

# Avon-Midland Country Zone

# MINUTES

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ZONE MEETING

FRIDAY 24 APRIL 2026

Goomalling Sport and Community Centre  
Cnr Quinlan and Hoddy Streets, Goomalling

Commencing - 10:00 AM  
(Registration from 9:30 am)

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## 1 OPENING, WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 1.1 Opening

Acknowledgment of Country - Cr Antonio provided the Acknowledgement of Country.

### 1.2 Welcome

Cr Julie Chester, President Shire of Goomalling welcomed the Zone to the Shire.

### 1.3 Announcements

### 1.4 Guest Speaker

Representatives from the Australian Bureau of Statistics attended the meeting and provided an update on the 2026 census and discussed local community considerations. Their presentation is **attached**. Key elements included:

- Recruitment phase for local officers field officer is [underway](#) and the ABS are seeking Local Government support to recruit these officers.
- Communication collateral will be available from the ABS for Local Governments to promote participation in the Census.
- The Zone requested mapping to show where there were lower numbers of responses in the last Census.

The ABS were invited to the June Zone meeting to follow up on the actions agreed. The Zone secretariat to consolidate issues / ideas to provide to ABS to improve data collection.

## 2 ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

### 2.1 Attendance

Delegates -

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Cr Chris Antonio   | Shire of Northam (Zone President)       |
| Cr Lincoln Stewart | Shire of Gingin (Zone Deputy President) |
| Cr David Dewar     | Shire of Chittering                     |
| Cr Keith Carter    | Shire of Dalwallinu                     |
| Cr Julie Chester   | Shire of Goomalling                     |
| Cr Ken Seymour     | Shire of Moora                          |
| Cr Suzanne Woods   | Shire of Victoria Plains                |
| Cr Denise Smythe   | Shire of York                           |

Observers -

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Ms Melinda Prinsloo  | CEO, Shire of Chittering                    |
| Mr Sam Dolzadelli    | CEO, Shire of Wongan-Ballidu                |
| Mr Sean Fletcher     | CEO, Shire of Victoria Plains               |
| Ms Alina Behan       | Temporary CEO, Shire of York                |
| Mr Samuel Bryce      | CEO, Shire of Goomalling                    |
| Cr Attila Mencshelyi | Shire of Northam                            |
| Cr Linda Balcombe    | Shire of Gingin                             |
| Cr Neil Smith        | Shire of Victoria Plains                    |
| Cr John Gibbons      | Shire of Goomalling                         |
| Cr Karen McGill      | Shire of Goomalling                         |
| Cr Mary Angus        | Shire of Chittering                         |
| Grant Arthur         | Wheatbelt Development Commission            |
| Ms Rebecca Brown     | Policy Manager Environment and Waste, WALGA |
| Ms Emma Haak         | Planning & Approvals Lead, CBH Group        |
| Mr Rowan Keilar      | ABS   |
| Mr Chukwuemeka Ajah  | ABS   |

## 2.2 Apologies

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Cr Stuart Boekeman    | Shire of Wongan-Ballidu                            |
| Cr Mandy Stephenson   | Shire of Wongan-Ballidu                            |
| Cr Tony O’Gorman      | Shire of Dandaragan                                |
| Cr Graham Lethlean    | Shire of Dandaragan                                |
| Cr Michael McKeown    | Shire of Toodyay                                   |
| Cr Julie Williams     | Shire of Northam                                   |
| Ms Debbie Terelinck   | Shire of Northam                                   |
| Mr James Bayliss      | A/CEO, Shire of Gingin                             |
| Mr Mohammad Siddqui   | Regional Director, Main Roads Wheatbelt            |
| Mr Sanjeev Gupta      | Project Development & Delivery Manager, Main Roads |
| Ms Tracey Peacock     | Road Safety Advisor, WALGA RoadWise                |
| Mr Lachlan Hunter MLA | Member for Central Wheatbelt                       |
| Hon Melissa Price MP  | Federal Member for Durack                          |
| Hon Sandra Carr MLC   | Member for the Agricultural Region                 |
| Ms Cathy North        | Water Corporation                                  |
| Mr Robert Dew         | Zone Executive Officer                             |

## 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Zone Delegates must declare to the Chair any potential conflict of interest they have in a matter before the Zone as soon as they become aware of it. Delegates 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 MINUTES

### 4.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Zone Meeting held 20 February 2026 at the Shire of Moora. Copies of these Minutes have been circulated to all member Councils.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held on 20 February 2026, as circulated, be confirmed.

Moved: Cr Denise Smythe

Seconded: Cr Ken Seymour

CARRIED

### 4.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

| Item  | Motion  | Comment   |
|---|---|---|
| August 2025<br>12.1 Advocacy for Better understanding by Hire Car users of Road Rules | That the Zone support the Shire of Gingin approaching the WA Local Government Association seeking advocacy to ensure a better understanding by users of hire cars (particularly international drivers) of traffic regulations and driving conditions in WA. | See <b>attachment</b> .<br><br>This matter is ongoing. WALGA to provide update at next meeting. |
| February 2026<br>9.1 Western Power Response and Mitigation Measures for               | That the Avon-Midland Country Zone endorse the Shire of Gingin’s advocacy   | This matter is ongoing. WALGA to provide an update at the next meeting.                         |

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Pole Top Fires in Rural Communities   | request and progress representation to the WA Local Government Association, Western Power, Department of Fire and Emergency Services.   |   |
| February 2026<br>9.2 Central Country Zone - Cost Shift Compliance Project       | That the Avon-Midland Country Zone survey its member local governments requesting examples of cost shifting with particular focus on issues over and above those set out in the Central Country Zone's Cost Shifting and Compliance Report. | The Zone discussed the project and agreed that a request for quote, including both the survey of members and the report.<br><br>Cr Smythe, Cr Stewart and Cr Antonio will review the quote before the request is made.<br><br><b>Recommendation</b><br>That the Zone seek a quote from a suitably qualified consultant to undertake a Cost Shifting Compliance project for the Zone.<br><br><b>Moved: Cr Denise Smythe</b><br><b>Seconded: Cr Lincoln Stewart</b><br><br><b>CARRIED</b> |
| February 2026<br>9.9 Request to Present – Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) | That the Avon-Midland Country Zone invites a deputation from the Australian Bureau of Statistics to attend the Zone's next meeting.   | COMPLETE. Presentation at this meeting.   |
| February 2026<br>10.1 National General Assembly 2026                            | By Consensus – That the matter of Zone delegates to the National General Assembly 2026 be listed for consideration at the Zone's next meeting.  | COMPLETE. See Item 9.1  |

## 5 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

### 5.1 WALGA State Council Agenda

Review of the Agenda for the State Council meeting to be held Thursday 7 May 2026. The Zone can provide comment or submit alternate recommendations to State Council for consideration.

The WALGA State Council Agenda is available [here](#).

#### (a) Matters for Decision

### 8.1 Protecting Council Member and Employee Privacy Advocacy Position

#### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse the following new Advocacy Position:

*Protecting Council Member and Employee Privacy*

*That WALGA advocates to the State Government to:*

- 1. Undertake a review of disclosure requirements for Local Government Council Members and employees under the Local Government Act 1995,*
- 2. Undertake the necessary legislative amendments to strike an appropriate balance between transparency, personal safety, and contemporary community expectations of privacy, including:*
  - a. Amend section 5.95(1) to prescribe that the right to inspect primary and annual returns contained in the register of financial interests under s.5.94(b) does not extend to the full residential address of the relevant person, and is instead limited to the suburb or locality.*
  - b. Amend Form 7 of the Local Government (Constitutional) Regulations 1998 to remove the requirement to disclose a full residential address when making the declaration of office.*

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- The South East Metropolitan Zone resolved to request WALGA advocate to amend s.5.95(1) of the *Local Government Act 1995* to specify that the right to inspect Primary and Annual Returns (Returns) contained in the Register of Financial Interests under s.5.94(b) does not extend to the residential address of the relevant person.
- Returns may include residential addresses, which are then made publicly accessible, creating privacy and safety risks.
- Council Members and employees are increasingly reluctant to disclose residential addresses due to safety and security risks, demonstrating that current legislation no longer aligns with contemporary expectations of privacy.
- Recent parliamentary scrutiny of similar requirements for Members of Parliament led to recommendations to remove full residential address disclosures, which the Government supported.
- In addition to Returns, Council Members must also provide a residential address when making their declaration of office.
- It would be appropriate for a review of all public disclosure requirements under the *Local Government Act 1995* to occur to ensure that they remain contemporary, effective, and aligned with modern standards of accountability and personal security.
- The Governance Policy Team endorsed the proposed advocacy position at its meeting on 23 March 2026

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That recommendations 8.1 be endorsed.**

**Moved: Cr Denise Smythe**

**Seconded: Cr Suzanne Woods**

**CARRIED**

## 8.2 Water Management Advocacy Position

### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council:

1. Endorse the following new Advocacy Position:

#### *Water Management*

1. *Access to consistent, reliable and adequate water supplies is critical for Local Government operations, including for community health, amenity, environmental sustainability and economic activity.*
  2. *WALGA is calling on the State Government to:*
    - a. *Modernise water management legislation and regulation, including:*
      - i. *undertaking a review of the water licensing and allocation system to ensure equitable access and prioritise high value community use including for public open space*
      - ii. *developing a state-wide framework for integrated regional and catchment-scale water planning.*
    - b. *Adequately, sustainably and equitably fund critical water infrastructure programs for Local Government, including:*
      - i. *drainage and irrigation upgrades*
      - ii. *alternative water sources (recycled water, stormwater harvesting, desalination and groundwater replenishment) and disused water asset transfer*
      - iii. *small-scale sewerage infrastructure headworks and infill sewerage.*
    - c. *Expand the Waterwise Council Program statewide and provide:*
      - i. *increased support and resources to assist Local Government in delivering water efficiency measures*
      - ii. *incentives for Local Governments to undertake water efficiency initiatives.*
    - d. *Improve water data access and capability for Local Governments to ensure evidence-based decision making.*
    - e. *Provide effective leadership, guidance, education and enforcement to address the impacts of stormwater runoff.*
2. Retires Advocacy Position 6.14 *Planning for Water.*

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A new Water Management Advocacy Position and the retirement of position 6.14 Planning for Water is proposed.
- The new Position has been developed following consultation and feedback on WALGA's *Water Management in Western Australia Discussion Paper*.
- 28 Local Governments provided more than 200 comments on the paper, with the main issues being:
  - equitable access to consistent and reliable water
  - water licensing and allocation
  - integrated regional and catchment-scale water planning
  - water for Public Open Space (POS)
  - funding
    - for critical infrastructure - drainage and irrigation, alternative water sources and sewerage infill and headworks.
    - for water efficiency and water sensitive urban design initiatives.
  - expanding and improving the Waterwise Council Program
  - access to data and information to inform decision making
  - addressing the impacts of stormwater runoff.
- The outcomes sought in 6.14 Planning for Water have been realised in the recently released State Planning Policy 2.9.

- The Environment Policy Team endorsed retiring the position and the new position at its meeting on 19 March 2026.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That recommendations 8.2 was endorsed, with the addition of 'emergency response' to the point 1 in the Advocacy Position.

1. *Access to consistent, reliable and adequate water supplies is critical for Local Government operations, including for **emergency response**, community health, amenity, environmental sustainability and economic activity.*

Moved: Cr Suzanne Woods

Seconded: Cr Denise Smythe

CARRIED

### 8.3 Off Roads Vehicle Advocacy Position

#### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council retire Advocacy Position 3.12 *Off Road Vehicles*.

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- It is proposed that Advocacy Position 3.12 Off Road Vehicles (ORV) be retired.
- The *Control of Vehicles (Off-road Vehicles) Act 1978* (the ORV Act) provides the legislative framework for the use of off-road vehicles within permitted areas in WA.
- Nine Local Governments own and maintain Off Road Vehicle (ORV) areas.
- Advocacy Position 3.12 Off Road Vehicles was adopted by State Council in 2018 in response to concerns from Members about the use of permitted ORV areas.
- Amendments to the ORV Act in 2025 address the core objectives of the ORV Advocacy Position, particularly as it relates to registration and enforcement.
- The retirement of the ORV Advocacy Position was endorsed by the People and Place Policy Team at its meeting on 19 March 2026.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That recommendations 8.3 be endorsed.

Moved: Cr Lincoln Stewart

Seconded: Cr Denise Smythe

CARRIED

### 8.4 Homelessness Advocacy Position

#### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council replace Advocacy Position 3.11 Homelessness with the following:

*WALGA calls on the Western Australian and Australian Governments to provide leadership, support and funding to prevent and respond to homelessness, in particular:*

1. *Ensuring specialist homelessness services are responsive to need, place-based and people-centred.*
2. *Investing in social and affordable housing and wraparound services.*

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- It is proposed that the 2019 Advocacy Position 3.11 Homelessness be updated.

- While responding to homelessness is a State and Australian Government responsibility, the impacts of homelessness intersect with multiple areas of Local Government service delivery and requires them to manage community expectations.
- Western Australian Local Governments are reporting increased numbers of people experiencing homelessness, including Local Governments that have historically experienced minimal impact.
- WALGA undertook a survey of Members in early 2026 to better understand the impact on the sector and inform a review of the current Advocacy Position.
- The updated Position reflects the sector's view that the Australian and Western Australian Government should provide leadership, support and funding to prevent and respond to homelessness, in particular specialist services, social and affordable housing and wraparound services.
- The People and Place Policy Team endorsed the revised position at its meeting on 19 March 2026.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That recommendations 8.4 be endorsed.

Moved: Cr Ken Seymour

Seconded: Cr Denise Smythe

**CARRIED**

**(b) Other State Council Agenda Items**

Delegates are invited to raise for discussion, questions or decision any of the items in the State Council Agenda including for Policy Team and Committee Reports, Matters for Noting / Information and Key Activity Reports

**Policy Team & Committee Reports**

- 9.1 Infrastructure Policy Team Report
- 9.2 People and Place Policy Team Report
- 9.3 Governance Policy Team Report
- 9.4 Environment Policy Team Report
- 9.5 Municipal Waste Advisory Council Report

**Matters for Noting/Information**

- 10.1 Flying Minutes for endorsement by State Council

**Key Activity Reports**

- 11.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Advocacy Portfolio
- 11.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure Portfolio
- 11.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Member Services Portfolio
- 11.1.4 Report on Key Activities, Policy Portfolio

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Policy Team and Committee Reports, Matters for Noting/Information and Key Activity Reports be noted.

Moved: Cr Julie Chester

Seconded: Cr Keith Carter

**CARRIED**

**5.2 WALGA President Report**

Presentation of the WALGA President's Report. The Report is available [here](#).

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the WALGA President's Report be received.

Moved: Cr Denise Smythe  
Seconded: Cr Julie Chester

CARRIED

5.3 Zone State Council Member Report

Presentation of State Councillor's report. **Attached** to the Agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

That the State Councillor's Report be received.

Moved: Cr Ken Seymour  
Seconded: Cr Denise Smythe

CARRIED

5.4 Zone Status Report

Report by WA Local Government Association on status of Zone resolutions for action by the Association – February 2026. Zone delegates are asked to review responses. **Attached** to Agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

That the April 2026 Status Report be received.

Moved: Cr Suzanne Woods  
Seconded: Cr Keith Carter

CARRIED

|                       |
|-----------------------|
| <b>6</b> ZONE REPORTS |
|-----------------------|

6.1 Zone President

Combined with Zone State Council Member Report (see Item 5.3).

6.2 Wheatbelt District Leadership Group

Cr Antonio provided a verbal update on the Wheatbelt District Leadership Group.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Report on the Wheatbelt District Leadership Group be received.

Moved: Cr Denise Smythe  
Seconded: Cr Keith Carter

CARRIED

6.3 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee

Report by Shelby Robinson, District Emergency Management Advisor, Wheatbelt & Goldfields-Esperance Regions. **Attached** to Agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Report on the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management be received.

Moved: Cr Lincoln Stewart  
Seconded: Cr Denise Smythe

CARRIED

#### 6.4 Wheatbelt Forum 2026

The Organising Committee for the Wheatbelt Forum 2026 met on Monday 9 March to progress the Forum. A draft Program has been developed and sponsorship options are being progressed.

For Noting.

### 7 AGENCY REPORTS

#### 7.1 Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety

A report provided by the Department was **attached** to the Agenda.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety report be received.

Moved: Cr Denise Smythe

Seconded: Cr David Dewar

CARRIED

#### 7.2 RDA Wheatbelt

No report.

#### 7.3 Transport Portfolio (Main Roads, Department of Transport, Public Transport Authority)

No report. Will be invited to August Zone meeting.

#### 7.4 RoadWise (Wheatbelt North)

Presentation of the RoadWise Report. **Attached** to Agenda.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the RoadWise report be received.

Moved: Cr Denise Smythe

Seconded: Cr Suzanne Woods

CARRIED

#### 7.5 Wheatbelt Development Commission

Grant Arthur from WDC provided a verbal report.

Shire of Chittering provided contact details for their Western Power Community engagement representative - Megan Brouwer - Senior Community Engagement Specialist  
Community and Stakeholders - [megan.brouwer@westernpower.com.au](mailto:megan.brouwer@westernpower.com.au)

### 8 FINANCE

#### 8.1 Financial Reports

Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Report for the period ending March 2026 was **attached** to the Agenda.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the financial reports for the period ending March 2026, as attached, be received.

Moved: Cr Denise Smythe

Seconded: Cr Ken Seymour

CARRIED

## 8.2 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts are submitted for payment –

| <u>Payee</u> | <u>For</u>                                       | <u>Amount</u>     |
|--------------|--|-------------------|
| R W & S Dew  | Secretarial Services to Zone – June 2026 Quarter | \$4,502.50        |
|              | Recoup Starlink Service – Standby Fee            | \$33.50           |
|              | TOTAL (no GST)                                   | <u>\$4,536.00</u> |

### RECOMMENDATION

That the accounts as listed totalling \$4,536.00 be approved for payment.

Moved: Cr Ken Seymour

Seconded: Cr Denise Smythe

CARRIED

## 9 ZONE BUSINESS

### 9.1 ALGA National General Assembly – Avon Midland Zone Delegate

#### BACKGROUND

At the February 2026 meeting the Zone agreed to consider this matter at the April meeting. The ALGA Annual General Assembly runs from Tuesday 23 June – Thursday 25 June. Early bird registration closes 30 April.

Based on the [early bird registration](#), attendance at the Regional Forum and Networking event, airfares and accommodation cost to attend it \$5,000. This is the amount the Zone has budgeted for this expense.

#### COMMENT

Early bird registration for the NGA closes on 30 April 2026, to ensure the Zone is able to take advantage of this, and reasonable flight costs, it is proposed that the Local Government the delegate is from pay for the registration and book the flights / accommodation then invoice the Zone for the payment. As prices for flights are increasing due to rising fuel costs/uncertainty, it is recommended that the Zone approve an additional \$500 as a contingency for any cost changes.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the Avon-Midland Country Zone endorse:

1. Cr Lincoln Stewart to attend the ALGA National General Assembly on behalf of the Avon Midland Country Zone.
2. Expenditure of up to \$5,500 for registration, flights and accommodation.

Moved: Cr Denise Smythe

Seconded: Cr Keith Carter

CARRIED

Cr Lincoln Stewart requested that any issues or key stakeholders to engage with be provided by the Zone, to assist with maximising his participation in the event.

### 9.2 National Local Government Professionals – Leader Networking

#### BACKGROUND

During the ALGA NGA, the National Local Government Professionals - Leaders Networking Event is also occurring.

- Date & Time: Wednesday, 24 June 2026 | 5.00pm for a 5.30pm start and concludes at 7.00pm

- Location: The Crowne Plaza Canberra.

This event is for Local Government CEOs and senior staff only.

#### Comment

This event is an opportunity for Local Government CEOs and senior staff from across the country to gather. The event is designed to encourage meaningful conversation, idea-sharing and building connections that can support the work and strategic goals of Local Government.

For noting.

### 9.3 Consultation on Draft Climate Change Advocacy Position

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA is undertaking sector consultation on a revised draft Climate Change Advocacy Position.
- This draft position was developed following initial consultation, consideration by State Council in March 2025 and feedback from the Environment Policy Team of State Council.
- WALGA is seeking **Council endorsed feedback by 1 May 2026**.

#### POLICY IMPLICATIONS

WALGA's 2018 Climate Change [Policy Statement](#) and Advocacy Position state:

Local Government acknowledges:

1. The science is clear: Climate change is occurring and greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are the dominant cause.
2. Climate change threatens human societies and the Earth's ecosystems.
3. Urgent action is required to reduce emissions, and to adapt to the impacts from climate change that are now unavoidable.
4. A failure to adequately address this climate change emergency places an unacceptable burden on future generations.

Local Government is committed to addressing climate change.

Local Government is calling for:

1. Strong climate change action, leadership and coordination at all levels of government.
2. Effective and adequately funded Commonwealth and State Government climate change policies and programs.

July 2018 – 72.5/2018

The draft Advocacy Position in the Consultation Paper is:

1. Local Government acknowledges the risks associated with, and is committed to, addressing climate change.
2. WALGA calls on the Australian and Western Australian Governments to provide:
  - a. the necessary climate leadership, coordination and action to ensure an orderly transition to achieve emission reduction targets and address the impacts of climate change
  - b. dedicated funding, guidance and practical support to assist Local Governments to undertake emissions reduction and adaptation actions.

#### ATTACHMENT

The WALGA Climate Change Advocacy Position Consultation Paper is available [online](#).

#### BACKGROUND

Climate change, and related legislation, policy and action, have implications for many aspects of Local Governments' operations and services. More frequent and severe droughts, heatwaves, bushfires, extreme rainfall events and warming, rising sea levels are increasing the costs and complexity of delivering critical services, infrastructure and ensuring community wellbeing.

In 2018, State Council endorsed a [Climate Change Policy Statement](#) and advocacy position, following extensive sector consultation. Since this Advocacy Position was adopted there have been significant legislative, policy, technological and scientific changes, including:

- The national Climate Change Act 2022 and the Western Australian Climate Change Bill 2023.
- The Local Government Amendment Act 2023, which expanded Western Australian Local Governments' general function under Part 3 s3.1(1A) of the Local Government Act 1995 to:
  - a. to promote the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the district; and
  - b. **to plan for, and to plan for mitigating, risks associated with climate change**; and
  - c. in making decisions, to consider potential long-term consequences and impacts on future generations.
- The release of the Australian Government's [National Climate Risk Assessment](#) and [National Adaptation Plan](#) in 2025.
- Escalation of the transition to renewable energy, uptake of electric vehicles and energy efficiency standards under the National Construction Code.
- Climate science and projections ([international](#), [national](#) and [WA specific](#)) have also become clearer regarding the risks posed by climate change and the need for action to address the consequential impacts.

#### COMMENT

Following initial consultation, consideration by State Council in March 2025 and feedback from the Environment Policy Team, WALGA has developed a revised, draft Climate Change Advocacy Position for Local Government feedback which is currently out for consultation with feedback due by 1 May 2026. WALGA has received feedback from some Councils and understands a number of Councils will be considering this matter in April. Zone delegates are encouraged to take this item to their Councils.

The Central Country Zone passed a motion at its February 2026 meeting which included writing to all other zones highlighting its alternative Advocacy Position (proposed in March 2025). WALGA worked to incorporate the Central Country Zone feedback prior to the release of the Consultation Paper.

WALGA is seeking **Council endorsed feedback** on the draft Climate Change Advocacy Position by **COB Friday, 1 May 2026**. Feedback should be provided to [environment@walga.asn.au](mailto:environment@walga.asn.au).

Following consideration of this feedback a final draft Advocacy Position will be developed and provided to zones and State Council for consideration.

For noting.

### 10 URGENT BUSINESS (as permitted by the Presiding Member)

#### 10.1 Wheatbelt Futures Forum

The [Wheatbelt Futures Forum](#) will be held on Friday 1 May. Members are encouraged to attend.

#### 10.2 Matters from other Zones

Two items were brought to the meetings attention:

- Forest Products Commission (FPC) "Rates-Equivalent" Payments Diverted to State Treasury – Immediate Local Government Budget Impacts (2025/26)
- RAV Network Accredited Mass Management Scheme (Level 3) – Ministerial Decision Enabling Heavier Loads on Selected Local Roads

These items are **attached**.

### 11 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Brief comments by Members of Parliament. No members present.

## **12** DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Future meetings of the Zone are scheduled for –

|                  |                                       |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 19 June 2026     | Shire of Gingin                       |
| 20 August 2026   | Video Conference                      |
| 21 August 2026   | Shire of Chittering (Wheatbelt Forum) |
| 20 November 2026 | Shire of Toodyay                      |

For the November meeting, Murray Carter, Executive Director of DFES has confirmed attendance.

### RECOMMENDATION

- (1)** That the next ordinary meeting of the Zone be held 19 June 2026 and be hosted by the Shire of Gingin.
- (2)** That video conference facilities not be available for the Zone meeting to be held 19 June 2026.
- (3)** That the Australian Bureau of Statistics be invited to present at the 19 June 2026 Meeting.

Moved: Cr Julie Chester

Seconded: Cr Ken Seymour

CARRIED

## **13** CLOSURE