



Central Country Zone

Minutes

Held at Darkan Sport and Community Centre, Memorial Drive Darkan (opposite the primary school)

Friday, 18 February 2022

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Central Country Zone

Meeting was held at Darkan Sport and Community Centre, Memorial Drive Darkan
(opposite the primary school)

Commenced at 9:36am on Friday, 18 February 2022

Minutes

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

1.1 Announcements

Covid-19 awareness:

- Ensure you have signed in using the SafeWA app or by written register at the door
- Maintain social distancing where possible
- Wear your mask
- Sanitize regularly

1.2 Housekeeping – Zone Chair

1. Welcome:

The Zone Chair, Cr Brett McGuinness welcomed Zone members to the meeting and provided OSH/bathroom/exit information to those in attendance.

2. Share your name and Local Government:

To all Delegates, please ensure you call your name and Local Government when taking the floor to allow for accurate Minutes to be recorded.

Noted

1.3 Host Welcome – President Cr Neil Morrell, Shire of West Arthur

Shire of West Arthur President Cr Neil Morrell, extended a welcome to Delegates and guests.

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendance

Central Country Zone Delegates and CEO's

Shire of Beverley	President Cr David White Deputy President Cr Chris Lawlor Mr Steve Gollan, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Brookton	President Cr Katrina Crute Deputy President Cr Neil Walker
Shire of Corrigin	President Cr Des Hickey Ms Natalie Manton, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Cuballing	President Cr Eliza Dowling Deputy President Cr Rob Harris Mr Stan Scott, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Dumbleyung	President Cr Julie Ramm Deputy President Cr Amy Knight Mr Gavin Treasure, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Kulin	Cr Brad Smoker Cr Robbie Bowey Mr Garrick Yandle, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Lake Grace	Deputy President Cr Ross Chappell Mr Chris Paget, Acting Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Pingelly	President Cr Bill Mulrone Mr Andrew Dover, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Quairading	Cr Brett McGuinness (Chair) Cr Jonathan Hippisley Ms Nicole Gibbs, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Wandering	Mr Ian Fitzgerald, Acting Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of West Arthur	President Cr Neil Morrell Mr Vin Fordham-Lamont, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Williams	Cr Moya Carne Mr Geoff McKeown, Chief Executive Officer
<u>Guests</u>	Hon Steve Martin MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt Inc Rob Cossart, Wheatbelt Development Commission – Chief Executive Officer Ammar Mohammed, A/Regional Manager Wheatbelt, Main Roads Brad Pearce, Operations Manager, Main Roads Wendy Newman, Deputy Board Chair, WACHS Melissa Vernon WACHS, Executive Director Service and Operations Hub Development and EOC

WALGA

Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Services
Kathy Robertson, Executive Officer Governance

Apologies

Mr Gary Sherry, Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Brookton
Deputy President Cr Mike Weguelin, Shire of Corrigin
Cr Barry West, Shire of Kulin
President Cr Grant Robins, Shire of Kulin
President Cr Len Armstrong, Shire of Lake Grace
Deputy President Cr Jackie McBurney, Shire of Pingelly
President Leigh Ballard, Shire of Narrogin
Cr Graham Broad, Shire of Narrogin
Mr Dale Stewart, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate, Shire of Narrogin
President Cr Phillip Blight, Shire of Wagin
Deputy President Cr Gregory Ball, Shire of Wagin
Mr Bill Atkinson, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate, Shire of Wagin
President Cr Ian Turton, Shire of Wandering
Deputy President Cr Paul Treasure, Shire of Wandering
President Cr Julie Russell, Shire of Wickepin
Deputy President Cr Wes Astbury, Shire of Wickepin
Mr Mark Hook, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate, Shire of Wickepin
Cr Karen Harrington, Shire of West Arthur
President Cr Jarrad Logie, Shire of Williams
Hon Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt (Leader of the Opposition)
Hon Martin Aldridge MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region
Hon Colin de Grussa MLC
Hon Peter Rundle MLA, Member for Roe
Kathleen Brown, Electorate Officer, Office of Hon Mia Davies MLA
Hon Darren West MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region
Hon Sandra Carr MLC, Member for Agricultural Region
Rick Wilson MP, Federal Member for O'Connor
Hon Shelley Payne MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region

Observers

Cr Robyn Lubcke, Shire of West Arthur
Cr Graeme Peirce, Shire of West Arthur

Attachments

The following are provided as attachments to the Minutes:

1. WA Country Health Services presentation slides
2. State Councillor report
3. Local Government Agricultural Freight Group report

State Council special meeting Agenda – via link: [State Council special meeting Agenda February 2022](#)

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

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Zone Chair, Cr Brett McGuinness, declared an impartiality interest to item 4.1 as an employee of WA Country Health Service.

4. GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS

4.1 WA Country Health Service (WACHS)

WACHS provided a presentation regarding COVID preparedness in the regions. The presentation slides are attached.

WACHS representatives providing the presentation were:

- Wendy Newman, Deputy Board Chair, WACHS
- Melissa Vernon WACHS, Executive Director Service and Operations Hub Development and EOC

5. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Hon Steve Martin MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region presented on issues effecting the region including acknowledging all the community effort with the recent bushfires.

6. MINUTES

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the Central Country Zone meeting held Friday 19 November 2021 (Attachment 1)

The Minutes of the Central Country Zone meeting held on Friday 19 November 2021 have previously been circulated to Member Councils.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Des Hickey
Seconded: President Cr Bill Mulroney

That the Minutes of the Central Country Zone meeting held Friday 19 November 2021 are confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

6.2 Business Arising from the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Meeting Friday 19 November 2021

6.2.1 Sector ICT Solution (Item 12.1 19 November 2021)

Cr Jonathan Hippisley, Shire of Quairading

Cr Hippisley enquired on the progress of this item.

The Zone Executive Officer advised that WALGA has looked at this matter further and advise of the following:

The idea of an all-of-sector model ICT solution is not viable for the following reasons:

- Different size Local Governments – no one size fits all;
- Local Government's being at different levels of need and maturity in the ICT requirements;
- We are unlikely to get the requisite LG buy-in to warrant the investment; and
- The inherent complexity of a custom-built system is time and cost-prohibitive.

A more workable suggestion is for a group of similar size/maturity level Local Governments to engage a consultant to define a model set that meets their needs. Any recommendations could be reviewed by a representative of the LG ICT Managers Network to ensure it is appropriate.

Referring to Cr Hippisley's "Model local government office" paper, it would be expected that the following range of recommendations are achievable:

- Suitable hardware requirements (including remote options where appropriate)
- Suggested lightweight accounting software
- Baseline model directory structure
- Security options
- Backup software and procedures
- Suitable internet options

WALGA would be prepared to assist in facilitating discussions on a shared service model to research this with a group of Local Governments further.

Noted

6.3 Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee held Thursday 10 February 2021

The recommendations from the Executive Committee Meeting that require Zone consideration have been extracted for the Zones consideration.

6.3.1 Item 4.2.3, Local Government Agricultural Freight Group

Background:

At the November Zone meeting, Cr Crute was nominated as the representative for the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group. At that time, Cr Crute intended to attend meetings to assess the validity of the Group.

Executive Comment:

Cr Crute has attended two meetings of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group. With only a small handful of Members, Cr Crute feels the group lacks direction and robustness in moving items forward. She suggested that if this group, in an expansive form, were to be established under another body it may be more beneficial to the Sector. Cr Crute feels future proofing should be a bigger consideration than what is currently in place, as well as expanding the group to encompass all Freight, not just Agricultural Freight. Membership needs to be reconsidered and expanded on. It was suggested that under the ownership of State Council, a group may be more beneficial. It was then suggested that perhaps a Policy Forum could be established to include the missing elements named above.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Central Country Zone recommend that the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group be disbanded and request WALGA to consider establishing a policy forum to encompass all Freight issues.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Katrina Crute
Seconded: Cr Des Hickey

That the Central Country Zone recommend that the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group be disbanded and request WALGA to consider establishing a policy forum to encompass all Freight issues.

CARRIED

6.3.2 Item 5.3, Local Government Reform Proposal Submission

Background:

The Committee considered the Local Government Reform Proposal and have provided a recommendation for the Zones consideration.

Please refer to item 7.3.1 of this agenda.

6.3.3 Item 5.4, Zone Priorities

Background:

The Executive Committee debriefed on recent events in Local Government, specifically Natural Disasters and Housing. The following two items have been recommended to be added to the list of Zone Priorities for the coming 12 months.

1. *Telecommunications*
2. *Disaster Preparedness*

The following is the complete list of Zone priorities:

1. *Local Government Act – New Act or Amendments*
2. *Red Tape Reduction*
3. *Regional Collaboration and resource sharing*
4. *Local Government staff shortages*
5. *Housing*
6. *Work Health & Safety*
7. *Telecommunications*
8. *Disaster Preparedness*

RECOMMENDATION

That the Zone add the following subjects to the list of Zone priorities:

- Telecommunications
- Disaster Preparedness

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Julie Ramm
Seconded: Cr David White

That the Central Country Zone add the following subjects to the list of Zone priorities:

- Telecommunications
- Disaster Preparedness

CARRIED

6.3.4 Item 5.6, Acknowledgement of Country

Background:

The Committee were asked to be consider introducing an *Acknowledgment of Country* at the beginning of Zone meetings.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Host Local Government be encouraged to provide an Acknowledgement of Country however this is at the discretion of the hosting Local Government.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Bill Mulroney
Seconded: Cr Julie Ramm

That the Host Local Government be encouraged to provide an Acknowledgement of Country however this is at the discretion of the hosting Local Government.

CARRIED

6.3.5 Item 7, Date, time and place of next meeting

Background:

The Committee discussed having this meeting online. As WA has not been directed into Lockdown, the meeting is going ahead in person. In preparation for moving online should that need to happen for a future meeting, the Committee have requested the Executive Officer to assess Members resources to successfully join a Zone meeting online. A survey will be sent to all CEO's shortly after the meeting.

Noted

6.4 Confirmation of Minutes from the Central Country Zone Meeting of the Executive Committee held Thursday 10 February 2022 (Attachment 2)

The remaining items from the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee Meeting held on Thursday 10 February 2022 are for endorsement.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Katrina Crute
Seconded: Cr Des Hickey

That the remaining items from the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held Thursday 10 February 2022 be endorsed.

CARRIED

7. 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

Cr Phillip Blight was an apology for the meeting, however Cr Blight provided a report as attached.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Jonathan Hippisley
Seconded: President Cr Bill Mulroney

That the State Councillor Report be received.

CARRIED

7.2 WALGA Status Report

By Tony Brown, Executive Officer



BACKGROUND

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

CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE STATUS REPORT FEBRUARY 2022

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Central C	2019 Nov 29 Zone Agenda Item 10.8 Western Australia's Share of Fuel Excise	That WALGA prepares and endorses a strategy to obtain transparency of the distribution of the fuel excise with the intent to maximise the return to Western Australia for road maintenance.	<p>The resolution was been referred to the Infrastructure Policy Team and based on direction provided further research to support an advocacy position is being carried out.</p> <p>The Association met with the RAC and received access to a 2020 revision of a report commissioned by the RAC quantifying motorist taxation and Federal Government investment in WA transport infrastructure.</p>	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Central C	2021 19 November Zone Agenda Item 10.3 Police Resources in the Region	That the CCZ call upon WALGA to advocate to State Government on the shortage of police and housing in regional and remote areas.	<p>WALGA continues to undertake advocacy work in relation to Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH) including regular meetings with the Dept Communities, identification of critical areas of need, four- year forecasts and Commercial Team development of preferred supplier for Modular Housing.</p> <p>WALGA will undertake further research to scope the extent of the policing issues in the district and provide further information to the Zone.</p>	February 2022	Nicole Matthews A/Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039
Central C	2021 20 August Zone Agenda Item 8.4 Social Housing Economic Recovery Package Grant Funding	1. That the Zone notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Local Governments are eligible for grants to support the construction, refurbishment and maintenance of community housing properties as part of the State Government's Social Housing Economic Recovery Package (SHERP) Program.	<p>A total of \$57 million in SHERP refurbishment grants were announced on 25 January 2022. Three of the 8 Local Governments that applied for SHERP refurbishment grants were successful: Shires of Donnybrook-Balingup, Williams and Boyup Brook.</p> <p>An announcement of funding for new builds has been delayed until April 2022.</p>	February 2022	Nicole Matthews A/Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next round of SHERP grants open on Wednesday 1 September 2021. The Department of Communities will provide further information on the SHERP grants at a WALGA webinar to be held at 1:30pm on Wednesday 1 September. <p>2. Request WALGA to advocate for more State funding for housing in the regions.</p>			
Central C	2020 February 21 Zone Agenda Item 12.1 General Practitioner Services in Rural Areas - Shire of Corrigin	That WALGA be requested to investigate tendering issues around General Practitioner Services in Rural Areas with consideration given to including an exemption from tendering for such services under the Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996.	<p>WALGA has included this item in the draft submission on Local Government legislative reform proposals.</p> <p>WALGA's policy position is as per below;</p> <p><i>WALGA advocates for the inclusion of a tender exemption for General Practitioner (GP) services under Part 4, Division 2 of the Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996, to support Local Governments retain necessary primary health care services for their communities; and</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake additional research in support of the Advocacy Position with the following aims: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify State and Federal Government policy settings and other factors contributing to gaps in primary health care services in regional communities; and Quantify the number of regional Local Governments that have current contracts, or are proposing to enter into contracts, for General Practitioner services and the associated costs to Local Government incurred. <p>The Office of the Minister for Local Government has advised that they are interested in establishing a Roundtable on the issue of GP services for Rural Local Governments. Further information will be provided when available.</p>	February 2022	Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au

<p>Central C</p>	<p>2021 19 November Zone Agenda Item 12.1 Sector ICT solution</p>	<p>That the Zone request WALGA to research providers and the viability of an in-house IT system.</p>	<p>The zone suggestion of a stand-alone IT system to meet the needs of Local Government is the ideal model for the sector. However the complexity of such a system and the required development time and costs is prohibitive. Engaging a supplier-provided system, of which all development risk is retained by a third party, remains the most prudent use of public funds. If the sector was to seek to develop its own system, separate to existing suppliers, it is recommended that it should be undertaken on a national basis, with the pre-commitment from the overwhelming majority of Local Governments across all jurisdictions to switch to the system, so to provide the scale warrant investment as would be required. To this end, WALGA could raise the issue at ALGA meeting of state associations to gauge wider sector interest.</p>	<p>February 2022</p>	<p>Craig Hansom A/Executive Manager, Commercial chansom@walga.asn.au 9213 2061</p>
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ZONE COMMENT

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

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Julie Ramm

Seconded: Cr Des Hickey

That the Central Country Zone WALGA February 2022 Status Report be noted.

CARRIED

7.3 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda's – Matters for Decision

7.3.1 Special State Council Meeting Agenda – 23 February 2022

The full State Council Agenda can be found via link: [State Council Special Meeting Agenda 23 February 2022](#) and attached (Attachment 3).

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

Matters for Decision

3.1 Local Government Reform Proposal Submission

WALGA Recommendation

1. That the recommendations contained in the '*Local Government Reform Proposal Submission*' be endorsed.
2. That WALGA:
 - a. seek assurance from the Minister for Local Government that further detail on the proposed reforms will be provided to the sector for comment prior to the formulation of a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill; and
 - b. seek a formal commitment from the Minister for Local Government that WALGA actively participates in the legislative drafting process necessary to formulate a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill.

Executive Committee Consideration

The Executive Committee considered this item in detail and have raised items that they would like amended to the WALGA recommendation for the Zones consideration as per below:

- **Item 1.6 Vexatious complaints**

Supports the proposed reforms and provides the following comments.

1. The Information Commissioner should also have the power to declare repeated FOI requests as vexatious.
2. Legislation to include the ability of a person to lodge an appeal with the Inspector.

- Item 1.7 Minor Other reforms

Supports the proposed reforms however do not support the Minister being the author/publisher of guidance notices.

Initial guidance notices should be published by the DG, Dept of Local Government, with subsequent corrective guidance notices coming from the Inspector.

Any guidance advice/notices provided should recognise its resourcing implications.

- Item 3.1 Recording and Live Streaming Council meetings

Not supported.

Believe it would curtail free discussion and that meetings would become stilted due to some participants feeling self-conscious. This may result in members having informal discussions before meetings to determine outcomes and may stifle free debate. At the other end of the spectrum, it may result in some members grandstanding (because they know they have a wider audience to play to) and to use the public exposure as a means to solicit support for re-election and to generally cultivate a public profile for whatever reason, rather than focussing on the most legitimate outcomes. Likely to create more problems for the sector and its image. Submission of recordings to DLGSC would be another “Red Tape” task and smacks of “Big Brother”. A further disincentive for people to run for Council.

- Item 3.2 Recording All votes

Proposed reforms not supported for following reasons.

1. As an Elected Member, they are required (under roles and responsibilities) to support the decisions of Council.
2. If someone feels strongly, they can request their vote/name to be recorded.
3. If the vote for/against is recorded, it may become difficult for a Councillor to defend the decision of Council, if they voted against the item.
4. May cause conflict with community members.

- Item 5.2.3 Elected Member role clarity

Overall supports the proposed reforms but notes that there is no reference to the requirement for Councillors to ‘support the decisions of the Council’ which will be important when communicating the decisions of the Council to the community (sub dot point 5).

- Item 5.2.4 CEO Role clarity

Overall supports the proposed reforms but notes that there is no reference that the CEO is responsible for the recruitment, and performance management of all staff as indicated in the current Act/Regulations.

- Item 6.2 Simplify Strategic and Financial Planning

Do not support these proposed reforms due to the following concerns.

1. The proposed reference to innovation and community input into the strategic plans of Council are proposed as a ‘one size fits all’ and will become a tick-box exercise and not be specifically relevant to the local community.
2. Long term financial plans need to be 15 years, not 10, as the current requirement for 10 years does not allow for compliance with the Debt Service Ratio’ reporting
3. Rates and Revenue Policy – Is another resource reporting requirement burden on smaller local governments for questionable benefits.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Julie Ramm
Seconded: President Cr Bill Mulroney

1. That the recommendations contained in the 'Local Government Reform Proposal *Submission*' be endorsed, subject to the following amendments:
 - a. Item 1.6 Vexatious complaints – Support, subject to;
 - i. The Information Commissioner should also have the power to declare repeated FOI requests as vexatious.
 - ii. Legislation to include the ability of a person to lodge an appeal with the Inspector.
 - b. Item 1.7 Minor Other reforms – Support, subject to;
 - i. Do not support the Minister being the author/publisher of guidance notices.
 - ii. Initial guidance notices should be published by the DG, Dept of Local Government, with subsequent corrective guidance notices coming from the Inspector.
 - iii. Any guidance advice/notices provided should recognise its resourcing implications.
 - c. Item 3.1 Recording and Live Streaming Council meetings – Not Supported
 - d. Item 3.2 Recording All votes – Not Supported
 - e. Item 5.2.3 Elected Member role clarity – Support subject to including reference to the requirement for Councillors to 'support the decisions of the Council' which will be important when communicating the decisions of the Council to the community (sub dot point 5).
 - f. Item 5.2.4 CEO Role clarity – Support subject to including reference that the CEO is responsible for the recruitment, and performance management of all staff as indicated in the current Act/Regulations.
 - g. Item 6.2 Simplify Strategic and Financial Planning – Not Supported
 - h. Item 6.6 Audit Committees – Support subject to the requirement for independent members being mandatory not applying to Band 3 and 4 Local Governments.
 - i. Item 3.5 Chief Executive Officer Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) be Published – Not Supported
2. That WALGA:
 - a. seek assurance from the Minister for Local Government that further detail on the proposed reforms will be provided to the sector for comment prior to the formulation of a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill; and
 - b. seek a formal commitment from the Minister for Local Government that WALGA actively participates in the legislative drafting process necessary to formulate a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill.

CARRIED

Ten Local Government Reform Proposal submissions were received by WALGA from Members of the Central Country Zone.

7.3.2 Ordinary State Council Meeting Agenda – 2 March 2022

The full State Council Agenda can be found via link: [State Council Agenda 2 March 2022](#)

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

Matters for Decision

5.1 Short-Term Accommodation Regulatory Scheme

That the draft Short-Term Accommodation Regulatory Reform submission be endorsed

Matters for Noting

- 6.1 COVID-19 – Update
- 6.2 2022-23 Federal Budget Submission
- 6.3 Detection of Polyphagous Shot-hole Borer and Implications for Local Government
- 6.4 State Planning Policy 2.9: Planning for Water - Submission
- 6.5 Submission to Salaries and Allowances Tribunal – Local Government Remuneration Inquiry

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Julie Ramm
Seconded: Cr Katrina Crute

That the Central Country Zone

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

CARRIED

7.4 WALGA President's Report

The WALGA President's Report is attached to the Agenda (Attachment 4).

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Bill Mulroney
Seconded: Cr Jonathan Hippisley

That the Central Country Zone notes the WALGA President's Report.

CARRIED

8. ZONE REPORTS

8.1 Zone President Report

By Cr Brett McGuinness

Cr Brett McGuinness advised the Zone that there was nothing to report.

Noted

8.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG)

By Cr Katrina Crute

Cr Katrina Crute provided her report to the Zone, as attached.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Bill Mulroney

Seconded: Cr Des Hickey

That the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Report be received.

CARRIED

8.3 Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC)

By President Leigh Ballard

President Leigh Ballard was an apology for the meeting.

Noted

8.4 Regional Health Advocacy Representative

By Ms Natalie Manton

Ms Natalie Manton advised the Zone that there was nothing to report.

Noted

9. ZONE BUSINESS – MEMBER COUNCIL MATTERS

9.1 CBH – Non Grain Storage

Cr Katrina Crute, Shire of Brookton

Cr Crute enquired as to where does the CBH exemption from rates and the ex-gratia payment sit for the storage of Non Grain products by CBH.

Cr Crute's understanding is they get the exemption on the basis of Grain Storage but in the case of the Aldersyde Bin it has lime in it for sale to Growers at a significantly cheaper rate than local contractors can do it for.

Action: WALGA to research this question and report back to the Zone.

10. ZONE BUSINESS – OTHER BUSINESS/URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

11. ZONE BUSINESS – EMERGING ISSUES

11.1 Regional Telecommunications

Shire of Dumbleyung

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Julie Ramm

Seconded: Cr Neil Morrell

That WALGA partner with Telstra and Western Power to scope, design and cost a solution to enable full mobile and internet connectivity through the Central Country Zone area, including suitable back up power generation to ensure continued mobile connectivity during emergency outage events.

CARRIED

12. OTHER AGENCY REPORTS

12.1 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

No representative from the Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries, was present at the meeting.

Noted

12.2 Wheatbelt Development Commission

Rob Cossart, Wheatbelt Development Commission – Chief Executive Officer, provided an update to the Zone.

Noted

12.3 Main Roads Western Australia

Ammar Mohammed, A/Regional Manager Wheatbelt and Brad Pearce, Operations Manager, from Main Roads provided an update to the Zone.

Noted

12.4 Wheatbelt RDA

Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development RDA Wheatbelt presented to the Zone. (Attachment 5)

Noted

13. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The Committee will next meet on 13 April 2022 via MS Teams.

The next meeting of the Central Country Zone will be held on Friday, 22 April 2022, commencing at 9:30am. This meeting will be hosted by the Shire of Wickepin.

14. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at **12:08pm**.