



Great Southern Country Zone Minutes

Friday, 24 June 2022

Shire of Jerramungup

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Great Southern Country Zone

Meeting to be held at

Shire of Jerramungup, Community Resource Centre, 8/10 Tobruk Rd Jerramungup

Meeting commenced at 10.06am on Friday, 24 June 2022

Minutes

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

The Great Southern Country Zone of WALGA acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this land, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and future.

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendance

City of Albany	Mayor Dennis Wellington
Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup	Deputy President Cr Doug Barritt Rob Stewart, A/Chief Executive Officer Cr Steve Penny (<i>observer</i>) Cr Julian Wills (<i>observer</i>)
Shire of Cranbrook	President Cr Philip Horrocks Deputy President Cr George Pollard Linda Gray, Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Denmark	Cr Donna Carman David Schober, Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Gnowangerup	Deputy President Cr Greg Stewart Bob Jarvis, Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Jerramungup	Deputy President Cr Julie Leenhouders Cr Andrew Price Martin Cuthbert, Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Katanning	President Cr Liz Guidera Deputy President Cr John Goodheart Julian Murphy, Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Kent	Cr Kate Johnston Cr Justin Germain
Shire of Kojonup	Cr Kevin Gale Cr Colin Egerton-Warburton

Shire of Plantagenet	President Cr Chris Pavlovich (Zone President) Deputy President Cr Jon Oldfield Cr Len Handasyde (<i>observer</i>) Cameron Woods, Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Woodanilling	President Cr Stephen Jefferies Cr Dale Douglas
Guests	Natasha Monks, Chief Executive Officer, GSDC Kylie Sullivan, Regional Development Officer, GSDC Jason Robertson, Director Housing & Construction, MBAWA
WALGA Representatives	Kelly McManus, Principal, Policy and Advocacy Janine Neugebauer, Governance & Organisational Services Officer Vivienne Gardiner, WALGA RoadWise Road Safety Adviser

Apologies

Shire of Albany	Deputy Mayor Cr Sandie Smith Andrew Sharpe, Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup	President Cr Michael White
Shire of Denmark	Cr Janine Phillips
Shire of Gnoweringup	President Cr Fiona Gaze
Shire of Jerramungup	Cr Andrew Price
Shire of Kojonup	Grant Thompson, Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Woodanilling	Kelly Bartley, Chief Executive Officer Deputy President Cr Russel Thomson
Shire of Kent	President Cr Scott Crosby Adam Majid, Chief Executive Officer
Guests	Rick Wilson, MP Federal Member for O'Connor Jane Kelsbie, MLA Member for Warren-Blackwood Peter Rundle, MLA Member for Roe Liz Toohey, Regional Manager, DLGSC Mel Eastough A/Regional Manager, DLGSC Robert Dew, Executive Officer, LGAFG Simon Lyas, Director, Regional Development, RDA

Attachments

The following are provided as attachments to the Minutes:

1. Item No. 9.4 RoadWise Report
- 2a. Item No. 9.5 Great Southern Roads Subcommittee Report
- 2b. Item No. 9.5 Great Southern Project Ranking State & Local Roads

State Council Agenda – via link: [State Council Agenda 6 July 2022](#)

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pursuant to our Code of Conduct, Councillors must declare to the Chairman any potential conflict of interest they have in a matter before the Zone as soon as they become aware of it. Councillors and Deputies may be directly or indirectly associated with some recommendations of the Zone and State Council. If you are affected by these recommendations, please excuse yourself from the meeting and do not participate in deliberations.

4. GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS

- 4.1 Jason Robertson, Director of Housing and Construction at Master Builders Association of WA presented to the Zone on the current housing boom and building issues.

NOTED

5. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

NIL

6. MINUTES

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the Great Southern Country Zone meeting held on 22 April 2022

The Minutes of the Great Southern Country Zone meeting held on 22 April 2022 have previously been circulated to Member Councils and were attached to the Agenda.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Johnson
Seconded: Cr Oldfield

That the Minutes of the Great Southern Country Zone meeting held on 22 April 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

6.2 Business Arising from the Minutes from the Great Southern Country Zone Meeting held on Friday, 22 April 2022

NIL

6.3 Action Register and Zone Priority Strategic Issues 2022

6.3.1 Action Register

The Zone's Action Register had been updated and was attached to the Agenda.

The following item numbers are completed and are to be removed: 6.1, 6.2, 6.4, 6.5, 6.7 and 6.8. Item numbers 6.3 and 6.6 are ongoing and are to be added to the WALGA Status Report.

NOTED

6.3.2 Zone Priority Strategic Issues 2022

1. Housing

Issues raised include:

- Availability of land. Market failure. Most Zone Local Governments have residential property 'shovel-ready' for subdivision and development, but the increasing cost of headworks is a barrier for developers.
- Advocate for lower deposits for bank loans on residential housing.
- Review of Planning Act to see if it is appropriate for regional areas and amend it to cut out any barriers to building, e.g., building codes changed to allow more innovative and sustainable construction methods.
- Problem with builders not being able to hire enough staff to undertake building projects.
- Current difficulty sourcing building materials.
- State Government requires more GROH housing in the region.
- Job, House, and Land packages.
- Carbon reduction – stand-alone sustainable housing developments for communities. Matter for WA Planning Commission.

Action: Each Zone council to discuss and prioritise key outcomes to be achieved to increase housing in regional areas. Quantify the housing needs of each community.

2. Reliable Digital Connectivity / Telecommunications

- Delegates to discuss with their councils about issues to bring to the Zone on this matter.
- Mayor Wellington suggested submitting joint Zone proposal to local members prior to elections.
- Need shovel-ready projects for this proposal.
- Councils can ask City of Albany CEO for the City's investment prospectus.
- What is the one project we could go to the next State Government election with? Possibly housing and telecommunication connectivity.

Action: Each Zone council to discuss and prioritise key outcomes to be achieved to improve telecommunications in regional areas and report back to the Zone.

3. Jobs and Investment

How do we attract more people to move from cities to live in regional areas?

Action: WALGA to gather information and required key outcomes from Zone Councils on Housing and Digital Connectivity, and then create a Zone proposal to take to State and Federal Governments. Zone Councils to liaise with Kelly McManus at WALGA.

NOTED

7. ZONE BUSINESS

Note: Matters brought before the Zone should be ratified by the relevant Zone Member Council and rated according to the adopted **Policy and Advocacy Prioritisation Framework**.

7.1 Great Southern Regional Road Group

Steve Hutchings has requested that the Great Southern Zone consider rescheduling the joint meeting on Friday, 4 November to Friday, 28 Oct 2022 in Woodanilling.

The Zone to note that the State Council Agenda will not be available for the meeting and a subsequent online meeting will be required to consider the State Council Agenda.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Oldfield
Seconded: Cr Jeffries

That the Great Southern Country Zone support the rescheduled joint meeting with Great Southern Regional Road Group on Friday, 28 October 2022 and schedule an online meeting for Friday, 25 November 2022 to consider the State Council Agenda.

CARRIED

7.2 Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA)

The Shire of Kojonup had requested Zone members to consider supporting the concept of a Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA).

Natasha Monks, CEO and Kylie Sullivan, Regional Development Officer from the Great Southern Development Commission, presented to the Zone.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Egerton-Warburton
Seconded: Cr Gale

That the Great Southern Country Zone of WALGA supports the concept of the Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) as follows:

1. The Great Southern Country Local Governments are to report back to the Zone Executive Officer by Wednesday, 17 August 2022 as to their interest in joining the DAMA.
2. The Great Southern Country Zone acknowledge the Regional Development Australia office will act as the Designated Area Representative (DAR) , and
3. The Great Southern Country Zone acknowledges that funding will be required from each Local Government.

CARRIED

Action:

Cameron Woods, CEO, Shire of Plantagenet to request Simon Lyas, Director, RDA to prepare a template for resolution.

7.3 Local Government Cat Local Laws

Shire of Denmark, CEO David Schober

Background

WALGA State Council responded to a request from a number of Local Governments and Zones to seek a review of both the Dog and Cat Acts as a follow up to the statutory review carried out by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries in 2019.

The WALGA State Council report and resolution on this matter was attached to the Agenda.

Many Local Governments have been advocating for an expansion of the powers to limit cats from roaming, by designating broad prohibited areas under local laws, and for cats to be kept within the owner's property. The industry has also sought clear statutory provisions on the number of cats that may be kept.

Comment

Cats are regulated under different legislation to the Health Act, as previously was the case, and it is preferable to make a Cat Local Laws to ensure compliance with the Cat Act and its associated Regulations.

In doing so local governments can consider if it is suitable to introduce any provisions to seek to deal with nuisances that may be caused by cats, and/or specify areas where cats could be prohibited from being and require that owners within the specified areas confine their cat in a specific way.

Under s3.12(7) of the Local Government Act, the Minister for Local Government has issued directions under which local governments are required to submit local laws for review by the WA Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation (JSCDL). If the JSCDL believes that a local law has not been properly made, is not in accordance with enabling legislation, or offends its terms of reference it may recommend that Parliament disallow the local law in its entirety.

If issues arise, the JSCDL usually requests that the local government undertake to amend the local law and not to enforce it in a manner contrary to the undertaking in the meantime.

The Shire of Denmark is aware that there have been some local governments who have tried to impose broad restrictions across their local government areas. For example, making it an offence to have a cat in a public place without the cat being, in the opinion of an authorised person, under 'effective control'. The JSCDL have subsequently required those Councils to amend their local laws to remove such provisions as they found them to be "inconsistent with or repugnant to the Cat Act 2011 and therefore not within power" of a local government.

WALGA has advised that they are yet to be provided with a timeline for a comprehensive review of both the Dog and Cat Acts, and are aware that the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries priorities lie with the new Stop Puppy Farming regulations and centralised registration database. In addition, the drafting of the forthcoming Local Government Act reform proposals will also be a major priority in the near future.

However, given the length of time that has elapsed, it would be prudent to write to the WALGA State Council and the Minister for Housing, Lands, Homelessness and Local Government, Honourable John Carey, seeking support for a review, and associated timelines, to address concerns of the local government industry.

Financial Implications

Nil.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Oldfield
Seconded: Cr Leenhouders

That the Great Southern Zone of WALGA;

- 1. Acknowledge the challenges with gazettal of Cat Local Laws, which meet community expectations, under current legislation, particularly in relation to cat containment within the property of the owner, and control of cats in public places and;**
- 2. Write to WALGA State Council seeking an update and feedback on resolution 232.4/2021; and;**
- 3. Write to the Honourable John Carey, Minister for Housing, Lands, Homelessness and Local Government requesting an update and timelines associated with updates to the Dog and Cat Acts.**

CARRIED

7.4 Proposed Advocacy Position for Management of Bushfire Brigades

Shire of Gnowangerup

WALGA has requested feedback on its discussion paper and proposed position on the ongoing management of bush fire brigades, and the position paper was discussed at the Shire of Gnowangerup's council's monthly workshop. The Council was generally supportive of WALGA's

proposed hybrid model but asked that this matter be discussed at the Zone meeting so that the views of other shires with brigades can be heard. It is an important issue potentially affecting rural local governments significantly, and the canvassing of views from across our region may well provide a common view of the way forward.

Background

WALGA is seeking the views of the sector on a new Advocacy Position on the management of Bushfire Brigades, as per the Discussion Paper, [Arrangements for Management of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades: Proposed Advocacy Position](#).

Western Australian Local Governments have extensive roles and responsibilities prescribed in the State Emergency Management Framework (State Framework) across the emergency management activities of prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. Relevantly, pursuant to the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, Local Governments have responsibility for bushfire and the management of volunteer Bush Fire Brigades (BFBs).

The Paper proposes a new Advocacy Position on the management of BFBs to guide the Association's emergency management advocacy on behalf of Local Government, and in particular its engagement with the State Government on the development of the Consolidated Emergency Services Act which is expected to be released for stakeholder consultation in early 2023.

Four options are identified for the future management of BFBs:

1. Status quo – continue with the current arrangements for management of BFBs whereby the majority are managed by Local Government and transfer arrangements are negotiated on an ad hoc basis between DFES and Local Governments (or their BFBs).
2. Improvements – continue with the current arrangements for Local Government management of BFBs with additional support provided by the State Government with respect to increased funding and better access to training resources and other support.
3. Hybrid Model – Local Government continues to manage BFBs where they have the capacity, capability, and resources to do so; however, where they do not have the capacity, capability and resources, responsibility for management of BFBs is transferred to DFES.
4. Transfer – Responsibility for management of all BFBs is transferred to the State Government, consistent with the arrangements in other States and Territories.

Comment

Based on the feedback received from Local Governments in the WALGA Emergency Management Survey and the other considerations outlined in the paper, it is considered appropriate for the Association to support a hybrid model for the management of BFBs.

A hybrid model would enable the continued management of BFBs by those Local Governments with capacity, capability, and resources to do so, while providing a framework for the transfer of the management of BFBs to the State Government where a Local Government does not.

Whatever the arrangements for future management of BFBs, it is apparent that Local Governments with responsibility for management of BFBs require additional support and resourcing which should be provided by the State Government, including:

- Development of a suite of guidelines and resources to assist Local Governments in their management of BFBs, particularly with respect to the discharge of obligations under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2021*.
- Expansion of the Community Emergency Services Manager Program (CESM) so that every Local Government with responsibility for managing BFBs has access to the Program if they wish to participate.
- Universal access to DFES training for BFBs; and

- Development of mandatory and minimum training requirements including recognition of competency for volunteers.

Local Governments are encouraged to provide a written response to this Paper or to complete the survey. Formal Council resolutions will assist the Association understand the sentiment of the sector on this important issue.

Questions are provided at the end of the Paper to guide feedback.

Feedback should be provided in response to the questions via email to em@walga.asn.au by 5pm on Friday 8 July 2022.

NOTED

7.5 Meeting Attendance Protocols – Online Attendance

Background

As a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic, attendance at meetings and forums via video conference has been widely adopted as a standard practice and is, in many cases, an expectation of attendees.

While Zone meetings have historically been conducted in-person, there have been occasions when Zone meetings have been held as a fully virtual meeting due to Covid restrictions or Covid risk.

Recently, as the technical capacity to host virtual meetings (with a mix of in-person and online attendance) has developed, there has been an increase in requests from Zone Delegates to attend otherwise in-person Zone meetings via a video-conferencing platform.

The WALGA secretariat is seeking Zone guidance on this matter to put in place Zone protocols going forward.

Comment

There are several considerations regarding the suitability of hybrid meetings.

Firstly, there is an argument that in-person Zone meetings are preferable, as has been past practice, as in-person meetings (including sharing a meal and refreshments) facilitate relationship building, information sharing, networking opportunities and engagement between member Local Governments and between Local Governments and the WALGA secretariat including office bearers and senior staff.

Secondly, while there may be circumstances that prevent a Council Delegate from attending in-person, each Council has one or more Deputy Delegates who may be available to attend in-person and contribute to the meeting. For instance, it is unclear which is preferable: in-person attendance by a Deputy Delegate or online attendance by a Delegate.

Thirdly, from a meeting management perspective, there are challenges for the chairperson facilitating participation and managing a hybrid meeting, particularly given the chair may not be familiar with the technical arrangements at the host Local Government for any given meeting.

Fourthly, there are technical considerations for the host Local Government. While many Local Governments now have suitable facilities, it would be expected that the host Local Government would provide the necessary technical support (potentially outside of business hours) to ensure the meeting can transpire smoothly.

Finally, the Zone's direction in relation to guest speakers is also sought. From the secretariat's point of view, in-person attendance by guest speakers is preferable, however there may be instances when a guest speaker is unable to attend in-person but is able to attend virtually.

From the perspective of the secretariat, there are significant benefits to continue holding Zone meetings primarily in-person – relationship building, information sharing and engagement – and there are technical and meeting management challenges associated with hybrid meetings.

On balance, it is recommended that, restrictions notwithstanding, Zone meetings continue to be held primarily in-person.

Accordingly, and given Councils appoint Deputy Delegates to ensure representation when a Delegate is unable to attend, it is recommended that preference is given to Deputy Delegate attendance in-person ahead of online Delegate attendance and the hybridisation of the meeting. If Deputy Delegate attendance is not possible, the secretariat will liaise with the host Local Government to facilitate online attendance.

If Zone meetings are to be held in a hybrid format, the secretariat will liaise with the host Local Government to check whether a hybrid meeting can be facilitated, to ensure technical setup is undertaken and to confirm technical support will be provided.

It is also recommended that the secretariat continue to liaise with the Zone Chair in relation to guest speakers, as is current practice.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Mayor Wellington
Seconded: Cr Oldfield

That the Zone adopt the following protocols:

- 1. That, Covid-19, or other restrictions notwithstanding, Zone meetings continue to be held primarily in-person;**
- 2. That, given Zone meetings are to be held primarily in-person:**
 - a. first preference will be for in-person Deputy Delegate attendance, before online attendance of Delegates is considered, and**
 - b. If Deputy Delegates are unable to attend in-person, the secretariat will liaise with the host Local Government with the aim of facilitating online attendance in a hybrid meeting format;**
- 3. That, if Zone meetings are to be held in a hybrid format, the host Local Government will provide technical setup and support in liaison with the WALGA secretariat; and,**
- 4. That the WALGA secretariat liaise with the Zone Chair in relation to attendance and arrangements for guest speakers, and if online attendance of a guest speaker is to be facilitated, the secretariat will liaise with the host Local Government to make the necessary arrangements.**

CARRIED

7.6 WALGA Best Practice Governance Review Update

By Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services and Tim Lane, Manager Strategy and Association Governance.

Background

WALGA has embarked on a significant project to review WALGA's governance model to ensure the organisation is governed by a contemporary, sound, and agile governance model that:

- Facilitates meaningful engagement with Local Government members,
- Enhances WALGA's legitimacy among members and stakeholders, and
- Enables sound and focused decision making to guide advocacy, policy, and service delivery.

WALGA's [Corporate Strategy 2020-25](#) identifies "contemporary governance and engagement models" as a key strategic priority leading to State Council's commissioning of the Best Practice Governance Review project.

A further goal of the project is to fundamentally review, and subsequently amend, WALGA's governance documentation – Constitution, Corporate Governance Charter, State Council Code of Conduct, and Standing Orders – to ensure consistency and alignment.

To oversee the project, State Council appointed a Steering Committee with the following membership:

President Cr Karen Chappel JP	WALGA President (Chair)
Cr Paul Kelly	WALGA Deputy President
President Cr Phil Blight	Country State Councillor
Mayor Carol Adams OAM	Metropolitan State Councillor
President Cr David Menzel	Country Elected Member
Mayor Albert Jacob	Metropolitan Elected Member
Andrew Sharpe	Country Chief Executive Officer
David MacLennan	Metropolitan Chief Executive Officer
Nick Sloan	WALGA Chief Executive Officer

Senior WALGA staff are providing executive support and PwC has been appointed to facilitate meetings of the Steering Committee and to produce an Options Paper and a Final Report.

The Steering Committee has met twice. At the first meeting, held on 5 May 2022, the Committee:

- Adopted Terms of Reference
- Reviewed the Project Plan
- Considered existing governance documentation
- Discussed the project methodology, and
- Agreed five comparator organisations whose governance models would be reviewed:
 - i. Australian Hotels Association (AHA)
 - ii. Australian Medical Association (AMA)
 - iii. Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA (CCIWA)
 - iv. Chamber of Minerals and Energy (CME), and
 - v. Pharmacy Guild of WA

The comparator organisations were selected for their similarity to WALGA as membership organisations (with organisations as members) and their perceived effectiveness as advocacy peak bodies.

At the Steering Committee's second meeting, held on 8 June 2022, the Committee reviewed the governance models of comparator organisations presented by PwC and identified initial performance assessment criteria that will guide the evaluation of alternative governance model options.

The Steering Committee will be meeting again in late June to consider an Options Paper which will present alternative governance model options. The Options paper will be presented to State Council at the 6 July Strategic Forum. Member feedback will then be sought on the Options Paper during July and August.

Following member feedback, the Steering Committee will direct the development of an agenda item outlining high level principles and non-negotiables of a future governance model for the 2022 Annual General Meeting. This agenda item and debate will gauge members' views on the direction of the project.

The final report due to be completed by mid-October 2022 will be the subject of further consultation with members, including through a full round of Zone meetings in November in the lead-up to the December State Council meeting.

Substantive structural changes to WALGA's governance model will require amendments to the Constitution, which must be approved by a special (75 percent) majority at both a meeting of State Council and an Annual General Meeting. As such, any proposed changes will need to have strong support of members for Constitutional change to be ratified. The aim of the project is to put forward constitutional amendments to members at the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

Comment

The Best Practice Governance Review Project represents a significant opportunity to improve WALGA's governance model to improve decision making effectiveness while ensuring meaningful member representation and participation.

Past reviews since the formation of WALGA as the single Local Government sector peak body over 20 years ago have led to significant process and other improvements while the structure and composition of State Council has remained broadly unchanged. WALGA receives mixed feedback on its governance model through member surveys and other mechanisms suggesting there is room for improvement.

Any future governance model will need to balance member representation and participation in decision making processes with efficiency and strategic focus. The forthcoming Options Paper will present potential options that aim to balance competing objectives identified by the Steering Committee.

Member engagement and consultation will be crucial to the success of the project and very high levels of member support will be required for constitutional amendments to be ratified, as outlined above. Consequently, members should anticipate opportunities to contribute to the project and provide insight in relation to options put forward over coming months.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Gale
Seconded: Cr Leenhouders

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

CARRIED

8. FINANCIAL REPORT

8.1 Financial Statement for the period 1 April to 31 May 2022.

Presenting the unaudited financial statement of income and expenditure for the period 1 April to 31 May 2022, provided by the outgoing Executive Officer.

Balance as at 1 April 2022 \$ **4,205.64**

INCOME	2021/22 Budget	Year To Date	April - May 2022
Subscriptions excl. GST (11 x \$700.00)	\$ 7,700.00	\$ 7,700.00	
GST collected (11 x \$70.00 on subs)	\$ 770.00	\$ 770.00	
BAS GST Refunds from the ATO	\$ 490.00	\$ 307.00	\$ 76.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 8,960.00	\$ 8,777.00	\$ 76.00

EXPENDITURE	2021/22 Budget	Year To Date	April - May 2022
Meetings (5 @ \$900.00)	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,368.00	\$ 878.00
Executive Officers' contract payments	\$ 4,892.64	\$ 3,669.48	
Local Govt Grain Freight Group secretariat	\$ 640.00	\$ 362.95	
Stationery & Postage	\$ 30.00	\$ 4.90	
GST paid via BAS	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 708.00	
Bank account service fees	\$ 120.00	\$ 110.00	\$ 20.00
Wi-fi modem pre-paid costs (5 x \$50.00)	\$ 250.00	\$ 40.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$ 11,432.64	\$ 9,263.33	\$ 898.00

Balance as at 31 May 2022 \$ **3,383.64**

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Douglas
Seconded: Cr Leenhouders

That the financial statement for the period 1 April to 31 May 2022 be accepted as true and accurate records of the Zone's finances.

CARRIED

9. ZONE REPORTS

9.1 Zone President Report

Zone President Chris Pavlovich provided a report to the Zone.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Guidera
Seconded: Cr Johnson

That the Zone President's Report be received

CARRIED

9.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG)

Cr Russel Thomson was an apology.

NOTED

9.3 Great Southern Human Services Forum

Voting for a representative. Nominated candidates were:

- Cr Donna Carman, Shire of Denmark
- Cr Kevin Gale, Shire of Kojonup

Both nominees promoted their credentials, after which Cr Kevin Gale withdrew as a candidate.

DECLARATION

That Cr Donna Carmen be endorsed as the representative on the Great Southern Human Services Forum.

CARRIED

9.4 WALGA Roadwise

Vivienne Gardiner, WALGA Roadwise Road Safety Adviser provided a report to the Zone. The report is attached. **Attachment 2**

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Guidera
Seconded: Cr Gale

That the WALGA Roadwise Report be received.

CARRIED

9.5 Great Southern Roads Committee

At the April 2022 meeting, the Zone resolved as follows:

Sub-Committee Terms of Reference:

1. To investigate the current road infrastructure right across the networks (State, Regional Road Group roads and other local roads) as to their fit for purpose from a freight task and road safety and efficiency perspective both now and in the next 20 years.
2. Once the data is known, make recommendations to the Great Southern Zone of WALGA in order for them to advocate and seek funding to remedy the shortfalls.
3. Co-opt members as required to fulfil the above task as there will be outside technical expertise required from time to time.
4. Report progress of sub-committee to the Great Southern Zone of WALGA at each of its meetings.
5. Finalise a report for publishing prior to the end of 2023-24 financial year.
6. Group to cease operations on 30 June 2024.

Members: Cr Mark Paganoni, Cr Kevin Gale, Cr Dale Douglas, Cr George Pollard, Cr Scott Crosby, Simon Lyas (RDA Great Southern) and Cr Len Handasyde.

Kojonup CEO Grant Thompson offered technical support to the sub-committee on an adhoc basis.

Cr Len Handasyde provided a report to the Zone, noting that all the Shires should review the roads list that the Sub-Committee is working to in order that any updated information is on the table.

Attachments 2a and 2b.

Action

All Zone Shires are encouraged to review the attached Report and Roads List and provide comment to the Zone's Executive Officer.

9.6 Heavy Haulage Working Group

At the April 2022 meeting, the Zone resolved as follows:

That:

1. The Great Southern WALGA Zone create a Heavy Haulage Working Group to review the Main Roads WA control systems of Restricted Access Vehicles (RAV) & Accredited Mass Management Scheme (AMMS) on Local Government roads in the Great Southern.
2. Working Group charter to include:
 - a) Reviewing the impact and compliance of AMMS concessional loading on the Local Government Road network and,
 - b) The compliance and implications of RAV access to the Local Government Road network and effectiveness in the Local Government CA07 conditions.
3. Working Group to comprise of Cr Kevin Gale, Cr Scott Crosby, Cr Russel Thomson and Chair of the Great Southern Regional Road Group, with technical support from WALGA.
4. Working group make recommendations to the Great Southern Zone and will disband in one year or the end of June 2023.

There was no further update on this item.

NOTED

10. AGENCY REPORTS

10.1 South Coast Natural Resource Management (SCNRM)

Cr Jon Oldfield provided an update to the Zone.

NOTED

10.2 Great Southern Development Commission

CEO Natasha Monks had to leave the meeting early, no update was provided.

NOTED

10.3 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

Mel Eastough A/Regional Manager was an apology.

NOTED

10.4 RDA Great Southern

Simon Lyas, Director Regional Development was an apology.

NOTED

11. WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (WALGA) BUSINESS

11.1 State Councillor Report

Cr Chris Pavlovich

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Guidera

Seconded: Cr Carmen

That the State Councillor Report be received.

CARRIED

11.2 WALGA Status Report

By Tony Brown, Executive Officer

BACKGROUND

Presenting the Status Report for June 2022 which contains WALGA's responses to the resolutions of previous Zone Meetings.



GREAT SOUTHERN ZONE STATUS REPORT JUNE 2022

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Grt Southern Country	2019 Nov 25 Zone Agenda Item 8.1.4 Prioritise Key Strategic Issues for the Zone in 2020 Lobby against Legislation (CA07) That Will Prevent Local Governments from Restricting Access to Local Government Roads	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Great Southern Zone of WALGA does <u>not</u> support the removal of the CA07 condition on RAV approval, and replacement with the CA88 condition in its current form. 2) WALGA therefore be requested to endorse this position and to write to the Minister for Transport that an alternative condition is formulated following discussion with Asset Managers to provide greater control and management of their asset base. 	<p>The RAV Access working group met by teleconference in early December. Based on the resolution of this meeting a letter detailing Local Government expectations was sent to Main Roads WA.</p> <p>The Association discussed this matter with Main Roads WA in November 2020. They are engaging with the State Solicitors Office prior to a proposed consultation with Local Government concerning a proposed approach.</p> <p>WALGA has subsequently met with Main Roads who confirm that the status quo remains until further notice.</p>	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Grt Southern Country	2019 Nov 25 Zone Agenda Item 8.1.3 Prioritise Key Strategic Issues for the Zone in 2020 Distribution of Roads Funding	That the WA Local Government Association be requested to endorse the Great Southern Zone's position on the distribution of road funding, and to write to the Treasurer and Minister for Transport of Western Australia to seek increases in the return of revenue collected by the Commonwealth of Australia to a level that sustains and preserves the vital road assets under management of Local and State Authorities.	A working group has been established and is progressing with the support of the Regional Development Commission. WALGA will provide continuing support as required.	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Grt Southern Country	2019 Nov 25 Zone Agenda Item 8.1.2 Prioritise Key Strategic Issues for the Zone in 2020 Clearing Requirements in Town Sites – Align with	That WALGA writes to the Minister for Emergency Services, the Minister for Planning, Lands and Heritage and the Minister for Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety to request an amendment to the Action Plan for Bushfire Framework Review 2019, to increase in the minimum area of declared bushfire prone vegetation from one hectare to four hectare to be valid for regional and remote townsites and villages in addition to metropolitan areas.	<p>The State Government announced on 30 July 2019 a comprehensive review of the Bushfire Prone Area Map and mapping methodology, this includes a three-stage action plan to address the inherited inconsistencies across Western Australia's bushfire frameworks, standards, and mapping.</p> <p>More information can be found here: https://www.dplh.wa.gov.au/bushfireframeworkreview2019</p>	Ongoing	Nicole Matthews A/Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039

	Metropolitan Requirements		<p>As part of the Bushfire Framework Review 2019, there will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a staged review of the Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas • development of a new mapping methodology • an amendment to the policy and regulatory mechanisms, including State Planning Policy 3.7 Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas and Guidelines for Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas. <p>Advice received from the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage was that a revised SPP 3.7, guidelines and regulations, would be released for public comment in June 2020. This will now occur in 2021.</p> <p>Letters to the three responsible Ministers were sent in January 2020. Minister Logan responded in March 2020. The matter has been noted by the Minister and a request for DFES to raise the matter with the Bushfire Framework Review working group has occurred. Local Governments will get an opportunity to further comment on the new map once it is published.</p> <p>DPLH advises that the updated SPP3.7 and revised Bushfire Prone Area Map will be released for public comment in 2022.</p>		
Grt Southern Country	<p>2019 Nov 25 Zone Agenda Item 8.1.2 Prioritise Key Strategic Issues for the Zone in 2020 Clearing Requirements in Town Sites – Align with Metropolitan Requirements</p>	<p>That WALGA writes to the Minister for Emergency Services, the Minister for Planning, Lands and Heritage and the Minister for Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety to request an amendment to the Action Plan for Bushfire Framework Review 2019, to increase in the minimum area of declared bushfire prone vegetation from one hectare to four hectare to be valid for regional and remote townsites and villages in addition to metropolitan areas.</p>	<p>The State Government announced on 30 July 2019 a comprehensive review of the Bushfire Prone Area Map and mapping methodology, this includes a three-stage action plan to address the inherited inconsistencies across Western Australia's bushfire frameworks, standards, and mapping.</p> <p>More information can be found here: https://www.dplh.wa.gov.au/bushfireframeworkreview2019</p> <p>As part of the Bushfire Framework Review 2019, there will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a staged review of the Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas • development of a new mapping methodology • an amendment to the policy and regulatory mechanisms, including State Planning Policy 3.7 Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas and Guidelines for Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas. <p>Advice received from the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage was that a revised SPP 3.7, guidelines and regulations, would be released for public comment in June 2020. This will now occur in 2021.</p> <p>Letters to the three responsible Ministers were sent in January 2020. Minister Logan responded in March 2020. The matter has been noted by the Minister and a request for DFES to raise the matter with the Bushfire</p>	Ongoing	<p>Nicole Matthews A/Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039</p>

			<p>Framework Review working group has occurred. Local Governments will get an opportunity to further comment on the new map once it is published.</p> <p>DPLH advises that the updated SPP3.7 and revised Bushfire Prone Area Map will be released for public comment in 2022.</p> <p><u>Additional WALGA advice – April 2022</u></p> <p>The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage is still not able to provide WALGA with a concrete date for the release of the new bushfire prone area map or the updated state planning policy and associated guidelines.</p> <p>They advise that the CSIRO has now complete the final draft map and that this currently being verified through site visits by DFES and DPLH to ensure the assumptions, particularly around dominant vegetation type and fuel loads, are accurate. DPLH and DFES are also still determining the number of categories that the map will have (e.g., low, medium, high right) and what the cut-off points for each category will be.</p> <p>These classifications are important as they will be strongly tied to the updated bushfire state planning policy. There will be differing deemed-to-satisfy requirements for each classification. This should provide a more nuanced instrument than the current policy.</p> <p>WALGA has been involved in a technical stakeholder group that forms part of the policy and guideline review. This is well advanced but the final policy setting as waiting on the finalised bushfire map.</p> <p>It is understood that the final bushfire map will be publicly released at the same time as the policy and guidelines are released for public comment. But the new map would not come into effect until the new bushfire policy is gazetted. Due to the highly technical nature of the map, there will not be a comment period.</p> <p>WALGA is concerned that the policy and the map will be released before the fourth quarter of this year. Ministerial approval and gazettal of the updated bushfire policy would then take several more months. As such implementation of the new map and policy would likely not occur until well into 2023.</p>		
Grt Southern Country	4 May 2022 State Council Agenda Item 5.2 Local Government	That the recommendation on Matters for Decision Item 5.2 – Local Government Grant Scheme Funding be amended as follows:	<p>State Council Resolution</p> <p>That WALGA advocates to the Minister for Emergency Services and the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner for:</p>	June 2022	Nicole Matthews A/Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning

	Grant Scheme Funding	<p>5. Support for an increase in State Government funding to support the unsuccessful capital grants funding applications by Local Governments to the 2020-21 LGGS Capital Grants Committee.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An allocation of Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) funding to undertake an audit of existing facilities, appliances, vehicles, and major items of equipment for both Local Government Volunteer Bushfire Brigades (BFB) and State Emergency Services (SES). 2. Following the completion of the audit, an allocation of funding through the Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) to prepare a Comprehensive Asset Management Plan that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Aligns with the principles in the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' (DLGSC) Asset Management National Framework and Guidelines, and the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework. b. Forecasts the emergency response needs of communities across Western Australia over the next 10 years, to estimate the quantum of the facilities, appliances, vehicles, and major items of equipment that will be needed. c. Outlines a 10 year forward plan of modifications, replacements and additions required. d. Investigates the extent to which future BFB facilities can be co-located with other emergency services facilities. 3. The establishment of a Working Group involving WALGA, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and LGIS to oversee the preparation of the Comprehensive Asset Management Plan. 4. Support for the Comprehensive Asset Management Plan to be reviewed every five years 5. Support for an increase in overall Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) funding pool to future capital grants that align with the Comprehensive Asset Management Plan (as updated from time to time). <p>RESOLUTION 336.4/202</p> <p>A letter was sent to the Minister for Emergency Services and Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner advising of the State Council resolution on 25 May 2022.</p> <p>COMPLETE</p>		<p>nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039</p>
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Zone Comment

This is an opportunity for Member Councils to consider the response from WALGA in respect to the matters that were submitted at the previous Zone Meeting.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Leenhouders

Seconded: Cr Gale

That the Great Southern Country Zone, WALGA Status Report for May 2022, be noted.

CARRIED

11.3 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – 6 July 2022

Background

WALGA State Council meets five times each year and as part of the consultation process with Member Councils circulates the State Council Agenda for input through the Zone structure.

The full State Council Agenda can be found via link: [State Council Agenda 6 July 2022](#)

The Zone is able to provide comment or submit an alternative recommendation that is then presented to the State Council for consideration.

Matters for Decision

5.1 Review of advocacy positions relating to Emergency Management

Executive Summary

1. It is proposed to remove the three existing Emergency Management Advocacy Policy Positions and replace them with a series of more comprehensive policy positions (Appendix 1
2. The new [Advocacy Positions](#) are based on previous State Council endorsed submissions, recommendations from significant reviews and inquiries, and information and priorities captured in sector-wide consultations.

Recommendation

That State Council:

1. Endorse the removal of the following Emergency Management Advocacy Positions
 - 8.1 Community Resilience
 - 8.2 Disaster Mitigation
 - 8.3 Emergency Services Levy
2. Endorse the following Emergency Management Advocacy Positions:
 - 8.1 Emergency Management Principles
 - 8.2 State Emergency Management Framework
 - 8.3 Sustainable Grant Funding Model for Emergency Management
 - 8.4 Consolidated Emergency Services Act
 - 8.5 Resource Sharing
 - 8.6 Lessons Learnt Management
 - 8.7 Emergency Services Levy
 - 8.8 Local Government Grants Scheme (LGGS)

5.2 New Emergency Management Advocacy Position – Community Emergency Service Manager Program

Executive Summary

The Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) Program was established to provide Local Governments with additional support to undertake their emergency management functions.

Following consultation with the sector in 2021, it is proposed to endorse an Advocacy Position for the expansion of the CESM Program.

Recommendation

That the following WALGA Advocacy Position relating to the Community Emergency Service Manager (CESM) Program be endorsed:

8.9 Expansion of the Community Emergency Services Manager Program

That the Association advocates for an expansion of the Community Emergency Service Manager (CESM) Program, as follows:

1. All Local Governments should have the option of participating in the CESM Program.
2. The full cost of the CESM Program should be funded through the Emergency Services Levy.

5.3 Draft WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026 and Updated Advocacy Position

Executive Summary

1. The Public Libraries Working Group (PLWG) has been overseeing the development of a new WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026 (Strategy) with a focus on strengthening communities, digital inclusion and the value placed on public libraries.
2. Consultation was undertaken between February 2021 and April 2022 through workshops with public library professionals; stakeholder interviews with a targeted selection of metropolitan, regional and remote Local Government public libraries; and public consultation via an online survey.
3. The new Strategy will support the work of 232 public libraries operated by Local Government around Western Australia.
4. Endorsement of the Strategy is being sought from WALGA State Council and the Library Board of Western Australia, prior to submission to the Minister for Culture and the Arts for final approval.
5. An updated advocacy position is proposed to reflect current governance arrangements, the outcomes being sought under the new Strategy and the achievement of elements of the existing position under the *2016-2021 WA Public Libraries Strategy*.

Recommendation

That:

1. the draft *WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026* be endorsed.
2. WALGA's existing Advocacy Position on Public Libraries be deleted and replaced as follows:

3.8 Public Libraries

1. Western Australian Local Government public libraries provide valuable local cultural infrastructure, creating social and community hubs for community capacity building, recreation, education and literacy, digital inclusion, and social connection, cohesion and inclusion.
2. WALGA supports the provision of Public Library services in Western Australia through a formal partnership between Local Government and the State Government of Western

Australia, governed by the Library Board Act 1951, namely the State and Local Government Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia (2020).

3. The WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026 provides a framework for a shared vision, strategic direction and collaborative action in the provision of a vibrant and sustainable 21st century public library network.
4. It is essential that a sustainable funding model enables Local Governments to continue to deliver library services to support continued growth and adaptation to changing community needs.

Matters for Noting / Information

- 6.1 2020/21 Local Government Performance Monitoring Project (05-047-01-0011 CH)
- 6.2 Proposed Advocacy Position on Arrangements for Management of Volunteer Bushfire Brigades (05-024-02-0059 SM)
- 6.3 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 Co-design Process, Phase 1 Submission
- 6.4 Western Power Access Arrangement Review Submission (05-001-03-0019 ID)
- 6.5 Economic Development Research (05-088-03-0004 DM)
- 6.6 Development of Child Safe Policy for Local Government (05-065-03-006 BW)
- 6.7 National Reconciliation Week Local Government Activation Program (05-032-03-0011 VB)
- 6.8 WA Strategic Trails Blueprint 2022-2027 – Draft for Comment (05-053-03-007 BW)
- 6.9 Issues Paper: Local Government Approaches to Tree Retention (05-036-03-0020 RP)
- 6.10 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) (01-006-03-0008 RNB)

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Douglas
Seconded: Cr Leenhouders

That the Great Southern Country Zone

1. **Supports Matters for Decision, item 5.1 to 5.3 as listed above in the July 2022 State Council Agenda, and**
2. **Notes all Matters for Noting and Organisational Reports as listed in the July 2022 State Council Agenda.**

CARRIED

11.4 WALGA President's Report

The WALGA President's Report was provided as an attachment to the Agenda.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Guidera
Seconded: Cr Douglas

That the Great Southern Country Zone notes the WALGA President's Report.

CARRIED

12. EMERGING ISSUES AND ITEMS FOR NOTING

- 12.1 Mayor Denis Wellington advised the Zone that the City of Albany had received Government funding to build 24 homes at Spencer Park and had received funding for the Albany Entertainment Centre.
- 12.2 The transition to the State Industrial Relations (IR) System was discussed and Local Governments were encourage to write to the Minister as to the costs and implications regarding the IR change over.
- 12.3 Cr Kevin Gale, Shire of Kojonup, raised the issue of availability of bitumen.
- 12.4 The Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCIP) funding was discussed, noting the cost increases for projects.

NOTED

13. URGENT BUSINESS

NIL

14. DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The upcoming Great Southern Country Zone meetings will be held on:

Friday, 26 August	Hosted by Shire of Katanning
Friday, 28 October	Hosted by Shire of Woodanilling (Joint meeting with Great Southern Regional Road Group)
Friday, 25 November	Online meeting to consider the State Council Agenda

15. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 2:07pm.