Local governments working together.

At LGIS, protecting our local government members is what we do.

We make sure our members have the right cover to suit their needs. If disaster strikes, our local government specialists help get them, and their community, back on their feet as soon as possible.

It’s our members who make Western Australia such a great place to live – their roads get us around, we meet in their libraries and recreation centres, they manage our waste, and provide connection for the elderly. Every day they provide the countless services and support which makes us a community.

We believe that’s worth protecting.

To find out how you can get the most out of your LGIS membership, visit lgiswa.com.au or call 9483 8888.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT PEER SUPPORT TEAM HOTLINE NUMBERS

Nick Sloan
CEO
WALGA
Tel 9213 2025

Candy Choo
CEO
LG Professionals WA
Tel 9271 1136

Peer Support Team

A practical way to provide mediation and conciliation support to Local Governments in Western Australia.

The Peer Support Team is an initiative between the WA Local Government Association (WALGA) and Local Government Professionals WA.

The team was formed to provide conciliation, negotiation and mediation support to Local Governments that identified issues of relationship conflict between Councillors, or between Councillors and senior staff.

The key objective is to assist Local Governments resolve these issues of conflict and reduce the need for formal investigations or enquiries.

The team will meet with the affected Councillors and staff individually, as well as in a group setting, allowing all parties to freely express their views in a neutral environment.

The team will then assist the Local Government to develop outcomes and a path forward that is suitable for all involved.

So, to head off possible conflict or for the best resolution in situations where it already exists, call one of the team on the Hotline Numbers below.
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Welcome to Issue 102 of Western Councillor

COVER:
Mother’s Day, City of Subiaco.
FROM THE CEO’S OFFICE

I recently attended the Australian Local Government Association’s National General Assembly (NGA) in Canberra, along with a record number of delegates from across Australia. Representatives from some 25 Western Australian Local Governments attended, many from regional Western Australia.

A convenient and shallow observation that is often made of the Local Government sector is that it should focus on its “core function” of roads, rates and rubbish. The breadth of topics and issues canvassed at the NGA served to highlight how out of touch the three R’s sentiment really is.

The NGA provided a timely opportunity to listen to, contribute and debate the issues of importance to Local Governments and their communities across Australia.

Amongst the motions that were debated at the NGA, a number of key themes relevant to the sector here in Western Australia emerged, including:

• Strengthening the National Waste Policy to prioritise waste avoidance and enhanced waste recovery, prompted by the difficulties presented by China’s ban on foreign waste;

• The increasing financial impact on Local Governments from the rate exempt status of providers of services such as aged care and social housing;

• The need for the Federal Government to address the chronic under-funding of Local Governments by restoring Financial Assistance grants to Local Governments to at least 1 per cent of Commonwealth Tax Revenue (currently approximately 0.55 per cent);

• The urgent need for national leadership on climate change, noting the significant impacts already being felt, e.g. coastal erosion and longer and more ferocious bushfire seasons.

Whilst these issues were canvassed from the national context, their impact is acutely felt by many councils in WA. In fact each and every one of these issues has been raised directly by Local Governments I have met with in recent weeks.

The outstanding performance of WA Local Governments in developing innovative and resourceful solutions for their communities was recognized with the City of Stirling taking out the National Excellence Award for Local Government for its Kaleidoscope Initiative Mentoring Program, as well as an excellence in Road Safety Award. Other WA Councils recognized for their achievements included the City of Belmont in the Arts Animates category and City of Fremantle winning the Promoting Indigenous Recognition award.

The NGA also provided an opportunity for delegates to engage directly with National policy makers including the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael McCormack, Minister for Local Government, Mark Coulton and the Shadow Minister for Local Government Jason Clare. Encouragingly, all spoke to the critical role of Local Governments in meeting the needs of their communities.

It was particularly pleasing to hear a commitment from the Deputy Prime Minister that the Commonwealth would continue to explore opportunities to fund Local Governments directly where possible and appropriate.

The recent establishment of a Select Committee in the Legislative Council to review Local Government provides the perfect forum to draw attention to these and other important issues confronting the sector.

I am hopeful that the Committee is prepared to look beyond the shallow and uninformed criticisms levelled at the sector and take the opportunity to meaningfully explore and better understand the contemporary challenges confronted by Local Governments.

The facts of these matters are as follows:

The validity of WALGA’s Preferred Supplier Arrangements are laid out in regulations of State Legislation and use of these arrangements does not constitute a breach of tender requirements for Local Government.

Preferred Supplier Panels are established in consultation with members through a public procurement process. Members are able to purchase from pre-qualified panels using a competitive quotation process only – not having to go through a separate tender process can significantly reduce the administrative burden placed upon them.

Part of establishing and maintaining the panels includes a requirement for competitive pricing, with substantial discounts often achieved through the increased buying power of bulk purchasing. Having said that, Local Governments are not compelled to use Preferred Supplier Panels for any of their procurement requirements.

WALGA’s building at 170 Railway Parade is a joint venture between the commercial property company Qube and the Local Government House Trust. The Trust was first established by Local Governments in 1980 as a collective investment opportunity, whilst at the same time providing office space for WALGA’s predecessors as their representative organisations.

There are 132 separate unit holders, all Local Governments holding a total of 620 units between them. The Trust is governed by a Board drawn from Trust Unit Holders and this Board sets out the strategic direction and investment decisions on behalf of Unit Holders.

170 Railway Parade provides an investment for the House Trust Unit Holders and currently the House Trust and Qube hold a 60:40 split interest in the building as an asset. Like many other commercial ventures, this joint venture receives income from tenants and pays interest on the commercial loan of which the House Trust derives 60 per cent.

WALGA’s insurance mutual service, LGIS, was created out of a need for a sector-driven insurance offer at a time when market conditions made it impossible for Councils to receive adequate and affordable insurance in a commercial environment.

This service is a mutual – it was created by WALGA at the request of our Members and rather than retaining profits as would happen in a commercial context, it delivers dividends to Member Councils. This is a WALGA service and does not require tender processes for a Local Government to engage in a subscription – however Councils are not compelled to join and may wish to conduct a tender process. You may note from an update by LGIS CEO later in this edition Member Councils who went to market on insurance services have since returned to LGIS membership.

Direct revenue to WALGA arising from these activities is transparent, being outlin to Members as part of the Association’s audited financial statements presented to the AGM in August.

WALGA exists to represent our Members – which are the Councils as a decision making body, rather than individual staff or Elected Members.

As a representative organisation, it is often difficult to meet all the aspirations of each Elected Member of every Local Government on every issue, and so our governance structure assists in establishing a majority position that is representative of the sector as a whole.

If our membership were to decide in the majority that WALGA’s strategic or representational approach needed to change, this would emerge through our governance structure and we would be directed accordingly.

I welcome a discussion with any of our Members to further clarify any of the facts outlined above and share how they may relate to your individual organisation.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

I am becoming increasingly concerned at a trend amongst some of our membership towards misunderstanding and misinformation about the role of WALGA and some of our key services.

The facts of these matters are as follows:

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STATE OF THE STATE

FROM THE MINISTER

The vast majority of those elected to Local Government are doing a remarkable job advocating for their communities and working hard to deliver quality services. It is fitting those who give up so much of their time and energy to serving their community are recognised for their service. It was wonderful to see 21 Australians awarded for their service to the Local Government sector in the 2019 Queens Birthday Honours List, including two well-known Western Australians.

Congratulations to Mayor of Kwinana Carol Adams and the Honourable Michael Sutherland, former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and former City of Perth Councillor and Deputy Mayor.

Ms Adams was first elected to the Town of Kwinana in 1997 and as Mayor in 2006. Mr Sutherland was a City of Perth Councillor from 1995 – 2009 and served as Deputy Mayor for five years. Both Ms Adams and Mr Sutherland have made considerable contributions to public life and it is appropriate that they have been awarded these honours in recognition.

Earlier this month I was required to make decisions in relation to the functionality and behaviour of two Councils. The circumstances were such that I was left with no other option but to issue both Councils with Show Cause notices. It is always very disappointing when a Local Government becomes so dysfunctional that action like this must be taken. However, my job is to put the needs of the local community first.

These events have reinforced in my mind the need for universal training and a mandatory Councillor code of conduct. Since passing both Houses of Parliament, these reforms will be in place for the upcoming Local Government elections in October. Every candidate who nominates for election will be required to undertake training so they can see for themselves what is involved and what will be expected of them if they are successful in being elected. The training will also include guidelines around social media use in an effort to prevent online bullying and trolling.

Importantly, we want to encourage more people to put their hands up for Local Government this year. It is important that Councils reflect the communities they serve. I would like to see more women, young people, Aboriginal people and people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds nominate. Despite a record number of candidates putting themselves forward during the 2017 elections, female representation remains low. Of the 1388 candidates, just 481, or just under one third, are female. Of the 46 candidates for popularly elected mayor or president, a mere seven were women. Nominations will open Thursday 5 September and close on Thursday, 12 September, with the election taking place on Saturday, 19 October. I wish all candidates and current members seeking re-election all the best.

FROM THE SHADOW MINISTER

It is a great honour to be the new Deputy Leader of the Opposition and to now have the Local Government portfolio, alongside my shadow portfolios of Mining and Petroleum, Defence Issues and Science. Local Government is a portfolio that touches all West Australians through the provision of community facilities such as sporting fields for our children, collection of our household waste, street lights, roads, footpaths, planning schemes and building regulations.

It has only been a few weeks since I have taken up my new role, and as you can imagine, I have been in-united with requests from Mayors and Chief Executive Officers for meetings. Over the next few months I will be taking my time to listen to the Local Government sector and working with you to improve interaction with the State Government, so we can all deliver better outcomes for West Australians.

My early background as an engineer with Main Roads saw me posted to regional towns such as Bunbury, Derby, Narrogin and Kalgoorlie where I had considerable interaction with Local Governments in building and maintaining their road infrastructure, often with limited resources and limited funds.

In 2001 when working in the private sector I was engaged as a consultant by the then Local Government Association to assist in the amalgamation of the various Local Government bodies to form WALGA. This background experience and working with the employees at the time enabled me the opportunity to have insight and historical knowledge of the formation of the association.

As the Member for Nedlands for the past 10 years I have regular contact with councils within my constituency, these include the City of Subiaco, City of Nedlands, Town of Cambridge and City of Perth. I look forward to working with the broader Local Government sector and receiving feedback on the recently amended Local Government Act and the many inquiries that are currently underway.

Local Government has a crucial role in the delivery of essential services to Western Australia and my intentions will be to listen to your views on how the 3 tiers of government can work together for the benefit of the State of Western Australia.
The 2019-20 Budget was a fair budget which looks to balance the need for fiscal restraint with spending on important community priorities.

The State's financial position is expected to improve across the forward estimates, with a predicted return to surplus in 2018-19 to the tune of $553 million. This will be the State’s first surplus since 2013-14. After this, the State is expecting a surplus of $1.5 billion in 2019-20, and surpluses in excess of $2 billion thereafter.

The improvement in the budget position, when compared to the mid-year review period, was primarily a result of increased revenues resulting from higher royalty income (due to the Vale Dam tragedy in Brazil), as well as increased GST revenue and Commonwealth grants. Nonetheless, tighter expenditure controls and the Machinery of Government reforms also played a part.

The expected return to an operating surplus means that the Government will commence the process of paying down debt, however this will not occur until the State’s cash position returns to surplus (of $954 million) in 2020-21. Total public sector net debt is expected to decline across the forward estimates, after peaking at $39.5 billion at June 2020.

For the Government, paying down debt is an important priority as it will free up funds that are currently being used for interest payments, which can then be directed into critical services and infrastructure in future years. Within this context, it is pleasing that the State Government has progressed a number of important priorities identified by the Local Government sector. These initiatives include:

- the introduction of the container deposit scheme – funded by the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account;
- additional funding to be spent on establishing a dedicated team to deliver station precinct planning for the METRONET project;
- funding for local and regional roads; and
- additional funding through the Local Government Grants scheme for insurance payments for volunteer bushfire fighters.

While some of the above initiatives do not provide direct funding for the sector, they are important priorities for the community and will alleviate pressure on Local Governments to step in and provide these services to meet a community need.

The 2019-20 State Budget still, however, missed the opportunity to progress several important initiatives identified by the sector. In particular, funding for a State Economic Development Plan, the implementation of the State Public Library Strategy, and a review of Local Government Fees and Charges.

Looking forward, WALGA will to continue to advocate for the above Local Government initiatives over the coming year and for other initiatives that will enhance local economies and communities.

Although it is acknowledged that the State Government still has a massive task in front of itself to pay down the record levels of debt, it is extremely important that initiatives and reforms that support economic development and industry diversification throughout WA continue to be undertaken. This is equally important to the Government’s focus of reining in spending, as greater levels of production and employment will grow the State’s tax base and lead to recurrent revenue generation.

**Chart 1 - WA Net Operating Balance**

**Chart 2 - WA Total Public Sector Net Debt and Interest Payments**
With the introduction of a new Public Health Act 2016, Local Governments will be required to develop Local Public Health Plans to outline their priorities for public health and proposed initiatives to achieve public health outcomes. As the five-stage implementation process reaches its final stage, WALGA continues to advocate for appropriate resourcing for Member Councils in developing their plans.

WALGA established the Public Health Advisory Group, later renamed the Health and Wellbeing Advocacy Group to support WALGA public health advocacy activities and to provide technical advice for sector submissions and advocacy on behalf of member Local Governments. This group has helped to create the Association’s recently released Public Health Planning 2019 Advocacy Plan.

Key advocacy objectives include:

- provision of resources from the State Government in the form of funding, the development of a Model Local Public Health Plan and other tools such as an indicator frame work and training programs to assist Local Governments in preparing, implementing and reporting upon their individual Local Plans
- consistent data collection and reporting across the State’s four Population Health Service Units, and
- development of a Health and Wellbeing indicator framework to establish a consistent baseline of health and wellbeing across communities over time.

As WALGA continues this advocacy activity, Local Government officers and Elected Members are encouraged to download the WALGA Public Health Advocacy Plan from the WALGA website and view the many support resources available to inform work in this area at www.walga.asn.au/publichealth.

As these legislative requirements progress, many Local Governments are already providing a significant contribution to public health outcomes in local communities.

CITY OF MANDURAH LEADING THE WAY TO HEALTHIER EATING ENVIRONMENTS

City of Mandurah recently launched a transformed Mandurah Aquatic and Recreation Centre Café menu and healthy eating environment.

The Minister for Local Government highlighted the City’s achievements as the first WA Local Government recreation centre to be engaged in the new Fuel to Go & Play program and achieve healthy menu status.

The project is a collaboration between the South Metropolitan Health Service – Health Promotion, WA School Canteen Association, LiveLighter and the City of Mandurah and supported by a Healthway grant.
A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH WITH NORTH METROPOLITAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT NETWORK

Since 2011, Local Government officers from the north metropolitan region who contribute to the health and wellbeing of their communities have attended network meetings hosted by the North Metropolitan Public Health Unit.

At the quarterly network meetings, guest speakers present on priority public health issues and officers discuss implications and experiences of Local Government.

“Topics have included designing neighbourhoods to promote physical activity, managing alcohol in the community, injury prevention programs and updates on the Public Health Act 2016,” said Krista Coward, Manager Health Promotion, North Metropolitan Public Health Unit.

“These meetings introduce officers to potential partners, best practice models, contemporary evidence and funding opportunities,” she said.

The network aims to strengthen the capacity of Local Governments to collaborate and plan effective, evidence-based strategies that enhance the health and wellbeing of communities. The North Metropolitan Public Health Unit also assists Local Governments in the region preparing their local public health plans.

PARTNERSHIPS IN COCKBURN

The City of Cockburn has been undertaking many and varied initiatives in the public health space and in 2013 adopted its first Public Health Plan with a focus on obesity.

Nick Jones, Manager Environmental Health said there had been concerns about the increasing incidence of chronic disease in the community.

“These concerns relate to the financial costs borne by the Health system and the social costs to residents whose quality of life is diminished by obesity, mental illness, cancer and similar problems,” Nick said.

“The adoption of our first Public Health Plan in 2013 recognised there is a critical need for a whole of government approach to preventive health and promotion of healthy lifestyles across Australia with Local Government’s role being expanded, exploited and appreciated.”

The City has engaged in a long standing partnership with the South Metropolitan Public Health Unit, with initiatives including a Local Tobacco Action Plan and Cockburn becoming one of the first in WA to ban smoking on beaches and near playgrounds.

City of Mandurah Mayor Rhys Williams said, “Offering healthy food and drink choices in community venues should be the norm and the City is proud to be leading the way in this area”.

Corinne Hunt, Health Promotion Officer said, “Obesity has overtaken tobacco as the leading contributor for serious illness in WA and it has never been more important to create healthier environments with healthy food and drink choices.

Other inspiring project strategies include the installation of LiveLighter wall decals, digital media and healthy signage to replace junk food signage.

A video of the centre showcases these positive achievements to other Local Government associations looking to promote healthy eating in community venues.

Watch the video on Fuel to Go & Play website; fueltogo.com.au/case-studies

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The City has engaged in a long standing partnership with the South Metropolitan Public Health Unit, with initiatives including a Local Tobacco Action Plan and Cockburn becoming one of the first in WA to ban smoking on beaches and near playgrounds.
Another collaboration between the City and the Departments of Transport, and Sport and Recreation was to increase physical activity. Funds from the Premiers Physical Activity taskforce assisted to develop a Trails Masterplan and a Travelsmart Plan. This led to the $4 million Your Move Program introduced in 2014 with over 20,000 participants taking part in the public transport project over the course of two years.

The Co-Health program, funded through the Commonwealth’s 2011 National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health comprises nearly 20 initiatives targeting those most at risk of developing preventable chronic diseases such as type 2 diabetes and heart disease. Activities such as Heart Foundation Walking Groups, Aboriginal exercise groups, Health Screening at events and courses on nutrition and exercise continue to be delivered in Cockburn today.

With the opening of the Cockburn GP Superclinic in 2014, the City engaged in a partnership to create the Cockburn Healthy Lifestyle program, focussing entirely on obesity.

Program elements include health screening at events, nutrition and exercise courses, group and individualised programs for children and their families as well as healthy lifestyle education at local schools.

"Initially a response to poor overweight/obesity statistics in the area, the program has been expanded and the model is now to be replicated by Councils across WA," Nick says.

"Through a partnership approach with GPs and other primary healthcare providers, residents are able to contact an expert for guidance on the most appropriate service for them.

"The City has implemented these programs with a list of partners that is too long to mention because partnerships are essential when providing grass roots programs in the local community."

More information on the healthy living programs can be found at cockburn.wa.gov.au/healthyliving and the Cockburn Health and Community facility incorporating GP Super Clinic at cockburn.wa.gov.au/Community-Support/Cockburn-Health-and-Community-Facility
DELIVERING ONLINE

WALGA WEBINARS PROVE SUCCESSFUL LEARNING METHOD

Following a successful introduction of eLearning modules in 2014, WALGA has extended its online learning to include a free webinar series for information sharing.

WALGA’s first webinar was delivered in April 2015 on the Environmental Planning Tool, attracting 15 attendees. The next webinar held in August 2015 for Prospective Elected Members attracted 53 participants and generated a great deal of interest.

Since this popular, free service began, WALGA has presented webinars on a variety of subjects for both Elected Members and Local Government employees including Gifts, Declaration of Interests, Procurement, Facilitating Council Business, Local Government Act for Elected Members, Chairing Meetings and Communications and Social Media. Employee relations-themed webinars have recently been added to the presentations.

The most recent webinar held by the Governance and Organisational Services Team on the topic of Communications and Social Media was held on 20 June 2019.

Presentations of previous webinars are posted online as an ongoing resource for WALGA Members and can be found at walga.asn.au/Training/Our-Services/Webinars

WALGA Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services Tony Brown said the webinar series provided an opportunity for interested groups to not only see the presentations online but to also engage with WALGA presenters and each other via online chat and video.

“We’ve had Councils book a meeting room at their end to allow groups of staff and Elected Members participate together, which is a great way to share these learning opportunities,” Mr Brown said.

“With the impending introduction of universal training, we see online learning delivery as a key channel for communications in future, and will seek to continue with these webinars on topics our Members have identified are of interest and benefit to them.”

Once again, WALGA will be hosting the Prospective Elected Members webinar on Thursday, 15 August and invites interested parties to register at walga.asn.au/Training/Our-Services/Webinars

WALGA staff host the most recent webinar (left to right): Governance Advisor, Sector Support and Advice Lyn Fogg; Manager, Governance James McGovern; E-Learning coordinator Kassie Phillips; and Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services Tony Brown.
WALGA’s Policy Manager Emergency Management, Melissa Pexton joined an Australian delegation of senior officials from the Australian Government and State Emergency Management Services to California and Texas to identify lessons learned from large-scale disasters overseas.

The 2018 wildfire season was the deadliest and most destructive wildfire season on record in California. In November 2018, strong winds aggravated conditions resulting in large, destructive fires that occurred across the state. This batch of wildfires included the Woolsey Fire and the Camp Fire, which killed at least 85 people and destroyed more than 18,000 structures. The scale of these emergencies is something Australia has yet to see and was the focus of discussions with the US representatives.

The delegation spent two days at the California Office of Emergency Services headquarters and met with the relevant department heads. The third day was a field trip to the Butte county and the town of Paradise, that was still very much in recovery mode following the Camp Fire. Melissa was able to hear from the elected members, staff and local emergency services officers. The FEMA representatives also provided a tour of the affected community, meeting with the schools superintendent, waste management contractors, finishing with a round table of local, state and federal recovery officials.

In Austin Texas, the focus was on the impacts and recovery from Hurricane Harvey. Hurricane Harvey was a Category 4 storm that hit Texas on August 25, 2017. It caused $125 billion in damage more than any other natural disaster in U.S. history (except Hurricane Katrina). The FEMA office kindly provided insights from senior staff and showcased collaboration with local and state agencies that was required for such a significant recovery effort in support of the impacted communities.

The visit enabled Australia to learn from their experience with catastrophic and large impact events of the last two years. Melissa commented that the key take-away for Local Governments was that all emergencies are local. “Meeting with all tiers of government in the US reinforced the ongoing challenges of understanding the needs of our communities, what they value and how they will respond to an emergency. Local Governments will be there before, during and after and it is critical to consider and plan for how your organisation with assist your community during times of need.”

Melissa was invited by DFES and represented the State Emergency Management Committee on the delegation. The learnings will be formalised through a presentation to the SEMC and a final report will be developed by the Federal Department of Home Affairs which will be tabled at the Australian New Zealand Emergency Management Committee.

The Australian delegation met with representatives from the Californian Governor’s Office of Emergency Service (CalOES), and Federal Emergency Management Authority (FEMA) officials in Austin, Texas.

COMMUNICATING IN RECOVERY GUIDELINES – AWARD WINNER

WALGA is pleased to announce that the Communicating in Recovery Guidelines released to the sector last year, was recently recognised as the Winner of the 2019 Emergency Management Public Affairs (EMPA) Award in the ‘Readiness and Resilience’ category.

The Communicating in Recovery Guidelines were released to the Local Government sector in recognition of the need to provide advice on best-practice recovery communications considerations and methods.

The guidelines were developed to assist Local Government communicating in recovery and supporting their communities after an emergency. Extensive research and consultation was undertaken with the sector and other stakeholders throughout the project, which was hosted by the WA Police Force on behalf of the State Emergency Management Committee – Public Information Reference Group.

This is worthy recognition of best practice and collaboration between many agencies and the Local Government sector.

Local Governments are encouraged to review the guidelines and consider updating and incorporating the advice in their local emergency management arrangements and recovery plans.

A hard copy of the guidelines, which includes a USB containing the templates was sent to all Local Governments and are available on the SEMC website for download.
NSW

The 2019-20 NSW State Budget has delivered a welcome increase in drought funding, more money for public libraries and regional roads and bridges.

But the praise was not unmitigated, with peak body Local Government NSW (LGNSW) identifying a number of areas which remain either unfunded or underfunded, with concerning flow-on effects to Councils and the communities they serve.

“The 2019-20 NSW Budget certainly contains some good news for Local Government, with a range of pre-election commitments to the sector being met,” LGNSW President Linda Scott said.

“Local Governments are pleased the State Government has listened to our advocacy by committing to an additional $355 million in drought assistance.

“Drought assistance will make a real difference, and Local Governments have a key role to play in working as a trusted partner with the State to deliver this support.

“Local government also welcome the programmed $1 billion funding to fix local roads and timber bridges.

“It’s unfortunate that only $25 million per program has been allocated for the next financial year, because it’s unlikely a total of $50 million will make any real inroads into the maintenance backlog.

“However, we look forward to much greater investment in these programs in subsequent years.

“Councils particularly welcome the additional $12 million in funding for Council-run public libraries; a 55% increase in funding this year.

“These funding boosts are all good news for Councils and the communities they serve, and I thank the Government for responding to our advocacy by the Local Government sector.”

However, Cr Scott highlighted four key areas in which the Government had fallen short:

• Failure to effectively respond to the growing waste crisis by reinvesting the Waste Levy – which now stands at $772 million per year – in a coordinated state-wide approach to drive down waste generation and move the NSW economy to a circular economy
• No transitional funding to smooth the Government’s shock transfer to Councils of an additional $19 million in annual contributions to the Emergency Services Levy (ESL)
• Insufficient funding to help Councils comply with the Government’s new requirement that they prepare plans for Crown lands under their management
• No specific allocation to support the development of Joint Organisations of Councils.

“The $19 million Emergency Services Levy contribution, and the lack of funding to help Councils meet the Governments demands for Crown land management, are clear cases of blatant cost shifting from state to Local Governments,” Cr Scott said.

“Our latest study put the cost shifting hit on Councils at $820 million per year, and that was before these fresh new cost shifts were revealed.

“Councils just don’t have, and cannot raise, sufficient revenue to fund these new Government demands and responsibilities – which means the end result impacts on the community through reduced infrastructure and services.

“The NSW Minister for Local Government has been very responsive, and we are will continue to support her advocacy to call on her Government colleagues to find a resolution to these issues.”

Cr Scott said the Budget papers revealed Waste Levy revenue for 2018-19 had increased to $772 million, with further forecast average growth of 0.9% p.a. from 2018-19 to 2022-23.

“The levy can only go up if more waste is being produced, which shows the Government expects the current waste crisis to get worse,” she said.

“The State’s current approach is not working and needs to change, starting with a strategy and repurposing of the waste levy – something Councils have been urging for more than a year.

“The State Government must act to reinvest the Levy in its true purpose, and start the move to a circular economy that will provide long-term economic, social and environmental benefits for NSW.”

Cr Scott said the Budget also made no specific budget allocation for Joint Organisations of Council – part of the broader Local Government reform package supposed to deliver benefits of scale.

“The Local Government sector has largely embraced the introduction of Joint Organisations, but these can only prosper with funding,” she said.

“The initial seed funding provided by Government was never going to be enough to establish these bodies in a viable and effective way, and we have been advocating for recurrent funding from the very beginning.

“We understand the NSW Government is still finalising a new funding model for JOs and we are hopeful that the active approach taken by the new Minister for Local Government will drive a positive outcome to this challenge.”

NT

LGANT Waste Management Symposium - Waste Planning For Action

The LGANT Waste Management Symposium was held at the Novotel Darwin Airport from Wednesday, 26 June to Friday, 28 June.

LGANT received funding for an Environment Project Officer from the NT EPA in 2018. This role includes organising an annual Waste Management Symposium. The purpose of the symposium is to convene Local Government Officers responsible for waste management in their region.

The waste management symposium provides attendees the opportunity to learn and share information and experiences especially from a remote perspective. Attendance to the symposium is free thanks to funding from the NT government. Accommodation and travel is at the attendees expense although there is a special hotel rate for conference attendees.

This year’s symposium is titled Waste Planning for Action and speakers include Territory Government, the waste industry and non-profit organisations (Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation, Keep Australia Beautiful, Mobile Muster).

Topics include community engagement, construction and demolition waste, packaging stewardship programmes and environmental reforms.

A technical tour of the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) was offered to all attendees. The MRF was commissioned in 2018 and provides a sorting facility for recyclables collected from kerbside collections and commercial customers.

QLD

Ensure Recognition is Not Hollow Achievement

Mayors and Councillors from Queensland’s remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Councils met in Cairns to address common issues and to reaffirm their resolve to continue their push for Federal and State Government investment in housing in their communities.

Councils support the Federal Government’s
efforts to recognise First Nations people in the Australian Constitution. However, they emphasise that recognition will be a hollow achievement for those people in their communities whose health, education, social well-being, personal welfare and general standard of living is being compromised on a daily basis by overcrowded housing.

Mayors and Councillors acknowledged the immense benefits for youth and young adults in their community of an effective sporting program. The Councils recognise the improved outcomes from programs designed and implemented by locally-engaged sport and recreation officers. They call on the State Government to work with Councils and revisit its current practice of funding agencies external to the community to provide these services.

Councils also discussed the risk to community of the huge hike in insurance costs for community infrastructure damaged through natural disasters and the need to review land tenure arrangements to ensure there is sufficient land available for essential community infrastructure and community housing.

Councils pledged support for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait islanders Waste Strategy project currently being undertaken through a partnership between the State Environment department and the LGAQ. They look forward to the outcomes of the strategy which is designed to ensure the unique well-being, personal welfare and general standard of living is being compromised on a daily basis by overcrowded housing.

The Levy is currently $100 a tonne in metropolitan areas, but will rise to $110 on 1 July, and $140 on Wednesday, 1 January 2020. The levy hike will also hit South Australian ratepayers will be_slugged in State Budget — SA

“The $2.5 million that the Government has made available to Councils and the industry for waste and recycling projects over the next four years is a complete farce when you consider Councils will be asked to contribute $42.5 million through the Levy this coming year.”

The Solid Waste Levy is a tax on waste sent to landfill. It was implemented in 2003/04 at $5 per tonne, and is now headed for $140 per tonne.

“Successive State Governments have accumulated a whopping $120 million through Waste Levy payments, and most of the share of this year’s increases will go to funding the EPA and Department for Environment.”

“The best that Councils can hope for is to claim a share of the meagre $2.5 million a year on offer to Local Government and industry to support waste management improvements.”

“While Councils have been consulting their communities on their 2019/20 budgets, the State Government has announced an unprecedented increase in their Waste Levy that will mean a direct hit to the pocket of every ratepayer.”

“We’ll be asking Councils what this unjust levy hike means for their rates, and making sure that every ratepayer is aware of every dollar that this disappointing State Government decision is costing them.”

“The State Government should be working with us to make waste and recycling more affordable, instead of adding to the cost-of-living for all South Australians.”

“$2.5 million that the Government has made available to Councils and the industry for waste and recycling projects over the next four years is a complete farce when you consider Councils will be asked to contribute $42.5 million through the Levy this coming year.”

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Ratapayers Slugged in State Budget

South Australian ratepayers will be_slugged in State Budget — SA

SA

Victoria

VIC

Big Infrastructure Spend Fails to Deliver for Recycling System

The 2019 Victorian Budget spends big on jobs and infrastructure for Victoria, but does not deliver the level of investment urgently needed to strengthen our fragile recycling system.

The budget includes significant ongoing investment in roads and public transport infrastructure across our suburbs, rural and regional Victoria, as well as incentives to create new jobs.

Families will welcome the $882 million investment to start the rollout of funded three-year-old kindergarten programs to all Victorian children by 2022. This includes $316.5 million for new and expanded kindergarten facilities, as well as training for more early childhood education teachers.

Families will also benefit from a $135 million investment in new parenting centres, plus an additional $17 million to boost Maternal and Child Health home visits. A one-year $50 million extension to the Growing Suburbs Fund is pleasing. However a longer-term commitment is needed to help ensure Councils can fund the backlog of community infrastructure required for some of Australia’s fastest growing suburbs.

The budget also included a one-year extension to the roadside weeds and pests grant program, and one further year for the Officers for the Protection of the Local Environment program.

Despite $511 million in collected landfill levies sitting in the Sustainability Fund at 30 June 2018, only $34.9 million has been committed to tackle the recycling crisis over three years. This is grossly inadequate given the scale of investment needed.

Each year, the State receives more than $200 million in municipal and industrial landfill levies. Over half is allocated to state environment agencies with the remainder transferred to the Sustainability Fund. The state budget did not include funding assistance for those Councils hit with additional costs due to facility closures, and no funding was allocated to compensate Councils for extra contract costs to implement the State’s e-waste landfill ban commencing on 1 July.

Cr Coral Ross, MAV President said while Councils and communities will be rightfully disappointed about the State’s underinvestment in recycling, they will welcome the significant spend on transport systems and a new State-funded three-year-old kindergarten program.

“More than 80 per cent of Victoria’s 1,320 community-based kindergartens operate from Council facilities. We applaud the investment in facilities and workforce development to deliver on the state’s three-year-old kinder election promise.

“One year funding extensions for a number of other infrastructure and environmental programs delivered by Councils is good news, however longer-term funding certainty is needed.

“Importantly, much more of the State’s landfill levy income must be reinvested into waste and resource recovery -
rathar thanit propping up the Victorian government’s budget.

“Councils are part of the solution and stand ready to partner with the State to save and strengthen our recycling system. We now need them to use the Sustainability Fund for its intended purpose,” she said.

TAS

Councils Supporting Communities In and After Emergencies

Councils provide essential community support in the event of an emergency, such as a bushfire, through evacuation and recovery centres, provision of information and community recovery.

With fires still smouldering, the experience of the bushfires of early 2019 is still fresh to many Tasmanians, especially those in the significantly affected communities of the Central Highlands and Huon Valley. These communities were threatened with emergency bushfire warnings for many days, bringing considerable anxiety and major disruption.

Council evacuation centres are fundamental in an emergency, proving basic shelter for people and pets and access to critical information.

The recent fires saw Councils pull together with their communities. Kingborough Council stepped in to undertake the critical role of communications for the Huon Valley Council, which was without communications staff at the time. In addition, Councils from around the state provided support to Huon Valley Council by assisting in the evacuation centre. This helped relieve staff at Huon Valley Council but also provided excellent learning opportunities for Councils who don’t regularly open their evacuation centres.

Many volunteers and community services worked together to make Huon Valley Council’s evacuation centre a physical and emotionally safe space for people who were at their most vulnerable. People safe in their homes brought food and entertainment for those in the centre and helped look after pets.

Councils worked closely with emergency services, State Government, and volunteers to keep their community safe and provide critical local knowledge.

Distance was not a barrier to assistance with West Tamar Council generously donating $5000 to the Central Highlands and Huon Valley Councils.

Funds donated to the Central Highland Council will be used for firefighting equipment while funds for the Huon Valley will go to purchasing an emergency response trailer.

A key role of a Council in an emergency is to provide information. No matter the emergency, people crave information that is trusted and relevant to them.

In addition to critical operational issues provided by emergency services, communities need information on issues such as road closures, available financial assistance, support programs and key contacts.

Regular community briefings at evacuation centres help keep the community informed.

During the Huon Valley bushfires, the Council streamed the community briefings via Facebook, which enabled many people who could not physically attend the meetings, to get real time updates from the Tasmanian Fire Service, Police and the Council. This innovation was welcomed by the community and can be used by other Councils.

Councils are keen to learn from the recent bushfires, share information across the sector and collaborate with State Government and emergency services to be best equipped to respond to future emergencies.

ALGA


A better than expected economic performance may be underway in southern Western Australia and Tasmania, according to a report launched at the Regional Cooperation and Development Forum in Canberra.

State of the Regions 2019-20: Population, productivity and purchasing power, the 22nd edition of the report prepared by National Economics for the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), also shows an improvement in pastoral regions including Lingiari in the NT, far north and west SA, and around Townsville.

“On the downside, the Gross Regional Product growth rate has subsided in Melbourne and the high preliminary rates estimated last year for some of the non-metropolitan Victorian regions also look like disappearing,” the report said.

“Much of NSW is again drought-affected. Despite indications that non-metropolitan Queensland is maintaining momentum, growth performance in the Brisbane metropolitan area seems lacklustre.”

Productivity, gross regional product per hour worked, in the regions also varied widely in 2019. WA Pilbara Kimberley ($306/hour) was well above the national average ($282/hour), while productivity fell to $259/hour in both SA East and Vic Loddon Mallee.

“There were 12 regions with productivity more than 10 percent above the national average, and some 34 regions with productivity more than 10 percent below the national average,” economist Dr Peter Brain, the report’s lead author, said.

“Industry mix would have had a lot to do with this distribution, with GRP per hour worked high in finance and mining and low in tourism-related industries, retail trade and various other services. Productivity can also be low in rural areas suffering drought and more generally in regions suffering from structural adjustment.”

“Apart from WA Pilbara Kimberley declining productivity was reported from most of nonmetropolitan Victoria and South Australia. Previous State of the Regions reports have observed that mining booms do nothing for rural prosperity, if only because they raise the exchange rate and therefore reduce Australian-dollar farm incomes.”

“The latest report is an important indicator of the relative economic health of Australia’s regions,” ALGA President, Mayor David O’Loughlin, said.

“While it shows that productivity has improved in some areas, it also demonstrates that coordinated and cooperative action is needed by all three levels of government to ensure our communities can thrive, especially those areas where growth has been sluggish.”
SCHEME SHINES IN AN EVENTFUL 2018/19

The financial year is coming to a close and I can’t help but reflect on what has been an eventful but ultimately successful year for your WA Local Government Self-Insurance Scheme (LGIS).

We’ve been very pleased to welcome back the Shire of Wiluna, City of Kalamunda and Shire of Coolgardie and retain the City of Bayswater following a competitive tender process. Their membership is testament to the enduring value of the local government self-insurance scheme in delivering sustainable and tailored protection and services for the WA sector.

The strengths of LGIS have shone this closing year - confirming that self-insurance is the only model which delivers the best protection, expert risk services, and claims management for WA local governments.

LOCAL CLAIMS MANAGEMENT BY PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Can you imagine speaking to 15 different people in managing your claims? Nearly every time you called you’d be speaking to a different person and would have to explain the situation from the beginning - how frustrating and what a waste of your precious time! Yet this is exactly the type of story we’ve heard from staff at returning local governments who are thrilled to be returning to the LGIS claims manager they know and who will now handle all of their claims.

Our claims managers have a portfolio of members and manage every aspect of a claim from notification to close. This means they have a deep understanding of the issues that individual members are experiencing. They’ll notice trends in claims – for example a member may have an increase in lower back injuries, our claims manager will discuss with the member and refer to our injury prevention team to work at reducing the number of back injuries. Our claims managers will also visit members to discuss case files and the management of complex claims.

The impact of a holistic approach to claims management that works hand-in-hand with proactive risk management cannot be underestimated. Working together with members we’ve successfully reduced claims, contributing to happier more productive workplaces and safer communities.

COVER FOR BUSHFIRE VOLUNTEERS

The comprehensive bushfire volunteer personal injury cover provided by the Scheme is unmatched. It’s a complex area and the evidence of returned members has again demonstrated that there is no other provider fully across local government legislative requirements for bushfire protection. Recent experience has shown that WA commercial insurers have no appetite to provide individual local governments with the full cover necessary and required waivers to be signed - moving liability back onto the local government, and potentially limiting cover for volunteers.

In 2018/19 the risk and financial liability of bushfire volunteer protection for local governments increased following a Supreme Court ruling (City of Albany v State of Western Australia) and changes to the Workers’ Compensation & Injury Management Act (WA) 1981 which moved the goal posts.

The Supreme Court decision means that local governments, and the Scheme, have a greater financial responsibility in the event of a bushfire volunteer’s death. This decision had a significant impact and LGIS have needed to use all the weight of the entire local government sector to negotiate cover from very reluctant reinsurers.

It is only because of LGIS’ relationship with reinsurers and our proven ability in claims management that has allowed us to secure cover which continues to comprehensively protect WA local government bushfire volunteers.

This result is a testament to the ability of LGIS and your local government self-insurance Scheme to secure cover in an extremely tight and reluctant market.

If you would like to discuss our approach to claims management for your local government, bushfire volunteer cover, or anything else please contact your LGIS Member Service Account Manager on 9483 8888.
JUNE AROUND THE STATE IN PICTURES

The following pictures celebrate the achievements of Local Government in Western Australia. Any WA Local Government that has held an event or function and wants to have it featured in Western Councillor is encouraged to contact Brenda Law-Yat at the WA Local Government Association via email: blawyat@walga.asn.au

ALBANY

Everything old is new again at the 2019 Albany Vancouver Street Festival! The May festivities were set among some of Albany’s most magnificent heritage buildings, the perfect backdrop to showcase the range of old skills and sustainable crafts that were on offer.

Two stages played host to a swag of Great Southern musicians and performers to set the ambiance, including two time WAM song of the year winner Simone Keane and the Albany Shanty Men.

Albany has thriving arts and history cultures, and the team at the Vancouver Arts Centre bring them together every year in the best way!

ASHBURTON

Pannawonica recently hosted their ‘Great Panna Race’, where teams were sent off with a list of tasks to complete, while keeping their eye on the prize to be the first to cross the finish line. Tasks included word unscramble, napkin folding, shopping, gardening, disk golf, pool fishing, civil arrest, pirate seek and firefighting.

Some teams did well, while others were challenged, however everyone had a lot of fun and plenty of laughs.

ARMADALE

Armadale was transformed into a mecca of art and creativity during the Armadale Arts Festival in May. Once again the festival delivered a captivating program of live music, urban art, dance, literature, arts and crafts showing the incredible talent from the region. One of the highlights of the festival was the Classic Sounds Orchestra by Candlelight performance, conducted in the beautiful St Matthew’s Anglican Church. Audiences enjoyed a sophisticated program that included Mozart’s Symphony No 40, Lord of the Dance and Brahms’ Hungarian Dance No 6.

BAYSWATER

Bayswater’s Manager of Sustainability and Environment, Jeremy Maher, will represent the City at the Beyond 2020 World Sustainable Build Environment Conference in Sweden after being awarded a Perth Convention Bureau scholarship.

This prestigious award is a testament to Jeremy’s wholehearted commitment to making Bayswater a greener, more environmentally friendly place to live.
BELMONT

The City of Belmont recently partnered with the Women’s Council for Domestic & Family Violence Services - WA to raise awareness about domestic violence in the community by installing 100 street bins with a poster promoting the helpline.

The City takes the issue of Family and Domestic Violence very seriously and has invested significant amounts of money and resources into services such as the Ruah Community Services’ Belmont Safe Guarding Families Advocacy Service that anyone in the City of Belmont can access for free.

The City of Belmont is believed to be the only local government in Western Australia to directly fund domestic violence support services.

BUSSELTON

The City of Busselton held an exhibition to display the wonderful banner designs created by community members. The response to the call for banner designs was overwhelming with people very keen to capture “The Vibe of the Place”. There were beach scenes, forest and wildlife imagery, the jetty featured significantly as well as the City’s great trails and bike paths. Thirty four stunning and imaginative designs were created into banners. These will be hung in the Busselton and Dunsborough Town Centres adding vibrancy and colour. This was a great community-building initiative organised by the City’s Cultural Development Officer, Jacquie Happ.

CANNING

Queens Park hosted its first ever block party in May, allowing local residents to come together and meet their neighbours. The suburb was identified as a great space for place activation so the City of Canning, community and cultural groups and local businesses held the event to celebrate the community and its amazing cultural diversity.

COCKBURN

City of Cockburn Mayor Logan Howlett (second from right) with artist Irene Osborne and Spearwood locals Tony Ravlich and Len Glamuzina (far right) with some of the finished murals to be erected in the suburb.

Two 20 metre murals depicting years gone by in Spearwood will grace the intersection of Spearwood Avenue and Rockingham Road in a tribute to the area’s early settlers who established market gardens that fed the nation, State and even overseas forces during the great wars. The market gardens have largely now made way for a thriving residential area in the western portion of the City of Cockburn.

Pictured: Artist Irene Osborne, Spearwood resident Tony Ravlich, Cockburn Mayor Logan Howlett and Spearwood resident Len Glamuzina.
COLLIE
Collie Public Library’s Seed Library won the Library Board of Western Australia Award for Innovation and Collaboration (Small Regional), which was presented at a function at the State Library of Western Australia on Thursday, 23 May.

The Seed Library was launched last year in collaboration with the Collie Community Garden, and works on the principal that the seeds are borrowed with a library card are then harvested and brought back to ensure the sustainability of the project.

Pictured: Shire of Collie Manager of Information Services Shannon Wood with Library Board of Western Australia chairman and former Minister for the Arts John Day.

COTTESLOE
Pioneer’s Day pays tribute to all those who came before us, and to the citizens of today who have contributed to building the future of the Town of Cottesloe.

Originally named ‘Foundation Day Week’, it recognised the time in 1829 when the first free settlers arrived in the Swan River Colony aboard the Parmelia with Captain James Stirling, and the meeting of cultures that followed. As the years passed the celebration of WA Day evolved to recognise all who contribute to community.

DENMARK
Kids and cops mingled in March in the Shire of Denmark’s Friday Night Hoops program. This free program focussed on participation, engagement and establishing connections with mentors in a fun, relaxed atmosphere. Denmark Senior High PE teacher, Olympian and former Perth Wildcats captain Paul Rogers along with teen mentors supported participants with skill development. The program drew around 20 participants each week and received terrific feedback.

ESPERANCE
The new Esperance Indoor Sports Stadium is officially all go with the turning of the sod with Minister for Seniors and Ageing; Volunteering; Sport and Recreation Hon Mick Murray, Shire President Cr Victoria Brown, David Sime and Graham McKenzie all keen to see the project underway. Sime Building is proud to showcase the use of local contractors including Ballantyne Earthmoving, Stewarts Engineering, Parker Engineering, Thermoair, General Freight, Holcim Esperance, Coastal Glass and McKenzie’s Electrical.

EAST PILBARA
Pilbara MLA Kevin Michel and WA Transport Minister Rita Saffioti with Shire President Lynne Craigie and Chief Executive Officer Jeremy Edwards in Marble Bar following the completion of the $54 million Marble Bar Road – Coongan Gorge Realignment.
FREMANTLE
The first major campaign under the new ‘This is Fremantle’ brand is being rolled out in June.

The campaign, which utilises digital, radio and outdoor platforms, is designed to raise awareness of Fremantle as a destination and guide visitors to the visitfremantle.com.au website and social media channels.

This is the first major brand driven campaign to be delivered by the City as part of the Destination Marketing Strategic Plan 2018-2022.

GOSENNELS
Six finalists battled it out in front of a packed audience at the Don Russell Performing Art Centre, in Thornlie, on Saturday, 27 April, as part of the City’s Gozzy Rock competition.

Funk-rock five-piece band The Atlas State took out the top prize, of a $1500 music store voucher.

Gozzy Rock is Western Australia’s longest-running music competition and has been encouraging and supporting young musicians for more than 30 years.

JOOandalup
The City of Joondalup hosted a welcome event for the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation’s (DWER) new home in the Joondalup City Centre, including a traditional Indigenous smoking ceremony.

The presence of 670 DWER employees in the state-of-the-art Prime West building adds to the vitality and vibrancy of the Joondalup City Centre and will play a significant role in the future growth and development of Joondalup.

KALGOORLIE-BOULDER
On Saturday, 8 June, the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder celebrated its rich diversity and vibrant multicultural community at the annual Multicultural Festival.

Thousands braved the rain to enjoy fabulous live entertainment from around the globe and sensational international foods celebrating the 48 different countries represented in Kalgoorlie-Boulder’s population.
KWINANA

Kwinana Mayor Carol Adams (OAM) has been recognised with an Order of Australia in recognition of her 22 years of dedicated service to the Kwinana community and the Local Government sector. Mayor Adams’s impact has been felt beyond the community of Kwinana - indeed her efforts have had a considerably positive impact on the entire State, especially in the areas of economic development, education and reconciliation.

KATANNING

The Shire of Katanning recently opened its first Changing Places, a secure and clean bathroom specifically designed for people who need space and assistance to manage their bathroom needs as universal access toilets are not suitable. The facility was constructed as part of the Katanning Welcome Precinct Project which will improve overall access outcomes for people with a disability and reaffirm their value in the community through making public facilities more accessible.

KARRATHA

A community celebration to mark the opening of the Wickham Community Hub, in the Pilbara town of Wickham, was held on Sunday, 5 May. The $16.35m City of Karratha project, supported by Rio Tinto and Lotterywest, features modern multipurpose indoor and outdoor spaces, including a library, early learning centre, youth centre, skate park and water playground, which enhance the town’s liveability.

KOJONUP

Over a five-week programme, the Kojonup Shire and the Stephen Michael Foundation have joined forces to give school aged children a 20 minute round robin style of football (AFL), netball and hockey. The children rotate through each sport and then finish with a sausage sizzle and a few giveaways. We are engaging within the community to provide a safe and fun activity for children to increase perception in a number of sports that occur in the district of Kojonup and its surrounding areas.
MANJIMUP

The State Timber Museum in Manjimup recently won an award at the Australian Museums and Galleries Association National Conference in Alice Springs. The Level 3 (budget $150,000 to $500,000) award for Permanent Exhibition or Gallery Fitout was proudly accepted by Jessica Winters, Project Manager; Ian Wilson, Honorary Volunteer Curator; and Rikki Clarke, Director Creative Spaces.

LAKE GRACE

To commemorate National Road Safety Week in May the Shire of Lake Grace, in partnership with the Lake Grace Visitor Centre, hosted a ‘Remember the 1200@1200’ morning tea. Approximately two dozen community members and visitors stopped by the historical Visitor Centre (formerly the Old Station Master’s Cottage) to enjoy freshly baked scones and a hot cuppa with first responders from St John Ambulance and Police. A minute’s silence was observed at 12 noon to remember the 1200 people killed on Australian roads last year.

Pictured: A few of our wonderful emergency services personnel at the morning tea: St John Ambulance volunteers Cr Ross Chappell, Murray Parker, Aileen Winchester and Cr Debby Clarke, and Lake Grace police officers Snr PC Fiona Main and police constable Scott Oatridge.

MANDURAH

The City of Mandurah in partnership with the WA School Canteen Association, is the first Local Government in WA to take part in the Fuel to Go & Play program at the Mandurah Aquatic & Recreation Centre.

Fuel to Go & Play uses a ‘traffic light system’ to rate food and drinks as green, amber or red. Mayor Rhys Williams said offering healthy food and drink choices in community venues should be the norm and the City is proud to be leading the way.

MINGENEW

The official opening of the new Mingenew Netball and Basketball Courts was held on Saturday, 27 April. The Mingenew Netball Club raised $55,000 towards this project, jointly funded by the Shire of Mingenew and Department of Sport and Recreation.

Pictured: Darren West MLC, Bronwyn Criddle (Club President), Michelle Bagley (Life Member), Shire President Helen Newton, Shire CEO Nils Hay.
MOSMAN PARK

In May, the Town of Mosman Park was recognised for its efforts in saving water by Water Corp, who awarded the Town a Gold Waterwise Council rating.

Pictured: Deputy Mayor Zenda receiving the award, and she advised the Town would continue its push to save energy and water, and would soon embark upon energy and water audits of Town-owned assets and infrastructure.

MT MARSHALL

Twenty women gathered at the Bencubbin Multipurpose Complex in March for the Wheatbelt Women Mean Business event. The day was aimed at women in business and provided attendees with the rare opportunity to learn about social media, copywriting and marketing from well-known presenters. Thanks to the Department of Communities WA for their generous grant to make this event possible.

MURRAY

Hundreds gathered to celebrate the reopening of Pinjarra’s St John’s Church and toast the successful outcome of the collaborative efforts of stakeholders, who sought to ensure the heritage asset continues to contribute to the community’s social fabric and sense of place.

Recent conservation works addressed damage to the church roof and walls that was threatening the building’s structural integrity. Now under Shire ownership, the building will be activated through hire, tourism and educational opportunities.

NARROGIN

In the lead up to Youth Week 2019, Skateboarding WA provided free skate clinics for young people to develop their skills for a competition at the Fabulous Fun Day Out, a collaborative project with Avon Community Services, WA Country Health Services, YMCA Narrogin and Kaata-Koorliny Employment and Enterprise Development Aboriginal Corporation (KEEDAC) with the generous support of a Lotterywest Community Event grant.
PLANTAGENET

A flag raising ceremony was conducted by the Shire of Plantagenet and representatives of the Noongar people on Thursday, 30 May, celebrating reconciliation week. The Aboriginal Flag will now be flown 365 days of the year.

PERTH

On Wednesday, 29 May, the City of Perth celebrated National Reconciliation Week (NRW) at the Perth Town Hall with a welcome to country by Dr Richard Walley and a dance by children’s group Koolangkas Kreate.

NRW marks two significant milestones in Australia’s reconciliation journey; the 1967 referendum and the historic High Court Mabo decision. Supporting NRW aligns with the City of Perth’s Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan, which focuses on building awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures.

ROCKINGHAM

On Tuesday, 14 May, the City of Rockingham officially opened the Baldivis South Community Centre.

The $3.5 million facility is a multipurpose venue designed to host a number of user groups and will serve as an important community asset in one of the State’s fastest growing suburbs. The project was made possible thanks to assistance from Lotterywest, which provided a $900,000 grant.

SERPENTINE JARRAHDALE

In May, the Shire and local volunteer bushfire brigades carried out a programmed fire mitigation burn in Oakford to proactively manage bushfire risks within our district and to protect the community, as well as firefighters who attend fire events. The burn also served as a training exercise for the brigades, incident management and support teams. Other fire mitigation work included the installation of hardstand limestone access tracks and gates.
**STIRLING**

The popularity of the City's first round of Mini Chef cooking classes has paved the way for more of the tasty sessions to be prepared for local youngsters. Proving a runaway hit with kids aged 6 to 11, the two-hour sessions at Stirling Leisure Centres – Hamersley show children good kitchen hygiene and cooking basics as they whip up scrumptious eats like homemade sausage rolls.

**SUBIACO**

Perfect weather and pops of colour brought a special touch to the City of Subiaco for Mother's Day this year. Eight floral masterpieces adorned Rokeby Road as an innovative Place Development activation attracting visitors to the town centre.

Beautiful bouquets were made from the remaining flowers and gifted to new and expectant mothers at King Edward Memorial Hospital.

**SWAN**

The City of Swan has recently teamed up with the Shire of East Pilbara and sent two of our graduate engineers to work in the north-west for five months. The resource-sharing agreement is the first of its kind in Local Government, and a fantastic career development opportunity for our engineering graduates.

Finn and Sinead are receiving valuable experience working on complex engineering projects including significant works at the Newman Waste Water Treatment Plant, Newman Airport, Newman Works Depot and Newman Landfill. This project was judged as highly commended for the 2019 National Awards for Local Government.

**THREE SPRINGS**

The Shire of Three Springs hosted a National Road Safety Week event in May, inviting the local Primary School students, parents, caregivers, staff and the local police to walk to school. This also introduced locals to the recently extended dual use pathways in the town. Over 70 people took part in the walk, which was followed by breakfast at the school. Wristbands promoting road safety were also handed out.
**VICTORIA PARK**

The Town of Victoria Park held their fourth annual Arts Season throughout May. A celebration of all things creative in Vic Park, Arts Season featured exhibitions, art installations, events, workshops, and live mural paintings – more than 20 events in total.

Creatives and local venues received funding up to $5000 from the Town to deliver Arts Season initiatives, ensuring the community was involved in all aspects from hosting to attending.

**TOODYAY**

The Toodyay Tidy Towns Committee wanted a mural to represent the outstanding features of Toodyay and its community that won four category awards in the 2015 Keep Australia Beautiful Competition.

A new inclusive changing places building was being built in Toodyay and had been designed to include a wall for a mural. This provided the perfect opportunity for the town’s first mural and the committee embraced the venture with Shire support. The mural is painted by Toodyay residents Katherine Ferguson and Nicola Cowie.

Artists: Katherine Ferguson and Nicola Cowie (both live locally in Toodyay).

**VINCENT**

The City of Vincent launched Pop Up Play in June with a free play area designed by children at Woodville Reserve and a Pump Track at Britannia Reserve.

**WANNEROO**

The City of Wanneroo held a free Cultural Conversation workshop as part of National Reconciliation Week from Monday, 27 May to Monday, 3 June.

Community Leader Shaun Nannup took participants on an inspiring journey through aspects of Noongar culture via storytelling in his workshop, held at the Butler Community Centre.

Mayor Tracey Roberts said the City was proud of its Aboriginal heritage and is committed to recognising and celebrating the traditional owners of the land.

**UPPER GASCOYNE**

The Shire of Upper Gascoyne was well presented at the recent Investiture Ceremony held on Thursday, 11 April at Governor House.

Three well known faces of the Shire were presented with Order of Australia Medals by the Honourable Kim Beazley, ex-resident Dawn Gilchrist, ex-Shire President Lachlan McTaggart and current Shire President Donald Hammarquist J.P.

Pictured: Shire President Cr Donald Raymond Hammarquist JP OAM with WA Governor Kim Beazley.
RIVERS REGIONAL COUNCIL CONTRIBUTION

WALGA MEMBERS SET TO BENEFIT FROM REAL PROGRESS ON WASTE TO ENERGY

By John McNally, CEO, Rivers Regional Council

The recent breaking of ground at the Kwinana site for Australia's first waste to energy project was a milestone moment for the eight WALGA members that signed a 20-year Waste Services Agreement (WSA) and will start supplying Avertas Energy their post-recycling residual waste to the facility from late 2021.

The Avertas Energy facility will be a game-changer for Rivers Regional Council (RRC) members and the City of Canning, which will collectively supply up to 245,000 tonnes of waste per annum, of the 400,000 tonne capacity, to generate power that will be fed back into the Perth Electricity Network (SWIS). In doing so, they will make rapid progress towards meeting zero waste targets, as well as gain a tangible and growing financial benefit for ratepayers by negating current and future landfill disposal costs for at least the next 20 years.

Throughout Europe and Asia, waste to energy process is widely accepted and is now fulfilling a critical function within national and regional waste management strategies to reduce landfill. These strategies have been comprehensively implemented in countries that have far less available land than Australia and provide a lead for our governments. It is estimated that there are more than 1,000 waste to energy plants world-wide, many within densely populated urban communities.

Within Australia, all State and Territory governments have now adopted the waste hierarchy – an internationally accepted tool for prioritising waste management practices – to underpin their waste management policies. Within the hierarchy, waste to energy provides the last line of defence against the impacts of landfill.

WASTE HIERARCHY

Starting in 2015, the RRC targeted waste to energy as a solution to a number of environmental and financial challenges given it could deliver lower costs for Local Governments and their ratepayers; achieve nearly zero waste to landfill; and provide a combined waste management and renewable energy solution for many communities in Perth. Participating Councils will also benefit from using this lower cost renewable energy.

One lesson learnt through the process was to bring the community and our stakeholders along at every major point. We had a significant degree of faith and trust in our proponent in being able to meet our milestone requirements. However, where there were hurdles we would not have been able to collectively address them quickly had we not engaged at the very early stages with our key community representatives and stakeholder groups.

The engagement served to proactively address the concerns some had around the benefits of waste to energy. We were able to demonstrate the safety, efficiency and reliability of the facility and better inform our key decision makers and target audiences about the expected emission reductions and reduction of waste going to landfill.

We effectively partnered with our provider from 2015 to make the project a reality. This was not always easy as the participating Councils require certainty for planning, however the result is that Avertas Energy will provide a material discount to landfill for post recycling residual waste. Consequently, our member Councils and the City of Canning will over time be providing a considerable financial benefit back to ratepayers and households for their ongoing support of waste to energy.

The waste to energy process includes on-site metals recovery for recycling, as well as the option to reuse ash (typically around 20% by volume of the feedstock) as a construction aggregate. This process is commonplace in a number of European countries, the UK and Japan. The aggregate has been used in construction activity ranging from building projects to substantial infrastructure, including roads. It is the ability to re-use the ash that will help ensure the RRC meets their landfill reduction targets years in advance of any other method available in Western Australia.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas assessments indicate that at full capacity the facility will stop the equivalent of over 400,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually, the equivalent of taking 85,000 cars off Perth's roads each year. This includes preventing landfill gas emissions and other offsets related to replacement of base load fossil fuel fired electricity generation, recovery of recyclable metals and the production of alternative construction materials. Over the 20 years, 8 million tonnes of greenhouse gases will have been prevented from entering the atmosphere.

The major contractor is now busy on-site, with piling and foundations for waste reception areas and boiler house underway. With steady progress, RRC and City of Canning look forward to seeing their first trucks carrying post-recycling waste heading to Avertas Energy in 2021.
WASTE UPDATE

KIMBERLEY WASTE SUMMIT

WALGA, with sponsorship from the Shire of Broome and Cleanaway, hosted a Waste Summit in Broome on 31 May. Attended by over 50 representatives from State and Local Government, local businesses and community members, the Summit provided an opportunity to showcase local waste management initiatives and discuss key issues for the Region.

Some of the issues identified included the distance to markets for recyclable products and limited resources, both financial and relating to staffing. The opportunities identified included significant potential to develop local reprocessing for recyclables – such as crushing glass for use in road base – and the great local programs already in place. One example of a community program provided was Agunya through which a local artist works with the Bidgydanga community to make high value products from materials which would otherwise be considered waste.

The Shire of Broome CEO and Kimberley Zone Secretary, Sam Mastrolembo, outlined the new strategic waste plan which builds on existing regional cooperation and provides a future direction for the whole region.

In 2018 WALGA held the first Waste Summit in Kalgoorlie, the Summit was a suggestion from a City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder Councillor, Cr Natalie Coxon. Following the success of both of these events, WALGA is planning to host future Waste Summits in Regional areas and has out at the moment an Expression of Interest to host Waste Summits in both 2020 and 2021, due Friday, 16 August 2019.

To find out more visit the WasteNet www.wastenet.net.au or contact Rebecca Brown, Manager Waste and Recycling, 9213 2063 or email rbrown@walga.asn.au

SHIERES OF COCOS (KEELING) ISLAND AND CHRISTMAS ISLAND MARINE DEBRIS PROJECT

by Rebecca Brown, Manager Waste and Recycling

The annual Indian Ocean Territories Marine Debris Project is a cooperative initiative between the Federal Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development, the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Keep Australia Beautiful WA, Tangaroa Blue and the Shires of Cocos (Keeling) and Christmas Islands.

Every year a number of volunteers and Department employees visit the island to clean up key beach locations and record information about the litter that is collected. The information collected about the litter is vital to understand where the material is coming from and what interventions are necessary to address the problem. Globally plastic pollution has been identified as a significant environmental problem and nowhere have I visited is this more evident than on the Cocos Islands, where I was fortunate enough to be part of the clean up this year.

The Island has many beautiful beaches but unfortunately a large number are filled with plastic debris that has been generated elsewhere, then washed up on the Islands. Over the four days of the project, 12 volunteers collected over 2 tonnes of marine debris from the beaches. The marine debris range from rubber thongs (4122) to plastic bottles (2307) to an incredible number of plastic straws – over 11,500 - and nearly 20,000 plastic fragments.

From the plastic debris collected it is clear that we need not only to take individual action to address this issue – but urgent action is also needed from the State Government and at a National and International level. The WA State Government is currently consulting on a Discussion Paper on Plastics which can be found at www.dwer.wa.gov.au - this provides an opportunity for the community and Local Government to provide feedback on the key issues.

To find out more about the Project and next year’s Clean Up contact Rohan Swan at Department of Water and Environmental Regulation on 6364 6660 or rohan.swan@dwer.wa.gov.au
MINISTER UPDATE

WOMEN’S VOICES: BUILDING A STRONGER WA TOGETHER

By Simone McGurk MLA

Local Government plays a vital role in Western Australian communities, particularly as an employer and representative body for local views and issues. It is so important the people who make up Local Government reflect the communities they serve.

Of the 24,545 people employed in Local Government in 2018, 54 per cent were women. However, women were vastly underrepresented in senior executive roles and as elected representatives. Women make up just 36% of elected members in Local Government, and less than 14% of CEOs.

Local Government is not alone. The representation of women in leadership positions across government and the private sector is still too low. In WA, we have the highest gender pay gap in the nation at 23%, women retire with around half the amount of superannuation and experience unacceptable levels of violence. There is much work ahead. It is clear – there is still a lot to be done if WA expects to remain competitive and utilise the full capability of the State’s female workforce.

Understanding and addressing the challenges facing women in our community is important to me and the McGowan government. That is why we are developing a long-term plan, underpinned by the voices of women, to ensure every woman and girl can share in a prosperous future.

So far we have heard from more than 1000 Western Australians. Now I want to hear from the Local Government sector.

My challenge to you as a sector is – where can you make a difference?

Since taking office, more than 50 per cent of the McGowan Government’s Board and Committee appointments have been women. We know diversity makes good business sense, and so we measure our progress by setting a target. My challenge to those with the ability to make change is to set a target, and hold yourselves to account.

The reality is the State Government can’t do this alone. We need to work together to remove the barriers to women’s participation and to eliminate the inequalities that create gender gaps that block women from leadership and decision-making roles.

Western Australia is home to a talented, energetic and diverse population. By harnessing and building on these qualities, we can look forward to a stronger future. Because in all aspects of life, women deserve equality.

1. Director of Equal Opportunity in Public Employment Annual Report 2018 | Breaking down barriers, Published by the Public Sector Commission.
What saw you begin a career in the Local Government sector?
I began in Local Government initially because I was retrenched from my employment and our family plan was that I would become a stay at home Dad and with my spare time I would run for Council. This was in 2001. The stay at home Dad thing didn’t work out for very long but I was enjoying being on Council so much that I stayed for eight years initially and have now almost completed another term and will re-nominate later this year.

What do you love about working in Local Government?
Initially, the joy of working in Local Government was all about making things better for my children’s future which then morphed into making things better for everybody’s future and still is today.

Can you describe some of the biggest challenges you’ve faced during your time as an elected member?
My biggest challenge is trying to make people understand just what Shire Council and staff is capable of doing and achieving and what is not under our control. I also have a personal challenge when it comes to SAT overruling Shire decisions.

You are a Councillor at the Shire of Harvey, what do you enjoy most about this role and what are some of the challenges?
The most enjoyable part of being a Councillor is having the ability to shape the future of our Shire, however there is the problem of encouraging the Residents to share that vision of the future which is not always as straightforward as it would seem.

Can you explain the region you work in and some of the advantages and challenges of working in this region?
The Shire of Harvey is one of the most diverse regions in the state. We have native bushland and prime agricultural areas. We have residential, industrial and farmland areas with four rivers running through the shire to the Indian Ocean and we have a large estuary. We have eight communities, all with their own wants and needs, and many miles of roadways. Governing such a diverse region is always a case of taking consideration of all these factors and making decisions for the very best outcomes of all involved. In some cases it is like walking a tightrope to make it fit and work together, however the experience gained in the making of each decision only educates you and makes you a better person for it.

What advice do you have for someone wishing to become an elected member?
Just do it. It is one of the most satisfying things I have ever done. You have the ability to shape the future as I mentioned previously and you also get to meet a lot of people with the same ideals as yourself as fellow councillors both on your own council and from other Shires across the State.

You were recently awarded the Australia Fire Service Medal. What does this mean to you?
Being awarded the Australian Fire Services Medal is an honour that I didn’t ever think I would receive. It’s one of those things that other people get. It does give me a good feeling to realise that others appreciate what I have done and am doing in Fire and Rescue and that it is worthy enough of this award.

Why do you think volunteering is important?
Volunteering is so very important to our country, it is the backbone of our communities and organisations that we belong to. Whether it is as a Volunteer Firefighter, St John Ambulance Paramedic, SES or volunteering to coach Junior Football, Umpire a game of Basketball or chaperone your kids on a school camp. Western Australia wouldn’t and couldn’t exist without volunteers.
LEGAL UPDATE

WASTE IN WA: RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH ENERGY RECOVERY

The issue of waste management is becoming a major concern to Local Governments as landfills approach end of life and as a consequence of China’s ban on foreign waste. As a result, some Local Governments are beginning to prepare or update waste management plans to increase diversion of waste from landfills to alternative waste disposal methods such as waste to energy recovery.

This transition is far from simple and Local Governments considering the use of waste to energy recovery facilities (ERFs) need to be aware of the risks associated with this type of energy recovery, particularly if the agreement is with a private ERF.

The reduction of waste is also an issue being addressed by the State Government where the vision is for Western Australia to become a sustainable low waste, circular economy in which human health and the environment are protected from the impacts of waste. By 2030 there is an expectation of a 20% reduction in waste generation per capita, increased material recovery to 75% and not more than 15% of the waste generated in the Perth and Peel region to be disposed of into landfill.

To achieve the waste targets the State Government and Local Governments are guided by the Waste Authority’s Waste Avoidance and Resource Strategy 2030 which states ‘energy recovery is the least desirable type of recovery option’ and should only be applied to residual waste that cannot be feasibly reused or recycled and would otherwise be disposed of into landfill.

Within this waste management landscape it is likely that agreements made with private ERFs may require Local Governments to commit to long term delivery of fixed tonnages of waste in return for lower fees. These arrangements should be considered by Local Governments in the context of future trends in waste management.

There is a cultural transition towards minimising waste by moving toward the use of multiuse and/or recyclable products. To achieve the State Government’s waste reduction targets, the Government is strongly advocating for waste to be reused and recycled and is pushing for the implementation of the three bin system, expected to lead to a reduction in tonnages of waste. Local Governments may therefore find it difficult to deliver committed tonnages to an ERF over the long term. Local Governments may also find they are required, under contract, to pay fees on non-delivered tonnages and be liable for penalties arising from the operator’s loss of the end product as a consequence.

ERFs have the capability to produce less greenhouse gas emissions compared to landfill, however gases such as sulphur dioxide and carbon monoxide will still be emitted. As more emphasis is placed on the development of laws and policies to reduce emission levels to address climate change impacts, the level of emissions currently considered appropriate for ERFs may not be appropriate under future emission targets. As such, ERFs will need to be adaptable to changing environmental laws and policies which may impact their commercial viability. Local Governments looking to enter into agreements with ERFs should be informed of the adaptability of the ERF’s technology and processes and which party bears the responsibility to contribute to any change of law compliance modifications.

Further, in the event that an ERF experiences an unexpected technical issue or undergoes general maintenance it is recommended that Local Governments have a contingency plan to minimise costs relating to delays of waste collection. Operating and maintaining an ERF is costly and if an event occurs which results in the unavailability of an ERF contracts may require a Local Government to share some of those costs through being required to continue to pay on committed tonnages under the contract despite being unable to deliver waste to an ERF through no fault of the Local Government.

The risks associated with ERFs may arise from the expense of constructing and operating an ERF within an evolving environmental climate. Agreements between ERFs and Local Governments may contain change of law provisions and a non-delivery fee in the event that an ERF can no longer receive waste or alternatively, the funding of capital costs, which commits Local Governments to underwriting debt despite not having equity in the facility or control over the operation.

ERFs may be an important step in Western Australia’s move towards becoming a sustainable low waste State. However, Local Governments entering into waste agreements are cautioned to assess all of the attendant risks and consider the changing waste management landscape in Western Australia.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact Karen Browne at HopgoodGanim Lawyers on 08 9211 8142.
The following resolutions were among those carried at the State Council meeting held at the City of Perth on 8 May 2019.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE BUILDING REGULATIONS 2012 – OWNERS OF EXISTING BUILDINGS TO REGISTER DETAILS OF COMBUSTIBLE CLADDING**

That:

1. The Minister for Commerce be advised that the Local Government sector will not accept the shifting of responsibility to undertake a State-wide Audit of combustible cladding on privately owned buildings;
2. WALGA formally advises the State Government that the proposed Amendment to the Building Regulations 2012, received on the 25 March 2019, is not supported; and
3. At the proposed meeting on 29 May 2019, the Hon Minister for Commerce be advised of the concerns and issues from the sector on this proposal and the legal advice received.
4. WALGA advocate for the Minister for Commerce to initiate Building Act 2011 amendments that ensure building owners are made responsible for identifying if a known building safety risk exists relevant to their building and if so, requires the building owner to provide inspection reports to State Government as an evidentiary basis for any necessary enforcement action.

**‘PREFERRED MODEL’ FOR THIRD PARTY APPEAL RIGHTS FOR DECISIONS MADE BY DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANELS**

That State Council endorses the:

1. Continues to advocate for the State Government to introduce Third Party Appeal Rights for decisions made by Development Assessment Panels; and
2. Endorses the ‘Preferred Model’ as presented in the May 2019 Agenda, as the third party appeals process for decisions made by Development Assessment Panels and in future give consideration to broadening Third Party Appeal Rights to other parties relating to Development Assessment Panel decisions.

**INTERIM SUBMISSION – DRAFT POSITION STATEMENT: TOURISM LAND USES WITHIN BUSHFIRE PRONE AREAS**

That the interim submission to the Western Australian Planning Commission on Draft Position Statement: Tourism land uses within bushfire prone areas, be endorsed.

**PUBLIC LIBRARY TIERED SERVICE FRAMEWORK**

That the new-tiered model to support public library service delivery in WA be endorsed.

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**How local councils can manage energy better.**

The State Government recently announced price changes to regulated electricity tariffs that will apply from 1 July 2019. The regulated tariffs are reviewed each year by the State Government to cover any changes to the components that make up each tariff, such as the cost of generating electricity, transporting electricity and regulatory costs.

We’re also creating tools and offering advice so that customers can become more efficient in their energy use today. Tools like My Account for Business is one of the best ways to get more control and better information. You can see when the council is using more or less energy, track energy usage at multiple premises, view billing history and choose from a selection of payment options.

Visit synergy.net.au/business to find out more and register.

You can find out more on the price changes at synergy.net.au/pricechanges

Price changes take effect from 1 July 2019.

Take control of your energy use at synergy.net.au/myaccount
State Council

President Cr Lynne Craigie OAM
Mayor Tracey Roberts JP
Cr Jan Court JP
President Cr Phil Blight
Cr Jenna Ledgerwood
Cr Paul Kelly
Cr Brooke O’Donnell
Cr Kate Driver
President Cr Malcolm Cullen
President Cr Cheryl Cowell
President Cr Stephen Strange
President Cr Keith House JP
Cr Les Price
Cr Russ Fishwick JP
Cr Giovanni Italiano JP
President Cr Karen Chappel JP
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President Cr Kerry White
Cr Julie Brown
Cr Brian Oliver
Mayor Logan Howlett JP
Cr Doug Thompson
Mayor Carol Adams
President Cr Tony Dean
Ex-officio:
Mr Ian Cowie PSM
Commissioner Eric Lumsden