



GVROC Council Meeting to consider WALGA State Council Agenda Items

Unconfirmed Minutes

Friday 22 August 2025

Zoom Videoconference, commencing at 9.00am

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GOLDFIELDS VOLUNTARY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS (GVROC)

**Videoconference meeting of the GVROC Council to consider WALGA State
Council Agenda Items was held Friday 22 August 2025 at 9.00am**

AGENDA

1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The purpose of the meeting is to provide advice to the GVROC WALGA State Council Representative, on the Agenda for the WALGA State Council Meeting to be held on 5 September 2025.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Pursuant to the Code of Conduct, Councillors and CEOs must declare to the Chairman any potential conflict of interest they may have in a matter before the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils as soon as they become aware of it. Councillors, CEOs and Deputies may be directly or indirectly associated with some recommendations of the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils. If you are affected by these recommendations, please excuse yourself from the meeting and do not participate in deliberations.

Nil.

3. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1 Attendance

Cr Mal Cullen	President, Shire of Coolgardie (Chair)
Cr Tracey Rathbone	Councillor, Shire of Coolgardie
Mr Aaron Cook	A/CEO, Shire of Coolgardie
Cr Glenn Wilson	Mayor, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Cr Laurene Bonza	President, Shire of Dundas
Mr Peter Fitchat	CEO, Shire of Dundas
Cr Wes Graham	Councillor, Shire of Esperance
Mr Phil Marshall	CEO, Shire of Laverton
Mr Ty Matson	CEO, Shire of Leonora
Mr Rob Stewart	A/CEO, Shire of Menzies
Cr Peter Grundy	President, Shire of Wiluna (Joined meeting at 9:25am)
Mr David Mosel	CEO, Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku
Mr Andrew Mann	Executive Officer, GVROC

3.2 Apologies

Cr Wayne Johnson	Councillor, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder
Mr Andrew Brien	CEO, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder
Cr Sharon Warner	Councillor, Shire of Dundas
Cr Ron Chambers	President Shire of Esperance
Mr Shane Burge	CEO, Shire of Esperance
Cr Patrick Hill	President, Shire of Laverton
Cr Shaneane Weldon	Councillor, Shire of Laverton
Cr Peter Craig	President, Shire of Leonora
Cr Paul Warner	President, Shire of Menzies
Cr Sudhir Sudhir	Councillor, Shire of Menzies
Mr Matt Macintyre	CEO, Shire of Wiluna
Cr Damian McLean	President, Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku

3.3 Guests

Nil

3.4 WALGA Representatives

Rachel Armstrong	Policy Manager Emergency Management
Christina Colegate	Senior Policy Advisor Community

4. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

4.1 Minutes of a Meeting of GVROC to consider WALGA State Council Agenda Items held 23 June 2025

Minutes of the GVROC Council Meeting to consider WALGA State Council held Monday 23 June 2025 are presented for adoption (**Attachment 1**).

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Unconfirmed Minutes of the GVROC Council Meeting to consider WALGA State Council held Monday 23 June 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**
 Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie

Carried

4.2 Matters for Noting

The following matters were presented for noting.

1. Local Government Alert dated 7 August 2025 - **Entrapment hazards in public playgrounds: Health and Safety Bulletin No.19**

Playgrounds encourage children to have fun experiences while learning and developing their skills. However, playground equipment with forced movements, such as spinning or sliding, can be a hazard and pose a risk to the safety of children.

One type of entrapment hazard can occur when a child's body part or clothing becomes trapped between moving parts of the playground equipment. The risk of injury from entrapment increases when the equipment involves forced movements.

An incident in August 2023 highlights the entrapment dangers. While using a wheelchair-accessible carousel, a four-year-old child's little toe was amputated when it was trapped in the gap between the spinning metallic platform and the stationary outer section of the carousel. Sadly, attempts to reattach the toe were unsuccessful.

WorkSafe, in conjunction with Kidsafe WA, wants to remind those accountable for operating playgrounds that they have a responsibility to help keep children safe from entrapment and other hazards.

[Read WorkSafe's Health and Safety Bulletin](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the matters for noting as listed be received and noted.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Mayor Glenn Wilson, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder**
 Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie

Carried

5. WALGA State Council Agenda

From: Chair GVROC

Background:

GVROC/Goldfields Esperance Zone Delegates are invited to read and consider the WALGA State Council Agenda for its meeting on 5 September 2025, which can be found at **Attachment 2** and can be found via the link [here](#).

The GVROC/Goldfields Esperance Zone can provide comment or submit an alternative recommendation on any of the items, including the items for noting. The GVROC/Goldfields Esperance Zone comment will then be presented to the State Council for consideration at their meeting.

The State Council Agenda items requiring a decision of State Council are extracted for GVROC/Goldfields Esperance Zone consideration in **Section 6** of this Agenda.

Section 7 of the is Agenda also lists those State Council matters for noting plus any additional items from WALGA for the GVROC/Goldfields Esperance Zone to note.

6. Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Decision

6.1 Rating of Renewable Energy Facilities

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA advocate to the State Government for:

- 1. Legislative amendments to enable WA Local Governments to rate large-scale renewable energy facilities using current rating mechanisms (differential rating based on UV, differential rating based on GRV, or GRV alone) with certainty.**
- 2. A commitment to implement a Payment in Lieu of Rates (PiLoR) framework in Western Australia.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA Members have expressed uncertainty in the rating of large-scale renewable energy facilities across the State which was confirmed through a resolution of the Peel Country Zone Meeting in April 2025.
- In response to the uncertainty, WALGA engaged Paxon Consulting Group to review the rating mechanisms available for Local Governments to recover costs associated with large scale renewable energy projects.
- The purpose of the review was to examine the current legislative framework, undertake a review across other Australian jurisdictions in respect to who rating for such facilities is managed, and provide recommendations for the rating of these facilities in Western Australia, including any required amendments to legislation.
- The Final Report outlined seven Key Findings which confirmed that legislative change would be required to enable Local Governments to rate renewable energy facilities with certainty.

ATTACHMENT

- [Local Government Rating of Renewable Energy Facilities Report](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item relates to WALGA's Strategic Pillars of Influence, Support and Expertise.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There is no current advocacy position for the rating of large-scale renewable energy facilities. Endorsement of this item will enable the establishment of a position.

BACKGROUND

Western Australia's energy industry is transforming to achieve the goal of net zero emissions by 2050. Project proponents are active in many rural, remote and regional areas, seeking to develop renewable energy projects.

The placement, management and impact of renewable energy facilities have become contentious issues nationally and in local communities across Western Australia. Concerns have been raised regarding:

- the location of these facilities on agricultural land,
- the suitability of regulatory frameworks to ensure local communities benefit from the investment,
- the inability of the planning framework to manage on and off-site impacts of proposals, and impact on agricultural land use.

There have been an increasing number of conversations around compensation and cost recovery for those communities housing large scale renewable energy projects. Compensation is typically done through some sort of community benefits arrangement and WALGA has recently developed a Renewable Energy Community Benefits and Engagement Guide to assist WA Local Governments navigate discussions with developers and their communities.

The ability for Local Governments to recover costs (ie road maintenance, additional services used etc) incurred as part of the roll out of large-scale renewable energy projects is equally important. There is a lack of clarity around the best mechanism for achieving cost recovery and Local Governments have been seeking clarification on the applicable land value rating method of these facilities and how best to approach this going forward.

In response to this, WALGA engaged Paxon Consulting Group (Paxon) to review the rating mechanisms currently available to Local Governments to recover costs and provide advice on whether amendments to legislation are required to ensure Local Governments are able to equitably and fairly rate renewable energy facilities. Paxon also undertook a review of other Australian jurisdictions and existing case law to determine the rating options available to Western Australian Local Governments.

The Key Findings of the report are outlined below:

1. Under the current legislative framework, there is no clear method that allows WA Local Governments to impose rates on renewable energy facilities in their area, with certainty.
2. Each rating option considered in this report would require some legislative change to become a more certain and reliable avenue for Local Governments in the rating of renewable energy facilities.
3. In each case, the legislative change could be achieved with fairly 'blunt' legislative amendments – that is, introduction of a new standalone provision (or set of standalone provisions), and minimal amendments required to existing legislation.
4. Any legislative amendments to tighten the rating approach and/or introduce PiLoR should not (in principle) need to be extensive or overly complex.
5. With the PiLoR framework in particular – whilst this may involve more substantial legislative drafting (given that a new framework is needed), if the Victorian model was to be generally followed, this framework would be relatively straightforward and self-contained. This makes it arguably a 'cleaner' approach than the other options, as a (mostly) standalone mechanism – and a clear process – that has minimal interference with existing rate setting processes. Of course, practical matters, namely reaching political alignment on the specifics of the mechanism (especially methodology) and the roll-out / application, may instead give rise to challenges.
6. On all the options considered, the exact nature of the amendments should be determined by which approach or position will be most palatable from a political and policy perspective. For example, whilst WA Local Governments may wish to avoid the time and uncertainty involved with a Ministerial determination / approval on any matters, it is unlikely that it can be avoided entirely (in which case the amendments would need to capture whatever approval rights would sit with the Minister).
7. Finally, if different options or permutations of rating options are used for different types of renewable energy assets, this would create another layer of legislative complexity and increase the scale of changes required.

The options for rating, including the advantages, limitations and ranking of each, are detailed in the Report. The rating options are ranked as follows:

1. PiLoR Framework
2. Differential Rating based on UV with no ratio limit
3. GRV Rating
4. Differential Rating based on GRV with no ratio limit

Although the PiLoR framework is more complex to implement, it is ranked first as it enables Local Governments to fairly and equitably rate renewable energy facilities through a cleaner, mostly standalone rating mechanism, bespoke to renewable energy assets, which is understood and accepted by the renewable energy sector.

The ability to apply a higher and uncapped differential rate determined by the Local Government is ranked second. This option is favoured over both the GRV options, as unlike the GRV options, this option does not require a valuation and is suitable for all renewable asset types.

The Report recommends the following:

1. WALGA to endorse support for the adoption of the PiLoR framework approach to the rating of renewable energy facilities.
2. WALGA to make representation to both the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety and the Department of Energy and Economic Diversification on the merits of the PiLoR framework.
3. WALGA to advocate for legislation amendment to enable WA Local Government to negotiate annual contributions with renewable energy proponents in lieu of rates.

4. WALGA should advocate to State Government to ensure any funds received through a potential community benefit arrangement are clearly identified as separate from the annual rates contributions.

COMMENT

WALGA acknowledges that even though the adoption of the PiLoR framework is the preferred option in the Report, it is also a more substantial change requiring the development of an entirely new framework across multiple State Government agencies.

This is likely to be a longer-term option and as such WALGA will advocate for this in parallel to the above legislative amendments. The adoption of a PiLoR framework in Western Australia would require a new legislative section(s) setting out:

- the legislative ability for an annual payment in lieu of rates;
- which land the process can apply to – noting in Victoria, it's land 'predominantly used' for the generation of electricity;
- the process for determining the quantum of the payment – ideally with a payment calculation methodology, at least as a 'fall back';
- a third party dispute resolution process; and
- any exemptions.

As identified in the Report, amendment to the current legislation pertaining to Local Government rating, is the most straightforward option. As such, WALGA will advocate for the following changes:

GRV Rating

For example, a new section to the effect that:

- if land has any renewable energy (RE) assets, the Minister will determine that the method of valuation is GRV for either the entire property, or the portion of (or lot(s) within) the property with RE assets, irrespective of the existing methodologies in the *Local Government Act 1995* (LG Act);
- when calculating the GRV under the *Valuation Land Act 1978* (VL Act), works effected to the land and items affixed to the land (including turbines, towers, masts and monitoring systems, panels, buildings, substations and connection points, roads, fencing, foundations cabling / connectors etc), are improvements, irrespective of whether above ground or underground, and irrespective of who owns the items.

Differential Rating (UV)

- A new section of the LG Act to the effect that the Minister's approval is not required where the (higher) differential rating category relates to land with RE Assets.
- This could / would be accompanied by a subsection with conditions or parameters on the setting of a higher differential rate, or requirement for compliance with a subsidiary document that contained such parameters.
- If the public consultation process (in s 6.36 of the LG Act) was to be removed or pared back for land with RE Assets, a new subsection in the LG Act would be required, to the effect that the process either did not need to be followed for this category, or setting out a more limited way in which it would apply.

Differential Rating (GRV)

As per legislative changes required under the GRV Rating and Differential Rating (UV) Options.

GVROC COMMENTS

The GVROC request further details from WALGA on:

1. whether any consideration has been made on how rating of renewable energy facilities contained on mining tenements and on miscellaneous licenses will be treated, given the recent ruling by the Supreme Court around miscellaneous licenses?. If this has not been considered by WALGA can it advocate for its inclusion to the State Government?
2. Again if the renewable energy facilities are developed and contained on mining tenements will there be a legislative requirement placed on the mining company to ensure that it rehabilitates the site at the end of life of the renewable energy facility site, like it is enforced for mining facilities?
3. The GVROC also note from the Victorian Model as referenced, there is knowledge that issues have arisen and been seen in Victoria under general purpose leases, with people already pulling out of these leases, so careful consideration and scrutiny of the framework used there should be undertaken and not just picked up and followed.

RECOMMENDATION

That the GVROC support WALGA to advocate to the State Government for:

1. Legislative amendments to enable WA Local Governments to rate large-scale renewable energy facilities using current rating mechanisms (differential rating based on UV, differential rating based on GRV, or GRV alone) with certainty.
2. A commitment to implement a Payment in Lieu of Rates (PiLoR) framework in Western Australia.
3. WALGA to note and respond to the additional GVROC comments listed above.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: *Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie*

Seconded: *Mayor Glenn Wilson, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder*

Carried

6.2 Rating of Miscellaneous Licences

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA:

1. **Advocate for Local Governments to continue to have the ability to rate miscellaneous licences under the *Mining Act 1978*; and**
2. **Oppose legislative amendments that seek to exempt occupied miscellaneous licence land from rating.**
3. **Continue to advocate for a broad review to be conducted into the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under section 6.26 of the Local Government Act 1995.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Under section 6.26 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, all land is rateable unless specifically exempted.
- In a State Administrative Tribunal decision of 2024, it was determined that Crown land the subject of an occupied miscellaneous licence was non-rateable.
- Subsequently, the Shire of Mt Magnet appealed this decision to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court ruled that Crown land subject to a miscellaneous licence and occupied is rateable, overturning the State Administrative Tribunal decision.
- This ruling affirmed the principle that Local Governments may levy rates on such land, recognising the significant infrastructure and occupation associated with these licences.
- On 2 August 2025, the WA State Government announced its intention to legislate amendments to the *Local Government Act 1995* to exempt land under miscellaneous licences from rating.
- WALGA has been advocating for Local Governments to have the ability to rate these licences and a formal advocacy position is required.
- WALGA is seeking support from the WA Parliament for the appropriate committee to review the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under section 6.26 of the Local Government Act 1995.

ATTACHMENT

- Supreme Court decision, [Shire of Mt Magnet v Atlantic Vanadium Pty Ltd \[2025\] WASC 274](#)
- [Ministers media release](#)
- [WALGA's media release](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item relates to WALGA's Strategic Pillars: Influence, Support and Expertise.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There is no specific advocacy position relating to miscellaneous licences. Endorsement of this item will enable the establishment of a position.

Current advocacy position 2.1.1 relates generally to Rating Exemptions Review:

Position Statement	<i>A broad review be conducted into the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under section 6.26 of the Local Government Act 1995.</i>
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BACKGROUND

Local Governments in Western Australia rely on property rates as a primary source of revenue to fund essential services and infrastructure. Under section 6.26 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, all land is rateable unless specifically exempted. Historically, exemptions have applied to land used for charitable, benevolent, religious, or public purposes, as well as small prospecting leases under 10 hectares and unoccupied miscellaneous licences.

A miscellaneous licence under the *Mining Act 1978* and the Mining Regulations 1981 (WA) sets out the purposes a miscellaneous licence may be granted for:

(a) a road; (b) a tramway; (c) an aerial rope way; (d) a pipeline; (e) a power line; (f) a conveyor system; (g) a tunnel; (h) a bridge; (i) taking water; (ia) a search for groundwater; (i) hydraulic reclamation and transport of tailings; (j) an aerodrome; (k) a meteorological station; (l) a sulphur dioxide monitoring station; (m) a communications facility; (n) a drainage channel; (o) a pump station; (p) a minesite accommodation facility; (q) a bore; (r) a bore field; (s) a water management facility; (t) a power generation and transmission facility; (u) a storage or transportation facility for minerals or mineral concentrate; (v) a minesite administration facility; [2025] (w) a workshop and storage facility; (x) a jetty.

In 2024, the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) determined that land under a miscellaneous licence was exempt regardless of occupation.

On an appeal from the Shire of Mt Magnet, in July 2025 the Supreme Court of Western Australia ruled that Crown land subject to a miscellaneous licence and occupied is rateable, overturning a previous SAT decision. This ruling affirmed the principle that Local Governments may levy rates on such land, recognizing the significant infrastructure and occupation associated with these licences.

However, the State Government has announced its intention to legislate amendments to the *Local Government Act 1995* to exempt land under miscellaneous licences from rating, citing the need to protect jobs and provide certainty to the mining sector.

WALGA has been advocating strongly for Local Governments to have the ability to rate these licences, however it is appropriate for State Council to endorse a formal position, aligning with existing advocacy position 2.1.1.

KEY ISSUES

- Equity and Fairness: Miscellaneous licences often support substantial infrastructure (e.g. roads, pipelines, bore fields, accommodation) that places demands on local services. Exempting such land from rates shifts the financial burden to residents and small businesses.
- Legal Precedent: The Supreme Court decision provides a clear legal interpretation that supports Local Governments' ability to rate occupied land under miscellaneous licences.
- Community Impact: Local Governments maintain infrastructure and services that benefit mining operations. Rates are a fair mechanism for mining companies to contribute to the communities they operate in.
- State Government Proposal: The proposed legislative change undermines the Supreme Court's decision and WALGA's advocacy for financial sustainability and fairness in rating practices.

COMMENT

WALGA strongly supports the Supreme Court's interpretation and opposes the State Government's proposed amendments. The Association maintains that:

- Occupied land under miscellaneous licences should be rateable.
- Mining companies should contribute to local communities through rates, just as other property owners do.
- Legislative changes should not override judicial decisions that promote equity and sustainability.

WALGA has advocated strongly on this issue following the State Governments announcement to legislate for a rating exemption for miscellaneous licences.

The following is a summary of WALGA's recent advocacy on this issue:

Thursday, 10 July 2025

- WALGA media statement – [Supreme Court decision supports critical role of Local Government](#)
- ABC Drive, [interview with Geraldine Mellet](#)

Saturday, 2 August 2025

- WALGA media statement - [WALGA condemns State Government move to legislate against Supreme Court decision](#)
- The West Australian, Rebecca Le May - [WA Local Government Association hits back as State Government shields miners from land rates](#)

Sunday, 3 August 2025

- The Sunday Times (pg. 5), Rebecca Le May – “Councils’ fury over mining land rates’

Monday, 4 August

- ABC News online, Chloe Henville - [“Move to exempt miners from paying rates on miscellaneous licenses 'concerning'”](#)
- ABC Mornings with Nadia Mitsopoulos – [“WALGA president Karen Chappel and AMEC CEO Warren Pearce discuss the State Government plan to prevent councils levying rates on miscellaneous licences”](#)
- 7 Regional News, Brandon Demura - [“State Government accused of re-writing rulebook for WA Councils”](#)
- ABC News Perth, Blake Kagi - [“Local Governments condemn State Government move”](#)

It is recommended that WALGA advocate for Local Governments to continue to have the ability to rate miscellaneous licences under the *Mining Act 1978*, and to oppose legislative amendments that seek to exempt occupied miscellaneous licence land from rating. In addition, continue to advocate that a broad review be conducted into the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under section 6.26 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

RECOMMENDATION

That the GVROC support WALGA:

- 1. To advocate for Local Governments to continue to have the ability to rate miscellaneous licences under the Mining Act 1978;**
- 2. To Oppose legislative amendments that seek to exempt occupied miscellaneous licence land from rating; and**
- 3. To continue to advocate for a broad review to be conducted into the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under section 6.26 of the Local Government Act 1995.**

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie

Carried

6.3 Community Infrastructure and Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund Advocacy Positions

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA:

1. **Replace Advocacy Position 3.7.1 Community Infrastructure with the following:**

Local Governments own, lease, and maintain vital community infrastructure across Western Australia that delivers essential benefits to local communities. Local Governments face significant funding pressures to ensure this infrastructure is effectively planned, developed, maintained, and enhanced to meet evolving community needs and population growth.

1. **WALGA calls on the Australian Government to provide \$500 million per annum for community infrastructure through a national formula based, targeted Local Government funding program.**
2. **WALGA calls on the State Government to:**
 - a. **Provide \$30 million per annum for the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund,**
 - b. **Provide \$30 million per annum for community arts and cultural infrastructure,**
 - c. **Provide funding for retrofitting accessible design features to community infrastructure,**
 - d. **Align all community infrastructure funding with existing State co-contribution of at least two-thirds.**

2. **Retire Advocacy Position 3.7.2 Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Following a review of WALGA's Investing in Communities advocacy positions it is proposed that Advocacy Position 3.7.1 Community Infrastructure be updated, and that Advocacy Position 3.7.2 Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund be retired.
- The proposed revisions intend to align the positions with current advocacy approaches and combine them into one position.
- The proposed changes were noted by the Infrastructure Policy Team and endorsed by the People and Place Policy Team in July 2025.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Endorsing the advocacy position updates and retirement aligns with the WALGA 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, in particular:

- Influence – Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government.
- Influence – Empower the Local Government sector to build communities equipped for the future.
- Support – Anticipate, understand and respond to Member needs.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- The replacement of Advocacy Position 3.7.1 Community Infrastructure with an updated position.
- The retirement of Advocacy Position 3.7.2 Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund.

BACKGROUND

Local Governments own, lease, maintain and are major stakeholders in community infrastructure across Western Australia. This includes 233 public libraries, as well as cultural centres, performance spaces, galleries, recreation centres and playgrounds. Community infrastructure provides essential community benefits but requires significant capital and ongoing maintenance to upkeep the investment.

Advocacy Position 3.7.1 defines community infrastructure as including, but not limited to, community pools, sport and recreation facilities, community resource centres, visitor servicing centres, child health centres, community centres, parks, playgrounds, skate parks, public libraries, arts and cultural centres, and shared facilities that Local Governments operate.

The State Government Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF) was established in 1974 to provide financial support to Local Governments and community groups to develop sport and recreation infrastructure. The fund is well utilised by Local Governments and has been oversubscribed in recent years. The State Government's annual contribution to CSRFF was halved in the 2025-24 State Budget to \$12 million. Sector feedback indicates that rising construction costs have rendered current State CSRFF contributions insufficient to guarantee project viability. The Cook Government 2025 election commitments, confirmed in the 25-26 State Budget, provide funding for several new location-specific infrastructure investments.

The current CSRFF advocacy position includes a request for two million dollars per annum, quarantined for female representation. The 2025-26 State Budget included \$6 million to establish a 'Boosting Women and Girls Participation in Sport' grant program and \$23.9 million to support Local Governments and community sporting organisations to upgrade facilities for women at targeted locations.

There is no equivalent ongoing funding for community arts and culture infrastructure. Advocacy calling for this ongoing funding was included in [The West at its Best](#) as an identified priority need for the sector.

[WALGA's Federal election priorities](#) includes the call for \$500 million per year for community infrastructure through formula based targeted Local Government funding. This funding ask is not currently captured in the WALGA Advocacy Manual.

There are no current funding programs specifically for retrofitting accessible design features to community infrastructure. However, the importance of ensuring universal access to community infrastructure aligns with several State Government strategic documents, including the [State Infrastructure Strategy Recommendation 88](#) and [A Western Australia for Everyone: State Disability Strategy 2020-2030](#).

This advocacy position review was discussed by the Infrastructure Policy Team and endorsed by the People and Place Policy Team in July 2025.

3.7.1 Community Infrastructure

It is proposed that WALGA's **current** advocacy position:

The Association continues to advocate for better planning and support for community infrastructure and investment by the State, Australian and private partners.

be **replaced** with:

Local Governments own, lease, and maintain vital community infrastructure across Western Australia that delivers essential benefits to local communities. Local Governments face significant funding pressures to ensure this infrastructure is effectively planned, developed, maintained, and enhanced to meet evolving community need and population growth.

1. *WALGA calls on the Australian Government to provide \$500 million per annum for community infrastructure through a national formula based, targeted Local Government funding program.*
2. *WALGA calls on the State Government to:*
 - a. *provide \$30 million per annum for the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund*
 - b. *provide \$30 million per annum for community arts and cultural infrastructure,*
 - c. *provide funding for retrofitting accessible design features to community infrastructure*
 - d. *align all community infrastructure funding with existing State co-contribution of at least two-thirds.*

3.7.2 Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund

It is proposed that WALGA's **current** position be **retired**:

The Local Government sector advocates for the State Government to:

1. *increase the CSRFF funding pool to at least \$25 million per annum and revert the contribution ratio to 50% split to enable more community programs and infrastructure to be delivered; and*
2. *increase the \$1 million per annum quarantined for female representation to at least \$2 million per annum.*

COMMENT

The proposed revisions provide a broad statement for ongoing investment in community infrastructure, reflecting the significant financial cost of upkeep, including costs associated with retrofitting accessible design features to existing infrastructure. Providing State and Australian Government funding through ongoing open grant programs provides a more equitable and sustainable funding source.

Combining the community infrastructure advocacy positions aims to streamline WALGA advocacy with specific points that reflect WALGA priorities as set out in the [2023-24 State Budget submission](#), [The West at its Best](#) and the [Federal Election Priorities](#), focused on sustainable stewardship of community infrastructure, including:

- Arts and culture
- Sports and recreation
- Accessible design features

The shift from a fifty per cent to a two-thirds State funding contribution reflects a strategic alignment of community infrastructure advocacy with prevailing funding frameworks in the broader infrastructure sector. This ensures consistency and reinforces the case for equitable investment across all infrastructure categories.

RECOMMENDATION

That the GVROC support the WALGA advocacy changes to the Community Infrastructure and Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund as per the recommendation provided.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

Seconded: Mayor Glenn Wilson, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder

Carried

6.4 **Rural and Remote Health Services Advocacy Position**

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA replace Advocacy Position 3.2.2 Regional Health Services with the following:

The Western Australian and Australian Governments are responsible for ensuring that all West Australians have equitable access to primary healthcare services, regardless of their location. Local Governments should not have to step in to support the provision of these services for their communities.

- 1. WALGA calls on the Western Australian and Australian Governments to address the systemic failures in the provision of rural and remote primary healthcare services, including through:**
 - a. the development and implementation of adequate, appropriate and sustainable funding models**
 - b. incentivising rural and remote healthcare workforce recruitment and retention.**
- 2. Local Governments should be reimbursed for costs incurred to support the provision of primary healthcare services until sustainable funding and workforce models are in place.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The provision of healthcare services is both an Australian and State responsibility.
- The WALGA Local Government Primary Healthcare Services Survey provides a comprehensive dataset of the cost, nature and geographical location of Local Government support predominantly focused on General Practice services.
- The recommended revisions update the Advocacy Position to align with the data and recommendations of the Survey Report and provide a framework for further advocacy.
- The People and Place Policy Team considered and endorsed the proposed changes at its meeting on 9 July.

ATTACHMENT

- [Local Government Primary Healthcare Services Survey](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Revising Advocacy Position 3.2.2 aligns to the WALGA 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, in particular:

- Influence – Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government.
- Support – Provide practical sector-wide solutions based on research and evidence.
- Expertise - Foster relationships between our subject matter experts and stakeholders.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The replacement and renaming of Advocacy Position 3.2.2 Regional Health Services with an updated position titled Rural and Remote Health Services.

BACKGROUND

In 2023, WALGA commissioned Rural Health West (RHW) to survey WA Local Governments to ascertain the extent to which Local Governments were providing financial or in-kind support to secure primary healthcare services. The Survey Report provides a comprehensive dataset on the cost, nature, and geographical location of Local Government support, as well as evidence that Local Government support was predominantly focused on General Practice services.

This issue has been identified as a priority for the sector at a number of forums, including the October 2024 Band 4 Local Governments meeting, the May 2025 Zones meetings, priority responses and member advocacy being undertaken by the [Local Government Rural Health Funding Alliance](#).

WALGA has begun a renewed advocacy campaign, with targeted asks of the Australian and State Governments to improve access to primary health services in rural and remote areas, to remove the need for Local Government intervention.

The People and Place Policy Team considered and endorsed the proposed advocacy position changes at its meeting on 9 July.

It is proposed that WALGA's **current** Advocacy Position 3.2.2 Regional Health:

The Association supports continuing to work with affected Local Governments and key stakeholders to identify and develop collaborative strategies. The Association supports continuing to advocate to the State Government to prioritise regional health and the regional health workforce. The Association supports developing a policy connection with the Australian Local Government Association as a pathway for advocating for stronger specialised regional health workforces.

Be replaced with:

3.2.2 Rural and Remote Healthcare Services

The Western Australian and Australian Governments are responsible for ensuring that all West Australians have equitable access to primary healthcare services, regardless of their location. Local Governments should not have to step in to support the provision of these services for their communities.

1. *WALGA calls on the Western Australian and Australian Governments to address the systemic failures in the provision of rural and remote primary healthcare services, including through:
 - a. *the development and implementation of adequate, appropriate and sustainable funding models.*
 - b. *incentivising rural and remote healthcare workforce recruitment and retention.**
2. *Local Governments should be reimbursed for costs incurred to support the provision of primary healthcare services until sustainable funding and workforce models are in place.*

COMMENT

Access to primary health is a critical issue for a large proportion of WALGA members. Local Government support of primary healthcare services creates a financial impost and diverts funding from other Local Government services and functions.

The proposed revisions provide a stronger position on the responsibility of the Australian and State Governments for primary healthcare provision and addressing the cost impost on Local Government, compelled to intervene where the current health system is failing.

The revised position aligns with the wider healthcare reform platform to enable advocacy partnerships and to provide a level of flexibility for the advocacy campaign in response to Government announcements. Terminology changes from regional health to rural and remote, aligns with the language used across healthcare advocacy and reflects that Local Government support for healthcare services is concentrated in areas of smaller populations. Framing the position around financial reimbursement enables sector diversity in response to community need and avoids implying an ongoing funding role for Local Government.

GVROC COMMENTS

In relation to 3.2.2 Rural and Remote Healthcare Services the GVROC is aware that several of the Federal and State Health Ministers have been questioned over the years on the issue of Local Governments having to fund GPs and health services in their towns and the usual response is that both Governments do not fund Local Governments for appointment of GPs or provision of medical services as they see that as private business compared to the provision of public health services. This is fine if you have a hospital or public medical clinic within the town and thus it receives funding from Governments to ensure provision of healthcare services, but not all regional towns have these facilities.

The GVROC would like to see if WALGA can strengthen its advocacy position in 3.2.2 to ensure that even those Rural and remote towns that do not have public health facilities in place, that they receive adequate funding through the LGAs to ensure that their communities also receive the equitable access to healthcare services.

RECOMMENDATION

That the GVROC support the WALGA advocacy position change to the 3.2.2 Regional Health Services and also request WALGA consideration to further strengthen the position change as per its comments listed above.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie**
 Seconded: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

Carried

6.5 Health Advocacy Position

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA retire Advocacy Position 3.2 Health.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Advocacy Position 3.2 relates to public health and predates the *Public Health Act 2016* and the commencement of Stage 5 of the Act in June 2024.
- The position is superseded by Advocacy Position 3.2.1 *Local Public Health Plans*, which was revised in September 2024 to align to the 2016 Act and specifically the implementation of Local Public Health Plans.
- The People and Place Policy Team considered and endorsed the retirement of Advocacy Position 3.2 Health at its meeting on 9 July.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Retiring Advocacy Position 3.2 aligns to the WALGA 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, in particular:

- Influence – Lead policy development for the Local Government sector.
- Expertise – Optimise organisational capability to service members' needs.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The retirement of Advocacy Position 3.2.1 Health.

BACKGROUND

Advocacy position 3.2.1 Health, endorsed in 2005, states:

The Association supports improving health outcomes for Western Australians through the investment in and provision of infrastructure and delivery of services in partnership with health professionals.

This position was last cited in a 2022 WALGA submission to the Department of Health relating to the Statutory Review of the *Food Act 2008*.

The position predates the commencement of the *Public Health Act 2016* and Stage 5 of the Act in 2024, which requires all Local Governments to develop and publish a Local Public Health Plan.

This position is superseded by advocacy position 3.2.1 relating to public health planning and specifically the implementation of Local Public Health Plans:

3.2.1 Local Public Health Plans

WALGA supports the objects and principles of the Public Health Act 2016.

The State Government must ensure that:

1. *Guidance, tools and resources are developed to support the development of Local Public Health Plans; and*
2. *Funding is provided for:*
 - a. *smaller rural and regional councils to support the development of Local Public Health Plans; and*
 - b. *the implementation of actions under Local Public Health Plans.*

The People and Place Policy Team endorsed the revisions to this position in September 2024.

COMMENT

Given changes in State public health legislation and the recent revisions to advocacy position 3.2.1 that cover the aspects of public health alluded to in advocacy position 3.2, this position is no longer required and should be retired.

The People and Place Policy Team considered and endorsed that Advocacy Position 3.2 Health be retired at its meeting on 9 July.

RECOMMENDATION

That the GVROC support the WALGA's recommendation to retire Advocacy Position 3.2 Health.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: *Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas***
 Seconded: *Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie*

Carried

6.6 Advocacy Positions for Active Transport and Micromobility

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA endorse the proposed advocacy positions on Active Transport and micromobility.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Six new advocacy positions are proposed, with the aim of providing a clear and unified framework to support Local Governments in planning, delivering, and advocating for walking, cycling, and other forms of Active Transport (AT).
- The new advocacy positions are intended to strengthen WALGA's voice in state and national forums, guide responses to legislative or policy changes, and ensure the sector is well-represented in cross-government initiatives related to AT.
- These positions reflect the growing role of AT in addressing key policy areas including health, sustainability, road safety, and urban liveability. The policy statements cover six key areas:
 - Active Transport Vision and Strategy
 - Funding
 - Safety
 - Education, Encouragement, and Community Engagement
 - eRideables
 - Active Travel to School
- The Infrastructure Policy Team considered and recommended the proposed AT advocacy positions for endorsement by State Council at its meeting on 4 August.

ATTACHMENT

- [Summary of Issues, Challenges for Active Transport in WA](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

The new advocacy positions align to the WALGA 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, in particular:

- Influence – Lead policy development for the Local Government sector.
- Support – Provide practical sector-wide solutions based on research and evidence.
- Expertise – Promote a dynamic, agile, high-performance culture.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The new advocacy positions will complement existing [Advocacy Positions](#):

- 5.2.5 The Role of Local Government in the Future Management of Warden Controlled Children's Crossings
- 5.2.7 Driving Change - Road Safety Strategy 2020-2030
- 5.3.3 Cycling on Footpaths
- 5.3.4 Licencing cyclists and registering bicycles
- 5.3.5 Active Travel to Schools
- 5.3.6 Pedestrian Crossings

BACKGROUND

In March 2024, State Council, through the Infrastructure Policy Team requested that WALGA organise a policy forum to better understand issues relating to Active Transport (AT) and develop an integrated policy and advocacy platform. This enhanced focus on AT formed the basis for extensive consultation with Local Governments over the last 18 months. The consultation process was primarily directed at identifying gaps in AT policy and AT infrastructure needs and involved extensive consultation with Local Government AT officers as well as workshops with Elected Members and senior stakeholders from relevant State agencies.

The WALGA Transport and Roads team met with over 30 Local Government officers and held two workshops with diverse stakeholders to support the development and refinement of a discussion paper that examines AT and micromobility in the Western Australian, Local Government context. The consultation process with Local Governments highlighted a range of issues, challenges, and gaps facing AT initiatives in WA, offering valuable insights into Local Governments unique needs and perspectives as they work to enhance AT infrastructure and promote sustainable mobility. The information gathered was summarised into ten key challenges experienced across jurisdictions:

Strategic Issues	Challenges
1. Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speeding and inappropriate travel speed Driver attitude towards vulnerable road users Lack of safe crossing points and limited space
2. Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited (no) funding for amenities
3. Network Gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding
4. Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding limits are a key challenge and focus of solutions
5. Integration in Plans and Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low community uptake and behaviour change
6. Incentives and Disincentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Car dependency and low awareness of active transport benefits
7. Public Transport Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bikes not permitted on public transport during peak hours
8. Education and Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No dedicated lead Fragmented efforts across multiple parties
9. E-Rideables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unclear regulation and enforcement
10. Travel to Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor planning for AT in school areas Limited school staff capacity to manage funding Inaccessible or inadequate grant funding

These challenges have been addressed in six proposed advocacy positions:

- Active Transport Vision and Strategy
- Funding
- Active Transport Safety
- Education/Encouragement/Community Engagement
- eRideables
- Active Travel to School

ADVOCACY POSITIONS

Active Transport Vision and Strategy	
Position Statement	<p><i>Local Governments recognise the public health, environmental, community, economic and transport benefits offered by active transport and calls on all levels of government to work toward increasing active transport.</i></p> <p><i>WALGA calls on the State and Federal Governments to work with the Local Government sector to develop and implement an Active Transport vision, strategy and actions with measurable goals to increase mode share of active transport. The Active Transport Strategy should include allocation of responsibilities to agencies and identification of sustainable funding.</i></p> <p><i>The relationships to other strategic plans should be defined to align a whole-of-government approach.</i></p>
Background	<p>Active Transport mode share in Western Australia is low compared with many global cities. Increasing the share of trips by active modes provides many benefits including reduced traffic congestion, less atmospheric pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions, improved health through incidental physical activity and opportunities for enhanced community interaction.</p> <p>Integrating an Active Transport Vision and Strategy with other strategic plans will encourage considerations for active travel to be embedded across all planning, design and operational processes.</p>
Priority Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage Local Governments to embed measures to enable Active Transport in all Local Government operations, policies, and programs. Call on the State Government to embed the provision of active transport infrastructure in State planning regulations and guidelines Invest in stakeholders planning with clearly defined, shared outcomes.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt a cross-government approach, with common performance measures across relevant departments to measure progress. • Promote a greater understanding of Active Transport user needs within all stages of planning and project delivery. • Normalise Active Transport in all infrastructure and policy discussions so that it becomes business as usual. • Better integrate active and public transport through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Advocating that the PTA provide appropriate end of trip facilities at public transport nodes including secure parking and storage. ◦ Calling on the PTA to provide for the carriage of bicycles and eRideables on all train services. ◦ Call on the PTA to explore opportunities to accommodate bicycles on buses. • Invest in data collection, management and analysis to inform investment in active transport infrastructure and programs including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Establishing a comprehensive, standardised data-sharing framework and platform for active transport information. ◦ Adopting video and AI-driven solutions to enhance the quality and efficiency of data collection, analysis and reporting. ◦ Develop a platform dedicated for comprehensive collection and analysis of Active Transport incident data, providing insights to improve safety, infrastructure design and strategic planning. • Require that design guidance for the public realm provides safe and attractive environment for active transport. • Provide safety through convenient priority road and rail crossing points for pedestrians and other active transport users and appropriate amenity including quality paths, drinking water at suitable intervals, shade and seating.
Key Challenges Addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Closing network gaps - Travel to Schools - Safety

Funding	
Position Statement	<i>WALGA calls on Federal and State Governments to provide a step change in funding for Active Transport by providing consistent, long-term investment to support Local Governments in planning, delivering, and maintaining AT infrastructure, programs, and supporting initiatives.</i>
Background	Active Transport is vital to creating healthier, more connected, and sustainable communities. Despite this, funding to support AT—across infrastructure, programs, planning, and maintenance—remains limited, inconsistent, and often short-term. This restricts Local Governments' ability to deliver integrated, accessible AT options that meet community needs. Sustained and coordinated funding is essential to increase uptake, improve safety, and ensure the long-term success of active travel initiatives.
Priority Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committing to a ten-year allocated funding program to deliver the Long-Term Cycle Network, based on a co-founded model of up to one-third contribution from Local Government. • Providing non-competitive cost indexed grants based on the extent of the defined active transport network for renewal / maintenance to support appropriate levels of service and asset longevity. • Establish a new Local Destination Program to fund the development of safe and accessible routes to key community destinations, including schools, train stations, and activity centres. • Significantly increase overall investment in Active Transport to reflect its role in health, sustainability, and transport outcomes, and bring funding levels closer to international benchmarks.
Key Challenges Addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding

Active Transport Safety	
Position Statement	<i>WALGA calls on the State Government for the provision of safe, pedestrian/bicycle-priority crossing points; safer speeds on local roads and around community hubs, schools, and public transport nodes; and road diet treatments to support safer environments for all users of the road network.</i>
Background	High traffic volumes and vehicle speeds contribute significantly to unsafe conditions for people walking, cycling, and using other forms of Active Transport. Creating safer streets requires a combination of infrastructure improvements, speed management, and environmental design strategies that prioritise the most vulnerable users.
Priority Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve safety for active transport users at existing roundabouts and intersections. • Seek reforms to Main Roads WA's speed zoning policies and processes to enhance Local Governments' influence in setting speed limits on local streets and distributor roads. • Support road design changes such as tree planting, lane narrowing, and other physical measures that promote slower, safer streets. • Reduce through-traffic volumes on all roads except Primary Distributors, especially in residential and mixed-use areas. • Target safety improvements in high-risk locations, including school precincts and public transport hubs. • Support complementary education initiatives to raise awareness of active transport user safety and responsible road use.
Key Challenges Addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safety - Travel to schools

Education/Encouragement/Community Engagement	
Position Statement	<i>When coupled with investment in infrastructure, education and encouragement programs effectively support the uptake of active transport modes and a cultural shift in attitudes toward active transport. WALGA calls on key stakeholders to form a coalition to advance mode shift to active transport initiatives, support infrastructure implementation, and realise a coordinated, multi-channel approach.</i>
Background	<p>Education, encouragement, and community engagement are essential to increasing the uptake of Active Transport. Beyond infrastructure, shifting travel behaviour relies on building public understanding of the benefits, availability, and safe use of Active Transport options. Raising awareness among both the community and key stakeholders helps normalise Active Transport, promote safety, and support long-term behavioural change.</p> <p>Public education campaigns can highlight the benefits of walking, cycling, and micromobility, while also addressing knowledge gaps around safe practices and existing networks. Targeted engagement with schools, local communities, and service providers—such as transport operators and enforcement agencies—can foster a more supportive environment for AT use across all settings.</p>
Priority Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call on the State Government to develop guidance and materials (e.g. toolkits) that support travel behaviour change and promote safe, responsible use of Active Transport and Micromobility. • Adopt a cross-government approach to deliver targeted training for relevant stakeholders on how to safely and respectfully interact with active transport users. • Support behaviour changes programs through incentives such as parking cash-out schemes, and other supportive measures. • Encourage Local Governments to provide a platform to raise public awareness of existing active transport facilities and the benefits of using them.
Key Challenges Addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education and community engagement

eRideables	
Position Statement	<i>WALGA calls on the State Government to develop and implement a comprehensive regulatory framework to address the safety, sale, and use of escooters and other eRideables in Western Australia. The State Government should consult with stakeholders, including Local Governments, to ensure that the framework is practical, enforceable, and responsive to on-the-ground challenges.</i>
Background	The use of eRideables—such as e-scooters and similar micromobility devices—is rapidly growing across Western Australia. While these devices offer affordable, low-emission transport options, the current regulatory framework has not kept pace with their adoption. Issues such as the sale of non-compliant devices, inconsistent enforcement, and public safety concerns—particularly in high pedestrian activity areas—are placing pressure on Local Governments and other stakeholders. There is a clear need for a coordinated, state-led response that balances innovation with safety, enforcement, and community wellbeing.
Priority Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing clear rules and enforcement to prevent the importation and sale of non-compliant or illegal eRideable devices. • Strengthen enforcement mechanisms and apply appropriate penalties to ensure compliance with existing laws. • Introduce and utilise equipment to verify compliance with legal performance limits. • Empower Local Governments to regulate the use of eRideables in high pedestrian activity areas, particularly on inner-city footpaths and shared spaces. • Develop a State-led eRideable Safety Action Plan in collaboration with key stakeholders. • Ensure that Local Governments are meaningfully engaged in this process, with WALGA providing formal representation. • Deliver targeted education and awareness initiatives for school-aged children and their parents to promote informed purchasing decisions, understanding of relevant rules, rider courtesy, and safe riding behaviour.
Key Challenges Addressed	- eRideables

Active Travel to School	
Position Statement	<i>WALGA recognises that enabling and encouraging active transport to and from schools delivers wide-ranging benefits — including improved public health, reduced traffic congestion, environmental sustainability, and stronger community wellbeing. Despite these benefits, barriers such as safety concerns, limited school resources, and lack of supportive infrastructure prevent the widespread uptake of active travel among students. WALGA supports a coordinated, long-term approach to embed active transport into the school environment, supported by targeted investment, planning, and program delivery.</i>
Background	Supporting children to walk, cycle, or scoot to school contributes to broader goals in public health, transport efficiency, environmental sustainability, and community safety. However, achieving these outcomes requires more than just physical infrastructure. Success depends on a collaborative approach involving schools, Local and State Government, parents, and community organisations. Active travel needs to be embedded as a normal, supported, and safe part of daily life for families. Addressing the existing barriers will require long-term coordination, consistent funding, and stronger alignment between education, transport, and planning systems.
Priority Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing sustained investment in school and community-based active travel programs. • Ensure funding is accessible through clear grant processes and supported by dedicated officers to assist schools with limited staff capacity.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase incentives for Traffic Wardens at Children's Crossings. • Encourage car-free zones around schools, where appropriate, to improve safety. • Guidance for schools and local governments to undertake connectivity studies and prioritise low-cost, high-impact improvements. • Integrate active transport education into the school curriculum and culture. • Plan and deliver infrastructure that ensures children can travel safely and independently to school.
Key Challenges Addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Closing Network Gaps - Travel to Schools - Education and community engagement - Funding

COMMENT

The proposed policy positions collectively address critical areas needed to advance AT across Western Australia. Each position strengthens WALGA's advocacy platform and supports Local Governments in addressing current and emerging challenges.

Active Transport Vision and Strategy

A clear, coordinated strategy is essential to embed AT across planning, infrastructure, and service delivery. Currently, efforts are fragmented and lack measurable goals or alignment between agencies. A shared vision and defined responsibilities will support integrated planning and prioritisation of resources at all levels of government.

Funding

Inconsistent, short-term funding limits Local Governments' ability to deliver and maintain Active Transport infrastructure and programs. A long-term, sustainable funding framework aligned with national and international benchmarks is critical to achieving health, environmental, and transport outcomes.

Active Transport Safety

High traffic speeds and unsafe infrastructure are key barriers to AT uptake. A safe, low-speed environment supported by appropriate design and policy measures is necessary to protect vulnerable road users and improve community confidence in walking, cycling, and other forms of active mobility.

Education, Encouragement, and Community Engagement

Behaviour change requires more than infrastructure. Effective education and engagement build public understanding, increase awareness, and help normalise Active Transport. A coordinated approach involving communities and relevant stakeholders is vital for shifting attitudes and increasing uptake.

eRideables

The rapid uptake of eRideables has outpaced the current regulatory framework, creating enforcement, safety, and infrastructure challenges. A comprehensive, State-led framework, developed with Local Government input is needed to address compliance, regulation, and safety in a rapidly evolving mobility landscape.

Active Travel to School

Despite its wide-ranging benefits, Active Travel to School remains low due to safety concerns, infrastructure gaps, and limited school resources. A more coordinated, long-term approach is needed, one that integrates planning, education, and investment to support safe, independent travel for students.

The proposed advocacy positions were endorsed by the Infrastructure Policy Team on 4 August.

GVROC COMMENTS

GVROC congratulate WALGA on the development of this detailed advocacy position and also request consideration be given to also look at:

1. Further advocacy and work around enforcing the safety requirements around eRideables on our local streets; and
2. Provision of appropriate funding from State Government to ensure more safe crossings are provided on our roads.

RECOMMENDATION

That the GVROC support the WALGA's recommendation to the proposed advocacy positions on Active Transport and micromobility, noting the GVROC comments listed above also be considered by WALGA State Council.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie

Seconded: Mayor Glenn Wilson, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder

Carried

7. Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Noting/Information

7.1 Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer (PSHB): Transition to Management

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- On 18 June 2025, the State Government [announced](#) the National Management Group's (NMG) decision that it was no longer technically feasible to eradicate Polyphagous Shot-hole borer (PSHB) from Western Australia and the PSHB would transition to long-term management.
- The Transition to Management (T2M) phase commenced on 1 July, and the long-term management phase will commence on 1 January 2027.
- A national T2M Plan will be in place by 1 September and workshops with Local Government, industry and community will follow.
- Costs for the T2M phase will be shared between the Australian Government and all States and Territories.
- The T2M phase aims to slow the spread of PSHB and allow time to build management knowledge through research, as well as develop a long-term management approach in collaboration with Local Government, industry and the community.
- The T2M phase will result in changes in the approach to the management of infested trees. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's (DPIRD) priority is to remove amplifier trees in Zone B and outside the Quarantine Area (QA), with a decrease in treatment activities and surveillance in Zone A.
- The State Government provisioned \$26.5 million for PSHB response in the 2025-26 State Budget. DPIRD has indicated \$2.5 million will be provided to Local Governments in the inner QA for tree management during the T2M period, with details to be determined in consultation with the sector.
- \$2.17 million has been allocated to fund three PSHB research projects through the WA Agricultural Research Collaboration, focused on early detection, treatment and management options.
- WALGA will continue to reiterate to Government that the expectation of Local Government is that the intent of the T2M and Management phase is that the spread of PSHB will be stopped and there will be sufficient and sustained research and funding to manage this pest long term.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This item relates to the following [advocacy positions](#):

4.4 Post Border Biosecurity

Western Australia's economy, environment and the community are facing increasing challenges posed by already established and new pests, weeds and diseases. Local Government has a significant role in biosecurity management, as land managers and regulators, and therefore has an interest in ensuring that Western Australia's biosecurity system, including control of declared pests, is effective and appropriately resourced.

WALGA considers significant changes to the operation of the State's biosecurity system, including the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007, are required to ensure these risks can be managed now and into the future.

To be effective the Western Australian biosecurity system must:

- 1. Take a transparent approach to the notion of 'shared responsibility' by ensuring that:*
 - a. The respective roles and responsibilities of Commonwealth, State and Local Government, industry, landholders, community groups and individuals are agreed and clearly articulated; and*
 - b. There is improved pest management on State Government managed land and a formalised structure for State Government agencies with responsibilities for biosecurity management to work together and coordinate their activities.*
- 2. Be underpinned by a strategic framework, developed in collaboration with stakeholders, that:*
 - a. Establishes priorities for biosecurity threats in geographically defined regions, sets measurable targets and guides investment in biosecurity activities; and*
 - b. Is regularly evaluated and reported on.*
- 3. Have a greater focus on environmental biosecurity, through the increased recognition and management of pest species that have significant ecological impacts.*
- 4. Be adequately, sustainably and equitably funded:*

- a. *The appropriateness and effectiveness of the Declared Pest Rate (DPR) and Recognised Biosecurity Group (RBG) model as key mechanisms for the management of widespread and established declared pests should be reviewed and alternate mechanisms considered;*
- b. *Increased and more equitable distribution of funding for every step in the biosecurity continuum and adequate resourcing for all stakeholders, including Local Government; and*
- c. *The provision of funding for declared pest management in metropolitan areas.*
5. *Ensure that the criteria and process for listing of declared pests is evidence-based, timely and transparent.*
6. *Have an increased emphasis on compliance through education and enforcement activity, to ensure land managers are aware of their legislative responsibilities and are supported to implement biosecurity actions.*
7. *Facilitate the use of new technologies, strategic monitoring, and the establishment of data management systems to inform biosecurity investment decisions and support adaptive management.*
8. *Improve the community's understanding, awareness and action in relation to biosecurity to assist with threat surveillance and timely response to incursions.*

4.7 Polyphagous shot-hole borer

The Local Government sector:

1. *Recognises the significant threat the Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB) represents to the growth and retention of urban forests;*
2. *Recognises the importance of shared surveillance by government, industry and community to assist with eradication efforts; and*
3. *Advocates for State Government funding for trees lost due to PSHB and to ameliorate the long term urban canopy impact.*

BACKGROUND

PSHB was first detected in East Fremantle in September 2021. Since then, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) has been leading a nationally funded and coordinated biosecurity response focused on eradication. On 19 June 2025, the [State Government announced](#) that the National Management Group had determined that the eradication of PSHB was no longer technically feasible and that the decision had been made to transition to long-term management.

The PSHB Transition to Management (T2M) phase commenced on 1 July 2025, and a national T2M Plan will be in place by 1 September 2025. Costs for the T2M phase will be shared between the Australian Government and all States and Territories under the national cost sharing arrangement. The T2M phase aims to slow the spread of PSHB and allow time to build management knowledge through research, as well as develop a long-term management approach in collaboration with Local Government, industry and the community. During the T2M PSHB Quarantine Area (QA), restrictions will remain in place. The T2M phase will result in changes in the approach to the management of infested trees. DPIRD's priority is to remove amplifier trees in Zone B and outside the Quarantine Area (QA), with a decrease in treatment activities and surveillance in Zone A. There will be a continued focus on slowing the spread of PSHB outside the (QA) through continued surveillance and high-risk tree management in Zone B (the outer zone).

The overall quantum of funding for the T2M under the national cost sharing arrangement has not been made public. The State Government provisioned \$26.5 million for PSHB response in the 2025-26 State Budget. DPIRD has indicated \$2.5 million will be provided to Local Governments in the inner QA for tree management during the transition to management period, with details to be determined in consultation with the sector. \$2.17 million has been provided through the WA Agricultural Research Collaboration for three PSHB research projects being led by Curtin University, Murdoch University and the University of Western Australia, focused on early detection, treatment and management options.

Long-term PSHB management will commence on 1 January 2027. At the conclusion of the transition to management period, the national cost sharing arrangement will end. Under current policy settings, responsibility for long term PSHB management will then fall to the State Government, and it is likely that Local Governments and private landholders will be responsible for management of PSHB trees on their land.

COMMENT

The failure of the eradication response and move to long-term management will have significant implications for Local Governments and the community. As indicated in WALGA's [media statement](#), effective long-term PSHB management will require a significant, sustained investment from the State Government, including for Local Government.

WALGA continues to reiterate Local Government's expectation that it will be included in the development of the T2M arrangements and long-term management plan. WALGA met with the Hon Jackie Jarvis, Minister for Agriculture and Food, on 29 July 2025 to express the concerns of the sector, in particular:

- That the objective of T2M and long-term management must be to prevent the spread of PSHB beyond the QA.
- There must be further government investment into research to develop effective long-term control (and potentially eradication) measures.
- That the issues identified with the eradication response, including funding, transparency and data sharing, delays in tree removal, a lack of public awareness, the inability to undertake research and support for Local Government must be addressed going forward.
- The need for reform of the State's biosecurity system, noting the Government is yet to respond to the recommendations of the independent review of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (which have not been released publicly).
- The need for reform of national arrangements to better manage biosecurity threats such as PSHB that cannot be eradicated but pose a significant national threat to biodiversity and industry without a long-term management response.

WALGA is actively engaging with the sector, DPIRD and other stakeholders to ensure the T2M meets the needs of Local Government. On 9 July 2025 WALGA hosted a webinar with DPIRD Chief Plant Biosecurity Officer, Dr Vincent Lanoiselet attended by over 100 Local Government officers and Elected Members. WALGA is also undertaking targeted engagement with Local Government in and around the QA to gain their insights and requirements for the T2M and beyond.

WALGA is also a member of the WA Tree Recovery Advisory Group, which last met on 4 July to discuss the funding to Local Governments impacted by PSHB through round 1 of the Local Government Grant Program, which provides \$7.2 million over four years for replanting initiatives and closed on 7 July 2025. Applicants will be advised on the outcome of their applications in September 2025. The WA Government also launched the WA Tree Recovery [Residential Rebate Program](#) and [Treebate Program](#) on 26 July 2025.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC note the WALGA update on the Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer (PSHB): Transition to Management.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie

Seconded: Mayor Glenn Wilson, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder

Carried

7.2 2025 Local Government Emergency Management Survey

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA conducts a biennial Emergency Management Survey of Local Governments to better understand the priorities and challenges faced by the sector, and to seek feedback on key issues to inform WALGA policy development and advocacy.
- Previous emergency management surveys were conducted in 2019, 2021 and, most recently, in 2023.
- The 2025 Emergency Management Survey is anticipated to open in September.
- The Survey will be sent directly to all Local Governments and will remain open for 4–6 weeks.
- Anticipated focus areas for the 2025 Survey include:
 - Local Government Bushfire Brigade Management;
 - transitioning from response-focused to holistic emergency management;
 - cultural heritage considerations in emergency management; and
 - reform of the Local Government Grants Scheme (LGGS).
- The 2025 Survey findings will be presented to State Council and shared with the sector and key stakeholders.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This submission is relevant to the suite of [WALGA's emergency management advocacy positions, 8.1 – 8.11](#), and is aligned to the Influence and Support pillars of WALGA's 2025-2029 Strategic Plan.

BACKGROUND

102 Local Governments completed the 2023 survey (a 75% response rate). The 2023 Survey generated valuable insights that shaped WALGA's Election Priorities and key submissions, including on the revised State Hazard Plan Fire, the State Recovery Framework, and the Commonwealth Review of Natural Disaster Funding. WALGA is collaborating with key stakeholders to refine focus areas for 2025, including through the WALGA Local Government Emergency Management Advisory Group.

COMMENT

The WALGA biennial Emergency Management Survey is an important opportunity to identify and quantify emergency management challenges across the Local Government sector. It is the only survey of its kind undertaken by a Local Government Association in Australia.

The 2025 Survey results will be used to inform WALGA's emergency management advocacy and submissions and to elevate the profile of Local Government emergency management activities and responsibilities.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC note the WALGA report on the 2025 Local Government Emergency Management Survey.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie
Seconded: Mayor Glenn Wilson, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder

Carried

7.3 WALGA 2025 Local Government Emergency Management Forum

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The WALGA 2025 Local Government Emergency Management Forum was held on 17 June 2025 at the City of Stirling.
- With the theme *Local Government Future Proof: Preparing today for tomorrow's challenges*, the Forum provided an opportunity for participants to enhance capabilities, build insights, and share strategies for emergency management.
- 148 people attended the Forum, with representation from 41 Local Governments, alongside key stakeholders from State and Federal Government, industry and not-for-profit organisations.
- A Sector Update on the Forum has been circulated to WALGA members, attached.

ATTACHMENT

[Sector Update - WALGA 2025 Local Government Emergency Management Forum](#)

BACKGROUND

The 2025 Local Government Emergency Management Forum was hosted by WALGA on 17 June 2025 at the City of Stirling. WALGA had not hosted an emergency management focused forum in many years. The decision to host the 2025 Forum reflects the critical role that Local Governments have in emergency management, and the importance of sharing leading information and contemporary challenges to continue to strengthen emergency management capabilities and partnerships.

COMMENT

Following the Forum, participants were invited to complete a post-event survey. Participants rated the forum's content as highly informative and engaging, with over 90 per cent of respondents expressing their intention to attend future WALGA events. Additionally, respondents highlighted the forum's networking value, rating it highly for facilitating new connections and strengthening existing relationships in emergency management. Participants have also provided suggestions for future forum topics, including: strategies to maximise the effectiveness of Local Emergency Management Committees; discussions on change management and volunteer management/engagement; and sharing lessons learned from recovery funding processes.

WALGA intends that the Forum will become a regular event.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC note the WALGA Report on WALGA 2025 Local Government Emergency Management Forum.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie

Seconded: Mayor Glenn Wilson, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder

Carried

7.4 **2025 WALGA Honours Recipients**

BACKGROUND

WALGA celebrated their 2025 Honours awards recipients at an event on Saturday, 19 July at the WA Museum Boola Bardip. Following the success of the inaugural standalone event last year, the awards night was held solely to acknowledge and appreciate the extraordinary efforts of Elected Members and Local Government Officers in service of their Local Government, the sector and the community.

There were 44 recipients of Honours awards in the 2025 program. Two new WALGA Life Members were also inducted.

Two Honours recipients were from the Goldfields Esperance Zone:

NAME	POSITION	LOCAL GOVERNMENT	HONOUR
Mr Peter Fitchat	Chief Executive Officer	Shire of Dundas	Eminent Service Award
Ms Frances Liston	Executive Manager of Governance and Risk Services	City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder	Merit Award

Congratulations to all Honours recipients.

Nominations for the 2026 Honours Program will open early next year.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC note the 2025 WALGA Honours Recipients from the Goldfields Esperance WALGA Zone.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: *Mayor Glenn Wilson, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder***
Seconded: *Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie*

Carried

8. Other State Council Agenda Items

8.1 Policy Team and Committee Reports or the Key Activity Reports State Council Agenda Items

GVROC/Esperance Goldfields Zone Delegates are invited to raise for discussion, questions or decision any of the items in the State Council Agenda, including the Policy Team and Committee Reports or the Key Activity Reports.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC notes the Policy Team and Committee; and the Key Activity Reports to be presented at the meeting as received.

RESOLUTION: *Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie*
 Seconded: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

Carried

8.2 President's Report

WALGA Recommendation

That the President's Report for September 2025 be received. (refer to **Attachment 3**)

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC notes the President's Report for September 2025 to be presented at the meeting as received.

RESOLUTION: *Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas*
 Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie

Carried

8.3 Complete Status Report on State Council Resolutions - To the September 2025 State Council Meeting

GVROC COMMENT:

Additional to the Complete Status Report on State Council Resolutions, **Attachment 4** provides the relevant Goldfields Esperance Country Zone Status Report.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC notes the Complete State Council Status Report to the September 2025 State Council meeting and the Goldfields Esperance Country Zone Status Report.

RESOLUTION: *Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas*
 Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie

Carried

9. LATE ITEMS as notified, introduced by decision of the Meeting

Nil.

10. FUTURE MEETINGS

The following remaining dates in 2025 have been set for the GVROC meetings.

- **22 September 2025** (At Market & Co at Crown Promenade Burswood at 6:30pm aligned with WALGA Convention and AGM in Perth)
- **28 November 2025** in Leonora (to be hosted by the Shire of Leonora)

The following are the WALGA State Council meeting dates in 2025 with suggested GVROC Zoom video conference meeting dates prior to these to inform the GVROC's representatives attending the meetings with relevant input for State Council Agenda Items:

- 3 December 2025 WALGA State Council Meeting - GVROC meeting on **14 November 2025**

11. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9:45am.