

# Murchison Country Zone of WALGA

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Shires of –ABN 75 305 122 944

Cue  
Meekatharra  
Mount Magnet  
Murchison  
Sandstone  
Yalgoo



**MINUTES**

**MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE**

**OF**

**Western Australian Local Government Association**

**Friday 22 November 2024 - 9.00am**

**Cue Administration Centre - Austin Street Cue**



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# Murchison Country Zone of WALGA

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Cue  
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Mount Magnet  
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Sandstone  
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ABN 75 305 122 944



## Ordinary Meeting, Cue Administration Centre on Friday 19 April 2024

### 1. Opening

The chair President Roscco Foulkes-Taylor opened the meeting and welcomed those present at 9.00am.

### 2. Official Opening of Conference

President of the Murchison Country Zone Cr Leslie Matthew Price recipient of the WALGA Eminent Service Award and Shire of Meekatharra President Cr Harvey James Nichols recipient of the WALGA Merit Award jointly opened the meeting.

### 3. Attendance

#### 3.1 Delegates

Cr Roscco Foulkes-Taylor	President Shire of Murchison, Zone President
Cr Emma Foulkes-Taylor	Shire of Murchison
Cr Jim McGorman	President Mount Magnet
Cr Les Price	President Shire of Cue, Deputy Zone President
Mr Richard Towell	CEO Shire of Cue
Cr Beth Walton	President Shire of Sandstone
Mr Peter Money	CEO Shire of Sandstone
Cr Harvey Nichols	President Shire of Meekatharra
Mr Nathan Cain	A/CEO Shire of Meekatharra
Cr Raul Valenzuela	President Shire of Yalgoo
Cr Stan Willock	Shire of Yalgoo

#### 3.2 Observers

Mr Paddy O'Brien	Works Manager Shire of Sandstone
Mr Ian Holland	CEO Shire of Yalgoo
Mr Bill Bohem	CEO Shire of Murchison

Cr Elizabeth Houghton  
Ms Samantha Appleton  
Cr Greydon Mead  
Ms Elisha Hodder

Ms Bec Fogarty

Ms Dianne Hodder

Shire of Cue  
Executive Officer Murchison Country Zone  
Shire of Murchison  
Community Development Officer Shire of  
Yalgoo  
Community Development Officer Shire of  
Murchison  
Executive Assistant Shire of Yalgoo

### 3.3 Visitors

Mr Tony Brown

Ms Merome Beard MLA  
Mr Shame Love MLA  
Ms Holly Freeman  
Mr Mark Holdsworth

Mr Nils Hay  
Ms Bev Brosnan

Mr David Price  
Ms Karen Morrissey  
Ms Janet-Hartley West

Ms Lousie Admamson  
Mr Steve Page  
Mr Jamie South  
Mr Doug Raffin  
Mr Greg Winder  
Mr Jeff Hayles

Ms Liz Jones  
Ms Jaqui Bradley

Mr John D'arcy

Ms Veronique Thoms  
Mr James Yewers  
Mr John Pintabona  
Mr David Campbell  
Ms Marie Altham

Executive Director of Member Services  
WALGA  
Member for North West Central  
Member for Moore, Leader of the Nationals  
Shane Loves Office  
Executive Officer Regional Development  
Australia Mid West  
Chief Executive Officer MWDC  
Senior Regional Development Officer  
MWDC  
David Price Consulting  
Project Manager Murchison Geo Regions  
Regional Manager Midwest-Gascoyne  
Region Central and Northern Regions Main  
Roads WA  
Network Manager Main Roads WA  
OIC Cue Police  
General Manager Road Logistics Newhaul  
Newhaul  
General Manager Vault Minerals  
Liaison Officer South and Central Tenure  
Division DMIRS  
Ramelius Resources  
Community Relations Advisor 29 Metals  
Golden Grove  
Principal Stakeholder Manager Water  
Corporation  
Communication Advisor Water Corporation  
Merkanooka Haulage  
Heavy Vehicles Main Roads WA  
Campbell Transport  
DON/HSM WA Country Health Service

### 3.4 Apologies

Cr Karen Chappel K.J AM JP  
Senator Dean Smith

President WALGA  
Senator for Western Australia

Hon. R.H. Cook, MLA	Premier; Minister for State and Industry Development, Jobs and Trade; Public Sector Management; Federal-State Relations
Hon. S.M. Ellery, MLC	Minister for Finance; Commerce; Women's Interests
Hon. S.N. Dawson, MLC	Minister for Emergency Services; Innovation and the Digital Economy; Science; Medical Research; Minister assisting the Minister for State and Industry Development
Hon. J.R. Quigley, MLA	Attorney General; Minister for Electoral Affairs
Hon. H. M. Beazley MLA	Minister for Local Government; Youth; Minister Assisting the Minister for Training and Workforce Development
Hon. Dr A.D. Buti, MLA	Minister for Education; Aboriginal Affairs; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests
Hon. S.F. McGurk, MLA	Minister for Training and Workforce Development; Water; Industrial Relations
Hon. D.T. Punch, MLA	Minister for Regional Development; Disability Services; Fisheries; Seniors and Ageing; Volunteering
Hon. R.R. Whitby, MLA	Minister for Energy; Environment; Climate Action
Hon. S. Winton, MLA	Minister for Early Childhood Education; Child Protection; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services
Hon. J. Jarvis, MLC	Minister for Agriculture and Food; Forestry; Small Business
Hon. J.N. Carey, MLA	Minister for Planning; Lands; Housing; Homelessness
Hon. P. Papalia, MLA	Minister for Police; Corrective Services; Racing and Gaming; Defence Industry; Veterans Issues
Hon. R Saffioti, MLA	Deputy Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Transport; Tourism
Mr Craig Patterson	Central Earthmoving
Mr Damien Tully	CEO Midwest Ports
Mr Tony Corbett	Trade and Commercial Manager Midwest Ports
Hon L Mettam MLA	Leader WA Liberals
Mr Mark Bowen	Superintendent DFES
Ms Yvonne Messina	Chair Regional Development Australia – Midwest Gascoyne
Ms Joanne Fabling	CEO Midwest Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Ms Anne Marie Brits	Executive Director Freight, Ports, Aviation & Reform Department of Transport
Mr Allan Blagaich	President RAC WA

Mr Leon Taylor	Principal Mining Consultant FI Joint Venture Pty Ltd
Mr Reza Azimi	General Manager FI Joint Venture Pty Ltd
Mr Craig Vinci	Regional Manager Mid West Gascoyne Sport & Recreational Services DLGSCI
Cr Vicky McQuie	Shire of Sandstone
Mr Rob Stewart	Acting CEO Shire of Wiluna
Mr Kelvin Matthews	CEO Shire of Meekatharra
Ms Tralee Cable	CEO Shire of Mount Magnet

## 4. Confirmation of the Minutes

### 4.1 Confirmation of Minutes – Ordinary Meeting 19 April 2024

#### Comment

Minutes of the meeting held Zone Meeting held 19 April 2024 have been circulated to Member Shires.

#### Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held 19 April 2024 be confirmed.

**RESOLUTION – Moved: Cr Valenzuela Seconded: Cr Walton**

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That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held 19 April 2024 be confirmed.

**Carried**



## 5. WA Local Government Association

### 5.1 WALGA President

Mr Tony Brown, Executive Director of Member Services WALGA presented the President's Report.

# President's Report December 2024

## Introduction

I have had the opportunity to advocate on behalf of all our Member Local Governments on a number of issues, in meetings, at presentations and through media opportunities over the last 3 months. The issues have included ongoing discussions on Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB), housing, planning, the transition to renewables, improved funding for libraries, Safer High-Speed Local Roads and tiny homes on wheels/regional housing shortages.

## 2024 WALGA Local Government Convention

The 2024 WALGA Local Government Convention ran from 8 to 10 October, and I would like to thank the 650 delegates, the suppliers and commercial partners who made it such a successful event. We continually look to refine the Convention so it remains the preeminent event on the Local Government calendar, and I would like to thank the WALGA staff for their hard work in the organisation and planning.

- State Election Campaign
- I am pleased that the State Election campaign and the accompanying document "WALGA's 2025 State Election Priorities; The West at its Best" has been well-received within the Local Government sector, by external stakeholders and across Government.
- 
- WALGA has recently shared assets so that each Local Government can customise content to address their local priorities, as well as liaise with local MPs and Councils to publish stories that can support each key advocacy area.
- WALGA is now implementing the campaign in the lead up to the 2025 Election, to:
  - Influence election policy development and commitments from all parties
  - Maintain relationships with key decision makers and Members of Parliament
  - Educate current and future members of Parliament about WALGA and the role of Local Government

- **Media Interviews**

- I was asked to take part in a number of media interviews in the past few months, notably after WALGA distributed Media Releases on Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS), Tranche 2 reforms of the Local Government Act, the new caravan and camping reforms, increased PSHB funding, and the impact on Local Government as the State population passed 3 million people.

### Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH) Workshop

On 8 November WALGA hosted a Department of Communities' workshop to discuss current and future GROH build to lease models in the context of the current WA construction market. The workshop was attended by select Local Government CEOs and Senior Executives as well as the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and Treasury. The workshop was proposed by the Department of Communities following the Deputy Director General's presentation to the July State Council Strategic Forum. The workshop focused on identifying the barriers to participation in GROH potential changes including Treasury borrowing and leasing terms and build specifications.

### Renewable Energy

WALGA is hosting a Large Scale Renewable Energy Forum on 27 November for members to discuss the opportunities and challenges for local governments through the energy transition. This forum will be informed by the Renewable Energy Survey completed by 48 Members, as well as the recently adopted advocacy positions. This event will include a workshop component to inform the scope of WALGA's work to develop a Community Benefits Framework/Guide.

In response to member feedback, WALGA has created a Microsoft Teams group for CEOs and Elected Members, to facilitate continued collaboration and knowledge sharing between Local Governments around Renewable Energy. Available in this group is WALGA's October 2024 Renewable Energy in WA Research Paper. To join the group please contact WALGA's Principal Policy Advisor, Economic Development, Lisa Harwood on email [lharwood@walga.asn.au](mailto:lharwood@walga.asn.au)

### Polyphagous shot-hole borer

I understand the Sector's ongoing concern regarding the impact of the Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB) on our urban tree canopy and the potential for this to wreak havoc on agricultural crops and native forests should it spread outside the metropolitan area.

Following the State Government's expansion of the PSHB Quarantine Area in September WALGA is continuing to strongly advocate for a more agile response, research into prevention, control and eradication and an increased focus on public awareness to reduce PSHB spread. I note that DPIRD is now deploying roadside signage to raise awareness about movement restrictions for wood and plant material. WALGA is also working with the State Government in the design of the \$7.2 million PSHB recovery package announced in August and to inform the development of a PSHB research priorities, in conjunction with the WA Agricultural Research Collaboration, universities, industry bodies, research institutes and CSIRO.

- **Kolbany Yanginy – Local Government Reconciliation Resource**

WALGA, Reconciliation WA, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries have collaborated to develop an online Local Government Reconciliation Resource, Kolbany Yanginy (Going Forward | Sharing). The website, which was showcased at the WALGA Convention Exhibition and is scheduled to launch by the end of the year, will support Local Governments in building their capability

to engage meaningfully with local Aboriginal communities, highlighting best practice examples of reconciliation and Aboriginal engagement.

#### ALGA National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress

We have a rare chance to engage face to face with the national government and agencies while staying here in Western Australia. I am looking forward to maximising the opportunities at the National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress being hosted in Margaret River on 3 – 4 December. A wide-ranging program has been developed covering innovations in road construction, freight, safety, land development, renewable energy transition impacts and much more. The Australian Government is the major source of external funding for Local Governments, so I encourage you to take this opportunity to contribute to the national agenda and learn how many of our common challenges are tackled in other jurisdictions.

#### Local Government Legislative Reform

The *Local Government Amendment Bill 2024* is progressing through State Parliament and is expected to be receive assent prior to the prorogue of Parliament toward the end of 2024.

The Bill includes the last of the Local Government Reforms that were announced in 2022, including:

- Office of the Local Government Inspector
- Local Government Monitors
- Clarified Roles and Responsibilities of Council, Council Members, Mayors and Presidents and CEOs
- Independent Member and Chair of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee
- Clarified Regional Subsidiaries Provisions
- Unreasonable / Vexatious Complaints
- Superannuation for Council Members
- Development Assessment Panel (DAP) Functions

WALGA does not support the Introduction of proposed provisions providing for regulations that will permit the CEO or other authorised officers to undertake certain functions of a DAP without reference to the Council.

#### Band 4 Local Governments Forum

On 3 September, the Minister for Local Government, Hon Hannah Beasley, hosted a roundtable meeting of all Band 4 Local Governments in WA. To continue the discussion, WALGA hosted a further meeting of Band 4 Local Governments. The meeting was held on 11 October at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. Chief Executive Officers and Presidents from all 60 Band 4 Local Governments in the State were invited to attend.

72 representatives from 48 Local Governments attended the meeting on 11 October.

The main outcome of the meeting, was to prioritise the top four issues identified by the group:

1. Housing
2. Audit fees
3. Medical services
4. Financial Assistance Grants

WALGA will carry out work on these issues and provide a progress update to all Band 4 Local Governments early next year.

## High Threat Weather Season

As Western Australia enters the high-threat weather season, WALGA is committed to supporting Local Governments. The WALGA team maintains situational awareness via the All Hazards Liaison Group meetings and WALGA is represented by CEO Nick Sloan on the State Emergency Coordination Group when a significant emergency occurs. Please don't hesitate to get in contact with WALGA if there is an emergency in your Local area and you have questions or concerns that you would like WALGA to raise at the state level. [Emergency WA](#) provides essential alerts and information and I encourage you to share this platform with your communities as the key source of information in any emergency.

**President Cr Karen Chappel AM JP**  
**WALGA President**

## President's Contacts

The President's contacts since 4 September and scheduled before 6 December are as follows:

### State and Commonwealth Government Relations

- Department of Fire and Emergency Services – Commissioner Darren Klemm & Deputy Commissioner Melissa Pexton
- Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister, Minister for Emergency Management, Minister for Cities
- Hon Stephen Dawson, Minister for Emergency Services; Innovation and the Digital Economy; Science; Medical Research; Minister Assisting the Minister for State and Industry Development; Jobs and Trade
- Hon Hannah Beazley, Minister for Local Government; Youth; Minister Assisting the Minister for Training and Workforce Development x2
- National Emergency Management Ministers Meeting (NEMMM) x2
- Extraordinary National Emergency Management Ministers Meeting (NEMM)
- Road Safety Ministers Meeting
- Labor Leader's Forum Lunch with Premier Roger Cook
- Labor Leader's Forum Lunch with Hon Reece Whitby

### Zone Meetings

- Kimberley Zone Meeting
- Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting
- Northern Country Zone Meeting
- North Metropolitan Zone Meeting

### Local Government Relations

- State Council Meetings

- Strategic Forum, 4 September
- State Council Meeting, 4 September
- Information Forum
- Local Government House Trust Meeting
- Finance and Services Committee Meeting
- Strategic Planning Workshop
  
- **ALGA**
  - ALGA Special Board meeting
  - ALGA Board Meeting x 2
  - ALGA Annual General Meeting
  - ALGA President and Vice President Meeting
  
- **LGIS**
  - JLT Management Committee Meeting x2
  
- Meeting with the City of Perth Lord Mayor & CEO
- Meeting with the City of Vincent Mayor & CEO
- Meeting with the City of Karratha Mayor & CEO
- Meeting with the Town of Port Headland Mayor & CEO
- Meeting with the Shire of Ashburton Mayor & CEO
- Band 4 Local Government Roundtable
- WALGA Public Libraries Forum 2024
- WALGA 2024 Local Government Convention & Annual General Meeting
- WALGA Mayors and Presidents Forum
- WALGA Public Libraries Forum
- Shire of Mundaring's President Sundowner
- WALGA Renewable Energy Forum
- Showcase in Pixels Celebration
- City of Melville Mayoral Dinner
- City of Stirling Christmas Dinner

### Conferences, Workshops, Public Relations

- WA Women's Hall of Fame 2025
  
- Pathways to Politics for Women UWA Advisory Committee Meeting
  
- Energy Transition Meeting
  
- ALGAWA 2024 Women in Local Government Forum
  
- Goldfields Region Electricity Forum
- Department of Education, WA Education Awards
- 2025 Australian of the Year for Western Australia Awards
- Town Teams Movement Event 2024
- Road Safety Vanguard
- National Roads and Transport Congress

## 5.2 Zone Representative to State Council - Cr Les Price

Cr Price presented his report,

### 'CUE PARLIAMENT' - Murchison Country Zone

<b>WELCOME</b>	Mr. Tony Brown - Executive Director of Member Services WALGA
<b>LAST MEETING</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>3 x State Council Meetings</li><li>1 x North Metropolitan Zone Meeting - City of Wanneroo.</li><li>3 x Strategic Forums</li><li>3 x State Council Information Forums</li><li>5 x Environment Policy Team Meeting</li><li>5 x Selection Panel Meetings</li><li>5 x Metropolitan Waste &amp; Advisory Council (MWAC) Meetings.</li><li>10 x Flying Minutes.</li><li>2 x Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Group Meeting</li><li>1 x WALGA Zone Chair Induction</li><li>1 X WALGA Strategic Workshop (2020-2025 Strategic Plan)</li><li>1 x OAG Public Sector Audit Committee Forum</li><li>1 x Mayors and Presidents Forum</li><li>1 x DLGSC Band 4 Local Government Roundtable</li><li>2 x WALGA Band 4 Local Government Issues</li><li>1 x State Council Performance Assessment Survey 2024</li><li>1 x Australian Local Government Association ('ALGA') National Assembly - Canberra</li><li>1 x Western Australian Local Government Association ('WALGA') Convention - Perth</li><li>1 x Western Australian Local Government Association ('WALGA') Awards - University of WA</li></ul>

The business of Local Government is forever under the spotlight. If it's not from the Office of the Auditor General ('OAG') over compliance and regulatory oversight it's the State and Federal Governments seeking to cost shift and passing on heavy financial burdens to Local Government.

WALGA continues to advocate and press for issues that affect Local Governments and is very mindful that the regions are particularly vulnerable since our population base is small, our political impact negligible and that some regions will see some diminished representation resulting from the merging of electorates. The upcoming 2025 WA State Elections presents us

with some opportunity to press for improved services and a fairer sharing of the State's wealth.

WALGA has recognised that Band 4 Local Governments are under increasing pressure to maintain Council rates at reasonable levels, retain and replace assets, manage ever increasing costs, retain staff and improve the environment of its communities.

#### **Band 4 Local Governments Roundtable**

In conjunction with the Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries, WALGA co-ordinated a Band 4 Local Governments roundtable meeting to identify the key issues facing our smaller Local Governments. The meeting was hosted by Minister Hon Hannah Beazley. The meeting was well represented and identified some 15 priority areas. The Minister has expressed a desire to work with Band 4 Local Governments to identify the areas of concern and look to provide some solutions. The wheels of Government work very slowly but we are hopeful that our collective voices have been heard.

Following the roundtable with Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries WALGA held a further meeting to discuss the 4 most pressing issues which included:-

- Housing
- Medical Services
- Waste Management Funding
- Audit Costs

We are not the architects of developing and delivering these services which should be the responsibility of the State or Federal Governments and not fall back on to the ratepayers of smaller Local Governments.

This meeting also canvassed other significant concerns which included:-

- Financial Assistance Grants
- Compliance Requirements
- Financial Sustainability
- ICT Systems
- Renewable Energy.

The ability of Band 4 Local Governments to resolve and deliver on critical issues is often hampered by:-

- Budget constraints
- State Government desire to cost shift
- Staff resources

From the input of all those who attended WALGA will further investigate, and potential solutions can be developed and presented to the Minister for Local Government.

## **WALGA Strategic Plan**

State Council met in a workshop to consider WALGA's Strategic Plan 2025-2029. Mel Russell-Lane from Keogh Consulting facilitated the workshop, including providing an overview of the process to date, a facilitated discussion on the draft outcomes and an outline of next steps. The planning workshop outcomes must be considered around WALGA as an organisation and is not specifically related to individual Local Governments or a group of like-minded Local Governments.

One of the key messages to come out of the workshop was that we are in now having to operate in the 'World of VUCA' ....*Volatility...Uncertainty...Complexity...and Ambiguity*. This means WALGA must move and operate in a new environment where we need to be flexible and recognise when change is imminent. The Strategic Plan will come to State Council in due course for endorsing.

## **Metropolitan Regional Meeting**

WALGA State Council meeting in May was held in conjunction with the North Metropolitan Zone Meeting, which was hosted by the City of Wanneroo. The meeting received presentations from:-

- City of Stirling - Mayor Mark Irwin
- City of Joondalup - Hon. Mayor Albert Jacob
- City of Wanneroo - Mayor Linda Aitken

What was notable from all presentations was:-

- The ever increasing young population shift to these cities
- Focus on Tourism
- Major project funding and the involvement of the private investment sector

Wanneroo is likely to become the fastest growing Local Government in WA with a current population of 234,994 and estimated to be 437,016 by 2046 with the ultimate goal of 600,000 residents. The City has a young population where there are 28,687 families with children and the median age is 35 years.

## **2024 Regional Telecommunications Review.**

Hon. Alannah MacTiernan addressed State Council on the progress of the 2024 Regional Telecommunications Review, currently underway. Telstra was privatised in 2005-2007 with a promise to address the regional concerns at the time. This is a 3yr review and is conducted around Australia with a focus on regional and peri urban areas, where there are some 300,000 copper installations.

The Regional Telecommunications Review occurs every 3 years and is an opportunity to examine the existing and future telecommunications needs in regional, rural and remote communities across Australia.

Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee has heard from people living and working in regional, rural and remote parts of Australia on their views and experiences with connectivity.



The consultation period for the 2024 Regional Telecommunications Review has now closed. Based on this consultation, the Committee is examining the adequacy of regional Australia's telecommunications and will present its findings to the Australian Government by 31 December 2024.

Unsurprisingly, the review has received concerns over:-

- Mobile service blackspots
- Speed and capacity of the internet
- Cost of services
- Impact of Telstra being the only significant choice of provider

### **ONE70 Buyout Update.**

The Local Government House Trust Board of Management have now finalised the purchase of joint venture partner Qube's 40% interest in the 170 Railway Parade, West Leederville building. This is a valuable asset for the Association and whilst there is a financial commitment to acquiring the 40% share I am certain that the future benefits will be significant.

WALGA was able to secure \$32.4 million funding from Commonwealth Bank of Australia to facilitate the transfer of ownership.

### **Local Government Legislative Reform**

Tranche 1 Reforms to the Local Government Act 1995 were approved by Parliament on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

Tranche 2 will be delivered when the Local Government Amendment Bill 2024 which is currently with State Parliament, receives assent toward the end of 2024. This results from the Local Government Reforms proposed in 2022.

Changes will include:-

- Office of the Local Government Inspector
- Local Government Monitors
- Clarified Roles and Responsibilities of Council, Council Members, Mayors and Presidents and CEOs
- Independent Member and Chair of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee • Clarified Regional Subsidiaries Provisions
- Unreasonable / Vexatious Complaints
- Superannuation for Council Members
- Development Assessment Panel (DAP) Functions

### **Mayors and Presidents Forum**

I attended a Mayors and Presidents Forum on 8<sup>th</sup> October. The Forum presents leaders of Local Government with an opportunity to engage and exchange views on issues facing each of our Local Governments. Some of the issues discussed included:-

- Cost of Living
- Housing
- Environment/climate change

- Immigration
- Road funding.
- Cost shifting on to Local Governments.
- Accessing grants.
- Increased funding for regional Local Governments.
- National Disaster relief.
- Increase in Federal Assistance Grants (FAGS)

The Forum also discussed various issues likely to be part of the State 2025 Elections. One of the most significant concerns for all ratepayers is the cost of living. I listen to both Federal and State politicians talk about the issues, however long term solutions appear very difficult to find. In the meantime, immediate Government relief is a positive step.

### **Zone Chair Induction**

I attended the newly elected Zone Chairs and Deputy Chairs Induction course at WALGA. CEO Nick Sloan presented on the 'Introduction to WALGA' while Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services provided an overview of 'WALGA's Governance Structure'. This was followed by a practical workshop and discussion.

### **Some Areas of WALGA's Current Focus**

#### **1. Energy Transition Engagement and Community Benefit Framework Advocacy**

State Council has endorsed a new position to ensure that energy transition currently underway delivers economic benefit, ensure reliable and affordable electricity and the greatest possible benefit to the community.

The advocacy position also calls on the State Government to develop a comprehensive framework to manage the impact of the energy transition that includes Local Government and local community benefits as a priority.

WALGA will call on the State Government to:-

- Facilitate the orderly development of renewable facilities across WA.
- Outline key planning and environmental considerations involving location, siting, design and operation of the facilities and associated infrastructure.
- Stipulate minimum documentation and technical reports.
- Support the development of Local Planning laws for Local Governments.
- Provide clear relationships with State Planning around the subdivision of rural land and preserve rural land for rural purposes and ensure water resources are properly managed and not impacted.
- Planning around sufficient statutory protections for high quality agricultural land.
- Address negative impact on the alienation of productive agricultural land.
- Proximity to boundaries, impacts on townsites and sensitive land users

## **2. Product Stewardship Advocacy**

WALGA has developed a new position that focuses on industry taking responsibility (both physical and financial) for the waste that it generates. Waste was one of the key issues raised at the Band 4 Local Government roundtable meetings.

## **3. Caravan Parks and Camping Ground Act 1995**

WALGA has developed an advocacy position around changes to the Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Regulations 1997. Changes related to Tiny Homes on Wheels ('THOW') emerging as a form of housing and the length of time of occupation. THOW's are classified as caravans and there have been restrictions on the length of occupation. WALGA supports Local Governments to be able to establish policy to guide these longer approvals.

## **4. Audit Survey for 2024**

Our Local Government CEOs' will have already received the analysis of the survey. Timing of audits and the cost of audits continue to be a major concern. State Council considered a recommendation from Cr. Philip Bight President of the Shire of Waging, Central Country Zone objecting to cost increases for 2023-2024 audits and called on the Legislative Council's Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations to conduct an inquiry.

The Auditor General, Caroline Spencer addressed State Council saying that her office is not funded to the extent that it is able to conduct audits other than on a cost recovery basis.

## **5. State Election Campaign**

WALGA released its State Election 2025 campaign focus and presented members with 'WALGA's 2025 State Election Priorities; The West at its Best' document. This is a well prepared and thorough brief on the key issues WALGA would like to see an incoming Government take up the challenge to assist Local Governments. The document has been well-received within the Local Government sector, by external stakeholders and by Government in general.

WALGA is now undertaking its 2025 election campaign and aims to:-

- influence election policy development and commitments from all parties
- encourage Local Governments to customise content to address their local priorities, as well as liaise with local MPs and Councils to publish stories that can support each key advocacy area.
- Maintain relationships with key decision makers and Members of Parliament.
- Educate current and future members of Parliament about WALGA and the role of Local Government
- Maximise the use of the media

The available time gives WALGA the opportunity to promote sector priorities so that we can have some impact at the decision table of an incoming Government. I have sent through several emails with attachments on topics that are of interest not only to our region but also to the wider Local Government community. All of these have been captured in 'WALGA's 2025 State Election Priorities; The West at its Best' document.

## **6. State Public Health Plan**

WALGA has developed a submission on the draft objectives and priorities for the upcoming State Public Health Plan. Stage 5 of the Public Health Act 2016 commenced on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and requires all Local Governments to prepare and publish Local Public Health Plans ('LPHP's') objectives and priorities as it relates to the needs of the local community.

## **7. Registered Employer Organisation**

The Minister for Industrial Relations, the Hon Simone McGurk has introduced further reform to the State industrial relations system by tabling the Industrial Relations Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 (IRLA Bill) on 18 September 2024. It is likely that the IRLA Bill will pass before Christmas with effect from 31 January 2025.

It is disappointing to note that despite WALGA's continued advocacy the WA Government has not agreed via the IRLA Bill:

- To provide an extension of time for transitional regulations to continue to displace the operation of the State awards for those Local Governments' agreements that transitioned from the Federal system beyond 1 January 2025 and
- Name WALGA as an employer organisation in the IR Act similar to the WA Branch of the Australian Medical Association Incorporated at s. 72B of the IR Act. This amendment would have provided WALGA withstanding under the IR Act at the same level as industrial unions including the WASU, LGRCEU and the CFMEU.

## **8. Elections Advocacy Positions**

Some features of WALGA's advocacy position include:-

- Voluntary participation in Local Government elections.
- Councillors continue to serve four-year terms with two-year elections with half of the Council positions spilled at each election.
- First past the post voting system for Local Government elections and in the very least removal of the 'proportional' part of the voting method for general elections.
- First past the post voting system for internal Council elections.
- Mayors/Presidents of Class 1 and Class 2 Local Governments being directly elected by the community and Presidents of Class 3 and Class 4 Local Governments being elected by the Council

## **Municipal Waste Advisory Council ('MWAC')**

The Council meets regularly where all things waste is discussed. The disposal and the recycling of waste around the world has become a significant issue and we in the regions are not immune from the impacts of the storage and recycling of waste.

The councils considered many matters some of which include:-

- Advocating to broaden the Container Deposit Scheme to include a wider range of products which would include wine and spirit bottles and larger sizes of currently eligible containers.
- Maintain a resource recovery target of 85% for eligible containers and a focus on litter reduction.
- Product Stewardship.

- Circular Economy.
- Reform of Packaging Regulations to minimise waste and pollution.
- Review of WALGA's Waste Management Legislation Policy Statement.
- Second hand photovoltaic (PV) panels recycling is an emerging issue.
- Hazardous materials , including asbestos.
- Waste to energy.
- E-Waste landfill ban regulations.
- E-cigarette/Vape Disposal Issues.
- Waste levy.

### **Environment Policy Team**

The major issue under discussion included:-

- Native Vegetation Clearing Permits.
- Protect and preserve agricultural lands.
- Renewable energy facilities.
- Advocating to improve DMirs and DWER approval processes.
- Polyphagous Shothole Borer.
- Climate Change.
- Urban Forest Strategy.
- Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) Funding.
- Urban Greening Grants.
- Planning Reforms.

### **Selection Committee**

The Committee is chaired by WALGA Deputy Chair, Cr. Paul Kelly. There are many and varied roles that come up on a regular basis and I encourage Councillors to take some time to review opportunities that may suit you.

You can access WALGA's website or speak with your CEO's regarding how to go about the process. Be on the lookout for emails from our Executive Officer, Smanatha Appleton advising when opportunities do arise. Nominations have been received from elected members and officers from a variety of backgrounds

### **Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 (BAM Act)**

The panel has now completed its three-stage review process. Approximately 250 people, including representatives from more than 140 organisations, participated in the review.

The government is considering the panel's report and recommendations to determine what action it will take in response to the review.

### **Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Group**

With the re-introduction of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 and the 2023 amendments the group was given a presentation by the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage. In brief, the focus of the presentation was to:-

- Review Section 15(a) which requires anyone who knows of the existence of certain items to report them to the Registrar or a police officer. This is a 'catch all' clause and has implications for those with knowledge.
- Section 16 - requires an application to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Committee for anyone removing objects and some excavation.
- Section 18 - Requires the Minister's consent for an activity that is likely to breach Section 16
- The Department will set up a web interface for the registration of Aboriginal sites.
- DPLH to undertake Heritage surveys at their cost over the next 10 years.
- Rights of Review to SAT.
- Shorter engagement and response timeframes.
- Mapping to minimise 'dithering'. Survey program will identify incorrect mapping.
- The main message - *Do your Due Diligence*.

### **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. WALGA will only know your concerns through the Zone process.

### **Status Reports.**

The Zone Agenda provides the status of issues put forward to WALGA for addressing. We continue to monitor this progress.

### **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. If we don't engage then we are not heard and therefore, our region may well fall by the wayside. 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. I would like to thank those who do contribute...please keep it up!

**Next State Council Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024.** The meeting Agenda is now available and sets out the main items for consideration. Please advise any issues you would like me to raise at this meeting. The Meeting is being hosted by the City of Busselton from South West Country Zone.



**Les Price**

**President, Shire of Cue  
Murchison Country Zone Delegate  
Western Australian Local Government Association**

## COMPLETE ZONE STATUS REPORT

### November 2024

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Murchison C	19 April 2024 Zone Agenda Item 6.3 Enhanced and Alternative Education Opportunities for Regional WA	That the Murchison Country Zone: 1. Supports the call to action to reduce regional disadvantage in educational opportunities, 2. Agrees to write to the Minister for Education requesting action; and 3. Requests the WALGA Secretariat to advocate to State Government on this matter	<p>WALGA notes that the Murchison Country Zone supports the call to action raised by the Great Southern Zone to reduce regional disadvantage in educational opportunities and that the Zone will write to the Minister for Education on the matter.</p> <p>WALGA understands that the Great Southern Zone received a response to their letter to the Minister of Education on this issue on 24 April 2024. The letter references a number of initiatives including a \$7.1 million funding boost for the School of Isolated and Distance Education, a proposed expansion of VET certificates in the coming years, Education and Training Participation Plans, the support provided by the School of Special Educational Needs: Behaviour and Engagement located in Albany, the recently announced federally funded two new Regional University Study Hubs, further financial investment in the attraction and retention payments/packages, and a developing Regional Education Strategy.</p> <p>WALGA is also aware that the Great Southern Zone has raised these issues directly with Department of Education representatives at recent Zone meetings.</p> <p>WALGA notes that 2024-25 State Budget included an additional \$10 million for the School of Isolated and Distance Education.</p> <p>WALGA is continuing to advocate broadly on issues that intersect with regional education such as Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH). WALGA has written to the Department of Communities Deputy Director General, Housing and Assets on this matter.</p>	November 2024	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039

			<p>Department of Communities officials will present on the GROH program at the July Strategic Forum.</p> <p>On the 22 July, the Department of Education released a draft <b>Regional Education Strategy</b>. The Strategy aims to provide a framework to guide more effective delivery of regional education, focusing on improved educational and wellbeing opportunities across four pillars:  Pillar 1: Build the capability of our regional workforce  Pillar 2: Expand curriculum delivery  Pillar 3: Strengthen support for student wellbeing  Pillar 4: Develop partnerships to create opportunity</p> <p>Country zones and Local Governments are strongly encouraged to provide feedback on the strategy, particularly given the relevance of the Strategy to matters raised by the Great Southern Zone with support from other country zones.</p> <p>The consultation period closes on Friday 20 September 2024. <a href="#">More information is available here.</a></p> <p>WALGA has partnered with the Department of Education to facilitate an information and feedback session on the Strategy priority pillars. The session will be held online on Wednesday 21 August 2:30 - 3.:30pm. A registration link will be sent via LG Direct.</p> <p>WALG provided a <a href="#">submission</a> on the Draft Education Strategy on 4 October 2024, provided as an item for noting at the December 2024 State Council meeting.</p> <p><b>COMPLETE</b></p>		
Murchison C	17 November 2023 Zone Agenda Item 7.8 Optional Preferential Voting ('OPV')	That WALGA advocate to the Minister for Ports; Local Government; Road Safety; Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport, Hon David Michael MLA to review and repeal legislation to remove Optional Preferential Voting (OPV) for Band 3 and Band 4 Local Government Elections and for the election of Presidents, Deputy Presidents and Chairs of Committees of Band 3 and Band 4 Local Governments and to revert to the First Past the Post method of counting votes.	This item is considered in the December State Council agenda.	November 2024	Tony Brown Executive Director, Member Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au



#### **5.4 Agenda Briefs – WALGA Meeting 6 December 2024**

This resolution is presented should members choose to resolve to support and note the Matters for Consideration and Matters for Noting items en bloc.

#### **Recommendation**

That WALGA agenda item 5.4.1.1 to 5.4.1.9 be supported and matters for noting items 5.4.2.1 to 5.4.2.14 be noted.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor Seconded: Cr Valenzuela**

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**That WALGA agenda item 5.4.1.1 to 5.4.1.9 be supported and matters for noting items 5.4.2.1 to 5.4.2.14 be noted.**

**Carried**

# MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA

## FLYING AGENDA

### WALGA STATE COUNCIL MATTERS FOR DECISION and NOTING

#### AT WALGA MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 6 December 2024

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*The following recommendations have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 6 December 2024 and which contains important detail of each item.*

*Each recommendation is followed by a direction to refer to the full WALGA State Council Agenda and 3 voting options. This is an editable Word Document so all that is required is to delete the 2 voting options you do not support and in the case of option 3 state your alternative recommendation. Zone members may also opt to move the Matters for Consideration and the Matters for Noting en bloc.*

*Please note that the full WALGA agenda will be circulated to make available all attachments and background information for the WALGA items presented for consideration and noting.*

*Please note that this agenda will be included in our Zone Agenda for discussion on 22 November 2024 so no response is required until our meeting on the Friday 22 November 2024.*

## 5.4.1 Matters for Decision

### 5.4.1.1 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING RESOLUTIONS

By Meghan Dwyer, Executive Officer Governance

#### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. the item 7.1 Amendments to *Cat Act 2011 - Allow Local Governments to Make Local Laws to Contain Cats to the Owner's Property* be endorsed.
2. the following resolutions from the 2024 WALGA Annual General be referred to the Environment Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:
  - 7.2 Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land-Banking
  - 7.4 Action on Asbestos for Western Australia
  - 7.6 Advocacy for Accessibility.
3. the following resolutions from the 2024 WALGA Annual General be referred to the Governance Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:
  - 7.2 Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land-Banking
  - 7.3 Advocacy for Expansion of Differential Rating to Include Long Term Unoccupied Commercial Buildings (Property Activation Levy).
4. the following resolution from the 2024 WALGA Annual General be referred to the People and Place Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:
  - 7.5 Addressing the Impracticality of Local Governments Funding Department of Communities and GROH Houses.

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA's 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 9 October.
- The meeting resolved for WALGA to act in relation to six Member Motions:
  - Amendments to the *Cat Act 2011 - Allow Local Governments to Make Local Laws to Contain Cats to the Owner's Property*
  - Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land-banking
  - Advocacy for Expansion of Differential Rating to Include Long Term Unoccupied Commercial Buildings (Property Activation Levy)
  - Action on Asbestos for Western Australia
  - Addressing the Impracticality of Local Governments Funding Department of Communities and Government Regional Officer Housing
  - Advocacy for Accessibility
- The action proposed to be taken in relation to each of the resolutions has been summarised for State Council's information.
- **Support WALGA Recommendation**

## 5.4.1.2 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS ADVOCACY POSITIONS

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services & Jason Russell, Senior Governance Specialist

### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA adopt the following Elections Advocacy Positions:

*The Local Government sector supports:*

1. *Voluntary participation in Local Government elections.*
2. *Councillors serve four-year terms with elections every two years and half of the Council positions spilled at each election.*
3. *First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system for Local Government elections. If Optional Preferential Voting (OPV) remains as the primary method of voting, the sector supports the removal of the 'proportional' part of the voting method for general elections.*
4. *First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system for internal Council elections.*
5. *Councils holding elections by means of in-person, postal and/or electronic voting.*
6. *Current legislative provision of Mayor/President of Class 1 and Class 2 Local Governments being directly elected by the community and Class 3 and Class 4 Local Government Councils electing the President.*

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This report presents the findings of sector-wide consultation on WALGA's Elections Advocacy Positions.
- Consultation addressed key areas elements of the current Advocacy Positions:
  1. Voluntary participation,
  2. Terms on Council and election cycles,
  3. Voting systems for public elections,
  4. Voting systems for internal elections,
  5. Methods for holding elections,
  6. Ability to choose how Mayors/Presidents are elected.
- **Support WALGA Recommendation**

### 5.4.1.3 ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES ADVOCACY POSITIONS

By Rebecca Hicks, Policy Officer Community

#### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council:

1. Replace Advocacy Position 3.1.2 Reconciliation with the following:

**WALGA:**

1. *Acknowledges the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to Country, culture and community and embraces the vast Aboriginal cultural diversity throughout Western Australia.*
  2. *Supports the efforts of Local Governments to progress reconciliation at the local level.*
2. Remove Advocacy Position 3.1.3 Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.
  3. Replace Advocacy Position 3.1.4 *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021* and South West Native Title Settlement with the following:

**3.1.4 Aboriginal Heritage Protection**

1. *WALGA supports the recognition, protection, conservation and preservation of Aboriginal cultural heritage and recognises the fundamental importance of Aboriginal cultural heritage to Aboriginal people and the State.*
2. *The State Government must:*
  - a. *Ensure that legislative requirements balance the need to protect Aboriginal heritage with the need for Local Government to undertake activities in a timely and affordable manner.*
  - b. *Provide adequate resourcing to ensure all parties have the capacity, capability and resources to discharge their statutory obligations.*
  - c. *Provide support and guidance to Local Governments to ensure that they have the resources, capacity and capability to effectively and efficiently deliver essential services to community while protecting Aboriginal heritage.*

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Following a review of WALGA's Aboriginal Community advocacy positions it is proposed that Advocacy Positions 3.1.2 Reconciliation and 3.1.4 *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021* and South West Native Title Settlement be updated and that Advocacy Position 3.1.3 Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People be removed.
- The intent of the proposed revisions is to reflect contemporary approaches to key issues in Aboriginal Affairs policy and legislation as they relate to Local Government.
- The People and Place Policy Team considered and endorsed the proposed advocacy position changes at its meeting on 25 October.

- **Support WALGA Recommendation**

#### 5.4.1.4 FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCACY POSITION

By Rebecca Hicks, Policy Officer Community

##### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

That State Council replace Advocacy Position 3.10.1 Family and Domestic Violence with the following:

##### ***3.10.1 Family and Domestic Violence***

- 1. Family and domestic violence is unacceptable and has devastating and long-term impacts on individuals, families and communities.***
- 2. Preventing family and domestic violence requires commitment from all levels of government, different sectors, and members of the community.***
- 3. WALGA calls on the State and Australian governments to provide adequate funding and support for family and domestic violence programs and services, in particular:***
  - a. Funding for collaborative and connected family and domestic violence programs and services that are place-based and people-centred; and***
  - b. Better integration of family and domestic violence initiatives, including capacity building across all tiers of government and community services.***

##### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- It is proposed that Advocacy Position 3.10.1 Family and Domestic Violence be updated.
- The revised position makes a clear statement on the Local Government sector's condemnation of family and domestic violence and the collective responsibility of governments and the community in prevention.
- The revised position provides a framework for WALGA advocacy to the Australian and State Government, without impinging on individual Local Government's approach to this issue, which will be dependent on their capacity, capability, local context and strategic direction.
- The People and Place Policy Team endorsed the revised Advocacy Position at its meeting on 25 October.
  
- **Support WALGA Recommendation**

#### 5.4.1.5 CONTAINER DEPOSIT SYSTEM POLICY STATEMENT AND ADVOCACY POSITION

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste

##### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

That State Council replace the existing Container Deposit Systems Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 7.6 Container Deposit Systems with the following:

##### ***7.6 Container Deposit Systems***

- 1. *Local Government supports the WA Containers for Change Scheme and acknowledges its contribution to reducing litter, increasing material recovery and providing employment opportunities across the state.***
- 2. *To maximise the benefits of the WA Scheme, Local Government calls on the State Government to:***
  - a. *Maintain a resource recovery target of 85% for eligible containers and a focus on litter reduction.***
  - b. *Expand the range of containers accepted in the Scheme, by:***
    - i. *2027: to include wine bottles, spirit bottles and larger sizes of currently eligible containers,***
    - ii. *2030: to include plain milk and milk alternative containers and composite container types, and***
    - iii. *2035: other container types.***
  - c. *Ensure national alignment of the materials covered by the Scheme and consistent messaging.***
  - d. *Maintain a State-based and managed Scheme.***
  - e. *Review the deposit amount to appropriately incentivise community engagement.***
  - f. *Increase the number of refund and donation points to ensure community access, including in public places and at events.***
  - g. *Ensure refund points are financially sustainable.***
  - h. *Leverage the refund point collection network to provide drop off points for other materials covered by effective product stewardship schemes.***

##### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- WALGA's 2008 Container Deposit Systems (CDS) Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 7.6 Container Deposit Systems, formed the basis of WALGA's advocacy for the introduction and design of a WA CDS, Containers for Change, which commenced on 1 October 2020.
- The current Advocacy Position and many elements of the Policy Statement have been achieved. However, there are aspects of the Scheme that Local Government has identified as important to improve.
- The focus of the updated Advocacy Position is:
  - building on the environmental, social and economic benefits of the current Scheme;
  - expanding the range of containers covered by the Scheme;
  - increasing community access and incentives to use the Scheme; and
  - leveraging the refund point network to collect other materials covered by effective product stewardship schemes.

- The Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) endorsed the new Policy Statement and Advocacy Position at its meeting on 23 October.
- **Support WALGA Recommendation**

#### **5.4.1.6 BUS STOP INFRASTRUCTURE AGREEMENT**

*By Negar Nili, Policy Officer Transport and Roads*

##### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council endorse the proposed Bus Stop Infrastructure Partnership Agreement between WALGA and the Public Transport Authority 2024/25 to 2028/29.**

##### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- WALGA has negotiated a new Bus Stop Infrastructure Partnership Agreement (Agreement) with the Public Transport Authority (PTA). If agreed this will be the third such Agreement, with validity through to 2028/29.
- The Agreement seeks to provide the foundation for an effective working relationship between the PTA and Local Governments.
- The purpose of the Agreement is to clarify the roles, responsibilities and discretion of PTA and Local Governments in the provision and maintenance of bus stop infrastructure in areas with regular public transport SmartRider ticketed services, including regional cities and towns.
- The Agreement defines the roles and responsibilities of the PTA and Local Governments in various scenarios including when bus routes are changed, bus stops are added or removed, and bus stop infrastructure is upgraded.
- The Agreement provides a funding contribution to Local Governments for the maintenance and installation of bus shelters.
- **Support WALGA Recommendation**

#### **5.4.1.7 2025 SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES TRIBUNAL REMUNERATION INQUIRY FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND ELECTED MEMBERS**

*By Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance*

##### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council endorse the submission to the 2025 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members.**

##### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal (SAT) conduct an inquiry into Local Government Chief Executive Officer and Elected Member remuneration annually.
- In preparation for the inquiry to be undertaken early next year, WALGA has prepared a draft submission to SAT that makes recommendations in relation to Elected Member fees and



allowances, Chief Executive Officer remuneration, the Regional/Isolation Allowance and independent audit, risk and improvement committee member fees.

- The submission recommends:
    - an increase to Elected Member Fees and Allowances (including maximum reimbursable expenses) of 4%;
    - an increase to Chief Executive Officer remuneration bands of 4%;
    - an increase to the Regional/Isolation Allowance payable for Local Governments that are particularly isolated, long distances from population centres, and lacking in amenities;
    - the publication of clear guidance to the Local Government sector outlining how the Regional/Isolation Allowance is applied in terms of methodology, criteria and weightings;
    - the creation of a new fee category for independent audit, risk and improvement committee members without bands, and that the fee be set at a suitable level to recognise the skills and knowledge required for such a role; and
    - that the new category provide a fee for the independent chair position as well as the independent member position.
  - SAT will likely publish its determination for 2025-2026 in April 2025.
- The Governance Policy Team endorsed the submission at its meeting on 4 November.

- **Support WALGA Recommendation**

#### **5.4.1.8 SUBMISSION ON THE DRAFT STATE HAZARD PLAN – FIRE**

*By Rachel Armstrong, Policy Manager Emergency Management*

##### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council endorse the submission on the draft State Hazard Plan - Fire.**

##### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- The State Hazard Plan - Fire (SHP Fire) outlines the arrangements for the management of fire in Western Australia including fire prevention, preparedness, response and initial recovery.
- Local Governments have a critical role in bushfire management, including statutory responsibilities for mitigation, prevention and response under the *Bush Fires Act 1954* (BF Act) and responsibility for community-led recovery, as provided in the *Emergency Management Act 2005* (EM Act).
- The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) has undertaken a comprehensive review of the SHP Fire and is seeking comments on the revised draft Plan by 9 December ([Engage WA Emergency Management](#)).
- WALGA's draft submission on the draft SHP Fire incorporates feedback from 33 Local Governments and LGIS.
- The submission focusses on the key issues that underpin Local Government's capacity to implement their roles and responsibilities for the hazard of fire including:
  - Emergency Services Funding;
  - The State Emergency Management Framework and Consolidated Emergency Services Legislation; and
  - Bush Fire Brigade management and Work Health and Safety (WHS).
- A detailed list of proposed specific changes to plan is also included.

- **Support WALGA Recommendation**

### 5.4.1.9 NATIVE VEGETATION CLEARING ISSUES PAPER

*By Sarah Coles, Environment Policy Officer*

#### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Zone:**

**Note the Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations Issues Paper.**

**Request Local Government's submit their written feedback directly to WALGA for consideration.**

#### BACKGROUND

WALGA has developed an Issues Paper on Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations based on input from Local Government and analysis of Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER), and Appeals Convenor, data. Drawing on this data and Local Government case studies, the Paper outlines challenges Local Governments have encountered in navigating the regulatory system and identifies opportunities for improvement.

WALGA's data analysis identifies that 60% of Local Government clearing permits applications relate to road construction or upgrade. Key challenges relate to the complexity of navigating the regulatory environment, costs associated with the process and the time taken (for assessment of permits and appeals). These challenges can delay road and infrastructure projects and impact on Local Government's ability to attract and retain grant funding.

Based on discussions with the sector, and recommendations of previous submissions, WALGA has identified a range of potential opportunities to improve the native vegetation process. These focus on DWER process improvements, Local Government capacity building and taking strategic approaches to data collection, clearing permits and offsets:

1. The implementation of a State Government coordinated and funded biodiversity survey program.
2. Funding for a trial using Artificial Intelligence (AI) for biodiversity mapping.
3. DWER to develop a Strategic Offsets framework for Local Government.
4. The introduction of statutory timeframes for determination of referrals, permits and appeals and timely compliance and enforcement.
5. Increased support and capacity building for Local Governments to navigate the native vegetation clearing requirements.
6. Extended default periods for purpose permits and removal of the time limit requirement for maintenance in existing transport corridors.

The Issues Paper has been updated following consideration by the Environment and Infrastructure Policy Teams and is attached for zones' consideration and feedback. In particular Zones are requested provide feedback on the following:

- a. Does the Issues Paper capture the challenges experienced by Local Government in relation to native vegetation clearing regulations?
- b. The opportunities identified for improving the native vegetation clearing process for Local Government.
- c. Any additional opportunities.

Discussion at the Zone meeting is encouraged. Any written feedback should be provided by Friday, 13 December, to [environment@walga.asn.au](mailto:environment@walga.asn.au).

The Zone can provide feedback at the meeting as well as Local Governments can email WALGA direct by 13 December.

Following all Zones feedback an item will be prepared for the Zones and State Council in February/March 2025.

- **Support WALGA Recommendation**

## **5.4.2 Matters for Noting**

### **5.4.2.1 WALGA STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE**

*By Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance*

#### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That the update on the WALGA Strategic Plan 2025-2029 be noted.**

#### **BACKGROUND**

The current WALGA Corporate Strategy (2020-2025) is due to end next year.

A new Strategic Plan for 2025-2029 has been developed over the course of the last year, involving consultation and discussion with a wide range of stakeholders including State Council, WALGA staff, Members, Industry, and State Government representatives.

State Council, as the governing body of WALGA, is responsible for setting the overall strategic direction of the Association, which includes endorsing the Strategic Plan.

### **5.4.2.2 SUBMISSION ON REFORM OF PACKAGING REGULATION**

*By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste*

#### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council note the submission to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water on the Consultation Paper on Reform of Packaging Regulation.**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- The Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) released a [Consultation Paper on Reform of Packaging Regulation](#) for consultation between 27 September and 28 October.
- The Australian Government is working to reform Australia's packaging regulations to minimise packaging waste and pollution and build a circular economy for packaging. Under a circular economy, packaging would be designed to reduce waste, be recyclable and use recycled content, and used packaging would be collected and reused, or recycled back into packaging or other valuable products.

- The Consultation Paper outlines three potential options to reform packaging regulation:
  1. Strengthening administration of the co-regulatory arrangement.
  2. National mandatory requirements for packaging circularity.
  3. An extended producer responsibility scheme for packaging.
- WALGA's submission, which aligns with Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 7.15 Product Stewardship, supports Option 3, as this includes funding options, design requirements and an organisation to drive the outcomes required for packaging.
- The Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) endorsed the submission at its meeting on 23 October.

#### **5.4.2.3 SUBMISSION ON THE DRAFT STATE SUPPORT PLAN – ANIMAL WELFARE IN EMERGENCIES**

*By Rachel Armstrong, Policy Manager, Emergency Management*

##### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council note WALGA's submission to the State Emergency Management Committee on the Draft State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies.**

##### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) undertook a review of the State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies (SSP – AWiE), with consultation open between 21 May and 12 August via [Engage WA Emergency Management](#).
- The objective of the SSP – AWiE is to integrate arrangements for animal welfare with the State's formal emergency management arrangements. DPIRD is responsible for coordinating animal welfare in emergencies.
- WALGA's submission, which aligns to relevant WALGA Emergency Management Advocacy Positions, recommended:  
That DPIRD:
  1. Ensure all roles and responsibilities allocated to Local Government in the SSP - AWiE accurately align to other documents in the State Emergency Management Framework and Local Government responsibilities under the *Dog Act 1976*, *Cat Act 1976*, *Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1960*, and the *Animal Welfare Act 2002*.
  2. Revise existing guidance for the development of AWiE plans and communicate this guidance proactively with the Local Government sector, including via DPIRD's representatives on LEMCs and continues to provide Local Government AWiE training.  
That the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC):
  3. Note the importance of a sustainable resourcing model for Local Government Emergency Management to expand their capability to plan and prepare for emergencies and strengthen WA's resilience.
- WALGA's submission on the Draft SSP – AWiE was provided to SEMC on 12 August.

#### 5.4.2.4 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PRIMARY HEALTHCARE SURVEY REPORT

*By Hannah Godsave, Policy Manager Community*

##### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council note the Primary Healthcare Services Survey Report.**

##### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 103 Local Governments participated in a WALGA commissioned Primary Healthcare Services Survey to examine the extent to which Local Governments were providing support to secure primary healthcare services in their communities.
- 69 Local Governments (67% of respondents) reported contributing financial and/or in-kind support towards primary healthcare services at a net cost of \$6.8m.
- The Survey Report makes clear that primary healthcare provision is the responsibility of the Australian and State governments, and that Local Government support is a result of their failure to ensure adequate provision of essential health services.
- The Report aligns to existing calls for systematic changes to the health system to ensure equity of access and recommends practical solutions to alleviate the need for Local Governments to support primary healthcare services:
  - State Government to establish a Local Government Primary Healthcare funding program.
  - State Government to facilitate increased sector awareness of advice and support available to Local Governments seeking to support primary healthcare services for their communities.
  - WA Local Government Grants Commission to review the appropriateness and effectiveness of the Medical Facilities Cost Adjuster within the Financial Assistance Grants.
- WALGA is working with Rural Health West (RHW), ALGA and wider stakeholders to explore joint advocacy opportunities to the State and Australian Governments.
- The Survey Report was considered by the People and Place Policy team at its meeting on 25 October.

#### 5.4.2.5 RENEWABLE ENERGY SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

*By Lisa Harwood, Principal Policy Advisor (Economic Development)*

##### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council note the update on the Renewable Energy Survey.**

##### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- Western Australia's energy industry is transforming to achieve the goal of net zero emissions by 2050.
- Western Australia does not have a plan or framework that provides a consistent approach to how proponents of major energy projects consult with local communities and how they can share in the benefits.

- Three new advocacy positions related to the renewable energy transition were endorsed by State Council at its September 2024 meeting.
- WALGA conducted a Renewable Energy Survey of Local Governments to capture data on Local Government sentiment on the energy transition to inform policy development and ongoing advocacy.

#### **5.4.2.6 FLYING AGENDA: SUBMISSION TO MAIN ROADS WA ON THE REVISED WESTERN AUSTRALIA TRAFFIC SIGNALS APPROVAL POLICY AND PROCESS**

*By Max Bushell, Senior Policy Advisor, Road Safety and Infrastructure*

##### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council note the submission to Main Roads WA on the Revised Main Roads Western Australia Traffic Signals Approval Policy and Process as endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute.**

##### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- This submission was a response to a request for review of the Main Roads Western Australia Traffic Signals Approval Policy and Process.
- This submission supports three existing WALGA policy positions.
- This Policy and Process has historically been controversial, so WALGA undertook a consultation process with Local Governments to develop a submission reflective of current issues relating to this Policy and Process.
- Diverse issues were raised by Local Governments, including concerns around the accommodation of non-motorised users, the preference for roundabouts, design requirements, and the relationship of the Policy and Process to the Structure Planning Process, among others.
- Generally, Local Governments would like more control over the selection of intersection types to reflect community and strategic transport goals and planning documents.
- The Infrastructure Policy Team considered this item at a meeting held on 29 July and approved the recommendation that the submission be provided to State Council for endorsement.
- State Council endorsed the submission via Flying Minute on 7 August and the submission was provided to Main Road WA on 15 August.

#### **5.4.2.7 FLYING MINUTE: SUBMISSION ON THE DRAFT OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES FOR THE UPCOMING STATE PUBLIC HEALTH PLAN**

*By Hannah Godsave, Policy Manager Community*

##### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council note the submission to the Department of Health on the draft Objectives and Priorities for the upcoming State Public Health Plan as endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute.**

##### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- The Department of Health provided [draft objectives and priorities for the upcoming State Public Health Plan](#) for public consultation in August.

- Stage 5 of the *Public Health Act 2016* commenced on 4 June and requires Local Governments to prepare and publish Local Public Health Plans by 4 June 2026.
- Local Public Health Plans must consider the State Public Health Plan objectives and priorities as they relate to the needs of their local community.
- WALGA's submission is aligned to Advocacy Position 3.2.1 Public Health Plans and was informed by the WALGA Local Government Public Health Plans Reference Group.
- State Council endorsed the submission via Flying Minute on 30 August.

#### **5.4.2.8 FLYING MINUTE: SUBMISSION ON THE DRAFT REGIONAL EDUCATION STRATEGY**

*By Hannah Godsave, Policy Manager Community*

##### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council note the submission to the Department of Education on the draft Regional Education Strategy as endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute.**

##### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- The Department of Education released the [Draft Regional Education Strategy](#) (Draft Strategy) for comment in July.
- The Draft Strategy sets out a vision for equitable educational opportunities for students in the regions, underpinned by four pillars:
  - Building the capacity of our regional workforce
  - Expand curriculum delivery
  - Strengthen support for student wellbeing
  - Develop partnerships to create opportunity.
- WALGA developed a submission on the Draft Strategy, informed by submissions from the Great Southern and Central Country Zones and Advocacy Position 3.6 Children and Young People.
- The submission recommends that the Strategy:
  - Clearly state the duration of the Strategy and the regional education issues the Strategy seeks to address.
  - Include regional education profiles and develop place-based actions and goals.
  - Further develop the content and data under the four pillars to clearly articulate Strategy actions and outcomes.
  - Adequately fund implementation to ensure that it will deliver actions, outcomes and effective evaluation.
  - Should address the urgent issue of undersupply of Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH).
  - Should acknowledge the wider community implications of regional education challenges and build on existing strategic documents to create a whole of government approach.
  - Commit to ongoing place-based engagement with communities and Local Governments on the development and delivery of the Strategy.
- State Council endorsed the submission via Flying Minute on 1 October.

#### 5.4.2.9 FLYING MINUTE: SUBMISSION ON DERBAL YIRAGAN (SWAN) DJARLGARRO (CANNING) DRAFT RIVER PROTECTION STRATEGY

*By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste.*

##### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council note the submission to Swan River Trust on the Derbal Yiragan (Swan) Djarlgarro (Canning) Draft River Protection Strategy as endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute**

##### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- The Swan River Trust has released the Derbal Yiragan (Swan) Djarlgarro (Canning) Draft River Protection Strategy (Draft Strategy) for comment.
- The Draft Strategy relates to the Swan Canning Riverpark, which includes the waters and foreshores of the Swan Canning River system and considerations relating to the catchment for the River system.
- Local Government has an active role in the management of the River system, including balancing recreation use, development and ecosystem health. Local Government also manage most drainage networks within the catchment.
- WALGA has developed a submission on the Draft Strategy, informed by previous advocacy and feedback from Local Government via a webinar and written submissions.
- The submission includes detailed comments on the key elements of the Draft Strategy and identifies the need for an adequately funded, strategic approach to managing the Swan Canning River System and catchment, taking an evidenced-based approach using best available science.
- State Council endorsed the submission via Flying Minute on 8 October.

#### 5.4.2.10 FLYING MINUTE: SUBMISSION ON THE STATE HAZARD PLAN - HUMAN BIOSECURITY

*By Rachel Armstrong, Policy Manager, Emergency Management*

##### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council note WALGA's submission on the State Hazard Plan – Human Biosecurity provided to the State Emergency Management Committee as endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute.**

##### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- The Department of Health released a [revised State Hazard Plan - Human Biosecurity](#) (SHP – Human Biosecurity) for consultation between 16 August to 8 November.
- The SHP – Human Biosecurity sets out hazard management arrangements across prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery for two hazards:
  - Human epidemic; and
  - Actual or impending spillage, release or escape of a biological substance that is capable of causing loss of life, injury to a person or damage to the health of a person, property or the environment.



- WALGA prepared a submission aligned to WALGA’s emergency management advocacy positions and incorporating feedback and lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The submission's recommendations focus on clarifying Local Government roles and responsibilities in keeping with the State Emergency Management Framework and *Local Government Act 1995*, improving links to the WA Pandemic Plan and *Public Health Act 2016*, and ensuring consideration of concurrent hazards and adequate emergency relief and support arrangements.
- The People and Place Policy Team considered WALGA’s draft submission on the State Hazard Plan – Human Biosecurity and recommend its endorsement by State Council via Flying Minute on 25 October.
- The submission was endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute on 5 November and provided to the State Emergency Management Committee on 8 November.

#### 5.4.2.11 COOPERATION & SHARED SERVICES

*By Tony Brown, WALGA*

Please find attached (**Attachment XX**) the latest version of the Cooperation & Shared Services document. This document was created to capture the collaborative work between Local Governments, showcasing ways to maximise resources to deliver outcomes that would be difficult to achieve alone. Local Governments have contributed to this resource and will be consulted again next year for further updates/modifications.

All CEO’s have received this document and were encouraged to share with Councillors and staff to fully display all collaborative work happening within Local Government.

WALGA will be promoting this to Government agencies to display the collaborative work that happens in our sector.

If you have any questions or queries, please contact Tony Brown – [tbrown@walga.asn.au](mailto:tbrown@walga.asn.au) or Naoimh Donaghy – [ndonaghy@walga.asn.au](mailto:ndonaghy@walga.asn.au)

#### 5.4.2.12 WALGA HONOURS RECIPIENTS

*By Chantelle O’Brien, WALGA Governance Support Officer*

##### BACKGROUND

WALGA celebrated their 2024 Honours awards recipients at an event on Friday, 2 August at Winthrop Hall. For the first time, a WALGA awards event was held solely to acknowledge and appreciate the extraordinary efforts of Elected Members and Local Government Officers in service of their Local Government, the sector and the community.

There were 46 recipients of Honours awards in the 2024 program, including two Local Government Medal recipients. Four new WALGA Life Members were also inducted.

2 Honours recipients were from the Murchison Country Zone:

President Cr Leslie Matthew Price	Shire of Cue	Eminent Service Award
Murchison Country Zone of WALGA	Minutes 22 November 2024	41

Congratulations to all Honours recipients!

Nominations for the 2025 Honours Program will open early next year.

#### **5.4.2.13 SUBMISSIONS TO THE 2025 SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES TRIBUNAL REMUNERATION INQUIRY FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND ELECTED MEMBERS**

*By Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance*

##### **Background**

The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal (SAT) conduct an annual inquiry into Local Government Chief Executive Officer and Elected Member remuneration.

SAT generally advertises its intention to receive submissions in December for its inquiry and Determination in relation to the following financial year. The Tribunal will invite individual Local Governments, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, WALGA, Local Government Professionals WA and other interested individuals to provide information or submissions.

SAT will likely publish its Determination for 2025-2026 in April 2025.

##### **Comment**

In preparation for the inquiry to be undertaken early next year, a draft submission from WALGA has been prepared making recommendations to SAT on behalf of the sector in relation to Elected Member fees and allowances, Chief Executive Officer remuneration, the Regional/Isolation Allowance and Independent Audit Member fees. The draft WALGA submission is contained in the December State Council Agenda for Zone and State Council consideration.

Local Governments can also put forward a submission, particularly in relation to their own circumstances, including requests to be classified in a different Band.

WALGA encourages all Local Governments to make a submission to SAT.

#### **5.4.2.14 BAND 4 LOCAL GOVERNMENTS MEETING**

*By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services*

##### **BACKGROUND**

On 3 September, the Minister for Local Government, Hon Hannah Beasley, hosted a roundtable meeting of all Band 4 Local Governments in WA.

To continue the discussion, WALGA hosted a further meeting of Band 4 Local Governments. The meeting was held on 11 October at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. Chief Executive Officers and Presidents from all 60 Band 4 Local Governments in the State were invited to attend.

Ahead of the meeting, WALGA emailed all Band 4 Local Governments asking for their top three priorities. Responses were received from 33 Local Governments. The top issues (in order of priority) are listed below:

1. Housing
2. Medical services
3. Audit fees
4. Financial Assistance Grants
5. Waste management funding
6. Compliance requirements
7. Financial sustainability
8. ICT systems
9. Renewable energy

These top 9 issues were separated into operational challenges and strategic issues at the meeting and presented for further discussion and comment.

The aim of the meeting was to identify and agree on the top issues facing Band 4 Local Governments, to enable the group to consider and develop potential solutions to these issues, before presenting to the Minister.

#### **ATTACHMENT**

- Band 4 Local Governments meeting summary report

#### **COMMENT**

Overall, 72 representatives from 48 Local Governments attended the meeting on 11 October.

Attached is a summary report from the meeting.

Please note that this report provides a summary of the discussion and feedback received from participants at the meeting. The comments and views are those of participants, and do not necessarily reflect the endorsed position of WALGA or its Members.

As the main outcome of the meeting, WALGA will undertake work on the top four issues identified by the group:

1. Housing;
2. Audit fees;
3. Medical services; and
4. Financial Assistance Grants

WALGA will provide a progress update to all Band 4 Local Governments early next year.

## **6.0 Matters for Consideration**

### **6.1 Financial Statements**

Proposed by: Executive Officer

Attachments: Income & Expenditure –01/07/2023 to 30/06/2024

#### **COMMENT**

Refer Financial Statements on next page

Reconciled balances of account as at 30 June 2024 –

Cheque Account (229 492)	\$21,542.53
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#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Financial Statements for the periods 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 be received.

**RESOLUTION – Moved: Cr Walton Seconded: Cr Nicholls**

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**That the Financial Statements for the periods 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 be received.**

**Carried**

**MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE FINANCIAL STATEMENT**  
**1/07/2023 to 30/06/2024**

**Bank Balance (as Per B/S) 01/07/23**

**\$19,871.93**

Income

Date	Source	Amount
24/07/2023	Shire of Cue	\$2,800.00
31/07/2023	Shire of Murchison	\$2,800.00
31/07/2023	Shire of Sandstone	\$2,800.00
03/08/2023	Shire of Meekatharra	\$2,800.00
09/08/2023	Shire of Yalgoo	\$2,800.00
13/03/2024	Shire of Mount Magnet	\$2,800.00
	<b>Total Income to 30 June 2024</b>	<b>\$16,800.00</b>

Payments

Date	Source	Amount
20/11/2023	Samantha Appleton – Exec Fees, Travel & Catering	\$4,975.30
22/11/2022	Murchison Club Hotel	\$1,277.50
22/04/2024	Cr Price – Zone Representative Allowance, Deputy President Allowance	\$1,900.00
22/04/2024	Murchison Club Hotel – Catering	\$1,407.50
22/04/2024	Cr Foulkes Taylor – President Allowance	\$600.00
22/04/2024	Samantha Appleton – Exec Fees, Travel & Catering	\$4,969.10
	<b>Total Expenditure to 30 June 2024</b>	<b>\$15,129.40</b>

Reconciliation

Balance Bought Forward 01/07/2023	\$19,871.93
Add Income Received	\$16,800.00
Less Expenditure	-\$15,129.40
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$21,542.53</b>
<b>Balance as per Bank Statement 30 June 2024</b>	<b>\$21,542.53</b>

***\*Please note as there has been no activity since the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2024. The balance at the 31 October remains the same as at 30 June 2024.***

**MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE FINANCIAL STATEMENT**  
**1/07/2023 to 30/06/2024**

<b>Account</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>
	2023-24	2023-24
<b>Income</b>		
General Subscriptions	16,800	16,800
Interest Earned	20	0
Reimbursements	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>16,820</b>	<b>16,800</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Meeting Expenses	4,000	2,946
Teleconferences		
Special Meetings & Workshops		
Bank Fees & Charges	0	0
Reimbursable Expenses	200	0
Unclassified Expenses (Minute Book)		
Zone Representative Gratuities	2,500	2,500
Executive Officer Services	8,000	8,000
Executive Officer Reimbursements	2,000	1,683
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>16,700</b>	<b>15,129</b>
<b>Net Income/(Loss)</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>1,671</b>

## 6.2 Need for Accessible Medical Services in the Murchison Region

Proposed by: Shire of Cue

### Background

The Murchison region in Western Australia faces ongoing challenges in accessing reliable healthcare due to its remote location and limited healthcare infrastructure. Existing services, such as the Yalgoo and Cue nursing posts, are generally open only during standard business hours (Monday to Friday), leaving residents without essential care on weekends, public holidays and after hours.

This was exemplified recently when a patient requiring daily injections could not receive treatment over a long weekend because the nursing post was closed, and no after-hours care was permitted. The patient was advised to travel daily to Mt Magnet or Meekatharra, both over 80 kilometres away. This situation imposes risks to health, safety, and finances for residents and reveals the critical need for more robust and accessible healthcare options in the region.

The Murchison's elderly and aboriginal population is particularly vulnerable to this gap in healthcare, as these residents need regular medical attention, mobility support, and routine treatments for chronic conditions and time sensitive incidents that would benefit the patient if immediate care was available. Additionally, the burden on St John Ambulance, a volunteer-based organisation with a limited number of volunteers, is exacerbated by the absence of after-hours services. Ambulance crews are frequently called upon for non-emergency medical needs that could otherwise be managed by extended nursing services, putting strain on this essential emergency response service.

### Current Gaps in Medical Services

1. **Lack of After-Hours Healthcare Access:** With local nursing services operating only during business hours, residents needing urgent or routine treatment after hours are left without options. This is especially concerning for elderly and aboriginal residents, who often require frequent care that does not align with regular operating hours.
2. **Distance to Alternative Services:** Residents are often required to travel long distances to Mt Magnet or Meekatharra for after-hours care. These journeys, in addition to being costly and time consuming, can be unsafe particularly at night due to livestock and driver fatigue.
3. **Reliance on St John Ambulance Volunteers for Non-Emergency Needs:** St John Ambulance is a volunteer organisation with limited staffing in the Murchison region, meaning a small group of volunteers is responsible for covering vast distances and providing emergency and non-emergency services. When residents are forced to call for non-urgent transport or treatment, it depletes the ambulance crew's time and resources, impacting their ability to respond to actual emergencies. At the time of writing this report, some

of the Shires in the Murchison are struggling to have an ambulance crew to respond to emergencies.

4. **Elderly Residents at Greater Risk:** The elderly, who may have limited mobility or be unable to drive, are particularly affected by the need for out-of-town travel for essential medical treatments. For many, travelling to Mt Magnet or Meekatharra is impractical or impossible, resulting in delayed care and increased health risks.

The current model of healthcare services in the Murchison region does not adequately address the needs of its remote community members. Expanding services beyond business hours and investing in local resources could significantly improve healthcare accessibility and outcomes. By making these changes, residents will have reliable access to essential healthcare, reducing the need for risky and costly travel and allowing individuals to receive the timely treatment they require.

### **Recommendation:**

That the Murchison Country Zone request WALGA to make representation to the Minister for Health and lobby the State Government to implement the following:

1. **Extended and On-Call Nursing Support:** Establishing after-hours nursing support in the Murchison Region, either through rotating or on-call staff arrangements, to help address the gap in care over weekends and after hours, reducing the need for ambulance support in non-emergency cases.
2. **Elderly and Aboriginal Care Services:** Specialised services for elderly and aboriginal residents, such as regular home visits, monitoring for chronic conditions, medication management and to allow them to receive essential care without the need for travel or dependence on ambulance transport.
3. **Relief for Volunteer St John Ambulance Services:** Reducing reliance on St John Ambulance for routine care and transport services to alleviate some of the strain on the organisation's critically limited number of volunteers. Enhanced nursing and elderly support services would mean volunteers are only called upon for genuine emergencies, improving response times and resource availability.
4. **Mobile Health Clinics:** A mobile health service to provide essential care in various Murchison communities, addressing basic needs such as welfare care, wound redressing, and chronic disease management. This service would reduce travel and help bridge the gap when nursing posts are closed.
5. **Telehealth and Remote Monitoring for Elderly Care:** Equipping elderly residents with telehealth and monitoring devices to provide immediate support and enable healthcare professionals to remotely manage patients' needs, reducing the need for in-person care outside of emergency situations.



**That the Murchison Country Zone request WALGA to make representation to the Minister for Health and lobby the State Government to implement the following:**

- 1. Extended and On-Call Nursing Support: Establishing after-hours nursing support in the Murchison Region, either through rotating or on-call staff arrangements, to help address the gap in care over weekends and after hours, reducing the need for ambulance support in non-emergency cases.**
- 2. Elderly and Aboriginal Care Services: Specialised services for elderly and aboriginal residents, such as regular home visits, monitoring for chronic conditions, medication management and to allow them to receive essential care without the need for travel or dependence on ambulance transport.**
- 3. Relief for Volunteer St John Ambulance Services: Reducing reliance on St John Ambulance for routine care and transport services to alleviate some of the strain on the organisation's critically limited number of volunteers. Enhanced nursing and elderly support services would mean volunteers are only called upon for genuine emergencies, improving response times and resource availability.**
- 4. Mobile Health Clinics: A mobile health service to provide essential care in various Murchison communities, addressing basic needs such as welfare care, wound redressing, and chronic disease management. This service would reduce travel and help bridge the gap when nursing posts are closed.**
- 5. Telehealth and Remote Monitoring for Elderly Care: Equipping elderly residents with telehealth and monitoring devices to provide immediate support and enable healthcare professionals to remotely manage patients' needs, reducing the need for in-person care outside of emergency situations.**

**Carried**

- Concern was expressed by delegates regarding the availability of services after hours or outside of the nursing posts in the region. A representative of WA Country Health Service clarified that their priority is the preservation of life and maintaining health also there are issues with fatigue where after hours work is required. It was stated that permission can easily be obtained to attend patients outside of the nursing post.*

Mr Shane Love MLA, Leader of the WA Nationals addressed the meeting about the forthcoming election, bills to be passed, proposed changes to Local Government voting and other relevant issues.

Ms Merome Beard MLA, member for North West Central addressed the meeting about issues she is dealing with including roads, crime, housing, train lighting, housing, education and dental services.

Ms Karen Morrissey, Project Officer then made a presentation on the Murchison Geo Region project.

Mr Nils Hay, CEO Mid West Development Commission presented the Roads Forum. Speakers included:

- Ms Janet Hartley-West – Main Roads WA
- Mr John Pintabono – Main Roads WA
- Mr Tony Brown – WALGA
- Ms Liz Jones – Ramelius Resources
- Mr James Yewers – Merkanooka Haulage
- Mr David Campbell – Campbell Transport
- Mr Richard Towell – Shire of Cue

Information and discussion included the following:

- Condition of roads, maintenance and reporting of issues. The number 138138 was provided to report issues on the Main Roads network so that the issue can be inspected and addressed. It was suggested that Councils publicize the Phone number so residents can report issues as they arise.
- Issuing of RAV permits, assessment of roads and enforcement by Heavy Vehicle Services.
- Chain of responsibility for load carrying and enforcement.
- Speed limits in townsites.
- Amount of road train movements through townsites in the zone.
- Safety and condition of road trains. Including proactive steps being taken by companies to monitor drivers and vehicles.
- Qualifications and ability of road train drivers, also language and communication skills.
- Driver behaviour – concern over how drivers of cars are interacting with road trains.
- Statistics on deaths and serious injuries in the region, car and motorcycle crashes being the majority of incidents. Trucks only made up 1% of the reported incidents (2017 – 2021).

- Value of commodities carried in each Shire provided by DMIRS.
- Funding for speed advisory signage in townsites – the RAC may provide this type of funding.
- Education of the community and reporting of issues.

## **7.0 Shire Reports**

### **7.1 Shire of Yalgoo**

Not Received.

### **7.2 Shire of Mount Magnet**

Not Received.

### 7.3 Shire of Murchison



## WALGA - Murchison Country Zone November 2024 Report

### Murchison Camp Oven Muster Festival

Located in the heart of Wajarri country, the *Murchison Camp Oven Muster Festival* celebrated the land and skies of the Murchison region at the Murchison Settlement on 3-4 August 2024.

The purpose of the Murchison Camp Oven Muster was to create a wholesome annual event that embraces community participation, creating connectedness for all Muster goers through authentically Murchison experiences.

The event received significant positive feedback from both working groups and public with over 124 guests at the event's main attraction, which was the long table dinner.

From every measure this was deemed success such that another festival is planned for the first weekend in August 2025.





## Murchison Settlement Redevelopment Works

Council has been progressing on upgrade to its water supply with contractors well in the construction of new ring main, and water supply pumps and building to distribute water from new bores. Recent funds under the State Government's the Infrastructure Development Fund- Stream 3 - Unlocking Regional Worker Accommodation Opportunities will lead to works to chlorinate the upgraded water supply and to upgrade the current power supply network.

Over the next 3 years 5 workforce accommodation units are required to be delivered. Part of this includes new accommodation for roadhouse workers. This will necessitate upgrade of the Murchison Oasis Roadhouse. UDLA from Fremantle are in the process of bring all of these developments into a succinct plan which also accommodates a new playground.

As indicated, whilst there is a lot on now and still much to do in 2024/25, there is equally a raft of planning actions around 2025 and 2026 projects that are being worked on now so that these projects can be delivered. For a very small Shire staff wise this remains a challenge but is also very exciting for us all. Whilst Council developed a terrific Settlement Masterplan and Road Precinct Plan 2-3 years ago, we always knew that this would likely be delivered over some length of time. 2024-25 seems to be when that time has arrived. Meanwhile construction of new Ablution Block at the Caravan Park has virtually been completed with construction of a small swimming pool / splash pad well advanced.



## Carnarvon-Mullewa Road

Recent works completed in 2022/23 to seal to 7.2m width of the remaining gravel section on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road between the Murchison Settlement and our Shire boundary has seen the Shire construct and seal 37km since 2021. Approximately 9.7 km of 4.0m sealed sections between the Ballinyoo Bridge and Twin Peaks-Wooleen Road has been reconstructed and sealed in 2024/25. Works included a number of floodway sections which involved strengthening / stabilisation I 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. Further widening and reconstruction works are also planned.

*Bill Boehm*

*Chief Executive Officer*

Murchison Country Zone of WALGA

Minutes 22 November 2024

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## 7.4 Shire of Sandstone



### SHIRE OF SANDSTONE Activity Report November 2024

#### Human Resources

No changes

#### Road Works and Equipment

Roadworks were completed on the Wiluna Road with the LRCIP Phase III grant funding. The work was for floodway repairs and the installation of whoa boys in various locations. Other works were carried out of the Paynes Find Road, Meekatharra Road and currently the Menzies Road. By the time of this meeting, work crews will be back on the Paynes Find Road which will carry on into the new year.

The Shire's Phase IV of the LRCIP grant of \$507,000 was approved in October 2023 for a grid maintenance program. However the purchase of new grids and \$100,000 of grid maintenance was carried out before the work schedule was signed and as such is ineligible to claim.

As a result, the Council has approved a new program of town and rural roadworks which has been submitted as a variation and hopefully will be approved by the LRCIP bureaucracy.

#### Buildings

June saw the arrival of two 2 x 1 units for the Caravan Park and thankfully these units arrived a short time before the expiry of the Phase III LRCIP deadline.

Because of the difficulty in acquiring trades people to Sandstone the preparation for occupancy has been slow. We have been able to construct verandas and a carport in-house, but preparing new septics has been very difficult.

The big issue was the inadequate septic system that was installed many years ago and fails during each tourist season.

We decided to install additional leach drains and a septic that will resolve the current deficiencies and will suffice for any further expansion within the park. Excavating a hole 9 metres wide and 50 metres long in caprock ground was a monumental task requiring a large rock breaker and excavator. Due to the contractor's other commitments digging this trench has taken much more time than hoped but has finally been completed.

I am hopeful the work will be finished and the units ready for occupancy by the time of this meeting.

A new Shire house has been installed and is currently close to completion with concrete works, electrical fittings and final fit out of air conditioners and other matters. This work should be completed by late November.

### **Tourism**

Despite the closure of the National Hotel, tourist numbers have remained steady compared to past years.

There have been many comments about the appearance of the town now that the gardens and median strips have had substantial improvements made.

The small but highly active Tidy Towns Committee have been rewarded with reaching the finalists stage in three categories this year. The nominations are in the categories of the overall State Award, Litter Action and Environmental Sustainability. Three wins would be fantastic but even one win will be extremely pleasing and a just reward for the hard work of the volunteers.

### **Other Matters**

- Council's long-awaited footpath project has been completed in Hack Street and Irvine Street.

The contractors did an excellent job and completed the project in good time.

- I reported in April that prior to my appointment an IT company was contracted to develop and manage a new Shire website. This has been very slow going due to the complexity of dealing with overseas people, with designs that we were not happy with and with our inability to dedicate many hours of work specifically to the project. Its completion is still several months away.
- We are still suffering the effects of the Landgate/Tengraph/Readytech decision to send out rate notices and back rates on Miscellaneous leases during April/May of 2024.

The rates were raised and issued without any consultation with me or my staff and has resulted in a great waste of time and has caused considerable ill feeling with some of the mining companies.

The lengthy delay in having the rates reversed also caused further friction with the miners who weren't too ready to accept there was a process that had to be followed.

To make matters worse the auditors were insisting we make provision for the bad debts associated with these rates and not understanding the rates were not legally raised and were to be reversed.

- Some time ago Sandstone Shire had been advised that it was subject to a feasibility study that might have seen the town diesel powered electricity station shut down and replaced with "renewables." Thankfully the study showed that it would be unviable to make this change and the town can now continue to operate as is for the next ten years at least.

Peter Money  
Chief Executive Officer

## 7.5 Shire of Cue



### WALGA – Murchison Country Zone November 2024 Report

#### Governance

As a result of the Shire of Cue extraordinary election held on Friday 21 June 2024 we would like to welcome Ross Pigdon as our 7<sup>th</sup> Councillor. Cr Pigdon's term will be until October 2027. We would like to thank Stephen Manning for attending and conducting the swearing in ceremony.



On 29 June 2024 five Councillors and I flew over to Canberra to represent the Shire of Cue at the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) convention.

On 2 August 2024 at the WALGA Local Government Awards night Shire President Les Price was recognised for his contribution to the local government sector. Nominated by Beth Walton, President of the Shire of Sandstone, Les was acknowledged for the work he does as a Councillor for the Shire of Cue as well as his work and dedication to the Murchison Region, fighting for the bush as a member of State Council and the Murchison Regional Vermin Council. On top of this, Les is also a representative of the Municipal Waste advisory Council, WALGA Environmental Policy Team and WALGA Selection Panel committee.





On 8 – 10 October 2024 six Councillors, two staff members and I attended the WALGA Local Government Convention in Perth.

### **Administration**

Thanks to the dedication of our staff, Caroline Spencer from the OAG congratulated the Shire of Cue for once again making it into the top 20 best practice entities list for the 2022-2023 audit. This makes it two years in a row. I congratulate our team of staff on another great effort.

The Shire has been announced as a finalist for the 2024 Keep Australia Beautiful WA Awards in the Heritage and Culture category for “Heritage Revived: Saving the Old for Tomorrow”

The Cue Tourist Park online booking portal has been active for several months and the majority of bookings are now coming through the online system.

### **Economic Development**

Westgold Resources have increased their flight schedules to four return flights a week on Monday, two flights on Wednesday and Thursday at the Cue Aerodrome. All of these flights are on the Dash 8 Q400 Turbo Prop plane.

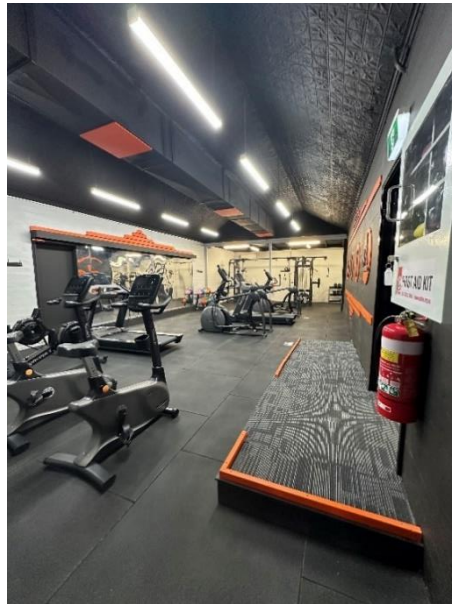
Fenix Newhaul have completed the planning stage to build new workers accommodation, next to their existing accommodation, in the Cue townsite. They plan to start building before the end of this year. Fenix are also looking to double the capacity of their Iron Ridge accommodation village. Fenix is concentrating on the Beebyn-W11 Iron Ore project mine located 20 km from the existing Iron Ridge operation which is set to commence operations in 2025 with a seven year mine life.

### **Town Developments**

The Shire has opened the Railway building, Bank building and Masonic Lodge building at regular times for public viewing 7 days a week during the tourist season and on request during the off season.

The Shire’s stonemason Nick has completed the restoration to the exterior of the Old Municipal Chambers. The project consisted of removing cement render and restoring the original stonework.

The Shire has renovated one of the unused shops on Austin Street and re-purposed it as a community gymnasium. The facility was opened in October 2024.



### **Works**

The Shire has completed another section of shared paths on Wittenoom Street and Railway Street thanks to a WA Bicycle Network Grant. This is just another step in ensuring safer passage for small wheels and pedestrians traversing our town.

Flood damage contracts have been awarded to Lacy Bros Pty Ltd and Homewood Jensen Pty Ltd for repairs, caused by flooding in 2022 and 2023, to numerous roads in the Shire.

The Shire has purchased a new fifteen metre elevated works platform, a five tonne four-wheel drive Isuzu road crew truck and a five tonne two wheel drive Isuzu town crew tipping truck.

### **Community Events**

The Shire held a successful sundowner event prior to Cue Parliament. This was well attended by Cue Parliament delegates, local business representatives and community service providers. An excellent meal was provided by the Murchison Club Hotel. Geoff Udy created a great atmosphere with his music and David Price provided a bit of light entertainment with a short discussion about different types of people and how we perceive things differently based on these characteristics. The night was enjoyed by all.

Naidoc Week was celebrated in Cue with a family disco held at the Cue Shire Hall on Saturday 13 July 2024. DJ Rev CB kept the crowd engaged and provided entertainment for the night teaching dance moves and rolling out great music. A buffet dinner was provided for all. We wish to thank Horizon Power for their sponsorship of this event.

Bogan Shakespeare presented their entertaining take on Romeo and Juliet at the Cue Shire Hall on Tuesday 23 July 2024. Around forty people attended to see the satirical love story set between a Dockers family and Eagles family in suburban Perth.

The Cue Rifle Club has been re-established and held a busy bee on Saturday 17 August 2024. Local station owners together with the Shire of Cue kindly donated equipment to clean up the club room and range. A big thank you to all the volunteers who came and helped get the range ready.

The Murchison Junior Football League had its most successful season so far. Turnout this year was excellent, including the number of parents, friends and family who attended and supported it. Most games had around 70 children playing and players from Burringurrah came to play in Meekatharra. Next season we have interests from Yulga Jinna, Pia Wadjarri, Burringurrah and Wiluna to join in the fun. The League is run and organised by volunteers from all participating towns, and I would like to thank them and the sponsors for their ongoing support for the children of the Murchison region.

On Saturday 7 September 2024 we had the Stargazing event at the Cue Town Oval. There were over 80 people who enjoyed a night of under the stars and entertainment provided by Asher-Rose and Brenton. Attendees were able to enjoy a guided tour of the night sky with the Astronomers showing us, via a laser beam, the various constellations and our solar system. This was followed up by being able to view the moon, planets and clusters and other gems in the sky through various telescopes set up for the night sky.



Australian Baroque Four Seasons Vivaldi was performed at the Shire Hall on Wednesday 18 September 2024. Over 40 attendees enjoyed the reverberating sounds of baroque instruments being played under the masterful direction of Artistic Director and violinist Helen Kruger. Each concerto of The Four Seasons was prefaced by a reading of a sonnet which informs the audience of the next performance.

## **Richard Towell**

## Chief Executive Officer

### 7.6 Shire of Meekatharra

Not Received.

### 8.0 Presentations

- Midwest Development Commission – Roads Forum
- Murchison Geo Regions
- David Price Consulting

### 9.0 Next Meeting

The Executive Officer has received many requests to advise of the all the meeting dates for 2025 by various parties including politicians to enable them to plan their attendance well in advance. This may facilitate increased attendance. So this motion will include a resolution for both meetings in 2025.

#### 9.1 April 2025 Meeting Date

With the May 2025 State Council meeting being scheduled on 7 May 2025, WALGA has nominated a suggested date range for the meeting being Friday 11 April to Monday 28 April 2024. It should be noted that two of the Fridays in April are Good Friday (18 April) and Anzac Day (25 April).

#### **Recommendation**

That the next meeting of the Murchison Country Zone be held in Cue on Friday 11 April 2025.

**Resolution – Moved: Cr Willock      Seconded: Cr Walton**

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**That the next meeting of the Murchison Country Zone be held in Cue on Friday 11 April 2025.**

**Carried**

#### 9.2 November 2025 Meeting Date

With the December 2025 State Council meeting being scheduled on 3 December 2025, WALGA has nominated a suggested date range for the meeting being Friday 14 November to Monday 24 November 2025.

#### **Recommendation**

That the next meeting of the Murchison Country Zone be held in Cue on  
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21 November 2025.

**Resolution – Moved: Cr Price      Seconded: Cr McGorman**

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**That the next meeting of the Murchison Country Zone be held in Cue on 21 November 2025.**

**Carried**

Mr David Price of David Price consulting presented information on meeting procedures including working collaboratively to make the best decisions for ratepayers, the difference between an amendment and an alternate motion and how alternate motions must be presented in writing prior to the meeting.

## **10.0 Meeting Close**

The President thanked those attending and closed the meeting at 2.01pm.