



Northern Country Zone

MINUTES

22 NOVEMBER 2021

Hosted by the Shire of Mingenew
Mingenew Sports Pavilion



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Item 2.1:	Nomination Form Cr Karen Chappel – NCZ President
Item 2.2	Nomination Form Cr Moira Girando – NCZ Deputy President Nomination Form Cr Darrell Forth – NCZ Deputy President
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Item 7.0:	Minutes of the 23 August 2021 Meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA
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Item 11.1.2:	Correspondence In a. Richard Burnell re prioritising Emergency NBN WiFi Satellite for Mid West LGs b. DLGSC Local Matters August 2021 Newsletter c. WALGA State Council 3 September 2021 Minutes d. MWDC Annual Report 20/21 e. RDA November 2021 Newsletter f. MWDC re Childcare Infrastructure Requirements g. WALGA re Webinar re Work Health Safety Act 2020 for Volunteers and Volunteer Organisations
Item 11.2	Bank Statements Jul/Aug/Sep/Oct 2021

Zone Delegates are 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 consider the alternative recommendation.

1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Executive Officer chaired the meeting until the Elections were completed.

1.1 Opening

The Meeting was declared open at 10:03 am.

1.2 Announcements

COVID-19 Information

An Attendance Register was circulated for all attendees to sign.

2. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Attachment: Elected Member Prospectus

Election Process for all positions – NCZ President and Deputy President, WALGA State Council Representative and Deputy Representative:

Guidelines for the elections, the Call for Nominations and Nomination Forms were distributed to Member Councils by email dated 19 October 2021. The closing date for nominations was Sunday 14 November 2021.

Only Elected Members who are also a Zone Delegate for their Council are eligible to nominate for a position.

If no nominations are received, nominations may be accepted from the floor immediately prior to the ballot and not otherwise.

Where there is more than one nomination for a position, an election will be conducted using a secret ballot and the person with the most votes will fill the position. In the event of a tied vote, the election will be determined by drawing names from a box. The Executive Officer will put the names of the candidates concerned in a box and the first name drawn will fill the position.

If there is only one nominee for a position, then that nominee will fill the position unopposed.

2.1 Election of President of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA

Attachment: Nomination Form and Election Bid Letter

Matter for Consideration:

A President is to be elected for a term of two years, commencing immediately after the election of Office Bearers and continuing up to and including the day prior to the November 2023 Northern Country Zone meeting.

Comment:

Candidates will be afforded the opportunity to make a two minute election bid.

Nominations Received:

Cr Karen Chappel Shire of Morawa Zone Delegate appointed by Council 21/10/2021

Declaration of Election Result:

That Cr Karen Chappel, of the Shire of Morawa, be elected as President of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA for the term of 2 years, from 22 November 2021 up to and including the day prior to the November 2023 Northern Country Zone meeting.

2.2 Election of Deputy President of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA

Attachments: Nomination Forms and Election Bid Letters x2

Matter for Consideration:

A Deputy President is to be elected for a term of two years, commencing immediately after the election of Office Bearers and continuing up to and including the day prior to the November 2023 Northern Country Zone meeting.

Comment:

Candidates will be afforded the opportunity to make a two minute election bid prior to the secret ballot being taken.

Nominations Received:

Cr Moira Girando	Shire of Coorow	Zone Delegate appointed by Council 20/10/2021
Cr Darrell Forth	Shire of Chapman Valley	Zone Delegate appointed by Council 20/10/2021

Declaration of Election Result:

That Cr Moira Girando, of the Shire of Coorow, be elected as Deputy President of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA for the term of 2 years, from 22 November 2021 up to and including the day prior to the November 2023 Northern Country Zone meeting.

2.3 Election of WALGA State Council Representative

Attachment: Nomination Form and Election Bid Letter

Matter for Consideration:

A WALGA State Council Representative is to be elected for a term of two years, commencing 1 December 2021 at the first Ordinary Meeting of the new State Council until and including the day prior to the December 2023 meeting of State Council.

Comment:

WALGA is governed by a President and a 24 member State Council, elected from the Zones for a two year period.

A Prospectus providing information on WALGA, the State Council, the role of State Councillors and what makes an effective State Councillor was distributed to members by email dated 26 October 2021 and is attached to the Agenda.

A State Councillor/Deputy State Councillor Induction Session will be held on Wednesday 24 November 2021 and the new State Council will take office at the Ordinary Meeting of State Council on 1 December 2021.

Candidates will be afforded the opportunity to make a two minute election bid.

Nominations Received:

Cr Karen Chappel	Shire of Morawa	Zone Delegate appointed by Council 21/10/2021
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Declaration of Election Result:

That Cr Karen Chappel, of the Shire of Morawa, be elected as the WALGA State Council Representative for the Northern Country Zone of WALGA for the term of 2 years, commencing 1 December 2021 at the first Ordinary Meeting of the new State Council until and including the day prior to the December 2023 meeting of State Council.

2.4 Election of WALGA State Council Deputy Representative

Attachment: Nomination Form and Election Bid Letter

Matter for Consideration:

A WALGA State Council Deputy Representative is to be elected for a term of two years, commencing 1 December 2021 at the first Ordinary Meeting of the new State Council until and including the day prior to the December 2023 meeting of State Council.

Comment:

WALGA is governed by a President and 24 member State Council, elected from the Zones for a two year period.

A Prospectus providing information on WALGA, the State Council, the role of State Councillors and what makes an effective State Councillor was distributed to members by email dated 26 October 2021 and is attached to the Agenda.

A State Councillor/Deputy State Councillor Induction Session will be held on Wednesday 24 November 2021 and the new State Council will take office at the Ordinary Meeting of State Council on 1 December 2021. Deputies are welcome to attend the State Council meeting as observers if they wish.

Candidates will be afforded the opportunity to make a two minute election bid.

Nominations Received:

Cr Moira Girando Shire of Coorow Zone Delegate appointed by Council 20/10/2021

Declaration of Election Result:

That Cr Moira Girando, of the Shire of Coorow, be elected as the WALGA State Council Deputy Representative for the Northern Country Zone of WALGA for the term of 2 years, commencing 1 December 2021 at the first Ordinary Meeting of the new State Council until and including the day prior to the December 2023 meeting of State Council.

At the completion of the Elections, the newly appointed Northern Country Zone President assumed the position.

3. WELCOME, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

3.1 Acknowledgment of Country

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA acknowledges the Yamatji people, who are the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today and pays its respects to their Elders past and present.

3.2 Welcome, Attendance and Apologies

Welcome to Delegates, new and old, and guests. *As there were many new faces at the table, Cr Chappel asked that everyone in the room introduce themselves.*

MEMBERS

NB: One Voting Delegate from each Member Council

Shire of Carnamah

Cr Merle Isbister - President

Shire of Chapman Valley

Cr Kirrilee Warr - President
Mr Maurice Battilana - Chief Executive Officer (Proxy)

Shire of Coorow

Cr Moira Girando - President
Ms Mia Maxfield - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

City of Greater Geraldton

Cr Jerry Clune – Deputy Mayor
Mr Ross McKim - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Irwin

Cr Isabelle Scott – Deputy President
Mr Shane Ivers - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Mingenew

Cr Gary Cosgrove, President
Cr Hellene McTaggart
Mr Nils Hay - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Morawa

Cr Karen Chappel – President
Mr Scott Wildgoose - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Northampton Cr Liz Sudlow - President
 Cr Robert Horstman - Deputy President
 Mr Garry Keeffe - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Perenjori Cr Jude Sutherland – Deputy President
 Mr Mario Romeo – Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Three Springs Mr Keith Woodward - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

EXECUTIVE Ms Dianne Daniels – Executive Officer
 Mr Ian Duncan – WALGA Executive Manager Infrastructure
 Ms Ruby Pettit – WALGA Policy Officer Planning

INVITED GUESTS

Member for Moore Mr Shane Love MLA

Member for Agricultural Region Hon. Sandra Carr MLC

Electoral Officer for Sandra Carr MLC Ms Claire McElhinney

Mid West Development Commission Ms Anne Finlay - Acting Chief Executive Officer

Regional Development Midwest Gascoyne Mr Mark Holdsworth – Director of Regional Development/Executive Officer

Dept of Local Government Sport & Cultural Ind Mr Craig Vinci - Regional Officer Mid West

Main Roads WA Ms Janet Hartley-West – Regional Manager Mid West-Gascoyne

APOLOGIES

Shire of Chapman Valley Cr Darrell Forth – Deputy President

Regional Development Midwest Gascoyne Ms Yvonne Messina – Chair

Dept of Local Government Sport and Cultural Ind Ms Angele Gray

Member for Agricultural Region Hon. Martin Aldridge MLC

Member for Agricultural Region Hon. Darren West MLC

Member for Agricultural Region Hon. Steve Martin MLC

Member for Agricultural Region Hon. Colin de Grussa MLC

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Ms Kelly Faulkner
Mr Richard Newman

Shire of Three Springs Cr Chris Lane

4. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

Representatives from the Department of Water and Environment Regulation were scheduled to give an update on changes to the Environmental Protection Act and new Native Vegetation Clearing Referral Process but were unable to attend the meeting.

5. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil

6. ADJOURNED BUSINESS

Nil

7. MINUTES

Attachment: Minutes of the 23 August 2021 Meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA

7.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 23 August 2021 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Isbister

Seconded: Cr Cosgrove

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 23 August 2021 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Carried

7.2 Business Arising from Minutes

Nil

8. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR DECISION

Attachment: WALGA State Council 1 December 2021 Meeting Agenda

The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 1 December 2021.

The Matters for Decision in the State Council agenda are numbered 5.1 to 5.5.

The Recommendation and Brief only have been included. Please refer to the attached PDF version of the State Council Agenda for more detail.

8.1 (5.1) Paid Family and Domestic Violence Leave Entitlements

Prepared by: Davina Hunter, Employee Relations Service Manager

Recommendation:

That WALGA:

Endorse the submission to the Fair Work Commission (FWC) regarding paid family and domestic violence leave (FDVL) which:

1. highlights that FDVL for employees is an important issue for the sector;
2. supports the introduction of a new entitlement in modern awards for employees to receive five days' paid FDVL per year;
3. advocates for employees to be able to access their paid personal/carer's leave in circumstances of family and domestic violence; and
4. opposes the introduction of a new entitlement in modern awards for employees to receive 10 days' paid FDVL per year as sought by the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU).

Executive Summary:

- There is currently no legislative or award entitlement to *paid* FDVL in the federal industrial relations system.
- The National Employment Standards (**NES**) in the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Cth) (**FW Act**) provide employees with an entitlement to five days' unpaid FDVL per year.
- The FWC commenced a review of FDVL in April 2021 to determine appropriate FDVL provisions in modern awards, including whether an entitlement to ten days' paid FDVL should be included in modern awards as requested by the ACTU.
- WALGA Employee Relations has surveyed the sector to determine whether WALGA should prepare a submission for the FWC on FDVL and whether Local Governments believe employees should be provided with an entitlement to paid FDVL.
- 50% of the sector responded to the survey and 69% of respondents believe employees should be provided with paid FDVL.
- The majority of respondents take the view that employees should be provided with five days' FDVL per year.
- Many Local Governments already provide employees with paid FDVL either through their enterprise agreement or by policy.

Cr Warr spoke for the Recommendation. Cr Scott spoke against the Recommendation - she sympathises with people who suffer from domestic violence, but paid FDVL would be an impost on small business and sick leave is sufficient.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Warr

Seconded: Cr Isbister

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

Carried 7/2

8.2 (5.2) Payment to Independent Committee Members (05-034-01-0005 TB)

Prepared by: Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Services

Recommendation:

That WALGA request the Minister for Local Government to amend the *Local Government Act 1995* to allow the payment of meeting attendance fees to, and/or defined reimbursements for time committed by, 'other persons' appointed as Committee members under s.5.8 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Executive Summary:

- Local Governments have raised the issue that clarification is needed to allow Local Governments to pay meeting attendance fees to independent members of Committees in respect of their preparing for, attending and/or participating in Committee meetings, in accordance with s5.100 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.
- There has been differing advice provided to the sector over the years and conjecture as to the method by which a professional person, appointed as the independent member to an Audit Committee, may claim reimbursement for their commitment of time and professional expertise.
- This item recommends advocating for the *Local Government Act 1995* to be amended to allow the payment of meeting attendance fees to, and/or defined reimbursements for time committed by, 'other persons' appointed as Committee members under s.5.8 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Cr Cosgrove spoke for the Resolution, noting that it is very difficult to get professional people to come to small towns, so there is a need to reward them for their effort.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Cosgrove

Seconded: Cr Sutherland

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

Carried

8.3 (5.3) 2021 Annual General Meeting (01-003-02-0003 TB)

*Prepared by: Tim Lane, Manager Strategy & Association Governance; and
Kathy Robertson, Executive Officer Governance*

Recommendation:

- That:
1. The following resolutions from the 2021 WALGA Annual General Meeting be endorsed for action:

Cost of Regional Development

That WALGA makes urgent representation to the State Government to address the high cost of development in regional areas for both residential and industrial land, including the prohibitive cost of utilities headworks, which has led to market failure in many regional towns.

CSRFF Funding Pool and Contribution Ratios

That WALGA lobby the State Government to:

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

Regional Telecommunications Project

That WALGA strongly advocates to the State Government to increase funding for the Regional Telecommunications Project to leverage the Federal Mobile Black Spot Program and provide adequate mobile phone coverage to regional areas that currently have limited or no access to the service.

2. The following resolution passed at the 2021 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the Mining Communities Policy Forum and the People and Place Policy Team for advocacy work to be undertaken:

Review of the Environmental Regulations for Mining

Regarding a review of the Mining Act 1978:

1. *To call on Minister Bill Johnston, Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Energy; Corrective Services to instigate a review of the 43-year-old Mining Act to require mining companies to abide by environmental regulations, and to support research and development into sustainable mining practices that would allow mining without detriment to diversification and community sustainability through other industries and development.*
2. *That abandoned mines in regional Western Australia receive a priority action plan with programmes developed to work with rural and remote communities to assist in the rehabilitation of these mines as a job creation programme, with funding allocated for diversification projects for support beyond mine life across Western Australia.*

Executive Summary:

- WALGA's 2021 Annual General Meeting was held on Monday, 20 September 2021.
- The meeting resolved for WALGA to act in relation to four member motions:
 1. Cost of Regional Development
 2. CSRFF Funding Pool and Contribution Ratios
 3. Regional Telecommunications Project
 4. Review of the Environmental Regulations for Mining
- The meeting also resolved by special majority to make suggested amendments to the Association's Constitution as per an executive motion.
- The action taken or proposed to be taken in relation to each of the resolutions since the Annual General Meeting has been summarized for State Council's information.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Girando

Seconded: Cr Isbister

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

Carried

8.4 (5.4) Review of advocacy positions relating to the *Building Act 2011* and Building Regulations 2012 (05-015-02-0010 CL)

Prepared by: Claire Lings, Project Officer, Building

Recommendation:

That State Council endorses the replacement of Section 6.7: Building Act and Fees of WALGA's advocacy positions document relating to the *Building Act 2011* and Building Regulations 2012 with the following:

1. Support the retention of Local Government as the primary permit authority in Western Australia for decisions made under the *Building Act 2011*.
2. Supports mandatory inspections for all classes of buildings, however, Local Government should not be solely responsible for all mandatory inspections.
3. Advocate for the State Government to urgently prioritise legislative reform that addresses systemic failures in the current building control model and to provide clarification on the role of Local Government in building control to ensure building legislation supports the following objectives:
 - a. Quality buildings that are cost efficient.

- b. Functional, safe and environmentally friendly buildings.
 - c. Good decision making in all aspects of building.
 - d. Efficiency and effectiveness in building management, administration and regulation.
 - e. Openness and accountability with respect to all building matters.
 - f. Recognition of the rights and responsibilities of all parties in building matters in an equitable manner.
4. Existing and proposed building control related fees and charges to be cost recovery for Local Government.
 5. WALGA will work with members, state agencies and industry groups to develop training opportunities and to promote the Local Government building surveying profession to ensure sustainability of Local Government building control services.
 6. WALGA supports the Australian Building Codes Boards Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings by supporting Local Governments to meet community strategic objectives of a net zero carbon future by 2050 through work with members, state agencies and industry groups.

Executive Summary:

- At its meeting on 16 August 2021 the People and Place Policy Team considered and endorsed a review of WALGA's Planning and Building Related advocacy positions.
- The Policy Team determined the Building Act and Fees policy positions as a section to be retained and reviewed, and that the policy area would have a high priority as part of the broader review.
- A review of the Building Act and Fees policy section has been undertaken, with several recommended changes proposed, and
- The People and Place Policy Team considered the matter at its meeting on 25 October and resolved to support the review and progress the matter to State Council for endorsement.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Isbister

Seconded: Cr Sudlow

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

Carried

8.5 (5.5) Draft WA Building Surveyors Code of Conduct (05-015-02-0010 CL)

Prepared by: Claire Lings, Project Officer, Building

Recommendation:

That WALGA:

1. Recommend to the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) that the Draft WA Building Surveyors Code of Conduct be reviewed to ensure it addresses the following matters:
 - a) The impact of the obligations recommended in the draft Code be considered in relation to the current Western Australian building control model to ensure Local Government are able to maintain their statutory functions in line with community expectations.
 - b) That other building reform that will greatly impact the role of Local Government in the current Western Australian building control model, such as mandatory inspections and minimum documentation, be formalised prior to the Code of Conduct being introduced to ensure Local Government in Western Australia are able to maintain their statutory functions in line with community expectations.
 - c) Ensure that communities in remote and regional areas are considered when developing policy to restrict building surveyors being involved in design consultation work.
2. Endorse the attached consultation response summary on the draft Code.

Executive Summary:

- The Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety is undertaking consultation on the WA Building Surveyors Code of Conduct (draft Code), which is based on a National Code.
- Building on previous consultation regarding the National Code, WALGA has engaged with Local Government building surveyors regarding the implications of the draft Code.
- Key concerns from the sector include:

- Potential to limit Local Government building surveyor ability to provide advice on how to meet the requirements of building standards
- Significant liability concerns for individual building surveyors
- Inability to meet provisions regarding conflict of interest, particularly in non-metropolitan areas
- Lack of integration of the draft Code with the other building reform measure in progress.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Cosgrove

Seconded: Cr Warr

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

Carried

9. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 1 December 2021

The Matters for Noting/Information in the State Council agenda are numbered 6.1 to 6.13.

The Recommendation and Brief only have been included. Please refer to the attached PDF version of the State Council Agenda for more detail.

9.1 (6.1) Local Government Support for Single Use Plastic Bans (01-006-02-0003)

Prepared by: Rebecca Brown, Manager, Waste and Recycling

Recommendation:

That WALGA note the introduction of the Single Use Plastics Bans.

Executive Summary:

- The State Government has committed to banning a number of single-use plastic items by the end of 2021, including plates, bowls, cutlery, stirrers, straws, cups and lids, thick plastic bags, polystyrene food containers and helium balloon releases. Then from 2022, a range of other single use plastic items.
- Local Government has an opportunity to support the implementation of the bans, which will assist in reducing litter and encourage the transition to reusable or compostable alternatives which will reduce contamination in the kerbside recycling and Food Organic and Garden Organic (FOGO) bins.
- Local Government has previously been supportive of state-wide regulation for these products as the approach is more consistent and streamlined than each Local Government regulating.

9.2 (6.2) Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) (01-006-03-0008 RNB)

Prepared by: Rebecca Brown, Manager, Waste & Recycling

Recommendation:

That WALGA note the resolutions of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council at its 25 August and 13 October 2021 meetings.

Executive Summary:

- This item summaries the outcomes of the MWAC meetings held on 25 August and 13 October 2021.

9.3 (6.3) WALGA submission on the National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy

Prepared by: Garry Middle, Acting Environment Policy Manager

Recommendation:

That WALGA's submission to the Commonwealth Government National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy (NCRAS) be noted.

Executive Summary:

- The Commonwealth Government is seeking to update the National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy, accepting public consultation for a short period of only 4 weeks.
- WALGA prepared a draft submission on behalf of the sector, aligned with WALGA's existing [Climate Change Policy Statement](#) and other previous submissions endorsed by State Council.
- The submission argues that the implementation of the overarching strategic framework for climate adaptation requires strong leadership and adequate resourcing from the Commonwealth Government.
- The draft submission was considered by the Environment Policy Team out of session and was signed by WALGA State Council President, Mayor Tracey Roberts.
- State Council is to note the final WALGA submission as submitted to the Commonwealth Government as the consolidated position of the sector on the proposed NCRAS update.

9.4 (6.4) Closing the Gap Update

Prepared by: Alina Hobson, Policy Officer, Resilient Communities

Recommendation:

That the recent updates on Closing the Gap are noted.

Executive Summary:

- The [National Agreement on Closing the Gap](#) (the National Agreement) came into effect on 27 July 2020. The objective of the National Agreement is to enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and governments to work together to overcome the inequality faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people so that their life outcomes are equal to all Australians. The National Agreement requires all government parties to develop Implementation Plans that set out how they will meet their commitments.
- In September 2021, the State Government released its [Implementation Plan](#), which sets out their approach to meeting the Closing the Gap outcomes included in the National Agreement.
- The [Partners in Government Agreement](#) signed in September 2021 between the State Government, WALGA and LG Professionals includes Closing the Gap as a focus area.
- The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is a co-signatory to the Agreement on behalf of the Local Government sector and released its [Closing the Gap Implementation Plan](#) on 9 September 2021.
- Being the level of Government closest to the community Local Governments play a key role in delivering outcomes that address Closing the Gap priority areas, with many already delivering initiatives through Reconciliation Action Plans.

9.5 (6.5) Submission to the Senate Inquiry into Provision of General Practitioner and related primary health services to outer metropolitan, rural, and regional Australians (03-030-03-0001 VB)

Prepared by: Vikki Barlow, Senior Policy Advisor, Resilient Communities

Recommendation:

That the WALGA submission to the Senate Inquiry into Provision of General Practitioner and related primary health services to outer metropolitan, rural, and regional Australians, be noted.

Executive Summary:

- The Standing Committee on Community Affairs of the Commonwealth Parliament commenced an inquiry into the above matter on 4 August 2021 with submissions due by 30 September 2021.
- 18 Local Governments provided input into WALGA's submission.
- Regional and rural Local Governments have consistently identified shortages in the provision of GP and related health services as a serious long-standing issue in their communities.
- Local Governments, as the 'provider of last resort', are compelled to enter costly medical services contracts to support housing, medical center operations and other benefits to attract and retain GPs and related health professionals to regional areas.
- Submissions are due by 30 September 2021 and will be published on the [Committee's website](#) on 8 October 2021.

9.6 (6.6) Wooroloo Independent Review Letter of Support (05-024-03-0011 SM)

Prepared by: Cassandra Mora, Policy Officer, Emergency Management

Recommendation:

That the Letter of Support to the Wooroloo Bushfire Independent Inquiry be noted.

Executive Summary:

- The Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC) commenced an Independent Review (Independent Review) into the Wooroloo Bushfire on Friday, 20 August with submissions open to the public and closing Friday, 8 October 2021.
- WALGA obtained an extension of the submission deadline to Friday, 15 October 2021 to enable the City of Swan and Shire of Mundaring to explore opportunities for a joint submission and enable the endorsement of their submission/s at their respective Ordinary Council meetings.
- WALGA provided a letter of support to the Independent Review highlighting key issues identified in WALGA Policy Positions and in submissions to recent emergency reviews and inquiries.

9.7 (6.7) State Budget Outcomes (05-088-03-0001 DT)

Prepared by: Daniel Thomson, Economist

Recommendation:

That the update on the 2021 State Budget be noted.

Executive Summary:

- The 2021-22 State Budget, handed down on 9 September 2021, contained little direct funding for Local Governments, with most of the spending focussed on the delivery of election commitments and big-ticket programs.
- A larger than expected surplus of \$5.6 billion in 2020-21 - mainly due to record high iron ore prices and forecast surpluses over the forward estimates - has provided the capacity for the Government to embark on major new spending programs, focussed on health and mental health, COVID-19 response and social housing.
- While these are important priorities, only one of the nine initiatives identified in WALGA's "Immediate Priorities for the State Government" received (partial) funding. Advocacy efforts will continue throughout this term of Government.
- The Budget also demonstrated Western Australia's strong economic recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Treasury estimates Gross State Product (GSP) grew 3.25% in 2020-21 and is forecasting further growth of 3.5% in 2021-22, in contrast with a national recession in 2020 and the global economic slowdown.
- After losing more than 100,000 jobs at the start of the pandemic, the WA economy recovered to regain these jobs and more as the unemployment rate fell from 6.1% pre-COVID to 4.9% in the June quarter. With job vacancies at levels comparable to that experienced during the mining boom, employment growth

is expected to see another 34,000 jobs created in 2021-22. This tightening in the labour market along with subdued population growth is leading to skills shortages in some sectors.

- Further detail about the State Budget can be found in the Budget summary documents and WALGA Economic Briefing.

9.8 (6.8) Foundations for a Stronger Tomorrow – Submission to the Draft State Infrastructure Strategy (05-001-03-0018 ID)

Prepared by: Ian Duncan, Executive Manager, Infrastructure

Recommendation:

That the WALGA submission to Infrastructure WA in response to the draft State Infrastructure Strategy, Foundations for a Stronger Tomorrow, be noted.

Executive Summary:

- Infrastructure WA was established in 2019 and following extensive stakeholder engagement, research and analysis has released a draft 20 year State Infrastructure Strategy titled [Foundations for a Stronger Tomorrow](#) for consultation.
- The draft Strategy makes 88 recommendations across:
 1. seven themes: Digital connectivity and technology; Aboriginal cultural heritage, wellbeing and enterprise; Climate change and sustainability; Regional development; Planning and coordination; Infrastructure delivery; Asset management; and
 2. nine sectors: Energy; Water; Waste; Transport; Social and Affordable Housing; Health; Education; Arts, culture, sport and recreation; Justice and public safety.

The WALGA submission supports the strategic approach to infrastructure planning and management proposed by Infrastructure WA and the vast majority of the recommendations. However, the draft strategy makes little reference to the significant role that Local Governments play in the planning and delivery of infrastructure. The submission highlights that without explicit consideration of these functions, it is difficult to take a state-wide approach to infrastructure development. It is also not clear from the Draft Strategy how it will align and connect with existing Local Government Strategic Community and infrastructure plans.

Across the identified themes and sectors the submission seeks to highlight:

- the importance and value of maintaining local decision-making;
- constraints on Local Government's capacity to raise own sourced revenue and the need to avoid transferring unfunded responsibilities onto the sector; and
- the need to continue genuine consultation with Local Governments in finalising, implementing and ultimately reviewing the strategy.

The submission is based on the structure of the draft State Infrastructure Strategy. No comment is provided for recommendations that are not relevant to the Local Government sector or where the draft recommendation is supported without further clarification.

Key recommendations of concern that the submission opposes, seeks significant amendment or draws attention to are:

Regional Development

- Highlights that resourcing will be a critical consideration for developing any new regional service delivery model. To the extent that Local Governments are expected to play a greater role in facilitating and supporting place-based integrated service models, adequate funding must be provided to the sector to deliver on any additional responsibilities.

Planning and coordination

- Opposes extension of changes to Part 17 of the Planning and Development Act 2005 that give effect to the State Development Assessment unit beyond the current end date.

- Identifies practical examples of the failure of current arrangements to facilitate infill development where this is actively sought by Local Governments, to ensure proposed changes resolve the existing constraints.
- Extend the recommendation to identify and secure strategic sites through a recurrent fund for regional land acquisition to include support for delivery of infrastructure projects by Local Governments.

Water

- Seeks that the need for water to sustain public spaces is recognised

Waste

- Opposes state-wide application of the Waste Levy.
- Calls for all the funds generated from the Levy to assist in the implementation of the State Waste Strategy.
- Seeks waste to energy infrastructure and strategic location of waste facilities be identified.

Transport

- Opposes the proposal to amend the existing hypothecation of motor vehicle licence fee revenue, specifically to use this funding for public transport operational expenditure. Motor vehicle licence fee revenue is currently hypothecated to Main Roads WA under legislation and a portion of this provided under agreement for the maintenance, renewal and upgrade of roads under the control of Local Governments.
- Seeks regional aviation infrastructure be considered amongst strategic transport planning needs.

Health

- Funding for and clarity of the key role for Local Governments envisaged in the Sustainable Health Review is required. This is critically important in regional WA where there is a lack of GP and allied health services.

9.9 (6.9) Regional Telecommunications Review 2021

Prepared by: Ian Duncan, Executive Manager, Infrastructure

Recommendation:

That the endorsed submission to the Regional Telecommunications Review 2021 Committee be noted.

Executive Summary:

- A Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee, established under the *Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Act 1999*, sought submissions from stakeholders to inform a review into telecommunications services in regional, rural and remote parts of Australia.
- A submission was developed based on:
 1. unresolved issues identified in a 2019 consultation with Local Governments regarding risks to emergency management capability that arise due to failure of telecommunications services during emergency conditions;
 2. strategic and specific issues identified by Local Governments; and
 3. matters raised during consultation at WALGA Zone meetings.
- Local Governments identified weaknesses in the telecommunications service:
 1. coverage (BlackSpots);
 2. capacity (to meet growing and seasonal demands);
 3. resilience (specifically during power outages); and
 4. cost (lack of price competitive options).
- These issues were found in peri-urban and some metropolitan areas as well as regional and remote parts of the State.
- The submission to the Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee identified 15 recommended solutions that if effectively delivered will provide improved equity in the level of telecommunications services delivered across Australia.
- The draft submission was endorsed by State Council by Flying Minute on 29 October 2021.

9.10 (6.10) WALGA submission on Guideline: Native Vegetation Referral, Part V Environmental Protection Act 1986 (05 095-03-0001 GM)

Prepared by: Garry Middle, Acting Manager Environment Policy

Recommendation:

That the endorsed WALGA submission on the draft *Guideline: Native Vegetation Referral* be noted.

Executive Summary:

- On 5 July 2021 the Department of Water and Environment Regulation (DWER) released the draft [Guideline: Native Vegetation Referrals \(the Guideline\)](#) for consultation by 30 July. WALGA was granted an extension to 6 August 2021.
- The Guidelines relate to a new clearing referral process introduced as part of the *Environmental Protection Act Amendment Act 2020* passed in November 2020 which removes the requirement for a clearing permit for low impact proposals. Referrals considered low impact are not subject to public consultation and no fees are payable by proponents to DWER for the assessment of referrals.
- The Guideline provides information on this new referral process for approval of low impact native vegetation clearing. This new process could, in some circumstances, assist some Local Governments with more timely delivery of minor infrastructure projects and reduce costs associated with clearing permits.
- WALGA's submission reiterates its support for this referral process for which an exemption does not apply, on the proviso that environmental outcomes are not negatively affected. It also recommends that Guidelines need to provide greater clarity regarding the type of clearing that would be considered low impact to avoid confusion and delays to projects.
- The final submission was endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute (resolution 207.FM/2021).

9.11 (6.11) WALGA submission on Draft Native Vegetation Policy for Western Australia (05-095-03-0001 GM)

Prepared by: Garry Middle, Acting Manager Environment Policy

Recommendation:

That the endorsed submission to the Department of Water and Environment Regulation on the Draft Native Vegetation Policy for Western Australia be noted.

Executive Summary:

- The State Government has released for public comment a Draft Native Vegetation Policy for Western Australia (Draft Policy) on 30 August 2021.
- Whilst it is primarily aimed at State Government agencies and developing a whole of government approach to native vegetation management, many aspects are of interest to, or have implications for, Local Governments.
- A draft submission was prepared and sent out to the sector for comment, with some changes made to the draft.
- Comments on the revised draft submission were sought from members of the Environment Policy Team by Thursday, 14 October 2021.
- The submission was endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute (resolution 211.FM/2021).

9.12 (6.12) Submission on Cost Recovery Part IV of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 – assessments by the Environmental Protection Authority

Prepared by: Garry Middle, Acting Manager Environment Policy

Recommendation:

That the endorsed WALGA submission to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation on Cost Recovery under Part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* – assessments by the Environmental Protection Authority be noted.

Executive Summary:

- Changes made to the Environmental Protection Act 1986 (EP Act) earlier this year included a Head of Power for the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) to establish a cost recovery mechanism for proposals subject to assessment by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).
- DWER has released a discussion paper and draft Regulations setting out the proposed cost recovery model for comment by 22 October 2021.
- WALGA's submission provides two case studies that demonstrate that the proposed cost recovery fees would have a significant financial impact on Local Government projects requiring EPA assessment.
- It is also argued that most Local Government proposals requiring environmental assessment are for the community and broader public benefit, are consistent with State Government Planning, Strategies and Policies, and are not for profit.
- On this basis the submission recommends that cost recovery fees for these Local Government projects should be waived.
- The final submission was endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute (resolution 209.FM/2021).

9.13 (6.13) Student Transport Assistance Policy Framework Inquiry – WALGA Submission (05-005-03-0013 ID)

Prepared by: Ian Duncan, Executive Manager, Infrastructure

Recommendation:

That the endorsed submission to the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee Inquiry into the Student Transport Assistance Policy Framework be noted.

Executive Summary:

- The Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee is leading an inquiry into the current Student Transport Assistance Policy (STAP) framework.
- This submission examines the relationship of the STAP to Local Government, with a focus on:
 - Restricted Access Vehicles;
 - Local Road Maintenance;
 - Turnaround Facilities;
 - Use of Local Government Property;
 - Students with Physical Mobility Issues; and
 - Population Decline and Economic Development.
- Policy recommendations are developed as part of this submission.
- The draft submission has been reviewed and supported by the Infrastructure Policy Team and endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Girando

Seconded: Cr Isbister

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes State Council Agenda Items 6.1 to 6.13.

Carried

9.14 WALGA Late Item for Noting – Work Health and Safety (WHS) Legislation Update

Prepared by: Susie Moir, Policy Manager, Resilient Communities

Recommendation:

That the update on the Work Health and Safety (WHS) legislation be noted.

Executive Summary:

- The *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* (WHS legislation) was passed by the West Australian Parliament in November 2020, and is expected to come into effect in January 2022 with the Regulations and transition period still to be finalised.
- The new WHS legislation introduces a number of new legal terms and concepts, including the term Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU). Further, volunteers are now included in the definition of Workers.
- The Local Government sector has expressed concern with the new WHS legislation, particularly around the implications for the management of volunteer bushfire brigades (BFBs).
- A Duty of Care may be shared with others, and if more than one person has a duty in relation to the same matter, they must consult, cooperate and coordinate their activities, which adds additional complexity in the case of BFBs.
- WALGA and LGIS are working to provide support and resources to the sector to assist with the transition to the new WHS legislation.

Background:

The *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* was passed by the West Australian Parliament in November 2020, and is expected to come into effect in January 2022 with the Regulations and transition period still to be finalised.

The main changes in the new legislation are:

- The primary duty holder is the 'person conducting a business or undertaking' (PCBU) which is intended to capture a broader range of contemporary workplace relationships;
- A broader definition of 'worker' which specifically includes volunteers, including BFB volunteers;
- Broader and overlapping duties of care attach to those who have the capacity to exercise influence and control over health and safety matters and a duty to consult with other duty holders;
- A positive duty of due diligence for officers of a PCBU; and
- Increased penalties for offences under the WHS legislation and the introduction of industrial manslaughter provisions;

On 31 August WALGA and LGIS delivered a webinar on the new WHS legislation which was attended by more than 140 people from 80 Local Governments. A panel of presenters from LGIS, Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), McLeods Barristers and Solicitors, and the City of Mandurah shared their knowledge and experience in relation to the new legislation, WHS obligations, and BFB volunteer training and management. The webinar is available on the WALGA [website](#) and a FAQ document is being developed jointly by LGIS and DFES. LGIS has also prepared a Volunteer Handbook and CEO Briefing Note on the WHS legislation available on their website.

Comment:

WALGA and LGIS are continuing to liaise with DFES and DMIRS on these issues, recognising the need for further information and clarification regarding the implications and requirements of the WHS legislation for the sector's management of bushfire brigade volunteers. Other activities that WALGA is undertaking include:

- Meetings with the Workplace Commissioner Darren Kavanagh and other groups responsible for Volunteer organisations and DFES to discuss the concerns being raised by volunteers and relevant organisations.
 - This was a positive meeting with all wanting to put in place reasonable and practical measures to assist Local Governments and Volunteers. The Workplace Commissioners' department DMIRS has released [a Guide to Work health and safety for volunteer organisations](#) which WALGA provided feedback on.
 - On 12 November DMIRS delivered a webinar for volunteers and volunteer organisations;
- LGIS is obtaining legal advice about which Local Government officers are considered 'officers' for the purposes of the WHS legislation which will be provided to the sector;
- WALGA is developing a scope of works for a WHS consultant to develop additional tools and resources to support the sector; and

- WALGA will advocate to the Minister for the commencement of the WHS legislation for Local Governments to be delayed until June 2022 to allow additional time to ensure that safe work practices are implemented for volunteers.

To inform its advocacy on this and sector emergency management issues more generally, WALGA is also undertaking an Emergency Management Survey of Local Governments to ascertain the sentiment of the sector to their emergency management obligations, and to understand how they are undertaking their management of BFBs. The survey includes questions about the types of additional support that Local Governments require in order to comply with the WHS legislation. Preliminary survey feedback indicates:

- Local Governments need more information on Work Health and Safety and Guidelines and templates to support compliance with the legislation;
- Further work is needed to ensure that Local Governments are well prepared to meet WHS requirements in relation to:
 - Providing up to date Standard Operating Procedures and directives for incident response;
 - Training for use of vehicles and equipment use;
 - Ensuring Bush Fire brigade stations do not present a risk to health and safety; and
 - Providing for volunteer fatigue management and access to welfare services; and
- Local Governments generally feel well prepared in relation to WHS regarding provision of personal protective equipment for volunteers.

Members were concerned about this legislation as it is ambiguous around training and liability for volunteers. Mr Shane Love noted that questions had been put to the Minister for Emergency Services in a Letter on Notice. Once the Minister has responded to that letter, Mr Love will share that response with members.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Cosgrove

Seconded: Cr Sudlow

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the WALGA State Council Agenda Late Item – Work Health and Safety Legislation Update.

Carried

9.15 WALGA Late Item for Noting - Local Government Legislative Reform

Background:

The Minister for Local Government, the Hon John Carey, MLA announced Local Government legislative reform initiatives on Wednesday 10 November 2021.

The reform proposals are based on the following six major themes:

1. Earlier intervention, effective regulation and stronger penalties
2. Reducing red tape, increasing consistency and simplicity
3. Greater transparency and accountability
4. Stronger local democracy and community engagement
5. Clear roles and responsibilities
6. Improved financial management and reporting.

The reform proposals are based on consultation undertaken over the last five years, and have been developed considering:

- The Local Government Review Panel Final Report (mid 2020)
- The City of Perth Inquiry Report (mid 2020)
- Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) consultation on Act Reform (2017-2020)
- The Victorian Local Government Act 2020 and other State Acts
- The Parliament’s Select Committee Report into Local Government (late 2020)
- Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) Submissions
- Direct engagement with local governments
- Correspondence and complaints

- Miscellaneous past reports.

The information on the reform initiatives can be found [here](#) and are attached.

The State Government have advised of a 3 month consultation period ending on 4 February 2022.

Comment:

Many of the initiatives outlined as a part of this package have been informed by engagement between our Members and the Minister for Local Government. The Local Government sector will welcome the tiered approach to many requirements according to the differing size and scale of Local Governments.

The Local Government sector has been advocating for the following reform initiatives including:

- introduction of a contemporary intervention framework
- greater clarity of roles and responsibilities of Elected Members and Chief Executive Officers
- tiered compliance approach to financial reporting requirements according to size and scale of Local Governments
- model financial statements and fit for purpose financial ratios
- improved processes relating to regional subsidiaries to facilitate collaborative service delivery
- reducing unnecessary red-tape and a more flexible approach to enable resource sharing
- retention of current election cycle for Elected Members, and
- simplification of strategic planning processes and community engagement models.

WALGA will prepare information to the sector analysing the proposals against current sector positions and recommending positions on proposals that currently do not have a formal position. Sector feedback will be requested with a view to providing a sector response to all of the proposals.

The Zone President asked members if they thought that the Zone needed to present a position on the Local Government Legislative Reform initiatives or if they were happy to work through them as individual councils. She also noted that the consultation time-frame was very brief, closing 4 February 2022 and suggested that the Zone request an extension of the consultation time. WALGA have a policy position on many of the points in the Reform initiative and will be releasing a paper this week.

There was general consensus that the Zone needed to establish a position, after each council had considered the initiatives. There was also an appetite to meet in late January if need be, to workshop the Zone’s position, if a consultation extension was not forthcoming.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Girando

Seconded: Cr Warr

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the WALGA State Council Agenda Late Item – Local Government Legislative Reform; and asks WALGA to request the Minister for Local Government to extend the consultation closure until 5 March 2022.

Carried

10.1 REPORTS

10.1 Zone President/State Councillor’s November 2021 Report

The Zone President’s November 2021 Report was delivered to members and guests at the meeting:

At the September State Council meeting Strategic Forum the following presentations and issues were discussed:

- Update form LGIS Chair Peter Forbes and CEO Jonathon Seth
- Cameron Taylor from Mercer - presentation on economic outlook for WA
- Opportunities for collaboration with LG advocacy groups
- Attraction and retention allowances for CEO's for regional and remote WA with a view to advocating to the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal
- Protocols for State Councillors contesting state or federal elections

Protocols were adopted for the last point and WALGAs Corporate Governance Charter was amended.

It was great to see many of you at the WALGA convention, the change in venue and timing appeared to be appreciated by attendees.

Electoral Reform was debated by WALGA in September and currently the very topical issues are the IR Legislation changes, Local Government Reform and the mandated vaccinations.

It has been a very busy period, with an Election in the midst. Congratulations to all Elected Members who were returned or Elected for the first time.

Last Zone meeting Cr Farrell kept quiet on his retirement, so I wish to put on the record our thanks to Anthony for his contribution to Local Government and the Zone along with Cr Simpkin and Cr West.

Congratulations and welcome to all new members to the Zone.

Finally a few farewells, CEO Vin Fordham Lamont and CEO Mario Romeo are moving on to other pastures and our very much loved CEO Maurice Battilana is retiring.

Maurice has been at this table since I can remember, his guidance, his cynicism and his humour is to be missed sorely. On behalf of WALGA, the sector and the Zone I sincerely thank Maurice for his incredibly valued contribution to Local Government and wish Maurice and Elaine a retirement that is all that they have dreamed.

Let the new season begin.

Karen

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Isbister

Seconded: Cr Sudlow

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the November 2021 report from the Zone President/State Councillor.

Carried

10.2 WALGA President's Report

Attachment: WALGA President's December 2021 Report

The WALGA President's Report to the Zone for December 2021 was emailed to members 18 November 2021 and is attached to the Minutes. Mr Ian Duncan spoke to the report, highlighting mandatory Covid-19 vaccinations as being a vexed issue and noted that mandates would be around place rather than function; the new Councillor seminar was very successful; and new State Councillor inductions would take place later this week.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Cosgrove

Seconded: Cr Scott

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the December 2021 WALGA President's Report to the Zone.

Carried

10.3 Zone Status Report

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

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Isbister

Seconded: Cr Clune

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the November 2021 Status Report outlining actions taken on the Zone's resolutions.

Carried

10.4 Midwest Mental Health Action Group Report

The Northern Country Zone's Standing Invitee to the Midwest Mental Health Action Group is Cr Merle Isbister.

On 20 September 2021, Cr Isbister received the following email from Isabel Ross, the Group Coordinator:

Good afternoon everyone,

Apologies for the long time between communication.

As you may be aware, Liz and I have been individually speaking with members of the Midwest Mental Health Action Group (previously the Suicide Prevention Steering Group) to get an understanding of what each organisation is needing, or wanting, from this (or another) meeting.

We have come to the conclusion that we will not be able to meet the diverse needs through this group. This is, in part, because many of the most pressing issues are outside our scope of work, and require a higher level of authority. As such, we will not be progressing with a MMHAG group. However, we have been in discussion with WAPHA to see if they are able to fill some of the gaps that organisations have been requesting, and they may be in touch with you in the future about this.

We will, however, continue to have a Postvention Coordination Committee, and I will be in touch with the relevant agencies regarding this.

Thank you for your commitment and contributions so far. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in contact.

Kind regards,

Isabel Ross | Mental Health Promotion Coordinator
(Please note: I work Mondays, Tuesday mornings, and Wednesdays)

Midwest Mental Health and Community Drug and Alcohol Service
WA Country Health Service – Midwest
51-85 Shenton Street, GERALDTON WA 6530

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Isbister

Seconded: Cr Girando

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes that the Midwest Mental Health Action Group has been disbanded.

Carried

10.5 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Update

WALGA and DLGSC delivered a Webinar on Monday 15 November 2021 to provide an update to Zone members.

Mr Craig Vinci addressed the meeting, noting that he had taken over from Mr Simon Barrass.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Isbister

Seconded: Cr Sudlow

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the Update from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries via their 15 November 2021 Webinar.

Carried

11. ZONE MATTERS FOR NOTING/DECISION

11.1 Correspondence

11.1.1 Correspondence Out

Nil

11.1.2 Correspondence In

11.1.2 (a) 27/08/2021 Mr Richard Burnell

Attachment: Email from Mr Richard Burnell re STAND – Fixed Satellite Service (Forwarded to Members 31/08/2021)

An email from NBN in response to Mr Burnell's request that Mid West Local Governments be prioritised with the Emergency NBN Satellite WiFi service.

11.1.2 (b) 01/09/2021 DLGSC

Attachment: Email from DLGSC with link to their Local Matters August 2021 Newsletter (Forwarded to Members 02/09/2021)

11.1.2 (c) 09/09/2021 WALGA

Attachment: Email from WALGA with link to State Council 3 September 2021 Meeting Minutes (Forwarded to Members 09/09/2021)

11.1.2 (d) 01/11/2021 Mid West Development Commission

Attachment: Email from Anne Finlay with link to MWDC Annual Report 2020-21(Forwarded to Members 05/11/2021)

11.1.2 (e) 02/11/2021 RDA Mid West Gascoyne

Attachment: Email from RDA with their November 2021 Newsletter (Forwarded to members 05/11/2021)

11.1.2 (f) 04/11/2021 Mid West Development Commission

Attachment: Email from Anne Finlay re Childcare Infrastructure Requirements (Forwarded to Members 05/11/2021)

11.1.2 (g) 05/11/2021 WALGA

Attachment: Email from WALGA with link to an 'Information for Volunteers and Volunteer Organisations' Webinar (Forwarded to Members 05/11/2021)

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Cosgrove

Seconded: Cr Sudlow

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives Correspondence In at Items 11.1.2 (a) to 11.1.2 (g).

Carried

11.2 Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 29 October 2021

Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer

Attachments: Bank Statements Jul; Aug; Sep; Oct 2021

Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 29 October 2021

Comments:

The Detailed Income Statement shown below represents the cash position of NCZ at 29 October 2021, as reconciled to the Bank Statement.

NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

For the period ending

29-Oct-21

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Description</i>
Statement Balance B/F	01-07-21		16,104.12	
Deposits			10,000.00	2021-22 Membership Subscriptions x 10
			0.44	Interest received
TOTAL RECEIPTS			10,000.44	
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE			26,104.56	
Payments Made	29-07-21		-2,600.00	Internet Tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 212201 - EO Services 29/04/2021-30/06/2021
	26-08-21		-275.00	Internet Tsf - North Midlands Accounting - Inv 2022-000134 - 20-21 Audit
	26-08-21		-2,805.66	Internet Tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 212202 - EO Services 01/07/2021-25/08/2021; Travel
	14-09-21		-513.48	Internet Bpay - Shire of Mingenew - Inv 9595; 9322; 9427 - Reimburse Catering August and November 20 Meetings
TOTAL PAYMENTS MADE			-6,194.14	
Closing Cash Balance	29-10-21		19,910.42	

NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA

BANK RECONCILIATION SUMMARY

For the period ending

29-Oct-21

Statement Balance B/F	01-07-21		16,104.12
Deposits and Credits			10,000.44
Cheques and Payments			-6,194.14
Total Cleared Transactions	29-10-21		19,910.42
Add back o/s			0.00
Reconciled Balance			19,910.42
Bank Statement	29-10-21		19,910.42
Difference I&E to Bank Statement			0.00

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Isbister

Seconded: Cr Scott

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 29 October 2021.

Carried

11.3 Bank Signatories

Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer

Recommendation:

That the signatories to the Northern Country Zone of WALGA Bank Account BSB: 086-833 Account 21-924-6179 be amended as follows:

Remove	Mr Ian West
	Mr Maurice Battilana
Add	NCZ Deputy President (name TBA)
	One CEO (online signatory) – call for volunteer

Background:

The current signatories (two to sign) on the Northern Country Zone of WALGA bank account are:

Dianne Daniels – NCZ Executive Officer	Online/cheque
Maurice Battilana – CEO Shire of Chapman Valley	Online/cheque
Cr Karen Chappel – NCZ President	Cheque
Mr Ian West – ex NCZ Deputy President	Cheque

Comment:

We need to remove Mr West as he is no longer a Zone Delegate and Mr Battilana has notified me that he is leaving local government at the end of the year, so we need to replace him. The job is not very taxing, as we only have about ten payments a year, but the new signatories will need to visit NAB in Geraldton to sign the necessary documents.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:**Moved:** Cr Clune**Seconded:** Cr Sutherland

That the following changes be made to the signatories on the Northern Country Zone of WALGA bank account BSB: 086-833 Account 21-924-6179:

Remove Mr Ian West and Mr Maurice Battilana; add the NCZ Deputy President Cr Moira Girando and Mr Scott Wildgoose, CEO Morawa.

The signatories will be:

Ms Dianne Daniels – NCZ Executive Officer	Online/cheque
Mr Scott Wildgoose – CEO Morawa	Online/cheque
Cr Karen Chappel – NCZ President	Online/cheque
Cr Moira Girando – NCZ Deputy President	Online/cheque

Carried**11.4 2022 Meeting Dates**

Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer

Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA meets on the following dates in 2022: Monday 21 February 2022; Tuesday 26 April 2022 (*NB: Monday is the Anzac Day Holiday*); Monday 27 June 2022; Monday 29 August 2022; Monday 28 November 2022.

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. The September Regional meeting will be held on Thursday 8 and Friday 9.

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 Sudlow**Seconded:** Cr Isbister

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA meets on the following dates in 2022: Monday 21 February 2022; Tuesday 26 April 2022; Monday 27 June 2022; Monday 29 August 2022; Monday 28 November 2021.

Carried

12. 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.

12.1 Regional Issues

Background:

As per the resolution at Item 9.1 of the February 2018 minutes, Regional Issues are open for discussion.

12.1.1 Elected Member Essentials Training at Mingenew – For Noting

Prepared by: Mr Nils Hay, CEO Mingenew Shire

Recommendation:

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes that Elected Member Essentials Training is being held in Mingenew on February 7-9 2022 and that NCZ member councils are invited to participate on a first come first served, cost share basis.

Comment:

The Shire of Mingenew will be hosting three days of the Elected Member Essentials training in Mingenew (at the Recreation Centre) on February 7-9 2022.

This will comprise two (of the five) modules:

- Serving on Council (2 days)
- Understanding Financial Reports & Budgets (1 day)

Total costs for the three days will be \$11k (inc. GST) + catering + trainer travel, and it's our intent to simply split this proportionally between the attending LGs. For comparison, to attend the training in Perth, WALGA charge \$900 and \$495 respectively for the two courses – before you pay for travel and accommodation.

Mingenew will take 5-6 (of the up to 20) seats ourselves, so we are putting the call out for anyone in the region whose elected members wish to join. Seats will be reserved on a first-come-first-served basis.

All the details on the Member Essentials training can be found on the WALGA site:

<https://walga.asn.au/Training/Our-Courses/Elected-Member-Courses/Council-Member-Essentials>

Feel free to give me a call/email to discuss, or let me know if you want to join us.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Sutherland

Seconded: Cr Isbister

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes that Elected Member Essentials Training is being held in Mingenew on February 7-9 2022 and that NCZ member councils are invited to participate on a first come first served, cost share basis.

Carried

12.2 Regional Tourism Initiatives

Background:

As per the resolution at Item 10.1 of the April 2019 minutes, Regional Tourism Initiatives are open for discussion.

Nil

12.3 Other General Business

Cr Chappel gave a verbal report on the Regional Road Group under-spend and she then invited guests to address the meeting:

Mr Shane Love MLA, Hon. Sandra Carr MLC, Ms Janet Hartley-West, Mr Mark Holdsworth and Ms Anne Finlay addressed the meeting, updating members and guests on relevant issues within their areas of expertise.

It was noted that the total solar eclipse, due April 20 2023, will bring an influx of tourists to Exmouth, which is the best place in the world to see it. This will be a great opportunity for other towns in the region to capture some of the predicted twenty thousand tourists, on their way to the event.

In closing, there was a conversation regarding the poor performance of the insurance sector following Cyclone Seroja, which would be discussed at a video meeting on Thursday which Cr Chappel was attending; and it was commented that the directives that had come to Local Government regarding mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations for Fire Brigades were not clear, with no mention of volunteers in the first directive but with them included in the second directive; and no clarity around indemnity on storing members and volunteers personal medical records.

Cr Chappel once again thanked CEO Maurice Battilana for his contribution to Local Government and wished CEO Mario Romeo all the best as he too was leaving the sector.

13. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Recommendation:

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be held on Monday 21 February 2022, commencing at 10 am, at the Mingenew Sports Pavilion.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Isbister

Seconded: Cr Girando

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be held on Monday 21 February 2022, commencing at 10:00 am, at the Mingenew Sports Pavilion.

Carried

14. MEETING CLOSURE

Meeting declared closed at 11:40 am.