



**THE
KIMBERLEY
ZONE**

Meeting Minutes

21 November 2025

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1. Kimberley Country Zone Meeting Open: 9:06am

Chair acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the different lands on which people met today, and paid respect to all the Elders past, present and emerging.

2. Attendance and Apologies

Name	Shire / Council / Organisation	Method
Members		
Cr David Menzel	Zone Chair, and President, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	Zoom
Cr Chris Mitchell	President, Shire of Broome	Zoom
Peter McCumstie	President, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Zoom
Observers		
James Watt	Director Corporate Services, Shire of Broome	Zoom
Tamara Clarkson	CEO, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Zoom
Susan Leonard	CEO, Shire of Halls Creek	Zoom
Vernon Lawrence	CEO, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	Zoom
Executive Support Team		
Paul Rosair	Principal NAJA Business Consulting	Zoom
Rebecca Billing	Administrative Assistant, NAJA Business Consulting	Zoom
Apologies		
Steven Pereira	President, Shire of Christmas Island	
David Price	CEO, Shire of Christmas Island	
Isa Minkom	President, Cocos (Keeling) Islands	
David Tombs	Acting CEO, Cocos (Keeling) Islands	
Tony Lacy	Cocos (Keeling) Islands	
Cr Azah Badlu	Cocos (Keeling) Islands	
Cr Karen Chappel	President, WALGA	
Cr Brenda Garstone	President, Shire of Halls Creek	

Name	Shire / Council / Organisation	Method
Cr Tony Chafer	Deputy Shire President, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	
Sam Mastrolembro	CEO, Shire of Broome	
Jane Lewis	Principal Redit Research	
Michelle Mackenzie	Principal Mira Consulting	
Guests		
Nick Sloan	CEO, WALGA	Zoom
Josh Lowrie	Director, Operational Support Centres, Australian Bureau of Statistics	Zoom
Mark Harding	Program Manager, Census Field Operations, Australian Bureau of Statistics	Zoom
Tony Grubb	Kimberley Operations Manager, Australian Bureau of Statistics	Zoom
Amy Risinger	Regional Engagement Lead – Kimberley, Australian Bureau of Statistics	Zoom

3. Disclosures, Conflicts and Declarations of Interest:

Financial Interest / Impartiality			
Member	Item Number	Item	Nature of Interest
Nil			

4. 2025 Local Government Elections – Zone Office

For Decision

Pursuant to the WALGA Constitution, the Secretariat shall assume the Chair for conducting the election of office bearers, State Council Representatives and Deputy State Council Representatives.

ELECTIONS OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE KIMBERLEY COUNTRY ZONE

The election for the Chair and Deputy Chair shall be conducted and the term set at two years expiring in November 2027, in line with the terms of State Council representatives and in sync with Local Government Elections.

Zone Chair

The following nomination is received from the floor for the position of Chair.

- Cr David Menzel Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley

If more than one nomination is received, ballot papers will be distributed and a secret ballot conducted.

DECLARATION

That Cr David Menzel is elected as Chair of the Kimberley Country Zone for the term of 2 years, November 2025 to November 2027.

Deputy Zone Chair

The following nomination is received from the floor for the position of Deputy Chair.

- Cr Chris Mitchell Shire of Broome

If more than one nomination is received, ballot papers will be distributed and a secret ballot conducted.

DECLARATION

That Cr Chris Mitchell is elected as Deputy Chair of the Kimberley Country Zone for the term of 2 year, November 2025 to November 2027.

ELECTIONS OF STATE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES AND DEPUTY STATE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE KIMBERLEY COUNTRY ZONE

In accordance with sub-clause 9(3) of the WALGA Constitution, representatives and deputy representatives to the State Council shall be elected by Zones of the Metropolitan and Country constituencies for two (2) year terms, commencing from the Ordinary Meeting of State Council in December 2025 and concluding on the day before the Ordinary Meeting of State Council in December 2027.

For the Kimberley Country Zone, there is one (1) representative position on State Council and one (1) deputy representative position.

State Councillor

The following nomination is received from the floor for the position of State Council Representative:

- Cr Chris Mitchell Shire of Broome

In accordance with the guidelines endorsed by State Council, candidates will be afforded the opportunity to make a 2 minute election bid prior to the secret ballot being taken.

If more than one nomination is received, ballot papers will be distributed and a secret ballot conducted.

DECLARATION

That:

- Cr Chris Mitchell Shire of Broome

Is elected as State Council Representative of the Kimberley Country Zone to the State Council for the term of 2 years, December 2025 to December 2027.

Deputy State Councillor

The following nomination is received from the floor for the position of Deputy State Council Representative.

- Cr David Menzel Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley

If more than one nomination is received, ballot papers will be distributed and a secret ballot conducted.

DECLARATION

That:

- Cr David Menzel Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley

is elected as Deputy State Council Representative of the Kimberley Country Zone to the State Council for the term of 2 years, December 2025 to December 2027.

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
People Place Prosperity Performance Advocate Partner Promote Facilitate Fund Monitor		Nil	
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
That the Kimberley Country Zone advises WALGA of the outcome of the elections.		Executive Team to advise WALGA of the outcome of the elections.	
Moved:	Shire of Broome	Responsible:	Executive Team
Seconded:	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Due date:	As appropriate
Carried:	3/0		

5. Kimberley Country Zone State Council Agenda:

Attachments:

1 President's Report

2 WALGA State Council Agenda and Report on State Council Actions (Separately Attached)

1.1 Presidents Report – Attachment 1

President's Report

December 2025

Introduction

As WALGA President, I want to congratulate everyone who was elected to represent their communities at the recent Local Government Elections and I acknowledge and thank all retiring and outgoing Councillors for their contributions.

It has been another busy period for WALGA and the WA Local Government sector, with key policy matters and emerging issues attracting significant public and political attention.

Since the last report, WALGA has responded to over 70 media queries and at every opportunity, I have sought to champion and support the incredible work of WA Local Governments.

Recently, I responded to media queries regarding the WA Planning Minister's repeated commentary regarding the Local Government sector, which unfairly denigrates the extraordinary work that Local Government performs across the State in supporting new housing development.

2025 Local Government Convention

In late September, the sector came together for WALGA's 2025 Local Government Convention, which saw more than 500 attendees from across Western Australia participate in a full program of events. WALGA's Annual General Meeting was also held, which saw WALGA's 2024-25 Annual Report endorsed, while several motions were debated and passed.

Political Engagement

WALGA has continued to meet with our political representatives from Government and major parties, with discussions held on important issues for the sector including roads and transport, regional health, AI and technology, waste, planning and renewable energy.

The final sitting weeks for the Western Australian and Federal Parliaments were scheduled for late November and provided the last opportunity this year to pass legislation, introduce new bills, or respond to committee reports before the summer recess.

WALGA will continue to engage with decision makers during the recess, to ensure the sector's priorities are front of mind for policy makers when parliament resumes in February 2026.

State Budget Submission

Each year, WALGA prepares a submission to the State Government outlining the sector's priorities for the upcoming Budget.

WALGA's submission in advance of the 2026-27 Budget looks to build on the advocacy work undertaken in the lead up to the 2025 State Election. The submission seeks funding to progress initiatives set out in The West at its Best, which was pitched to Government as a term of Government policy platform.

The submission was presented to Government in November. WALGA is undertaking advocacy targeting several audiences including the Minister for Local Government, Premier/Treasurer, key members of the Expenditure Review Committee, other relevant Ministers and heads of agencies. There will also be traditional and digital media promotion of the key initiatives included in the submission.

Local Government Amendment (Rating of Certain Mining Licences) Bill 2025

On 23 October 2025, the State Government introduced the Local Government Amendment (Rating of Certain Mining Licences) Bill 2025 to Parliament. The Bill has been introduced in direct response to the WA Supreme Court's decision that Crown Land, subject to a miscellaneous licence, is rateable for Local Governments.

WALGA strongly opposes the proposed legislation, which would prohibit the rating of land under miscellaneous and small prospecting licences, extinguish rates imposed since 2017/18, and compel Local Governments to refund previously collected rates within 28 days of Royal Assent. WALGA considers these provisions unnecessarily punitive and disproportionate in their impact on Local Governments that have lawfully levied rates.

WALGA has written to the Hon Hannah Beazley MLA, Minister for Local Government, urging reconsideration of the Bill's scope and timing. WALGA maintains that Local Governments should retain the right to rate occupied land under miscellaneous licences, consistent with the Supreme Court's interpretation.

High Threat Bushfire and Cyclone Season

As Western Australia enters the high-threat bushfire and cyclone season, WALGA acknowledges the vital role of Local Governments and Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades in keeping communities safe. During emergencies, WALGA maintains situational awareness through the All Hazards Liaison Group and represents the sector at State Emergency Coordination Group meetings. Local Governments are encouraged to review their preparedness, including Local Recovery Plans, to ensure readiness if impacted. WALGA remains available to support members throughout the High Threat Period.

Telecommunications

The high profile 000 outage in September and subsequent public interest and government focus highlights a serious concern that WALGA has consistently highlighted, that in times of emergency everybody needs to be able to rely on their telecommunications systems working. West Australians in peri-urban and rural areas have firsthand experience of emergency situations where there is no ability to communicate with anyone, including emergency services, because the mobile telecommunications system has failed, typically due to loss of power. We have raised this consistently with Federal and State Governments as well as the telecommunications industry.

I am encouraged that despite many hurdles the State Government and telecommunications industry are pushing forward with a pilot initiative to make back-up power generators for telecommunications facilities available in regional areas ahead of the coming bushfire season in parts of the Wheatbelt and Goldfields regions.

State Road Funding to Local Governments

The State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee met in September. Analysis of the 2024-25 financial results was the main topic for consideration. Requests to carry forward allocated funding for road improvement projects that have not been delivered continue to be a significant problem. The Metropolitan and South West regions combined

were allocated 49% of the road project grant funding but together were responsible for more than 60% of the carryover in this program.

Options to improve the 2025-26 outcome were discussed and the Committee resolved to invite Metropolitan Local Governments to nominate additional rehabilitation works and to invite other regional Local Governments to nominate additional "shovel ready" projects to be considered for funding in 2025-26. The Committee also discussed the methodologies that Regional Road Groups use to prioritise road project grant funding. It was agreed to prepare and consult on amendments to the State Road Funds to Local Government Procedures to provide additional guidance on this issue and consider these changes at the next meeting.

Finally, in my last report for 2025, I'd like to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of all Elected members and officers across the year. Local Government continues to be the institution most relied on by our communities and your efforts, individually and collectively, are critical to making Western Australia the best place in the world to live.

President Cr Karen Chappel AM JP
WALGA President

President's Contacts

The President's contacts since 5 September and scheduled before 3 December are as follows:

State and Commonwealth Government Relations

- Dr Anne Webster MP, Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories
- Hon Hannah Beazley MLA, Minister for Local Government; Disability Services; Volunteering; Youth; Gascoyne
- Hon Sabine Winton MLA, Minister for Education; Early Childhood; Preventative Health; Wheatbelt
- Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Regional Development; Ports; Science and Innovation; Medical Research; Kimberley
- Mr Shane Love MLA, Leader of the Nationals WA & Ms Kirrilee Warr MP, Shadow Minister for Local Government
- Hon Steve Martin MLC, Shadow Minister for Transport; Ports; Communities
- Ms Kirrilee Warr MLA, Shadow Minister for Local Government
- Inquiry into the safety, regulation and penalties associated with the use of eRideables

Zone Meetings

- Great Eastern Country Zone
- Kimberley Zone Meeting
- South West Country Zone
- Northern Country Zone

Local Government Relations

- **State Council Meetings**
 - Regional State Council meeting, 5 September
 - Information Forum, 5 November
 - Finance and Services Committee
 - Local Government House Trust
 - New State Councillor Induction
- **ALGA**
 - Board meeting, 11 September
 - Ministerial Migration Roundtable
 - ALGA board executive meeting x3
 - Board meeting, 10 November
 - Roads and Infrastructure Congress
- **LGIS**
 - Regional Board meeting & Board Workshop, 8 September
 - Risk and Compliance Committee meeting
 - Board Meeting, 24 October
 - 30th Anniversary function
 - JLT Management Meeting

- Internal Audit Workshop
- Perth Capital City Plan 2026 and Beyond - City of Perth CEO, Michelle Reynolds
- Regional Capitals Alliance Western Australia Meeting
- State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee

Conferences, Workshops, Public Relations

- Labor Leaders Forum Lunch with Hon Stephen Dawson
- Labor Leaders Forum Lunch with Hon Meredith Hammat
- Labor Leaders Forum Lunch with Hon Roger Cook MLA
- Labor Leaders Forum Lunch with Hon Paul Papalia MLA
- Pathway to Politics Advisory Committee
- State-Local Library Agreement signing with Hon Simone McGurk & LG Professionals President, Mr Anthony Vuleta
- RAC President Cocktail Function
- Auspire Australia Day Awards
- Great Eastern Country Zone Workshop
- WALGA New Councillor Seminar
- WALGA Pre-Season Emergency Management Webinar
- Rural and Remote General Practice Provision Workshop
- 2025 WALGA Local Government Convention
- WALGA Showcase in Pixels
- City of Stirling Christmas Dinner 2025
- WA Electoral Commissioner Vote Processing Centre site visit

1.2 Reports from Representatives

WALGA –

- Nick Sloan, CEO

5.2.1 Reports from Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety Report

Refer Attachment 2



Department of Local Government,
Industry Regulation and Safety

Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety

Local Government Division Report

November 2025

Local Government Reforms

Local Government Inspector

- Mr Anthony (Tony) Brown has been appointed by the Governor as the inaugural Local Government Inspector for Western Australia.
- Mr Brown's appointment is for five years and commenced on 20 October 2025.
- The Office of the Local Government Inspector is scheduled to formally start operations from 1 January 2026.
- The Inspector will have greater powers to investigate and intervene to ensure compliance, focussing on early intervention so issues are identified and resolved before they escalate.
- The Inspector will work with a panel of local government monitors with expertise in various matters such as governance, financial management and conflict resolution.
- The Inspector will also be supported by skilled investigators, compliance specialists, complaints handlers and other support staff.
- Adjudicators with legal expertise will replace the Standards Panel to assess conduct breaches (formerly minor breaches).
- LGIRS is developing regulations to support the implementation of new requirements for the Inspector.
- The recently established Regulations Working Group (RWG) has been invited to provide feedback on regulations dealing with the operational requirements for the Inspector.

Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees (ARIC)

- LGIRS is developing regulations to support the implementation of new requirements for Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees (ARICs).
- The RWG provided valuable feedback on draft consultation regulations.
- Once section 87 of the Local Government Amendment Act 2024 (WA) is commenced, local governments will be required to establish a committee of council to be the ARIC.
- The ARIC must have an independent chair to ensure a level of independence and provide impartial oversight.
- Local governments may wish to appoint independent members to audit committees ahead of the proposed changes, following the local government elections on 18 October 2025. For further information, visit the LGIRS website [Reforms to Governance and Committees](#).

Communications Agreements

- These changes are part of the implementation of the Local Government Amendment Act 2023 (2023 Amendment Act) reforms.
- The communications agreement supports governance within each local government by setting out the expectations for formal communications between council members and employees of the local government.
- More information about the proposed reforms is available in the [Communications Agreement Consultation Paper \(PDF 255 KB\)](#).
- Local Government Regulations Amendment Regulations 2025 (PDF 276 KB) and the Local Government Default Communications Agreement Order 2025 (PDF 271 KB) are also available for download.
- A consultation process inviting feedback on the draft regulations and orders closed on 22 August 2025.
- Feedback received is currently being considered and will assist in finalising this legislation.
- Local governments may adopt their own communications agreements (or continue to use an existing one) in the interim if they wish.

IPR Reforms

- The changes for Integrated Planning and Reporting are part of the implementation of the Local Government Amendment Act 2023 (2023 Amendment Act) reforms.
- A 'council plan' for the future services and facilities to be provided by the local government is intended to replace the current 'strategic community plan' under the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) framework.
- The reform proposes simplified:
 - short-form council plans that replace strategic community plans and set high-level objectives
 - asset management plans to consistently forecast costs of maintaining assets
 - long-term financial plans that outline long-term financial management and sustainability issues, and any investments and debts.
- The new requirements for council plans are being developed to ensure the reforms meet the needs of the sector and provide a mechanism for local governments to plan for the short, medium and long term.
- An Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) Working Group has been established with key sector stakeholders to assist with the development of this project.

Reform updates

- A Regulations Working Group (RWG) was established comprising key stakeholders from the local government sector to assist with progressing the various regulations reform projects.
- LGIRS also provides regular updates to the local government sector on the progress of reforms via a reform [webinar series](#), revisions to the LGIRS website and LG alerts.
- Further updates on the status of local government reforms will be made ahead of implementation.
- The LG Act Reform team can be emailed directly at actreview@lgirs.wa.gov.au.
- Reform updates are made on the [Local Government Reform](#) webpage.
- Also see the [Implementation](#) webpage for key updates as legislation is passed or regulations are made.

Model Financial Statements (MFS)

- Updates to the Model Financial Statements for the 2024-25 annual financial statements were published in the second quarter of 2025.
- Non-financial asset valuation guidelines are currently being finalised. Inter-jurisdictional consultation has been undertaken and feedback is being addressed with a view to finalise and publish in November 2025.

Differential rates and Budget/Financial Report Extensions/Caretaker exemptions

- Recent amendments to section 3.73(6) of the Local Government Act 1995 (Act) provide that the Director General may authorise a local government to do a significant act during caretaker period, if satisfied that:
 - It is necessary because of an emergency; or
 - It is necessary to ensure the proper operation of the local government.
- Additional amendments allow a significant act to occur during caretaker periods where:
 - The action is required by legislation; or
 - The action is required due to a contractual obligation relating to a contract which was entered into prior to the caretaker period; or
 - The action was authorised by a council decision made prior to the caretaker period, provided that the local government issues a public notice containing the prescribed information and gives a copy of this notice to the Director General.
- Regulation 11(1) of the Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996 (the Regulations) requires that tenders be publicly invited before a local government enters into a contract for goods or services valued at more than \$250,000, unless an exemption applies.
- LGIRS received thirteen applications from local governments seeking approval to undertake a significant act during the caretaker period. Of these, one application was withdrawn and one was declined.
- LGIRS has finalised the local government applications for an extension of time to submit their annual financial report for 2024-2025 to the Auditor. Twelve applications were received, which is seven fewer than those submitted in 2024.
- LGIRS received seven applications from local governments for an extension of time to submit a 2025-26 budget, an increase of four applications in comparison to 2024.
- LGIRS received 28 applications for differential rates and minimum payment approval this year. 2 applications were for minimum payment, and 26 for differential rates. Class 4 local governments made the most applications (11), with Class 2 local governments making the least applications (4).

Local Government Grants Commission

Financial Assistance Grants funding

- The total funding allocation to WA local governments for 2025-26 is \$423,375,700 (consisting of \$261,451,711 in general purpose funding and \$161,923,989 in local road funding and special projects) compared to \$400,140,692 in 2024-25.
 - Local governments were advised in June 2025 that the Federal Government had brought forward 50 per cent of the estimated 2025-26 Federal FA Grants program allocation into the 2024-25 financial year.
 - The total advance allocated to WA was \$211,241,816, which consisted of \$130,665,199 in general purpose grants and \$81,128,705 local road grants.
 - Payments were made on 24 June 2025.

- All local governments received their first quarterly payment of remaining 2025-26 funds on 18 August 2025. Further payments will be made in mid-November, mid-February and mid-May. The grant schedule is available on the Grants Commission website.
- Local governments were sent formal correspondence on 26 or 27 August advising of their final grant allocations and where appropriate, explanation of any significant grant changes.
- The Grants Commission Information Return to collect 2024-25 financial data was sent to all local governments in November 2025 and has also been made available on the Grants Commission website. Local governments are asked to complete the document and return it by email before 31 January 2025.
- If local governments have any questions regarding their grant allocation, the methodology or wish to make a submission regarding the process of allocation finds, they can be directed to grants.commission@lgirs.wa.gov.au

Stop Puppy Farming

- Regulations were published on 27 November 2024 to affect the pet shop and dog supply approval reforms.
- On 26 May 2025, only pet shops that hold a pet shop approval can sell dogs and puppies that are sourced from holders of a dog supply approval. All pet shops known to be selling puppies have ceased selling from their shops.
- Only refuge operations and dog management facilities may apply for dog supply approval.
- Applications for pet shop approval are to be made to local governments, and applications for dog supply approvals to LGIRS. No applications for pet shop or dog supply approvals have been received.
- Please contact stoppuppyfarming@lgirs.wa.gov.au if you have any questions on these changes,
- Further regulation changes are currently under development in relation to implementing the Stop Puppy Farming reforms.

PetsWA

- The PetsWA project is in a reset phase and LGIRS is evaluating what has been delivered to date.
- LGIRS values the sector's contribution and would appreciate the opportunity to engage further as we chart our path forward.
- Local governments will need to continue existing pet registration programs and engagement with pet owners for annual registration and renewal processes.

Off Road Vehicles

- The Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Amendment Act 2025, once commenced and in effect, will update existing legislation to simplify the process for riders to register their off-road vehicles (ORV) and increase penalties for offences, such as riding in prohibited areas or riding an unregistered ORV.
- The ORV Bill was passed in Parliament in August 2025.
- Supporting regulations are now being developed to provide for the commencement of the legislation.
- The ORV Advisory Committee continues to meet regularly and has recently convened to advise on the ORVA Grants Program applications with 5 Local Governments being awarded grants from the 2024 ORVA Grants Program. This includes the shires of Manjimup, Pingelly, York and Gingin, as well as the City of Kwinana.

LGIRS Contacts

LG Support and Engagement Includes MyCouncil queries	lghotline@lgirs.wa.gov.au
Statutory Approvals (Differential rates, budget and audit extensions)	legislation@lgirs.wa.gov.au
LG Policy and Legislation	stoppuppyfarming@lgirs.wa.gov.au
CRS – Stop Puppy Farming	Petswa@lgirs.wa.gov.au
Grants Commission – Financial Assistance Grants	Grants.commission@lgirs.wa.gov.au
LG accounting or financial enquiries	LG.accounting@lgirs.wa.gov.au
LG Act Reform	actreview@lgirs.wa.gov.au
LG Advisory Board	advisoryboard@lgirs.wa.gov.au
Off-Road Vehicles	orv@lgirs.wa.gov.au

5.3 Reports from Kimberley Country Zone

Zone Delegates are invited to read and consider the WALGA State Council Agenda, which has been provided as an attachment with this Agenda and can be found via the link [here](#).

The Zone can provide comment or submit an alternative recommendation on any of the items, including the items for noting.

The Zone comment will then be presented to the State Council for consideration at the meeting on 3 December 2025. The State Council Agenda items requiring a decision of State Council are extracted for Zone consideration below.

5.3.1 Item/Matters for Decision

Item / Matters for Decision As per State Council Agenda	Recommendations
8.1 2025 Annual General Meeting Resolutions	RECOMMENDATION That the Zone support the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.1 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided below. WALGA RECOMMENDATION 1. the following resolutions from the 2025 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the People and Place Policy Team for further work to be undertaken: 7.1 Provision of Medical Services in Remote and Very Remote Local Governments 7.2 Homelessness – Short-term Accommodation Solutions 2. the following resolution from the 2025 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the Governance Policy Team for further work to be undertaken: 7.3 Rating Exemption Advocacy Position 3. the following resolution from the 2025 WALGA Annual General Meeting be endorsed: 7.5 Rateability of Miscellaneous Licences EXECUTIVE SUMMARY • WALGA's 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 23 September. • The meeting resolved for WALGA to act in relation to four Member Motions: ○ Provision of Medical Services in Remote and Very Remote Local Governments ○ Homelessness – Short-term Accommodation Solutions ○ Rating Exemption Advocacy Motion ○ Rateability of Miscellaneous Licenses

Item / Matters for Decision As per State Council Agenda	Recommendations
	- The action proposed to be taken in relation to each of the resolutions has been summarised for State Council's consideration. ATTACHMENT WALGA 2025 Annual General Meeting Minutes
8.2 2026 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members	RECOMMENDATION That the Zone support the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.2 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided below. WALGA RECOMMENDATION That State Council endorse the submission to the 2026 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal (SAT) conduct an inquiry into Local Government Chief Executive Officer and Elected Member remuneration annually. - In preparation for the Inquiry to be undertaken early next year, WALGA has prepared a draft submission to SAT that makes recommendations in relation to Elected Member fees and allowances, Chief Executive Officer remuneration, the Regional/Isolation Allowance and independent Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) member fees. - The 2026 submission recommends: - an increase to Elected Member fees and allowances (including maximum reimbursable expenses) of 3%; - an increase to Chief Executive Officer remuneration bands of 3%; - an increase to the Regional/Isolation Allowance payable for Local Governments that are particularly isolated, long distances from population centres, and lacking in amenities; - the publication of clear guidance to the Local Government sector outlining how the Regional/Isolation Allowance is applied in terms of methodology, criteria and weightings; and - an increase to the current fee range for independent committee members, including ARIC members and chairs; and - a higher fee range for independent ARIC chairs, in recognition of the additional skill, knowledge and time commitment of the role. - SAT will publish its determination for 2026-27 in April 2026. - The Governance Policy Team considered the submission at its meeting on 29 October and recommended that it be included in the December Agenda for State Council endorsement.

Item / Matters for Decision As per State Council Agenda	Recommendations
	ATTACHMENT Draft WALGA submission to the 2026 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry – Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members POLICY IMPLICATIONS The current Advocacy Positions relating to this submission are Position 2.10 Elected Member Remuneration, Position 2.2.3 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees, Position 2.10A Chief Executive Officer Remuneration, and Position 2.10A.1 Regional/Isolation Allowance.
8.3 Tourism Advocacy Position Update	RECOMMENDATION That the Zone support the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.3 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided below. WALGA RECOMMENDATION That State Council replace Advocacy Position 3.9 Tourism with an updated position as follows: <i>WALGA calls on the State Government to:</i> 1. Fund the implementation of the WA Visitor Economy Strategy and the supporting Tourism Destination Management Plans and Regional Tourism Development Strategies, including for: a. <i>maintenance and renewal of Local Government assets and services that underpin a positive visitor experience</i> b. <i>new and existing tourism infrastructure</i> c. <i>improving telecommunications infrastructure</i> d. <i>measures to reduce the cost and improve the scheduling and routes of regional air services</i> e. <i>accredited Visitor Centres.</i> 2. Ensure that tourism destinations with a significant seasonal visitor influx have adequate medical and emergency services and reliable telecommunications. 3. Articulate a clear tourism governance framework with defined roles and responsibilities to facilitate coordination and collaboration of tourism activities across the State. 4. Adequately consult and consider Local Government when undertaking strategic tourism planning across Western Australia. 5. Provide improved access to affordable, timely and granular data that delivers LGA-level insights on visitation, spend and event impacts.

Item / Matters for Decision As per State Council Agenda	Recommendations
	ATTACHMENT • The Role of Local Government in Tourism - 2025 Research Paper POLICY IMPLICATIONS WALGA's current position: <i>That WALGA:</i> 1. Continues to advocate for a Local Government tourism strategy to deliver local tourism outcomes; 2. In the short-medium term, advocates that the State Government: a. Produces targeted communication and education for Local Government using existing Tourism WA data to demonstrate the value of tourism to local communities, Elected Members and Local Government officers; b. Provides guidance for Local Government on marketing small projects including events and attractions; c. Directs Regional Development Commissions to facilitate the coordination of tourism stakeholders to provide strategic support where required for Local Government; and d. Provides funding to Local Government for tourist infrastructure. 3. In the long term, advocates that the State Government: a. Articulates the lead agency and defines the roles of other agencies in tourism, to facilitate coordination and collaboration of tourism activities across the State and to enhance Local Government's understanding of tourism in WA; b. Defines and communicates how it provides destination marketing support to Local Governments and communicates how Local Governments can most effectively direct their resources; c. Develops a sustainable State Government tourism funding mechanism for both regional and metropolitan Local Governments which is clearly communicated to Local Governments; d. Implements and invests in Regional Investment Blueprints and delivers through appropriate funding models such as Royalties for Regions and federal funding opportunities which are clearly communicated to Local Government; e. Continues funding to support sustainability of visitor centres; f. Undertakes improvements to tourism-related infrastructure and technology including mobile signals and WIFI in regional areas; and g. Undertakes measures to reduce the cost and improve the scheduling and routes of regional air services. It is proposed that the position be replaced with: <i>WALGA calls on the State Government to:</i>

Item / Matters for Decision As per State Council Agenda	Recommendations
	1. Fund the implementation of the WA Visitor Economy Strategy and the supporting Tourism Destination Management Plans and Regional Tourism Development Strategies, including for: a. <i>maintenance and renewal of Local Government assets and services that underpin a positive visitor experience</i> b. <i>new and existing tourism infrastructure</i> c. <i>improving telecommunications infrastructure</i> d. <i>measures to reduce the cost and improve the scheduling and routes of regional air services</i> e. <i>accredited Visitor Centres.</i> 2. Ensure that tourism destinations with significant seasonal influxes of visitors have adequate medical and emergency services and reliable telecommunications. 3. Articulate a clear tourism governance framework with defined roles and responsibilities to facilitate coordination and collaboration of tourism activities across the State. 4. Adequately consult and consider Local Government when undertaking strategic tourism planning across Western Australia. 5. Provide improved access to affordable, timely and granular data that delivers LGA-level insights on visitation, spend and event impacts.
8.4 Waste Management Advocacy Positions	RECOMMENDATION That the Zone support the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.4 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided below. WALGA RECOMMENDATION That State Council retire Advocacy Positions: 1. 7.2 State Waste Strategy; 2. 7.3 Waste Authority; and 3. 7.11 Waste Management and Resource Recovery Partnership Agreement. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY • WALGA has been undertaking a process of reviewing and updating Advocacy Positions and Policy Statements. • There are three Waste Management Advocacy Positions (7.2 State Waste Strategy, 7.3 Waste Authority and 7.11 Waste Management and Resource Recovery Partnership Agreement) which have been recently reviewed. • It was determined that these positions are either no longer relevant or have been incorporated into other positions and it is therefore recommended they be retired.

Item / Matters for Decision As per State Council Agenda	Recommendations
	• To ensure a clear Local Government position on all relevant waste management matters, WALGA is also undertaking a policy position gap analysis to inform the development of future Advocacy Positions. • The Municipal Waste Advisory Council endorsed retiring the three Advocacy Positions at its meeting on 15 October 2025. POLICY IMPLICATIONS The item retires the existing Advocacy Positions: 7.2 State Waste Strategy <i>Local Government requires leadership and clear direction from the State Government in relation to waste management. As such, Local Government supports the development and implementation of a comprehensive State Waste Strategy which:</i> 1. Is consistent with the content, purpose and objective of existing legislation and policy at both a state and national level; 2. Clearly identifies the roles and responsibilities of the Waste Authority in regard to the development and implementation of the Strategy, as outlined in the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007; 3. Is reviewed, with Stakeholder input, within 2 years of implementation; and 4. Includes achievable targets for all waste streams and focuses on waste reduction, resource recovery and the diversion of waste from landfill. Targets should be based on accurate baseline data and clearly identify roles, responsibilities and funding for each target area. 7.3 Waste Authority <i>Local Government considers that an independent and effective Waste Authority is required. The role of the Waste Authority should be of a collaborative, facilitative and strategic nature. Specific activities should include:</i> 1. Developing, administering, monitoring and reviewing the State Waste Strategy; 2. Developing a Priority Waste List (for Extended Producer Responsibility) as required in the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007; and 3. Developing and implementing an annual Business Plan that delivers the objectives of the Waste Strategy. 7.11 Waste Management and Resource Recovery Partnership Agreement <i>The Local Government sector supports the initiation of a State Local Government Partnership Agreement on Waste Management and Resource Recovery.</i>

Item / Matters for Decision As per State Council Agenda	Recommendations
8.5 Electoral Material – Authorisation Statement Address Requirements	RECOMMENDATION That the Zone support the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.5 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided below. WALGA RECOMMENDATION That WALGA advocate to the State Government to amend section 4.87 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> to: 1. Replace the requirement to include the name and address of the person authorising the electoral material, with a requirement to include the name and locality of the person authorising the material. 2. Remove the requirement for the name and business address of the electoral material printer to appear at the end of the electoral material EXECUTIVE SUMMARY • Authorisation requirements for electoral material are intended to protect the transparency and accountability of the electoral process. • The mandatory publication of a street address, often the candidate's home, raises privacy and safety concerns, potentially deterring participation in Local Government elections. • Other Australian jurisdictions offer more flexible approaches, such as allowing post office boxes or partial addresses, which maintain transparency without compromising safety. • It is proposed that WALGA advocate that only the locality is included in the authorisation statement. • The Governance Policy Team revised and endorsed the new advocacy position at its meeting on 20 October. ATTACHMENT • Jurisdictional comparison - Electoral material authorisation requirements POLICY IMPLICATIONS The purpose of this report is to provide a new advocacy position for endorsement. WALGA has several existing advocacy positions regarding election matters, but none dealing with electoral material.

1.6 Other State Council Agenda Items

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

1.4 Status Report on State Council Resolutions

Meeting	Resolution	Comment	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
5 September 2025 Item 8.1 Rating of Renewable Energy Facilities	That WALGA advocate to the State Government for: 1. Legislative amendments to enable WA Local Governments to rate large-scale renewable energy facilities using current rating mechanisms (differential rating based on UV, differential rating based on GRV, or GRV alone) with certainty; and 2. A commitment to implement a Payment in Lieu of Rates (PiLoR) framework in Western Australia. RESOLUTION 049.4/2025	Correspondence has been sent to the Minister for Local Government and the Minister for Energy. The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.	Completed	Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services
5 September 2025 Item 8.2 Rating of Miscellaneous Licenses	That WALGA: 1. Advocate for Local Governments to continue to have the ability to rate miscellaneous licences under the <i>Mining Act 1978</i> ; and 2. Oppose legislative amendments that seek to exempt occupied miscellaneous licence land from rating. 3. Continue to advocate for a broad review to be conducted into the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under section 6.26 of the Local Government Act 1995. RESOLUTION 050.4/2025	Correspondence has been sent to the Premier, Minister for Local Government. Opposition parties have been briefed. In addition funding for the broad review of rating exemptions is included in the State Budget submission. The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.		Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services
5 September 2025 Item 8.3 Community Infrastructure and	That WALGA: 1. Replace Advocacy Position 3.7.1 Community Infrastructure with the following:	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.		Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy

Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund Advocacy Positions	<i>Local Governments own, lease, and maintain vital community infrastructure across Western Australia that delivers essential benefits to local communities. Local Governments face significant funding pressures to ensure this infrastructure is effectively planned, developed, maintained, and enhanced to meet evolving community needs and population growth.</i> 1. WALGA calls on the Australian Government to provide \$500 million per annum for community infrastructure through a national formula based, targeted Local Government funding program. 2. WALGA calls on the State Government to: a. <i>Provide \$60 million per annum for the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund, separate to the PlayOn WA 2030 Funding commitments.</i> b. <i>Provide \$60 million per annum for community arts and cultural infrastructure,</i> c. <i>Provide funding for retrofitting accessible design features to community infrastructure,</i> d. <i>Align all community infrastructure funding with existing State co-contribution of at least two-thirds.</i> 2. Retire Advocacy Position 3.7.2 Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund. RESOLUTION 052.4/2025			
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5 September 2025 Item 8.4 Rural and Remote Health Services Advocacy Position	That WALGA replace Advocacy Position 3.2.2 Regional Health Services with the following: <i>The Western Australian and Australian Governments are responsible for ensuring that all West Australians have equitable access to primary healthcare services, regardless of their location. Local Governments should not have to step in to support the provision of these services for their communities.</i> 1. <i>WALGA calls on the Western Australian and Australian Governments to address the systemic failures in the provision of rural and remote primary healthcare services, including through:</i> a. <i>the development and implementation of adequate, appropriate and sustainable funding models</i> b. <i>incentivising rural and remote healthcare workforce recruitment and retention.</i> 2. <i>Local Governments should be reimbursed for costs incurred to support the provision of primary healthcare services until sustainable funding and workforce models are in place.</i> RESOLUTION 053.4/2025	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.		Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy
5 September 2025 Item 8.5 Health Advocacy Position	That WALGA retire Advocacy Position 3.2 Health. RESOLUTION 054.4/2025	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.		Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy
5 September 2025	That WALGA endorse the proposed advocacy positions on Active Transport and micromobility subject to:	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.		Ian Duncan Executive

Item 8.6 Advocacy Positions on Active Transport and Micromobility	1. The following item added to the Priority Actions of the Funding Position Statement: <i>Allocate dedicated funding to deliver safe, pedestrian- and bicycle-priority crossing points on local and distributor roads, particularly around schools, community hubs, and public transport nodes, to support safe and accessible active transport journeys.</i> 2. Request the CEO to prepare an Active Transport Advocacy Plan for WALGA including, but not limited to, funding models to achieve the advocacy positions. 3. That the Plan be brought back to the Infrastructure Policy Team for discussion. RESOLUTION 055.4/2025			Manager Infrastructure
2 July 2025 Item 8.1 Suspension and Disqualification for Offences Advocacy Position	That WALGA defers consideration of this matter for further work, including: a. defining appropriately serious offences for intervention; and b. addressing the role of the Local Government Inspector. c. evaluating whether advocacy for disqualification based on convictions under the Planning and Development Act 2005 and Building Act 2011 should be retained.	Work has commenced on defining appropriately serious offences for intervention. Consideration of how the Office of the Inspector affects this position is awaiting the release of regulations pertaining to the office.		Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services

	RESOLUTION 037.3/2025			
5 March 2025 Item 9.1 Infrastructure Policy Team Report	That State Council: 1. Note the report from the Infrastructure Policy Team for the 5 March 2025 meeting. 2. Determine to: a. Delete Advocacy Position 5.2.8 (Towards Zero Road Safety Strategy 2008 – 2020). b. Amend the title of Advocacy Position 5.2.7 from Road Safety Strategy (Imagine Zero) to Driving Change Road Safety Strategy 2020-2030. 3. Undertake further policy development and consultation with Members regarding the default open road speed limit in Western Australia. RESOLUTION 013.1/2025	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated. The Infrastructure Policy Team resolved to recommend WALGA engage an independent specialist to develop a framework to support the Local Government sector in decision making and advocacy relating to speed limits.		Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure
6 December 2024 Item 8.1 2024 Annual General Meeting Resolutions	That: 1. the item 7.1 Amendments to <i>Cat Act 2011</i> - Allow Local Governments to Make Local Laws to Contain Cats to the Owner's Property be endorsed. ... 3. the following resolutions from the 2024 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the Governance Policy Team for further work to be undertaken: 7.2 Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land-Banking 7.3 Advocacy for Expansion of Differential Rating to Include Long Term Unoccupied Commercial Buildings (Property Activation Levy). RESOLUTION 089.5/2024	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated. Following a range of advocacy from Local Government, WALGA and other stakeholders the Hon. Hannah Beazley MLA Minister for Local Government; Disability Services; Volunteering; Youth' Gascoyne announced on 17 September that the Government would be progressing amendments to Cat Act to enable Local Governments to make and enforce local laws regarding cat containment. The		Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services

		Minister indicated that Amendment Bill would be introduced in 2026. Once the scope of the Amendment is clear, WALGA will continue work on the template Cat Local Law. WALGA sought legal advice which confirmed that amendments to the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> (the Act) would be required to allow differential rating based on occupancy status. A joint meeting of the Governance and Environment Policy teams was held on 12 September and is addressed in the Governance Policy Team report on this matter.		
6 December 2024 Item 8.1 2024 Annual General Meeting Resolutions	That: ... 2. the following resolutions from the 2024 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the Environment Policy Team for further work to be undertaken: 7.2 Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land-Banking	Resolution 7.2 (regarding the planning related items within this resolution): The demolition of single houses is generally a form of development exempt from requiring development approval, and only a demolition permit is required for the complete or partial demolition, dismantling		Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy

	7.4Action on Asbestos for Western Australia 7.6Advocacy for Accessibility. ... RESOLUTION 089.5/2024	or removal of a building or an incidental structure. The current planning and building legislation do not allow the conditioning of approval or refusal of a building permit in a manner proposed by the AGM resolution. A joint meeting of the Environment and Governance Policy Teams has been scheduled for 12 September to consider this item. Resolution 7.4: WALGA is engaging at the State and National level on this issue, including through membership of the WA Interagency Asbestos Group and nationally the Asbestos Safety Eradication Agency reference group and has raised the issues impacting Local Governments in relation to safe removal and disposal, including ensuring statewide options. WALGA continues to work on this issue, including the implementation of a Reducing Illegal Dumping Working Group as asbestos has been identified as a frequently dumped item.		
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		Resolution 7.6: Liveable Housing Design Standard as part of the National Construction Code (NCC) provides a set of technical provisions that if complied with enable dwellings to better meet the needs of the community, including older people and people with mobility limitations. The code specifies seven minimum standards to ensure all new homes are accessible with modifications including step-free entrances and showers and wider doors and corridors that can accommodate wheelchairs and walking aids. All states enact the NCC through state legislation and regulation. A range of states are taking different approaches in terms of adopting the liveable housing requirements, but at time of writing all states except NSW and Western Australia have adopted the liveable housing provisions. The NCC 2022 only became operational in WA on 1 May. The appointment of a new Commerce Minister following the 2025 State Election provides an opportunity to engage on this matter.		
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		WALGA raised the prospects of WA adopting the standard at its meeting with the Minister in July 2025.		
6 December 2024 Item 8.2 Local Government Elections Advocacy Positions	That item 1 be deferred, and the Secretariat further investigate implications of compulsory and voluntary participation in Local Government elections and report back to State Council. RESOLUTION 090.5/2024 That WALGA adopt the following Elections Advocacy Positions: <i>The Local Government sector supports:</i> 1. Councillors serve four-year terms with elections every two years and half of the Council positions spilled at each election. 2. First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system for Local Government elections. If Optional Preferential Voting (OPV) remains as the primary method of voting, the sector supports the removal of the 'proportional' part of the voting method for general elections. 3. First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system for internal Council elections. 4. Councils holding elections by means of in-person, postal and/or electronic voting. 5. Current legislative provisions of Mayor/President of Class 1 and Class 2 Local Governments being directly elected by the community and Class 3 and Class 4 Local Governments determining whether its Mayor or President is elected by the Council or by the community. RESOLUTION 091.5/2024	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated. Correspondence has been sent to the Minister for Local Government advising on the five advocacy positions endorsed. Investigation of the implications of compulsory and voluntary voting has continued with engagement from the Governance Policy Team and is addressed in the Governance Policy Team report.		Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services

1.5 COMPLETE ZONE STATUS REPORT

Nil.

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
People Place Prosperity Performance Advocate Partner Promote Facilitate Fund Monitor		Nil	
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
The Kimberley Country Zone: 1. Noted the report from the WALGA President 2. Noted the State Council Agenda Items as circulated 3. Supports the recommendations in the Matters for Decision contained within the State Council Agenda 4. Acknowledged the Items for noting 5. Acknowledged the Status Report on State Council Resolutions 6. Noted the Kimberley Zone Status Report 7. Advise WALGA of the outcome of the elections. 8. Review Item 8.3 Advocacy Position 3.9 and include it in the Strategic Plan 9. Review Item 8.4 advocacy positions 7.2, 7.3 and 7.11 to determine whether the Kimberley Regional Group wishes to continue them and incorporate them into the Strategic Plan. 10. Prepare a summary of their election outcomes for submission to the AEC.		1. Executive Team to advise WALGA of the outcome of the elections. 2. Item 8.3: The Executive Officer and Secretariat to review Advocacy Position 3.9 and ensure it is included in the Strategic Plan. 3. Item 8.4: The Executive Officer and Secretariat to review advocacy positions 7.2, 7.3 and 7.11 to determine whether the Kimberley Regional Group wishes to continue these advocacy positions and incorporate them into the Strategic Plan. 4. Item 8.5: The Executive Officer to reach out to members regarding the outcome of their elections and prepare a summary for submission to the AEC.	
Moved:	Shire of Broome	Responsible:	Executive Team
Seconded:	Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	Due date:	As appropriate
Carried:	3/0		

6. Conclusion of Zone Matters: 9:48am

7. Submissions to the 2026 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members

For Noting

Submitted by: Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance

Background

The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal (SAT) conduct an annual inquiry into Local Government Chief Executive Officer and Elected Member remuneration.

SAT generally advertises its intention to receive submissions in December for its inquiry and Determination in relation to the following financial year. The Tribunal will invite individual Local Governments, the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulations and Safety, WALGA, Local Government Professionals WA and other interested individuals to provide information or submissions.

SAT will likely publish its Determination for 2026-2027 in April 2026.

Comment

In preparation for the inquiry to be undertaken early next year, a draft submission from WALGA has been prepared making recommendations to SAT on behalf of the sector in relation to Elected Member fees and allowances, Chief Executive Officer remuneration, the Regional/Isolation Allowance, and independent audit, risk and improvement committee member fees. The draft WALGA submission is contained in the December State Council Agenda for Zone and State Council consideration.

Local Governments can also put forward a submission, particularly in relation to their own circumstances, including requests to be classified in a different Band.

WALGA encourages all Local Governments to make a submission to SAT.

Resolution/s	Action(s)
For Noting	