



# CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE

## Minutes

**Friday 31 August 2018  
Wickepin Community Centre  
Campbell Street Wickepin**

**Commencing at 9.33am**

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# Minutes

## Central Country Zone of WALGA

Friday 31 August 2018, commencing at 9.33am

### 1.0 OPENING AND WELCOME

#### 1.1 Election of Chair

As Cr Conley (President) and Cr McGuinness (Deputy President) are unable to attend this meeting it will be necessary to elect a Chair for this meeting.

Executive Officer called for nominations for the position of Chair

Cr De Landgraft nominated by Cr Russell

No further nominations Cr De Landgraft was elected

Cr De Landgraft welcomed all to the Meeting and invited Cr Russell, President Shire of Wickepin to extend a welcome to delegates and guests.

Cr Russell's welcome is provided below.

#### Welcome

#### Central Country Zone - Wickepin 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2018

*Welcome to Everyone.*

*It gives me Great Pleasure to welcome you all to the Shire of Wickepin.*

*The Wickepin Agricultural lands were opened for settlement in 1893, the locality of Wickepin beginning as a watering point known as "Yarling" and used by the Sandalwood cutters. With the expansion of the Great Southern Rail the townsite of Wickepin was officially gazetted in 1908, as an important service centre for grain and sheep farming.*

*Our shire incorporates the farming communities of Wickepin, Yealering, Harrismith and Tincurrin; is 210km from Perth; covers approximately 1989 sq kms; and has 157km of sealed roads and 717km of unsealed roads. What is known as "Tank Hill" just to the west of Wickepin townsite is the junction of 3 water catchment areas – the Murray (west-Hotham River System), the Blackwood (south) and the Avon (Yarling Brook-NE to Yealering-Swan River), and so is known as "The Watershed".*

*Townsites within the shire are Yealering- which is nestled next to the picturesque Lake Yealering, and home to a wide variety of bird life; Harrismith – which is internationally recognised for a wide variety of unique wildflowers including orchids, verticordias, grevilleas and banksias, a Photographer's delight; Tincurrin – originally a rail siding which grew to service the growing farming area and is also home to wildflowers, especially verticordia, and is close by to Lake Toolibin, the largest remaining freshwater wetland in the wheatbelt area of WA; and of course Wickepin.*

*Although primary production of mixed grains, sheep and cattle are still the predominant source of income to our shire residents, Community events and Tourism are focal points for our Council and there are a number of annual and bi-annual events held which I will brief here.*

*The Albert Facey Homestead is located in the main street of Wickepin, re-located from a farm property in 2000, and has been lovingly restored to reflect the harsh and simple lifestyle of the pioneers of the district in the early 1920's, and which also celebrates the life of Albert Facey, author of the bestselling autobiography A Fortunate Life.*

Each year around October the Avon and Hills Carriage Driving club combine with three other Harness clubs (Albany Club, Murray & Districts Club, & the West Australian Harness Society) at the Community Centre Grounds in Wickepin for a weekend of (horse harness) Pleasure Driving. They spend the weekend within the town for the Shire residents to watch and then do pleasure drives through the back roads.

The annual ANZAC Day Ceremony is held on 25 April, and is always very well attended by locals and visitors.

The Bi-annual Wickepin Art Prize attracts around 170 artists from around the Shire, the South West and Perth. The Art Prize includes the 'Arty Party' opening night, with entertainment- and the 'Feast on Art' long table lunch held amongst the artworks on Sunday. The top prize of art is acquired by the Shire, and this year the Art Show is being run in conjunction with the Facey Festival in October.

The Town Hall floor is polished annually when The Campfire Country duo, David and Therese Higgins, come to Wickepin for a weekend in June. An Old Time Dance including line-dancing, new vogue and square dancing is held on Friday night. Saturday and the evening includes a country music concert and dancing. Dancers take to the floor on Sunday, learning new steps before heading off. Around 90 caravans swell the ranks of the Wickepin Shire for 4 days of the event.

Following the completion of the Yealering & Wickepin cemeteries, work has commenced on an upgrade to the Harrismith cemetery and niche wall.

Johnston Park Healthy Community Precinct, in the heart of Wickepin, is alongside the Health Centre. Exercise equipment is for all ages and all stages of fitness, and has been grouped ready for a work-out. Exercise plans have been created for those who need some inspiration.

The WW1 Commemorative Tribute was possible through funding from the Department of Veteran Affairs Anzac Centenary Local Grants Program and Rick Wilson, MP. The photographic visual fence was installed as a solution to visitors accidentally stepping off the edge and was created using images relevant to the Fallen who are honoured in this Commemorative Tribute. A large percentage of local soldiers killed in WW1 were members of the 10th Light Horse Brigade. The Shire will be holding a memorial service on November 11<sup>th</sup> to commemorate Armistice Day, and the Centenary of the end of WW1.

The Shire of Wickepin engaged consultants TPG to create informative signs for the walk trails in Wickepin, Yealering and Harrismith, focussing on heritage sites and points of interest. The She Shed / He Shed group, with support from the Shire of Wickepin, created artworks out of recycled metal and machinery parts, as sculptural points of interest, along the trail in Wickepin. Sculpture Workshops, facilitated by different artists on occasion, were held where community members were taught different sculptural techniques over a few weekends and one example of "the creations" made by the participants is the 'Bird Park', which consists of birds from the bushland sitting on top of 12 local recycled electricity poles, blackened to resemble burnt tree stumps.

I hope you will have time to drive around our town and enjoy some of these sights. Once again, Welcome to the Shire of Wickepin, and Enjoy today's meeting.

## **2.0 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

### **Attendance**

Cr Jeanette De Landgraftt (Chair)  
Cr Chris Pepper  
Cr David White  
Mr Stephen Gollan  
Cr Neil Walker  
Cr Kim Mills  
Mr Ian D'Arcy  
Cr Lyn Baker  
Ms Natalie Manton  
Cr Eliza Dowling  
Mr Gary Sherry

President, Shire of Lake Grace  
Deputy President, Shire of Beverley  
Councillor, Shire of Beverley  
CEO, Shire of Beverley  
Deputy President, Shire of Brookton  
Councillor, Shire of Brookton  
CEO, Shire of Brookton  
President, Shire of Corrigin  
CEO, Shire of Corrigin  
Deputy President, Shire of Cuballing  
CEO, Shire of Cuballing

Cr Marilyn Hasleby	Councillor, Shire of Dumbleyung
Cr Catherine Watkins	Councillor, Shire of Dumbleyung
Mr Matthew Gilfellon	CEO, Shire of Dumbleyung
Cr Rodney Duckworth	Deputy President, Shire of Kulin
Mr Noel Mason	CEO, Shire of Kulin
Cr Steve Hunt	Deputy President, Shire of Lake Grace
Ms Denise Gobbart	CEO, Shire of Lake Grace
Cr Tim Weise	Deputy President, Shire of Narrogin
Mr Dale Stewart	CEO, Shire of Narrogin
Cr Wayne Davies	President, Shire of Quairading
Cr Ron Walker	Councillor, Shire of Wagin
Cr Bryan Kilpatrick	Councillor, Shire of Wagin
Mr Brian Roderick	A/CEO, Shire of Wagin
Cr Ian Turton	Councillor, Shire of Wandering
Ms Amanda O'Halloran	CEO, Shire of Wandering
Cr Ray Harrington	President, Shire of West Arthur
Cr Alan Blencowe	Councillor, Shire of West Arthur
Ms Nicole Wasmann	CEO, Shire of West Arthur
Cr Julie Russell	President, Shire of Wickepin
Cr Allan Lansdell	Councillor, Shire of Wickepin
Mr Mark Hook	CEO, Shire of Wickepin
Cr Jarrad Logie	Deputy President, Shire of Williams
Mr Geoff McKeown	CEO, Shire of Narrogin

Mr Bruce Wittber, Joint Executive Officer

### **WALGA Representatives**

Mr Ian Duncan, Executive Manager, Infrastructure  
 Mr Zac Donovan, Executive Manager Finance and Marketing

### **Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries**

Dr Ken Parker Principal Strategy Officer, Local Government

### **Guests**

Mr Rick Wilson MP	Member for O'Connor (entered the meeting at 11.03am)
Mr Craig Manton	Regional Manager, Wheatbelt Region Main Roads WA
Ms Louise Adamson	Operations Manager, MRWA Central Wheatbelt Region
Ms Mandy Walker	Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt Inc

### **Apologies**

Cr Dee Ridgway	President, Shire of Beverley
Cr Katrina Crute	President, Shire of Brookton
Cr Mark Conley	President, Shire of Cuballing
Cr Barry West	President, Shire of Kulin
President Leigh Ballard	President, Shire of Narrogin
Cr Brett McGuinness	Deputy President, Shire of Quairading
Cr Jill McCrae	Councillor, Shire of Quairading
Mr Graeme Fardon	CEO, Shire of Quairading
Cr Phillip Blight	President, Shire of Wagin
Mr Peter Webster	CEO, Shire of Wagin
Cr Brendan Whitely	President, Shire of Wandering
Cr Chad Ferguson	Deputy President, Shire of Wandering
Cr John Cowcher	President, Shire of Williams

Shire of Pingelly

Hon Mia Davies MLA	Member for Central Wheatbelt
Hon Martin Aldridge MLC	Member for Agricultural Region
Hon Jim Chown MLC	Member for Agricultural Region

Hon Colin De Grussa MLC  
Hon Laurie Graham MLC  
Hon Rick Mazza MLC  
Mr Peter Rundle MLA

Member for Agricultural Region  
Member for Agricultural Region  
Member for Agricultural Region  
Member for Roe

Mr Luke Stevens

Senior Legislation and Strategy Officer, Department of Local  
Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

### **3.0 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Nil

### **4.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Nil

## 5.0 GUEST SPEAKERS

### 5.1 Outcome of the *Local Government Act 1995* Review - Phase 1 – Dr Ken Parker, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (9.30am)

A consultation paper relating to *Local Government Act 1995* Review - Phase 1 was released in November 2017 following which the Zone established a Working Group to prepare a submission to the review.

On 1 August 2018, the Minister for Local Government announced the Phase 1 reforms which have been developed as a result of consultation with the local government sector and broader community. Drafting for the reforms will now commence to prepare a Bill to amend the *Local Government Act 1995*.

The focus of the reforms is on building the capacity of council members and giving them the tools to be able to carry out their complex role in a way that meets community expectations.

Key changes to be implemented under Phase 1 include:

#### Gifts

- Council members and CEOs will be prohibited from receiving gifts that are intended to influence decision-making or a perceived conflict of interest
- Gifts received by council members and CEOs in their official role valued at \$300 or more must be declared within 10 days of receipt
- Council members will have to declare a conflict of interest if they have received a gift or gifts over \$300 from any person who has a matter come before council. They will not be able to vote on the matter or participate in the meeting.

#### Universal training

- Online induction for candidates so they better understand the role of a council member and laws covering election campaigning
- Formal training for all council members to be completed within 12 months of election
- A requirement for councils to develop and report on a continuing professional development program for elected members.

#### Standards of behaviour

- Introduction of a mandatory Code of Conduct applicable to all council members and candidates
- Greater transparency with adverse findings by the Standards Panel against a council member to be tabled at the council's next ordinary council meeting.

#### Improved access to information

- Flexibility for public notice requirements allowing new technologies to be used
- More information to be published on a local government's website
- CEO total benefits package and council member fees and allowances to be published in the local government's annual report.

#### CEO recruitment and performance review

- Minimum standards to be adopted by local governments for CEO recruitment, selection, performance review and termination.

A number of out-of-date provisions will also be removed to improve administrative efficiencies and reduce red tape for local governments.

A copy of the information sheets released can be accessed on the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries website

<https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/localgovernment/strengthening/Pages/LG-Act-Review.aspx>

Ken Parker from the Department will give a presentation on the outcome of the Phase 1 Review.

**5.2 Introduction and Update RDA Wheatbelt - Ms Mandy Walker, Director  
Regional Development RDA Wheatbelt Inc (10.00am)**

Providing an opportunity for Mandy Walker the new Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt Inc to introduce herself and make a short presentation on the activities of the RDA Wheatbelt.

## 6.0 MINUTES

### 6.1 Confirmation of Minutes – Friday 22 June 2018 (Attachment)

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Central Country Zone held Friday 22 June 2018 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

**RESOLUTION:**                      **Moved: Cr Russell**                      **Seconded: Cr Hunt**

**That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Central Country Zone held Friday 22 June 2018 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.**

**CARRIED**

### 6.2 Business Arising from Minutes Zone Meeting Friday 22 June 2018

#### 6.2.1 Item 12.1 - Government Regional Officer Housing Rent (GROH) (Attachment)

At the Central Country Zone meeting on Friday 22 June 2018, Dale Stewart CEO, Shire of Narrogin raised the issue of the increase in rent for GROH houses and enquired whether the matter had previously been considered by the Zone and/or WALGA.

The meeting agreed that the Executive Officer would extend an invitation to GROH to attend the next in-person Zone Meeting.

An invitation was extended to a representative of GROH however they were unable to attend this meeting, but did offer to come in via teleconference. Given past poor experience with having a presentation via teleconference that suggestion was not supported.

GROH offered to attend another meeting depending upon the date however in an email discussion with Cr Conley it was felt that as this issue was topical at the moment and a delay may not be in the Zone's interest.

The Executive Officer also raised the issue of having a representative of GROH at the meeting with Hon Laurie Graham MLC to see if he was able to assist.

In a similar discussion around rents last year the Great Eastern Country Zone was advised of the following information in relation to GROH rents:

- *The Housing Authority does not hold information on what rent is being charged to each tenant. The administration of rent charged to tenants is undertaken by the employing government agency.*
- *Prior to the introduction of the Tenant Rent Setting Framework Policy (the Policy) in 2000, GROH tenants were charged a flat rate based on the style of accommodation. This method did not allow for any differentiation between locations.*
- *The Policy allows discounts for distances from Perth, the regional centre, the coast and for the town amenity level.*
- *The Policy is linked to the Perth median rent as assessed by the Real Estate Institute of Western Australia, as the basis for calculating the maximum rent that Government agencies can recoup from employees in GROH accommodation.*
- *The Perth median rent provides a single, reliable source of data that can be obtained and administered more easily than alternative data sources, such as multiple regional rental data. This allows a consistent method of calculation that can be applied across the state.*
- *The discounts based on location are then applied to calculate a subsidised rent for government employees living in regional locations.*

- *GROH rent is not calculated as a portion of employees' salary. Instead the Policy establishes the maximum rent that government agencies can charge their employees residing in a GROH property.*
- *The Policy has a restriction to increase employee rent in July each year by not more than \$30 per week per annum.*
- *Where the assessed employee rent is higher than the rent paid by the GROH client agencies, the employee rent is restricted to the weekly amount paid by the GROH client agency.*
- *Agencies can include GROH additional fees & charges in their calculation of employees' rent (eg furniture fees).*
- *Where Housing becomes aware that GROH tenants are being charged rent that is higher than the indicative market rate for their location, these cases will be investigated and the issue raised with the relevant agency.*
- *Government agencies can offer further incentives to their employees in the form of an additional decrease in tenant rents. Agencies can also decide not to charge employee rent in localities that are difficult to staff.*
- *Housing has forecast a potential reduction in the maximum rent for the 2017-18 financial year based on current market conditions, however the actual rent charged to tenants will be set by the employing agency.*

A copy of the GROH Tenant Rent Setting Framework Policy (January 2017) [accessed [www.housing.wa.gov.au](http://www.housing.wa.gov.au) on 22 August 2018] is attached for the Zone's information. Based on the Tenant Rent Setting Framework Policy, Appendix A of the document lists the discounts applicable to locations around the state.

The matter is submitted for the Zone's consideration of any further action.

**Noted**

**10.35am Meeting adjourned for morning tea**

**10.58am Meeting resumed following morning tea**

<p><b>6.3 Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting – Wednesday 15 August 2018 (Attachment)</b></p>
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Presenting the minutes of the Executive Meeting held on Wednesday 15 August 2018.

**Executive Officer Comment:**

Any recommendations from the meeting are included as separate agenda items.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee held Wednesday 15 August 2018 be received.

**RESOLUTION:                      Moved: Cr Watkins                      Seconded: Cr Baker**

**That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee held Wednesday 15 August 2018 be received.**

**CARRIED**

## 7.0 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (WALGA) BUSINESS

*Zone delegates to consider the Matters for Decision contained in the WA Local Government Association State Council Agenda and put forward resolutions to Zone Representatives on State Council*

### 7.1 State Councillor Report (Attachment)

Cr Phillip Blight

### 7.2 WALGA Status Report (Attachment)

From Executive Officer

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Presenting the status report for August 2018

The Executive Officer advised that he had sought further details from WALGA in relation to 23 February 2018, Zone Agenda Item 10.4 - Restructure Department of Fire and Emergency Services and had been advised as follows:

*WALGA can advise the zone that as at 1 July, the Office of Emergency Management merged with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) under Machinery of Government changes announced last year.*

*The State Recovery Coordinator (SRC) responsibilities have been handed over to the newly created role of Assistant Commissioner Resilience and Recovery within the Strategy and Emergency Management Command in DFES.*

*This role will initially be headed up by Acting Assistant Commissioner Rick Curtis from DFES.*

#### **Points of Contact within the Recovery Team are as follows:**

*For SRC, strategic oversight and executive level issues –*

*A/Assistant Commissioner*

#### **Ricky Curtis**

*T: (08) 9395 9400, M: 0409 287 396, E: [Ricky.Curtis@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:Ricky.Curtis@dfes.wa.gov.au)*

*For broad operational issues and those pertaining specifically to the new Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements –*

#### **Katherine Clarke**

*T (08) 6551 4006 E: [katherine.clarke@oem.wa.gov.au](mailto:katherine.clarke@oem.wa.gov.au)*

*For WANDRRA issues and claims information –*

**Graham Capper** *T (08) 6551 4034, M: 0402 833 574 E: [Graham.Capper@oem.wa.gov.au](mailto:Graham.Capper@oem.wa.gov.au),*

**Terry Asher** *T (08) 6551 4041, M 0403 774 608 E: [terry.asher@oem.wa.gov.au](mailto:terry.asher@oem.wa.gov.au)*

*For community recovery issues –*

#### **Karen Edmeades**

*T: (08) 6551 4053 | M: 0438 040 814 E: [karen.edmeades@oem.wa.gov.au](mailto:karen.edmeades@oem.wa.gov.au)*

*For policy and ministerial issues –*

#### **Loren Bebich**

*T (08) 6551 4039 E: [loren.bebich@oem.wa.gov.au](mailto:loren.bebich@oem.wa.gov.au)*

*For administrative questions –*

**Ela Desmarchelier**

T (08) 6551 4052 E: [ela.desmarchelier@oem.wa.gov.au](mailto:ela.desmarchelier@oem.wa.gov.au)

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Central Country Zone notes the:

- State Councillor Report; and
- WALGA Status Report.

**RESOLUTION:**                      **Moved: Cr Baker**                      **Seconded: Cr Hunt**

**That the Central Country Zone notes the:**

- **State Councillor Report; and**
- **WALGA Status Report.**

**CARRIED**

<b>7.3 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Decision</b>
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From                      Executive Officer

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

**5.1 Local Government Act Review (05-034-01-0001 TB/JM)**

**WALGA Recommendation**

That WALGA:

1. Support the policy positions announced by the Minister for Local Government relating to phase 1 of the Local Government Act review process in relation to:
  - a. Acceptance and declaration of gifts;
  - b. Universal training;
  - c. Standards of behaviour;
  - d. CEO Recruitment and Performance;
  - e. Public notices and access to information; and,
  - f. Administrative efficiencies.
2. Seek a formal commitment from the Minister for Local Government that WALGA and Local Government Professionals WA now actively participate in the legislative drafting process to develop the Local Government Amendment Bill relating to Phase 1 of the Review;
3. Note the process for phase 2 of the Act review process and encourage Local Governments and Zones to provide input; and,
4. Acknowledge the timely progress of the Local Government Act Review and the Minister for Local Government's ongoing prioritisation of the Review within his portfolio of responsibilities.

**ZONE COMMENT:**

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries will present to the Zone details of the outcomes of the Local Government Act Review Phase 1.

A copy of the information sheets released can be accessed on the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries website

Council delegates are encouraged to read the outcomes so that they are familiar with the details in order to seek clarification from the Department representative should that be necessary.

Zone supports the WALGA recommendation

## 5.2 Stop Puppy Farming – Local Government Consultation (05-034-01-0001 JM)

### WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA:

1. Welcomes a cost modelling review of the financial impact on Local Governments of any new legislation to Stop Puppy Farming;
2. Acknowledges the benefit of mandatory de-sexing of dogs not used for approved breeding purposes;
3. Supports a centralised dog registration system that is developed, operated and maintained by State Government;
4. Supports the introduction of compulsory registration of dog breeders;
5. Supports appropriate legislative exemptions for livestock working dogs in recognition of their special breeding requirements; and
6. Supports the transition of pet shops to adoption centres.

### ZONE COMMENT:

The WALGA State Council Agenda includes considerable detail on the consultation that has been undertaken with the sector. The development of legislation around the “Stop Puppy Farming” policy has the potential to have an impact on local government operations and Zone delegates should be aware of the relevant consequences of the proposals.

Cr Blight has submitted the following suggested changes (underlined) to the recommendation:

That WALGA:

1. Requests that prior to any changes to the WA Dog Act being implemented, that a full review of compliance to and management of the Animal Welfare Act by those bodies charged with its administration, be conducted;
2. Supports a cost modelling review of the financial impact on Local Governments of any changes to the Dog Act and reserves the right to review its position subject to the outcome of this review and of the above review of the Welfare Act;
3. Acknowledges the benefit of de-sexing of dogs;
4. Supports a centralised dog registration system that is developed, operated and maintained by State Government;
5. Does not support the introduction of compulsory registration of dog breeders. Given the impossible task of policing this in the vast tracts of regional WA;
6. Supports appropriate legislative exemptions for livestock working dogs in recognition of their special breeding requirements;
7. Does not support the transition of pet shops to adoption centres; and
8. Requests that working group desist from using the word **farming** in a derogatory manner.

### RECOMMENDATION:

That the WALGA recommendation be amended to read as follows:

That WALGA:

1. Requests that prior to any changes to the WA Dog Act being implemented, that a full review of compliance to and management of the Animal Welfare Act by those bodies charged with its administration, be conducted;
2. Supports a cost modelling review of the financial impact on Local Governments of any changes to the Dog Act and reserves the right to review its position subject to the outcome of this review and of the above review of the Welfare Act;

3. Acknowledges the benefit of de-sexing of dogs;
4. Supports a centralised dog registration system that is developed, operated and maintained by State Government;
5. Does not support the introduction of compulsory registration of dog breeders. Given the impossible task of policing this in the vast tracts of regional WA;
6. Supports appropriate legislative exemptions for livestock working dogs in recognition of their special breeding requirements;
7. Does not support the transition of pet shops to adoption centres; and
8. Requests that working group desist from using the word **farming** in a derogatory manner.

**RESOLUTION:**                      **Moved: Cr Ron Walker**                      **Seconded: Cr Russell**

**That WALGA:**

1. Requests that prior to any changes to the WA Dog Act being implemented, that a full review of compliance to and management of the Animal Welfare Act by those bodies charged with its administration, be conducted;
2. Supports a cost modelling review of the financial impact on Local Governments of any changes to the Dog Act and reserves the right to review its position subject to the outcome of this review and of the above review of the Welfare Act;
3. Acknowledges the benefit of de-sexing of dogs;
4. Supports a centralised dog registration system that is developed, operated and maintained by State Government;
5. Does not support the introduction of compulsory registration of dog breeders. Given the impossible task of policing this in the vast tracts of regional WA;
6. Supports appropriate legislative exemptions for livestock working dogs in recognition of their special breeding requirements;
7. Does not support the transition of pet shops to adoption centres; and
8. Requests that working group desist from using the word farming in a derogatory manner.

**CARRIED**

11.03am Mr Rick Wilson MP entered the meeting

**5.3 Interim Submission on Green Paper – Modernising WA’s Planning System: Concepts for a Strategically Led System (05-047-02-0015 VJ)**

**WALGA Recommendation**

That the interim submission to the Independent Planning Reform Team’s Green Paper -Modernising WA’s Planning System: Concepts for a strategically-led system, be endorsed.

**ZONE COMMENT:**

Zone supports the WALGA recommendation

**5.4 Regional Health Services in Western Australia – Survey of Local Governments (05-031-01-0001 EDR)**

**WALGA Recommendation**

That the recommendations of the WALGA Regional Health Services in Western Australian Survey of Local Governments be endorsed.

**ZONE COMMENT:**

It is noted that a number of Zone Member Councils responded to the survey.

An extract from the Report identified the common themes.

*WALGA received 161 responses from 91 Local Governments. There were a diverse range of experiences expressed across all responses. However the following common themes emerged:*

1. **Workforce** challenges in recruiting and retaining doctors, nurses and allied health staff (health professionals).

2. **Distance** to travel to see a health professional.
3. **Access** to health professionals (Hours of operation or number of staff providing service).
4. **Aged care** services for people to stay within their region as they age are limited.

The survey recommendations referred to in the WALGA recommendation are as follows:

*It is the position of WALGA's members that the main and immediate tasks of the National Plan will be:*

1. *WALGA to continue to work with affected Local Governments and key stakeholders to address short to medium term solutions including investigating how other states/countries have addressed recruiting and retaining staff across diverse landscapes and report back to State Council as progress is made;*
2. *WALGA to continue to work with WA Health to advocate and prioritise regional health and the regional health workforce as a key strategic driver for change to ensure equitable access to health for all Western Australians;*
  - a. *To broker partnerships with WACHS, through WA Health, and other key stakeholders identified on the Area of Need database to identify and develop collaborative strategies to mitigate pathways for change; and*
3. *WALGA to develop a strong policy connection with Australia Local Government Association as a pathway for advocating for stronger regional health service options for specialised regional health workforces.*

#### **ZONE COMMENT:**

In the Executive Officer's view the recommendations are not strong enough. The Wheatbelt tends to receive little attention and when the Area of Need database is reviewed the reference to the Wheatbelt appears for Psychiatry Services in 2017, Radiology Services on 2015 along with general medical services also in 2015.

Prior to finalising a Zone position the Executive Officer has raised with the author of the Agenda item a question relating to the Area of Need database as it seems inadequate in its listing particularly in respect to the Wheatbelt.

At the time of finalising the agenda no response had been received so further information will need to be provided to the Zone meeting to enable a Zone position to be developed.

The Executive Officer advised he had received the following further information from WALGA:

*Thank you for your attention to the AoN database. We agree that the database is evidence of the inequalities of access to vital health service in regional locations. We also note the perceived versus actual experience of health service provision in the Wheatbelt which further supports the notion that there is a lot to be done to ensure health and safety measures are in place. There is a stringent methodology that supports the development of the AoN, and if the recommendation were to be endorsed across all Zones it would value add to the notion to have it reviewed more rigorously.*

*Together with reviewing the AoN there is a need to have a discussion around how WA Health conducts workforce planning and therein lies the potential to advocate for prioritisation of regional workforces.*

Zone supports the WALGA recommendation

#### **5.5 WA Foodborne Illness Reduction Strategy (05-031-01-0001 EDR)**

##### **WALGA Recommendation**

That the WA Food-borne Illness Reduction Strategy be endorsed.

##### **ZONE COMMENT:**

Zone supports the WALGA recommendation

## 5.6 Developing a National Plan on Elder Abuse – Interim Submission (05-086-03-0004 KD)

### WALGA Recommendation

That the recommendations of the WALGA Developing a National Plan on Elder Abuse – Interim Submission be endorsed.

### ZONE COMMENT:

The key recommendations from the WALGA submission are as follows:

*It is the position of WALGA's members that the main and immediate tasks of the National Plan will be:*

1. *Develop a legal position for the penalties to elder abuse that enables alignment of Local and State based legislative and policy development that strengthens collaborative approaches.*
2. *Alignment to current State based legislation defined through the Disability Services Act 1993 and localised Disability Access and Inclusion Plans.*
3. *Further research into Aboriginal communities, culturally and linguistically diverse communities and rural and remote localities<sup>4</sup>.*
4. *Strengthen access to information and development of supports through data outlined by Local Government boundaries.*
5. *Further consultation at a local level to occur and include:*
  - a. *Western Australian Access and Inclusion Network*
  - b. *Community Development Seniors Network*
  - c. *Western Australian community organisations and other operational stakeholders.*

Zone supports the WALGA recommendation

## 5.7 Vehicle Emissions (05-028-03-0004 MM)

### WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA:

1. Supports the consideration, where possible, of vehicle emissions during planning, designing and construction of large scale infrastructure projects.
2. Supports the consideration of vehicle emissions during the process of purchasing new fleet, in addition to fleet policies.
3. Supports the consideration of policies that facilitate the adoption of electric vehicles and electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
4. Advocates to the proposed Infrastructure Western Australia body, when it is established by the State Government, to consider vehicle emissions as part of the assessment process and cost-benefit analysis for projects.
5. Advocates to Infrastructure Australia to consider vehicle emissions such as particulate matter, other than greenhouse gas emissions, during the assessment of projects.
6. Advocates to State Government for the broader implementation of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation 'Clean Run' roadside emissions monitoring program, as a behaviour change initiative which has the potential to reduce fuel consumption.

### ZONE COMMENT:

Zone supports the WALGA recommendation.

## **5.8 Interim Submission to the Independent Review of the Strategic Assessment of the Perth and Peel Regions (05-036-03-0020 NM)**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

That the interim submission to the Independent Review of the Strategic Assessment of the Perth and Peel Regions be endorsed.

### **ZONE COMMENT:**

Zone supports the WALGA recommendation.

## **5.9 Interim Submission on Proposed new Biodiversity Conservation Regulations and Ministerial Guidelines (05-014-01-0002 MD)**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

That WALGA's interim submission to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions supporting the new Biodiversity Conservation Regulations and Ministerial Guidelines be endorsed.

### **ZONE COMMENT:**

It is noted in the item that DBCA released the Biodiversity Conservation Regulations and Ministerial Guidelines for public comment on 11 July with comments to be provided by 31 July.

Whilst WALGA was granted an extension until 10 August 2018 it was considered an insufficient timeframe to respond appropriately. The WALGA State Council report noted:

*DBCA did advise that comments could be received on the discussion notes and Ministerial Guidelines up until 30 September. Feedback provided at this later date would not be able to be incorporated in the BC Regulations prior to publication in mid-September, hence was not considered by WALGA to be genuine consultation. This issue was raised with DBCA, who recognised the limitations but were constrained by the timeframe under the Biodiversity Conservation Act to publish the Biodiversity Conservation Regulations.*

It does raise the question of where this consultation fits within the State and Local Government Partnership Agreement. In the submission WALGA made the following comment in relation to consultation process:

*In providing this submission, WALGA wishes to state at the outset that the 4 week timeframe provided by DBCA did not meet the 8 week consultation period with Local Governments as required under the State and Local Government Partnership Agreement signed by the Premier in August 2017. As such, the Association reserves the right to modify or withdraw this submission as directed by State Council, at the next meeting to be held on 6 September 2018. WALGA's expectation is that the State Government will consult with Local Government in accordance with the timeframes set out in the Partnership Agreement when regulations or other compliance requirements will have an impact on Local Governments responsibilities or operations.*

The Executive Officer is of the view that if the principles of the State and Local Government Partnership Agreement have not been adhered to then the appropriate Minister should be formally advised.

Zone supports the WALGA recommendation but would like to see some comment to the relevant Minister on the failure to meet the State and Local Government Partnership Agreement requirements.

## **5.10 2018 WALGA Annual General Meeting (01-003-02-0003 TL)**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

That:

1. The Motions passed by the 2018 Annual General Meeting be noted; and,
2. Items 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 be forwarded to the relevant State Council Policy Teams for action.

**ZONE COMMENT:**

It is noted that there is no time frame attached to when the relevant policy teams are to report back.

It is suggested that a part 3 be added as follows:

3. A report on the action taken in respect to Items 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 be presented to a State Council no later than the March 2019 State Council Meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the WALGA recommendation be amended to read as follows:

That:

1. The Motions passed by the 2018 Annual General Meeting be noted;
2. Items 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 be forwarded to the relevant State Council Policy Teams for action; and
3. A report on the action taken in respect to Items 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 be presented to a State Council no later than the March 2019 State Council Meeting.

**RESOLUTION:**                      **Moved: Cr Neil Walker**                      **Seconded: Cr Hasleby**

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**That the WALGA recommendation be amended to read as follows:**

That:

1. **The Motions passed by the 2018 Annual General Meeting be noted;**
2. **Items 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 be forwarded to the relevant State Council Policy Teams for action; and**
3. **A report on the action taken in respect to Items 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 be presented to a State Council no later than the March 2019 State Council Meeting.**

**CARRIED**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Central Country Zone endorses all recommendations being matters contained in the WALGA State Council Agenda other than those recommendations separately considered.

**RESOLUTION:**                      **Moved: Cr Baker**                      **Seconded: Cr Russell**

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**That the Central Country Zone endorses all recommendations being matters contained in the WALGA State Council Agenda other than those recommendations separately considered.**

**CARRIED**

## **7.4 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Noting/Information**

### **6.1 State and Local Government Partnership Agreement Update (04-001-03-0001 TL)**

#### **ZONE COMMENT:**

In providing an update it would have been helpful to identify areas where, in WALGA's opinion, the intent of the State and Local Government Partnership Agreement has not been met. Earlier in this agenda comment was made about the new Biodiversity Conservation Regulations and Ministerial Guidelines which would appear to have required an 8 week consultation period when only 4 weeks was given.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Central Country Zone notes the report on the State and Local Government Partnership Agreement and requests that WALGA in future update reports include details of where the intent of the State and Local Government Partnership Agreement has not been met and what action was taken to address the concern.

**RESOLUTION:**                      **Moved: Cr Baker**                      **Seconded: Cr Pepper**

**That the Central Country Zone notes the report on the State and Local Government Partnership Agreement and requests that WALGA in future update reports include details of where the intent of the State and Local Government Partnership Agreement has not been met and what action was taken to address the concern.**

**CARRIED**

### **6.2 Strata Titles Amendment Bill 2018 and the Community Titles Bill 2018 (05-047-01-0011 CH)**

### **6.3 Bicycle Share Schemes (05-005-03-0009 MM)**

### **6.4 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) (01-006-03-0008 RNB)**

## **7.5 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Organisational Reports**

### **7.1 Key Activity Reports**

#### **7.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Environment and Waste Unit (01-006-03-0017 MJB)**

#### **7.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Governance and Organisational Services (01-006-03-0007 TB) (Attachment)**

#### **7.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure (05-001-02-0003 ID)**

#### **7.1.4 Report on Key Activities, People and Places (01-006-03-0014 JB)**

## **7.6 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Policy Forum Reports**

### **7.2 Policy Forum Reports**

#### **7.2.1 Mayors/Presidents Policy Forum**

#### **7.2.2 Mining Community Policy Forum**

#### **7.2.3 Container Deposit Legislation Policy Forum**

## **7.7 WALGA President's Report**

Presenting the WALGA President's Report for September 2018.

The WALGA Presidents Report includes an item relating to the 2019/2020 State Budget Submission.

## **2019/20 State Budget Submission**

*Each year, WALGA prepares a submission to the State Government outlining the sectors' priorities for the upcoming budget. For WALGA's submission to be considered in the 2019-20 Budget process it must be submitted to Government in December 2018.*

*WALGA is inviting Local Governments' input as to what should be included in the Submission, together with specific examples to support these ideas.*

*The Productivity Commission has set out an important direction for States in planning their economic futures, the key themes of which provide an important indication of how our submission should be shaped. These included;*

- *More Efficient Government;*
- *Better Towns and Cities;*
- *Healthy Australians; and*
- *Future Skills and Work.*

*The final submission will be provided to the December State Council meeting for endorsement.*

This provides an opportunity for the Zone to submit any priorities that it may wish to have considered for inclusion in the WALGA State Budget Submission.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Central Country Zone notes, other than those recommendations separately considered, the following reports contained in the WALGA State Council Agenda:

- Matters for noting/Information;
- Organisational reports;
- Policy Forum reports; and
- WALGA President's Report.

**RESOLUTION:**                      **Moved: Cr Duckworth**                      **Seconded: Cr Harrington**

**That the Central Country Zone notes, other than those recommendations separately considered, the following reports contained in the WALGA State Council Agenda:**

- **Matters for noting/Information;**
- **Organisational reports;**
- **Policy Forum reports; and**
- **WALGA President's Report.**

**CARRIED**

## 8.0 FINANCE

Nil

## 9.00 ZONE REPORTS

### 9.1 Zone President's Report

Cr Mark Conley

### 9.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group

#### 9.2.1 Minutes of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group held on Monday 13 August 2018 (Attachment)

Presenting the minutes of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group held on Monday 13 August 2018.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group held on Monday 13 August 2018 be received.

**RESOLUTION:**                      **Moved: Cr Russell**                      **Seconded: Cr Baker**

**That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group held on Monday 13 August 2018 be received.**

**CARRIED**

#### 9.2.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Delegate Report

Presenting the Delegate's Report of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG) meeting held on Monday 13 August 2018.

#### **Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> August 2018**

#### **In Person meeting at WALGA**

- **Harvest Mass Management Scheme**

Main Roads have issued an update on the HMMS for this season, the biggest change is the requirement to have an agricultural pilot for ALL movements on unrated roads has been removed. It has been replaced with the requirement that Landowners & Transport Operators must apply to Main Roads to have an unrated road given Harvest approval. These applications will receive a desktop review and be permitted with conditions or not permitted. The Landowner must then supply that list to every truck that uses that road for them during harvest. There have been a number of documents circulated by Main Roads showing the process that is now required. It is important to remember this is ONLY for harvest and it is the responsibility of the landowner or transport operator to ensure they have permission to use that road, and it is only able to be used to access the NEAREST RAV rated road.

*If you need assistance with the Main Roads mapping tool to work out what roads are rated and unrated, I am happy to talk you through it over the phone.*

- **LG Agricultural Freight Group Terms of Reference**

The only change made was to add observers to the members of the group, this was to allow for Pastoralists & Graziers Association and WA Farmers Federation to be a part of the group in an observer capacity.

- **Main Roads – Local Government Road Access Conditions**

Main Roads are looking at removing the condition (CA07) Local Government Letter of Authority from the list of conditions that can be applied to Local Government RAV Rated roads. This has come about from the Solicitor General's office advising the letter is being used to leverage road contributions from operators, which LG's can't do. The feeling from the meeting was that whilst we acknowledge the Mining and Northwest of WA use the letter for a different purpose, in the AG region it is a condition that is haphazardly applied and the majority of Transport Operators don't obtain the Letter of Authority anyway, so removing it was seen as a good move. Acknowledging that LG's still need to know what the freight task is on their roads, but perhaps the Landowner is the applicant of an Access Letter not the Transport Operator.

- **Towed Ag Implements**

LGAFG did write to the Minister of Transport around the issues with the requirements for moving these implements on LG roads we as yet haven't received a response; the meeting decided that Brian Rayner from Toodyay would follow up with Darren West about the letter.

- **Department of Transport Revitalising Agricultural Regional Freight Strategy**

We are waiting on the first draft of the strategy to be released.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Delegate Report of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG) meeting held on Monday 13 August 2018 be received.

**RESOLUTION:**                      **Moved: Cr Davies**                      **Seconded: Cr Hasleby**

**That the Delegate Report of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG) meeting held on Monday 13 August 2018 be received.**

**CARRIED**

**9.2.3 Consideration of Recommendations from the Minutes of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group held on Monday 13 August 2018**

In presenting the minutes of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group held on Monday 13 August 2018 it is noted that the minutes include an item related to amending the Group's Terms of Reference.

The Zone is being requested to consider for endorsement the amendments to the Group's Terms of Reference as follows:

The amendments provide for -

- PGA of WA and WA Farmers to become non-voting participates on the Group.
- Deleting the President of WALGA as a formal member. When the Group was first formed the WALGA President was actively involved. In recent years the WALGA President involvement has diminished and they no longer attend meetings. The Group felt it was appropriate to remove the reference to the WALGA President. WALGA is represented by the Executive Manager for Infrastructure at an administration level.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Central Country Zone endorses the following amendments to the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Terms of Reference:

- PGA of WA and WA Farmers to become non-voting participates on the Group; and
- Deleting the President of WALGA as a formal member.

**RESOLUTION:**                      **Moved: Cr Turton**                      **Seconded: Cr Neil Walker**

**That the Central Country Zone endorses the following amendments to the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Terms of Reference:**

- **PGA of WA and WA Farmers to become non-voting participates on the Group; and**
- **Deleting the President of WALGA as a formal member**

**CARRIED**

### **9.3 Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC)**

President Ballard

No report

### **9.4 Wheatbelt South Regional Road Group**

Cr Katrina Crute, Chair of Wheatbelt South Regional Road Group

No report

## 10.0 ZONE BUSINESS - MEMBER COUNCIL MATTERS

### 10.1 Policy for Restricted Access Vehicles on Roads Not on an Approved Network during Harvest (Attachments)

**Reporting Officer:** Bruce Wittber, Executive Officer  
**Disclosure of Interest:** Nil  
**Date:** Amended 28 August 2018  
**Attachments:** Harvest Mass Management Scheme Business Rules and HMMS 5 Step Guide

#### Background:

At the last Zone Meeting on 22 June 2018 it was resolved in relation to this matter as follows:

*RESOLUTION: Moved: Cr Ridgway Secoded: Cr Davies*

*That the Zone Executive Committee be given delegated authority to develop an alternative WALGA Recommendation with the intent to remove WALGA's support for the use of pilot vehicles.*

CARRIED

At the Special Executive Committee Meeting on Thursday 28 June 2018 in considering the WALGA Agenda item *Policy for Restricted Access Vehicles on Roads Not on an Approved Network During Harvest* the Executive Committee resolved as follows:

*RESOLUTION: Moved: Cr Crute Secoded: Cr McGuinness*

*That the WALGA Recommendation be amended to read as follows:*

*That WALGA*

- 1. Subject to part 3 of this resolution, supports continuation of the Harvest Mass Management Scheme to enable heavy vehicles that meet the requirements of RAV 2, RAV 3 or RAV 4 to travel on roads not assessed for the RAV network between paddocks and the nearest RAV route during the harvest period.*
- 2. Advocate that any roads assessed on the initiative of Main Roads that do not meet the requirements for addition to the RAV network at the level used under the Harvest Mass Management Scheme remain unassessed for the purpose of network definition.*
- 3. Advise MRWA that any condition requiring an Agricultural Pilot to accompany the RAV combination to facilitate the movement between the paddock and the nearest RAV Network road, is not acceptable.*
- 4. Request Main Roads Heavy Vehicles Section to work with stakeholders in providing an alternative solution, prior to the 2018 harvest, to the proposed requirements for an Agricultural Pilot, on unassessed roads, that is within the legal boundaries and is acceptable to Industry.*

CARRIED

The resolution was forwarded to WALGA for inclusion in the State Council Agenda as the Central Country Zone's response.

The formal State Council resolution is as follows:

*Moved: President Cr Phillip Blight  
Secoded: President Cr Stephen Strange  
That WALGA:*

- 1. Subject to part 3 of this resolution, support continuation of the provisions within the Harvest Mass Management Scheme to enable heavy vehicles that meet the requirements of RAV 2, RAV 3 or*

*RAV 4 to travel on roads not assessed for the RAV network between paddocks and the nearest RAV route during the harvest period.*

2. *Advocate that any roads assessed on the initiative of Main Roads that do not meet the requirements for addition to the RAV network at the level used under the Harvest Mass Management Scheme remain unassessed for the purpose of network definition.*
3. *Request that Main Roads Heavy Vehicle Services work with stakeholders to provide an alternative solution, prior to the 2018 harvest, to the proposed requirement for an Agricultural Pilot on unassessed roads that meets legal requirements and is acceptable to Industry.*

**Executive Officer Comment:**

Since this matter was considered at the Zone Executive Committee the MRWA released new advice on the Harvest Mass Management Scheme (HMMS) for the 2018/2019 harvest.

MRWA has provided a copy of the Harvest Mass Management Scheme Business Rules and HMMS 5 Step Guide a copy of which is included as an attachment to this agenda.

It is also suggested that Member Councils encourage farmers and transport operators to submit their applications for the HMMS Road List as soon as possible to ensure that Main Roads has time to assess and endorse applications before harvest commences.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the report be noted.

**RESOLUTION:**                      **Moved: Cr Harrington**                      **Seconded: Cr Davies**

**That the report be noted.**

**CARRIED**

## 10.2 Local Government Act Review Phase 2

**Reporting Officer:** Bruce Wittber, Executive Officer

**Disclosure of Interest:** Nil

**Date:** 22 August 2018

**Attachments:** Nil

### **Background:**

The Minister for Local Government has recently announced the outcome of Phase 1 of the Local Government Act Review and at the same time indicated that consultation had commenced on Phase 2.

The Central Country Zone Executive Committee at its recent meeting considered an approach of how Phase 2 of the Local Government Act Review would be undertaken given the success of the Phase 1 review process.

### **Executive Officer Comment:**

During Phase 1 of the review the Zone at its meeting on 23 June 2017 established a working group as outlined in the following resolution:

*RESOLUTION: Moved: Cr Blight Seconded: Cr Crute*

*That*

- 1. the WALGA Recommendation be supported;*
- 2. a working/advisory group be formed by the Central Country Zone Executive Committee to review in detail proposed changes applicable to (but not limited to) those issues listed in the Comment Section of the above Report, including the working relationships between CEO and Council, with recommendations being presented back to the Central Country Zone for its consideration;*
- 3. the Central Country Zone Executive Committee be authorised, once the formal consultation schedule has been released, to call a Special Zone Meeting should that be the most appropriate way to ensure collective Zone input into the WALGA consultation process.*

*CARRIED*

The working group, which included representatives from WALGA, met on a number of occasions (both in-person and by teleconference) to develop a submission that was submitted to a Zone Meeting for adoption prior to final submission.

It is interesting to note that the Central Country Zone was one of the few groups of local governments to develop a detailed submission and using a working group process enabled a broader view to be incorporated into the submission.

Phase two will address the following issues:

- Elections
- Community consultation and engagement
- Integrated Planning and Reporting
- Financial management
- Rates and charges
- Beneficial organisations (council controlled organisations)
- Local laws
- Interventions
- Administrative efficiencies

The review is supported by a reference group chaired by Mr David Michael MLA and includes four WALGA representatives and four LG Professional representatives. A Discussion Paper will be prepared on each of the topics with it likely to be available in early September.

Given the timing of the release of the Discussion Papers and the date of the next Central Country Zone being 30 November 2018 there is going to be limited time for the Zone to review the proposals and make comment as it is understood any submission will be required before Christmas.

In considering the Phase 2 review it is felt that some issues to be addressed, such as local laws, rates and charges and financial management, may be better reviewed by the CEOs. That said it is acknowledged that the process used for Phase 1 included CEOs on the working group and as such may again be the appropriate process to be used for Phase 2.

The Executive Committee also considered a suggestion from Cr Blight that in addition to the issues listed in the Local Government Act Phase 2 there also needed to be an opportunity for the Zone to consider other matters within the Act that were felt to be worthy of consideration as part of the review process.

**Footnote:**

Cr Conley, Cr Blight and Cr Crute indicated that they will not be in attendance at the Zone Meeting but wish to be considered for appointment to the Working Group.

**Meeting Additional Comment:**

The Executive Officer also advised that Cr Brett McGuinness (Shire of Quairading) and Ms Natalie Manton (Shire of Corrigin) had also indicated an interest in being appointed to the Working Group.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That:

1. A Working Group of elected members and officers (CEOs) be formed by the Central Country Zone to review in detail proposed changes applicable to (but not limited to) those issues listed in Local Government Act Phase 2 review with recommendations and a draft submission being presented back to the Central Country Zone for its consideration at its meeting on Friday 30 November 2018; and
2. The Working Group be formed at the Central Country Zone meeting on Friday 31 August 2018

CARRIED

**RESOLUTION:**

**Moved: Cr Hunt**

**Seconded: Cr Baker**

**That:**

1. **A Working Group of elected members and officers (CEOs) be formed by the Central Country Zone to review in detail proposed changes applicable to (but not limited to) those issues listed in Local Government Act Phase 2 review with recommendations and a draft submission being presented back to the Central Country Zone for its consideration at its meeting on Friday 30 November 2018; and**
2. **The Working Group be formed at the Central Country Zone meeting on Friday 31 August 2018**

CARRIED

The Chair, Cr De Landgraft noted the details of delegates that had already indicated an interest in being included on the Working Group and invited further nominations.

Further nominations were received from Mr Mark Hook (Shire of Wickepin), Cr Julie Russell (Shire of Wickepin), Mr Matthew Gilfellon (Shire of Dumbleyung), Cr Ian Turton (Shire of Wandering) and Ms Denise Gobbart (Shire of Lake Grace).

**RESOLUTION:**

**Moved: Cr Watkins**

**Seconded: Cr Kilpatrick**

**That Cr Mark Conley, Cr Phillip Blight, Cr Katrina Crute, Cr Brett McGuinness, Ms Natalie Manton, Mr Mark Hook, Cr Julie Russell, Mr Matthew Gilfellon, Cr Ian Turton and Ms Denise Gobbart be appointed to the Local Government Act Phase 2 Working Party.**

CARRIED

## 10.3 Road Safety Audit Requirement for Black Spot Submissions – Shire of Wickepin

**Reporting Officer:** Mark Hook, CEO Shire of Wickepin  
Bruce Wittber, Executive Officer

**Disclosure of Interest:** Nil

**Date:** 22 August 2018

**Attachments:** Nil

### Background

At the Central Country Zone Meeting held in Darkan on Friday 25 May 2018, concerns were raised by Member Councils with regard to changes to requirements for accredited auditors and conflicts with the MRWA Black Spot guidance documents.

It was agreed that MRWA would follow up and provide advice to the Zone.

MRWA through Louise Adamson provided advice to Member Councils on 29 June 2018 as follows;

*I have reviewed all relevant documentation and spoken with MRWA staff in Perth and can clarify the issues raised at the Zone meeting relate to two separate and distinct processes as below;*

#### **Accreditation of Road Safety Auditors**

*The Road Safety Audit Panel manages the training and accreditation of road safety auditors throughout Western Australia and comprises the following members:*

- Troy Bozich – Chair (Local Government)*
- Andrew McMahon (Main Roads)*
- Engel Prendergast (WALGA)*
- Evan Williams (Consultant)*
- Donald Veal (Consultant)*
- Adam Hazebroek (Main Roads)*
- Kimberly Brosztl (Local Government)*
- Tim Judd (GTA)*

*The decision for Road Safety Auditors to meet the new accreditation requirements was made by the Road Safety Panel.*

*The Road Safety Panel's new requirement for audits to be undertaken by a team of not less than two Auditors relates to accreditation. In light of this change Auditors must register compliant audits that meet these new criteria to retain their accreditation.*

*Regional road authorities can apply for an exemption for this new requirement of up to 18 months. This exemption permits audit teams to comprise an Accredited Senior Road Safety Auditor to lead the audit team and at least 1 Audit Team Trainee team member. An 'Audit Team Trainee' is an individual who has completed the road safety audit training course within the last 5 years, but are yet to be accredited. Please find attached a copy of the exemption application. Shires may also be able to take advantage of training discounts of up to 60% to increase numbers of audit team trainees.*

#### **Black Spot Applications**

*The State Black Spot Program Development and Management Guideline defines the criteria for submitting blackspot funding applications and as such is a funding process and has no relation to auditor's accreditation process. The Black Spot guidance document requires that a formal Road Safety Audit be conducted by an accredited Road Safety Auditor and is silent on requirement for the Road Safety Audit to be no older than 3 years. This document has precedence for all Black Spot applications, so MRWA will continue to accept Black Spot Applications with road safety audit submissions that meet these requirements.*

*There is currently a clear mis-match between documentation. The accreditation requirements relate to the individual auditors and the Black Spot documentation relates to the requirements for funding applications. Therefore at this time; provided an accredited auditor undertakes the safety audit, a single auditor will be sufficient for a Black Spot funding application (even though it will not be accepted by IPWE-WA as a compliant audit for accreditation purposes). Similarly the Black Spot guidelines do not require safety audits to be less than 3 years old.*

**Executive Officer Comment:**

The Executive Officer has been advised by the Shire of Wickpin CEO Mark Hook that the response is not satisfactory as it has the potential to spend more money on audit than on the roads. It would seem money expended on the audits is not refunded unless the Black Spot application is successful.

Ian Duncan Executive Manager, Infrastructure at WALGA will provide a debriefing on the findings from a recent meeting with Main Roads WA concerning the BlackSpot project requirements.

Mark Hook also emailed the Chair of the Road Safety Panel, Troy Bozich but has had no reply.

The matter is listed for consideration to determine if any further action is required.

**Noted**

## 10.4 Australian Local Government Association Election Initiative Summary (Attachment)

**Reporting Officer:** Bruce Wittber, Executive Officer  
**Disclosure of Interest:** Nil  
**Date:** 21 August 2018  
**Attachments:** All Politics is Local – Australian Local Government Association

### Background

During the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) President's address to the WALGA Annual General Meeting, Mayor David O'Loughlin made reference to the ALGA Federal Election Initiatives titled "All Politics is Local – 12 ways to deliver for Australian communities" (copy attached).

### Executive Officer Comment:

The document succinctly outlines the policy initiatives to "*provide every council and federal member with the opportunity to deliver tangible outcomes to every community in Australia*".

The Executive Officer thought this document would be of interest in enabling Member Councils to focus their efforts in the lead up to the next federal election.

It also gives a good guide to the Zone on issues that are included in the national agenda.

### RECOMMENDATION:

That the report be noted.

### Noted

## 10.5 Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Discussion Paper on a Cost Recovery Approach (Attachment)

<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Bruce Wittber, Executive Officer
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	Nil
<b>Date:</b>	21 August 2018
<b>Attachments:</b>	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Fees and Charges Discussion Paper

### Background:

On 17 August 2018 WALGA forwarded an Infopage to Member Councils on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) Fees and Charges Discussion Paper advising that submissions on the paper are due by 1 November 2018.

The discussion paper proposes significant increases in clearing permit fees that will have financial and program implications for Local Governments undertaking the clearing of native vegetation for activities such as road maintenance and construction, cemetery management and parks maintenance.

Likewise, similar implications could apply for Local Governments accessing, or requiring further access to groundwater or surface water resources, through the application or amendment of licenses (new or a renewal of 5C licences, trades transfers and agreements, construction or alteration of bores, bed and bank permits).

DWER is undertaking consultation sessions as follows:

Geraldton – Tuesday 28th August  
Broome – Tuesday 4th September  
Bunbury – Tuesday 11th September  
Perth – Tuesday 13th September

WALGA is currently seeking licence information and associated data from DWER to ascertain the potential cumulative impacts for Local Government budgets, if additional sector specific consultations are required, and will provide the sector with further advice on the process for the development of the WALGA submission, in the near future.

### Executive Officer Comment:

Whilst acknowledging that individual Member Councils may be responding to the potential implications of the discussion paper it was thought given the potential impact that changes in fees and charges may have on local government it was appropriate to bring the issue to the attention of the Zone delegates in case the Zone wished to assist WALGA in developing a submission.

*The discussion paper approaches the issue from the user pays principle that generally identifies that the full or partial cost of service of regulatory activities should be borne by those who benefit most from the service. Currently, the cost of assessing applications for native vegetation clearing permits and water licences and permits is primarily borne by the taxpayer, not the applicants who derive the benefit (p4).*

Currently the cost recovery is around 1% with the other 99% being funded by consolidated revenue. The discussion paper outlines that the new fee structure is proposed to achieve a reasonable cost recovery which is still not full cost recovery.

In an email discussion with the Zone's Executive Officer, Mark Batty Executive Manager, Environment and Waste at WALGA, has advised that WALGA will be preparing a submission, but individual Member Councils are also encouraged to make a submission and provide a copy to WALGA.

WALGA is currently analysing data in relation to both water and clearing implications (based on historical record from the DWER). Generally the main cost impost across local government would appear to be in relation to water fees and charges. In respect to the Central Country Zone WALGA advises there were 14 applications across the Zone for clearing permits in 2016/2017 and one for a water licence in 2017/2018.

The discussion paper on page 13 identifies a scenario involving a local government with the following extract:

*Scenario 2 – Local government*

*A local government in the South West applies to clear two hectares of native vegetation for road widening. The fee would be \$3500. If the local government was located in the Pilbara region, the fee would be \$2750.*

*The above scenario envisages the submission of individual applications. It is acknowledged that some applicants, particularly local governments have typically lodged multiple applications over an annual period.*

*The department supports a more strategic approach to native vegetation clearing and for the consolidation of applications by local governments.*

*A strategic approach to clearing permit applications will have a direct benefit in terms of reduced cost to the applicant and is also likely to yield additional benefits, such as:*

- longer permit timeframes/validity*
- reduced administrative burden for government and permit holders in complying with, and assessing compliance against multiple permits*
- greater potential for the use of strategic offsets*
- more comprehensive and cumulative assessment of clearing impacts*
- more certainty in the decision, following a single appeal process.*

Some of the questions that the discussion paper has raised and for which the DWER is seeking a response includes the following targeted questions:

In considering the proposed new fee structure for applications for clearing permits, DWER is interested in your views. Your feedback on the following questions is sought, as well as any other feedback that you may wish to give.

- Would a strategic approach to clearing, through a strategic purpose permit, benefit you?
- Is the 'purpose component' reasonable to apply considering the added complexity of assessing this type of clearing permit?
- Is the proposed fee structure fair and does it adequately reflect differences in the financial capacity of clearing permit applicants?
- What is the likely impact on your business or industry of the proposed clearing fee structure?

Submissions to the DWER close on 1 November 2018.

The matter is submitted for consideration of the Zone.

**RESOLUTION:**                      **Moved: Mr Stewart**                      **Seconded: Cr Ron Walker**

**That WALGA be advised that the Central Country Zone is of the view that where a "Purpose Permit" application is from a local government and relates to road clearing for a public benefit, the application should be exempt from a fee.**

**CARRIED**

## 10.6 Election Caretaker Period – WALGA (Attachment)

**Reporting Officer:** Bruce Wittber, Executive Officer  
**Disclosure of Interest:** Nil  
**Date:** 22 August 2018  
**Attachments:** WALGA Template Policy Election Caretaker Period

### **Background:**

In early July 2018 WALGA released, by Infopage, for consultation a Draft Template Policy “Election Caretaker Period” seeking Member Council comments by Friday 31 August 2018.

By way of additional background the following is an extract from the Infopage:

*Caretaker conventions exist at the State and Federal level of Government as:*

- *the dissolution of a Parliament means there is no popular Chamber to which the Executive Government can be responsible; and*
- *every State or Federal election brings with it the possibility of a change of government.*

*For these reasons, State and Federal governments assumes a caretaker role during an election period from the time that a Parliament is dissolved to ensure that decisions are not taken which would bind an incoming government and limit its freedom of action.*

*Although Local Governments differ in that there can be no change of government, caretaker conventions may still be applied to place restrictions on the types of decisions and activities that may be undertaken by a Local Government in the period immediately before an election.*

*Restrictions on Local Government decisions and activities during a ‘caretaker period’ have the purpose of preventing actual or perceived advantage or disadvantage to a candidate that may be actually or perceived to arise from Local Government decisions, activities or use of public resources.*

### **Executive Officer Comment:**

Local Government ‘caretaker conventions’ are legislated for Local Governments in South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

It is not legislated in WA however a number of local governments have voluntarily adopted a caretaker policy.

A copy of the proposed template is attached to the agenda and WALGA is seeking feedback on the proposed policy.

The matter is listed for discussion and whether the Zone has a position on the contents of the draft template.

**Noted**

## 10.7 Approval Conditions for Roads on the RAV and AMMS Networks

**Reporting Officer:** Bruce Wittber, Executive Officer

**Disclosure of Interest:** Nil

**Date:** 28 August 2018

**Attachments:** Nil

### **Background:**

The Executive Officer noticed in the WALGA Local Government News Issue 29 (27 July 2018) the following article relating to Approval Conditions for Roads on the RAV and AMMS Networks:

*Managing Heavy Vehicle Access to Local Roads*

***WALGA has been advised by Main Roads WA that their policy regarding conditions applied to Notices and Permits that allow Restricted Access and Concessional Mass trucks to use certain roads will change from October 2018.***

*Currently Local Governments may propose a condition requiring all vehicle operators to carry written approval from the Local Government endorsing use of the road (previously referred to as CA07).*

*Following advice from the State Solicitors Office that applying this condition is potentially unlawful, Main Roads propose to abolish this condition.*

*Records indicate that 117 Local Governments have one or more roads to which the CA07 condition is applied.*

*WALGA has advised Main Roads that policy changes should only be considered once there is a complete understanding of the way the current arrangements function.*

*WALGA has agreed to consult with all affected Local Governments to determine how and why CA07 conditions are applied, to determine the consequences of abolishing the condition and what alternative mechanisms may be appropriate.*

***For more information, email Policy Manager - Transport and Roads, [Mark Bondi](#) or call 9213 2040.***

### **Executive Officer Comment:**

The Executive Officer originally incorporated this matter as part of Agenda Item 10.1 which was incorrect as the Harvest Mass Management Scheme and the Approval Conditions for Roads on the RAV and AMMS Networks are two separate issues.

Ian Duncan Executive Manager, Infrastructure at WALGA has provided an update on this matter as follows:

*As a result of industry concerns about some Local Governments charging transport operators to use local roads with Restricted Access Vehicles (RAV) and trucks operating with above regulation axle mass (under the Accredited Mass Management Scheme [AMMS]), Main Roads WA sought State Solicitors advice regarding the legality of the current charging mechanism. Based on the advice provided, Main Roads WA propose to remove the condition that the vehicle operator must carry a current letter of approval from the Local Government (known as condition CA07) from all Notices and Permits.*

*WALGA has requested that prior to making any policy changes Main Roads fully consider all of the potential implications of the proposed change. To inform this decision making, a study is being completed to document and understand:*

- *which Local Governments provide letters of authority to heavy vehicle operators;*
- *how many letters are issued and how frequently;*
- *how the condition is used to manage heavy vehicles across the network; and particularly; and*
- *how the condition is used for charging road users.*

*A study which is inviting direct input from each of the 117 Local Governments that currently have a CA07 condition on one or more road is underway to inform a policy position. Given the timing this matter is likely to be concluded before the December State Council meeting and will be initially addressed through the Infrastructure Policy Team.*

WALGA is seeking input from Zone delegates from affected Member Councils.

The report is submitted for consideration by the Zone.

**Noted**

## 11.0 ZONE BUSINESS - OTHER BUSINESS/URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

## 12.0 ZONE BUSINESS - EMERGING ISSUES

*(The intent of the item is to enable Member Councils to bring to the attention of the delegates a matter that is developing. It is proposed that the matter will be tabled for discussion but not decision and then enable Member Councils to take the information away and consider an outcome for possible consideration at the next Zone meeting.)*

Nil

## 13.0 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Mr Rick Wilson, MP Member for O'Connor

## 14.0 OTHER REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

### 14.1 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

Dr Ken Parker, Principal Strategy Officer Local Government

### 14.2 Wheatbelt Development Commission

Nil

### 14.3 Regional Development Australia (RDA) Wheatbelt

Ms Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt Inc

### 14.4 Main Roads WA

Mr Craig Manton, Regional Manager, Wheatbelt Region Main Roads WA  
Ms Louise Adamson, Operations Manager, MRWA Central Wheatbelt Region

## 15.0 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Friday 30 November 2018 – Shire of Williams

## 16.0 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 12.20pm.

### DECLARATION

These minutes were confirmed by the Central Country Zone at the meeting held on 30 November 2018

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Person presiding at the meeting at which these minutes were confirmed