

Murchison Country Zone of WALGA

Shires of –ABN 75 305 122 944
Cue
Meekatharra
Mount Magnet
Murchison
Sandstone
Yalgoo



MINUTES

MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE

OF

Western Australian Local Government Association

SPECIAL MEETING

Wednesday 9 February 2022 2pm

Hosted on ZOOM

Table of Contents

Special Meeting, Shire of Cue Council Chambers on Friday 9 February 2022 at 2pm

- 4
- 1. Opening 4
- 2. Attendance..... 4
 - 2.1 Delegates 4
 - 2.2 Observers..... 4
 - 2.3 Visitors..... 4
 - 2.4 Apologies..... 4
- 3. Agenda..... 5
 - 3.1 Local Government Act Reforms..... 5
- 4. Meeting Closure 7

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Special Meeting, Shire of Cue Council Chambers on Friday 9 February 2022 at 2pm Hosted on Zoom

1. Opening

Chair opened the meeting at 2.05pm

2. Attendance

2.1 Delegates

Cr Rossco Foulkes-Taylor	Zone President Shire of Murchison
Cr Jorgen Jensen	President Mount Magnet Shire
Cr James McGorman	Shire of Mount Magnet
Cr Les Price	Deputy Zone President Shire of Cue
Cr Beth Walton	President Shire of Sandstone
Cr Harvey Nichols	President Shire of Meekatharra
CEO Kelvin Matthews	CEO Shire of Meekatharra
Cr Emma Foulkes-Taylor	Shire of Murchison
Cr Ross Pigdon	President Shire of Cue

2.2 Observers

Mr Eddie Piper	Acting CEO Shire of Mount Magnet
Mr Charlie Brown	CEO Shire of Sandstone
Mr Ian Holland	CEO Shire of Yalgoo
Mr Richard Towell	CEO Shire of Cue

2.3 Visitors

Ms Lyn Fogg	Governance Specialist - WALGA
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2.4 Apologies

Ms Samantha Appleton	Executive Officer Murchison
Mr Bill Boehm	CEO Shire of Murchison
Cr Carol Hodshon	Shire of Sandstone
Cr Gail Trenfield	Shire of Yalgoo
Cr Greg Payne	President Shire of Yalgoo

3. Agenda

3.1 Local Government Act Reforms

Proposed by Shire of Cue

Attachments Local Government Reform - Summary of Proposed Reforms

Background –

WALGA has prepared a document (attached) setting out proposed amendments to the Local Government Act. Each proposed amendment is set out with the original legislation and comments from WALGA as to their proposed response.

Comment –

This meeting has been called to formulate a response to WALGA's recommendations to enable the views of the Zone to be presented to WALGA for consideration. As our next proposed Zone meeting is not until 23 April 2022 it is felt that it is important that the views of the Zone are presented in a timely manner to enable WALGA to take the Zone's views into account when formulating their response to the Department of Local Government regarding the proposed reforms.

Once a response is formulated it will be forwarded to WALGA.

Recommendation –

That the Murchison Country Zone of WALGA;

1. support the responses made by the meeting to the proposed reforms;

and

2. that the resolution of the meeting and the responses made be forwarded to WALGA for consideration.

RESOLUTION – Moved: Cr Les Price Seconded: Cr Harvey Nichols

That the Murchison Country Zone of WALGA;

- 1. That the Murchison Country Zone of WALGA support the recommendations contained in the Local Government Reform proposal submission subject to the following provisions -**

PROPOSED REFORMS	RECOMMENDATION	COMMENT
1.5 Rapid Red Card Resolutions	Supported by the Murchison Country Zone – see comment	The red card should be item specific therefore the Councillor is not removed for the whole meeting.
2.1 Resource Sharing	Supported by the Murchison Country Zone - see comment	Distances are too vast for the sharing of CEO's in the Murchison. This is already being done for other services where practicable but see no need to enshrine into legislation.
2.6 Standardised Meeting Procedures, Including Public Question Time	NOT Supported by the Murchison Country Zone – see comment	We don't agree that small LG's use the same standing orders as a City does. It should be up to each individual council.
3.1 Recordings and Live Streaming of All Council Meetings	NOT Supported by the Murchison Country Zone	
3.2 Recording All Votes in Council Minutes	NOT Supported by the Murchison Country Zone – see comment	Our response is we would like it to remain optional.
3.3 Clearer Guidance for Meeting Items that may be Confidential	Supported by the Murchison Country Zone with one exception – see comments	We do not support the recording being submitted to the Department on confidential items
3.4 Additional Online Registers	NOT Supported by the Murchison Country Zone	
3.5 CEO KPI's be Published	NOT Supported by the Murchison Country Zone	
4.1 Community and Stakeholder Engagement Charters	NOT Supported by the Murchison Country Zone	
4.3 Introduction of Preferential Voting	NOT Supported and strongly opposed by the Murchison Country Zone	
4.4 Public Vote to Elect the Mayor and President	NOT Supported and strongly opposed by the Murchison Country Zone	
4.5 Tiered Limits on the Number of Councillors	NOT Supported and strongly opposed by the Murchison Country Zone	
5.1 Introduce Principles in the Act	NOT Supported by the Murchison Country Zone	The 1967 Referendum provided equality for Aboriginal West Australians. The Zone finds this inclusion demeaning.
5.4 Local Governments May Pay Superannuation Contributions for Elected Members	NOT Supported by the Murchison Country Zone	

PROPOSED REFORMS	RECOMMENDATION	COMMENT
5.6 Standardised Election Caretaker period	NOT Supported by the Murchison Country Zone	
5.7 Remove WALGA from the Act	Murchison Country Zone supports WALGA's position	
5.8 CEO Recruitment	NOT Supported by the Murchison Country Zone	
6.3 Rates and Revenue Policy	Supported by the Murchison Country Zone with the following considerations – see comment	Acknowledges that mining rates are significantly different to other UV rates and create a new category of rating therefore negating the annual need to apply for Ministerial approval to raise mining rates that are consistently more than two times the pastoral rates. This could also be considered for GRV mining camps. Review of section 6.26 of LG Act in relation to land that is exempt from rates.
6.6 Audit Committees	NOT Supported and strongly opposed by the Murchison Country Zone	
6.7 Building Upgrade Finance	NOT Supported by the Murchison Country Zone	

2. That WALGA:

- a) seek assurance from the Minister for Local Government that further detail on the proposed reforms will be provided to the sector for comment prior to the formulation of a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill; and
- b) seek a formal commitment from the Minister for Local Government that WALGA actively participates in the legislative drafting process necessary to formulate a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill.

Carried: Unanimous

4. Meeting Closure

There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 3.45pm.