



# Northern Country Zone Minutes

## Flying Minute Meeting Monday 28 November 2022



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## ATTACHMENTS TO THE AGENDA

- Item 5.1: Minutes NCZ Meeting 29 August 2022
- Item 5.2.1: Correspondence to and from Hon Don Punch MLA
- Item 5.2.1: Correspondence to and from Mr Terry Hill Director General DPIRD
- Item 6/7: State Council Agenda 7 December 2022
- Item 8.2: State Councillor Report Guide December 2022
- Item 8.3: WALGA President's Report December 2022
- Item 8.4: Zone Status Report November 2022
- Item 9.1.2: Correspondence In
  - a. Ian Duncan - Western Power Media Release Review of power supply allocations underway
  - b. Louise Adamson - Update on Mid West Secondary Grain Freight Routes Funding
  - e. Ian Duncan - Response from Wester Power to Queries re Rural Power Supply Allocation
- Item 9.2: Aug/Sep/Oct 2022 Bank Statements

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## 1. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Zone Delegates were requested to provide written notice on amendments to recommendations within the State Council agenda ASAP to the Zone President and Secretariat, to allow Zone members time to vote on the alternative recommendation.

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## 2. MEMBERS PARTICIPATING

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- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Shire of Carnamah         | <b>Cr Merle Isbister, President</b><br>Cr Dwayne Wooltorton, Deputy President<br>Mr Rob Paull, Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate                   |
| Shire of Chapman Valley   | <b>Cr Kirrilee Warr, President</b><br>Cr Darrell Forth, Deputy President<br>Mr Jamie Criddle, Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate                    |
| Shire of Coorow           | <b>Cr Moira Girando, President (NCZ Deputy President)</b><br>Cr Bruce Jack, Deputy President<br>Ms Mia Maxfield, Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate |
| City of Greater Geraldton | Cr Jerry Clune, Deputy Mayor<br><b>Mayor Shane Van Styn</b><br>Mr Ross McKim, Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate                                    |
| Shire of Irwin            | <b>Cr Mike Smith, President</b><br>Cr Isabelle Scott, Deputy President<br>Mr Shane Ivers, Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate                        |
| Shire of Mingenew         | <b>Cr Gary Cosgrove, President</b><br>Cr Hellene McTaggart<br>Mr Matt Fanning, Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate                                   |
| Shire of Morawa           | <b>Cr Karen Chappel, President (NCZ President)</b><br>Cr Ken Stokes, Deputy President<br>Mr Scott Wildgoose, Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate     |
| Shire of Northampton      | <b>Cr Liz Sudlow, President</b><br>Cr Robert Horstman, Deputy President<br>Mr Maurice Battilana, Acting Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate          |

Shire of Perenjori            **Cr Chris King, President**  
Cr Jude Sutherland, Deputy President  
Mr Paul Anderson, Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate

Shire of Three Springs      **Cr Chris Lane, President**  
Cr Chris Connaughton, Deputy President  
Mr Keith Woodward, Chief Executive Officer non-voting Delegate

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### **3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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Nil

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### **4. ADJOURNED BUSINESS**

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Nil

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### **5. MINUTES**

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#### **5.1 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings**

*Attachment: Minutes NCZ Meeting 29 August 2022*

**Recommendation:**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 29 August 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Moira Girando

**Seconded:** Cr Chris Lane

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 29 August 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

**Carried**

#### **5.2 Business Arising from Minutes**

##### **5.2.1 Meeting 29 August 2022 - Item 11.4.1 Public Consultation West Coast Demersal Scalefish Resource**

*Attachments: Correspondence to and from Hon Don Punch MLA  
Correspondence to and from Mr Terry Hill Director General DPIRD*

**Recommendation:**

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the correspondence in relation to Item 11.4.1 of the 29 August 2022 meeting - Public Consultation West Coast Demersal Scalefish Resource.

**Background:**

At the 29 August 2022 meeting, Mr Garry Keeffe (Proxy) had expressed concern that the proposed changes to the WA recreational fishing rules, which will see fishers prevented from targeting demersal species for nine months of the year, will have an adverse effect on tourism and see businesses closing right down the coast. The following resolution came out of the discussions.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Mr Keeffe (Proxy)

**Seconded:** Ms Maxfield (Proxy)

*That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA send a submission to the Minister for Fisheries and Department of Fisheries including:*

*a) that a nine month closure not be implemented; and*

*b) that our region be included in the Gascoyne Bioregion or request concessions within the existing Bioregion.*

**Carried**

**Comments:**

The Executive Officer wrote to the Hon Don Punch MLA, Minister for Disability Services; Small Business; Fisheries; Seniors and Ageing and to Mr Terry Hill, Director General DPIRD on 21 September 2022.

Both letters and the responses from Hon Don Punch and DPIRD are attached, for your information.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Moira Girando

**Seconded:** Cr Chris Lane

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the correspondence in relation to Item 11.4.1 of the 29 August 2022 meeting - Public Consultation West Coast Demersal Scalefish Resource.

**Carried**

**5.2.2 Meeting 29 August 2022 - Item 11.4.2 Independent Review into Christmas 2021 Power Outages Recommendation 4 working Group**

**Recommendation:**

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes that CESM, Mr Rick Ryan, will be invited to the 20 February 2023 Northern Country Zone meeting to present a status report on the discussions and findings from the Recommendation 4 Working Group meeting/s.

**Background:**

At the 29 August 2022 meeting, Cr Warr voiced concern that not all members were aware of the call from WALGA for nominees to contribute to the Review into Christmas 2021 power outages. At that date, the Northern Country Zone had six expressions of interest to take part.

The following recommendation came from the discussion:

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Warr

**Seconded:** Cr Stokes

*That if Northern Country Zone of WALGA nominees are accepted as part of the WALGA Delegation participating in the Independent Review into Christmas 2021 Power Outages Recommendations 4 Working Group, then their names are to be circulated and discussions and findings are to be reported back to the Zone by the Delegates.*

**Carried**

**Comment:**

Northern Country Zone Delegate, Cr Gary Cosgrove, is a member of the Working Group, but was unable to attend a meeting on October 12. Therefore, further to the Zone requiring a report on discussions and findings, the Executive Officer will invite CESM Mr Rick Ryan, also a member of the Working Group, to the 20 February 2023 NCZ meeting to give a status report.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:****Moved:** Cr Moira Girando**Seconded:** Cr Chris Lane

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes that CESM, Mr Rick Ryan, will be invited to the 20 February 2023 Northern Country Zone meeting to present a status report on the discussions and findings from the Recommendation 4 Working Group meeting/s.

**Carried**

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**6. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA – MATTERS FOR DECISION**

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*Attachment: State Council Agenda 7 December 2022*

***The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 7 December 2022.***

***The recommendation and summary only have been included. Please refer to the PDF version of the State Council Agenda for more detail and attachments.***

**6.1 (5.1) 2022 Annual General Meeting Resolutions**

*Prepared by: Tim Lane, Manager Association and Corporate Governance*

**Recommendation:**

That:

1. the following resolutions from the 2022 WALGA Annual General Meeting be endorsed for action:
  - 3.8 Review of the Rating Methodology used by the Valuer-General  
*Advocate for a full review of the rating methodology used by the Valuer-General to value all land in the State of Western Australia.*
  - 3.10 Reform of the *Cat Act 2011*  
*That the WA Local Government sector requests the WA State Government prioritise reforms to the Cat Act 2011, in accordance with the Statutory Review undertaken and tabled in the State Parliament on 27 November 2019.*
2. the following resolutions from the 2022 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the relevant Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:
  - 3.1 Road Traffic Issues  
*That WALGA advocate on behalf of the local government sector to the State Government and in particular, Main Roads, to increase importance and weight given to local knowledge and input regarding road traffic issues including requests for speed reduction, intersection treatments and overall preventative and traffic safety measures.*
  - 3.2 Car Parking and Traffic Congestion Around Schools  
*That WALGA engages with the State Government on behalf of Local Government to review issues associated with car parking and traffic congestion around school sites including but not limited to:*
    1. *Reviewing car parking standards for schools;*
    2. *Ensuring sufficient land is set aside for the provision of parking on school sites;*
    3. *Reviewing the co-location of schools to avoid issues being exacerbated;*
    4. *Restricting school access from major roads;*
    5. *Developing plans to enable schools to manage school traffic;*
    6. *Develop programs to educate drivers; and*
    7. *Develop options and implement initiatives to encourage alternative modes of transport to school.*

### 3.3 Proposal for Regional Road Maintenance Contracts with Main Roads WA

*That WALGA assist Local Governments and work with the Hon Minister Rita Saffioti to introduce a similar program that is currently in play in Queensland and introduce a sole invitee Program for Local Governments to engage in a Road Maintenance Performance Contract with Main Roads WA.*

### 3.4 Northern Australia Beef Roads Program

*That WALGA work with the Hon Madeleine King MP Minister for Resources and Minister for Northern Australia to make Beef Road Funding available to all Australian Local Governments north and south, or establish a Southern Australia Beef Road Funding Program to allow for equitable support across Australia's beef and agriculture industries.*

### 3.5 3D House Printing Building Compliance

*That WALGA requests:*

1. *Assistance from Minister for Industry and Science The Hon Ed Husic MP, Minister for Housing and Homelessness, Small Business The Hon Julie Collins MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government The Hon Catherine King MP to work with Ministers from all State and Territory Governments who have Building and Construction in their portfolios, to collaborate and to consider removing impediments within the National Construction Code Series and associated Australian Standards, that dissuade industry from adopting 3D printing as a building method.*
2. *That the Government provide instruments to incentivise private industry to develop 3D printing and include this as an acceptable building practice.*

### 3.6 South West Native Title Settlement

*That WALGA advocate to the State Government that Local Governments be provided with the full list of potential land to be requested for transfer as part of the South West Native Title Settlement and that a minimum of three months be provided for Council to provide feedback.*

### 3.7 Land Offset Compensation to Local Governments

*That WALGA advocate to the State Government that the Developer requiring land offsets should be required to provide the offsets within the Local Government where the clearing occurs and where this is not possible, the Developer requiring land offsets within another Local Government be required to pay a fee to the Local Government for the loss of rates and ongoing maintenance of infrastructure to the Land.*

#### 3.12.1 Abandoned Shopping Trolleys

*That this meeting supports the recent petition to be tabled in the Legislative Council, Parliament of Western Australia, "Removal and Abandonment of Shopping Trolleys 22-0017" calling on the State Government to implement stringent and uniform shopping trolley containment laws for the whole state of Western Australia.*

### 3. the following resolutions from the 2022 WALGA Annual General Meeting be noted:

#### 3.11 WALGA Best Practice Governance Review – Principles

*That:*

1. *The update on the Best Practice Governance Review project be noted, and*
2. *The principles to inform WALGA's future governance model, as follows and as per the attached Principles document, be endorsed:*
  - a. *Representative – WALGA unites and represents the entire Local Government sector in WA and understands the diverse nature and needs of members, regional communities and economies.*
  - b. *Responsive – WALGA is an agile association which acts quickly to respond to the needs of members and stakeholders.*
  - c. *Results Oriented – WALGA dedicates resources and efforts to secure the best outcomes for Local Government and supports the delivery of high-quality projects, programs and services.*

#### 3.12.2 Mandatory Superannuation for Elected Members in Band 1 and 2 Councils

*That this meeting supports requesting WALGA to advocate for the Local Government reforms to include mandatory superannuation for elected members of Band 1 and Band 2 Councils and supports the optional payment of superannuation for Band 3 and 4 Councils.*

**Executive Summary:**

- WALGA's 2022 Annual General Meeting was held on Monday, 3 October 2022.
- The meeting resolved for WALGA to act in relation to 11 member motions (including two items of Special Urgent Business):
  1. Road Traffic Issues
  2. Car Parking and Traffic Congestion Around Schools
  3. Proposal for Regional Road Maintenance Contracts with Main Roads WA
  4. Northern Australian Beef Roads Program
  5. 3D House Printing Building Compliance
  6. South West Native Title Settlement
  7. Land Offset Compensation to Local Governments
  8. Review of the Rating Methodology used by the Valuer-General
  9. Reform of the *Cat Act 2011*
  10. Abandoned Shopping Trolleys
  11. Mandatory Superannuation for Elected Members in Band 1 and 2 Councils
- The meeting also resolved to endorse the Governance Principles proposed as part of the WALGA Best Practice Governance Review Project.
- The action taken or proposed to be taken in relation to each of the resolutions since the Annual General Meeting has been summarised for State Council's information.
- Item 3.12.2 (Mandatory Superannuation for Elected Members in Band 1 and 2 Councils) is considered in a separate item for decision (see [Agenda item 5.2](#)).

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Moira Girando

**Seconded:** Cr Chris Lane

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 5.1.

**Carried**

**6.2 (5.2) Elected Member Superannuation**

*Prepared by: Tim Lane, Manager Association and Corporate Governance*

**Recommendation:**

That WALGA:

1. advocates for superannuation to be required to be paid to Elected Members of Local Governments in Salaries and Allowances Tribunal (SAT) Band 1 and Band 2; and
2. supports the position that superannuation payments to Elected Members of Local Governments in SAT Band 3 and Band 4 should be optional and determined by Council.

**Executive Summary:**

- At the [2022 WALGA Annual General Meeting](#) a motion was endorsed requesting WALGA to advocate for superannuation to be required to be paid to Elected Members in Local Governments in SAT Band 1 and Band 2.
- Consultation with the 44 affected Local Governments in Band 1 and Band 2 was subsequently undertaken, which confirmed support for the proposal.



- Accordingly, this item recommends that WALGA adopts a policy position, and advocates to the Minister for Local Government, that superannuation should be required to be paid to Elected Members of Band 1 and Band 2 Local Governments.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Moira Girando

**Seconded:** Cr Chris Lane

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 5.2.

**Carried**

### **6.3 (5.3) Biosecurity Advocacy Position**

*Prepared by: Rebecca Brown, Manager Waste and Environment*

**Recommendation:**

That State Council endorse replacing Advocacy Position 4.5 *Post Border Biosecurity* with a new Biosecurity Advocacy Position as follows:

#### *4.5 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.*

**Executive Summary:**

- It is proposed that the 2017 Biosecurity Advocacy Position, *4.5 Post Border Biosecurity* be replaced with a more comprehensive and contemporary position.
- The 2017 position called for a review of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 (BAM Act)* which is currently underway.
- The new Draft Biosecurity Position reflects feedback provided on the WALGA Biosecurity Discussion Paper recommendations by Local Governments and WALGA Zones.
- The new position will inform WALGA's advocacy in the next stages of the BAM Act Review.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Moira Girando

**Seconded:** Cr Chris Lane

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 5.3.

**Carried**

**6.4 (5.4) Submission on Environmental Regulation Reform: A Strategic Review of Regulatory Delivery and Fees for Industry Regulation**

*Prepared by: Rebecca Brown, Manager Waste and Environment*

**Recommendation:**

That the submission on *Environmental Regulation Reform: A Strategic Review of Regulatory Delivery and Fees for Industry Regulation* be endorsed.

**Executive Summary:**

- The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's [Environmental Regulation Reform: A Strategic Review of Regulatory Delivery and Fees for Industry Regulation Discussion Paper](#) was released on 12 September for a three month consultation period.
- The Paper includes a range of high-level regulatory reform concepts which will impact premises currently regulated under Schedule 1 of the Environmental Protection Regulations 1987 and various fee model options.
- WALGA's submission has been informed by several engagement sessions with the sector.
- WALGA's submission provides high level support for many of the reform concepts, identifies the need for further consultation on the detail of how the reforms will be implemented and highlights the need for a DWER to be actively regulating all premises with potentially negative impacts on human health and the environment.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Moira Girando

**Seconded:** Cr Chris Lane

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 5.4.

**Carried**

## **6.5 (5.5) Updated Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advocacy Position**

*Prepared by: Susie Moir, Policy Manager Resilient Communities*

### **Recommendation:**

That State Council endorse the following updated Advocacy Position on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage:

#### *3.1.3 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 and South West Native Title Settlement*

*WALGA acknowledges Noongar people as the traditional owners of the South West Region. Local Government is supportive of conserving and protecting the State's Aboriginal cultural heritage.*

*WALGA supports the introduction of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 which will provide a modern framework for the recognition, protection, conservation and preservation of Aboriginal cultural heritage and recognises the fundamental importance of Aboriginal cultural heritage to Aboriginal people. The State Government must ensure that:*

- 1. The legislation balances the need to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage with the requirement for Local Government to undertake activities in a timely and affordable manner;*
- 2. The implementation and ongoing operation of the legislative system for the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage is adequately resourced to ensure that all parties have the capacity, capability and resources to discharge their statutory obligations;*
- 3. Support is provided to Local Governments to ensure that they have the resources, capacity and capability to comply with a complex legislative framework; and*
- 4. Local Governments have the ability to deliver essential infrastructure works and emergency activities efficiently and effectively in order to maintain public safety.*

### **Executive Summary:**

- WALGA's existing Aboriginal Heritage Advocacy Position endorsed by State Council in July 2019 does not reflect the new *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act* (ACH Act) nor current Local Government priorities relating to the ACH Act and the new legislative system that it will introduce.
- The new ACH Act is expected to commence in 2023.
- Since 2018 WALGA has consulted extensively with the Local Government sector to inform numerous submissions to the State Government in relation to the preparation of the new ACH Act and the regulations and guidelines that will support it ([Agenda item 6.5](#), WALGA Submission on Phase 2 of the ACH Act Co-design Process refers).
- The updated Advocacy Position has been drafted to reflect the key feedback received from the sector during these consultations, primarily with respect to the need to balance the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage with the requirement for Local Government to undertake activities in a timely and affordable manner, resourcing requirements for transition and implementation of the new ACH system, and support for the Local Government sector to comply with enhanced legislative requirements.
- The People and Place Policy Team endorsed the updated Advocacy Position at their meeting on 19 October 2022 and supported it being presented to State Council for decision at the December 2022 meeting.

### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Moira Girando

**Seconded:** Cr Chris Lane

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 5.5.

**Carried**

## **6.6 (5.6) Review of Coastal Planning Policy Position**

*Prepared by: Ashley Robb, Acting Policy Manager, Planning and Building*

**Recommendation:**

That State Council endorse replacing Advocacy Position 6.8 *Coastal Planning* with a new Coastal Planning Advocacy Position as follows:

*6.8 Coastal Planning*

WALGA calls for:

1. *Equitable legislative, regulatory and policy changes that preserve public coastal access for current and future generations.*
2. *The provision of sustainable and adequate long-term funding for Local Governments to manage the impacts of coastal erosion and inundation.*

**Executive Summary:**

- It is proposed that the 2015 Advocacy Position, *6.8 Coastal Planning* be replaced with a new position that reflects Local Governments' key coastal planning advocacy priorities.
- The new position has been prepared in collaboration with officers of the Local Government Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Planning (CHRMAP) Forum and has been endorsed by the People and Place Policy Team.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Moira Girando

**Seconded:** Cr Chris Lane

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 5.6.

**Carried**

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**7. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION**

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*Attachment: State Council Agenda 7 December 2022*

***The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 7 December 2022.***

***The recommendation and summary only have been included. Please refer to the PDF version of the State Council Agenda for more detail and attachments.***

**7.1 (6.1) WALGA Best Practice Governance Review Update**

*Prepared by: Tim Lane, Manager Corporate and Association Governance*

**Recommendation:**

That the update on the Best Practice Governance Review be noted.

**Executive Summary**

- The Best Practice Governance Review Steering Committee has distributed a [Consultation Paper](#) to Member Local Governments seeking Council endorsed feedback by 23 December 2022.
- The [Consultation Paper](#) contains five governance models, including current arrangements.
- The Governance Review represents an opportunity to review WALGA's governance model to ensure the organisation continues to deliver value to members through development of clear policy positions, positive advocacy outcomes, relevant services, and agile decision making.
- A [website](#) and [Background Paper](#) contain further information, and the Secretariat is available to provide briefing presentations to assist in deliberations.

## **7.2 (6.2) 2022-23 October Federal Budget**

*Prepared by: Dana Mason, Manager Economics*

### **Recommendation:**

That the update on the 2022-23 October Federal Budget be noted.

### **Executive Summary:**

- On 25 October 2022, the Albanese Government handed down its first Budget, with a focus on delivering on election commitments, addressing the rising cost of living, encouraging investment and repairing the Government's fiscal position.
- The Budget contained a number of initiatives that will be welcomed by Local Governments, including an expansion of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, additional funding for Disaster Mitigation and a new Growing Regions Program and Precincts and Partnerships Program (replacing the Building Better Regions Program and the Community Development Grants Program).
- Of note for Local Governments was the adjustment to the timing for funding for transport and rail infrastructure projects, which will see funding for a number of projects pushed out beyond the forward estimates and could have implications for the delivery of projects important to some Local Governments and their communities.
- WALGA is seeking further information from the Commonwealth Government as to whether Local Government programs will be affected by this change and will keep Members informed of any developments.

## **7.3 (6.3) Supporting the Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings – Release of 7 Star Homes Cost Investigation**

*Prepared by: Claire Lings, Project Officer, Building*

### **Recommendation:**

That the release of the 7 Star Homes Cost Investigation, completed as part of the Association's position to support the Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings, be noted.

### **Executive Summary:**

- In December 2021, State Council endorsed an advocacy position in support of the Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings (the Trajectory) to achieve net zero energy and carbon buildings in Australia.
- WALGA's March 2022 Discussion Paper [Supporting the Trajectory to Low Energy Buildings](#) identified the State Government's adoption of higher residential energy efficiency standards in the National Construction Code (NCC), as recommended by the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB), as a priority action to achieving net zero energy and carbon buildings in Australia.
- There is some concern that moving to the higher thermal performance standard will significantly increase construction costs. WALGA engaged an independent expert to investigate the additional cost of constructing new dwellings to meet the proposed new 7 Star energy efficiency standards in climate zones that experience the highest levels of new home construction in Western Australia.
- The investigation found the additional upfront cost of constructing a north-orientated, single-storey home to a 7 Star standard, from the current 6 Star baseline, in climate zones where most of Western Australia's new homes are constructed (i.e. Perth and the South-West Coast) is modest, ranging from \$1,750 for brick cavity to \$2,500 for timber frame construction. However, the additional cost would be higher for some dwelling types (double-storey, timber-framed construction) and in cooler climate zones (Albany, Manjimup).
- The 7 Star Homes Cost Investigation Report summarises these findings.

## **7.4 (6.4) WALGA October 2022 Quarterly Economic Briefing**

*Prepared by: Daniel Thomson, Economist*

### **Recommendation:**

That the WALGA October 2022 Quarterly Economic Briefing be noted.

### **Executive Summary:**

- The WALGA October 2022 Economic Briefing shows the WA economy is continuing to face rising prices, a tight labour market and capacity constraints.
- These factors are impacting Local Governments ability to deliver infrastructure programs.
- In the year to June 2022 the Local Government Cost Index (LGCI) increased by 6.4%.
- Growth in the LGCI is expected to peak in coming months, before slowing to 3.3% and 2.4% respectively in the following two financial years.

## **7.5 (6.5) WALGA Submission on Phase Two of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 Co-design Process**

*Prepared by: Alina Hobson, Policy Officer, Resilient Communities*

### **Recommendation:**

That State Council note the submission to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage relating to Phase 2 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021* Co-design Process, endorsed via Flying Minute.

### **Executive Summary:**

- The *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021* (ACH Act) is expected to commence on 1 July 2023.
- The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) is undertaking three phases of co-design during 2022 to develop the regulations, statutory guidelines and operational policies that will support the ACH Act.
- WALGA's May 2022 [submission to Phase One](#) of the Co-design process made 25 recommendations.
- WALGA's submission to Phase Two of the Co-design process, endorsed via Flying Minute on 18 August 2022, made 27 recommendations and included proposed activity tables for emergency activities and roadworks. The submission reinforced key recommendations from the Phase One submission, relating to the proposed activity categories, the desire for ongoing sector consultation, and the requirement to balance the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage with the requirement for Local Governments to undertake necessary infrastructure and maintenance works.
- [Phase Three of the Co-design process](#) will commence in November 2022 with workshops being held in 34 locations across Western Australia. WALGA will make another submission informed by feedback obtained directly from the sector via officer review and from WALGA's Aboriginal Heritage Reference Group.
- WALGA is a member of a Working Group that has been established to bring together five industry groups and five Aboriginal corporations to further refine and agree the activity categories. Meetings of the Working Group were held on 20 and 31 October 2022.

## **7.6 (6.6) Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC)**

*Prepared by: Rebecca Brown, Manager, Waste and Environment*

### **Recommendation:**

That the resolutions of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council from its 29 June, 24 August and 26 October 2022 meetings be noted.

### **Executive Summary:**

This item summaries the outcomes of the MWAC meetings held on 29 June, 24 August and 26 October 2022.

### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Moira Girando

**Seconded:** Cr Chris Lane

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes State Council Agenda Items numbers 6.1 to 6.6.

**Carried**

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## 8. REPORTS

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### 8.1 Report from the Zone President – November 2022

Zone President's Report  
Cr Karen Chappel

It was great to see so many of you at the WALGA Convention. In general, the feedback has been good; it certainly was a full program.

Each of you should have received the WALGA Governance review to consider. As encouraged by WALGA it would be great if each Local Government could respond with a Council preferred option by December 23.

Cr Kelly, CEO Sloan, Ian Duncan and I attended the National Roads Congress in Hobart early in November. Much of the congress was around infrastructure funding not just road funding. One message that did come through was that the extension of the funds from the LRCI program will likely have tighter parameters on where it may be expended. It will pay to look out for the new guidelines; the good news is that it is extended.

The ABS /Census webinar was yesterday; the information that WA has had an adjustment of 3% (87,500) in the resident population as an accepted undercount is a little comforting, but the fact that it is across the State is frustrating. 44 Regional Local Governments have had their resident population figures adjusted by 5% whereas many of us know that it is much more. It is necessary that in five years' time as Local Governments we need to ensure that the data collection methodology is improved.

I have just spent a full week in isolation in Perth after returning from Hobart with COVID so I am very much looking forward to returning to Morawa tomorrow.

Please give me a call if there is anything that you wish to chat about, otherwise stay safe and have a great Christmas and New Year. 2023 is just a whiff away.

Karen Chappel

<b>Northern Country Zone Resolution:</b>
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<b>Moved:</b> Cr Moira Girando
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<b>Seconded:</b> Cr Chris Lane
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That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the Zone President's Report for November 2022.
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<b>Carried</b>
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### 8.2 Report from the State Council Representative – December 2022

*Attachment: State Councillor Report Guide*

State Council Representative, Cr Moira Girando, provided the attached report, highlighting the activities of State Council since our last meeting.

<b>Northern Country Zone Resolution:</b>
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<b>Moved:</b> Cr Moira Girando
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<b>Seconded:</b> Cr Chris Lane
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That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the State Council Representative's Report for December 2022.
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<b>Carried</b>
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### **8.3 WALGA Presidents Report to the Zone – December 2022**

*Attachment: WALGA President's Report to the Zone December 2022*

The WALGA President's Report outlining topical issues, upcoming events and the President's contacts since the last report, is attached.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Moira Girando

**Seconded:** Cr Chris Lane

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the WALGA President's Report for December 2022.

**Carried**

### **8.4 Zone Status Report**

*Attachment – Zone Status Report November 2022.*

A Status Report outlining the actions taken on the Zone's resolutions is attached.

**Comment:**

Vikki Barlow, Senior Policy Advisor Community, WALGA, emailed some additional information in regard to the Homelessness Knowledge Hub, in response to the Northern Country Zone's resolution at the 29 August meeting.

*'The Local Government Homelessness Knowledge Hub was a Lotterywest funded project that WALGA supported through participation on the Steering Committee. The Project does not involve any cost to Local Governments. The Hub provides resources to support Local Governments in responding to homelessness. WALGA's Advocacy Position 3.11 Homelessness provides that WALGA recognises that Local Government through its planning, health, community development and regulatory powers can facilitate positive local and regional responses to end homelessness, however does not see that it has a lead role. Rather, Local Government's role is one of a stakeholder that requires early engagement in the understanding of collaborative approaches that improve the quality of life for people experiencing homelessness in all of its manifestations.'*

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Moira Girando

**Seconded:** Cr Chris Lane

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the November 2022 Status Report outlining actions taken on the Zone's resolutions.

**Carried**

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## **9. ZONE MATTERS FOR NOTING/DECISION**

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### **9.1 Correspondence**

#### **9.1.1 Correspondence Out**

##### **9.1.1 (a) 21/09/2022 - Minister for Fisheries**

*Attachments – Letter to the Hon Don Punch MLA (refer Attachment Item 5.2.1-a.)*

A letter to the Minister for Fisheries regarding the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Resource



### 9.1.1 (b) 21/09/2022 – Director General DPIRD

*Attachments – Letter to Mr Terry Hill (refer Attachment Item 5.2.1-b.)*

A letter to the Director General of DPIRD regarding the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Resource

### 9.1.1 (c) 29/09/2022 – West Coast Demersal Scalefish Resource Team

*Attachments – refer Attachment Item 5.2.1-b.*

An email to the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Resource Team requesting that they consider our correspondence as part of the consultation on the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Resource, rather than inviting us to take part in their survey, which gave very limited response options.

#### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Moira Girando

**Seconded:** Cr Chris Lane

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes Correspondence Out at 9.1.1 (a) through to 9.1.1 (c).

**Carried**

### 9.1.2 Correspondence In

#### 9.1.2 (a) 29/08/2022 WALGA/Western Power

*Attachment: Western Power Media Release (Forwarded to members 30/08/2022)*

A media release from Western Power, emailed to the EO by Ian Duncan, regarding a review of the regional and rural supply allocation of 32 amp for single phase connections.

#### 9.1.2 (b) 20/09/2022 Main Roads WA

*Attachment: Email from Ms Louise Adamson (sent directly to members 20/09/2022)*

An update on the Mid West Secondary Grain Freight Routes funding.

#### 9.1.2 (c) 29/09/2022 DPIRD

*Attachment: A proforma email from the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Resource Team (refer Item 5.2.1-b.)*

This email was sent by DPIRD in response to the letter I emailed/posted to the Director General on 21/09/2022.

#### 9.1.2 (d) 26/10/2022 Hon Don Punch MLA

*Attachment: Letter from Minister Punch (refer Attachment Item 5.2.1-a.)*

A response from Minister Punch to my letter of 21/09/2022.

#### 9.1.2 (e) 17/11/2022 WALGA/Western Power

*Attachment: Letter to Ian Duncan from Ben Bristow, Western Power*

A letter to Ian Duncan from Ben Bristow, Western Power's Head of Grid Transformation, responding to concerns raised at the Northern Country Zone presentation on 29 August regarding the regional power supply allocation of 32 Amps.

The response is encouraging, indicating that the existing infrastructure may be able to withstand an increase to 63 Amps, but no decision will be made until after a trial period in seven local government areas, which will run until 31 March 2023.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**  
**Moved:** Cr Moira Girando **Seconded:** Cr Chris Lane

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives Correspondence In at 9.1.2 (a) through to 9.1.2 (e).

**Carried**

## 9.2 Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 31 October 2022

*Author: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer*  
*Attachments: Bank Statements Aug/Sep/Oct 2022*

### **Recommendation:**

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31 October 2022

### **Comments:**

The Detailed Income Statement shown below represents the cash position of NCZ at 31 October 2022, as reconciled to the Bank Statement.

<b>NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA</b>				
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT				
<i>For the period ending</i>				
<b>31-Oct-22</b>				
	<i>Date</i>	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Description</i>
Statement Balance B/F	01-07-22		10,059.48	
Deposits			13,500.00	2022-23 Membership Subscriptions x 9
			0.37	Interest received
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>			<b>13,500.37</b>	
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</b>			<b>23,559.85</b>	
Payments Made	11-07-22		-3,130.66	Internet Tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 222301 - EO Services 12/05/2022-01/07/2022; Travel; Extraordinary meeting (Zoom)
	28-07-22		-275.00	Internet Tsf - North Midlands Accounting - Inv 2023-000003 - 21-22 Audit
	29-07-22		-370.57	Internet Bpay - Shire of Mingenew - Inv 9966 - Reimburse Catering June 2022 meeting
	01-09-22		-2,845.65	Internet Tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 222302 - EO Services 02/07/2022-31/08/2022; Travel; Stationery
	21-09-22		-607.87	Internet Bpay - Shire of Mingenew - Inv 10032 - Reimburse Catering Aug 2022 meeting
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS MADE</b>			<b>-7,229.75</b>	
<b>Closing Cash Balance</b>	<b>31-10-22</b>		<b>16,330.10</b>	

  

<b>NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA</b>				
BANK RECONCILIATION SUMMARY				
<i>For the period ending</i>				
<b>31-Oct-22</b>				
	<i>Date</i>		<i>Amount</i>	
Statement Balance B/F	01-07-22		10,059.48	
Deposits and Credits			13,500.37	
Cheques and Payments			-7,229.75	
<b>Total Cleared Transactions</b>	<b>31-10-22</b>		<b>16,330.10</b>	
Add back o/s			0.00	
<b>Reconciled Balance</b>			<b>16,330.10</b>	
<b>Bank Statement</b>	<b>31-10-22</b>		<b>16,330.10</b>	
<b>Difference I&amp;E to Bank Statement</b>			<b>0.00</b>	

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**  
**Moved:** Cr Moira Girando **Seconded:** Cr Chris Lane

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31 October 2022.

**Carried**

### **9.3 Meeting Dates 2023**

*Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer*

#### **Recommendation:**

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA meets on the following dates in 2023: Monday 20 February 2023; Monday 24 April 2023; Monday 26 June 2023; Monday 28 August 2023; Monday 27 November 2023.

#### **Background:**

As has been the case in the past, State Council Ordinary meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of March, May, July and December in 2023. The September Regional meeting will be held on Thursday 7 and Friday 8 2023.

#### **Comment:**

Northern Country Zone meetings are scheduled to fall on the Monday of the week prior to State Council meetings, to ensure that NCZ meeting minutes can be delivered to WALGA in a timely manner.

#### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Moira Girando

**Seconded:** Cr Chris Lane

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA meets on the following dates in 2023: Monday 20 February 2023; Monday 24 April 2023; Monday 26 June 2023; Monday 28 August 2023; Monday 27 November 2023.

**Carried**

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## **10. GENERAL BUSINESS**

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### **10.1 Regional Issues**

As per the resolution at Item 9.1 of the February 2018 meeting, Regional Issues are a standing item on the Agenda.

#### **10.1.1 Rural and Regional Bank Closures**

*Prepared by: Mr Rob Paull, CEO Shire of Carnamah  
Cr Merle Isbister, President shire of Carnamah*

#### **Recommendation:**

- a) That WALGA and ALGA support a motion to advocate on behalf of rural and regional communities that, prior to the closure of a rural and regional bank branch that all banks be required to conduct a Social Impact Assessment to gauge the potential impact of the closure on rural and regional communities; and
- b) That WALGA and ALGA support a motion to encourage Westpac to maintain its Carnamah Branch beyond 24 February 2023.

#### **Background:**

In October 2022 Westpac publicly announced its intention to close its Carnamah Branch effective as of 24 February 2023. The Carnamah Branch is staffed by two employees who reside locally. After the closure will be enacted, residents of the Shire of Carnamah will be required to travel at least 240kms (return) to access their closest banking service - an option that is becoming increasingly inaccessible due to the rising fuel and living costs.

On 19 October 2022 the Council of the Shire of Carnamah unanimously resolved:

*"[...] with respect to the Westpac Branch Closure (Carnamah), Council:*

1. *Express formal regret and disappointment at Westpac's decision to close its Carnamah Branch;*

2. Request Westpac to undertake a transparent Social Impact Assessment to address the implications of the closure on the community of Carnamah, neighbouring districts and impact on our local community organisations;
3. Should Westpac not review its decision to close its Carnamah Branch, that Westpac ensures that prior to closure, adequate banking and ATM services be provided in Carnamah mirroring the current banking service; and
4. Request the Chief Executive Officer to:
  - i. initiate a public survey encouraging the community of Carnamah and neighbouring districts to advise Council of their banking needs;
  - ii. report the results of the survey back to Council as soon as practical; and
  - iii. undertake a public information program to encourage the community of Carnamah and neighbouring districts to write to Westpac and their Federal and State representatives advising of the impact the closure of the Branch will have on them.”

As per Point 2 of the above recommendation, a letter was sent to Westpac’s CEO reflecting Council’s resolution and formally requesting a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) study be carried out to assess the impact of the loss of this essential service on the community.

The reply from Westpac’s State General Manager, Consumer & Business WA empathised with the community’s concern about the impact of the closure but failed to address Council’s request for Westpac to conduct a SIA prior to closure. A follow-up email to Westpac seeking advice on the preparation of a SIA did not receive a response.

As per Point 4(i) of the resolution, a survey seeking local and neighbouring community input was circulated for two weeks with the option of responding either online (Shire Website) or ‘hard copy’. The result was **203** responses to the survey with the clear majority of respondents worried about the closure of the Carnamah Westpac Branch and consider their local Westpac Branch an essential service.

A noteworthy outcome was that 38% of Carnamah residents within the local postcode responded to the survey. Importantly, 73% of all responses were received as a ‘hard copy’. This is not necessarily a surprise given many respondents to the Survey recognised that they were not comfortable in utilising technology, are not computer literate or do not own a digital device to access internet services.

**Comments:**

It is clear from the strong response to the Council’s survey that the Carnamah community considers face-to-face banking an essential service. It is anticipated that this would be a similar position for most rural and regional areas in Australia.

The capacity of a rural and regional local government to influence a bank to keep its local branch open is a David and Goliath mission requiring a collective mindset.

WALGA and ALGA are requested to support a motion seeking the retention of Carnamah’s Westpac branch and to advocate on behalf of all rural and regional communities that prior to any local branch closure, the bank be required to undertake a SIA

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Moira Girando

**Seconded:** Cr Chris Lane

- a) That WALGA and ALGA support a motion to advocate on behalf of rural and regional communities that, prior to the closure of a rural and regional bank branch that all banks be required to conduct a Social Impact Assessment to gauge the potential impact of the closure on rural and regional communities; and
- b) That WALGA and ALGA support a motion to encourage Westpac to maintain its Carnamah Branch beyond 24 February 2023.

**Carried**

## **10.2 Regional Tourism Initiatives**

As per the resolution at Item 10.1 of the April 2019 meeting, Regional Tourism Initiatives are a standing item on the Agenda.

Nil

## **10.3 Other General Business**

As per Item 35 of the Zone Standing Orders, a Delegate may under General Business introduce a motion relating to any item of interest to Local Government, but not otherwise.

Nil

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## **11. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

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### **Recommendation:**

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone will be held on Monday 20 February 2023 at the Mingenew Sports Pavilion, commencing at 10am.

### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Moira Girando

**Seconded:** Cr Chris Lane

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone will be held on Monday 20 February 2023 at the Mingenew Sports Pavilion, commencing at 10am.

**Carried**

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## **12. MEETING CLOSURE**

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The Flying Minute meeting was declared closed at 12 noon on Monday 28 November 2022.