

Central Country Zone Minutes

14 June 2024

Hosted by the Shire of Quairading

Commenced at 9.35am

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Policy and Advocacy Prioritisation Framework

The Central Country Zone adopted the Framework on 12 April 2024.

How to use the Framework:

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

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

ATTACHMENTS

The following are provided as attachments to the Minutes

1. Item 3 Shire of Quairading presentation
2. Item 10.4 WALGA Roadwise Report
3. Item 11.2 (Status Report) Heavy Vehicles – Accredited Mass Management Scheme

The full State Council Agenda, May 2024, can be found [HERE](#).

1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

1.1 OPENING

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9.35am.

1.2 1.1 HOUSEKEEPING – ZONE CHAIR

1. **Welcome:**
The Zone Chair, President Cr Des Hickey, will welcome Zone members and provide OSH/bathroom/exit information to those in attendance.
2. **Share your name and Local Government:**
Delegates were reminded to ensure that they call their name and Local Government when taking the floor to allow for accurate Minutes to be recorded.

1.3 ATTENDANCE

Shire of Beverley	President Cr David White Deputy President Cr Dee Ridgway Mr Steve Gollan Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Brookton	President Cr Katrina Crute Ms Deanne Sweeney A/Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Corrigin	President Cr Des Hickey (Chairperson) Ms Natalie Manton Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Cuballing	Cr Adrian Kowald
Shire of Dumbleyung	Mr Gavin Treasure Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Kulin	President Cr Grant Robins Cr Robbie Bowey Mr Alan Leeson Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Lake Grace	President Cr Len Armstrong Deputy President Cr Stephen Hunt Mr Alan George Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Narrogin	President President Leigh Ballard Ballard

	Cr Clive Bartron Mr Dale Stewart Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Pingelly	Deputy President Cr Peter Wood Mr Andrew Dover Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Quairading	President Cr Jo Haythornthwaite Deputy President Cr Trevor Stacey Ms Natalie Ness, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting Cr Jo Hayes
Shire of Wagin	President Cr Phillip Blight Deputy President Cr Bryan Kilpatrick Mr Kenneth Parker, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Wandering	President Cr Ian Turton Mr Alan Hart Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of West Arthur	Mr Rajinder Sunner, Manager Corporate Services
Shire of Wickepin	President Cr Julie Russell Ms Kellie Bartley, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Williams	President Cr Jarrad Logie Mr Peter Stubbs, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

GUESTS

Minister for Local Government Office of the Hon. Hannah Beazley MLA CBH Group Main Roads WA	Hon Hannah Beazley BA MLA Emily Bailey, Policy Advisor Kellie Todman, Manager, Governance & Industrial Relations Fred Steer, Operations Manager
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Department of Local Government, Sport, & Cultural Industries Regional Development Australia WA Wheatbelt Development Commission	Leah Horton, A/Director Local Government Support and Engagement Josh Pomykala, Director Regional Development Grant Arthur, Regional Director
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WALGA

Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services
Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager Waste and Recycling
Taysha Sullivan, Media and Communications Advisor
Naoimh Donaghy, Governance and Organisational
Services Officer
Rodney Thornton, Regional Road Safety Advisor

1.4 APOLOGIES

Shire of Brookton	Deputy Shire President Cr Tamara de Lange
Shire of Corrigin	Deputy President Cr Sharon Jacobs
Shire of Cuballing	President Cr Eliza Dowling
	Deputy President Cr Rob Harris
	Mr Stan Scott Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Dumbleyung	President Cr Amy Knight
	Deputy President Cr Grant Lukins
Shire of Pingelly	President Cr Jackie McBurney
Shire of Wandering	Deputy President Cr Sheryl Little
Shire of Wickepin	Deputy President Cr Wes Astbury
Shire of West Arthur	President Cr Neil Morrell
	Deputy President Cr Karen Harrington
	Mr Vin Fordham Lamont, Chief Executive Officer
Members of Parliament	Hon Darren West MLC, Member for Agricultural Region
	Rick Wilson MP, Federal Member for O'Connor
	Hon Peter Rundle MLA, Member for Roe
	Hon Sandra Carr MLC, Member for Agricultural Region
	Hon Colin de Grussa MLC, Member for Agricultural Region
	Hon Shelley Payne MLC, Member for Agricultural Region
	Hon Steve Martin MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region
	Hon Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt
	Hon Martin Aldridge MLC, Member for Agricultural Region
Wheatbelt Development Commission	Rob Cossart, Chief Executive Officer
Water Corporation	Michael Roberts, Regional Manager Goldfields & Agricultural Region
Department of Local Government, Sport, & Cultural Industries	Samantha Cornthwaite, Regional Manager Wheatbelt

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

3 HOST COUNCIL PRESENTATION

President Cr Jo Haythornthwaite, President from the Shire of Quairading extended a welcome to delegates and guests and provided a presentation (**Attachment 1**) on projects and issues facing the Shire of Quairading.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Australia Day Council Grant – on entry to the hall, a mural was commissioned by local Balladong Noongar artist, Charlie Colbung.
- After an international search, Quairading acquired the services of a General Practitioner who has attracted visiting specialists to the town, as well as employing the only full time nurse in the Wheatbelt.
- Shopping precinct – light industrial development hub – this will assist economic growth into the future.
- The Shire released the sale of 12 blocks of land, with a \$10,000 price tag and condition that the building of a home must occur within three years. 11 of the 12 blocks have sold.
- Aged Care is a priority for the Shire and Community, an 8,000 square meter site suitable for 25 residents has just been transferred from the State to the Shire for development.
- Revitalization of the Shire's Sports and Recreation Precinct.

- Exploring the possibility of building a skate park.
- BESS – the Shire in partnership with Synergy and Western Power may be installing a a flow lithium-ion combination Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). This would help the Community in overcoming power outages.
- Achievements and highlights:
 - Opening of Kwirradina Koort Community Park
 - Repurposing of former heritage listed school site with seating and grassed areas.
 - A plaque has been erected to signify the role the Sikh community have played in the Wheatbelt.
 - Stacey Lamb wagon train has been built for the towns enjoyment.
 - Launch of the new Shire website.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS

NIL

5 GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS

5.1 SPEAKERS FOR THE JUNE ZONE MEETING

1.1.1. Hon Hannah Beazley BA MLA

The Central Country Zone welcomed The Hon Hannah Beazley, Minister for Local Government. The Minister spoke to current Local Government matters that affect our Members.

The Hon Hannah Beazley BA MLA spoke to:

- Skilled labour shortages awareness.
- TAFE courses continually being released to strengthen skills bases.
- Councils response to disasters
- Critical process of audit costs and time of Local Government – Awareness that this imposes a burden on staff and finances.
- \$3.2B invested for social housing.
- Modular build program to assist social housing – 180 homes to be delivered, a third already delivered.
- Energy outages due to storms.
- Mobile network upgrades and battery backups.
- Live exports inquiry and it's negative impact on farming communities.
- \$8.6 million grants for drought affected farmers.
- Local Government legislative reform – meeting procedures.
- Local Government legislative reform – tranche 2 and the Office of the Inspector, introduction of monitors, increase penalties for breach of Act and the changes to audit committees to provide for an Independent Chairperson and to allow for sharing of audit committees between Local Governments.

The Minister took questions from the floor in relation to;

- Regulation obligations of Local Governments
- Budget allowances for the Office of the Inspector General.
- Facilitating a meeting of Band 4 Local Governments to discuss common challenges.
- Skills shortages
- The cost to Local Governments for employing a General Practitioner.
- Key Worker housing.

The meeting took an interval at 10.41am, recommencing at 10.55am.

6 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Any Members of Federal and State Government in attendance are invited to provide a brief update on matters relevant to the Zone.

There were no Members of Parliament at the meeting.

7 AGENCY REPORTS

7.1 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SPORT AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES

Leah Horton, A/Director Local Government Support and Engagement

The DLGSC report was circulated prior to the meeting.

Ms Horton reminded Members to contact Grants.commission@dlgsc.wa.gov.au for information on available funding options for their Local Governments.

NOTED

7.2 WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Grant Arthur, Regional Director

The Wheatbelt Development Commission provided a verbal report.

Mr Arthur offered a presentation on their strategic plan by their CEO for a future meeting.

NOTED

7.3 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA WHEATBELT

Josh Pomykala, Director Regional Development

Josh Pomykala was in attendance. A report was circulated prior to the meeting.

NOTED

7.4 MAIN ROADS WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Suvrat Patel – Network Manger Wheatbelt Region.

Suvrat Patel was in attendance. The Main Roads report was circulated prior to the meeting.

Moved: Mr Gavin Treasure

Seconded: President Cr Katrina Crute

That the Central Country Zone invite Peter Woronzow to present on transport issues to the August meeting of the Zone.

CARRIED

8 MINUTES

8.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM THE CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE MEETING HELD ON 12 APRIL 2024

The Minutes of the Central Country Zone meeting held on 12 April 2024 have previously been circulated to Member Councils.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Katrina Crute

Seconded: President Cr Julie Russell

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Central Country Zone held on 12 April 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

8.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FROM THE CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE MEETING HELD ON 12 APRIL 2024

NIL

8.3 MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5 JUNE 2024

The Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on 5 June 2024 were provided as an attachment.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Katrina Crute

Seconded: President Leigh Ballard

That the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on 5 June 2024 be endorsed.

CARRIED

8.4 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CENTRAL COUNTRY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5 JUNE 2024

8.4.1 Waste Management Funding (Item 6.2.1)

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services – WALGA

Central Country Zone representatives met with Minister Reece Whitby, Minister for Environment; Climate Action; Racing and Gaming, on Monday 20 May 2024, to discuss the Waste Levy and the Zones position that it not be extended to country regions.

The Zone was represented by Zone President Des Hickey, Deputy President President Leigh Ballard Ballard, Shire of Narrogin CEO Dale Stewart and WALGA's Manager of Waste and Environment, Rebecca Brown.

Summary notes of the meeting were as follows:

- Minister heard loud and clear the concerns and financial impact of the application of the Levy to the CCZ region.
- He said any consideration of the Levy expansion would likely be "closer to Perth and more down to Bunbury and Peel region".
- He also emphasised any Levy consideration would be in the context of the State Waste Strategy Review (but that the Levy wasn't specifically mentioned in the draft Strategy)
- Minister also heard that any proposal to restrict or ban burning of green waste in rural or wheatbelt areas would be ironic and not productive given farmers in the wheatbelt proclivity need to do stubble burns that burn more green waste than a local government ever would.
- Also, that the Draft Waste Strategy would be out "in the next few weeks" – along with the State Waste Infrastructure Plan
- No clear timeframe for the Recovered Materials Legislative Framework
- Container Deposit Scheme expansion, looking at in the next year and aiming to align with other States.

NOTED

8.4.2 Speakers for the November meeting (Item 7.8)

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services – WALGA

WALGA has been approached by the Economic Regulation Authority, requesting for their Chair, Steve Edwell, to present at the November meeting as follows:

The ERA is WA's independent economic regulator and regulates electricity, gas, water and rail. The presentation will focus on the energy transformation and regional service reliability, including initiatives in Western Power's current Access Arrangement to monitor actions by Western Power to address reliability concerns.

Executive Committee Comment:

In addition to the ERA, the Committee have directed the Executive Officer to extend an invite to the Minister for Energy for the November meeting.

NOTED

The Shire of Wickepin representatives left the meeting at 11.25am

9 ZONE BUSINESS

9.1.1 Challenges faced by band 4 local governments

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services – WALGA

BACKGROUND:

The Executive Officer issued the, "Cost Shifting and Compliance Survey" to all Central Country Zone Chief Executive Officers. The following Local Governments replied to the survey;

1. Shire of Narrogin
2. Shire of Cuballing
3. Shire of Wagin
4. Shire of Beverley
5. Shire of West Arthur
6. Shire of Brookton
7. Shire of Lake Grace
8. Shire of Pingelly
9. Shire of Williams
10. Shire of Kulin
11. Shire of Wickopin
12. Shire of Wandering

A full report along with the results were distributed before the meeting.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr Ian Turton

Seconded: President Leigh Ballard

1. **That the survey result report be referred to the Executive Committee to review the report and recommend actions for consideration at the next Zone meeting.**
2. **Any interested Zone representatives to be invited to attend the meeting.**

CARRIED

9.1.2 The Country Local Government Fund (CLGF)

By Shire of Narrogin

The Country Local Government Fund (CLGF) was established to support country local governments with essential funding and the allocation to the CLGF has significantly decreased over the years, leading to a cessation of funding from 2019-20 onwards. It is acknowledged that the CLGF can play a crucial role in supporting country local governments in initiatives such as retaining, recruiting and training employees in those entities, in promoting and encouraging resource initiatives and in fulfilling their responsibilities and serving their communities.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: President Leigh Ballard

Seconded: President Cr Katrina Crute

That the Central Country Zone requests WALGA to lobby and advocate to the State government, Treasurer, and Minister for Local Government to provide a program similar to the CLGF for Country Local Governments, with an allocation of \$8 million in the current and ongoing future Budgets.

CARRIED

9.1.3 Enhanced and Alternative Education Opportunities for Regional WA

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services - WALGA

Background;

At the April Zone meeting, it was resolved that;

That the Central Country Zone:

1. *Supports the call to action to reduce regional disadvantage in educational opportunities, with a focus on:*
 - I. *The allocation of permanency to teachers who are then not based in the school for which they have been granted permanency.*
 - II. *Requesting clarity about how schools are classified as "hard to staff"*
 - a. *What is being done to adequately staff and house teachers in regional WA.*
2. *Agrees to write to the Minister for Education requesting action; and*
3. *Requests WALGA to advocate to State Government on this matter.*

The Executive Officer wrote to the Minister for Education, letter attached to the Agenda. We have not received a response.

NOTED

9.1.4 Live sheep export ban, no-confidence motion

By the Shire of Wagin

BACKGROUND

The sustainability of regional Local Governments is connected to the sustainability of our rural communities.

The Commonwealth Government's announcement of a ban on the live export of sheep represents the single greatest threat to the sustainability of regional Local Governments because it represents a fundamental threat to the sustainability of every household in those communities whose livelihoods are directly and indirectly entwined with the sheep industry.

COMMENT

The Central Country Zone is home to at least 30 per cent of the State's sheep and the ban will have an impact on every Local Government within zone as well as communities in the South West, Great Southern and even Goldfields Esperance. The interconnectivity of our economy means that while they many not realise it, communities in metropolitan Perth and Peel will also be impacted. The decision reinforces cost of living pressures for all Western Australians and will make Australian meat more not less expensive at the grocery store.

The decision will have lasting social, environmental and economic impacts. It will result in a reduction in the diversity of agricultural industry and place greater reliance on grains.

Local governments in the Great Southern Region commissioned an independent report into the economic impact which found that the potential impact on the regional Upper Great Southern economy will be between \$262m and \$791m over 20 years.

The process by which the decision was made does not accord with good public policy principles. It does not fit the science, did not involve genuine engagement and appears to be based on political ideology which does not serve the regional, state or national interest.

The panel that was sent to WA had terms of reference that precluded any consultation on an industry future:

- potential mechanisms to phase out live sheep exports by sea
- a suggested timeframe and options for implementation
- potential ways to support the transition, including but not limited to consideration of markets, processing facilities and other opportunities.

In a modern democratic society the question should well have been to explore how to get the best return to Australia from the sheep industry whilst upholding the highest world standards of animal welfare.

Thereby giving rise to the industry to show that it can and has met all regulatory standards.

Instead the Panel only canvassed shutdown of the industry.

That lack of consultation sets a new low benchmark in governance that the people of Australia must not accept.

Australian live sheep export practices are the best in the world. This decision does not enhance the welfare of sheep, it simply condemns stock that now cannot be sold.

The decision thoroughly challenges the credibility of the Federal Minister for Agriculture.

As the Minister's decision has resulted in a loss of confidence in the sheep industry that has served Australia's interest since before Federation it is only appropriate that the Central Country Zone signals that it has no confidence in the Federal Minister for Agriculture.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Phillip Blight

Seconded: Deputy President Cr Dee Ridgway

That the Central Country Zone representing the Local Governments of Beverley; Brookton; Corrigin; Cuballing; Dumbleyung; Kulin; Lake Grace; Narrogin; Pingelly; Quairading; Wagin; Wandering; West Arthur; Wickepin; Williams resolves that:

- **The Governance process by which the decision was made does not accord with good public policy principles. It does not fit the science, did not involve genuine engagement and appears to be based on political ideology which does not serve the regional, state or national interest.**
- **the Federal Government withdraws its current Export Control Amendment (Ending Live Sheep Exports by Sea) Bill 2024.**
- **express disappointment in the Federal Government and lack of acknowledgement and understanding of the impact on regional communities that decisions like this have.**
- **a letter to the Prime Minister be written detailing the above be signed by the President of the Central Country Zone on behalf of members.**

CARRIED

9.1.5 E-waste to landfill ban in WA - Important issues facing the Local Government sector

By the Shire of West Arthur

The Shire of West Arthur provided the following information:

1. What is local governments to do if the E-Waste collected is not accepted by a recycler?
 - a. If it is delivered to them and they refuse to take it what our options?
 - b. To what extent has the State guaranteed that E-Waste collected will be recycled?
2. E-Waste includes light globes, florescent tubes etc- these will inevitable break in storage and transport- are we guaranteed recyclers will take these products in that condition?
3. E-Waste includes- all batteries (except those encased).
 - a. What does encase mean?
 - b. What is the risk if used lithium batteries in storage?
4. How much segregation of E-Waste types is needed? White Goods v IT v batteries etc?
5. Who are the recyclers that local government delivers to products too?
6. Fridges, air conditioners etc need to be de-gassed and have a certificate evidencing that has occurred before being accepted. Can you confirm the legal basis for this?
7. To what extent as WALGA and the State considered a Tender/Contract for a company to go to each region once year (or more) and collect the E-Waste? This at least would be helpful.
8. When is the next round, if any, of funding available to assist transition to E-Waste recycling/management?

It is noted that some Shires gained funding to assist transition to E-Waste recycling/management. This seems to have mostly been for storage sheds or sea containers. Storage sheds imply double handling of material, which adds cost.

Secretariat Comment:

The Regulations for the e-waste landfill ban have now been published. Based on WALGA's reading of these Regulations, and discussion with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, if your Local Government is not currently collecting/recycling e-waste at your landfill/transfer station, you do not need to start to meet the requirements of the e-waste landfill ban. Also if you are considering collecting e-waste for recycling at your landfill/transfer station, review your licence (if the site is licenced, rather than regulated) to ensure e-waste separation for recycling is included.

Many Local Governments are recycling some types of e-waste covered by the ban (e.g. washing machines, in with scrap metal) – WALGA is in discussions with the Department about how this would be reported, as common practice is not to separate these products out when they are recycled.

NOTED

9.1.6 TELSTRA

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services - WALGA

The following TELSTRA media release was issued in early May;

Telstra has shared that we will be extending the 3G closure by two months until 31 August 2024. We are still committed and on track with our network upgrades but we have listened to feedback from our customers that they need more time to make the relevant changes.

Closure of the nation's 3G networks and moving people to better connectivity is an industry wide change and everyone using devices that rely on 3G for either data, voice or emergency calls need to prepare to stay connected when it switches off. This could be devices which are 3G only, devices that do not support Voice over 4G (VoLTE), or devices that are 4G enabled but hardwired to use 3G for emergency calls. This will also affect medical devices and other hardware connected to our 3G network, from EFTPOS terminals to farm machinery. Customers who are unsure if their device is impacted can SMS '3' to 3498 (3G XT) and our checker will respond confirming if any action

needs to be taken. For other connected devices, please reach out to the supplier or manufacturer for more information.

We have been talking about this change for nearly 5 years and understand there are a range of reasons why some people haven't acted yet. One may be that they haven't seen our comms, so soon we will be adding a voice recording to the start of calls made using 3G dependent devices as an ongoing reminder to take action. The recording will be removed once the device has been upgraded.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr Gavin Treasure

Seconded: President Cr Katrina Crute

That the Central Country Zone requests WALGA to contact Telstra for clarification the ADSL service and disconnecting land lines.

CARRIED

9.1.7 2023 Western Power Bushfire Volunteers grants awarded

Western Power issued this [Media Statement](#) in April, 2024.

In summary, Western Power has provided almost \$50,000 in funding to 48 volunteer bushfire brigades throughout the South West Interconnected System (SWIS) in recognition of the critical role they play in protecting communities and the environment.

Grant recipients are located in the following Local Government areas:

Great Southern

- City of Albany
- Shire of Cranbrook
- Shire of Denmark
- Shire of Kojonup

Perth/Peel

- Shire of Boddington
- Shire of Mundaring
- Shire of Murray
- Shire of Waroona

South West

- City of Busselton
- Shire of Augusta-Margaret River
- Shire of Boyup Brook
- Shire of Capel
- Shire of Collie
- Shire of Dardanup
- Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup
- Shire of Nannup

Wheatbelt

- Shire of Chittering
- Shire of Cuballing

- Shire of Gingin
- Shire of Northam
- Shire of Pingelly
- Shire of Wandering
- Shire of Victoria Plains

NOTED

9.1.8 Funding package to support farmers

The Department of Communities issued this [Media Statement](#) in April, 2024. The following items, will be included in the State Council agenda for the next meeting: In summary, the Agriculture and Food Minister, the Hon Jackie Jarvis, has announced an \$8.6 million package of support for agricultural industries and rural communities impacted by the current drought conditions.

Executive Committee Comment:

The Executive Committee have requested the Executive Officer to inquire on what the uptake on these grants has been.

NOTED

10 ZONE REPORTS

10.1 CHAIR REPORT

President Cr Des Hickey

President Cr Des Hickey provided a verbal report at the meeting.

RESOLVED

10.2 GREAT SOUTHERN DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (DEMC)

President Jackie McBurney

President Jackie McBurney was an apology for the meeting.

NOTED

10.3 WHEATBELT INTERAGENCY HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN ADVISORY GROUP

President Jackie McBurney

President Jackie McBurney was an apology for the meeting.

NOTED

10.4 WALGA ROADWISE

Rodney Thornton, Regional Road Safety Advisor provided a report. **(Attachment 3)**

NOTED

11 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

11.1 STATE COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cr Phillip Blight

The following is an update on key State Council activities occurring since the last State Council meeting held on 6 March, to the end of May.

STATE COUNCIL MEETING DAY

State Council held its second meeting for 2024 on Wednesday, 1 May at the City of Wanneroo. State Council holds two Regional meetings per year – one Metropolitan and one Country. This meeting was the Metropolitan Regional meeting for 2024.

Strategic Forum

The Strategic Forum is an informational session held before every Ordinary State Council meeting. The Forum is an opportunity for State Councillors to raise any issues they believe have strategic importance for WALGA and the sector, and for State Council to hear from guest speakers on key issues.

At the May Forum, State Councillors received the following presentations:

- Regulating WA's Power Supply - Mr Steve Edwell, Economic Regulation Authority Chair
- Submissions to Regional Telecommunications Reviews and Inquiries – Mr Ian Duncan, WALGA Executive Manager Infrastructure
- WALGA Brand Refresh – Ms Rachel Horton, WALGA Executive Manager Advocacy

State Council meeting

Presentation from Hon Alannah MacTiernan

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

The Review Committee is led by the Hon Alannah MacTiernan, as Chair. Ms MacTiernan presented to State Council on the Review.

New Advocacy Positions and Submissions

The following Advocacy Positions and Submissions were endorsed by State Council:

- Waste Levy Advocacy Position
- Submission on the Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability (endorsed in principle, subject to amendments endorsed by Flying Minute)
- Submissions to Regional Telecommunications Reviews and Inquiries
- Submission on Draft Local Planning Scheme Regulations 2015 (Short-Term Rental Accommodation)

The current Advocacy Positions can be viewed in the [Advocacy Positions Manual](#).

Association Constitution Proposed Amendments

State Council was provided an update on proposed amendments to the Association Constitution to:

1. Primarily, allow WALGA to be in a position to apply to be registered as an organisation of employers under the Industrial Relations Act 1979 (WA); and
2. Make some changes to address inconsistencies and modernise terminology.

At item for Decision is included in the July State Council Agenda. This is included in Zone agendas for Zone discussion.

If the proposed amendments are endorsed by State Council (by special majority), they will be put to Members at the 2024 AGM.

Other decisions as per [Full Minutes](#).

Zone Forum

The Zone Forum is an opportunity for State Council to discuss and share information between State Councillors and the WALGA Zones relating to regional, strategic Local Government issues.

State Council received presentations from the Mayors of the Cities of Stirling, Wanneroo and Joondalup. This was followed by a brief question and answer session.

FLYING MINUTES

Since the last State Council meeting held in March, the following have been endorsed by State Council via Flying Minutes:

- Submission on the Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan (EM-SAP)
- Submission on the Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability
- Submission for 2024 State Wage Case

These are included on the State Council Agenda as items for noting.

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

INFORMATION FORUM

Information Forums are informal briefing sessions for State Council.

Presentations at the April Forum included:

- WALGA Emergency Management Survey - Ms Nicky Munro, Research Solutions and Ms Rachel Armstrong, WALGA Acting Policy Manager, Emergency Management.
- St John WA – Mr Craig Spencer, St John WA

STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

WALGA is undertaking a strategic planning process over the course of 2024. A workshop was held with State Councillors on Thursday, 2 May. State Council, as the governing board of WALGA, plays a pivotal role in the strategic planning process.

NEXT MEETING

The next State Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, 10 July at WALGA.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Katrina Crute

Seconded: President Cr Jo Haythornthwaite

That the State Councillor Report be received.

CARRIED

11.2 WALGA STATUS REPORT

By Tony Brown, Executive Officer

BACKGROUND

Presenting the Status Report for June 2024 which contains WALGA's responses to the resolutions of previous Zone Meetings.

COMPLETE ZONE STATUS REPORT June 2024

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Central C	26 August 2023 Zone Agenda Item 9.3 Heavy Vehicles – Accredited Mass Management Scheme	That the Central Country Zone request WALGA to investigate the establishment of an Industry Working Group associated with Main Roads WA Accredited Mass Management Scheme across the Restricted Access Vehicle Network, with a view to reducing accelerated degradation and damage to rural and regional road networks as well as improving road safety for all users. Working Group membership shall be representative of relevant industry stakeholders but not necessarily be limited to (WALGA, Local Government, Main Roads WA, Department of Transport, CBH, relevant Heavy Vehicle Operators Association).	<p>WALGA met with and then formally wrote to Michael Buba, Director Heavy Vehicle Services setting out the observations made by Local Governments and requesting provision of evidence through the compliance audits that vehicles operating in rural areas are not operating off the approved AMMS network and can demonstrate loading within allowable axle mass.</p> <p>A copy of the response is appended.</p> <p>HVS undertook targeted enforcement in the southern Wheatbelt Region in April.</p> <p>More detailed statistics from heavy vehicle compliance activities can be found in the State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee Agenda May 2024 (Item 5.6).</p>	Sept 2024	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Central C	6 December 2023 State Council Agenda Item 7.6 Waste Education Policy Statement and Advocacy Position	That the Central Country Zone supports WALGA's Waste Education Policy Statement and Advocacy Position recommendation 1-2d inclusive as listed above in the December 2023 State Council Agenda with the addition of 2e, Hypothecation of the waste levy for waste management purposes only and not to go to consolidated revenue.	<p>The Zone's recommendation is consistent with WALGA's existing position, under the Waste Levy Policy Statement, and therefore does not need to be included in the Waste Education Advocacy Position.</p> <p>The Waste Levy Policy Statement was updated at the May 2024 State Council meeting and the outcome is consistent with the Zone recommendation.</p> <p>COMPLETE</p>	June 2024	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039

<p>Central C</p>	<p>26 August 2023 Zone Agenda Item 9.2 Water Corporation – Non-Standard Water Services</p>	<p>That the Central Country Zone:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rejects Water Corporation attempts to classify regional sites as a 'Non-Standard Water Service' (unless specific agreement is reached with a Local Government Authority); 2. Formally writes to Water Corporation and the Minister for Water confirming this position; 3. Requests that WALGA supports the position of the Central Country Zone and rejects the Water Corporation's attempts to classify regional sites as a 'Non-Standard Water Service'; and 4. Requests WALGA to engage with the Minister for Water to retain the current services, unless specific agreement is reached with a Local Government Authority. 	<p>WALGA is continuing to advocate on this matter including raising the issues as part of the consultation on the Review of the National Water Initiatives to inform the next National Water Agreement. WALGA has also requested that ALGA raise this matter as part of the Meeting of Water Minister. WALGA is reviewing the Water Advocacy Position and will include the need for equitable access to drinking water, as a key pillar.</p>	<p>June 2024 Ongoing</p>	<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039</p>
<p>Central C</p>	<p>12 April 2024 Zone Agenda Item 9.2 Inquiry Into Local Government Sustainability</p>	<p>That Central Country Zone requests WALGA to prepare and submit a comprehensive submission on behalf of local governments in Western Australia to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport inquiry on local government sustainability as follows;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WALGA is requested to address the following areas in its submission: a. Financial sustainability and funding mechanisms for local governments. b. Changing infrastructure and service delivery requirements faced by local governments. c. Structural impediments to job security and infrastructure delivery in local government. d. Trends in attracting and retaining skilled workforce in the local government sector, including the impact of labour hire practices. e. The role of the Australian Government in addressing the above issues. f. Any other relevant matters related to local government sustainability. 2. The submission should be aligned with the Terms of Reference outlined by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport. 3. WALGA is encouraged to collaborate with local governments across Western Australia to 	<p>WALGA's submission to the Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability was endorsed by State Council and submitted on 31 May 2024.</p>	<p>June 2024</p>	<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039</p>

		gather diverse perspectives and insights for the submission. 4. Local governments within the WALGA Zone are urged to support and contribute to the development of the submission through active participation and sharing of relevant information and expertise.			
Central C	12 April 2024 Zone Agenda Item 9.3 Wind Energy Facilities	That the Central Country Zone requests WALGA to make a submission on behalf of local governments in Western Australia to the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC), urging the State Government, through its agency Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH), to develop a more comprehensive and effective approach to guide the management and placement of renewable energy facilities; including but not limited to wind, solar, battery renewable diesel and any associated infrastructure.	WALGA is developing advocacy positions in relation to planning for renewable energy facilities; the need for improvements to the State planning framework to provide sufficient statutory protections for areas that have been identified as High Quality Agricultural Land; and for the State Government to develop a robust and comprehensive framework for engagement with Local Government and communities to manage impacts and realise community benefits from projects. It is intended that the draft positions will be included in the agenda for consideration at the September State Council meeting. WALGA has raised these issues in a meeting with the Minister for the Environment; Energy; Climate Action.	June 2024	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039
Central C	12 April 2024 Zone Agenda Item 9.1 Enhanced and Alternative Education Opportunities for Regional WA	That the Central Country Zone: 1. Supports the call to action to reduce regional disadvantage in educational opportunities, with a focus on: a. Disruption to schools arising from policies relating to permanency for teachers; b. Requesting clarity about how schools are classified as "hard to staff; and c. Improving housing for teachers in regional WA; 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.	WALGA notes that the Central 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 with a focus on matters set out at 1a – 1c. 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. WALGA is also aware that the Great Southern Zone has raised these issues directly with Department of Education representatives at recent Zone meetings.	June 2024	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039

			<p>Of the initiatives raised in the response from the Minister, the development of a Regional Education Strategy may provide an opportunity to engage with and influence State Government policy on regional disadvantage in the Education system. WALGA is seeking to make contact the team leading this work within the Department of Education to discuss potential engagement with regional members.</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. Department of Communities officials will present on the GROH program at the July State Council Strategic Forum.</p>		
Central C	2021 19 November Zone Agenda Item 12.1 Sector ICT solution	That the Zone request WALGA to research providers and the viability of an in-house IT system.	WALGA is able to explore the feasibility of a group procurement project for Council Business Systems (ERP) by running an aggregated buying process through its Preferred Supplier Panel. The project would entail initial engagement to assess interest, followed by the technical scoping of requirements. The Commercial Team at WALGA will include the initiation of engagement and research into its business planning for the 2024-25 financial year.”	June 2024	Tony Brown Executive Director, Member Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au
Central C	17 November 2023 Zone Agenda Item 11.4 2023 Resolution for changes to Electoral Process	That the Central Country Zone request WALGA to advocate for a change to the current electoral system for Local Government to: 1. remove the compulsion of those Local Government entities within the Band 3 and 4 categories to opt out of the Optional Preferential Voting System to return to the First Past the Post voting system; and 2. remove the compulsion for internal elections to be carried out by optional preferential voting and return to First Past the Post method of voting.	<p>WALGA’s governance staff are conducting a review of Local Government elections for the period 2015-2023. This will include the issue of vote counting system for Local Government elections and for internal elections.</p> <p>A report, together with proposals for an alternative engagement strategy that provides for an independent assessment of WALGA’s election advocacy is being prepared.</p> <p>WALGA has surveyed staff and Elected Members and Officers and is currently collating the feedback.</p> <p>WALGA is awaiting the report from the WAEC on the 2023 elections. Following receipt of this information a report is anticipated to be submitted for the August/September round of Zone and State Council meetings.</p>	June 2024	Tony Brown Executive Director, Member Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au

Central C	14 April 2023 Zone Agenda Item 9.1 Financial Burden to Local Governments of Optional Preferential Voting	That WALGA forms a policy position and advocates that: 1. any Western Australian Electoral Commission fee increases for the 2023 Local Government elections are capped at 10% when compared with the 2021 rates; and 2. the CountWA software from Western Australian Electoral Commission is provided to Local Governments free of charge for the 2023 and subsequent Local Government elections.	WALGA's Governance Policy Team has considered this matter and has requested WALGA staff to conduct a review of Local Government elections 2015 – 2023 and provide a summary of findings in a future report, together with proposals for an alternative engagement strategy that provides for an independent assessment of WALGA's election advocacy. This work will inform advocacy to the State Government on the cost and processes involved in the WAEC conducting the elections including cost. Report expected to be prepared in time for the July 2024 Governance Policy Team meeting and referred to Zones in August 2024.	June 2024	Tony Brown Executive Director, Member Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au
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Zone Comment

This is an opportunity for Member Councils to consider the response from WALGA in respect to the matters that were submitted at the previous Zone Meeting.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Leigh Ballard

Seconded: Cr Robbie Bowey

That the Central Country Zone, WALGA Status Report for June be note.

CARRIED

11.3 WALGA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The WALGA President's Report was attached.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Phillip Blight

Seconded: Cr Bryan Kilpatrick

That the Central Country Zone notes the WALGA President's Report.

CARRIED

11.4 STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS – 10 JULY 2024

Background

WALGA State Council meets five times each year and as part of the consultation process with Member Councils circulates the State Council Agenda for input through the Zone structure.

Zone delegates to consider the Matters for Decision contained in the WA Local Government Association State Council Agenda and put forward resolutions to Zone Representatives on State Council

The full State Council Agenda can be found [HERE](#).

11.4.1 Matters for Decision

3.1 Caravan Park and Camping Grounds Regulations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Tiny Homes on Wheels (THOWs) are an emerging form of housing that offers an alternative and affordable housing option that can assist in addressing the current housing shortage.
- THOWs are classified as caravans under the *Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995* (the Act) and the *Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Regulations 1997* (the Regulations).
- The Regulations restrict the length of occupation of THOWs.
- A new advocacy position proposes that the Regulations be amended to allow THOWs to be occupied for longer periods and for Local Governments to be able to establish policy to guide these longer approvals.
- The Environment Policy Team endorsed the draft advocacy position on 29 May 2024.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse a new Caravan Park and Camping Grounds Regulations Advocacy Position:

Part 2 of the *Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Regulations 1997* should be amended to allow Local Governments to:

1. **Consider camping on private property for a period of greater than three months.**

2. **Establish policy to guide approvals beyond 3 months to ensure that camping is locally appropriate and provide for circumstances where caravans, predominantly in the form of tiny homes on wheels, can be occupied on a more permanent basis.**

3.2 2024 AUDIT EXPERIENCE SURVEY RESULTS AND ADVOCACY POSITION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA, in partnership with Local Government Professionals WA (LG Professionals), has recently conducted a survey of the Local Government sector to seek feedback on the annual audit process.
- The 2024 survey was based on the inaugural audit experience survey conducted last year, allowing for direct comparison of results over time.
- Five key emerging issues were identified following the 2023 survey, and these areas demonstrated varying levels of improvement this year:
 - timeframe and delays;
 - additional workload on Local Government staff;
 - cost;
 - inconsistent advice from contract Auditors and the Office of the Auditor General (OAG); and
 - asset valuation requirements.
- An outcome of advocacy efforts last year was the achievement of a review of the application of Fair Value principles, particularly as applied in audit related asset valuation.
- It is recommended that the WALGA Advocacy Position on Local Government Audit Process (position 2.2.2) be updated to reflect this achievement.
- An initial meeting with the OAG has recently been held to discuss the outcomes from the survey.
- WALGA and LG Professionals will continue to work with the OAG to reform the audit process in line with sector feedback, with a particular focus on those areas of concern identified in the 2024 survey results.
- This item was considered at the Governance Policy Team held on 15 May 2024, where the recommendation was supported.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council:

1. **Note the Audit Experience Survey Results Summary; and**
2. **Amend Advocacy Position 2.2.2 *Local Government Audit Process* to remove point 7 as it has been achieved.**

11.4.2 Policy Team and Committee Reports

- 9.1 Environment Policy Team Report
- 9.2 Governance Policy Team Report
- 9.3 Infrastructure Policy Team Report
- 9.4 People and Place Policy Team Report
- 9.5 Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Report

11.4.3 Matters for Noting/Information

- 10.1 2024-25 State and Federal Budget Update
- 10.2 Submission to the Commissioner for Children and Young People WA Priority Area Discussion Papers
- 10.3 Perth and Peel Urban Greening Strategy
- 10.4 Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer Update
- 10.5 Flying Minute: Submission on Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan
- 10.6 Flying Minute: State Wage Case Submission
- 10.7 Flying Minute: Submission on the Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability
- 10.8 Flying Minute: Standardised Meeting Procedures Submission

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Katrina Crute

Seconded: Cr Stephen Hunt

That the Central Country Zone:

Supports all Matters for Decision and Policy Team and Committee Reports as listed above in the July 2024 State Council Agenda, and

Notes all other Policy Team and Committee Reports and Organisational Reports as listed in the July 2024 State Council Agenda.

CARRIED

12 EMERGING ISSUES

12.1 WHEATBELT FORUM - 23 AUGUST 2024

At its last meeting the Avon-Midland Country Zone resolved to hold a one day Forum to discuss issues of concern to its members and to Wheatbelt local governments in general. Topics such as land use planning with a focus on agricultural land, waste management, housing availability, attraction and retention of staff, local government audit processes, availability of reliable power and Bush Fire Brigades were put forward.

The Forum will be held in the Northam Recreation Centre on Friday 23 August 2024. The Zone has established a Committee to organise the Forum and finalise the topics to be discussed and appropriate presenters.

The Zone extends an invitation to your Zone and to elected members and staff from your Zone members to attend.

Further details will be forwarded once the forum agenda has been finalised. The Zone would welcome your comments or advice on any topics/issues which could be included on the Forum agenda.

Action: Zone Executive Officer to circulate this information to all Zone representatives.

13 NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 6 August 2024 commencing at 8.00am, via MSTeams.

The next Central Country Zone meeting will be held on 16 August 2024 commencing at 9.30am. This meeting will be hosted by the Shire of Wagin.

14 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair thanked the Shire of Quairading for hosting the meeting and declared the meeting closed at 12.35pm.