

Western Councillor



ISSUE 116 | OCT/NOV 2021



P7 SHOWCASE
IN PIXELS

P12 AROUND
THE STATE
IN PICTURES

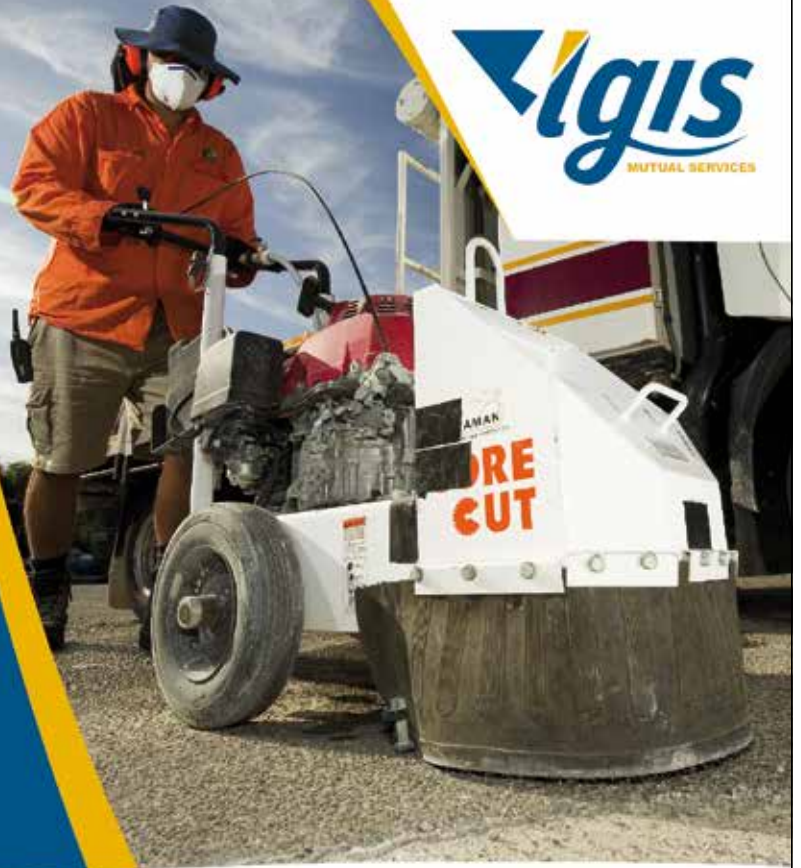
Local governments working together.

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

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

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

We believe that's worth protecting.



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



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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Peer Support Team

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

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

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

The key objective is to assist Local Governments resolve these issues

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

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

So, to head off possible conflict or for the best resolution in situations where it already exists, call 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 116 of Western Councillor

COVER:

The Shire of Shark Bay, in collaboration with the Shark Bay Community Resource Centre, hosted an event for Mental Health Week which included a kids colour fun run, a community sausage sizzle, community market stalls and an outdoor movie.



BROOME



CLAREMONT



MERREDIN

The WA Local Government Convention was preceded by the Association's AGM at which the WALGA President, Minister for Local Government and Leader of the Opposition address the membership. Excerpts from these addresses are reproduced in the following pages.

AGM ADDRESS

WALGA PRESIDENT, MAYOR TRACEY ROBERTS



I would like to begin by saying how proud I am to be your President. It has been such a rewarding role, to see Local Government shine with its tenacity and commitment to the community. This remarkable outcome is in spite of the constant challenges that 2021 has brought...and still brings!

Our State is recovering from the pandemic that continues to dominate headlines and occupy our headspace. As if this is not severe enough of a challenge, we also saw several natural disasters that tore through a number of Local Government areas.

These disasters caused devastating impact on local communities. We were confronted with shocking stories and images of profound losses...but what was even more compelling was how Local Governments step in readily to provide assistance to the community.

The sector bonded together to provide what they could to help – this included provision of facilities or heavy equipment, sharing staff resources and funding. It is at these times where WALGA stood shoulder to the wheel with our Members – and I am immensely proud of the important role both WALGA and LGIS have played in supporting our Members through times of crisis.

WALGA enhanced the collective efforts by matching the needs of the disaster-affected Local Governments with Councils that have available equipment and skillset of staff members. Staff provided tailored advice regarding planning laws, emergency management, health and funding opportunities, to assist in equipping Councils with knowledge and information required in the long path to recovery. In addition, I am also representing WALGA on the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund Board which is progressing well in supporting the local communities to recover.

Despite the plethora of challenges, our sector has continued to prove its resilience and dedication to the community.

The final report from the Select Committee into Local Government recognised the sector's effectiveness and agility. Established in late 2019 by the Legislative Council, the inquiry came with broad terms of reference. WALGA and the sector embraced this process as an opportunity to describe the scope of Local Government services to the community.

Tabled in Parliament last September, the outcome reflected the brilliant result of the comprehensive submission put forward by the Association on behalf of Members, along with

attendance at private hearings and providing what can be described as a bulk of supplementary materials.

A number of recommendations from the report supported WALGA's key advocacy for the sector. It also recognised our sector's effectiveness and agility. Additionally, it is heartening that the State Government's submission to this inquiry spoke about supporting the State and Local Government Partnership Agreement – which has now been revised and refreshed and will be signed by the Minister, President of LG Pro and myself later today.

The new Partners in Government Agreement gives structure to the great work that we are already undertaking together, with commitments on communications, innovation and continuous improvement as well as our shared vision to benefit WA communities. This will drive a long term agenda and culture of collaboration between both spheres of government.

2021 also heralded another State Election – I'm sure it will be one that will not quickly be forgotten. While the word 'unprecedented' has been used extensively about the pandemic, it was also used to describe the landslide victory of the returned Labor Government.

Prior to the election, WALGA developed and implemented an advocacy campaign. The campaign aimed to elicit policy commitments, complement regional and local advocacy, and enhance relationships with Members of Parliament. In terms of policy outcomes, the returned Labor Government made a number of commitments aligned to WALGA's campaign agenda.

The focus now is to engage with Ministers and senior government decision-makers on opportunities for Local Government influence.

The sector also welcomed a new Local Government Minister, the Hon John Carey MLA and previous Mayor of the City of Vincent. We are looking forward to a continued effective working relationship with Minister Carey. In an encouraging start, the Minister attended a breakfast forum held by WALGA in May, where he advised that he wished to publicly applaud positive, innovative work from Local Governments rather than focus on negative issues.

As I said, we're already doing some great work together – and one example is the joint election campaign currently underway. There are two phases to this campaign.

The first part of the campaign calls on people to stand for election to their local Council, while the second phase of the campaign will encourage electors to vote at the upcoming Local Government election in October.

On the operation side of the Association, our CEO Nick Sloan continues to lead WALGA's administration to achieve excellence with a Member-based focus. Under his leadership, the State Council endorsed WALGA's Corporate Strategy for the next five years. This is an important milestone – the corporate strategy was developed on the back of significant engagement with Members and other key stakeholders across Government and Industry.

The strategy enunciates the Association's purpose of leveraging the collective strength and influence of the Local Government sector, for the benefit of WA Local Governments and their communities. Strategic initiatives are underway across the five strategic themes of advocacy and policy, services, financial sustainability, systems, and workforce.

Nick, along with his staff, is now operationalising the plan, prioritised to deliver better outcomes for Members, which is the focus of the new financial year. The important drivers of this plan include an ongoing digital transformation program and a focus on enhancing the Association's core services, as WALGA continues to evolve our capabilities.

I am happy to report that the Association is in a sound financial position - through carefully managed strategy and cash reserves, WALGA is well-placed to support and advocate for the sector. The financial result of WALGA includes a small surplus from a turnover of \$22.7 million from non-grant and grant programs. Consequently, for the third consecutive year, the Association has been able to implement a zero general membership adjustment.

WALGA's advocacy and service achievements continue to amplify the voice of our Members and maximise sector outcomes. For a complete list of our efforts and results, I invite you to read the Annual Report, which illustrates how the Association has been working for Local Government.

Amidst the constant questioning and discourse on Local Government, our sector and the Association have always chosen to rise above the noise. The wellbeing of the community is firmly placed at the forefront of our minds and determines the course of our actions.

To foster this spirit and demonstrate WALGA's commitment to the sector, Nick and I, along with WALGA staff, will continue to meet our Members and to hear from each and every one of you. Our Members' feedback is very important and helps to guide sector positions resolved by WALGA State Council.

The State Council, as the decision-making representative body of all Member Councils, is responsible for sector-wide policy-making and strategic planning for the sector. I would like to take the opportunity to thank my fellow State Councillors. They have demonstrated their dedication to the sector, which saw them carve out time, often at short notice, for additional meetings over arising issues.

Despite their demanding schedules, my State Councillors have provided me with unwavering and steadfast support – I sincerely thank all of you for your commitment and loyalty. It has been another turbulent year – and it is more important than ever to celebrate and recognise the strength and diversity of leadership that exists across our sector.

I have the utmost respect for all our Elected Members and officers – you have put yourselves forward to represent the voices of your community. Thank you for your time, your efforts, your selfless dedication. Thank you for forging on, even when the narrative can sometimes be negative and thankless.

All of you play a crucial role in the fabric of community – thank you.



AGM ADDRESS

MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HON JOHN CAREY MLA

It's a great pleasure to be here today, on behalf of the Premier and the Government of Western Australia.

And I do want to start slightly differently by first of all saying thank you. It's fair to say that we are in extraordinary times. None of us imagined, if you go back to early January 2020 that our world would be gripped by a global pandemic. But I think, as West Australians, we can be incredibly proud. We did rally together, and we have as a collective, made Western Australia one of the safest places in the world.

And it's because of how we've responded and our management of the pandemic that our economic recovery is the strongest in the nation.

We have a booming economy. Our mining and construction sectors are thriving, we have strong retail trade growth and it is anticipated that we will have the strongest economic growth of any state in 2021.

Now I acknowledge, and we know this in this room, that this has brought about pressures, in terms of skills and labour, and in housing. But I have to say this: I would rather face these challenges, of a booming economy, rather than the alternative. And I want to assure you, as a State Government, we are responding to those challenges. Within my own portfolio of housing we recently announced the state's single largest injection of \$875 million into social housing. And that includes a program dedicated to building modular homes in regional Western Australia.

Of course, we also know that the threat of COVID is ever-present, and the Delta variant is just around the corner. And so we are doing everything we can to get people vaccinated. And again, I want to thank all Local Governments in this room for your positive leadership. Not just during COVID, but also to champion the vaccine roll out across Western Australia.

Over the past six months, as the Minister for Local Government, I have been engaging widely with the sector. I've been out to regional WALGA Zones, including the Cue Parliament, the Great Eastern Country Zone, the South West Country Zone, as well as a tour of the Mid West Councils affected by the cyclone. And at last count, I had met with 90 of the State's 139 Local Governments, including through WALGA Zone meetings.

AGM ADDRESS

MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HON JOHN CAREY MLA (CONTINUED)

I've also met with a range of other stakeholders, including the Regional Capital Alliance, and other alliances like NEWROC.

I want to be very clear on the public record. As a former Mayor, I am passionate about Local Government. As the closest tier of government to the community it can be more agile, it can move fast and quicker to deliver for local communities. And I have been very deliberate as the new Minister to focus on the positive.

There are Local Governments working their hardest to deliver. And I have been deliberate in focusing on two key aspects: the first is those Local Governments that are seeking to develop great culture. We know this: that when you get a Mayor or Shire President, with a CEO and a great elected Council that are aligned in a strong, positive vision; and a focus on great culture, that great stuff happens.

A culture of working together, being open and innovative, of being willing to try new things to deliver the best outcomes for their communities. And I'm going to give some shout-outs: for example, the Shire of Chapman Valley, who've been actively working on the Council's values. That you can actually walk into their Chamber and there's agreed values of ethics, honesty, trust, respect. They're laminated on the wall - it's brilliant because you walk into that Council chamber and you see the values right there. Similarly the City of Mandurah has done the same work.

And I want to be clear on this, this is not 'namby-pamby' stuff, this is about making a Council work, to have respectful relationships, to be responsive to the community.

Another standout feature, that I've been focused on is those Local Governments that are prepared to think outside the box. Just because something has always been done a particular way, doesn't mean you keep on doing it. Local Governments who see themselves as not just regulators, but facilitators. And in this regard, we are seeing Local Governments prepared to take risks and be innovative.

I want to give a shout out to the Shire of Bruce Rock, who have re-established the town's supermarket after it burnt down at the peak of the first COVID wave. The community said they needed it, it was a little bit outside of the Local Government remit, but they delivered it.

The Town of Claremont has been proactively supporting town centre activation. What they've been doing is providing small business grants to small businesses to deliver events and activation after dark.

And the list goes on. And we are seeing other Councils with new energy, new leadership, stepping out. And I do want to give a shout out to the Shire of Harvey, and Exmouth, where we're seeing that kind of high energy leadership.

These are great stories to tell. But we've also got to address the other side of the picture. When things go wrong. Where there is toxicity. Whether it's a Mayor, a CEO, or a Councillor; due to poor behaviour, failure of leadership, or a breakdown in relationships, that is where we see dysfunction.

And where the community comes last. Now I know, that this kind of reform is difficult for any Council. And I know it personally. On being elected as the Mayor of Vincent, the Council faced a \$4 million deficit, and the Council was rated second last amongst Councils which used the independent Catalyse survey of ratepayers. I'm proud to say that as the Mayor, with new CEO leadership, a Council committed to greater transparency and accountability, we were able to turn Vincent around to be rated number one among 25 Council in the same Catalyse survey - including for governance and leadership in the community.

I know that there are Local Governments in this room right now who are undergoing that reform journey.

But where Local Governments cannot drive that reform themselves, then we do need to have better regulation and assistance put in place. No one wins in this sector when an inquiry is called. It gives the sector a bad name. And currently, as the Local Government Act stands, there are really limited tools for intervention. It's either managed at a Council level, or when a full enquiry is held.

That's why I have indicated I am working on a significant reform package to tackle the challenge of dysfunction - and address the recommendations from a number of reports including The Local Government Review Panel Report, commissioned by the Local Government Minister, the excellent Select Committee Report, the City of Perth Inquiry and the WA Local Government Association's advocacy papers.

As you might know, I am working under these key themes:

- earlier intervention, effective regulation, and stronger penalties
- reducing red tape, increasing simplicity and consistency
- greater transparency and accountability
- stronger local democracy and community engagement
- clearer roles and responsibilities - particularly between the CEO, Mayor and elected officials
- improved financial management and reporting.

This is a big agenda, and I am working as hard as I can to get these reforms right. And as you can appreciate, this does take time, and we need to ensure that we get the processes absolutely right.

So my commitment to everyone in this room is that I am an open and accessible Minister. I'm interested genuinely in your ideas around reform. I will go out of my way to highlight Local Governments that are doing great things, that are being innovative, that are promoting great culture, and cutting red tape. This is a big agenda, this will be sweeping reform, but I am ready to work with you and listen.

And that's why today, I am re-signing the partnership agreement with WALGA on behalf of the Government of Western Australia. To demonstrate that commitment, that I will work with you on that reform agenda as well as other issues facing the sector. Thank you.

AGM ADDRESS

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, HON MIA DAVIES MLA



Leader of the opposition
Hon Mia Davies

It's really wonderful to be here today to join you as part of your State Convention. I certainly don't take for granted the opportunity to speak now that we're in Opposition, and I appreciate the fellowship and the interaction that we have with your members over the course of this Convention.

I stand here today in a very different role to the one that I had last time that I spoke to you just 12 months ago, and it gives a new meaning to the saying that a lot can happen in a year.

When last we met I said to you all that I hope you felt you had a good and open connection with myself and my team, particularly those of you in the regions who our Members have regular contact with.

Now, more than ever, it is important for us to build and maintain this connection across the length and breadth of the State, not only in the regions but in the metropolitan area. I genuinely believe that we are all trying to get the best outcome for our communities and we will only get there by working together.

And it goes without saying that we value the work that you do as a sector and as leaders in your community.

I certainly didn't anticipate taking on this role as Leader of the Opposition, yet just six months ago the State Election delivered an extraordinary result, and here we are.

The outcome has prompted the Nationals WA and the Liberal Party of WA to form an alliance, use the numbers that we do have to acquit our job as the Opposition as effectively as possible.

Will it look like Oppositions of past? No, I think we need to be realistic - the numbers mean we will have to think outside the box to get the job done. We've never seen such a majority in the Parliament held by either political party.

Managing the business of the Parliament, balanced with our electorate duties and shadow portfolio work and doing the hard work we need to do to rebuild ahead of the next election is a big task, but it is one that I can assure you we're up to. And it stands to reason that we may need to plot a path that sits in uncharted territory as we tackle that task.

Regardless of what that looks like over the next three years, I can assure you that my team and I remain focused on holding the Government to account for its decisions and priorities.

We remain focused on the people of Western Australia and we are working to build a strong base to return balance to the State's Parliament.

As part of this, our National/Liberal Alliance MPs have all taken on shadow portfolios. The Honourable James Hayward MLC, the Nationals WA MP newly elected to represent the South West region has taken on Local Government, and he's also got the Regional Cities portfolio as well. He's here with us today.

James has real life experience when it comes to the Local Government sector and this provides our team with a strong platform from which to scrutinise policy and legislation that impact your operations as a sector. He is one of several in the Opposition who have served in Local Government, including the Deputy Leader of the Opposition Shane Love MLA, and the Honourable Steve Martin MLC.

The Honourable Martin Aldridge MLC I think you'll be familiar had some detailed work done as part of that Committee last year, will be a familiar face and has a great understanding of the issues that you deal with in your sector.

On the matters that require our attention specific to your sector, we have people that have lived and breathed some of the challenges that you navigate. On the matters that require attention in the broader community, those that impact your constituents, and your neighbours, we stand ready to work hard to earn the trust of the electorate and provide an alternative vision for our state ahead of the next state election.

And that does go somewhat to the theme of your Convention – Leading the Way: Looking Forward, Looking Back; and it's hard to go past that without referencing the great man Slim Dusty; because you can take the girl out of the country but not the country out of the girl. I want to remind you of the third stanza of that song: "There are strange days full of change on the way/ But we'll be fine, unlike some/ I'll be leaning forward to see what's coming."

We have some strange days ahead, that's absolutely certain. The pandemic has changed our way of life and the concept of what's normal. Daily reporting on COVID cases, restrictions that separate us from our loved ones, borders that challenge our businesses and communities to secure key workers, and pressures that emerged due to living in a sustained state of emergency have become part of our lives.

AGM ADDRESS

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, MIA DAVIES MLA (CONTINUED)

It is no mean feat to achieve COVID-free status here in WA. And I am not so biased that I won't acknowledge the work that's been done to keep our State safe by Government, and by the broader community.

What concerns me is that we're a COVID-free State that's flush with funds, a \$5.6 billion surplus, yet we have a health system on its knees, a deepening housing crisis and a skills shortage that is impacting major sectors across the State.

If you return a surplus of that magnitude, you would rightfully expect to have a first-class health system, housing for your citizens, and solutions for that skills shortage. That is not the case, and we know that these challenges flow through to your sector, where you are pressured to find local solutions that ultimately cost your ratepayers.

Likewise I am deeply concerned that we have a Labor Government that is once more pursuing electoral reform that will disenfranchise regional Western Australians, a move that will ultimately impact our whole State. On this, can I congratulate WALGA and the sector for having the fortitude to stick its head above the parapet and point out how flawed these reforms are.

The power that Labor has in Parliament wasn't gifted to them by the people of Western Australia to embed total control of both Houses of Parliament for years to come. It is something that should be used judiciously and carefully. Unfortunately this has not been the case in the last six months and it does leave me wondering what else the Government might decide to pursue with its massive majority in the next three years.

We have seen already the Premier hand-pick the Corruption and Crime Commissioner, a person that should be appointed in a bi-partisan manner at arm's length from Government and the people that they oversee. We've seen the announcement to end native forestry here in WA, and regardless of whether you agree with it or not, and the Opposition does not, no industry should be ended without consultation.

Decisions like this, and electoral reform, should have been put to the people of Western Australia so they could have decided how important it was to them.

Can you imagine if your sector operated like this? There'd be inquiries, and Commissioners in your offices in a flash. So thank you for standing up to be counted on electoral reform. You are on the right side of this argument, and at this stage it is only people power can stop the progress of the deeply flawed legislation they've introduced.

Of the three tiers of government, your sector is without doubt the bedrock. You are at the coalface and play a critical role in our State's prosperity.

As an Opposition we recognise the diversity of your responsibilities and the challenges that come with this, whether it's in the inner city, or the regional and remote corners of the State. My undertaking to you as the leader of the Opposition is to work with you on the issues that matter most. Local Government reform, as we've heard this morning, is still on the Government's agenda, and we will be watching closely as this progresses.

As you map out your priorities and plot a path for your communities in a world that is forever changed by COVID, please keep sharing those challenges and aspirations with us as the opposition.

Those of you that have known me for some time know that I genuinely believe in local decision making. I believe in decentralised Government, I don't believe that politicians and bureaucrats will make a better decision on where a dollar should be spent than the people that live and work and invest in that region or area. And that belief remains unchanged, no matter what the changes we've seen in the last six months.

I respect your role in making our State a great place to live and work and I enjoy meeting with you all, and appreciate your work as Councillors. I appreciate the employment you create and the gaps that your teams fill as you deliver services and infrastructure whether it is in the inner city or regional WA. And in times of crisis, you are the first point of contact and the people your community turn to for guidance.

On that note, can I make a special mention of the Shires that were impacted by Cyclone Seroja and the work you've done to get your communities back on their feet. In particular the Shire of Northampton but I know there are many that have been dealing with the aftermath for some time.

Also to the communities impacted by the bushfires over the summer, it was just utterly devastating and I know that you will be dealing with that for many years to come.

I genuinely look forward to continuing to work with you and I wish you all the very best for your Convention and deliberations over the course of the next few days. You have a compelling line up of speakers and forums ahead, well done to WALGA for pulling this together and thank you very much for inviting us to be a part of your Convention once more.

ESPERANCE COMMUNITY VIEW WINS SHOWCASE IN PIXELS

An artwork portraying another façade of a famous beachside town has taken out the top award in a community art competition.

The #shoWcAse in Pixels competition is run by the WA Local Government Association as part of its annual Local Government Convention, held at Crown Perth this year.

One of the State's longest ongoing art projects, this competition has evolved from a display of physical banners in the CBD area, to a digital screening at the Yagan Square 45-metre high tower screen.

WALGA Chief Executive Officer Nick Sloan said the artworks received this year illustrated the landscapes and stories of communities in each Local Government.

The winning artwork from a Shire of Esperance high school student portrays the community holding the town together, and leading the way for the Local Government.

"This is such a rare insight of seeing how the Esperance community views itself," Mr Sloan said.

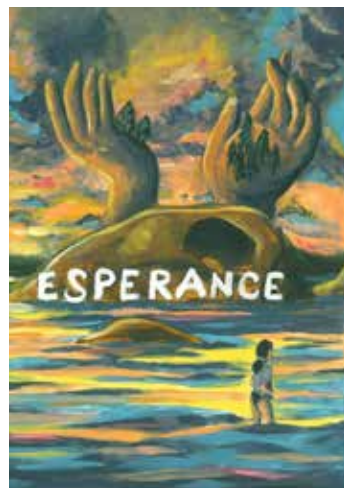
"It is a side of Esperance not commonly perceived – we reflect on the Shire being a beachside town, commonly portrayed by white sand and blue water. Instead, the high school artist interpreted this year's Convention theme Leading the Way through a community message.

"The essence of the artwork goes beyond beaches and big pine trees – as the artist has emphasised that the town is made up of the community, depicted by the hands holding up the natural beauty in the artwork."

The #shoWcAse in Pixels competition has categories open to primary and high schools, community groups and professional or digital artists.

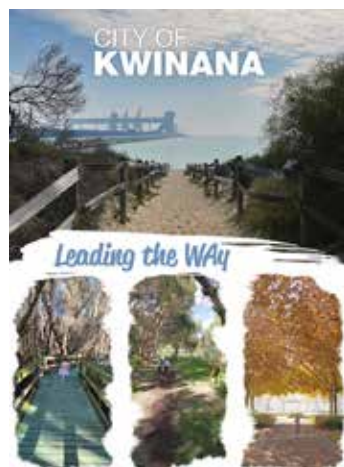
Artworks were displayed on the digital screen tower of Yagan Square for three weeks during September and may be used ongoing as display slots become available.

WINNERS OF THE 2021 SHOWCASE IN PIXELS COMPETITION:



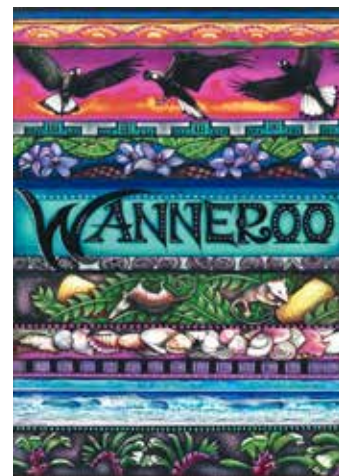
Shire of Esperance

Overall Winner/Joint Winner
Secondary School



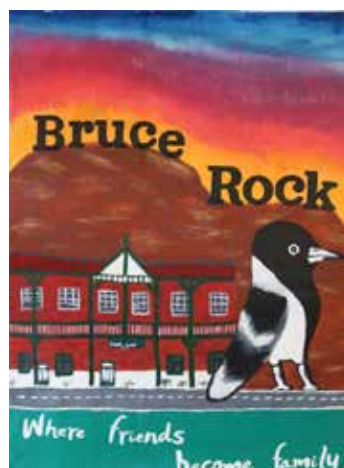
City of Kwinana

Professional/Digital



City of Wanneroo

Community Group/Amateur Artist



Shire of Bruce Rock

Joint Winner Secondary School



Shire of Manjimup

Upper Primary School

Around the Nation

News from State Associations across the country

NSW



Councils Frustrated at Limited Start of Promised Roads Takeback

A State Government plan to resume responsibility for 400 kilometres of local roads – less than three percent of the promised 15,000 – was a massive disappointment for Local Government, the sector's peak body said today.

Local Government NSW (LGNSW) President Linda Scott said Councils had been eagerly awaiting the first steps towards the takeback promised by the NSW Government at the 2019 State election.

"Almost 120 Councils across NSW applied for priority road takebacks, but only five applications – representing just over 391 kilometres of road – met the Government's criteria," Cr Scott said.

"This falls woefully short of what we were hoping for.

"This outcome also raises real concerns about the Government's subsequent commitment to help Councils maintain local jobs by awarding Road Maintenance Council Contracts (RMCC) to them.

"These contracts are vitally important to ensure Councils are not financially worse off under road takebacks and, equally importantly, not forced to lay off road maintenance workers under new arrangements."

Cr Scott said LGNSW would be seeking assurances from the Government that Councils would not be worse off under road reclassification and takeback arrangements, and that Council jobs were protected in the process.

Her comments follow the NSW Government's release of the Independent Panel's Interim Report into road classification and the transfer of regional roads to state ownership, including recommendations for a Priority Round of transfers and reclassifications.

"The Government undertakes reclassification of roads on a regular basis, and all too often Councils are foisted with more and more roads to take care of. The Local Government

sector is currently responsible for around 80 per cent of NSW's 163,000 kilometres of roads," Cr Scott said.

"This is cost shifting at its worst and has absorbed billions of dollars of ratepayers' money over the past decade.

"We fought hard for the Government to take back roads to alleviate the unsustainable burden borne by Councils, and welcomed the Government's 2019 election promise.

"I was also encouraged when the Government set aside \$250 million towards upgrading transferred roads in this year's State Budget, which amounts to around 1000 kilometres of road sealing and will bring welcome improvements to our State's road network.

"I am hopeful that when the Government's full round of applications for road takeback open at the end of this month, we will start to see faster progress along with the guarantees we seek around maintenance contracts to ensure communities are not worse off and local jobs are protected."

VIC



Call for Councils and Communities to Tackle Ageism

The Municipal Association of Victoria is supporting a state-wide campaign to reduce ageism in our community.

It is partnering with EveryAGE Counts to shed light on the prejudice expressed towards a person because of their age as well as discriminatory practices against older people when it comes to employment and other social roles.

MAV Board President, Cr David Clark, explained that ageism is a prejudice expressed towards a person because of their age.

He said, for older people, it impacts confidence, quality of life, job prospects, health and control over life decisions, and in its extreme, results in elder abuse. Ageism can also deny society an enormous range of economic and social benefits that can flow from the full participation of older people in community life.

"It is similar to other 'ism's' and impacts people of all ages, particularly older people and young people," Cr Clark said.

"While most people would know that overlooking a prospective employee purely due to their age is ageist, other forms of ageism are not as obvious.

"Examples that can distort our attitudes to older people include a fixation on 'anti-aging' products or the preponderance of birthday cards that portray getting older in a negative light.

"These examples can often go unnoticed and so, it can be difficult to immediately recognise the need for an ageism campaign."

The inaugural Ageism Awareness Day will be held on 1 October, which will be celebrated under the theme: 'Ageism. Know it. Name it.'

The day coincides with the launch of the 2021 Victorian Seniors Festival Reimagined, and the United Nations General Assembly proclamation of the Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021-2030) as an opportunity to bring all parts of the global community together to improve the lives of older people, their families, and the communities in which they live.

There are many ways Councils and communities can become involved and support the campaign - from signing of a pledge to social media posts; addressing ageism within an organisation and triggering conversations in the community across all age groups.

Councils will also be encouraged to work toward older people being celebrated for their diversity of interests and respectfully acknowledged for their positive contribution to local communities, families, organisations and the economy.

"Although, ageism is prolific across all areas of society and can take place within the workplace, healthcare or aged care as well as within families and local communities, due to the nature of ageism, it can often go unnoticed and is not always recognised for its negative impacts," Cr Clark said.

"The MAV encourages Councils to consider the issue of ageism through meetings, events and communications, and calling for support from elected representatives, senior Council officers and staff.

"I and my fellow Board members were proud to sign the 'Pledge' and we welcome Mayors and Councillors across the state to do the same."

TAS



Local Government Reform

The Minister for Local Government and Planning indicated that the process suggested by the Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council's (PESRAC) for Local Government reform would not be progressing. Instead the Government is now proposing to engage directly with Local Government and their communities on opportunities for reform.

"LGAT welcomes genuine discussion and collaboration around opportunities for Councils and the communities they represent" said Mayor Holmdahl, LGAT President. As the level of government closest to communities, Local Government supports a reform process that delivers change in the best interests of Tasmanian communities.

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

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

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

"LGAT has a strong history on working collaboratively with State Government to enable Local Government to best serve the needs of our communities. I am confident the Minister for Local Government will follow this approach as we work together on Local Government's future" Mayor Holmdahl said.

ALGA



Local Government Closing the Gap: A Way Forward For Australian Communities

A new resource to accelerate efforts to provide greater opportunities for Indigenous Australians at the local community level has been published by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA).

Developed by ALGA and its state and territory association members, the guide sets out key actions Councils can undertake to meet the priority reforms laid out under the landmark National Agreement on Closing the Gap signed in 2020.

ALGA's Closing the Gap Implementation Plan will:

- support Australian Local Governments to harness the opportunities provided to communities by the national Closing the Gap Plan
- assist state and territory governments to work with Local Governments in the implementation of the National Closing the Gap Agreement, and
- support strengthened shared decision-making at the local level, supporting Local Governments to better partner with the Commonwealth, states and territory governments, and local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

ALGA President Linda Scott said the Implementation Plan reflects Local Government's strong commitment to giving First Nations people the means to build stronger communities, particularly by accelerating new employment opportunities at the Local Government level.

"In many communities, Councils are proud to be a major employer of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and benefit from the skills of our highly trained, knowledgeable people in the work we do," Cr Scott said.

"This Implementation Plan is also about providing Local Governments additional tools to embrace collaboration with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to deliver the Closing the Gap objectives in ways tailored to their individual circumstances and needs."

Councils are the level of government closest to the people and play an essential role in supporting and helping to steer the development of policies and programs in partnership with local Indigenous peoples that address our priorities at local and regional levels.

To help ensure better life outcomes for First Nations peoples, Local Governments have advocated strongly for Council representatives to be engaged in the co-design of the Indigenous Voice – and for Aboriginal community-controlled Councils to be recognised nationally.

To help ensure better opportunities for First Nations peoples, Local Governments have advocated strongly for Council representatives to be engaged in the co-design of the Indigenous Voice and for Aboriginal community-controlled Councils to be recognised nationally.

A motion to support the recognition of Aboriginal controlled Councils and ensure stronger collaboration across all levels of government won unanimous support at the National General Assembly of Local Government in June after being put forward by the East Arnhem Regional Council.

The neighbouring West Arnhem Regional Council supports indigenous employment by being a member of Supply Nation – a national database of verified Indigenous businesses facilitating closer connections between Indigenous businesses and procurement departments.

"Our Implementation Plan will build on this work and enhance the shared policy development and decision-making at the Local Government level that is fundamental to support the development of First Nations communities," Cr Scott said.

Australia's reputation as an egalitarian society that values a fair go for all has been sullied by repeated failures over many decades to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have the same life outcomes as non-indigenous Australians.

"I am confident this Implementation plan will enable Local Governments to work more effectively at transforming local lives through providing local jobs and career pathways," Cr Scott said.

WA LOCAL GOVERNMENT HONOURS AWARDS

CELEBRATING OUTSTANDING SERVICE ACROSS THE SECTOR

More than 40 years' service across administrative and governance roles has seen Joondalup Deputy Mayor Russel Fishwick receive Life Membership to the WA Local Government Association.

Cr Fishwick received the award at WALGA's Annual General Meeting alongside 22 other Local Government Elected Members and Officers as part of the Association's honours program.

WALGA President Mayor Tracey Roberts congratulated Cr Fishwick on the membership, saying his exceptional and long serving career had benefited both the sector and local communities.

"In addition to the many initiatives Cr Fishwick has helped to bring about in his local community at Joondalup, he has made an important contribution his administrative roles and was instrumental in drafting amendments to the regulations to improve the postal voting system," she said.

"As a WALGA State Councillor since 2015, he also represents the sector on the Local Government Advisory Board and has served on the State Crime Prevention Council and State Graffiti Taskforce."

"Cr Fishwick has given immeasurable service to communities across the metropolitan sector and we thank him for his ongoing contribution."



WALGA President Mayor Tracey Roberts with Life Member Russ Fishwick JP.



Road Safety Awards

The Local Government Road Safety Awards, a joint initiative of WALGA's RoadWise and the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (WA), were presented at the AGM.

The Safe System Approach – Road Infrastructure Improvement Award, presented to the City of Albany for their Middleton Beach Cycle Connectivity project.

The Safe System Approach – Complementary Initiatives Award, presented to the the City of Bunbury for the Don't Trust Your Tired Self South West Driver Fatigue project.

Mayor Roberts congratulated all award recipients, highlighting their role as dedicated community leaders.

"I am delighted to acknowledge the services of this group of exemplary leaders who have all played a significant part in creating the communities that we are all proud of across Western Australia," she said.

"I am continually inspired by the quality of local leadership we have across all our WA communities, and I thank our award recipients for their vision, their service and their compassion for others."

"These awards recognise the leaders who, through many years of hard work and personal commitment, created communities that thrive and prosper, even in the face of global adversity," Mayor Roberts said.

2021 Local Government Honours Award Recipients

Life Membership

Cr Russel Fishwick JP

City of Joondalup

Eminent Service Award

President Leigh Ballard

Shire of Narrogin

Mayor Gary Brennan

City of Bunbury

Cr Rhonda Cole, President

Shire of Narembeen

Cr Noel Dew

Shire of Waroona

Cr Ian Dolton

Shire of Bruce Rock

Mayor Dennis Wellington

City of Albany

Long and Loyal Service Award

Cr Claire Anderson

Town of Victoria Park

Cr Ross Chappell

Shire of Lake Grace

Cr Peter Craig, President

Shire of Leonara

Cr Rodney Duckworth

Shire of Kulin

Cr Ray Hammond

City of Albany

Cr Jorgen Jensen, President

Shire of Mt Magnet

Cr David Lovelock

Shire of Victoria Plains

Mr John Salerian

ex Shire of Waroona

Cr Larry Scott

Shire of Waroona

Cr Sandy Stock-Standen

Shire of Northampton

Cr Robert Sutton

City of Albany

Cr Mike Walmsley, President

Shire of Waroona

Merit Award

Cr Evette Smeathers

City of Karratha

Mr Craig Wright

ex Shire of Waroona

Local Government Distinguished Officer Award

Mr Neville Hale

ex Shire of Tammin

Mrs Barbara Powell

City of Kwinana

The Safe System Approach – Local Road Safety Partnerships Award (Regional), presented to the Shire of Narembeen for their SOCK – Save Our Country Kids project.

The Safe System Approach – Local Road Safety Partnerships Award (Metropolitan), presented to the City of Rockingham for their Road Safety Action Plan 2019-2022.

The Joe North Award for significant and outstanding contribution to road safety, presented to Franz Winkler in recognition of his passion and his tireless efforts to improve road safety outcomes through advocacy, training and mentorship.

MACWA Awards

City of Mandurah were the overall winners in the Regional Capitals Alliance-sponsored Most Accessible Communities in WA Awards.



OCT/NOV 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

ALBANY

Whether you skate, ride, or roll there was something to keep you moving at the launch of the Albany Youth Challenge Park. To officially launch the park and get all user groups down to celebrate, the City hosted the Youth Challenge Park Official Launch Party on Friday, 24 September. A DJ brought the atmosphere to the event while a range of kids workshops for skateboarders, scooter riders and BMX enthusiasts entertained the crowd.



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.

Correction: The image for Albany in the Around the State in Pictures Western Councillor Aug-Sep edition did not reflect the caption – WALGA apologises for this and has included the correct image and caption this time.

ARMADALE

The heart of Armadale in WA was recently transformed into a wee bit of Scotland when around 20,000 people enjoyed the 26th annual Scottish-themed Armadale Highland Gathering. Every year, the City of Armadale celebrates all things Scottish at the City's unique family friendly event attracting festival goers from across the State. The Perth Kilt Run held during the gathering is Australia's only fun run where participants don a kilt.

Photo Credit: 7 to 1 Photography



ASHBURTON

A recent animal desexing campaign by the Shire of Ashburton has been hailed a great success. The initiative, led by Onslow-based Ranger Hamish James and Dr Katy Davis from the Karratha Veterinary Hospital, successfully desexed, microchipped, rehomed, removed and conducted welfare checks on over 230 animals across the region. The resulting positive outcomes include increased compliance with proposed changes to the Dog Act 1976 and record-keeping as well as a reduction in feral animals from the local environment.



AUGUSTA MARGARET RIVER

To celebrate WA Mental Health Week, themed 'Mental Health starts with our children', the Shire of Augusta Margaret River held a mental health week event for the community with the aim of engaging young people in a range of health activities. The event saw the community come together at the Margaret River Youth Precinct for a roller disco, watch a skateboarding demo on ramps built by local young people, gain mental health advice and information and enjoy other fun games and activities.

BUSSELTON

Recently the City of Busselton celebrated the Ballaarat engine's 150th birthday. Made in Victoria for the WA Timber Company, the engine hauled timber from Wonnerup to Yoganup between 1871 and 1888. It spent a portion of time in Perth before being returned to Busselton in 1937 at the request of the community.

Between 2012 and 2016 it underwent a much needed restoration before being moved to its current home at Railway House on the Busselton foreshore. Pictured, left to right: City of Busselton Mayor Grant Henley, Railways in Western Australia Historian Philippa Rogers, City of Busselton Cultural Development Officer Jacquie Happ.



BROOME

The Shire of Broome officially opened its new pump track in early October, with the facility already loved by local youngsters.

The project was made possible thanks to a Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund grant from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and is one of several youth-focused projects the Shire has delivered over the last 12 months.

BUNBURY

Works to upgrade and resurface the Bunbury Athletics Track have begun.

The new synthetic layer will allow the track to obtain World Athletics Class 2 certification, making it one of the best track surfaces in the State.

New line marking is also part of the project.

The track is expected to be completed by December.



CANNING

Grow It Local – a platform for community gardeners and growers, in partnership with the City of Canning is proud to announce the Grow It Local Festival, a celebration of backyard, balcony, community garden and window-sill farmers, which will run all spring long.

City of Canning Mayor Patrick Hall said there were many enthusiastic home food growers and gardeners within the City, and Grow It Local would encourage even more residents to try their hand at growing their own produce.

Pictured: Ferndale resident Prunella Riddle, and City of Canning Mayor, Patrick Hall.



CAPEL

The Shire of Capel's Fact or Fiction 2021, launched into its third year by connecting science to art and culture with intriguing and heartfelt presentations. Audiences were offered a unique way to link Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths (STEAM!) with human experience.

Valued partners were South West Rail and Heritage Centre, Capel Golf Club, Dolphin Discovery Centre, Busselton Jetty, South West Womens' Health Centre and Boyanup Primary School.

Pictured from left to right: Dolphin Discovery Centre CEO David Kerr, Shire's "reading fairy" Corenne Lynn, Dolphin Discovery Centre's Jan Tierney, Womens Health Centre's Rebecca Tichbon, Girls in Tech's Lexy McDonald.



COTTESLOE

Friday, 17 September was Australian Citizenship Day. On this day at the Town of Cottesloe, 28 local residents made their pledge to become an Australian Citizen in the War Memorial Hall at Cottesloe Civic Centre. The Town congratulates our new Australian Citizens.

CLAREMONT

Winner of Claremont's 2021 Art Awards Jane Tagney and her piece. Koi Kyenu-ruff (Stirling Range).



COCKBURN

Cockburn parks and playgrounds will benefit from \$530,000 in State Government election funding announced by Cockburn MLA David Scaife, and Local Government Minister John Carey. City of Cockburn Mayor Logan Howlett said upgrades to 13 parks would warm the hearts of local children and their families.

Pictured from left to right: Member for Cockburn David Scaife MLA, Federal Member for Fremantle Josh Wilson MP, Deputy Mayor Cr Lara Kirkwood, Minister for Housing and Local Government Hon John Carey MLA, Mayor Logan Howlett, Beeliar Community Voice President Carissa Garza, Yangebup Family Centre Manager Samantha Williams.



DENMARK

Children's Book Week in Denmark is always such a joy, with wonderful children, enthusiasm about books, and amazing costumes. Book Week at the Denmark Public Library was very eventful this year with staff members dressing up each day as different book characters, and with plenty of fun filled school visits.

Classes from Spirit of Play Community School braved the weather to visit the library and all the kindergarten students from the Denmark Primary School and Spirit of Play received a special book pack from the library as part of the state-wide Better Beginnings program.

Pictured: Denmark Public Library staff dressed up as characters from the Wizard of Oz for 2021 Book Week celebrations. Nicola Shaw (left), Jemma Hipper and Robyn Fairclough.

DERBY/WEST KIMBERLEY

The Shire of Derby/West Kimberley welcomed 250 visitors to the Derby Airport in September for the centennial celebrations commemorating the first commercial flight in Australia.

A welcome reception was held inside the terminal for the 23 planes that had recreated the historic flight from Perth, Geraldton, Onslow, Broome and finally onto Derby.

The flight was in recognition of a great Western Australian, Sir Norman Brearley, who founded Western Australian Airways.



EAST FREMANTLE

Election day came early at the Town of East Fremantle on Wednesday, 8 September, where Charlotte, a Year 6 student of Richmond Primary, was voted in as Junior Mayor for the day and presided over important matters including making the Town more youth friendly and action on climate change. Charlotte is pictured wearing the historic Mayoral robes and chain next to the real Mayor, Jim O'Neill, with her classmates and Principal, Ms Dentith. Is there a future civic leader among them? Let's see!

EXMOUTH

Exmouth's representatives took the opportunity to meet with a number of WA State Government Departments and other Local Governments to discuss issues of concern in the Exmouth community at this year's Local Government Convention. As part of the formal activities of the week, Shire President Matt Niikkula was presented with his Diploma of Local Government (Elected Member), which he completed under a scholarship from the Western Australian Local Government Association. Congratulations!



FREMANTLE

Friday, 1 October marked 12 months since Fremantle's launch of Containers for Change. The City has processed over 4.1 million containers, which equates to 402 tonnes of glass, cans and plastic bottles that have been recycled. Over the last year, the City donated approximately \$30,000 to charities and not-for profits. More than 50 Fremantle businesses generated an extra income, totalling over \$100,000.

Pictured: Resource Recovery Team Leader Darrell Monteiro and Refund Point Operator Tamika Payne celebrate the first anniversary.



GOSNELLS

Within minutes of being officially opened, the City of Gosnells' new all-abilities playground in Langford was being enjoyed by local families. The project is one of 11 all-abilities playgrounds being built over two years by the City, representing a \$5 million investment to improve access to play areas for all young people.

Other all-abilities playgrounds will be built in Gosnells, Beckenham, Canning Vale, Huntingdale, Orange Grove and Thornlie.

GREATER GERALDTON

Fresh paint, tree plantings, parklets and amazing local artwork has unlocked a great deal of vibrancy on Chapman Road in Geraldton.

The Chapman Road Tactical Urbanisation Pilot Project 12-month trial is delivered by the City of Greater Geraldton in partnership with RAC through its Reconnect WA initiative.

The initiative aims to create vibrant streets and public spaces for Western Australians to interact and connect. The stretch of road has been transformed and is now a place for people, not just cars.

Picture: City of Greater Geraldton Councillor Steve Douglas and RAC's A/ Senior Manager Public Policy James Brooks enjoy the parklet on the newly launched Chapman Road.



HARVEY

In April, the Shire of Harvey in partnership with the Binningup Coastcare and Environment Group obtained Coastwest funding for the Binningup Beach restoration. The rehabilitation works were completed in August.

Sand fences have been constructed on the northern and southern end of the beach with jute matting and brushing installed to assist in rebuilding the dunes and to keep people from entering the area. In addition, native seedlings have been planted amongst the dunes to help with rehabilitation.

JERRAMUNGUP

The Shire of Jerramungup celebrated the official opening of the refurbished Boxwood Hill Combined Sports Club facilities in September. The upgrades include new change rooms, toilets, meeting room, umpires room and timekeeper's box, plus many more upgrades! This \$1.4 million project was funded by the Australian Government Building Better Regions Fund, Government of Western Australia, Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund, Shire of Jerramungup and Boxwood Hill Sporting Clubs (BHCSC).

Pictured from left to right: Shire of Jerramungup Project Manager Matt Bowen, Member for Roe Peter Rundle MLA, Federal Member for O'Connor Rick Wilson MP, Deputy President Joanne Iffla, CEO Martin Cuthbert, President Robert Lester, BHCSC President Jarrod King, Deputy CEO Charmaine Solomon and Noongar Elder Eugene Eades.





JOONDALUP

Joondalup Mayor Albert Jacob and Sid the Robot were among those to attend the inaugural Jobs in Joondalup event, held at Joondalup Reception Centre in September. Hosted in conjunction with Lotterywest, the WA Government and Study Perth, the key motivator of this free event was to encourage students – the future Joondalup workforce – to launch and grow their careers in Perth’s northern corridor. Industry experts in the emerging fields of medical and healthcare, construction, mining and resources, digital and cyber security and retail, hospitality and tourism addressed the audience, while experts from Jobs Skills Centre were on hand to offer advice.

KALAMUNDA

The City’s Local Hero Awards are a celebration of the people within our neighborhoods who are passionate about making a difference, freely volunteering to give back to the community. Award winners receive a \$50 KalaCash gift card. Benjamin Hughes was awarded a Young Local Hero Award in recognition of his volunteer work (twice a week) at the Kalamunda History Village. Benjamin ensures the paths are clear and that everything looks in tip top shape.

Benjamin shares his passion for all things vintage, talking to people at the History Village and around the City about the history of Kalamunda, while dressed in vintage clothing.



KWINANA

The City of Kwinana celebrated the 20th anniversary of the opening of the Kwinana Freeway extension from Thomas Road to Safety Bay Road by rolling out the vintage vehicle that was crank-started and driven by Rodney Tenardi in 2001.

This Ford ‘T’ Char-a-banc was also driven along the first stretch of the Freeway to arrive in the City on 11 September, 1994.

Now owned by long-time resident Bob Ridley, it came to the Kwinana Road Board in 1955.

Pictured: Rod Tenardi and Bob Ridley.



KELLERBERRIN

The Shire of Kellerberrin has successfully completed the construction of its new Pool Plant and Pump Room as Stage One of the Kellerberrin Swimming Pool Redevelopment. The project includes new chlorination system, storage facilities for the aquatic club, dry and chemical stores. This project was funded through the Drought Communities Programme.

LEONORA

On Sunday, 6 June, the building formally known as the Northern Goldfields Regional Office and Administration Centre (NGROAC) was officially opened as the J.G. Epis Centre – honouring Shire of Leonora’s Chief Executive Officer, Mr Jim Epis, who has worked at the Shire for 40 years, 25 of those as the CEO.

The ceremony was opened by Federal Member for O’Connor, Mr Rick Wilson MP, and Shire President, Cr Peter Craig.





MANDURAH

Mandurah has been named WA's Most Accessible Community, recognising efforts and leadership in creating an inclusive city and strengthening community connections.

The Most Accessible Community in WA (MACWA) Awards were announced on Monday, September 20 with the City of Mandurah taking out first and second placings in two of the three award categories, and being named overall winner (Most Accessible Community in WA Award) among all Local Government entries.

The accolade reflects the City's commitment to ensuring services, places, spaces and community life is accessible and inclusive of everyone.



MERREDIN

Hundreds of travelers from all around Western Australia set their maps destination to Merredin for the inaugural Gateway Merredin Festival, held during the September long weekend from Friday, 24 September to Sunday, 26 September. With illumination storytelling, a game day showdown, live entertainment and much more, there was something for everyone to enjoy! Thank you to the funding bodies Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, and Lotterywest, and the fabulous local sponsors.

MELVILLE

The City of Melville's Youth and Safer Melville Teams have launched a pop-up youth event series to foster community connection, create and activate safe spaces for young people and address actual or perceived anti-social behaviour by young people.

To kick off the series, the City hosted a Bubble Soccer, Archery GoGo and Drumbeat session which was attended by a vast age-range.



MUKINBUDIN

The Shire has utilised the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure funding for many projects in the town, including the construction of 700 metres of new footpaths. In total, Shire has allocated \$150,000 to this project alone.

This project is completed and has vastly improved the look of our town and the safety of local residents, young and old.



MUNDARING

Shire of Mundaring's Youth C.R.E.W. hosted its first disco in October. The Let's Glow Disco at Mundaring Arena featured a live DJ, chill zone, glow in the dark face painting and complimentary popcorn and fairy floss.

The free event was planned and delivered by the Shire's Youth Advisory Group, known as the Youth C.R.E.W, and was a school holiday highlight for local teenagers. C.R.E.W. members honed important skills such as event planning, research, team work, communication, budgeting and negotiation and are planning more events for 2022.





NAREMBEEN

At the recent WA Local Government Association AGM, the Shire of Narembeem received The Safe System Approach – Local Road Safety Partnership Award (Regional) for SOCK – Save Our Country Kids road safety initiative. Shire President Cr Rhonda Cole accepted the award for this annual week-long event which provides a coordinated approach to engage the entire community in raising awareness of safety on our roads. Thanks to WALGA and Roadwise for the award.

NORTHAM

The longest pedestrian suspension bridge in the southern hemisphere that spans the Avon River in Northam has received a spectacular upgrade as part of a unique activation project. This project was made possible through the support of RAC's Reconnect WA funding that helps communities reimagine and revitalise streets and public spaces.

The Shire of Northam was able to breathe new life into the treasured bridge with the installation of over 1200 lights that can be programmed with interactive sequence.



PERENJORI

She's on the loose from the City of Stirling, but the Shire of Perenjori managed to corner her in Perenjori for a three-month stint as a Community Development Officer...

Laura Griffin responded to Perenjori's distress call for key staff to help us recover from the impacts of cyclone Seroja. In a magnificent act of sector support, the City of Stirling has "loaned" Laura to the Shire to help rebuild community confidence and resilience. The police are doing all they can to make sure she enjoys her stay with us.

PERTH

The last week in September saw Perth transform into a festival of football, alive and buzzing with atmosphere and excitement. Businesses dressed their shops in AFL paraphernalia while 22 buildings lit up in the lead up to the game. The City of Perth hosted 11 events across the week including daily Footy Place activations, the Friday People's Parade, Premiership Cup celebration, the AFL Grand Final live sites and the Twilight Hawkers Markets.



PORT HEDLAND

Port Hedland is protecting its valuable coastline with the construction of three seawalls. The seawalls will mitigate the risks of erosion and inundation into the future, crucial in a part of Australia which experiences the most annual cyclone crossings. The seawalls are a \$17.5 million investment, made possible by public and private funding.



RAVENSTHORPE

Monday, 13 September saw the Ground Break Ceremony for the new Ravensthorpe Cultural Precinct. Shire President Cr Keith Dunlop welcomed Federal Member for O'Connor Rick Wilson MP, Member for the Agricultural Region Hon Shelley Payne MLC, Councillors, Shire Staff and community members who gathered to mark this significant occasion. The Precinct is being built with the support of the Australian Government through the Building Better Regions Fund (round 4) and will be completed by December 2022.

ROCKINGHAM

The City of Rockingham recently completed work on the Shoalwater Reserve Activity Node. The project was the first part of the City's Safety Bay Shoalwater Foreshore Master Plan, which provides a vision for the foreshore over the next 20 – 30 years. Works carried out will enhance the foreshore experience for the local and wider community. Mayor Barry Sammels is pictured with Scrappy the Sea Lion, an artwork installed on site.



SERPENTINE JARRAHDALE

A large crowd flocked to Jarrahdale Oval to enjoy the Jarrahdale Log Chop and SJ Lions Club Country Fair on Sunday, 3 October. Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale Councillors and staff held a stall at the event, chatting with members of the community about key upcoming projects and gauging their thoughts on the future of the Shire.

SHARK BAY

The Shire of Shark Bay, in collaboration with the Shark Bay Community Resource Centre, hosted an event for Mental Health Week which included a kids colour fun run, a community sausage sizzle, community market stalls and an outdoor movie. This movie was hosted by the Chapman Valley Men's Shed in their traveling "Shinema", a cinema bus. The event was a huge success attended by locals and visiting tourists.



SOUTH PERTH

To celebrate the fifth anniversary of the driverless RAC Intellibus® trial on South Perth roads, the City and the RAC were proud to unveil a new sculpture at South Perth Foreshore. Created by the Tony Jones Arts Projects team, R/evolve symbolises ideas of change and movement associated with transport, and reflects on the advances in transportation that the RAC Intellibus® will continue to pave the way for.

Pictured: RAC Group CEO Robert Slocombe and City of South Perth Mayor Greg Milner.

STIRLING

New art deco motif lighting and planter boxes are the latest improvements in a years-long campaign to improve and beautify the Mount Lawley precinct.



VICTORIA PARK

The Town of Victoria Park became the home of footy in September with the AFL Finals Series relocated to Optus Stadium. There was lots of colour and excitement throughout Vic Park, centred along the famous Albany Highway café strip. In the lead up to the Grand Final, the Town hosted a free family-friendly event, featuring face painters, bubbles, prizes, and appearances from the West Coast Eagles and Perth Football Club.

Pictured: Mayor Karen Vernon on Albany Highway during the AFL Finals Series



SUBIACO

Subiaco's buzzing cafe scene was showcased in a 10-program of events from Thursday, 5 August to Saturday, 14 August. The Subi Coffee Series saw 27 local businesses hosting a range of caffeinated events and specials including a tiramisu masterclass hosted by former My Kitchen Rules stars Jordan and Anna Bruno (pictured).

The initiative delivered through the City of Subiaco's destination marketing brand, See Subiaco received an estimated attendance of more than 2500.



VINCENT

The City of Vincent has been gearing up for the launch of FOGO (Food Organics, Garden Organics). The three-bin waste system will replace the existing two-bin system and revolutionise the way we deal with rubbish. Organic waste from the FOGO bin will be collected weekly and taken to a regional composting facility where it will be turned into high quality compost.

The introduction of FOGO is a giant leap towards the City's goal of zero waste to landfill by 2028.

WONGAN-BALLIDU

The Shire of Wongan-Ballidu recently welcomed sporting legends and Olympics Unleashed programme ambassadors Jen Reilly and Luci Marsh (centre of the photograph), to the recently opened sporting complex in Wongan Hills.

Both athletes engaged brilliantly with their young audience who were encouraged to pursue their sporting aspirations and dream big.

Taking time out to enjoy the afternoon's fun were Community Services Manager Jack Macnulty (far right) and Shire President Cr. Mandy Stephenson (far left).



CONVENTION

WA LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONVENTION 2021



The 2021 Local Government Convention saw approximately 500 delegates attend a new format held at Crown Perth, together with 81 companies participating in the Trade Exhibition.

Following the theme Leading the WAY: Looking Forward, Looking Back, the program encouraged delegates to reflect on achievements across the course of the sector's 150 year history and plan for the next phase of our future.

A Mayors' and Presidents' forum was held immediately prior to the formal Convention, with Optus Stadium Chief Executive Mike McKenna, Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner Darren Klemm and Minister for Emergency Services the Hon Reece Whitby MLA joining the discussions.

A Heads of Agencies Breakfast events offered Mayors, Presidents and CEOs of Member Councils the opportunity to meet with Heads of Government Agencies in portfolios relevant to sector operations in order to facilitate some relaxed discussion around specific areas of Members' interest.

The Association AGM was held on Monday, with a range of honours and awards being presented, recognising the achievements of both individuals and Councils in service to the Local Government sector as well as in the areas of accessible communities and road safety.

Also at the AGM, WALGA President Mayor Tracey Roberts, Local Government Minister the Hon John Carey MLA and LG Pro President Jamie Parry signed the Partners

in Government Agreement formalising a commitment between the two spheres of government.

The Convention Gala Dinner was held at Optus Stadium and included the launch of *To Dwell in Unity*, the book commemorating the sesquicentenary of Local Government authored by Dr Chris Berry and supported by WALGA and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.

WALGA President Mayor Tracey Roberts congratulated Dr Berry on his publication, saying it was an important marker in the State's history.

"I'm so pleased and proud to see the progress and development of our sector and our State as reflected in this publication, and thank Dr Berry for his hard work in bringing this about," Mayor Roberts said.

Keynote speakers in this year's program included former Foreign Minister Hon Julie Bishop and CEO of the soon-to-be-crowned AFL Premiers Melbourne Demons Gary Pert.

A special breakfast event featured WA locals Russell Ord and Shanan Worrall sharing their extraordinary experiences chasing big waves in the South West.

Convention plenary sessions explored mental health and the state and federal political arena, whilst concurrent sessions focused on emergency management recovery, roles and responsibilities across the sector, economic resilience, integrated planning and reporting and waste avoidance.

Featured over the next few pages are photos from the event.









AWARDS

Local Government Diploma Graduates

The 2021 Local Government Convention saw a record number of 18 graduating students:

Cr Christopher Antonio
President, Shire of Northam

Cr Laurene Bonza,
President, Shire of Dundas

Cr Lorna Buchan
City of Rockingham

Cr Jennifer Davis
City of Belmont

Cr John Daw
President, Shire of Mundaring

Cr Blake D'Souza
City of South Perth

Cr Hayley Edwards
City of Rockingham

Cr Liz Guidera
President, Shire of Katanning

Cr Kelly Hick
City of Busselton

Cr Frank Johnson
Shire of Gingin

Cr Douglas Kitchen
Shire of Capel

Cr Matthew Niikula
President, Shire of Exmouth

Cr Tracey Rathbone
Shire of Coolgardie

Cr Michelle Rich
President, Shire of
Serpentine Jarrahdale

Mayor Keri Shannon
Town of Cambridge

Cr Chontelle Stone
City of Cockburn

Cr Kevin Trent
Shire of York

Cr Leanne Wringe
Shire of Donnybrook-
Balingup

Cr Jack Carmody from
the Shire of Laverton and
Cr Sarah Patterson
from the City of Gosnells
received the Jacqui Dodd
Diploma Scholarships
for their upcoming study
requirements.



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,

ROBYN CRANE, A LEADING PILBARA WOMAN

Robyn Crane arrived in the Pilbara in 1971. Thirty-five years later, she left the region after taking a leading role on the Roebourne Shire Council, national consultative bodies and as Chief Executive Officer of the Pilbara Development Commission.

Robyn and her family arrived in Dampier in December 1971, later moving to Paraburdoo where they lived for eighteen months. From very early on, Robyn was active in community affairs, initially as secretary of the progress association in Paraburdoo, and later active in the Dampier Community Association. Living in both pre-established and company towns, Robyn came to the conclusion that even though the quality of housing was reasonable, the towns themselves

had been built by men with little thought for the needs of families. Childcare facilities, for example, were non-existent.

As one of its first community building acts, she worked with a group of women that successfully lobbied the Hamersley mining company to allocate a house to be used as a child care centre in the company town of Dampier. Robyn was centre administrator from 1976 to 1985 and it was during this time that she was appointed to a Ministerial Committee to review the state's child welfare regulations.

In 1970 the rate revenue of the Shire of Roebourne was less than \$5,000 but it was clear that the then pastoral based Shire would undergo a transformation due to significant resource developments. To facilitate the systematic development of the Shire, the seven sitting councillors resigned in December 1970.

A commissioner (Walter Klenk) was appointed until an elected Council resumed control in May 1976. The commissioner appointed the former councillors to an advisory committee which was later expanded to include community members from Dampier, Karratha and Wickham. This included Robyn Crane.

When the elected Council was to be reconstituted in 1976 Robyn was asked by community members to run for election but was informed by the Shire Clerk that she couldn't, as the Act provided that only people with their name on a property lease could stand.

Most of the people who fitted into this category were the men who worked for the mining

companies, and not their wives. This was the days before the universal franchise applied to local government elections.

Robyn was willing to put her hand up for Council but was unimpressed by this advice that she was ineligible to stand. Other women of the Shire of Roebourne were equally dismayed. They picketed for the right to vote and protested that a way had to be found to give Robyn the right to stand.

Mining companies seemed not prepared to write tenancy agreements with other than the one male employee of the company. Hamersley Iron eventually agreed that Robyn could hold the lease for the childcare centre to enable her to nominate for a position on the Dampier Ward. She was successful in being elected, on what must have been a practically 100% male vote, becoming the first female councillor on the Shire of Roebourne.

She went on to be the first female Deputy Shire President in 1978 and Shire President in 1979, serving in that latter role for five years in what was a crucial time for the Shire's development.

One contemporary described her as a very strong woman who ruled the Council with an iron hand. Looking to serve Local Government and the Pilbara more widely, she was the first female member of the Country Shire Councils Association Executive.

As the Local Government Act at this time only provided a vote for the nominated occupier, Robyn's wish was to enable greater voting rights for women, inspiring the Shire of Roebourne to seek a

fix to the legislation to allow the spouse of an occupier to vote. This was in place for the 1981 elections, after June Craig, the first female Minister for Local Government, paved the way with introducing the new section 35 (12) added by the Local Government Amendment Act 1981.

Robyn served on a broad range of community groups including the Dampier Archipelago Board, the Townsite Development Committee and the Executive of the Northern Development Council. Her work in local government gave her opportunities and a profile that eventually led to her being asked to join the Commonwealth Government's National Women's Advisory Council in the early 1980s.

Robyn was also busy working with the likes of the Department of Industrial Development and Woodside planning to meet the future needs of the growing community. Later, in the 1990s, she would work in the Department of State Development's regional services branch, overseeing the South Hedland Enhancement Scheme. Robyn, with her extensive knowledge of the Pilbara and experience in regional development, would eventually take up the position of Chief Executive Officer of the Pilbara Development Commission, retiring in 2005.

Robyn Crane was perhaps not the first woman to serve the community in the State's North West through Local Government, but she played a key role in the evolution of Pilbara communities. 'If you want to make a difference', she argued, 'you need to get in there and try'.

References:

¹ Robyn Crane, <http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders/blogs/WLE0149b.htm>, Western Australian Parliamentary Debates 25 Nov 1970, p.2678; 8 Apr 1981, p.706-8; 14 May 1981, p.2278-9, Hamersley News 8 July 1976, p.5.

² Robyn Crane as Roebourne Shire President in 1979, slwa_b5136562_1

GOVERNANCE ADVOCACY UPDATE

By Tony Brown, Executive Manager,
Governance and Organisational Services

WALGA is engaging in advocacy across a number of topics that relate to Governance across the Local Government sector, including Elected Member Superannuation, external oversight for Elected Member conduct and establishment of regional subsidiaries.

ELECTED MEMBER SUPERANNUATION

WALGA has recently sought feedback on a draft policy proposal to advocate for Elected Members to be required to be paid superannuation.

Recent inquiries into Local Government have reinforced the challenging role of Councillors and their requirement to oversee complex business functions. Given community expectations and time requirements, many Elected Members are sacrificing opportunities for paid work to serve their community on Council and it is an ongoing advocacy position of the Association that Elected Members be appropriately remunerated for their time and contribution.

Payment of superannuation to Elected Members will align with the objective of the superannuation system “to provide income in retirement to substitute or supplement the Age Pension.”^[1] An additional benefit may be to encourage interest and participation amongst people from traditionally underrepresented demographics.

It is proposed WALGA advocate to amend the *Local Government Act 1995* in order to facilitate superannuation payments in addition to fees and allowances, an approach that would avoid issues arising from income tax and fringe benefit tax requirements.

With the inclusion of this topic in the Minister’s recent legislative reform announcement, further consultation will be occurring in this new context.

EXTERNAL OVERSIGHT – ELECTED MEMBER CONDUCT

WALGA has commenced activity as a result of the State Council resolution to ‘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.’

This follows the requirement for all Local Governments to adopt the Model Code under regulations gazetted in February, as well as provisions for behaviour complaints about Elected Members, candidates and committee members to be managed by Council themselves.

The sector position is that this allows for both complainant and respondent to participate in the decision making process which may give rise to conflicts of interest and potential misuse of

complaints, which may in turn lead to factionalism, dysfunction and loss of public confidence. Some of these outcomes are already being realised, with some Local Governments experiencing multiple behavioural complaints, diverting substantial time and finances to managing the prescribed process, resulting in considerable disruption and dysfunction within those Local Governments.

Should these issues not be addressed, it could put at risk the State Government’s current work toward developing proactive and supportive interventions to circumvent instances of disfunction and poor governance in the sector.

WALGA has requested the Minister to prioritise a review of the Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021 to replace local management of behaviour complaints with an external oversight model aligned to the Victorian Councillor Complaints Framework.

REGIONAL SUBSIDIARIES

WALGA and the Local Government Sector has been advocating for Regional Subsidiary shared service model for over 10 years. Whilst the sector welcomed the introduction of legislation enabling subsidiaries to be formed, subsequent regulations were over prescriptive and no regional subsidiaries have eventuated.

The concept allows for two or more Local Governments to establish a Regional Subsidiary to undertake a shared service function on behalf of its constituent Local Governments, governed by a charter rather than legislation. As the charter comprises the primary governance and regulatory instrument, the sector maintains legislative provisions governing the establishment of regional subsidiaries should be light, providing flexibility to adapt charters suited to the specific needs of each individual subsidiary.

As it currently stands, however, the overly prescriptive regulations do not support the principle that the Charter is the primary governance tool. The regulations do not allow for a subsidiary to borrow in its own right and restrictions around commercial activity aren’t clear. Furthermore, financial management and community consultation requirements are complicated and overly onerous.

The current Local Government Act makes sufficient provision for regional subsidiaries to operate successfully. The Act outlines subsidiaries need Ministerial approval, a charter with administrative, accountability and financial requirements, a body corporate structure, audit requirements and governing body.

The sector considers these requirements to be ample in order to operate regional subsidiaries in a successful manner and WALGA is increasing its advocacies to eliminate the red tape issues brought about by current regulations – including the preparation of a model charter to assist regional groups.

ELECTED MEMBER PROFILE

RUSS FISHWICK

CITY OF JOONDALUP



City of Joondalup Deputy Mayor Cr Russ Fishwick is a WALGA State Councillor, representing the North Metropolitan Zone. With more than 40 years' service across administrative and governance roles, he was awarded the WALGA Life Membership at the AGM this year. Cr Fishwick shares with Western Councillor his exceptional and long-serving career that has benefitted the Local Government sector and the communities.

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

I worked in the Local Government sector for 40 years and retired in 2018. I have however since then undertaken work with the Western Australian Electoral Commission on Local Government elections and as a Policy Officer for a State Member of Parliament which was primarily related to reviewing amendments to the Local Government Act 1995. I now have more time to devote to the issues my Local Government is dealing with and enjoy a bit more time to surf and play bowls.

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

In 1978 I returned to Perth after working as an accountant for a private firm in New Zealand and was employed by the City of Perth as a Senior Finance Officer. Having come from an accrual based electronic system in NZ, it was like stepping into "Jurassic Park" with a historical accounting machine posting system using ledger cards. I then moved into a governance role which was interesting during the 1980s with the heavy movers and shakers of Perth developing such projects as the Burswood Casino and the Bond Tower on the Palace Hotel site.

The COVID-19 pandemic has seen changes such as working from home and the implementation of electronic meetings which worked well. The role that all Local Governments undertook during the lockdowns was phenomenal with the development of their pandemic plans which may need to be reactivated in the foreseeable future from time to time.

WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SECTOR?

My main region of work was as a senior governance executive in the Local Government sector. The advantages I gained from this role was developing a good knowledge and understanding of the various acts and regulations that Local Governments are required to operate under.

Local Government reform is a challenge where parochial Elected Members are not desirous of change, particularly where amalgamations would be of a benefit to smaller Local Governments through economies of scale. I was a supporter of the "Robson Report" whereby it was recommended that metropolitan Councils be reduced to 12 large Local Governments..

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

Town planning is and will remain the biggest challenge in determining a development application, which is recommended for approval by the professional planning staff where there are issues impacting on adjoining residents objecting to the proposed development. The higher density residential codes introduced by the State Government have been a challenging issue where R20 has been changed to R60 and multi-unit developments are adjoining single residential homes.

One great challenge is also reducing waste going to landfill and implementing alternatives such as FOGO and waste to energy need to be seriously considered, in addition to recycling.

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

Some major projects such as the development of the Ocean Reef Marina estimated to cost over a \$100 million; the Craigie Leisure Centre 50 metre swimming pool and upgrade costing \$6 million; the Warwick Stadium upgrade costing \$9.7 million and negotiating a \$7 million contribution for the capital works from the lessee.

Notwithstanding those projects, my proudest achievement is being elected to the City of Joondalup in 2006 after the previous Council was sacked due to it being dysfunctional. Being part of the team that restored the community's faith in what Local Government can achieve when all parties being Elected Members, the administration and the community work together as a team.

YOU WERE AWARDED A LIFE MEMBERSHIP TO WALGA AT THE AGM THIS YEAR – WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOU?

I felt extremely humble and so honoured to be awarded Life Membership of WALGA at its AGM which was attended by the Minister for Local Government and delegates from all Local Governments in WA. To receive such a prestigious award for service to the Local Government sector is something I will always value and treasure. Over the past 20 years there has been some extremely worthy recipients and to join that cohort comprising recent Life Members President Tracey Roberts and Vice President Karen Chappel is indeed such a great honour.

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

I find that as a Councillor at a large metropolitan Local Government you need to be prepared to contribute around 25 hours a week. This may sound like a part-time job, which indeed it is, if you want to achieve the best outcomes for your community.

Becoming a proficient speed reader certainly helps getting through the voluminous agendas you need to be au-fait with for meetings.

Your partner may also be spending some nights eating alone and the lights are out when you get home after attending a Council meeting. The thing that keeps me going is what you can achieve for your community along with the odd bouquet you may receive from time to time.

Finally, the helpful and professional staff at WALGA are also readily available to assist you with advice should you require assistance.

CELEBRATING LOCAL COMMUNITIES THIS FESTIVE SEASON

While community engagement is a key focus area across all months of the year for local government authorities, the festive period offers a unique opportunity for fostering positive interactions and celebrating community connections.

According to Synergy's Bec Elshaw, Key Account Manager, Synergy is actively creating opportunities to engage with local government authorities and their communities, with initiatives such as the annual Synergy Xmas Lights Trail.

"Across Perth and regional WA, we have so many people who love to create incredible lights displays in the lead-up to Christmas," said Ms Elshaw. "Our Synergy Xmas Lights Trail is an online platform which connects the people who love to decorate their homes with the people who love to enjoy the magic of Christmas lights."

Supporting Lifeline WA

This year marks the 6th year Synergy has supported the Lights for Lifeline powered by Synergy campaign through the Synergy Xmas Lights Trail.

Lights for Lifeline is designed to raise money to grow Lifeline WA's support services and raise awareness of Western Australians in crisis over the festive season. It is expected that Lifeline WA will receive a call every 30 seconds from someone lonely or in crisis this Christmas.

"After another year of uncertainty across WA, the Synergy Xmas Lights Trail gives all of us in the WA community something to look forward to - and an opportunity to support the wonderful work of Lifeline WA at the same time," said Ms Elshaw.

"We invite local government authorities to register and promote their own local events such as Christmas markets, carols evenings and visits from Santa of the Xmas Lights Trail.* Many LGAs hold their own promotions for residents to boost community engagement and our platform offers an opportunity to share these initiatives with a wider audience."

"Being part of the Xmas Lights Trail platform is a simple but effective way for local government authorities to engage with residents and raise awareness of festive activities and events in their local area creating a wonderful sense of community spirit."

How to share festive community events in your LGA

Local government authorities are invited to share festive activities and events with the WA community through the Synergy Xmas Lights Trail.* Here's how:

- Visit the Xmas Lights Trail website to create and submit a profile with the relevant details of the festive event. Include the dates, venue details and a description of the event.
- Once approved, the event profile will appear on the Xmas Lights Trail map with an icon to indicate a special event.
- The event will also be searchable in the search bar.

Visit xmaslightstrail.synergy.com.au/events for more details.




^ Decorators competition terms and conditions apply.

*Community Group Christmas Event Listing terms and conditions apply. Please see xmaslightstrail.synergy.com.au for full details.

WA's home of Christmas lights

Share the joy this Christmas by registering your community festive activities on the Synergy Xmas Lights Trail.*

Here's how:

-  Create and submit a profile with the relevant details of your festive event.
-  Once approved, your event profile will appear in our Xmas Lights Trail map with an icon to indicate a special event.
-  Your event will be searchable in the search bar.

Simply visit xmaslightstrail.com.au/events to share your community festive event.*

*Synergy Xmas Light Trail Community Group Christmas Event Listing terms and conditions apply. Head to synergy.net.au/terms for details.



NEW WORK, HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATIONS ANNOUNCED

By Jonathan Seth, CEO, LGIS



LGIS has been working closely with WALGA to provide support and advice to WA local governments on the new Work, Health and Safety Act (WA) 2020 (WHS). Although the legislation was passed in late 2020 we've been waiting for the new supporting regulations to be finalised.

WorkSafe WA have now provided an overview of the regulations, this means that we're on track for the new WHS Act and regulations to be implemented in 2022, replacing the *Occupational Safety and Health Act* (WA) 1984.

WorkSafe has advised that transitional arrangements will be in place, providing sufficient time for duty holders to adapt their safe systems of work to the new requirements.

Most local governments are already well on their way with preparations for the transition and the LGIS risk team and regional risk coordinators are always available to assist.

BUSHFIRE VOLUNTEERS AND WHS

The issue of bushfire volunteers and WHS has been a point of concern and discussion for all local governments who manage brigades.

The new WHS has expanded the definition of a 'worker' to include volunteers. This means that local government safety responsibilities have expanded to include the complex area of bushfire volunteers.

LGIS has been working closely with WALGA, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Bushfire Volunteers Association and WorkSafe WA to clarify the issue. WALGA has been advocating for the sector with all relevant stakeholders, raising members' concerns.

To support members LGIS has produced a range of resources including the Bushfire volunteer handbook, various guidance notes and templates for processes and procedures. These are all available to members at lgiswa.com.au.

This is a developing area and WALGA and LGIS will continue to work together to support the sector.

LGIS ANNUAL REPORT

The LGIS Annual Report was approved by the Board of Directors on 14 October and is now available on the LGIS website at lgiswa.com.au.

The Annual Report reflects on a tumultuous 2020/21 in which LGIS celebrated our 25th Anniversary and expanded Scheme covers to include even more protections for the sector. Broadening the protections offered by the mutual indemnity scheme provides WA local government's with greater security, insulating the sector against the commercial insurance market and providing risk management services.

From a financial perspective it was a good year. The financial operating result at year ending 30 June 2021 was a surplus of \$9.1 million, driven by significantly improved returns on investment and extraordinary reinsurance premium rebates.

All this occurred during a year when the Scheme was called upon to step up for members encountering some major loss events. Tropical Cyclone Seroja was at the forefront of these.

HOW WILL THE SURPLUS BE DISTRIBUTED?

'Nothing is certain except uncertainty' and that couldn't be truer than for 2021/22. To prepare for these uncertain times the LGIS Board of Directors decided to retain \$3 M of the surplus for future contribution credits with a further \$0.5 M retained for special projects. \$2.2 M has already been returned to members as contribution credits for 2021/21.

As 2022/23 membership renewals approach the Board will consider the reinsurance market situation, LGIS investment returns and the Scheme's capital position to determine how much of the reserve to apply as contribution credits.

In all situations the Board seeks to return as much to members as possible whilst balancing their responsibility to ensure the long term financial stability of the Scheme.

LGIS ON THE ROAD AND VISITING MEMBERS

From November Account Managers will be visiting members to discuss Scheme results, our plans for the future and how you can make your LGIS membership work harder. As always the team from LGIS are available to present to your council on the benefits of your mutual indemnity scheme.

If you would like more information about the Scheme, or to arrange a council presentation please contact me on 9483 8855 or your LGIS Account Manager



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