

# Western Councillor



ISSUE 115 | AUG/SEP 2021



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MENTORING PROGRAM  
TO DEVELOP FUTURE  
FEMALE LEADERS

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REGIONAL CLIMATE  
ALLIANCES ANNOUNCED



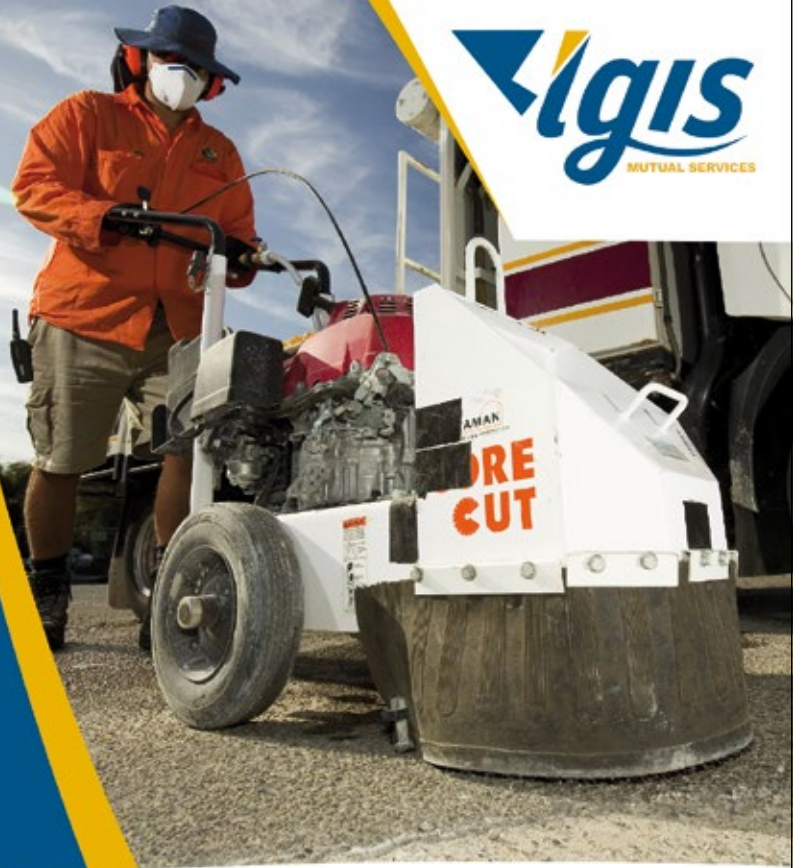
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## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

# Peer Support Team

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

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

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

The key objective is to assist Local Governments resolve these issues

of conflict and reduce the need for formal investigations or enquiries.

The team will meet with the affected Councillors and staff individually, as well as in a group setting, allowing all parties to freely express their views in a neutral environment. The team will then assist the Local Government to develop outcomes and a path forward that is suitable for all involved.

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

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT PEER SUPPORT TEAM HOTLINE NUMBERS**

Nick Sloan  
CEO  
WALGA  
Tel 9213 2025

Candy Choo  
CEO  
LG Professionals WA  
Tel 9271 1136





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**Welcome to Issue 115** of Western Councillor

## COVER:

Local Perth artist Brenton See is putting the finishing touches on his mural for the Friends of Lake Claremont at the Lake Claremont Shed.



ARMADALE



HARVEY



MELVILLE





Chief Executive Officer  
**Nick Sloan**

## FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE

The challenges that face Local Government across Western Australia are as diverse as the sector itself. Understanding those challenges, prioritising effort to assist and looking for shared opportunities to work collaboratively is where the Association can effectively provide support.

Getting out and meeting with Elected Members and officers is the most effective way to find out what's really happening across the State. It will come as no surprise that Member engagement is an area of considerable focus for the organisation, particularly as we look to emerge from an environment where lockdowns restricted movement across WA.

Visits are undertaken in a coordinated effort by WALGA's senior management. Our commercial management team have a strong engagement focus and the intelligence they gather on the road assists in focussing our efforts across our business support functions. This team have conducted an impressive 99 Member visits to Local Governments so far this calendar year. Across policy, governance and infrastructure we work to connect in person with as many Councils as possible.

This extends to the WALGA executive team, who most Members will be well acquainted with. Importantly the WALGA President, Mayor Tracey Roberts and Deputy President, Cr Karen Chappel regularly make time to join me on Member visits. As we move towards Local Government elections, the opportunity to

meet with Members is never more important.

We three recently visited eleven of the Local Governments impacted by TC Seroja together with LGIS CEO Jonathan Seth. In-person meetings with those impacted was invaluable in guiding feedback we have continued to coordinate through the State Recovery team.

A long committed visit to the Shire of Dundas revealed the benefits, and inherent challenges, in supporting a community and local economy that relies so heavily on the resources sector.

Meetings with the Town of East Fremantle and City of Vincent reinforced the importance of WALGA's role in representing the sector's interests in planning reforms, with the future of the State Development Assessment Unit and other changes introduced under emergency arrangements of significant importance for many metropolitan Members.

Visits with a dozen Members across the South West reinforced not only the diversity of their challenges but the consistency of key issues that require sustained advocacy to both the State and Commonwealth Government.

A heated construction market continues to challenge the availability of contractors for Members to deliver road and community infrastructure projects on time and budget. Bushfire planning constraints and the introduction of new Work Health and Safety legislation is of concern. Attraction and retention of staff and housing are both issues replicated across the State. Whilst an increasingly complex regulatory and legislative environment points to the value of the work we are undertaking in collaboration with the Local Government Minister to focus on reducing unnecessary red tape.

Importantly however, our sector's successes should be highlighted. For example, the economic diversification and economic development focus of our South West Councils should be acknowledged. The commitment to collaboration at a regional, and sub-regional level, shows the strength of working across communities of interest; and the delivery of infrastructure projects like the Margaret River heart a triumph.



Mayor  
**Tracey Roberts JP**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we approach Local Government elections I, and others, have been participating in briefing sessions for potential candidates, designed to provide an insight into the role should they be successful in becoming an Elected Member.

As part of this process, I have been reminded of the many demands that are made of us as we represent our local communities and I would like to acknowledge the immense contribution made by Elected Members and Officers across the State, particularly during what is a difficult and stressful time for many.

Local Government Elected Members are uniquely positioned to identify the emerging needs of communities and, through their decision making role, can guide and implement localised responses to meet these needs as required.

Whether it be in response to emergency events such as Cyclone Seroja, the impact of a changing environment as a result of COVID-19 or the longer-term impacts of climate change, Elected Members are often on the frontline in taking up the charge for their local communities to ensure their voices are heard.

The role is certainly varied – and the skills and requirements have grown alongside the changing role of Councils over time.

In order to effectively carry out strategic decision-making responsibilities, Elected Members are required to read and

synthesise a huge volume of information relating to a wide range of topics that reflect the services and operations of their Local Governments.

The need to have knowledge and understanding across so many areas, including asset management, community services and support programs environmental impact data and the intricacies of planning legislation, to name just a few, is very important. In representing their local communities, Elected Members can regularly find themselves in difficult circumstances and dealing with competing views of their constituents.

Such tensions should be managed in a considered, respectful manner and whilst this is not an easy task, the role is clear, Council is compelled to make decisions that are in the best interests of their Local Government as a whole.

The role of an Elected Member can be challenging and some would say 'not for the faint hearted' but many, already in the role, know that it is an immensely rewarding and enriching experience.

Therefore, as part of the Local Government Convention 'Honours Program' it is with a great sense of pride and honour that I am able to recognise the hard working, outstanding members of our sector.

Thank you to all the families who support those who are a part of the Local Government family. Those in our sector know that it is a 24/7 role and we all know that the responsibilities do impact on family time. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank everybody who works so incredibly hard in support of our communities. Take care and keep safe.



Minister for Local Government  
**Hon John Carey MLA**

## FROM THE MINISTER

As everyone in the sector is well aware, I am currently working on a broad package of reforms aimed at enhancing the way Local Governments operate and building community trust in the sector. As part of that, I have been meeting with as many Local Governments as I possibly can and have attended a number of WALGA Zone meetings across the State, to hear from those in the sector about what needs to change.

I've been making a particular effort to get out into the regions, including a recent visit to the Mid-West where I met with ten separate Local Governments. It was a fantastic opportunity to meet face to face and hear the issues facing our Mid-West communities. I was particularly impressed to hear about the work being done by the City of Greater Geraldton, Shire of Northampton and Shire of Chapman Valley in response to Cyclone Seroja, which caused widespread devastation to those communities.

In early August I also met with the Town of Claremont, which is doing great work to reinvigorate their town centre, through their Small Business Night Time Economic Stimulus grant scheme. The scheme provides grants to encourage small business to organise events, activations and other projects that attract people to the town centre after 8pm. That's what good Local Government is all about – great ideas, owned and led by local community and small business to bring vibrancy to our town centres.

Wearing my other hat as the Minister for Housing, I wanted to assure the sector the McGowan Government is working hard to address the challenges we face in terms of housing and homelessness.

The McGowan Government also recently announced \$6m worth of grants available to Local Governments to help them develop homelessness supports and initiatives.

Under the program, the State Government will provide grants of between \$25,000 and \$200,000 to Local Governments, to co-fund initiatives that address homelessness in their local communities.

Local Governments are in a unique position to play a role alongside the state. Local Governments are best placed to understand the needs of their community, and to develop and deliver practical solutions to address those needs. I know there are a many Local Governments across the state that are already working in this space, and will relish the opportunity to expand on this work by tapping into this \$6 million grant program.

Some in the sector have said capacity to deliver homelessness initiatives is difficult to resource and I understand that but I still encourage all Local Governments to consider this grants program, and to join the state in delivering homelessness solutions across WA.



Shadow Minister for Local Government  
**Hon James Hayward MLC**

## FROM THE SHADOW MINISTER

Since I last was given the opportunity to contribute to this publication I have been busy meeting with various Councils across the State, introducing myself to build relationships, as well as attending WALGA events. Much has been going on for Local Government, as always, and one case caught my attention which I will write about today.

In July the City of Perth decided to not go ahead with the proposed public pool at the WACA, as the business case did not make sense for City of Perth Ratepayers. The City of Perth did exactly what is required from Local Government, they commissioned a business plan to comprehensively evaluate the proposal and if it was in the interests of ratepayers.

The decision from the City of Perth not to proceed was not in any way unreasonable, however the response from the State Government was extraordinary. Premier McGowan accused the council of "failing the local community" and "being misguided" and was reportedly "furious" with the decision.

This is despite the fact the business case prepared by respected accounting firm ACIL Allen pointed out that the proposal was certainly not in the interests of City of Perth ratepayers and would cost the city over \$150 million over 40 years. Furthermore, the City of Perth would have been denied

the ability to generate revenue from the facility, whilst being responsible for the asset, something no financially prudent organisation would consider acceptable.

Minister Carey attacked and disparaged the business case claiming it was "flawed", further suggesting that the City of Perth "Never had its heart in an aquatic facility".

I believe this is a gross overreach by the McGowan Government, and note the hypocrisy of the Premier telling the City of Perth it was wrong to make decisions with only their constituents in mind, when Mr Gowan was re-elected in a landslide for unashamedly managing COVID-19 with only Western Australians in mind.

The proposal for the WACA pool was part of the \$1.5 billion Perth City Deal, which is being funded by the Commonwealth Government, State Government and the City of Perth. It was a small part of the plan, and not going ahead with it will not jeopardise the rest of the program.

The idea that the City of Perth would be financially responsible for a flagship state facility may be another example of cost shifting from the State to Local Government. It could be reasonably argued that the pool proposal was of most benefit to the WACA, which is a state-wide organisation that should be funded and supported by the State Government, not Local Government.

But despite the significant external pressure the City of Perth was put under it decided it was more important to act in the interests of its own ratepayers rather than do what was pushed by the State Government. And for this I commend the team at the City of Perth, they have done exactly what their ratepayers elected them for.

# A STRONGER TOMORROW: STATE INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

After a period of consultation across the State, Infrastructure WA recently released the inaugural State Infrastructure Strategy for public comment.

It is widely recognised that infrastructure is an essential element of a successful economy and strong communities. However, Western Australia's infrastructure has not always kept pace with our needs.

The draft report, Foundations for a Stronger Tomorrow, is intended to overcome these issues and ensure that WA has the infrastructure it needs for the future. The Report sets out 88 recommendations to improve the State's infrastructure system. These recommendations focus on the need to build smarter, more integrated, connected and resilient infrastructure that maximises value to the community and industry across a range of themes, including:

- Digital connectivity and technology;
- Aboriginal cultural heritage, wellbeing and enterprise;
- Climate change and sustainability;
- Regional development;
- Planning and coordination;
- Infrastructure delivery; and
- Asset management.

Many of the recommendations relate to changes to policy, planning and legislative frameworks, with a selection of major new investment proposals outlined in both the economic and social infrastructure sectors.

Once adopted by the State Government, the State Infrastructure Strategy is likely to have a very strong influence on why and how public infrastructure investments are made. This is important for Local Governments, given there are many linkages and interdependencies between State infrastructure and Local Government policy and service delivery.

The State Infrastructure Strategy will be a useful framework for Local Governments in developing their strategic community plans. In particular, the State Infrastructure Strategy sets out a range of high-level assumptions about global trends that will affect the State's economy, population and environment, which can help to provide direction about the State's future.

The Strategy also recommends the preparation of integrated regional plans to establish the long-term land use, infrastructure and environmental needs of each region of Western Australia. It highlights the need for infrastructure planning to be place-based and community-led to ensure infrastructure is fit for purpose and meets the needs of

the community it serves. The Strategy identifies Local Government as a key stakeholder with respect to a number of areas of infrastructure planning and provision, and references the sector's role in terms of:

- Climate change adaptation for existing infrastructure;
- Facilitating and supporting place-based integrated services models in regional areas;
- Creating a vision and plan to support the transformation of the Perth CBD and immediate surrounds;
- Rolling out an overarching urban forest strategy for the Perth and Peel regions;
- Introducing "State Priority Areas" into the state-wide planning framework to identify areas of state importance for economic or urban growth;
- Managing waste and supporting the transition to a circular economy;
- Providing cycling and walking infrastructure;
- Providing social and affordable housing, in conjunction with the Federal and State Governments and Not-for-Profit organisations.

The Strategy also identifies significant scale projects that require planning, investigation, investment or business case development that will be important considerations for Local Governments in those areas where these developments are planned. These include a flagship Western Australian Aboriginal Cultural Centre, light rail/bus rapid transit, investigations for long-term major projects such as Stock Road river tunnel crossing, Bunbury Fast Rail, and Perth metropolitan orbital rail route, as well as progressing further planning for a new Broome Regional Prison.

On balance, WALGA considers that most of the recommendations identified in the Strategy will deliver benefits to local communities but it is important that Local Governments' views be heard as Infrastructure WA looks to finalise the report. WALGA is preparing a submission and will meet with Infrastructure WA to ensure the sector's views are represented.



## LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

# MENTORING PROGRAM TO DEVELOP FUTURE FEMALE LEADERS

The City of Joondalup is the first WA Local Government to sign up to the Future Leaders Program for High School Women.

Created by Karen Dennett of Engaging Education and Claire Seeber, of Eating your Cake too, this innovative program aims to empower young women to be confident, courageous and self-aware leaders and equipped with the critical skills necessary to drive positive change.

It connects high school students with industry experts to introduce the challenges they face as young men and women, and then explore the impact of these challenges on themselves, their peers and their communities.

City of Joondalup CEO James Pearson said the City had jumped at the opportunity to get involved in the program.

“As a workforce, the City of Joondalup is proud of the fact that more than half of our staff members are women, with an increasing number in leadership roles,” Mr Pearson said.

“Helping to build the capacity of the local workforce and investing in the City’s future leaders is a responsibility we take seriously.”

The City has sponsored a Year 12 student from within the City to take part in the six-month program, while members of the City’s Economic Development team are also involved as mentors.

Participants in the Future Leaders Program for High School Women are mentored, coached and inspired through face-to-face events, online live webinars, pre-recorded tutorials, mentor sessions and 'real world' work.

Mr Pearson said it is important for that future talents are developed and nurtured, to expose these potential leaders to the skills required for the jobs of the future.

“That goes a long way to making our City, and our local economy, fit for the future,” he said.

“Who knows? Some of the women in this program could be future CEOs or Mayors of Joondalup, or running one of the thousands of existing and emerging businesses that call Joondalup home.”

Industry experts tackle a range of topics deemed critical for future success.

These include:

- money management
- productivity, processes and systems
- networking and personal branding, and
- compliance.

The program runs from June to November, concluding with a formal presentation, graduation and celebratory dinner.



## MENTORING PROGRAMS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT

A number of Local Governments have kickstarted or participated in mentoring programs. The City of Stirling's award-winning Kaleidoscope Initiative project aims to harness the economic benefits of its diverse population by helping newcomers to Australia secure employment in their field of expertise and support employers to benefit from this diverse workforce. City of Canning is a partner of the mentoring program. Beside Kaleidoscope, the City also has an Aboriginal Employment Mentoring program.

# Around the Nation

## News from State Associations across the country

### NSW



#### NSW Government Must Commit to Holding COVID Safe NSW Local Government Elections in 2021

The NSW Government must commit to holding COVID safe NSW Local Government elections before year's end, Local Government NSW (LGNSW) said today.

"COVID safe Local Government elections must be held by the end of the year, to uphold democracy and ensure renewal," LGNSW President Linda Scott said.

"Public health and safety must always come first, but we do not want to reach a situation in which democracy delayed is democracy denied.

"This latest three-month deferral to 4 December comes on top of an existing deferral of 12 months from September 2020, with no guarantee further delays won't be incurred.

"Delaying elections further is a risk to democracy."

Cr Scott said a significant number of existing Councillors, who had already been asked to extend their term by 12 months, had already chosen not to stand for a further term.

"The need for Local Government leaders has never been greater, as communities and their local economies struggle with the impact caused by going into, out and back into lockdown again," she said.

"Local Governments need energetic, dedicated local leaders as Mayors and Councillors.

"Regional NSW Local Governments are particularly eager for safe NSW elections to proceed, with many areas of NSW without a single COVID exposure.

"Why should the rest of NSW have to suffer because of COVID cases in Sydney?

"The NSW Government must publish the NSW health advice that underpins this decision.

"Delaying elections further is a risk that the strong candidates we need and deserve cannot dedicate the time and money required to continue their campaigns for a further three months."

Cr Scott said Council elections took up to 12 months to organise, with the newly-announced rescheduling likely to burden Councils with further resourcing and administrative costs.

"Unfortunately these additional costs will divert Council funding from the hard work they are doing to drive a locally-led recovery, not just from the economic impacts of the pandemic but also the floods and bushfires that preceded it."

### NT



#### Increasing Voter Participation Rate of Local Government Elections

The upcoming Local Government elections are top of mind for Councils across the Territory. While Election Day is Saturday, 28 August, a growing number of NT electors will take advantage of other voting options such as postal, early and mobile voting to place their vote well in advance of that date. This is a voting trend witnessed across all government elections (local, territory and federal) in recent years.

While voting in Local Government elections is compulsory in the NT, the voter participation rate was only 57 per cent in 2017. Voter turnout rates for regional Councils were even lower, with an average rate of 36 per cent. A contributing factor is too many uncontested Council positions. A quarter or 15 of the 60 elections for Local Government in the NT were uncontested in 2017. When elections are not competitive, electors are not motivated to get out and vote.

In the lead up to the Local Government elections, our member Councils and LGANT have worked closely with the NT Government's Local Government and Regional Development Unit and the NT Electoral Commission to ensure the upcoming elections are a success.

LGANT's efforts have focussed on encouraging more people from a variety of backgrounds to nominate for Council. LGANT and the NTEC co-hosted six nomination information sessions in the Tiwi Island Regional Council, Katherine Town Council, Coomalie Community Government Council, City of Darwin, Litchfield Council, and Wagait Shire Council. Thank you to the Councils which organised and promoted these events. Other Councils held their own successful election information sessions including Alice Springs Town Council and the City of Palmerston. Hopefully this collective effort will result in improved voter participation rates and a greater number of people nominating for Council positions across the Territory.

LGANT has supplied all Councils with election collateral, including posters and banners, to dress the foyers of their Council buildings to create a vibe and hopefully spark interest in becoming a Councillor or Alderman.

### QLD



#### Councils Call for Financial Help to Cover Border Cost Closures

The Local Government Association of Queensland has urged the State Government to reimburse Councils for the cost of managing border closures following today's decision to reinstate a hard border closure with NSW to protect the state from the escalating COVID-19 outbreaks interstate.

Acting Premier Steven Miles today announced the Queensland border would close to all NSW residents from 1am tomorrow. This follows the declaration of Victoria and South Australia as hotspots.

LGAQ CEO Greg Hallam said Local Government recognised the need to implement border closures to mitigate the health risks during the pandemic.

"The border Councils involved have stepped up without question to help the State maintain those strong border controls," he said.

"However, the ongoing costs of implementing these arrangements are becoming a real financial burden on some of our rural and remote Councils."

Councils most impacted included Paroo, Balonne, Southern Downs and Bulloo shire Councils as well as Goondiwindi Regional Council.

Costs incurred by Councils because of the border closure include providing support to the Queensland Police Service through the supply of generators, accommodation and other critical supplies.

Mr Hallam said costs already borne by some of these Councils from previous border closures represented about 15% of their annual general rates income.

"Asking border Councils to simply accept 15% of their rates revenue being redirected to border closure costs ultimately means their communities miss out on core Council services being delivered for their communities," he said.

Mr Hallam said the State Government needed to acknowledge the financial strain on Councils of reoccurring border closures and provide support funding for the affected Councils.

"We need the Government to help our Councils with the retrospective reimbursement of their border closure costs, as well as a promise of financial support for any future closures," he said.



# TAS



## Local Government Reform Must be Focussed on Community Needs

Local Government supports a reform process that delivers change that is in the best interests of local areas. However the claimed “rates rush” should not be a driver for Local Government reform, as we know from structural reform in other states that cost savings are unlikely to materialise and importantly, may not best serve community needs.

Reform should focus on delivering what communities need in a sustainable way. Bigger is not always better.

While a number of Councils are increasing rates above the Consumer Price Index (CPI), it is important to note that CPI alone does not reflect the full cost to Councils in delivering services. Infrastructure and wage costs also have a big impact.

Councils develop and manage the wide variety of infrastructure via detailed financial and asset planning and allocate the funds to support this. This includes roads, bridges, stormwater drains, parks, community facilities and many more. Modest increases beyond CPI are certainly not a “rates grab”, as our communities rely on this infrastructure as part of their everyday lives.

Added to this are the unique circumstances of the last 18 months. I don’t think anyone would argue that this period hasn’t been tough financially for all three levels of government. During the COVID19 epidemic, Councils lost significant revenue from a self-imposed rates freeze to support community and business recovery, reductions or waivers of many fees and charges and the loss of own source revenue from things such as parking. Local Government also provided significant direct financial support to struggling businesses and households.

What the experience of COVID-19 has shown us is that Councils’ ability to support local communities is essential in revitalising the economy and building resilience. However, this was only possible due to the strong links between community members and their Council. This is why any reform process must understand what Councils are delivering well, the challenges they face and importantly, take the time to understand community needs. If the focus is purely on maximising the delivery of services at the least cost, then we risk undermining the primary reason Local Government exists, which is to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the community.

Given the challenges Local Governments face are many and varied, success will ultimately depend upon how well reforms support local circumstances and needs.

# ALGA



## National Recognition of Aboriginal Community-Controlled Councils A Step Closer

Delegates to the 27th National General Assembly of Local Government have backed moves to give Indigenous Australians a greater say in how they address entrenched disadvantage in their local communities.

A motion put forward by East Arnhem Regional Council to support nationally consistent recognition of Aboriginal controlled Councils was carried unanimously at yesterday’s session of the NGA.

Djuwalpi Marika, the Deputy President of East Arnhem Regional Council, hailed the unanimous support for the motion, saying it aligns with and further strengthens the recognition of Local Government in the Closing the Gap National Partnership Agreement.

“Council is the arm of the people of East Arnhem Land,” he said yesterday.

“We are working to bring empowerment to our Yolngu and Anindilyakwa Yolngu of East Arnhem Land, and look forward to working more with the two ‘Balanda’ western levels of government.”

The successful motion will now be considered by the ALGA Board for adoption as part of its national advocacy platform.

ALGA is already working to promote improved coordination and engagement with Local Government. It is a full member of the joint Council on Closing the Gap and an active participant in partnership working groups.

It also supports Local Government representatives engaged in the co-design of the Indigenous Voice which is providing a way for Indigenous Australians to give advice and have input on matters that are important to improve their lives.

ALGA President Linda Scott welcomed the overwhelming support for East Arnhem’s motion.

“Indigenous Councils are invariably constrained in how they provide adequate services and infrastructure, as they do not have access to resources, including own-source rate revenue.

“Yesterday’s motion shows the strong commitment of Local Government to supporting the very real desire of Indigenous Councils to give their communities life outcomes that are equal to those enjoyed by all Australians,” Cr Scott said.

## ONE VOTE ONE VALUE

# ELECTORAL REFORM CAMPAIGN

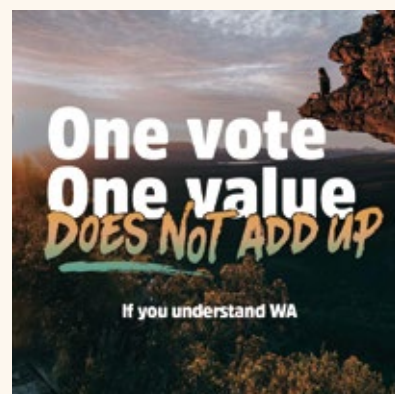
At the direction of State Council, a social media campaign has been initiated to oppose electoral reform that would reduce representation for regional areas. The campaign with the theme “One Vote One Value Does not Add Up” intends to challenge the notion that electoral boundaries should consider population size alone and ignore economic and geographic considerations unique to Western Australia that goes to the accessibility of Members of Parliament and an equal opportunity to participate in democracy.

The WALGA campaign to run on social media will target a number of aspects regarding the impact that a loss of representation would have on local communities and infrastructure and in turn the loss of amenity that would results for all West Australians.

The first campaign post was as follows:

*Western Australia is a big place. If you understand how vast the distances are between our regions, then you understand One-Vote, One-Value does not add up for our State.*

*It may seem fair that the same number of people should elect all Members of Parliament. But how fair is that if it means people can't easily access their local MP?*



## SECTOR PROMOTION CAMPAIGN UPDATE

# HAPPY PLACES – COMPETITION WINNERS

The sector promotion Happy Place campaign continues, with the competition phase now complete and four winning participants filming television advertisements sharing their happy places across the Cities of Albany, Bayswater and Busselton and the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale. The ads will run across Channel 7 and GWN stations, together with the celebrity ads that commenced the campaign. View their stories at [www.walga.asn.au/happyplace](http://www.walga.asn.au/happyplace)



Ashleigh Peake, one of four winners featured as part of the Happy Place Competition.

## RATES MESSAGE REACHES 100,000 WEST AUSTRALIANS



WALGA's recent rates campaign delivered in partnership with Seven West Media reached at least 100,000 West Australians with 99,136 correct entries received as part of the campaign competition.

The campaign was developed in response to independent community research that found when presented with three options as to how rates were calculated, only 22 per cent of the population were able to nominate the correct method with a higher portion (34 per cent) incorrectly nominating that rates were calculated similar to State Government stamp duty.

This research also revealed a strong correlation between satisfaction with the performance of a Local Government and the extent to which an individual understood the rates process.

WALGA partnered with Seven West Media for the competition in the West Australian newspaper to enhance community understanding, with a opportunity for individuals to have their rates paid for a year (capped at \$3500) by correctly choosing online the correct method by which rates are calculated. Participants that chose the incorrect answer were offered an informative video to watch so to try again.

Supporting promotional advertising provided by SWM was estimated at \$170,000 and included advertising on Seven news, radio and print, including a daily front page banner on the West Australian.

Competition winners were drawn by the West Australian, as follows:

- Diane Skender, Shire of Augusta-Margaret River
- John Urbaniak, City of Canning
- Maxine Lyttle, City of Gosnells
- Tony Butun, City of Joondalup
- Michael Leung, City of Nedlands
- Moya Weston, City of Nedlands
- George Neilson, City of Melville
- Simone Benson, City of Rockingham
- Trevor Slattery, City of Stirling
- Katrina Durer-Flint, City of Wanneroo

Councils with competition winners were encouraged to further leverage the campaign in local communications promoting their local winner and the prize of paid rates.



## REGIONAL CLIMATE ALLIANCES ANNOUNCED

# PREMIER PARTNERSHIPS

Two alliances representing 13 Local Governments will be provided support in their climate change activities through the State Government Regional Climate Alliances Program.

The \$500,000 grants program forms part of the State Government's West Australian Climate Policy and will be overseen by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, and Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries in partnership with WALGA.

Following a competitive application process which attracted submissions from a combined 51 Local Governments, two alliances were chosen: the South Coast Alliance (SCA) comprising the City of Albany and the Shires of Denmark, Jerramungup and Plantagenet; and Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (GVROC) – including the City of Kalgoorlie Boulder, and the Shires of Coolgardie, Dundas, Esperance, Laverton, Dundas, Laverton, Leonora, Menzies, Ngaanyatjaraku and Wiluna.

The Alliances initiative is based upon a successful Victorian model which has proven to improve knowledge sharing, cost effectiveness and climate action at a regional level. Each Alliance will have access to funding to employ Regional Climate Alliance Coordinators and deliver climate adaptation and mitigation projects.

WALGA President Mayor Tracey Roberts congratulated the successful recipients and noted the strength of the joint approach in achieving regional objectives.

"By joining forces with neighbouring Local Governments, climate alliances can share knowledge, accelerate climate adaption and mitigation actions, and build resilience to climate risk," Mayor Roberts said.

"These alliances can successfully develop and implement trial projects that are currently beyond the reach of individual Local Governments, allow for innovation and could further achieve cost savings through economies of scale."

Environment Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson said it was fantastic to see so many communities willing to work together on what are important issues.

"Regional Climate Alliances offer Local Governments the opportunity to come together to achieve great things that would not be possible on their own," Minister Sanderson said.

"I can't wait to see how all these communities benefit from the work of the alliances to take action on climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"I'd like to thank WALGA for their ongoing support in administering this program."

WALGA has also set up a Climate Change Collaborative to support peer-to-peer learning between Local Government Officers and progress climate change priorities for Local Governments across WA.

The group has more than 40 members and is currently focusing on community engagement and climate change, developing a carbon accounting tool and supporting the



Photo courtesy William Marwick

development of a Roadmap to Net Zero. The Collaborative will provide a supportive network for the Regional Climate Alliances Coordinator and Officers to engage with other Local Governments and share their learnings.

WALGA will be providing advice and support to Elected Members and Officers in the selected Alliances to help them in the development of a Strategic Plan, Regional Climate Risk Assessment and the prioritisation of climate change adaptation and mitigation projects.

Mayor Roberts said whilst only two were successful in receiving grant funding, WALGA would continue to provide training and support to the six remaining alliances through the Collaborative, climate risk assessment training and the development of e-learning modules.

"This Program is a trial process, and learnings from the two pilot Alliances will be used to assess the effectiveness of the program and the possibility of expanding the Alliance model in WA," she said.

In the next quarter, the Alliances will be recruiting for a Regional Climate Alliance Coordinator, undertaking strategic planning with representatives from Local Governments in the Alliance and mapping out priority mitigation and adaptation projects.

The Program will run until June 2023, after which an assessment process will occur to establish program outcomes and potential to expand the model to support climate action across WA.

# AUG/SEP AROUND THE STATE IN PICTURES

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



## ALBANY

Shanty singing, winter brews and hearty food kept the spirit of Albany's maritime history alive this winter as the City of Albany launched the inaugural Maritime Festival through the July school holidays.

The two-week long heritage festival allowed visitors and the community to explore Albany's intrinsic nautical and cultural history through a range of activities at various locations across the city.

The Noongar-Menang Cultural Hub celebrated traditional land owners' connection with Albany's maritime history to coincide with NAIDOC Week.

## ARMADALE

Minnawarra Park and surrounds were transformed into a fair ground atmosphere during the City of Armadale's WA Day celebrations on Monday, 7 June.

The family friendly, smoke and alcohol free event included a variety of food trucks, live performances by local and guest artists, amongst a variety of games and activities for all ages.

As evening set in a fireworks extravaganza display lit up the night sky and was enjoyed by a large crowd who came together to celebrate being part of the Armadale community.

Photo Credit: 7 to 1 Photography



## AUGUSTA MARGARET RIVER

Wadandi custodians Gwen Gray, Cindy Gray and Sharleen Gray welcomed the community to country as part of NAIDOC Week celebrations in the Shire of Augusta Margaret River. The Shire joined with Undalup Association Inc to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over a Wadandi Bush Food morning tea.

Photo Credit: Russell Ord





## BASSENDAN

Town of Bassendean, Water Corporation, Greening Australia, Behaviour Change Collaborative and Lottery West have embarked on the greening of Mary Crescent Reserve, to increase biodiversity and habitat, reduce irrigation, improve water management and change how residents view green spaces. The redesign of the compensation basin also considered how to incorporate circular economy principals into park upgrades, through the use of recycled bricks in the informal pathways and gabion seating.

## BAYSWATER

City of Bayswater Mayor and Councillors, City staff, local residents, contractors and environmental scientist Josh Byrne joined local Whadjuk Noongar leader Vaughn McGuire for a smoking ceremony at the Maylands Waterland site prior to construction commencing on the redevelopment of the community facility.

Stage one of the redevelopment will see water play areas, inspired by the Swan River and local native flora and fauna incorporated into the design. It includes splash pad, water creek, wading/splash pool, play areas, accessible toilets and changing rooms, shade sails and structures, grassed areas, community picnic areas including barbecues, provision for mobile catering, fencing and self-closing gates.



## BELMONT

Perth artist Matthew Wright recently won the 2021 City of Belmont Art Awards \$10,000 Overall Award (acquisitive) sponsored by Perth Airport. The City received 331 entries in this year's awards which was open to all mediums, with artists vying for five awards. City of Belmont Mayor Cr Phil Marks said the Art Awards celebrated the creative talents of people in the local community, as well as in the wider arts community of Western Australia. The City received a great response to the Art Awards with more than 1300 people visiting the exhibition while it was open. The Awards were sponsored by Perth Airport, Belmont Forum, Community Newspapers and CraigCare.

Pictured: City of Belmont Mayor Cr Phil Marks, Matthew Wright and Perth Airport General Manager Corporate Affairs Matt Brown.

## BUNBURY

The tender has been awarded for the construction of the Bunbury Youth Precinct.

The precinct once complete will become an area for the whole community to enjoy, featuring an event and performance space, maze, art installation, shade structures, chill out areas, skate park and a youth services facility.

Project completion is now set for April 2022. Funding has been provided thanks to Lotterywest and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.





## BUSSELTON

Funded through the Federal Government, the Roads to Recovery Program supports the maintenance of the nation's local road infrastructure asset, which facilitates greater access for Australians and improves safety and economic and social outcomes.

Reconstruction and widening of existing narrow sealed roads within the City's road network, as well as bringing the roads up to current standards, was made possible through this program - \$4,625,270 committed to the City of Busselton across five projects.

Pictured: City of Busselton Manager of Operations and Services Matt Twyman, Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories, Federal Member for Forrest, Hon. Nola Marino MP, City of Busselton Construction Supervisor, Kris Meares and City of Busselton Deputy Mayor Kelly Hick.



## CANNING

On Wednesday, 16 July, over 20 City of Canning employees, including the entire executive team, participated in the City's Corporate National Tree Day at Elkhorn St wide verge area, East Cannington.

Despite intermittent showers, everyone was happy to work alongside some keen local residents get the job done, and accomplished planting of more than 2200 native seedlings.

The Parks and City Greening team were thankful to all those who attended, ultimately helping to enhance biodiversity and the urban forest to achieve our vision of a Welcoming and Thriving City.

A community tree planting day was held on Sunday 18 July and Mary MacKillop and Groundlark Parks, also to mark National Tree Day, which is officially on 1 August.



## CAPEL

Over 300 children and youth attended the Shire's NAIDOC Week event at Gravity ETC on Friday, 9 July. The event celebrated, recognised and promoted Aboriginal culture with a Welcome to Country, Aboriginal arts and craft, face painting, fresh food workshops, an Aboriginal themed dress up competition and a selfie competition.

This event was a partnership between the Shire of Capel, Gravity ETC, Dalyellup Collective, Dalyellup Beach Estate, Undalup Association, Happy When Fit and Bunbury Farmers Market.

## CARNAMAH

Carnamah District High School celebrated NAIDOC Day with the Shire of Carnamah securing a grant through National Indigenous Australia Agency. There had been a plan last year to get the students at the school to paint designs on local rocks for NAIDOC and this year, with the Grant funding, the project was achieved. Carnamah's North Midlands Project has a local indigenous bush tucker garden which will house the painted rocks.





## COCKBURN

Eventide was an event held over the long WA Day long weekend. It showcases art and culture in the community, displayed on the iconic Fascine was an evening full of art, music, and aerial performances.



## CHITTERING

The Bindoon Library recently held a grand opening for their Reading Nook, thanks to grant funding from State Library WA.

Created in collaboration with a local artist who specialises in upcycling, 95% of the furniture, accessories, and artwork is made from used materials. A free Upcycling Workshop was held as part of the project so local residents could create pieces for the garden which has created a sense of community ownership over the nook.

## CLAREMONT

Local Perth artist Brenton See is putting the finishing touches on his mural for the Friends of Lake Claremont at the Lake Claremont Shed. The artwork reflects the unique flora and fauna which exists at the lake.



## COCKBURN

The City of Cockburn has welcomed a \$1.5 million Lotterywest grant to help fund a unique \$11m Aboriginal Cultural and Visitors Centre on the western side of Walliabup-Bibra Lake.

Planned for completion by late 2023, it will include cultural education, meeting spaces, art and performance spaces, a visitors information centre and a café.

It was identified as part of the City's first Reconciliation Action Plan in 2011 with \$500,000 allocated across successive budgets for preliminary designs, site studies and community consultation.

Pictured from left to right: Aboriginal Affairs Minister the Hon Stephen Dawson, Cockburn Aboriginal Reference Group member Gail Beck, City of Cockburn Aboriginal Community Development Officer Marlee Kickett, City of Cockburn Mayor Logan Howlett, City of Cockburn Chief of Community Services Gail Bowman and City of Cockburn CEO Tony Brun.



## CUNDERDIN

The Shire of Cunderdin supported the CMT Seniors Committee with their Christmas in July Seniors event. The day was attended by 69 seniors from Meckering, Cunderdin, Tammin, Kellerberrin, Collie and Bruce Rock who took part in games, quizzes and activities. The WA Police also attended and spoke about online scams and personal safety. The talk was followed by a hot roast meal which brightened up a cold and rainy day.



## DARDANUP

On Monday, 28 June Elected Members and infrastructure staff from across the region met for Regional Road Group business as usual, however this meeting included the very special occasion to farewell City of Mandurah Director Built & Natural Environment Allan Claydon who was retiring from the position of Chairman of the South West Regional Road Group Technical Committee after 20 years' service to this group and the region. Cr Peter Robinson (Shire of Dardanup Elected Member and Chairperson of the Regional Road Group) presented Mr Claydon with a very special collection of red wine from local winery Willow Bridge Wines and spoke about Allan's 20-year contribution.

## DERBY/WEST KIMBERLEY

Nearly 1300 people enjoyed the 50th Anniversary of the Kimberley Art and Photographic Prize held in the Derby Airport from Saturday, 3 July to Sunday, 18 July. The Shire of Derby/West Kimberley has facilitated the event since 1970. It was an incredible event and fantastic to see all this year's winners, plus the major category winners from the past 50 years, in the one location. Broome artist Josh Cocking won this year's overall prize.



## EXMOUTH

The Shire of Exmouth's aim to reduce litter entering the coastal environment across the North West Cape has received a boost with a Keep Australia Beautiful Council (KABC) grant.

The 2020/21 \$5,000 grant has been used to support ongoing projects like the Keep Exmouth Clean Annual Day and to implement additional projects focussing on roadside litter.







## FREMANTLE

The renaming of Fremantle's Kings Square to Walyalup Koort is now official following approval by the Minister for Lands.

The new name, which means 'Heart of Fremantle' in the Whadjuk Nyoongar language, was selected by Fremantle Council in June following an extensive community engagement process.

Of the shortlist of options, which included retaining the name Kings Square, Walyalup Koort was the clear preference among Traditional Owners and the broader community.

## GOSNELLS

Bikelinc Incentive Project first-prize winner Rodney Olsen will use his \$1,000 prize to ensure his bicycle is ready to travel across Australia to raise funds for children living in poverty. The project was the first formal Local Government partnership with Crime Stoppers WA, resulting in over 100 bicycles listed on the service.

Mr Olsen is pictured with City of Gosnells Mayor David Goode and Crime Stoppers WA CEO Vince Hughes.



## HARVEY

The Shire of Harvey, in partnership with the newly incorporated Harvey Aboriginal Corporation was successful in obtaining a WA Hiking Participation Grant from the State Government. The pilot hiking program will be running across entry level tracks throughout the Shire, inviting community members to participate and learn about the cultural significance of the Shire's natural landmarks. This is fantastic opportunity to develop local hiking tracks and create future funding opportunities for local Aboriginal people.



## JOONDALUP

Joondalup Mayor Albert Jacob played a prominent role in the City of Joondalup's NAIDOC Week flag-raising ceremony, held outside the City's administration building in July. Delayed due to COVID-19, the City waited until restrictions were lifted before going ahead with the event. A highlight was the moving Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony delivered by Sharon Wood-Kenney, chair of the City's Reconciliation Action Plan Community Reference Group.





## KARRATHA

More than \$80,000 in prize money was awarded across nine categories at the City of Karratha's 29th annual Cossack Art Awards in the historic village of Cossack on Saturday, July 17. Over 270 artworks from across the nation were entered into the prestigious exhibition, which graces the century-old walls of two historic bluestone buildings each July and August.

## KATANNING

The Shire of Katanning was awarded the Local Government Award at the 2021 Western Australian Multicultural Awards held at Optus Stadium earlier this year for the annual Katanning Harmony Festival.

The awards acknowledges and celebrates the achievements of Western Australians who have accomplished outstanding work in advancing multiculturalism.

The Shire of Katanning was acknowledged for showing a fundamental and sustained commitment to inclusivity and participation, which has been recognised at a national level.



## KELLERBERRIN

Kellerberrin's Arts & Culture Committee took part in the BONKERS tour by Matt Hale, Comedy Hypnotist on Thursday, 8 July. The show at times was electric and shocked everyone, especially the participants.

It was attended by 125 people with everyone in attendance enjoying the show and mind spelling display. With this great support, the committee can look positively at additional shows and plays to bring to Kellerberrin.



## KONDININ

Gourmet in the Garden's Enchanted Garden Party was held in March had a record number of 136 this year. Participants enjoyed the three-course meal cooked in the new pizza oven, caravan bar for beverages and a band for entertainment. The garden looked great and this was down to a massive volunteer effort from community members in the lead up to the night. This has become a yearly March event for this community.





## KWINANA

Kwinana's inspirational places, people and things were captured on camera for the annual City of Kwinana photography competition.

Levi Montgomery won the adult category of Kwinana Inspires for her image featuring the grain terminal at Kwinana Beach during the last sunset of 2020.

The City received 71 entries was displayed at the Kwinana Public Library with winners for the child, youth and adult categories receiving cash prizes.



## MANDURAH

The City of Mandurah has awarded a two-year Assertive Outreach Trial to St Patrick's Community Support Centre who will work one-on-one with rough sleepers, street present and homeless people in the city. The Trial was one of the key priorities to come from a City Safety Leadership Summit hosted by the City in 2019 with key government, business and community decision makers. The City worked with State Government and WA Police to secure \$350,000 to make the trial possible, which will make a tangible difference to people experiencing hardships.

Pictured: Mayor Rhys Williams, Mandurah MLA the Hon David Templeman, St Pat's CEO Michael Piu, WA Police Inspector Stuart Mearns, and Member for Dawesville Lisa Munday MLA.

## MELVILLE

More than 100 people visited Point Walter on a dewy morning during Reconciliation Week. Elders Aunty Marie Taylor and Sean Nannup kicked off the Nyin, Ni, Koorliny (sit, listen and walk) event, where people were asked to reflect on the actions they will take in the next two weeks to take action to reconcile.

The group then strolled through Blackwall Reach listening to the story of Djunda the Charnock Woman.



## MOUNT MAGNET

The Mount Magnet Astro Rocks Fest is an annual event held in September each year. The event was cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions so Council is very glad the event can proceed this year and especially grateful with funding support of \$20k from Lottery West for the event. The Astro Rocks Fest event is held over the weekend of 17 to 19 September 2021 that also coincides with the Mount Magnet races.

Pictured: MLC Mining and Pastoral Region, the Hon Peter Foster presenting the Lottery West cheque to Cr Karen Morrissey who has been the driving force of the Astro Rocks Fest since its inception.







## MUKINBUDIN

The Shire of Mukinbudin are very proud of our Pump Track initiative which was completed in March 2021.

This facility has been in action since day one, the local children love it and even some young at heart adults have been utilising the track.

The area is fully lit which allows use into the early evening. Trees have been planted surrounding the area, for spectator shade during the summer months.

The Pump Track is definitely the recreational highlight of the entire Sporting Complex.

## NARROGIN

The railway precinct of Narrogin, as it was in the 1960s, is being constructed in 'N' scale by local artisan, Morrie Russell, whose work will be displayed in the restored Narrogin Railway Station. A seven by 2.5 metre table will be installed in the new Dryandra Country Visitor Centre. Locals and visitors will be able to see working 'N' scale trains, as they once were, in the heyday of rail in Western Australia circa 1960.



## NEDLANDS

The City of Nedlands' landmark artwork Asteroids by Rick Vermey has been restored to its former glory following extensive storm damage last year.

Mayor Fiona Argyle said the City is delighted to have this beautiful piece back in place where everyone can enjoy it, and it will stand tall for another 20 years or more.

Asteroids was gifted to the City in 2001, and the repair costs were almost completely covered by insurance.



## PERTH

Members of the City of Perth Elders Advisory Group gathered around the campfire at Matagarup (Heirisson Island) with some members of the public.

As a prequel to NAIDOC week, the Elders spoke about what Heal Country means to them and how we can all play a part. The Elders also talked about the importance of Matagarup to Nyoongar people in the past and today.





## PLANTAGENET

On Thursday, 15 July, the Shire of Plantagenet hosted a NAIDOC Week junior basketball carnival at Mount Barker Rec Centre. The event was organised by Mount Barker Aboriginal Progress Association (MBAPA) and was very well supported by the community, with over 180 attendees. This was the penultimate event in a week of daily activities for both adults and children to promote inclusiveness and educate the community on the programs run by MBAPA.

## PORT HEDLAND

Better boating has launched in Port Hedland, with the Town and WA Limestone Pty. Ltd. recently completing construction on the \$1.69 million Finucane Island boat ramp groyne.

The groyne is 100 metres long, constructed 10 metres to the west of the boat ramp and is designed to deflect strong tidal currents that sweep across the ramp, making life easier for people launching and retrieving boats. Stage 2 works will set sail soon.



## ROCKINGHAM

The City of Rockingham continues to make progress on upgrades at Koorana Reserve in Warnbro. Key elements of the project include space for an additional two soccer fields in winter and one cricket oval in summer, expansion of cricket practice nets, upgrades to turf and reticulation of the existing playing surface, refurbishment and expansion of existing clubrooms, a new car park with 75 bays, and installation of new sports floodlighting.

## SERPENTINE JARRAHDALE

Byford brothers Logan and Kobi Barnard received a special birthday surprise when their favourite truck – the rubbish truck – paid them a special visit on Wednesday, 14 July.

Logan turned four on Saturday, 10 July, with Kobi celebrating turning three on Friday, 16 July.

The boys have long been fascinated by the rubbish truck, but are never home when their bins are collected, so the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale teamed up with Cleanaway to make sure they received the perfect birthday gift.

Logan and Kobi got the chance to check out the view from the front seat, and they were even given a goodies bag full of fun activities.







## SHARKBAY

On Sunday, 11 July, more than 1000 visitors and residents attended the Shark Bay Winter Markets. With nearly 50 stalls run by local residents as well as stallholders from Carnarvon, Geraldton, Kalbarri and more, the 2021 Winter Markets was one of the biggest to date, and a great success all around. Image by Finn Films.

## SOUTH PERTH

The City of South Perth is creating vital habitat for waterbirds along South Perth Foreshore. The Black Swan Habitat will repair damaged river walls, limit future erosion and provide a safe place for birds to nest. This important environmental work is jointly funded by the City and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions through their Riverbank Program.



## STIRLING

In May, the City of Stirling hosted the Governor, His Excellency the Hon Kim Beazley AC, visiting a number of key community services.

The Governor met staff in the City's Beach Services team, staff and residents from the Nollamara Day Centre for seniors, and visited the City's new facility, Naala Djookan Healing Centre, which seeks to simplify access to family and domestic violence services."

**Pictured:** His Excellency the Hon Kim Beazley AC, Deputy Mayor Bianca Sandri, and Mayor Mark Irwin at the Scarborough Beach Foreshore.



## SUBIACO

Subiaco's high street was showcased in an expertly curated 10-day program of fashion, beauty and lifestyle events. The Winter Style Series saw over 20 businesses collaborating across ten events from Thursday, 27 May – Sunday, 6 June 2021. The initiative delivered through the City of Subiaco's destination marketing brand, See Subiaco received an estimated attendance of 1500 and media circulation of almost 1.4 million.





## SWAN

The City of Swan is commencing construction on a new roundabout at the intersection of Hepburn Avenue and Bellefin Drive in Ballajura to improve traffic flow and road safety, thanks to funding from the State Government.

Pictured left to right: Whiteman Ward Councillor Mel Congerton, Member for West Swan Rita Saffioti MLA, City of Swan CEO Jeremy Edwards, Mayor Kevin Bailey, and Whiteman Ward Councillor Bryce Parry.

## THREE SPRINGS

The Shire of Three Springs has recently completed work on the main street of town as part of a revitalisation project. Works carried out included improved drainage and parking, landscaping and kerbing. Banner poles were the finishing touch and currently display local wildflower photos, letting tourists know what they can see in the district.



## VINCENT

Swimmers will be buoyed by the news that the City of Vincent's Beatty Park pool upgrades are almost complete. This August, our much loved leisure centre's pool reopens after a \$2.1 million refurbishment. Get ready for a new kids' water playground, upgraded slides, fresh pool tiling, Aboriginal artwork and new universal change rooms on the pool deck.

## WANNEROO

New garden organics bins, for lawn clippings, leaves, small branches, weeds and plants, have been delivered to more than 61,000 homes across the City of Wanneroo, with the first collections commencing in late June. As a result of the new bin system, it is estimated that 14,000 tonnes of green waste will be transformed into high quality soil-enhancing products, such as mulch and potting mix, in the first 12 months.

Pictured: Wanneroo CEO Daniel Simms and Mayor Tracey Roberts with the fleet of garden organics waste collection trucks.



## WONGAN-BALLIDU

Regional Telecommunications provider FSG Holdings Ltd, with financial support from the Shires of Wongan-Ballidu, Moora and Dalwallinu, has secured funding through the Commonwealth's \$83 million Regional Connectivity Program to deliver true broadband and enhanced connectivity to the Central Midlands. This collaboration aims to deliver to the region quality fixed mobile and 4G telecommunication services equivalent to those enjoyed in the Perth Metropolitan area.



# THE PEOPLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT



By Dr Chris Berry

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.



Photo courtesy SLWA,  
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## ERNEST FRANCIS "ERNIE" BRIDGE AM, ABORIGINAL LEADER'S LIFETIME OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

Ernie Bridge was born in the old town of Halls Creek in 1936, to pastoralist Ernie Kimberley Bridge and his wife Sarah Parnell of Gidja descent. Ernie broke new ground for Aboriginal people at both a Local Government and Parliamentary level, and his rich and diverse life story is worthy

of a full biography. Ernie was an achiever in many fields, and we are given a glimpse into that life story in former Local Government Minister Tom Stephens' extended obituary, on which this short piece draws. Stephens described Ernie as a man with 'natural human warmth, ready smile, endless self-confidence and steel-will...'

Ernie's education was mainly through home correspondence and did not include secondary level. He was head stockman on his father's cattle station by the age of fourteen and head drover of a cattle droving plant at 18. He was also a jockey, riding his first winner at fourteen and later winning the Halls Creek Cup. Ernie also butchered cattle and dressed the meat for the family's butcher shop. Ernie was a self-taught guitarist and singer of bush ballads (seven albums), on one occasion performing at Nashville's Grand Ole Opry. Over the course of his life Ernie developed a wide range of local business and property interests, and obtaining a pilot's licence, flying around Halls Creek and beyond in his own Cessna.

As Tom Stephens wrote in his obituary:

*'When Ernest Kimberley Bridge (Senior) died suddenly in 1962, he left a big hole in the family but also in the local community, including a vacant seat on the Halls Creek Council. The young Ernie [26] was persuaded to nominate for the vacancy and moved onto Council and within just three years was elected as the Shire President. This was a hotly contested move. The outgoing President was from the old-order "station establishment"... Objections were laid; it was argued Ernie could not take up the Presidency*

*because he was an Aboriginal and, they claimed, illegitimate. ... Ernie's enquiries with the Local Government Department and with the Registrar of Birth's Deaths and Marriages eventually confirmed he was born in wedlock and, despite objection from the squattocracy, there was no bar to him retaining the Shire presidency. Ernie became the first Aboriginal person to serve on a local Council in WA and the youngest Shire President when elected to that role in 1965, a position he held until his resignation in 1979.*

*During Ernie's 18 years on the Halls Creek Council – much of the time with the help of his brother Benny, the Halls Creek baker – Ernie established a full suite of programs to assist the Halls Creek community grow into a peaceful and harmonious community. Two examples of his initiatives and reforms were the appointment of a town ranger, in Trooper Bedford, and the desegregation of the local cemetery so that from then on Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal people could be buried together. However, there was much, much more – which even included having an ongoing local battle to secure for the town of Halls Creek the supply of good, clean healthy drinking water!'*

Ernie also became more widely involved in Aboriginal affairs, being made an inaugural member of the Aboriginal Lands Trust in 1972 while still serving as Shire President, and then as Commissioner of the Aboriginal Land Fund Commission in 1974 and the Laverton Skull Creek Royal Commission in 1975.

Ernie Bridge was elected as Kimberley MLA in 1980, making him the first Aboriginal person elected to the WA State Parliament. In 1986 he joined Cabinet with his appointment as Minister for Water Resources, the North-West and Aboriginal Affairs. This made him the first indigenous politician anywhere in Australia to serve in a ministerial portfolio. He was still the Minister for Agriculture, Water Resources and the North West at the defeat of the Labor government at the 1993 state election. The author remembers Ernie addressing an LGA Zone meeting in the early 1990s on his proposed water pipeline from the Kimberley to Perth.

Ernie continued to serve the community after he left Parliament, establishing the Unity of First People of Australia to promote Aboriginal health and employment. Ernie twice received Australian Honours, first with the OAM and then as AM. He was inducted into the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame in 1984 and won a WA Country Music Award for best original song.

In his inaugural speech to Parliament in August 1980 he referred to the prejudices he experienced when first elected as Shire President. It was a good thing for Halls Creek, and for Western Australia, that Ernie persisted in his calling to represent the people of his community. Ernie was the

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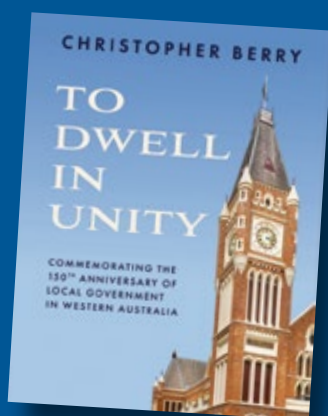
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# COUNCIL MEMBER ESSENTIALS TRAINING

By Training Services Manager, Eva Godwin

first Aboriginal person in WA to become Shire President. Others like Kevin Fong and Josie Farrar have followed his lead in Local Government, and others are sure to follow.



## TO DWELL IN UNITY – CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Dr Chris Berry's book *To Dwell in Unity*, celebrating the sesquicentenary of the Local Government sector will be launched at the WALGA Convention Gala Dinner held on Monday, 19 September at Optus Stadium.

Published with support from WALGA and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, the book tells the story of the development of Local Government in the State, which parallels the history of the State, from first beginnings to the goldrushes and through two world wars and the Great Depression. The post-war period has seen the continued expansion of the role of Local Government and the cementing of its place in serving and developing the community. Just as Local Government has spread into all corners of WA, there have been many attempts at reforming Local Government. That is an important part of the story, as are some of the personal stories of the characters and scoundrels who for better and for worse have been part of the remarkable story Local Government in WA.

The book will be made available to local libraries across the State in coming months.

The Local Government elections are just around the corner and WALGA Training Services have been busy developing the training material for the five Council Member Essentials Training Modules which all Elected Members are required to complete within 12 months of being elected.

In consultation with industry advisory groups and our team of Governance advisors, WALGA Training has invested heavily in the continuous development of contemporary learner resources, keeping up to date with legislative changes, the new code of conduct and ongoing industry changes to achieve good governance practice for the Local Government sector.

Each Council Member Essentials module focuses on a different topic, building the knowledge and skills required of Councillors in a step-by-step approach, developing a deeper understanding over time, filled with practical tips and tools for Councillors to perform their role and responsibility as defined in the Local Government Act 1995.

To gain the most value from the modules, it is highly recommended that the training is undertaken in the following logical sequence:

1. Understanding Local Government
2. Conflicts of Interest
3. Serving on Council
4. Meeting Procedures
5. Understanding Financial Reports and Budgets

To ensure our training is accessible to all Elected Members around WA, WALGA Training is proud to offer a range of flexible delivery solutions to suit metropolitan, regional and remote locations.

- Face-to-Face Training at WALGA
- In-House Training at your Local Government
- Virtual Classroom via ZOOM
- eLearning

When deciding which delivery methodology is the best option for you, it is important to consider what will work best for you. For example, if you are computer literate and enjoy learning at your own pace, then eLearning is probably the perfect methodology for you. However, if computer based learning is not for you and you prefer networking with other Elected Members, our practical and interactive workshops at WALGA may suit you better.

Alternatively, the In-House or Virtual Classroom option may be the most cost effective for your Local Government if you have a number of participants who need to complete the same course. This option allows you to invite neighbouring Councils to participate in the training in order to offset costs. This means a specialist trainer will either come to your Local Government or deliver the course via ZOOM. This option is excellent if you want to contextualise the training to your region, discuss local challenges or simply to cut down travel time. If you choose this option, WALGA would be happy to promote the scheduled course for you via our WALGA Training electronic eNews publication and the WALGA website at [www.walga.asn.au/training](http://www.walga.asn.au/training).

For further information about the best training options for you, or for more information, please contact WALGA Training on (08) 9213 2088 or email [training@walga.asn.au](mailto:training@walga.asn.au)

# STRONG MUTUAL SCHEME ENSURE SECTOR'S CONTINUING PROTECTION

By Jonathan Seth, CEO, LGIS



As this update is being written LGIS is finalising our financial results for 2020/21.

Despite the ongoing impacts of COVID-19, the Woorooloo bushfires and Tropical Cyclone Seroja your mutual indemnity scheme has continued to perform well. We've successfully:

- insulated members against skyrocketing premium increases (+29% Pacific composite insurance price change in the commercial insurance market),
- broadened the covers and services provided by the scheme – including the addition of a new portfolio, Motor Fleet protection; and
- maintained a strong financial position, with a surplus predicted and \$2.2 million returned to members.

LGIS has demonstrated in these challenging times that the mutual approach of WA Local Governments working together to protect their organisations, communities and people continues to be the most long-term beneficial and appropriate model for the sector.

The LGIS Annual Report will be available to members in mid-October 2021. You'll be able to access a copy of the Annual report from the LGIS website or speak to your LGIS Account Manager. From October Account Managers will be visiting members to discuss your share of the surplus distribution and the benefits of membership. As always the team from LGIS are available to present to your council on the benefits of your mutual indemnity scheme.

## INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT ENDORSES VALUE OF SCHEME RISK SERVICES

As directed by State Council in September 2019 WALGA engaged the consultancy Mainsheet Capital to evaluate the effectiveness and value for money of LGIS' Scheme risk services.

Mainsheet Capital's final report provided very pleasing results, recognising the value and achievement of the Scheme risk services whilst acknowledging the difficulty in assessing such a complex area with many variable influencing factors. Key amongst those factors is the Schemes reliance on members effectively implementing

recommended risk management programs within their organisations. The report also identified operational areas for improvement which the LGIS Board are considering to further enhance the services.

Key findings from Mainsheet Capitals report include:

- LGIS claims' trends support that the risk mitigation programs are effective.
- LGIS claim number and costs trends have similar or more favourable outcomes than data from APRA and WorkCover WA.
- Appropriate spend for risk mitigation services across population bands.
- The spend for risk mitigation services is appropriately allocated in greater proportion to those Local Governments with larger claims values.
- A substantial increase in program hours in one year leads to a net decline in claims costs in the following year, however this does not hold true over a two (2) or four (4) year period (suggesting other issues are influencing long-term claims trends).
- The reinsurers underscored the importance of the Scheme risk services in their decision to offer reinsurance to the Scheme.

Our recent survey also demonstrated that members value the services with 83% of those surveyed saying that they had high levels of satisfaction in the Scheme risk services. Satisfaction differed across the membership reflecting how risk services are delivered across the state with 73% of metro and 83% of regional members having high levels of satisfaction.

Thank you to all of our members who took the time to complete the survey. Your feedback is invaluable and will help us direct our efforts in our communication and delivery of LGIS services.

## WALGA CONVENTION 19 TO 21 SEPTEMBER

LGIS once again has a stand at the WALGA Convention and LGIS Chair, Peter Forbes will provide an update at the WALGA Annual General Meeting. We'll have staff on stand from all departments including portfolio management, claims management, risk advice, and member services. Please stop by stand 55 and have a chat with our team.

**As always if you would like more information about the Scheme please contact me on 9483 8855 or your LGIS Account Manager.**



## ADVERTORIAL

# SOLAR BRINGS BRIGHT PROSPECTS TO WA COMMUNITY GROUPS

While many businesses could have the potential to make significant savings on their energy bills with solar power, the upfront cost of solar technology and installation can be seen as a barrier. Every dollar counts, particularly in the not-for-profit sector.

As part of an ongoing commitment to help to make renewable energy more accessible to not-for-profit organisations in WA, Synergy has run an initiative known as the Community Solar Fund for the past four years.

Synergy recently announced that this year, Constable Care Foundation, Crossways Community Services and Directions Disability Support Services will all be awarded with a fully-installed rooftop solar system based on the unique energy profile of each organisation.

According to Synergy LGA Account Manager, Bec Elshaw, the Synergy Community Solar Fund is part of the WA energy retailer's commitment to helping more community groups unlock the potential benefits of solar power.

"We set up our Synergy Community Solar Fund to help more WA community organisations find ways they might save energy and benefit from renewable energy," said Ms Elshaw.

Each year, community groups or charities are nominated to be considered for the program. All eligible applicants receive a free energy audit with energy-saving recommendations tailored to their operations, and selected applicants are awarded with a solar solution.

"The Community Solar Fund recipients may make some really significant savings on their electricity bills. In the past we've helped animal refuges, youth centres, community gardens and a wide range of other not-for-profit groups based in WA."

"Cashflow is important in every business, particularly in the not-for-profit sector. The ongoing impact of COVID-19 has presented extra challenges for many of these groups, so we're thrilled that every dollar these organisations can save on their Synergy bill can help them focus on the work they love."

**To learn more about solar or other renewable energy solutions, please contact Bec Elshaw, LGA Account Manager, on 0457 199 222 or [bec.elshaw@synergy.net.au](mailto:bec.elshaw@synergy.net.au)**

## In a few years' time, you'll be glad you read this ad.

Tomorrow is coming fast, but that doesn't mean your council can't get ready for it, today. Talk to Australia's most trusted energy company\* about installing a commercial solar system in any scale for your council.

**See your savings potential with Synergy Commercial Solar at [synergy.net.au/CommercialSolarReturn](https://synergy.net.au/CommercialSolarReturn)**

\*Source: Roy Morgan Net Trust Score survey 2018



# MAYOR MARK IRWIN

CITY OF STIRLING



City of Stirling Mayor Mark Irwin is a WALGA State Councillor, representing the North Metropolitan Zone. A club development coordinator with Surf Life Saving WA, Mayor Irwin is also an advocate for health and fitness. He shares with Western Councillor his journey and experience as an Elected Member.

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

Just this past month, I have made the decision to finish up my ‘day job’ and devote 100 per cent of my energies to being the Mayor of the City of Stirling.

I am incredibly grateful for my time with Surf Life Saving WA, who have been such close friends and supporters of my journey, and I will forever be grateful for their steadfastness and understanding when the Mayoral role required me to leave work at any time in the day.

That role allowed me to continue to provide for my family, whilst also pursuing the public good as Councillor and then Mayor. It was part of a career in small business, community sport and volunteering that has defined my life and represents why I want to serve the local community.

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

I was elected to the Coastal Ward as a Councillor in 2015, and quite unexpectedly got the opportunity to serve as Mayor two years later when my fellow Councillors elected me.

That same year in 2017, the City of Stirling held a referendum asking ratepayers whether they’d like to directly elect the Mayor and the community voted yes.

Then in the October 2019 Local Government elections, the majority of City of Stirling ratepayers voted for me as the Mayor of the City of Stirling for a four-year term, which means I will be Mayor until at least October 2023.

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

I’ve been an Elected Member since 2015, and have seen a massive change in the sector over that relatively short period of time.

The sector is working better together and constantly improving the way we serve the community. Whilst the headlines often focus on the individual Councils that may be going through difficult times, the majority of the sector has been getting on with the job of working with the State Government to reform the legislation that governs our level of government.

Here at the City of Stirling, we’ve seen massive shifts in capability and culture, with energetic staff bringing enthusiasm and new ideas to the organisation to work with our passionate and knowledgeable group of Elected Members.



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

If I am being brutally honest, the biggest challenge for me personally is that I have a strong desire to see change and improvement, and that often comes a lot slower than I'd like. This isn't a reflection on the staff of the City, as they have as an organisation come miles in such a short space of time on the path of continuous improvement. But I am personally realising that this journey of mine is a long one, and somewhat more of a marathon than a sprint, but no less important or worthy because of that.

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

The City of Stirling is a dynamic, vibrant, strong and diverse community and there is literally no other community I would rather serve.

We are the largest Local Government by our population, and the second CBD of Perth. We have everything from the beautiful coasts of Scarborough and Trigg, to the economic powerhouses of Balcatta and Osborne Park, to diverse and multicultural communities of Mirrabooka and Balga, and the small business melting pot of Mount Lawley.

If there is a challenge, it is that we are so varied and diverse that we must constantly ensure that each of those regions and wards are cared for and supported. If we do that well, however, we unlock our greatest strength as a community, and so there really isn't any other place I'd rather lead than my home, the City of Choice.

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

I am really proud of the success we have had thus far with our advocacy for Trackless Trams, which is an innovative new urban technology that exists somewhere between light rail and bus services and runs on renewable energy.

We are the only Local Government in Western Australia to have all the approvals and zoning in place, and the only Local Government to have been successful in convincing the Federal Government to fund the necessary business case into this innovative technology.

We are very excited to see where this technology might take us, and what options it provides Local Governments and communities to increase corridor uplift at a fraction of the cost of light rail systems with far less disruption.

I am also very proud of having led the charge to remove wheel clamping, which was taken onboard by the McGowan Labor Government.

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

Do it. Join us. Be a part of your community. Elected Members play a vital leadership role, working together to create and implement the community's vision, strategic direction and values.

Improving your community starts with Local Government, so if you want to make a difference to your local facilities and services, consider becoming a candidate.



# HOW EFFECTIVE ARE YOUR OUTSOURCING ARRANGEMENTS?

In a dramatic reversal of fortune, Western Power received an adverse judgment from the WA Court of Appeal, in a decision arising out of the 2014 Parkerville bushfire, following a first instance trial at which it had avoided liability.

In *Herridge Parties v Electricity Networks Corporation T/As Western Power*<sup>1</sup>, the Court of Appeal determined that Western Power owed a duty to inspect and maintain all equipment carrying its power infrastructure, including privately owned equipment, even where it delegated responsibility for carrying out inspections of that equipment to a third party.

The judgment was handed down on 2 July 2021 and has implications for public sector bodies, including local government agencies, that enter into outsourcing arrangements with third parties.

## BACKGROUND

On 12 January 2014, a pole supporting an electrical cable fell to the ground, sparking a fire that caused significant damage. The pole was made of jarrah wood and was affected by fungal decay and termite damage. The Plaintiffs claimed Western Power should have tested the pole for damage, and if Western Power had done that, it would have replaced the pole before it collapsed.

Four class actions were commenced against Western Power, Thiess (who was engaged by Western Power to inspect the pole) and the landowner.

At trial, the owner and Thiess were found negligent. The judge apportioned their responsibility on a 30%/70% basis. The trial judge dismissed the claim against Western Power, finding it had not breached its duty of care and was entitled to delegate the task of inspecting the pole to a reputable third party such as Thiess.

## ISSUES ON APPEAL

In relation to Western Power, the appeal focussed on two key issues:

- whether Western Power had a duty to carry out regular inspections and maintenance of connected assets, including privately owned assets, such as the pole (**the Wider Duty**); and
- whether Western Power had a non-delegable duty to ensure that any inspection of the pole was carried out in a safe and effective manner (**the Narrow Duty**).

## COURT OF APPEAL DECISION

The Court of Appeal acknowledged the need to determine the existence of a duty of care at common law so as to be coherent, consistent and compatible with the applicable statutory scheme, where the allegation is that the public authority was negligent in the performance of its statutory powers and functions.

The Court of Appeal rejected Western Power's argument that the statutory purpose of the *Electricity Act 1945* (WA) was to place the responsibility for the maintenance of privately owned power poles on the property owner. The Court found Western Power had a duty of care at common law to maintain all service apparatus belonging to the network operator on the premises of any consumer, in a safe and fit condition, for supplying electricity. That required Western Power to monitor supporting equipment, even if privately owned.

The Court held that Western Power should have established a system for periodically inspecting all poles, regardless of who owned them, and if it had done that, it probably would have replaced the pole before it collapsed.

The re-apportionment of liability was as follows: Western Power 50%, Thiess 35%, landowner 15%.

## COMMENT

The decisions of the trial judge and Court of Appeal highlight the potential difficulties in identifying the nature and scope of duties of care at common law against the background of a statutory scheme.

The Court of Appeal's decision significantly shifted the apportionment of responsibility among the parties involved.

The decision that Western Power retained responsibility for maintaining assets, regardless of its subcontract arrangements, should cause government agencies and statutory bodies to review whether their outsourcing arrangements are effective in managing risk.

This may require carefully reviewing:

- whether there are limits on the agency's ability to discharge certain responsibilities by outsourcing the supply of particular goods and services, and the implications of those limits;
- the scope and terms of outsourcing arrangements, including the protections provided by contractual indemnities and limitations of liability, or attempts to contract out of statutory proportionate liability regimes and/or limitation periods (which is expressly permitted by the Limitation Act 2005 (WA));
- what responsibility the agency may have, despite their outsourcing arrangements, to avoid a foreseeable risk of harm to others; and
- what steps the agency should take to discharge that responsibility and manage the associated risks.

The Court of Appeal's decision may require Western Power to establish an expensive inspection and maintenance program for some 100,000 privately owned poles across Western Australia, giving rise to significant unanticipated costs.

Given the far-reaching consequences of the decision, Western Power could well seek leave to appeal to the High Court.

**Contact Jehan-Philippe Wood, Partner, Clyde & Co on 08 6145 1700**



# STATE COUNCIL BRIEFS

The following resolution was among those carried at the State Council meeting held at WALGA's West Leederville office on Wednesday, 7 July.

## REVIEWS OF THE CAT ACT 2011 AND DOG ACT 1976

That WALGA seek a commitment from the State Government:

1. for the conduct of comprehensive reviews of the *Cat Act 2011* and *Dog Act 1976*;
2. that the reviews incorporate Local Government-specific consultation processes, coordinated in discussion with WALGA and Local Government stakeholders;
3. any call for review includes specific outcomes rather than just consultation with the Local Government sector; and
4. any review include cost recovery permitted by Local Government through animal registrations.

The following resolutions were among those carried at the regional State Council meeting held in Broome on Friday, 3 September.

## EXTERNAL OVERSIGHT OF LOCAL LEVEL COMPLAINTS

That WALGA advocate for an external oversight model for local level behavioural complaints made under Council Member, Committee Member and Candidate Codes of Conduct, that is closely aligned to the Victorian Councillor Complaints Framework.

## TENDER EXEMPTION PROVISIONS – GENERAL PRACTITIONER SERVICES

That WALGA:

1. Adopt a new Advocacy Position Statement under 'Local Government Legislation - Tender Exemption General Practitioner Services':  
*WALGA advocates for the inclusion of a tender exemption for General Practitioner (GP) services under Part 4, Division 2 of the Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996, to support Local Governments to secure and retain necessary primary health care services for their communities; and*
2. Undertake additional research in support of the Advocacy Position with the following aims:
  - a. Identify State and Federal Government policy settings and other factors contributing to gaps in primary health care services in regional communities; and

- b. Quantify the number of regional Local Governments that have current contracts, or are proposing to enter into contracts, for General Practitioner services and the associated costs to Local Government incurred.

## PHASE 2 PLANNING REFORM SUBMISSION

That the submission to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage on Phase 2 Planning Reform be endorsed.

## PARTNERS IN GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT

That the Partners in Government Agreement be endorsed for signing by the WALGA President at the 2021 WALGA Annual General Meeting.

## FOUNDATIONS FOR A STRONGER TOMORROW – SUBMISSION TO THE DRAFT STATE INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

That:

1. The submission to Infrastructure WA in response to the draft State Infrastructure Strategy, Foundations for a Stronger Tomorrow, be endorsed.
2. WALGA continue to advocate for on-going engagement between Infrastructure WA and Local Governments in the implementation and subsequent reviews of the State's infrastructure strategy.

## STOP PUPPY FARMING LEGISLATION

1. That the update on the Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill 2021 be noted.
2. That:
  - a. any additional costs incurred by a Local Government in administering the Dog Act be paid by the State Government; and
  - b. the Fees and Charges set in Regulations are reviewed bi-annually and at minimum, be adjusted by the Local Government Cost Index.



WALGA

WORKING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

# State Council

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