



GVROC Council Meeting to consider WALGA State Council Agenda Items

MINUTES

Monday 23 June 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 Monday 23 June 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 2 July 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.

3. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Note that a Quorum was not achieved with only 4 out of 9 Local Governments online. Therefore, no decisions were made during the meeting with all items only noted and comments provided by those in attendance.

3.1 Attendance

Cr Mal Cullen	President, Shire of Coolgardie (Chair)
Cr Tracey Rathbone	Councillor, Shire of Coolgardie
Cr Laurene Bonza	President, Shire of Dundas
Mr Peter Fitchat	CEO, Shire of Dundas
Mr Shane Burge	CEO, Shire of Esperance
Mr Matt Macintyre	CEO, Shire of Wiluna
Mr Andrew Mann	Executive Officer, GVROC

3.2 Apologies

Mr Aaron Cook	A/CEO, Shire of Coolgardie
Cr Glenn Wilson	Mayor, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
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
Cr Wes Graham	Councillor, Shire of Esperance
Cr Patrick Hill	President, Shire of Laverton
Cr Shaneane Weldon	Councillor, Shire of Laverton
Mr Phil Marshall	CEO, Shire of Laverton
Cr Peter Craig	President, Shire of Leonora
Mr Ty Matson	CEO, Shire of Leonora
Cr Paul Warner	President, Shire of Menzies
Cr Sudhir Sudhir	Councillor, Shire of Menzies
Mr Peter Bentley	A/CEO, Shire of Menzies
Cr Peter Grundy	President, Shire of Wiluna
Mr David Mosel	CEO, Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku
Cr Damian McLean	President, Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku

3.3 Guests

Nil

3.4 WALGA Representatives

Mr Kieran McGovern Policy Officer Planning

4. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

4.1 Minutes of a Meeting of GVROC to consider WALGA State Council Agenda Items held 24 April 2025

Minutes of the GVROC Council Meeting to consider WALGA State Council held Thursday 24 April 2025 are presented for adoption (**Attachment 1**).

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Unconfirmed Minutes of the GVROC Council Meeting to consider WALGA State Council held Thursday 24 April 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

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

4.2 Matters for Noting

The following matters were presented for noting.

1. Jacqui Dodd Scholarship

The LGA50220 Diploma of Local Government – Elected Member Scholarship, named in honour of the late Jacqui Dodd, former long-serving WALGA Training Services Manager, has been awarded since 2021. This program is the highest qualification an Elected Member can achieve through WALGA Training and enables participants to increase their skills and knowledge in order to confidently provide leadership to their community.

The scholarship covers 50% of training and assessment fees and provides additional travel expense compensation for regional applicants upon completion of the program. WALGA Training awards this scholarship to two Metropolitan and two Regional Elected Members.

To qualify, applicants must be current Elected Members, have completed all Council Member Essentials training, and must not have previously received the scholarship.

This year's nominations will open on Tuesday, 1 July and close on Friday, 15 August 2025 at 12 noon. The scholarship winners will be announced at the Local Government Convention in September.

For more information and details on how to apply please visit the WALGA Training [website](#), contact the team via email training@walga.asn.au, or call us on (08) 9213 2088.

2. LG Alert - LG reform communications agreement consultation - open

Communication agreements consultation

The local government sector is invited to provide feedback on draft regulations and orders to require local governments to establish a communications agreement between their council and the CEO.

The changes are part of the implementation of the Local Government Amendment Act 2023 reforms.

Feedback will inform the next stage in drafting these provisions.

A consultation paper, the draft regulations and a draft Ministerial order for the default communications agreement are available on the DLGSC website at this link [Consultation on communication agreements for local government council members and CEOs](#).

Submissions can be made to actreview@dlgsc.wa.gov.au until Friday 25 July 2025.

GVROC COMMENTS:

For those in attendance, there some concerns raised with the new drafted Local Government Regulations Amendment Regulations 2025 – Communications Agreements as outlined in the DLGSC Consultation Paper (June 2025).

These concerns included:

- Limited staff capacity and administrative load on smaller regional LGAs – the new registers, templates and tracking systems will increase burden on small regional LGAs and some may have difficulty meeting 2-day acknowledgement and 10-day response targets during peak periods when staff are on leave or dealing with emergency situations e.g. bushfires.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Receive and note the matters for noting as listed.
2. Request WALGA to note the GVROC comments in relation to the Local Government Regulations Amendment Regulations 2025 – Communications Agreements as outlined in the DLGSC Consultation Paper (June 2025).

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie

Seconded: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

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 2 July 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 Suspension and Disqualification for Offences Advocacy Position

WALGA Recommendation

1. That WALGA amend and rename advocacy position 2.5.5 *Disqualification Due to Conviction* to read as follows:

Suspension and Disqualification for Offences

The WA Local Government sector advocates that:

1. ***A new disqualification criterion should be added to the Local Government Act 1995 that disqualifies a person from serving as an Elected Member if they have been convicted of an offence against the Planning and Development Act, or the Building Act in the preceding five years.***
 2. ***A new suspension criterion should be added to the Local Government Act 1995 allowing the Minister of Local Government to suspend a Council Member charged with an offence, where the Minister is satisfied this would be in the best interests of the Local Government, based on advice of the Director General.***
2. That WALGA incorporate advocacy on this issue into its ongoing legislative reform engagement.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The South East Metropolitan Zone (SEMZ) passed a motion requesting that WALGA advocate for additional powers for the Minister to suspend Council Members charged with criminal offences likely to damage the reputation of the Local Government, and disqualify if convicted.
- Suspension, dismissal and disqualification must balance the public interest in elected representatives of good character, with protections for the individual and respect for democratic processes.
- While the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) includes a range of suspension, dismissal and disqualification mechanisms, their operation also depends on how the relevant decision-makers choose to use their powers.
- This report recommends that the dismissal mechanisms under the Act are sufficient to address the Zone's concern, but that WALGA's advocacy position be amended to include an additional suspension power for the Minister of Local Government.
- The Governance Policy Team endorsed the advocacy position at its meeting on 19 May.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Influence:

- Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government.

Support:

- Provide practical sector-wide solutions based on research and evidence.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The current Advocacy Position 2.5.5 Disqualification Due to Conviction position provides as follows:

Position Statement: A new disqualification criterion should be added to the *Local Government Act 1995* that disqualifies a person from serving as an Elected Member if they have been convicted of an offence against the *Planning and Development Act*, or the *Building Act* in the preceding five years.

Background: A planning or building system conviction is potentially more serious than a *Local Government Act* conviction because of Local Government's prominent role in planning and building control and the significant personal benefits which can be illegally gained through these systems.

This report recommends that this position is renamed and amended to include an additional point 2, as follows:

Suspension and Disqualification for Offences

The WA Local Government sector advocates that:

1. A new disqualification criterion should be added to the Local Government Act 1995 that disqualifies a person from serving as an Elected Member if they have been convicted of an offence against the Planning and Development Act, or the Building Act in the preceding five years.
2. A new suspension criterion should be added to the Local Government Act 1995 allowing the Minister of Local Government to suspend a Council Member charged with an offence, where the Minister is satisfied this would be in the best interests of the Local Government, based on advice of the Director General.

BACKGROUND

At its November 2024 meeting, the SEMZ asked WALGA to advocate:

That the Local Government Act 1995 be amended to give the Minister for Local Government the power to:

1. Disqualify a person from membership of a council if the person has been convicted of a criminal offence that, in the opinion of the Minister for Local Government, under the advice of the State Solicitor's Office, has the potential to damage the reputation of the local government or the local government sector more broadly.
2. Suspend the council member who is charged with a criminal offence that has the potential to damage the reputation of the local government or the local government sector more broadly, until the charges are dealt with; and
3. Require a person to be paid fees and allowances until they are disqualified.

COMMENT

The Local Government Act 1995 (the Act) automatically disqualifies someone from membership of a Council if convicted of certain types of offences. The Act also includes mechanisms for suspending and dismissing Council Members. Each mechanism differs in terms of the parties, processes, powers, and preconditions involved.

While suspended, a Council Member cannot perform any of the powers and duties of their role. Suspension does not affect the duration of a Council Member's term or their eligibility to be a candidate for election to Council. If a Council Member is dismissed, the office of the member becomes vacant from the time when the order dismissing the member takes effect. A Council Member that is dismissed is not prevented from standing in future elections. In contrast, persons disqualified are ineligible to hold or be elected to office as a Council Member.

It is necessary for these mechanisms to balance the public interest in ensuring that elected representatives are of good character, with protections for due process, the presumption of innocence and resumption of rights following completion of a sentence. There must also be an appropriate level of respect for the democratic process and the rights of communities to choose their representatives.

Whether the suspension, dismissal and disqualification framework is fit-for-purpose depends on the legislative framework (e.g. legislative settings for disqualification, powers and constraints on powers to suspend and dismiss) and its implementation (e.g. how decision-makers exercise their discretion to intervene).

Existing Disqualification Provisions

A person may be disqualified from membership of a Council based on the following provisions of the Act:

Provision	A person is disqualified –
2.20	If they are a member of a parliament
2.21	If they are a bankrupt or their affairs are under insolvency laws
2.22	Because of conviction
2.23	If they are a member of another Council
2.24	Because of misapplication of local government funds or property
5.117	If SAT orders disqualification (for not more than 5 years) for serious or recurrent breach, or failure to comply with order

Section 2.22 of the Act provides that a person is disqualified if:

- they have been convicted of a crime and are in prison serving a sentence for that crime,
- have been convicted of a serious local government offence in the previous 5 years, or
- have been convicted of an offence carrying an indictable penalty of imprisonment for more than 5 years.

Clearly, the threshold for disqualification is high, excluding all lower-level offences and even indictable offences with a penalty of 5 years or less. As an example, high-level indecent assault will be dealt with as an indictable offence, with the offender liable for up to 5 years imprisonment. Serious local government offences are offences against the Act for which a person may be sentenced to imprisonment or a fine of over \$10,000. A court sentencing a person for a serious local government offence may make an order waiving the disqualification, or reducing the period for which it applies.

There is currently no ability for the Minister to disqualify a person from Council membership. SAT has discretion to order disqualification in some circumstances, while a court has the authority to order that disqualification not apply. In the context of these judicial or quasi-judicial processes, there are strong protections for the rights of the affected person. This reflects the seriousness of this penalty. While the SEMZ motion calls for disqualification, dismissal may be a more appropriate penalty if the exercise of Ministerial discretion is required.

Current Dismissal Provisions

Under sections 8.15K and 8.15L of the Act, the Minister may recommend that the Governor dismiss a Council Member, if the Minister is satisfied that it is appropriate to intervene. The Minister must be satisfied based on the Director General's written advice that:

- the member is impeding the Local Government's ability to perform its functions and duties under the Act, and/or
- it is in the best interest of the Local Government that the member be dismissed.

The Minister must also be satisfied that the seriousness of the situation for the Local Government requires intervention.

The Minister must give the member:

- a report that includes their proposed recommendation and grounds for the recommendation;
- a show cause notice;
- 21 days to respond.

The Minister must consider the member's response prior to making a recommendation to the Governor that the member be dismissed.

Best interest is not defined and allows for a broad range of factors to form the grounds for dismissal. This could include where a Council Member has been charged with or convicted of an offence, and the charges or conviction are adversely affecting the Local Government.

It appears that the existing framework for dismissal has the capacity to respond to circumstances referenced in the SEMZ's motion and rationale. WALGA considers it is reasonable to expect that the Local Government Inspector may have greater capacity to provide targeted and timely investigation and advice to support this mechanism.

Current Suspension Provisions

Section 8.15E of the Act enables the Minister to suspend a Council Member or order them to undertake remedial action.

The Minister can only act where they are satisfied that it is appropriate to intervene, based on one or more of the following:

- The member has been charged with a disqualification offence.
- The Director General has made an allegation to SAT against the member, of a serious or recurrent breach.
- The Director General has written to the Minister advising that they suspect on reasonable grounds that one or more of the following applies:
 - The member has failed to perform their role, functions or duties;
 - The member's conduct has adversely affected the ability of another person to perform their role, functions or duties;

- The member's conduct has adversely affected the ability of the Local Government to comply with the principles that apply under section 5.40 of the Act (principles affecting employment by Local Government, including the responsibility to provide safe and healthy working conditions in accordance with WHS legislation).

The Minister must give:

- The member a written notice of the proposed order that provides the allegations and particulars supporting the proposed order is based on.
- The member a show cause notice, allowing 21 days for the member's response
- Any submissions made by the member consideration prior to making the order.

While suspended, a Council Member is not entitled to be paid any fee or allowance to which they would otherwise be entitled. A Council Member is liable to repay annual allowances and fees paid in advance, as if the member had, for the period of their suspension, ceased to hold the office.

Options for reform of suspension

The current system shares some common elements with the Zone's proposal, however, some changes could be made to bring them into closer alignment. Under the current framework, the Director General and Minister would need to be satisfied that any reputational damage resulting from charges was impeding the workings of the Local Government before they could move to suspend a Council Member.

Charges resulting in reputational damage could be included in the legislation as an explicit ground for which the Director General can recommend suspension to the Minister. However, reputational damage may be somewhat narrow or subjective.

A 'best interests' test, consistent with that provided in the dismissal mechanism (discussed above), could allow the consideration of a broad range of factors, including reputational damage. A mechanism could be introduced allowing the Minister to suspend a Council Member who is charged with an offence that, despite not being a disqualification offence, satisfies the Minister that it is in the best interests of the Local Government to suspend the member. Consistent with the other grounds for suspension, this could be on the advice of the Director General, as the State Solicitor's Office will be primarily concerned with avoiding prejudice to any matter currently before the courts.

Local Government Reform Amendments

The *Local Government (Amendment) Act 2024* will transfer the powers of the Director General under these provisions to the soon-to-be-established Local Government Inspector. The Inspector/Inspectorate model has been introduced to provide improved oversight and early interventions capability into the Local Government sector.

The Inspector will be able initiate inquiries into the affairs of a local government and recommend suspension and dismissal of Council Members. It is expected that this newly created office may have greater independence, timeliness, focus and flexibility in addressing conduct issues.

The Governance Policy Team considered and endorsed the proposed advocacy position at its meeting on 19 May.

GVROC COMMENTS

The GVROC provide the following comments on its concerns regarding this issue:

- The wording used in the WALGA recommendation is not consistent for points 1 and 2 around "**charged with an offence**" versus "**convicted of an offence**" compared to the Executive Summary first dot point that uses the wording "*Minister to suspend Council Members charged with **criminal offences** likely to damage the reputation of the Local Government, and disqualify if convicted*". There is a big difference between being charged with an offence compared to being found guilty and convicted of a criminal offence and it needs to be clear on when the Minister has the power to suspend, whether just from a charge, even if the Councillor may be found not guilty, compared to being convicted of a criminal offence. GVROC suggest WALGA recommendation be reworded as per the Executive summary point listed above to be consistent.
- The GVROC also have concerns regarding onerous investigations being taken through the DLGSC and the independence of Inspectors from the public sector. The GVROC would like WALGA to advocate that investigations in regard to these issues are undertaken by an independent external to the public sector Investigator that can give an external independent view and advice to the Minister.

- The GVROC also questioned the reasoning why this item only considers the Planning and Development Act, or the Building Act, when local governments also have to operate and administer under a lot of other Acts e.g the Health Act and should this be a more overarching across all relevant Acts?

RECOMMENDATION

That the GVROC notes:

1. the recommendation for WALGA to amend and rename advocacy position 2.5.5 *Disqualification Due to Conviction* as provided in the WALGA Recommendation and request WALGA consider the GVROC Comments as provided above in its advocacy on this issue.
2. WALGA to incorporate advocacy on this issue into its ongoing legislative reform engagement.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: *Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas*

Seconded: *Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie*

6.2 State Development Applications and Decision Making Advocacy Position

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA:

1. **Replace Advocacy Position 6.4 Development Assessment Panels with the following:**

6.4 State Development Applications and Decision Making

WALGA calls on the State Government to:

1. **Ensure that decision making on development applications (DAs) is:**
 - a. **consistent and accountable**
 - b. **accessible to local communities**
 - c. **respectful of, and appropriately applies, local planning frameworks in line with their statutory weight.**
 2. **Reform the Development Assessment Panel (DAP) system to:**
 - a. **raise the DAP threshold from the current \$2 million to \$5 million and mandate periodic reviews of the threshold**
 - b. **modify the composition of DAPs to provide equal representation of Specialist Members and Local Government Members**
 - c. **review DAP processes to ensure proponents provide necessary information in a timely manner**
 - d. **provide clear procedural guidance on the roles and functions of Local Government officers and Council**
 - e. **allow access to the State Referral Coordination Unit for DAP applications to ensure timely and adequate referral responses from State Government agencies are provided to Local Governments.**
 3. **Abolish the state significant development assessment pathway (Part 11B of the Planning and Development Act 2005).**
 4. **If the significant development assessment pathway is retained, implement the following reforms:**
 - a. **raise the cost threshold to \$50 million and mandate periodic reviews of the threshold**
 - b. **align statutory timeframes with DAP and Local Government determined DAs**
 - c. **ensure all developments are consistent with applicable local planning instruments and provide comprehensive guidelines for discretionary decision making, including applying extraordinary discretion**
 - d. **delete references to 'mandatory significant development' to ensure the pathway remains entirely opt-in**
 - e. **undertake periodic reviews of its operation and effectiveness.**
2. **Notes the Development Assessment Panel 2011 – 2024 Review and State Development Pathway 2020 – 2025 Review reports.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- It is proposed that Advocacy Position 6.4 Development Assessment Panels be replaced with a new, expanded position that includes all forms of State Government development assessment and decision making.
- The updated position incorporates principles for state decision making, a refined list of recommended reforms to the Development Assessment Panels (DAPs) system and recommends that the significant development pathway be abolished but includes a list of recommended reforms if the pathway is retained.
- The draft position was informed by WALGA's review of the operation of the DAPs and the state significant development pathways, input from Local Government officers, and previous WALGA submissions.
- The draft position and accompanying review reports were provided to Local Governments for Council endorsed or CEO approved preferred feedback by 23 May.
- The Environment Policy team endorsed the position at their meeting on 29 May.

ATTACHMENT

- [Rationale for draft advocacy position](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

It is proposed State Council replace the **current** Advocacy Position **6.4 Development Assessment Panels**:

The Association does not support Development Assessment Panels (DAPs), in their current structure.

Necessary changes to the structure of the DAPs system include:

- 1. The abolishment of the current 'mandatory' mechanism where a proposal has a value of \$10 million or greater, and its replacement with an 'opt in' mechanism for all proposals.*
- 2. Raising the DAP threshold from the current \$2 million to \$5 million,*
- 3. The composition of DAPs should be modified to provide equal representation of Specialist Members and Local Government Members.*
- 4. The creation of a distinct Special Matters DAP (SMDAP) is not supported, given there are already multiple avenues for determination on the basis of zoning and monetary value of applications. Should the State Government progress with the implementation of a SMDAP, the following changes are proposed to the model released in March 2022:*
 - allow proponents with proposals that meet the threshold or criteria being able to opt-out of the SMDAP pathway and allow assessment and determination by Local Government*
 - mandate consultation with the relevant Local Governments prior to the issuing of a Ministerial Order in relation to SMDAP Precinct Criteria, and ensure SMDAP Precincts be identified through regulations, rather than by the Minister,*
 - include greater professional planning expertise, and knowledge of local context through the Local Government members of the District DAP, by including majority professional town planner panel members, with two Local Government*
 - representatives*
 - expand the role of Local Governments in SMDAP processes and appropriate remuneration for involvement of Local Governments be included to support the SMDAP decision-making process.*
- 5. In principle, the further reduction in the number of panels from five to three is supported, to the extent that this reduces the administrative burden on local governments and enhances consistency of decision making.*
- 6. In principle, the permanent appointment of panel members where this results in consistent decision-making is supported as this reduces the potential for conflicts of interest and ensures sound knowledge of DAP processes and procedures.*
- 7. WALGA supports greater transparency around DAP processes and decisions, as community distrust of DAP decision-making is a key area of concern for many local governments.*

with a **new** advocacy position **6.4 State Development Applications and Decision Making Advocacy Position**:

WALGA calls on the State Government to:

- 1. Ensure that decision making on development applications (DAs) is:*
 - a. consistent and accountable*
 - b. accessible to local communities*
 - c. respectful of, and appropriately applies, local planning frameworks in line with their statutory weight.*
- 2. Reform the Development Assessment Panel (DAP) system to:*
 - a. raise the DAP threshold from the current \$2 million to \$5 million and mandate periodic reviews of the threshold*
 - b. modify the composition of DAPs to provide equal representation of Specialist Members and Local Government Members*
 - c. review DAP processes to ensure proponents provide necessary information in a timely manner*
 - d. provide clear procedural guidance on the roles and functions of Local Government officers and Council*
 - e. allow access to the State Referral Coordination Unit for DAP applications to ensure timely and adequate referral responses from State Government agencies are provided to Local Governments.*
- 3. Abolish the state significant development assessment pathway (Part 11B of the Planning and Development Act 2005).*

4. *If the significant development assessment pathway is retained, implement the following reforms:*
 - a. *raise the cost threshold to \$50 million and mandate periodic reviews of the threshold*
 - b. *align statutory timeframes with DAP and Local Government determined DAs*
 - c. *ensure all developments are consistent with applicable local planning instruments and provide comprehensive guidelines for discretionary decision making, including applying extraordinary discretion*
 - d. *delete references to 'mandatory significant development' to ensure the pathway remains entirely opt-in*
 - e. *undertake periodic reviews of its operation and effectiveness.*

BACKGROUND

There are a range of development application (DAs) decision makers in the Western Australian Planning system. While Local Governments process and determine the vast majority of DAs, other State Government boards or agencies are also decision makers, particularly for complex proposals and public works. This includes DAPs, the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) and other State Government agencies (i.e. DevelopmentWA) that determine DAs such as DAPs, significant development applications (Part 17 and Part 11B of the *Planning Development Act 2005*) and developments under region schemes, redevelopment schemes and improvement schemes and public works.

WALGA has historically opposed DAPs and the significant development pathway as they erode the role of Local Government in providing a valuable community perspective on planning proposals.

WALGA has undertaken two reviews of the performance of the DAP system in [2016](#) and [2020](#). Those reviews informed WALGA's current advocacy position, endorsed in May 2022, that recommends changes to the DAP system to ensure it operates in an efficient, effective, and transparent way, and appropriately considers matters of local planning context in decision-making.

The current position is being reviewed as part of WALGA's regular position review process and in recognition of significant planning reforms in 2024, specifically the replacement of the proposed special matters DAP with the permanent significant development pathway (Part 11B).

To inform the review of the DAP position and its ongoing advocacy, WALGA collated and reviewed data on the operation of the DAPs and the significant development pathway.

The [DAP Report](#) examines DAP data from its inception in 2011 to the end of the 2023-24 financial year, with a focus on observable trends since the previous report in 2020. The report indicates minor improvements in the DAP system, particularly in reliability and consistent decision making. Despite this, the DAP system continues to determine many low-value applications that lack strategic importance and should be redirected to the Local Government pathway.

The [Significant Development Pathway Report](#) examines data from the pathway's commencement in 2020 until 1 April 2025. The report finds that this pathway is used infrequently and does not process applications efficiently, contrary to its intended purpose and that the pathway's other goals, driving economic recovery (Part 17) and aiding housing supply (Part 11B), have also not been met.

The collated data will be uploaded to the [DAP Dashboard](#) on WALGA's website.

WALGA has drafted a revised advocacy position that will sit within the context of the Planning Principles and Reform advocacy position and will expand on the DAP position to:

1. Be applicable to all State Government DAs and approvals (e.g. significant development pathway, DAPs, Public Works, region scheme approvals, Development WA).
2. Establish principles to guide transparent and accountable decision-making on development applications, ensuring that local planning frameworks are appropriately considered, and communities, particularly in regional areas, are granted equitable access to the decision-making process.
3. Include a refined list of reforms to the DAP system, while retaining the position to increase the DAP threshold and for equal representation of Specialist Members and Local Government Members.
4. Include a recommendation that the significant development pathway be abolished based on the findings of the significant development pathway report, and includes a list of reforms if the pathway is to be retained to ensure it operates more efficiently and only processes genuine state significant projects.

The draft position and accompanying review reports were provided to Local Governments for Council endorsed or CEO preferred feedback by 23 May.

COMMENT

The current DAP advocacy position is outdated and does not reflect the current planning framework, specifically the introduction of the permanent significant development pathway (Part 11B of the *Planning and Development Act 2005*).

The proposed new advocacy position will complement WALGA's planning advocacy position, 6.1 Planning Principles and Reform, that notes decisions should be made by the level of government closest to and most impacted by a planning proposal and should appropriately reflect local environment, context, communities and character.

The proposed advocacy position has been informed by feedback from CEO approved and Council endorsed submissions, Local Government officer input and WALGA's previous submissions, specifically on DAP reforms and amendments to the *Planning and Development Act 2005* that introduced the significant development pathway.

Some minor amendments were made to the draft position in response to members' feedback, particularly regarding the recommendations for the state significant development pathway.

Local Government feedback was that the pathway was not functioning effectively in its current form. While some Local Governments advocated for its abolition, others considered that there may be benefits if the pathway was limited to genuine state-significant projects only and operated more efficiently. The draft position calls for the reforms to the pathway and for it to be subject to periodic review if retained.

Further information on the rationale for the position and feedback provided is attached.

The Environment Policy agreed to recommend that State Council endorse the new expanded position at their meeting on 29 May.

GVROC COMMENTS

The GVROC agree with the Local Government feedback that the pathway was not functioning effectively in its current form and that there is still a long way to go to improve the effectiveness of the system.

RECOMMENDATION

That the GVROC:

- 1. Notes WALGA to replace Advocacy Position 6.4 Development Assessment Panels as provided in the WALGA recommendation.**
- 2. Notes the Development Assessment Panel 2011 – 2024 Review and State Development Pathway 2020 – 2025 Review reports**

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie

6.3 **Public Library Agreement**

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council endorse the *State and Local Level Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia*.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA is a signatory to the *State and Local Government Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia* (the Agreement).
- The five-year Agreement defines roles and responsibilities in the delivery of public libraries and provides the structure and framework for the delivery of the WA Public Libraries Strategy and future vision for public library services.
- The current Agreement, endorsed by State Council in July 2020, is due for renewal in September 2025.
- WALGA has participated in the review of the Agreement, which has recommended minor amendments.
- Following the signing of a new Agreement, a sector consultation process will be undertaken for the associated Local Level Agreements between the State Library and Local Governments.
- The Agreement does not include funding arrangements for public libraries. WALGA continues to advocate for increased public library funding.

ATTACHMENT

- [State and Local Level Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia 2025 – 2030](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Endorsing the Agreement aligns with WALGA's 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, particularly:

- Influence – Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government and empower the Local Government sector to build communities equipped for the future.
- Support – Grow opportunities for Local Governments' sharing of services and resources.
- Expertise – Optimise organisational capability to service members' needs and foster relationships between our subject matter experts and stakeholders.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Endorsement of the new Agreement aligns with WALGA's current [Advocacy Position 3.8 Public Libraries](#), which states:

1. *Western Australian Local Government public libraries provide valuable local cultural infrastructure, creating social and community hubs for community capacity building, recreation, education and literacy, digital inclusion, and social connection, cohesion and inclusion.*
2. *WALGA supports the provision of Public Library services in Western Australia through a formal partnership between Local Government and the State Government of Western Australia, governed by the Library Board Act 1951, namely the State and Local Government Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia (2020).*
3. *The WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026 provides a framework for a shared vision, strategic direction and collaborative action in the provision of a vibrant and sustainable 21st century public library network.*
4. *It is essential that a sustainable funding model enables Local Governments to continue to deliver library services to support continued growth and adaptation to changing community needs.*

BACKGROUND

WALGA is a signatory to the *State and Local Government Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia* (the Agreement), which is due for renewal in September 2025. The Agreement defines the roles and responsibilities for each tier of government in the delivery of public libraries and provides the structure and framework for the delivery of the [WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026](#) and the future vision for public library services.

Following internal endorsement from signatories, the current Agreement received final endorsement in September 2020 by the Public Library Working Group (PLWG), which includes: WALGA, the State Library of Western Australia (SLWA), the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

(DLGSC), Public Libraries WA Inc. and Local Government Professionals Australia WA. The same process will be undertaken for this renewal.

Connected to the Agreement are Local Level Agreements between the SLWA and individual Local Governments that provide public library services. Local Level Agreements set out more detailed public library service delivery requirements and will be reviewed in early 2026, including sector consultation.

COMMENT

WALGA has worked with SLWA to review the Agreement to meet the September 2025 renewal date. Amendments are minor and do not raise any issues for WALGA Members.

The scope of the Agreement does not extend to public library funding. SLWA is currently reviewing the Public Library Material Funding Allocation Model. WALGA and Local Governments will be consulted as part of the review.

State Government funding has failed to keep pace with the needs of public libraries, population growth or inflation. WALGA continues to [advocate](#) for increased overall funding for public libraries to maintain and enhance service levels that meet the diverse needs of communities across WA and support the implementation of the WA Public Library Strategy.

Following the renewal of the Agreement, WALGA will work with SLWA to develop a sector-wide consultation plan for the review of Local Level Agreements.

RECOMMENDATION

That the GVROC notes the *State and Local Level Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia*.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie

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

7.1 2025 Local Government Audit Experience Survey Results

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA has again partnered with Local Government Professionals WA (LG Professionals) to survey the Local Government sector on experiences during the most recent annual financial audit process.
- The 2025 survey questions asked respondents about their experience of the 2023/24 audit process.
- Questions were largely the same as those in the audit surveys conducted in 2023 and 2024, allowing for direct comparison of results over time.
- Over the three years of the audit survey, the key issues identified have remained consistent. These areas demonstrated varying levels of improvement in this year's survey results:
 - timeframe and delays;
 - additional workload on Local Government staff;
 - cost;
 - inconsistent advice from contract Auditors and the Office of the Auditor General (OAG); and
 - asset valuation requirements.
- WALGA and LG Professionals have met with representatives from the OAG to share the outcomes from the survey and discuss the experience and concerns of Members.
- WALGA and LG Professionals will continue to work with the OAG to reform the audit process in line with sector feedback, with a particular focus on those areas of concern identified in the 2025 survey results.

ATTACHMENT

- [2025 Audit Experience Survey Results Summary](#)
- Audit survey results comparison infographic

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

WALGA's current Advocacy Position in relation to the Local Government audit process was updated in July 2024 following last year's audit experience survey.

2.2.2 Local Government Audit Process

WALGA advocate to the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) to reform the audit process for Local Governments by seeking:

- 1. Audits of Local Governments are completed and reported on in a timely manner and that the processes, procedures and scope of audits are consistently applied.*
- 2. That the OAG review the requirements for pre-audit information with a view to reducing the need for additional information where possible;*
- 3. That the OAG review their costing formulae for Local Government audits and show constraint in audit cost increases;*
- 4. That the OAG provide a breakdown on the cost of the audit and justification for any variance to the estimate to the Local Government as part of the final billing process;*
- 5. That auditors be required to improve their communication and information management and avoid repeated requests for information that has already been provided or that is publicly available;*
- 6. That Local Governments only be required to communicate with contract Auditors (unless the OAG is directly auditing the Local Government) and the onus be placed on the contract Auditors to confirm their advice with the OAG before instructing the Local Government; and*
- 7. Seek an opportunity for Local Government to make representations in relation to any adverse findings prior to the publication of the report.*

BACKGROUND

Responsibility for financial auditing of Local Governments in WA transitioned from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries to the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) with the proclamation of the *Local Government Amendment (Auditing) Act 2017*. Since this time, there have been a range of comments and criticisms of the audit experience from the Local Government sector.

For the past three years, WALGA have partnered with Local Government Professionals WA (LG Professionals) to produce a survey of Local Governments' annual audit experience. The survey has recently been repeated for the 2023/24 audit process, utilising similar questions to the 2023 and 2024 surveys to create a comparison over time.

The survey was designed to enable the Associations to provide consistent and constructive advice to the OAG. The OAG is again supportive of the process and welcomes the contribution from the peak bodies to inform their continued improvement.

WALGA and LG Professionals have met with representatives from the OAG to share the results of the survey and broadly discuss the experience of Member Local Governments during the 2023/24 audit process.

COMMENT

The 2025 survey was distributed to all 139 Local Governments in February, with responses closing in mid-March.

A total of 59 Local Governments (42.5%) responded, compared to 83 (58%) in 2024 and 91 (62%) in 2023.

The survey was largely comprised of the same questions as previous years, with most framed as a statement asking respondents to answer in one of five ways:

1. Strongly disagree;
2. Disagree;
3. Neutral;
4. Agree; or
5. Strongly agree.

Overall, the results and comments from the 2025 survey highlight an improving audit scenario when compared with the last two years. Comparison of results in the five key emerging issue areas identified in the 2023 and 2024 surveys (which has formed the basis for WALGA's advocacy efforts to the OAG) demonstrate notable improvements in most areas.

Timeframe and delays

In 2023 just over 50% of respondents identified that their audits were failing to hit the timeframes set for the process. This was substantially improved in 2024, with 82% of respondents identifying compliance with those required timeframes. In 2025 this has again improved to 98%, providing a high level of confidence that this is no longer an issue of concern in the sector.

Additional workload on Local Government staff

In both 2023 and 2024, 80% of respondents were concerned at the additional workload that was being generated for their staff by the audit process beyond the tasks anticipated in the pre-audit preparation advice. That level of concern has reduced to 68% in 2025 and whilst that is a move in the right direction, 68% still represents a substantial proportion of respondents and clearly indicates that this remains an issue within the sector.

Cost

There continues to be frustration across the sector with the escalating costs of the audit, which is significantly above indices such as CPI and Wage Growth. Transparency of costings and the justification of costs were the dominant concerns of survey respondents.

Inconsistent advice from contract Auditors and OAG

Receiving inconsistent advice from contracts Auditors versus from the OAG was a significant issue for nearly 20% of respondents in 2023. This reduced significantly in 2024 to only 6%, but has increased to 11% in 2025. The 2025 result suggests more needs to be done to ensure consistency between auditors.

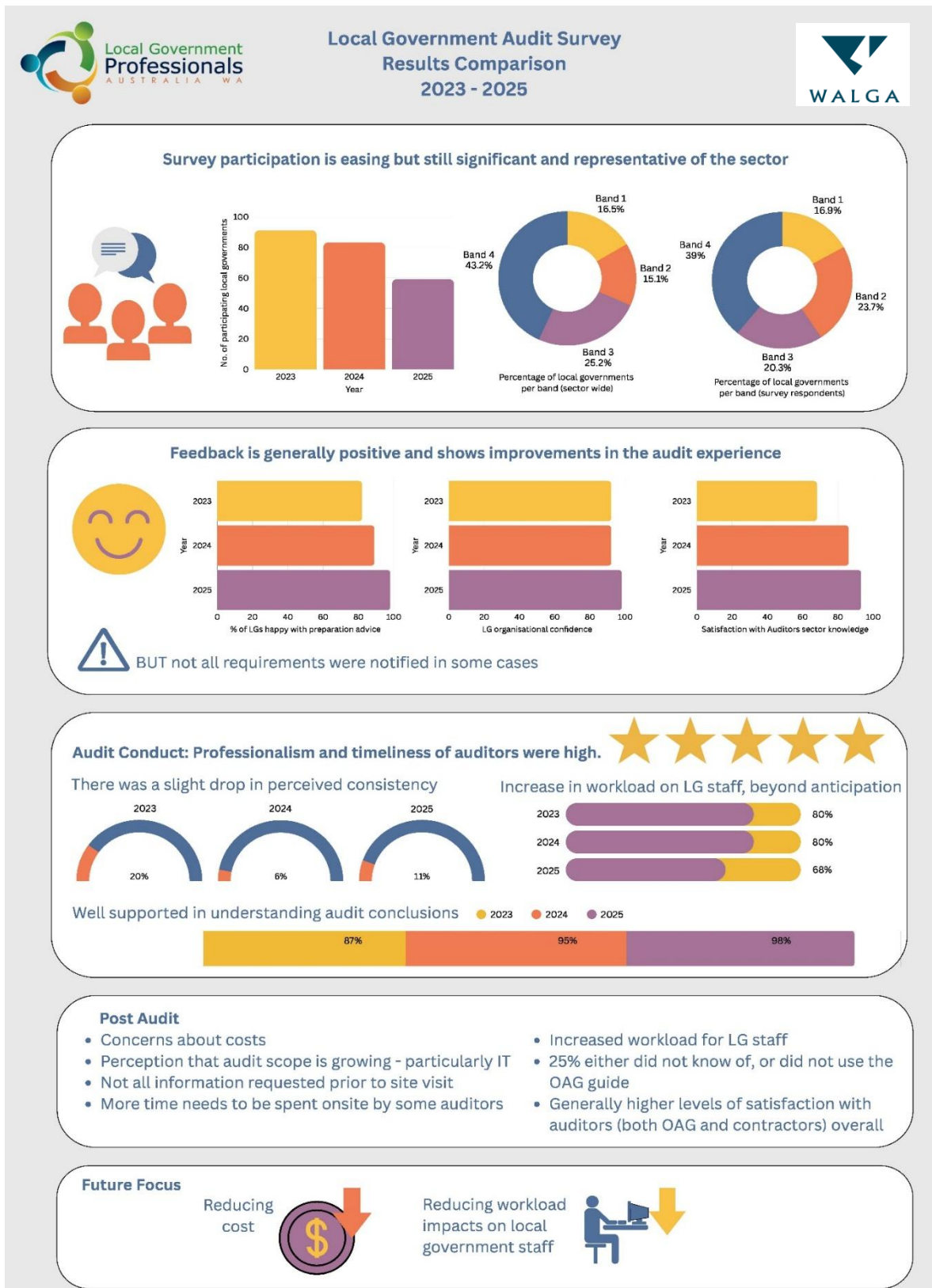
Asset Valuation Requirements

"Fair Value" was a significant issue for respondents in 2023, and reform was championed by a range of sector proponents resulting in changes that largely diminished criticisms of the valuation system in the 2024 audit survey. No significant criticisms of Fair Value were forthcoming in the 2025 survey suggesting that this issue is considered solved.

CONCLUSION

The 2025 survey results did not indicate any new, previously unidentified issues with the audit process, and most of the key issues above showed at least some improvement in this year's survey results. This suggests that the ongoing surveying, education, communication and advocacy work being undertaken by WALGA and LG Professionals with the OAG and the Local Government sector is appropriately interrogating the issues.

WALGA will continue its advocacy efforts with the OAG to secure the best result for Local Governments.



RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC note the WALGA update on 2025 Local Government Audit Experience Survey Results.

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

7.2 **Renewable Energy Community Benefits and Engagement Guide**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Western Australia's energy sector is transforming to achieve the State and Australian Governments' 2050 net zero emissions target.
- There is no comprehensive framework to guide the energy transition, including expectations regarding consultation and the delivery of community benefits by project proponents.
- State Council endorsed a suite of renewable energy-related advocacy positions in September 2024.
- WALGA has since been progressing a number of initiatives to support Local Governments.
- This includes the development of a Community Benefits and Engagement Guide to support Local Governments when engaging with developers and their communities, which has now been finalised.

ATTACHMENTS

- [Renewable Energy in WA – WALGA Research Paper](#)
- [Empowering Local Governments – Planning for Renewable Energy](#)
- Community Benefits and Engagement Guide (available from 9 June)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

- 6.16 Energy Transition Engagement and Community Benefit Framework
- 6.17 Renewable Energy Facilities
- 6.18 Priority Agriculture

BACKGROUND

WALGA developed three advocacy policy positions related to the renewable energy transition that were endorsed by State Council at its September 2024 meeting. These positions form the basis of WALGA's advocacy on this issue and are guiding our discussions with Government and advocacy on behalf of our Members.

It is essential that the energy transition currently underway delivers economic opportunities, ensures reliable and affordable electricity, and provides benefits for local communities. WALGA is calling on the State Government to develop a comprehensive framework to manage the impact of the energy transition that includes local engagement and the realisation of local community benefits from energy transition projects as a priority.

Negotiating community benefits and engaging with developers in the absence of a State framework continues to be a key challenge for Local Governments. WALGA commenced work on preparing a Community Benefits and Engagement Guide at the beginning of 2025 at the request of Members. The purpose of the Guide is to provide succinct guidance to the sector on managing engagement and community benefit challenges when it comes to large scale renewable energy projects.

COMMENT

WALGA has now finalised its Community Benefits and Engagement Guide (see attachment). A series of templates and checklists accompanies the Guide to provide practical resources for Local Governments to use.

Local Governments have been kept up to date with the progress of the Guide via State Council items for noting, emails to all CEOs from the WALGA CEO, and updates in the Teams Group for Local Government leaders.

The process of developing the Guide began in February 2025 and has involved engagement with Local Governments throughout, including:

- two workshops in March attended by 28 representatives, providing the opportunity for Local Governments to discuss the challenges they face with community benefits and engagement with developers and the community. Topics discussed include the need for the sector to work together; concerns around housing and other infrastructure; community impact; and the planning process;
- an information session in May attended by 35 Local Government representatives to take them through the draft Guide. Topics discussed include guidance on how to engage with State Government; rating mechanisms; and the planning application process;

- the consultant also engaged industry (Clean Energy Council and Smart Energy Council) and State Government (PoweringWA and Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage) to provide input into, and feedback on, the draft Guide;
- a two-week feedback period, providing Local Governments the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Guide, with nine Local Governments providing feedback.

GVROC COMMENTS

The GVROC note the guide but believe it does not take into consideration the following concerns:

- Mining Developments and their use of renewable energy and how post mining these renewable energy sources can benefit the local towns and communities.
- There is also concern that the State Government will again take away approval and planning processes from LGAs for renewable energy projects, not allowing them to be engaged in the develop of these projects to ensure that local towns and communities receive benefits from their development.
- Rating issues for LGAs with these projects and the associated camps around them.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC note the WALGA Renewable Energy Community Benefits and Engagement Guide.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: *Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas*

Seconded: *Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie*

7.3 Report on Local Government Road Assets and Expenditure 2023/24

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Report on Local Government Road Assets and Expenditure 2023/24 has been finalised.
- This Report provides information, statistics and trends on:
 - the length and types of roads and bridges managed by Local Governments;
 - sources of funding and the use of funds in expanding, upgrading, renewing and maintaining roads, paths and bridges;
 - actual expenditure relative to that needed to sustainably maintain the road network;
 - Road safety performance on Local Government roads.
- The report is intended to underpin advocacy for continued and increased Federal and State funding for Local Government roads and to support Councils wishing to benchmark aspects of their own roads programs with similar or neighbouring areas.

ATTACHMENT

- [Report on Local Government Road Assets and Expenditure 2023/24](#)

BACKGROUND

The Report on Local Government Road Assets and Expenditure 2023/24 (the report) was produced by WALGA with assistance from the WA Local Government Grants Commission. The report provides information on the lengths and types of roads, paths and bridges and highlights trends in the data over the preceding five years. It includes statistics and trends on the funding sources and amount of Local Government expenditure on roads, paths and bridges. Details are provided on the allocation of expenditure between expansion, upgrade, maintenance and renewal of the network at a regional level and for individual Local Governments. Trends in the road safety performance on Local Governments roads from 2019 to 2023 are provided.

The expenditure statistics are analysed to provide comparisons of road preservation performance, net preservation needs and expenditure effort. These comparisons provide insight into the adequacy of funding and the difference between road preservation needs and current expenditure on road preservation.

COMMENT

Local Government is responsible for 127,952 kilometres of roads with a replacement value of over \$40.5 billion, which makes up 87% of the State Road network (excluding Forestry and National Park roads). Only 33% of these roads are sealed with a bitumen surface, the rest being gravel or unformed roads. In 2023/24 the total expenditure on Local Government roads was \$1034.1 million and 49% of this was funded by State and Federal Government grants. Three and a half percent of this investment in roads in 2023/24 was to repair flood damage. In the last five years, total road expenditure has increased by 11.7%.

Much of the Local Government road network is now approaching the end of its design life and an increasing portion of funding is being spent on maintenance and renewal (collectively termed preservation). In 2023/24 expenditure on preservation (excluding flood damage) was \$752.5 million amounting to 72.7% of the total expenditure.

An important objective of the report is to assess if road expenditure on preservation is keeping up with road preservation needs. This is determined by comparing actual annual expenditure on road preservation with the estimated amount needed to maintain the roads in their current condition in that year. The estimated cost of maintaining the Local Government road network in its current condition in 2023/24 was \$1090.4 million and Local Governments spent \$752.4 million on preservation. There was therefore a shortfall of \$338.0 million. This is \$80.8 million more than 2022/23 and \$144.2 million more than 2019/20, which indicates that the average condition of the road network is deteriorating.

A further important objective is to assess the sustainability and capacity of Local Government to fund their road preservation requirements. For regional Local Governments, 62% of road expenditure is funded by State or Federal Government grants and for the Wheatbelt, this figure rises to 75%. On average, Local Governments spend 18% of their revenue capacity on roads. This illustrates the dependence on State and Federal funding and many regional Local Governments would have to spend almost their entire income on roads if this was the only source of funding.

The statistics and analysis presented in the report provides evidence for the level of expenditure required on Local Government roads and underpins the argument for sustainable funding to maintain and improve the condition and functionality of the road network.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC note the WALGA Report on Local Government Road Assets and Expenditure 2023/24.

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

7.4 **WALGA Bushfire Management Roundtable**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The second WALGA Bushfire Management Roundtable was held on 26 March, bringing together executive and subject matter experts from WALGA, LGIS, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), and Chief Executive Officers of Dandaragan, Albany, Manjimup, Corrigin, Kwinana, and Waroona Local Governments.
- Local Governments have a critical role in emergency management, including statutory responsibilities for mitigation, prevention and response and community-led recovery, necessitating well-functioning relationships with DFES as the Hazard Management Agency for multiple prescribed hazards.
- The Roundtable provides an opportunity for in-depth discussion of complex and/or contentious issues facing Local Governments in emergency management, and aims to identify, progress and monitor key priorities and actions.
- Discussions at the Roundtable were productive, identifying four actions for DFES and two for WALGA - focusing on further strengthening support to Local Government CEOs in Bush Fire Brigade (BFB) management, and strategic reform of the Local Government Grants Scheme (LGGS).
- A short sector update from the Roundtable has been prepared for circulation to Members.
- The next Roundtable is anticipated to be held in early 2026.

ATTACHMENT

- [Sector Update - WALGA Bushfire Management Roundtable](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Bushfire Management Roundtable provided an opportunity to discuss issues related to WALGA's emergency management [advocacy positions](#):

- 8.4 Consolidated Emergency Services Act
- 8.8 Local Government Grants Scheme
- 8.9 Expansion of the Community Emergency Services Manager Program
- 8.10 Management of Bush Fire Brigades

BACKGROUND

WALGA Bushfire Management Roundtables have been convened by WALGA to respond to an identified need for strengthened information flow between DFES and Local Government CEOs to support the fulfilment of their emergency management responsibilities.

The first Roundtable, held in February 2024, led to a collaborative project between DFES and WALGA, in which Local Government CEOs were provided with DFES training records for registered BFB members and a comprehensive information package, aimed at supporting CEO preparation for the upcoming bushfire season.

COMMENT

Key priorities and actions identified at the 26 March 2025 Roundtable include:

DFES Actions

- Continue to work with WALGA on the best ongoing approach to sharing information on BFB management with CEOs, including a more structured doctrine component to guide local policy development.
- Consider providing LGIS with access to relevant DFES doctrine to inform the provision of advice to Local Governments on BFB procedures, when requested by Local Governments.
- Continue to work with WALGA on LGGS reform, including a strategic approach to LGGS allocation.
- Provide updates/advice on management of burnt asbestos on farms and disaster recovery funding arrangements, recognising financial, WHS, environmental and recovery implications.

WALGA Actions

- Revisit Local Government views on BFB management in the 2025 EM Survey - anticipated to be delivered in September 2025.
- Continue to work with DFES on LGGS reform, including a strategic approach to LGGS allocation, whilst also continuing to advocate for an increase in funding, aligned to our 2025 State Election Priorities.

RECOMMENDATION:

GVROC note the WALGA Bushfire Management Roundtable report.

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

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

8.2 President's Report

WALGA Recommendation

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

RECOMMENDATION:

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

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

8.3 Complete Status Report on State Council Resolutions - To the July 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 July 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

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.

- **25 July 2025** in Kambalda (to be hosted by Shire of Coolgardie)
- **22-24 September 2025** (Date and Dinner TBC 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:

- 4-5 September 2025 WALGA State Council Meeting - GVROC meeting on **22 August 2025**
- 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 9:55am.