 million in 2020-21 to support the long-term drought resilience of Local Governments
- Commonwealth Home Support Program - $1.6 billion over four years for an additional 23,000 home care packages.
- “More than half of NSW’s Councils deliver aged care services under the Commonwealth Home Support Program, so these additional packages are certainly a good start,” she said.

Cr Scott said the 2020-21 federal Budget was another step towards recovery, with further progress expected in the NSW State Budget in November.

“There is no quick fix – economic recovery will be an ongoing process, and each tier of government is working hard to play its part,” she said.

“LGNSW is committed to supporting Councils so they can do what they do best: lead their local communities in a desperately needed financial recovery.”

Councils Welcome Much-Needed Federal Boost to Roads, Training and Community Infrastructure Funding

A multi-million-dollar Federal Budget boost to roads, apprenticeships and community infrastructure funding has been welcomed by Queensland Councils.

Local Government Association of Queensland President and Sunshine Coast Mayor Mark Jamieson thanked Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack and Treasurer Josh Frydenberg for recognising the critical role Councils can play in the economic recovery effort though funding measures announced in this week’s Budget.

“The $1 billion dollar boost to the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCIP) over two years will ensure the pipeline of works currently underway in local communities across Queensland can continue, supporting and creating jobs and helping to sustain local supply chains,” Mayor Jamieson said.

Queensland Councils are expected to share in more than $200 million in extra funding over two years under this program, in addition to the more than $101 million in LRCIP funding they received when the program was first announced in May in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mayor Jamieson said Councils would also benefit from funding through programs like Roads to Recovery, Bridges Renewal, Building Better Regions, Regional Recovery Partnerships, the Regional Connectivity program and the Transforming Australia’s Waste and Recycling Industry initiative.

“Local government can also access funding under a $1.2 billion Commonwealth program designed to fund 100,000 new apprentices,” Mayor Jamieson said.
“Queensland Councils are able to offer training across more than 240 occupational areas. Allowing Local Government to access this funding means more opportunities for young people to find work in their local community.

“Programs like the Commonwealth’s Drought Communities Program Extension have proven that Councils are best placed to ensure stimulus funding is delivered where it is needed most in their communities in order to deliver the best outcome for local economies.

“We are grateful to see this work acknowledged with the creation of further partnerships with the Commonwealth through initiatives like the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.”

Mayor Jamieson said Councils remained disappointed, however, with the lack of a significant increase to Financial Assistance Grants.

“The Federal Government must ensure extra FAGs funding flows in future years, so the economic sustainability of Councils and their communities is maintained,” he said.

Mayor Jamieson said Councils would continue to advocate for the return of FAGs funding to one per cent of total taxation revenue.

A central component of the revised Bill is a new rates oversight scheme, which would function as follows:

• Once every three years (on a rotating schedule) Councils will provide relevant information to the Essential Services Commission of SA (ESCOSA) about their current long-term financial plan, infrastructure and asset management plan and annual business plan and budget for review.

• ESCOSA will review this information and provide a report to the Council on whether their plans and rates are appropriate and – if relevant – advice on how they can be improved.

• Councils would then be required to publish the advice received from ESCOSA in their future Annual Business Plans and the community will have their say through a public consultation process.

• If a Council fails to address any serious or systemic issues, the Minister has sufficient existing powers available to seek remedy from any Council that is not operating within the requirements of the Act.

Mayor Telfer said “Unlike previous ‘rate capping’ proposals that would have given the Minister broad powers to arbitrarily override Council decision making on local plans and priorities, this proposal is designed to help Councils to improve their performance over time and increase transparency for ratepayers.”

“Council rates have been trending down for years, and this year we’ve seen many Councils freeze their rates, and provide millions of dollars in rate relief to households and businesses impacted by COVID-19.”

“Elements of this Bill have been shaped by the ideas put on the table by all parties in recent years, and by the firm resolve of the Parliament not to accept previous legislative proposals that were not in the best interest of South Australians.”

“It was disappointing to see Labor playing politics today, indicating their support for rate capping after it had been removed from the Bill, and after they have consistently opposed the policy for the past six years.”

“Labor needs to stop shifting the goal posts by making policy on the run.”

“We want to see this Bill passed quickly so Councils can realise the benefits from the new processes and structures it will establish, including the creation of a new Local Government Behaviour Panel.”

“This isn’t the time for political point scoring – we need to work together so the benefits can flow into our communities.”

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The following pictures celebrate the achievements of Local Government in Western Australia. Any WA Local Government that has held an event or function and wants to have it featured in Western Councillor is encouraged to contact Brenda Law-Yat at the WA Local Government Association via email: bliawyat@walga.asn.au

ALBANY

City of Albany have extended their partnership with Rio Tinto to provide dedicated youth support in Albany for the next three years and support community groups to recover from COVID-19.

Rio Tinto have also provided the City with COVID-19 relief grant funding for a number of community groups to reconnect with residents and neighbourhoods across Albany as restrictions ease.

BAYSWATER

City of Bayswater has unveiled concept plans for the redevelopment of the much loved Maylands Waterland facility, developed by renowned landscape architect, Dr Josh Byrne, and his team at Josh Byrne & Associates. The concept plans are based on feedback from the community and will see water play areas, inspired by local native flora and fauna, open for little ones to enjoy by November 2021.

The Maylands Waterland redevelopment was fast tracked as part of the City’s $5.09 million local economic and social stimulus package.

ARMADALE

In August, the City of Armadale successfully relocated six Claret Ash trees to Frye Park, brought on by the Metronet-driven Denny Avenue Level Crossing Removal project. The trees, known for their broad shade canopy and rich green leaves, were transported from Albany Highway. Planted around 25 years ago, the trees are semi-mature. Preparation for the process took three days, with a further three days for transportation, planting and staking. Retention of trees, where possible, addresses the City’s key targets within the Urban Forest Strategy.

Photo Credit: 7 to 1 Photography
**BELMONT**

The City of Belmont launched a new mobile-optimised website in September. The website is accessible on mobile, tablet and desktop, and offers a wide range of new content, upgraded features and a user-friendly design. The navigation has been redeveloped and the website features an enhanced predictive search function, Explore Your Neighbourhood section, Events Calendar and Community Directory. In the first week of launch there were 8000 visitors to the home page.

**BUSSELTON**

On Monday, 21 September the City marked International Day of Peace by planting a sapling taken from a Ginkgo tree which miraculously survived the A-bombing of Hiroshima in 1945.

The tree is the first of its kind to be planted in the South West. Thanks to the City of Fremantle and Mayors for Peace, Fremantle for donating the sapling.

Spread peace – not just today, but every day!

Pictured: Caspar and Erin Adson, Mayor Grant Henley and Pauline Vukelic.

**BROOME**

Premier Mark McGowan and Regional Development Minister Alannah MacTiernan visited Broome on Saturday, 22 September to announce the preferred tenderer for Stage 2 of the Chinatown Revitalisation Project.

The project, which is a $29.3 million initiative funded by the Shire of Broome and WA State Government, will rejuvenate Broome’s town centre by refreshing streetscapes and providing recreation places for residents and visitors, with construction work to start in November.

Pictured: Representatives from the Shire of Broome, Kimberley Development Commission, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, and preferred tenderer Georgiou Group, with Premier Mark McGowan.

**BRUCE ROCK**

Shire of Bruce Rock staff recently attended a ‘Talk to a Mate’ mental health breakfast where each employee was presented with a new work shirts, designed by Australian Workwear Brand Trademutt. Their bright and colourful pattern is designed to be a conversation starter around mental health in men.

Pictured: Representatives from the Shire of Broome.
CANNING

The City of Canning’s first smart park – Wharf Street Basin Next Generation Community Park – is open.

You can meet local wildlife, be a scientist by using your mobile phone to play games and view water data on an AR app – Smart Canning.

The park has Internet of Things (IoT) sensors to measure, water quality, weather conditions and power use, free WiFi, smart bins and irrigation, solar power, a small nature playground, an informal educational space, a boardwalk and a 40m mural.

Find out more at www.canning.wa.gov.au/smartpark

Pictured: Member for Swan Hon Steve Irons MP, City of Canning Mayor Patrick Hall and Murray Yarran

CUNDERDIN AND QUAIRADING

Youth from Cunderdin and Quairading came together in August in Cunderdin to take part in a free Community Laser Tag event. The event raised awareness of drug and alcohol abuse, as well as built relationships between the local Police Officers and St John Ambulance volunteers. The event was made possible with the support from the Shire of Cunderdin, Shire of Quairading and Western Australia Police Community Crime Prevention Fund.

DALWALLINU

The Shire of Dalwallinu held a Community Celebration Day to bring the community together after the turbulent year we have had so far due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Council provided free children’s activities, afternoon tea, an evening meal and live entertainment.

The turnout was amazing and everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable day.

Pictured: Cr Chontelle Stone, Fremantle MHR Josh Wilson, Member for Jandakot Yaz Mubarakai, Cr Phil Eva, City of Cockburn Mayor Logan Howlett, Cr Phoebe Corke and Cr Lara Kirkwood.

DENMARK

Denmark residents got their hands dirty this month, installing a sustainable, fire-wise garden from the ground up in the town’s CBD.

The Shire of Denmark workshop, run by Chris Ferreira and his team from the Forever Project, was the last in a series supporting communities to raise their awareness and resilience around bushfire risk. The series was funded by the federal government’s Natural Disaster Resilience Program.
**DERBY/WEST KIMBERLEY**

The Shire of Derby/West Kimberley has been aiming to reach as many of its 8000 residents as possible as part of developing its 2021 Strategic Community Plan. This includes engaging appropriately with its Indigenous community, which makes up 3/4 of its population.

Pictured: Shire Officers, Sarah Smith and Isaac Buckle at a Derby community consultation session in August.

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**EAST FREMANTLE**

The Town of East Fremantle took a big step along the path to sincere reconciliation with the first meeting of the Working Group on Monday, 5 October. A group of Elected Members and community members, guided by Noongar Whadjuk elders and expert consultants, came together in a spirit of collaboration and respect to craft a Reconciliation Action Plan that will reflect local Aboriginal history, story, places and culture in East Fremantle.

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**DOVERIN**

Rosey forms a second part of the Tin Dog Territory for Dowerin. Rosey was developed as part of the Pioneers’ Pathway Project enabling pioneering towns to have the opportunity to create stories for residents and visitors an insight into the history of Dowerin. Rosey is two thirds the size of the original tin dog, Rusty. Located along the main street of Dowerin, Rosey was designed & constructed by local business Dowerin Engineering.

Pictured: Shire President Cr Darrel Hudson, CEO Rebecca McCall, Shire Deputy President Cr Bev Ward and Dowerin Engineering Works Director Jason Gard.

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**EXMOUTH**

The Shire of Exmouth collaborated with local artist and Exmouth gallery owner Sadie James for this interactive piece of art at the recently refurbished toilet block at Bundegi Beach. Visitors and residents alike are invited to ‘hook’ one of the iconic Marlins and enjoy the vibrant beach and its facilities.

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**GINGIN**

The Shire of Gingin has partnered with IT Vision to be the early adopter of the Altus Financial Suite. This is an exciting opportunity for Shire staff to provide direct input into the design of this cloud-based solution. IT Vision will support the Shire on migration, training, go-live and change management across a range of modules including Accounts Payable & Receivable, Asset Ledger, Bank Reconciliation, Bonds & Deposits, General Ledger, Loans, Project Accounting, Purchasing and Receipting. This modern and intuitive solution will help the Shire realise improved cost/time savings in addition to the introduction of a more modern workflow.
GOSNELLS

Residents near Robinson Park in Gosnells celebrated their beautiful new park and playground with a community event on Friday, 18 September.

The 2.9ha park was redeveloped to feature a nature-based playground, picnic areas with seating and shade, barbecues, a path network, basketball half-court and dog exercise area.

Families enjoyed the new park facilities with a free sausage sizzle, Park Play session, inflatable play equipment and plenty of games and activities with the City’s Nomad youth trailer.

JOONDALUP

Joondalup Mayor Albert Jacob was among the first group of people to scale the recently opened 21-metre-high stairway at the Whitfords Nodes Health and Wellbeing Hub.

The stairway allows users to undertake a vigorous exercise regime, running or walking up and down the incline, in a beautiful natural setting.

It is a major component of the $2.14 million Health and Wellbeing Hub, which was officially opened on Saturday 26 September and brings together a range of fitness activities into one location, increasing recreational opportunities for locals and visitors.

The City received funding for the project from Lotterywest and the Federal Government’s Community Sport Infrastructure grant program.

GREATER GERALDTON

West Australian Music’s ‘Sounds of the Mid West’ has taken over the Queens Park Theatre (QPT), turning it into a recording studio for the next few weeks.

‘Sounds of the Mid West’ recording project provides 10 local artists with the opportunity to record their original song with some of WA’s best producers. The final compilation will be released next year by West Australian Music to local and national radio, industry and the public.

The City of Greater Geraldton and QPT are proud to host the opportunity and find a way to activate the award-winning entertainment venue after closing due to COVID-19 health restrictions.

KARRATHA

The City of Karratha just wrapped up its Try Local initiative that saw every household receive a $100 digital voucher to spend at registered local businesses with the aim of offering some financial support for businesses that are suffering due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

More than $500,000 was spent at roughly 125 local businesses through the initiative. Hats off to all the residents who got involved!
LAKE GRACE
The Shire of Lake Grace has gone into partnership with the Australian Vehicle Association and installed an Electric Vehicle Charger located at the Railway Station along Stubbs Street. While charging your vehicles, why not have a cuppa at our coffee shops, shop at our local IGA, have a jump on the newly installed Jumping Pillow or visit the AIM Hospital Museum?

MOUNT MAGNET
The Murchison Geo Region Tourism Project was officially launched on Friday, 18 September in Mount Magnet. Geo-tourism is an emerging global economic development opportunity that fosters tourism based upon the geology and landscapes that shape the character of a region. The Murchison Geo Region Tourism project is a collaboration of the seven Murchison Local Governments: Cue, Meekatharra, Mount Magnet, Murchison, Sandstone, Yalgoo and Wiluna together with the Mid West Development Commission.

The launch of the project was officially opened by Ms Pat Barblett AM, President and original founder of Forum Advocating Cultural & Eco-tourism Inc and attended by over 80 people that included a visit to The Granites which is one of the Murchison Geo Region site locations, approximately nine kilometres north of Mount Magnet.

Pictured: Member for North West Central Hon Vince Catania MLA, Forum Advocating Cultural & Eco-tourism Inc President Pat Barblett AM, Shire of Mount Magnet Cr Karen Morrissey and Edith Cowan University Professor Ross Dowling.

MORAWA
Shire of Morawa President Cr Karen Chappel is pictured with Jayne Leeson, who organised the Morawa Long Table Lunch that was held on Saturday, 15 August. The day attracted 120 ladies from Morawa and the region and it truly was a wonderful celebration of good food, drinks and company. The event raised a fantastic total of $12,051.35 for the Breast Cancer Research Centre of WA. It is great to see the community come together for a great cause.

MUKINBUDIN
The Shire of Mukinbudin has completed the construction of two houses for the purposes of housing for Department of Communities employees. Mukinbudin District High School teaching staff and their families will be relocating into the houses during the October School holidays. The Department of Communities have entered a 10-year Lease Agreement, ensuring the viability of this valuable project for the community.
MUNDRARING

Last month, Shire of Mundaring celebrated the winners and finalists of the Explore and Expose Photography Competition at a special event at Boya Community Centre. Residents were invited to explore their local area and expose what connects them to the Perth hills through the camera lens. Odile Pouliquen-Young won first place with her entry, ‘Pontoon in the Mist.’ View the free exhibition at Boya Community Centre until Thursday, 10 December.

MURRAY

The Dwellingup Trails and Visitor Centre, Western Australia’s first purpose-built trails facility, officially opened its doors on Thursday, 10 September and has since welcomed a keen influx of trails and adventure enthusiasts.

The Centre is the place to go before and after hitting the adventure town’s mountain bike, walk, paddle, railway, four-wheel drive and horse trails, and is equipped with a bike wash area, hot showers and toilets.

A café, laundromat, trails retail and equipment hire and shuttle service will commence operation in the next few months.

The Centre’s visitor servicing has been enhanced digitally with the incorporation of virtual reality and interactive screens as well as a destination magazine and new, dedicated tourism website.

NARROGIN

A fine salmon gum in the Shire’s Yilliminning Reserve has been dedicated to George Brockway (deceased) who has become known as the “The Forgotten Conservationist”. An official opening was attended by family members and those associated with the funding and building of the site to commemorate the pioneering work of the forester. The signage and infrastructure is proudly supported with support from the Shire of Narrogin and the Western Australian Forest Products Commission.

Pictured: Roger Underwood the project driver, Shire President Cr Leigh Ballard and Brockway family representative, Walter Brockway.

NAREMBEEN

The Emu Hill Public Cemetery in Narembeen has undertaken significant re-development works. The Shire recognised the cultural and historical significance of the Cemetery and were committed to ensuring it was well preserved and enhanced in keeping with the natural features and landscape of the Cemetery. The Shire is proud of the final outcome, it provides a place of remembrance and reflection for the community.
STIRLING

After a big season earlier this year, the City’s Sunset Veranda pop-up venue won a state honour in the 2020 Parks & Leisure Australia (WA) Awards of Excellence. The venue received the Major Event of the Year Award and is now in the running for a national award. It was a landmark season for Sunset Veranda with record-breaking crowds enjoying more than 100 events including comedy, music and family-friendly activities.

Pictured: RiskWest Partner Mark Humphreys (award sponsor), City of Stirling Events Officer Maree Licastro and Mayor Mark Irwin.

PORT HEDLAND

Port Hedland Leisure opened the doors to its flagship fitness facility, the Gratwick Aquatic and Fitness Centre, on Saturday, 19 September. The facility underwent extensive refurbishment works, accessibility improvements and the installation of state of the art Technogym equipment.

Town CEO Carl Askew said the Town has endeavoured to create a fitness facility which empowers locals to reach their health and fitness goals, whether they’re shift workers in the mining and resources industry, families faced with time constraints or young professionals.

SERPENTINE JARRAHDALE

The Shire hosted Premier Mark McGowan and his Cabinet Ministers for their Community Cabinet Meeting on Monday, 24 August. The meeting coincided with the announcement of the preferred location for the new Byford Train Station as part of the eight kilometre extension of the Armadale rail line. Shire President Michelle Rich said delivery of the future Byford rail extension, and a station located in the heart of the Byford, aligned with the Shire’s long-term vision for a vibrant and connected town centre.

ROCKINGHAM

The City of Rockingham and Tourism Rockingham encouraged Western Australian adventure seekers to visit Rockingham during spring, with the launch of the Rediscover Adventure, Rediscover Rockingham marketing campaign.

The campaign promoted the wide range of active outdoor experiences and adventure activities available within the Rockingham region. The campaign was spearheaded by the Rediscover Rockingham Adventure Holidays competition.

This stunning photo of Cape Peron was the first winner in the competition.
**WAGIN**

Wagin was recently visited by lots of very well-trained working sheepdogs and their owners, for three days of trials in the Wagin dog trial arena.

The event brought around 50 people to Wagin and four times as many dogs to participate in the trials, to camp in the RV grounds and while they were together, they held their AGM.

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**SUBIACO**

Subiaco was recently transformed into a toe-tapping, groove-filled cultural melting pot for 10 colourful evenings for the Subi Lounge Series.

The See Subiaco event brought a diverse line-up of immersive live music to Subiaco’s venues, laneways and streets to help support the local economy, businesses, artists and performers by encouraging visitation, increasing vibrancy and providing work opportunities for artists in Perth.

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**SWAN**

Ellenbrook residents are one step closer to having a state-of-the-art recreation and aquatic facility in their own backyard.

The City of Swan celebrated the start of construction on the new indoor facility in Ellenbrook on Tuesday, 15 September.

Mayor Kevin Bailey was joined by Attorney General and Federal Member for Pearce, the Hon. Christian Porter and Member for Swan Hills, Jessica Shaw MLA to break ground on the multimillion-dollar project.

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**WANNEROO**

City of Wanneroo’s ‘Team Mila’ recently took out the WA division of the 2020 LG Professionals Australasian Management Challenge, and will now represent Wanneroo on a national stage. The challenge is a simulation-based development and learning program that offers team building and networking opportunities using scenarios likely faced by a Local Government executive management team. Teams are scored on a number of criteria, including their effectiveness, synergy and creative thinking.

Pictured: Noelene Jennings, Director Corporate Strategy and Performance, team members Dean Kerry, Beth Weston, Melissa Shaw, Peter Larkin, Sarah Hingston and Amanda Broome, Jan O’Halloran, Coordinator Capability and Culture, Daniel Simms, Chief Executive Officer.
Together with the Association Honours, the WALGA AGM featured the awarding of scholarships for the Diploma of Local Government – Elected Member, which have been renamed in honour of WALGA’s Training Manager Jacqui Dodd who sadly passed away earlier in the year.

In announcing the change, WALGA CEO Nick Sloan said Jacqui was a fun and hardworking team member who led the Association’s Training Team for nearly nine years.

“As Training Manager, she managed the day-to-day workings of WALGA’s Registered Training organisation and advocated passionately for the sector in providing industry advice via the Department of Training and Workforce Development and informing the national training agenda through the Industry National Reference Committee,” he said.

“Outside of work, Jacqui’s passions lay in the water; with scuba diving and beach holidays with her husband Les always on the agenda.

“Her passing was felt across the entire organisation and by many in the sector who have worked with her across the years, and so we decided to rename these scholarships in her honour.”

The scholarship provides assistance to complete the Diploma of Local Government (Elected Member), comprising course and assessment costs, as well as contribution towards travel and accommodation.

Nick congratulated the Diploma Scholarship recipients, saying through their application they were able to demonstrate their passion to engage in professional development and share the benefits their training will be able to bring their local communities.

“It’s great to see such commitment to ensuring that these individuals have the essential knowledge and skills to perform their role as Elected Members.”

- Cr Georgie Carey, Town of Mosman Park
- Cr Peter Smith, Shire of Quairading
- Cr Nige Jones, City of Joondalup
- Cr Ramesh Rajagopalan, Deputy Shire President at the Shire of Bruce Rock.
ECONOMIC UPDATE

STATE AND FEDERAL BUDGET 2020

After a five-month delay, the State and Federal Budgets were handed down in recent weeks, and revealed the significant and lasting impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our economic and financial position.

Both Budgets were centred on measures aimed at supporting the economy through this challenging period and will rely on debt in an attempt to kick-start the economic recovery. The State Government’s focus is on asset investment, while the Commonwealth is using the tax and transfer system to support households and provide incentives for businesses to invest.

There were some positive news for Local Governments. In particular, the Federal Government delivered a $1 billion investment in local roads and community infrastructure, in a vote of confidence in the sector’s ability to drive local economic prosperity.

Local Governments that rely heavily on domestic and international visitors will also benefit from the Federal Budget’s $50 million Regional Tourism Recovery initiative, and a new $200 million round of the Building Better Regions Fund.

The State Budget was more limited in its support for the sector, and contained little by way of new announcements. The headline of the State Budget was the previously announced $5.5 billion COVID recovery plan, and an Asset Investment Program worth $27 billion that will be funded through operating surpluses and additional debt.

The State Government has already announced many of the initiatives in both the COVID Recovery Plan and the Asset Investment Program, so it was a budget of few surprises.

The key initiatives that will be of welcome news to the sector include:

- $7.6 million to implement the ‘Stop Puppy Farming’ legislation
- $5 million to assist local coastal managers to protect coastal erosion hotspot sites
- $15 million to treat priority bushfire and other risks on unallocated or unmanaged Crown land, including that under the care of Local Government, and
- $16.1 million over four years to target high casualty and high-risk intersections on Local Government roads within the metropolitan area.

However, the Government missed the opportunity to invest in programs that could quickly boost jobs and provide lasting benefits to WA communities such as the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund and the commodities freight route program.

We were also disappointed that there are going to be significant increases in some key fees and charges that are imposed on Local Government, including increases in excess of 10% in 2020-21 for street lighting tariffs for Horizon Power customers and 2.9% for electricity tariffs.

These are important issues for the sector, and WALGA will ensure they remain a central part of our advocacy agenda in the coming period.
A joint project that saw collaboration between the Shire of Broome and the State Government received the Commendation Award at the Planning Institute Australia National Excellence Plan to Place Award.

The Chinatown Revitalisation Project is a partnership project between the Shire of Broome, the Kimberley Development Commission and Development WA.

Shire of Broome President Cr Harold Tracey said the Chinatown precinct is an area rich in history and culture, with the vibrant town centre’s story spanning back to the heady days of the pearling industry’s establishment in the 1880s.

“Stage 1 of the revitalisation project included the construction of a stunning lookout over scenic Roebuck Bay, the renovation of streetscapes, provision of shade structures, installation of new lighting, deployment of captivating public art and interpretation pieces, and rollout of upgraded technology,” Cr Tracey said.

“Extensive consultation with the community and local stakeholders has ensured Stage One works recognise the importance of Broome’s multiculturalism, with elements paying homage to the role different nationalities played in the town’s establishment.

“This include the Traditional Land Holders, the Yawuru People, and elements from the Japanese, Chinese and Malaysian communities that settled in Western Australia while the pearling industry was in its pomp.”

The project rose to prominence by first clinching the PIA WA 2019 Awards for Planning Excellence, which meant it was a nominee in the national awards.

The national commendation award was announced on Thursday, 24 September.

The panel of judges said the project represented an incredible commitment to building community around an iconic Australian place, by bringing businesses, residents, diverse cultures and other stakeholders together, underpinned by a clear framework for day-to-day operations and management.

“Supported by a dedicated Investment and Development Coordinator, the project has strengthened the identity and improved the amenity of the place; doing more than simply delivering a civil works program,” they said.
Three Local Governments will participate in a new WALGA road safety initiative which aims to demonstrate the significant influence Local Governments can have in the prevention of road death and serious injury through the adoption and application of best practice in road safety.

The demonstration project will see the Shires of Dardanup, Esperance and Manjimup work closely with WALGA’s RoadWise Program to embed a road safety management system, based on the safe system approach, for improving the safety performance of the local road network.

Putting a road safety management system in place will enable the participating Local Governments to prioritise effort and resources to better guide actions in working towards a point in time where no harm occurs on local roads.

The management system being used in the delivery of the WALGA RoadWise Local Government Safe System Demonstration Project is based on the International Standard for Road Traffic Safety Management System (ISO 39001).

This is believed to be the first example of Local Governments using ISO 39001 in Australia and will thus showcase the Shires of Dardanup, Esperance and Manjimup, within and outside the sector, as leaders in the application of best practice road safety.

This project has strategic importance for the field of road safety and for the Local Government sector. There is growing recognition, at both national and state levels, that involving Local Governments in the implementation of the Safe System Approach (considered best practice) will be critical to achieving significant road safety gains for communities.

Representing a new direction for WALGA’s RoadWise, the project will place a strategic emphasis on Local Governments’ role as road managers planning authorities and fleet managers, in addition to their community development and leadership roles. It will be complemented by existing partnerships between RoadWise Road Safety Advisors and the RoadWise or road safety committees that will remain in place.

Congratulations to the three Local Governments taking part in this project – the outcomes of which will have the potential to be applied across diverse range of Local Governments, with positive implications for the sector in the future.

SELECTING THE PILOT LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTICIPANTS

In identifying Local Governments to approach as potential participants in the Local Government Safe System Demonstration Project, a process was undertaken based on specific criteria and rationale.

Key factors included Local Governments with a range of road types (to enable outcomes to be transferrable and relevant to a range of other Local Governments), road expenditure effort from Local Government resources, population, staff numbers (to ensure capacity and capability to deliver the project), road length, killed and serious injury (KIS) rates, and Local Government readiness, willingness and ability to participate in the project.

Shortlisted Local Governments were approached and provided with briefings about the Project to gauge interest in participation, with the Shires of Dardanup, Esperance and Manjimup progressing to the project proposal stage and formally agreeing to work with WALGA’s RoadWise to develop and implement a road traffic safety management system.

Pictured: Shire of Esperance Chief Executive Officer Shane Burge promoting the Shire’s participation in the Local Government Safe System Demonstration Project to the Esperance community through the Shire’s Facebook page.
• Local Governments manage 87% of the road network
• Just under 60% of all deaths and serious injuries occur on the local road network.
• Between 2013 and 2017, 3,817 people were killed or seriously injured on metropolitan local roads; 1,582 people were killed or seriously injured on regional local roads.
• Road crashes on local roads cost the community $965.1M per year (on average) over the five year period from 2013 to 2017.
• The most common crash types on local roads across WA that result in death or serious injury are intersection (30.5%), run-off-road (24.7%) and hit pedestrian (10.7%) crashes.

In a few short weeks, WA Super and Aware Super will finalise our merger, bringing some significant and exciting changes for our members. The union between WA Super and Aware Super makes sense, because of our shared culture, strategic priorities and most importantly our absolute commitment to putting our members first.

Following the merger, as the new WA State Manager, I am excited by all the opportunities we will have to continue to support our members to achieve the kind of retirement they want and deserve.

This new chapter in our history will build on the legacy of WA Super and provide members with the same access to quality local support; with the additional benefits of being able to make the most of products and services that come from being part of a large national fund.

By leveraging greater economies of scale, we expect to be able to pass on some further benefits to members such as reduced fees – including insurance, administration and investment fees – over time.

Over the past two years there has been significant consolidation in the superannuation sector including earlier this year when Aware Super merged with VicSuper to become Australia’s second-largest industry super fund. Several other big and small funds are also in active merger discussions, because it is clear that size and scale really do matter.

Why? For one, larger funds have access to more diverse investment options. Aware Super is increasingly bringing many of its investments in-house, reducing the costs of these transactions; savings which can be passed on to members through lower fees.

Through its size and investment strength, the Fund can also consider a broader range of investment opportunities including:

- Essential worker affordable housing developments – one of which was recently completed in Perth;
- Jobs growth initiatives for small to medium-sized businesses;
- Infrastructure investments including the Kings Square redevelopment in Fremantle;
- Market-leading agricultural and transport investments.

These direct investments have supported Aware Super to be a top-10 performer, including over the past financial year when the Fund delivered a positive return despite the challenging market.

Aware Super strongly believes that you do not need to compromise between doing well for members and good for the community. Its purpose is to be a force for good in super and retirement, shaping the best outcomes for its members, their families and communities, and the broader industry.

While Aware Super is a large national fund, one of the things that really differentiates it is its commitment to the community and to providing local service, advice and support.

Following the merger, we will have more than 60,000 members in WA who will still have access to local advice and support teams based in the current WA Super office in Perth.

Aware Super will also have part of its national telephone-based Member Service Centre in Perth, meaning members can still access this important service across the full span of business hours.

Aware Super is committed to WA, our members and community in just the same way WA Super has always been.
2020 has been a year of change for all of us. Our local government members have pivoted their services to support local communities and economies through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. A pandemic that has no confirmed end in sight and will undoubtedly make further demands of us to innovative and adapt to the new paradigm.

At LGIS we’ve been innovating too. Now more than ever the role and value of your mutual indemnity scheme is apparent as together we manage emerging risks and expand our cover to give members, their people – staff and volunteers - and communities even more protection. We’ve also got a new look.

Our new logo reflects our history and looks to the future emphasising the local government sectors ownership, led by WALGA as the Scheme’s Trustee.

ANNUAL REPORT

Our 2020 Annual Report is now available. Despite the latter half of the years’ upheaval the Scheme has remained financially strong, closing out the year with net assets ahead of the Board’s capital management plan.

LGIS Account Managers will be contacting and visiting all members to run through the year’s results. I encourage elected members to attend these sessions. A copy of the report can now be downloaded from lgiswa.com.au.

NEW SCHEME TREE MANAGEMENT MANUAL

A Scheme strength is that we’re focused solely on local government and look at the risk profile of the entire sector. Tree claims - branches, debris, roots and tree failure – continue to account for over 30% of all claims referred to LGIS Liability. From 2016 to 2020 there have been 2121 tree related claims. Although individually small the sheer number of claims has a significant dollar impact.
As part of an ongoing feature to celebrate 150 years of Local Government, Dr Chris Berry shares the next biography in his ‘Hall of Fame’ of key people influencing the sector since its inception.

1920s ELIZABETH CLAPHAM, THE FIRST WOMAN TO SERVE ON A COUNCIL

“...the first lady to seek municipal honours in Western Australia is Mrs. E. Clapham, wife of the energetic secretary of the Clothing Trades Union. Mrs. Clapham is nominating for the north ward of the Cottesloe Council and has the backing of an alert Progress Association. This paper will heartily welcome her success”  
(Westralian Worker 12 November 1920, page 1)

The distinction of being elected as the first woman Councillor was reported in various newspapers across the State from the Murchison Times and Day Dawn Gazette to the Albany Advertiser. Elizabeth Clapham came to WA from England and was active in various groups including the Perth Women’s Branch of the A.L.P and as an executive member of the Women’s Service Guild in 1919. The Guild had lobbied for the right of women to contest elections and were rewarded by the 1919 amendment of the Municipal Corporations Act which entitled women to contest municipal elections. Although a Labor supporter, Clapham may not have been recognised as a Labor candidate in her bid for Council office. The election was held on a Wednesday, with polling hours between 9am to 7pm. She defeated the sitting Councillor Robert Scott in Cottesloe’s North Ward, 144 votes to 105.

In Clapham’s years on Council (1920-1923), she was a regular attender at Council meetings and an active contributor from her first meeting. On that occasion, the Children’s Hospital had asked for financial assistance. The Minutes record that one Councillor argued that he was not in favour of council supporting an institution which he regarded as a government responsibility. Cr Clapham agreed but was able to convince the other Councillors that a donation could be made to tide the hospital over its financial stress. She participated in a deputation of representatives of the Cottesloe and Claremont Municipal Councils to the Colonial Secretary to protest against the action of the Commissioner of Public Health in deciding to appoint a joint health inspector for the two districts. While still a serving Councillor, she was part of the Australian Delegation to the International Women’s Suffrage Congress in Rome in May, 1923.1

Elizabeth Clapham did not renominate after her first term on Council concluded in December 1923. She was presented by the Cottesloe Municipal Council with a framed photograph of the Mayor and Councillors who served during her term of office. The Mayor, in making the presentation, spoke ‘in the highest terms of the efficient manner in which the first woman councillor in our State, Councillor Elizabeth Clapham, had discharged her duties.’

She continued to be associated with social welfare and women’s movements and was later appointed as a factory inspector before returning to England in 1926. In 1944 she was reported as living though the London blitz and still writing to her staunch friend, Mrs. John Curtin.

In her thesis on Women Municipal Councillors in Western Australia, Judy Skene says Clapham’s contribution has remained invisible in Western Australia’s historical record.2 Today she is remembered in a laneway, running from a shopping centre to a carpark in suburban Cottesloe.

While Clapham was the first woman elected, there were others putting their name forward but with less success, including Annie Hart in the Victoria Park ward of the City of Perth. Jessie Reid ran on a Christian temperance platform for a seat on the Kalgoorlie council in 1920, 1921 and 1922 without success. The early women Councillors in WA were almost all progressive, urban, radical, ALP, first-wave feminists. Nellie Tant was elected to the Bayswater Roads Board in 1921, serving just one year. The next woman (Beatrice Locke, Broome) was not elected until 1931. Fifty-five years passed before another woman was elected to Cottesloe Council.

Elizabeth Clapham (1869 – 1947)  
Source - State Library of Western Australia

References:
1 West Australian 28 April 1922, page 8; Sunday Times 8 July 1923, page 13  
A reminder about WA’s Capacity Market and ways to reduce your council’s capacity charges.

How and when you run your Council has an impact on your energy bill. To help make sense of how capacity charges are calculated we’ve broken down the way WA’s Capacity market works. To look to reduce your Council’s capacity charges, your Council should, subject to business needs, consider reducing consumption during the peak periods at the hottest time of the year.

Capacity represents the need for adequate generation resources.
This ensures that WA’s energy supply is reliable and there’s enough electricity to meet the state’s demand.

The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) pays generators to ensure there will be enough energy, especially when demand is at its peak.

This capacity payment is paid for by consumers.

To keep things fair, the amount your council pays is dependent on your usage during the peak trading intervals.

Peak trading intervals are determined by the AEMO.
These are the three highest demand trading intervals (half-hour periods) on the four days with the highest demand between December and March the previous year.

What your council uses during the 12 peak trading intervals won’t have an impact on your capacity charges until the following capacity year.
The capacity year is from 1 October to 30 September.

Ways to keep costs down for your council.
The higher you demand during the 12 peak trading intervals, the higher your future capacity charges will be.
To reduce your capacity charges for the next capacity year, you can look at reducing your energy consumption between 3pm and 8pm on the hottest days from December to March.
Peak trading intervals vary each year. Last year’s 12 peak trading intervals were recorded on the following days listed in the below table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Peak Trading Interval</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12th December 2019</td>
<td>5:30PM to 6:00PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd February 2020</td>
<td>5:30PM to 6:00PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th February 2020</td>
<td>5:30PM to 6:00PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th February 2020</td>
<td>5:00PM to 5:30PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For any enquiries regarding capacity charges, or purchasing solar for your Council you can contact Ana Farla, Account Manager, on (08) 6212 2001, or visit synergy.net.au/solarreturnbusiness.
Workplace health and safety laws will undergo some changes in Western Australia, however there is no need to be alarmed about this.

The Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) Bill 2019 passed by the legislative council on 21 October. It’s expected that the Bill will become law soon after consideration of amendments by the legislative assembly in November.

However, the WHS Act will not become law until regulations are complete and work to develop the regulations will continue into 2021.

The big question for all WA Councils is ‘How does this impact my organisation?’


The new laws aim to offer greater protection to Western Australian workers, capturing modern employment relationships, such as subcontractors or casual workers, not just the classic employer/employee relationship. In particular, they will introduce the term ‘person conducting a business or undertaking’.

The WHS Act will include a number of new aspects such as criminalising industrial manslaughter, increased penalties, prohibiting insurance coverage for WHS penalties and the introduction of enforceable undertakings as an alternative penalty.

These new laws bring WA in line with other States in Australia, with some amendments unique to Western Australia.

**WHEN WILL IT BE IMPLEMENTED?**

The WHS Act will not be operational until regulations are complete.

Work to develop the regulations is underway and will continue in 2021. This means Local Governments will have time to become familiar with what is expected of them as part of the new Act.

Transitional arrangements will be in place to allow duty holders, including Local Governments, sufficient time to adjust their safe systems of work to the new requirements.

Local Governments may find that some of their policies, procedures and systems will need to be adjusted to reflect changes. LGIS’ team of workplace safety experts are available to provide support and assistance.

**SUPPORT FOR WA LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

LGIS and WALGA, together with law firm Clyde & Co, will be providing tailored advice on what the changes mean for the sector, through support materials, guidelines and information webinars.

More than 200 sector representatives have registered to attend the first in this series of webinars, with presenters as outlined below.

As more webinars are released, registration links will be published on the WALGA website and recordings will be made available to Members.

**ABOUT THE WHS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEBINAR**

**Clyde & Co Partner, Jonathan Wyatt**

Jonathan will provide an overview of the key changes and legal implications. He’ll also cover legal privilege and explore a number of relevant case studies.

**LGIS Member Services Manager, Andrew Greig**

Andrew will outline the insurance implications of the new workplace safety legislation.

**LGIS Occupational Safety & Health Program Manager, Emma Horsefield**

Emma will provide a combination of strategic and operational advice and guidance. This will include practical tips on how executives, managers, and supervisors can ensure that they are prepared for any changes, and be confident they are providing a safe work environment.
On 1 October 2020, the long anticipated Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) was launched in Western Australia. WALGA, on behalf of the sector, have been advocating for a Scheme for over 15 years.

It is anticipated the Scheme will increase resource recovery and community engagement and reduce litter and costs associated with recycling.

In 2006, WALGA adopted a Container Deposit Scheme Policy Statement and used that as the basis for advocacy. In 2012, prior to the State Election, the Association again undertook an advocacy campaign to promote the adoption of a Scheme – with the Chair of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council at the forefront - that was Hon Alannah MacTiernan, at the time Mayor of the City of Vincent.

In 2017, the Government announced they were going to progress a Scheme and the real work started. There was a great deal of detail to work through in the development of the Scheme, so WALGA established a Container Deposit Scheme Policy Forum, chaired by State Councillor Cr Doug Thompson, to ensure the Association had an ongoing link to the sector to inform advocacy. This meant that throughout the development of the Container Deposit Scheme, WALGA has been providing constructive, evidenced based input and facilitating Local Government engagement in the Scheme. As a result, although there may be room for improvement, the Scheme has some great outcomes already:

- 18 Local Governments are running refund points in WA – more than in any other State or Territory
- Of the jobs generated, over 40% have gone to people with a disability, long term unemployed or Aboriginal people
- 200 refund points opened on the first day of the Scheme, with at least another 29 to be opened in the coming year across WA.

This is in part due to the Local Governments planners who efficiently processed the Planning applications for the refund points – and at times prioritised this processing. Planning had been an issue in NSW and QLD when their Schemes were introduced and the State Government was very concerned it would be a problem in WA. However, through working with Local Government, Department of Planning and the Scheme Coordinator, the refund points were approved well within the statutory timeframes.

In early 2019, there was concern that not a lot of promotion was happening for the Scheme, so WALGA applied directly to the Environment Minister to seek funding to run promotional events with Local Government. Over the next two years WALGA attended 39 events, working with Local Governments across WA and collected nearly 100,000 containers.
Congratulations to all involved over the many years in the advocacy for, and development of, the Container Deposit Scheme. At time of writing, 20 days into the Scheme, 16 million containers had been collected. The mandatory target for the Scheme is to recycle 85% of containers by 2022 – this is the most ambitious target in Australia but together we can reach that!

For more information about your nearest refund point, visit the Containers for Change Website, www.containersforchange.com.au/wa

STATE COUNCIL BRIEFS

The following resolutions were made at a special State Council meeting held on Monday, 2 November at WALGA’s West Leederville office.

WALGA CORPORATE STRATEGY 2020-2025
That WALGA’s Corporate Strategy 2020-2025 be endorsed.

LGIS RE-BRANDING
That State Council endorse:
1. The rebrand of LGIS to align with WALGA with the addition of the WALGA triangle and palette and to include the descriptor sub text “Mutual Services”.
2. The LGIS logo as revised to exclude the sub text “Mutual Services” when applied to JLT/Marsh broking services offered through agreement with WALGA to the Local Government sector in WA.
State Council

Mayor Tracey Roberts JP..............................................................President
President Cr Karen Chappel ................................................Deputy President / Northern Country Zone
President Cr Ken Seymour ..............................................Avon-Midland Country Zone
President Cr Phil Blight .....................................................Central Country Zone
Cr Jenna Ledgevood ........................................................Central Metropolitan Zone
Cr Paul Kelly .................................................................Central Metropolitan Zone
Cr Cate McCullough ............................................................East Metropolitan Zone
Cr Catherine Ehrhardt ......................................................East Metropolitan Zone
President Cr Cheryl Cowell ........................................Gascoyne Country Zone
President Cr Malcolm Cullen ................................................Goldfields Esperance Country Zone
President Cr Stephen Strange .........................................Great Eastern Country Zone
Cr Ronnie Fleay ...........................................................Great Southern Country Zone
Cr Chris Mitchell JP ........................................................Kimberley Country Zone
Cr Les Price .................................................................Murchison Country Zone
Mayor Mark Irwin ............................................................North Metropolitan Zone
Cr Russ Fishwick JP ..............................................................North Metropolitan Zone
Cr Frank Cvitan JP ..............................................................North Metropolitan Zone
President Cr Michelle Rich ....................................................Pebbe Country Zone
Mayor Peter Long ............................................................Pebbe Country Zone
Cr Julie Brown .................................................................South East Metropolitan Zone
Mayor Ruth Butterfield ...................................................South East Metropolitan Zone
Mayor Carol Adams OAM ..................................................South Metropolitan Zone
Mayor Logan Howlett JP ..................................................South Metropolitan Zone
Cr Doug Thompson ...........................................................South Metropolitan Zone
President Cr Tony Dean .......................................................South West Country Zone
Ex-officio:
Mr Jamie Parry ...............................................................LG Professionals
Rt Hon the Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas ................................City of Perth