

MINUTES OF THE ZONE MEETING

held at the Dalwallinu Recreation Centre, Colin Anderson Way, Dalwallinu
Friday 22 April 2022 commencing at 10:21 am

1 OPENING & WELCOME

The Zone President and Chair of the meeting, Cr Ken Seymour, welcomed delegates and observers and introduced Cr Keith Carter, President, Shire of Dalwallinu. Cr Carter welcomed delegates to Dalwallinu and highlighted aspects of Dalwallinu and the district (presentation on Bell Street 12 lot subdivision circulated to delegates following the meeting).

2 ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

2.1 Attendance

Delegates -

Cr Ken Seymour	Shire of Moora (President & Chair of Meeting)
Cr Denese Smythe	Shire of York (Deputy President) (via Video)
Cr Keith Carter	Shire of Dalwallinu
Cr Jan Court	Shire of Gingin (via Video)
Cr Chrissie Barrett	Shire of Goomalling
Cr Chris Antonio	Shire of Northam
Cr Rosemary Madacsi	Shire of Toodyay (via Video)
Cr Pauline Bantock	Shire of Victoria Plains
Cr Stuart Boekeman	Shire of Wongan-Ballidu

Observers –

Mr Matthew Gilfellon	Shire of Chittering (via Video)
Cr Steve Carter	Shire of Dalwallinu
Ms Jean Knight	Shire of Dalwallinu
Mr Peter Bentley	Shire of Goomalling
Cr Beth Ruthven	Shire of Toodyay (via Video)
Cr Charmaine Duri	Shire of Toodyay
Mr James McGovern	Manager Governance, WA Local Government Association
Mr Cliff Simpson	Road Safety Advisor (Wheatbelt North), WALGA (via Video)
Mr Patel Suvat	Main Roads WA (via Video)
Ms Mandy Walker	Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt
Hon Steve Martin MLC	Member for Agricultural Region (via Video)
Mr Shane Love MLA	Member for Moore (via Video)
Mr Sam McManus	ABC Midwest & Wheatbelt (from 10:45 am)
Robert Dew	Zone Executive Officer

2.2 Apologies

Mr Aaron Cook	Shire of Gingin
Cr Barry Haywood	Shire of Goomalling
Cr Julie Williams	Shire of Northam
Mr Jason Whiteaker	Shire of Northam
Ms Suzie Hazlehurst	Shire of Toodyay
Ms Glenda Teede	Shire of Victoria plains
Cr Denis Warnick	Shire of York
Mr Chris Linnell	Shire of York
Cr Dwight Coad	Shire of Wongan-Ballidu
Ms Narelle Cant	Principal - Special Projects, WA Local Government Association
Ms Samantha Cornthwaite	A/Regional Manager Wheatbelt, Dept of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries
Mr Mohammad Siddiqui	Regional Manager Wheatbelt, Main Roads WA
Mr Grant Arthur	Wheatbelt Development Commission
Hon Martin Aldridge MLC	Member for Agricultural Region
Hon Darren West MLC	Member for Agricultural Region

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cr Jan Court, Shire of Gingin, announced that she was retiring from Council and that this would be her last Zone meeting and that Cr Linda Balcombe will take over as the Shire's delegate to the Zone. She thanked all delegates to the Zone and the WA Local Government Association for their support. She advised that she would be moving to Vasse later in the year.

Cr R Madacsi commented that she believed Cr Court's contribution to have been outstanding and requested that her contribution be noted.

On behalf of the Zone, the President thanked Cr Court for her contribution and work for the Zone and wished her well for the future.

5 MINUTES

5.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Zone Meeting held 18 February 2022 at Northam. Copies of these Minutes have been circulated to all member Councils.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held on 18 February 2022, as printed and circulated, be confirmed.

RESOLUTION

Cr C Antonio moved and Cr K Carter seconded –

That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held on 18 February 2022, as printed and circulated, be confirmed. CARRIED

5.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

(a) Zone Meeting Format (Item 5.2(a))

The Zone's audio/visual equipment has arrived with the exception of two items which are currently in transit. Unfortunately, one of these items is the interface which links the components of the system together and enables the use of Zoom. As such the system will not be available for this meeting. It is anticipated that the equipment will be operational for the Zone's June meeting. The supplier has indicated that he will attend this meeting to set the equipment up and ensure that it is operating correctly.

RECOMMENDATION

For Noting

NOTED

(b) Wheatbelt Conference (Item 5.2 (b))

The November 2021 meeting noted that the proposal for a future Wheatbelt Conference had not progressed and requested that this item remain on the agenda until further notice. It was noted that any consideration of a future Wheatbelt Conference will need to take into account the prevailing COVID-19 situation and any restrictions that may be in place for gatherings.

RECOMMENDATION

For Information

NOTED

(c) Other

No other matters were brought forward.

6 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

6.1 WALGA State Council Agenda – Special Meeting

Review of the Agenda for the special meeting of State Council to be held Wednesday 4 May 2022. The Zone is able to provide comment or submit alternate recommendations to State Council for consideration.

Matters for Decision

5.1 Submission to Statutory Review of the Food Act 2008 (Page 5)

WALGA Recommendation

That the submission to the Department of Health relating to the Statutory Review of the Food Act 2008 be endorsed.

WALGA Executive Summary

- The Department of Health (DOH) is undertaking a Statutory Review of the *Food Act 2008* (the Act) and has invited stakeholders to provide submissions. Local Governments were required to submit a Council endorsed submission.
- Overall, feedback from Local Governments is that the Act is an effective piece of legislation. The enforcement tools of improvement notices and infringements provisions have proved very successful for Local Governments.
- The submission highlights areas for improvement which largely relate to the systems that support the Act, rather than the Act itself.
- The engagement process has highlighted some communication issues between DOH and the Local Government sector. WALGA recommends that DOH further engage with the Local Government sector, as a key enforcement agency, to work collaboratively on improving the framework underpinning the Act.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

5.2 Local Government Grant Scheme Funding (Page 14)

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA advocates to the Minister for Emergency Services and the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner for:

1. *An allocation of Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) funding to undertake an audit of existing facilities, appliances, vehicles, and major items of equipment for both Local Government Volunteer Bushfire Brigades (BFB) and State Emergency Services (SES).*
2. *Following the completion of the audit, an allocation of funding through the Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) to prepare a Comprehensive Asset Management Plan that:*
 - a. *Aligns with the principles in the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' (DLGSC) Asset Management National Framework and Guidelines, and the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.*
 - b. *Forecasts the emergency response needs of communities across Western Australia over the next 10 years, to estimate the quantum of the facilities, appliances, vehicles, and major items of equipment that will be needed.*
 - c. *Outlines a 10 year forward plan of modifications, replacements and additions required.*
 - d. *Investigates the extent to which future BFB facilities can be co-located with other emergency services facilities.*
3. *The establishment of a Working Group involving WALGA, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and LGIS to oversee the preparation of the Comprehensive Asset Management Plan.*
4. *Support for the Comprehensive Asset Management Plan to be reviewed every five years.*
5. *Support for an increase in Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) funding to support the unsuccessful capital grants funding applications by Local Governments to the 2020-21 LGGS Capital Grants Committee.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- The Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) was established in 2003-04 as a funding source for Local Government Volunteer Bushfire Brigades (BFB) and State Emergency Services (SES) units. LGGS funds are derived from the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) and are administered by DFES.
- Despite an increase in LGGS funding over the years, the funding has not grown at a sufficient rate to account for the increasing costs of assets, in particular buildings and vehicles.
- Currently there is no centralised comprehensive asset management plan for Local Government emergency services facilities or equipment for BFBs or SES, as this information is contained within each Local Governments asset management register.
- It is recommended that a facilities and capital equipment audit be undertaken to establish a baseline of existing assets. This information would enable the preparation of a Comprehensive Asset Management Plan which outlines a forward plan of modifications, replacements, and additions.

Mr J McGovern provided background.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

5.3 Draft Active Travel to School Roadmap (Page 17)

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA:

1. *Endorses the Draft Active Travel to School Roadmap, subject to amending Urban Environment Initiative No 1 to “Consult local governments to identify sub-regional school transport challenges and amend existing planning guidelines and develop new guidelines where gaps exist”; and*
2. *Works with the Department of Transport to finalise the Roadmap and encourage Local Government participation in the initiatives identified where these offer solutions to the local issues encountered in each area.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- The Director-General of Transport has formally requested WALGA endorse the Department of Transport (DOT) Draft Active Travel to School Roadmap.
- The Roadmap includes an initiative which, as worded in the current draft, states that Local Governments will identify sub-regional challenges to active travel to school, and amend or introduce planning guidelines to address these challenges.
- A Local Government officer was present on the working group that informed the guidelines, and this position on the working group has recently passed to WALGA staff.
- WALGA has advised DOT officers that it is not appropriate for this working group or the Department to assign tasks or policy positions to Local Governments without consultation. These DOT officers have agreed to revise this initiative, so as to state that the DOT will consult with Local Governments to achieve the objective outlined in the Roadmap.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

RECOMMENDATION

That the above recommendation and comments be endorsed.

RESOLUTION

Cr C Antonio moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –

That the above recommendation and comments be endorsed.

CARRIED

Matters for Noting/Information

6.1 Draft National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children (Page 27)

WALGA Recommendation

That the letter in relation to the Draft National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children consultation be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

- The Australian Government is developing the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032 (Draft National Plan).
- The Department of Social Services undertook consultation on the Draft National Plan between 14 January and 25 February 2022.
- WALGA submitted a letter supporting the aims, vision, and pillars of the Draft National Plan, consistent with the Association's Advocacy Position Statement on Family and Domestic Violence.
- The letter highlights the need for clearer definition of the role and responsibilities of Local Government in family and domestic violence, as well as ongoing funding to support the implementation of the Prevention Toolkit for Local Government.

6.2 Feedback on Community Disaster Resilience Strategy Discussion Paper (Page 29)

WALGA Recommendation

That the feedback provided to the State Emergency Management Committee on the Community Disaster Resilience Strategy Discussion Paper be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

- The State Government released a Community Disaster Resilience Strategy Discussion Paper for public consultation between 31 October 2021 and 31 March 2022.
- The Discussion Paper outlines a number of transformational shifts and change initiatives, however, due to limited detail in the paper, it is unclear what the exact impact of these proposed initiatives on Local Government's operations may be.
- Feedback on the Discussion Paper by way of letter from the President has been prepared, requesting a formal consultation period on the draft Community Disaster Resilience Strategy be provided in due course.

6.3 2021 CoastWA Local Government Survey (Page 31)

WALGA Recommendation

That the CoastWA Local Government Survey Outcomes Report be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

- The CoastWA Local Government Survey was implemented to improve understanding of the challenges and barriers to coastal hazard risk management and adaptation planning (CHRMAP) for Local Government. 32 responses were received.
- Broadly the Survey found that CHRMAPs were assisting Local Governments to better manage current and future coastal hazards and that the resources currently available to Local Governments were helpful. However, a number of challenges were identified for both developing and implementing CHRMAPs and that implementation of CHRMAP actions were generally behind schedule.
- Eight recommendations are made based on the findings of the Survey. If implemented these recommendations would further support Local Governments to develop and implement coastal hazard risk management and adaptation plans.
- The Report and its recommendations will inform the review and development of WALGA advocacy positions relating to coastal planning and its support of coastal and estuarine Local Governments.

Cr J Court commented that the Shire of Gingin has 80 km of coastline but receives little in the way of funding, most goes to places such as Fremantle; an across-the-board plan is needed to stop vehicles driving on beaches; the Shire of Gingin is working with the Shire of Dandaragan.

6.4 Update on Draft WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026 (Page 33)

WALGA Recommendation

That the update on the draft WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026 be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

- The Public Libraries Working Group (PLWG) has been overseeing the development of a new WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026 (draft Strategy) with a focus on strengthening communities, digital inclusion and the value placed on public libraries.
- A mixed methods consultation approach has been undertaken, with workshops targeted at public library professionals, stakeholder interviews through a targeted selection of metropolitan, regional and remote Local Government public libraries, and public consultation via an online survey (open until 8 April 2022).
- An implementation plan is being developed to outline the actions required to achieve the outcomes described by the draft Strategy and assign responsibility and timelines to these actions, and an evaluation framework to measure the success or otherwise of these actions.
- The new Strategy will support the work of 232 public libraries operated by Local Government around Western Australia.

6.5 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review Project (Page 35)

WALGA Recommendation

That the update on the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review Project be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

- Under the Emergency Management Act 2005, Local Governments are required to prepare and maintain local emergency management arrangements (LEMA).
- In 2019, WALGA proposed a review of LEMA be undertaken, which was endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC).
- The aim of the LEMA Review Project is to develop a LEMA Improvement Plan that outlines options for effective and fit-for-purpose emergency management at the local level.
- The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) has been granted Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) funding to undertake the LEMA Review Project.
- WALGA has been allocated \$140,040 of All West Australians Reducing Emergencies (AWARE) grant funding to lead consultations with Local Government for the project.

Mr J McGovern provided background and commented that there had been significant media comment on the Shackleton bushfire which occurred in early February; that at a recent Zone meeting the DFES Deputy Commissioner had confirmed that as part of the review of Emergency Management legislation it was a high priority to continue the exemption of bushfire volunteers and local governments from liability where they acted in good faith and that DFES strongly supported the Shire of Bruce Rock.

Cr C Antonio asked as to the impact of the industrial manslaughter provisions of the Work Health and Safety Act and on protection of local government CEOs. Mr McGovern replied that the reference in the Act is to volunteers rather than local government; there are some 20,000 bushfire volunteers in WA; at the Webinar on the issue, it was indicated that the provisions may not apply to volunteers but may apply to CEOs; believe the industrial manslaughter provisions are unlikely to apply other than in the most grievous situations. Hon S Martin commented that he believed this to be an optimistic view as the legislation refers to a person failing to comply with a health and safety duty; local governments should be reasonably placed if they have processes in place; he was concerned with trailers being used as farmer response fire-fighting units and noted that at recent fires trailers were attending, understand that permits to burn require the fire to be out that night and noted that chaff dumps generally do not go out overnight.

6.6 Comment on Draft Health Promotion Strategic Framework 2022-2026 (Page 37)

WALGA Recommendation

That the letter submitted to the Department of Health on the Draft Health Promotion Strategic Framework 2022-2026 be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

- The Department of Health released the Draft *Health Promotion Strategic Framework 2022-2026* (HPSF) for comment in December 2021.
- WALGA has submitted a letter in support of the draft HPSF which brings opportunities for Local Governments to work with the State Government and other organisations to reduce chronic disease and enhance community health and wellbeing.

6.7 Wooroloo Bushfire Independent Review Final Report (Page 39)

WALGA Recommendation

That the Independent Review of the Wooroloo Bushfire Final Report be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

- The Final Report on the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC) Independent Review into the Wooroloo Bushfire (Independent Review) was released on Tuesday, 29 March 2022 (the Report).
- WALGA provided a letter of support to the Independent Review highlighting key issues identified in WALGA Policy Positions and in submissions to recent emergency reviews and inquiries, which was endorsed at the December 2021 State Council meeting.
- The Report makes 13 recommendations, with five making direct reference to Local Government, relating to bushfire risk mitigation planning, development control as it relates to planning and building in bushfire prone areas, traffic management, impacts assessments, and telecommunications.

Cr C Antonio referred to commentary that the Shire of Northam volunteer bushfire units were not activated and requested the WA Local Government Association ensure that the volunteers are involved.

Mr McGovern indicated that he would take this on board.

6.8 2022-23 Federal Budget Update (Page 40)

WALGA Recommendation

That the 2022-23 Federal Budget Update be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

- The 2022-23 Federal Budget was handed down on 29 March ahead of an election expected in May.
- The Budget forecasts a strong rebound from the pandemic with the economy growing as private expenditure replaces Government stimulus.
- The Budget focuses on short-term cost payments to alleviate cost of living pressures, investments in infrastructure, defence and increasing the skilled workforce.
- A significant proportion of Financial Assistance Grants are to be brought forward into 2021-22 and the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program has been extended to 2024-25.

Hon S Martin pointed out there would be a 50% top up in phase 3 of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program in June 2023.

Cr C Antonio asked if there was going to be an increase in the percentage of Commonwealth tax revenue applied to Financial Assistance Grants. Mr McGovern advised that the current rate was approximately 0.55% of Commonwealth tax revenue.

Cr R Madacsi pointed out that the overall problem faced by local governments with increased grant funding was meeting the associated increase in matching funds. Local governments have significant budgetary pressures and cannot respond to meet the additional matching funds. Cr Madacsi referred to the Disaster Recovery Funding arrangements and commented that in a recent case for the Shire of Toodyay only a small part of the overall cost of recovery qualified for funding. She commented that funding needs to be more equitably distributed. Hon S Martin commented that Bruce Rock/Corrigin bushfire would qualify under the arrangements but the Wickepin/Narrogin bushfire would not and that the gap between insured values and actual costs is a difficult area.

6.9 Local Government Emergency Management Survey Results (Page 43)

WALGA Recommendation

That the results of the 2021 Local Government Emergency Management Survey Results be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

- WALGA undertook a Local Government Emergency Management Survey in late 2021 to gauge the sentiment of the sector towards its emergency management roles and responsibilities generally, and in relation to managing volunteer bushfire brigades in particular.
- The survey builds on the feedback received in WALGA's 2019 Emergency Management Survey and is being used to inform WALGA's policy and advocacy on current and emerging emergency management issues.
- Findings from the survey indicate that the Local Government sector is seeking increased resourcing and funding to discharge its emergency management responsibilities and changes to the current arrangements for Local Government management of volunteer Bushfire Brigades.

RECOMMENDATION

That the above matters for noting/information be noted.

RESOLUTION

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr D Smythe seconded –
That the above matters for noting/information be noted.**

CARRIED

Organisational Reports

7.1 Key Activity Reports

- 7.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Commercial and Communications (Page 44)
- 7.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Governance and Organisational Services (Page 47)
- 7.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure (Page 50)
- 7.1.4 Report on Key Activities, Strategy, Policy and Planning (Page 52)

7.2 Policy Forum Reports (Page 55)

7.3 Policy Team Reports

- 7.3.1 Environment and Waste Policy Team Report (Page 56)
- 7.3.2 Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team Report (Page 57)
- 7.3.3 Infrastructure Policy Team Report (Page 58)
- 7.3.4 People and Place Policy Team Report (Page 59)

Mr J McGovern referred to the Natural Disaster Relief funding and commented that the former WANDRRA scheme was found to be wanting; feedback after Cyclone Seroja was that the new arrangements worked well; the WA Local Government Association Community Resilience Team will shortly be contacting local governments for comments; small to medium disasters may not meet the triggers for National relief programs.

RECOMMENDATION

That the above organisational reports be noted.

RESOLUTION

**Cr P Bantock moved and Cr S Boekeman seconded –
That the above organisational reports be noted.**

CARRIED

6.2 WALGA President's Report

Presentation of the WALGA President's Report (attached to Agenda).

RECOMMENDATION

That the WALGA President's Report be received.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr S Boekeman seconded –
That the WALGA President's Report be received.**

CARRIED

6.3 State Councillor's Report

Report by Cr Ken Seymour.

Cr K Seymour reported –

A special thanks to Cr Denese Smythe for stepping in and chairing the last Zone meeting in my absence.

This Zone looks forward to working with WALGA's new leadership team of President Cr Karen Chappell and Deputy Cr Paul Kelly, both voted in on the first of March. We look forward to WALGA's strong advocacy in the future, especially in the regions where we are often so reliant on Federal and State funding.

The current five year State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement expires next June and the State Government will be expecting an improvement on delivering significant road projects on time.

Many Shires throughout the State have held Special Electors meetings due to the request of pro-choice vaccination groups. This often places Councils, Council staff and members of the community in a difficult and possible unsafe environment. Hopefully, the professionalism of all involved can work towards educating our communities in maintaining a safe environment during this challenging pandemic.

With the recent fires in the Wheatbelt region, flooding in the Eastern States and the recent anniversary of Cyclone Seroja, the LGIS insurance model we enjoy in Western Australia is a great example of Western Australian local governments working together. Many Shires and Councils in the Eastern States do not have access to a similar insurance model and may be reliant on extra State or Federal funding after these events. It may be prudent for Councils in this Zone to re-evaluate the fire permit system we currently use especially after a winter growing season that produced high fuel loads.

I urge Councils in this Zone to consider attending the National General Assembly in Canberra this year. If Councils are seeking Federal funding for various projects, I propose they organise contact with Federal Departments through our Federal Members of Parliament as soon as possible.

RECOMMENDATION

That the State Councillor's Report be received.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr S Boekeman seconded –
That the State Councillor's Report be received.**

CARRIED

6.4 Zone Status Report

Report by WA Local Government Association on status of Zone resolutions for action by the Association – April 2022 (attached to Agenda).

RECOMMENDATION

That the April 2022 Status Report be received.

RESOLUTION

**Cr K Carter moved and Cr D Smythe seconded –
That the April 2022 Status Report be received.**

CARRIED

7 ZONE REPORTS

7.1 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group

(a) Minutes

No meetings of the Group have been held since the last Zone meeting.

NOTED

(b) Next Meeting

A meeting of the Group was scheduled for 8 April 2022, however this was deferred pending the outcomes of the meetings with the Minister for Transport and representatives of the Transport Portfolio.

The next scheduled meeting of the Group is Friday 8 July 2022.

NOTED

(c) Meetings with Minister for Transport and Representatives of Transport Portfolio

Representatives of the Group met with the Minister for Transport on 29 March 2022. A follow up meeting was held with representatives of the Transport Portfolio (Department of Transport, Main Roads, Public Transport Authority) on 21 April 2022.

Cr Barry Haywood and Cr Steve Carter attended these meetings and may care to report.

Cr S Carter reported -

The Local Government Agricultural Freight Group has been relatively quiet for a couple of years due mainly to Covid and successful application for funds for the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Routes. However there is \$187 million of funds to be allocated and this Group wants to make sure it's spent in the right areas.

On 29 March Cr Barry Haywood, Chairman of the Group, Cr Russel Thomson, Woodanilling, Cr Tony Sachse, Mount Marshall, and myself met with the Minister for Transport via video to discuss the way forward. This was a productive meeting and several topics were covered including significant roads that aren't covered under the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Route scheme, delays due to verge clearing permits and delays at the ports. From this the Minister suggested we have a meeting with representatives from all areas transport which we had via video yesterday.

There were far too many people in attendance to mention suffice to say all areas transport were represented along with Councillors from around the State's agriculture areas. What we discussed and discovered –

- A mapping tool was discussed which would hopefully cover which transport routes are due to have work done on them where the funding comes from. It may include roads of significance which fall outside other programs.
- RAV network was discussed, including delays in assessing roads for upgraded RAV status, funds to get local roads up to Network 7.
- Main Roads has a statewide road verge clearing permit which helps and suggested WALGA may be able to investigate such for local government (I think this has already been investigated).
- The problems with ports is due to a backlog caused by industrial action and Covid and will eventually right itself (I don't believe this for one moment but that's what we were told). They also asked for examples and complaints to be sent to them.
- The main point made about the Rail network was not to use this money on trying to get the Tier 3 lines up and running. There wasn't any argument against this comment so that's where the discussion ended.
- The rising costs of building a road was discussed and Main Roads are well aware of the affect this is having and are looking at ways to take the heat out of the situation by delaying some projects.
- It was deemed to be essential CBH come on board to get an idea of their plans for the future. There was a suggestion CBH might help fund some roadworks.

All in all, a good meeting and there seemed to be a collaborative approach so we'll see.

Mr P Bentley referred to roadside clearing and commented that in 2021 the Shire of Goomalling had put a proposal (copy circulated to delegates following the meeting) to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation around standard working areas in road reserves -

	Shoulders	Drainage	Backslope	Minimum Total Road Width
6.0m Seal	1.5m	1.5m – 2.0m	0.5m – 1.0m	14m
6.5m Seal	1.5m	1.5m – 2.0m	0.5m – 1.0m	14.5m
7.0m Seal	1.5m	1.5m – 2.0m	0.5m – 1.0m	15.0m
7.5m Seal	1.5m	1.5m – 2.0m	0.5m – 1.0m	15.5m
8.0m Seal	1.5m	1.5m – 2.0m	0.5m – 1.0m	16.0m

An outcome of the meeting was that representatives of the Department were coming out to the Shire to look at the issue, but as yet they have not done so.

Mr M Gilfellow commented that having a whole of Shire minor clearing permit would be a better solution to having to apply for each road project. He believed that some work was done around a 5 year permit some time ago. The need to get clearing permits pushes funding and completion dates out.

Mr S Love commented that he supports some type of standard approach for roadside clearing permits and drew attention to the State Government's Consultation Draft: Native Vegetation Policy for Western Australia (copy circulated to Delegates following the meeting). The Draft Policy has some good parts and, although feedback on the draft had closed, he believed that comments could still be put forward.

Hon S Martin commented that local governments had raised concerns with him around delays with obtaining clearing permits; it was also an issue for Main Roads and the costs associated with offsets needs to be looked at.

Cr R Madacsi referred to item 12.4 at the November 2021 Zone meeting, expressed concern that there had been no follow up from the WA Local Government Association and advised that the Shire of Toodyay would be resubmitting the item to the next Zone meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group be received.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Smythe moved and Cr K Carter seconded –

That the report of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group be received. CARRIED

7.2 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee

Report by Zone Delegate Cr C Antonio on activities of the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee.

Cr Antonio commented on –

- The Wheatbelt is fairly well vaccinated against COVID-19.
- The issue of resource sharing has been an outcome of the Shackleton bushfire. The Committee is looking at formalising arrangements through development of a simple and easy agreement.
- The Committee is meeting fortnightly depending on COVID-19.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Report on the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management be received.

RESOLUTION

Cr S Boekeman moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –

That the report on the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management be received. CARRIED

8 AGENCY REPORTS

8.1 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

(a) Presentation of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries report.

(b) Consideration of any topics or presentations the Zone would like the Department to give to the next Zone meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries report be received.

No report.

8.2 RDA Wheatbelt

Presentation of the RDA Wheatbelt report (attached to Agenda).

Ms Mandy Walker presented her report and commented on -

- Wheatbelt Regional University Centre –
 - The application for funding has been successful.
 - The Regional University Centre will be based on a hub model utilising current infrastructure.
 - Hubs are planned for Narrogin, Merredin, Wongan Hills and York.
 - Each hub will provide access to internet, computers, printers, video conferencing and a Learning Support Officer.
 - 1,600 people from the Wheatbelt are currently studying at universities. A number of these are external and these will be approached first.
 - There will be 4 part-time staff (Learning Support Officers) and a full time Director.
 - Tabled Evidence of Need submission and maps showing Population by local government area, Numbers attending university by local government area with percentage studying on campus, Distances from Perth of local government areas, Community Resource Centres by local government area, Top 3 industries by employment for each local government area, Top 3 industries by output for each local government area (copies circulated to delegates following the meeting).
- Wheatbelt Designated Area Migration Agreement Discussions.
- Town Teams Movement.

RECOMMENDATION

That the RDA Wheatbelt report be received.

RESOLUTION

**Cr P Bantock moved and Cr S Boekeman seconded –
That the RDA Wheatbelt report be received.**

CARRIED

8.3 Transport Portfolio (Main Roads, Department of Transport, Public Transport Authority)

Presentation of the Transport Portfolio report.

Patel Suvat commented on –

- New Regional Manager Wheatbelt, Mr Mohammad Siddiqui is looking to contact as many local governments as possible over the next couple of months.
- Current works.
- Future works.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Transport Portfolio report be received.

RESOLUTION

**Cr P Bantock moved and Cr S Boekeman seconded –
That the Transport Portfolio report be received.**

CARRIED

8.4 RoadWise (Wheatbelt North)

Presentation of the RoadWise (Wheatbelt North) report.

Mr Cliff Simpson presented his report (copy circulated to Delegates following the meeting) and commented on –

- Safety ratings on local government roads.
- Local Government Road Safety Awards 2022.
- Future regional approach to road safety.
- Statistical data.
- Hierarchy of control – Changing the way we do things.

RECOMMENDATION

That the RoadWise (Wheatbelt North) report be received.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr C Antonio seconded –
That the RoadWise (Wheatbelt North) report be received.**

CARRIED

8.5 Other

There were no other reports.

9 FINANCE

9.1 Financial Reports

Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Report for the period ending 31 March 2022 are attached to the agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

That the financial reports for the period ending 31 March 2022, as attached, be received.

RESOLUTION

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr D Smythe seconded –
That the financial reports for the period ending 31 March 2022, as attached, be received.**

CARRIED

9.2 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts are submitted for payment -

<u>Payee</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Amount</u>
R W & S Dew	Secretarial Services to Zone – June 2022 Quarter	3,721.00
	TOTAL (no GST)	<u>\$3,721.00</u>

RECOMMENDATION

That the accounts as listed totalling \$3,721.00 be approved for payment.

RESOLUTION

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr D Smythe seconded –
That the accounts as listed totalling \$3,721.00 be approved for payment.**

CARRIED

10 ZONE BUSINESS

10.1 National General Assembly of Local Government 2022

BACKGROUND

In 2019 the two representatives of the Zone attended the National General Assembly of Local Government in Canberra. The Zone has made provision in subsequent budgets for representatives to attend the Assembly. However, the 2020 Assembly did not go ahead due to COVID-19 and government restrictions on non-essential gatherings and the Zone did not consider sending representatives to the 2021 Assembly. The 2022 National Assembly of Local Government will be held in Canberra 19-22 June 2022. The Zone has budgeted \$7,000 for representatives to attend the 2022 Assembly.

COMMENT

The 2022 Assembly is a hybrid event and is open to in person and virtual attendees. Registrations are now open with Early Bird registrations closing 20 May 2022 (registration brochure attached to agenda).

Estimated costs are:

Registration Fees –

General Assembly (in Person)	
Early Bird	\$989.00 *
Late (after 20 May 2022)	\$1,099.00
General Assembly (Virtual)	\$689.00
Regional Forum	\$225.00 *
Assembly Dinners (Optional)	
Networking Dinner (20 June 2022)	\$150.00 *
NGA Dinner (21 June 2022)	\$175.00 *
Accommodation (4 nights) – \$190 to \$390 per night	\$960.00 (at \$240 per night) *
Airfares	\$900.00 *
Total costs (2 delegates)	\$6,800.00 *

The Zone may care to consider if it wishes to send representatives to this year's National General Assembly and if so to appoint its delegates.

RECOMMENDATION

- That the Zone appoints _____ and _____ as its delegates to the ALGA National General Assembly to be held 19-22 June 2022; and
- Authorises payment of the Assembly and Regional Development Forum registration fees, Assembly dinners, accommodation and airfares up to the amount of \$7,000.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Smythe moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –

- **That the Zone appoints Cr K Seymour and Cr C Antonio as its delegates to the ALGA National General Assembly to be held 19-22 June 2022; and**
- **Authorises payment of the Assembly and Regional Development Forum registration fees, Assembly dinners, accommodation and airfares up to the amount of \$7,000.**

CARRIED

11 URGENT BUSINESS (as permitted by the Presiding Member)

No business was brought forward.

12 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Hon Steve Martin MLC commented on –

- Recommended that delegates look at the Dalwallinu industrial area.
- He was currently isolating as a close COVID-19 contact.
- The Minister of Transport is still publicly staying that the opening of the Tier 3 rail lines is still a possibility.
- Believe the State Government is holding up the allocation of the funds from the Agricultural Supply Chain Improvement Program, only \$20m has been spent. The program is for both road and rail.
- To mid-March the State Government has only purchased 143 houses under its Social Housing Economic Recovery Package – 0 in the Wheatbelt, 1 in the Goldfields and 8 in the South West. Recommended that local governments write to the Minister for Housing expressing concern at delays in the program and the lack of housing purchased in regional areas.
- Urged local government to fight for a greater share of vehicle licensing revenue on the basis that the vast majority of the road network is maintained by local government.

13 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Future meetings of the Zone are scheduled for –

24 June 2022	Shire of Dandaragan
(National General Assembly 19-22 June 2022)	
26 August 2022	Shire of Victoria Plains
25 November 2022	Shire of York

RECOMMENDATION

That the next ordinary meeting of the Zone be held Friday 24 June 2022 and be hosted by the Shire of Dandaragan.

RESOLUTION

Cr C Antonio moved and Cr K Carter seconded –

That the next ordinary meeting of the Zone be held Friday 24 June 2022 and be hosted by the Shire of Dandaragan.

CARRIED

14 CLOSURE

Cr Jan Court thanked Zone delegates for their support during her time as a delegate to the Zone and said goodbye.

The President acknowledged Mr Sam McManus, ABC Midwest and Wheatbelt, who was based in York and welcomed him to the region.

There being no further business the Chair thanked attendees and the Shire of Dalwallinu for hosting the meeting and declared the meeting closed at 12:19 pm.

CERTIFICATION

These Minutes were confirmed by the meeting held on

Signed:
(Chairman of meeting at which the Minutes were confirmed)