

Murchison Country Zone of WALGA

Shires of –ABN 75 305 122 944

Cue

Meekatharra

Mount Magnet

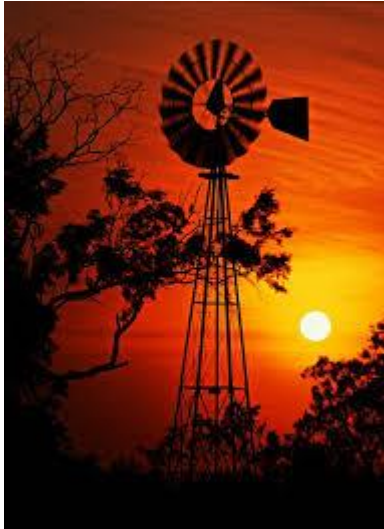
Murchison

Sandstone

Yalgoo



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



MINUTES

MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE

OF

Western Australian Local Government Association

Friday 23 April 2021

Cue Town Hall – Dowley Street Cue



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Shires of –
Cue
Meekatharra
Mount Magnet
Murchison
Sandstone
Yalgoo

ABN 75 305 122 944



Ordinary Meeting, Cue Town Hall on Friday 23 April 2021

1. Opening

The meeting was opened by the President Cr Roscco Foulkes-Taylor at 9.35am who welcomed those present including new Minister for Local Government the Hon John Carey MLA.

2. Murray Brown Tribute

Cr Beth Walton paid tribute to former long time executive officer of the Zone Mr Murray Brown.

3. Attendance

3.1 Delegates

Cr Roscco Foulkes-Taylor	Zone President Shire of Murchison
Cr Jorgen Jensen	President Mount Magnet Shire
Cr James McGorman	Shire of Mount Magnet
Cr Ross Pigdon	President Shire of Cue
Cr Les Price	Deputy Zone President Shire of Cue
Cr Beth Walton	President Shire of Sandstone
Cr Harvey Nichols	Shire of Meekatharra
Mr Roy McClymont	CEO Shire of Meekatharra
Cr Greg Payne	President Shire of Yalgoo
Cr Gail Trenfield	Shire of Yalgoo
Cr Carol Hodshon	Shire of Sandstone
Mr Bill Boehm	CEO Shire of Murchison

3.2 Observers

Ms Samantha Appleton	Executive Officer Murchison Country Zone
Mr Rob Madson	CEO Shire of Cue
Mr Kelvin Matthews	CEO Shire of Mount Magnet
Mr Ian Holland	CEO Shire of Yalgoo

Mr Charlie Brown

CEO Shire of Sandstone

3.3 Visitors

Mr Nick Sloan	CEO WALGA
Ms Kelly McManus	Principal, Policy & Advisory WALGA
Mr Mike Bowley	MWDC Director Regional Development
Hon Vince Catania MLA	Member for North West Central
Mr John D'Arcy	Water Corporation Stakeholder Manager
Ms Catherine Fewings	Water Corporation Acting Regional Manager Midwest
Hon John Carey MLA	Minister for Housing, Local Government
Hon Dave Kelly MLA	Minister for Water, Forrestry, Youth
Ms Claire Comrie	Office of Hon John Carey MLA
Hon Kyle McGinn MLC	Member for Mining and Pastoral
Hon Robin Scott MLC	Member for Mining and Pastoral
Ms Louise Admanson	Main Roads WA Midwest
Ms Angele Gray	Department of Local Government, Sport & Communities Regional Manager Mid West (via Zoom)
Ms Janet Hartley-West	Regional Manager Midwest-Gascoyne Region Central and Northern Regions Main Raods WA
Ms Tracy Bachraty	Executive Assistant Shire of Cue, Proxy Delegate Midwest Suicide Prevention Committee

3.4 Apologies

Mr Mark Holdsworth	Director Regional Development Australia Mid West
Hon Ken Baston, MLC	Member for Mining and Pastoral
Hon Simone McGurk MLA	Minister for Child Protection; Women's Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services
Hon Stephen Dawson MLC	Minister for Mental Health; Aboriginal Affairs; Industrial Relations. Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
Hon David Templeman MLA	Minister for Tourism; Culture and the Arts; Heritage Leader of the House
Hon Reece Whitby MLA	Minister for Emergency Services; Racing and Gaming; Small Business; Volunteering
Hon Robin Chapple MLC	Member for Mining and Pastoral
Ms Angele Gray	Department of Local Government, Sport & Communities Regional Manager Mid West
Ms Samantha Adams	WALGA Roadwise
Senator Dean Smith	Senator for Western Australia

Hon Mia Davies MLA	Member for Central Wheatbelt
Hon Melissa Price MP	Leader of the WA Nationals
Hon Bill Johnston MLA	Minister for Defence Industry
	Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Energy; Corrective Services
Hon Mark McGowan MLA	Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Public Sector Management; Federal-State Relations
Hon Sue Ellery MLC	Minister for Education and Training Leader of the Legislative Council
Hon John Quigley MLA	Attorney General; Minister for Electoral Affairs
Hon Amber-Jane Sanderson	Minister for the Environment, Climate Action; Commerce
Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC	Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Hydrogen Industry
Hon Roger Cook MLA	Deputy Premier; Minister for Health; Medical Research; State Development; Jobs and Trade; Science
Hon Paul Papalia MLA	Minister for Police; Road Safety; Defence Industry; Veterans Issues
Hon Don Punch MLA	Minister for Disability Services; Fisheries; Innovation and ICT; Seniors and Ageing
Hon Rita Saffioti MLA	Minister for Transport; Planning; Ports
Mr Ashley Dowden	Meekatharra Rangelands Bio Security Group
Mr Kevin Blake	Regional Manager St John's WA
Ms Anne Finlay	Acting CEO Mid West Development Commission
Cr Emma Foulkes-Taylor	Shire of Murchison
Mayor Tracey Roberts JP	President WALGA

4. Official Opening of Conference

The Hon John Carey MLA, Minister for Housing, Local Government opened the meeting. He has been the Minister for Local Government for 4 weeks. He acknowledged the Hon Kyle McGinn MLC and the Hon Robin Scott MLC who were also attending the meeting and extended thanks for the sundowner co hosted by the Cue CRC and the Shire of Cue.

Mr Carey stated prior to being a Minister he was Mayor of the City of Vincent for 4 years and a Councillor for 2 previous years. During this time the City of Vincent was rated the No. 1 Local Government for transparency.

He stated that with the advent of Covid and the recent fire and cyclone disasters local governments have been going above and beyond what is required in helping local residents.

His focus is on getting the best culture for local government and the department will be driving reform on:

- Complaints
- Disfunction
- Enquiries into local governments
- Relationships between CEO's and Councillors
- Cutting of red tape to facilitate small businesses
- Better financial management including a tiered system of compliance
- Better accessibility to the Minister and response

Members expressed concern about the lack of experienced staff within the Department. The Minister responded that he is looking at a separate body with oversight of local government while the department will deal mainly with policy.

He also stated there would be no forced amalgamation of local governments, however councils must be pragmatic about financial constraints and costs to ratpayers.

The issue of slowness of payment for flood damage putting a strain on local governments was raised. Minister Carey said he would raise this with the relevant minister.

5. Confirmation of the Minutes

5.1 Confirmation of Minutes – Ordinary Meeting 27 November 2020.

Comment

Minutes of the meeting held Zone Meeting held 27 November 2020 has been circulated to Member Shires.

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held 27 November 2020 be confirmed.

RESOLUTION – Moved: Cr Jensen Seconded: CEO McClymont

That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held 27 November 2020 be confirmed.

Carried

6. WA Local Government Association

6.1 WALGA President



Presented by WALGA CEO Mr Nick Sloan.

President's Report

May 2021

Tropical Cyclone Seroja

Many of our members and the communities they represent have been affected by the devastation unleashed by Tropical Cyclone Seroja in April, which made landfall between Kalbarri and Port Gregory before moving inland. Winds of up to 170 kilometres an hour left a trail of destruction over 35,000 square kilometres of Western Australia. It destroyed homes, businesses, resorts, sheds, fences and water stations, leaving thousands of people homeless and without power and communication for extended periods.

As I write, the full impacts of TC Seroja are still being assessed but it is clear the path of the cyclone has affected communities from the Gascoyne to the Mid-West and through the Wheatbelt. Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements have been put in place for some Local Government Areas and the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund has been activated to provide financial assistance to individuals impacted by TC Seroja. The recovery will be long and WALGA is providing support, as required, to our members in the clean-up and rebuilding. One thing is certain: the resilience of the Local Governments and the communities affected will continue to shine through, despite the devastating losses and upheaval.

This is exactly what we have seen following the devastating effects of the Woorloo bushfire in February, which destroyed 86 homes and caused widespread damage. The City of Swan and Shire of Mundaring have been, and continue to, work tirelessly with their communities and relevant agencies to support those who have lost property, pets, livestock and possessions. While they have been stretched beyond capacity, the Local Government sector has stepped up to support them. Twelve other Local Governments donated \$104,000 to the Lord Mayor's Distress Fund for Woorloo; others have shared fire brigades, offered accommodation for evacuated people and animals, and provided communications or administrative support.

Local Governments are always there to support their communities, and willing to lend a hand to each other in times of need.

Meeting with Minister for Local Government

CEO, Nick Sloan and I met with the Minister for Local Government Hon John Carey MLA together with his Chief of Staff, Claire Comrie on Tuesday 30 March 2021. The meeting focussed on the opportunities for State and Local Government to work collaboratively across the Minister's multiple portfolios which include Housing, Red tape reduction, a new Local Government Act and an outcomes focussed State-Local Government Partnership agreement were discussed and the Minister was very clear of his intention to work closely with Local Government.

WALGA will be organising a Meet the Ministers breakfast event following release of the Parliamentary sitting schedule and the date/time of the event will be communicated via our newsletters as soon as possible.

Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) – National General Assembly

The 2021 National General Assembly (NGA) will be held on 20 -23 June 2021 in Canberra. This year's NGA will be a hybrid event where you can attend in-person or via the web.

This year's conference theme is "Working together for our Communities"

This session of the NGA is being held at a critical juncture in Australia's recent history. The national roll-out of the Covid vaccine has begun, border restrictions have eased, and there is a growing sense of optimism that life will again return to normal, albeit a "Covid normal".

How well we work together and across governments will determine the success of our recovery – and continuing full cooperation will ensure no community is left behind.

Registrations can be made on the ALGA website.

WALGA 2021 Local Government Convention

The 2021 WA Local Government Convention will be held at Crown Perth on Monday, 20 – Tuesday, 21 September with the Opening Welcome Reception being held on the evening of Sunday, 19 September.

The provisional programme is as follows;

Sunday, 19 September 2021

- **Mayors and Presidents' Forum**
- **Opening Welcome Reception**

Monday, 20 September 2021

- **AGM**
- **Breakfast with Directors General**
- **Conference Sessions**
- **Gala Dinner - Sesquicentenary of Local Government in WA**

Tuesday, 21 September 2021

- **Convention Breakfast with Jelena Dokic**

➤ **Conference Sessions**

Further information will be provided in coming weeks.

PRESIDENT'S CONTACTS

President's contacts since 3 March 2021 and scheduled before 5 May 2021 are as follows:

State Government Relations

- **Lunch Event With the Prime Minister – Hon Scott Morrison MP**
- **Leadership Matters Breakfast – Premier Mark McGowan MLA**
- **Hon John Carey MLA, Minister for Housing; Local Government**
- **Bill Marmion (ex-Member for Nedlands)**

Zone Meetings

- **Peel Country Zone Meeting**
- **Pilbara Country Zone Meeting - Video Conference**

Local Government Relations

- **Joint Venture Management Committee (WALGA/LGIS) x 3**
- **State Council Election Forum**
- **State Council Informal Forum – Video conference**
- **State Council Meeting**
- **Finance and Services Committee Meeting**
- **ALGA – Board Meeting**
- **ALGA – Closing the Gap, Joint Ministers Council Meeting**
- **ALGA – CEO Shortlist Meeting**
- **ALGA – CEO Interviews**
- **ALGA – Meeting of Environment Ministers**
- **ALGA – Global Covenant of Mayors Committee Meeting**
- **ALGA National General Assembly Subcommittee – Video Conference x 2**
- **LGIS – CEO, Jonathan Seth, Chair, Peter Forbes, JLT, Head of Public Sector, Gary Okely and Chief Operations Officer, Peter Hoare**
- **LGIS Board Workshop**
- **Australian Local Government Women's Association WA, President, Karen Wheatland**
- **Local Government Convention 21 Committee Meeting x 2**
- **Meeting with**
 - **City of Canning Mayor, Patrick Hall**
 - **City of South Perth Mayor, Greg Milner**
 - **City of Swan Mayor, Kevin Bailey**
 - **City of Stirling Mayor, Mark Irwin**

- **President of the Local Government Association Northern Territory, the Lord Mayor of Darwin, Hon Kon Vatskalis**
- **Western Australian Multicultural Awards Ceremony**
- **Council Visits**
 - **City of Albany**
 - **Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup**
 - **Shire of Kojonup**
 - **Shire of Woodanilling**
 - **Shire of Plantagenet**
 - **Shire of Denmark**

Please take care and keep safe.

**Mayor Tracey Roberts JP
President**

6.2 Zone Representative to State Council - Cr Les Price

Cr Price presented his report. He welcomed WALGA representatives and supporters of the Murchison Country Zone.

He mentioned:

- The recent elections had changed the focus of WALGA due to the caretaker period;
- That WALGA had been very proactive in dealing with a number of emergencies that are affecting member councils including serious bushfires affecting the Shires of Mundaring, Gingin and Dandaragan, as well as Cyclone Seroja affecting Kalbarri, Northhampton and the Wheatbelt region;
- WALGA has had frequent engagement with district Emergency Management advisors and the State Recovery Team and the Hazards Liaison Group convened by DFES. WALGA has also attended weekly Incident Support Groups and has a Covid 19 co-ordinator embedded in the State Health Incident Control Centre for immediate Local Government action that may be required;
- ALGA (President Tracey Roberts is the WALGA representative) has put up a pre budget submission to the Federal Treasury around Federal Assistance Grants (FAGS) and road funding for Local Governments. Local Governments are also seeking federal support which is vital for creating local jobs and community wellbeing. ALGA is calling for further investment and has set 13 priorities designed to create 31,222 new jobs and contribute \$4.65B to the national economy;
- The last 3 months prior to the elections WALGA sought to leverage the important connections between local governments and their communities, designed to:
 - Enhance advocacy and effectiveness
 - Enhance relationships between local government leaders and members of parliament

WALGA ran a digital campaign during the period to create public awareness of the sector with Facebook advertising and digital display advertising reaching more than 200,000 across these platforms;

- Local Governments are working to improve road safety and are taking advantage of WALGA's Roadwise road safety performance in WA. There have been 4832 fatal or serious injuries between 2014 and 2018 as a result of crashes;
- WALGA congratulates the Shire of Mount Magnet as the winner of the Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities State 2020 award in the Heritage and Culture category;
- WALGA has embarked on an ambitious whole of sector energy project which aims to support renewable energy policy which targets reductions in electricity costs, gas and carbon offsets for the sector as we move towards sustainability affecting all levels of Local Government and is looking to evolve a power purchase agreement that is scalable. WALGA will provide an MOU around August 2021;
- WALGA's Corporate Strategy 2020-2025 was endorsed by state Council at our Dec 2020 meeting. The main focus is to leverage the collective strength and influence of all WA LG's and their communities;
- Audit issues are still creating some issues with timing, cost and consistency. New contracts are being prepared by the OAG. It is hoped this will provide local governments with adequate time to prepare and execute;
- The partnership agreement between WALGA and State Government continues to be a focus in the areas of:
 - Economic recovery
 - Infrastructure
 - Community support
 - Climate change
 - LG Act review
- The Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse – responses:
 - Cases – 42,044
 - Letters/Emails – 25,964
 - Private Sessions/Reference to Authorities – 2,575

Current activity includes a submission to the Royal Commission by State Council. Recommendation at point 6.12 recommending all local governments employ a Child Safety Officer. The submission was endorsed by State Council. The recommendation from our zone was agree in principal on the recommendation with the MCZ suggesting the state government engage personnel to fill such positions in local government offices.

Child abuse (physical and mental) is rampant in society and requires professionally trained personnel to deal with the problem.

Where do 138 local governments find 138 suitably qualified and experienced professionals with working with children clearances to fill the role?

It is suggested that:

- Data is collated in a common repository
- Policy positions are formulated around gathered data
- That there be a degree of state control over serious instances and that resources are dedicated in developing state wide solutions.
- That everybody has a responsibility to ensure our children are kept safe in every environment.

- The partners in Government Agreement is designed to:
 - Deliver services and infrastructure
 - Promote good governance, accountability & transparency
 - Encourage collaboration to drive constructive outcomes with long lasting impacts;
- The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill 2020 is on the horizon and a number of the proposals in the bill will affect local governments and communities.
 We have raised our concerns to WALGA along with a number of other zones and hope the Minister will revisit some areas of the proposed bill and some further engagement to address some local government concerns.
 It is noted that in an article written by Rachael Knowles on the proposed Aboriginal Cultural Heritage bill that public submissions to the draft bill have found that over 60% of the submissions are not in support of the bill. I suggest more work is needed on this;
- The Local Government Review Panel final recommendations are still a priority for the government to address. We hope the Minister will address some of the concerns of local government.
 At the December 2020 meeting of State Council, State Council endorsed the recommendation that WALGA continue advocating a review of key issues affecting local governments;
 Will keep you posted!
- WALGA recognises the issue surrounding family and domestic violence and the role that local government can play in that space.
 State Council recommends WALGA advocates to the State Government to:
 - Define and communicate the roles, responsibilities and expectations of local governments
 - Provide adequate resources and funding for family domestic violence programs and services
 - Advocate to the Commonwealth for additional funding and support;
- Waste – The container deposit scheme continues to gain momentum

The report from the WA Country Health Service to the meeting was read to the meeting by the President.

6.3 WALGA Status Reports

No items outstanding

6.4 Agenda Briefs – WALGA Meeting 5 May 2021

WALGA CEO Mr Nick Sloan led the meeting through discussions on the relevant State Council agenda items.

Recommendation

That WALGA agenda items 5.1 to 5.4 be supported and agenda information items 6.1 to 6.4 be noted.

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Price Seconded Cr Walton

That WALGA agenda items 5.1 to 5.4 be supported and agenda information items 6.1 to 6.4 be noted.

Carried

MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA

FLYING AGENDA

WALGA STATE COUNCIL MATTERS FOR DECISION and NOTING

AT WALGA MEETING OF WEDNESDAY 5 May 2021

The following recommendations have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 5 May 2021 and which contains important detail of each item.

Each recommendation is followed by a direction to refer to the full WALGA State Council Agenda and 3 voting options. This is an editable Word Document so all that is required is to delete the 2 voting options you do not support and in the case of option 3 state your alternative recommendation.

Please note that this agenda will be included in our Zone Agenda for discussion on 23 April 2021 so no response is required until our meeting on the Friday 23 April 2021.

6.4.1 MATTERS FOR DECISION

5.1 Local Government Financial Ratios (05-034-01-001 FM)

By Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services

Recommendation

That WALGA:

1. Advocate to the Minister for Local Government to amend the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* to prescribe the following ratios:
 - a. Operating Surplus Ratio,
 - b. Net Financial Liabilities Ratio,
 - c. Debt Service Coverage Ratio, and
 - d. Current Ratio.
2. Recommend that Local Governments consider including Asset Management ratios in their Annual Report.
3. Request the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries to review the Asset Management ratios in consultation with the Local Government sector.
4. Continue the Local Government Financial Ratios Working Group as a reference group for the development of a Model set of Financial Statements and Budget Statements, and to establish new financial indicators.

In Brief

- Over a number of years there has been mounting concern as to the appropriateness of the seven financial ratios which are prescribed for inclusion in Local Government annual financial reports.
- WALGA has formed a Sector Reference Group and Working Group to review the ratios and provide recommendations. The composition of the Groups included sector representatives together with officers from the Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries, Office of the Auditor General and WA Treasury Corporation.
- The Working Group has provided a [Local Government Financial Ratios Report](#) with recommendations for the prescribed ratios and other related matters.

Attachment

Local Government Financial Ratios Report

Policy Implications

WALGA's current position, adopted in March 2019, on financial ratios is as follows;

That Regulation 50 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations be reduced and amended to the following financial ratios:

- *Operating Surplus ratio*
- *Net Financial Liabilities ratio*
- *Asset Renewal Funding Ratio*

Target ratios for Local Governments be considered in line with the size and scale principle. A review of the formulas for the ratios be undertaken.

5.2 Roads Asset Preservation Model Review (05-001-03-0051 SD)

By Sebastian Davies-Slate, Policy Officer – Transport and Roads

Recommendation

That WALGA:

1. Seek support from the WA Local Government Grants Commission to provide presentations on the inputs, operation of and outputs of the Road Asset Preservation Model at Zone or Regional Road Group meetings where requested.
2. Advocate to the WA Local Government Grants Commission to improve the formatting and labelling of the model and make it available via the Commission's website.

In Brief

- The Local Government Grants Commission's Roads Asset Preservation Model is used to allocate road funding from State and Federal Government grants among Local Governments in Western Australia. WALGA has explored the need for and risks of advocating for a review of this model.
- Investigations to date highlight that the model is comprehensive, robust and been generally accepted by Local Governments, the Grants Commission and the State Government for more than 25 years, with few substantial changes. However, the model is complicated and not fully documented. Its operations are difficult to understand, resulting in a lack of transparency as to the model's operations.
- To help stakeholders understand the model, WALGA has prepared a manual explaining the principles and operation of the model.

- Local Governments and Zones expressed preferences ranging from retaining the status quo, through providing additional information to facilitate more informed decision-making, to seeking advocacy for a full review of the Road Asset Preservation Model when the matter was considered during February 2021.
- Improving the level of understanding of the model and potential implications of alternative approaches will assist future decision-making regarding the desired advocacy position.

5.3 Western Australian Development Index (05-104-01-0001 TL)

By Tim Lane, Manager Strategy and Association Governance

Recommendation

That the development and implementation of the Western Australian Development Index, led by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, be supported.

In Brief

- Governments at all levels in a number of jurisdictions are leveraging broad wellbeing data, beyond traditional metrics, to measure community and citizen wellbeing over time.
- To research this issue, and the relevance of wellbeing indices to Local Government, WALGA hosted a research intern whose final report is [available here](#).
- In addition, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) has been working with the Australian National Development Index (ANDI) to progress discussions on the development of a Western Australian Development Index (WADI), which would measure community wellbeing across a broad range of domains in Western Australia.
- Access to objective wellbeing data would provide Local Governments with opportunities to guide policy and budgetary decisions, and to advocate to other spheres of government for policy, program or infrastructure interventions.
- Importantly, the proposed WADI is not intended to be a tool for comparing Local Government performance, rather it is intended to aid decision making, policy interventions and advocacy to other spheres of government.
- The DLGSC is seeking non-financial support (in the form of a State Council resolution) from WALGA to seek State Government funding for the development of WADI.

Attachment

[Research Report – Local Government Metrics of Wellbeing](#)

5.4 Review of the State Industrial Relations System (05-034-01-0001 DH)
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By Davina Hunter, Employee Relations Service Manager

Recommendation

That WALGA:

1. Seek confirmation from the State Government on whether it intends to re-introduce legislation for Local Governments to operate solely in the State Industrial Relations System.
2. If the State Government reintroduces legislation to require all Local Governments to operate within the State Industrial Relations System, continue to advocate for the State Government to:
 - a. Amend the *Industrial Relations Act 1979 (WA)* to include additional provisions to modernise the State IR system; and
 - b. Provide adequate funding and resourcing to ensure Local Governments are equipped with the appropriate tools and training to enable a smooth transition.

In Brief

- Currently in Western Australia there is a dual system whereby Local Governments apply either the Federal or State Industrial Relations legislation.
- The State Government is seeking to have all Local Governments operate in the State Industrial Relations System based on recommendations made in a Ministerial Report (2017-19).
- The *Industrial Relations Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 (Bill)* was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 20 August 2020 but failed to pass the Legislative Council before Parliament was prorogued on 7 December 2020.
- With the recent election results, the WA Labor Government has control of both houses of State Parliament. Therefore, if a new Bill is introduced in similar terms it is unlikely to meet any opposition in Parliament.
- The transition of Local Government employees from the Federal to State Industrial Relations system will affect approximately 23,000 employees and will require Local Government employers and employees to navigate complex transitional legislation and arrangements.

- If legislation to mandate the transition is reintroduced into Parliament, it will be critical for Local Governments to secure State Government funding, resourcing and assistance to ensure the transition is smooth and positive for Local Government employees.

Policy Implications

The recommendation aligns with WALGA's Advocacy Position 2.7.1 Employee Relations – Federal Award Coverage which states:

That WALGA:

1. *Provide information and advice to Local Government to support their assessment of the appropriate industrial relations jurisdiction within which to operate; and*
2. *Advocate for modernisation of the WA industrial relations framework with a view to achieve consistency with the predominant Federal industrial relations system.*

Further, WALGA opposes the proposed transfer of all Local Governments to the State Industrial Relations System.

If Local Government is to be transferred to the State Industrial Relations system, the State system must be modernised first to ensure it aligns with the Federal system.

Budgetary Implications

A Business Case was approved by WALGA State Council in December 2020 for an increase in recurrent budget to provide resourcing to the WALGA Employee Relations team to lead and transition ER Subscribers to the State IR System.

No additional funding is required at this time.

6.4.2 MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

6.1 New Regulations Update – Model Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates; and CEO Standards for Recruitment, Performance Review and Termination (05-034-01-0001 JM)

By James McGovern, Manager Governance

Recommendations

That the information update on the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 2021* and *Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021* be noted.

In Brief

- In December 2020, State Council adopted advocacy positions in relation to the *CEO Recruitment and Selection, Performance Review and Termination Standards Regulations* (Res:[146.6/2020](#) – p.55) and the *Model Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates Regulations* (Res: [147.6/2020](#) – p.61);
- In January 2021 State Council endorsed a submission on the Draft *Local Government Regulations Amendment (Employee Code of Conduct) Regulations 2020* ([Res: 194.FM/2021](#))
- Three new regulations, relating to the above matters were Gazetted and commenced on 3 February 2021;
- WALGA's request for an implementation period in relation to the Council Member Code of Conduct and CEO Standards was unsuccessful.
- WALGA is providing support and assistance to the sector through guidelines, framework for a Complaints process for the Elected Member Model Code of Conduct and developing a Model Employee Code of Conduct.

Attachments

1. The *Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021* can be found [here](#)
2. The *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 2021* can be found [here](#)

6.2 State Election Campaign (04-001-03-0001 TL)
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By Tim Lane, Manager Strategy and Association Governance

Recommendation

That the update on the 2021 State Election Campaign be noted.

In Brief

- WALGA ran a coordinated State Election Campaign that included
 - Direct engagement with Members of Parliament, candidates for election, and political parties,
 - Production of a campaign brochure and website, and
 - A social media and electronic display ads campaign.
- The campaign generated engagement with Members of Parliament and candidates across the political spectrum, and the returned Labor Government made a number of commitments aligned with WALGA's policy agenda.

6.3 Draft Position Statement: Dark Sky and Astrotourism (05-036-03-0068 AR)
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By Ashley Robb, Senior Planner

Recommendation

That the endorsed submission on the draft *Position Statement: Dark sky and astrotourism*, be noted.

In Brief

- The Western Australian Planning Commission has released the draft *Position Statement: Dark sky and astrotourism* for public comment. Submissions close on 26 March 2021.
- The position statement outlines a set of planning mechanisms that can be used by planning authorities to preserve dark sky locations for the purposes of supporting astrotourism activities.
- The People and Place Policy Team discussed WALGA's draft submission on 17 March 2021 and recommended that it be considered and endorsed by State Council through Flying Minute.

Attachments

[Flying Minute and Submission: Dark Sky and Astrotourism](#)

6.4 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) (01-006-03-0008 RNB)
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By Rebecca Brown, (Manager, Waste & Recycling)

Recommendation

That State Council note the resolutions of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council at its 24 February meeting.

In Brief

This item summaries the outcomes of the MWAC meeting held on 24 February 2021.

Catherine Fewings Water Corporation Acting Regional Manager Midwest made a presentation to the meeting on the roll out of electro dialysis reversal plants in Cue, Meekatharra, Mount Magnet and Sandstone to reduce nitrate levels in drinking water.

7.0 Matters for Consideration

7.1 Financial Statements

Proposed by Executive Officer

Attachments Income & Expenditure –01/07/2020 to 31/03/2021

Comment –

Refer Financial Statements on next page

Reconciled balances of account as at 31 March 2021 –

Cheque Account (229 492)	\$23,084.63
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Recommendation –

That the Financial Statements for the periods 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021 be received.

RESOLUTION – Moved: Cr Pigdon Seconded: Cr Nicholls

That the Financial Statements for the periods 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021 and be received.

Carried

MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1/07/2020 to 31/03/2021

Bank Balance (as Per B/S) 01/07/20

\$16,154.90

Income

Date	Source	Amount
17/07/2020	Shire Of Meekatharra - Subscription	\$2,500.00
20/07/2020	Shire Of Yalgoo - Subscription	\$2,500.00
20/07/2020	Shire Of Sandstone - Subscription	\$2,500.00
21/07/2020	Shire Of Mount Magnet - Subscription	\$2,500.00
24/07/2020	Shire Of Cue - Subscription	\$2,500.00
31/07/2020	Interest	\$1.73
18/08/2020	Shire of Murchison - Subscription	\$2,500.00
31/08/2020	Interest	\$2.52
30/09/2020	Interest	\$2.49
30/10/2020	Interest	\$2.48
30/11/2020	Interest	1.15
	Total Income to 31 March 2021	\$15,010.37

Payments

Date	Cheque	Payee	Description	Amount
01/05/2020	200139	L Price	Deputy President & WALGA Delegate Honorarium	\$930.00
10/12/2020	0001	S Appleton	Executive Fees & Reimbursements	\$4,862.64
10/12/2020	0002	Cue Accomodation & Café	Catering	\$2,288.00
			Total Expenditure to 31 March 2021	\$8,080.64

Reconciliation

Balance Bought Forward 01/07/2020	\$16,154.90
Add Income Received	\$15,010.37
Less Expenditure	-\$8,080.64
	Balance
Balance as per Bank Statement 31 March 2021	\$23,084.63

Murchison Country Zone of WALGA

Financial Statement to 31 March 2021

Account	Budget 2020-21	Actual 2020-21	Projected
Income			
General Subscriptions	15,000	15,000	15,000
Interest Earned	20	10	20
Reimbursements	0	0	0
Total Income	15,020	15,010	15,020
Expenditure			
Meeting Expenses Teleconferences Special Meetings & Workshops	4,000	2288	4,000
Bank Fees & Charges	20	0	20
Reimbursable Expenses Unclassified Expenses (Minute Book)	100	0	100
Zone Representative Gratuities	1,530	0	1,530
Executive Officer Services	8,000	4,000	8,000
Executive Officer Reimbursements	2,000	863	2,000
Total Expenses	15,650	7,151	15,650
Net Income/(Loss)	(-630)	7,859	(-630)

The Hon Kyle McGinn MLC, Member for Mining and Pastoral addressed the meeting. He welcomed traditional owners and thanked the meeting for his re-election. Issues of concern were health, anti social behaviour and youth. He also spoke about the banned drinkers register which has not yet been rolled out in the Murchison Country Zone. Members expressed concern about the lack of support services and government services in the region to address issued. He also discussed issues with mining companies and impacts on communities in the state.

7.2 Budget 2021 - 2022

Proposed by Executive Officer

Attachments Draft Income & Expenditure Statements for the 2021-2022 year

Background –

The 2020- 21 Budget was adopted at the May 2020 meeting. The Zone has usually considered the subscriptions for the new financial year in May, in preparation for member Shires own budgets.

Comment –

The Zone budget for 2020/21 has resulted in a small deficit. However sufficient funds remain. It is suggested that Member Shire subscriptions stay at \$2,500.00 each, excl GST for 2021-22.

The honorariums approved for 2020-21, which are now due to be paid, are –

- Zone President \$600
- Zone Deputy President \$400
- Zone Representative to WALGA \$530

If further expense is incurred by the Zone through unforeseen circumstances, an additional charge may be required from each Shire.

Recommendation –

That the draft Budget for 2021-22 be adopted, incorporating –

- a) Member Shire subscriptions of \$2,500.00 per Shire, excluding GST, and
- b) Honorariums be set at the same level as applied last year.
 - Zone President \$600
 - Zone Deputy President \$400
 - Zone Representative to WALGA \$530

RESOLUTION – Moved: Cr Payne Seconded: Cr Price

That the draft Budget for 2021-22 be adopted, incorporating –

- a) Member Shire subscriptions of \$2,500.00 per Shire, excluding GST, and**
- b) Honorariums to be set at –**
 - Zone President \$600**
 - Zone Deputy President \$400**
 - Zone Representative to WALGA \$530**

Carried

Murchison Country Zone of WALGA

Budget 2020-2021

Account	Budget 2020-21	Estimated Actual 2020-21	Budget 2021-2022
Income			
General Subscriptions	15,000	15,000	15000
Interest Earned	20	20	20
Reimbursements	0	0	0
Total Income	15,020	15,020	15,020
Expenditure			
Meeting Expenses Teleconferences Special Meetings & Workshops	4,000	4,000	4000
Bank Fees & Charges	20	20	20
Reimbursable Expenses Unclassified Expenses (Minute Book)	100	100	100
Zone Representative Gratuities	1,530	1,530	1530
Executive Officer Services	8,000	8,000	8000
Executive Officer Reimbursements	2,000	2,000	2000
Total Expenses	15,650	15,650	15,650
Net Income/(Loss)	(-630)	(-630)	(-630)

The Hon Robin Scott MLC, Member for Mining and Pastoral addressed the meeting. He will be leaving Parliament after 4 years. He addressed issues such as financial governance in Aboriginal corporations, child suicide and issues in the Mining and Pastoral region. He also commented on the recent election and the lack of opposition members in the new parliament.

8.0 Shire Reports

8.1 Shire of Yalgoo



Shire of Yalgoo Activity Report April 2021

Cyclone Seroja

The Shire of Yalgoo while being close to the path of Cyclone Seroja was fortunate to receive only minimal damage and secondary outages. This event required the Caravan Park to preemptively close. Communications for Paynes Find and Southern mining operations remain effected due to their connections through Morawa and Perenjori. Our thoughts are with our Southern and Western Local Governments who have a monumental recovery period ahead of them and we will assist where we can.

Human Resources

The Shire of Yalgoo has just finished advertising for a new plant operator and community development officer. Once this process is complete the Shire will look to engage a suitable deputy chief executive officer. It is a key aim of the Shire to bolster its small admin and works crew.

There is some staff housing availability but this supports current recruitment ambitions.

Tourism and Community Events

Our trainee community development officer and other staff pulled together a few small but significant events including a community Christmas Tree and an Australia Day Breakfast and evening music.

Christmas and January remained very quiet in town and the Caravan Park but numbers have picked up significantly due to the cooler weather. Upcoming we have filming occurring on our mining tenements and the Yalgoo Races.

Road and Plant

We are currently assessing flood damage from a storm event in early March that caused significant road damage.

The crew is preparing the Yalgoo-Ninghan Road for sealing and the Shire has engaged contractors for the widening of Morawa-Yalgoo Road. After market delays, the Shire has received a new Cat Grader, Utilities, Community Bus and Tipper Trailers.

Projects

Administration is currently working to shift out existing accounts and rates from Datacomm Ozone across to ITVision Synergyssoft. This is a time consuming process for such a small team but will allow for more local support when system issues arise.

New rammed earth chalets have begun construction at the Yalgoo Caravan Park. The new builds will complement the existing structures and are larger, self contained and more accessible compared to the existing accommodation.

A small house in support of the WACHS is proposed that will improve attraction and retention for a nurse and also supports the outcome of two nurses being employed locally. This property will shortly be released for tender.

Numerous lighting and solar projects are currently on hold while Horizon undertake business studies on smart lighting and the rollout of a community battery.

An electronic display board is being designed for outside the Shire Office and will be inclusive of wayfinding information for attractions or station stays. At the same time entry statements are being designed for Paynes Find.

Ian Holland

Chief Executive Officer

Shire of Yalgoo - Where the Outback Starts!

8.2 Shire of Mount Magnet



Projects

- Installation of ablutions block at Town Cemetery in accordance with recommendation of the Mount Magnet Cemeteries Management Plan 2020 -2030
- Murchison Geo Tourism Plan – stage 2 commenced with establishment of Project Working Group (PWG) comprising of all Murchison Geo Region local government members.
- Funding applications to Lottery West and Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) have been submitted to commence the Mount Magnet Geo Community Reference Centre (the old school classrooms site) renovation project.
- Proposed commencement by Ramelius Resources of 'Penny West' project circa south east of Mount Magnet in Sandstone Shire October 2021. Ramelius intend to transport ore from the Penny West project to their Mount Magnet Mill for processing using the Youanmi Road through Sandstone and Mount Magnet Shires.
- Public infrastructure mural art project at several sites such as the former railway water tank.
- Commencement of DRFAWA flood damage work in accordance with funding received commenced February 2021, and
- The \$50m Clean Energy Fuels Australia (CEFA) LNG processing plant project has commenced.

Human Resources

- Appointment of permanent part time Visitor Centre Officer.
- Appointment of casual Visitor Centre Officers x 1 for 2021 season.
- Engagement of Trainee for Cert 2 Business Administration studies to be located at Visitor Centre, office administration and library.
- Council appointed 2 outdoor staff to replace employees who have departed the organization that now brings a total of 6 permanent employees and 2 casual outdoor employees.

Governance/Finance

- Adoption by Council of Town Planning Scheme and Local Planning Strategy – awaiting gazettal.
- Audit - Councils 2019/20 audit completed March 2021.
- Adoption of 2019/20 Annual Report, and
- Electors Meeting scheduled for 28/4/21.

Housing

- Council only has one staff house vacant at the moment.
- Council has recently leased one of its houses to the private market.
- All 4 Council Pensioner Units are occupied.

Civil Works and Plant

- Maintenance grading work continues on the Mt Farmer in accordance with the Road Access and Maintenance Agreement between Council and Gascoyne Resources.
- Replacement of Works Manager vehicle.
- Council has continued with its minor plant replacement program for the 2020/21 year with the purchase of mowers, whipper snippers etc.

Tourism

The 2021 tourism season has commenced with advance bookings for Council's caravan park indicating an increase to tourism.

- Visitations to/through Mount Magnet for the 2021 tourism season have started to get busy with the Visitor Centre having now increased its opening hours from 9 am to 3.30 pm seven days a week.
- The 2021 Astro Rocks Fest is scheduled for weekend of 17 to 20 September 2021 inclusive, and
- The Mount Magnet races is tentatively scheduled for early October 2021 which is consistent with last year's event.

Community Activities

- The Mount Magnet Memorial Swimming Pool closed for the 2020/21 season on 31st of March 2021 and will reopen on the 1st of October 2021.
- Council plans a normal return to ANZAC Day morning service although there will be no mid-morning march, and
- Community activities have recommenced following COVID 19 restrictions being eased.

Thank you

Kelvin Matthews
Chief Executive Officer



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8.3 Shire of Murchison



WALGA - Murchison Country Zone

April 2021 Report

Settlement Works

As part of this approach Council finalised a separate list of capital works projects in around the Murchison Settlement. UDLA from Fremantle have completed the required Master Planning / Placemaking Work which has been accepted in principle by Council. Public input and comment is being sought.

Projects as listed below are in no priority order. Total Est cost \$3.2m. Council has set aside and amount of \$1.55m and will supplement this through grants. Once detailed scoping and design has been completed works prioritised will be prioritised with Council working through the final priority list until the funding runs out.

PROJ A	Transportable Classroom	PROJ D	Community / Sports Centre Upgrade
PROJ F	New -Caravan Park Ablution Block	PROJ E	Community Swimming Pool / Splash Pad
PROJ J	Playground Upgrade	PROJ H	New -Caravan Park 2 Ensuite Units
		PROJ I	General Settlement Amenity Improvements



Existing Community Centre



Schematic Upgrade

Roadhouse

In February 2021, the existing sub-lessees of the Murchison Oasis Roadhouse and Caravan Park advised Council that they had withdrawn their request for a final two-year extension to their sublease. Council decided to take the operation in-house and we began operation on 1 March 2021 at very short notice.

Council aims to have the operation ensure that Murchison Settlement is an attractive focal point that enables the Shire to function successfully and deliver a range of services that will underpin community, cultural and economic development within the Settlement and broader Shire. As a not-for-profit organisation in a remote area, Council is committed to balancing the desire to make a commercial return

with the aims of providing local support, local employment and tourism attraction benefits within a community operation.

This has seen a marked change increase in workload, with staffing especially a challenge, but thus far the results have been positive; even though the roadhouse itself has operate intermittently. New two person operators have been sourced and will arrive at the end of April 2021. A significant amount of reorganisation is underway, as we integrate this operation into our operation and expanded thinking. The operation is also pivotal in maximising the benefit of Master Planning and Settlement Projects Work.

Staffing

Staffing continues to be a challenge, in part compounded by the need to provide staff accommodation, with existing resources stretched. Recent resignation of our DCEO who has relocated back to Perth with her family, has provided the opportunity to expand the current Finance Governance Role into separate Community / Governance and Finance arms. A new Community Manager / DCEO will commence in late April 2021. A Senior Finance Manager is also about to start on a 3-month basis. With the arrival of Roadhouse operators, the emphasis will have significantly changed very quickly in response to current circumstances and future requirements.

Roadworks

The Carnarvon- Mullewa Road, which under Main Roads 2030 is our highest-ranking priority road continues to be our main focus with the aim to eventually complete a seal road between the Murchison Settlement and Southern Shire boundary.

With assistance from Main Roads and the initial allocation of Local Roads Community Infrastructure Program Funds (LRCIP) we in the process of sealing a 12.6km section. Works have started but been held up due to Cyclone Seroja. They should be completed within the next few weeks.

We also have two applications for flood mitigation works under the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program as part of DRWFA's program that has need submitted to the Commonwealth.

Cyclone Seroja

Fortunately, we missed most of the damage and destruction as we were on the periphery. We all feel though for those affected.

Bill Boehm

Chief Executive Officer

8.4 Shire of Sandstone



General

The shire of Sandstone had no ill effects from Cyclone Seroja, registering 16 mills of rain in the townsite.

Human Resources

We will shortly be advertising the position of Project Officer to assist with several projects currently on the go, but not having a dedicated person in charge has delayed these projects.

Currently in the process of finalising a position on the outside staff as a plant operator. Recently appointed Customer Services Officer at the Visitors centre.

Occ Health & Safety

Council recently engaged the services of Prompt Safety Solutions to instigate Occupational Health and Safety procedures with our outside staff.

Lack of procedure plus recent changes in legislation have initiated this.

Tourism

The Sandstone caravan park has once again become a popular place for tourist and our winter guest searching for the elusive gold nugget. Our park currently has a 50% vacancy.

The Visitors centre opened on the 8th April and has a steady stream of customers.

Coming Events

Council will this year continue with our traditional ANZAC day service @ 11AM at the Memorial Philip Lefroy Park, followed by morning tea in the in the Town Hall.

The Annual Sandstone Art Exhibition will again be held in August.

8.5 Shire of Cue



April 2021 Report to Cue Parliament

Governance	<p>Council has agreed to appoint the WA Electoral Commissioner to conduct the 2021 Council election by postal vote, when terms expire for Councillors Ian Dennis, Fred Spindler and Liz Houghton.</p>
Admin	<p>CEO, Rob Madson, has informed Council that he will be retiring from Local Government at the conclusion of his contract on 30 June 2021. The Shire is currently progressing through the requirements of recent legislative amendments prior to commencing the selection process for a replacement.</p>
Economic Development	<p>Construction of turning nodes on the runway at Cue Aerodrome to accommodate larger aircraft proposed for Westgold's FIFO operations has now been completed, with construction costs funded by the company. Westgold continue to cart gold ore from Comet, Great Fingall and Big Bell mines to their processing plant at Tuckabianna. Reopening of their Cuddingwarra mine sites is planned to commence shortly.</p> <p>Fenix Resources have reached steady state production at their Iron Ridge mine, situated in the Weld Range, with 76 mining staff accommodated onsite. Joint venture partner, Newhaul, have been engaged for the transport task, with Iron ore being carted by road to Geraldton Port. Newhaul have secured housing in town for their drivers and have submitted development applications to construct accommodation to house 12 additional employees.</p> <p>EV Metals have begun construction of a fly camp at the company's Battery Hill mine site in the Weld Range. The company says the mineral deposits at this site represent the largest inventory of nickel and cobalt in a single undeveloped Ni Co iron oxide-silica deposit in Australia. It is estimated that 2-3,000 employees will be required during the construction phase of the new mine, with 500 permanent employees to be retained for the anticipated 30 year life of the mine. Nickel and cobalt are used in the production of next generation electric vehicle batteries.</p> <p>Golden State Mining and Adaman Resources have partially removed stockpiles of battery sands in and around Cue townsite</p>

	<p>for transport to Kirkalocka for processing, however the project has been suspended temporarily due to issues at the processing plant. Carting has been scheduled to recommence following tourist season due to the proximity of the sands to Cue Tourist Park.</p> <p>Construction of a five-unit development in the Heydon Place Industrial estate, partly funded by a Mid West Development Commission Regional Economic Development grant, is nearing completion. Registrations of interest have been invited for prospective business tenants to provide trades and services supporting the town and the mining sector.</p> <p>A sharp increase in mining activity within the Shire has created a sudden accommodation shortage in town, with only one house currently for sale and no rentals available. The Shire is progressing plans to construct additional staff accommodation more suited to its single employees in order to free up family housing for potential residents.</p>
Tourism	<p>Interpretive signage for sites within the shire on the Murchison GeoRegion Trail have been completed and are awaiting installation. Proposals are being prepared by a number of potential indigenous tourism operators which will complement the GeoRegion project, with the Mid West Development Commission also joining with Meenangu Wajarri Aboriginal Corporation to facilitate the potential development of indigenous tourism programs for the world's oldest continuous mining operation at Wilgie Mia.</p> <p>Cue Tourist Park is rapidly filling for the tourist season, with many regular visitors returning who were unable to visit in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions.</p>
Town Developments	<p>Complete resealing of all town streets using a Microsurfacing treatment has recently been completed by Downer EDI utilising funding from the Federal Local Roads and Community Infrastructure grant program.</p> <p>The Shire has taken delivery of three new transportable houses constructed by Modular WA, one being the new Tourist Park Manager's residence and office. The remaining two are to be leased to the State Government for Police Officer accommodation through the Government Regional Officer Housing program. Final assembly of the houses is complete, with fencing and landscaping works in progress.</p> <p>Refurbishment of the old railway station building for use as a Youth and Community Centre is continuing. The project has been delayed by the discovery of additional damage to the property revealed during the deconstruction phase.</p>

	<p>The former Bank of NSW building is also being refurbished and fitted out with commercial kitchen facilities with the aim of attracting a new business to town.</p> <p>Following an onsite assessment of the Great Fingall mine site, Mammoth Movers are preparing a scope for the transportation of the Great Fingall mine office building from its current location on the edge of the open cut mine at Day Dawn to a new location in the Cue townsite. It is proposed that the building be refurbished for future use as the Shire administration centre.</p>
Works	<p>WANDRRA funded roadworks to repair flood damage to roads within the Shire resulting from a January 2020 rain event are currently underway. Fortunately, no additional damage was caused to the Shire's road network by Cyclone Seroja.</p> <p>With several mining companies preparing to seal large sections of the Shire's road network to fulfill their obligations under an MOU with the Shire, the Shire has acquired a street sweeper and bitumen patching truck in preparation for a marked increase in sealed road maintenance, to be funded through road user agreement contributions.</p>
Community Events	<p>Following a successful application for funding from Auspire, the Shire was able to present a spectacular 2021 Australia Day, complete with live band and fireworks. The event was well attended by locals, tourists and residents from surrounding towns.</p> <p>Plans for the return of Q-Fest on the Western Australia Day long weekend in June 2021 have been abandoned due to the continuing uncertainty of COVID-19 restrictions.</p>

8.6 Shire of Meekatharra

Shire of Meekatharra



WALGA Murchison Zone Meeting; April 2021

Activities and issues - Shire of Meekatharra

Major Issues

Meekatharra District Hospital replacement is urgent. Built in 1955, the dilapidated Meekatharra Hospital is now over 65 years old and must be replaced as a matter of highest priority. The Government made a small election promise of ~\$13 which, if it ever actually transforms into a firm budget commitment will only fund about 25% of the project. But it is a start !

Long life mining companies are being given full approval by state agencies with no consideration as to how they will transport their inputs and outputs to and from site. In some cases there is an assumption/expectation that they will use Shire roads. Unsealed shire roads are not designed or constructed to take large, long term mine haul programs. There are significant impacts on shire finances and resources, public safety and the environment.

The current raft of state legislative and policy amendments is proving interesting to implement. So much for the governments "reducing red tape" mantra!

Human Resources

We are reviewing our Project Officer position following the resignation of our Project Officer after 7 years with the Shire. All other positions are currently filled.

Land/Buildings

Lloyds Outback Plaza; Tenants are in place for the Hairdressing Salon, Café, Gallery and a retail/office space. Only one retail/office space remains untenanted.

Road Construction & Equipment

We have a massive road construction program this year. We were successful in gaining Federal Building Better Regions funding to seal a further 27 kms of Landor Road over a three year period. Stage 1 is complete; 10 kms upgraded and sealed.

The shires allocation under the recently announced Federal Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program has also been allocated to seal a further 10 kms of Landor Road with the Shire co-contributing \$623,000 (43%) to this project. This project will be completed this month.

Our Roads to Recovery project this year is to seal a further 6 kms of Ashburton Downs Road - complete.

Considerable natural disaster damage (est. \$15M) occurred early in 2020. Reinstatement work continues under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

We are undertaking a full mid-life rebuild on our 140H grader.

Promotions/Events

This year's Meeka Festival weekend will be held on the long weekend (September 25 – 27).

Governance/Admin/Finance

Our audit late last year was clean with the auditors making some very positive comments – there's a first time for everything!

9.0 Presentations

Ms Tracy Bachraty Proxy Delegate to the Midwest Suicide Prevention Steering Group made a presentation to the meeting about the large number of suicides in the region which has resulted in the formation of the group and the need for services to the region to address the issue.

The Hon Dave Kelly MLA, Minister for Water, Forrestry, Youth addressed the meeting on the impact of climate change on WA. Also the \$24M nitrate removal program from water being rolled out in Mt Magnet, Cue, Sandstone and Meekatharra. He was also questioned about youth suicide issues in the state.

Cr Price paid tribute to CEO Rob Madson who is leaving the Shire of Cue.

The President Cr Rosasco Foulke-Taylor and Cr Jensen paid tribute to CEO Roy McClymont who is leaving the Shire of Meekatharra after 15 years.

Mike Bowley, Director of Regional Development Mid West Development Commission spoke about projects the Commission are currently dealing with, including the cyclone clean up, the DPIRD meeting at Mount Magnet and Geo Tourism.

The President Rosasco Foulkes-Taylor then introduced Janet Hatley-West , Regional Manager for Mid-West Gascoyne Region and Northern Region Main Roads. She said that currently most work is revolving around Cyclone Seroja. Concern was expressed about the closures caused by the cyclone and the backing up of trucks and caravans in Mt Magnet. Due to a lack of communications this became an issue. Ms Hartley-West stated these issues will be reviewed.

10. Emerging Issues as Notified/Permitted by the President

10.1 Mental Health

Proposed by Shire of Cue

Background

A presentation by Tracy Bachraty Proxy Zone Delegate to the Midwest Suicide Prevention Steering Group, has highlighted the serious nature of the Midwest Region's record of suicides. Recent events have demonstrated that this trend is continuing.

Comment

While detailed statistics are confidential, it is known that the Midwest Region has the highest rate per capita of suicide in Western Australia.

Recommendation

That the Murchison Country Zone request WALGA to:

1. Make a representation to the Minister for Mental Health highlighting the high rate of suicide in the Midwest Region and lobby the State Government to urgently address the lack of adequate mental health resources in the region and investigate what actions could be taken to address the underlying causes of suicidal ideation;

and

2. Request that the State Government be requested to fully restore proper and adequate levels of service to the Murchison Sub-region in the Departments of Child Protection, Youth Justice and Adult Corrective Services.

Moved: Cr Price Seconded: Cr Pigdon

That the Murchison Country Zone request WALGA to:

1. **Make a representation to the Minister for Health and the Minister for Mental Health highlighting the high rate of suicide in the Midwest Region and lobby the State Government to urgently address the lack of adequate mental health resources in the region and investigate what actions could be taken to address the underlying causes of suicidal ideation;**

and

2. **Request that the State Government be requested to fully restore proper and adequate levels of service to the Murchison Sub-region in the Departments of Child Protection, Youth Justice and Adult Corrective Services.**

Carried

11.0 Next Meeting

With the December 2021 State Council meeting being scheduled on Wednesday 1 December 2021, WALGA has nominated a suggested date for the zone meeting being Friday 26 November 2021.

Moved Cr Price Seconded CEO Matthews

That the next meeting of the Murchison Country Zone be held in Cue on Friday 19 November 2021.

Carried

Motion amended at the recommendation of Mr Nick Sloan CEO WALGA

12.0 Meeting Closure

There being no further business the President closed the meeting at `1.50pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the meeting of the Murchison Country Zone of WALGA held 19 November 2021.

**R Foulkes-Taylor
Zone President**