

East Metropolitan Zone Minutes

23 April 2026

**Hosted by the City of Belmont
Function Room, 215 Wright Street,
Cloverdale**

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PRIORITISATION FRAMEWORK

How to use the Framework:

- If the majority of the factors are towards the left column, the issue is a high priority.
- If the majority of the factors are towards the middle, the issue requires action, but is not a high priority.
- If the majority of the factors are towards the right column, the issue is a low priority.

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)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Zone Delegates were requested to provide sufficient written notice, wherever possible, of amendments to recommendations within the State Council or Zone Agenda to the Zone Chair and Secretariat prior to the Zone meeting.

Agenda Papers were emailed 7 days prior to the meeting date.

Confirmation of Attendance An attendance sheet was circulated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

1. LGIRS Local Government Division Report
2. Minutes of previous meeting
3. Zone Status Report
4. President's Report
5. East Metropolitan Zone Standing Orders

1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

1.1 OPENING

Zone Chair, Cr George Sekulla opened the meeting at 6:30pm.

1.2 ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS	2 Voting Delegates from each Member Local Government
Town of Bassendean	Cr Hayden Long Mayor Kath Hamilton (deputy)
City of Bayswater	Deputy Mayor Elli Petersen-Pik Mr Jeremy Edwards, Chief Executive Officer (deputy)
City of Belmont	Cr George Sekulla JP (Chair) Cr Bernard Ryan Mayor Robert Rossi (observer) Deputy Mayor Deborah Sessions (observer) Mr John Christie, Chief Executive Officer – non-voting
City of Kalamunda	Mayor Margaret Thomas Mr Anthony Vuleta, Chief Executive Officer – non-voting
Shire of Mundaring	Cr Matthew Woods (deputy) Mr Jason Whiteaker, Chief Executive Officer – non-voting
City of Swan	Cr Cate McCullough Cr Rod Henderson Mr Stephen Cain, Chief Executive Officer – non-voting
WALGA Secretariat	Mayor Mark Irwin, President Mr Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure

Mr Kieran McGovern, A/Senior Policy Advisor Planning
Ms Amberley Bradley, Policy Advisor Emergency Management

Guest

LGIRS Local Government Division Mr Cameron Taylor, General Manager, LG Reform

1.3 APOLOGIES

Town of Bassendean	Cr Ken John Mr Cameron Woods, Chief Executive Officer – non-voting
City of Bayswater	Cr Michelle Sutherland
City of Kalamunda	Cr Brooke O'Donnell
Shire of Mundaring	President Paige McNeil Cr Ben Heptinstall

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We, the Zone members acknowledge the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to Country, culture and community. We embrace the vast Aboriginal cultural diversity throughout Western Australia, including Boorloo (Perth), on the land of the Whadjuk Noongar People, where this meeting is being held and we acknowledge and pay respect to Elders past and present.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

4 DEPUTATIONS

Nil.

5 AGENCY REPORTS

5.1 LGIRS LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIVISION REPORT

The April 2026 report from LGIRS Local Government Division was enclosed as an attachment to the Agenda.

Mr Cameron Taylor, General Manager LG Reform was in attendance and provided a brief update to the Zone on Regulatory Reform.

Noted

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The previous meeting Minutes of the East Metropolitan Zone have been circulated to Zone Delegates and was provided as an attachment to the Agenda.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Mayor Margaret Thomas
Seconded: Cr Cate McCullough

That the Minutes of the meeting of the East Metropolitan Zone held on 19 February 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED 10/0

7 BUSINESS ARISING

7.1 STATUS REPORT

A Status Report outlining any recent updates and/or actions taken on the Zone's previous meetings resolutions for both State Council and Zone items was enclosed as an attachment. These item updates will remain on the Status Report until completed or no further action is required by WALGA.

Noted

8 ZONE BUSINESS

8.1 RATING OF SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

By the Town of Bassendean

BACKGROUND

Historically, community housing was provided by the Housing Authority and then the Department of Communities. Although exempt from local government rates, the State government generally elected to pay local government rates for these properties. With a shift toward social and affordable housing and the transition away from direct provision by the State, to provision through a not-for-profit housing provider or other form of charitable organisation, local government rates are being eroded as these organisations do not elect to pay rates but actively seek exemptions. This is despite many housing agreements between the State and housing provider including clauses to the effect that the provider is responsible for all costs associated with and incidental to the land, including local government rates. Put simply, local government rates have been avoided using an intermediary as the housing provider.

What is yet to be tested is whether a mixed development, such as that proposed for Park Lane in Bassendean, with 20% social housing and 80% affordable housing, results in the land being rateable or non-rateable. If affordable housing is considered a charitable purpose (relief of poverty), the land will almost certainly be regarded as non-rateable. If only the social housing component is considered a charitable purpose, the land may be rateable.

Current Situation

Under the *Local Government Act 1995* (the LG Act), all land within a district is rateable land, except as provided for under section 6.26, which provides that certain land is not rateable land, including paragraph (g), which states: "*land used exclusively for charitable purposes*". Regarding exclusivity, some incidental use does not destroy exclusiveness of the use of the land for charitable purposes. Where land is used for a charitable purpose, a profitable by-product incidental to that use does not destroy the charitable purpose.

'Charitable purposes' is not defined in the LG Act but is generally accepted to include "*relief of poverty, sickness or the needs of the aged*".

The SAT has consistently found that housing for the aged provided by a charitable or not-for-profit entity, notwithstanding the payment of market rates, is not rateable land.

Property owners may apply to the Town for a 'rates exemption' where they consider the land may be non-rateable under section 6.26 of the LG Act, and the Town will assess the application in accordance with its Rates Exemption Policy.

The Town typically provides a rates exemption to around 40 properties at any given time, amounting to around 1% of its rates revenue.

WALGA has a long-standing advocacy that the broad rate exemption provisions, including s.6.26(2)(g), require review as a substantial number of properties; schools, universities, churches, crown land etc; together with land used exclusively for charitable purposes is having a significant impact on the revenues of Local Government in WA.

The impact on the Town's revenue will only grow more significant with the pipeline of social and affordable housing projects funded by the State government. While the Town seeks to encourage social and affordable housing within its district, it has limited sources of revenue and limited growth opportunities for rates revenue. Residents of social and affordable housing use the same local government services as other residents, yet the Town derives no rates revenue to help offset the cost of providing those services. Consequently, it is the owners of rateable land within the Town who subsidise the provision of social and affordable housing, rather than the State government as the responsible authority.

Preferred Future State

The Town seeks to derive rates revenue from affordable housing provided within its district, regardless of the provider. This can be achieved by the State government including appropriate provision for payment of local government rates in its funding model with housing providers, and agreement that housing providers will be liable for local government rates on the affordable housing component of housing developments.

The relevant Ministers are the Minister for Housing the Hon. John Carey MLA and the Minister for Local Government the Hon. Hannah Beazley MLA.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

WALGA acknowledges the substantial impact that rating exemptions have on Local Government revenue, and their ability to provide essential community services. The provision of social or community housing by not-for-profit organisations is one of the most significant issues of concern.

This matter aligns with longstanding [WALGA Advocacy Positions](#) regarding rating, including the following:

2.1.1 Rating Exemptions Review

A broad review be conducted into the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under Section 6.26 of the Local Government Act 1995.

2.1.2 Rating Exemptions – Charitable Purposes

1. *Amend the Local Government Act 1995 to clarify that Independent Living Units should only be exempt from rates where they qualify under the Commonwealth Aged Care Act 1997;*
2. *Either:*
 - a) *amend the charitable organisations section of the Local Government Act 1995 to eliminate exemptions for commercial (non-charitable) business activities of charitable organisations; or*
 - b) *establish a compensatory fund for Local Governments, similar to the pensioner discount provisions, if the State Government charitable organisations remain exempt from payment of Local Government rates.*
3. *Request that a broad review be conducted into the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under Section 6.26 of the Local Government Act 1995.*

2.1.3 Rating Exemptions – Department of Housing: Leasing to Charitable Organisations

That WALGA advocate to the Minister for Housing to include in the lease agreements with charitable institutions that they must pay Local Government rates on behalf of the Department of Housing recognising the services Local Government provides to its tenants.

[WALGA's 2026-27 State Budget Submission](#) also calls for an independent organisation to undertake a broad review of rating exemptions and one of the concerns noted in the submission is exemptions granted for charitable purposes.

Heightened concerns regarding rating and rating exemptions have emerged across the sector over the past 6–12 months. WALGA is undertaking scoping work to consider the most effective way to address these matters through a coordinated, overarching and sector wide advocacy approach. As an emerging issue, consideration of appropriate mechanisms to deal with the provision of affordable housing could be included in this work.

WALGA has in limited circumstances sought legal advice on behalf of the sector, including by allowing Local Governments to opt-in and contribute to the costs. This has occurred where an issue is of sector-wide significance and it is possible to attain general advice with broad application.

Applications for a rating exemption must be assessed based on the use of the property, and may turn on the specific circumstances of each case. Further investigation of the property use of the 14 build-to-rent apartment developments being delivered by Development WA would be required to identify whether it would be appropriate for WALGA to seek general legal advice on behalf of the sector.

Similarly, a test case may not be an appropriate mechanism to deal with this issue. This would require a Local Government to receive an application for an exemption and refuse

that application with the intention of contesting an expected objection to SAT. This may be inconsistent with a Local Government's obligations to decide each matter on its merits. In addition, model litigant principles require Local Governments, to act fairly, consistently, and in the public interest when engaging in litigation. Unfairness may be exacerbated if an individual ratepayer, likely to be a community housing provider, is bearing the risks and costs of the objection while multiple Local Governments contribute to the costs of defending the refusal. The outcome of a SAT or Supreme Court decision may also be limited to the specific circumstances of the case rather than providing a broadly applicable test or criteria.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Hayden Long
Seconded: Mayor Kath Hamilton

That the East Metropolitan Zone requests WALGA to:

- 1. obtain legal advice as to whether the provision of affordable housing is likely to fall within the meaning of the relief of poverty for the purposes of section 6.26 of the *Local Government Act*. If not, obtain legal advice as to whether the minority provision of social housing within a mixed social/affordable housing development alters the position;**
- 2. seek interest of like-minded Local Governments to identify and fund a suitable test case through the SAT and potentially Supreme Court; and**
- 3. advocate to the State Government to agree to require all Community Housing Providers fund the payment of local government rates for affordable housing.**

CARRIED 10/0

8.2 CONSULTATION ON DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE ADVOCACY POSITION

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA is undertaking sector consultation on a revised draft Climate Change Advocacy Position.
- This draft position was developed following initial consultation, consideration by State Council in March 2025 and feedback from the Environment Policy Team of State Council.
- WALGA is seeking **Council endorsed feedback by 1 May 2026**.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

WALGA's 2018 Climate Change [Policy Statement](#) and Advocacy Position state:

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.*

The draft Advocacy Position in the Consultation Paper is:

- 1. Local Government acknowledges the risks associated with, and is committed to, addressing climate change.*
- 2. WALGA calls on the Australian and Western Australian Governments to provide:*
 - a. the necessary climate leadership, coordination and action to ensure an orderly transition to achieve emission reduction targets and address the impacts of climate change*
 - b. dedicated funding, guidance and practical support to assist Local Governments to undertake emissions reduction and adaptation actions.*

ATTACHMENT

The WALGA Climate Change Advocacy Position Consultation Paper is available [online](#).

BACKGROUND

Climate change, and related legislation, policy and action, have implications for many aspects of Local Governments' operations and services. More frequent and severe droughts, heatwaves, bushfires, extreme rainfall events and warming, rising sea levels are increasing the costs and complexity of delivering critical services, infrastructure and ensuring community wellbeing.

In 2018, State Council endorsed a [Climate Change Policy Statement](#) and advocacy position, following extensive sector consultation. Since this Advocacy Position was adopted there have been significant legislative, policy, technological and scientific changes, including:

- The national *Climate Change Act 2022* and the Western Australian Climate Change Bill 2023.
- The *Local Government Amendment Act 2023*, which expanded Western Australian Local Governments' general function under Part 3 s3.1(1A) of the *Local Government Act 1995* to:
 - a. to promote the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the district; and
 - b. **to plan for, and to plan for mitigating, risks associated with climate change;** and
 - c. in making decisions, to consider potential long-term consequences and impacts on future generations.
- The release of the Australian Government's [National Climate Risk Assessment](#) and [National Adaptation Plan](#) in 2025.
- Escalation of the transition to renewable energy, uptake of electric vehicles and energy efficiency standards under the National Construction Code.
- Climate science and projections ([international](#), [national](#) and [WA specific](#)) have also become clearer regarding the risks posed by climate change and the need for action to address the consequential impacts.

COMMENT

Following initial consultation, consideration by State Council in March 2025 and feedback from the Environment Policy Team, WALGA has developed a revised, draft Climate Change Advocacy Position for Local Government feedback which is currently out for consultation with feedback due by 1 May 2026. WALGA has received feedback from some Councils and understands a number of Councils will be considering this matter in April. Zone delegates are encouraged to take this item to their Councils.

The Central Country Zone passed a motion at its February 2026 meeting which included writing to all other zones highlighting its alternative Advocacy Position (proposed in March 2025). WALGA worked to incorporate the Central Country Zone feedback prior to the release of the Consultation Paper.

WALGA is seeking **Council endorsed feedback** on the draft Climate Change Advocacy Position by **COB Friday, 1 May 2026** to environment@walga.asn.au. Following consideration of this feedback a final draft Advocacy Position will be developed and provided to Zones and State Council for consideration.

Noted

8.3 REQUEST TO PRESENT

By Chantelle O'Brien, WALGA

Local Government Inspector

The Office of the Local Government Inspector has requested the opportunity to attend Zone meetings during 2026.

WA's inaugural Local Government Inspector Tony Brown will provide an update on the functions of the Office of the Inspector, his priorities for 2026 and his expectations of the sector. The Local Government Inspector is a statutory officer and provides oversight of the local government sector through complaint handling, inquiries, compliance review, and education.

Mr Brown has been in the role since October 2025 with his powers under the Local Government Act 1995 commencing on 1 January this year.

Mr Brown would like the opportunity to attend the 20 August 2026 East Metropolitan Zone meeting.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Cate McCullough
Seconded: Mayor Kath Hamilton

That the East Metropolitan Zone supports a presentation from the Local Government Inspector, Mr Tony Brown at the August Zone meeting.

CARRIED 10/0

8.4 COMMUNITY SPORTING AND RECREATION FACILITIES FUND (CSRFF)

By Shire of Mundaring

BACKGROUND

The Shire of Mundaring considered a notice of motion from Cr Ben Heptinstall at its meeting of Full Council dated 14 April 2026, which was supported by Council. The following is the rationale for the motion as provided by Cr Heptinstall:

The Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF) is the Western Australian Governments commitment to the development of sustainable infrastructure for sport and recreation across the State.

The purpose of the program is to increase participation in sport and recreation, with an emphasis on physical activity through rational development of sustainable, good quality, well-designed and well utilised facilities.

The State Government's commitment through the CSRFF is that it will invest annually in the development of high quality physical environments in which people can enjoy sport and recreation.

Local Governments across WA, including the Shire of Mundaring, rely heavily on the CSRFF funding to co-deliver projects that would otherwise be financially unviable.

The current pause and uncertainty surrounding CSRFF funding rounds has created a significant risk to planned projects scheduled for delivery in the 2026/27 financial year.

Multiple projects currently included in forward planning and budgeting assume CSRFF co funding. Without this funding, there is potential for a substantial budget shortfall and the delay or cancellation of important community infrastructure.

The Shire has a regular practice of seeking funding from the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF) for projects related to the construction or refurbishment of buildings / facilities in the Shire used for recreational purposes.

Projects such as the Boya and Glen Forrest Pavilions builds/refurbishments has an associated income budgeted in Shire forecasts of up to one-third of the total capital cost in the Long-Term Financial Plan. This has been modified for the 2026-27 Draft Budget for the income element to be removed. The Project build is due to occur in the 2026-27 Financial Year.

In June 2025, the State Government announced the "PlayOn" initiative being \$332m of investment in sports infrastructure. Since then, advice received from staff administering the CSRFF Program is that it is on hold whilst the State Government updates the guidelines for CSRFF in relation to the Play On initiative.

Normally there would have been a round of CSRFF funding opened in September 2025 and February 2026 but neither has occurred.

The timing of the next rounds of the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF) and Club Night Lights Program (CNLP) are being reviewed and no timings have been announced.

Under the new PlayOn WA: 2030 by 2030 initiative the WA Government will deliver over 2030 new or upgraded pieces of sporting infrastructure by 2030 and this review aims to bolster the effectiveness of our (WA Government) funding programs.

PlayOn WA is supported by \$332 million in funding for sports infrastructure projects in the 2025-2026 State Budget. This is not a new grant funding program, rather an initiative to guide investment in community sport and recreation infrastructure including:

- upgrades at the Perth Soccer Club as part of the State's \$30 million contribution to redevelop the Dorrien Gardens precinct;
- \$22.5 million for a new Port Hedland Aquatic Centre;
- \$20 million towards the new Malaga Sports Precinct;
- \$16 million towards major upgrades at Warwick Stadium to cater for an additional 800 players and increase basketball development pathways for talented players;
- \$15.5 million to support the construction of the Leschenault Leisure Centre;
- \$12.5 million towards a new Binar Futures community sporting hub; and
- \$17.6 million for upgrades at grassroot motorsport facilities including racetracks, kart clubs, motorcross and speedways around the State.

It is not clear whether Play On will replace CSRFF or whether CSRFF will be a process to implement Play On.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

WALGA recognises that ongoing uncertainty regarding the future of the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF) and Club Night Lights Programs is having a significant impact on Local Governments ability to plan and progress projects.

WALGA wrote to the Minister for Sport and Recreation and the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport (CITS) on this issue in December 2025. The Minister responded on 17 February 2026, advising that investment in sporting infrastructure will focus on the delivery of the State Governments' PlayOn WA: 2030 by 2030 initiative and election commitments. This response aligns with that received by the Shire of Harvey from CITS.

WALGA is continuing to advocate regarding the importance of these programs and to seek clarity regarding the review and the future of the CSRFF and Club Night Lights Program programs.

It is also worth noting that to generate the level of public pressure required for government action, in addition to significant investment, a campaign would need to take a very critical or negative tone. While this approach can be effective in drawing attention and driving a response or action, it is important to consider the broader implications and potential to damage relationships and momentum secured in other areas of advocacy.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Matthew Woods
Seconded: Mayor Margaret Thomas

That the East Metropolitan Zone request WALGA to:

- 1. Launch a public advocacy campaign, as a matter of priority, requesting the State Government restart the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF) for the 2026/27 financial year; and**
- 2. The campaign should showcase the benefits of the CSRFF and the reliance the Local Government sector has on this funding**

CARRIED 10/0

9 WALGA STATE COUNCIL AGENDA

Zone Delegates are invited to read and consider the WALGA State Council Agenda which can be found via the link [here](#).

The Zone can provide comment or submit an alternative recommendation on any of the items, including the items for noting. The Zone comment will then be presented to the State Council for consideration at their meeting.

The State Council Agenda items requiring a decision of State Council are extracted for Zone consideration below.

9.1 PROTECTING COUNCIL MEMBER AND EMPLOYEE PRIVACY ADVOCACY POSITION

By Meghan Dwyer, Governance Specialist

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.

ATTACHMENT

- Jurisdictional Comparison – Address Information in Council Member Returns and Declarations of Office (included below).

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

The proposed advocacy position aligns to the WALGA 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, in particular:

- Influence – Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government.
- Support – Anticipate, understand and respond to Member needs.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The recommendation is for State Council to endorse a 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.*

BACKGROUND

At the 3 December 2025 meeting, State Council adopted new Advocacy Position 2.5.20 Electoral Material - Authorisation Statement Address Requirements in response to significant privacy and safety concerns arising from the obligation to publish a candidate's physical address on electoral materials.

When considering this item at the preceding round of Zone meetings, the South East Metropolitan Zone (SEMZ) resolved to request WALGA advocate to amend s.5.95(1) of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) 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.

State Council resolved to refer the SEMZ comments to the Governance Policy Team.

The Governance Policy Team endorsed the proposed advocacy position at its meeting on 23 March 2026.

COMMENT

Public disclosure regimes must strike an appropriate balance between public transparency and personal safety. The inclusion of personal identifying information in publicly accessible documents has become increasingly problematic. As digital publication and internet search capabilities have expanded, material that once had limited circulation can be copied and distributed with ease. This environment has reinforced the need to carefully consider how much personal information is necessary to make publicly available, and the risks that may arise when doing so.

Local Government Act

The Act establishes a range of public disclosure obligations designed to promote transparency and accountability. However, digital publication, increased data availability, and heightened personal safety concerns have created new risks that were not contemplated when these provisions were first drafted.

Returns require relevant persons to disclose personal financial information. Information disclosed includes the address of each parcel of real property, located in the district or in an adjoining district, in which the person had an interest and the nature of the interest in each parcel of real property (s.5.79). In practice, this often results in the disclosure of a Council Member or employee's residential address.

Returns are required to be included in the register of financial interests. Section 5.94(b) of the Act requires any register of financial interest to be made available to the public, and s.5.96 requires the Local Government to provide copies upon request.

Although s.5.93 of the Act establishes penalties for the improper use of information, information can now be copied and distributed almost instantly. In many cases, the harm may occur well before any investigation or action can be commenced.

In addition to the requirement for Council Members to disclose interests in real property as part of their returns, s.2.29 of the Act, together with Form 7 of the *Local Government (Constitution) Regulations 1998*, requires each Council Member to provide their full residential address when making their statutory declaration of office. Although this declaration is not required to be made publicly available under s. 5.94(b) of the Act, some Local Governments livestream or publish recordings of the proceedings. As a result, full residential address details become publicly accessible.

Emerging risks and issues

Local Governments have observed increasing reluctance from Council Members and employees to provide their residential address. Reasons include:

- being registered as a silent elector under the *Electoral Act 1907*,
- experiences or risks of family or domestic violence,
- concerns that leave of absence approvals may signal when a residence may be unoccupied,
- role-related risks, such as potential targeted harassment by dissatisfied community members.

Disclosure of personal residential addresses can also expose individuals to cybersecurity and identity-theft risks, as this information can be combined with other data to build detailed personal profiles. Publicly accessible addresses may make individuals more vulnerable to targeted scams, social engineering, and unwanted contact, increasing both digital and physical security risks.

Parliamentary disclosure obligations

The disclosure of the residential addresses of Members of Parliament in their Primary and Annual Returns has recently been considered by the [Legislative Assembly Procedures and Privileges Committee in Report No.1: Protecting privacy and other reasons to update the *Members of Parliament \(Financial Interests\) Act 1992*](#).

The Committee recommended that the Government review the relevant legislation, “with a view to addressing the requirement for the disclosure of full residential addresses and to consider broader legislative updates necessary to ensure the Act remains contemporary, effective, and aligned with modern standards of accountability and personal security.”

The [Government response](#) supported this recommendation.

Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing

The objectives of the new *Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing Act 2024* (PRIS Act) include promoting responsible and transparent practices in the handling of personal information and balancing the public interests of protecting the privacy of personal information with the free flow of information by agencies.

Most privacy provisions in the PRIS Act come into effect on 1 July 2026.

The following sections of the PRIS Act intersect with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1995*:

- The information privacy principles do not apply to information that is already publicly accessible. This includes information in documents that are either generally available to the public or made available for public inspection under another written law (s.22).
- An individual may request a public entity to remove their personal information from a public register if making the information publicly available would substantially affect any individual's safety or wellbeing. If the public entity is satisfied that the grounds exist, the public entity must comply with the request unless the public entity is satisfied that the public interest in maintaining public access to the information outweighs any individual interest in the information not being made publicly available (s.77).

While this appears to provide a mechanism for individuals to address specific safety and privacy concerns, it would be preferable to ensure that the legislative requirements avoid unnecessary risks to all Council Members and employees.

WALGA will seek to engage with the Information Commissioner and Deputy Privacy Commissioner to clarify the way in which these and other PRIS Act provisions will apply to Council Members.

Review and amendments to the Local Government Act

As Local Government Council Members and employees share the same safety concerns as Members of Parliament it would be appropriate to echo the Procedures and Privilege Committee and advocate for a broad review of all public disclosure requirements under the *Local Government Act 1995* to ensure that they remain contemporary, effective, and aligned with modern standards of accountability and personal security. A review would allow a clearer, risk-aware framework to be established that protects individuals while preserving appropriate transparency.

Within this broader reform, several targeted amendments are necessary. It is proposed that s. 5.95(1) be amended so that the right to inspect information in the register of financial interests under s. 5.94(b) is limited to the suburb or locality of each property, rather than the full residential address of the relevant person. Additionally, the requirement for Council Members to provide their full residential address in the statutory declaration of office should be removed. These amendments are consistent with practices adopted in other Australian jurisdictions and reflect the approach now being reconsidered for Members of Parliament.

Importantly, these changes would not weaken transparency or accountability. Council Members and employees would still be required to disclose their full residential address in Returns, and would continue to declare direct financial, indirect financial, proximity, and impartiality interests when they arise in decision-making processes. This ensures that relevant interests remain publicly recorded when they matter, without unnecessarily exposing personal residential details. By limiting public access to only what is necessary, the legislative framework can better protect individual safety while preserving the integrity of the disclosure regime.

ATTACHMENT: JURISDICTIONAL COMPARISON – ADDRESS INFORMATION IN COUNCIL MEMBER RETURNS AND DECLARATIONS OF OFFICE

DISCLOSURES IN RETURNS	
<p>Victoria Local Government Act 2020 Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020</p>	<p>CEO must prepare summary of personal interests information disclosed in the last personal interest return.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes the town or suburb, but not the street address or number of the land that is the place of residence <p>Other matters to be included or excluded are prescribed.</p> <p>Includes that a specified person may request in writing information not be included if the CEO consider including the information would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> be reasonably likely to place the personal safety of any person at risk, or unreasonably expose a business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage <p>Summary of personal interest returns available to members of the public.</p> <p>Detailed personal interests returns are only available to certain persons.</p>
<p>New South Wales Governance Information (Public Access) Act 2009</p>	<p>From the <i>Information Access Guideline 1- For Local Councils on the disclosure of information</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Returns should be made publicly available on the council's website unless there is an overriding public interest against release or to do so would impose unreasonable additional costs on council. A consideration against disclosure is where release of the information may expose a person to a risk of harm or of serious harassment or serious intimidation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the circumstances where council decides that there is an overriding public interest against disclosure, consideration should then be given to whether it is practicable to release an edited copy of the record (for example redacting the individual's signature or residential address) If it is practicable to do so, then the information should be deleted from a copy of the record and the remainder of the return made available on the council's website. Where information is deleted from a return, council should keep a record indicating, in general terms, the nature of the information redacted.
Queensland Local Government Regulation 2021	Suburb or locality of the land is required (not full address).
South Australia Local Government Act 1999	Personal addresses are not to be published nor are any addresses where the CEO is satisfied that the inclusion in the Register of the address of a person would place at risk the personal safety of that person, a member of that person's family or any other person.
Tasmania	Currently does not require councillors to lodge a personal interests return. The Tasmanian government is implementing a new framework to strengthen the management of local government councillor conflicts of interest, with reforms expected before the 2026 elections.

INFORMATION IN COUNCIL MEMBER DECLARATIONS OF OFFICE	
Victoria Local Government Act 2020 Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020	Address not required.
New South Wales Local Government Act 1993	Address not required.
Queensland Local Government Regulation 2021	Address not required.
South Australia Local Government (General) Regulations 2013	Address not required.
Tasmania Local Government (General) Regulations 2025	Address not required.

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:

- Undertake a review of disclosure requirements for Local Government Council Members and employees under the Local Government Act 1995,*
- 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.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Mayor Kath Hamilton
Seconded: Mayor Margaret Thomas

That the East Metropolitan Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.1 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED 10/0

9.2 WATER MANAGEMENT ADVOCACY POSITION

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste

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.

ATTACHMENT

- [Water Management Discussion Paper](#)
- [Water Management Consultation Summary Report](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item relates to the following WALGA Strategic Pillars:

- Influence
 - Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government.
 - Empower the Local Government sector to build communities equipped for the future.
- Support - Anticipate, understand and respond to Member needs.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

It is proposed that the following new [Advocacy Position](#) be **endorsed**:

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.*

It is proposed that the following Advocacy Position be **retired**:

6.14 Planning for Water

As part of the Water Management Report endorsement process, formal support from the relevant Local Government should be required where:

1. *It is intended that the Local Government will become the infrastructure asset manager; or*
2. *The proposed location of water infrastructure assets will impact Local Government assets or facilities.*

The outcomes sought in Position 6.14 have been realised in the recently released [State Planning Policy 2.9](#).

BACKGROUND

WALGA identified the need to consolidate and expand on current Water related [Advocacy Positions](#) and has undertaken initial consultation, through targeted engagement and consideration of issues raised by the sector previously. To inform the development of a new Advocacy Position, WALGA developed a Discussion Paper to gain feedback from the sector on their current challenges and needs in relation to water management across the state.

WALGA released the Discussion Paper for comment in late November 2025, with an initial deadline of 15 January 2026 for comment, however based on feedback from the sector this deadline was extended to Thursday, 12 March.

28 Local Governments have provided feedback, 14 of those Council/CEO level feedback. The feedback provided by Local Governments was comprehensive, with over 200 individual comments received across the submissions. WALGA acknowledges the significant time and consideration given by Members in providing that level of feedback.

The main themes of the feedback reflect those explored in the Discussion Paper and are consistent across Local Government:

- Legislation which is inequitable and outdated, particularly for licensing and allocation.
- State legislation should align with the National Water Agreement, particularly strategic, long term integrated planning and equitable access to drinking water.
- Aging and insufficient water infrastructure.
- Support and resourcing needed to explore and mainstream alternative water sources.
- Reactive approaches to headworks and sewerage servicing constraining development, particularly in regional and high-growth areas.
- Public Open Space (POS) in relation to planning decisions not accounting for the water needed to sustain these areas.
- Statewide expansion of the Waterwise Council program and improvement in program support and design.
- High interest in improving and supporting water efficiency and water sensitive urban design outcomes.
- Water data gaps and poor data sharing limits sound decision making.
- Water quality as an emerging and under-recognised issue.

WALGA has consolidated the feedback into a Consultation Report which summarises the main themes and issues raised by the sector and how it has been addressed in the draft Advocacy Position.

COMMENT

The new Position has been informed by the information, issues and priorities identified in feedback received from Local Governments on the WALGA Discussion Paper.

A new Advocacy Position is timely given the release of [Made Possible by Water](#) by the State Government on 21 March 2026, a document outlining WA's water future. A comprehensive Advocacy Position on this issue will be essential to assist WALGA's advocacy and influence how the Government delivers the priorities identified. Some of the matters identified in the draft Advocacy Position are reflected in Made Possible by Water, including expansion of the WaterWise Program and delivery of new water sources.

The Environment Policy Team endorsed the new Advocacy Position and the retirement of Position 6.14 at its meeting on 19 March 2026.

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.*

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Rod Henderson

Seconded: Cr Bernard Ryan

That the East Metropolitan Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.2 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED 10/0

9.3 OFF ROADS VEHICLES ADVOCACY POSITION

By Rebecca Hicks, Policy Advisor Community

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.

ATTACHMENT

- [Control of Vehicles \(Off-road Areas\) Amendment Act 2025](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Retiring this Advocacy Position aligns with the following WALGA Strategic Pillars:

- Influence
 - Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government.
 - Empower the Local Government sector to build communities equipped for the future.
- Support
 - Anticipate, understand and respond to Member needs.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

It is proposed that Advocacy Position [3.12 Off Road Vehicles](#) be **retired**.

Legislation relating to off road vehicles should be reviewed to align registration and licensing of off-road vehicles with other vehicle types are users. In addition, educational resources should be developed in consultation with users, regulators, and vendors relating to safety, regulatory compliance and other associated matters.

BACKGROUND

The *Control of Vehicles (Off-road Vehicles) Act 1978* (the ORV Act) prohibits the use of Off Road Vehicles (ORVs) in areas outside of permitted areas and makes provisions for the use of ORVs in permitted areas. The Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS) is responsible for administering the legislation and providing [information and support](#) to users and Local Governments. The legislation defines ORVs as including, but not limited to, trail bikes, quad bikes, beach buggies and road licensed vehicles such as four-wheel drives when used in off-road locations.

The use of ORVs outside of permitted areas can have impacts on Local Governments and communities including community safety in public spaces, road safety and environmental impacts. These issues fall under the scope of other legislation.

Nine Local Governments currently maintain and operate permitted areas: the Cities of Greater Geraldton, Karratha, Kwinana and Swan and the Shires of Carnarvon, Dandaragan, Gingin, Port Hedland and York.

WALGA's Advocacy Position was adopted by State Council in 2018, in response to Member concerns regarding the use of permitted ORV areas.

The ORV Act was amended in 2025 to align penalties and enforcement expectations with other WA transport legislation. The *Amendment Act* includes provisions to introduce online and label registrations and increase penalties for existing offences. The majority of the ORV Amendment Act commenced with immediate effect in August 2025. Sections of the legislation relating to registration labels are dependent on system design changes to the online registration platform. The legislation regulations and commencement date are expected by the end of 2026.

In 2024, the [State Government announced \\$4.8 million](#) in grant funding for Local Governments to develop new and upgrade existing ORV areas. This funding recognises the key role Local Government plays in the upkeep and management of ORV areas.

COMMENT

The ORV Amendment Act addresses the core objectives of the WALGA ORV advocacy position, particularly as it relates to registration and enforcement. As the intended outcomes of the advocacy position have been achieved, it is proposed that Advocacy Position 3.12 Off Road Vehicles be retired. WALGA will work with LGIRS to provide advice and support on the commencement of the Act regulations for Members managing permitted areas.

WALGA has engaged with Members that currently manage ORV permitted areas. Six Local Governments have responded and provided their support for the retirement of the advocacy position.

WALGA will continue to monitor emerging issues associated with ORVs, with a particular focus on usage outside of permitted areas.

The proposed retirement of the ORV advocacy position was endorsed by the People and Place Policy Team at its meeting on 19 March 2026.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council retire Advocacy Position 3.12 *Off Road Vehicles*.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Mayor Margaret Thomas

Seconded: Cr Matthew Woods

That the East Metropolitan Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.3 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED 10/0

9.4 HOMELESSNESS ADVOCACY POSITION

By Hannah Godsave, Manager Community Policy

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.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item relates to the following WALGA Strategic Pillars:

- Influence
 - Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government.
 - Empower the Local Government sector to build communities equipped for the future.
- Support
 - Anticipate, understand and respond to Member needs.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

It is proposed that the **existing** Advocacy Position [3.11 Homelessness](#):

WALGA recognises that Local Government through its planning, health, community development and regulatory powers can facilitate positive local and regional responses to end homelessness, however does not see that it has a lead role. Rather, Local Government's role is one of a stakeholder that requires early engagement in the understanding of collaborative approaches that improve the quality of life for people experiencing homelessness in all of its manifestations.

be **replaced** with a new Advocacy Position as follows:

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.*

BACKGROUND

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) defines homelessness as when a person does not have suitable accommodation alternatives and their current living arrangement:

- is in a dwelling that is inadequate;

- has no tenure, or tenure is short and not extendable; or
- does not allow them to have control of, and access to space for social relations.

The ABS Census of Population and Housing provides the authoritative data source on people experiencing homelessness. The 2021 Census reported 9,729 people experiencing homelessness in WA. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare provides more contemporary data based on interactions with specialist homelessness services. In 2024-25, almost 289,000 (1 in 115) people engaged with specialist homelessness services in WA, of which 47% were accessing homelessness support for the first time.

While responding to homelessness is a State and Australian Government responsibility, the impacts of homelessness intersect with multiple areas of Local Government service delivery, including the maintenance of public spaces, planning and zoning for appropriate services and revenue-related functions such as rates and grants administration. Local Governments must also manage community expectations about how they will respond to homelessness.

WALGA's current advocacy position was adopted by State Council in 2019 in the lead up to the release of [All Paths Lead to a Home: Western Australia's 10-Year Strategy on Homelessness 2020-2030](#) (the Strategy) released by the State Government. The Strategy sets out a vision for a whole of community response, led by the Department of Communities, working towards ending homelessness in Western Australia. The Strategy identifies a predominantly supportive role for the Local Government sector in addressing homelessness, while also acknowledging that some Local Governments directly provide homelessness and accommodation services. Suggested sector contributions in the Strategy include facilitating local partnerships, identifying rough sleepers, sharing local area knowledge to inform State Government resourcing decisions, and connecting people to specialist services. This supportive role for the Local Government sector is reflected in the current Advocacy Position.

At the National level, the [National Agreement on Social Housing and Homelessness](#) provides a five-year funding and accountability framework between the Australian and State/Territory Governments to support social housing and homelessness services until June 2029. The bilateral schedule for Western Australia sets out a \$165.9 million homelessness funding contribution from both parties.

COMMENT

Local Governments have been reporting increased numbers of people experiencing homelessness, including Local Governments that have historically experienced minimal impact. Local Governments have shared that they are facing growing pressure to meet both their defined obligations and community expectations for comprehensive responses, including specialist homelessness services triage, investment in housing and support service provision.

To better understand the issues being raised by Members, WALGA conducted a sector survey on homelessness in early 2026. 68 responses (49%) were received, 26 metropolitan and 42 regional, with representation from all WALGA Zones. Key findings from the survey include:

- 74% of respondents report an increase in the significance of homelessness in their Local Government area in the last two years.
- 60% of respondents report an increase in enquires from community members regarding homelessness in the last two years.

- Key issues raised in community enquiries are rough sleeping and persons living in vehicles.
- 23% of respondents consider there is no role beyond defined responsibilities for Local Government in response to homelessness.
- 61% of respondents consider preventative measures to reduce homelessness and facilitating connections to specialist service providers as an appropriate role for Local Government in response to homelessness.
- 83% of respondents rank State and Federal Government funding as the highest or second highest priority enabler to respond to homelessness.
- 51% of respondents report that current specialist homelessness services are not adequate within their Local Government area.
- Respondents rank affordable housing as the top priority for support/services to address homelessness, followed by wraparound services and specialist support services.

Informed by survey responses and acknowledging the support role of Local Government identified in the State Strategy, the updated position calls on the Australian and Western Australian Government to provide the necessary 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 meeting.

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.*

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Rod Henderson

Seconded: Cr Bernard Ryan

That the East Metropolitan Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.4 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED 10/0

9.5 OTHER STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

Zone Delegates are invited to raise for discussion, questions or decision any of the items in the State Council Agenda, including the items for noting, Policy Team and Committee Reports or the Key Activity Reports.

10 EXECUTIVE REPORTS

10.1 WALGA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

WALGA President, Mayor Mark Irwin presented the President's Report. The report was enclosed as an attachment within the Agenda.

Noted

10.2 STATE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT TO THE ZONE

East Metropolitan State Councillors provided an update on the activities of State Council since the last Zone meeting.

Noted

11 OTHER BUSINESS

Nil.

12 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the East Metropolitan Zone will be held on Thursday 18 June 2026 at the City of Belmont commencing at 6:30pm.

13 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 7:58pm.