

MINUTES OF THE ZONE MEETING

held at the Goomalling Sport & Recreation Centre, Cnr Quinlan & Hoddy St, Goomalling
Friday 25 June 2021 commencing at 10:16 am

1 OPENING & WELCOME

The Zone President and Chair of the meeting, Cr Ken Seymour, welcomed delegates and observers and introduced Mr Peter Bentley, CEO, Shire of Goomalling. Cr Bentley welcomed delegates to Goomalling and commented on –

- The Shire has been undertaking budget repair over the past 2-3 years and progress is being made. Funding received under the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program has made a difference.
- Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network - The first section of work has been completed on the Calingiri-Goomalling Road.
- The clearing permit process for roadworks has cost the Shire around \$300,000 plus to date. Principally for 3 ha on the Goomalling-Meckering Road. A clearing permit for 8-9 ha will be required for the next stage of work on the Calingiri-Goomalling Road and cost is a worry. The Shire has written to the Minister expressing concern with the costs and delays associated with obtaining clearing permits for road reserves.
- Anstey Park revitalisation - It is proposed to redeveloped Anstey Park in Goomalling's main street. The work will involve the demolition of the old CWA rooms. The redevelopment will include some form of recognition of the CWA.
- There is a proposal for the Department of Water dam adjacent to the Goomalling CBH site to be lined. The dam is saline as its depth is too great.
- Funding received for works on the 100-year-old Slater Homestead.
- Proposed to upgrade the Goomalling Town Hall. Works to include replacing the ceiling in the main hall and upgrading the toilets in the Child Care Centre.
- Works are being undertaken to install multipurpose pathways in Goomalling.
- The Shire has had works undertaken by prisoners from the Dowerin Work Camp. The Camp provides low-risk prisoners with the opportunity to undertake life and work skills development. Some have continued to work in the town after their release. See it as a great way for offenders to integrate back into the community. Thoroughly recommend utilising the service provided by the Camp.

2 ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

2.1 Attendance

Delegates -

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Cr Kylie Hughes | Shire of Chittering |
| Cr Steven Carter | Shire of Dalwallinu |
| Cr Darren Slyns | Shire of Dandaragan |
| Cr Jan Court | Shire of Gingin (Deputy President) (via Video) |
| Cr Julie Chester | Shire of Goomalling |
| Cr Ken Seymour | Shire of Moora (President) |
| Cr Chris Antonio | Shire of Northam |
| Cr Rosemary Madacsi | Shire of Toodyay |
| Cr Pauline Bantock | Shire of Victoria Plains |
| Cr Denise Smythe | Shire of York |

Observers –

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Mr Matthew Gilfellow | Shire of Chittering |
| Mr Aaron Cook | Shire of Gingin (via Video) |
| Mr Peter Bentley | Shire of Goomalling |
| Cr Susan Pearce | Shire of Toodyay |
| Ms Suzie Hazlehurst | Shire of Toodyay |
| Mr Chris Linnell | Shire of York |
| Ms Jenifer Collins | Regional Manager Wheatbelt, Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries |
| Mr Yogesh Shinde | A/Network Manager Wheatbelt, Main Roads WA |
| Ms Mandy Walker | Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Cr Karen Chappell | Deputy President. WALGA |
| Mr Nick Sloan | Chief Executive Officer, WALGA |
| Mr Zac Donovan | Exec Manager Commercial & Communications, WALGA |
| Mr Cliff Simpson | RoadWise (Wheatbelt North) |
| Robert Dew | Zone Executive Officer |

2.2 Apologies

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Cr Carmel Ross | Shire of Chittering |
| Cr Leslee Holmes | Shire of Dandaragan |
| Cr Barry Haywood | Shire of Goomalling |
| Cr Christine Barrett | Shire of Goomalling |
| Cr Tracy Lefroy | Shire of Moora |
| Cr Julie Williams | Shire of Northam |
| Mr Jason Whiteaker | Shire of Northam |
| Cr Beth Ruthven | Shire of Toodyay |
| Ms Glenda Teede | Shire of Victoria Plains |
| Cr Stuart Boekeman | Shire of Wongan-Ballidu |
| Mr Craig Manton | Regional Manager Wheatbelt, Main Roads WA |
| Hon Mia Davies MLA | Member Central Wheatbelt |
| Hon Martin Aldridge MLC | Member for Agricultural Region |
| Hon Sandra Carr MLC | Member for Agricultural Region |
| Hon Colin de Grussa MLC | Member for Agricultural Region |
| Hon Steve Martin MLC | Member for Agricultural Region |
| Hon Shelley Payne | Member for Agricultural Region |
| Hon Darren West MLC | Member for Agricultural Region |

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

5 MINUTES

5.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Zone Meeting held 21 April 2021 at Wongan Hills. Copies of these Minutes have been circulated to all member Councils.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held on 21 April 2021, as printed and circulated, be confirmed.

RESOLUTION

Cr C Antonio moved and Cr D Smythe seconded –

That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held on 21 April 2021, as printed and circulated, be confirmed.

CARRIED

5.2 **Business Arising from the Minutes**

(a) Zone Meeting Format (Item 5.2(a))

Enquiries into the suitability and costs of audio/visual equipment which will meet the Zone's requirements for hybrid meetings is ongoing.

RECOMMENDATION

For noting

NOTED

(b) Other

No other matters were brought forward.

6 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

6.1 **WALGA State Council Agenda**

Review of the Agenda for the State Council meeting to be held Wednesday 7 July 2021. The Zone is able to provide comment or submit alternate recommendations to State Council for consideration.

Matters for Decision

5.1 Reviews of the *Cat Act 2011* and *Dog Act 1976* (Page 5)

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA seek a commitment from the State Government:

1. *for the conduct of comprehensive reviews of the *Cat Act 2011* and *Dog Act 1976*; and*
2. *that the reviews incorporate Local Government-specific consultation processes, coordinated in discussion with WALGA and Local Government stakeholders.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries released the *Statutory Review of the Cat Act 2011 and Dog Amendment Act 2013 Report* in December 2019;
- A number of Local Governments, Zones and VROCs have requested that this statutory review progress to a full review of both Acts, with a particular emphasis on the *Cat Act*;
- In February 2021, WALGA's Governance Policy Team endorsed a recommendation that State Council seek this commitment from the State Government.

Mr N Sloan commented that there is a statutory requirement for these Acts to be reviewed every 5 years and that WALGA is seeking the review to be a comprehensive and thorough review.

Cr Madacsi asked if there were any particular matters that WALGA was pursuing. Mr Sloan replied that a number of Local Governments and Zones have raised particular issues and that he can provide details if required.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

5.2 Amendments to WALGA's Constitution (Page 7)

WALGA Recommendation

That the WALGA Constitution be amended as follows:

1. *INSERT Definition – "Present" means attendance in person or by electronic means deemed suitable by the Chief Executive Officer.*
2. *Clause 5 (10) – DELETE "and Associate Members".*
3. *Clause 5 (11) – DELETE "Ordinary Member or", REPLACE "State Council" with "Chief Executive Officer" in the first sentence, INSERT "or its delegate" after State Council in the second sentence.*
4. *Clause 6 (3) – REPLACE "31 May" with "30 June".*
5. *Clause 7 (2) – REPLACE "30 June" with "31 July".*
6. *Clause 11 (1) – after Chief Executive Officer, INSERT "in accordance with the Corporate Governance Charter".*

7. *Clause 11 (2) – after Chief Executive Officer INSERT “by providing notice to State Councillors of the date, time, place and purpose of the meeting”*
8. *DELETE Clause 11 (3)*
9. *Clause 12 (1) – DELETE “as, being entitled to do so, vote in person”*
10. *DELETE Clause 12 (2)*
11. *Clause 12 (3) – DELETE “as, being entitled to do so, vote in person”*
12. *Clause 12 (4) – DELETE “as, being entitled to do so, vote in person”*
13. *Clause 16 (1) & (2) – After Any election INSERT “other than to elect the President or Deputy President”, REPLACE “generally in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1995 as amended (2) For the purposes of the election referred to in sub-section (1)” with “as follows”.*
14. *Clause 16 (2) (f) – REPLACE two instances of “2” with “1”.*
15. *INSERT Clause 16A – Election Procedure – President and Deputy President*
 - (1) *An election to elect the President or Deputy President shall be conducted as follows:*
 - (a) *the Chief Executive Officer or his/her delegate shall act as returning officer;*
 - (b) *representatives are to vote on the matter by secret ballot;*
 - (c) *votes are to be counted on the basis of “first-past-the-post”;*
 - (d) *the candidate who receives the greatest number of votes is elected;*
 - (e) *if there is an equality of votes between two or more candidates who are the only candidates in, or remaining in, the count, the count is to be discontinued, and the meeting adjourned for not more than 30 minutes;*
 - (f) *any nomination for the office may be withdrawn, and further nominations may be made, before or when the meeting resumes;*
 - (g) *when the meeting resumes, an election will be held in accordance with sub-sections 1(a), 1(b), 1(c) and 1 (d);*
 - (h) *if two or more candidates receive the same number of votes so that sub-section 1(d) cannot be applied, the Chief Executive Officer is to draw lots in the presence of any scrutineers who may be present to determine which candidate is elected.*
16. *Clause 21 (4) – REPLACE “Chairman” with “Chair”.*
17. *Clause 22 (1) – REPLACE “in August or September of” with “prior to 31 October”.*
18. *Clause 22 (3) – DELETE “in person”*
19. *DELETE Clause 22 (4) (b).*
20. *Clause 23 (3) – DELETE “in person”*
21. *Clause 24 (2) – DELETE “and of which vote is to be exercised in person”*
22. *Clause 24 (4) – DELETE “as, being entitled to do so, vote in person”*
23. *Clause 28 (1) – DELETE “The common seal shall be held in the custody of the Chief Executive Officer at all times.”*
24. *Clause 29 (1) – DELETE “as, being entitled to do so, vote in person”*
25. *Clause 29 (2) – DELETE “as, being entitled to do so, vote in person”*
26. *Clause 31 (4) (c) – DELETE “and Regional Development”.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- A number of amendments are proposed to the WALGA Constitution;
- Amendments are necessary:
 - To remove requirements for delegates to attend annual and special general meetings in person; and,
 - As a result of WALGA’s change of financial year end to 30 June, from the previous 31 May year end.
- Other amendments are proposed to:
 - Allow a second vote to be conducted if two candidates tie in an election for President or Deputy President;
 - Clarify the application process for Ordinary and Associate Members;
 - Simplify the process for providing notice of State Council meetings;
 - Allow motions at Special State Council meetings to be passed with a simple, as opposed to absolute, majority, except as required elsewhere in the Constitution, such as the absolute majority requirement to adopt the budget; and,
 - Tidy up outdated wording.
- Amendments to the Constitution require a Special Majority of State Council and a Special Majority at a General Meeting;
- Consequently, these Constitutional Amendments will also be put to the 20 September 2021 Annual General Meeting.

Mr Sloan commented that the primary intent of the amendments was to ensure that the Association's AGMs can be held virtually if required, to change the Association's financial year to end on 30 June rather than 31 May and to clarify the process for the election of the Association's President and Deputy President.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

RECOMMENDATION

That the above recommendations and comments be endorsed.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Smythe moved and Cr C Antonio seconded –

That the above recommendations and comments be endorsed.

CARRIED

Matters for Noting/information

6.1 Submission to Ministerial Expert Committee on Electoral Reform (Page 29)

WALGA Recommendation

That the Submission to the Ministerial Expert Committee on Electoral Reform be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

- The Minister for Electoral Affairs, Hon John Quigley MLA, has announced the formation of a Ministerial Expert Committee to take submissions and make recommendations to Government to reform the Legislative Council electoral system.
- To facilitate the development of a WALGA submission to the Ministerial Expert Committee, the WALGA President established a Policy Forum of State Councillors that met twice during May 2021.
- The Policy Forum:
 1. Considered a background paper and the Expert Committee's discussion paper,
 2. Discussed key issues with ABC Election Analyst, Antony Green,
 3. Considered a range of models, ultimately recommending a preferred model, and
 4. Shaped the arguments put forward in the submission.
- Following the Policy Forum's deliberative process, a submission was put forward for State Council consideration at the 2 June 2021 special meeting of State Council.
- Following a number of amendments, the final submission was endorsed via Flying Minute on Friday, 4 June.

RESOLUTION

Cr S Carter moved and Cr C Antonio seconded –

That the WALGA Policy Forum be congratulated on its recommendations to State Council and reiterating the need to maintain political representation for rural and remote Western Australia.

CARRIED

6.2 Legal Response to the Coastal Hazard Planning Issues Paper (Page 32)

WALGA Recommendation

That the update on the Legal Response to the Local Government Coastal Hazard Planning Issues Paper (2021) be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

- The *Legal Response to the Coastal Hazard Planning Issues Paper (2021)* is a certified legal response to questions outlined in the *Coastal Hazard Planning Issues Paper (2019)*.
- The legal response will be useful for Local Governments preparing and revising Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plans (CHRMAs), which Local Governments are required to prepare under *State Planning Policy 2.6: State Coastal Planning Policy*.
- The legal response is a confidential document owned by the organisations who contributed funding and resources to seek the advice; 28 Local Governments, WALGA and LGIS.
- The project is estimated to have saved the sector approximately \$1.3 million in legal fees, had each participating Local Government sought independent legal advice.

Cr J Court extended an invitation to Mr N Sloan and representatives from the WA Local Government Association to visit the Shire of Gingin to see firsthand the effect of erosion along the coast, particularly at Lancelin and Ledge Point. She commented that the recent State Government funding to mitigate coastal erosion went mainly to Fremantle.

6.3 WALGA Submission: Child Safety Officer (Page 34)

WALGA Recommendation

That the submission to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and the Department of Communities in response to the Discussion Paper On The Implementation Of Child Safety Officers In Local Governments be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

- The State Government is consulting on the proposed implementation of child safety officers within Local Government, which is a recommendation of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (Recommendation 6.12).
- WALGA hosted a series of online discussions to gather feedback from Local Governments and encouraged Local Governments to make individual submissions.
- WALGA has made a number of recommendations, including the establishment of a State and Local Government working group to guide future consultation and policy development.
- The submission was endorsed by State Council via flying minute on 31 March 2021 and was provided to DLGSC on 1 April 2021. It is anticipated the State will release a findings paper in June and following this, invite WALGA to participate in a focus group to assist in the policy development.

Cr C Antonio enquired as to how implementation of the recommendation for child safety officers within local government will work at the local level. Mr N Sloan replied that the recommendations of the Royal Commission will be given effect in some form whether that be through staff, policy, sharing resources with other local governments, etc.

6.4 State Planning Policy 3.1 Residential Design Codes Volume 1 – Medium Density Code (Page 36)

WALGA Recommendation

That the endorsed submission on the interim review of State Planning Policy 3.1 Residential Design Codes Volume 1 Medium Density Code be noted.

WALGA Executive

- On 27 November 2020, the WA Planning Commission (WAPC) released the draft State Planning Policy 3.1 Volume 1: Medium Density Code (Medium Density Code) for public comment. The comment period closed on 16 April 2021.
- The submission was presented to the People and Place Policy Team on 1 April 2021 and subsequently endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute.

6.5 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) (Page 38)

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note the resolutions of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council at its 28 April 2021 meeting.

WALGA Executive Summary

- This item summaries the outcomes of the MWAC meeting held on 28 April 2021.

6.6 Local Government Performance Monitoring Project (Page 40)

WALGA Recommendation

That the results of the Local Government Performance Monitoring Report (2019/2020) be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

- In 2018, WALGA initiated the Local Government Performance Monitoring Project and through this project prepared the *Local Government Performance Monitoring Report (2018)*. This report demonstrates the planning and building performance of 11 Local Governments during the 2016/17 financial year. WALGA has continued and expanded the Project producing subsequent reports in 2019, 2020.
- This new report: *Local Government Performance Monitoring Report (2021)* demonstrates the planning and building performance of 29 Local Governments from across Western Australia during the 2019/20 financial year.
- The report indicates that Local Governments continue to provide efficient and effective management of their planning and building regulatory functions.

6.7 Review of Fire Weather Districts (Page 42)

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note information regarding the consultation on the review of the Western Australian Fire Weather Districts (FWD) being conducted by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM).

WALGA In Brief

- Issues have been identified with the current West Australian Fire Weather Districts.
- DFES and BOM through the Interagency Bushfire Operations Committee Australian Fire Danger Rating System Subcommittee has determined that the new ADFRS presents an appropriate opportunity to review and update the current Fire Weather Districts.
- A working group comprising DFES and BoM representatives are managing the consultation and review process.

6.8 2021-22 State Budget Submission Approach (Page 44)

WALGA Recommendation

That the approach for the 2021-22 State Budget Submission, which was endorsed via flying minute be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

- Each year, WALGA prepares a submission to the State Government outlining the sector's priorities for the upcoming budget.
- The attached presentation outlines WALGA's proposed approach to this submission, based on the current economic and political environment.
- It is proposed that WALGA has the best chance of achieving funding by putting forward a targeted list of initiatives that are aligned with Government priorities, and deliver a demonstrated return for the State and Community.
- The Association's approach to the State Budget Submission was endorsed by State Council on 21 May 2021 via Flying Minute.
- The final submission will be provided to State Council for endorsement in mid-June.

6.9 Managing Public Health Risks from Wastewater Conveyance, Treatment and Disposal in WA
(Page 46)

WALGA Recommendation

That the submission to the Department of Health in response to the Managing Public Health Risks from Wastewater Conveyance, Treatment and Disposal in WA consultation be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

- On Thursday, 18 February the Department of Health released the “Managing Public Health Risks from Wastewater Conveyance, Treatment and Disposal in Western Australia” discussion paper for public comment.
- There are 19 Local Governments which manage wastewater schemes that are currently exempt from licensing under the *Water Services Act 2012* (‘19 Local Government wastewater managers’).
- The discussion paper presents three options for the *future regulation of wastewater conveyance, treatment and disposal*. The majority of Local Government responses received by WALGA support Option 3 - the development of new regulations largely based on the existing regulations with minor amendments, including training requirements and accreditation of Site and Soil Evaluators.
- Feedback indicated that Local Governments do not support the full adoption of the Australian Standards AS/NZS1547 in the new regulations as there is limited evidence in the discussion paper to support its adoption.
- The discussion paper presents three options for the *future management of wastewater systems*. WALGA received limited feedback from the 19 Local Government wastewater managers, and as such does not have a definitive position on the three options presented in the discussion paper.
- WALGA recommends that the Department of Health engage further with Local Government when developing any new regulations.
- The submission was endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute on 2 June 2021.

Mr Z Donovan commented that WALGA did not get the level of feedback from local governments it would have like on this issue.

RECOMMENDATION

That the above matters for noting/information be noted.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr R Madacsi seconded –
That the above matters for noting/information be noted.**

CARRIED

Organisational Reports

7.1 Key Activity Reports

- 7.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Commercial and Communications (Page 48)
- 7.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Governance and Organisational Services (Page 50)
- 7.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure (Page 53)
- 7.1.4 Report on Key Activities, Strategy, Policy and Planning (Page 55)

RECOMMENDATION

That the above organisational reports be noted.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –
That the above organisational reports be noted.**

CARRIED

6.2 WALGA President's Report

Presentation of the WALGA President's Report (attached to Agenda).

RECOMMENDATION

That the WALGA President's Report be received.

Cr K Chappell presented the WALGA President's report and commented on –

- Cyclone Seroja – WALGA is supporting the recovery process and WALGA's CEO is a member of the Recovery Committee.
- Breakfast meeting with the Minister for Local Government, Hon John Carey – Very encouraging. The Minister has a focus on red tape reduction and a Working Group, including WALGA representation, has been formed. Encouraged with the Minister's comments around reporting requirements taking into account size and scale of local governments.
- Telecommunication resilience – ALGA encourages submissions to government on strengthening telecommunication infrastructure. Ms Sue Middleton is a member of the Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee which is undertaking the 2021 review of regional telecommunications.
- 2021 Local Government Convention – Being held over two days at Crown Perth.
- 2021 National General Assembly –
 - Regional Forum focussed on telecommunications.
 - Assembly focussed on recovery and resilience. Healing was highlighted as an important part of the recovery process.
 - Cyber security a concern. WALGA is looking into this issue.
 - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program – Met with the Minister.
 - Hon Michael McCormack addressed the Assembly. This was his last public event before the National Party leadership spill.
 - 102 motions were put forward. Only 6 motions were focussed on specific locations or regions and were not supported.
- State Road Funding –
 - As WALGA Deputy President sit on the State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee.
 - Really tough for the Committee to seek more funds for roads from the State Government when there is some \$30m in unspent funds at the end of the year. Stressed the importance of having reserve projects ready to go and encouraged local governments to hand back funds unlikely to be spent by 30 June in January. Funds handed back in May cannot be reallocated in time.
 - State Black Spot Funding can be used on roads where it is identified that a fatal car crash may occur.
 - Took photographs and measurements of their seeder bar and self-propelled sprayer to meeting to emphasise to the Committee the widths of current agricultural machinery.
- Emergency Equipment – A significant issue highlighted during the Cyclone Seroja disaster was the need to for people to have battery powered radios to receive notifications, advice etc.

Cr K Seymour asked what were the weakest links identified in the Morawa area following Cyclone Seroja. Cr Chappell replied –

- Identification that Government housing stocks in the town had not been maintained.
- Local Government and the community had not known that the Department of Fire and Emergency Services is the head of power for emergency management. There has been poor communication of this fact.
- An unintended but invaluable resource was that as part of the Shire's COVID-19 response generators had been hard wired into the Shire Office and communications and the town waste water scheme. The Shire also had satellite communication available. This meant that these facilities could still operate. The Shire opened up its communication facilities to the community.
- Once it became clear that the cyclone was likely to impact the district, the Shire door knocked the town and handed out pamphlets. Many people were not aware that the cyclone was coming and what actions to take.

Cr K Seymour asked whether obtaining clearing permits was an issue with unspent road funds. Mr P Bentley commented that the projects within the Shire of Goomalling had been held up waiting for approvals from Government Departments. Cr K Chappell replied that Mr Geoff Eves had been appointed by SAC to investigate this issue and he had reported that in a lot of cases local government planning was at fault. She highlighted the need to ensure that planning, including necessary permits, is complete before funds are requested.

Cr S Carter highlighted the issue of the same road being allocated funds from both the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network and the Regional Road Group.

RESOLUTION

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr D Smythe seconded –
That the WALGA President's Report be received.**

CARRIED

6.3 State Councillor's Report

Report by Cr Ken Seymour.

Cr K Seymour reported –

As we have all travelled to Goomalling by road today, we must take time out to appreciate our road network throughout the region and this vast state. It is heartening to witness the roadwork improvements underway at present. The ongoing transport task, coupled with a constant desire for higher safety standards is a constant challenge for all tiers of governments, especially local governments.

Good quality road building material, funding, clearing permits, availability of trained staff and seasonal weather events often make the challenge of road building for local governments all the more onerous. I urge all delegates and Council representatives to liaise and support their Shire road crews from time to time. They are often the forgotten people who make our lives so much safer by building, designing and maintaining safe transport routes. With ongoing mineral exploration throughout this zone, the transport task may increase similar to parts of the State's Midwest region. The increasing agricultural freight task, booming local tourism traffic and daily commuters add to the complex traffic mix on our roads.

Funding from Federal and State governments is appreciated and the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network is a great example of local governments working together to secure these improvements.

Happy and safe motoring.

RECOMMENDATION

That the State Councillor's Reports be received.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Slyn's moved and Cr C Antonio seconded –
That the State Councillor's Report be received.**

CARRIED

6.4 Zone Status Report

Report by WA Local Government Association on status of Zone resolutions for action by the Association – June 2021 (attached to Agenda).

RECOMMENDATION

That the June 2021 Status Report be received.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr S Carter seconded –
That the June 2021 Status Report be received.**

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 11:11 am.

RESUMPTION: The meeting resumed at 11:32 am. All those present at the time of adjournment were present on resumption.

7 ZONE REPORTS

7.1 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group

No meeting of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group has been held since the last Zone meeting. The next meeting of the Group is scheduled for Friday 9 July.

The Group's Chair has requested that the July meeting include discussion on the future activities of the Group with particular reference to the direction taken by the new State Government with regards to agricultural freight. The Zone may care to consider the Group Chair's request for any direction to the Zone's delegate to the Group.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Smythe moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –

- (a) That the Zone supports the continuation of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group; and**
- (b) That the Zone requests that the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group continue to advocate for an increase in the number of vehicles permitted in convoys for the movement of agricultural machinery.**

CARRIED

7.2 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee

Report by Zone Delegate Cr C Antonio on activities of the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

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

Cr C Antonio commented on –

- District exercise held.
- Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Advisor, Yvette Grigg, reviewed all local government facilities as evacuation centres.
- Regular updates received on COVID-19.
- Yongah Hill Immigration Detention Centre, Northam, not being considered as a quarantine centre.
- Cyclone Seroja highlighted that within the Wheatbelt there was little understanding of what was required in the event of a Cyclone.

Mr Rob Dicke entered the meeting at 11:43 am

RESOLUTION

Cr D Smythe moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –

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

CARRIED

8 AGENCY REPORTS

8.1 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

- (a) Presentation of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries report (attached to Agenda).
- (b) Consideration of any topics or presentations the Zone would like the Department to give to the next Zone meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Report be received.

Ms J Collins presented the report and commented on –

- Puppy farming.
- Planning system reforms.
- Cemeteries Act and Cremation Act review.
- Launch of the local government elections campaign.
- Resources available to encourage vaccination.
- Infrastructure project grants.
- Club Nights Light Program - \$10m specifically for sports floodlighting infrastructure

RESOLUTION

Cr D Smythe moved and Cr R Madacsi seconded –

That the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Report be received.
CARRIED

8.2 RDA Wheatbelt

Presentation of report from RDA Wheatbelt (attached to Agenda).

RECOMMENDATION

That the RDA Wheatbelt Report be received.

Ms M Walker presented her report and commented on –

- She met with Hon Melissa Price, Member for Durack. Ms Price asked RDA Wheatbelt to report on the areas of Northam, Toodyay, York and Chittering which are now within the Division of Durack following the recent redistribution of boundaries.
- Noongar Enterprise Development Support (NEDS) Project.
- Care workforce.
- Regional data hub.
- Community finder.
- GrantGuru
- Aviation and Aerospace SWOT

Cr J Court commented on the difficulty of getting care workers and on recent presentation by Echo Community Services to the Gingin community.

Ms M Walker advised that she would circulate the links for Boosting Local Care Workforce program.

RESOLUTION

Cr C Antonio moved and Cr S Carter seconded –

That the RDA Wheatbelt Report be received.
CARRIED

8.3 Transport Portfolio (Main Roads, Department of Transport, Public Transport Authority)

Presentation of the Transport Portfolio report.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Transport Portfolio report be received.

Mr Y Sinde tabled written report and commented on –

- Shoulder sealing – Nature of funding meant work was outside of the normal construction season. As such expecting some failures which the contractor will have to come back and repair.
- Anticipate 50-60% of the total available funding for next year to be allocated to the Region.
- Availability of contractors an issue for the next stage of shoulder sealing works. Costs likely to increase.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Smythe moved and Cr S Carter seconded –

That the Transport Portfolio report be received.
CARRIED

8.4 RoadWise (Wheatbelt North)

Presentation of report from RoadWise (Wheatbelt North) (attached to Agenda).

RECOMMENDATION

That the RoadWise (Wheatbelt North) Report be received.

Mr C Simpson presented his report and commented on –

- Regional roadworks signage review – Local governments can still comment, submission close in the next couple of weeks.
- Roadside Clearing Regulation Working Group still active. Encouraged local governments to forward queries to Ian Duncan at WALGA to pass onto the Committee.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –
That the RoadWise (Wheatbelt North) Report be received.**

CARRIED

8.5 Other

There were no other reports.

| |
|------------------|
| 9 FINANCE |
|------------------|

9.1 Financial Reports

Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Report for the period ending 31 May 2021 are attached to the agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

That the financial reports for the period ending 31 May 2021, as attached, be received.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr S Carter seconded –
That the financial reports for the period ending 31 May 2021, as attached, be received.**

CARRIED

9.2 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts are submitted for payment -

| <u>Payee</u> | <u>For</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|--------------|--|-------------------|
| R W & S Dew | Secretarial Services to Local Government Agricultural Freight Group – May 2020 to April 2021 | 1,319.81 |
| | TOTAL (no GST) | <u>\$1,319.81</u> |

RECOMMENDATION

That the accounts as listed totalling \$1,319.81 be approved for payment.

RESOLUTION

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr D Smythe seconded –
That the accounts as listed totalling \$1,319.81 be approved for payment.**

CARRIED

9.3 Zone Honorariums

BACKGROUND

The Zone pays an honorarium to the Chair of Zone meetings on a pro rata basis in accordance with the number of meetings chaired. For 2020/2021 the amount was set at \$650.

COMMENT

For 2020/2021 there were 5 Zone meetings (including this meeting). Approval is sought to pay the honorarium to the respective Chairs of the Zone's 2020/2021 meetings. 1 meeting was chaired by Cr Court and 4 meetings were chaired by Cr Seymour.

RECOMMENDATION

That payment of the 2020/2021 honorarium to the Chairs of Zone meetings be approved.

RESOLUTION

Cr C Antonio moved and Cr D Smythe seconded –

That payment of the 2020/2021 honorarium to the Chairs of Zone meetings be approved.

CARRIED

10 ZONE BUSINESS

10.1 Wheatbelt Conference

BACKGROUND

The Wheatbelt Conference is a collaborative arrangement between the Avon-Midland, Central and Great Eastern Country Zones. The Conference being held every two years with the last one being held in Jurien Bay in April 2018. Previous conferences were held in York, Merredin, Kellerberrin, and Narrogin.

In May 2019 the Central Country Zone resolved:

That the Central Country Zone does not support the holding of a Wheatbelt Conference in 2020 however the Zone will review the decision in relation to future Wheatbelt Conferences in May 2020.

The Central Country Zone acknowledged that the previous conferences have been successful, however there was concern at the difficulty in developing new and interesting topics and finding suitable keynote speakers and also the issue of time and cost for attendees.

In June 2019 the Great Eastern Country Zone resolved:

That the Great Eastern Country Zone position on the Wheatbelt Conference be;

- 1. There is value in holding Wheatbelt Conferences;*
- 2. Not hold a Wheatbelt Conference in 2020 and look to hold a conference in 2021;*
- 3. Request the three (3) Wheatbelt Zone Executive Committees to meet and discuss the future of Wheatbelt conferences during the 2019 Local Government convention*

The Executives of the three Zones meet and discussed the future of the Wheatbelt Conference at the 2019 Local Government Convention. The Central and Great Eastern Country Zones reiterated their positions. Representatives from the Great Eastern Country Zone were quite keen for the Conference to be held in 2021 with a revised format, the possible inclusion of elected member training and more input by the Zones into the content and speakers. The Central Country Zone representatives voiced the opinion that they did not see great value in continuation of the Conference but would look at any proposals for a Conference in 2021.

At its August 2019 meeting the Avon-Madland Zone resolved:

That the Avon-Midland Country Zone support the holding of the next Wheatbelt Conference in 2021 with a revised format to be determined in consultation with the Central and Great Eastern Country Zones.

COMMENT

The Great Eastern Country Zone has advised that at its April 2021 Executive Committee meeting it was resolved that the Committee request to meet with the Central Country Zone and Avon Midland Country Zone to discuss if there is an appetite to host a future Wheatbelt Conference. The Zone has suggested that the representatives from the three Zones meet at the Local Government Convention to be held 19-21 September 2021.

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That representatives of the Zone meet with representatives of the Central and Great Eastern Country Zones to discuss the holding of a future Wheatbelt Conference.
- (b) That the Zone support the holding of the meeting at the 2021 WA Local Government Association Convention.
- (c) That the Zone representatives be the President, Deputy President and Executive Officer.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Smythe moved and Cr S Carter seconded –

- (a) That representatives of the Zone meet with representatives of the Central and Great Eastern Country Zones to discuss the holding of a future Wheatbelt Conference.**
- (b) That the Zone support the holding of the meeting at the 2021 WA Local Government Association Convention.**
- (c) That the Zone representatives be the President, Deputy President and Executive Officer.**

CARRIED

Cr R Madacsi advised that should the Wheatbelt Conference proceed the Shire of Toodyay would be interested in hosting the Conference.

Cr D Smythe suggested that for future conferences consideration be given to incorporating the conference with other organisations. As an example, she referred to the recent WA Farmers and National Farmers Federation forum at Muresk Institute.

Cr J Court requested that delegates provide feedback to the Executive Officer before the Zone representatives meet with the Central and Great Eastern Country Zones.

11 URGENT BUSINESS (as permitted by the Presiding Member)

No matters were brought forward.

12 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

No matters were brought forward.

13 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Future meetings of the Zone are scheduled for –

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 20 August 2021 | Shire of Gingin |
| 19 November 2021 | Shire of Toodyay |

RECOMMENDATION

That the next ordinary meeting of the Zone be held Friday 20 August 2021 and be hosted by the Shire of Gingin.

Cr J Court advised that the Shire of Gingin would like to swap the meeting scheduled to be hosted by them on 20 August 2021 with another meeting. Cr Madacsi advised that the Shire of Toodyay was willing to swap meeting dates with the Shire of Gingin.

RESOLUTION

Cr J Court moved and Cr R Madacsi seconded –

That the next ordinary meeting of the Zone be held Friday 20 August 2021 and be hosted by the Shire of Toodyay.

CARRIED

Cr C Antonio left the meeting at 12:25 pm.

14 GUEST SPEAKER

14.1 CBH Group - Update

Mr Rob Dickie, Principal, Government & Industry Relations, CBH Group, gave an update on -

- CBH's site retirement strategy and process that CBH will follow for sites within the Zone that will be either leased to a third party (for non-grain related activities) or permanently removed from the CBH network. In the first tranche expressions of interest to be invited for 19 sites including within this Zone Buntine, Coomberdale, Yerecoin and Green Hills. Two sites, neither in the Zone, to be demolished. Freehold sites will be sold and sites on railway property will be subject to Public Transport Authority lease arrangements.
- CBH's emergency storage planning strategy for this harvest given the rainfall received so far and potential for large grain receivals into CBH's network.

Cr S Carter asked if the retired sites could be used to store grain. Mr Dicke replied that growers could use these sites for activities such as grain drying but not for grain storage.

15 CLOSURE

There being no further business the President thanked attendees, the Shire of Goomalling for hosting the meeting, and declared the meeting closed at 12:29 pm.

CERTIFICATION

These Minutes were confirmed by the meeting held on

Signed:
(Chairman of meeting at which the Minutes were confirmed)