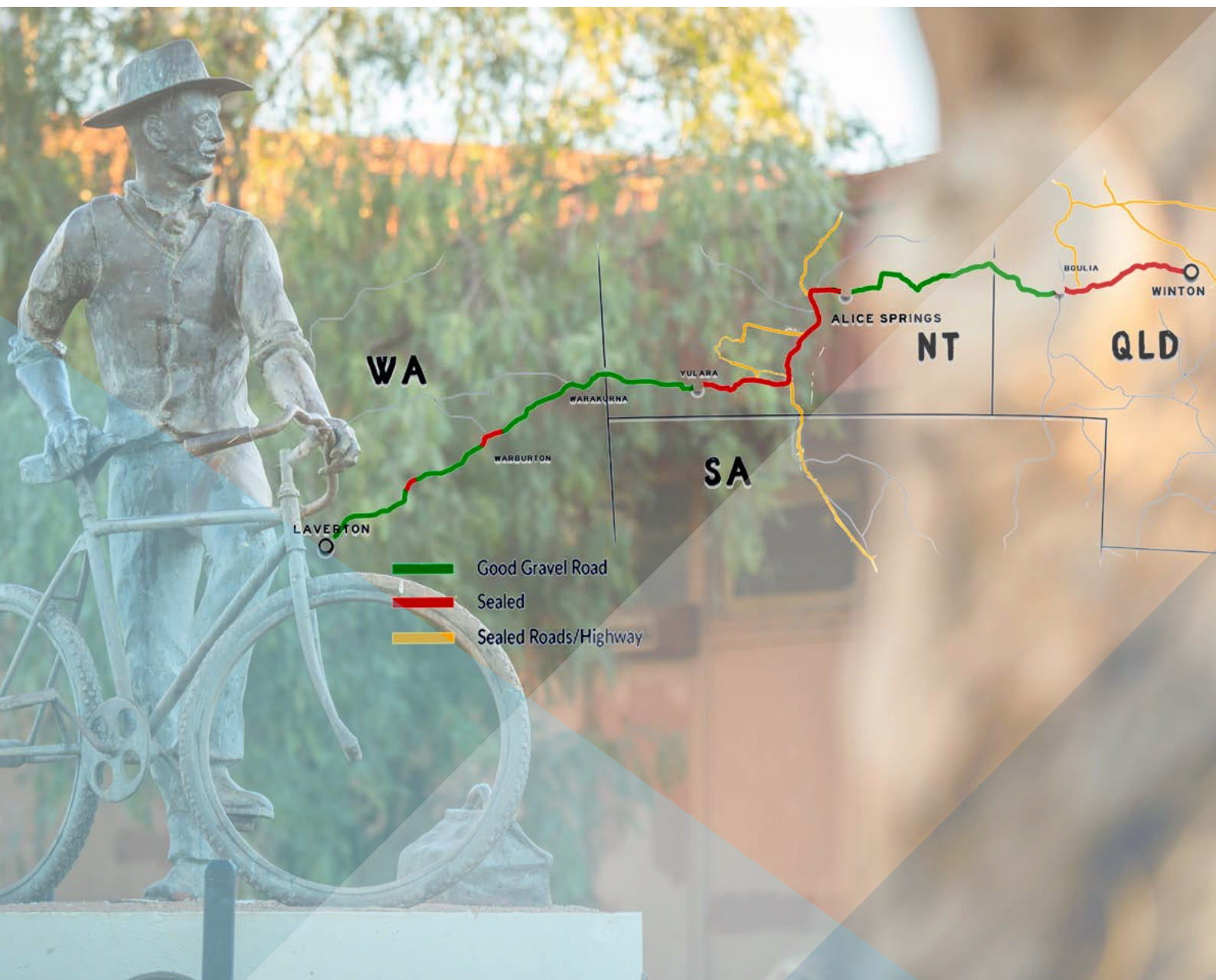


Western Councillor



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P4 SEALING THE
OUTBACK WAY

P26 BEST PRACTICE
ANONYMOUS
INTEGRITY REPORTING

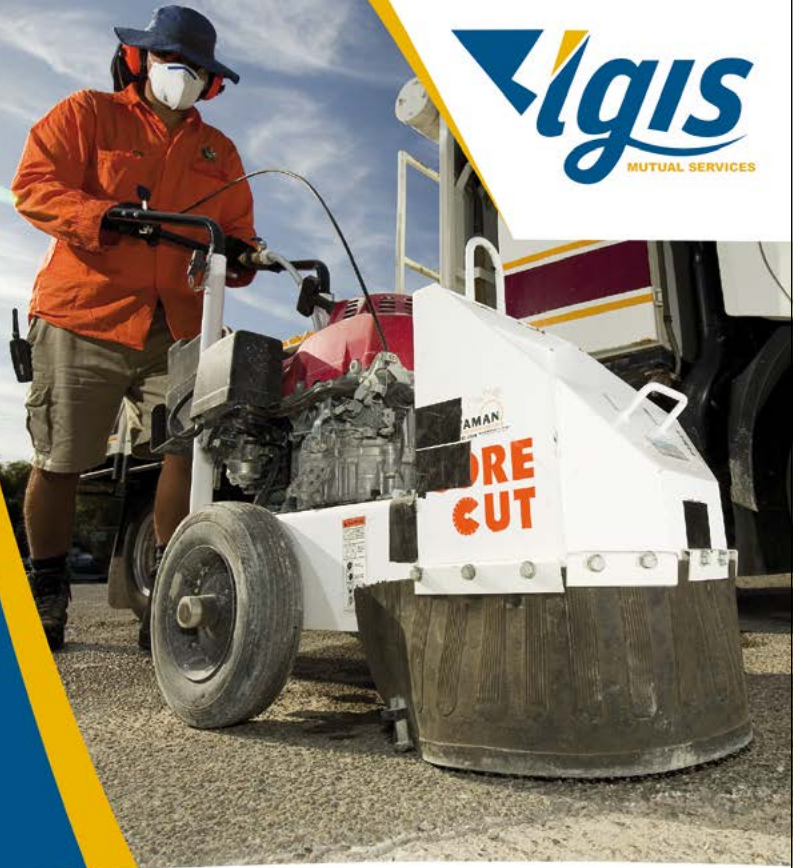
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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 120 of Western Councillor

COVER:

The statue of John Laver in the town named after him, Laverton. The Shire of Laverton is the western entry point to the Outback Way route, through the centre of Australia, to Winton in Queensland. The Outback Way is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.



CUE



GOSNELLS



MURRAY



Chief Executive Officer
Nick Sloan

FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE

With the Federal election run and won, the important task of building strong relationships with the Albanese Labor Government has begun.

In the lead up to the Federal Election, substantial advocacy efforts from WALGA, other Local Government Associations and Local Governments across the country secured billions of dollars in additional funding commitments for Councils from the new Federal Government.

A key commitment, universally welcomed by Local Government, was the \$750 million extension to the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCIP). This brings the total commitment from successive Federal Governments to the LRCIP to \$3.25 billion. Regional telecommunications will benefit from a \$400 million investment in improving regional mobile phone coverage across the country, and a new \$200 million per year disaster mitigation program will help protect communities from increasingly frequent and more severe natural events.

These are examples of the tangible, quantifiable benefits following a Federal election – and they're important. However, the acknowledgment by Prime Minister Albanese of the critical role of Local Government is perhaps best demonstrated in the commitment to invite Local Government to participate in National Cabinet.

We all understand this will be nuanced, with the concurrence of First Ministers from across the country required for any changes to the composition of the National Cabinet. An initial invitation to one meeting a year is short of what

was expected but this should be balanced with the important commitment to include Local Government for the first time on the Council on Federal Financial Relations (CFFR).

ALGA will continue to advocate for Local Government to have full membership of National Cabinet. However, the opportunity to shift and shape public policy starts with participation in Ministerial Council meetings, where we can promote the benefits to the new Federal Government of partnering with Local Government. It is also an opportunity to develop relationships with key decision makers, both at Ministerial and senior departmental level, and this is where our advocacy efforts can realise meaningful outcomes for Local Government.

During the recent ALGA National General Assembly in Canberra we were fortunate to engage with a number of new Ministers in the Federal Cabinet. The new Emergency Management Minister, Hon Murray Watt MP, demonstrated a clear understanding of the challenges associated with disaster recovery funding arrangements. New Local Government Minister Hon Kristy McBain MP, a former Mayor of Bega Shire Council in New South Wales, enthusiastically engaged with delegates on key issues and demonstrated a keen awareness of shared national challenges.

While not in attendance at the conference, it will be important for WALGA to engage with the most senior Western Australian Cabinet Minister, the Hon Madeline King MP, whose portfolios of Northern Australia and Resources are critical to so many of our Members' communities.

Building strong bilateral ties with these key policy makers will be a priority moving forward. The first step was the NGA and the outstanding contributions made by the WA delegates throughout the conference put our State and its 139 Councils front and square on the program.

The risk in listing the individual contributions is missing one so I'll settle by acknowledging the value of a combined advocacy effort that built a solid foundation for a strong, productive partnership with the Federal Government. The value of that cannot be overstated.



President
Cr Karen Chappel

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Councils around the State have faced a good deal of negative sentiment about rate increases that have been set for their coming 2022/23 budgets.

The media has focussed on the percentage increases of some Councils' rates as another burden on households already facing significant cost-of-living pressures. A lot of the negative comments on social media posts regarding the rates increases revolved around ratepayers not 'seeing' what they received for their rates.

I have done several media interviews to explain the reasons for the increases across the sector, and how rates are used to make our communities more liveable.

To support Members, WALGA has run a campaign in June and July with Seven West Media (SWM)

focussing on the positive impact of rate contributions to local communities.

The campaign included a 'win your rates' competition to generate community engagement and utilised SWM print and digital channels. This was supported by an integrated digital campaign across WALGA channels, including repurposing Your Everyday video content, and a media strategy.

The campaign is part of a concerted effort on behalf of WALGA to improve communication of the many positive things that Local Governments do to support their communities, which often go unseen and unheralded.

I know some Councils were also on the front foot with media messaging on the issue of rate increases, highlighting the facilities and services that will be delivered this coming year. This comes back to a point I raised in my column last month about the use of positive language when we talk about ourselves as Councils.

I look forward to the day when a campaign such as the recent rates campaign is not necessary. Unfortunately, we are not there yet, and we have a bit of a way to go in regards to promoting ourselves and all the good we do.

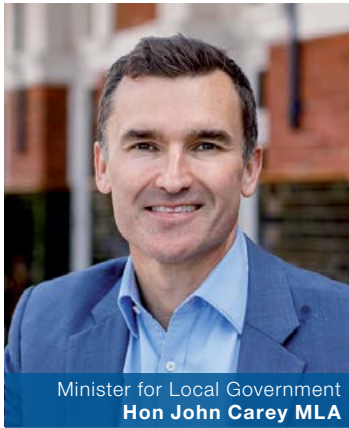
WALGA will continue to look at innovative, compelling and engaging marketing and communications strategies to support this promotion.



Sport and recreation

**For where
you live.**





Minister for Local Government
Hon John Carey MLA

FROM THE MINISTER

Last month we introduced some important regulatory changes designed to assist Local Governments manage their financial reporting. The changes will be phased in, to be in full effect for the financial reporting of the 2022-2023 Financial Year.

I wanted to use this column to provide more insight into why I felt strongly about the need for this reform.

The changes we have introduced are aimed at simplifying and streamlining the process of financial reporting for Local Governments. Accurate financial reporting is critical, but I know that the process of reporting and auditing is very time-consuming, and places a significant strain on resources. This is especially the case for smaller and regional Local Governments.

By simplifying and standardising the process, we're making it easier for all Local Governments to carry out their financial reporting. We will be developing and introducing new model financial statements before the end of this year, which will be available for use by Local Governments by April 2023.

I also want to take this opportunity to provide an update on our Local Government reforms.

As many of you would now be aware, our package for Local Government reform has been finalised, and we are endeavouring to have the legislation in Parliament before the end of the year.

I want to thank everyone across the sector for the time they took to provide feedback during the consultation process. The feedback we received highlighted

broad support for the proposed reforms, but also helped to inform the final package, including amendments and additions to some of the proposals.

The final package can be found on the Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries website.

It is clear that getting these reforms right will depend on the detailed regulations, templates, and reference material. To assist in this critical work, I have set up a new working group made up of representatives from across the sector.

Having a sector-focussed working group will ensure that Local Government continues to have a voice throughout this important process, and that the delivery of reforms will work effectively to deliver benefits for ratepayers and stakeholders, elected members and candidates, CEOs, and other Local Government professionals.



Shadow Minister for Local Government
Shane Love

FROM THE OPPOSITION

I welcome news from the Minister for Local Government that amendments to the Local Government regulations will deliver simplified Local Government reporting. Based on recommendations made by the Office of the Auditor General (OAG), these changes will make financial reporting clearer and easier to understand. As the Minister has stated, simplified reporting will provide ratepayers with clear information while delivering cost and time savings. Particularly welcome is Recommendation six in the OAG's Report - Annual 2019-20 Financial Audits of Local Government, which encouraged reduced detail in small and medium sized Local Government financial reports where it does not impair accountability and transparency. Time will tell if a new rates and revenue policy, in development, delivers a positive benefit for councils and communities. A review of financial ratios is also underway.

Further to the proposed reforms, I have serious concerns with the mooted introduction of preferential voting in Local Government elections. In any multi-vacancy election, it is likely that this system will solidify and entrench the formation of factions and voting blocs, which is divisive.

The recent move by a Council to force disclosure of Councillor's political party affiliations, is I believe, disappointing. Apparently, a small number of other Councils have already gone down this path. Whilst I respect others' views on this matter and

am open to discussion, I am pleased the Minister has voiced opposition to the move. I feel political connections have little bearing on a Councillor's ability to serve their local community. This declaration may see voters select a candidate based on their political preferences, which is of no relevance to important issues facing that particular Local Government. The election of councillors should be based on their commitment and capacity to serve their local community.

While attending WALGA zone meetings lately I have been interested in discussion around the Proposed Advocacy Position for Management of Bushfire Brigades. As we all know, bushfires are a great threat to Outer Metropolitan and regional communities and brigade management is a very important matter for their councils. With roughly 20,000 volunteers within 563 Bush Fire Brigades across 111 Local Governments, WA's Local Government sector is in a unique position nationally as it often has responsibility for management of brigades.

I understand that there is some dissatisfaction with the level of State support offered, and concern over the level of responsibility under work health and safety laws for Council officers and others. Local Governments vary enormously in WA in terms of geography, population, revenue, number of staff and number of volunteer bushfire brigades. I am aware of the concerns and am very happy to discuss these matters with any Local Governments or elected members.

FEATURE

A SMOOTHER RIDE FOR AUSTRALIA'S LONGEST SHORTCUT: SEALING THE OUTBACK WAY

by Helen Lewis, General Manager, OHDC Inc

At the 1997 ALGA Congress, Laverton Shire President Councillor Patrick Hill initiated an Alliance of Councils which included Winton, Boulia, Alice Springs, Ngaanyatjaraku and Laverton, to create the Outback Highway Development Council (OHDC) Inc. The purpose of this alliance was to pursue the sealing of the Outback Way. This idea is now to become a reality.

The OHDC Inc has been successful securing more than \$1 billion of funding, a combination of 80% Federal Government and 20% each from Western Australia, the Northern Territory and Queensland, along with planning and works programming. The ongoing support by the Queensland, NT & WA governments is acknowledged and deeply appreciated by the OHDC Inc.

The funding will seal the 2,700 km Outback Way connecting Perth to Cairns from Laverton in WA Goldfields through to Winton in Queensland, creating a corridor through the heart of Australia. This project is planned to be completed by 2027/28. The collaboration and passion shared by all involved has made this project happen from the ground up. Shared values have determined the success as the reference point for the decision making. The OHDC Inc has been collaborating with Local councils, the State and Territory governments, the Federal Government and 30 other agencies, companies and organisations.

The OHDC Inc's projects timeline has spanned 9 Federal elections, 9 Queensland elections, 7 WA elections, 7 NT elections, 3 mayors in Winton, Boulia, Alice Springs and 3 Shire Presidents in WA.

Queensland's Boulia Shire Mayor, Eric Britton, said that sealing the Outback Way will bring investment opportunities with new businesses and sustainability for the existing ones.

"Creating new businesses in town creates more jobs, increases population and with this comes a larger rate base for the Shire council, allowing the Boulia Shire to be more sustainable and further investing in our liveability," Mayor Britton said.

"It has been my long-held belief that State and Federal governments need to invest in hard infrastructure thus making the Shire very liveable to all."

The Mayor of Winton Shire, Gavin Baskett, said that the sealing of the Outback Way will give Winton a significant economic boost with many opportunities.

"Winton will be at the intersection of two National Highways from North/South and East/West which will bring more traffic," Mayor Baskett said.

"We're expecting an increase in the trucks moving stock from the west and products from the east, especially out of North Queensland.

"Tourists heading to Uluru and other destinations along the Outback Way, will no longer need to navigate the gravel, so we expect tourism to double which will be fantastic for our local economy."

The OHDC Inc is currently a Priority Initiative in Infrastructure Australia's Priority List and is currently having its Stage 2 submission assessed.

The sealing of the Outback Way and the increased traffic may bring a significant change to the way of life in the communities along the route. It is important that the development is driven by the people in these communities. Building capacity in these communities is vital enabling people make the most of the opportunities that the project may present.

An example of expanding capacity is the indigenous training initiated in partnership with WA Main Roads. The Wongutha Way Alliance is training local indigenous people, so they can be part of building the Outback Way. With these skills they will have a job for life in their region, with work in the adjacent mines along the Great Central Road.

The development of this corridor needs to be collaborative, with industry sectors as the distances are great, with the resources scattered across the route. Industry needs to be prepared to provide integrated resources and providing multi-user facilities for the road users, so integration is enhanced, and duplication and waste is reduced.

For the long-term sustainability of the highway, the OHDC Inc is currently exploring the opportunity to use recycled materials for the sealing project and for future reseals. National standards for pelletised rubber 'crumble' from tyres and ground glass are being approved, by Queensland, NT and WA. Developing a workable solution is attractive, as sourcing road building materials is becoming more difficult with costs increasing.

The sealing of the Outback Way from Winton in Queensland to Laverton in WA via Alice Springs, should ultimately stimulate growth in the mining, freight, agriculture and tourism sectors.



ABOVE, L-R: Patrick Hill, President Shire of Laverton; ALGA President Linda Scott; Helen Lewis, General Manager The Outback Way; Mayor Rick Britton, Shire of Boulia. Photo credit: Kelly McManus, WALGA

PROJECTED POSITIVE OUTCOMES OF SEALING THE OUTBACK WAY

- Maintenance costs reduction:** If the route remains unsealed, gravel sections on the Outback Way are expected to cost an additional \$10 million per annum. Budgets from Councils along the route indicate maintenance costs have increased by 40.6% between 2018 and 2020.
- Tourism growth:** A projected additional 3,000 tourists per annum to the Goldfields Region could increase revenue by \$450,000 per annum for the Laverton Shire alone.
- Reduces national freight time:** Light vehicles will save 19 hours of travel time. The 2020 light vehicle saving, was \$20 million per annum for travellers.
- Reduction of living costs:** A nationally benchmarked (ABS CPI) 'Basket of Goods' in Warburton, is currently 133% higher in price than the same goods in towns connected by a sealed road.
- Resources and mining development:** A sealed Outback Way would reduce the travel time of mining freight from 8 hours to 4 hours for a 300km journey.

WALGA PREFERRED SUPPLIER PANEL PROGRAM – UPDATE

Andrew Blitz, Commercial Development Manager

WALGA's Preferred Supplier Program (PSP) has provided approximately \$270 million worth of goods, services and works to Members over the past financial year. The PSP program has twelve Panels with 154 categories of supply with 1,350 active supply contracts and provides access to direct cost savings, and in many instances, aggregated sector level purchasing benefits.

Additional member benefits include contractual risk mitigation through use of the comprehensive Member Contract drafting, quotation process auditability via eQuotes, centralised due diligence and contract management. Contracts are

also tender exempt against a prequalified scope of supply have the benefit of not duplicating procurement processes.

WALGA Panels were contracted based on market preferential terms and prices. The value is specifically articulated in

each Panel Contract and viewable at a supplier level within the commercial in confidence eQuotes environment. The table below provides a summary of recent Preferred Supplier Panel updates aim to delivering more value to our members.

Panel	Name	
PSP001	Information and Communications Technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telstra have updated their adaptive network offer extending greater flexibility and new preferential pricing. A new supplier Juvare is a global leader in incident preparedness and response technology enabling a faster response to incidents and Emergency Management. An Enterprise License Agreement (ELA) has been signed with VMware through the Panel by Data#3, currently providing 25 participating Local Governments with savings of \$3.4 million (63% discount) off full retail prices. A new supplier Eftsure fintech financial controls fintech for fraud detection and payment protection.
PSP002	Engineering, Environmental and Technical Consultancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new supplier, Arcadis Australia delivers sustainable design, engineering, and consultancy solutions for natural and built assets. Additional expertise in waste management planning, recycling and resource efficiency and strategic policy development is offered by the appointment of Encycle Consulting. WALGA has added a specialist provider to the Panel for bushfire consulting, Entire Fire Management. Additional sustainability and ESG consultants have been added to the Panel including Perspektiv Australia, and Rescology, providing environmental and social scoping, feasibility, and land rehabilitation, environmental impact assessment and approvals.
PSP003	Professional Consultancy Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Panel contains 18 suppliers of Town Planning Services with schedules of discounted hourly rates and a mix of specialist and multidisciplinary firms. A category has been developed for Tender Management services to support outsourced procurement processes and tender evaluations. There are 11 specialist suppliers of Asset Management Services to support infrastructure planning, asset gap measurement, and evidence-based decision making.
PSP004	Financial and Corporate Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Royal Life Saving Society of Western Australia (RLSSWA) have provided a discounted schedule of rates for workflow management of residential pool inspections through the call centre management contract. A new supplier, Greenify, offers specialist finance leasing of Electric Vehicles (EVs) with select offers across Tesla, Nissan and Atto vehicles. An enhanced supplier list of internal auditors has been made available to provide a focus on business process audit and preparatory audit activity focussing on OAG report recommendations. A supplier base of 21 companies deliver creative and graphic design, print and marketing services.
PSP005	Leisure, Cultural and Community Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new supplier, SpacetoCo offers an online platform for listing space for short term hire, providing the ability for Local Government to rent out facilities such as building, parks and gardens for private events. Five new suppliers have been added to the events and activation category. Bus Charters Perth have been added to the Panel, providing a 25% discount off standard commercial bus hire rates. The Panel offers a category for library stocks and systems. WALGA facilitates inter-loan courier services for return of library stocks through this Panel with Alinea.

Panel	Name	
PSP006	Fleet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Panel has seven suppliers of tyres offering discounted Government supply rates, and a category of supply for tyre recycling and disposal. Plant, equipment and trucks continue to be accessible through Australian wide NPN (National Purchasing Network) arrangements that are facilitated as manufacturer direct contracts with exclusive pricing delivered nationally to Local Government. With a strong sector focus on fleet transition to EVs and hybrid vehicles and sustainable transport networks, WALGA is developing a new category for Fleet Management Advisory Services.
PSP007	Waste and Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new legal contract framework has been established for Waste Services and is available to Members for use when contracting. Total Green Recycling has been added to the panel and offers e-waste recovery and WA's first e-waste recycling plant. Horizon Power has been added to the Energy Supply contract due to contestability changes in some regional areas, and to facilitate sustainable energy infrastructure project activity. EV charging infrastructure providers have been added to the panel including E-Station and Gemtek.
PSP008	Workplace Goods and Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are two Aboriginal businesses Ballardong Medical Pty (first aid, PPE and medical supplies) and Kulbardi (office supplies) that have been added to the Panel. A number of LED lighting suppliers are on the Panel with specialist public lighting and project-based design/delivery options. Five specialist sign companies are on the panel with new technologies available for traffic and safety signage.
PSP009	Roads, Infrastructure and Depot Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WALGA has refreshed its model specifications which are available for Members to support use of sourcing road supplies and services. A recent tender has resulted in new regional based suppliers being appointed to the Panel. The number of companies on the Panel exceeds 250. The diversity of the panel includes specialists for materials and works, traffic management, materials recycling, underground power services, verge clearances, drainage supplies, plant hire, sweeping services and utility location.
PSP010	Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Panel of 200 providers delivers services including turf, mowing, fencing, landscape infrastructure, playground equipment, tree pruning and maintenance, weed management, water infrastructure, and tree/nursery plant supply. A new supplier, Entire Fire Management, provides bushfire consulting and onsite bushfire mitigation services, with PSP discount rates ranging from 2.5% -5% off hourly rates. Other recently appointed suppliers include shade sail manufacturer Supreme Shades who offer a 5% discount to the Panel and irrigation and water asset specialists Hydroplan who provide a PSP discount of 10% on hourly rates. WA Disability Enterprise provider Activ Foundation provides landscaping and maintenance services inclusive of tree watering, graffiti removal and BBQ cleaning. Activ delivers a 4% discount off commercial rates to the WALGA Panel.
PSP011	Temporary Labour and Recruitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to high demand for temporary labour and shortage of candidates WALGA has enhanced the number of suppliers with 60 companies now represented on the Panel. In addition to temporary personnel and permanent recruitment services the Panel provides for temporary to permanent placement, with a nil fee structure following 6 months of temporary supply. The panel can supply casual labour in specialist areas including planning, ICT, fleet and works operations, community and HACC care, environmental health, and events/activation.
PSP012	Construction and Built Environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WALGA has a new Preferred Supplier Panel for Construction and Building Environments, with the first category for Modular and Prefabricated Dwellings now active. The Panel includes a unique supplier, Greenville Developments, which upcycles shipping containers into carbon neutral working and living spaces. The contract provides a 10% discount off conversion costs and a scaled discount off transport and mobilisation. Tendering is currently in progress for new building construction, refurbishment and remediation works, earthworks and demolition.

For further information please visit the WALGA website for a searchable online directory of Panels and suppliers and contact details for WALGA's Contract Managers. Contractual information, inclusive of prequalified pricing can be accessed via the commercial in confidence environment of WALGA

eQuotes. The Commercial team can also be contacted on preferedsupplier@walga.asn.au

Look out for our Preferred Supplier Program annual report detailing specific activity and analytics under the program in the coming weeks.

Around the Nation

News from State Associations across the country

ALGA



Littleproud: Excluding Local Government from National Cabinet was a mistake

Speaking to councillors during the National General Assembly (NGA) of Local Government in Canberra in late June, Leader of the National Party, David Littleproud said excluding local government from Cabinet was a mistake by the previous Government.

ALGA President Linda Scott said it was encouraging to see growing support for including local government in national decision-making.

"We welcomed the announcement by the Albanese Government last week that local government would be appointed to National Cabinet, as well as the Council on Federal Financial Relations," Cr Scott said.

"This will initially be at one meeting per year, but we will be putting our ongoing membership of these forums on the agenda at the first meetings we attend and working towards securing full voting membership at all future meetings."

"Councils are the quiet achievers in our federation and shouldn't be overlooked when it comes to decision making that impacts on all Australian communities."

NSW



LGNSW welcomes IPART decision

The decision to allow 86 NSW councils to increase their rates by 2.5%, against an inflation rate expected to reach 7% by December, has been welcomed by the state's local government sector.

Local Government NSW (LGNSW) President Darriea Turley said the special rate variations announced today by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory

Tribunal (IPART) acknowledged the dire financial situation created by its initial decision to cap rate rises at 0.7%.

The 0.7% cap - the lowest baseline rate cap in more than two decades - was handed down despite surging inflation, soaring fuel and commodity prices, and the need to repair extensive damage caused by the Black Summer bushfires and the recent floods.

"It is important to recognise that councils would have been held to this historic low-rate cap without the intervention and insistence of Local Government Minister Wendy Tuckerman," Cr Turley said.

"Without this, many councils would have been forced to choose between cuts to jobs or roads maintenance, parks, libraries and other community infrastructure and services.

"So while we strongly welcome today's announcement, we remain deeply concerned that such an anomaly can be produced by IPART in the first place."

Cr Turley said this special rate variations announced today were still extremely modest, coming in at around half the current inflation rate and one third of the Reserve Bank's predictions of 7% inflation by December.

"Councils are the closest level of government to the community, and we know firsthand that individuals and local businesses in our communities are doing it tough," Cr Turley said.

"That's the very reason why we all agreed to share that burden and keep rate rises as low as possible."

QLD



Queensland Councils welcome further ban on harmful plastics

Local Government Association of Queensland CEO Alison Smith said the State's new roadmap to further remove

harmful plastics from the environment is a good outcome for Queensland.

The Palaszczuk Government, on Friday 1 July, revealed its proposed five-year roadmap to phase out harmful, single-use plastics, following new survey results showing Queenslanders backed further bans on single-use plastics.

The ban on harmful plastics - which will apply from 1 September 2023 - will include microbeads, polystyrene packing peanuts and plastic-stemmed cotton buds, along with the mass release of lighter-than-air balloons.

"This is a positive next step in the ongoing efforts to protect our environment and create a more sustainable future," Ms Smith said.

"We thank the State Government for listening to local government feedback, along with the concerns of Queensland communities and other stakeholders," she said.

"Keeping these harmful plastics from entering our waterways and marine environments will help reduce the threat to the Great Barrier Reef and its ecosystem, and is a great outcome for the environment and our local communities."

SA



Call for more SA Women Councillors

South Australian women are being encouraged to nominate for their councils in this year's 2022 council elections.

Women Leading Locally - It's Time

is the name chosen by the Australian Local Government Women's Association SA (ALGWA SA) for their free information sessions for women who are thinking about nominating.

President of ALGWA SA, Cr Julie Woodman, said she was keen to see more women run for council and were currently very under-represented.

“We will be encouraging more women to run in the November 2022 Council Elections, and we know that when more women stand up, more women are elected,” Cr Woodman said.

“Despite the fact that women make up more than half of the population, after the 2018 elections only 35% of South Australian Councillors were women.

“There are so many capable women in our communities who, when equipped with information and encouragement, will make wonderful advocates for local residents.

“It is also important, as an inclusive society, that the composition of councils reflects the diversity of the communities they serve.

“Being a councillor provides an exciting opportunity to make a positive difference in your local community by making vital decisions that make your area a better place to live, work and bring up children.

“With nominations opening on Tuesday 23 August 2022 and closing on Tuesday 6 September 2022, it’s time now to think about nominating as a candidate and planning a campaign.”



Local Government Election Changes

The Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) welcomes the Government’s recognition of the importance of our sector with its proposed changes to the local government elections later this year.

However, LGAT President, Australian Local Government Association Vice President and West Tamar Mayor

Christina Holmdahl said the Government should have consulted with the sector before announcing these changes.

“We have not recently considered the issue of compulsory voting in local government elections, and while the proposal may increase participation in local democracy; this change comes with some risks and importantly councils have not had sufficient time to consider the implications of such significant change,” she said.

The sector supports the proposed changes to simplify the ballot papers to only require marking 1 to 5 preferences.

“This is something local government has been advocating for and will go a long way to reducing the number of informal votes,” Mayor Holmdahl said.

“We look forward to working with the Government to encourage people from diverse backgrounds, genders, abilities and ages to represent their community in the upcoming local government elections.”



A focus on practical reforms and addressing workforce shortages is key to improving the safety of all Victorians in their homes

Councils are eager to work with stakeholders to fix our building regulatory system but fear they’ve been thrown under a bus with risks and costs created by the State or the building industry.

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) has so far been encouraged by the work of the expert panel commissioned by the State Government to review Victoria’s building system, including its respectful engagement with the MAV. However, elements of the Bill introduced into Parliament

today continue a trend of the Victorian Government shifting risk to councils without any benefit for homeowners and residents.

The proposed requirement for additional inspections carried out by council at the end of construction is unworkable.

A council building surveyor would be required to issue a report determining non-compliant elements for a building they may be seeing for the first time.

Already, the Victorian Government is attempting to make councils responsible for addressing combustible cladding and orphaned building permits. This shirks the State’s responsibility, and despite councils’ best efforts, staff shortages may mean even more delays for building owners.

These decisions detract from positive steps including establishing a statutory advocate for homeowners in the building system and requiring better documentation of buildings.

MAV President Cr David Clark said the number one priority must be to develop and grow a sustainable workforce of building surveyors.

JUNE/JULY 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



ALBANY

City of Albany congratulated Lisa Blair who sailed into Albany after successfully breaking the world record for sailing solo, non-stop and unassisted around Antarctica.

On February 21 this year, Lisa left Albany for her second attempt at the record and after almost three months she made her way back to Albany's shores.

What an incredible achievement and one Albany is proud to celebrate with Lisa!

ARMADALE

City of Armadale Mayor, Ruth Butterfield, with Clinton Price who won the \$3,000 Local Artist Award for his photograph, 'Saying Goodbye' in the 2022 Minnawarra Art Awards. The judges described Mr Price's artwork as an "intriguing tender work". Mayor Butterfield said it was great to see around 20 per cent of the exhibition entries came from local artists making this a must-see event for the community.



ASHBURTON

Work continues at the new Onslow Community Boating precinct with a 45 metre floating pontoon recently lifted into place. This project, initiated by the major funding commitment from the Shire of Ashburton, will provide modern, safe boating facilities for local and visiting boat owners as Western Australians take up the State Government's invitation to Wander Out Yonder.



BAYSWATER

A blank wall on Bishop Street in Morley has sprung to life with a large mural by local artist, Pippa McManus, thanks to a beautiful collaboration between the City, local businesses and strata group.

Passers-by can take a peek at the vibrant artwork, named “Berta”, which depicts a Hungarian woman surrounded by colourful flowers, on the laneway on 3 Bishop Street in Morley town centre.

Pictured: Cr Steven Ostaszewskij with artist Pippa McManus.

BELMONT

The City of Belmont's Wilson Park was transformed into The Imaginarium over four days in May, treating residents to more than 44 free fringe-like performances amid a carnival atmosphere. Professional WA artists and entertainers took to the stage with a range of performances with audiences enjoying anything from stand-up comedy, circus, cabaret, magic, to burlesque and drag shows. The Imaginarium was supported by Lotterywest and Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.



BOYUP BROOK

The Shire of Boyup Brook and Edith Cowan University recently held an event at Rylington Park to officially launch a new partnership, following the signing of a memorandum of understanding on 29 October 2021. Rylington Park was gifted to the Shire of Boyup Brook by Eric Farleigh in 1985 to be used for agricultural training and research to benefit the town and district as a whole.

Pictured L-R: Dale Putland, Chief Executive Officer; Cr Richard Walker, Shire President; Professor Kerry Brown, ECU; Professor Cobie Rudd, Deputy Vice Chancellor & Vice President, ECU; Anthony Marceddlo, ECU Director

BROOME

The Shire of Broome recently won a national Planning Institute of Australia award for its Guwarri Town Beach Foreshore Redevelopment Project. Facilitated through \$30 million of funding from the Shire and State Government, one of Broome's most-loved precincts has been transformed into a fantastic, functional community space. The Shire won the 'Great Place' category at the national PIA awards in Hobart on May 18.





BUSSELTON

In May the City invited the community along to join in a very short walk from Merenj Boodja bush garden near the Art Geo Cultural Precinct to the Busselton foreshore. The first Reconciliation Walk held by the City was recommended by local Elders during the development of the City's Reconciliation Action Plan. Well-known local Elder Gloria Hill and Mayor Grant Henley led the walk attended by over 200 people.

CARNARVON

The Shire of Carnarvon became CouncilConnect's 100th subscriber when they engaged with Market Creations Agency to build a bold and vibrant website, launched in May. Market Creations team travelled to Carnarvon to celebrate this milestone with the Shire team. WALGA Chief Executive Officer Nick Sloan said the CouncilConnect platform is a key example of leveraging strong relationships to support the local government sector.



COCKBURN

City of Cockburn Mayor Logan Howlett and South Metropolitan MLC Hon. Stephen Pratt officially opened the \$10.5m Frankland Park Sports and Community Facility in Hammond Park. The City-funded project was boosted by a \$1.5m State Government Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund grant, \$200,000 from the Federal Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Grant Program, plus a \$150,000 grant from Kwinana MLA Hon. Roger Cook.

Rear L to R: Dean Freeman (Chair, Hammond Park Community Association), Amanda Mirco (President, Braves Baseball Club), Anton Lees (City of Cockburn Chief of Operations), Mayor Logan Howlett, Hon. Stephen Pratt MLC, Mathew Smith (President, Hammond Park Junior Football Club).
Front L to R: Amelia Smith and Alijah Smith (Hammond Park Junior Football Club).

COTTESLOE

Cottesloe Councillors, staff and community members walked a section of the Wardun Beelieer Bidi, part of the Whadjuk trail network that runs through Cottesloe, in recognition of National Reconciliation Week and as part of the Town's own reconciliation journey. The walk provided an opportunity to reflect on National Reconciliation Week and the significance of this beautiful area to Aboriginal peoples.



CUE

The Shire of Cue and Cue Primary school celebrated Reconciliation Week with a community BBQ. It was a lovely afternoon at the school enjoyed by all. As well as cooking delicious food the school's talented artists displayed their beautiful Reconciliation art.



DALWALLINU

Work has recently been completed on a new ablutions block at the Dalwallinu Caravan Park. The installation of privacy screens shielding the entry doors to the ablutions has completed works. Landscaping has also enhanced the area. The Shire hopes the newer facilities will encourage many more visitors to make return trips to Dalwallinu. The works were funded by the Local Roads Community Infrastructure Program (LRCIP) and the Shire of Dalwallinu.



DARDANUP

A wonderful celebratory atmosphere was enjoyed at the official opening of the Shire of Dardanup's new \$3.6 million Eaton Bowling Club and Senior Citizens Centre. Achieved with thanks to a \$3 million State Government contribution, the stunning timber building overlooks the Collier River. Members of the Eaton Bowling Club and Eaton Senior Citizens were joined by South-West MLC Jackie Jarvis, former Collier-Preston MLA Mick Murray, and Deputy Shire President Tyrrell Gardiner.

DERBY/ WEST KIMBERLEY

ANZAC Day was commemorated this year in Derby with a Dawn Service. More than 150 people attended to recognise the sacrifice made by Australian and New Zealand men and women across many theatres of war and conflict.



DOWERIN

Tin Dog Hub Project The Dowerin This Together Town Team, sponsored by RAC, organised an artist to create a mural on the front façade of the Tin Dog Store. The community gathered around to enjoy a sausage sizzle, face painting and live music whilst watching artist, Paul Dee, at work. The mural depicts elements that make up the community culture such as agriculture, family, sport and the Dowerin Field Days.



FREMANTLE

The City of Fremantle's Walyalup Civic Centre has won the top prize at the Australian Institute of Architects WA Awards. The building, designed by Fremantle's internationally renowned Kerry Hill Architects, was awarded the George Temple Poole Award, as well as the Julius Elischer Award for Interior Architecture, the Jeffrey Howlett Award for Public Architecture, the John Septimus Roe Award for Urban Design and a commendation in the Sustainable Architecture category.

GERALDTON

It was all systems go at Geraldton Airport recently for a simulated emergency exercise, which involved a plane fire and injured civilians on the main apron. Emergency services were quick to respond to the exercise and battled smoke and flames. The Geraldton Airport hosts emergency exercises every two years to build capacity, test emergency processes as well as bring agencies together.



GOSNELLS

The spectacular Sixty-Foot Falls Trail at Ellis Brook Valley in Bickley has reopened, following improvement works by the City of Gosnells. Access to the steep section of the trail proved challenging and a helicopter was required to lift gravel and supplies to these areas. The trail is now in good condition to weather the heavy winter rains and to accommodate increasingly high numbers of walkers.

JOONDALUP

Joondalup Mayor Albert Jacob, Ward Councillors Tom McLean and Adrian Hill and Burns Beach MLA Mark Folkard recently celebrated the much-anticipated opening of the Burns Beach to Mindarie shared coastal path. The project completes the missing link in a path that stretches from Jindalee in the north to Fremantle in the south. Funding was provided by the State Government, the Cities of Joondalup and Wanneroo, Tamala Park Regional Council and Peet Limited.



KALAMUNDA

The City of Kalamunda Mayor Cr Margaret Thomas JP and Member for Forrestfield Stephen Price MLA officially opened the Gladys Newton Park Redevelopment in High Wycombe in May. The City of Kalamunda undertook the upgrades to Gladys Newton to create a vibrant multi-purpose outdoor space that connects park users with the surrounding natural environment and to offer contemporary facilities for all park users. The Park upgrades were jointly funded by the City of Kalamunda, State Government and Hall and Prior, the operator of Karingal Green.



KELLERBERRIN

The Shire of Kellerberrin held a variety of events in support of National Road Safety Week 2022. It was fantastic to see the community come together and participate in educational activities, enjoy a morning learning about crossing the road safely, signs and symbols while the adults enjoyed free coffee. Fluro Friday was promoted to encourage people to be seen in the community by wearing bright colours when sharing the roads.



KWINANA

One of Kwinana's most prominent female figures, Margaret Feilman, has been immortalised in a mural by acclaimed artist Jacob Butler (Shakey).

Feilman was the country's first qualified female town planner and was asked to design the new town of Kwinana in the early 1950s. The City partnered with the Kwinana Social Club and the Medina Resident Group to install the mural on the external wall of the social club in the heart of Medina in June.



MANDURAH

Lakelands Park in Mandurah was awarded 'National Project of the Year' winner for the AFL Ken Gannon Community Football Facilities Award recently.

The \$7.9m project includes 10 hectares of district open space for community use featuring three senior multi-use reserves, competition-standard lighting to all three ovals, sporting infrastructure and a state-of-the-art community and sports facility designed for many different community and social uses.

The project was funded by the AFL and all levels of government, and since opening in 2020 has been a well-used space for recreation, sports and exercise.

MELVILLE

For National Reconciliation Week this year the City of Melville stood up, were brave and made change. The Nyin, Ni, Koorliny (Sit, Listen, Walk) event for reconciliation was held on Sunday, 29 May at Dyoondalup Point Walter.

The community was invited to Ni (listen) to the stories of Elders and koorliny (walk) with us along the beautiful bidi (paths) from Kwoppa Kepa to Jennalup, to contemplate what they could change in their life for reconciliation.



MUNDARING

Celebrating the opening of the Wooroloo Garden for the Community in early June, residents braved the weather to see the progress made on this great shared asset. Identified as a way to support the community after the Wooroloo bushfire in February 2021, the garden is a place where people can connect, heal and enjoy a sense of belonging. The cheerful additions make it a welcoming, peaceful and productive place for all.



MURRAY

The *Enchanted Stilt Walkers* entertain the record crowd at the 2022 LiveLighter Pinjarra Festival in the Shire of Murray. Stallholders reported up to a 20 per cent increase in takings this year as 20,000 people visited the Shire's biggest community event of the year over the WA Day long weekend.



NEDLANDS

City of Nedlands Mayor, Fiona Argyle joined the Zonta Club of Perth to celebrate 50 years of making a positive difference to the lives of women and girls in WA, nationally and globally. The City provided a commemorative tree and a plaque at Charles Court Reserve, on the Nedlands foreshore.

Pictured: Zonta President Mary Gurgone, Zonta Governor of District 23 Sandra Burns, and founding members Lennie McCall OAM, Freeman of Nedlands, Margaret Medcalf OAM and other members.



NORTHAM

This year, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II became the first Australian Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee after 70 years of service. Australia joined other Commonwealth countries to mark this significant occasion, and the Shire of Northam turned the bridge lights purple to mark the occasion. The Shire of Northam takes pride in the beautiful bridge lights and embraces every occasion to use them to commemorate important events such as this.

PLANTAGENET

The Shire of Plantagenet, Green Man Media and four community members with a disability have worked hard behind the scenes in 2021 filming the 'Celebrating Ability' awareness documentary producing a 10-minute video featuring their stories of living with a disability. The documentary showcases the extraordinary achievements people with a disability accomplish, how they overcome barriers and contribute to community life and reach their goals. The 2022 launch was followed by a social media campaign, reaching record engagements from the community and stakeholders.



CELEBRATING ABILITY - Plantagenet People Tell Their Story



PORT HEDLAND

Keep Australia Beautiful Council launched the Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards at a community clean-up event in Port Hedland with Care for Hedland on 15 May. Pictured is Port Hedland Deputy Mayor Tim Turner pitching in.

SERPENTINE JARRAHDALE

Senior residents of Serpentine Jarrahdale enjoyed a day out in Hillarys as part of the Shire's Seniors Bus Excursion in June. The excursion gave locals the chance to enjoy some time at the Aquarium of Western Australia (AQWA), while also stopping by the beach and shops at Sorrento Quay. Pictured are Elske veen Vliet, Pauline Abernethie and Lorraine Tyrrell.



SOUTH PERTH

Community members can enjoy a self-guided tour of South Perth's amazing public art collection with the introduction of Artwalk Mindeerup. The digital or hard copy map-brochure features 16 fascinating local artworks, the artists and the stories behind them. The 1.75km tour from the South Perth foreshore includes Mends Street, Mill Point Road and Labouchere Road to Perth Zoo. It is universally accessible and takes about an hour walking at a moderate pace to complete.

STIRLING

The streets of Mount Lawley were taken over by the No More Blank Walls Street Art Festival in April. Featuring eight new murals, pop up art gallery, walking tours, light projections, workshops and events, the festival brought together 47 artists to celebrate all things street art. The murals now provide an additional feature to attract visitors, providing long term benefits for the community and businesses of the town centre.

Pictured: Rosie Woods painting her mural at the No More Blank Walls Festival.
Photo credit: Travis Heyto



SWAN

The City of Swan launched its first Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) with an official ceremony at Midland Square on June 1. Taking place during National Reconciliation Week, the celebrations included a smoking ceremony, a Welcome to Country by local Traditional Owner Elvis Yarran and a cultural dance performance by the Boordiya Coolingarahs. The City's RAP outlines practical actions designed to strengthen relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, build a culture of respect, and implement work practices that promote equity and opportunity for all.

TAMMIN

The Shire of Tammin partnered with RDA Wheatbelt, Astro-tourism WA and the Shire of Wyalkatchem to deliver a stargazing night at Yorkrakine Rock for students and families from Tammin Primary School and Wyalkatchem District High School. Attendees were treated to a laser presentation highlighting the presence of constellations representing several Australian animals. Around the campfire Ballardong Elders shared stories about indigenous culture and their affiliation to the astronomy showcased.



THREE SPRINGS

The Shire of Three Springs held the opening ceremony of Dominican Park recently. The Park is named after the Dominican Sisters to commemorate their services in Three Springs from 1910 to 1988, providing schooling and religious education to children. Citrus trees are planted to honour the key motto of the Dominican order, "To contemplate and give to others the fruits of our contemplation." The land was donated to the Shire by the Thomas family.



WANNEROO

The City of Wanneroo unveiled its new Business Wanneroo website at the Wanneroo Business Association Breakfast with WA Premier Mark McGowan in June. The website will support and guide local businesses to succeed, regardless of industry or size, by providing clear and easy to find information on how to start a business in Wanneroo, navigate the approvals process and where to access ongoing support. About 180 people attended the event, including Wanneroo Councillors Glynis Parker, Frank Cvitan, James Rowe, Vinh Nguyen, Paul Miles and Jacqueline Huntley (pictured).

VOLUNTEERS, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SAFETY IN FOCUS FOR LGIS SCHEME RISK PROGRAM

By Jonathan Seth, CEO, LGIS

Targeted risk services are available to all Local Governments as a benefit of Scheme membership. When Local Governments work together to manage risks and reduce claims everyone benefits – Council workers, community and their protection Scheme.

Every three years LGIS reviews the Scheme Risk plan, and in May this year the LGIS Board of Directors endorsed the 2022-2025 plan.

In 2021, WALGA commissioned Mainsheet Capital to undertake an independent review of the Scheme risk program. The review aimed to answer two questions, one, do risk services provide value for money and two are they effective? Their report answered 'Yes' on both counts – affirming the benefits to members of the program.

The risk program is a key benefit of LGIS membership and is structured around three pillars:

- **Preventative risk programs**
- **Emerging risk programs**
- **Claims trend programs**

In addition to the regular three yearly review we look at sector wide risks every year; enhancing service delivery to respond to what's happening in the sector.

Scheme risk services are focused around six risk profiles:



Professional risk



Strategic risk



Liability risk



Property risk



Aquatic risk



People risk

SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2022-2025

There are a range of new initiatives and projects targeted for the next three years. Members also have the opportunity to get involved with various pilot programs and research projects.

Cyber-resilience pilot

Local Government leaders ranked cyber-security as their number two risk concern in the 2021 JLT Public Sector Risk Report. Globally, cyber is recognised as a significant and growing risk exposure.

LGIS is developing a cyber-resilience program to support members in building their cyber-security capacity. Members will be invited to participate, when the pilot program is launched, and will benefit from improving their understanding of cyber risk exposures so they can better target strategies.

Psychological safe

Although psychological safety has always been included in WA legislation it is now explicitly mentioned in the Act, garnering more attention from employers. The new LGIS psychological safety program has a strong focus on education around identifying psychosocial hazards, and the prevention of psychological injuries.

Volunteer management resources

Volunteer management is in the spotlight due to the updated definition of a 'worker' in WHS legislation. LGIS already has resources to support members in managing volunteers and bushfire volunteers - we'll develop more material and provide targeted support in response to the regulatory environment and sector's needs.

The services detailed and more are available to all LGIS members. Services can be delivered in-person, virtually or a combination of ways that meets the member's needs.

LGIS is committed to working with all members to build risk management capacity within the sector ensuring safer communities and work places.

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.

FEATURE

NEW ACTIVE TRAVEL OFFICER GRANTS AVAILABLE AS PART OF POPULAR WABN GRANTS PROGRAM

Want your share of \$8 million of grant funding? Applications for the Western Australian Bicycle Network (WABN) grants program will open soon. The popular program is an important initiative that aims to raise the profile of active transport at a local government level and ensure bike riding and walking infrastructure is safe, accessible, and continuous across local government boundaries.

This year an additional category of funding will be made available to local governments to employ dedicated Active Travel Officers.

Six Active Travel Officer grants will be available, for which regional and metropolitan local government authorities (LGA) can apply. The grants will provide seed funding to LGAs for three years, commencing in the 2022-23 financial year, to employ an Active Travel Officer who will:

- develop and deliver local active travel strategies and initiatives;
- drive and support delivery of WABN Grants Program projects;
- participate in peer reviews and research into technical guidance, participation data, and other initiatives that support WABN initiatives; and
- facilitate community participation in active travel initiatives.

To complement the grant funding, LGAs will need to commit responsibility for all on-costs and allocate a minimum of \$10,000 per annum in project budget for the Active Travel Officer's use for the duration of the grant cycle (three years).

Feedback from LGAs welcomed support from the Department of Transport (DoT) to help build capacity within the local government sector to deliver active travel initiatives.

The WABN team has also noted LGAs with an Active Travel Officer reap benefits by being able to engage more on strategic planning initiatives, deliver higher-quality grant projects and leverage more funding investment for active transport in their local areas. Active Travel initiatives also help LGAs to get the most value and benefit from cycling infrastructure.

With the State Government facilitating investment of \$347 million in walking and riding infrastructure over the next four years, an Active Travel Officer is a great opportunity for LGAs to deliver supporting initiatives and help their community to ride and walk more often.

Further information is available by emailing wabngrants@transport.wa.gov.au.

ACTIVE TRAVEL OFFICER CASE STUDY: ROCKINGHAM

With a dedicated Active Travel Officer, LGAs can leverage existing programs such as the widely successful *Your Move Schools* program to help reduce congestion, improve health outcomes and increase walking and riding to and from schools.

The Active Travel Officer at the City of Rockingham created the *Your Move Schools Network* in 2015. The network began with an initial meeting between the City and local schools to explore ways of reducing congestion and improving road safety through active transport. Today, there are 17 local schools in the network..

Over the past seven years, schools in Rockingham have accessed thousands of dollars in rewards and over \$73,000 in grants through the *Your Move Schools* program. The grants have delivered bike racks and bike repair stations and provided bike maintenance and education programs. A \$15,000 Bike Skills Track is currently being delivered to Warnbro Primary School as part of their 2021-22 grant package.

PEAK DEMAND NOTIFICATION SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE COULD HELP COUNCILS FIND POTENTIAL ELECTRICITY COST SAVINGS

As the strain of the increased cost of living takes hold on residents and businesses, Local Governments may be looking for ways to reduce their own operating costs.

Synergy is educating customers on a range of energy management strategies and tools which could help them to reduce their carbon footprint and save on their electricity costs, including through demand notifications.*

According to Synergy Account Manager Bec Elshaw, Local Government authorities who reduce their demand for electricity when demand in the system is at its highest during summer may have the potential to save on their capacity charges.

"By understanding how capacity charges work in our South West Interconnected System – or the 'SWIS' – Local Government authorities can explore how their electricity usage during peak times in the summer months can affect their capacity charges for the following year," said Ms Elshaw.

WHAT IS A CAPACITY CHARGE?

"What we mean by capacity is the total amount of generation that is available to produce energy. This is different to the amount of electricity actually generated and sent out to be used across the network. Capacity charges are proportionate to how much electricity a customer uses when demand is at its highest and is intended to ensure demand can be met at all times," she said.

In general terms, this is how capacity charges work:

- The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) oversees the capacity mechanism in the SWIS and pays generators a capacity payment for making their generation available to meet peak demand over the highest demand periods, generally the hottest days in summer.
- These capacity payments paid to generators are passed onto or recovered

from consumers, including Local Government authorities, in the form of capacity charges.

- The AEMO uses the four days where demand is at its highest between 1 December and 31 March each year (Peak Demand Days) to determine the 12 Peak Trading Intervals (half hour periods over which demand is measured).
- The amount of electricity consumed by each customer during the 12 Peak Trading Intervals is used to calculate the customer's capacity charges for the following year.

To help customers manage their electricity consumption during predicted Peak Demand Days, which could potentially have an impact on their capacity charges, Synergy offers a Peak Demand Notification Subscription Service (Service).*

"The Service provides customers with notifications for predicted Peak Demand Days. Taking steps to reduce consumption on those days and during times when demand is generally highest could have flow-on benefits in terms of a customer's capacity charges.

HOW PROACTIVE ELECTRICITY MANAGEMENT CAN IMPACT CAPACITY CHARGES

To attempt to lower your capacity charges for the following capacity year, Local Governments may be able to reduce their electricity consumption between 4pm and 8pm on the predicted Peak Demand Days

which is generally when system demand is at its highest.

The City of Cockburn signed up for the Service as part of managing Cockburn ARC, the fitness facility which is home to the Fremantle Dockers, aquatic and sports facilities which receives around 1.4 million visitors a year*.

According to Cockburn ARC Manager Brett McEwin, they have found the Service to be a useful electricity management tool. "We were looking for someone to apply best practice, continuous improvement and innovation in terms of energy supply and demand, and that's something that Synergy certainly has been able to provide to a high standard."

Ms Elshaw adds that planning ahead is an important part of demand management.

"If you have signed up to the Service* and decide to reduce your electricity consumption on days which could be Peak Demand Days, it could be helpful to have a demand reduction plan in place," she said. Our informed account managers are more than happy to give assistance regarding Peak Demand Days and the Service."

*Peak Demand Notification Subscription Service terms and conditions apply.

To learn more about the Peak Demand Notification Subscription Service, please contact Bec Elshaw at bec.elshaw@synergy.net.au or 0457 199 222



Local council regulated electricity tariffs are changing

The State Government has announced changes to the regulated electricity tariffs, effective from **1 July 2022**. These changes are part of an annual review that considers the cost of generating and transporting electricity, as well as the safety, security and sustainability of the electricity network.

At Synergy, we do our best to minimise the costs we can control, and we're always working on ways to supply cleaner and more sustainable energy for our customers.

We're here to help you manage these changes.

There are several ways Synergy can help you manage your electricity costs. From providing energy saving tips that could help you improve your energy efficiency to flexible payment options, we're here to support you.

To find out more about the 2022 price changes and the range of support services available to you, visit [synergy.net.au/pricechanges](https://www.synergy.net.au/pricechanges)



ELECTED MEMBER PROFILE

PRESIDENT CR LAURENE BONZA

SHIRE OF DUNDAS

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

In my 'day job', I am the part time Customer Service Officer at the Norseman Police Station, what is known as an Unsworn Member (a fancy name for Police Staff) of the Western Australia Police Force. I have been in this position for approximately 13 years. I think this role, being a public service one, fits in nicely with that of being an Elected Member. On any given day I can interact with people from a very wide variety of backgrounds and cultures and assist with anything from travel directions to court enquiries, take complaints ranging from burglaries to assaults, and deal with lost and found property! The interactions with people from such diverse backgrounds gives some good grounding for community engagement and consultation.

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

I don't think I'd be alone in saying that I stumbled into Local Government with no clear idea of what I was actually getting myself into, because someone suggested that I might be good at it! I blithely put my nomination in, put a little profile piece in the local paper, and took myself off to Scotland to run a marathon. I wasn't even in the country when the election took place! In fact, I missed the first meeting after the election as I wasn't back yet so it was a rather inauspicious start to my life in Local Government.

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

I was first elected to the Shire of Dundas in 2015. I think the greatest change to the sector is the forthcoming reform of the Local Government Act 1995. I feel it may produce some challenges if it attempts to continue on the well-worn, 'one size fits all' path. Hopefully, our new Act will contain some flexibility where required and fulfil the 'smart, agile and inclusive' premise of the reforms.

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

Since I was elected to Council there have been a few challenging moments. I became Shire President halfway through my first term on Council. Since then, we've gone through a CEO recruitment process, ongoing drought, catastrophic bushfires which saw all road access in and out of town closed for up to 12 days, and right after the fires, with barely a breath between, along came SARS-CoV-2, or COVID-19 as we 'fondly' refer to it.

In amongst all that, we continue all the day to day requirements, constant funding applications for vital infrastructure (so far, unsuccessful), and production of a new Strategic Community Plan.

All with a total staff (admin, road crew, town crew, gardeners) of about 30! I think our staff punch well above their weight and we really appreciate their efforts.

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

The Shire of Dundas sits in the Goldfields Esperance zone. The vast area is dominated by the mining industry. This presents a few challenges from the diminishing community structure brought about by FIFO practices, land availability and therefore reduced opportunity for diversification of industry to see us out of mining downturns.

A large proportion of our Shire, and the Zone, is covered by the Great Western Woodlands. This is the largest, intact, Mediterranean climate woodland on the planet. It is an area of amazing beauty and great tourism potential and also an area that has an estimated 950 million tonnes of carbon stored in the vegetation and soil. Well worth some preservation/conservation consideration.

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

This is a bit of a tricky one! I feel like things have been a bit 'Lemony Snicket' since my time on Council began. I guess I'm still here, so that could be an achievement. I think my proudest achievement is yet to come. There is much still to be done!

I did complete my Diploma in LG, and a big shout out to all the other Elected Members who have also completed it. There are some hard yards in that course and I think we can all be proud of having that certificate on the wall.

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

Become an Elected Member because you want to get the best deal possible for your community. Don't try and get onto Council when you are 'engaged because enraged' about one issue you disagree with your Council on. There is so much more to being an Elected Member than taking an angry attitude on one issue. Make sure you do some proper research about what Elected Members are actually responsible for and what they can and can't do. If you are elected, embrace the training! There are very few jobs you can walk into having never done that kind of work, where you wouldn't expect to have to do some training. Be prepared to acknowledge and accept the fact that the reality of being an Elected Member is different to what you thought it would be! And, be nice to the other people around your Council table. Even if you disagree on the outcome of certain items, this does not make the other Councillors your sworn enemies for life. You need to make your decision based on your community's best interest, not your own opinion.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES FOR ELECTED MEMBERS

WALGA Training continues to reshape, update, and extend our range of highly specialised training offerings, actively supporting our Elected Members on their journey to becoming skilled and effective community leaders.

After completing the Council Member Essentials Training, many Councillors wish to undertake more topic-specific training to further their knowledge and understanding and how this may apply to their community. Our interactive workshops provide opportunities to network with other Councillors and build the confidence of participants in a safe learning environment under the guidance of our highly skilled and experienced trainers.

All courses can also be delivered at the premises of your Local Government to reduce travel time and costs to Council. Virtual classrooms via ZOOM are another flexible option that is available for some courses, if required.

Outlined below is an overview of the most popular Elected Member training courses at WALGA. Come and see us at the WALGA Convention on the 3rd and 4th of October 2022 to meet our team and to discuss your training needs.

- Effectuated Community Leadership
- Strategic Decision Making (IPR)
- Strategic Policy Development
- Oversee Asset Management Strategy
- Dealing with Conflict
- Planning Practices - Essentials
- Planning Practices – Advanced
- CEO Performance Review
- CEO Recruitment **New Course in 2023**
- Economic Development Essentials for Elected Members **New Course, delivered via ZOOM**
- Professionally Speaking
- Role of Mayors and Presidents
- Record Keeping Awareness for Local Government Elected Members (Virtual)
- Emergency Management for Local Government Leaders
- Emergency Management for Local Government
- Community Disaster Recovery for Local Government
- Recovery Coordinators Course for Local Government

For more details or to register please visit the training section of the WALGA website www.walga.asn.au/training

LGA50220 Diploma of Local Government – Elected Member Update

Welcome to all our new Diploma students and congratulations in undertaking our BESPOKE training program. It has been exciting to see our new participants get settled into the course and successfully progressing through the units whilst meeting and building a great network of like-minded Councillors throughout their studies. During their studies, participants develop strategic oversight skills applied to policy development, land use planning, asset management, effective debating, critical thinking, conflict resolution and effective community engagement skills to enable effective decision making in their role as a Council Member.

Places in our Diploma course are highly sought after so 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 for our next intake in early October. Do not miss out on starting this valuable opportunity for you and your local community. WALGA Training can be contacted via training@walga.asn.au or you can call (08) 9213 2088.



STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

"For anyone considering completing the Diploma, I highly recommend it. Not only will you gain a greater understanding

of your role in Local Government, but also enjoy networking and forming friendships with Elected Members from across WA."

Chontelle Stone – 2021 Graduate
City of Cockburn Councillor



SIMON TROTT
Chief Executive Officer,
Iron Ore, Rio Tinto



DR CRAIG CHALLEN SC, OAM
2019 Joint Australian of the Year,
Thai Cave rescuer



JUSTIN LANGER AM
One of Australia's greatest top order batsmen



Embracing **Change**

The 2022 WA Local
Government Convention
and Trade Exhibition

Monday, 3 October to
Tuesday, 4 October
Crown Perth

Join us at the WA Local Government Convention to:

- **Be Inspired** - explore new ideas and approaches with renowned thought leaders
- **Make Connections** - form new relationships and strengthen existing ones with colleagues and exhibitors
- **Enriched Development** - invest in your own growth, your Local Government career and your community
- **Gain Insight** - discover the latest trends and innovations from over 80 exhibitors, providing products and services to the Local Government sector

Visit the event page to find out more: www.walga.asn.au/lgc22

RAPID RISE IN CONSTRUCTION COSTS IMPACTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT BUDGETS

By WALGA Economist, Daniel Thomson

In the first half of 2020, Local Governments set their budgets amid global turmoil in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. Two years on, the sector is once again preparing their budgets in uncertain times.

The big issue this time is rising costs. Supply chain constraints and shortages of labour are creating considerable uncertainty and are adding to costs faced by households, businesses and Government.

Before the rise of Omicron, the world economy was starting to emerge from its COVID-19 induced downturn. Global shipping channels were reopening, labour mobility was returning and whilst health restrictions weren't eliminated, people were learning to 'live with COVID'.

However, this was short lived. China's tough response to Omicron has slowed trade and further impacted on global supply chains.

At the same time, the impacts of the Russian invasion of Ukraine are reverberating across the world with sharp increases in commodity prices (particularly oil) and supply chain disruptions, which are being seen locally at petrol stations and increasingly in the price of food staples.

The combined impact of these factors has seen the Perth Consumer Price Index (which is a proxy for all of WA), reach 7.6% over the 12 months to March 2022, the highest level in three decades and well above the national CPI of 5.1%.

Local Governments are not immune from these cost pressures.

WA Local Government costs, measured by WALGA's Local Government Cost Index (LGCI), are expected to rise by 5.9% in 2021-22 before slowing to 3.2% the following year. While this is a sharp increase, the LGCI is lower than the Perth CPI as Employee Costs, a major component of Local Government budgets, are growing at the modest rate of 2.0%.

The increase in the LGCI is being driven by construction costs which have recorded double-digit rates of growth over the past year (Table 1). The construction sector has been particularly hard hit by supply constraints for key materials as well as labour shortages, at a time where COVID-19 related stimulus spending has meant that activity has ramped up.

Key materials such as bitumen, structural steel, and ready-mixed concrete have recorded significant price increases over the last year, while construction wages are expected to grow above the average rate for WA.

The growth in construction wages will lag the growth in materials and equipment costs but have a longer tail as wages continue to grow at elevated levels into 2023-24 and beyond.

Table 1: Construction cost growth forecasts

Component	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Roads and Bridges	12.3%	4.5%	2.2%
Non-residential Building	15.0%	5.4%	0.2%
Non-road Infrastructure	11.8%	4.6%	1.2%

SOURCE: MACROMONITOR

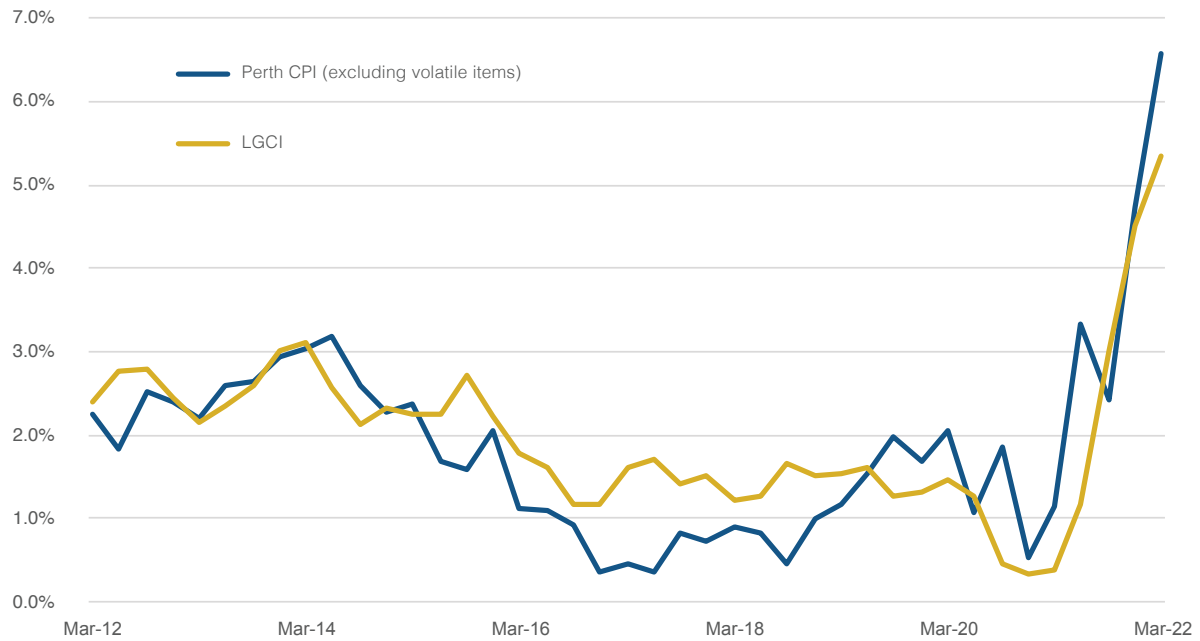
Although the rise in construction costs is expected to moderate it is not expected these costs will fall in future years. When the growth in prices will start to slow will depend on how long it takes for the supply challenges from the trade constraints, labour shortages and the war in Ukraine to resolve as well as the impact on demand of increasing prices, Government stimulus and interest rates.

It is also important to note that regional factors may exacerbate this situation. Some Local Governments are reporting construction quotes well above the State average, particularly where there are limited suppliers, acute worker shortages, limited supply of materials or high demand from major infrastructure projects.

WALGA encourages Local Governments to consider their local context when considering cost pressures, and prepare for multiple scenarios for cost increases coming years.

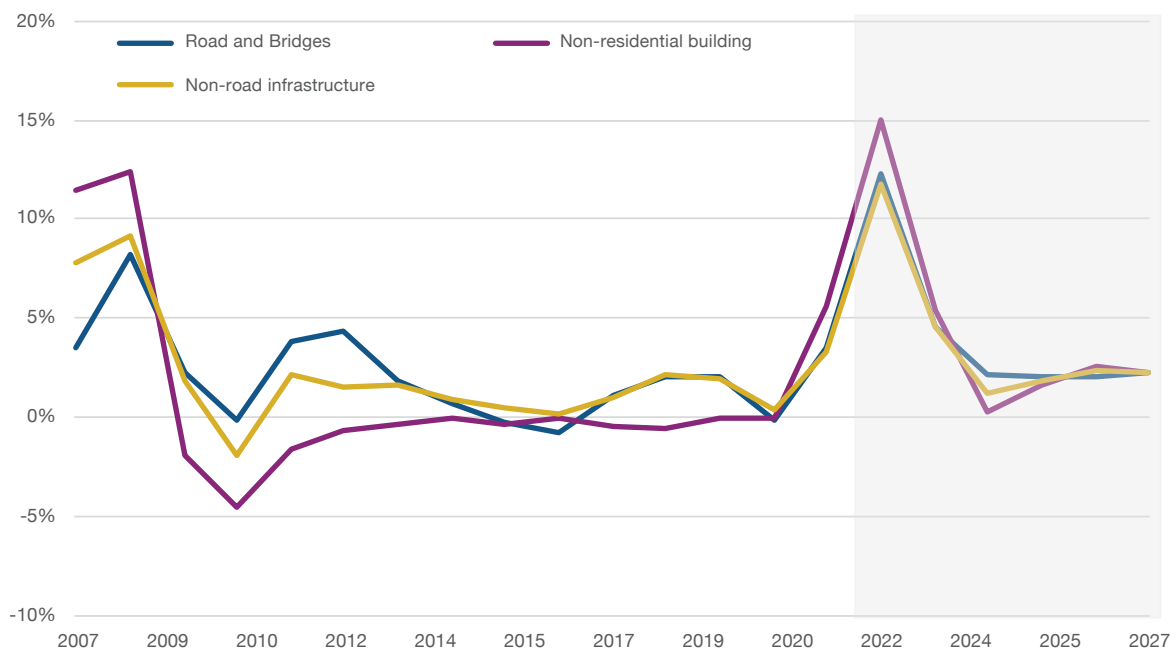
WA Local Governments can request the full WA construction costs report. To do so or to subscribe to the Quarterly Economic Briefing, contact WALGA Economist Daniel Thomson: dthomson@walga.asn.au.

LGCI VS PERTH CPI, ANNUAL % CHANGE



SOURCE: ABS; WALGA

CONSTRUCTION COST INDEXES, WA, ANNUAL % CHANGE



SOURCE: ABS; MACROMONITOR

BEST PRACTICE ANONYMOUS INTEGRITY REPORTING – SAFE2SAY

CrimeStoppers WA, supported by National law firm Piper Alderman, have been playing a leading role in developing and deploying a new anonymous two-way integrity reporting platform for organisations called Safe2Say. Organisations are now required to show a higher level of leadership and to be proactive.

Safe2Say is unique in that the platform provides a two-way chat facility and guaranteed anonymity to the person making a complaint. The reporter cannot be traced, unlike internal reporting processes that falsely claim to be confidential (as distinct from anonymous). It is a cost effective, user-friendly reporting platform for both parties, and assists entities to meet their legislated whistle-blowing and work place health and safety obligations (including psychosocial harm).

Safe2Say had a soft launch in 2021, which coincided with the announcement of a WA Parliamentary Inquiry into sexual harassment in the mining industry, and the commencement of the Australian Human Rights Commission Independent Review into Commonwealth Parliamentary Workplaces.

Joint submissions by Crime Stoppers WA and Piper Alderman were made to both of these inquiries, as well as to a Review of the WA Local Government Act. Representatives from Crime Stoppers WA and Piper Alderman partner Shane Enriken also presented before a Hearing of the WA Parliament Inquiry. Safe2Say was presented as a best practice tool in these inquiries, and is supported by various governments.

The platform has no industry or geographical boundaries and can be used anytime, anywhere in the world. A Victorian local authority was the first to implement the platform, with several mining companies and Government Departments also committing to implementation. Safe2Say is currently implemented by the Department of Corrective Services (in prisons), and also used by ScamNet (a government body) to protect the community from scams.

Over the last six months, Piper Alderman and CrimeStoppers have brought the platform to the attention of organisations. Of particular note, we have received a letter of support from the Hon Minister for Industrial Relations Bill Johnston MLA, providing high praise of our efforts; *'commending all those involved in the development of the platform for their commitment to providing a safe, user-friendly method of reporting'*.

In light of the WA Parliamentary Inquiry into sexual harassment into the mining industry, and the commencement of the Australian Human Rights Commission Independent Review into Commonwealth Parliamentary Workplaces, the findings show that the issues raised are broad and reach across various industries, including Local Government. As a result of these findings, organisations are challenged to embrace responsibility.

Further information may be obtained from www.safe2say.com.au



Piper Alderman

STATE COUNCIL BRIEFS

The resolutions from the 6 July State Council meeting are as follows:

REVIEW OF ADVOCACY POSITIONS RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

That State Council:

1. Endorse the removal of the following Emergency Management Advocacy Positions
 - 8.1 Community Resilience
 - 8.2 Disaster Mitigation
 - 8.3 Emergency Services Levy
2. Endorse the following Emergency Management Advocacy Positions:
 - 8.1 Emergency Management Principles
 - 8.2 State Emergency Management Framework
 - 8.3 Sustainable Grant Funding Model for Emergency Management
 - 8.4 Consolidated Emergency Services Act
 - 8.5 Resource Sharing
 - 8.6 Lessons Learnt Management
 - 8.7 Emergency Services Levy, with point 3 of the position amended, so it states:
The ESL should be collected by the State Government, but failing that, the administration fee should recompense Local Governments for the complete cost of administering the ESL;
 - 8.8 Local Government Grants Scheme (LGGS)

NEW EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVOCACY POSITION – COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICE MANAGER PROGRAM

That the following WALGA Advocacy Position relating to the Community Emergency Service Manager (CESM) Program be endorsed:

8.9 Expansion of the Community Emergency Services Manager Program

That the Association advocates for an expansion of the Community Emergency Service Manager (CESM) Program, as follows:

1. *All Local Governments should have the option of participating in the CESM Program.*
2. *The full cost of the CESM Program should be funded through the Emergency Services Levy.*

DRAFT WA PUBLIC LIBRARIES STRATEGY 2022-2026 AND UPDATED ADVOCACY POSITION

That:

1. The draft WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026 be endorsed.
2. Local Governments to be engaged in the development of the implementation plan to support the Strategy.
3. WALGA's existing Advocacy Position on Public Libraries be deleted and replaced as follows:

3.8 Public Libraries

1. *Western Australian Local Government public libraries provide valuable local cultural infrastructure, creating social and community hubs for community capacity building, recreation, education and literacy, digital inclusion, and social connection, cohesion and inclusion.*
 2. *WALGA supports the provision of Public Library services in Western Australia through a formal partnership between Local Government and the State Government of Western Australia, governed by the Library Board Act 1951, namely the State and Local Government Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia (2020).*
 3. *The WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026 provides a framework for a shared vision, strategic direction and collaborative action in the provision of a vibrant and sustainable 21st century public library network.*
 4. *It is essential that a sustainable funding model enables Local Governments to continue to deliver library services to support continued growth and adaptation to changing community needs.*
4. The State Government to consult with the Local Government sector to identify the constraints experienced by the sector due to the requirements of the Library Act 1955 and the potential benefits of reviewing the Library Act 1955.



WALGA

WORKING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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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
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Mayor Carol Adams OAM	South Metropolitan Zone
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Ms Annie Riordan.....	LG Professionals
Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas.....	The Rt Hon the Lord Mayor, City of Perth