

# Western Councillor



ISSUE 113 | APR/MAY 2021



P4 COUNCIL  
COLLABORATION DURING  
WOOROLOO BUSHFIRE

P18 PEOPLE OF LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT  
PERCY PAYNE



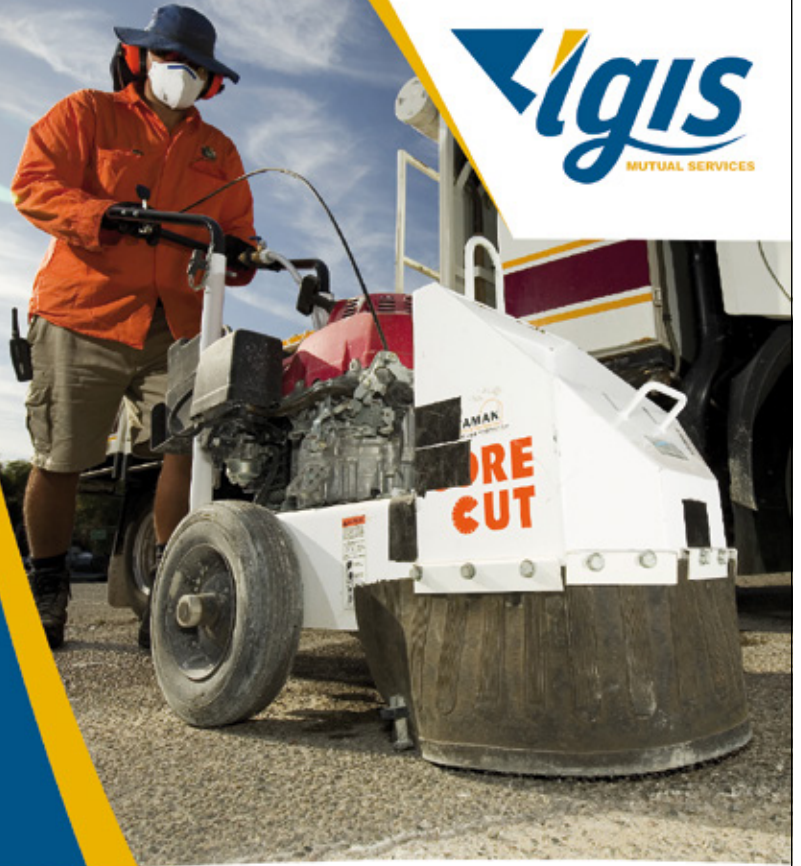
# Local governments working together.

*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](http://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 one of the team on the Hotline Numbers below.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
PEER SUPPORT  
TEAM HOTLINE  
NUMBERS

Nick Sloan  
CEO  
WALGA  
Tel 9213 2025

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**Welcome to Issue 113** of Western Councillor

## COVER:

Brand new playground Koolangka Koolangka Waabiny (Children Children's Playground) has opened in Wellington Square.



GOSNELLS



ROCKINGHAM



WANNEROO



Chief Executive Officer  
Nick Sloan

## FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE

I'd like to share the current progress of our sector Energy Sustainability and Renewables Project and the exciting opportunities this may bring to our Members in possible avenues for expansion.

The impetus for this project stems from our approach in supporting Members by identifying emerging constraints in sector supply and exploring ways in which to overcome their future impacts, as is the case with the emerging focus on carbon neutral targets and their impact on procurement of energy and renewables technology.

Our Commercial Development team, led by Andrew Blitz and Toby Costanzo, have been actively engaging with the sector. This consultation has established that this challenge is important to our Members and we have received outstanding support for developing energy solutions enabling members to make a sustainable transition towards net zero emissions.

As at February this year, forty-six WALGA Members have made Climate Change declarations, with many also having adopted environmental policies with carbon neutral targets included.

We have established a steering committee of Local Government appointed officers to provide guidance into the scope of this Project, with the initial approach being to aggregate Local Government energy supplies and related supply charges for a three year agreement. This time frame has been set in order to realise optimum costs, support Members in achieving policy targets and also align contracts for future developments and negotiations.

This initial milestone in Local Government renewable energy collaboration is the first step of many where WALGA can assist to provide a cost effective and smooth transition to a net-zero sector.

There are many other opportunities to realise benefits from group sustainable procurement, such as: carbon offsets, electric vehicles, hydrogen technologies, large-scale roof top solar, renewable energy certificates and energy management systems – the list goes on.

Whilst being mindful of the need to ensure any solutions also reflect the varied scope and needs of our Members – and their own local communities – if Local Government can realise a uniform body for sustainability commitment and procurement, the sky's the limit. Some thoughts include:

- Develop a long term Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with a WA sources renewable energy generator.
- Establish community circular economies where the sector could build, develop and receive resources from renewable projects such as Local Government owned solar and wind farms.
- Facilitate a movement in the transportation sector through electric and hydrogen fleet and infrastructure development.
- Sponsor, develop and operate sustainable local infrastructure projects to provide power grid stability to our regional communities.
- Enabling our communities directly by retailing our own renewable energy to local residents and providing a more affordable green solution to household power.
- Provide community outreach and education on sustainability and how each and every ones of us can be a part of the positive change.

In engaging with this project and its expanded opportunities, Local Government can ensure they are on the front foot in shaping this new era in energy, being able to claim our space in this emerging market and supporting the commitments to climate change made by all levels of Government. It's an exciting prospect and one I am looking forward to exploring further together with our Members.



Mayor  
Tracey Roberts JP

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The agility of Local Government and the resilience of our communities have once again come to the fore, whether it be in response to the devastating impacts of Cyclone Seroja or the changing environment in Perth and Peel with outbreaks of COVID-19 and consequent restrictions.

WALGA is supporting our Members as they support their communities, with WALGA CEO Nick Sloan engaged in ongoing discussions with the Chief Executive Officers of those Local Governments impacted by the cyclone.

Our LGIS service has confirmed advanced payments of \$1 million to some impacted Members to enable them to commence clean up works immediately, with more likely to come. This is one of the benefits of a mutual service structure in which we are able to respond more immediately to the needs of Members.

WALGA staff continue to represent the sector in State Emergency Coordination Group and All Hazard Liaison Group meetings, with former WALGA staff member Mel Pexton recently announced as State Recovery Controller for this event.

In addition, we are looking to match up offers of assistance from Local Governments not immediately impacted across the service areas of administration, finance and rural outreach and seeking to solve the immediate problem of mulchers required to handle the large amount of organic debris caused by the cyclone. During emergencies existing staff are diverted to dealing with the event and recovery responsibilities and it is often in

the area of business as usual that a Local Government feels the strain. I encourage all Local Governments to consider how they can assist.

WALGA staff have been to visit impacted areas to hear from our Members first hand what it is that they need – and we are now looking to progress those requests, whether it be through sourcing additional resources across the sector or liaising with other agencies for their assistance.

Local Governments have once again stepped up and performed some amazing tasks, continuing services and supporting their communities, often whilst also facing their own personal impacts as part of the same community. Local Government staff have been providing welfare checks and door knocking to ensure vulnerable members of the community are OK, with many setting up centres for people to access food and electricity.

In one instance, Greater Geraldton staff put out the call to the community for generators, and received a staggering 60 units in one day! A great example of the generosity and resilient spirit found amongst the community in times of need.

In the metro and Peel regions, we've been following the changing circumstances closely – again through representation at State Government Emergency Committee level and across agency working groups, communicating with Members as different restrictions are imposed and sharing their implications for the sector.

Again, the resilience of the sector and our communities are coming to the fore as we all respond with agility and grace to challenges as they arise.

Our status as leaders in the local community is further evidenced by requests for Local Governments and Elected Members to provide their assistance in supporting the State's vaccination campaign. We are being asked to help share across staff and local communities the facts about vaccination and the benefits to be derived from being vaccinated once eligible. To find out more about the campaign, got to [www.rollup.wa.gov.au](http://www.rollup.wa.gov.au)





## FROM THE MINISTER

Local Government can have incredible power: as a driving force for positive change in our local communities, making them better places to live, work and play.

As the tier of government closest to local communities, it can make practical, real improvements most quickly, and help facilitate great ideas and projects driven by local residents and small businesses.

I know this first-hand - having served six years at the City of Vincent, first as a Councillor and then as Mayor.

Many of you will know I have been a strong advocate for transparency and accountability in Local Government for many years. As the new Minister, my key focus will be on creating positive cultural change in Local Government.

In our first four years, the McGowan Government implemented reforms that have enhanced the way Local Governments operate: a new gift framework, mandatory online induction for all candidates, universal training for Elected Members, changes to the standards panel and transparency reforms.

Earlier this year, new minimum standards covering the recruitment, selection and performance review for Chief Executive Officers took effect to ensure a more transparent and accountable process. We also introduced a mandatory code of conduct for Council members, committee members and candidates to improve professional standards.

In the next four years I believe we have a real opportunity to work together to drive further change that will improve the way the sector delivers for its number one stakeholder – our communities.

I will have two key focuses during the next four years.

The first is to drive reforms that will continue to build community trust, drive cultural change, clarify the relationship between Councils and administrations, and enable early intervention when issues arise.

The second is cutting red tape for small business: a key driver of economic activity, vibrancy and community, whether on a city café or retail strip, or in our regional town centres.

In this regard, I am looking at Local Governments who are already driving this kind of program in their administrations.

Since taking over the portfolio, I have had the opportunity to meet with a number of Local Governments, and in the coming months, I look forward to meeting with many more, particularly those in regional Western Australia.

I've spoken to Councils who are reshaping the way they interact with the community by using a place-led approach to break down barriers and ensure all functions of service delivery are in synch and focussed on outcomes.

I've visited small regional Councils who are investing in amenities that improve the quality of life for their community, while also boosting local tourism by attracting visitors.

This is the type of thinking that I want to support and encourage – which ultimately delivers better outcomes for local communities.

I look forward to catching up with you, as I get out and about to meet Local Governments across the State.



## CYCLONE SEROJA

# FUNDS FOR WORST HIT COMMUNITIES

Emergency payments are being immediately provided to Local Governments worst hit by cyclone Seroja to assist with their recovery.

Communities with severe cyclone damage will today receive a share of \$1 million in advanced payments from the WA Local Government Association's LGIS service.

The Shires of Northampton, Perenjori and Mingenew will be the first Local Governments to receive the advanced payments with the potential for more to be included as required.

WALGA President Mayor Tracey Roberts said it was likely the initial payments made to the worst affected areas would only be the start of the financial support from the Association's LGIS service.

"Assessment as to the extent of the damage is still underway but early reports are already identifying that in some areas, costs will be well in advance of these initial payments," she said.

"The primary purpose of immediately releasing funds for the worst affected areas is to help maximise each Local Government's response to its community's needs.

"These Local Governments are working around the clock to get services back functioning to support their communities and should not be taking up time applying for funding."

The WALGA LGIS service is a mutual indemnity scheme that provides protection for all WA Local Governments across portfolios including property, liability, WorkCare and bushfire volunteers.

Unlike commercial insurance providers, the Scheme is able to respond more quickly to supporting communities with payments in advance of claims.

Mayor Roberts said the Scheme was also offering counselling support to Local Government staff through the Employee Assistance Program, a critical area of need that can easily be overlooked.

"The Scheme exists to serve WA Local Governments and it is times such as these when the true value to the sector becomes most apparent," Mayor Roberts said.

# AGENCY, COUNCIL COLLABORATION DURING WOOROLOO BUSHFIRES



Photo Credit: DFES Incident Response Photographers Evan Collins, Greg Bell and Brenden Scott.

A set of incredibly challenging circumstances set the backdrop of collaboration and cooperation between State and Local Governments in the midst of a bushfire disaster.

The Wooroolo Fire started on Monday, 1 February, coinciding with the second day of Perth's five-day lockdown due to a case of COVID-19 outside hotel quarantine. Catalysed by harsh weather conditions, including strong winds and high temperature, the raging inferno burnt through 11,000 hectares and destroyed 86 houses across two Local Government areas, the City of Swan and the Shire of Mundaring.

Despite the challenges, a spirit of cooperation and collaboration between State and Local Governments ensured the community was kept safe and informed in the response phase, and supported in the post-disaster recovery phase.

DFES Manager, Digital Communications Kate Byatt said DFES, the Shire of Mundaring and the City of Swan, worked innovatively together to keep the community informed during this bushfire.

"City of Swan generously provided an employee to film an Incident Controller video update for five community meetings to be published on DFES's Facebook page and within official alerts," she said.

"This new way of collaborating together was very effective – using local resources to film the videos and publishing them on official and popular channels meant that a large number of people received the information quickly.

"This was particularly important as this bushfire was during a COVID-19 lockdown and due to restrictions many affected residents were unable to attend meetings.

"DFES's Community Liaison Unit also worked closely with the City of Swan and Shire of Mundaring at the evacuation centres to communicate with and support affected residents."

City of Swan CEO Jeremy Edwards said the City stepped in to provide video updates as it proved to be a useful medium two years ago.

## RECOVERY PODS BRING OUT TEAMWORK BETWEEN NEIGHBOURING COUNCILS

The Shire of Mundaring and the City of Swan collaborated to ensure the application and approval for a new recovery accommodation was consistent.

Minderoo pods are modified sea containers intended for owners who had lost their home to return to the land whilst they rebuild.

Mr Lezi said the temporary accommodation required identifying appropriate mechanisms to support this whilst addressing the legal and Environmental Health considerations.

"Collaboration took place between the City of Swan and Shire of Mundaring to ensure processes were consistent, even including joint application and approval forms," he said.

"The City coordinated filming and editing, and the video update was published on DFES social media and shared by the Local Governments to help get the message out," Mr Edwards said

"This method proved effective during a major fire in Bullsbrook in 2019, where the City live streamed an emergency community update meeting to Facebook so those who were staying and defending their properties could receive critical information.

"Clear and effective communications in an emergency is imperative to ensure people get the right information when they need it, and the City was proud to collaborate with our Local and State Government partners to save lives."

Shire of Mundaring Acting CEO Mark Luzi said during the response phase of the bushfire, Shire staff were redirected to various roles to focus on collating and disseminating information to residents.

"The Shire provided access to Brown Park Community Centre as the local Evacuation Centre. Staff then assisted in the setup and were present at the Brown Park Evacuation Centre, and later the Bushfire Community Recovery Centre at Percy Cullen Oval to assist residents with information and access to services," Mr Luzu said.

"Further, the staff worked with DFES in the process to identify and formally notify people of the impact of the fire on their properties," he said.

Mr Luzi said the collaborative efforts with DFES took place daily during the response phase, and is still consistent in the recovery phase.

"The Shire's Coordinator Community Engagement continues to work one on one with those people who lost their homes, ensuring access to support and information," he said.



Saturday, 27 February, the Wooroloo Community with the support of the Shire, hosted a Night out of the Haze community event at Wooroloo Primary School for residents, local businesses, and fire fighters affected by the fire.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENTS BAND TOGETHER IN RECOVERY

Now in the recovery phase of the bushfires, Shire of Mundaring Acting CEO Mark Luzi said the Shire activated its Local Emergency Management Arrangements and Recovery Sub-Plan, appointed a Local Recovery Coordinator and established a Local Recovery Coordinating Committee.

"The Shire also hosted several events to bring the community together, including a drop in information session at Wooroloo Hall on Saturday, 20 February. Residents were able to come together to connect, share their ideas on how their community can rebuild and receive support from the Australian Red Cross and shire staff," he said.

"On Saturday, 27 February, the Wooroloo Community with the support of the Shire, hosted a Night out of the Haze event at Wooroloo Primary School."

"The free community led event was open to all Wooroloo and Hills residents, local businesses, and fire fighters affected by the fire. Community members came together to enjoy live entertainment, BBQ and drinks, and to talk to service providers."

Mr Lezi said the funding received via the joint Commonwealth/State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements allowed the Shire to appoint a dedicated Project Officer to work within the Wooroloo community as they navigate the path to recovery.

"Our aim is to build a community that is resilient, has the capacity to support

itself, with a sustainable vibrant region fostered," he said.

City of Swan CEO Jeremy Edwards said the effects of the fire have been devastating but it is also bringing the community and stakeholders together, with everyone rolling up their sleeves for the recovery effort.

"Since the City of Perth and the Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas launched the appeal in early February, The Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund has received more than \$15 million in donations, with 159 applications from bushfire-affected residents," he said.

"Many Local Government volunteer bushfire brigades from across the state also provided support during the emergency with bushfire control officers and volunteer brigades attending, as well as several Local Governments offering to accommodate evacuated animals and people who have been impacted."

Collectively, \$104,000 has been donated by 12 Local Governments in Western Australia.

Mr Edwards said the City of Wanneroo and City of Belmont provided administration and staff support to assist with processing donations, as well as maintaining the virtual donations warehouse.

"The City is grateful to the Shire of Mundaring, Cities of Wanneroo and Belmont, State Government and the wider Local Government sector for their support on our road to recovery," he said.



## COLLABORATIVE GRANT

# CREATING COOL CORRIDORS FOR COMMUNITY



### Collaborative Grant to Create Cool Corridors for Community.

A collaboration between the State and Local Government will create a greener environment for the community and cool high urban heat-risk areas.

The 2021/22 Local Government Urban Canopy Grant program was created to expand tree canopy cover in Local Governments within the Perth and Peel regions.

Funded by the Water Corporation and administered by WALGA, the program would provide up to \$750,000 to support additional tree planting or bring forward future tree planting in these Local Governments' current urban forest plans.

These projects will increase canopy over sites identified as high urban heat areas or replace lost tree canopy in areas of rapid population growth.

WALGA President Mayor Tracey Roberts said applications were received from Perth and Peel Local Governments.

"The Urban Canopy Grant Program will contribute to the earlier achievement of tree canopy targets, and augment existing tree-planting initiatives already underway in Local Governments across Perth," Mayor Roberts said.

"Investment in tree planting is an important step towards creating green, liveable communities of the future."

Local Governments who are successful in their applications will provide an in-kind contribution to provide for site preparation, tree planting and watering during tree establishment.

Mayor Roberts said some of the proposed projects would include local native trees to provide habitats for wildlife.

"In addition, the program will strengthen relationships between schools, community groups and local businesses who will have opportunities to participate in tree planting activities," she said.



## COLLABORATION WITH STATE GOVERNMENT

The Local Government sector has been concerned about the loss of trees in urban areas, particularly on private land for a number of years, and there have been numerous WALGA Zone and State Council resolutions on this issue.

The Urban Canopy grant funding reflects WALGA's ongoing advocacy efforts – the Association has been pushing for a State-wide urban forest program for a number of years, most recently in the State Election campaign through the Greening Our Suburbs proposal, inspired by the NSW Government's Greening our City grant program.

The NSW program, which supports Councils in Greater Sydney to enhance urban tree canopy, funded under the NSW Premier's 5 Million Trees for Greater Sydney initiative, has so far invested more \$25 million in co-funding to Local Governments for tree planting projects in public spaces such as streets, parks and plazas urban.

This funding delivery, a partnership between State and Local Government and WALGA, demonstrates how collaboration between stakeholders is necessary to get the best outcomes for Western Australia's urban forest.

WALGA and Local Government strongly support the State Government's continued commitment in funding joint programs such as the \$4 million pledged towards urban forest initiatives.





## URBAN FOREST WORKING GROUP

Alongside the advocacy efforts, WALGA established the Local Government Urban Forest Working Group.

Represented by 55 officers from 28 Local Governments from metro and regional Councils, the Working Group undertakes projects to address the barriers in retaining the State's urban forest, as well as fostering capacity building and knowledge between members.

One of the fundamental functions of the working group is to deliver an annual Urban Forest Conference. The 2020 conference, which saw a sold-out-crowd, highlighted the various projects and programs being delivered across the State by stakeholders in growing canopy cover, whilst also exploring policy, innovation and research in achieving better outcomes for the future.



## TOWN WINS INTERNATIONAL STATUS FOR URBAN CANOPY

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation and Arbor Day Foundation awarded the Town of Victoria Park with a 2020 Tree Cities of the World status on Monday, 1 March – the first city or town to do so in Western Australia.

The program is an international effort to recognise cities and towns committed to ensuring that their urban forests and trees are properly maintained, sustainably managed and duly celebrated.

Town of Victoria Park Mayor Karen Vernon said that the Tree Cities of the World recognition is much welcomed and reflects strongly on the success of the Town's unique community-led Urban Forest Strategy and its collaborative implementation.

"Since 2019, the Town's Urban Forest Strategy has been guiding all of us – staff and Elected Members,

together with residents and the wider local community – on how we can create a healthy and thriving urban environment here at Vic Park," Mayor Vernon said.

"As a result, year on year we have seen continued growth and support for our efforts in greening Vic Park."

"This is evident when the Town almost tripled the amount of trees planted in 2020 compared to the previous year, increased its projected canopy cover by 40,000m<sup>2</sup> in the 2020 planting season and saw record numbers of residents participating in activities such as Urban Forest at Home."

There are 120 cities across 63 countries who have met the five core standards of the program, which included establishing responsibility, setting green policies, having a long-term care plan, a resource commitment and creating awareness when it comes to trees.



# Around the Nation

## News from State Associations across the country

### NSW



#### Super Fairness for Elected Councillors at Last

Local Government in NSW is celebrating the proposed introduction of superannuation for Mayors and Councillors from 2022 as a major step forward.

Local Government NSW President Linda Scott said the peak body and its Member Councils had advocated fiercely for fair superannuation for Mayors and Councillors throughout her term in office.

"LGNSW has consistently argued that Mayors and Councillors should be entitled to receive superannuation, in line with every other Australian employee at work," Cr Scott said.

"It is beyond satisfying that the NSW Government has finally recognised the need for elected Councillors to have the same superannuation rights as other women and men in the workforce.

"For too long people considering running for elected office in Local Government have been unable to do so unless they were independently wealthy. This reform will enable more people to consider running to be a Mayor or Councillor, and this is a welcome step forward.

"I'm thrilled that LGNSW has been able to convince the Government of the merits of this argument and that the announcement comes ahead of the Local Government elections scheduled for later this year.

"Ensuring elected Councillors receive fair superannuation will remove a very real disincentive to stand for elected office, especially for women.

"Research shows that, on average, women retire with 47% less superannuation than men, so introducing superannuation to Local Government will allow more women to consider running to be an elected leader.

"This is critically important at a time when only one-in-three elected representatives in NSW Local Governments are women.

"Modern Councils are governance-style boards of significant influence, managing community assets of immense value for the public good.

"Introducing superannuation on these earnings is recognition of this commitment and will help encourage the broadest cross-section of the community to stand for office."

Cr Scott said the superannuation announcement followed the introduction to State Parliament of Local Government Amendment (Rates) Bill.

The proposed legislation will also assist Councils to harmonise rates across multiple Local Government areas that had been

merged by the NSW Government in 2016. Harmonisation will be phased in over four years to avoid rate shock.

Rate harmonisation across former Councils means both residential and business rates from the old Council areas are calculated fairly and consistently right across the new Local Government area.

"Allowing sufficient time for Local Governments to harmonise rates puts everyone on a level playing field, on an orderly path, and is a critical step in ensuring the merged Councils are able to levy rates in the fairest and most transparent way possible," Cr Scott said.

"The reforms are welcome, however, the journey of rate reform has a long way to go to ensure Councils can start to deliver core infrastructure and services effectively beyond special State Budget project grants.

"Rate pegging is crippling Councils and must be removed.

"According to the Government's own NSW Productivity Commission, cumulative negative impacts of over 40 years of rate pegging include an estimated \$15 billion in rate revenue forgone when compared to Victoria.

"We have called on government to end this antiquated method of determining rates, as well as a range of other reforms such as allowing Councils to recover Emergency Services Levy independent of pegging."

### QLD



#### Economic Stimulus Funding to Help Councils Address Areas of High Unemployment in SEQ

The Local Government Association of Queensland welcomes the allocation of job-creating economic stimulus funding for South East Queensland Councils, announced by the State.

Local Government Association of Queensland President and Sunshine Coast Council Mayor Mark Jamieson said the \$100 million South East Queensland Community Stimulus Program funding commitment – including an initial allocation of \$74 million – follows a request from the LGAQ on behalf of its Member Councils for a stimulus program to address areas of high unemployment in SEQ.

"No part of the state has been immune to the economic impacts of COVID-19. This program, combined with the Works for Queensland funding for regional Queensland, will ensure Councils can roll out job-creating programs in every part of the state at a time when their communities need help the most," Mayor Jamieson said.

"The LGAQ campaigned for this program on behalf of its Members through both its Battleplan for Queensland Local

Communities and during the State Election campaign and we thank the Government for its commitment."

Mayor Jamieson said the Association would continue to work with the Government to increase the funding under this program to \$50 million a year, ongoing, to ensure it can continue to create jobs and support those communities that need it most.

This reflects the resolution passed by Member Councils at last year's Annual Conference asking the LGAQ to continue to lobby the State to increase the funding for this program going forward.

### TAS



#### Local Government Supports Consultative Reform That Benefits Communities

The Tasmanian Premier released the Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council's (PESRAC) final report. Amongst its many recommendations it proposed that the Tasmanian Parliament should sponsor a process to drive structural reform of Tasmania's Local Government sector.

As the level of government closest to communities, Local Government supports a reform process that delivers change in the best interests of Tasmanian communities.

In order that community voices are heard, a reform process must be collaborative with Council and communities. It must work to understand what Councils are delivering well, the challenges they face and importantly, take the time to understand the community's needs.

"LGAT welcomes genuine discussion and collaboration around a changed approach to Local Government reform" said Mayor Holmdahl, LGAT President.

"We know from other states that successful reform must be community-led. Each community's challenges and strengths have to be understood to identify the right services for them now and into the future" Mayor Holmdahl continued.

"Bigger is not always better. Reform should focus on delivering what communities need in a sustainable way, allowing for local innovation and solutions" Mayor Holmdahl said.

The significant work undertaken as part of the Local Government Association of Tasmania's 21st Century Councils Project has already shown significant sectoral support for reforms that leverage local democracy, increase inter-Council collaboration to drive improvements, consistency and sustainability.

"Councils are place-shapers who drive most people's attachment to, and satisfaction



with, the area in which they live” said Mayor Holmdahl.

“The experience of COVID-19 has shown the strong links between community members and their Council and the important role Councils are already playing in driving community-led recovery” continued Mayor Holmdahl.

“LGAT has a strong history on working collaboratively with State Government to enable Local Government to best serve the needs of our communities. I look forward to seeing this same approach as we work together to drive community-led recovery in Tasmania” Mayor Holmdahl said.



### Container deposit scheme design a win for communities

Victorian councils and communities can celebrate a big win today with the announcement of the final design for Victoria’s container deposit scheme, said the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV).

The MAV congratulated the Victorian Government on choosing a scheme design that prioritises accessibility, simplicity and recycling outcomes.

MAV President, Cr David Clark, said he was thrilled that the Victoria Government had listened to strong community feedback about the need for a collection network that is easy to access, easy to use and that maximises the recycling of containers.

“We understand community members will be able to return cans, bottles and cartons at various locations including shopping centres, drive through collection depots, mobile drop off points for events and community festivals,” said Cr Clark.

“We are also confident that community and sporting groups and charities will have plenty of opportunities to participate in and raise funds from the scheme.”

The MAV has been a strong advocate for reform and investment in Victoria’s recycling system, with the introduction of a CDS one of the five key actions called for from the State Government as part of our Rescue our Recycling Action Plan.

Container deposit schemes are celebrated around the world for their demonstrated success in increasing recovery of beverage containers, reducing litter, and delivering a range of social, economic and environmental benefits.

The number one factor in the success of any CDS is ease of access to collection points.

Cr Clark added that there are still a range of important details about the scheme that remain unclear including which types

of beverage containers will be eligible for a refund.

“We have been advocating for the scheme to include as many different types of containers as possible including wine and spirit bottles – so that we finally move toward a system where the costs of recycling are covered by those producing and consuming the goods,” Cr Clark said.

The MAV looks forward to continued engagement with the Victorian government to work through these important details and achieve the best possible scheme for our communities.



### Local Government Ready to Help Turn Waste Crisis into Billion-Dollar Economic Opportunity

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) has hailed the Federal Government’s National Plastics Plan 2021 as an important milestone on the road to a more environmentally and economically sustainable future.

Released following long-standing ALGA advocacy for stronger action on national waste reduction and recycling, the plan will help achieve many of the 2020 National Waste Policy Action Plan targets endorsed by Australia’s Environment Ministers.

ALGA President Linda Scott said: “Better waste management represents a billion-dollar economic opportunity for Australia.

“Done well, it will lead to a greater recovery of valuable and finite resources, create thousands of new jobs, and protect fragile ecosystems from the scourge of single-use plastics.”

“We broadly welcome this plan as an opportunity for the Commonwealth to better engage with and enable Local Government to make further progress on managing waste sustainably and responsibly,” Cr Scott said.

Australia’s 537 local Councils manage around 26 percent of Australian waste annually, either directly or through contractual arrangements.

Each year, Local Governments collect around 9.7 million tonnes of waste from kerbside bin services, sort it at material recovery facilities (MRFs), and dispatch what can be recycled to reprocessing facilities. The cost to Councils is an estimated \$3.5 billion annually.

The Federal Government’s commitment to the National Plastic plan includes:

- phasing out problematic and unnecessary plastics such as expanded polystyrene (EPS)
- working with industry to deliver national packaging targets
- investing in new plastics product stewardship schemes, and

- strengthening Commonwealth procurement rules to kickstart demand and an initial “pull-through” for recycled materials.

A further commitment by the Federal Government to “work with the States and Territories to harmonise kerbside recycling collection” has, however, raised concerns across Local Government.

Creating the same bins for every area of Australia without significant additional funding for Local Governments is not a practical way to achieve increased recycling,” Cr Scott said

“A one-size-fits-all approach assumes Australian homes are the same size and ignores the reality that Materials Recovery Facilities vary enormously in capacity and capability across Australia.

“Bins that are designed for the Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Government area may not be the best fit for the Town of Port Hedland,” she said.

Besides managing the collection of nearly 10 million tonnes of household waste annually, Local Government also dedicates resources to administering community waste-education programs, collecting litter, addressing illegal rubbish dumping, and ensuring compliance with waste bylaws.

“Councils are proud to do all we can to support reducing waste and boosting recycling and stand ready to do more when funded by the Commonwealth,” Cr Scott said.

“I will continue to advocate for the Commonwealth to leverage its funding to States and Territories and industry to maximise recycling to create jobs and reduce waste costs for our communities,” she added.

# APRIL/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 [Brenda Law-Yat](mailto:blawyat@walgga.asn.au) at the WA Local Government Association via email: [blawyat@walgga.asn.au](mailto:blawyat@walgga.asn.au)



## ALBANY

To celebrate the centenary of the Royal Australian Air Force, Mayor of Albany Dennis Wellington, Air Commodore, AM, CSC Fiona Dowse and City of Albany Chief Executive Officer Andrew Sharpe, announce a partnership to provide scholarship opportunities for young Albany locals wanting to experience a day in the life of an Air Force officer.

## ARMADALE

The Community Citizen of the Year Award winners were recognised during the City's Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony.

This year's Community Citizen of the Year Award was tied by Bree Hartley for her tireless efforts in the field of art and culture, and Veronica Read for her outstanding volunteer work helping to increase adult literacy in the City of Armadale.

This year there were 31 nominations over the four categories, which indicates there are a lot of individuals and groups doing amazing things in the Armadale community.

Pictured: City of Armadale Mayor Ruth Butterfield and Bree Hartley.



## ASHBURTON

The Shire of Ashburton celebrated the completion of the \$13 million Pilbara Regional Waste Management Facility in early March. This 100% off-grid, solar powered, Class IV facility has been designed and constructed to best practice standards and will accept waste from mining, industrial and oil and gas operations across north west Australia. Located 40km east of Onslow, it is the only Class IV waste facility outside of Perth and is anticipated to operate on a State, national and potentially internationally, level.





## BAYSWATER

The City of Bayswater celebrated a special International Women's Day with the official opening of Nellie Tant Reserve, Bayswater, named after the first woman elected to the Bayswater Road Board in 1921.

Mayor Dan Bull and Councillors were joined by Nellie Tant's relatives and community members for the occasion on Monday, 8 March.

## BELMONT

The City of Belmont has welcomed its first community service organisation tenant – Valued Lives – to the second floor of its new community centre Belmont Hub. Belmont Hub is a multi-purpose and cross-generational centre that is already enhancing the local community by providing and integrating a wide range of services and activities. City of Belmont Chief Executive Officer John Christie said the second floor of Belmont Hub has flexible offices as well as multiple communal breakout spaces, meeting rooms, digital concierge system, crèche and communal waiting and reception area.

Pictured: Valued Lives Foundation Corporate Services Manager Kenny Lye, City of Belmont Chief Executive Officer John Christie, City of Belmont Mayor Cr Phil Marks and Valued Lives Foundation Chief Executive Officer Bronia Holyoak.



## BEVERLEY

The Shire of Beverley welcomed the official opening of Moort Wabiny Park on Friday, 12 February. The youth activity space was designed by the community with assistance from Skate Sculpture. The project was made possible with funding from Lotterywest, Drought Communities Program, Stronger Communities, local fundraising and the Shire of Beverley. Located on the main street, Moort Wabiny means family play. It features nature play, basketball court, BBQ facilities, skatepark and pump track.

Pictured: CEO Stephen Gollan, local student Grace who won the park naming competition and President Cr Don Davis.

## BROOME

The newly redeveloped Broome Golf Club was officially opened on Saturday, 6 March, with the Shire of Broome welcoming Federal MP and Member for Durack Melissa Price to the event.

A \$5.1 million project to establish a new clubhouse and restaurant facility boasting stunning 360-degree views, the Golf Club project was jointly funded by the Shire and Federal Government's Building Better Regions Fund.





## BUSSELTON

On Thursday, 25 March, the Busselton Woodturners officially opened their new workshop in the Butter Factory Museum Precinct. The Woodturners worked closely with major sponsors the City of Busselton to ensure delivery of a first-class facility.

Moving forward, the site of the club's original workshop in the Queen Street Cultural Precinct will form part of the new Performing Arts and Convention Centre.

Pictured: Mayor Grant Henley with club members and representative from Wattle Paint.



## CANNING

The City of Canning has received six awards at the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia Excellence Awards for the first two projects delivered by the Canning City Centre Regeneration Program.

Wharf Street Next Generation Community Park and Cecil Avenue West were recognised as winners in all categories in which they were nominated, with the Wharf Street Park also taking out the overall GK Watters Local Government Engineering Excellence Award.



## CLAREMONT

WA Symphony Orchestra lights up Claremont Park for *A Night On Bay View* event.

Photo credit: Jono Laird



## CAPEL

The Shire of Capel recently took 119 seniors on outings to the Busselton Underwater Observatory. One of the actions in the Shire's Age Friendly Communities Strategy 2018 – 2022 is to run Shire hosted seniors' outings.

Seniors were awe-inspired by over 300 individual marine species in their natural habitat. This was followed by a sunset dinner where seniors chatted to one another and enjoyed a laugh whilst watching the sun go down over the glistening waters.





## COCKBURN

Work has begun on the \$9.3 million Frankland Park Sports and Community Facility in Hammond Park. The Hammond Park Junior Football Club and the Braves Baseball Club will call the multipurpose facility home when it is complete by the end of the year.

The City project received a \$1.5 million State Government Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund grant, \$200,000 from the Federal Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Grant Program and a \$150,000 grant from Member for Kwinana and Deputy Premier the Hon Roger Cook MLA.

Pictured from left to right: Member for Kwinana The Hon Roger Cook MLA, Hammond Park Junior Football Club President Mathew Smith, Hammond Park Community Association Chairperson Emma Horsefield, Deputy Mayor Lara Kirkwood, Braves Baseball Club President Amanda Mirco and Mayor Logan Howlett.



## CRANBROOK

The Shire of Cranbrook has installed a viewing platform at Sukey Hill. This lookout was funded through the Drought Communities Programme and has view of the Stirling Range National Park and the Wansbrough Pink Lake System. It allows for breathtaking views of the Western starting point of the Stirling Range National Park and is one not to be missed if you are ever calling through Cranbrook.



## DENMARK

The Shire of Denmark has a new set of sustainable wheels! Staff at the Shire will now be able to zip around town on an e-bike in line with Council's commitment to being a role model within the community in sustainable practices and carbon reduction initiatives. Nathan Devenport (left) from local business Monkey Rock Mountain Bikes dropped the bike off to Councillor Jan Lewis and Acting Director Corporate and Community Services Lee Sounness recently.

## DERBY WEST KIMBERLEY

Approximately 450 locals enjoyed the Derby Expo on Sunday, 7 March.

The Derby Expo is a fantastic way for residents, visitors and workers to learn about local organisations, activities, services and products.

The event has been running for over 20 years in Derby to welcome new residents.







## GOSNELLS

Community members have a bright new space in the heart of Gosnells, with the redevelopment of the Gosnells Town Square now complete.

An important part of the City's overall plans to revitalise the Gosnells Town Centre, the new-look Town Square provides a playful place for workers, shoppers and residents to enjoy.

It features a central lawn, a water misting feature with lights and sound, bright furniture, public art and landscaping.

## GREATER GERALDTON

Mullewa's people, history and culture were officially celebrated as community members came together to commemorate 125 years of being a municipality.

Locals and dignitaries attended the official opening of the Mullewa Pioneer Cemetery Memorial Wall, the renaming of what is now the Doc Docherty Pool and a new plaque at the Mullewa Town Hall in remembrance of Mrs Josephine Docherty.

The celebrations and projects part of the 125 year commemorations were led and run by a local committee of volunteers.

Pictured: The Memorial Wall at the Mullewa Pioneer Cemetery was officially opened by Councillor Jennifer Critch, Mr Kevin Merritt and Mrs Yvonne Radcliffe.



## JOONDALUP

Despite being delayed five weeks due to COVID-19 restrictions, thousands of City residents and visitors were on hand at Joondalup Resort to witness Perth Symphony Orchestra and singers Sophie Foster, Rose Parker, Matt Allen, Matt Milford and Sam Nafie deliver the 80s Symphonic Spectacular for the 2021 Valentine's Concert. The all-Perth production of orchestra and performers were at the top of their game and delivered a world-class show.

## KARRATHA

The Red Earth Artist Festival (REAF) returned to the City of Karratha in 2021 from Friday, 12 March to Sunday, 21 March. REAF21 featured a diverse program with 65 Western Australian artists over 22 events with over 3000 attendees.

From the great atmosphere and live music at the hub of the festival "The HeART", unique rave parties, cultural exploration through the Karratha hills and variety of musical performances and workshops, REAF21 was a great success.







## KOJONUP

On Friday, 27 November last year, with assistance from Synergy and Gemtek, the Shire of Kojonup's President John Benn officially opened the new Electric Vehicle Charging Point at The Kodja Place. The Council has opted for the unit to be free of charge until the end of June to promote use and encourage visitors to stop longer in Kojonup.

The artwork was designed by Indigenous Elder and Manager of Works, Craig McVee.

## LAKE GRACE

The mesmerising and amazing knowledge of our solar system grows among us with stories to tell about the milky way, stars and satellites on a perfect still night for astrotourism.



## MANDURAH

Mandurah is transforming with a number of exciting projects taking shape.

Works on a unique circular Estuary Pool with floating jetty (pictured) are on track to be finished by October, and once completed will create more water-based recreation and tourism opportunities.

Following the recent successful completion of the Mandurah Skate Park, the City continues to deliver on our community vision to Transform Mandurah, including a new and improved Smart Street Mall, great play spaces and upgrades jetties and boardwalks.

Thanks to the State and Federal Governments for their valued contributions in bringing this vision to life.

## MANJIMUP

The first soil has been turned to commence construction works on the Pemberton Community Co-location project. This project will see the contemporary redevelopment and extension of the RSL Memorial Library and Infant Health Centre, as well as the refurbishment of the Little Taddies Day Care, into fit-for-purpose facilities for community stakeholders.







## MELVILLE

The City of Melville together with the Ieramugadu (Roebourne) Community and Big hART hosted the free Songs for Freedom concert on Saturday, 6 March at Dyoondalup. Point Walter.

It was a beautiful evening that brought together our diverse community to celebrate our First Nations people and particularly our Noongar, Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi communities.

Attendees enjoyed listening to the extraordinary music and songs of Roebourne.

Photo credit: Linda Dunje Photography



## NEDLANDS

The City of Nedlands, assisted by the Friends of Allen Park, has this year co-ordinated Schools Clean Up Day with students from Quintillian School, Mt Claremont.

Together, the working group took to Swanbourne beach and surrounding bushland to help reduce pollution by clearing away litter.

The City is working on a series of similar collaborations with other local primary schools, to help promote waste minimisation through waste education programs.



## NARROGIN

The Shire of Narrogin recently hosted a Welcome to Narrogin Sundowner for new residents who moved to town in the past 18 months. The event presented a great opportunity for these new residents to mix and mingle with elected members, Shire employees and representatives from numerous sporting and recreational clubs in town. Attended by over 40 new residents, a highlight of the evening was a traditional song performed by some of Narrogin's newest residents - all the way from Vanuatu. The men, employed by the local meat processing facility in the Shire, are expected to reside in Narrogin for the next three years as part of their visa requirements.

## PERTH

The brand new 3000m<sup>2</sup> intergenerational playground Koolangka Koolangka Waabiny (Children Children's Playground) has opened in Wellington Square. The theme for the community playground is 'Landscape of Play', influenced by Aboriginal themes and Western Australian iconic landforms. The official City of Perth community launch took place on Saturday, 10 April with a day of amusement rides, food trucks and family fun.





## PLANTAGENET

On Saturday, 6 March, past and present Councillors celebrated the Sesquicentennial of the Plantagenet Road Board with a luncheon at the popular Henderson and Hwang Function Centre in Kendenup. Friendships and acquaintances were renewed and stories told, with much reminiscing enjoyed by all in attendance.

Pictured: previous Shire Presidents from left to right are Harvey Arnold, Peter Skinner, Bill McGowan, Kevin Forbes OAM, Cr Ken Clements with current Shire President Cr Chris Pavlovich.



## PORT HEDLAND

March was a milestone month for Hedland's transition to sustainable waste management practices. Delivering on 93% community support, the Town of Port Hedland and Cleanaway rolled out a kerbside recycling service in early March, giving households the chance to significantly reduce their waste footprint. Council also endorsed the detailed design for a Community Recycling Centre, which will create a local circular economy in the years ahead.

## ROCKINGHAM

The City of Rockingham recently completed a trial of its new Rediscover Rockingham Tram service.

Running each Sunday from mid-February until late April, the free tram service travelled an 18.2km return route stopping at Rockingham Museum, Rockingham Foreshore, Point Peron and the Penguin Island ferry terminal at Mersey Point.

The service was popular with both local residents and visitors, with users able to hop-on and hop-off at their leisure.



## SERPENTINE JARRAHDALE

Byford residents are now enjoying a new multi-purpose sporting facility with the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale having completed works on the Park Road tennis courts. Both basketball and netball hoops and line markings have also been added to the facility, with the project made possible after the Byford Tennis Club successfully applied for a \$29,500 grant through the Shire's Major Grants funding scheme.

Pictured: Concert goers enjoying Diamond Road cover band at Market Square.

## SUBIACO

The corner of Rokeby Road and Churchill Avenue in Subiaco transformed into a vibrant community space complete with mini golf, a giant seesaw, picnic tables and more. As well as creating a place for people to relax and connect, a number of events were scheduled in including live music, light projections, and a community art project. The project was supported by RAC.





## SWAN

The sights, sounds and tastes of Harmony Week came to life in the City of Swan as Altone Comes Alive returned for its biggest year yet on Saturday, 20 March at Altone Park Oval in Beechboro. Hundreds of people soaked up the autumn sun and enjoyed free entertainment, international foods, stalls and markets. The City also welcomed 52 new citizens from 22 countries at its citizenship ceremony.



## VICTORIA PLAINS

The first section of bitumen was laid on the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network's (WSFN) Pilot Project. The Shire of Victoria Plains proudly took on the first step in the major roadworks project, reconstructing the Mogumber-Yarawindah Rd to an 11.5m carriageway and 8m seal, suitable for the Agricultural Lime Sand Route Traffic.

The WSFN project is a collaboration of 42 Local Governments obtaining funding through the Federal Government's Roads of Strategic Importance program and WA State Government with three spheres of government working together for safer roads.

## WANNEROO

In February, Council members, parliamentarians and the community joined Wanneroo Mayor Tracey Roberts to officially open the Girrawheen Community Garden. Nestled outside Girrawheen Library, the garden was a collaborative project between Perth City Farm, the City of Wanneroo and a 12-person community committee. It already boasts a healthy mix of edible produce, fruit trees and flowering Australian native plants, such as rosellas and kangaroo paws.



## WONGAN BALLIDU

On Saturday, 20 March, the Shire supported Bike it to Ballidu, an annual event now in its 22nd year. Covering 35kms from Wongan Hills to Ballidu, the race offers great prize money and the opportunity to enjoy a day packed with fun and entertainment for all ages. The race welcomes individuals, veterans and single or mixed gender teams to participate (dress up encouraged but not essential).



# LGAS ON BOARD FOR WA'S FIRST VIRTUAL POWER PLANT

The pilot project, which will see a number of WA schools transformed into smart, green and flexible VPPs, was launched in 2020 with works in March including the installation of a Tesla powerpack energy storage system at Belridge Secondary College in Beldon. The next phase of the project will involve infrastructure works at Gilmore College in Kwinana.

## How does it work?



### Households and businesses with solar and/or batteries

are rewarded by allowing Synergy to access the excess energy generated or stored when required.



### Allow Synergy to aggregate this energy (virtually)

to dispatch energy to the grid whenever demand is required to power households or businesses.



### Help to support lower generation costs

as demand for centralised energy plants decline over the coming decade.



### Lower network costs in the future

as the transition to a future-ready electricity network is created as part of the DER (Distributed Energy Resources) roadmap.

Establishing a Virtual Power Plant (VPP) involves aggregating a network of distributed energy resources, such as solar and battery power. The electricity is then managed/controlled to provide the same services to the electricity system as a traditional power plant.

As DER Product Owner, Ana Farla, explains, virtual power plants are considered an essential part of WA's energy future. "This is an exciting opportunity to show what's possible for WA as we continue to step away from traditional power plants and instead towards storing and sharing renewable energy at a local level," she said.

"We're exploring not only how a VPP could help each school better manage their energy consumption, but also new ways to help make sure our local electricity grid is as stable and reliable as possible."

For the schools involved in the pilot project, Synergy will install the VPP technology and infrastructure, including a commercial battery. "Our LGAs and their communities will play a vital role in helping this technology come to life in WA's changing energy landscape," added Ms Farla.

Synergy will also be working directly with schools to develop a science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) learning experience. "This will focus on equipping the next generation with the knowledge and skills they need to explore new possibilities for WA's energy future," said Ms Farla.

**For more information, please contact Ana Farla, DER Product Owner, on (08) 6212 2001 or [anazia.farla@synergy.net.au](mailto:anazia.farla@synergy.net.au)**

Pilot Schools	LGAs
Belridge Secondary College	City of Joondalup
Butler College Joseph Banks Secondary College	City of Wanneroo
Baldivis Secondary College Comet Bay Primary School	City of Rockingham
Success Primary School	City of Cockburn
Gilmore College	City of Kwinana
Kalgoorlie Boulder Community High School	City of Kalgoorlie Boulder
Rossmoyne Senior High School	City of Melville
Coastal Lakes College	City of Mandurah

# THE PEOPLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT



As part of an ongoing feature to celebrate 150 years of Local Government, Dr Chris Berry shares the next biography in his 'Hall of Fame' of key people influencing the sector since its inception.

## 1950s - MAYOR PERCY CLARENCE PAYNE OF BUNBURY - LEADING A NATIONAL APPROACH IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Few people outside of Bunbury will have heard of Percy Clarence Payne, but he deserves to be better remembered because he was a pioneer in leading a national approach to Local Government.

Percy Payne was born in Boyanup and was variously a farmer, bridge contractor, and hotel owner. He was first elected to the Bunbury Municipal Council in 1941, beginning six successive terms as mayor in 1944. He was described as an abrasive and fierce campaigner with a towering ego that sometimes expressed itself in outrageous behaviour. A mass resignation of Councillors in 1948 over Payne's involvement in the South West Development Committee prompted the appointment of a commissioner, with Bunbury's historians assessing it as a 'culmination of conflict between a bold, impatient visionary and timorous Councillors obsessed with the small print of frugal housekeeping'.<sup>1</sup> After this hiatus, Payne was re-elected, clearly demonstrating that voters thought more of him than his opponents.

### A GREATER BUNBURY

At all times Payne's vision for a greater Bunbury was a primary driving force and he worked hard to promote the town as the capital of the South West. His Vision for Bunbury reform, his 1943 campaign statement, checklisted virtually every issue that could have been considered as contributing to Bunbury's progress, from harbour development and an aerodrome to a new town hall and housing for the post-war population growth. He saw Bunbury growing to a population of 20,000 (it was then less than 6000), based on the twin pillars of boundary reform (primarily by absorbing the Bunbury Suburban Road Board) and decentralization and regional development.

### A SINGLE ASSOCIATION

In 1945 he was elected as President of the Country Municipal Councils Association (CMCA), a role he played for the next six years. Having lost his seat on the council by this stage, he then served as Association secretary from 1952-1956. His vision was broader than a Greater Bunbury, advocating a single association of Local Government for WA, noting the encroachments on Local Government as being attributable to 'the failure of itself to develop a strong front, to correct



**Mayor Percy Clarence Payne of Bunbury.**

*Photograph courtesy Stephen Craddock, Bunbury*

its weaknesses and to urge with one authoritative voice the preservation of principles that are vital to the future of Local Government as a system'. Similarly, in an address to the 1951 Road Boards Association conference: "Local Government had gone along like a boat without a rudder... this position [the three separate associations] must be changed if Local Government was to play its part in true perspective".<sup>2</sup>

### A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Payne can be credited as being instrumental in the formation of what became the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), although this role is unrecognised in the ALGA's official history. In his 1948 Presidential report to the CMCA, he reported the formation of an Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG), 'the culmination to a request from our Association (CMCA) to the various States to form this Australia-wide Council'.<sup>3</sup> He was ACLG's second president. Reporting on the 1951 ACLG AGM held in Adelaide, Payne said 'having been responsible for the formation of this association... I consider the Australia Council to be the

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#### References:

- <sup>1</sup> Excellent connections: a history of Bunbury, Western Australia, 1836-1990 / by Anthony J. Barker and Maxine Laurie. City of Bunbury 1992. p.296.  
<sup>2</sup> The Municipal and Road Board Gazette, June 1948 p.25; Blackwood Times, 18 May 1951, p.1.  
<sup>3</sup> The Municipal and Road Board Gazette, April 1948 p.9; The Municipal and Road Board Gazette, September 1950; The council connection, Llois Cutts, ALGA 1997.  
<sup>4</sup> Local Government Journal of WA October 1972, p13.



# LGIS STANDS WITH MEMBERS

By Jonathan Seth, CEO, LGIS

bulwark between Local Government and financial destruction... In our Association we have, by a combined Australia wide effort, united a group of people with one aim in view, that of building in Australia a Local Government structure on foundations that will stand firm forever.<sup>4</sup> The new organization had early success; £3m of additional money was provided by the Commonwealth for local roads. It is hard to imagine the financial position today of Local Government without the massive Commonwealth contributions in the period since.

## DUMPED AS MAYOR

Payne provided strong leadership at a State and national level but this came at a cost. A week after leading the 1951 ACLG National Conference he was dumped as Mayor of Bunbury, demonstrating how difficult it is to combine local and broader leadership roles. He was later re-elected as Mayor, but was forced to resign in October 1958, after being censured by council for disclosing confidential business to the press about the Bunbury Tourist Bureau.<sup>5</sup> He didn't drop out of public life, but was prominent in the formation of the Bunbury Progress Association in 1962. He was still active in 1967 as president of the South-West Regional Council. The City Council recognised his vision and contribution by appointing him Honorary Freeman of the City of Bunbury in the 1970s.

One of his grandsons - Jason Whiteaker - is a current Local Government (Shire of Northam) CEO!

Local Governments are pillars of strength and support to their communities and unfortunately Tropical Cyclone Seroja has provided yet another example of the vital role played by our members. The unprecedented cyclone has caused significant damage to many members and their communities throughout the Mid West and Wheatbelt regions - due in part because cyclones are an anomaly for these areas and most buildings and built assets weren't cyclone rated.

Our members have been stretched, stepping up during this catastrophe to support their communities and start the long journey of rebuilding following the cyclones devastation.

In the week following the cyclone's passage Udam Wickremaratne Portfolio Manager, Property and Liability and Jordan Reid, Manager Regional Services visited the hardest hit members to provide assistance and preliminary assessments. LGIS has stepped up and has already provided funding for reinstatement of assets prior to assessments being completed. As a discretionary mutual we can move quickly to support members.

Our thoughts are with our members and the residents in their communities who have been impacted by the cyclone. LGIS will do everything that we can to assist and support our members in rebuilding and repairing their community facilities so that they can get on with the job of serving their rate payers.

## MUTUAL BENEFITS

Most of you will have been visited by our member services account managers to discuss your membership, and as such it's a great opportunity to look at the benefits and services of your mutual Scheme.

Mutuals are proven to be more resilient, innovative, and stable because every

member is also an owner. Your mutual Scheme incorporates protection for property, civil liability exposures, bushfire volunteers, and workers' compensation – and is a superior alternative to what is made available by the traditional insurance market, due to our shared understanding of the Local Government industry, its purpose, the risks involved, and our ultimate philosophy of working with you to deliver the best outcome for your communities.

The LGIS Board includes five members from the Scheme membership (including WALGA President), Chief Executive Officer of WALGA, and three independent members who are selected on the basis of a particular expert skill or specialty.

A key point of difference and benefit of LGIS is the broad range of risk management programs and services offered that focus on key identifiable insurable risks for WA Local Governments, with a focus on sector specific prevention and mitigation.

## FLEET PROTECTION NOW SCHEME COVER

LGIS continues to identify opportunities and expansion into additional areas of coverage to meet the changing needs of members. Indeed, on this point I am pleased to flag the transition of LGIS fleet protection across from traditional insurance placements to Scheme protection arrangements. This model enables the Scheme flexibility and enhanced risk and claims management to provide further pricing stability, in an environment where cost escalation is in focus.

Members will see significant benefits with a more seamless approach to claims management, greater stability in fleet protection costs and services targeted to fleet risks.

**For more information about Scheme risks services or any other queries about LGIS please contact me on 9483 8855 or your LGIS Account Manager on 9483 8888.**

<sup>4</sup> The Municipal and Road Board Gazette, December 1951

<sup>5</sup> Excellent connections. p.301

# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TRAINING

**Remember, when disaster strikes, the time to prepare has passed!**

The COVID-19 health pandemic, bushfires and cyclones in Western Australia have highlighted the critical role played by Councils in supporting communities through emergencies and the need for specialised skills and knowledge across Local Government staff and Elected Members in the area of emergency management.

As changing global conditions serve to increase the risk of such large-scale events, this need will only increase.

Local Governments across the State are all aware of the significant impacts arising from natural disasters and emergencies as they relate to businesses, local communities and their own organisations.

In times of emergency, the role of Local Government, the scope of their service delivery and their connection to local communities comes into greater focus as Councils assist, guide and lead local communities in response and recovery.

All Local Governments are required to have plans for mitigation and preparedness against a range of natural disasters and emergency situations; however it is only when these plans are put to a test that you can determine the gaps and areas that need strengthening.

The Local Government emergency management training has been developed by WALGA, in conjunction with industry leaders including DFES and has been designed to assist Local Governments with their emergency management responsibilities under the *Emergency Management Act 2005*.

The training is practical and contemporary, ensuring all the latest emergency management concepts, processes and community-centric practices are considered in a Local Government context. In addition, the training and support materials provide participants with the knowledge and tools to meet the relevant legislative requirements for their Local Government's Emergency Management activity.

## Emergency Management Courses

Course Name	Overview
Emergency Management for Local Government (1 day) <b>Updated Content</b>	This course explores contemporary emergency management concepts and how these apply to your Local Government, within the West Australian framework.
Community Disaster Recovery (1 day) <b>Updated Content</b>	Community Disaster Recovery is an extremely sensitive, timely and complex task, prior thought and planning is vital to ensure readiness to assist your community when help is most needed the most, in a period of trauma.
Recovery Coordinators Course (2 days) <b>Updated Content</b>	We explore what it means to be a recovery coordinator; pre-event planning; and, establishing systems and processes in readiness to confidently and effectively manage this critical and rarely practised function.



# PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

**Knowledge without practice is useless; practice without knowledge is dangerous.**

Local Government in Western Australia spends an estimated \$2.9 billion per annum on goods and services.

Poorly constructed tenders, non-compliance and contractual disputes are a high operational risk, with the flow-on effect of poor procurement impacting the reputation of the sector and leading to inferior outcomes for the community and the Local Government.

The demands on Local Government procurement and contracting have moved beyond the traditional focus of ensuring compliance. Local Governments are expected to demonstrate probity, transparency and good governance over the use of public funds to procure goods and services and in the management of their suppliers as well as achieve superior value outcomes.

Headlines tell us repeatedly how important procurement and contracts are - the Office of the Auditor General Reports show several weaknesses in Local Government knowledge.

In response to the increased expectation, and the requirement to provide support to Councils, WALGA has updated their suite of procurement and contract management training courses for Officers and Elected Members.

Understanding procurement and contract basics are a fundamental commercial skill for all in our sector.

While procurement and contracts is not an end in itself, it can help the Local Government sector achieve improved outcomes for ratepayers and the community. Improving commercial awareness will do more than compliance, it will also improve reputation and build trust.

## Procurement Courses

Introductory Course	Overview
Introductory (1 day) *Procurement and Contract Essentials <b>Updated Content</b>	Providing 'commercial awareness' this introductory course is a must do course for <u>anyone</u> working in Local Government. Understand the procurement lifecycle, the legislative framework and guiding principles, where authority comes from and the importance of ethical behaviour.
Intermediate (2 days) *Planning & an introduction to Specification Writing <b>New Course</b>	Getting into the nuts and bolts, this module describes the skills required to plan, justify and approve of procurement requirements to achieve the required outcome. It includes defining and justifying the need, researching potential impact and risks, and securing organisational support to proceed with procurement activity. You will also understand what needs to be provided in a statement of requirement and what is involved in a procurement outcome so that it is fair to, and achievable by, potential providers.
Intermediate (1 day) *Supplier Selection, Evaluation and Contract Award <b>Updated Content</b>	Providing skills and tools to put the principles of good public procurement into practice. Learn about evaluation and scoring methodologies and how weighting criteria can impact the recommendation. You will also build your awareness of different contract establishment processes, and the parameters within which negotiation can occur before entering into a contract.
Intermediate (1 day) *Contract Management Fundamentals <b>Updated Content</b>	Getting into the nuts and bolts, this module describes the skills required to plan, justify and approve of procurement requirements to achieve the required outcome. It includes defining and justifying the need, researching potential impact and risks, and securing organisational support to proceed with procurement activity. You will also understand what needs to be provided in a statement of requirement and what is involved in a procurement outcome so that it is fair to, and achievable by, potential providers.
Advanced (1 day) Developing Specifications for Excellence <b>New Course</b>	This advanced course will build on your existing and developed knowledge. Demonstrate a systemised, practical step-by-step process to developing a fit for purpose Statement of Work/Statement of Requirements for any purchase.

# WALGA NEW PREFERRED SUPPLIER PANEL PROGRAM LAUNCH

Andrew Blitz, Commercial Development Manager

WALGA's Commercial Team has spent the past 18 months transforming the Preferred Supplier Panel (PSP) program into a new operating structure.

The project was established following a Deloitte audit report which identified WALGA's Preferred Supplier activity was subject to robust procurement but recommended a need for greater agility and modernisation. Coupled with a WALGA organisational restructure and an unanticipated pandemic, a project was established to reinvent the Preferred Supplier activity into a new and contemporary model.

## OBJECTIVES

The focus of the Preferred Supplier program remains on delivering WALGA Member benefits through high quality supplier arrangements. In addition to providing price benefits and aggregation where achievable, the WALGA PSP provides benefits of administrative efficiency, compliance, proactive due diligence, risk mitigation, contractual protection, supplier relationship management and maintaining the currency of contracts for thousands of dedicated Local Government suppliers through centralised contract management.

WALGA's PSP program is gazetted as Tender exempt to Local Government, however this does not obviate the need for extending access across the market to Local Government business. The WALGA model prequalifies suppliers to Panels through public tender, and further tests out market competitiveness through point of purchase quotation.

A greater emphasis has been placed within the new program in three areas; simplicity of access, qualitative strength of suppliers, and value for money offers that are secured at prequalification level.

## NEW PANEL STRUCTURE

WALGA has reduced the Preferred Supplier Panels from 38 down to 11. Some categories have also been merged and adjusted to support functionally driven access. WALGA has also developed a new Scope of Services document that for each Panel and category outlines the minimum competencies, technical requirements, framework of supply and types of engagements that relate to supplier appointments. The WALGA website and VendorPanel (eQuotes) contain information about the new Panel structure.

## NEW LEGAL TERMS

The new Preferred Supplier program has a refreshed legal model. New Member Conditions have been developed for Goods and Services, Minor Works, ICT, Waste, Consultancy, and Temporary Labour. These are contemporary documents that have been legally simplified, yet deliver comprehensive contractual protection for Members utilising the WALGA PSP's.

The previous short-form Contract has been replaced with a Procurement Form to capture the specifics of the purchase where required. For minor purchasing and all other transactions new General Conditions will default through the release of appropriately referenced purchase order documentation, however the WALGA Contract number must be included in the order itself to invoke these terms.

## AGILITY

WALGA's previous PSP activity was restricted to fixed panel terms of at least three years. The new program has a streamlined process to run frequent tenders and on-board new suppliers during the panel tenure. This will assist to keep panels relevant to the supplier base within the market and to engage local enterprise to support regional economic development.

There is also a biannual review and refresh process for the PSP Panels through a new incremental cycle. This will extend to ensure the panel scope and composition remains current to the market.

## CONTRACT SYSTEMS

Work continues to evolve the technology and systems that support the Preferred Supplier Program. WALGA has transitioned to access more sophisticated technology for due diligence and credit reference activity. The evolution of PowerBI and CRM technology will provide for enhanced spend analytics and reporting of Preferred Supplier activity.

## CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

Following a structural change, a new Commercial Management team has been developed. Guided by Dale Chapman and recently appointed Contract Managers, the Contract Management team travel throughout the State to support access and engagement with the Preferred Supplier program. Driving value through the use of Preferred Supplier activity is critical to its success, and in addition to assisting WALGA Members to access the Panels, Contract Managers also receive valuable feedback and input from buyers to further improve the Preferred Supplier process and offers.

## NEW PROGRAM LAUNCH

The official start date of the new program implementation is Thursday, 1 July. By this time it is anticipated the transition work will have concluded. WALGA will have transitioned approximately 1400 Preferred Suppliers into the new contractual framework and new systems and legal conditions will be operable.

An Officer Procurement Forum and Preferred Supplier launch will be hosted in June to provide further information about the above changes. Enquiries can be directed to [preferredsupplier@walga.asn.au](mailto:preferredsupplier@walga.asn.au) or call (08) 9213 2505.



## SECTOR CAMPAIGN ENTERS COMPETITION PHASE

# WHAT'S YOUR HAPPY PLACE?

The next phase of WALGA's sector promotion campaign will commence on Sunday, 16 May with a community focused competition asking members of public to share their story of a Local Government facility, activity or service that makes a positive impact on their lives.

This follows the first, awareness building phase with sporting celebrities sharing their 'Happy Places' and the impact Local Government services have on their own lives. In addition to the celebrity television advertisements, this phase has also included print advertising and a number of editorial

features in West Australian liftouts as well as opportunities for weather live crosses during the Ch7 news.

The competition will run until Wednesday, 30 June with four winners receiving a DSLR Camera and starring in Happy Place commercials based around their entries.

The competition will be judged by the Marketforce Advertising creative team also charged with filming the advertisements, and individual Local Governments are encouraged to leverage this phase of the campaign locally to stimulate competition entries from their local area.

**What's your happy place?**  
Tell us your happy place for the chance to **WIN** a Canon EOS DSLR Camera and star in a Happy Place TV commercial.  
**Visit [walga.asn.au/happylace](http://walga.asn.au/happylace)**

**WALGA**  
WORKING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT HONOURS PROGRAM 2021

Nominations for the 2021 Local Government Honours Program are now open.

The Honours Program recognises people who are some of the most valuable and committed members of our community. There are six categories of awards in the 2021 Program:

- **Local Government Medal**
  - recognises outstanding achievement and significant contribution by Elected Members and Officers to the Association and/or to Local Government.
- **Life Membership**
  - recognises the long and outstanding service of Elected Members and Officers to the Association and/or to Local Government.
- **Eminent Service Award**
  - recognises personal commitment, eminent service and contribution to Local Government or the Association.

- **Long and Loyal Service Award**

- recognises Elected Members who have provided long service of a high degree as an executive member of WALGA for eight or more years or as an Elected Member for 12 or more years.

- **Merit Award**

- recognises Elected Members who have provided distinguished service to the community through their Local Government.

- **Local Government Distinguished Officer Award**

- recognises serving Local Government officers who have provided outstanding performance for the Local Government sector

Award categories and nomination forms are available on the WALGA website.

Nominations will close at 5:00pm on Friday, **18 June**.

**For more information or to apply, visit the WALGA website or email [honours@walga.asn.au](mailto:honours@walga.asn.au).**

# COUNCILLOR CATE MCCULLOUGH

CITY OF SWAN



City of Swan Councillor Cate McCullough is a WALGA State Councillor representing the East Metropolitan Zone. An educator and an interior designer, Cr McCullough is also an integral part of a key community group that provides food assistance for vulnerable people. She was first elected six years ago and shared her experience as an Elected Member with Western Councillor.

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

My professions as both an educator and an interior designer within the building industry give me some great insight into many aspects of Council. My work in the building industry has helped me to understand the complexities and importance of our planning frameworks and building in a way that considers our environmental sustainability.

My work as an educator has assisted in determining the needs of the youth in our community and the struggles that young people are facing in an ever-changing society.

As a Councillor, I believe that I need to be really engaged with my community and I prioritise rolling my sleeves up to help on practical levels. I'm very much involved in a local community group and we run large annual events for 10,000 to 20,000 people at a time.

Our group also provides food assistance seven days a week and helps to oversee our community pantry that helps vulnerable people in our community on a daily basis.



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

I have always been heavily involved in community and saw Local Government as the next natural step in helping to make a difference in my local areas. What I really love about my role is sitting down with individuals and groups in our community who have a project or initiative that they'd like to get off the ground. Being able to help them connect strategically to other groups, organisations and businesses has so many positive and beneficial outcomes. It assists them to further strengthen their core group, making them more resilient and helping them to thrive into the future.

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

I was elected in 2015 and re-elected for a second term in 2019. I think in the six years that I've been on Council, we've seen our sector change and morph considerably. We've seen some valuable and significant positive changes.

I'm really excited that our new Minister for Local Government, the Hon John Carey MLA is very passionate about his new portfolio and keen to get out there and see what Local Governments are doing for their communities. He has communicated some great vision and I'm looking forward to further strategic connections and partnerships between State and Local Government as we work through changes, delegations and possible shared areas of responsibility.

Local Government has very much changed from just the clichéd 'roads rates and rubbish' to increased service provision for youth, the aged and our diverse and multicultural communities. We need to find the balance in providing those basic and essential services while looking at how we help champion and grow a healthy social capital in our communities that benefit everyone.

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

There have been many challenges during my time on Council. The biggest challenge has been making the time while juggling my full time job to ensure that I understand the important decisions that I'm making on behalf of my constituents. Speaking with residents, hearing their thoughts, concerns and experiences is a priority for any decision that I make in our Council Chamber. We can't please everyone all the time as we make decisions but by hearing people's concerns and feedback, we can ensure that our decisions are what we believe to be fair and practical.

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

As an Elected Member for the City of Swan, there are many challenges that come with working in this region. The City of Swan is the largest Local Government in the Perth metropolitan area and the second largest in Australia (1054 square kilometres to be exact!). The City is a growth Council and has been and still is, experiencing rapid growth. The provision of infrastructure and community facilities is an ongoing challenge.

In addition to dealing with new growth issues, the City has historical and ageing infrastructure that requires ongoing maintenance and upkeep. Our operational commitments are significant and it can be a challenge explaining to people who question where money is spent the complexities of a growth Council and the associated costs and liabilities! We have urban infill, growth corridors, industrial, semi rural, rural, heritage and tourism precincts which all have to be thoughtfully considered as we plan for the future.

Perhaps our greatest strength is that our City is incredibly diverse and multicultural. The connections, relationships and partnerships that have been and continue to be built between cultures and groups are incredibly exciting.

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

Some of my proudest achievements would include seeing community initiatives and activations come to fruition. I have always been a great supporter of arts and culture and have advocated successfully for significant funding for some of our arts programs within the City.

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

I think my advice to anyone wishing to become an Elected Member would be to take advantage of every opportunity that has benefits for your community, see every experience in Local Government as a learning opportunity and never stop asking questions that help you stay informed.

Local Government is a political arena. Understand that you need to have some nous and be confident in expressing your viewpoints and those of your constituents.

The role of an Elected Member is incredibly satisfying but can be at times, incredibly challenging and demanding. It's all worth it when you see the differences that you can make that positively impacts your community!

# NEW HARMONISED SAFETY LAWS IN WA

By Erica Hartley, Partner, HWL Ebsworth

The changes to WA safety and health legislation has been in the works for some years. Finally, late last year, the *Work Health Safety (WHS) Act 2020* was passed and will take effect around mid-2021 once the regulations are finalised.

The new WHS legislation will impact on every workplace in WA. This WHS legislation will replace the State's existing Occupational Health & Safety Act.

The new laws aim to reflect a number of the provisions in the national 'Model WHS laws' that are already in place in most of Australia. The new laws are a step change which build on existing safety laws, close existing loopholes and will drive cultural change at both the organisational and senior leadership levels. There is a new concept of 'due diligence' obligations which requires those whose decisions can affect safety to pro-actively ensure they are fully informed about the safety risks, rather than waiting to be told.

There is an increased focus on consultation, co-ordination and co-operation between all stakeholders in safety. Increased resources will be given to the safety regulator. They are also being given increased powers to investigate safety matters and an increased range of enforcement tools.

With the introduction of the new safety laws it is essential for local governments to be informed of the key changes and how they will affect the local government, elected members, workers and the public.

## THE KEY CHANGES IN THE NEW LEGISLATION:

- Extends safety duties beyond the traditional employee-employer relationships to duties relating to 'workers'. A 'worker' includes employees, contractors, employees of contractors, labour hire employees, work experience students and volunteers.
- Introduces the new concept of 'Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking' (PCBU) in place of the term 'employer'. This term broadly covers business and undertakings conducted by a person (including employers, principal contractors, head contractors and franchisors plus more). A PCBU is not an elected council member.
- Widens the definition of 'workplace' to include any place where a worker goes, or is likely to be, while at work. This may include employee's homes if they are working from home.
- Expands the scope of the duty to ensure workers and others (including the public) are not exposed to a risk to their health and safety. This duty is owed when the PCBU can influence the work carried out by a worker and where the PCBU has control or management of a workplace.
- More than one PCBU can have the same duty. The duties are not transferable and cannot be contracted out of.

- Creates 'due diligence' responsibilities required of an 'officer' to ensure workplace health and safety. This can include managers but will mainly apply to Senior Executive Level staff. This requires a pro-active approach to safety on an on-going basis. It is not a set and forget duty.
- Creates obligations on PCBUs to 'monitor' the health of workers and conditions at the workplace for the purpose of preventing illness and injury. What is meant by 'monitor' is not defined and will need to be assessed by each local government.
- Makes it an offence for Officers and PCBUs to be insured or indemnified to cover fines for breaching the WHS legislation.
- For PCBUs and Officers, introduces a new Industrial Manslaughter offence and offences for Failing to Comply with Health and Safety Duties, giving rise to penalties which carry terms of imprisonment and fines of up to \$10 million.
- Broadens the definition of 'health' to include psychological health with respect to the PCBUs duties to ensure the health and safety of its workers.
- Clarifies that when ways to eliminate or reduce safety risks are being considered, cost will be the last factor considered and only where the cost is 'grossly disproportionate' to the risk.
- The Officers and PCBU now need to meet broader consultation, cooperation and coordination duties and requirements including consulting with workers; and other PCBUs.
- Establishes protections against victimisation for raising a safety concern.

## WHAT SHOULD LOCAL GOVERNMENTS BE DOING TO BE READY FOR THESE CHANGES?

There is a good opportunity for Local Governments to prepare for the changes and be ready for them to commence. As the changes build on the existing safety laws, a good starting point is a review of existing safety management systems to identify the changes that will be needed to cover the expanded scope of the new WHS laws. Local Governments can then plan for how to close any gaps.

Local Governments can also plan for education of staff on the new WHS law to meet both the new due diligence obligations and more broadly to ensure that there is an understanding of the new requirements.

*The information contained in this article should not be relied on without obtaining further legal advice.*



# STATE COUNCIL BRIEFS

## FLYING MINUTES

The following resolutions have been passed by WALGA State Council via Flying Minute over the past two months:

### STATE PLANNING POLICY 3.1 RESIDENTIAL DESIGN CODES VOLUME 1 – MEDIUM DENSITY CODE – 14 APRIL 2021

Resolution:

That the submission on the interim review of State Planning Policy 3.1 Residential Design Codes Volume 1 Medium Density Code be endorsed.

Executive Summary

On 27 November 2020, the WA Planning Commission (WAPC) released the draft State Planning Policy 3.1 Volume 1: Medium Density Code (Medium Density Code) for public comment. The comment period closes on 16 April 2021.

### WALGA SUBMISSION – CHILD SAFETY OFFICERS – 31 MARCH 2021

Resolution:

That the submission to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and the Department of Communities in response to the Discussion Paper On The Implementation Of Child Safety Officers In Local Governments, be endorsed.

Executive Summary

- The State Government is consulting on the proposed implementation of child safety officers within Local Government, which is a recommendation of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (Recommendation 6.12).
- WALGA hosted a series of online discussions to gather feedback from Local Governments and encouraged Local Governments to make individual submissions.
- WALGA has made a number of recommendations, including the establishment of a State and Local Government working group to guide future consultation and policy development.

### Secretariat Comment

The submission:

- emphasises the Local Government role as one of education and facilitation, and states very clearly that it is not one of child protection work.
- highlights that relevant State Government agencies will need to be better resourced to deal with what is likely to be an increase in reporting.

The submission also outlines that Local Governments' capability to deliver are linked directly to the level of resources and support the State Government can provide. It also highlights specific requirements including alternative delivery models where appropriate.

### POSITION STATEMENT – DARK SKY AND ASTROTOURISM – 25 MARCH 2021

Resolution:

That the submission to the draft Position Statement: Dark sky and astrotourism, be endorsed.

Executive Summary

- The Western Australian Planning Commission has released the draft Position Statement: Dark sky and astrotourism for public comment. Submissions close on 26 March 2021.
- The position statement outlines a set of planning mechanisms that can be used by planning authorities to preserve dark sky locations for the purposes of supporting astrotourism activities.



WALGA

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# State Council

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President Cr Karen Chappel .....	Deputy President / Northern Country Zone
President Cr Ken Seymour .....	Avon-Midland Country Zone
President Cr Phil Blight .....	Central Country Zone
Cr Jenna Ledgerwood .....	Central Metropolitan Zone
Cr Paul Kelly .....	Central Metropolitan Zone
Cr Cate McCullough .....	East Metropolitan Zone
Cr Catherine Ehrhardt .....	East Metropolitan Zone
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Ex-officio:	
Mr Jamie Parry .....	LG Professionals
Rt Hon the Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas .....	City of Perth