

Western Councillor



ISSUE 119 | APR/MAY 2022



P7

SUPPORTING
SMALL BUSINESS

P24

COVID
E-LEARNING
INITIATIVE

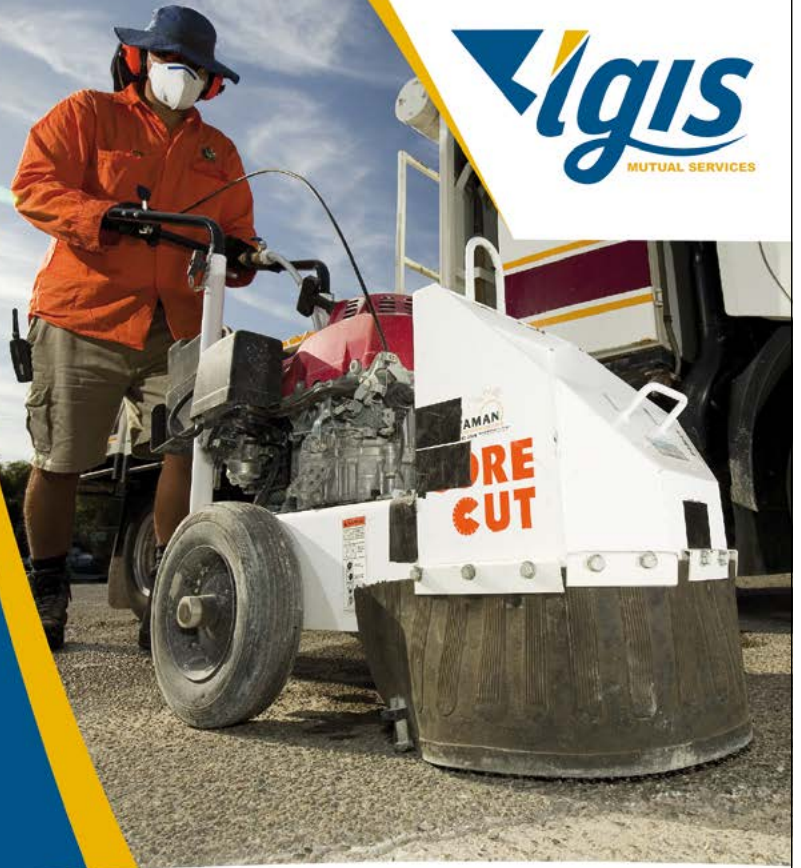
Local governments working together.

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

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

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

We believe that's worth protecting.



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



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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 Nick Sloan or Candy Choo on the numbers below.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
PEER SUPPORT
TEAM HOTLINE
NUMBERS

Nick Sloan
CEO
WALGA
Tel 9213 2025

Candy Choo
CEO
LG Professionals WA
Tel 9271 1136



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Welcome to Issue 119 of Western Councillor

COVER:

The Darkan Sheepfest in West Arthur was one of only a handful of local agricultural shows that were able to go ahead amidst the COVID restrictions. The Shire of West Arthur provided support for the community volunteers organising the event and ran a stall at the event to discuss local issues and concerns. Sabrina Hahn talked about the joys of sheep poo. The pet sheep competition and farm boot race were popular.





Chief Executive Officer
Nick Sloan

FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE

Local Government is essential to a well-functioning, efficient and trusted planning system which could not function without the hundreds of planners and Elected Members making important strategic and statutory decisions every day on behalf of their communities.

These roles are vital. They support local economic activity, protect the existing residential amenity of our towns, cities and suburbs, and ensure that our planning rules remain contemporary as our communities change and grow.

The introduction of special COVID-19 planning powers in early 2020 was an abrupt reminder that our state has one of the most centralised planning systems in the developed world. It was also a reminder that many responsibilities and processes we take for granted as being Local Government functions, are in fact delegated or controlled by the Western Australian Planning Commission and the Minister for Planning.

As the peak body for Local Governments, WALGA has been an enthusiastic supporter of planning reform for more than a decade and we have taken a constructive role in working with the State Government to improve planning outcomes and processes, while ensuring that the views of the sector and local communities are heard and considered.

This commitment to reform and constructive engagement was illustrated at the May 2022 meeting of WALGA's State Council with the endorsement of our submission on the Development Assessment Panel (DAP) Regulations.

WALGA proposed dozens of recommendations to improve both the proposed Special Matters DAP and the functioning of the existing regional DAPS. These proposals are all drawn from Local Governments' experience in working with the DAP system and WALGA's extensive data collection work.

WALGA has been a strong opponent of the COVID-19 planning powers and expressed disappointment and concern at the State Government's announcement on 10 May to introduce the Planning and Development Amendment Bill 2022, which will re-open the State Development Assessment Unit (SDAU) pathway for significant projects until December 2023.

We continue to believe that Local Government involvement in the planning system is a net-positive and something that the community expects and wants. But now more than ever it is important that we communicate our successes and improvements to Government, industry and the community.

WALGA has been working with a growing group of Local Governments for the past five years to collect and report on their planning and building functions. The results of this work show that Local Governments are consistently providing timely high levels of service to applicants while still considering their local planning frameworks and community views.

Recent data from 2020/2021 shows that in the height of the pandemic, Local Government planning and building departments were the busiest they have ever been, while managing to achieve the highest performance results in the project's history.

- More than 20,000 development applications assessed in 2020/21, a 25% increase from the previous year, of these:
 - 99% were approved,
 - 88% were determined within statutory timeframes.

The Performance Monitoring Project data can now be viewed on WALGA's website. The dashboard and the positive results form a key pillar of WALGA's advocacy against further removal of local planning powers by the State. WALGA will be reaching out to Local Governments in the coming months to join the program for the 2021/2022 reporting year.



President
Cr Karen Chappel

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Greek philosopher Heraclitus said the 'Only Constant in Life is Change'.

If the pandemic has taught us anything, it is that change can be thrust upon us without any warning.

We need to embrace and prosper from change, not hide from it.

It would be fair to say that the impact of COVID and the challenges that are continuing to be felt from it are hard to hide from, anyway. For Local Governments these include:

- the current inflationary environment and the effect it has on costs to deliver services and the forthcoming rate settings,
- materials and labour shortages,
- project delays,
- acquittal of grant funding, and
- attracting and retaining people to and in Local Government in a tight labour market.

Local Government legislative reform is another significant change, and clearly the sector may look very different in just a few short years.

It is critical that all Elected Members have a firm understanding of the legislative and regulatory changes that arise from this reform. I urge all to complete the Diploma of Local Government offered by WALGA. The Diploma will keep you on top of your obligations, give you confidence to contribute to informed decision making and meet the increasing community expectations of Local Government.

To master these challenges, we need to be agile, not afraid to innovate, find new ways of serving our communities and strengthen our influence through effective advocacy.

Advocacy is a core purpose of WALGA and is the key to representing you as the voice of Local Government in WA. To influence more effectively, we must focus on a smaller number of key areas and core policy positions. While we will always be the voice of the whole sector, trying to be all things to all people dilutes our effectiveness.

Honing our policy focus, then clearly communicating the position and its importance to the community, is critical to WALGA's success of representing the sector to key stakeholders, especially the State and Federal Governments.

WALGA is also looking at change its governance perspective and has begun a review, using independent advice, to develop a more contemporary governance structure to ensure we are relevant, agile and responsive.

This will take time but is an important step in implementing our Strategic Plan. Deputy President Cr Kelly and I are committed to this journey to realise a stronger WALGA and Local Government sector.

I am also keen for there to be change in the language we use and how we describe ourselves. The term 'sector position' is meant to be this all-encompassing phrase yet it deflates everything that is said immediately following.

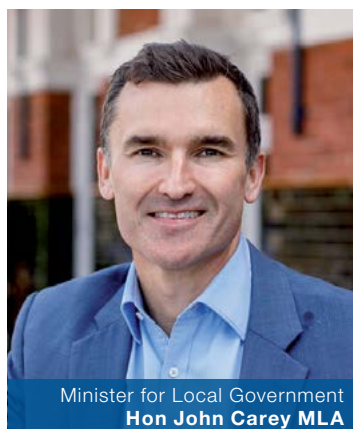
Our language needs to be lively and constructive in describing the positive impact Local Governments have on the everyday lives of West Australians.

I recently heard a simple but excellent example of positive language. A little girl was singing the alphabet.

- A – I am amazing
- B – I am brave
- C – I am caring
- D – I am delightful

That positive mindset will undoubtedly impact her whole life.

If all of us in Local Government describe ourselves positively and in a pro-active way, then the media and the community may just do the same.



Minister for Local Government
Hon John Carey MLA

FROM THE MINISTER

I thought it would be worthwhile to reflect on the practical challenges all elected members encounter when performing their critical role on council, and reflect on how my own experiences have shaped how I think about culture in local government.

Everyone in Local Government shares a common interest in achieving positive results for our communities. Unfortunately, in this social media age, we see councils where one or two elected members focus on division and personal conflict, rather than on practical outcomes. Sadly, many elected members and administration officers face vexatious complaints that are more about personal grievances than any real issue or policy. Both of these can be highly corrosive to a Local Government working effectively to meet the genuine interests of all people in their district.

So, in this column, I thought I'd share my thoughts on five principles for building a culture in Local Government that supports councils achieving positive outcomes for their communities.

1. Focus on finding agreement on solving problems. It is Council, not individual Councillors, who make decisions. In practice, one of the most important things a councillor must do is consider how they can be part of shaping consensus for policies and decisions – even if they think another decision would be better. Councillors who sit on council to just

criticise without helping to find positive outcomes aren't serving anyone.

2. Councils must find ways to say "yes" – particularly to community groups, event organisers, and small businesses. It can be easy to be cautious towards risks, or make decisions based on what has been done before. Local governments have huge power to facilitate the good work of others. As Minister, I will always back any Council who is working to be innovative and drive positive change.
3. Council should be open, upfront, and clear with the community. I know that many issues can be difficult and complex. However, conspiracies and complaints thrive when the facts aren't clear. In my experience, the best way for councils to make difficult decisions is to be upfront about the problem, and the options councils considered to address it.
4. Local Government work best as one large team of people, who each work towards the vision set by Council. Central to this is Councils and CEO's working together to steer this work. In my experience, the most successful local governments are successful because council makes decisions based on a clear vision of how they want to serve their community. When the vision is clear, the delivery will follow.
5. Local Government should be focused on outcomes. Reporting and documentation is a critical part of supporting and justifying decision-making – but we need to ensure reporting is clear and simple, and does not needlessly divert time and attention away from service delivery.

I look forward to continuing to engage with councils as we continue to progress positive local government reform.



Shadow Minister for Local Government
Shane Love

FROM THE OPPOSITION

Twelve months has passed since Tropical Cyclone Seroja crossed the coast leaving a trail of destruction through the Mid West, including much of the electorate I represent. Immediately afterward I witnessed Local Government spring into action, keeping communities safe and organising the recovery efforts of State and Federal agencies. There could not be a clearer and more stark example of the need for a strong, capable and connected Local Government sector, working for their local area and collectively the people of WA. We often hear the term 'grass roots' applied to Local Government and TC Seroja certainly showed this to be true.

I welcome the invitation to contribute an introductory column as the Shadow Minister for Local Government following the recent National - Liberal Alliance reshuffle, and adding to my other shadow portfolios of Transport, Mines and Petroleum, Climate Action. In some ways it is familiar ground as prior to entering state politics, I served as a Dandaragan Shire Councillor from 2001 to 2013, holding the position of Shire President from late 2004 until the 2013 election. In 2012 I was honoured to receive WALGA's Eminent Service Award. The greatest award was the privilege of representing the local community.

As a member of The Nationals, I am part of a group that recognise the importance of Local Government. Indeed, the party constitution lists among

its objectives "the devolution of power, wherever practicable, from the Commonwealth to the State and from the State to Local Government." Together with our Liberal Alliance partners, we will support you.

Despite a background in Local Government, I recognise there is much to be learnt about contemporary issues facing the sector and the vast differences between very remote shires, regional cities and the diversity within the Metro area. In recent meetings with regional councils, I hear reoccurring concerns around the cost, process and timeliness of audits, a matter I will be seeking to raise with the Auditor General. I acknowledge the challenges of Local Government in managing a substantial asset base with limited 'own finance' and stand ready to advocate on the sector's behalf.

The last two years of dealing with COVID have been difficult for everyone. Local Government has shared the load, dealing with issues as they arise including changing health measures and quickly evolving changes in planning and governance. As if there was not enough to deal with, the State Government apparently wants Local Governments to fall under the State Industrial Relations System, potentially affecting some 23,000 employees - an unnecessary and costly financial burden for a sector already stretched. If this does occur, it will be the action of a government wanting to impose its ideology regardless of the impact of the sector.

Consultation on Local Government reform closed in February and with over 200 submissions, there is much to digest. As the process unfolds, I am very willing to listen to any concerns you have and to raise issues in Parliament.

I look forward to meeting many elected members and managers over the journey ahead. Feel free to drop me a line if I can help in any way.

TAKING A CUSTOMER-FIRST APPROACH TO REGULATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

One silver lining of the COVID-19 pandemic and recent supply chain shortages impacting many industries, has been an increased appreciation of the significance of small businesses to local communities all around the world.



Small Business Commissioner,
David Eaton

The concept of localism (supporting the local production and consumption of goods), as opposed to globalism, has really taken flight during the past two years of restricted movement in and out of our state. I like to think that this movement to support and shop local has gained traction, not only because our travel has been restricted and we've had no option but to spend our hard-earned dollars at home, but because consumers have realised that there are real people behind every small local business.

It's no secret that the COVID pandemic hit small businesses harder than many other sectors. While we can all appreciate the necessity of lockdowns and restrictions to protect public health, it's much easier to come to terms with when your livelihood is not affected.

The more than 220,000 small businesses in Western Australia each have individuals behind them. Staying in our communities and seeing more of these businesses over the past two years means that we have really got to know our local business owners and have witnessed their resilience through rapidly changing public health settings, supply chain disruption, staff shortages, and rapid surges and retractions in custom.

When you see your local café owner every day and observe what they have contended with, you'd be hard pressed not to be empathetic to the challenges facing them.

ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

So, what has this got to do with Local Government?

Local Governments well understand that small businesses are a significant contributor to their local economies and a major source of jobs within communities. Significant resources are invested into economic development strategies and teams to help support local business communities, while placemaking, events and marketing strategies to attract the visitors and retain residents have become an important part of the Local Government arsenal.

However, beneath comprehensive economic development strategies and inspiring marketing campaigns, there has sometimes been a tension between how Local Governments attract businesses to establish locally, and the lived experience of someone actually setting up their new business.

New business owners often navigate complex Local and State Government approvals while they are also securing business finance, negotiating a lease, managing a fit out and promoting their new operation. Understanding exactly which approvals and licences they require, who in their Local Government to approach, and how long it will take to receive approval is one of the biggest areas of confusion and often frustration for new business owners. This is not intended as a criticism of the role of regulation, rather the way that different requirements are communicated to small business customers, the number of officers they need to deal with for different approvals, and the length of time that it can take to finalise all the paperwork.

At the start of 2020, the Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) received funding through the State Government's Streamline WA (a whole-of-government program to make it easier to do business in WA) to expand the Small Business Friendly Approvals Program. This program, which was piloted in 2019 with the Cities of Canning and Stirling, is designed to streamline the local government approvals process and improve the overall experience for small business customers. The onset of the pandemic increased the urgency for reform, to ensure our economy could recover strongly from COVID impacts.

It was clear from the pilot that making it easier for start-ups to access the permits and licences they needed from Local Government Authorities would be a potent move to encourage local economic growth.

HUMAN-CENTRED DESIGN KEY TO CHANGE

A year and a half into the expanded Small Business Friendly Approvals Program, having worked with 14 regional and metropolitan Local Governments so far, it is the human-centred design element of the program that has had the most impact on Local Government participants and their prospective small businesses.

Human-centred design gives a voice to customers by gathering evidence to inform decision-making, while examining behaviours and emotions, as well as systems and processes. It ensures solutions are designed in consultation between

BUILDING LOCAL ECONOMIES AND SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

businesses and Local Government officers, based on the business owners' needs and experience.

Listening to the voice of the customer is key in this approach. Every Local Government who has participated in the Approvals Program has had the opportunity to hear from several local business owners about their experience of applying for a permit with their Local Government. Hearing directly from their customers has been crucial to enable officers to gain a deeper understanding of their customer's perspective and identify improvement to their current application and approvals processes.

In many instances, Local Government staff declared that this was the first time they truly understood the impact that approval delays, internal silos and poor communication had on applicants, who may have left paid employment and committed to paying a lease before being able to start their business and generate an income. They were inspired to make improvements because they could see and empathise with the person behind the business.

Shifting mindsets to human-centred, rather than process-oriented, design, allowed program participants to generate ideas for change that could make immediate and long-term benefits for their small businesses.

So far, across 14 participating Local Governments, 358 process improvements and new initiatives have been identified. Many of these changes, such as simplifying the information provided to small business customers, require low effort and resources to implement but will cumulatively make a big difference to reduce the burden of establishing in these areas.

With many challenges and much uncertainty remaining for the small business sector as we emerge into a post-COVID world, it is a critical time to consider what governments at all levels can do to support the business community as it continues to build long-term sustainability and resilience. Helping our crucial small business sector start strongly, survive and thrive by putting the person at the centre of a small business, at the centre of our thinking, is a change that all of us in government can make.

Local Governments can play an important role in economic development, due to their on-the-ground community presence, involvement in planning and development activities and breadth of assets under management.

Many Local Governments have a strong and growing focus on building their local economy to deliver better outcomes for their community in terms of local job creation, access to products and services, and to create revenue to reinvest back into community services and infrastructure.

The types of economic development activities that are underway differ because of the capacity and resources of the Local Government, but primarily relate to attracting and retaining businesses, and encouraging business growth. Some common initiatives include information provision, business networking events, business friendly policies and investment attraction; while a number of Local Governments have also been working to streamline approvals and reduce red tape.

In recognition of this growing focus, WALGA undertook a major piece of work in 2019 to support the sector to better understand the role they can play in driving local economic development, and to understand barriers and challenges to the sectors activities in this space and to put forward solutions. After a significant period of research and consultation with Local Governments, State Government and other important stakeholders including business groups and universities, the outcome of this project was a series of documents to support the sector their economic development roles and responsibilities. Chief among these was the Local Government Economic Development Framework. This practical document helps Local Governments to understand:

- At a basic level, what is economic development and what is the role of Local Government in supporting economic development;
- The economic development ecosystem and landscape in WA – Who are the key agencies involved at a Commonwealth and State level; How does Economic Development fit it the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework; and
- Local economic development in practise – Examples of the activities and initiatives that Local Governments undertake that impact economic development outcomes.

In coming months, WALGA will be commencing a new project to support to Local Governments in their economic development endeavours through policy development, advocacy, training and case studies.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SHOWCASE

CITY OF CANNING – BUSINESS MENTORING PROGRAM

The City of Canning Business Mentoring Program is a purposeful effort from the City to move away from a grants and incubator business support model, to one that is centred on programs that build capacity and capability at our library learning hubs.

A core part of the transition was recognising that businesses are a part of the local community, contribute to our local economic prosperity, and they need to be able to easily access assistance for them to grow.

The program provides local businesses with an opportunity to build their capacity and capability, recognising that each business stage requires a different type of support: SEED, START, SPRINT, SCALE, SUSTAIN.

It also provides an opportunity for them to connect with like-minded peers and networks that can provide a supportive ecosystem.

WA Home Stay & Aussie Holiday Home Stay is one local brand that saw an opportunity in the market to create an online booking platform with heart. After the success of the online booking platform in WA, they are looking at expanding nationally. Amanda from WA Home Stay signed up for the sprint and sustain stage of the Canning Business Mentoring Program. Hear more about how this program has assisted her business - www.youtube.com/watch?v=AsK14gWMxAU

Canning Mayor Patrick Hall said the program had proved to be a great success.

"Our recent experiences have shown that many local businesses, who have participated in the program, grow and go on to achieve great things. It is a wonderful feeling to know that the City of Canning's mentoring program has played a significant role in their success," Mayor Hall said.

"No matter where you are on your business journey, whether you are an entrepreneur with a new idea or a fledgling business in need of mentoring and support, this program is specifically tailored to help you to take the next important steps."

For more information visit www.canning.wa.gov.au/cbmp



Wanneroo Neerabup Industrial Area

WANNEROO NEERABUP DEVELOPMENT

In December 2021, the City of Wanneroo strengthened its support for the Australian Automation and Robotics Precinct (AARP) at the Neerabup Industrial Area, adding the transformational initiative to the review of the City's Economic Development Strategy.

The 51-hectare AARP will be a major hub for testing and research into the latest developments in automation, remote operation and robotic systems.

Wanneroo Deputy Mayor Brett Treby said the City was proud to support the development of the facility, which will generate construction jobs while the precinct is built, and thousands of ongoing jobs in the robotics, automation and remote operations fields.

"We are very excited the NIA has attracted this ground-breaking precinct, backed by a State Government investment of \$20 million," he said.

"The City of Wanneroo is one of Western Australia's largest and fastest growing Local Government areas. With our current population of more than 216,000 expected to exceed 370,000 people by 2041, it's vital that we plan for the future. On completion, the NIA is expected to be one of the biggest industrial estates in Perth, creating up to 30,000 new job opportunities.

"Supporting the development of the AARP will help attract more businesses to the area and contribute to employment self-sufficiency in the region by ensuring jobs of the future are available for our local workforce. Existing and proposed industrial development in the NIA will ensure the precinct can grow and be supported by complementary industries in future."

On completion, the AARP will form one of the biggest test facilities of its kind in the world, providing suppliers and operators of automation and robotics equipment or systems with access to specialist infrastructure, including test beds, a facility operation building and supporting research and development facilities.

SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESS THROUGH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REFORM

The City of Stirling is proud to be supporting small business to make it easier to establish, operate and grow a business within the City of Stirling.

During the past four years, the City has been working hard to deliver positive, lasting and sector-leading approval process reforms to benefit small business across the City; helping to create thriving communities.

In 2019, the City joined the Small Business Friendly Approvals Project, an initiative of the Small Business Development Corporation. It aims to foster a successful small business environment by identifying issues facing small businesses; designing reforms to improve processes; and supporting Local Governments to implement those reforms.

Mayor Mark Irwin said the Council-endorsed Small Business Friendly Approvals Project Action Plan soon became the centrepiece of the City of Stirling's reform, with its outcomes centred on three core principles of speed, service and simplicity.

"We know our diverse customers have different needs when it comes to developing a property within the City of Stirling and supporting these needs effectively is the key to providing a customer centric and efficient development service," he said.

"The City's Action Plan (fully delivered by September 2021) has enabled us to provide customers with an informed and efficient development approvals service by streamlining approval timeframes and improving the customer experience.

"As part of this plan, an exciting customer service tool was launched in September 2020. The Address and Application Assistant provides residents, business owners and developers with development information for their chosen address and confirms what applications are needed for their development plans. It's the first of its kind in Australia, and enables customers to explore development opportunities when it suits them."

Since its launch, the Address and Application Assistant has been used more than 51,000 times by 8,400 unique users. These users are a highly engaged audience, spending on average over 140% more time on the page compared to the City's website average. The tool has been hugely successful in reaching all types of residents and small businesses, with 56% of users having already visited the page and 44% being new visitors.

By implementing the Action Plan, the City can now provide residents and businesses the confidence and certainty of what development potential is available to them in a self-service capacity while also providing the help and guidance they need to get their development journey off the ground.

Mayor Irwin said following the success of the Small Business Friendly Approvals Project, the City was continuing its journey to comprehensively reform and improve our processes.

"Other initiatives have recently been implemented to reduce red tape, including a new concurrent crossover approval process. This new process negates the need to lodge a separate

crossover application, with the crossover approval now provided in conjunction with a development approval."

Fast-Track Stirling is a new streamlined development approvals process which the City expects to launch in August 2022. This custom initiative will allow residential development applications from patios up to two grouped dwellings to be determined within 28 calendar days.

Through the online application process, applicants will be able to work collaboratively with the City to ensure their applications can be determined in a more streamlined manner; enabling development to get to shovel-ready stage faster.

"We're excited to be working closely with the Master Builders Association and the Housing Industry Association on this innovative process. Once launched, it will benefit and meet the needs of the wider development industry," Mayor Irwin said.

"The City is proud of our journey during the past four years to lead local government planning and development reform. We look forward to continuing to work collaboratively and proactively with small business and the wider development industry to ensure their economic development needs are met with an efficient, streamlined and innovative planning service."

Need to upgrade your Public Health Plan?

Injury Matters provides current injury data specific to Local Government areas, while our team provides free feedback and consultation for the development of public health plans, crime prevention and safety planning, and positive ageing plans.

Get started with your planning using the free Injury Matters *Guide to Promoting Safety and Preventing Injury for Local Governments*, providing suggested objectives, strategies and resources to reduce injury.

For more information on our programs, services, resources and training events visit:
www.injurymatters.org.au

Contact Michelle Lambert, via 08 6166 7688 or mlambert@injurymatters.org.au.



Around the Nation

News from State Associations across the country

NSW



Councils Welcome Another Flood Support Package

An additional recovery package of over \$855 million to assist communities still reeling from the catastrophic flooding disasters has been welcomed by Councils as they continue with rebuilding and recovery efforts.

Local Government NSW (LGNSW) President Cr Darriea Turley AM praised the NSW and Federal Governments for the much-needed additional funding.

The latest State and Commonwealth government assistance package includes:

- \$312.5 million for a Stage 1 Regional Roads and Transport Recovery Package to rebuild road networks, particularly in the Northern Rivers
- \$168 million for the NSW Land and Housing Corporation to deliver urgent social housing and to replace social housing lost during the floods
- \$120 million for Aboriginal housing, including repair and reconstruction of Aboriginal community infrastructure
- \$100 million for the repair and reconstruction of infrastructure such as libraries, playing fields, playgrounds and parks
- \$64 million for urgent repair and restoration of key wetlands and riverbank sites
- \$36 million for urgent works required to access and repair flood levees across Northern NSW, and
- \$56.25 million for the NSW Back Home Program to support dwellings within the seven Northern Rivers LGAs and the Hawkesbury LGA.

"We are thrilled to see more government funding on top of the nearly \$3 billion being provided to the hardest-hit councils as they battle through these tough times," Cr Turley said.

"As councils are the closest to their communities, our Mayors, Councillors and council staff have been on the ground working tirelessly to save homes, businesses and community infrastructure.

"In regional and rural areas, councils play a significant role in the everyday life of their communities, and they know what is needed in times like this.

"Councils have been calling for this desperately needed extra funding to really help get their communities back on their feet.

"It is pleasing to see a focus on assisting Aboriginal communities as well as delivering and replacing social housing – a huge issue our state continues to face.

"We always need to ensure our most vulnerable communities are well looked after and aren't left behind.

"It is also pleasing to see a commitment to rebuilding road networks and community infrastructure to keep communities well connected.

"Roads and road maintenance is probably the biggest single item in council budgets across the state as NSW Councils are responsible for 90 per cent of the roads.

"Maintenance costs are surging, and local government's financial capacity is weakening, so it is essential for the government to allocate funding to build stronger roads.

"It is also great to see money provided to repair and reconstruct libraries, youth and senior citizens facilities, playing fields and courts, playgrounds and parks.

"These facilities are what keep a community thriving and have many beneficial factors for all.

"Rebuilding community hubs is not just important for the social networks of our communities, but also for delivering a locally led economic recovery.

"While this additional funding package will help move communities from the recovery stage into the reconstruction stage, there is more that needs to be done to ensure these communities are resilient for the future.

QLD



First Nations Mayors to go to Canberra to secure housing action after nation's political leaders fail to

The leaders of Queensland's 17 First Nations councils have voted to lead a delegation to Canberra to finally get action on the overcrowding crisis impacting their communities after the major parties snubbed this week's Indigenous Leaders Forum (ILF) in Cairns.

ILF chair Wayne Butcher said the reluctance of the Federal Government and the Federal Opposition to send a minister or shadow minister to the ILF at the height of the Federal Election campaign spoke volumes about their priorities when it came to improving the lives of Indigenous Queenslanders.

"They have committed to spending \$100 million to address overcrowding in the Northern Territory and yet they won't even give us the courtesy of accepting our invitation to hear firsthand how Queensland's First Nations communities need help too," Mayor Butcher said.

"If they won't come to us, then we will go to them because unless this issue is addressed our communities will continue to fall behind."

Mayor Butcher said he and his fellow First Nations leaders would continue to pressure all political parties because the overcrowding crisis simply could not be allowed to continue.

"This is a human rights issue, and to have no commitment to address it here in Queensland is shameful."

Local Government Association of Queensland CEO Alison Smith said the Association was calling for \$100 million a year over the next five years to flow to address overcrowding in Queensland's First Nations communities.

"This is one of the LGAQ's key Federal Election asks on behalf of members because every Queensland community deserves to be a liveable one," Ms Smith said.

"This ask is backed by the findings of the Federal Government's own review into the now concluded National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing which found that while the program had made significant advances in addressing overcrowding, the job was far from over.

SA



Five individuals have been recognised for outstanding service to the local government sector in South Australia during the 2022 LGA's Council Best Practice Showcase dinner.

Whyalla Mayor Clare McLaughlin was named the 2022 recipient of the prestigious Joy Baluch Award for her ability to build constructive relationships and develop trust and cohesion.

LGA President Mayor Angela Evans said the award, named after Mayor Joy Baluch AM, was presented to honour the contribution of women serving as elected members in SA and Mayor McLaughlin was a worthy recipient.

"The assessment panel was impressed, not only by Mayor McLaughlin's long list of achievements, but also by the empathetic and considered approach she has taken to representing her community through challenging periods," Mayor Evans said.

"As well as supporting her community through recent uncertainty surrounding the Whyalla steelworks and the impacts of COVID-19, Mayor McLaughlin has been instrumental in many projects to move Whyalla forward, including the foreshore masterplan, redevelopment of the airport and plans for a Regional Hydrogen Hub.

"The Joy Baluch award is unique in that it recognises an elected member who has not only made a significant contribution in her own right but has also actively encouraged and supported other women to get involved

in the sector.

“Mayor McLaughlin has supported other women through her work with the Whyalla business network ‘Enterprising Women’ for over 20 years and has mentored many women to step into leadership positions.”

LGA Years of Service awards were also presented to four individuals whose combined contribution to the sector represents over 100 years of service. The recipients are:

- Councillor Denis Clark from Northern Areas Council – 20 years of service
- Mayor Erika Vickery OAM, Naracoorte Lucindale Council - 20 years of service
- Councillor Trevor Rayner, Narcoorte Lucindale – 25 years of service (absent from photo)
- Councillor Peppino (Joe) Daniele, Adelaide Plains Council – 45 years of service
- LGA President Mayor Angela Evans remarked on the incredible commitment of all individuals to their community, which covered the Mid North and Yorke, Limestone Coast and Barossa, Light and Lower North regions.

TAS



Local government congratulates Nic Street as new Minister for Local Government

On behalf of the state's 29 Councils, the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) welcomes the appointment of Nic Street as the Minister for Local Government. LGAT President, West Tamar Mayor and Vice President of the Australian Local Government Association Christina Holmdahl congratulated Nic Street on his appointment as the State's Minister for Local Government.

“We are pleased to have Mr Street as Minister with his experience as a councillor at Kingborough Council for close to two terms, and his recognition that local government helps to make people's lives better,” Mayor Holmdahl said.

“The sector looks forward to working with the new Minister, on the significant Future of Local Government Review and in promoting the many opportunities for community members if they choose to stand for Local Government at our elections later this year.”

VIC



Local projects key to building a more resilient Australia

At the beginning of the twentieth century,

Dorothea Mackella wrote ‘I love a sunburnt country ... of drought and flooding rains.’ Unfortunately, as climate change takes hold, these aspects of Australian life are becoming increasingly dangerous in the twenty-first century.

As we face more frequent and severe natural disasters, greater federal investment is required in local mitigation and climate change projects that will protect our communities.

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) President Cr David Clark said Councils were calling on all federal parties and candidates to support:

- A targeted disaster mitigation program of \$200 million per annum for four years which will reduce the costs of response and recovery and strengthen community resilience;
- Ensuring betterment funding is included as a core element of disaster recovery funding arrangements;
- Ensuring publicly accessible and owned community infrastructure, and local government waste, water and wastewater assets, are included under Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements;
- A Local Government Climate Response Partnership Fund of \$200 million over four years to enable planning and preparation to minimise the impacts of climate change in local communities and enable councils to achieve climate neutrality as soon as practicable; and
- \$100 million per annum over four years provided directly to local governments to support the capabilities of indigenous councils and the implementation of the Closing the Gap local/regional voice.

Cr Clark said these priorities have been independently assessed, and if funded they would create 3,104 jobs and add \$470 million per year to Australia's GDP.

“Victorians have experienced the impacts of climate change through bushfires in the past and the floods in New South Wales and Queensland have highlighted to everyone around the country the need to ensure communities are prepared. We must act now to protect our communities against future natural disasters,” Cr Clark said.

“A clear focus on targeted disaster mitigation will help councils across the country tackle this challenge and give them the best chance to help keep our communities safe.”

ALGA



Federal solution to looming waste crisis needed says ALGA

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) says the Federal Government must be part of the solution for the nation's looming waste and recycling crisis.

In a statement, ALGA President, Linda Scott said working with the Commonwealth, Councils could reduce the 20 million tonnes of rubbish sent to Australian landfills each year while creating new jobs across the nation.

She said Australia faced a looming waste and recycling crisis without “immediate and sustained investment from all three tiers of government”.

“We are running out of accessible landfills, and waste and recycling costs for all Australians continue to rise,” President Scott said.

“By mid-2024, when Australia's waste export ban comes into full effect, 645,000 additional tonnes of waste plastic, paper, glass and tyres will need to be processed and recycled locally every year.

“We must continue our transition to a circular economy by finding new opportunities to re-use our rubbish and turn it into valuable resources and products.”

The ALGA is calling on the next Federal Government to provide a \$100 million per year fund that would support Councils to deliver new circular waste innovation projects in local communities.

“This would create almost 800 new jobs and add \$136 million per year to Australia's GDP,” said President Scott.

She said regional and remote councils needed additional support and guidance to unlock the circular economy locally.

“Rural and remote councils face additional waste and recycling challenges due to the spread of local properties as well as the long distances to sorting and processing facilities.”

“Many of these rural and remote councils have low ratepayer bases and can't afford additional transport costs.”

President Scott said Councils were also seeking support from the Federal Government to implement a standardised bin collection service across the country, as agreed to by the Commonwealth and state and territory governments.

“Harmonising bin collection services will be costly, and the burden shouldn't fall on the affected communities alone.”

“More support will be required from other tiers of government to make sure that waste collection charges don't rise due to councils providing more bins,” she said.

APR/MAY 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 the *WALGA Communications Team* via email: communications@walga.asn.au

ARMADALE

Members of the long-standing Creyk family of Kelmscott attended the opening of the new pavilion at Creyk Park. City of Armadale Mayor Ruth Butterfield acknowledged the family's long history of association with Creyk Park since they moved to the area in 1953. "The Creyk family remind us what it means to be active community members, and it is fitting that this pavilion bears their name," Mayor Butterfield said at the opening in February.



ASHBURTON

In early March, the Shire of Ashburton was thrilled to see Vic Hayton Memorial Swimming Pool in Tom Price be named one of the best public swimming pools in Australia! The list, curated by The Guardian highlighted the country's most outstanding public pools. Vic Hayton and the Shire of Ashburton were proud to represent not only the Pilbara Region, but the entire state as the only WA pool listed.



AUGUSTA MARGARET RIVER

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River has completed a major restoration of the largest bridge on the Wadandi Track, which was formally approved as a feature name by the Minister of Lands this month, in recognition of the traditional owners of the land the trail passes through. The bespoke 52m structure allows continued enjoyment of the popular and historically significant trail between Margaret River and Cowaramup and will maintain the integrity of the track for years to come.

The project was jointly funded by the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Grant Program with support from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.

BAYSWATER

The City of Bayswater is proudly the first Local Government in WA to trial using drone technology to help combat mosquito breeding.

The City has engaged a contractor to use commercial agricultural drones to conduct aerial site surveys and trial mosquito larvicide treatments in high breeding sites at the Berringa and Baigup wetlands on the Swan River.

City of Bayswater Mosquito Control Officer Don Sorensen, OmniDrone pilot supervisors Michael Jeal and Winston Gavriel, and Friends of Berringa Park Group Vice President David Crispin with the DJI Agras T10 25kg commercial drone used to spray sedges in the Berringa Park wetland.



BELMONT

The City of Belmont recently released the fourth of its community safety video series with a video on the importance of residents reporting incidents. The City's Community Watch officers work closely with WA Police and encourage its community members to report any criminal incidents or suspicious behaviour observed. According to City of Belmont Chief Executive Officer John Christie, the videos are an example of the important work being initiated by the Community Safety Taskforce that aimed to assist the community. "We want to empower our community to make the City a safe place for all," he said. The City's Community Safety Taskforce aims to empower residents with community safety information and advice. Other topics in the video series include the City's bike registration scheme, home and motor vehicle security, CCTV in the City, and support for Family Violence Support Services.

BROOME

The Shire of Broome unveiled a new piece of public art in early March to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Broome Air Raid. On March 3 1942, 88 people were killed as Japanese fighters bombed Roebuck Bay during World War II. The new artwork, which takes pride of place in the revitalised Town Beach precinct, is a mark of respect to all those that lost their lives.



BRUCE ROCK

The Shire of Bruce Rock hosted a Community Sundowner, with thanks to CBH Rapid Relief Team, and Anglo-American Exploration Australia, to thank the many volunteers who assisted firefighting and support efforts during the recent Shackleton-Babakin bushfire. It was a fantastic night for the community to come together to enjoy the free kids entertainment, live music, dinner and refreshments.

BUNBURY

South West Art Now 2022 is open at the Bunbury Regional Art Gallery from now until 15 May. This prestigious exhibition features 55 South West artists, ranging from emerging to established practitioners. From ceramics, metalwork, glass, textiles, video, photography, drawing, printmaking, sculpture and installation, this year's exhibition reveals a high standard of innovation and imagination.



CANNING

The City of Canning will officially open its new \$6 million Hillview Hub on Friday February 25, to celebrate the completion of the first intercultural centre in Perth's south east corridor. City of Canning Mayor Patrick Hall said the facility has reimaged multicultural centres for the southern metropolitan area of Perth. "We have one of Western Australia's most multicultural and diverse communities with 50 per cent of residents born overseas and nearly 40 per cent speaking a language other than English at home, so the creation of a harmonious cultural space is important.

CAPEL

Seventeen young people assisted Wadandi artist Lea Taylor with painting a mural at Central Lakes Park in Dalyellup. The mural acknowledges the traditional owners of our land. The continuous thick orange line represents travel and movement. The three small black lines represent water. The black circles represent a camp site or gathering place and the blue circles represent rocks.



CARNARVON

Shire of Carnarvon Council endorsed a bold and strong document for how to change the way the State Government responds to rise in youth crime and antisocial behaviour in Carnarvon. It will bring significant change to the way the Shire and government agencies provide support to at-risk youth and families in crisis. Council is committed to acting in the best interest of the whole community by working with State and Federal Government to maintain safety and wellbeing.

CLAREMONT

As a part of the Sand Management Plan adopted by the Town of Claremont in 2021, the Town set up a tree planting day which saw almost 50 volunteers from the community join in and plant 1,500 native rushes between Claremont Jetty and the Claremont Yacht Club. Local native flora species have been planted to aid in bank stabilisation and to create an important habitat for wildlife where none previously existed.



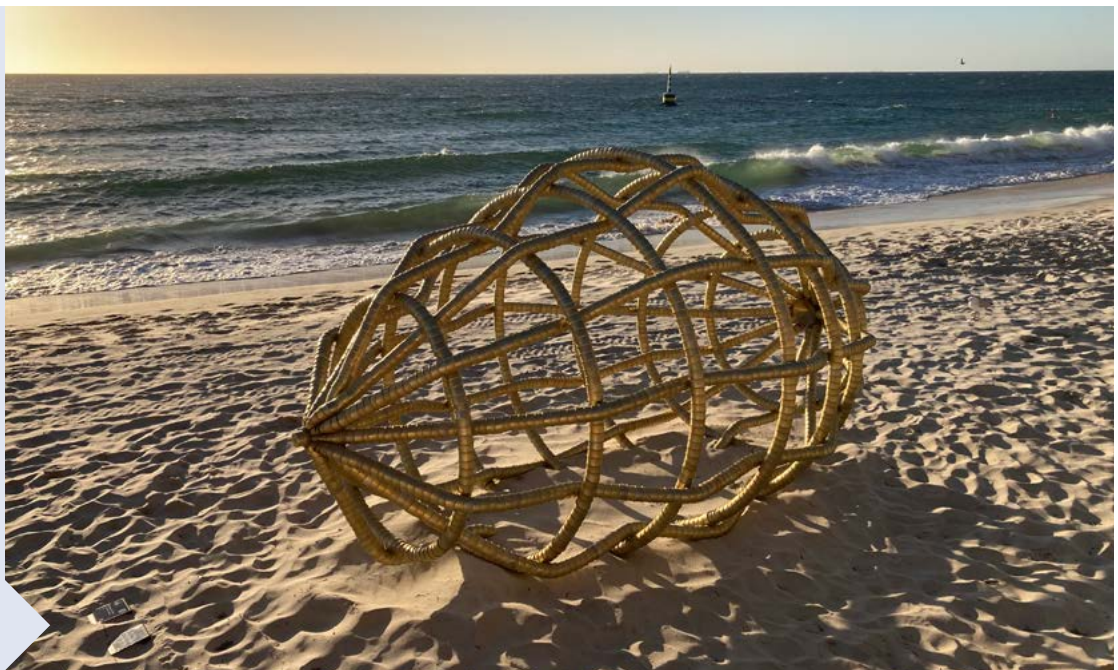
COCKBURN

The City of Cockburn is a proud foundation partner in a new initiative to grow marine innovations and strengthen the local 'blue' marine economy, with support from the State Government's X-TEND program.

Blue Gravity was launched on 1 March by City of Cockburn Mayor Logan Howlett, For Blue Managing Director Andrew Outhwaite, City of Fremantle Mayor Hannah Fitzhardinge (pictured), and fellow project partners.

COTTESLOE

The Town of Cottesloe was very pleased to be able to host the 18th annual Sculpture by the Sea in our beautiful suburb earlier this year. The event took place over 18 magnificent days, from March 4 to 21. It was truly another fantastic exhibition with a wonderful collection of sculptures enjoyed by so many people. We can't wait for next year!



DALWALLINU

Dalwallinu Shire recently celebrated three staff who have amassed an amazing combined service of 90 years. Kevin Ashby commenced in 1972, Robert Waye in September of 2001 with Christie Andrews starting 3 months later in December 2001.

Councillors, Freeman of the Shire, co-workers and family were in attendance at a celebration recognising their achievements. A plaque was unveiled dedicating the rose garden at the front of the Shire office the *Kevin Ashby Gardens*.



DOWERIN

The Shire of Dowerin and students at Dowerin District High School came together to celebrate the amazing achievement of former local Lance Buddy Franklin on achieving his 1000th AFL goal. Buddy attended DDHS before finishing his education at Wesley College and being drafted into the AFL. Congratulations Buddy! All Dowerin District High School students in front of the score board where Buddy played many games for the local Dowerin-Wyalkatchem Football Club.



DERBY/WEST KIMBERLEY

More than 300 people attended the Derby Expo, held at the Sportsmen's Club on 13 Feb 2022, including locals and visitors travelling from Broome, Fitzroy Crossing and surrounding communities. It was a fantastic opportunity for the 45 stallholders to showcase the local services and products, including the Derby choir, pictured here, singing up a storm. A large part of the expo was held outside this year due to COVID-19 restrictions.



EAST FREMANTLE

The Municipality of East Fremantle was created in 1897 when it separated from the greater Fremantle area and Saturday 2 April 2022 marked the Town of East Fremantle's 125th Anniversary. 'Whilst the current environment has prevented the Town from hosting an event to mark this milestone, we are proud to recognise our 125 years and the rich and colourful history that has shaped and led us to where we are today, which is an inclusive community balancing growth, lifestyle and sustainability', Mayor O'Neil.



GERALDTON

19 November 2021 marked the 80th anniversary of the sinking of the HMAS Sydney II. The City of Greater Geraldton paid tribute to the 645 crew members who lost their lives with a moving commemorative sunset service at the HMAS Sydney II Memorial. The occasion was made particularly poignant coinciding with the revealing of the identity of the Unknown Sailor 21 year old Able Seaman Thomas Welsby Clark.

GOSNELLS

More than 200 children will take to sporting fields with new equipment this winter, thanks to a partnership between the City of Gosnells, Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries and Fair Game Australia. Mayor Teresa Lynes said Equip-Me for Sport provided over 630 items of equipment to local families on low incomes. Almost half of recipients reported they would be unable to play their chosen sport without the program.



JOONDALUP

Joondalup Deputy Mayor Christine Hamilton-Prime (left) and Mayor Albert Jacob (right) congratulate Julia Andrijasevich after she claimed the top prize in the City of Joondalup's 2022 Community Art Exhibition. The Greenwood artist received \$4,000 prize money for producing this year's Most Outstanding Artwork, a textile titled Isolation. The exhibition was held at Lakeside Joondalup Shopping City in late March and early April, featuring more than 160 artworks produced by local residents and members of affiliated visual arts associations.



KELLERBERRIN

The Shire of Kellerberrin is celebrating the Kellerberrin Memorial Swimming Pool Redevelopment funded by the following; Drought Communities Programme Funding, Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program – Phase 2 and Phase 3, Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund, Shire of Kellerberrin Muni and Reserve Funds. The Swimming Pool Redevelopment is being completed in three separate stages being;

1. Plant and Pump Room;
2. Amenities Building; and
3. Swimming Pools and Surrounds.

KWINANA

The City of Kwinana celebrated Neighbour Day with five local community events. Neighbour Day is Australia's annual celebration of community, encouraging people to connect with those who live in their neighbourhood. Neighbour Day is Relationships Australia's social connection campaign, encouraging people to reach out and make sustainable connections. Special thanks to our Community Engagement Team for facilitating, supporting and encouraging local community groups to put on these amazing events.

Photo: 'Kwinana in Transition' Credit-Kerry-Anne De Klerk – Wild Folie Photographer



LEONORA

On Thursday 3rd March the Shire of Leonora hosted the grand re-opening of the Tower Street Playground, following a complete rebuild. The park has been aptly named Yingkapayi (pronounced yin-gu-bay), which means "to play". This project was made possible thanks to the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) grant. The event included live music, free food and treats, as well as face painting and magic trick.



MANDURAH

Mandurah has experienced a successful Fairy Tern breeding season with close to 350 chicks having fledged a nesting site at the beach in Dawesville. With the hard work of local volunteers, the Fairy Tern Conservation Network, City staff, the Dawesville community and other partners, Fairy Terns have just finished off an incredibly successful breeding season for the second year in a row at the site. Mandurah is home to the most significant breeding site in the Perth and Peel regions for these endangered migratory birds.



MELVILLE

The audience enjoys the blues rock and deep soul sounds of Old Blood at a Melville Summer Music concert at Wireless Hill Museum, Ardross. Melville Summer Music was the City of Melville's biggest music series yet, delivering eight free concerts at four iconic Melville locations throughout November to March. The City will be planning the next summer series later this year.

MUKINBUDIN

In March, the Shire of Mukinbudin opened the new Nature Playground, at the Lion's Park. This project utilised \$140,000 of LRCI funding. The previous, plastic structure was replaced by a timber fortress, nest swing, musical instrument bars and a zip line. The original slide was retained, as an iconic piece of Mukinbudin play equipment. Council's aim was to maintain as much of the original lawn as possible, this, along with the BBQ, seating and shaded area make it the perfect place for visitors and locals to enjoy, with their children. This is a wonderful asset to Mukinbudin, located in the heart of town, opposite the District High School.



NAREMBEEN

On Friday, 18/03/2022 the Narembreen Community Resource Centre hosted the Main Street Festival in partnership with the Narembreen Town Team. More than 250 people celebrated Narembreen in all its glory! From the kids going wild with excitement on the obstacle course, bouncy castle and getting their faces painted and hair braided, to the adults getting up and having a boogie to the band after sunset!

Photo credit Em Louise Photography

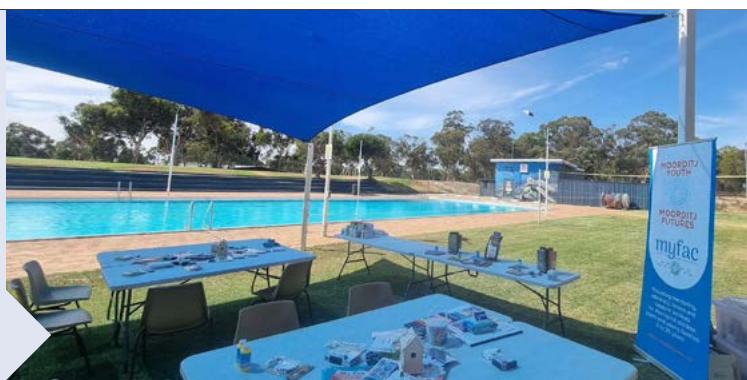


PERTH

In February, the City of Perth rebranded as the City of Light and its first municipal logo is inspired by indigenous culture, unique landscapes and the 1962 reference by US astronaut John Glenn to the brightness of Perth from space. The rebrand coincided with the CBD's first drone show – the success of which inspired a Council decision to stage monthly light-themed shows over Elizabeth Quay from October until next February.

PINGELLY

The Shire of Pingelly in conjunction with the Moorditj Youth Foundation Aboriginal Corporation held a COVID Vaccine Clinic at the Pingelly Swimming Pool. This event included craft activities, prizes, free food, free swimming pool entry including inflatable equipment as well as vaccines for adults and children. This event helped Pingelly achieve an exceptionally high vaccination rate including in our Aboriginal Community and was fun for everyone.



SHARK BAY

The 2022 Shark Bay Clean Up Australia Day event was a great success, with 35 volunteers collecting litter along the Denham foreshore and Little Lagoon, and throughout the streets of Denham. Over 15 bags full of rubbish were collected during this time, to be disposed of correctly by Shire staff. After the clean up volunteers were rewarded with a free sausage sizzle, fruit and drink provided by the Shire.

SERPENTINE JARRAHDALE

The Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale is proud to be celebrating the natural beauty that makes SJ such a unique place to live as part of the WA Tree Festival over the coming weeks. Several events will be held across the Shire to highlight the important role trees play in our local ecosystem throughout the Festival, including guided forest walks and a special Storytime Under the Tree.



SOUTH PERTH

The City of South Perth's Black Swan Habitat project won two Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia WA Excellence Awards. The City and project partners received the Excellence in Water Projects Award and a highly commended award in Excellence in Environment and Sustainability. The project involved river wall repairs and new habitat for native wildlife, including a nesting island, two vegetated headlands and a beach area with sloped access to the water.



STIRLING

The City of Stirling is conducting a 12-month trial of 250 eScooters across a 26km² area in Watermans Bay, Scarborough, Trigg, Karrinyup and Innaloo.

Visitors can download the Neuron Mobility app, scan the code on an eScooter at one of the parking stations across the City, and ride from IKEA in the east of the zone all the way to our iconic Scarborough Beach in the west.

Mayor Mark Irwin with Member for Scarborough Stuart Aubrey MLA and Transport Minister Rita Saffioti MLA with the eScooters in Scarborough.



TAMALA PARK

In February, construction of a new beach access road, pathway and 30-bay carpark at Mindarie beach was completed, connecting the Tamala Park Regional Council's Catalina Estate development with the beachfront. The first stage of revegetation works alongside the road has been completed and additional landscaping works will be undertaken in winter. A community event to celebrate the opening of the road was held on 19 February.

VINCENT

Kids can make a splash down two new water slides at Beatty Park Leisure Centre. The slides were open for the April school holidays. They are one of the last pieces of the puzzle after the City of Vincent spent seven months revamping its indoor pool in 2021 as part of a \$3.4 million project and included \$471,000 of Federal Government grant funding.



WANDERING

The Shire of Wandering Community Garden opened on Tuesday 22 March, with 29 people in attendance. The project was funded through the Stronger Communities Program Round 6 and supported by the Shire of Wandering and the Wandering Community Resource Centre. It will provide a space for community interaction and encourage social wellbeing.



WEST ARTHUR

The Darkan Sheepfest was one of only a handful of local agricultural shows that were able to go ahead amidst the COVID restrictions. The Shire of West Arthur provided support for the community volunteers organising the event and ran a stall at the event to discuss local issues and concerns. Renowned Horticulturist Sabrina Hahn talked about the joys of sheep poo, and the pet sheep competition and farm boot race were popular.



WYNDHAM/ EAST KIMBERLEY

The Shire held a community native tree planting event to help beautify the new shared loop pathway along the town centre. The event was attended by several community members and kids.

Pictured is the Shire President David Menzel assisting Maya Allen in planting a native tree.


YORK

The Shire of York swept the board at the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia, Western Australian Division (IPWEA WA) Annual Excellence Awards recently. York is the proud recipient of the Best Public Works Project (less than 2M-Regional) and, beating all other winners in the State, the overall 'Best of the Best' G.K. Watters Local Government Engineering Excellence Award for the conservation and restoration work at the York Residency Museum.

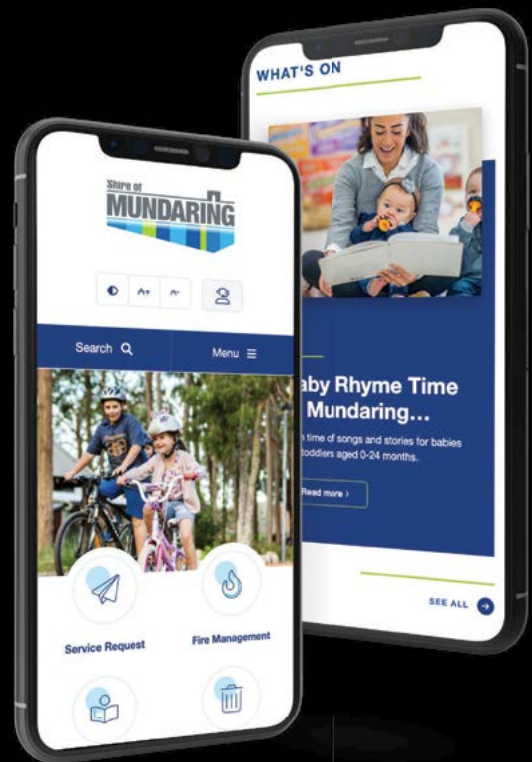


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ADVERTORIAL

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS FOR WINTER

After the hottest summer on record for Perth and extreme temperatures being experienced across many WA regions, cooler conditions are being welcomed across much of WA.

According to Synergy Account Manager, Bec Elshaw, many businesses and Local Government Authorities are managing the impact of a spike in their energy usage over summer and looking for ways to improve their energy efficiency.

"Taking action to help reduce your council's energy use is a positive step at any time of year, but the winter months can be the perfect time to adopt some new energy saving habits," she said.

Ms Elshaw offered these tips to help Local Government Authorities improve their energy efficiency during the cooler months.

USE ELECTRICITY DATA AS A STARTING POINT FOR CHANGE

"Involving your staff members to help improve the energy efficiency of your Council can be beneficial for you and the wider community. If you have an advanced meter installed, it's easy to share graphs and data relating to your electricity use with your team from My Account. You can use your electricity consumption data to start a discussion about your energy efficiency and the actions you could take to help manage your winter energy use."

"You might like to take a tour of your facilities and look for where you might be able to reduce heat loss. You could also consider a professional energy audit, which might be a worthwhile investment for your long-term energy efficiency goals and potentially result in electricity cost savings."

CONSIDER YOUR TOTAL HEATING COSTS

"Heating your offices and facilities can form a significant portion of your electricity use," said Ms Elshaw. "A simple way to help manage your heating costs is to adjust your temperature settings. In winter, an energy efficient temperature setting is between 19°C and 22°C. This is generally a comfortable temperature for most people compared to outside conditions. For every degree the thermostat is above 22°C, you could be adding to your overall electricity use and costs."

Ms Elshaw added that using a timer could also be beneficial to help manage your heating costs. "Try not to leave your heating running constantly. Consider turning your heating off outside your usual hours of operation, which could reduce the overall amount of electricity used for heating."

SWITCH OFF FOR POTENTIAL SAVINGS

"The electricity used for lighting can add up over the cooler, darker months," said Ms Elshaw. "Switch lights off when you can and use signage to encourage your

employees to turn off lights when they leave the room. Some spaces such as meeting rooms don't need to be lit all the time. To make sure that these areas are only lit when they are being used, you could set timers or sensors which turn the lights on only when required."

"You can also look at how you might make the most of natural light. Consider if you can open blinds to make the most of natural light, and if lighting is required, switch it on only in areas where it's needed."

According to Ms Elshaw, appliances in standby power can add to your electricity costs. "Appliances in standby mode still use power. The specific appliances, devices and equipment you can switch off overnight will depend on your operations, but you could enjoy some easy energy efficiency wins by switching off chargers, photocopiers, printers and the coffee machine at the end of each day."

To find out more about how you could reduce your energy use during the cooler weather or for more energy efficiency tips, please email bec.elshaw@synergy.net.au or call 0457 199 222.

A simple way to reach your green goals.

If your business is going greener, one of the simplest things you can do is choose green energy. Join other businesses by choosing one of our green energy options – and together we'll all power a brighter future for WA.

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Contact Bec Elshaw via bec.elshaw@synergy.net.au or 6212 2257

synergy



ELECTED MEMBER PROFILE

DEPUTY PRESIDENT CR PAUL KELLY

TOWN OF CLAREMONT

Cr Paul Kelly was elected WALGA Deputy President in March 2022. He has been a Councillor at the Town of Claremont since 1994, serving more than 10 years as Deputy Mayor, and was previously WALGA Deputy President between 2004 and 2005.

A WALGA Life Member, Cr Kelly has been a strong supporter of the Association since its inception serving on numerous committees such as Finance and Services, Governance, Audit and representing the Association in numerous forums. He has been a member of the Local Government Standards Panel, is also a Board Member of the Local Government Insurance Scheme and the Local Government House Trust, being instrumental in promoting the sale of the Altona St Office and partnering with Cube to build our current property in Railway Rd. He has very extensive experience as a board member on a variety of Boards and is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

WHAT IS YOUR 'DAY JOB' AND HOW DOES IT RELATE TO YOUR ROLE AS AN ELECTED MEMBER?

I am currently Executive Director of the Economic Regulation Authority and have tendered my resignation to reduce my working hours and focus on my Local Government interests and WALGA Deputy Presidency. There is some connection with my substantive position as it is responsible for licensing some Local Governments for their water services. It also regulates the electricity, gas and rail industries in WA.

WHAT SAW YOU BEGIN A CAREER IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SECTOR?

I was interested in local issues and inevitably got involved in Local Government issues, including noticing poor management and governance and decided it is better to try and change from the inside!

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT? HOW HAS THE SECTOR CHANGED/EVOLVED OVER THE YEARS?

I have been involved for a good number of years and experienced significant change for the better. Much improved public administration and governance including a better understanding of the separation of responsibilities between the elected representatives and the executive. There is still a great need to review the current Local Government Act and reduce

the regulatory and compliance burden on Local Government. Greater standardization across the sector would also significantly improve the efficiency of the sector, both in administration and on the demands of elected members.

CAN YOU DESCRIBE SOME OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES YOU'VE FACED DURING YOUR TIME AS AN ELECTED MEMBER?

At a local level without doubt the biggest challenge faced was when our Council Chambers burnt down !! Tremendous improvisation and flexibility was required but at the same time huge local support and assistance in the rebuilding and maintaining our services. Another challenge associated with WALGA was as Chair of the Local Government Insurance Scheme during the global financial crisis. Maintaining the value of our significant capital investments held by the scheme when the world's reinsurance industry was in a state of collapse was a challenge but also a great achievement by the Board.

CAN YOU EXPLAIN THE REGION YOU WORK IN AND SOME OF THE ADVANTAGES AND CHALLENGES OF WORKING IN THIS REGION?

Representing a relatively small metropolitan council is as absolute honor and makes it feel like you are living in a village within a much bigger entity. The community spirit and relationships are fantastic. For example, within a few days of the Bali bombing an impromptu service was held at the Council Chambers with no advertising whatsoever, other than word of mouth, and a very significant number of community members attended to share their thoughts and support one another. The challenge is to walk down the street without talking to someone about a Council matter!

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR PROUDEST ACHIEVEMENT WHILST WORKING IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT?

Leading the charge with the support of the community to achieve the undergrounding of power in the entire Municipality, starting with a small pilot program and completing the total undergrounding the distribution network about two years ago.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR SOMEONE WISHING TO BECOME AN ELECTED MEMBER?

Don't think twice about it, it is absolutely enjoyable... Get involved first, take an interest in community activities, think of what you can offer, look for ways you can support and improve the quality of life and enjoyment for all those in your community.

WALGA Training

COVID eLearning Special Offer



Local Government - Occupational Health & Safety Subscription

WALGA Training proudly offers a special eLearning subscription to support the Local Government sector with eLearning training opportunities for workers who are required to quarantine due to COVID-19. Cost is \$330 including GST (per participant).

Training can be accessed via an electronic device and participants are able to complete up to 15 short courses within a 12-months subscription period.

Participants require their own unique email to enrol.

On successful completion of each course, participants can download their own Certificate of Participation for their records.

This eLearning subscription offers excellent value for money and aims to support the Local Government sector during this challenging time.

Find course details and how to register on our website www.walga.asn.au/training

Work Health and Safety
Fundamentals

Occupational Health &
Safety Fundamentals

Hazardous Chemicals
Hazard Guide

Incident Investigation
Introduction to Local
Government

Fatigue Management
General Awareness

Fire Awareness &
Extinguisher Training

Minimising Risk Using PPE
Hazard Guide

ELECTED MEMBERS CAUTIONED ON LIABLE RISK AND 2022/23 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

By Jonathan Seth, CEO, LGIS

Thank you to all of our members who have completed their 2022/23 membership renewal declarations. We've asked for more detail than ever this year. The information from members is vital in our discussions with Scheme indemnity providers.

WALGA CEO Nick Sloan and I met with many underwriters in April, and we had some tough conversations to make sure that we can cushion members against global and national trends. In finalising renewal terms we continue to work to achieve the best possible outcomes for the protection of the WA local government sector for 2022/23.

The WA sector's claims experience will see an adjustment in risk profile and appetite from indemnity providers. There have been significant environmental events including Tropical Cyclone Seroja, bushfires throughout the Great Southern, Wheatbelt, and South West; substantial property losses and a number of large workers' compensation claims. The change in the claims experience coupled with increasing economic pressures has created a challenging environment

Against this backdrop we're working to achieve the best outcome for the protection of WA local governments to contain contribution increased.

LGIS Account managers will be visiting members in the coming months to discuss renewal terms and member services.

ARE YOU LIABLE FOR THIRD PARTY COMMENTS ON YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGE?

We've received questions from concerned members about their potential liability exposure by third party comments on their Facebook pages. We asked Roselina Kruize, Senior Associate at Jackson McDonald for her take on the situation for local governments and elected members.

A 2021 court decision highlighted the potential liability a local government and individual elected members face for defamatory comments made on social media posts by third parties.

A defamatory statement is any statement published to a third party which harms a person's reputation. A person who feels they have been defamed may apply to the court to seek compensation for the harm suffered. Compensation is not limited to economic loss and a person does not have to suffer economic loss to make a claim.

THE VOLLER DECISION

On 8 September 2021, the High Court handed down its decision in Fairfax Media Publications Pty Ltd v Voller [2021] HCA 27 (the Voller decision) which dealt with the issue of whether Facebook users are responsible for defamatory comments made by third-parties on Facebook pages created by them.

The media outlets argued that they had a valid defence, being that there is no liability to the "owner" of the Facebook page because:

1. there was no intention on their part to defame;
2. they did not make the defamatory comments;
3. they did not participate in their publication; and
4. they were not in any relevant sense instrumental in their publication.

Although the High Court accepted that the media entities played no active role in publishing or adopting the comments, it determined that the media entities facilitated the making of comments because they invited and encouraged comments from Facebook users and provided the vehicle for publication to those who might want to respond.

The judgment confirmed that media entities will be treated as the publisher of all third-party comments made in response to any articles the media entity publishes on Facebook.

How does the Voller decision affect Local Governments and Elected Members?

Defamation claims are becoming more commonplace, especially with the increased use, and variety, of available social media sites such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and TikTok in the business arena.

The Voller decision has broad-reaching implications for the use of these internet sites. By allowing comments to be written on a person, corporation or government's page, they will be seen as inviting and encouraging comments and responses. The practical effect which follows is that every user of social media may be liable for defamatory statements made by members of the public on their posts

Practical tips on managing Facebook and other internet intermediaries:

Be mindful of common triggers which may lead to defamatory statements being made on social media either by yourself or a member of the public, such as:

- Advocating for your cause using persuasive language targeted against particular individuals;
- Allowing ratepayers to comment on your feed on social media platforms without review – this could lead to inflammatory comments, for example, allegations of conspiracy and corruption;
- Making or encouraging comments which are false and derogatory in nature, such as, alleging a person is incompetent or incapable of performing their job, that they or their work is an embarrassment or that they have acted unprofessionally.

For more advice on this issue check out the Summer 2022 edition of Risk Matters at www.riskmatterslgis.com.au.

If you have any questions on your membership renewal or any other matter please contact me on 9483 8855 or talk to your LGIS account manager.

PRE-ELECTION FEDERAL BUDGET HANDED DOWN IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

By **WALGA Economist, Daniel Thomson**

The 2022-23 Federal Budget was handed down by the Treasurer Josh Frydenberg on March 29 against the backdrop of an Australian economy bouncing back more strongly from the pandemic than expected, increasing global economic uncertainty, the war in Ukraine and rising inflation.

With the Federal election due in May, the focus of the Budget is on short-term cash payments to ease household concerns about the rising cost of living, as well as investments in infrastructure, defence and increasing the skilled workforce.

On the back of extraordinary Government stimulus, record low interest rates and high commodity prices, the Budget forecasts the Australian economy to grow by 4.5% in the current financial year before slowing to 3.5% in 2022-23 and 2.5% in 2023-24. As stimulus recedes, it anticipates that private demand will step up to drive the economy, helped by the assumption that household consumption will increase off the back of the highest growth in wages in a decade.

Rising inflation has had a major impact with the Budget focused on short-term measures to ease household pressures ahead of an election. Inflation is expected to ease from 4.5% in the current financial year to 2.75% by 2023-24.

The unemployment rate is forecast to end the current financial year at 4% and then continue to drop to 3.75% over the next two years. The labour market is expected to remain tight as Net Overseas Migration returns to pre-pandemic levels.

Funding for Local Governments and communities announced in the Federal Budget includes:

- Provision for \$2.8 billion in Financial Assistance Grants (equating to 0.55% of Commonwealth taxation revenue), with \$2.1 billion to be brought forward and paid in 2021-22. WA Local Governments will receive \$260 million of this bring forward, for a total of \$417.8 million to be received in the current financial year. Like the previous budget, the intent of this early payment is to provide a local response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022-23, \$84.1 million of the remaining \$704.4 million will be allocated to WA with \$51 million for general purpose and \$33.1 million for local roads;
- The Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program has received a \$500 million extension to deliver more community infrastructure through to 2024-25. In 2022-23 WA Local Governments will receive \$91.7 million, down from the \$120.3 million received in 2021-22 as total funding is phased down;
- \$491 million has been allocated to Roads to Recovery Funding in 2022-23, with \$70.5 million to be spent in WA, a reduction from the \$71.2 million received in 2021-22;

- \$131 million for the Bridges Renewal Program, with \$12.7 million to be spent in WA in 2022-23, up from \$4.4 million received in 2021-22;
- \$129 million for the Black Spot Program, with \$14.2 million allocated to WA in 2022-23, slightly below the \$14.8 million allocated in 2021-22;
- \$818 million over five years to expand digital mobile coverage in regional Australia;
- \$85 million in 2022-23 for waste recovery and processing infrastructure, with \$16.5 million allocated to WA; and
- \$50 million from the Emergency Response Fund for high priority coastal and estuarine disaster risk mitigation projects.
- \$586 million for twelve major new infrastructure projects
- \$1.5 billion in additional funding for nine existing major infrastructure projects

The \$2.8 billion in Financial Assistance Grants announced in the Budget equates to only 0.55% of Commonwealth taxation revenue. ALGA, supported by state and territory associations, is calling for Financial Assistance Grants to be restored to at least one percent of Commonwealth taxation revenue and a once-off injection of Financial Assistance Grants of \$1.3 billion as part of its Federal Election campaign Don't Leave Local Communities Behind.

DON'T LEAVE LOCAL COMMUNITIES BEHIND – FEDERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN

The national sector election campaign coordinated by ALGA ran for a total of five weeks across the end of March and April, each week focussing on one of the campaign's five priority themes: economic recovery, transport and community infrastructure, building resilience, the circular economy and intergovernmental relations.



DIPLOMA OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT - HOW IT CAN BENEFIT YOU AND THE COMMUNITY

The LGA50220 Diploma of Local Government Elected Member program is the highest level of qualification that an Elected Member can obtain through WALGA Training.

The past few years has seen an increased interest in this specialised training program which enables participants to increase their skills and knowledge. The program helps build confidence to provide efficient leadership, particularly in relation to good decision making in accordance with the Local Government Act 1995 and relevant regulations.

Shire of York Councillor, Kevin Trent, completed the Diploma in 2021 and believes the Diploma has been beneficial in his role. He said, "The information I received to complete the Diploma has greatly assisted me in my role as an Elected Member." While the training explores a wide range of topics, each participant is provided with an individualised training and assessment plan that will take into consideration your time commitments and location. This was ideal for Cr Trent who appreciated the flexibility that WALGA provided, "There was sufficient spacing between each session of instruction on each facet to enable me to absorb and digest the concepts relevant to each unit."

An important aspect of the Diploma is the unique training and assessment methods WALGA provides to students. Typically, the training methods used will include presentations, discussions, demonstrations, individual and group activities, case studies and simulated scenarios and research activities. Assessment methods include knowledge assessments, project work, scenarios, case studies, reports, and research tasks. You will be encouraged throughout your Diploma to add to your skill set by developing your knowledge all while catering to your role in Local Government.

Students get the opportunity to study topics such as financial reports and budgets, dealing with conflict, community leadership and advocacy, decision making, asset management and understanding land use and local planning schemes. Overall, the program enables Elected Members to continue developing their leadership and technical skills not only for themselves but for their local community.

With only a limit of 20 students in our July intake, places will be highly sought after. If you are interested or have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the WALGA training team. The team is currently taking Expressions of Interest and confirming enrolments so don't miss out on starting this valuable opportunity for you and your local community.

FLEXIBLE TRAINING OPTIONS

Our aim is to deliver member centric services. While the Diploma may not be a suitable option for all Elected Members, the individual specialised skill sets that we also offer are highly valued. All courses are curated to help develop and support community leaders.

Specialised skill sets

- Dealing with Conflict
- Effective Community Leadership
- Oversee Asset Management Strategy
- Strategic Decision Making (IPR)
- Strategic Policy Development
- Planning essentials and Advanced
- CEO Performance Appraisal
- Professionally Speaking
- The Role of Mayors and Presidents
- Emergency Management Course suite
- Record Keeping Awareness for Elected Members

WALGA Training can be contacted via training@walga.asn.au. or (08) 9213 2088. You can also visit the Training section of the WALGA website, www.walga.asn.au/training

STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

"With mandatory training for all Councilors, undertaking and completing the Diploma is a great way to understand some of the complexities and challenges of Local Government. There are many aspects of the course that will relate directly to you and your Council. The diverse topics were a highlight to me, and I encourage every Councillor, Mayor and Shire President to take this course."

Christopher Antonio – 2021 Graduate
President, Shire of Northam

USE OF COMMON SEALS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT – A QUICK GUIDE

Use of a common seal is one way that a Local Government can execute documents.

Historically, seals were used to authenticate and validate legal documents in commerce and government – think a red wax seal on parchment. Today, seals can still be used by corporations and Local Governments to execute documents, although in ink and rubber stamp form.

Under s9.49A(1) of the Local Government Act 1995 (WA) (LGA) a local government can execute documents by:

1. affixing the common seal to the document (subject to authorisations and signing requirements); and
2. signing without a common seal (by a person authorised by the local government).

The below table summarises the requirements of s9.49A of the LGA.

Method of Execution	LGA Requirements
Common seal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The common seal of a local government must not be affixed to any document except as authorised by the Local Government.* The common seal of the Local Government must be affixed in the presence of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the local government's mayor or president; and the local government's CEO, each of whom must sign the document to attest that the common seal was affixed.*
Signature	A Local Government may, by resolution, authorise its CEO, another employee or an agent of the local government to sign documents on behalf of the local government, either generally or subject to conditions or restrictions specified in the authorisation.*

Apart from the above requirements, there is no hard or fast rule in the LGA as what kind of document can be executed by affixing the common seal (and consequently what kind of document can be executed by signature).

Each Local Government will generally have its own policies and procedures specifying:

3. what kinds of documents can or must be executed using the common seal; and
4. what kinds of documents can be signed without the common seal and who is authorised to sign them.

This can be in the form of an execution and authority matrix, setting out the type of document and the required method of execution (including the position and other details of authorised persons).

Whether the common seal must be used or an authorised person can sign is generally a question of balancing good governance and operational efficiencies, as determined by each Local Government.

EXAMPLES OF DOCUMENTS REQUIRING AFFIXING OF THE COMMON SEAL

Local Governments will usually require use of their common seal for significant matters and transactions (as it requires the signatures of both the local government's mayor/president and CEO), such as:

- making and amending local laws;
- executing land transaction documents (sales, purchases, leases, easements, restrictive covenants, caveats and other deeds); and
- mortgages and loans.

Some local governments maintain a register of documents executed under common seal (recording the date on which the common seal was affixed, the nature of the document and the parties to the document).

EXAMPLES OF DOCUMENTS THAT CAN BE SIGNED BY AUTHORISED PERSONS

Local Governments will usually permit execution by signature of authorised persons for more routine operational documents, such as:

- procurement contracts;
- services agreements; and
- communications relating to the day to day operations of the local government.

Local governments will usually attach conditions and restrictions on the authority of local government employees to sign documents, based on monetary thresholds, the commitment period specified in the document (if, for example, the document is contract or agreement), and the level of financial risk, legal complexity or political sensitivity.

DOCUMENT EXECUTION POLICIES AND PROTOCOLS

Section s9.49A of the LGA provides a starting point for how local governments can execute documents. It is then up to each local government to have in place clear policies, protocols and authorisations which determine what kinds of documents can be executed by common seal or by signature only (and by whom). If in doubt, check the document execution policies and protocols!

If you have any queries about execution of documents, please do not hesitate to contact the Allion Partners Property and Commercial team.

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Oscar Dell'Anna, Associate
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(08) 9216 7118

Please note that this article does not constitute legal advice.

*Local Government Act 1995 (WA), s9.49A

STATE COUNCIL BRIEFS

The following resolutions were made at the special State Council meeting held on Wednesday 4 May at WALGA's West Leederville Office and online.

SUBMISSION TO STATUTORY REVIEW OF THE FOOD ACT 2008

That the submission to the Department of Health relating to the Statutory Review of the Food Act 2008, be endorsed subject to an amendment to include an additional sentence on page 11 under Section 2.2, Areas for improvement, Temporary or Mobile Food Businesses, after the second sentence, as follows:

"In addition further consideration could be given to the operation of home-based food businesses and small producers and the constraints experienced in compliance with the Act."

LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT SCHEME FUNDING

That WALGA advocates to the Minister for Emergency Services and the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner for:

1. An allocation of Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) funding to undertake an audit of existing facilities, appliances, vehicles, and major items of equipment for both Local Government Volunteer Bushfire Brigades (BFB) and State Emergency Services (SES).
2. Following the completion of the audit, an allocation of funding through the Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) to prepare a Comprehensive Asset Management Plan that:
 - a. Aligns with the principles in the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' (DLGSC) Asset Management National Framework and Guidelines, and the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.

- b. Forecasts the emergency response needs of communities across Western Australia over the next 10 years, to estimate the quantum of the facilities, appliances, vehicles, and major items of equipment that will be needed.
 - c. Outlines a 10 year forward plan of modifications, replacements and additions required.
 - d. Investigates the extent to which future BFB facilities can be co-located with other emergency services facilities.
1. The establishment of a Working Group involving WALGA, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and LGIS to oversee the preparation of the Comprehensive Asset Management Plan.
 2. Support for the Comprehensive Asset Management Plan to be reviewed every five years
 3. Support for an increase in overall Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) funding pool to future capital grants that align with the Comprehensive Asset Management Plan (as updated from time to time).

DRAFT ACTIVE TRAVEL TO SCHOOL ROADMAP

That WALGA:

1. Endorses the Draft Active Travel to School Roadmap, subject to amending Urban Environment Initiative No 1 to "Consult Local Governments to identify sub-regional school transport challenges and amend existing planning guidelines and develop new guidelines where gaps exist"; and
2. Works with the Department of Transport to finalise the Roadmap and encourage Local Government participation in the initiatives identified where these offer solutions to the local issues encountered in each area.
3. Uses the Draft Active Travel to School Roadmap to strengthen advocacy for increased funding for walking and cycling infrastructure in Western Australia by the State and Federal Government.



WALGA

WORKING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

State Council

President Cr Karen Chappel JP	President/Northern Country Zone
Cr Paul Kelly	Deputy President/Central Metropolitan Zone
Cr Ken Seymour.....	Avon-Midland Country Zone
President Cr Phil Blight	Central Country Zone
Cr Helen Sadler	Central Metropolitan Zone
Cr Catherine Ehrhardt	East Metropolitan Zone
Cr John Daw	East Metropolitan Zone
President Cr Cheryl Cowell.....	Gascoyne Country Zone
President Cr Laurene Bonza	Goldfields Esperance Country Zone
President Cr Stephen Strange	Great Eastern Country Zone
President Cr Chris Pavlovich.....	Great Southern Country Zone
Cr Chris Mitchell JP.....	Kimberley Country Zone
Cr Les Price	Murchison Country Zone
Cr Frank Cvitan JP	North Metropolitan Zone
Cr Russ Fishwick JP	North Metropolitan Zone
Mayor Mark Irwin	North Metropolitan Zone
President Cr Michelle Rich.....	Peel Country Zone
Mayor Peter Long	Pilbara Country Zone
Cr Carl Celedin.....	South East Metropolitan Zone
Mayor Ruth Butterfield	South East Metropolitan Zone
Mayor Carol Adams OAM	South Metropolitan Zone
Mayor Logan Howlett JP	South Metropolitan Zone
Cr Doug Thompson	South Metropolitan Zone
President Cr Tony Dean	South West Country Zone
Ex-officio:	
Ms Annie Riordan.....	LG Professionals
Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas.....	The Rt Hon the Lord Mayor, City of Perth