

MINUTES OF THE ZONE MEETING

held at the Muchea Hall, Archibald Street, Muchea
Friday 20 November 2020 commencing at 10:07 am

1 OPENING & WELCOME

Cr Jan Court, Zone Deputy President and Chair of the meeting, welcomed delegates and observers and introduced Cr Kylie Hughes, President Shire of Chittering. Cr Hughes welcomed attendees to Muchea and introduced Mr Matthew Gilfellow, the Shire's CEO. Mr Gilfellow gave a presentation on developments within the Shire of Chittering.

2 ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

2.1 Attendance

Delegates -

Cr Kylie Hughes	Shire of Chittering
Cr Jan Court	Shire of Gingin (Deputy President)
Cr Barry Haywood	Shire of Goomalling
Cr Chris Antonio	Shire of Northam
Cr Rosemary Madacsi	Shire of Toodyay
Cr Pauline Bantock	Shire of Victoria Plains
Cr Denese Smythe	Shire of York (by video)

Observers –

Cr Carmel Ross	Shire of Chittering
Mr Matthew Gilfellow	Shire of Chittering
Cr Wayne Fewster	Shire of Gingin
Mr Aaron Cook	Shire of Gingin
Mr Peter Bentley	Shire of Goomalling
Cr Julie Williams	Shire of Northam
Cr Steven Pollard	Shire of Northam (by video)
Cr Beth Ruthven	Shire of Toodyay
Mr Chris Linnell	Shire of York (by video)
Ms Mandy Walker	Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt
Ms Jodie Holbrook	Director Policy and Engagement, Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries (by video)
Ms Liz Toohey	Manager Policy and Engagement Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries (by video)
Mr Craig Manton	Regional Manager Wheatbelt, Main Roads WA
Ms Elise Woods	Regional Manager Avon, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Mr Daniel Waterhouse	Regional Officer Coastal, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Mr Tony Brown	Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Svces, WALGA
Ms Felicity Morris	Governance Advisor, WALGA
Hon Martin Aldridge MLC	Member for Agricultural Region
Ms Natasha Mossman	Shire of Chittering
Robert Dew	Zone Executive Officer

2.2 Apologies

Cr Steven Carter	Shire of Dalwallinu
Ms Jean Knight	Shire of Dalwallinu
Cr Ken Seymour	Shire of Moora (President)
Cr Tracy Lefroy	Shire of Moora
Mr Jason Whiteaker	Shire of Northam
MS Suzie Haslehurst	Shire of Toodyay
Ms Glenda Teede	Shire of Victoria Plains
Cr Stuart Boekeman	Shire of Wongan-Ballidu
Cr Mandy Stephenson	Shire of Wongan-Ballidu
Ms Jenifer Collins	Regional Manager Wheatbelt, Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries
Mr Rob Cossart	CEO, Wheatbelt Development Commission

Ms Eva Godwin
Mr Cliff Simpson
Hon Laurie Graham MLC
Hon Mia Davies MLA
Mr Shane Love MLA

Manager Training Services, WALGA
Road Safety Advisor (Wheatbelt North), WALGA
Member for Agricultural Region
Member for Central Wheatbelt
Member for Moore

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

5 MINUTES

5.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Zone Meeting held 21 August 2020 at York. Copies of these Minutes have been circulated to all member Councils.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held on 21 August 2020, as printed and circulated, be confirmed.

RESOLUTION

Cr R Madacsi moved and Cr C Antonio seconded –

That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held on 21 August 2020, as printed and circulated, be confirmed. CARRIED

5.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

(a) Local Government Review Panel Final Report (Item 6.1 WA State Council Agenda Item 5.5)

The August meeting requested Zone members to review State Council Agenda item 5.5 and the Local Government Review Panel's Final Report and provide comment and feedback to the Zone and WALGA in time for consideration by State Council at its meeting to be held 2 September 2020.

Comment was received from the Shires of Chittering, Toodyay, Northam and Gingin. These were forwarded to the WA Local Government Association.

RECOMMENDATION

For noting

NOTED

(b) Wheatbelt Conference (Item 10.1)

The August meeting noted advice from the Central Country Zone that it did not support future Wheatbelt Conferences and requested that its share of the surplus funds remaining after the 2018 Wheatbelt Conference be returned. At its August meeting this Zone agreed that a Wheatbelt Conference not be held at this time and concurred with the return of the surplus funds. The distribution of the surplus funds was endorsed by the Great Eastern Country Zone at its August meeting. The Great Eastern Country Zone, which held the funds on behalf of the participating Zones, has distributed the surplus funds – each Zone receiving \$4,713.33.

RECOMMENDATION

For noting

NOTED

(c) Noongar Heritage Agreement (Item 10.2)

The August meeting noted that offer by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage to give a presentation to the Zone on the template Noongar Heritage Agreement and an update on the progress of the new Aboriginal heritage legislation in WA. The Zone agreed to have a presentation at this meeting.

In discussion with the Department they have advised that the Bill will not be introduced into Parliament this year due to timing restrictions. They have suggested that the presentation to the Zone be deferred until next year when they will have more to present. This has been agreed

Land Equity Legal, Mr Marcus Holmes, has written to the Zone regarding the Noongar Native Title Settlement, the associated draft heritage agreement and the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill. He has expressed the view that all of these have major implications, both resourcing and procedural, for local governments in the South West. He has offered to provide the Zone with legal advice on these matters, including a presentation to the Zone.

RECOMMENDATION

For noting

NOTED

(d) Cyber Security and Local Government (Item 11.1 19/6/2020))

At its June 2020 meeting the Zone resolved that the WA Local Government Association be requested (a) to provide feedback on cyber security policy for the whole of local government; and (b) to give a presentation on cyber security and local government to a forthcoming meeting of the Zone.

WALGA has advised that it recently hosted a forum for IT professionals on the results of the Office of the Auditor General report into Local Government IT security and that a presentation for the Zone on cyber security will be arranged for a future Zone meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

For noting

NOTED

Mr T Brown advised that the presentation to the Zone by the WA Local Government Association would take place early next year.

(e) Other

No other matters were brought forward.

6 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

6.1 WALGA State Council Agenda

Review of the Agenda for the State Council meeting to be held Wednesday 2 December. The Zone is able to provide comment or submit alternate recommendations to State Council for consideration.

Matters for Decision

5.1 Local Government Act Review Advocacy Paper – Key Issues from Recent Inquiries into Local Government (Page 5)

WALGA Recommendation

That:

1. *Ongoing advocacy relating to the Review of the Local Government Act 1995 be noted; and,*
2. *The Advocacy Positions for a New Local Government Act: Key issues from recent Inquiries into Local Government – be endorsed.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- WALGA has developed an Advocacy Paper focusing on key issues identified in final reports of three recent Local Government Inquiries:
 1. Final Report of the Local Government Review Panel
 2. Report of the Inquiry into the City of Perth
 3. Select Committee into Local Government Final Report
- The Advocacy Paper aims to highlight strategic policy issues, leveraging previous detailed policy development work, at a key stage of Phase two of the Review of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Mr T Brown provided background and comment.

Cr B Haywood asked if the inquiry into the City of Perth would have any influence on the rest of the local government sector. Mr Brown replied that the WALGA President has been advocating to the State Government that the City of Perth is not reflective of the rest of local government. He commented that only about two of the recommendations were worthy of consideration for the whole section; the majority were highly technical and related specifically to the City of Perth.

Mr A Cook asked as to WA Local Government Association's position with regard to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries. He commented that following the Machinery of Government changes the Department was under resourced and he believed that this was reflected to a significant degree in the issues at the City of Perth. He urged WALGA to push for more resourcing for the Department. Mr Brown replied that WALGA's position is that the Department needs to be adequately resourced to appropriately assist the local government sector.

Mr P Bentley asked if there was any discussion on the one size fits all scenario for local government. Hon M Aldridge replied that the resourcing for local government was one of the key recommendations of the Select Committee Inquiry into Local Government. The inquiry also recommended that there be an on-going parliamentary committee to monitor local government issues.

Cr P Bantock requested clarification of the one size fits for local government. Hon M Aldridge replied that this issue regularly comes up at inquiries into local government. Generally it refers to different levels of compliance/reporting for different size local governments. He pointed out that it was easier said than done. The Office of the Auditor General has commented that smaller local governments are quite often those that are at greater risk. The Select Committee Inquiry did not provide any clear solution as the issue is very complex. Mr T Brown commented that the issue should be more about appropriate compliance rather than accountability.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

5.2 Submission – Registration of Building Engineers in WA (Page 40)

WALGA Recommendation

That: WALGA:

1. *Advise the Department of Mines Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) that the registration of Building Engineers in WA is supported.*
2. *Request that DMIRS also consider the registration of Electrical Engineers, Façade Engineers, Energy Assessors, Bush Fire Consultants, Access consultants, Swimming pool, Patio installers and Demolition contractors.*
3. *Request that DMIRS clarify that dilapidation reports may only be undertaken by Registered Engineers.*
4. *Provide this report to Department of Mines Industry Regulation and Safety as feedback on the Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- In July 2020, Department of Mines Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) released a Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement (CRIS) focused on the registration of Building Engineers in WA.
- Broad support is provided as the registration of technical experts has been advocated by the Association for many years. Additional registration of professionals and businesses is also requested to assist in improving the quality of buildings and professional standards in WA.
- Submissions on the Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement closes on the 3 December 2020.

Mr C Manton asked if road engineers were included. Mr T Brown replied that they were not.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

5.3 Family and Domestic Violence and the Role of Local Governments (Page 42)

WALGA Recommendation

That:

1. *WA Local Governments recognise the prevalence, seriousness and preventable nature of family and domestic violence and the roles that Local Governments can play in addressing gender equity and promoting respectful relationships in their local community.*
2. *WALGA advocates to the State Government:*
 - a. *to define and communicate the role, responsibilities and expectations of Local Governments in family and domestic violence.*
 - b. *for adequate funding for family and domestic violence programs and services, particularly in regional areas.*
 - c. *for appropriate resources and funding be allocated to Local Governments to implement any particular roles and actions addressing family and domestic violence as defined in the State Strategy.*
 - d. *to provide support to Local Government in the broader rollout of the Prevention Toolkit for Local Government.*
 - e. *to continue advocacy to the Commonwealth Government for additional funding and support.*
3. *WALGA organises presentations for Local Governments that address family and domestic violence, as part of relevant events or webinars.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- WALGA received two separate requests from the South West Country Zone in March 2019 and the East Metropolitan Zone in November 2019 to analyse the role of Local Governments in addressing family and domestic violence.
- A discussion paper was prepared in response to the Zone requests which encompassed the roles of all three levels of Government and comparison across States and Territories as well as Local Government Associations.
- The analysis in the discussion paper recommends that WALGA should strengthen advocacy efforts, including updating the outdated 2011 WALGA State Council endorsed policy position.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

5.4 Underground Power (Page 45)

WALGA Recommendation

That Local Government supports the:

1. *continuation of cooperative arrangements between the State Government, Western Power and Local Government to progressively replace the overhead electricity distribution network in residential areas with underground power.*
2. *development of a new approach to identifying and prioritizing areas for investment in underground power, initiated by the need to invest in the overhead network to meet safety, reliability and capability requirements.*
3. *development of a new approach to allocating State Government resources to facilitate projects proceeding in areas with a high electricity network need and lower economic capacity of ratepayers while retaining a commitment to funding an average of 25% of program costs.*
4. *opportunity for Local Governments to initiate projects to convert areas to underground power be retained with Western Power to continue to contribute the amount recoverable as an efficient investment as calculated by the New Facilities Investment Test (NFIT).*

WALGA Executive Summary

- The last projects identified under Round 6 of the State Underground Power Program will be completed in late 2022.
- It is timely for the Association to review its policy position in relation to underground power and formulate an advocacy position for future investment.

- The current, competitive process is unlikely to be sustainable, as conversion to underground power the inner, coastal and river front suburbs is nearly completed. The current costs borne by householders (50-90% of project costs) are too high in lower socio economic areas.
- Western Power will need to invest significantly in parts of the network particularly that built between 1950 and 1980. Investing the avoided costs of this renewal in replacing the overhead network with underground power, offers the potential to significantly reduce the costs faced by residents.
- The State Government should continue to financially support underground power, targeting investment in those areas with high network need and lower financial capacity of ratepayers.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

5.5 CEO Recruitment and Selection, Performance Review and Termination Standards Regulations
(Page 51)

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA:

1. *Does not endorse the Local Government (Administration) Amendment Regulations 2020 in its current form.*
2. *Reiterates and updates the following advocacy positions from December 2019:*
 - a) *removal from the Regulations the requirement to re-advertise CEO positions after 10 year's continual service; and*
 - b) *Encouraging, rather than mandating, the involvement of an independent person in the CEO Recruitment and Selection Process.*
3. *Advocates for the following matters:*
 - a) *The retention of Regulation 18C of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations;*
 - b) *Deletion of the requirement under Regulation 18FB(4) to provide a copy of a council resolution certifying compliance with the CEO standards to the Departmental CEO;*
 - c) *The conduct of an independent assessment of potential industrial and employment law consequences arising from the proposed regulations under Schedule 2, Division 4 'Standards for termination of employment of CEOs'; and*
 - d) *Deferral of Regulation 18FC pending an independent assessment of the Schedule 2, Division 4 'Standards for termination of employment of CEOs'.*
4. *Seek that the CEO Recruitment and Selection, Performance Review and Termination Working Group be reconvened to oversee the development of CEO Standards Regulations.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- The *Local Government Legislation Amendment Act 2019* was proclaimed in July 2019. This Act contemplated the introduction of model CEO Standards for recruitment, performance review and termination (Sec. 5.39A) and mandatory Code of Conduct for Elected Members, Committee Members and Candidates (Sec. 5.103)
- The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries conducted a process in relation to the proposed CEO Standards, with State Council adopting an advocacy position in December 2019.
- The Department released draft *Local Government (Administration) Amendment Regulations 2020* in October 2020, and agreed to extend consultation with the sector to permit WALGA Zones and State Council to provide comment.

Cr C Antonio asked if the amendments will go through now that Parliament has finished prior to the election. Mr T Brown replied that regulations can still be made. Hon M Aldridge replied that the Minister refers regulations to the Governor and they do not have to be passed by Parliament; both houses of Parliament can disallow regulations although this is generally left to the Legislative Council; next week is the last sitting week for the Legislative Council and any opportunity to disallow will not be until next year.

Cr R Madacsi enquired as to why the WA Local Government Association's position was to encourage, rather than to mandate, the involvement of an independent person in the CEO selection and recruitment process. Mr T Brown replied that WALGA's position is to support local governments to make their own decisions and as such it believes it is up to each local government to make this decision.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

5.6 Model Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates Regulations
(Page 57)

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA generally supports the Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2020 with the following recommendations:

- a) *Amend Division 2, Clause 4(d) to read 'identify and appropriately manage any conflict of interest';*
- b) *Does not support the inclusion of local level complaints about alleged behavioural breaches and Local Governments dealing with complaints provisions in Division 3, Clauses 10 and 11; and*
- c) *Supports an external oversight body to manage local level complaints involving council members as prefaced in the Local Government Review Panel Report, City of Perth Inquiry Report and Select Committee into Local Government Report, to be considered in a future Local Government Act.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- In December 2019, State Council adopted an advocacy position in response to proposals released for public consultation by the Department in October 2019;
- The draft *Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2020* ('Model Code') was released for comment by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries on 30 October 2020;
- In addition to introducing a mandatory Model Code of Conduct, the draft Regulations will repeal and replace the current *Local Government (Rules of Conduct) Regulations 2007*.

Cr B Ruthven and Cr R Madacsi expressed concern around the language used in the Model Code. They commented that the use of 'should' was too subjective and that more definitive wording should be used and that terms be defined. Mr T Brown replied that 'should' was used around general principles. He advised that the Model Code was in two parts with the first part putting the onus on Councils in connection with complaints about their own people. WALGA supports the Select Committee Inquiry recommendation that this should be by an independent body.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

RECOMMENDATION

That the above recommendations and comments be endorsed.

RESOLUTION

Cr C Antonio moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –

That the above Zone recommendations and comments be endorsed.

CARRIED

Matters for Noting/information

6.1 Submission to the Infrastructure WA State Infrastructure Strategy Discussion Paper (Paged 61)

WALGA Recommendation

That the endorsed Submission to the Infrastructure WA State Infrastructure Strategy Discussion Paper be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

- WALGA has prepared a submission in response to the Infrastructure WA (IWA) Discussion Paper to guide the development of a State Infrastructure Strategy.
- The Discussion Paper focusses on the guiding principles, objectives, methodology and governance for the development of the strategy, as well as opportunities and challenges over the medium to long term. It does not consider specific infrastructure projects, but is focused on the broader strategic framework.

- WALGA's submission advocates for the following issues.
 1. A sound strategic framework to guide the development of the State Infrastructure Strategy. This should contain a number of key elements including:
 - A *long-term vision for infrastructure in WA* which is underpinned by the broader vision for our State and its economy, environment and social fabric. The vision should be developed in consultation with the community.
 - *Infrastructure needs should be considered as a whole*, rather than examining specific regions or projects in isolation. The Strategy should recognise the interconnectivity of systems and flows of people and goods.
 - The strategy should *bring together existing plans for the state* (for example, regional plans, land use, transport, community plans etc.), to ensure alignment and consistency. *Any existing plans should be reviewed* to ensure that they remain relevant and fit for purpose.
 - The strategy should be developed *based on a robust and objective assessment of evidence* including data, stakeholder engagement and other analysis to determine the most pressing needs and priorities.
 2. An integrated approach to infrastructure planning and provision across all levels of Government and the private sector. The Discussion Paper makes little reference to the role that Local Government plays in the planning and delivery of infrastructure, with the focus instead in on infrastructure owned and delivered by the State Government agencies, GTEs and statutory authorities.
 3. Local Government plans to be used to inform the State Infrastructure Strategy through a bottom up approach. Local Governments have extensive community and land use plans that provide valuable local level insights to inform the Strategy.
 4. Clear targets to measure progress against the State Infrastructure Strategy. The objectives identified in the Discussion Paper are appropriate but broad, and should be distilled into clear targets to ensure that progress in achieving the Strategy can be clearly measured.
 5. A focus on technology, data and digital connectivity as a key objective to underpin the State Infrastructure Plan. Digital technology will have significant implications for both our economy and community going forward, and appropriate digital connectivity should be designed and built into all public infrastructure.
 6. Innovative solutions to deliver on the state's future infrastructure needs in a fiscally constrained environment, including leveraging funding from other sources such as the private sector and broader policy reforms and non-build solutions. For Local Governments, amendments to the *Local Government Act 1995* to allow for the creation of Beneficial Enterprises will be an important reform to facilitate investment and collaboration with the private sector for infrastructure delivery.
 7. A focus on getting the most out of existing infrastructure and improving maintenance. The infrastructure strategy scope should include maximising the benefits of and minimising the lifecycle costs of existing infrastructure.
 8. Prioritisation criteria to not only consider a project's economic impacts, but also the social and environmental implications. There is a need to strike a balance between promoting new economic development and improvements in core service delivery.
 9. Resilience of infrastructure to be considered when it is planned, designed, delivered and managed, and should be of an appropriate standard to withstand the known climate change impacts likely to be experienced in the future.
 10. Infrastructure WA to explore the use of functional economic regions (which group a number of Local Government areas together based on real economic linkages) as a way to identify and deliver large-scale opportunities across regional borders. In some circumstances, it may be useful to consider a program of work that cuts across regional boundaries to support a particular strategic outcome, rather than individual projects.
 11. Greater use of technology to allow people to stay in regional areas and stem the decline in population, but will require access to fast and reliable telecommunications infrastructure.
 12. A clear way of facilitating bottom up input from outside of State Government agencies through the engagement process to develop the State Infrastructure Strategy.
- The submission also provides commentary on the trends and issues related to the WA economy and infrastructure sectors identified in the Discussion Paper.

6.2 Draft Amendments to the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Scheme) Regulations 2015*
(Page 64)

WALGA Recommendation

That the endorsed Submission on the Draft Amendments to the Planning and Development (Local Planning Scheme) Regulations 2015, be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

- On 20 August 2020, the WA Planning Commission released draft amendments to the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015*.
- The public comment period closed on 18 September 2020.
- A submission was prepared for State Council endorsement via Flying Minute.

6.3 Interim Review – State Planning Policy 3.1 Residential Design Codes (Page 67)

WALGA Recommendation

That the endorsed submission on the interim review of State Planning Policy 3.1 Residential Design Codes, be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

- On 11 July 2020, the WA Planning Commission released the interim review of the State Planning Policy 3.1 Residential Design Codes (R-Codes) for public comment. The comment period closed on 10 September 2020.
- The submission was endorsed by State Council by Flying Minute.

6.4 State and Federal Budgets (Page 69)

WALGA Recommendation

That the update on the 2020 Federal and State Budgets be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

- The State and Federal Budgets were handed down in recent weeks. The Budgets revealed the significant and lasting impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our economic and financial position.
- The Budget showed that COVID-19 had an immediate impact on the state's labour market, particularly those industries directly affected by the restrictions such as hospitality, arts and recreation and retail. This saw our domestic economy record the largest quarterly contraction on record (-6%) in June.
- However, the WA economy is still faring better than other states, and with our performance boosted by the state's dominant mining industry and the early containment of the virus, which allowed restrictions to be lifted.
- Even though WA is expected to perform better than other states, the impact of COVID-19 will still be long lasting, with unemployment expected to be elevated for a number of years.
- In light of this, the focus of the both the State and Federal Budgets were on COVID-19 recovery, and will see the use of debt to fund a range of initiatives intended to kick-start the economy.
- The headline of the State Budget was the previously announced \$5.5 billion COVID recovery plan, and an Asset Investment Program worth \$27 billion that will be funded through operating surpluses and additional debt.
- There were limited new announcements in the budget, but those which are welcome news for the sector, include:
 - \$7.6 million to implement the 'Stop Puppy Farming' legislation
 - \$5 million to assist local coastal managers to protect coastal erosion hotspot sites
 - \$15 million to treat priority bushfire and other risks on unallocated or unmanaged Crown land, including that under the care of Local Government
 - \$16.1 million over four years to target high casualty and high-risk intersections on local government roads within the metropolitan area.
- The Commonwealth has directed significant funding towards tax relief and incentives for both households and businesses to encourage spending and restart the economy.
- The Federal Budget contained more news that is positive for Local Governments, particularly the announcement of a \$1 billion investment in local roads and community infrastructure.

- Local Governments that rely heavily on domestic and international visitors will also benefit from the Federal Budget's \$50 million Regional Tourism Recovery initiative, and a new \$200 million round of the Building Better Regions Fund.
- Further detail about the State and Federal Budgets can be found in the Budget summary documents and WALGA Economic Briefing.

6.5 Noongar Heritage Agreement for Local Government (Page 71)

WALGA Recommendation

That the update on the Noongar Heritage Agreement for Local Government be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

- In August 2020 State Council endorsed the Template Noongar Heritage Agreement for Local Government (NHALG) which was developed by WALGA, the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC), the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH), the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC), and the State Solicitors Office to facilitate a consistent approach to Aboriginal heritage across the area of the South West Native Title Settlement (SWNTS), which affects 101 Local Governments.
- In October 2020 SWALSC requested that commencement of the NHALG be delayed whilst they determine resourcing requirements to enter into NHALGs in a timely manner.
- SWALSC's resourcing issues also mean that they are unable to respond to Local Government's directly on heritage matters and have requested all Local Governments' to contact DPLH for heritage advice.

6.6 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill Consultation (Page 72)

WALGA Recommendation

That the update on the consultation on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

- In September 2020 the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage released the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill (ACHB) for a short five week consultation period. The ACHB reflects the feedback of Aboriginal people, industry and stakeholders across the State gathered over two years of consultation.
- This followed consultation in 2018 and 2019 on the development of new legislation for the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage for Western Australia.
- WALGA lodged a response to the ACHB consultation survey on 1 October 2020.

6.7 Local Government Animal Welfare in Emergencies Grant Program (Page 74)

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note:-

1. *The Local Government Animal Welfare in Emergencies Grant Program is a collaboration between the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and WALGA to build the capacity of Local Government to assist their communities in responding to, and recovering from, emergencies.*
2. *Recipients of the Grant funding have been notified and will commence their projects in November.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- The Local Government Animal Welfare in Emergencies Grant Program has been funded by DPIRD and administered by WALGA.
- Individual grants up to a maximum of \$10,000, and collaborative grants of up to \$5,000 per Local Governments were made available.
- Local Governments will use the funding to prepare or update a Local Government Animal Welfare in Emergencies Plan, procure equipment to house animals in the event of an emergency, host an exercise, facilitate training, or to develop their own project to build their capacity to respond to, and recover from emergencies.
- Twenty grants have been funded, including seven in the metropolitan area and thirteen in regional areas.

Cr R Madacsi asked if there was any scope for the grant funding under the program to be directed to small not-for-profit organisations who work in this space. **Mr T Brown indicated that he would follow up.**

6.8 2020 Annual General Meeting (Page 76)

WALGA Recommendation

That the actions taken on the resolutions from the 2020 WALGA Annual General Meeting be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

- WALGA's 2020 Annual General Meeting was held on Friday, 25 September 2020
- The meeting resolved for WALGA to take action in relation to two policy issues:
 1. Drought in Western Australia, and
 2. State Owned Unallocated Crown Land (UCL) House Blocks.
- Both items are consistent with WALGA Policy Positions and action has been undertaken consistent with the intent of the motions.

6.9 COVID-19 – Update (Page 78)

Please note: The information in this report is up-to-date as of 30 October 2020. Supplementary information will be provided at Zone and State Council meetings, as well as through other channels, such as the COVID-19 Update from the WALGA President and CEO if required.

WALGA Recommendation

That the information contained in this report be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

- At the time of writing there has been no community transmission of COVID-19 in WA since 11 April. Significant recent increases in WA's active cases are due to returning international travellers in quarantine and crew members of arriving international vessels.
- The national picture has improved, with the number of active cases falling, the Victorian outbreak coming under control and restrictions relaxed.
- The Premier announced on 30 October that effective 14 November WA will move from a 'hard' to a 'controlled' interstate border, subject to advice from the WA Chief Health Officer. The modified 2 sqm rule (with exemptions) and remote Aboriginal community restrictions will remain in place.
- The State Government's COVID-19 priorities continue to be promoting economic recovery, the development and testing of COVID-19 outbreak and surge plans and ensuring the integrity of the quarantine management system.
- WALGA has continued to provide dedicated COVID-19 support and advocacy for members, including regular updates, webinars, guidance and analysis.

RECOMMENDATION

That the above matters for noting/information be noted.

RESOLUTION

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –
That the above matters for noting/information be noted.**

CARRIED

Organisational Reports

7.1 Key Activity Reports

- 7.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Commercial and Communications (Page 81)
- 7.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Governance and Organisational Services (Page 86)
- 7.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure (Page 89)
- 7.1.4 Report on Key Activities, Strategy, Policy and Planning (Page 91)

7.2 Policy Forum Reports (Page 95)

RECOMMENDATION

That the above organisational reports be noted.

RESOLUTION

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr R Madacsi seconded –
That the above organisational reports be noted.**

CARRIED

6.2 WALGA President's Report

Presentation of the WALGA President's Report (attached to Agenda).

RECOMMENDATION

That the WALGA President's Report be received.

Cr C Antonio expressed appreciation of the work undertaken by the WALGA President over the last 5 months. The meeting supported the comments.

RESOLUTION

**Cr R Madacsi moved and Cr C Antonio seconded –
That the WALGA President's Report be received.**

CARRIED

6.3 State Councillor's Report

Report by Cr Ken Seymour.

RECOMMENDATION

That the State Councillor's report be received.

No report.

6.4 Zone Status Report

Report by WA Local Government Association on status of Zone resolutions for action by the Association – November 2020 (attached to Agenda)

RECOMMENDATION

That the November 2020 Status Report be received.

RESOLUTION

**Cr R Madacsi moved and Cr C Antonio seconded –
That the November 2020 Status Report be received.**

CARRIED

7 ZONE REPORTS

7.1 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group

(a) Minutes

Minutes of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group meeting held 5 October 2020 (attached to Agenda).

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group meeting held 5 October 2020 be received.

RESOLUTION

**Cr B Haywood moved and Cr C Antonio seconded –
That the minutes of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group meeting held 5 October 2020 be received.**

CARRIED

(b) Matters Arising from the Meeting

- Movement of Agricultural Machinery – The Group resolved that the Minister for Transport be requested to review the pilot requirements for the movement of oversize agricultural machinery on regional distributor and State roads outside of the metropolitan area (Orange Zone) to enable the movement to be without the need for a licensed heavy vehicle pilot from the point of entry to the nearest local government through road.
- Speed Limit for Tractors – The WA Local Government Association presented in Information Paper on the speed limits on public roads of tractors and self-propelled agricultural Machinery for consideration by the Group. The Group deferred consideration of this matter pending feedback from the Agricultural Vehicle Advisory Committee.
- Tier 3 Rail Network – Engineering Assessment – Hon Darren West MLC attended the meeting and gave an update on the engineering assessment of the condition of the Tier 3 rail network. It was noted –
 - The standard adopted for the report was 19 t axle loading at 80 km/h and a 50+ year rail life. New rail, sleepers, culverts and bridges are to be used.
 - The estimated cost to restore the tier 3 network to a suitable condition for commercial operation is \$1 billion.
 - The State government is preparing business cases for Federal funding.

The Group resolved to request the Minister for transport to advise the timeframe for development and submission of the business cases for federal funding and whether business cases were also to be submitted to Infrastructure WA.

- Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Group is scheduled for 9 April 2020.

Zone delegate to the Group, Cr B Haywood, may care to comment.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report on the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group be received.

RESOLUTION

Cr R Madacsi moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –

That the report on the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group be received. CARRIED

7.2 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee

Report by Zone Delegate Cr C Antonio on meetings of the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Report on the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee be received.

Cr C Antonio commented on –

RESOLUTION

Cr C Antonio moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –

That the Report on the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee be received.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 11:17 am.

RESUMPTION: The meeting resumed at 11:35 am. All those present at the time of adjournment were present on resumption.

8 AGENCY REPORTS

8.1 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

- (a) Presentation of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries report.
- (b) Consideration of any topics or presentations the Zone would like the Department to give to the next Zone meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries report be received.

Ms J Holbrook commented on –

RESOLUTION

Cr R Madacsi moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –

That the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Report be received.

CARRIED

8.2 RDA Wheatbelt

Presentation of the RDA Wheatbelt report (attached to Agenda).

RECOMMENDATION

That the RDA Wheatbelt report be received.

Ms M Walker presented her report and commented on –

-

RESOLUTION

Cr R Madacsi moved and Cr C Antonio seconded –

That the RDA Wheatbelt Report be received.

CARRIED

8.3 Transport Portfolio (Main Roads, Department of Transport, Public Transport Authority)

Presentation of the Transport Portfolio report.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Transport Portfolio report be received.

Mr C Manton commented on –

RESOLUTION

**Cr P Bantock moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –
That the Transport Portfolio Report be received.**

CARRIED

8.4 RoadWise (Wheatbelt North)

No Report. Mr Cliff Simpson has advised that due to a big road safety week event in Kellerberrin he will not be able to attend this meeting.

8.5 Wheatbelt Development Commission

Presentation of report from Wheatbelt Development Commission, including the Commission's new Strategic Plan.

Recommendation

That the Wheatbelt Development Commission's Report be received.

Ms E Woods and Mr D Waterhouse presented the Wheatbelt Development Commission's report and Strategic Plan.

Due to technical difficulties, audio for those participating via Zoom was lost and participants left the meeting at 12:23 pm.

RESOLUTION

**Cr B Haywood moved and Cr C Antonio seconded –
That the Wheatbelt Development Commission's Report be received.**

CARRIED

9 FINANCE

9.1 Financial Reports

Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Report for the period ending 31 October 2020 are attached to the agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

That the financial reports for the year ending 31 October 2020, as attached, be received.

RESOLUTION

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –
That the financial reports for the year ending 31 October 2020, as attached, be received.**

CARRIED

9.2 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts are submitted for payment -

<u>Payee</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Amount</u>
R W & S Dew	Secretarial Services to Zone – December 2020 Quarter	3,684.25
	TOTAL (no GST)	<u>\$3,684.25</u>

RECOMMENDATION

That the accounts as listed totalling \$3,684.25 be approved for payment.

RESOLUTION

Cr C Antonio moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –

That the accounts as listed totalling \$3,684.25 be approved for payment.

CARRIED

10 ZONE BUSINESS

10.1 Tennis West 2021-2024 Strategic Plan

BACKGROUND

Tennis West have recently finalised their 2021-2024 Strategic Plan.

COMMENT

With the vision of 'Thriving Tennis Communities' Tennis West is planning to engage more closely with clubs and local governments. They advise that the reason for wanting to present at Zone meetings is that they see an alignment between the Tennis West Strategic Plan and many LGA's Strategic Community Business Plans. Tennis West wishes to work closely with LGA's to support the needs of affiliated tennis clubs and to understand the nature of unaffiliated tennis facilities in the Zones. Their aim is to facilitate growth of tennis in each local government, which will in turn support local governments' community objectives.

The presentation would focus on the pillars that underpin Thriving Tennis Communities, including:

- Right management model
- Financially viable
- Sustainable facilities
- Welcoming, safe and inclusive culture
- Know your community
- Clear identity and vision
- Appropriate products
- Digital presence

RECOMMENDATION

For consideration

RESOLUTION

Cr B Haywood moved and Cr R Madacsi seconded –

That the Tennis West be invited to give a presentation to the Zone at its February 2021 meeting.

CARRIED

Zone Meeting Format

BACKGROUND

The Zone's August meeting was held as a hybrid meeting incorporating video conferencing into the in-person meeting. The meeting felt that the initial trial was successful and resolved that were possible hybrid meetings be pursued for future meetings of the Zone.

COMMENT

Most venues used for Zone meetings are not set up for video conferencing. This creates a number of issues for hybrid meetings including –

- Capturing the audio, in particular from the in-person portion of the meeting for those participating by video.
- An adequate internet service. Most venues do not have an in-house internet service.
- The quality of laptop cameras.
- The need to maintain Social distancing.

Options –

- Internet Service
 - Provision of a mobile broadband device. Currently provided by the Executive Officer – cost \$150 per year depending on data usage.
- Audio:
 - Use roving microphone(s) such as used at our August meeting.
 - Use a central microphone which all those wishing to speak must use. Similar to WALGA conferences.
 - Use conference microphones. These have a voice pick-up range of around 7m. With the current number of meeting participants we would need to have at least two.
- Visual:
 - Use external camera.

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That hybrid meetings continue to be trialled for Zone meetings to determine the best options for the Zone; and
- (b) That the Executive Officer be authorised to make enquiries as to the suitability and costs of audio/visual equipment which will meet the Zone's requirements for hybrid meetings after taking into account the options trialled.

RESOLUTION

Cr C Antonio moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –

- (a) That hybrid meetings continue to be trialled for Zone meetings to determine the best options for the Zone; and**
- (b) That the Executive Officer be authorised to make enquiries as to the suitability and costs of audio/visual equipment which will meet the Zone's requirements for hybrid meetings after taking into account the options trialled.**

CARRIED

11 URGENT BUSINESS (as permitted by the Presiding Member)
--

11.1 WALGA AGM Venue

RESOLUTION

Cr C Antonio moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –

That the Zone recommends to the WA Local Government Association that the Association's Annual General Meeting revert to being held at the Perth Convention Centre. CARRIED

The meeting commented –

- 1) The change was requested by the 2020 Annual General Meeting.
- 2) The Convention Centre has tiered seating which is preferred to the single level with round tables available at Crown.
- 3) Trade display and exhibitors can be better accommodated at the Convention Centre.
- 4) A wider range of accommodation is available in proximity to the Convention Centre; important for country local governments. At Crown accommodation was limited to 1 or 2 expensive hotels.

Mr A Cook expressed concern with presenters each giving a welcome to country. He felt that this took time away from the business of the Conference. He pointed out that at the commencement of the Conference an appropriate welcome to country was made.

12 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Hon M Aldridge commented on –

13 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Future meetings of the Zone are scheduled for –

19 February 2021	Shire of Wongan-Ballidu
23 April 2021	Shire of Moora
25 June 2021	Shire of Goomalling
20 August 2021	Shire of Gingin
19 November 2021	Shire of Toodyay

The Shire of Wongan-Ballidu has asked if they can swap the meeting scheduled to be hosted by them on 19 February 2021 with the meeting to be held 23 April 2021. The Shire has advised that they would like to hold the meeting in the new collocated Sports Centre in Wongan Hills however the Centre is booked for a function on 19 February 2021. I understand that they have approached the Shire of Moora regarding the swap.

RECOMMENDATION

That the next ordinary meeting of the Zone be held Friday 19 February 2021 and be hosted by the Shire of Moora.

RESOLUTION

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –
That the next ordinary meeting of the Zone be held Friday 19 February 2021 and be hosted by the Shire of Moora. CARRIED**

14 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair thanked attendees for their participation, wished everyone a good festive season and declared the meeting closed at 1:04 pm.

CERTIFICATION

These Minutes were confirmed by the meeting held on

Signed:
(Chairman of meeting at which the Minutes were confirmed)