

# **Meeting Minutes**

15 August 2025 9:30am – 10:30am

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84813608004?pwd=AjEdQtMCwabwsbPBIzrz1jJukCp553.1

Meeting ID: 848 1360 8004 Passcode: 177406



# **Table of Content**

1. KIMBERLEY COUNTRY ZONE MEETING OPEN:	3
2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES	3
3. DISCLOSURES, CONFLICTS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:	4
4. KIMBERLEY COUNTRY ZONE STATE COUNCIL AGENDA:	5
5. CONCLUSION OF ZONE MATTERS:	36
6. 2025 WALGA HONOURS RECIPIENTS	37



# 1. Kimberley Country Zone Meeting Open: 9:36

Chair acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the different lands on which people are meeting today, and paid respect to all the Elders past, present and emerging.

# 2. Attendance and Apologies

Name	Shire / Council / Organisation	Method
Members		
Cr David Menzel	Zone Chair, and President, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	Zoom
Cr Chris Mitchell	President, Shire of Broome	Zoom
Jeff Gooding	Commissioner, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Zoom
Observers		
James Watt	Acting CEO, Shire of Broome	Zoom
Wayne Neate	Acting CEO, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Zoom
Susan Leonard	CEO, Shire of Halls Creek	Zoom
Vernon Lawrence	CEO, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	Zoom
Executive Support Team		
Michelle Mackenzie	Principal Mira Consulting	Zoom
Paul Rosair	Principal NAJA Business Consulting	Zoom
Jane Lewis	Principal Redit Research	
Apologies		
Gordon Thomson	President, Shire of Christmas Island	
David Price	CEO, Shire of Christmas Island	
Aindil Minkom	President, Cocos (Keeling) Islands	
Frank Mills	CEO, Cocos (Keeling) Islands	
Tony Lacy	Cocos (Keeling) Islands	
Cr Malcolm Edwards	President, Shire of Halls Creek	
Cr Azah Badlu	Cocos (Keeling) Islands	



Name	Shire / Council / Organisation	Method
Rebecca Billing	Administrative Assistant, NAJA Business Consulting	
Sam Mastrolembo	CEO, Shire of Broome	
Tamara Clarkson	CEO, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	
Cr Karen Chappel	President, WALGA	
Cr Tony Chafer	Deputy Shire President, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	
Guests		
Cr Paul Kelly	Deputy President, WALGA	Zoom
Nick Sloan	CEO, WALGA	Zoom
Tony Brown	Executive Director Member Services, WALGA	Zoom

# 3. Disclosures, Conflicts and Declarations of Interest:

Financial Interest / Impartiality				
Member	Item Number	Item	Nature of Interest	
Jeff Gooding	8.4	Rural and Remote Health Services Advocacy Position	Minor perceived impartiality conflict as a Director of Wunan	



# 4. Kimberley Country Zone State Council Agenda:

**Attachments:** 

- 1 President's Report
- 2 WALGA State Council Agenda and Report on State Council Actions (Separately Attached)

### 1.1 Presidents Report – Attachment 1





# President's Report September 2025

### Introduction

It has been a busy few months for the Local Government sector, with several issues getting substantial public attention.

Across these past few months, we've responded to more than 40 media queries and in some instances, I have been disappointed with the representation of the sector and have responded accordingly – noting the clear policy positions of WALGA.

Please be assured, WALGA will continue to take every opportunity to champion the incredible efforts of WA Local Governments.

The WALGA Local Government Awards, held at the WA Museum on 19 July celebrated the outstanding achievements and contributions of individuals and Councils across the State. Feedback continues to support the decision to host the Awards as a stand-alone event, allowing adequate time to appropriately acknowledge award recipients.

### Rating of Miscellaneous Licences

WALGA strongly supports the Supreme Court's interpretation on the ability for local Governments to rate miscellaneous licences and opposes the State Government's proposed amendments to provide an exemption for these licences.

The Association maintains that:

- Legislative changes should not override judicial decisions that promote equity and sustainability.
- Occupied land under miscellaneous licences should be rateable.
- The resource sector should contribute to local communities through rates, just as other property owners do.

WALGA has advocated strongly on this issue following the State Governments announcement to legislate for a rating exemption for miscellaneous licences as follows:

#### Thursday, 10 July 2025

- WALGA media statement <u>Supreme Court decision supports critical role of Local</u> Government
- ABC Drive, interview with Geraldine Mellet

#### Saturday, 2 August 2025

- WALGA media statement WALGA condemns State Government move to legislate against Supreme Court decision
- The West Australian, Rebecca Le May WA Local Government Association hits back as State Government shields miners from land rates

### Sunday, 3 August 2025

The Sunday Times (pg. 5), Rebecca Le May – "Councils' fury over mining land rates'



#### Monday, 4 August

- ABC News online, Chloe Henville "Move to exempt miners from paying rates on miscellaneous licenses 'concerning"
- ABC Mornings with Nadia Mitsopoulos "WALGA president Karen Chappel and AMEC CEO Warren Pearce discuss the State Government plan to prevent councils levving rates on miscellaneous licences"
- 7 Regional News, Brandon Demura "State Government accused of re-writing rulebook for WA Councils"
- ABC News Perth, Blake Kagi "Local Governments condemn State Government move"

### **Local Government Elections**

Work has commenced on preparing for the October 2025 Local Government Elections. In addition to the New Councillor Webinar hosted by WALGA and joined by the Minister, LGIRS and WAEC, a statewide media campaign has been developed to launch in August to both encourage diversity of candidate nominations and voter participation.

#### Further details on Statewide Candidate Information Webinar

Upcoming Election Candidate Information webinar ahead of the opening of nominations for the 2025 Local Government Elections.

Monday, 18 August 6:00pm to 7:30pm Online via Zoom

This session is designed to support individuals considering nomination and will provide a clear overview of:

- the election process
- the responsibilities of Council Members and Local Governments
- · the regulatory role of LGIRS in Western Australia

The Webinar will include presentations from Hon. Hannah Beazley MLA - Minister for Local Government; Disability Services; Volunteering; Youth; Gascoyne, Dennis O'Reilly - Acting WA Electoral Commissioner, Erin Gauntlett - LGIRS Deputy Director General.

Local Governments are encouraged to share details of the webinar through their networks and host a group viewing for community members who may be interested in nominating for the upcoming elections.

The webinar will be recorded and will be available online after the event.

### Local Candidate Information Forums

If your Local Government is interested in inviting WALGA to provide a presentation at your local candidate briefing, please register your interest as soon as possible, by providing your requested date and time to <a href="mailto:governance@walga.asn.au">governance@walga.asn.au</a>.

### Kimberley Country Zone: Minutes August 2025



WALGA will prioritise local candidate briefings jointly hosted by several Local Governments, and depending upon our capacity, will then consider individual briefings for a single Local Government.

In addition, WALGA is also developing training for Independent Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee members, particularly around chairing meetings.

#### WALGA's Members Hub

The Member Hub is now open on level 3 at WALGA's office, 170 Railway Parade, West Leederville. Our Member Hub is a new service offering, providing bookable meeting rooms and shared and private working spaces, available to all Member Local Governments. I encourage all Members to contact <u>WALGA's reception</u> for bookings.

### **Political Engagement**

WALGA's political engagement has continued, with a range of meetings held with State Ministers, Shadow Ministers and other Members of Parliament following the Election. This engagement has been critical in re-establishing the sector's priorities with our State policy makers.

Importantly, I met with Premier Roger Cook on 9 July. This was a positive engagement that reaffirmed the Government's commitment to working with the sector through WALGA on important issues for Western Australia.

### Emergency Management

I strongly urge all Local Governments to complete the WALGA 2025 Local Government Emergency Management Survey that will be sent to all Members in September. The Survey is an important tool that enables WALGA to understand and quantify the sector's concerns and needs in meeting its emergency management responsibilities. Focus areas for the 2025 Survey include: Bushfire Brigade management, Aboriginal cultural heritage considerations, and reform of the Local Government Grants Scheme. The 2025 survey findings will be presented to Zones and State Council – an important opportunity to share your views and perspectives. The Survey will be open for 4 weeks.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the 2025 Local Government Emergency Management Forum hosted by WALGA on 17 June 2025 at the City of Stirling. The Forum, themed Local Government Future Proof: Preparing today for tomorrow's challenges, provided a fantastic opportunity for 150 attendees from over 41 Local Governments to enhance their capabilities, build insights, and share strategies in undertaking their critical emergency management responsibilities.

### Polyphagous shot-hole borer

The Government announced on 19 June that it had been decided it was longer feasible to eradicate PSHB and that a National Transition to Management Plan will be developed. This decision is deeply disappointing and will have significant implications for Local Government. As I indicated in <u>WALGA's statement</u>, the decision to move from eradication to a management phase for PSHB is a result of the inadequacy of the State Government's early response to PSHB.

On 29 July 2025 I met with the Hon Jackie Jarvis, Minister for Agriculture and Food; Fisheries; Forestry; Small Business to express WALGA's concerns. I have sought assurance



that Local Government, and other key stakeholders will be meaningfully engaged in the development of the management arrangements. WALGA is also advocating for long-term funding support for the sector.

#### Tree Protection on Private Land

The recent State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) decision Zorzi and Town of Cambridge [2025] WASAT 77, held that the removal of a single existing tree can constitutes development and therefore requires development approval. This marks the first instance where SAT has classified the removal of a single tree in an urban context as development.

This decision vindicates the work WALGA has undertaken to support Local Governments in their endeavours to protect large canopy trees on private land and highlights the importance of having a clear local planning framework, such as WALGA's Tree Retention Model LPP, in outlining when approval is necessary for tree removal.

### Attacks on Local Government Planning Functions

You will be aware of recent media coverage of comments made by the Minister for Planning, John Carey MLA in relation to the performance of Local Government planning and building regulatory functions and claims that our sector is purposely holding up and delaying housing approvals.

WALGA strongly refutes the Minister's claims and I have made several media appearances to defend the sector's planning performance. These claims are baseless and are not representative of the critical role and that Local Government planning plays in delivering sustainable and liveable communities and places.

In fact, WALGA's Local Government Performance Monitoring Project shows that 99% of all development applications across Western Australia were approved by Local Governments in 2023-24, a level of performance consistent over the past eight years.

Local Government is and has always been the backbone of the planning system, determining more than 20,000 proposals each year. WALGA will continue to stand up to these unjustified attacks.

President Cr Karen Chappel AM JP WALGA President



### **President's Contacts**

The President's contacts since 2 July and scheduled before 5 September are as follows:

### State and Commonwealth Government Relations

- Hon Roger Cook BA GradDipBus (PR) MBA MLA, Premier; Minister for State Development; Trade and Investment; Economic Diversification
- National Emergency Management Ministers Meeting Dinner with Hon Kristy McBain MP
- National Emergency Management Minister Meeting
- WA Police
- Office of the Auditor General
  - Nayna Raniga
  - Jason Beeley
- Hon Matthew Swinbourn BA LLB MLC, Minister for the Environment; Community Services; Homelessness
- Hon Don Punch BPsych BSocwk MBA MLA, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs; Water;
   Climate Resilience; South West
- Hon Dr Tony Buti BPE DipEd MIR LLB DPhil MLA, Attorney General; Minister for Commerce; Tertiary and International Education; Multicultural Interests
- Hon Jackie Jarvis MLC. Minister for Agriculture and Food; Fisheries; Forestry; Small Business; Mid West
- Hon Hannah Beazley BA MLA, Minister for Local Government; Disability Services;
   Volunteering; Youth; Gascoyne
- Ms Kirrilee Warr MLA, Shadow Minister for Local Government; Fisheries
- Hon Sabine Winton BA BPS MLA, Minister for Education; Early Childhood; Preventative Health; Wheatbelt

### Zone Meetings

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

#### Local Government Relations

- State Council Meetings
  - Strategic Forum, 2 July
  - State Council Meeting, 2 July
  - Information Forum, 6 August
  - Finance & Services Committee
  - Local Government House Trust

#### ALGA

- Executive Meeting x3
- Board Meeting (Post NGA Conference)

### LGIS

- Board Meeting
  - 11 July
  - 22 August
- Risk and Compliance Committee Meeting

### Kimberley Country Zone: Minutes August 2025



- Town Team Movement
- 2025 WALGA Local Government Awards
- Shire of Morawa Midwest NAIDOC Ceremony
- Lord Mayors Distress Relief Fund Board Meeting
- WALGA Certificate III Virtual Graduation
- Shire of Jerramungup, Deputy President Cr Julie Leenhouwers & CEO, Martin Cuthbert
- Shire of Ravensthorpe, President Cr Tom Major & CEO, Matthew Bird
- State Council Agenda Briefing for Zone Chairs
- WALGA Transport and Roads Forum
- Regional Capital Alliances WA Meeting
- State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee Meeting

### Conferences, Workshops, Public Relations

- Kimberley Regional Group and Regional Capital Alliances WA Government Forum
- Bringing Dowerin Downtown Lunch
- NGAA 2025 Congress Sunset Dinner & Drinks
- Shire of Perenjori Official Supermarket Opening
- Regional Road Group Chairs Workshop
- Statewide Candidate Briefing Webinar
- Pathways to Politics for Women



### 1.2 Reports from Representatives

### WALGA -

- Cr Paul Kelly, Deputy President
- Nick Sloan, CEO
- Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services

### 5.2.1 Reports from Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Report

Report will be provided by WALGA once available.



### 5.3 Reports from Kimberley Country Zone

Zone Delegates are invited to read and consider the WALGA State Council Agenda, which has been provided as an attachment with this Agenda and can be found via the link <a href="here">here</a>.

The Zone can provide comment or submit an alternative recommendation on any of the items, including the items for noting.

The Zone comment will then be presented to the State Council for consideration at the meeting on 5 September 2025. The State Council Agenda items requiring a decision of State Council are extracted for Zone consideration below.

### 5.3.1 Item/Matters for Decision

Item / Matters for Decision As per State Council Agenda	Recommendations			
8.1 Rating of Renewable Energy Facilities	RECOMMENDATION  That the Zone support the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.1 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided below.  WALGA RECOMMENDATION  That WALGA advocate to the State Government for:  1. Legislative amendments to enable WA Local Governments to rate large-scale renewable energy facilities using current rating mechanisms (differential rating based on UV, differential rating based on GRV, or GRV alone) with certainty.  2. A commitment to implement a Payment in Lieu of Rates (PiLoR) framework in Western Australia.  EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  WALGA Members have expressed uncertainty in the rating of large-scale renewable energy facilities across the State which was confirmed through a resolution of the Peel Country Zone Meeting in April 2025.  In response to the uncertainty, WALGA engaged Paxon Consulting Group to review the rating mechanisms available for Local Governments to recover costs associated with large scale renewable energy projects.  The purpose of the review was to examine the current legislative framework, undertake a review across other Australian jurisdictions in respect to who rating for such facilities is managed, and provide recommendations for the rating of these facilities in Western Australia, including any required amendments to legislation.  The Final Report outlined seven Key Findings which confirmed that legislative change would be required to enable Local Governments to rate renewable energy facilities with certainty.			



Item / Matters for Decision As per State Council Agenda	Recommendations		
	Local Government Rating of Renewable Energy Facilities Report  STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS This item relates to WALGA's Strategic Pillars of Influence, Support and Expertise.  POLICY IMPLICATIONS There is no current advocacy position for the rating of large-scale renewable energy facilities. Endorsement of this item will enable the establishment of a position.		
8.2 Rating of Miscellaneous Licences	RECOMMENDATION		
	<ul> <li>these licences.</li> <li>On 2 August 2025, the WA State Government announced its intention to legislate amendments to the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> to exempt land under miscellaneous licences from rating.</li> <li>WALGA has been advocating for Local Governments to have the ability to rate these licences and a formal advocacy position is required.</li> </ul>		



Item / Matters for Decision As per State Council Agenda	Recommendations				
	WALGA is seeking support from the WA Parliament for the appropriate committee to review the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under section 6.26 of the Local Government Act 1995.				
	Supreme Court decision, Shire of Mt Magnet v Atlantic Vanadium Pty Ltd     [2025] WASC 274     Ministers media release     WALGA's media release				
	STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS  This item relates to WALGA's Strategic Pillars: Influence, Support and Expertise.				
	POLICY IMPLICATIONS  There is no specific advocacy position relating to miscellaneous licences.  Endorsement of this item will enable the establishment of a position.				
	Current advocacy position 2.1.1 relates generally to Rating Exemptions Review:				
	Position Statement A broad review be conducted into the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under section 6.26 of the Local Government Act 1995.				
8.3 Community Infrastructure and Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund	RECOMMENDATION  That the Zone support the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.3 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided below.				
Advocacy Positions	WALGA RECOMMENDATION That WALGA:				
	Replace Advocacy Position 3.7.1 Community Infrastructure with the following:				
	Local Governments own, lease, and maintain vital community infrastructure across Western Australia that delivers essential benefits to local communities. Local Governments face significant funding pressures to ensure this infrastructure is effectively planned, developed, maintained, and enhanced to meet evolving community needs and population growth.				



Item / Matters for Decision As per State Council Agenda	Recommendations		
	<ol> <li>WALGA calls on the Australian Government to provide \$500 million per annum for community infrastructure through a national formula based, targeted Local Government funding program.</li> <li>WALGA calls on the State Government to:         <ul> <li>a. Provide \$30 million per annum for the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund,</li> <li>b. Provide \$30 million per annum for community arts and cultural infrastructure,</li> <li>c. Provide funding for retrofitting accessible design features to community infrastructure,</li> <li>d. Align all community infrastructure funding with existing State cocontribution of at least two-thirds.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Retire Advocacy Position 3.7.2 Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund.</li> </ol>		
	<ul> <li>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</li> <li>Following a review of WALGA's Investing in Communities advocacy positions it is proposed that Advocacy Position 3.7.1 Community Infrastructure be updated, and that Advocacy Position 3.7.2 Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund be retired.</li> <li>The proposed revisions intend to align the positions with current advocacy approaches and combine them into one position.</li> <li>The proposed changes were noted by the Infrastructure Policy Team and endorsed by the People and Place Policy Team in July 2025.</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS</li> <li>Endorsing the advocacy position updates and retirement aligns with the WALGA 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, in particular:</li> <li>Influence – Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government.</li> <li>Influence – Empower the Local Government sector to build communities equipped for the future.</li> <li>Support – Anticipate, understand and respond to Member needs.</li> </ul> POLICY IMPLICATIONS		
	<ul> <li>The replacement of Advocacy Position 3.7.1 Community Infrastructure with an updated position.</li> <li>The retirement of Advocacy Position 3.7.2 Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund.</li> </ul>		
8.4 Rural and Remote Health Services Advocacy Position	RECOMMENDATION  That the Zone support the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.4 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided below.		



Item / Matters for Decision As per State Council Agenda	Recommendations		
	WALGA RECOMMENDATION That WALGA replace Advocacy Position 3.2.2 Regional Health Services with the following:		
	The Western Australian and Australian Governments are responsible for ensuring that all West Australians have equitable access to primary healthcare services, regardless of their location. Local Governments should not have to step in to support the provision of these services for their communities.		
	<ol> <li>WALGA calls on the Western Australian and Australian Governments to address the systemic failures in the provision of rural and remote primary healthcare services, including through:         <ul> <li>a. the development and implementation of adequate, appropriate and sustainable funding models</li> <li>b. incentivising rural and remote healthcare workforce recruitment</li> </ul> </li> </ol>		
	and retention.  2. Local Governments should be reimbursed for costs incurred to support the provision of primary healthcare services until sustainable funding and workforce models are in place.		
	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY		
	The provision of healthcare services is both an Australian and State responsibility.		
	The WALGA Local Government Primary Healthcare Services Survey provides a comprehensive dataset of the cost, nature and geographical location of Local Government support predominantly focused on General Practice services.  The recommended revisions undetective Advances Decition to align with the data.		
	<ul> <li>The recommended revisions update the Advocacy Position to align with the data and recommendations of the Survey Report and provide a framework for further advocacy.</li> </ul>		
	The People and Place Policy Team considered and endorsed the proposed changes at its meeting on 9 July.		
	ATTACHMENT		
	Local Government Primary Healthcare Services Survey		
	STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS Revising Advocacy Position 3.2.2 aligns to the WALGA 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, in		
	particular:		
	<ul> <li>Influence – Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government.</li> <li>Support – Provide practical sector-wide solutions based on research and</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>evidence.</li> <li>Expertise - Foster relationships between our subject matter experts and stakeholders.</li> </ul>		



Item / Matters for Decision As per State Council Agenda	Recommendations		
	POLICY IMPLICATIONS The replacement and renaming of Advocacy Position 3.2.2 Regional Health Services with an updated position titled Rural and Remote Health Services.		
8.5 Health Advocacy Position	RECOMMENDATION		
	That the Zone support the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.5 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided below.		
	WALGA RECOMMENDATION That WALGA retire Advocacy Position 3.2 Health.		
	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY		
	<ul> <li>Advocacy Position 3.2 relates to public health and predates the <i>Public Health Act 2016</i> and the commencement of Stage 5 of the Act in June 2024.</li> <li>The position is superseded by Advocacy Position 3.2.1 <i>Local Public Health Plans</i>, which was revised in September 2024 to align to the 2016 Act and specifically the implementation of Local Public Health Plans.</li> <li>The People and Place Policy Team considered and endorsed the retirement of Advocacy Position 3.2 Health at its meeting on 9 July.</li> </ul>		
	STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS  Retiring Advocacy Position 3.2 aligns to the WALGA 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, in particular:  Influence – Lead policy development for the Local Government sector.		
	Expertise – Optimise organisational capability to service members' needs.		
	POLICY IMPLICATIONS  The retirement of Advocacy Position 3.2.1 Health.		
8.6 Advocacy Positions for Active Transport	RECOMMENDATION		
and Micromobility	That the Zone support the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.6 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided below.		
	WALGA RECOMMENDATION That WALGA endorse the proposed advocacy positions on Active Transport and micromobility.		



Item / Matters for Decision As per State Council Agenda	Recommendations			
	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY			
	<ul> <li>Six new advocacy positions are proposed, with the aim of providing a clear and unified framework to support Local Governments in planning, delivering, and advocating for walking, cycling, and other forms of Active Transport (AT).</li> <li>The new advocacy positions are intended to strengthen WALGA's voice in state and national forums, guide responses to legislative or policy changes, and ensure the sector is well-represented in cross-government initiatives related to AT.</li> <li>These positions reflect the growing role of AT in addressing key policy areas</li> </ul>			
	including health, sustainability, road safety, and urban liveability. The policy statements cover six key areas:			
	<ul> <li>Education, Encouragement, and Community Engagement</li> <li>eRideables</li> </ul>			
	Active Travel to School     The Infrastructure Policy Team considered and recommended the proposed AT.			
	The Infrastructure Policy Team considered and recommended the proposed AT advocacy positions for endorsement by State Council at its meeting on 4 August.			
	ATTACHMENT			
	Summary of Issues, Challenges for Active Transport in WA			
	STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS  The new advocacy positions align to the WALGA 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, in particular:			
	<ul> <li>Influence – Lead policy development for the Local Government sector.</li> <li>Support – Provide practical sector-wide solutions based on research and evidence.</li> </ul>			
	Expertise – Promote a dynamic, agile, high-performance culture.			
	POLICY IMPLICATIONS  The new advectory positions will complement existing Advectory Desitions:			
	The new advocacy positions will complement existing <a href="Advocacy Positions">Advocacy Positions</a> :  • 5.2.5 The Role of Local Government in the Future Management of Warden Controlled Children's Crossings  • 5.2.7 Driving Change - Road Safety Strategy 2020-2030			
	• 5.3.3 Cycling on Footpaths			
	5.3.4 Licencing cyclists and registering bicycles  F 3.5 Active Travel to Schools			
	<ul> <li>5.3.5 Active Travel to Schools</li> <li>5.3.6 Pedestrian Crossings</li> </ul>			



### 1.6 Other State Council Agenda Items

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



# 1.4 Status Report on State Council Resolutions

Meeting	Resolution	Comment	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
2 July 2025 Item 8.1 Suspension and Disqualification for Offences Advocacy Position	That WALGA defers consideration of this matter for further work, including:  a. defining appropriately serious offences for intervention; and b. addressing the role of the Local Government Inspector.  c. evaluating whether advocacy for disqualification based on convictions under the Planning and Development Act 2005 and Building Act 2011 should be retained.  RESOLUTION 037.3/2025	Work has commenced on defining appropriately serious offences for intervention.  Consideration of how the Office of the Inspector affects this position is awaiting the release of regulations pertaining to the office.	Ongoing	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
2 July 2025 Item 8.2 State Development Applications and Decision Making Advocacy Position	That WALGA:  1. Replace Advocacy Position 6.4 Development Assessment Panels with the following:  WALGA calls on the State Government to:  1. Ensure that decision making on development applications (DAs) is:  a. consistent and accountable  b. accessible to local communities  c. respectful of, and appropriately applies, local planning frameworks in line with their statutory weight, as informed by objective, professional planning reports.  2. Reform the Development Assessment Panel (DAP) system to:  a. raise the DAP threshold from the current \$2 million to \$5 million and mandate periodic reviews of the threshold  b. modify the composition of DAPs to provide equal representation of Specialist Members and Local Government Members  c. review DAP processes to ensure proponents provide necessary information in a timely manner	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.	July 2025	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy





		$\neg$
	d. provide clear procedural guidance on the	
	roles and functions of Local Government	
	officers and Council, including clarification on	
	the ability for the Administration to provide	
	advice to Council Members	
	e. allow access to the State Referral	
	Coordination Unit for DAP applications to	
	ensure timely and adequate referral	
	responses from State Government agencies	
	are provided to Local Governments	
	f. where appropriate, require meetings to be	
	held within the relevant Local Government	
	g. reinstate the ability for Council to consider and provide a recommendation for a	
	Responsible Authority Report.	
3.	, , ,	
3.	Abolish the state significant development	
	assessment pathway (Part 11B of the Planning and	
4	Development Act 2005).	
4.	If the significant development assessment pathway	
	is retained, implement the following reforms:	
	a. raise the cost threshold to \$50 million and	
	mandate periodic reviews of the threshold	
	b. align statutory timeframes with DAP and	
	Local Government determined DAs	
	c. ensure all developments are consistent with	
	applicable local planning instruments and	
	provide comprehensive guidelines for	
	discretionary decision making, including	
	applying extraordinary discretion	
	d. delete references to 'mandatory significant	
	development' to ensure the pathway remains	
	entirely opt-in	





2 July 2025 Item 8.3 Public Library Agreement	e. undertake periodic reviews of its operation and effectiveness.  5. Include in any planning report to a decision making:  a. the value of any direct financial benefit received by the applicant associated with the granting of development bonuses through a performance-based assessment.  b. the value of any community benefit proposed in exchange for consideration of development bonus.  2. Notes the Development Assessment Panel 2011 – 2024 Review and State Development Pathway 2020 – 2025 Review reports.  RESOLUTION 039.3/2025  That State Council endorse the State and Local Level Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia.  RESOLUTION 040.3/2025	This has been actioned.	July 2025	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy
2 July 2025 Item 8.4 Finance and Services Committee Minutes – 18 June 2025 CONFIDENTIAL	<ol> <li>That State Council:</li> <li>Endorse the Minutes of the Finance and Services Committee meeting held on 18 June 2025.</li> <li>Endorse the WALGA Budget 2025-26, being for the full year ending 30 June 2026 as recommended by the Finance and Services Committee.</li> <li>RESOLUTION 041.3/2025</li> <li>CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</li> </ol>	Budget has been implemented.	July 2025	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
2 July 2025 Item 8.5 Appointment to Finance and Services Committee	That State Council appoint President Cr Elizabeth Sudlow, the State Council representative from the Northern Country Zone to the Finance and Services Committee. RESOLUTION 042.3/2025	This has been actioned.	July 2025	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services





2 July 2025 Item 8.6 Selection Committee Minutes – 17 June 2025 – CONFIDENTIAL	<ol> <li>That State Council:</li> <li>Notes the resolution contained in the 17 June 2025         Selection Committee Minutes.</li> <li>Endorse the Selection Committee recommendations         contained in the 17 June 2025 Selection Committee         Minutes.</li> <li>RESOLUTION 043.3/2025</li> </ol>	This has been actioned.	July 2025	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
2 July 2025 Item 8.7 LGISWA Board Minutes including Annual Adjustments to Scheme Manager Remuneration and Trustee Fees – CONFIDENTIAL	<ol> <li>That State Council:         <ol> <li>Note the minutes of the LGISWA Board meeting held on 23 May 2025;</li> <li>Notes the 2025-26 LGISWA Scheme Budget;</li> <li>REDACTED</li> <li>REDACTED</li> </ol> </li> <li>Notes the special request in relation to WorkCare is being considered further by WALGA as a contract management matter; and</li> <li>Notes the establishment of a LGISWA Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) and related matters.</li> </ol> <li>RESOLUTION 044.3/2025</li>	This has been actioned	July 2025	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
2 July 2025 Item 8.9 Use of the Association's Common Seal	That State Council notes and endorses the use of Common Seal being affixed to the Perth and Peel Urban Greening Strategy Financial Assistance Agreement for 2025 between the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) and WALGA. RESOLUTION 045.3/2025	This has been actioned	July 2025	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
5 March 2025 Item 9.1 Infrastructure Policy Team Report	<ol> <li>That State Council:</li> <li>Note the report from the Infrastructure Policy Team for the 5 March 2025 meeting.</li> <li>Determine to:         <ol> <li>Delete Advocacy Position 5.2.8 (Towards Zero Road Safety Strategy 2008 – 2020).</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.  The Infrastructure Policy Team resolved to recommend WALGA engage an independent specialist to develop a	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure





	<ul> <li>b. Amend the title of Advocacy Position 5.2.7 from         Road Safety Strategy (Imagine Zero) to Driving         Change Road Safety Strategy 2020-2030.</li> <li>3. Undertake further policy development and consultation         with Members regarding the default open road speed limit         in Western Australia.</li> <li>RESOLUTION 013.1/2025</li> </ul>	framework to support the Local Government sector in decision making and advocacy relating to speed limits.	
6 December 2024 Item 8.1 2024 Annual General Meeting Resolutions	<ol> <li>That:         <ol> <li>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.</li> <li>the following resolutions from the 2024 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the Governance Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:</li></ol></li></ol>	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.  Correspondence has been sent to the Minister for Local Government requesting the Cat Act 2011 be reviewed to provide Local Governments with the ability to contain cats on an owner's property.  In addition, work has commenced on developing a template Cat Local Law to assist Local Government to make local laws to the extent of the current local law-making powers.  WALGA is continuing to support Local Governments to consider how they would implement cat containment in practice, including hosting a webinar and in person event  Work on items 7.2 and Item 7.3 is continuing.	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services





		A legal consultant has been contracted to review the legislation and suggest ways to address these recommendations.  A combined meeting of the Governance and Environment Policy teams has been scheduled for 12 September with a view to prepare a State Council Agenda item for the December 2025 meeting.		
6 December 2024 Item 8.1 2024 Annual General Meeting Resolutions	That: 2. the following resolutions from the 2024 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the Environment Policy Team for further work to be undertaken: 7.2Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land- Banking 7.4Action on Asbestos for Western Australia 7.6Advocacy for Accessibility RESOLUTION 089.5/2024	Resolution 7.2 (regarding the planning related items within this resolution): The demolition of single houses is generally a form of development exempt from requiring development approval, and only a demolition permit is required for the complete or partial demolition, dismantling or removal of a building or an incidental structure. The current planning and building legislation do not allow the conditioning of approval or refusal of a building permit in a manner proposed by the AGM resolution.  A joint meeting of the Environment and Governance Policy Teams has been scheduled for 12 September to consider this item.	Ongoing	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy





Resolution 7.4: WALGA is engaging at
the State and National level on this issue,
including through membership of the WA
Interagency Asbestos Group and
nationally the Asbestos Safety
Eradication Agency reference group and
has raised the issues impacting Local
Governments in relation to safe removal
and disposal, including ensuring
statewide options.
WALGA continues to progress asbestos
advocacy and will undertake a survey of
Local Governments to determine key
needs in the coming months.
Resolution 7.6: Liveable Housing Design
Standard as part of the National
Construction Code (NCC) provides a set
of technical provisions that if complied
with enable dwellings to better meet the
needs of the community, including older
people and people with mobility
limitations. The code specifies seven
minimum standards to ensure all new
homes are accessible with modifications
including step-free entrances and
showers and wider doors and corridors





		that can accommodate wheelchairs and walking aids.		
		All states enact the NCC through state legislation and regulation. A range of states are taking different approaches in terms of adopting the liveable housing requirements, but at time of writing all states except NSW and Western Australia have adopted the liveable housing provisions.		
		The NCC 2022 only became operational in WA on 1 May. The appointment of a new Commerce Minister following the 2025 State Election provides an opportunity to engage on this matter.		
		WALGA raised the prospects of WA adopting the standard at its meeting with the Minister in July 2025.		
6 December 2024 Item 8.2 Local Government Elections Advocacy Positions	That item 1 be deferred, and the Secretariat further investigate implications of compulsory and voluntary participation in Local Government elections and report back to State Council. RESOLUTION 090.5/2024  That WALGA adopt the following Elections Advocacy Positions:  The Local Government sector supports:	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.  Preparation of a report on implications of compulsory and voluntary participation in Local Government elections is in progress.	Scheduled to be completed by December 2025	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services





	<ol> <li>Councillors serve four-year terms with elections every two years and half of the Council positions spilled at each election.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system for internal Council elections.</li> <li>Councils holding elections by means of in-person, postal and/or electronic voting.</li> <li>Current legislative provisions of Mayor/President of Class 1 and Class 2 Local Governments being directly elected by the community and Class 3 and Class 4 Local Governments determining whether its Mayor or President is elected by the Council or by the community.</li> <li>RESOLUTION 091.5/2024</li> </ol>	Correspondence has been sent to the Minister for Local Government advising on the five advocacy positions endorsed.		
6 December 2024 Item 8.6 Bus Stop Infrastructure Agreement	<ol> <li>That State Council:</li> <li>Provides in principle support for the proposed Bus Stop Infrastructure Partnership Agreement between WALGA and the Public Transport Authority 2024/25 to 2028/29.</li> <li>Request the WALGA Secretariat negotiate with the Public Transport Authority seeking:         <ol> <li>Deletion of the word "typically" from Clauses 6.2, 8.1 (ii) and 8.6 (i)</li> <li>Indexation of funding provided under the Bus Shelter Subsidy Program (BSSP) and Bus Shelter Maintenance Assistance Scheme (BSMAS) during or at the end of the Agreement</li> </ol> </li> <li>Authorise the WALGA President to sign the Bus Stop Infrastructure Partnership Agreement, on the completion</li> </ol>	Following conclusions of discussions with the PTA, a revised agreement incorporating, to the extent possible the matters raised by State Council, was presented to the WALGA President and CEO for consideration.  The agreement has now been signed and provided to all Local Government with PTA bus services. A copy of the final agreement is available from the WALGA website		





of best endeavours to negotiate with the Public Transport Authority.  4. Refer the request for WALGA develop an advocacy position that Commonwealth Disability Standards have a provision for minimum standards of public transport shelter to the Infrastructure Policy Team. RESOLUTION 095.5/2024			
--	--	--	--



### 1.5 COMPLETE ZONE STATUS REPORT

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
C	7 May State Council Agenda Item 8.3 Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations Advocacy Position	Supports the WALGA recommendation on item 8.3 Native Vegetation Clearing regulations advocacy position and provides an additional Zone resolution to be added to the recommendation as per the following  That the Kimberley Regional Group of Councils resolves and submits to State Council:  In accordance with its submission "Clearing Legislation Review" to WALGA on 18 December 2024, that the State Government:  1. Provides Legislative Clarity and Consistency: The Western Australian Government undertake a review to resolve the current inconsistencies and overlaps between the Land Administration Act 1997, Environmental Protection Act 1986, and the Local Government Act 1995, particularly where these relate to the clearing of native vegetation and the delivery of public works by Local Governments.	SECRETARIAT COMMENT The Kimberley Country Zone prepared a paper, which informed its recommendation and that was considered by WALGA in developing the Advocacy Position.  Point 1 - The proposed Advocacy Position includes 'WALGA calls on the Western Australian Government, in consultation with Local Government, to undertake legislative and policy reform to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of the regulatory system for clearing native vegetation in Western Australia. This aligns with the Kimberley Zone recommendation in relation to having clarity and consistency of regulation.  WALGA sought clarification from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) regarding whether Local Governments require a clearing permit if extracting gravel under the provisions of the Land Administration or Local Government Act. The Department confirmed that Local Government do need to apply for a clearing permit and the two pieces of legislation give the Local Government the ability to access the gravel but not authorisation to clear native vegetation in order to access it. There is no exemption	June 2025	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.as n.au 9213 2039



- 2. Enables Streamlined Gravel Extraction for Public Works: The **Environmental Protection (Clearing** of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004 be amended to include an explicit exemption from the requirement for a clearing permit for the extraction of gravel and other basic raw materials from Crown and private land (including in environmentally sensitive areas in accordance with standard remediation practices), where such materials are required for public works purposes -including road construction, repair, and maintenance - aligning this exemption with the intent and powers already granted under "written law" in the Land Administration Act 1997 and the Local Government Act 1995.
- 3. Provides for Safety Exemptions in Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs): That the existing clearing permit exemptions under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* for safety-related activities such as emergency access, hazard reduction, and bushfire management be clarified and extended to apply within Environmentally Sensitive Areas

under Schedule 6 or the Clearing Regulations for the purpose of gravel extraction. No change to the draft Advocacy Position has been made.

Point 2 – For Local Government approximately 2% of Referrals and 5% of Clearing Permits relate to extractive activities, such as gravel pits. In the metropolitan and peri-urban areas, gravel requirements are frequently met by purchasing material from commercial suppliers, rather than the Local Governments own gravel pits. However, in regional areas Local Governments generally source gravel and manage pits and so have to be cognisant of a range of legislation and approvals process including both Environmental (State and Commonwealth) and Aboriginal Heritage. As noted, the provisions in the Local Government Act 1995 and Land Administration Act 1997 do not overrule other legislative requirements and it is not the intent for these Acts to do so. No change has been made to the Draft Advocacy Position.

Point 3 - Environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs) are classes or areas of native vegetation where the exemptions for clearing vegetation under the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004 do not apply. However, for clearing assessed and authorised under other statutory processes set out in Schedule 6 of the EP Act a clearing permit is not required, even if it is within an





(ESAs), ensuring that essential public safety and emergency response actions are not impeded by regulatory constraints.	ESA. This exemption includes clearing required under other laws (such as the Land Administration Act 1997, Bush Fires Act 1954 and Fire Brigades Act 1942). It also includes clearing for fire prevention and control on Crown land. As this issue is covered by current exemptions, no change has been made to the Draft Advocacy Position.	
	STATE COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
	That WALGA replace the following Advocacy Positions: 5.2.1 Environmental Protection Act 5.2.2 Land Clearing in Road Reserves	
	with an updated Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations Advocacy Position as follows:	
	WALGA calls on the Western Australian Government, in consultation with Local Government, to undertake legislative and policy reform to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of the regulatory system for clearing native vegetation in Western Australia, including:	
	Amending the Environmental Protection Act 1986     and associated regulations to remove unnecessary process, complexity and improve timeframes, including:	





	<ul> <li>a. introducing statutory timeframes for the determination of referrals, permit applications and appeals</li> <li>b. increasing the default duration of Area and Purpose Permits to 10 years</li> <li>c. providing a permanent exemption for clearing of previously legally cleared transport corridors, including allowing Local Governments to clear for safety reasons.</li> <li>d. strengthening environmental data sharing requirements to ensure proponents cannot opt-out of sharing data collected for environmental assessment and monitoring purposes.</li> </ul>
	Ensuring the regulatory system is adequately resourced to:  a. implement an expedited process for clearing permits for projects that prevent death and serious injury (road safety), and state and federally funded or co-funded projects  b. establish a dedicated Local Government Unit within the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to:  i. case manage Local Government referrals and clearing permit applications  ii. provide guidance and training for Local Governments, particularly in relation to roadside vegetation management  iii. support partnerships with Local Governments in strategic environmental offsets





	c. enable timely investigation and enforcement action for illegal clearing  d. increase investment in the collection and provision of statewide biodiversity data, including:  i. funding and coordinating a state-wide biodiversity survey program to standardise habitat and vegetation mapping  ii. making biodiversity data more discoverable, accessible and useable  iii. ensuring survey data relied upon for decision making is contemporary and accurate, particularly if there has been a change in environmental condition.
3.	Undertaking bioregional planning for native vegetation management, with a focus on highly cleared areas and implementing strategic solutions for environmental offsets that can be utilised by Local Government.
4.	Ensuring that environmental offsets are relevant and proportionate, including:  a. proximity to the area impacted b. the environmental value being impacted.
5.	Working with the Australian Government to reduce duplication between the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.
F	RESOLUTION 029.2/2025 CARRIED



Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications
People Place Prosperity Performan		Nil
Recommendation/s		Action(s)
That the Kimberley Country Zone:  1. Notes the report from the WALGA President 2. Notes the State Council Agenda Items as circulated 3. Supports the recommendations in the Matters for Decision contained within the State Council Agenda 4. Acknowledges the Items for noting 5. Acknowledges the Status Report on State Council Resolutions 6. Notes the Kimberley Zone Status Report		Nil
Moved:	Shire of Broome	Responsible:
Seconded:	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Due date:
Carried:	3/0	

# 5. Conclusion of Zone Matters: 10:15



# 6. 2025 WALGA Honours Recipients

### **For Noting**

Submitted by: Chantelle O'Brien, WALGA Governance Support Officer

### **Background**

WALGA celebrated their 2025 Honours awards recipients at an event on Saturday, 19 July at the WA Museum Boola Bardip. Following the success of the inaugural standalone event last year, the awards night 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 44 recipients of Honours awards in the 2025 program. Two new WALGA Life Members were also inducted.

2 Honours recipients were from the Kimberley Country Zone:

#### **Eminent Service Award**

- Sam Mastrolembo
  Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Broome
- Cr Desiree Magdolna Male Deputy President, Shire of Broome

Congratulations to all Honours recipients!

Nominations for the 2026 Honours Program will open early next year.

Recommendation/s	Action(s)
For Noting	