



Metropolitan Area Recreation Advisory Group

Metropolitan Area Recreation Advisory Group Minutes

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
246 Vincent Street, Leederville
Tuesday 28 September 2021 – 11am-2pm

1.0 WELCOME

1.1 Welcome from the Chair

Meeting opened at 11.06am. David acknowledged the work implemented by the working group, including Jennifer Hess who was an apology. David also welcomed the guest speakers, Matt Turnbull, Director Assets Planning and Services, from the Department of Education and Evan Stuart, deputy CEO, from Basketball W.A.

Actions implemented since the last meeting:

- Survey distributed to all members seeking feedback from on the group's objectives.
- Vice chair Jenni Hess has been working with the working group to update the MARAG plan, key priorities include leisure planning and advocacy work.
- MARAG representatives facilitated a meeting with SSA's:
 - This meeting was able to produce good outcomes with most issues being resolved within the meeting. As a result of these meetings SSA's are now engaging directly with LG's.
 - SSA's advised they have recovered really well since covid lockdowns.
 - They acknowledged the work of MARAG and how having one contact point has been helpful.
- Jenni has been working with basketball W.A regarding noise complaints.
- MARAG Chairs met with PLWA, WALGA, SportsWest to discuss what areas to keep developing with MARAG.

LG' were invited to share any challenges experienced with the group at meetings.

1.2 Confirmation of previous Minutes 5 May 2021

Mover – Samantha Gulliver, Seconder - Wayne Grimes

2.0 SHARED SPACES

2.1 Department of Education – Matt Turnbull, Director Asset Planning and Services

Tim Clark (Working Group Member) – Provided an overview of the working group:

- In a previous MARAG meeting the City of Armadale proposed a subgroup with Department of Education (DOE).
- First meeting held in June to initially determine how Armadale's performance fared with DOE.

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- The subgroup that has now formed is to allow LG's to work together to better present a unified communication approach with DOE.
- Armadale will lead the group going into the future with meetings to occur every 6 months (one of these meetings via teams and another pre or post MARAG).
- Anyone LG interested to contact Tim.

Matt Turnbull – Acting Director of Asset Planning and Services

Matt provided an overview of DOE shared use agreements with LGs with the below key points (the full presentation is attached to the minutes);

- Rob Thomson has recently been appointed the new Executive Director, to commence in the next few weeks.
- DOE WA is the largest organisation in WA.
- School ovals play a critical function in educating and activating kids with a lot on investment going in to maintaining them.
- DOE have various forms of shared use agreements – ranging from formal in informal arrangements.
- A key priority for DOE is to activate these spaces after school hours.
- Management authority generally sits with the school's principal until they become more significant in which DOE takes over.
- There are two infrastructure division functions – asset planning side (future planning for school sites) and capital works and maintenance.
- DOE have setup an internal working group to develop a plan on how to best move forward with shared use agreements.
- DOE's guiding force is the shared use guideline developed by the Department of Sport and Recreation but is now also influence by Infrastructure WA resulting in a lot more funding opportunities, on the assumptions it is for shared use.
- Matt shared the opportunity for MARAG working group and DOE working group to meet.
- In moving forward a focus must be on defining clearly what each party (DOE and LG's) are happy to pay, looking into what should and shouldn't be charged.
- These conversation can occur via Tim through the working group going into the future.

Attendees split into groups to discuss some of the key issues occurring across LG's. Topics discussed included the below:

- The difference in language between junior and senior oval
 - Opportunity for other shared facilities such as performing arts facilities
 - Car parks
 - Size of ovals
 - Fencing and maintaining community access
 - Principals being reluctant to work with groups – how can this be managed?
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3.0 NOISE REGULATIONS

Basketball WA – Evan Stewart

Evan Stewart, basketball WA, and Emma Bridgeman, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER), provided an overview of the project they are collaborating on.

Basketball WA's main discussion points:

- Basketball WA has 35 thousand playing members (includes the Peel region)
- Membership base is made up of 13 associations, all around 2-3 thousand members strong.
- Basketball WA priorities are not just about membership but about growing the game of basketball.
- The association has recently redeveloped its Strategic Plan, with one of its outcomes being 'every child will be in walking distance to a basketball court'
- However, this has since raised issues with noise in local areas.
- Basketball WA are seeking information from LG to assist them in identifying which facilities are attracting noise complaints.
- A focus of Basketball WA is ensuring kids are allowed to play outside without attracting complaints.
- Basketball WA have recently conducted real life testing of an evening to identify what some of the issues may be to discuss with LGs.
- Part of this project is to look at different surfaces.

DWER's Main discussion points:

- The Department administers noise regulation, which is about health impact to community.
- The Department are currently aware of eight metro LGs that are having issues with noise.
- DWER branch has technician that can take on-site measurements.
- The Department aims to produce a guidance document for LG's that can provide advice on; separation distances, best option for surfaces and backboards, time restrictions to using the courts.
 - Timeframe for guidance document – hopeful for end of the year.
- DWER encourage LG's to send through acoustic reports for their review.
- MARAG will have the opportunity to comment on the draft guiding document.
- It is beneficial for noise reports to come from EHO's to DWER – this ensures adequate details are provided to assist DWER in addressing concerns/queries.

4.0 UPDATES

4.1 Update from DLGSC

- Election commitments – still a push for the small CSRFF grants awarded to LG's to be delivered as soon as possible.
- Club Night Lights program funding is currently open
- Sensitivity issues raised around opening of new facilities – LGs asked to keep DLGSC aware of facilities opening (which have been funded) so that the right people can be invited.

4.2 Update from SportWest

- Staff changes:
 - Two new employees - communications events and admin
 - Matt Bamford moving into the member in partnership position
- Current Projects:
 - Social return on investments – normally focused around emotions not hard data of the effect sport has on the community.
 - Will use data as a key advocacy platform
- In partnership with Active Exchange SportsWest are working with 10 sports to map sporting infrastructure across the state (platform being used is sports eye)
 - Using the sports data and other ABS data to understand how many participants are in a particular area and where people are travelling to.
 - Identifies the best growth opportunity.
 - Free for the 10 sports that sign up.
 - This will assist in understanding what's in the area and the demand.
- Mental health framework – currently delivering a framework for clubs in the community. This framework is not about professional help but focussed on the role clubs can play and how to identify signs of someone at risk.
- SportsWest welcomes feedback on their strategic plan

4.3 Update from PLAWA

PLAWA were a late apology with Chair David Bruce providing a quick update on their behalf;

- PLAWA thanks the group for the information provided in previous meetings.
- Acknowledged the upcoming events for PLWA –email sent about next the upcoming parkour demonstration at Bendat Stadium.

4.4 Update from WALGA

- Staff movements
 - Vikki Barlow recently appointed into the Senior Policy Advisor role
 - Alina Hobson recently appointed into the Policy Officer, Community position
- Infrastructure WA recently sought feedback on their draft Infrastructure Strategy. WALGA sent information to all LG's and formulated a sector response.
- MARAG membership costs have been carried forward to this financial year due to a number of meetings being cancelled due to covid.
- Members provided PD training opportunities for future meetings:
 - Invite club of the year president from the SSA's award nights to talk about best practice.
 - LG's selected to present on their key projects.
 - What information to discuss needs to be defined so it is constant across presentations.
 - LG's to present on changing team structures – demonstrate how different LGs operate to share ideas.
 - Outcome measurement training – UWA provide a social impact workshops
 - CEO ground table – format of sitting and listening
 - Diamond sports – look for opportunity to support better collaboration between the different sports.

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- Also follow up with Baseball if they are still considered amalgamating
- Athletics West – present on how they amalgamated

5.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Open for members to provide any updates

City of Wanneroo – Craig Bartlet

Seeking member feedback on WA football Commissions (WAFC) lighting requirement.

- Since 3yrs ago AFL clubs require a lightly audit to be approved to play night competitions.
- This coast has been absorbed by various LG's but is a massive burden.
- Question raised: what other LG's are covering this cost every two years or what do other LG's do?
 - Swan deflected cost back to the club.
 - Suggestion - Could it be a shared cost between clubs and LG?
 - Various other LG's simply provided the original
 - Bayswater contacted WAFC to encourage leniency for clubs or suggested WAFC to cover audit cost.
 - In Queensland clubs pay, however only need to provide an audit every 5yrs
- Suggestions to invite WAFC to the next meeting.
- Suggestion to arrange a separate meeting with WAFC, with City of Wanneroo Craig, City of Swan – Anthony interested in participating.

City of Joondalup – Emily Carroll

Seeking member feedback on management of end of winter maintenance period.

- Question raised: Does any other LGs have a solid shutdown period?
 - Subiaco shut down for two weeks
 - Wanneroo no longer shut down
 - Bayswater still shutdown, with Ruby fields closed for around 3 months.

City of Kwinana - Callum Prior

Registration of Interest for a new sporting facility

Callum was an apology for the meeting with a number of group members already providing the below responses directly to Callum.

- Swan – sent a Survey to identify community needs, opposed to seeking ROI from everyone.
- Cockburn – considered the use as overflow space.
- Wanneroo – went straight to state sporting association to understand need.

Additional items:

City of Gosnells, Sarah, sort feedback from the group on any conflict between casual users and clubs.

- Sarah to contact Callum from Armadale directly to further discuss.

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City of Subiaco will be taking over Subiaco oval which is currently used as a casual space. As this will move to a bookable space Subiaco sort advice from the group on how to manage the transition.

Meeting closes at 1.58pm.

6.0 MEETING CLOSE

Next meeting to be scheduled for end of February