

Metropolitan Area Recreation Advisory Group (MARAG) and State Sporting Association (SSA's) Meeting - Minutes

Date: Friday 5 June 2020

Chair: David Bruce, Coordinator Project Services, City of Bayswater

Vice-Chair: Jenni Hess, City of South Perth, Recreation Development Coordinator

Minutes: Marissa MacDonald, Senior Policy Advisor Community, WALGA

Attendees:

Organisation	Name	Position
DLGSC	Rob Thomson	Director Infrastructure Development - Sport and Recreation
DLGSC	Nicola Johnson	Director, Strategic Policy and Investment
WALGA	Kirstie Davis	Policy Manager Community
SportWest	Rob Thompson	CEO
Athletics	Emma Pass	General Manager Member Engagement & Business Development
Football West	Alex Novatsis	Head of Members Services
Hockey WA	Ryan Lenegan	General Manager – Participation & Member Services
Netball WA	Liz Booth	Development Manager
NRL WA	John Sackson	General Manager
NRL WA	Tony Crowe	WA Operations Manager
RLSWA	Peter Leaversuch	CEO
Rugby WA	Bob Hunter	CEO
Softball WA	Jill Green	Sport Development & Operations Manager
Touch Football	Warren Smiles	WA State Manager
Tennis WA	Olivia Birkett	Infrastructure and Government Relations Manager
WAFC	Troy Kirkham	Executive Manager, Youth, Community and Game Development
WAFC	Josh Bowler	Manager Facilities and Events
WACA	Jo Davies	General Manager, Community Cricket
PLAWA	Leith Fradd	Executive Officer
City of Cockburn	Dean Burton	Coordinator Recreation Services (Observer)
City of Joondalup	Shane Fraser	Co-ordinator Recreation Services (Observer)

Apologies:

Organisation	Name	Position
Baseball WA	Lachlan Dale	CEO
Basketball WA	Evan Stewart	Deputy Chief Executive Officer

1. Introduction and Opening

The Chair of MARAG, David Bruce welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted attendance. David outlined this meeting would cover:

- SSA & MARAG Agreement
- Re-confirming season dates considering Stage 3 is starting tomorrow
- Challenges to note

- Touch base on general business from SSA's

2. Updates

WALGA, Kirstie Davis – The key item of WALGA's agenda is the State Government's recovery preparations for sport and recreation. The Minister for Sport and Recreation, Hon Mick Murray MLA has called a Ministerial Roundtable on Monday 8 June with representation from WALGA's CEO and SportWest Rob Thompson. We are looking for preparing information to present at the Roundtable which will cover opportunities, challenges and quick wins. We appreciate that everyone has come together and worked really well.

SportWest, Rob – The first meeting of State Recovery Advisory Group will be on Thursday 11 June and the Ministerial Roundtable will be on Monday 8 June. The State Recovery Advisory Group is likely to have some meetings as recovery progresses – it will become a monitoring and input opportunity for the various sectors. There is around 26 sector representatives on the group. Will be using the first opportunity of the Roundtable to receive information that is required. Also Mayor Tracey Roberts (WALGA's President) will be part of the State Recovery Advisory Group (representing the Local Government sector).

DLGSC, Nicola – The exemption forms for sporting venues was released yesterday. Happy to take questions at end of meeting.

3. Agreement Document - Season Dates on Shared Grounds

Chair, David – Acknowledged the following:

- Work and time by Jo Davies, WACA to develop the Agreement as well as the working group who provided valuable discussion to feed into this Agreement.
- Rob Thompson SportWest for getting all the sports involved with these meetings.
- Kirstie and Marissa from WALGA to assist with outcomes, advice and compiling documentation.
- Jennifer, Dean, Craig and Shane (members of MARAG) for their valuable advice from a Local Government perspective.
- All MARAG members for providing timely advice and feedback.

Jo, WACA – Acknowledged and thanked everyone for their collaborative efforts and encouraging conversations. The discussions held, together with valuable advice from DLGSC, have led to an agreement of key principles for season sport dates. Most SSA's have supported the Agreement document.

Chair, David – As previously minuted in the working group meetings, the diamond sports - Softball, Baseball and Tee-ball have been contacted for comments. Lachlan Dale from Baseball is supportive of the Agreement. Di from Tee-ball not starting until after the holidays. Softball will use single purpose facilities.

Jo, WACA – Received valuable feedback from the metropolitan Local Governments. Have consulted with regional sport and recreation officers. The feedback from regional Local Governments varies – some have highlighted it is more relevant in metropolitan areas or for larger regional Local Governments. For example City of Albany they would remain with normal season cross-over dates. City of Bunbury, City of Busselton and Pilbara Local Governments found the document useful. The Agreement offers a good fall-back position for regional Local Governments should any parties push for a particular season date. The latest version of the Agreement was sent through this morning. In terms of release – we would like formal endorsement from WALGA. DLGSC will speak with WALGA about this offline. We would like Statewide commitment to signing onto this Agreement.

Jo, WACA – Still don't know who will be releasing the statement. Would prefer if it came from DLGSC or SportWest. In terms of timelines, conscious that the next stage starting tomorrow the Agreement should be announced asap. At the moment all parties are listed in the Agreement, however would be seeking logos from parties to place in there. Any final feedback welcomed today on this Agreement.

Nicola, DLGSC – Will have a discussion with Kirstie, WALGA and provide some feedback.

Chair, David – From working group there is concern about the maintenance of grounds and how the standard of the ground will be this years in comparison to previous years. In the ideal world 3 weeks

is what is required for Local Governments. We do have 5-15 October for maintenance on most shared grounds. Already started conversations with winter sporting codes about where it is possible to finish earlier on certain shared grounds so that maintenance can be done – as contractors are commonly shared amongst Local Governments. But overall this Agreement is good for whole MARAG and good to see larger regional LG's are happy.

Jo, WACA – The idea with this Agreement is to provide the key principles but also stress the “subject to local agreements” part.

Chair, David – From a MARAG LG's perspective it would be beneficial if the announcement regarding the Agreement would come from DLGSC. If it is released like this we can then share it out online media and through club development or bookings teams ASAP.

Nicola, DLGSC – DLGSC have not committed to distributing the Agreement announcement and it's still being internally discussed. It's too early for there to be an assumption that DLGSC will be sending it out. Not the central coordination point for this.

Jo, WACA – Will continue to liaise with Nicola and Rob, DLGSC to see who sends out the Agreement and release.

Most SSA's in the meeting acknowledged and appreciate the work of Jo, WACA on developing the Agreement.

Chair, David – Local Governments have begun re-activating sport facilities and progressing through the recovery phase Most grounds have lights on, toilets open and open for training. Most Local Governments have started providing official booking confirmations from 6 June through to end of winter seasons. It's an individual decision from Local Governments on whether they are waiving winter fees and providing other financial support measures. There has been lots of work in the background to ensure that the clubs have the signage and protocols in place and that they understand the onus is on the individual/ club to encourage the correct practices – hygiene and social distancing.

4. Season dates

Chair, David – requested SSA's to re-confirm the start/end dates. Also requested to provide any challenges faced by clubs and anything that Local Governments can do to assist.

	Elite	Community Senior	Community Junior
Rugby - Bob	Seniors start date 4 July, End date 26 September – finals on 3-4 and 10-11 October. Juniors start date 4 July to end date 3 October.		
Football West - Alex	Elite level start 4 July, finish 11 October. Depending on option taken might have a finals series - finals ground specific so no interference – 8 October Seniors and juniors start 21 June. Seniors finish 11 October. Juniors finish 4 October.		
WAFC Troy	Seniors includes country, amateurs, A grade down - commencing 11 July. Junior footy won't start 27 June practice matches.		
Touch Football - Warren	18 June competitions commencing, through to first week of October.		
NRL WA	Start 4-5 July juniors and seniors through end of Sept, end date 17 Oct for senior grand final on single use ground.		
Netball - Liz	Commencement 15 June and 18 July. Some associations have had to move part of comps traditionally held on Saturday to Friday night but also Mon-Tues and Weds in that mix. End dates 19-20 September, Oct-Dec spring competition for summer associations.		

Tennis - Olivia	Winter league commencing 4 July, end mid-September. Start summer October season. While courts are single use – but we are conscious around facilities that are shared or close to each other around car parking.
Hockey WA - Ryan	All competitions starting 26 June. Aim to have finals by 2-4 October, with some running through to 17 October on synthetic turf.
Softball - Jill	Start date 19 July to 20 September Finals October on single use venue. Home and away clubs will probably need venues for training.
Athletics - Emma	No winter cross-country or road walking until phase 4. Winter component on hold. Bound by winter summer agreement for summer dates.

Shane, Joondalup – The training is something that we need to be more mindful of where some of the sports are having finals in early October and there's going to be conflict of the finals training/preparation with the pre-season starting up for summer sports. I'm assuming this will be managed case by case. Especially with diamond sports – softball, baseball crossover it will need to be managed pretty closely.

Chair, David – One of the key things is that our goal is to directly liaise with SSA's first and not through the clubs to ensure more consistent message coming down (top down approach). That is why we have shared the contact details of each Local Government to assist SSA's. If you haven't done so already, please send the best contact details for Local Governments through to myself and Marissa to compile to be shared with the MARAG.

Vice-Chair, Jenni - Are there any updates on premier grade cricket use of turf starting dates?

Jo, WACA – Have been liaising internally regarding staggering their start dates. Maybe scheduling first and second grade first and then third and fourth grade a bit later. Danny is doing an analysis of the grounds with the comps unit for premier cricket to resolve.

5. Stage 3 Reactivation and Exemption Form

Chair, David - Is there anything LG, WALGA or DLGSC can do to support SSA's moving forward with Stage 3?

Troy, WAFC – Require clarity around the 100/300 rule.

Nicola, DLGSC – Taking a similar approach to phase 2 in the consideration of zones. In the exemption form there's a criteria which looks at the number of people per sq meter. What the Chief Health Officer will be looking at (as the person who is approving exemptions) is how clubs or venues manage that number of people. Some people are already looking at this – having different start times, having different entries and exists which will be assessed in exemption form. Zoning is being considered.

Josh, WAFC – Is there any ability for SSA to apply for exemption on a broad scale rather than each club individually applying?

Nicola, DLGSC – It's per each venue. For example if you have UWA Sports Park then that would have to be UWA that applied for the exemption because they are the ones who are managing the numbers of people. There's Leederville Oval which is single use and that may be treated differently to UWA Sports Park where there is multiple uses within the same complex.

Liz, Netball – From a Netball WA perspective it would be good to have assistance with exemptions considering the size of venues and the numbers that play in these venues. Assistance in terms of plan and map out the egress/ingress – to assist with preparing the exemption form that is likely to get approval.

Emma, Athletics – One of the reasons why not progressing with a winter cross-country or walking season is because of the zoning. For something like a cross country run that might be a loop around Kings Park which is a public place, how do we deal with that considering that they are more likely to be public and people spectating/watching or moving around near the event area could add to the numbers. Is this something we can apply exemptions on?

Nicola, DLGSC – There is no expectation that you should know how many people will be in a public place in addition to sport being played.

6. Support to Clubs

Chair, David – Have already touched on this in the working group meeting last week 28 May but just for the benefit of everyone, lot of Local Governments have waived winter fees and charges, refunded club fees, have brought forward capital works programs, brought forward heavier maintenance period, some have put together support packages and grants for clubs to apply for. A lot Local Governments have passed a rate freeze which is a challenge and that's why some Local Governments can't waive fees at this stage. The other challenge is the additional cleaning that it being undertaken by Local Governments where some of the larger Local Governments to clean the public toilets has cost around \$22k per week for the Local Governments to absorb and now contemplating cleaning for other facilities that are opening up.

Chair, David – What support can be provided in the club development space to assist clubs moving forwards. We know there will likely be a greater uptake of Kidsport in the summer. There will likely be a lot of clubs struggling and unfortunately club development officers can't be there to support everyone. Any ideas or suggestions on how can support clubs moving forwards? Also providing a bit of background on where you are at internally with staffing too.

John, NRL – All staff stood down from 23 March and 95% NRL staff nationally. As of 1 June working 4 days per week. All through May, John was the only staff member from NRL WA one day per week. Waiting on head office to progressively bring back 2-3 staff members on a three days per week basis. Have 4 club development officers (lost 1 due to COVID-19) – expect they will come back on board as access to schools starts to open up Term 3.

Warren, Touch Football – Only 3 in the WA office on permanent basis. We were stood down initially and then on Jobkeeper currently. Supposed to be on restricted hours but are still doing work. Interactions with schools starting.

Softball, Jill – Staff back 3 days per week, will ramp up in next couple of weeks.

Chair, David – Have been in regular contact with Alex, Football West, starting to get staff back into offices. Still operating with minimal staff. Alex has reached out to Local Governments in the last weeks to look at what can be done to assist certain clubs in the club development and from a football perspective. Football program has been launched which the funds from that will be going into clubs for a social competition that is run at certain grounds.

Emma, Athletics – Able to retain staff utilising annual leave and Jobkeeper. Everyone back in the office and back to full hours.

Jo, WACA – Able to keep all staff until 30 June on full pay and some taking annual leave. We have landed on the financial forecast for next year and the subsequent restructure. Some redundancies and reduced hours for the next year. But flow on effect from Cricket Australia funding cuts is making an impact. Uncertainties around crowds still remain. From community cricket perspective it could have been much worse. From club development point of view – needs assessment of clubs. Work with LG's especially in regions to provide support.

Ryan, Hockey – Not resourced that well in club development space, particularly in metropolitan area prior to COVID-19. Currently operating at 60% capacity. In terms of club development keen to work on relationships and provide support particularly in metropolitan area.

Peter, Royal Lifesaving WA – Really appreciate the inclusion around contact sport in the FAQ's – expanded to make reference to contact within an aquatic environment which is important for swimming instructors. Appreciate the support from DLGSC and WALGA to get that across. There was concerns from swim instructors that the community understand that in a swimming lesson context kids will be closer to each other. Other sport might need to work on messaging to give parents comfort that the games are back on. Pools are designed with peak December to January. Over next couple of months it's about re-activating and not about competitions.

Olivia, Tennis - Staffing went to 3.5 day weeks and will be back to full time 5 day weeks from 1 July. Club Development and Regional Tennis Managers have working actively with clubs and bridging relationships with Local Governments – particularly community strategic plans.

7. Directions

Dean, City of Cockburn - Any idea when the next Directions will come out?

Nicola, DLGSC –Anticipate will be sometime today. Don't anticipate any major differences from what is in the FAQs.

Dean, City of Cockburn – If a venue has both sport and recreation but also sells food or liquor do they need to have both COVID-19 safety plans?

Nicola, DLGSC – If it's a club or a venue that serves food or alcohol they need to have both COVID-19 safety plans.

8. Other business

Rob, SportWest – Acknowledged WALGA – Mark, Kirstie, Marissa and Kim Ellwood at DLGSC and Peter Leversuch from Royal Lifesaving – effectiveness of the group has met quietly in the background 2-3 times per week has been fundamental around directions. Fulfilled a valuable role and appreciate working with them.

Kirstie, WALGA – Acknowledged the key role Sportwest is playing and continuing to play. This meeting has been valuable to start framing the wording that WALGA will be putting forward for recovery conversations. Looking forward to touching bases with relevant people on the Agreement and the Directions throughout the day.

Nicola, DLGSC – Report on the review of Every Club has been finalised. There will be additional consultation in coming months.

Chair, David – The WALGA webpage has been updated with SSA's return to sport information as well as minutes from meetings that have been held previously.

9. Closing Comments

Chair, David – Thanked everyone for contributing to this meeting. A future meeting may be held once the Stage 4 announcement has been made.

10. Actions

Action for SSA's - Provide a contact for their organisation with email, name and contact number to allow LG's to confirm if Clubs have completed items for their safety plans and then City can approve their booking. (Also good opportunity for SSA to meet LG contacts if not already).

Action for MARAG Secretary - Minutes to be sent to members with Local Government Grounds Spreadsheet and uploaded to the WALGA website.

Action for SSA's - SSA's to provide Jo with Logo's for the Agreement.