

MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE

Shires of –

Cue
Meekatharra
Mount Magnet
Murchison
Sandstone
Yalgoo



ABN 75 305 122 944

39 Mitchell Street
GERALDTON WA 6530

Ph: 0477 788 370

**MINUTES
MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE
OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION**

**FRIDAY 17 APRIL – 9.30AM
CUE ADMINISTRATION CENTRE
AUSTIN STREET CUE**

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Ordinary Meeting, Cue Administration Centre on Friday 17 APRIL 2026

1. Opening

The President opened the meeting at 9.30am.

2. Attendance

2.1 Delegates

Cr Les Price	President Shire of Cue; Murchison Country Zone of WALGA Zone Delegate
Cr Raul Valenzuela	President Shire of Yalgoo
Cr Kieran Payne	Deputy President Shire of Yalgoo
Cr Harvey Nichols	President Shire of Meekatharra
Cr Mark Smith	Deputy President Shire of Meekatharra
Cr Rossco Foulkes-Taylor	President Shire of Murchison; President Murchison Country Zone of WALGA
Cr Emma Foulkes-Taylor	Councillor Shire of Murchison; Board Member Regional Development Australia Mid West
Cr Beth Walton	President Shire of Sandstone
Cr Vicki McQuie	Deputy President Shire of Sandstone
Cr Jorgen Jensen	President Shire of Mount Magnet
Cr Mick Madden	Shire of Mount Magnet
Mr Richard Towell	CEO Shire of Cue

2.1 Observers

Mr Ian Holland	CEO Shire of Yalgoo
Mr Nathan Cain	CEO Shire of Meekatharra
Mr Peter Money	CEO Shire of Sandstone
Mr Bill Boehm	CEO Shire of Murchison
Ms Tralee Cable	CEO Shire of Mount Magnet
Ms Samantha Appleton	Executive Officer Murchison Country Zone of WALGA

2.2 Visitors

Mr Mark Irwin	President WALGA
Mr Nick Sloan	CEO WALGA
Mr Mark Holdsworth	Executive Officer - Regional Development Australia Mid West
Mr Hugh Bonham	Manager - Regional Development Development Australia Mid West
Ms Bev Bronson	Senior Regional Development Officer - Mid West Development Commission
Mr Nils Hay	CEO – Midwest Development Commission
Mr Adam Murezweski	Director of Regional Development – Midwest Development Commission
Mr John D’Arcy	Principal Stakeholder Manager - Water Corporation
Ms Veronique Thoms	Communication Advisor – Water Corporation
Ms Bec Fogarty	Community Manager - Shire of Murchison
Ms Rachel Evans	Tourism Support Recreation Officer - Shire of Murchison
Ms Libby Twiss	Community Relations Advisor - Westgold
Ms Tayla Parnham	Superintendent Environmental - Westgold
Ms Di Franklin	District Director Mid West - WA Country Health Service Mid West Murchison
Mr Liam Loan-Lack	Chief Customer Officer - Keystart
Ms Frances Walley	Aboriginal Home Ownership Liaison Officer - Keystart
Mr Rick Ryan	Community Emergency Services Manager - Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Mr Shane Love MLA	Leader of the Nationals WA
Ms Alison Cooke	Research Officer for Shane Love MLA
Mr Neil Thompson MLC	Member for Western Australia
Cr Stephanie Brown	Shire of Sandstone
Mr Shayne Hills	Regional Manager - Department of Housing and Works

2.3 Via Teams

Ms Louise Adamson	Network Manager – Main Roads Mid West – Gascoyne Region
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2.4 Apologies

Mr Boyd Brown	Regional General Manager - WA Telstra Business
Ms Joanne Fabling	CEO - Mid West Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Hon Melissa Price	Member for Durack
Mr Basil Zemplis MLA	Leader of the Opposition WA
Hon Julie Freeman MLC	Member for WA
Hone Rob Horstman	Member for WA
Hon. R.H. Cook, MLA	Premier; Minister for State Development; Trade and Investment; Economic Diversification
Hon. R Saffioti, MLA	Deputy Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Transport; Sport and Recreation
Hon. S. Dawson, MLC	Minister for Regional Development; Ports; Science and Innovation; Medical Research; Kimberley
Hon. J. Jarvis, MLC	Minister for Agriculture and Food; Fisheries; Forestry; Small Business; Mid West

Hon. P. Papalia CSC, MLA	Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services; Defence Industries; Veterans; Racing and Gaming
Hon. Dr A.D. Buti, MLA	Attorney General; Minister for Commerce; Tertiary and International Education; Multicultural Interests
Hon. S.F. McGurk, MLA	Minister for Creative Industries; Heritage; Industrial Relations; Aged Care and Seniors; Women
Hon. A. Sanderson, MLA	Minister for Energy and Decarbonisation; Manufacturing; Skills and TAFE; Pilbara
Hon. J.N. Carey, MLA	Minister for Planning and Lands; Housing and Works; Health Infrastructure
Hon. D.T. Punch, MLA	Minister for Aboriginal Affairs; Water; Climate Resilience; South West
Hon. R.R. Whitby, MLA	Minister for Police; Road Safety; Tourism; Great Southern
Hon. S. Winton, MLA	Minister for Education; Early Childhood; Preventative Health; Wheatbelt
Hon. D.R. Michael, MLA	Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Finance; Electoral Affairs; Goldfields-Esperance
Hon. H. Beazley, MLA	Minister for Local Government; Disability Services; Volunteering; Youth; Gascoyne
Hon. J. Stojkovski, MLA	Minister for Child Protection; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport; Peel
Hon. M. Swinbourne, MLC	Minister for Environment; Community Services; Homelessness
Hon. M. Hammat, MLA	Minister for Health; Mental Health
Ms Janet Hartley-West	Director Mid West Gascoyne Main Roads
Mr Murray Carter	Executive Director Rural Fire Division – Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Ms Sharon McElroy	Executive Support Officer – Corporate Services - Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Ms Jody Rolston	A/Executive Director - WA Country Health Service Mid West Murchison
Mr Mark Bowen AFSM	Superintendent Mid West Gascoyne - Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Ms Stacey Naughtin	A/Executive Director Corporate Services – Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Ms Melissa Pexton	Deputy Commissioner, Strategy and Emergency Management – Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Ms Karen Morrissey	Project Manager – Murchison Georegions
Ms Kirralee Warr MLA	Shadow Minister for Local Government

3. Vale Cr Ross Pigdon

Cr Price paid tribute to Cr Pigdon and outlined his early days from his birth at Big Bell to his time in Vietnam as a soldier, his work as a Police Officer and his return to Cue to run the family store. He also served the community in many ways and had 3 stints on the Cue Council including being Shire President from 2015 to 2023. He also served on the Vermin Council and the Murchison Country Zone of WALGA. Cr Price expressed condolences to family friends and loved ones of Cr Pigdon.

5. WA Local Government Association

5.1 WALGA President

President Mark Irwin introduced himself to the meeting and provided information about his background and life as well as his views on the role, current issues and building relationships with governments and the development of engagement with them

President's Report

May 2026

Introduction

As the newly elected WALGA President, I am proud to represent our 139 Member Local Governments and advance the sector's priorities at both the State and National level.

I would like to acknowledge the significant contribution of outgoing President Karen Chappel AM JP and Deputy President Paul Kelly. As a sector, we have benefited from the selfless and determined leadership demonstrated by Karen and Paul across the last four years.

As your President, I am committed to maintaining strong, collaborative relationships across all levels of Government, ensuring the perspectives of Western Australia's Local Governments are reflected in policy development, and engagement occurs at the times it matters most.

I also acknowledge the election of WALGA Deputy President Chris Antonio from the Shire of Northam, and I look forward to working closely with him to progress WALGA's strategic objectives and reinforce the strong voice of Local Government in Western Australia.

Political Engagement

Since commencing in the role, I have been humbled by the messages of support I have received from all levels of Government. I have made it a priority to engage with key State Government Ministers, Members of the Opposition and Federal Members of Parliament to seek early meetings and explore opportunities for constructive collaboration.

Strengthening these relationships is a priority, and I am focused on ensuring WALGA is well positioned to engage proactively on matters of importance to the Local Government sector.

Media Engagement

In my first weeks as President, I have actively engaged with media on relevant matters. I have spoken to a range of outlets on topics including Renewable Energy, Local Government reform, State Government priorities and the long-term challenges facing the sector, as well as attending pertinent events.

Media has included interviews with the ABC Radio and TV, 6PR, and The West Australian, emphasising the importance of community benefit, protecting local voice, and ensuring Local Governments are not required to absorb costs arising from major policy and infrastructure decisions.

I have also had the opportunity to share my vision for WALGA and how I plan to build on the success to-date, working with the State Government to ensure the best outcomes for WA Local Governments and their communities.

On Tuesday, 10 March, I attended the Energy Exchange Australia event with Minister for Energy and Decarbonisation Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA where Premier Hon Roger Cook MLA announced the State of Energy initiative.

On Thursday, 12 March, I attended UDIA WA's first industry breakfast for 2026 where Deputy Premier and Treasurer the Hon Rita Saffioti MLA delivered a keynote address emphasising housing supply without increasing demand and the importance of community engagement. This provided an opportunity for me to discuss with her the critical role Local Governments play in supporting new housing developments across WA.

It was also great to see Minister for Local Government the Hon Hannah Beazley MLA acknowledge WALGA's new leadership and the work of the Association in Parliament.

Fuel Security

Fuel supply constraints continue to impact Local Governments across Western Australia, particularly in regional areas, and WALGA has remained actively engaged in the State's coordinated response. WALGA has been meeting regularly with Mr Rob Cossart, the State Fuel Security State Controller, which has provided the opportunity for information sharing, and the provision of on-the-ground feedback regarding fuel availability and impacts.

Feedback from the sector highlights ongoing supply disruptions, particularly from independent suppliers, affecting Local Governments' ability to maintain adequate reserves and plan operations with certainty. Emerging delays to waste collection and landfill services have prompted contingency planning across several communities. Members have also reported supplier-driven cost increases and workforce challenges, including staff unable to travel or undertake fuel-dependent duties.

WALGA will continue to meet weekly with the State Controller and provide timely updates to the sector as the situation evolves.

Electoral Reforms

Following the electoral reform announcement made by the Hon Hannah Beazley MLA, Minister for Local Government at 2025 WALGA Convention, WALGA distributed a Discussion Paper to ensure the current Advocacy Position still reflects the sectors views.

WALGA received over 100 submissions from Members and the results will be utilised to update existing advocacy positions.

Sector wide engagement with Aboriginal Elected Members and communities

In my first week as President, I participated in WALGA's second Aboriginal Elected Member Roundtable, followed the next day by the annual Aboriginal Engagement Forum. Established and newly elected Aboriginal Elected Members from twelve Local Governments joined myself, WALGA's Senior Executive Team and the Director General of the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS) to share their experience of leading and representing their communities on Council. It was a great opportunity to listen to Aboriginal Councillors from vastly diverse communities across WA and gain a stronger understanding of their experience as Elected Members and community and cultural leaders.

Representatives from LGIRS also joined the Roundtable to hear directly what support is required to enable Aboriginal Elected Members to thrive in their Council roles. These insights will enable WALGA to work collaboratively with LGIRS to fulfil the Department's commitment to support Aboriginal Elected Members made at the 2025 Aboriginal Engagement Forum.

2026 Aboriginal Engagement Forum

The 2026 Aboriginal Engagement Forum was held at the State Reception Centre, Kaarta Gar-up | Kings Park, on 18 March 2026. The program theme was Empowerment in Action | Kaarditjin kwop Koorliny and focused on opportunities for Local Government to build pathways to employment, business and leadership. The event sold out with approximately 250 attendees, and a record number of Aboriginal Elected Members, Aboriginal Local and State Government officers and community partners. I would like to thank my fellow State Councillors who attended the Forum and helped to promote the event.

Large Scale Renewable Energy Projects - Community Benefit Framework

The State Government's release of the Community Benefits Guideline for Large-scale Renewable Energy Projects in the South West Interconnected System marks a key step in ensuring regional communities share in opportunities created by the energy transition.

The Guideline follows strong advocacy from WALGA for meaningful local benefits and builds on the release of WALGA's Renewable Energy Community Benefits and Engagement Guide in July 2025.

These community benefits arrangements have the potential to deliver and accelerate priorities of local communities. The Guideline will establish the development of Community Benefits Plans and the formation of Community Benefits Advisory Groups.

Local Governments will have a central role in developing Community Benefits Plans and as part of the Community Benefits Advisory Groups to be established to ensure that the plans align with community priorities.

This is a significant advocacy outcome, however the focus on ensuring these benefits remain distinct from the way Local Governments apply rates to land that has undergone a change of use, which is essential for cost recovery, will continue.

Finally, I'd like to extend my best wishes on behalf of WALGA to the communities impacted by Tropical Cyclone Narelle. This event is a sobering reminder of the destructive power of these natural events across the State. I am in awe of the strength and resilience of our sector during these events, and I'd like to acknowledge State Councillors Matt Nikkula, the Shire of Exmouth President and Audra Smith the President from the Shire of Ashburton. Audra and Matt, along with every other Elected Member and officer in communities impacted by TC Narelle make us all proud and we will continue to do everything in our power to support them during the long recovery ahead.

Mark Irwin
WALGA President

President's Contacts

The President's contacts since 4 March 2026 and scheduled before 8 May 2026 are as follows:

State and Commonwealth Government Relations

- Hon Hannah Beazley MLA, Minister for Local Government; Disability Services; Volunteering; Youth; Gascoyne
- Hon John Carey MLA, Minister for Planning and Lands; Housing and Works; Health Infrastructure
- Housing Industry Roundtable with Deputy Premier, Hon Rita Saffioti MLA and Hon John Carey MLA
- Ride Safe Inquiry Briefing with Hon Hannah Beazley MLA and Hon Jessica Stojkovski MLA

- Ms Kirrilee Warr MLA, Shadow Minister for Local Government
- Labor Leaders Forum lunch with Premier, Hon Roger Cook MLA
- Labor Leaders Forum lunch with Hon Paul Papalia MLA
- 500 Club Event – Basil Zempilas – A Vision for 2026 Luncheon and Q&A
- Leader of the Opposition, Vasil Zempilas MLA and Shadow Minister for Housing, Sandra Brewer MLA
- Department of Energy and Economic Diversification & Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety
 - Director General, Rebecca Brown (DEED)
 - Coordinator of Energy, Jai Thomas
 - Director General, Lanie Chopping (DLGIRS)
- Ms Lanie Chopping, Director General, Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety
- Mr Leon Mclvor, Director General, Department of Housing and Works

Zone Meetings

- Murchison Country Zone
- Northern Country Zone
- South East Metropolitan Zone
- Pilbara Country Zone
- Peel Country Zone
- East Metropolitan Zone
- Kimberley Country Zone
- Great Southern Country Zone

Local Government Relations

- State Council Meetings
 - State Council Meeting, 4 March
 - State Council Information Forum, 1 April
 - Finance & Services Committee
- **ALGA**
 - Board Meeting, 19 March

Conferences, Workshops, Public Relations

- Energy Exchange Australia 2026
- Regional Capital Alliance WA meeting (RCAWA)
- Safe Systems for Local Government Workshop
- WALGA Aboriginal Elected Member Roundtable
- 2026 WALGA Aboriginal Engagement Forum
- WALGA 2026 Mayors and Presidents Forum
- Property Council of Australia – Lunch with the Treasurer

5.2 Zone Representative to State Council – Cr Les Price

17 April 2026

Murchison Country Zone - 'CUE PARLIAMENT'

WELCOME Special welcome to newly elected WALGA President Mark Irwin. Mark is Mayor of the City of Stirling and continues the good work of retiring President Karen Chappel.
Welcome also to WALGA CEO Nick Sloan. Nick is a familiar face to many of us here at the Murchison Country Zone and we thank both Mark and Nick for making the time to attend our meeting.

SINCE LAST MEETING 21 November 2025

- 2 x State Council Meetings
- 2 x State Council Strategic Forums
- 3 x State Council Information Forums
- 2 x State Council Agenda Briefings
- 2 x Environment Policy Team Meeting
- 1 x Joint Environment and People and Place Policy Team Meeting
- 2 x Selection Committee Meetings
- 2 x Honours Panel Meetings
- 14 x Flying Minutes.
- 1 x Corporate Governance Charter Workshop
- 1 x Elected Member Information Session
- 1 x Mayors and Presidents Forum
- 1 x WALGA State Council Induction.
- 2 x Fuel Security Meeting

With the retirement of President Karen Chappel (Shire of Morowa) and Deputy President Paul Kelly (Town of Claremont) the Western Australian Local Government Association ('WALGA') State Councillors elected Mayor Mark Irwin (City of Stirling) as President and President Chris Antoniono (Shire of Northam) as Deputy President of the Association at its meeting of State Councillors held on 4 March 2026.

Mark and Chris both work well together and recognise the need to support Local Governments across the State, particularly those in regional WA and in the more remote parts of our State.

For the next term I will hold several roles in WALGA which include:-

- Environment Policy Team Chair
- State Council representative on the Selection Panel
- State Council representative on the Honours Panel

Induction

With the Local Government Elections held in October 2025 the mix of State Council included five (5) new State Councillors. The December State Council meeting was the first time new Councillors had the opportunity to meet continuing Councillors and experience the workings of WALGA and State Council for the first time.

I attended a workshop which provided Councillors with a complete overview of the structure of WALGA and the make-up of the 17 Zones which represent all 139 Local Governments across the State. Councillors were also shown how the Policy Teams function within WALGA and how matters impacting Local Government are considered and eventually come before State Council for endorsement.

Inaugural Local Government Inspector

As of 1 January, the newly appointed inaugural Local Government Inspector, Tony Brown, formerly commenced his role. The Local Government Inspector is a statutory officer appointed to improve the accountability, transparency, and decision-making of local governments across Western Australia. The Inspector provides oversight through complaint handling, inquiries, compliance review, and education.

As Tony has extensive knowledge of Local Government and having been a former CEO and Senior Executive with WALGA he is ideally placed to carry out his new role.

Tony delivered a presentation to State Council on his role with a focus on Conduct and Compliance. Whilst the majority of Local Governments operate smoothly and with efficiency there are some where there is conflict between Councillors as well as with the Administration where there are compliance concerns. Tony has the power to appoint a Monitor to a Local Government to deal with the various issues of a Local Government which comes at a cost to the Local Government.

State Council

WALGA Administration and State Council continue to work in an exceptionally busy environment which involves *inter alia*:-

- Dealing with State Government on sector concerns
- Preparing extensive submissions to Government on matters that impact the sector
- Considering the recommendations of the seventeen (17) Zones
- Developing policy
- Preparing position papers
- Providing elected member training
- Service offering to Local Governments

Some Areas of WALGA's Recent & Current Focus

- Fuel Security
- Community benefits for Renewable Energy Projects
- Rating of Renewable Energy Facilities.
- Rating of Miscellaneous Licences
- Infrastructure / Road Safety.
- Governance & Local Government Reform.
- 2026-2027 State Budget Submission.
- Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability.
- Select Committee into Land Development and Planning.
- State Waste Strategy.
- Review of the Work Health and Safety Act 2020

WALGA received a presentation from the Minister for Local Government Hon. Hannah Beasley detailing some of the Local Government Reforms with the main focus being:-

- Roles and Responsibilities of Councillors and the Administrators of Local Governments.
- Financial Sustainability.
- Compulsory Local Government Elections
- Full election of all Councillors every four (4) years.

WATCH THIS SPACE....THERE IS MORE TO COME!

In between the more formal meeting process the current State Councillors work closely together collaborating over different issues that impact the either a particular Local Government, Region or the State as a whole.

Strategic Forum.

Aside from the regular State Council meetings WALGA conducts a bi-monthly Information Forum and Strategic Forum. The purpose of the Strategic Forum is to provide an opportunity for State Councillors to raise any issue they believe to have strategic importance for WALGA and the sector. The Forums enable WALGA to receive presentations from Departments, Agencies, Ministers, Shadow Ministers and others with an interest in matters that WALGA is dealing with. Presenters included:-

- Ms Lanie Chopping, Director General, Department of Local Government, Industry Relations and Safety
- Mr Peter Forbes, Chairperson, and Mr James Sheridan, CEO, LGISWA
- Ms Mia Carbon, Deputy Director General, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Dr Geoffrey Jalleh, Associate Professor and Director, Survey Research Centre, Edith Cowan University
- Mr Tony Brown, Local Government Inspector, and
- Ms Tanya Evans, Principal Media and Engagement, Local Government Inspectorate

Some Notable topics included:-

- Budget discussions
- Renewable Energy review
- Local Government Act review
- Electoral reforms
- Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act 2007 review
- Waste Management
- Emergency Management Survey

Information Forum

The Information Forum is an interactive and informal briefing session and provides opportunity for State Councillors to be briefed on current activities and items of interest. Some discussion topics included:-

- Renewable Energy Projects,
- Overview of the Government review of the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (BAM) Act 2007.
- WALGA's Cooperation and Shared Services Report
- Local Health Authorities Analytical Committee (LHAAC)
- Fuel Security

Policy Teams.

WALGA has a number of Policy teams to consider a variety of matters to go before State Council and encourages all Zones to continue to put forward issues that affect their communities for advocacy consideration. Currently WALGA has four (4) Policy Teams covering :-

- Infrastructure.
- People and Place.
- Governance.
- Environment.

Environment Policy Team

This team is responsible for matters that relate to:-

- Environment
- Planning
- Building Regulation.

Some of the more notable issue coming under consideration include:-

Draft Renewable Energy Planning Code

The State released a draft Renewable Energy Planning code in December 2025. Aims to establish a clear and consistent assessment framework, clear development standards and improved certainty around impacts such as noise, landscape, safety and environmental issues.

The growth in the number, size and complexity of renewable energy facilities across Western Australia have become contentious issues in local communities across the State. Community benefit sharing agreements are encouraged but sit outside the planning system.

Projects include:-

- Wind Farms
- Transmission Systems
- Battery Storage Systems

WALGA has some concerns that some elements of the Code and the proposed regulatory amendments will limit the Local Government and community role in the decision making process with little benefit and potential ongoing implications and costs on Local Governments.

WALGA considers it essential that the requirement for community benefits be mandated and that there is a need to protect rural land for agricultural purposes.

Climate Change Discussion Paper and Draft Advocacy Position

The development of an Advocacy Position has been in the pipeline since the March 2025 State Council Meeting which recommended further development. For some Climate Change is a contentious issue and State Council is looking to have a whole of sector engagement on the development of any position. WALGA is encouraging all Zones provide comment and feedback for consideration on the development of the Advocacy Position and for individual Councils to have an endorsed position.

The Environment Team will meet to consider all Zone feedback in late June 2026 and then have an Advocacy Position considered at the July 2026 State Council Meeting. Hence, it is important this Zone make a clear contribution for inclusion in any consideration by WALGA in the development of that Advocacy Position.

At this point in time the WA State Government has put on hold any legislative framework around Climate Change, and I suspect influenced by differing community concerns and a shift in the balance of power in the upper house.

Water Management Discussion Paper

The Environment Policy Team identified the need to consolidate and expand its current water related advocacy position to ensure that Local Governments and their communities have access to consistent, reliable and adequate water supplies. This would include:-

- Undertaking a review of the water licensing and allocation system
- Prioritising high value community use
- Funding for critical water infrastructure programs for Local Government,
- Clearing permits
- Public open space considerations
- Future planning for water

Other issues under consideration include:-

Urban Greening Strategy for the Perth and Peel regions targeting a 30% canopy tree cover by 2024. WALGA will receive funding to employ an Urban Greening Facilitator. Grants will be available for communities and schools. An action plan is soon to be released.

A **Joint Environment and People and Place Policy Teams** met to review the DFES 'Bushfire Place of Last Resort Discussion Paper' and, whilst commendable, was considered not a pathway Local Government should take where there is inherent risk, potential liability and cost to Local Governments in maintaining and upkeep of facilities associated with selected places of last resort not to mention public expectation in times of disaster and seasonal influx putting stress on already limited Local Government resources.

Corporate Governance Charter Workshop

The Corporate Governance Charter is a written policy of State Council that defines the respective roles and responsibilities of key positions within WALGA and details the administrative and governance processes of State Council

The purpose of the workshop was for State Councillors to consider and discuss the proposed amendments to the Corporate Governance Charter and related documents (Code of Conduct, State Council Standing Orders and AGM Standing Orders) in preparation for formal consideration and endorsement by State Council. Items discussed included:-

- Updated Corporate Governance Charter
- Corporate Governance Charter
- Updated Code of Conduct
- State Council Standing Orders
- AGM Standing Orders

I am/was a WALGA State Councillor representative on the **Municipal Waste Advisory Council** ('MWAC'). As with time some things come to an end. MWAC commenced in 1994 and pre dates WALGA. The council was 'out on a limb' and there is need to review its purpose. This will come up for State Council consideration at a later date and either be brought under the Environment Policy Team umbrella or potentially a new waste advisory group be formed designed to develop waste policy.

Selection Committee

The Committee considered vacancies for a number of positions some of which include:-

- State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee (SAC)
- WA Local Government Grants Commission (Country Urban - Cities or Towns).
- Control of Vehicles (Off-Road Areas) Act Advisory Committee.
- Health Authorities Analytical Committee.
- Swan River Trust.
- WA Library Board.

To elected members and officers there are many opportunities available for you to nominate so please make time to review and perhaps consider a worthwhile role.

Honours Recognition and Awards

The Honours Panel has just concluded reviewing the nominations for the 2026 WALGA Awards is just a timely reminder to look closely at the Elected Members and Officers of your Local Governments and consider if there is a person worthy of being nominated for an award in 2027. This is a time to recognise the efforts of those who give of their time to serve the community.

Our Zone's Contribution to WALGA

We, as a Zone, get the opportunity to contribute to the overall framework of policy and advocacy developed by WALGA. Fortunately, my role in WALGA enables me to be on top of those areas that

may impact our Zone. All members around this table should take some time to provide feedback and commentary, as brief as that may be, so that I can promote those positions at the appropriate time. If we don't engage then we are not heard and therefore, our region may well fall by the wayside.. I would like to thank those who do contribute...please keep it up!

The Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly (ALGA)

The Assembly is to be held from 23 to 25 June 2026 and will provide an opportunity for Councils to send representatives to Canberra. Irrespective of whether an individual Council sends representatives it provides a forum for a Council to put forward a recommendation for consideration by the Assembly.

The NGA provides Councillors and the CEO with an opportunity to network and get a broader understanding of the business of Local Government at the national level. You are encouraged to consider the next National General Assembly in 2027.

Next State Council Meeting 20 November 2026.



Les Price

President, Shire of Cue
Murchison Country Zone Delegate
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5.3 Zone Status Report –

COMPLETE ZONE STATUS REPORT

February 2026

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Murchison C	21 November 2025 Zone Agenda Item 6.3 Unsustainable Changes to the Restricted Access Vehicle (RAV) Network	That the Murchison Country Zone request WALGA to: 1. Call for Heavy Vehicle Services decision makers and assessors to be placed permanently or regularly in regional MRWA offices rather than their current insular Perth offices; and 2. Directs MRWA to immediately rescind CA07 condition and the road owners (local governments') to have the discretion for RAV permit vehicle access on local government roads.	WALGA CEO and staff met with the Main Roads WA Chief Operating Officer and Heavy Vehicle Services Director on 18 December to explain the negative impact of the changes on Local Governments, highlighting the lack of consultation with, communication to and guidance for Local Governments. It was agreed that a forum or workshop with impacted Local Governments would be convened for February. WALGA has approached a sample of senior Local Government officers to contribute to the agenda development based on the issues and impacts experienced. Further updates will be provided to the next Zone meeting in April 2026.	February 2026	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Murchison C	11 April Zone Agenda Item 7.7 Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements	The Murchison Country Zone request, that should Yalgoo Council agree to pursue a judicial review of the DFES decision in relation to reimbursement of flood damage expenditure, WALGA seek evidence from Local Governments of advice received from DFES concerning application of the DRFA WA in relation to acceptable procurement processes and evidence requirements, and report to the Zone.	Noted that on 2 May the Yalgoo Shire Council resolved: <i>that Council engages Civic Legal to prepare and undertake all such work to advise the Shire and also take such action as appropriate to advance the Shire's interest in respect of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services decision to deny EPAR applications for AGRN962 & AGRN1021.</i>	August 2025	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Murchison C	21 November 2025 Zone Agenda Item 6.5 Local Government Amendment (Rating of Certain Mining Licenses) Bill 2025	That the Murchison Country Zone request WALGA to: 1. Explore alternative options to the unreasonably punitive Local Government Amendment (Rating of Certain Mining Licenses) Bill 2025. 2. Support a request for the current bill to be forwarded to an enquiry by the Legislative Council.	State Council Resolution That WALGA: 1. Advocate for Local Governments to continue to have the ability to rate miscellaneous licences under the Mining Act 1978; and 2. Oppose legislative amendments that seek to exempt occupied miscellaneous licence land from rating. 3. Continue to advocate for a broad review to be conducted into the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under section 6.26 of the Local Government Act 1995. RESOLUTION 050.4/2025	February 2026	Kirsty Martin, Executive Manager Member Services kmartin@walga.asn.au 9213 2061

			COMPLETE		
Murchison C	21 November 2025 Zone Agenda Item 6.2 Call for the Office of the Auditor General to conduct a Performance Audit of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia (DRFAWA)	That the Murchison Country Zone request WALGA and other WALGA Zones to call upon the Office of the Auditor General to conduct a performance audit of Recovery and Resilience management of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements in Western Australia.	The Infrastructure Policy Team considered the Zone resolution on 20 January and supported the recommendation to formally write to the Auditor General to seek a performance audit.	February 2026	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@w alga.asn.au 9213 2039
Murchison C	11 April 2025 Zone Agenda Item 7.5 Climate Change Advocacy Position	That State Council replace the 2018 Climate Change Policy Statement Advocacy Position 4.1 Climate Change with the following advocacy position. WALGA calls on the Australian Federal Government and Western Australian State Government to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Prioritise and provide the necessary climate leadership, coordination, and action to deliver a climate change response that improves the quality of life for all Australians b. Provide the required level of funding, resources and support to Local Governments to enable local communities to respond to climate change; and c. Ensure that any climate change action does not impact the standard of living of local communities. 	WALGA has been working on an updated Draft Advocacy Position for consideration by Local Government. The Draft Advocacy Position, and accompanying Background Paper, will be released for a 12-week period to provide feedback. COMPLETE	February 2026	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@w alga.asn.au 9213 2039

		acceptable procurement processes and evidence requirements, and report to the Zone.			
Murchison C	21 November 2025 Zone Agenda Item 6.2 Call for the Office of the Auditor General to conduct a Performance Audit of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia (DRFAWA)	That the Murchison Country Zone request WALGA and other WALGA Zones to call upon the Office of the Auditor General to conduct a performance audit of Recovery and Resilience management of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements in Western Australia.	<p>The Infrastructure Policy Team considered the Zone resolution on 20 January and supported the recommendation to formally write to the Auditor General to seek a performance audit.</p> <p>WALGA has written to the Auditor General seeking a performance audit of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements in Western Australia.</p> <p>The letter addresses each of the criteria used by the Auditor General to prioritise matters for audit.</p>	<p>February 2026</p> <p>April 2026</p>	<p>Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031</p>

5.4.1 Matters for Decision

5.4.1.1 Protecting Council Member and Employee Privacy Advocacy Position

By Meghan Dwyer, Governance Specialist

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse the following new Advocacy Position: Protecting Council Member and Employee Privacy That WALGA advocates to the State Government to:

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

5.4.1.2 Water Management Advocacy Position

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council:

1. Endorse the following new Advocacy Position:

Water Management

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

2. Retires Advocacy Position 6.14 Planning for Water.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A new Water Management Advocacy Position and the retirement of position 6.14 Planning for Water is proposed.
- The new Position has been developed following consultation and feedback on WALGA's *Water Management in Western Australia Discussion Paper*.
- 28 Local Governments provided more than 200 comments on the paper, with the main issues being:
 - equitable access to consistent and reliable water;

- water licensing and allocation;
- integrated regional and catchment-scale water planning;
- water for Public Open Space (POS);
- funding
 - for critical infrastructure - drainage and irrigation, alternative water sources and sewerage infill and headworks.
 - for water efficiency and water sensitive urban design initiatives.
- expanding and improving the Waterwise Council Program;
- access to data and information to inform decision making; and
- addressing the impacts of stormwater runoff.
- The outcomes sought in 6.14 Planning for Water have been realised in the recently released State Planning Policy 2.9.
- The Environment Policy Team endorsed retiring the position and the new position at its meeting on 19 March 2026.

5.4.1.3 Off Roads Vehicles Advocacy Position

By Rebecca Hicks, Policy Advisor Community

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council retire Advocacy Position 3.12 Off Road Vehicles.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

5.4.1.4 Homelessness Advocacy Position

By Hannah Godsave, Manager Community Policy

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- It is proposed that the 2019 Advocacy Position 3.11 Homelessness be updated.
- While responding to homelessness is a State and Australian Government responsibility, the impacts of homelessness intersect with multiple areas of Local Government service delivery and requires them to manage community expectations.
- Western Australian Local Governments are reporting increased numbers of people experiencing homelessness, including Local Governments that have historically experienced minimal impact.
- WALGA undertook a survey of Members in early 2026 to better understand the impact on the sector and inform a review of the current Advocacy Position.
- The updated Position reflects the sector's view that the Australian and Western Australian Government should provide leadership, support and funding to prevent and respond to homelessness, in particular specialist services, social and affordable housing and wraparound services.
- The People and Place Policy Team endorsed the revised position at its meeting on 19 March 2026.

5.4.2 Matters for Noting

5.4.2.1 Flying Minutes Endorsed by State Council

FOR NOTING

The following Flying Minutes have been endorsed by State Council since the March 2026 meeting:

- Inquiry into Australia's Aviation Sector;
- Western Power Access Arrangement 6 Framework and Approach;
- Submission on the Multicultural Act for Western Australia Discussion Paper;
- DFES Bushfire Place of Last Resort Guideline Discussion Paper; and
- Draft Renewable Energy Planning Code Submission.

The full Flying Minutes are available on the [WALGA website](#).

Mr Liam Loan-Lack and Ms Frances Waley from Keystart presented information on what Keystart does and its recent transition to being a Government Trading Entity. The main work of Keystart is to assist community members who would normally be unable to enter the housing market with low interest loans and to provide education and support to them. The program also offers shared equity with Keystart retaining part ownership of some properties and funding for build to rent housing as well as support for Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander in getting into their first home. They are keen to market their program to the regions.

6. Matters for Consideration

6.1 Financial Statements

Proposed by: Executive Officer

Attachments: Income and Expenditure Statements

COMMENT

Refer to financial statements on the next pages.

Reconciled balances of account as of 31 March 2026.

Cheque Account 229492

RECOMMENDATION

That the financial statements for the periods 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026 be received.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Walton

Seconded: Cr Madden

That the financial statements for the periods 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026 be received.

Carried 12/0

MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA		
FINANCIAL STATEMENT		
1/07/2025 to 31/03/2026		
Bank Balance (as per B/S) 01/07/2025		\$ 22,714.95
Income		
Date	Source	Amount
9/07/2025	Shire of Meekatharra - Annual Subscription	\$ 2,800.00
11/07/2025	Shire of Sandstone - Annual Subscription	\$ 2,800.00
11/07/2025	Shire of Yalgoo - Annual Subscription	\$ 2,800.00
17/07/2025	Shire of Murchison - Annual Subscription	\$ 2,800.00
10/09/2025	Shire of Cue - Annual Subscription	\$ 2,800.00
Total Income to 31 March 2026		\$ 14,000.00
Payments		
Date	Source	Amount
24/11/2025	Cr Price Gratuity Dep President & WALGA Zone Delegate	\$ 1,900.00
24/11/2025	Murchison Club Hotel - Catering	\$ 1,908.00
24/11/2025	Cr R Foulkes-Taylor Gratuity President	\$ 600.00
25/11/2025	S Appleton - Executive Fee, Travel, Reimbursements	\$ 4,996.44
Total Expenditure to 31 March 2026		\$ 9,404.44
Reconciliation		
Balance Brought Forward 01/07/2025		\$ 22,714.95
Add Income Received		\$ 14,000.00
Less Expenditure		\$ 9,404.44
Balance		\$ 27,310.51
Balance as per Bank Statement 31 March 2026		\$ 27,310.51

MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA			
FINANCIAL STATEMENT			
1/07/2025 to 31/03/2026			
Account	Budget 2025-26	Actual 2025-26	Projected 2025-26
Income			
General Subscriptions	\$ 16,800	\$ 14,000	\$ 16,800
Interest Earned	\$ 20		
Reimbursements			
Total Income	\$ 16,820	\$ 14,000	\$ 16,800
Expenditure			
Meeting Expenses	\$ 4,000	\$ 2,072	\$ 4,000
Teleconferences			
Special Meetings & Workshops			
Bank Fees & Charges	\$ 20		
Reimburseable Expenses			
Unclassified Expenses (Minute Book)	\$ 600		\$ 600
Zone Representative Gratuities	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Executive Officer Services	\$ 8,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 8,000
Executive Officer Reimbursements	\$ 2,100	\$ 832	\$ 2,100
Total Expenses	\$ 17,220	\$ 9,404	\$ 17,200
Net Income (Loss)	-\$ 400	\$ 4,596	-\$ 400

6.2 Budget 2026/2027

Proposed by: Executive Officer

Proposed by: Executive Officer

BACKGROUND

The 2025-26 Budget was adopted at the April 2025 meeting. The Zone has usually considered the subscriptions for the new financial year at this time, in preparation for member Shires own budgets.

COMMENT

The Zone budget for 2025/2026 is balanced. There are expected to be increased costs during the year due to a projected increase in inflation which will flow onto some of the operating costs of the Zone. It is suggested that Member Shire subscriptions be increased to \$2,900.00 each, excl GST for 2025-26.

The honorariums approved for 2025-26 which have been paid, are –

- Zone President \$600
- Zone Deputy President \$400
- Zone Representative to WALGA \$1,500

If further expense is incurred by the Zone through unforeseen circumstances, an additional charge may be required from each Shire, however the surplus funds being held may accommodate any eventuality.

RECOMMENDATION

That the draft Budget for 2026-27 be adopted, incorporating –

- a) Member Shire subscriptions of \$2,900.00 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 \$1,500

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor Seconded: Cr McQuie

That the draft Budget for 2026-27 be adopted, incorporating –

- a) Member Shire subscriptions of \$2,900.00 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 \$1,500

Carried 12/0

MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA			
BUDGET			
2026-27			
Account	Budget 2025-26	Projected 2025-26	Budget 2026-27
Income			
General Subscriptions	\$ 16,800	\$ 16,800	\$ 17,300
Interest Earned	\$ 20		\$ 20
Reimbursements			
Total Income	\$ 16,820	\$ 16,800	\$ 17,320
Expenditure			
Meeting Expenses	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,600
Teleconferences			
Special Meetings & Workshops			
Bank Fees & Charges	\$ 20		\$ 20
Reimbursable Expenses			
Unclassified Expenses (Minute Book)	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 100
Zone Representative Gratuities	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Executive Officer Services	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
Executive Officer Reimbursements	\$ 2,100	\$ 2,100	\$ 2,100
Total Expenses	\$ 17,220	\$ 17,200	\$ 17,320
Net Income (Loss)	-\$ 400	-\$ 400	\$ -

6.4 WALGA State Government Advocacy Partnership Review

Proposed by	Murchison Executive Group
Attachments	Queensland Local Government Equal Partners in Government Outline (under separate cover)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Murchison Executive Group (MEG) has identified an increasing need for stronger and more structured engagement between the Western Australian State Government and the Local Government sector, particularly in relation to policy development, legislative reform and regional service delivery.

Regional Local Governments play a critical role in supporting communities, facilitating economic development and maintaining essential infrastructure across Western Australia.

Consultation processes with the sector are often perceived as reactive rather than collaborative, with limited opportunity for meaningful regional input during the early stages of policy development.

This report proposes WALGA examine the successful 'Equal Partners in Government' agreement operating in Queensland as a potential model for strengthening the partnership between State and Local Government in Western Australia.

PREAMBLE

The Murchison Executive Group, comprising Chief Executive Officers from Local Governments across the Murchison Region, was established to promote collaboration, strengthen regional advocacy and improve strategic coordination across participating Local Governments to -

- ~ *Share expertise and intelligence to enhance service delivery and governance outcomes.*
- ~ *Identify opportunities where regional collaboration can achieve efficiencies and strategic benefits.*
- ~ *Strengthen relationships across the Local Government sector and support the WALGA Murchison Country Zone.*
- ~ *Advance the MEG Regional Strategic Plan with a strong focus on sustainable economic development.*

BACKGROUND

Local Governments across Western Australia are responsible for delivering essential community services, maintaining infrastructure and supporting economic development. In regional areas these responsibilities are often amplified due to distance, workforce constraints and infrastructure challenges.

Despite this critical role, many Local Governments have expressed concern

consultation with the State Government on policy and legislative reform does not always occur early enough in the policy development process to allow meaningful sector input.

Regional Local Governments frequently provide services or support activities which extend beyond their traditional responsibilities, particularly where other government services are limited.

Recent policy discussions, including matters relating to Local Government reform and the rating of miscellaneous mining licences, have reinforced the need for improved dialogue and collaboration between the State Government and the sector.

The Murchison Region faces unique challenges including housing availability, workforce constraints, infrastructure access and economic diversification.

Recent public commentary by the Minister for Local Government encouraging the sector to consider future structural sustainability, including the potential for amalgamations, highlights the importance of ensuring regional perspectives are clearly understood in State policy discussions.

For these reasons, the Murchison Executive Group believes it is timely for the region to strengthen its collective voice and advocate for a more structured partnership framework between State and Local Government.

A Way Forward

The Murchison Executive Group has reviewed intergovernmental partnership models used in other Australian jurisdictions.

Queensland provides a notable example through the 'Equal Partners in Government' agreement between the State Government and the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) as per the attachment.

This agreement formally recognises Local Government as a partner in governance and establishes structured consultation mechanisms for legislation and policy affecting the sector.

It includes regular engagement between State leadership and Local Government representatives, defined consultation timeframes and collaborative policy development.

The Murchison Executive Group believes exploring similar partnership arrangements in Western Australia could strengthen collaboration, improve consultation outcomes and ensure regional perspectives are more effectively represented in policy development.

ADVOCACY POSITION FRAMEWORK

Element	Rating		
Impact on Local Government Sector Impact on Local Government sector without intervention	High	Medium	Low
Reach Number of member Local Governments affected	Sector-wide	Significant (multiple regions, Zones, or bands)	Few
Influence Capacity to influence decision makers	High	Medium	Low
Principles Alignment to core principles such as autonomy, funding, general competence	Strong	Partial	Peripheral
Clarity Policy change needed is clear and well-defined	Clear	Partial	Unclear
Decision-maker support Level of support among decision- makers (political and administrative)	High	Medium	Low
Public support Level of support among the public or other stakeholders	High	Medium	Low
Positive consequences for WALGA Prospect of positive consequences for WALGA. E.g. enhanced standing among members or leverage for other issues	High	Medium	Low
Negative consequences for WALGA Prospect of negative consequences for WALGA for not undertaking the advocacy effort. E.g. diminished standing among members or other stakeholders	High	Medium	Low
Partnerships Potential for partnerships with other stakeholders	Yes (3+)	Possibly (1-2)	No (0)

RECOMMENDATION

That the WALGA Murchison Country Zone:

- 1 NOTES the Murchison Executive Group's 'WALGA State Government Advocacy Partnership Review' report.
- 2 RECOGNISES the importance of a strong and structured partnership between the Western Australian State Government and the Local Government sector.
- 3 REQUESTS WALGA State Council to undertake a review of successful Local–State Government partnership models operating in other Australian jurisdictions, including the Queensland 'Equal Partners in Government' agreement.

- 4 **ADVOCATES** for the development of a comparable partnership framework in Western Australia that recognises Local Government as an equal partner in governance and establishes clear mechanisms for consultation, collaboration and regional input into State policy and legislative reform

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Valenzuela

Seconded: Cr Price

That the WALGA Murchison Country Zone:

- 1 **NOTES** the Murchison Executive Group's 'WALGA State Government Advocacy Partnership Review' report.
- 2 **RECOGNISES** the importance of a strong and structured partnership between the Western Australian State Government and the Local Government sector.
- 3 **REQUESTS** WALGA State Council to undertake a review of successful Local–State Government partnership models operating in other Australian jurisdictions, including the Queensland 'Equal Partners in Government' agreement.
- 4 **ADVOCATES** for the development of a comparable partnership framework in Western Australia that recognises Local Government as an equal partner in governance and establishes clear mechanisms for consultation, collaboration and regional input into State policy and legislative reform

Carried 12/0

CEO Bill Bohem stated the above agenda item had come about when looking at Partnerships with State Government and the developing partnerships is a positive way to see how best practice can be achieved.

Mr Shane Love MLA queried what had happened to the 2017 State/Local Government partnership.

WALGA CEO Mr Nick Sloan stated a 2021 agreement was focused on outcomes but was not formalised and that there is no current agreement in place.

6.5 Climate Change Advocacy Position

Proposed by Shire of Cue

Attachments WALGA Climate Change Advocacy Position, Consultation Paper
WALGA State Council Minutes, 5 March 2025, Climate Change
Advocacy Position (under separate cover)

BACKGROUND

WALGA has released a consultation paper (see attached) seeking Local Government feedback on a revised climate change advocacy position. The Consultation Paper includes background on these changes and a draft revised advocacy position.

WALGA's current advocacy position, as endorsed by State Council in 2018, states that:

Local Government acknowledges:

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

Local Government is committed to addressing climate change.

Local Government is calling for:

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

At the WALGA State Council meeting held on 5 March 2025, a replacement Climate Change Policy Statement Advocacy Position was presented for adoption. There was a mixed response and comments provided in the minutes to the proposal from various WALGA Zones. This item was referred back to the Environment Policy Team for further development. The minutes extract for this item is also attached.

The consultation paper that WALGA issued in January 2026 proposes a revised Climate Change Advocacy Position to that presented in March 2025. WALGA is seeking council endorsed feedback on the draft advocacy position and asks that all councils and WALGA zones consider the position. This new position commits local government to addressing climate change and focuses on achieving emission reduction targets. It is proposed by the author that the advocacy position should be

focused on outcomes that improve quality of life for communities and not commit local governments to a course of action.

COMMENT

The proposed Climate Change Advocacy Position provided in the authors recommendation removes the commitment from local government to address climate change and focuses on outcomes that improve the quality of life for communities.

A climate change policy for local government should be focused on improving the quality of life for communities, rather than being narrowly driven by emissions reduction targets. Local governments are closest to their communities and are responsible for delivering practical local outcomes, such as infrastructure, services, public health, and community wellbeing, rather than aspiring to abstract global metrics.

Councils are tasked with ensuring safe and affordable housing, reliable local roads, accessible community facilities, effective waste and water services, and preparedness for natural disasters. Climate policy that prioritises quality of life enables councils to invest in actions that strengthen these core functions: improving building resilience to climate related events, reducing household energy costs through efficiency upgrades, enhancing urban greening and strengthening emergency management capability. These actions reduce climate risk while delivering immediate and visible benefits to residents.

An overemphasis on emissions reduction targets can constrain local governments by diverting limited resources toward compliance and reporting, rather than outcomes that matter most to communities. Councils operate within tight budgets and varied local contexts: regional, remote, and resource-dependent areas face very different challenges from metropolitan centres. Uniform targets may unintentionally increase costs for residents, limit service delivery, or place pressure on local economies without providing realistic pathways for transition.

A quality of life approach allows councils to respond to climate change in ways that reflect local priorities and capacities. It strengthens environmental stewardship through practical land, water, and biodiversity management. Importantly, these measures often contribute to emissions reductions as a secondary outcome, without undermining essential services.

For local government, the success of climate policy should be measured by healthier, safer, and more resilient communities, not solely by emissions data. When climate action is integrated into everyday service delivery and community development, it builds trust, achieves broader public benefit, and ensures councils can meet both current and future challenges. Emissions reductions should support local government outcomes, not override them.

Local Government Act 1995 - Sect 3.1

3.1 General function

(1) The general function of a local government is to provide for the good government of persons in its district.

(1a) Without limiting subsection (1), the general function of a local government must be performed having regard to the following —

(a) the need —

(i) to promote the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the district; and

(ii) to plan for, and to plan for mitigating, risks associated with climate change;

and

(iii) in making decisions, to consider potential long-term consequences and impacts on future generations;

RECOMMENDATION

That the Murchison Country Zone of WALGA endorse the proposed Climate Change Advocacy Position as follows,

1. Local Government acknowledges the risks associated with climate change.
2. WALGA calls on the Australian and Western Australian Governments to:
 - a. Provide the necessary climate leadership, action and dedicated funding to deliver a climate change response that is economically sustainable and will provide improved quality of life for Western Australian communities.
 - b. Provide the coordination, guidance and practical support to local government to enable local communities to respond to the effects of climate change.

RESOLUTION

Moved: CEO Towell

Seconded: Cr Valenzuela

That the Murchison Country Zone of WALGA endorse the proposed Climate Change Advocacy Position as follows,

- 1. Local Government acknowledges the risks associated with climate change.**
- 2. WALGA calls on the Australian and Western Australian Governments to:**
 - a. Provide the necessary climate leadership, action and dedicated funding to deliver a climate change response that is economically sustainable and will provide improved quality of life for Western Australian communities.**
 - b. Provide the coordination, guidance and practical support to local government to enable local communities to respond to the effects of climate change.**

Carried 10/2

CEO Richard Towell presented an update on the activities of the MEG (Murchison Executive Group) which comprises the six local government CEO's in the region who collaborate and undertake projects with Regional Development Australia Mid West, Mid West Development Commission and WALGA. It also provides a support network for CEO's. In 2012 the terms of reference for the MEG were developed and the group meets regularly. Projects undertaken from the MEG include Outback Pathways, promotion of tourism, Murchison Geo Regions and project working group, Murchison Regional Strategy and provides a support network for CEO's.

6.6 Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety Report

Proposed by Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety

Attachments The report is under separate cover.

BACKGROUND

The March 2026 report of the Department is below, providing information about the Department's activities and programs.

RECOMMENDATION

That the March 2026 of the Department of Local Government, Industry and Regulation be received.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Payne Seconded: Cr Walton

That the March 2026 of the Department of Local Government, Industry and Regulation be received.

Carried 12/0

Cr Price highlighted some actions WALGA have undertaken listed in the Status Reports as a result of resolutions of the Zone.

Mr Nils Hay provided an update on the activities of the MWDC (Mid West Development Commission). Including:

- WA Government priorities 2025-29
- An update of the Regional Development Framework
- Refreshing the MWDC Strategic Plan
- Promoting investment in Mid West projects
- Digital Economy Strategy

- Changes to the Board and an acknowledgement of Cr Emma Foulkes-Taylor who has now left the Board
- A Mid West major projects conference to be held
- The development of drought resilience plans
- Membership of the State Panel for the Regional Fuel Strategy
- REDS Grants to be announced soon
- Engagement with MRWA with regard to future Resources Roads
- Regional visitation to Shires – Murchison May and Yalgoo July

7. Reports

7.1 Shire of Yalgoo



Activity Report April 2026

Governance

After an extraordinary Election early this year the Shire of Yalgoo has welcomed Derek Jones to the position of Councillor. Council have updated their Code of Conduct and Policies in line with recent Amendments to the Local Government Act and the introduction of the Local Government Inspector. New Councillors are currently engaged in mandatory training and looking forward to additional training opportunities.

After initial delays during Covid and schedule misalignments the Shire of Yalgoo will shortly be back to a normal Audit cycle. 22/23 & 23/24 Annual Reports have been released and the 24/25 will be completed shortly. This has allowed for the first interim audit to occur during the appropriate year since the OAG took over management of local governments.

Road Network Reduction

The Shire of Yalgoo's Road network is significantly longer than the majority of neighbouring local government areas and almost twice the length of State controlled roads in the entire Mid West Region.

Almost a third of these roads support Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attraction assets with near zero financial support from the State Government. The risk of operating these thoroughfares has been exacerbated in recent years by the State Governments refusal to support the local government under Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). All of these state servicing assets were damaged by storms either side of Cyclone Seroja in events AGRN962 and AGRN1021. To date all repairs have been conducted using ratepayer funds.

While mapping, risk assessments and further investigation will be required – Community sentiment is currently being sought to request a number of these minor unsealed roads be incorporated into the State Parks that they service. Comments from all landholders will be incorporated into a qualitative and quantitative assessment of this proposal. Please convey any comments, suggestions or concerns to the CEO on ceo@yalgoo.wa.gov.au or 0417 484 840.

Initial feedback will be key to exploring a network reduction and further consultation will take place should this project progress.

Federal Inquiry – Road Network

Some zone delegates will remember that in June 2023 a Murchison delegation attended a hear in Canberra for the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional

Development, Infrastructure and Transport - Inquiry into the implications of severe weather events on the national regional, rural, and remote road network.

On the 5th March 2026 the Australian Government released a response to this enquiry:

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Regional_Development_Infrastructure_and_Transport/ResilientRoads/Government_Response

Of particular interest are recommendations 5 and 9 which accept that review is needed of local government funding and Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. Unfortunately any actionable changes have been passed onto the outcomes of the currently reopened Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability and the Colvin Review.

High Threat Season

As described by public notice the Yalgoo and Paynes Find Brigades successfully controlled a bushfire within 2km of the Yalgoo Townsite in extremely harsh conditions. Thanks is also extended to all parties that assisted in mitigating a bushfire which burnt a large portion of Mt Singleton on Ninghan Station. Capricorn Metals, Brigades, Volunteers and Ninghan Station have all assisted in this joint responsibility and it is great to see the cooperation.

While the Shire still holds significant concerns with the DRFAWA and vehicles provided under the Local Government Grant Scheme it is important to note the valued support of DFES within the Mid-West. Temporary replacement vehicles, support and communication from the Geraldton DFES team in conjunction with the Shires CESM have been outstanding this season for both fire and cyclone threats.

Tourism and Community Events

The Yalgoo Hotel has seen a steady progression of improvements since its purchase by Council in 2025. Electrical works, septic's and keys have all seen major improvements and a trial operation is working extremely well.

Mining Objection in the Wardens Court – Within the next few months the Shire expects a decision will be received from the Wardens Court. In safety related correspondence issued as a result of a complaint by the tenement holder, the Minister for Mines the Hon David Michael says “The ‘Jokers Tunnel’ abandoned mine feature is recognized as a site of interest, contributing to regional tourism and Western Australia’s broader mining heritage.” The Shire is hopeful that this same sentiment will weigh on the Minister should he have to make a further decision regarding the mining proposal. If this is the case the Shire of Yalgoo will be seeking letters of support from across the region that residents and tourism operators believe this site brings value to the Mid-West Region.

WA Local Government Association (WALGA)

A recent supreme court decision has determined that WALGA is an agency for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 1992. A link to the determination is provided.

<https://ecourts.justice.wa.gov.au/eCourtsPortal/Decisions/DownloadDecision?id=52ea7af3-4388-4cb5-bbb7-579e1b0e5974>

For a sector that is designed to be apolitical the organisation representing the interests of Local Government is becoming more and more beholden to the State Government of the day.

Advocacy in a healthy robust democracy should occur without fear or favour and advocacy in a manner that is one size fits all dilutes the fundamental principal of local government.

While it is a positive that member contributions have stayed relatively steady over the past decade it is becoming more and more evident that the Association receives the lions share of its revenue from service provision and government grants. With respect to its services as a Registered Training Organisation and the Preferred Supplier Program along with other functions the Association is beholden to the State Government under Legislation, albeit in a similar manner to Local Government.

The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) positions itself as the authoritative voice for Local Government in Western Australia. The quasi-democratic system established to represent the interests of all members should be examined more closely by all zones as a single position can often be at odds with grass roots sentiments. In a state as large and varied as WA many communities, particularly regionally, have very different economic or social challenges.

These comments are provided to gauge zone interest in grass roots debate about the functions of our association and whether Zone and State Council deliberations should be separated from the parts of the organisation responsible for service provision as an example.

Human Resources and Council

A new accountant has been brought on board and a fixed term maternity leave cover has settled in well. A new partially retrospective Enterprise Bargaining Agreement was also recently endorsed by the Industrial Relations Commission.

Road and Plant

Since the last report the Yalgoo Crew have replaced two 8m stock grids on Morawa Yalgoo Road which are designed for Heavy Vehicles. Large culvert replacements and installations have occurred across the network and Regional Road Group work was completed early this financial year alongside an LRCI project that received a timeline extension. Profiling and potholing works continue to struggle to stand up to millions of tonnes of iron ore haulage and negotiations continue for new and renewed voluntary road use agreements.

Two recent tropical cyclones have caused isolated but far ranging damage to the Shires unsealed road network. Uncertainty and administrative costs have not been in the interests of the taxpayer when compared to the reinstatement work that can be immediately carried out by Shire employees and local contractors under the trust of Council, particularly when compared to the evidence requirements of the DRFAWA, while the threshold will be different for larger impacts the cost vs benefit of working through the DRFAWA process was not deemed suitable.

A 30km section of road most damaged by 50% annual rainfall and TC Narelle is already undergoing flood mitigation works through Roads to Recovery funding. The 4km section completed prior to the event held up extremely well compared to the 65 new defects and washouts that occurred for the remaining 26km.

Regional Dental Services

The Shire was extremely happy to be advised that Dental Services have been restored in Meekatharra and visits will resume to local Primary Schools this year. The Shire will shortly host UWA dental and other health students through a WACRH program that is visiting the region.

Ian Holland
Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Yalgoo - Where the Outback Starts!



7.2 Shire of Mount Magnet



Governance

Full implementation of resolve meeting software has been completed with upgrades to Chambers to accommodate the new technological requirements.

Council have enacted their Parking and Parking Facilities Amendment Local Law to restrict the parking of long vehicles in the CBD. Alternative locations have been identified for trucks, vans and trailers that don't hinder the custom of the retail businesses

We have continued to face barriers to completing the Annual Financial Report for 2024/25 due to the convoluted passage of the Local Government Amendment (Rating of Certain Mining Licenses) Bill 2025. The Shire has raised concerns with the OAG about the impact of subsequent events and how the Shire will deal with the ongoing concern issues. As the debate was halted in March, with no further sittings until mid-May, it is unlikely the Bill will receive Royal Assent this financial year, and consequently we have drawn a line in the sand to get the audit and financials completed. These delays have also led to a voluntary noncompliance disclosure to the new Inspector regarding the timing of the budget review and next years budget.

Administration

After consideration of the updates cost estimates for the Shire Civic and Administration building extension, Council have concluded the proposal should return to the planning stage. Its likely the existing buildings owned by Council will be renovated to facilitate better use of what is already in place with further development to be decided at a later stage.

Economic Development

Council has considered a report from Thuroona on the old Hospital site over which a Management Order exists, and are pursuing options to return the building to the State due to the concentration of asbestos and the financial risk posed to the Shire.

An application was made to the Regional Housing Support Fund for 4 2 bedroom units on Council land in Attwood Street. Its anticipated two of these will be used as staff housing and 2 for pensioner accommodation.

Business Cases are in development phase for freehold conversion of the Industrial Estate, for approval to sublease a portion of Town Common for the purpose of a Transport Hub, and freehold conversion of the Shire Depot. Council are embarking on an Economic Development Strategy to address the many obstacles for business to establish in this region.

Town Development

Council has endorsed a Business Case for the redevelopment of the Caravan Park which involves a four stage plan replacing 16 cabins with self contained units, and redesigning the flow of the Park to allow more van sites. An agreement has been reached with DPLH to purchase the Reserve freehold for the purpose of the expansion with adjacent Shire owned lots rezoned as Special Use Caravan Park. The proposed expansion will lift the standard of accommodation and tourist parking, and redirect the entry to the Park from the Great Northern Highway to be from Naughton Street.

Challenges accessing sufficient water for community amenities continues to be challenging for the Shire with extensive reports prepared to indicate the diminishing water table. Ramelius Resources are continuing to work with the Shire on options for shared exploration and use of the resource.

Council has further endorsed the Town Planning Scheme 2 Amendment 7 which rezones residential properties as Rural Townsite allowing greater flexibility in use of the property without the requirement for Council approval, and for the existing golf course to be similarly zoned. Council's intention is to release this land as small (2 – 5 acre) lots to encourage more residents into the community.

Community Events

Easter and celebrations were well received by community with a range of school holiday programs supported by the Shire.

Thrive were funded by the Perron Foundation to deliver their program over this school holiday period also, which was enormously successful. Thrive was previously known as the Eddie Rice Foundation and specialize in supporting youth and young people in challenging situations, most successfully offering camps where youths are provided opportunities to develop resilience and wellbeing related skills that underpin health relationships. The Shire is excited with the opportunity this partnership represents and further strengthens the services provided through Carey Right Track and GSAC.

7.3 Shire of Murchison



WALGA - Murchison Country Zone April 2026 Report

Murchison Settlement Overview

Progress in Settlement Redevelopments has significantly evolved since development of the Murchison Settlement Masterplan in 2022 and subsequent Roadhouse Redevelopment and Vast Sky Business Case that followed, as shown by the following progress.

Phase	Works	Years
Business-Growth-Future	**Carnarvon-Mullewa-Road-Seal-Upgrade	2023-to-2033
Business-Growth	**Roadhouse-Redevelopment	2027
	Murchison-Vast-Sky-Development (Entirely-dependent-on-the-Roadhouse-Redevelopment-and-grant-funding)	2029+
Business-Facilities-Prerequisite	**Workforce-Accommodation	2026
	**Caravan-Park-Cabins	2026
	**Caravan-Park-Ablutions	2024
Business-Staffing-Prerequisite	**Integrated-Roadhouse-Shire-Staffing-Arrangements	2023-onwards
Community-Facilities-Prerequisite	**New-Playground	2027
	**Community-Centre-Upgrades	2025, 2026
	**Community-Pool-&-Splashpad	2025
	**Community-Amenity-Improvements	2021-onwards
Infrastructure-Upgrade	Micro-Grid-Solar-Power	2029
	Electric-Vehicle-Charging-Station	2029
Infrastructure-Prerequisite	**Power-Upgrade	2025, 2026
	**Water-Chlorination	2025, 2026
	**Water-Supply-Upgrade	2024, 2025
Strategic-Planning-Approach	**Murchison-Vast-Sky-Business-Case-Planning	2021
	**Murchison-Roadhouse-Concept	2021
	**Murchison-Settlement-Masterplan	2021

**completed-/committed

Christmas Tree Day - Pool and Splash Pad Opening



Saturday 13 December 2025 saw Council's Annual Christmas Tree celebrations in full swing. Day involves the December's Ordinary Council Meeting followed by a General Community Meeting, and Annual Meetings of the Murchison Bush Fire Brigade and Murchison Sports Club and then a community get together including Santa's visit. Shire President Rossco Foulkes Taylor also "officially" opened the Shire's Community Pool and Splash Pad.

Since this time Shire staff have steadily been tweaking pool and splashpad operations which operate during daylight hours. Whilst Splash Pad open to all, access to the pool is available to caravan park patrons and local community by way of access cards issued as part of the caravan park operations or as part of a defined local loyalty scheme.



Caravan Park & Roadhouse

Caravan Park renovations are progressing well, with the hardstand works now complete and new conduit installed to support electrical cabling that will finally allow power to all bays, one of our most significant operational challenges in the past. To maximise efficiency and contractor availability, the main trench has been intentionally left open to accommodate upcoming irrigation and water infrastructure works. Landscaping has also been incorporated into the turf renovation package, and the redesigned layout will feature green gathering spaces bordered by native trees, helping to restore the Caravan Park to the oasis-like environment it was once known for.



The Roadhouse has also benefited from several key appliance upgrades, including a new dishwasher and under-bench refrigerators to improve operational efficiency and new coffee machine. A new combi oven is on its way, which will allow us to introduce pizza nights, house-baked bread and regular roast specials. We're all genuinely excited with the expanded capability, and the upgrades position us well to continue enhancing the visitor experience.

Workforce Accommodation

Construction of 5 new two-bedroom transportable dwellings units by Fox Modular from Wangara has progressed well. Three are to be located for roadhouse accommodation thereby freeing up the roadhouse for internal renovations and future extensions whilst two will be located elsewhere in the Settlement. Two houses now at lock-up stage. The remaining three builds have experienced delays related to their concrete bases; however delivery is still indicated for June or July 2026



Murchison Camp Oven Muster Festival

Council's third production is back!!

Planning for the 2026 Murchison Camp Oven Muster is progressing well, with the working group confirming the event structure, key presenters, catering arrangements, and major activities. Headline talent has been identified for camp oven cooking, dog demonstrations, lost-trade skills, and multiple themed panel sessions, while additional speakers for storytelling and regenerative agriculture are being finalised.

Catering providers, breakfast services, coffee vendors, and long-table dinner logistics are in place, with a focus on local produce and improved guest experience. Operational planning continues across volunteers, first aid, merchandise, sponsorship, signage, and creative elements such as murals and community garden walk-throughs.

Rangelands and Pastoralists Support

Council continues to support the local pastoral sector through a variety of avenues including the Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance (SRPA), Carnarvon Rangelands Biosecurity Association (CRBA) with this year's International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralist (IRPA) also providing an important opportunities.

March IYRP theme is Livelihoods and Economics. Regions driving national income are running on thin services and policy that doesn't fit. Australia's rangelands are economically significant. Covering 81% of our landmass, they generate tens of billions of dollars each year. Beef, sheep and goat production underpin major export industries. Yet economic weight does not always translate into influence.

Community Garden & Orchard Update

The Gardeners are digging in at the community garden its time for a big clean up before we start seeding for the winter season. The seeds that have been ordered have arrived and after last years success with garlic we will certainly be growing it again.

The orchard is doing well trees are happy and the mulch is getting a top up and tree fertiliser rings are on their way to support nutrient delivery over the next 12 months. Signage has arrived and hopefully installation will commence shortly.



Tropical Cyclone Narelle

TC Narelle hit the Murchison Settlement as a category 2 cyclone on the evening and early morning on 27 and 28 March 2026. Severest winds were over a round a 6-hour period. Whilst the associated rainfall has, and will involve flood damage claims in the Shire, impact on the Settlement was thankfully relatively modest with damage to trees, some fencing and shedding.



Roadworks

Works to reconstruct and widen various sections of the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road continue in recognition that unlike other Shires within the Murchison Zone and most of WA, the Murchison Shire has no Main Roads WA funded Highway or Main Road with our Shire boundary.



Whilst some sections south of the Twin Peaks-Wooleen Road are still to be required to be undertaken last year, this year and for the next few years efforts will continue to be put towards the section between the Twin Peaks-Wooleen Road and the Murchison Settlement.

Works included a number of floodway sections which involved strengthening / stabilisation so as to maintain and in some areas lower the pavement to have finished levels at a level that will provide for cross flow / floodway drainage as part of a Roads for Rehydration Approach. Sections not being widened will have reseals undertaken in conjunction with sealing works associated with the construction.

Meanwhile maintenance and resheet type works on the SKA Route (Carnarvon-Mullewa, Twin Peaks-Wooleen, Boolardy-Wooleen and sections of the Woollen-Mt Wittenoom, Beringarra-Pindar and Boolardy-Kalli Roads) continue.

Like all local governments, the recent fuel availability and price will have a significant effect on roadworks programs, with impacts on bitumen supply and price unknown. Works on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road are expected to be significantly impacted.

Bill Boehm
Chief Executive Officer

7.4 Shire of Sandstone



SHIRE OF SANDSTONE Activity Report April 2026

Human Resources

Helen Cooper has been appointed to the Sandstone DCEO position. Helen has a wealth of experience from many years working in various local governments throughout Western Australia.

A new position of Executive Officer has been put on hold pending some necessary office alterations/building which will see the downgrading of the library and the relocation of the CEO office.

The Visitor Centre is now open for the winter season and time and fuel supplies will determine how busy we will be. A new officer has been employed for the position and will commence duties in early May. We will rotate existing employees through the centre in the meantime.

After a very thorough tender process a new grading maintenance contractor has been employed. Before he even started fuel prices skyrocketed which has resulted in a temporary renegotiation of the contract price.

Road Works

Maintenance on the Paynes Find to Sandstone continue to drain our budget. The road has been closed to heavy vehicles for some three months and despite negotiations the two mining companies who were frequenting the road, they haven't come to the party with support for the shire. With our current road funding we can't maintain the road to cater for continual road train traffic, despite Main Roads issuing permits for these vehicles.

Sufficient supplies of gravel and water are an ongoing problem for us. We have commenced the process of acquiring permits to extend existing gravel pits but, as we know, this is a very lengthy process with various coloured tapes to overcome. There is no short term solution and of course there is no financial support from the two levels of government that reap in millions in royalties and then burden local government with bureaucratic blockages.

Buildings

Tenders were recalled for the acquisition of two new staff houses in Sandstone. The previous tender resulted in one application and this time there were two submissions. Both submissions are reasonable and of course costs keep increasing. A submission from a Geraldton company that has recently ventured into transportable housing looks promising.

Other Matters

Our tree planting program has continued and we're trying some new variations that have so far, been successful. The Poinciana trees are looking great at this time and like most trees and gardens, soil preparation is the key to success.

A new stock of shrubs are arriving soon from Benara Nurseries in Perth to re-stock those that didn't survive the summer.

The townspeople are keen to get into the healthy lifestyle and various exercise classes will be commencing this month.

Skin checks are programmed for May/June and Council has invited members of the community to partake in the program.

Peter Money
Chief Executive Officer
April 2026

7.5 Shire of Cue



WALGA – Murchison Country Zone

April 2026 Report

Governance

Vale Cr Ross Pigdon



The Shire of Cue acknowledges with deep sadness the passing of Deputy Shire President, Councillor Ross Pigdon, who passed away on 9 April 2026.

Ross Pigdon dedicated many years of committed service to the Shire of Cue and the wider community, leaving a legacy of leadership, integrity and community pride.

Ross was first elected as Deputy Shire President in 1999 - 2005, quickly establishing himself as a strong advocate for the Shire and its residents. Ross then had a break from Council until being elected in 2015, and voted as Shire President, a role he held with distinction until his retirement from Council in 2023. During this period, Ross

provided steady leadership through times of change and growth, always guided by a deep respect for Cue's history and its future.

At an extraordinary election in 2024, Ross answered the call to serve once more and was re-elected as a Councillor. In 2025, his fellow Councillors elected him as Deputy Shire President, recognising his experience, sound judgement and unwavering commitment to local government.

A long-standing member of Cue, Ross was deeply connected to the community he served. His strong appreciation for Cue's history and people underpinned his approach to local government and his commitment to ensuring a resilient and sustainable future for the district.

The Shire of Cue extends its sincere condolences to Ross's family, friends and loved ones. He will be remembered with gratitude and respect for the significant contribution he made to the Shire and its community.

Administration

In February 2026 I celebrated 10 years at the Shire of Cue. I initially arrived at the Shire of Cue in a short-term capacity, acting as Finance Manager. Although the appointment was intended to be temporary, I was soon offered and accepted the permanent position of Finance Manager, a role that allowed me to apply my prior local government experience while gaining a deeper understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities of working in a small, remote community.

In 2017, I was offered the position of Deputy Chief Executive Officer, an opportunity that further broadened my involvement in the governance and strategic direction of the Shire. This role provided valuable insight into Council decision-making and strengthened my appreciation for the importance of collaboration between elected members, staff, and the community. In 2021, I was appointed Chief Executive Officer. Since that time, I have had the privilege of leading a dedicated and committed team while working closely with Council to deliver projects, services, and initiatives that support the Cue community.

Reflecting on the past decade, I am grateful for the experiences, challenges, and achievements that have shaped both my professional journey and my connection to Cue. I sincerely thank the Councillors, staff, and community members, including you lot, for the trust and support, and I look forward to continuing to serve the Shire in the years ahead.

This year, we welcomed Steve Page to the Shire following an outstanding 35-year career with the Western Australia Police Force. Steve brings a wealth of knowledge gained through decades of frontline service and senior leadership. Since joining us, his focus has been on progressing several key Shire projects, with a particular emphasis on the Cue Aerodrome, where he has taken the lead on planning, day-to-day operations, mentoring and ongoing improvements.

Economic Development

Westgold Resources provided notification of the commencement of an open-pit mining program, including pits at Cuddingwarra and at their Accelerator and Indicator sites located along the Beringarra–Cue Road. Discussions primarily focused on road access arrangements and intersection requirements for the new pits, including access to and from the Beringarra–Cue Road. Westgold also advised of plans to expand the Big Bell camp by an initial 40 accommodation units to meet increased staffing requirements and indicated that an additional flight is being considered.

Fenix Resources have commenced their expansion of the Weld Range Project. This includes a proposal to construct a new private haul road from the Beringarra Cue Road to their Ruvidini Facility (transfer station) located near Mullewa. The proposed haul road utilises the Oakajee Rail Corridor alignment with the intention to run 250 tonne capacity trucks from Weld Range to Ruvidini and rail the ore into the Geraldton Port.

Works for stage one on the Masonic Lodge commenced on 11 February 2026. HC Constructions were the successful tenderers. The first stage of the project involves the construction of an extension to the rear of the building, incorporating a new kitchen, toilet facilities and a decking area. These works are aimed at improving the functionality and accessibility of the facility. Stage two works will be the restoration of the Masonic Lodge building.

Settlement of the Bell & Co. property was finalised in November 2025. Redevelopment concept drawings for the Bell & Co. Emporium (Bells Emporium) have been received from Suzie Hunt Architects. The concept provides a preliminary indication of the proposed approach to restoring and adapting the historic building, with careful consideration given to preserving key heritage features while enabling a functional future use of the site.

We are working with HC Construction to begin restoration works on the shop based on the concept design.

Town Developments

As part of the Austin Street Heritage Project, Jason and Felicity Trevenen of Kaboom Toons have been busy bringing history back to life on Austin Street. As part of the Heritage Project, eight new historically inspired shopfront signs have now been installed, reflecting businesses from Cue's early commercial days. This work is scheduled to be recommenced in April 2026.



We had the pleasure of the Hon Jackie Jarvis MLC, Minister for Agriculture and Food; Fisheries; Forestry; Small Business; and the Mid West, officially opened the Cue Café Kitchen Project, located alongside the historic Western Australian Bank building (formerly the Bank of NSW).

The opening ceremony was a proud moment for Cue, blending the town's rich heritage with its vision for the future. The Shire President Les Price addressed attendees with a speech highlighting the history of the bank, and the significance of revitalising such a landmark for community use.

This project was made possible through the State Government's Regional Economic Development Grants program, together with support from the Shire of Cue.

The Shire extends its gratitude to all who contributed to the project and looks forward to seeing the Cue Café Kitchen become a vibrant hub for community connection and hospitality.



7.6 Shire of Meekatharra

Not received.

Mr Shane Love MLA addressed the meeting. He sent an apology from Ms Kerralee Warr MLA, Shadow Minister for Local Government for not being present. He addressed current fuel issues and the possibility of the State Government declaring a State of Emergency. The State Government are currently providing briefings to WALGA about this. He also discussed issues relating to Cyclone Narelle and its impacts on Exmouth, Coral Bay and Carnarvon. He also reminded the meeting that 2026 is the International Year for Pastoralism and referred to the need for regional areas to have their own DAMA (Designated area of migration) to suit their needs.

8. Presentations

- Mr Liam Loan-Lack and Ms Frances Whalley – Keystart
- CEO Richard Towel – MEG Update
- Mr Nils Hay – Mid West Development Commission Update

9. Meeting Dates 2026

As resolved at the November 2025 meeting the next meeting of the Murchison Country Zone be held in Cue on Friday 20 November 2026.

10. Meeting Close

The President closed the meeting at 12.31pm.