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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.

Nick Sloan
CEO
WALGA
Tel 9213 2025

Candy Choo
CEO
LG Professionals WA
Tel 9271 1136

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PEER SUPPORT TEAM HOTLINE NUMBERS
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Welcome to Issue 103 of Western Councillor

COVER:
East Pilbara’s annual Newman Family Fun Run and Half Marathon.
It is my great pleasure to be here as the President and talk about the achievements, and efforts of the sector.

I want to start by thanking you for joining us today; your support and presence here is indicative of the steps we’ve made in the right direction.

Local Government in Western Australia continues to be a leading example in collaboration and cooperation to achieve better outcomes for the community.

The State and Local Government Agreement paves an ongoing path towards a fruitful and ongoing partnership with the State Government. One of the promising outcomes is the Local Government Act reforms.

The Department has honoured the agreement by approaching us at the very start of the review process, and working closely with us in the drafting of the regulations.

The Local Government Act Review is an achievement that has seen high levels of engagement with our Members. More than 500 Elected Members and staff attended 19 facilitated workshops that were held across the State on the second phase of the Act Review.

A further 230 people attended a joint forum on the ‘Future of Local Government’ in January.

In addition to these events, WALGA gathered feedback from members, with 73 Member responses received during our consultation process - either through individual or Zone group feedback.

As part of the reform, the Minister has introduced requirements for Local Government Elections nominees to go through an online induction process – which means this cohort of Elected Members will better understand the scope of Local Government operations and be able to succeed in this role.

Further, Councillors will have two years to attend five modules of training. WALGA has been acknowledged in the legislation as one of the training providers, which gives credence to the quality of our training team.

Indeed, our Training arm has received approval by the Training Accreditation Council to be a Registered Training Organisation until 2025.

I hope Elected Members who have not done the training join their new colleagues. I, for one, am excited to welcome this new batch of Councillors who will be trained to the hilt.

Another collaboration with the Government is a joint elections campaign. We are partnering up with the Department to encourage greater participation in this year’s elections.

The campaign is scheduled to include television advertising on both metropolitan and country networks; online video content, a special campaign website and local radio advertising. It aims to encourage participation in Council elections to ensure that all views are heard.

It’s not due to go to air until later this month, but we have a sneak peek for you all today. As you can see, that’s the Local Government Sector, putting ourselves forward for the community.

Traditionally, we are a sector that does not acknowledge how good we are. But perhaps, we should be doing that.

Not everyone, especially in the media, has the capacity to acknowledge that fact – but I think we need to – and you deserve it.

A Select Committee into Local Government has been established, with broad terms of reference. We embrace this inquiry and are bullish about describing the scope of local government services to the committee.

It’s an opportunity to showcase our achievements, to let the committee know that we aren’t broken and we don’t need fixing.

That said however, we will not stand by if the process degenerates into a witch hunt.

Already you would have seen I have taken issue with one select committee member in using derogatory statements about the sector when calling for public submissions.

I have called for that committee member – who has clearly demonstrated his bias – to be removed from the committee.

Many of you have sent me messages of support in this regard and I genuinely appreciate this. However I would encourage you to also add your voices to the debate.

If you agree with my stance then please send a letter to the West or your local paper, help me show that the sector demands a fair and balanced process.

WALGA will be making a submission on behalf of the sector, but we
encourage all Members to submit their comments and request to appear before the Select Committee.

After all, Local Government has become everything and anything – where other spheres of governments have stepped away, Local Government has stepped in to fill the gap in the community.

These topics range from climate change, economic development, health, and homelessness.

Whether it is partnering up or stepping up, it is important that we continue to be resourced, instead of shifting cost to our sector.

Any legislation or funding arrangements should acknowledge and take into account this ever-expanding role of Local Government for us to reach our full potential. We are gradually shedding away the adage of roads, rates and rubbish, because the community needs more than that.

In recent years, economic development has become a growing priority for Local Governments as their communities have felt the pressures from the downturn in the WA economy.

To assist the sector in this area, the Association produced an Economic Development Framework. A reference group of Local Governments guided the project in developing a practical framework to assist Councils across the State in their economic development strategies and activities.

Our advocacy efforts are still going strong – a total of 52 submissions were compiled and put forward this year.

An example of a successful advocacy outcome is the reinstatement of the Community Resource Centre Funding. WALGA worked with key stakeholders and the Department of Primary Industry and development to reinstate a 40% reduction of funding to the Community Resource Centres.

These centres contribute to the health and wellbeing of the community and the Association successfully advocated for better support in community infrastructure.

Roads funding, critical to the sector, has received a boost with the new five-year State Roads to Local Government Agreement delivering nearly $200 million per year for work on Local Government Roads.

In procurement, the Association continues its focus of delivering innovative solutions and products to our Members.

A new Microsoft Arrangement was established that provided significant saving, which is the first arrangement of its type for Local Governments globally.

Further, a new VMware Enterprise License Agreement was signed on behalf of WALGA Members to deliver $3.3 million in savings.

In the twelve months to March 2019, about $331 million of goods and services were procured through the preferred supplier program, delivering to the sector savings conservatively estimated at $36 million.

Another successful project - the Your Everyday website – continues to build a positive profile of the sector. Launched in January, YourEveryday.com.au promotes the diversity and contribution of Local Governments to the State and the community.

It features video content from Councils across the State which features three main themes: profiles of key people, in most part Mayors, Presidents and CEOs; details of local area attractions and information about special interests involving Local Governments.

Already, the site has video content for almost half the Councils in WA. We aim to have content for all Local Governments included by the end of the year.

In the first six months since the launch of the website, there have been more than 50,000 views of the video content on YouTube and almost 400,000 views through Facebook.

The site also includes comprehensive details about each WA Local Government including contact details and key demographics.

For a complete summary of the Association’s achievements, I would refer you again to the Annual Report. I believe it demonstrates that the Association certainly has been working for Local Government this past year.

Our ongoing efforts in engaging with our Members continues to yield conversations of shared understanding.

Even though there may be voices of derision, WALGA still represents all but one Council in WA – and we have tried many times to encourage that Member to return.

This impressive number does not stop us from striving for improvement. We are reviewing our governance structure, such as the roles of zones and State Council and I look forward to sharing this work with you all.

We ask for Members to support us by not keeping their heads down, but giving us answers and solutions to how we can do better.

We have a number of honour awards being given out today. The Association has received more nominations than we can give awards to – it shows just how many incredible and dedicated community representatives we have in this sector, across the State.

There were numerous worthy individuals and it was a truly difficult job to pick the best, but it has to be done.

It is always a wonderful process as we get to hear about the fantastic projects that come to fruition under the leadership of our Elected Members, the work of the Officers and see how these ideas make a real difference to the lives of individuals in the community.

This year also saw the retirement of former CEO Ricky Burges. In almost 20 years as the CEO, Ricky has steered the sector through numerous turbulent times, and grown WALGA to become the lead advocate for the sector.

We also welcome the arrival of current CEO Nick Sloan.

I have the utmost confidence that Nick, with his strong background in public policy and experience, will continue to lead the Executive Team and all WALGA staff to deliver positive outcomes for our Members.

I also thank the State Council for their ongoing support and all those who have helped to bring about the sector’s achievements during the year.
Recently I was inspired by how one young man changed things for the better on a national scale and on the local level and I’m thinking how much more we can achieve as we continue to work together.

The young fellow I’m talking about is Dylan Alcott, champion wheelchair tennis player probably gave the best speech of the night at the Logies a few weeks ago - and a very pertinent speech for our nation.

What he’s done is not only worth bottling in terms of what it means but he’s helping to change the TV landscape, so that it is actually no longer unusual to see a person with a disability on TV as a star in their own right. His speech, if you ever get a chance to google it, was just so magnificent and so pertinent to the sort of nation we want and need.

There is no doubt that Local Government has got a lot on its plate at the moment. And I’m going to talk about a few of the more recent media examples shortly. Because it is a sector that continues to be the one that the community itself places a huge amount of demands on and requests to.

But this sector is doing some remarkable things. And I think it is important we always take time to reflect on the achievements and the great work that is being done, has been done and will need to be done into the future. These remarkable stories need to be shared more broadly and more strongly to counter some of the criticism we’ve seen over recent times.

All of you have demonstrated over the past 12 months leadership, innovation, dedication to your community and of course that has involved Elected Members, staff and those volunteers that support the effort of Councils in Western Australia.

The work has been featured in Australia Day awards, Queen’s Birthday Honours, the recent IPAA awards and last year’s firefighting awards – and then you can add to that the names of the people who have been honoured as part of the WALGA Honours Awards. People like Ray Tame from the City of Armadale for the award given for his lifetime achievement, to Mayor Tracey Roberts who has been given Life Membership, to Mayor Henry Zelones from Armadale who is a remarkable contributor to the community and is going to be honoured tomorrow night officially with a very special award in the Local Government Medal.

And then we congratulate the many initiatives that are underway around Western Australia. Like the City of Stirling’s Kaleidoscope initiative, which won the overall excellence award at the National Awards for Local Government. What is Kaleidoscope? It’s a program that helps newcomers get a job and builds on the capacity of employers to reap the rewards of a diverse workforce. A great idea – and when you know that community in Stirling has a very large number of people from a diverse multicultural background, that’s an essential and important work.

It’s not roads, rates and rubbish though! It’s not! And that questioning that we’re seeing now by areas of the media and by some Members of Parliament are saying we want to go backwards. We don’t want to go backwards. The important work that Local Government does now needs to continue and I want to partner with you, the McGowan Government wants to keep partnering with you because we can’t do without you.

It’s as simple as that. And so I applaud the continued efforts by so many dedicated people in the Local Government sector who understand that we’ve gone past roads, rubbish and rates. Imagine if we went back to just doing that, the programs that wouldn’t happen that have been delivering outcomes for community, reconnecting people. The biggest challenge that this nation faces in my view is this disconnection that exists in many parts of Australia. Who’s best placed to do it? It’s Local Government. It’s pretty much a no-brainer. And it’s something we need to fight for, and be very strong about when we are faced with the criticism we have seen in recent times.

I’m very thankful and appreciate the efforts of the sector with regards to the reform of the Local Government Act. Because we know that the Act, being over 20 years old is not now fit for purpose. Modern challenges of technology, of community, need modern legislation.

And that’s why we have embarked as a government in a comprehensive review of the Act and I thank the sector for its participation in that. At the end of June this year, we passed our first set of reforms in the review of the Local Government Act and I’m very pleased that many of those reforms will be in place, particularly for the next Local Government elections in October.

We’ll continue to build on that ongoing commitment to constant improvement, making sure that people who want – and I want people to do it – who want to put their hand up to be an Elected Member understand their responsibility, understand the complexity of the role, but also know that the role is very valued.

The reforms also include issues around Councillor conduct, candidates, new standards of recruitment for CEOs, clarifying that vexed question that hampered us for a while regarding gifts, requiring Local Governments to publish information that the average ratepayer, business or resident should have easy access to. That’s the modern aspect which is important.

The Parliamentary Inquiry is going to happen. Personally, the Labor Party didn’t support the Parliamentary Inquiry because we believe the review process which has broad sector input is the way to go. But, it’s going to happen and two concerns have been raised by some Members of Parliament are saying we want to go backwards. We don’t want to go backwards. The important work that Local Government does now needs to continue and I want to partner with you, the McGowan Government wants to keep partnering with you because we can’t do without you.

And that questioning that we’re seeing now by areas of the media and by some Members of Parliament are saying we want to go backwards. We don’t want to go backwards. The important work that Local Government does now needs to continue and I want to partner with you, the McGowan Government wants to keep partnering with you because we can’t do without you.
getting on with the task, and we want you to be a part of that, absolutely. While we will be informed by some of the findings, or recommendations that might come out of the Inquiry, we’re not going to wait for it. And I encourage Local Governments to remain engaged in that reform process because you’ve been such a strong partner for that over the past two and a half years and I appreciate that.

In regards to the critics – we’re always going to have critics. It’s how we respond that’s important. We’re currently having a debate in the media as we speak now about the role of Local Government – what should you do, what shouldn’t you do.

Comments like: you should stick to your knitting. It should be just roads, rubbish and rates. Well in my view, and I put this challenge out – get a list, get an understanding of the ten great things that your Council does, because you all do them and be ready all the time to throw back: what about what we’re doing in this area, or that area? We’re proud of it! And we’re doing it because our community needs these things to happen. So I think the three R’s should be: responsive, relevant, and required. Responsive, we’ve got to be listening and engaging with our communities. Relevant, we’ve got to reflect the needs of our communities and the services that are required to do that. And required, acknowledging that sometimes Local Government will step in and fill the gap and you have very good examples of doing that on many occasions.

So, I just want to give a couple of examples of some good stuff. The City of Greater Geraldton made a great commitment to their community to engage meaningfully in terms of their strategic planning, their policy and their activities, they even went out and talked to the local community about the budget in a real active and consultative way. And even asked the community where do we have services that are not meeting need.

The City of Wanneroo committed to best practice community engagement. The City went beyond the standard community consultation when it commenced the process of developing the Yanchep Lagoon Masterplan. Community forums, online engagement: consistent talking, conversations.

The Shire of Collie undertook a process of community engagement as part of that Shire’s rebranding as part of the Reimagining Collie program and we all know Collie faces great challenges as they transition with regard to the industry that has been part of their history for over 100 years.

In effect, though, it’s about working together, maintaining and strengthening partnerships. I want to just quickly highlight a couple of important initiatives that touch on Local Government from other portfolio areas.

One of course is the Planning Act review. My colleague Rita Saffioti continues to forge through with the issue of planning reform, with a paper she released attracting more than 250 submissions and proposed five key areas of reform. Strategic planning focus, a system that’s easy to understand and access, a system that increases community engagement and planning, a system that’s well organised and efficient and one that delivers smart growth. Now of course Local Government is a key partner in all of those aspects if we’re to deliver to that agenda.

Partnerships: I’m very proud of the partnership that this Government has with WALGA and LG Pro through our Partnership Agreement. It was something that we made a commitment to coming into the 2017 election and delivered to it, and as Minister Dawson said in one of our forums this morning, it is an important agreement that all Ministers are focused on when they have collaboration with Local Government. I wanted to quickly highlight to you is in the area of Arts and Culture, an area that I am very passionate about, as many would know.

I am very pleased that we have a new Regional Arts and Culture investment program which sees $20 million commitment over four years to regional arts activity in regional WA. Coupling that with the Tourism Action Plan which again draws in those elements of culture and the arts, heritage and tourism. Because ultimately it’s about selling our State - to visitors, to prospective residents, to prospective businesses, and we want to make sure that we keep telling our great West Australian stories. And of course, you all know in Local Government more than anyone the tremendous stories that are out there in your community.

And all of you are part of this story, No matter where you are – I’ve met some fantastic people from various parts of our State - some that have been part of a Local Government for decades and I want to salute you – those of you who have been with us for a long time. I hope you’re continuing, but if you’re not – I want you to think about your legacy. And I want you to also think about what you can do to nurture, encourage, and support the future leaders that are coming up through your community. And if you can’t, if they’re not coming up and you can’t find them – go out and look for them. Because we need you to use your experience and expertise in that mentoring way.

So finally, in 2021 Local Government celebrates its 150th anniversary in Western Australia. Very significant. As we look towards that milestone, what I hope we have in place is the development of a new Act, we’ll have ongoing and mutual respect of the sector, we’ll value the people who are part of that sector – be they Elected Members, employees or volunteers who support the sector. And that we’ll keep on sharing that expertise as we build a better State together.

So I want to come back to Dylan Alcott’s speech at the Logies. When he thanked people, most of all he thanked everyone who had given him an opportunity. He challenged his audience across Australia to do something similar and give people around them the opportunity to shine. And he said this: “there are a lot of talented people out there: and I promise you, they won’t disappoint.”

You know Local Government is full of people who don’t disappoint. Who do work hard. Who are committed. And I think his comments, even though they might have been targeted to a particular audience at that time, it’s a sentiment that we can all take something from. There’s a lot of talented people here in this room and in the sector throughout Western Australia. I would like to give all of you the opportunity to change Local Government and make a positive difference to the communities that you love, that you live in, that you work in, that you have a business in, or that you visit. I don’t think that you’ll disappoint. Let’s make it happen. Thank you.
Local Governments and individuals in Local Government be acknowledged. I was proud to be the person to present an award to Ray Tame from the City of Armadale for his outstanding service and leadership in Local Government and also to see our local City of Stirling receive an award for their Kaleidoscope program.

Looking at the wide range of programs that Local Government offer, it’s really clear to me as an-elected Member that you offer vital services to our community. And it’s pretty clear from looking at the media, government, and even the Parliament that it would be fair to say that you’re probably feeling a bit under siege at the moment.

Whether it comes in the form of pressure about Local Government rates, the cost of living pressures, climate change emissions targets, or ‘sprinklegate’ – when you look at all the criticisms that have been levelled at Local Government, what I do as an Elected Member is have a look to what sits behind it. Now if there are cost of living pressures out there in the community, I know that you as a sector try to limit your rates increases. But if you have increases to electricity charges, to water charges, you need to pass those on or cut services. Those are your options, and I understand that.

There are increasing pressures on Local Governments, and expectation. The community are asking you to step into areas where, and as the Minister alluded to, there is a gap. You’re being asked to step in and fill the gap. And if you step in and fill that gap, the only choice that you have is to cut a service to try and fill that gap or to increase the Local Government rates that you charge to ratepayers.

When I look at that, I look to ‘where are those gaps?’ And I know that there are lots of gaps that Local Government are looking likely to have to pick up.

Many of you will have seen the coastal erosion report that was recently released. Now that coastal erosions report showed 55 hotspots and 31 areas that required further investigation.

$110 million is required to remediate for the identified hotspots for coastal erosion and the State Government has put $1.5 million towards this and are screaming for money from the Federal Government.

Now, the problem is, this is a Local Government problem. Because the coastal erosion is impacting your infrastructure. It’s impacting your paths, your beach access paths, your parklands, your carparks, your playgrounds and in some cases, your roads and other forms of infrastructure.

What I say to you as a sector is: use me, use us as the Opposition in Parliament, use the Parliamentary Inquiry to highlight where these problems are and where the onus and burden on remediating problems that were previously a responsibility of another tier of government are falling to you.

Because as soon as you pick it up, and you increase your rates, you’re going to have the community screaming at you, and those other tiers of government are going to be pointing to you saying ‘don’t put your rates up’.

But how do you not put your rates up if you have to pay for something you haven’t had to pay for before? That’s the invidious position that you’re finding yourself in.

So when we have a look to other areas where I see there’s been some cost shifting, and some responsibility shifting: homelessness. Homelessness is a significant problem in Western Australia and we still don’t have a homelessness strategy, and I accept that the Government’s developing that in good faith with the community.

In the interim though, there is a funding problem. The people who are homeless right now are not going to benefit from the strategy that is going to cover the next five and ten years, they need help now.

The State Government provides housing, the State Government provides health and mental health support. But instead of seeing those services being funded through the not-for-profit sector, what we’re seeing now is pressure on the City of Perth, the City of Bunbury, the City of Rockingham to step in and fill the gap and deal with the homelessness issues that their constituencies are complaining about. Not your job. Come and see us as the Liberal Opposition – we’re there to listen and we can highlight these issues in the Parliament.

Because if you step in and start to fill the gap and provide homelessness services, guess what? Your rates are going to have to go up. And then your ratepayers are going to be complaining, and then the media and the government will be saying “we’re going to put a cap on your rates,” notwithstanding that you’re now trying to sort out the homelessness issue – that’s not your problem to solve. It’s your problem to highlight.

The other issue that I see in Local Government is that there has been a lot of inquiries. We’ve got the inquiry into the Melville City Council, we’ve had issues with the Port Hedland Council, we’ve got issues with the City of Perth.

Now the problem when we have the spotlight on Councils that might be having internal struggles or whatever it might be, is that then leads to a discouragement of fresh talent coming into the Councils, and also, just fatigue for the people in the sector who are genuinely acting in good faith in the interests of their community.
Now I was quite disturbed when I saw the outcome of the inquiry into the City of Melville for example. What we found was a very small number of vexatious complainants complaining in a profligate manner, causing a disproportionate burden of not only stress, but also time and effort - on behalf of all of the bureaucracy and the Elected Members in the City of Melville.

And there does need to be a solution to that.

Getting back to ‘Sprinklegate’ – when putting this speech together, one of my policy advisors actually said to me “how hard do you want to go on Local Government…..telling people they can’t have sprinkles on their icecream at the community fair?”

And I said: “let’s just find out a bit more about that before we go too hard.” And what I’ve since found out is the State Government has been engaging with you, asking you to have a public health plan. Healthway are putting requirements on Local Government, saying if you want Healthway funding, you’d better not have an icecream van at your fair.

So then Local Government gets caught in the mix – you get the front page, saying we’ve banned sprinkles at our community fair. What doesn’t come out until the damage has been done to the brand of the City of Cockburn is that, that was a Healthway requirement, that was the State Government saying we want you to put a public health plan in because your citizens are obese.

Well guess who has responsibility for health? It’s the State Government. Don’t pick up the slack. Come and see us, the Opposition. And we’ll take it up in Parliament. Because that’s not your job. You’ve got a lot to do. And if you pick up the slack, your ratepayers are going to be paying for it. That’s the direct cost shift from the State and Federal Government to Local Government.

And your ratepayers will be paying and you’ll be the ones bearing the brunt of that rates increase.

The Community Resource Centre debate was one of those success stories where we partnered with the sector, and we did have the benefit of the Darling Range by-election where we highlight the fact that the community resource centre for that electorate was going to be removed.

Now together, we managed to save the funding for those community resource centres which is a great win for those communities that were going to lose that resource.

So together, if we fight, singing from the same song sheet, we can actually have a success for our communities. And that’s what we would like to do with you as our part of the Parliament in Western Australia and in being part of the Liberal Opposition.

Before I sit down, I’d also like to speak to you about this Legislative Council Select Committee looking into Local Government. Now it’s really unfortunate that the call that’s gone out to the community is calling for a whole range of what I see as potentially frivolous and really unfortunate that the call that’s gone out to the community is Council Select Committee looking into Local Government. Now it’s before I sit down, I’d also like to speak to you about this Legislative Council Select Committee looking into Local Government. Now it’s really unfortunate that the call that’s gone out to the community is calling for a whole range of what I see as potentially frivolous and really unfortunate that the call that’s gone out to the community is Council Select Committee looking into Local Government. Now it’s before I sit down, I’d also like to speak to you about this Legislative Council Select Committee looking into Local Government.

And I expect to receive by the end of this year. And that will happen in consultation with all of you so that we know, heading into the next election in March 2021 that we’ll have a Local Government policy that is consistent with the expectations of you, our broader community and our broader suite of Elected Members.

I know that all you want to do is to be a way to manage people like that so that Local Governments can get on with the job that they want to do for their community.

So please use that as an opportunity. One of the things I can see, and I’m not sure if it’s being considered as part of the rewrite of the Act, a Local Government Act that was written in 1995, I see there’s some significant deficiencies in that Act. The Act was put together with a view that all Local Governments are equal, but you cannot look at the capacity of Local Government to deliver services – Local Governments like the City of Stirling where I live, having the same capacity and the same set of rules as the Shire of Westonia, where you’ve got completely different sets of circumstances.

That’s what I see as one of the failings in that Act. But the other failing too is that there is no mechanism to target vexatious complainants. And you’ve all got them. The Council Watchers - in my former years, I may well have been one. However, the vexatious complainants like those who have hounded and hounded those Councillors and officers at the City of Melville and made their lives a misery, there has to be a way to manage people like that so that Local Governments can get on with the job that they want to do for their community.

I know that all you want to do is care for your community and deliver services and in good faith, what you’re doing is trying to pick up and fill the gap when the gap is left by another tier of government abrogating their duties. My parting message to you today, if it isn’t clear is: please, come and speak to us, Opposition is about listening and reconnecting with our community.

We want to know about those gaps, we want to know where they are and I can assure you that my shadow Minister for Local Government, the Honourable Bill Marmion has been tasked with putting together a policy with respect to Local Government that I expect to receive by the end of this year. And that will happen in consultation with all of you so that we know, heading into the next election in March 2021 that we’ll have a Local Government policy that is consistent with the expectations of you, our broader community and our broader suite of Elected Members.
A four year research project will seek to identify why individuals choose to stand for Council and support mechanisms to assist them in their role.

The Hands Up project, instigated by the Minister for Local Government David Templeman is a joint initiative between WALGA, the University of WA and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and will collect longitudinal data over four years – starting with candidates in the October 2019 Local Government elections.

A sample of those elected will then be interviewed over the course of their term, documenting the issues and challenges they face and the successful outcomes achieved through their role on Council.

The study aims to establish benchmark data about Elected Members in WA, determine motivating factors in their decision to stand for Council and success factors supporting their contribution to Council and their decision making role.

WALGA President, Cr Lynne Craigie congratulated the Minister on initiating the research.

“We are both committed to improving the diversity of elected representatives and identifying ways they can be supported to be as successful as possible,” Cr Craigie said.

Minister Templeman said he was delighted to be working with WALGA and UWA to find out what motivates people to put themselves forward to serve their communities.

“Although other States collect such feedback, WA hasn’t up until now. And although there might be a lot of anecdotal evidence about why people opt to serve their communities, the truth is little is known about WA’s elected members and whether local governments are truly representative of their communities.

“The information collected from Hands Up will be invaluable, not just because of what it will tell us about people’s motivations, but also in terms of finding out what support they need to successfully lead their communities.”

What makes people put their hands up to be a local government council member?
A banner portraying the peaceful and quiet façade of a bustling mining town has taken out the top award in the 2019 Local Government-initiated community arts competition, #shoWcAse in Pixels.

Formerly known as Banners in the Terrace, this is one of the State’s largest ongoing arts projects, run by WALGA as part of the WA Local Government Convention. The change in name reflected a new venue and format – with artworks now displayed on the iconic digital tower at Yagan Square.

WALGA Chief Executive Officer Nick Sloan said contestants illustrated the vast range of landscapes and lifestyles across this great State.

“The submissions highlight the collaborative efforts of each community that spent countless hours creating their artworks, showcasing an incredible level of creativity and artistic standards,” he said.

The winning banner from Shire of Meekatharra portrays the silence and peacefulness of an amazing nightscape while highlighting the closeness of family, Mr Sloan said.

“This is a side of Meekatharra that is not commonly perceived – we reflect on the Shire as a bustling mining area in the day. But this group of young artists coordinated by Meekatharra Shire Youth Services Team, aged between 4 and 17, instead interpreted the theme Renewal and Practical through the night skies of Meekatharra,” he said.

“The execution and details highlight the peaceful serenity of the evening, a star-filled night sky while learning about the country’s natural history from their family.

“The judges say that this piece is extraordinarily beautiful and it drew a deep gut reaction from them.”

Artworks were displayed at specific times between Monday, 29 July to Sunday, 11 August on the digital tower of Yagan Square.

**THE WINNERS OF THE 2019 #SHOWCASE IN PIXELS ARE:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Junior Primary School</th>
<th>Shire of Ashburton</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upper Primary School</td>
<td>Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary School</td>
<td>Shire of Meekatharra</td>
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<td>Community Group</td>
<td>Shire of Corrigin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional/Digital</td>
<td>City of Cockburn</td>
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<tr>
<td>OVERALL</td>
<td>Shire of Meekatharra</td>
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Special commendations were also awarded to the Shire of Kojonup and Shire of Denmark.

**Featured below are the winning artworks from this year’s competition.**
Local Government Welcomes Reversal of Bill Shock from NSW Emergency Services Levy

The decision to reverse a shock charge on Councils and ratepayers was the clearest indication yet that the NSW Government was genuinely committed to an equal partnership with Local Government, the sector’s peak body said today.

The policy reversal - announced today by Acting Premier John Barilaro and Local Government Minister Shelley Hancock – will see the State Government cover an initial increase of almost $14 million in the Emergency Services Levy paid by Councils.

Local Government NSW President (LGNSW) Linda Scott said the announcement followed months of intense work by the peak body and NSW Local Governments across the state.

“Local Government strongly supports fairer workers’ compensation for paid and volunteer fire fighters,” Cr Scott said.

“In many areas, especially in regional NSW, mayors, Councillors and Council staff are the core volunteers that make up our state’s rural fire brigades.

“Local Governments welcome the NSW Government’s decision to listen to us, reversing its decision to significantly increase the Emergency Services Levy cost to NSW Councils this year.

“I welcome the Deputy Premier and Local Government Minister’s recognition that this additional, unexpected cost to Councils, particularly those in rural and regional areas affected by the drought, would cost communities.”

Councils currently contribute 11.7 per cent of the Emergency Services budget in NSW, with the cost embedded in Council rates and further costs recovered through insurance premiums.

Council contributions were unexpectedly sent soaring to cover the cost of extending workers’ compensation coverage for volunteer and career firefighters diagnosed with one of 12 specific work-related cancers.

The first Councils knew they would be asked to cover any increase was when they opened a bill from Revenue NSW and saw levy spikes of up to $220,000.

Cr Scott said the levy increases ranged between 11 and 25 percent, with some of the hardest-hit Councils already struggling to support their communities through drought.

“Many of regional and rural Councils were telling me they were unable to pay any increase imposed by the NSW State Government,” she said.

“I look forward to having a real opportunity for both tiers of government to sit down together to develop a constructive way forward that involves a fair and realistic transition process towards a better, fully funded workers’ compensation scheme for NSW firefighters and their families.

“By working together we can ensure the way forward that doesn’t penalise communities across NSW in need of Council services such as childcare, and infrastructure such as parks, roads and footpaths.”

National Procurement Network Executive Meeting a Success

LGANT hosted the National Procurement Network Executive (NPN) meeting at Club Tropical on Tuesday 23 July to Wednesday, 24 July. Delegates representing all seven States and Territories participated in proceedings.

The meeting’s focus was very much on the NPN strategic plan and future opportunities of collaboration in procurement particularly in the areas of technology, data analysis and panel contracts. A common issue highlighted was the review or implementation of new legislation for Local Government and regulations around procurement.

LGANT would like to acknowledge Brendan Dowd, CEO of Council Biz, on his presentation on the importance of collaboration between Councils and Joshua Sattler, General Manager Innovation, Growth, Development Services at City of Darwin, who spoke on the roll out of smart technology and the efficiencies of procurement through NPN contracts in the implementation of the $10 million project.

Councils Combine to Combat Water Crisis

Families are the focus of an innovative response to the drought crisis facing the Southern and Western Downs Local Government areas, as well as Toowoomba, South Burnett and Goondiwindi.

A new campaign is set to roll out this Sunday, 11 August, that urges families to practice water-wise habits – such as turning off the tap when brushing teeth; habits that are passed from generation to generation.

Comprising TV and radio commercials, print advertisements and social media, the campaign unites Toowoomba, Southern Downs, Western Downs, Goondiwindi and South Burnett Regional Councils, plus the Queensland State Government, to create and fund the effort.

Southern Downs Mayor, Councillor Tracy Dobie, said the campaign message was simple.

“We are urging residents to embrace simple water-saving measures to support our community, as well as encouraging local businesses to manage water effectively,” Cr Dobie said.

“It’s fitting the television commercial was shot here in Stanthorpe, featuring local residents, as the storages that service the town are reaching a very low level.

“Bringing together the State Government and all five Councils in our region to spread this vital message is unprecedented, and we thank all involved for backing this initiative.”

While all five Councils are facing water shortages of varying degrees – Goondiwindi last month moved to ‘level two’ restrictions and Toowoomba has nine towns on ‘medium’ and one (Yale View) on ‘high’ restrictions – Southern Downs, and Stanthorpe in particular, are facing the most acute shortages.

In March 2019 the Council moved to ‘extreme’ restrictions and last month approved instigating ‘critical’ level measures from 1 September, limiting households to 100 litres of water per person per day.

“Our Council is daily updating its plans for the provision of water for Stanthorpe but in the meantime, I urge you to continue visiting the town and beautiful surrounding regions,” Cr Dobie said.

“The support of visitors, particularly our fellow Queenslanders, is so vital during this tough time.”

Toowoomba Regional Council Water and Waste Committee chair Cr Nancy Sommerfield said the region’s Councils will look for further ways to work together beyond the life of the campaign.

The Real Facts about Recycling in Tasmania

“The Tasmanian Conservation Trust has today made incorrect assertions about recycling in Southern Tasmania,” said LGAT President, Mayor Christina Holmdahl.

Here are the facts:

• In Southern Tasmania, recycling services are currently contracted to SKM Derwent Park.

• SKM also run operations in Victoria and SKM Corporate, which is one of a number of SKM businesses, is currently in administration and the other Victorian arms of SKM are not running.

• SKM Derwent Park has not been materially affected by the Victoria issues. It is still running, and Southern Councils have consistently been advised that it is business as usual.

• Recyclables in Southern Tasmania are still being collected and sorted.

• At their Derwent Park Materials Recovery
The reality is that Victorian Councils are burying recyclables in landfill. Only contaminated materials, which are not suitable for recycling are sent to landfill after sorting.

Southern Councils are understandably concerned about the long-term viability of SKM Derwent Park and are monitoring the situation closely and developing contingency plans in the event that SKM stop receiving Tasmanian recyclables.

North and North-West Councils have contracts in place with different providers, they will not be affected by any issues with SKM. Mayor Holmdahl said “Southern Councils have not misled communities at any stage. If the MRF managed by SKM at Derwent Park closes, the Southern Tasmanian Councils will be making every effort to ensure that recyclables do not go to landfill”.

“Should the situation change, like their Victorian counterparts, Tasmania’s Councils will provide advice to their communities.”

“The reality is that Victorian Councils are communicating their response to something that has happened whereas Tasmanian Councils are actively monitoring something that might happen, but which is not yet an issue”. LGAT has been working with the State Government and, through the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), with the Federal Government to build a robust response to the changes in the recycling industry.

Consequently, we have recently seen the State Government issue a Waste Action Plan for consultation and commit to a container refund scheme and waste levy. Further, just this week the Prime Minister committed to banning recyclable waste being exported overseas.

The Local Government Association has taken a leadership role in progressing a feasibility into State-Wide Waste Arrangement with a view to building a range of sustainable waste education, recovery and management approaches in Tasmania.

Across the nation there is commitment to a circular economy with a dual focus on minimising the production of waste and recovering as much as possible from the waste stream.

Mayor Holmdahl emphasises, “It is important that ALL Tasmanians remain committed to recycling”.

**VIC**

**Funding Welcomed as First Step to Fix the Recycling Crisis**

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) has welcomed the Victorian Government’s $6.6 million support package for Councils over four months, as well as additional funding for the recycling industry to improve their sorting and processing of recycling materials.

A recent Parliamentary Budget Office report estimated the unfunded cost to Councils of the recycling crises for the 18 months to 30 June has been around $42 million. These costs are continuing to rise for 33 Councils affected by SKM’s closure.

Local Government is committed to exploring collaborative procurement opportunities. This should occur along with reforms to strengthen industry oversight so operators can no longer conduct their business under a veil of secrecy.

The MAV also supports exploring the use of procurement targets for all government agencies to increase their use of Australian recycled content.

To address the high rates of kerbside recycling contamination, the MAV’s Rescue Our Recycling Action Plan has called on the State to implement a Container Deposit Scheme and a highly visible community education campaign about good recycling practices and ways to avoid generating waste.

A number of Councils are actively investigating or already trialling the use of a fourth bin for glass. Councils are currently reusing glass waste in road base and pavements. Separating out different recycled materials would help to decrease contamination levels and create a more usable end product.

Cr Coral Ross, MAV President welcomed the short-term measures announced by the State, with conversations ongoing between all levels of government to identify longer-term investment and solutions to stabilise our recycling system.

“The $6.6 million package for 33 Councils is positive acknowledgement by the Victorian Government of the need for their direct investment and support, although we are unclear whether the funding will cover the full cost increases incurred by Councils.

“Sending recyclable material to landfill is always a last resort for Councils. However until capacity is increased at remaining recycling facilities or new recyclers are attracted to the market, there are almost no other alternatives for some affected Councils.

“We urgently need greater regulation of the recycling industry to stop the likes of the SKM situation from occurring again, and to prevent opportunistic price increases from other recycling providers.

“Stronger oversight of industry would also provide Councils with important data to inform their contract decision-making – such as details about the end markets for recycled materials, and compliance and enforcement status and history.

“Victorian Councils and communities also support the introduction of a container deposit scheme. They have proven successful in other States and it’s time for Victoria to catch up.

“We will be meeting with the government to work through details about how their funding package can best support affected Councils, who are committed to achieving the best outcomes for their communities when considering the State’s conditions in return for funding relief,” she said.

**ALGA**

**Waste, Recycling, And Climate Change Dominate Local Government’s National Conference**

Waste management, recycling, and climate change are among the topics that dominated Local Government’s largest annual conference, the National General Assembly, which began in Canberra on Monday, 17 June.

Up to 900 representatives from Councils across the country attended the assembly, convened by peak body the Australian Local Government Association, to press their demands for federal help to confront their communities’ many challenges.

“Local Councils are at the front line of dealing with three of Australia’s biggest problems – waste, recycling and climate change,” ALGA President, Mayor David O’Loughlin said.

“The number of motions from local Councils about these topics, plus drought and water security, demonstrates the serious level of concern many local communities have about these challenges.

“Many of Australia’s local Councils are responsible for so many services in their local communities, but their level of funding is not commensurate with these responsibilities.”

A special panel featuring industry, civil society and Local Government will on Tuesday, 18 June explored the Australasian recycling label, ways to develop Australia’s circular economy, and hear from Lake Macquarie City Council about how it uses recycled glass, printer toner and plastic bags in Council projects such as new roads.
A total of 29 Local Government representatives have been recognised for their outstanding community service as part of the 2019 Local Government Honours Program, with one WALGA Life Membership and a Local Government Medal forming part of the awards.

Armadale Mayor Henry Zelones has been recognised for his ongoing commitment to Local Government over nearly thirty years 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 Cr Lynne Craigie congratulated Mayor Zelones on his award and his many achievements across his 28 years’ service in the sector.

“In addition to his strong leadership at City of Armadale, Mayor Zelones has been a strong contributor to sector-wide issues, in particular Local Government reform, planning and development, and heritage issues.”

Cr Craigie said Mayor Zelones’ contribution to the sector received national recognition in 2014 with a Medal of the Order of Australia and WALGA was proud to award him their highest honour in the Local Government Medal.

“He has truly dedicated himself to improving the lives of others and we thank him for all he has done for the south east metropolitan region and the entire Local Government sector as a whole.”

In addition to the Local Government Medal, Life Membership was awarded to Mayor Tracey Roberts, Wanneroo Mayor and WALGA Deputy President.

Cr Craigie congratulated Mayor Roberts on the membership, saying she was highly regarded at all levels of government for excellent negotiation and lobbying abilities, in particular through her role as WALGA Deputy President and Vice President of ALGA.

“Mayor Roberts’ passion and drive for local communities has delivered great benefits, both to our sector and to the community of Wanneroo, and she is highly deserving of life membership to WALGA,”

Armadale Mayor Henry Zelones OAM JP

WALGA President Cr Lynne Craigie with Life Member Mayor Tracey Roberts JP

Local Government Medal Recipient Mayor Henry Zelones OAM JP
Mayor Zelones and Mayor Roberts were among 29 Local Government Elected Members and Chief Executive Officers who received a Local Government Honours Award, announced as part of the 2019 WA Local Government Convention.

“These awards acknowledge the efforts of some extraordinary individuals who are visionary community leaders,” Cr Craigie said.

“We are privileged in being able to honour their commitment and dedication to local communities and Local Government and I congratulate them all on their awards.”

### Full list of Local Government Honours Award recipients:

#### Local Government Medal
- Mayor Henry Zelones OAM JP
  City of Armadale

#### Life Membership
- Mayor Tracey Roberts JP
  City of Wanneroo

#### Eminent Service Award
- John Cowcher
  Shire of Williams (Posthumous)
- Cr John Gangell
  Town of Bassendean
- Cr Shelley Payne
  Shire of Esperance
- Cr Murray Scott
  President, Shire of Capel

#### Long and Loyal Service Award
- Cr Brett Bell
  Shire of Plantagenet
- Cr Kevin Bailey
  City of Swan
- Cr Carmel Boyce
  Shire of Dardanup
- Cr Michael Greenwood
  Shire of Tammin
- Cr Todd Harris
  Shire of Cunderdin
- Ross Howden
  ex Shire of Meekatharra
- Cr Sandra Lee
  City of Kwinana
- Cr Duncan Macphail
  City of Melville
- Cr Peter McCumstie
  Shire of Derby/West Kimberley
- Cr Haydn McInnes
  Shire of Kulin
- Cr Julie Russell JP
  Shire of Wickepin
- Cr Ronald Wortley
  City of Mandurah

#### Merit Award
- Cr Peter Foster
  Shire of Ashburton
- Cr James Lee JP
  Shire of Dardanup
- Mayor Peter Long
  City of Karratha
- Cr Peter Robinson
  Shire of Dardanup
- Cr Garry Sheridan
  Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup
- Lee Steel
  ex Councillor Shire of Pingelly
- Cr Don Thomson
  Shire of Tammin
- Cr Kerry White
  President, Shire of Ashburton

#### Local Government Distinguished Officer Award
- Murray Brown
  Murchison Country Zone & Multiple Local Governments
- Andrew Campbell
  CEO, Shire of Manjimup
- Steve Fitzpatrick
  Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council (EMRC)
- Rob Stewart
  CEO, Shire of Plantagenet
AUG/SEP
AROUND THE STATE IN PICTURES

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: blawyat@walga.asn.au

ALBANY

Dirt jumps, skate plaza, multi-court, skate path, parkour, pump track and a skate bowl will be features of the new Albany Youth Challenge Park thanks to major supporter Lotterywest.

Youth Minister Peter Tinley was in Albany to present the City with $950,000 from Lotterywest towards the project, designed to build on existing youth infrastructure within the precinct and be a place where young people can gather, connect and stay active.

ASHBURTON

Tom Price recently celebrated the 50th year of the Nameless Jarndurnmunha Festival. What started 50 years ago as a community fundraiser has developed into an iconic annual event. The two-day festival includes a line-up of entertainment, the popular street parade, and a showcase of local talent and achievements. Carnival rides, great food and fireworks also set the festival vibe. Organised each year by community volunteers, this year was a special golden jubilee celebration.

AUGUSTA MARGARET RIVER

The Margaret River Recreation Centre participated in the annual Pink up your Region fund raiser from Monday, 5 August to Sunday, 11 August. The week-long event, driven by passionate businesses within the community, saw the entire region ‘pinking up’ to raise money for the McGrath Foundation. Each business unit contributed to this wonderful cause by hosting a range of events, including pink group fitness classes and a pink themed morning tea.

ARMADALE

The City of Armadale hosted its annual Outside the Frame Art Awards at the Armadale District Hall in August.

Art is heavily embedded into Armadale’s culture and the City continues to be proud to host this exhibition each year to give Year 11 and 12 students and teachers from across Perth an opportunity to network, and share their creative expertise and experiences in a professionally curated exhibition which was open to the public.

Carey Baptist College student, Trinity Flint, was awarded the Printmaking Excellence Award for her piece The Great Southern Land, and Armadale Senior High School student, Rebecca Dean, was awarded the Local Artist Award for her piece Red Wing. The students were two of eight students who received awards for their creativity while Perth Modern School was awarded the school with the ‘Best Creative Works.’

Pictured: Local Artist Award was awarded to Rebecca Dean from Armadale Senior High School for her piece Red Wing.
BAYSWATER

A drainage site in Morley will be transformed into a micro wetland thanks to a partnership between the City and Water Corporation. The project is part of the multi-award winning Bayswater Brook Catchment Management Project, which aims to improve the quality of water entering our drains before it flows into the Swan River. The wetland will continue to serve its purpose as a flood prevention site, while providing a community asset with significant environmental benefits.

BROOMEHILL-TAMBELLUP

The Shire of Broomhill-Tambellup won the best upper primary school award in the annual #shoWcAse in Pixels art competition organised by WALGA.

Tambellup Primary School created the winning artwork. Art Teacher, Amanda Bradshaw, and the Upper Primary used recycled plastic bottle tops collected by the whole School and local community. This also had an underlying reminder to be responsible about plastic waste. The end result was really eye catching and the students really took ownership of the project. The students began with collecting, washing, painting and gluing of lids, before the creation of the artwork that was displayed digitally at the digital tower screen of Yagan Square.

BUNBURY

Fourteen large coloured pots have been installed throughout the Bunbury CBD to inject some vibrancy into the City Centre. Each pot contains a fruit tree – mango, apple, orange or pear. They have already proven to be very popular among the locals with many taking selfies and sharing them to social media.

BUSSELTON

City of Busselton Councillors, Officers and stakeholders who attended a special morning tea at the historic ArtGEO gallery were thrilled with the announcement by the Federal Member for Forrest the Hon Nola Marino MP that the Australian Government has committed $10.35 million under the Regional Growth Fund towards the development of a new performing arts and convention centre. The Busselton Entertainment Arts and Cultural Hub (or BEACH) will be built in the Queen Street Cultural Precinct. The City of Busselton will contribute a further $10.65 million in cash and in kind contributions to the project which will deliver the community a first-class facility equipped with the latest digital technology and fully adaptable floor, seating and wall space.
CANNING

The City's popular NAIDOC Week Walk in July attracted approximately 500 people to the picturesque banks of the Canning River Regional Park, where the Canning community immersed themselves in Noongar culture and language.

The NAIDOC Week Walk entailed a scenic four-kilometre loop starting at Kent St Weir Park in Wilson, as well as a bush tucker feast and a performance by the all-children Koolangka’s Kreate Indigenous Dance Group.

CLAREMONT

The Town of Claremont continued its cultural program through the autumn months with two art festivals. ARTTRA Light Festival brought together 16 original artworks by local and state artists to transform Claremont Park for three stunning nights. Just a few weeks later, Off the Page created a walking paper trail throughout the entire town centre, with paper-based installations by local, national, and international artists.

Pictured: Renowned American artist Clare Celeste Börsch creating her Off the Page installation.

COCKBURN

Cockburn green thumbs will soon enjoy the fruits of their labours following State Government go-ahead to establish a community garden in Coogee’s Rotary Park.

The Coogee Community Memorial Garden will be located at the south end of Rotary Park, near King Street and will feature public and private growing plots where residents can grow natural, organic food.

A full concept design for the garden is being prepared and it is hoped stage one of the works will begin by November.

Pictured: City of Cockburn West Ward Cr Kevin Allen, Daryll Smith and Karen Moulton (Coogee Community Garden WA), City of Cockburn West Ward Cr Carol Reeve-Fowkes, City of Cockburn Central Ward Cr Phil Eva and City of Cockburn Mayor Logan Howlett at Rotary Park.

CRANBROOK

On Saturday, 6 July and Sunday, 7 July, the Cranbrook Motocross Club and Shire of Cranbrook hosted the 4th State Motocross round for the 2019 Motocross season. With over 300 riders over the two days, 1300 visitors to Cranbrook and 20,000 devices live streaming the event it was deemed a huge success. The Shire and Club have been inundated with positive feedback from the community and visitors since the event and cannot wait to host this event again.

Pictured: Andrew Murray, Cranbrook Motocross President Justin Shepard, Shire of Cranbrook CEO Peter Northover, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' Chris Thompson, Rick Wilson MP, Cranbrook Motocross Secretary Hilary Watterson, Football West’s Sarthak Mishra.

CUNDERDIN

The Wheatbelt Youth Council with support from the Shire of Cunderdin, Cunderdin Police, Cunderdin Men’s Shed and Cunderdin Resource Centre, installed two purple benches. The purple benches were installed to raise awareness and start a conversation about domestic violence. One bench was installed in front of the Cunderdin Town Hall and the second in Meckering.
EAST FREMANTLE

The Town of East Fremantle recently opened the new public toilet in Glasson Park. The park is one of the busiest in the Town and has been very well received. The toilet complex includes auto opening and locking on the doors; sensors lights inside and outside; an ambulant unisex toilet and a unisex disabled toilet; a ‘hands free’ basin outside the toilet and a baby change table inside the disabled toilet.

DUNDAS

The Shire’s Ngadju Bush Fire Volunteers received training from DFES and Ngadju Rangers in preparation for the next fire season.

The Ngadju Rangers are part of the indigenous ranger program that draw upon Aboriginal knowledge and connection to country to protect and manage land and sea country across Australia.

The Ngadju bushfire volunteers, with training from DFES and the Ngadju Rangers, draws on their skills and knowledge about lands and animals to protect the woodlands.

This training session at the Norseman Hospital saw the Ngadju Bushfire Volunteers, as part of the Dundas Rural Bushfire Brigade, train in fire mitigation.

DERBY-WEST KIMBERLEY

89 stunning artworks were revealed at the Kimberley Art Prize in Derby on Saturday, 6 July. Continuing to attract robust and diverse entries from all over the Kimberley and Australia, the 49th Kimberley Art Prize showcased an exceptional calibre of truly stunning art pieces.

Hosted by the Shire of Derby/West Kimberley, Shire President Cr Geoff Haerewa officially opened the prestigious annual arts event to a 200-strong audience. The Overall Winner award was presented to Benjamin Loaring of Broome for his Mixed Media category entry titled Tracks across the Sublime.

EAST PILBARA

There were colours galore at the Shire of East Pilbara’s annual Newman Family Fun Run and Half Marathon presented by Act Belong Commit. 139 competitors took part with distances available for all abilities.
ESPERANCE

This July marked the 40th year of the descent of Skylab, America’s first unmanned space station that broke up and scattered debris across the Esperance region in 1979. The Esperance Museum hosted a number of fun, interactive community events that saw some funky designs in the Skylab fashion parade, the wonderful Re’Space/Cycle imagination of our younger community members and was the location for the Australian Premiere of the film ‘Searching for Skylab’. Leading up to the anniversary local student Konii Rollond won a competition to interview Skylab 4 Mission Scientist Edward Gibson about all things space and Skylab.

GOSNELLS

Community members are being encouraged to share their excess home grown produce and reusable items as part of a project designed to promote sharing and reduce waste. Mayor Glenn Dewhurst met with volunteers who helped develop the Grow and Share Cart, in partnership with the City. The Cart will be located at the Addie Mills Centre and provides residents an opportunity to take what they need, and give back what they can.

IRWIN

The Shire of Irwin appointed Shane Ivers as the new Chief Executive Officer for a five-year term. Shane’s appointment came after a competitive recruitment process conducted by Council with the assistance of John Phillips Consulting. Mr Ivers has an engineering background and experience in senior roles in Local Government including most recently serving as the Acting CEO of the Shire of Irwin since July last year.

JOONDALUP

Construction has officially commenced on a significant section of the long-awaited Burns Beach to Mindarie shared coastal path. To mark the occasion, Joondalup Mayor Albert Jacob and Wanneroo Mayor Tracey Roberts took part in a turning of the sod ceremony. Once completed later this year, the path will provide walkers, joggers and cyclists with access to a stretch of natural beauty in the northern suburbs. The State Government, through the Western Australian Planning Commission, contributed $2 million to the project.

GREATER GERALDTON

Geraldton has been recognised for its excellence in access and inclusion after taking out the overall award for Regional Capitals Alliance Most Accessible Community in Western Australia. As well as the Overall Most Accessible Community award, the City of Greater Geraldton also took home the Regional City category. The awards are aimed at Local Governments who best demonstrate their awareness of creating a universal-access environment. Pictured: State disability and awards ambassador Melissa Northcott and Mayor Shane Van Sly.
**KATANNING**
The Shire of Katanning recently welcomed home to the All Ages Playground, iconic giant playground equipment and new aerial walkway in an exciting milestone for the current upgrades happening at the site. The giant play equipment was refurbished as part of a $5 million upgrade of Katanning’s much loved park, funded through the State Government Royalties for Regions program and Lotterywest.

**KALAMUNDA**
Ten City of Kalamunda residents were named honorary Freeman of the City, the highest award Council can bestow. The ceremony took place at the biennial Mayoral Dinner in Wattle Grove, an evening dedicated to the recognition of community volunteers.

The Freeman of the City title is an honour bestowed upon citizens who have made significant achievements and dedicated service to the community over their lifetime. This prestigious award is extended exclusively to those who have shown outstanding, ongoing and extensive community involvement. It is the first time in the past 12 years the City has bestowed the honour of Freeman.

Recipients included Iris Jones, Thomas Hogg, Chris Saligari, Donald McKechnie, Gordon Masters, Frank Scardifield, Marian Rolfe, Mike Robinson, Noreen Townsend and Greg Cannon, who combined have donated over 200 years of their lives to community service.

**KOJONUP**
The last couple of weeks have been quite a buzz in the Kojonup Library. The looks of joy and amazement were on the faces of all generations coming to view the art work.

Artist, Annarine Chapman offered her art to brighten the library wall. Annarine and Senior Librarian, Lorreen chose the birds of the local district, with the Black Cockatoo as the focal point chatting to a baby Phascogale. These little native marsupials are found in the Myrtle Benn Flora & Fauna reserve.

**KWINANA**
Mayor Carol Adams was joined by sporting greats Glen Jakovich and Dana Hooker for the 2019 Kwinana Sports Person Awards, held at the Darius Wells Library and Resource Centre on Friday 9 August.

Photo credit: Chris Kershaw Photography

**MANDURAH**
The City of Mandurah was gifted a commemorative park bench in recognition of its water-saving efforts over the past decade under the State Government’s Waterwise Council Program.

The City was one of the first endorsed Waterwise Councils in 2009, and has achieved Gold and Platinum Status. At the recent WA Local Government Convention, Water Minister David Kelly recognised the City’s commitment to providing waterwise leadership to the community. The park bench has been installed at the Meadow Springs Sporting Facility, which features water-saving irrigation technology.

Pictured: Irrigation Technicians Alan McKay and Russell Price with the new bench.
MINGENEW

The Mingenew Midwest Expo 2019 took place on Wednesday, 14 August to Thursday, 15 August, with thousands of people flocking to Mingenew for the Shire’s showcase event. With over 200 exhibitors, there was a huge amount to see and do. The Shire used the opportunity to provide information and seek feedback on several key infrastructure projects, including a new transfer station and major road realignment project.

Pictured: Cassandra Eva, President Cr Helen Newton and Deputy President Cr Robert Newton. Photo Credit: Justine Rowe

MORDAWA

The Shire of Morawa worked with the NAIDOC working group to deliver the Midwest NAIDOC 2019 event that was held on Wednesday, 24 July.

Students from Yalgoo, Morawa, Perenjori, Three Springs, Carnamah and Coorow joined in the celebrations. Guest speaker Ernie Dingo entertained the crowd and spent time taking lots of photos with guests. But there was something for everyone to enjoy ranging from amazing artworks, bush tucker foods to taste, fun activities to try out, and listening to the Red Ochre Band. Close to 800 people attended this year’s regional event.

Photo Credit: Justine Rowe

MOUNT MAGNET

The Mount Magnet Community Cinema project had its inaugural screening on a chilly August evening. More than 85 people braved the cold weather and attended the Mount Magnet Outdoor Cinema on Friday, 9 August.

The LEGO Movie 2 was thoroughly enjoyed by all. This would not have been possible without the support of the Shire of Mount Magnet as well as the local supermarket IGA and Ramelius Resources. Not forgetting the wonderful group of passionate community members and volunteers who made the dream a reality. It is intended to hold regular screenings at least once a month.

MUNDARING

It’s official! The Shire of Mundaring has become a Refugee Welcome Zone, joining a number of other Western Australian Local Government areas in the process. The Shire’s commitment extends to demonstrating compassion and supporting cultural and religious diversity. Joining the initiative demonstrates the Shire’s culture of inclusiveness and aligns with our values that ensure residents of all ages, needs and backgrounds are supported by our community.

Pictured: Shire President Cr John Daw, Father Chris Bedding (St Cuthbert’s Anglican Church) and Dr Caroline Fleay (Refugee Council of Australia) with the signed declaration.

MURRAY AND WAROONA

Shire of Murray CEO Dean Unsworth has been appointed as the joint CEO for Murray and Waroona, taking already successful resource sharing arrangements to a higher level.

Decision-making will be retained at both Shires and real benefits will be realised through increased collaboration, sharing arrangements, joint procurement, streamlined processes, the creation of a stronger political voice and realising economies of scale. Economic development opportunities will also be explored.

Pictured: Murray Shire President Cr David Bolt, Murray-Waroona CEO Dean Unsworth and Waroona Shire President Cr Mike Walmsley
**NARROGIN**

The Shire of Narrogin recently installed play equipment and shade structures in Ashworth Park, located in Narrogin. To further enhance the look of the park, the project included an Indigenous artwork element acknowledging Narrogin’s Noongar history and culture for printing onto the shadesails. The images were designed by local artist Ross Storey who said the children are the future, they bind the culture and tradition to the elders.

Pictured: Shire President Cr Leigh Ballard and artist Ross Storey.

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**NAREMBEEN**

Narembeen hosted the 2019 Aglime Sand Green Championships Thursday, 8 August to Sunday, 11 August. The four-day event attracted around 200 visitors, with 160 participants competing for the Sand Greens Title. This year’s winner was Ryan Peake from Lakelands Golf Club. The event was an excellent example of the spirit of golf in the regions and an opportunity for Narembeen to showcase its picturesque golf course and excellent venue. The Shire of Narembeen was proud to be a major sponsor for this State event.

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**PERTH**

The City of Perth’s Winter Fest warmed up Perth with a plethora of free events and experiences across the city, including make-believe snow in Hay Street Mall which delighted and enthralled people of all ages.

Swiss artist Dan Acher brought the mesmerising northern lights to Forrest Place with his large-scale light installation and families were entertained in the Winter Fest Theatre by acrobats, dancers, circus performers and more. Winter Fest wrapped up Sunday, 21 July.

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**SERPENTINE JARRAHDALE**

More than 10,000 people attended the SJ Community Fair on Saturday, 10 August, and enjoyed an action-packed day of fun and entertainment. Delivered by the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale, the fair was held at Mundijong Oval for the first time and provided the perfect setting for market stalls, show rides and live entertainment.

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**ROCKINGHAM**

City of Rockingham Mayor Barry Sammels checks out the new Boardwalk, one of the elements of the $15.75 million first stage of the Rockingham Beach Foreshore Revitalisation which is now open to the public. Construction began in July 2018, with work put on hold over summer to allow visitors and businesses to capitalise on the busiest season. The City gratefully acknowledges the Australian Government’s contribution to this project from the National Stronger Regions Fund.
SWAN
The City of Swan and Perth Airport Avon Descent Festival returned to the iconic Lilac Hill grounds on Sunday, 4 August. The free event was the biggest yet, with over 7000 people in attendance.

Entertainment included a huge line up of performances on the Movida Estate Main Stage, vintage fair rides, inflatable slides and ninja challenges and educational children’s activities. It also featured stalls from The Vintage Collective Markets and their iconic pinup parade, along with food trucks and the Avon Ridge Retreat for a little slice of serenity by the river.

SOUTH PERTH
On Sunday, 10 August a giant numbat canopy was installed at South Perth Foreshore as part of the City of South Perth’s major Connect South project.

The six-tonne numbat is aluminium, 6.5m tall and proudly watches over South Perth, awaiting the arrival of its sister canopy, the frilled-neck lizard.

Connect South aims to welcome City visitors and link Mends St Jetty with Perth Zoo. Completion is expected in November.

TOODYAY
The Toodyay Sport and Recreation Precinct ground breaking ceremony was attended by the past and present Shire Presidents David Dow and Cr Brian Rayner, Shire CEO Stan Scott, Hon Darren West MLA, Hon Christian Porter MLA, Cameron Chisolm Nicol Architects and ADCO Constructions, the community Bendigo Bank and the Swimming Pool Action Committee along with a number of community members who have been long -time supporters of the Project.

Mr Scott acknowledged the tenacity of the Shire’s Events Coordinator Debra Andrijich in submitting grant applications, who re-applied a number of times until the Shire was successful with the receipt of a Federal Government grant of $4.7million.

UPPER GASCOYNE
The very talented ladies of the Junction Craft Group presented the Shire Council with their labour of love “Another Glorious Day in Paradise” - a hand-made quilt depicting various scenes of what life within the Shire of Upper Gascoyne is all about. Shearers, motorbikes, windmills, RFDS, helicopters, variety of animals – and of course a nudey rudey having an outdoor shower!

VIC PARK
The Town celebrated the opening of the upgraded John Macmillian Park with a free family-friendly event on Sunday, 4 August. Part of the upgrade includes a new art piece titled Portal from artists Stephen Pennock and Shavaun Hanson. At night, lights and water mist work together to create colour, immersion and sensory fun. A time capsule was buried to commemorate the Town’s 25th anniversary, to be dug up and opened in another 25 years.
The 2019 Local Government Convention saw nearly 450 delegates and 150 officers attend, along with 89 exhibitors who populated the Trade Exhibition.

Following the Convention theme ReNEWal,PrACTical, the program saw a focus on the ongoing process to develop new legislation for the sector aiming to enable Local Governments to deal with the vast and diverse range of wants and needs of local communities.

A Mayors’ and Presidents’ Forum held on Tuesday, 6 August, featured presentations from Local Government New Zealand President Mayor Dave Cull and Professor Tilman Ruff speaking about the Mayors for Peace initiative.

A late inclusion on the program of Chair, Select Committee into Local Government the Hon Simon O’Brien provided opportunity for robust debate around the Committee’s role and approach to the sector.

Wednesday’s program comprised a political forum with rotational dialogues from key policy areas relating to Local Government, followed by the WALGA AGM at which nine items were debated with consequent resolutions recorded.

The Convention program featured a number of outstanding speakers, across both plenary and topic specific concurrent sessions. Opening keynote speaker Lord Sebastian Coe spoke about the importance of building a strong team and remaining focused on the over-arching vision when confronted with obstacles.

A panel featuring Local Government Minister David Templeman MLA, Professor Roberta Ryan, Manjimup Shire President Paul Omodei and Civic Legal’s Anthony Quahe discussed the role of Local Government in addressing place-based challenges as well as possible changes arising from the review of the Local Government Act. Professor Ryan’s opening remarks highlighted the important role Local Government plays economically and socially in all of our communities.

Friday’s political session featuring Gary Adshead and Hugh Riminton provided substantial insight into the broader political context in Western Australia and at the Federal level.

New Zealand’s Cr Dale Williams provided his inspirational perspective on local solutions to local problems driven by the knowledge and passion of local people working together.

Australian football legend Rodney Eade gave an engaging breakfast presentation focused on leadership and building successful teams. The Conference ended on Friday with Andy Dexterity’s unique take on inclusion.

A range of honours and awards were presented, recognising the achievements of both individuals and Councils in service to the Local Government sector; ANZAC Day events and accessible communities.

Featured over the next few pages are photos from the event.
WA LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONVENTION AWARDS

ANZAC DAY AWARDS

Two Local Governments were presented awards for their strong commitment to collaboration and community involvement in ANZAC Day events through a joint WALGA/RSLWA initiative.

The Shire of Capel won in the category: population over 10,000 people for their dawn service at Peppermint Beach with a number of lead up activities and refurbishment of the beach’s lookout.

The Shire of West Arthur won in the category population under 10,000 people for their work in establishing an ANZAC Community Group and refreshing their commemoration activities.

MACWA AWARDS

Three Local Governments were recognised with Most Accessible Community awards for their awareness in creating a universal-access environment, sponsored by WA Regional Capitals Alliance:

- Metropolitan Local Government/OVERALL – City of Cockburn
- Regional City/OVERALL – City of Greater Geraldton
- Regional Town – Shire of Augusta-Margaret River

Regional Capitals Alliance Chair Mayor Peter Long presents City of Greater Geraldton Mayor Shane Van Styn with the City’s award as MACWA Overall Winner.
A record ten graduates were recognised at the 2019 Local Government Convention for achieving their Diploma of Local Government (Elected Member) Qualification.

In addition, two scholarships were awarded to Elected Members to assist with completion of the Diploma qualification.

WALGA CEO Nick Sloan and President Lynne Craigie congratulated both the graduates and scholarship recipients, saying they were ambassadors for the sector.

“Completing the Diploma is no small feat, with a commitment of many hours beyond the ten days of courses to achieve qualification”, Cr Craigie said.

“I congratulate our graduates and scholarship recipients and thank them for this commitment to their professional development to further enhance their service to local communities.”

### Local Government (Elected Member) Graduates

- **Cr Natasha Colliver**
  City of Greater Geraldton
- **Cr Grant Cucel**
  City of Karratha
- **Cr Catherine Ehrhardt**
  City of Bayswater
- **Cr Terresa Lynes**
  City of Gosnells
- **Cr Alys McKeough**
  Shire of Upper Gascoyne

### Mayor Renee McLennan

- **Cr Shelley Payne**
  Shire of Esperance
- **Cr Dale Piercey**
  Shire of Esperance
- **Mayor Shane van Styn**
  City of Greater Geraldton
- **Mr Keith Yong**
  previously of City of Perth

### Local Government Diploma Scholarship Recipients

- **Cr Douglas Kitchen**
  Shire of Capel
- **Cr Michelle Boylan**
  Shire of Harvey
It was great to see so many members at the WALGA Convention held at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre in early August. Plenty of members took the opportunity to chat with me about their local government - the issues faced and where LGIS can provide support. I also appreciated the opportunity to provide an update on your local government self insurance Scheme during the AGM.

At the AGM I was pleased to advise that we’ve welcomed back the Shire of Wiluna, City of Kalamunda and Shire of Coolgardie and I know that many delegates took the time to talk with those representatives about their experiences with the commercial insurance market and their decision to return to the Scheme.

We also had some fun on our stand with a very competitive grip strength challenge. I now know who to back if there’s ever a WA local government arm wrestling championship! Congratulations to Denise Gobbert (50.6 kg) at Lake Grace who took out the women’s title and Brendan Evans (85.3 kg) at Rockingham who was the men’s champion.

The grip challenge wasn’t just fun - it gave the LGIS team an opportunity to talk to elected members about all the things LGIS does which isn’t just cover. Over the last financial year we’ve delivered over 11,000 hours, equivalent to $2.64 M, of risk and governance services to members – all included as part of Scheme membership.

The Scheme provides these risk and governance services to keep your community, organisation and workforce safe – whilst protecting your Scheme. We’ve completed over 45 ‘3 Steps to Safety’ audits, some 30 aquatic assessments at pools right across our great state, and we’ve provided advice on a wide range of sector issues from verge activation, coastal erosion, combustible building cladding, transfer of land and assets, to the perennial ‘favourites’ of trees and potholes.

SURPLUS DISTRIBUTION LATER IN THE YEAR

You would’ve recently received a letter from WALGA President Cr Lynne Craigie about distribution of the 2018/19 surplus. The surplus distribution amounts will be finalised by October this year.

This year members will be able to choose how they receive their share of the surplus either as a contribution credit or as a direct dividend payment. Your council will need to make a formal motion at an ordinary council meeting, and advise WALGA on how you wish to receive your surplus share.

Once surplus distribution amounts have been confirmed, LGIS and WALGA representatives would be pleased to present the distribution report at an ordinary council meeting. A representative from LGIS will be in contact to arrange this.

If you have any queries about our risk services or this year’s surplus distribution please contact me on 9483 8855 or your LGIS Account Manager on 9483 8888.
The Synergy Xmas Lights Trail is the home of Christmas lights in WA, connecting people who love to decorate their homes with the people who love to visit Christmas lights.

We also use our Synergy Xmas Lights Trail to support Lifeline WA who help people in crisis at what can be a very difficult time of year for some.

An easy way to promote your local events this Christmas. Every year, many local government authorities run a range of decorating competitions and local Christmas events for residents.

We’d like to invite you to join our Synergy Xmas Lights Trail platform – it’s a free and simple way to engage with residents, activate tourism in your local area and create a wonderful sense of community spirit.

Here are some answers to questions we often receive about our Synergy Xmas Lights Trail.

**HOW DOES THIS FIT IN WITH OUR COUNCIL’S FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY?**

Rather than encouraging more people to decorate their homes, our Xmas Lights Trail aims to give those who already decorate their homes a platform to share their Christmas spirit with the wider WA community. We also encourage our decorators to use solar options as much as possible, putting all of that WA sunshine to work for free!

**HOW COULD WE GET INVOLVED?**

You might encourage your residents who love to decorate to join our platform – and you can promote your local Christmas events through our online Xmas Lights Trail map. This opportunity is exclusive to LGAs and Town Teams.

We’re also planning some community trail walks around different metro locations in December. This is to help with local inclusiveness – and we would like to partner with some LGAs to create these experiences.

**WHAT’S THE BENEFIT OF ENCOURAGING OUR RESIDENTS TO JOIN OR ADDING OUR EVENT TO THE SYNERGY XMAS LIGHTS TRAIL PLATFORM?**

Last year our Xmas Lights website had more than 80,000 unique visitors. With more houses from your local area listed on our map and your events promoted for free, you could attract more visitors to your LGA which could have an economic flow on to your local community.

**HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO BE INVOLVED?**

It’s free for residents and LGAs to join our platform.

**WHAT IF WE ALREADY HAVE OUR OWN LOCAL LIGHTS TRAIL?**

We have a new website feature this year which allows for pre-selected localised trails in different metro locations. If you already have a lights trail or tour, you can use our functionality and wider community reach to help visitors find their way to your local area.

Congratulations to City of Rockingham who were selected as the winners of Synergy’s competition to win $5,000 towards a commercial SolarReturn solar power system at the 2019 WA Local Government Convention & Trade Exhibition.

Email synergy.events@synergy.net.au to find out how you can get involved in the 2019 Synergy Xmas Lights Trail.
LEGAL UPDATE
UNRAVELLING THE MYSTERIES OF MAGISTRATE COURT PENALTIES

Local Governments often invest a significant amount of time and effort spent in considering whether to prosecute.

Once a conviction is secured, however, it is not the Local Government but the Magistrates Court that will make the decision about what penalty should be imposed. So, understanding the factors that may influence that decision is useful.

FIRST FACTOR – MAXIMUM PENALTY
The first factor will be the maximum penalty. These vary widely but are set out in the Act or Local Law that the prosecution is being brought under. The Magistrate will start with the maximum penalty when determining an appropriate fine to impose.

For example, the maximum penalty for an offence by an individual under the Local Government Act 1995 (where the offence section does not have a specific maximum penalty) is $5000 as a head fine and up to $500 per day for each day that the offence continues (s 9.14 of the Local Government Act 1995).

However, the maximum penalty for development in contravention of a Planning Scheme for an individual is a head fine of $200,000 and a daily penalty maximum of $25,000 a day.

SECOND FACTOR – TYPE OF ACCUSED
The second factor is whether the convicted entity is a natural person or a corporation.

If the convicted entity is a corporation then section 40(5) of the Sentencing Act 1995 applies (unless the section sets out a different maximum sentence for Corporate Offenders) and the maximum penalty is increased five times.

So the maximum penalties described above change from $5000 to $25,000 as a head fine and up to not $500 but $2,500 per day for the Local Government Act 1995 offence.

Similarly the maximum penalty for contravention of a Planning Scheme changes from $200,000 to $1,000,000 and a daily penalty maximum from $25,000 a day to $125,000 a day.

THIRD FACTOR – SERIOUSNESS OF THE OFFENDING BEHAVIOUR
This is where the discretion starts to be exercised by the Court. It is very important to provide as much information as possible to the Court so that the Magistrate is fully informed when making a decision as to how serious the offending is.

Part of the seriousness will be the “sizes” involved. For example the unauthorised construction of a carport will not be as serious as the unauthorised construction of a 5 storey building. Similarly the unauthorised use of a home office will not be as serious as an unauthorised transport depot.

FOURTH FACTOR – LENGTH OF TIME THAT THE OFFENDING HAS CONTINUED
The length of time that the offending has continued and the attempts by the Local Government to resolve the matter without the need for prosecution is also a factor which a Magistrate is likely to take into account. The longer the offence continues and the more attempts by the Local Government to resolve the issue, the greater the penalty is likely to be.

FIFTH FACTOR – WHETHER THE OFFENCE WAS COMMITTED WITH KNOWLEDGE
Ignorance of the law is no defence, however knowledge that the behaviour constitutes an offence and continuing to commit the offence is a factor that Magistrates are likely to take into account.

For example, we regularly make penalty submissions that a charge relating to the carrying out of the unauthorised development is less serious than a charge of failing to comply with a Planning and Development Act 2005 Direction Notice. In the first charge time period there may have been an element of mistake in the convicted entity’s actions. However once the convicted entity has been directed in writing to stop the behaviour and it continues, they have done so knowing that the Local Government has the view that the behaviour is an offence.

SIXTH FACTOR – WHETHER THIS IS A REPEAT OFFENDER OR A FIRST OFFENCE
A first offence will generally attract a smaller penalty than a second or third offence.

SEVENTH FACTOR – CAPACITY TO PAY
The financial circumstances of the convicted entity will also be a factor the Magistrate considers.

EIGHTH FACTOR – RELATED PARTIES
The Court is also likely to consider whether co accused/convicted are related, for example husband and wife or company and director, and if so a smaller penalty is likely.

CONCLUSION
There are many variables which might be considered when determining penalty however the above 8 factors are the most common.
The following resolutions were among those carried at the State Council meeting held in West Leederville on Wednesday, 3 July.

**EMERGING ISSUE - REGIONAL ROAD GROUP PROJECT – FINALISATION PAYMENTS**

That:

1. WALGA write to MRWA seeking an urgent meeting to call for procedure changes to ensure timely delivery and invoicing of line marking.

2. Where a request for line marking was submitted on or before 30 April 2019 the outstanding claim amount (final 20%) is accrued at 30 June, the project recorded as being complete in 2018/19 and no penalties on future grants be applied.

3. Through the State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee, WALGA seek a change to the Procedures so that invoices are always provided within four weeks of line marking work being completed and Main Roads WA to invoice on the basis of an estimate where this is not achieved.

**NATIONAL REDRESS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

That:

1. WA Local Government participation in the State’s National Redress Scheme declaration with full financial coverage by the State, be endorsed in principle, noting that further engagement with the sector will occur in the second half of 2019.

2. WALGA continue to promote awareness of the National Redress Scheme and note that Local Governments may wish to join the Scheme in the future to demonstrate a commitment to the victims of institutional child sexual abuse.

**REMOTE AREA TAX CONCESSIONS**

That WALGA’s interim submission to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Remote Area Tax Concessions be endorsed.

**DIRECTIONS PAPER FOR THE 10 YEAR STRATEGY ON HOMELESSNESS**

1. That WALGA notes:
   a. that the State Government’s “Directions Paper for 10-year Strategy on Homelessness: Western Australia 2019-2029” does not explicitly address the general housing affordability crisis as a cause of homelessness, nor the approximate seven year waiting list for qualifying applicants to be allocated social housing
   b. that without a significant injection of new capital and a qualitative increase in social housing stock, it is hard to see how endemic homelessness can be eliminated even though this is the stated aim of the directions paper.

2. The Association’s submission be endorsed subject to incorporating the need to address the underlying crisis outlined in (1) above.

3. That WALGA advocates to the State and Federal Governments for a whole of Government approach.

The following resolutions were among those carried at the Regional State Council meeting held in Shark Bay on Friday, 6 September.

**WA PUBLIC LIBRARIES STRATEGY FORUM**

That WALGA:

1. Supports the proposed repurposing of the accounting treatment of existing capital funds to recurrent funding.

2. Supports the proposed transfer of ownership of stock from State to Local Governments for Tier 1 Local Governments.

3. Requests State Library WA to advise the Local Government sector of the State Government corporate budget schedule and expedite annual funding allocation notifications to Local Government as soon as possible in the new financial year.

4. Requests that the State Government make a commitment that the funding to libraries will not decrease; that it will be indexed each financial year and that the discretion of how to expend the funding should remain with Local Government.

**ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY FOR WA BEYOND 2020**

That the submission to the Road Safety Council, for consideration in developing the next road safety strategy for Western Australia, be endorsed subject to:

1. the word ‘management’ being replaced with the word ‘reform’ in each case in points 4 and 5; and

2. WALGA opposes the blanket reduction in speed limits and confirms the existing policy position supporting retention of WA’s default open road speed limit at 110kms per hour.

**ACTION TO REDUCE RUN-OFF ROAD CRASHES IN RURAL WA**

That WALGA actively supports Federal and State Government investing in $100m per year to seal shoulders and install edge lines to 17,000kms of State Highways over the next 10 years.

**PROPOSED ELECTED MEMBER ‘WELLFARE/ COUNSELLING’ PROGRAM**

That WALGA requests LGIS to investigate the design and development of a tailored support service for Elected Members including the provision of a short term counselling service.

**STATE COUNCIL AND ZONE STRUCTURE AND PROCESS WORKING GROUP REPORT**

1. The Working Group’s Final Report be noted and released to the Local Government sector for information and consultation;

2. Recommendations 5, 6, 7 and 8 be endorsed for immediate implementation; and

3. Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 9 and 10 be endorsed in principle subject to sector and Zone consultation being undertaken during September, October and November 2019, with a report brought to the December 2019 State Council meeting for final endorsement.
State Council

President Cr Lynne Craigie OAM .................................................................President
Mayor Tracey Roberts JP .................................................................Deputy President / North Metropolitan Zone
Cr Jan Court JP ....................................................................................Avon-Midland Country Zone
President Cr Phil Blight ...........................................................................Central Country Zone
Cr Jenna Ledgerwood ...............................................................................Central Metropolitan Zone
Cr Paul Kelly ................................................................................................Central Metropolitan Zone
Cr Brooke O’Donnell ................................................................................East Metropolitan Zone
Cr Kate Driver ..........................................................................................East Metropolitan Zone
President Cr Malcolm Cullen ..............................................................Goldfields Esperance Country Zone
President Cr Cheryl Cowell .....................................................................Gascoyne Country Zone
President Cr Stephen Strange ...............................................................Great Eastern Country Zone
President Cr Keith House JP ...................................................................Great Southern Country Zone
Cr Chris Mitchell JP ................................................................................Kimberley Country Zone
Cr Les Price .............................................................................................Murchison Country Zone
Cr Russ Fishwick JP ................................................................................North Metropolitan Zone
Cr Giovanni Italiano JP ...........................................................................North Metropolitan Zone
President Cr Karen Chappel JP ..............................................................Northern Country Zone
President Cr Michelle Rich ........................................................................Peel Country Zone
President Cr Kerry White ........................................................................Pilbara Country Zone
Cr Julie Brown ..........................................................................................South East Metropolitan Zone
Cr Brian Oliver ..........................................................................................South East Metropolitan Zone
Mayor Logan Howlett JP ........................................................................South Metropolitan Zone
Cr Doug Thompson ..................................................................................South Metropolitan Zone
Mayor Carol Adams OAM .......................................................................South Metropolitan Zone
President Cr Tony Dean ...........................................................................South West Country Zone

Ex-officio:
Mr Ian Cowie PSM .................................................................................Local Government Professionals State President
Commissioner Eric Lumsden .......................................................................Chair of Commissioners City of Perth