



# **South West Country Zone Minutes**

## **19 February 2021**

**City of Bunbury  
Council Chambers and Function Room  
4 Stephen Street, Bunbury**

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# South West Country Zone

Meeting held at City of Bunbury

Council Chambers and Function Room

4 Stephen Street, Bunbury

Commencing at 9.00am, Friday 19 February 2021

## Minutes

### 1. OPENING AND WELCOME

The Chair, President Cr Tony Dean, opened the meeting at 9:05am.

#### 1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

We, the South West Country Zone of WALGA acknowledge the Wardandi Nyoongar people, the Traditional Custodians of this land, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and future.

### 2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

#### Attendance

<b>Shire of Augusta Margaret River</b>	President Cr Ian Earl Ms Stephanie Addison-Brown, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Boyup Brook</b>	President Cr Richard Walker Mr Dale Putland, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes</b>	Mr Tim Clynch, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>City of Bunbury</b>	Cr Tresslyn Smith Mayor Gary Brennan non-voting delegate Cr Betty McCleary non-voting delegate Cr Amanda Yip non-voting delegate Cr Wendy Giles non-voting delegate Cr Cheryl Kozisek non-voting delegate Mr Mal Osborne, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>City of Busselton</b>	Mayor Grant Henley Mr Tony Nottle, Director Finance and Corporate Services non-voting delegate Nick Edwards, Project Officer South West Regional Waste Group
<b>Shire of Capel</b>	Mr Rob Stewart, Acting Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

<b>Shire of Collie</b>	Cr Ian Miffing Mr Stuart Devenish, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Dardanup</b>	President Cr Michael Bennett Mr Andre Schonfeldt, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup</b>	President Cr Brian Piesse Mr Ben Rose, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Harvey</b>	President Cr Paul Gillett Ms Annie Riordan, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Manjimup</b>	President Cr Paul Omodei Mr Andrew Campbell, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Nannup</b>	President Cr Tony Dean (SC) <b>CHAIR</b> Mr David Taylor, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>WA Local Government Association Secretariat</b>	Tim Lane, Manager, Strategy and Association Governance James McGovern, Manager Governance and Procurement
<b>DLGC Representatives</b>	Gordon MacMile, A/Executive Director Local Government
<b>South West Development Commission</b>	Ashley Clements, Director Regional Development - Infrastructure and Lands
<b>Guests</b>	Matt Granger, Deputy Executive Officer, Forest Industries Federation WA Ian Telfer, Chair, Forest Industries Federation WA

## Apologies

President Cr John Nicholas JP	Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes
President Cr Michael Southwell	Shire of Capel
President Cr Sarah Stanley	Shire of Collie
Mellisa Teede, Chief Executive Officer	South West Development Commission

## 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

## **4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **4.1 Attachments**

The following are provided as attachments to the agenda:

1. South West Country Zone Minutes 26 November 2020
2. Letter to Biosecurity Council Chair
3. Letter to Department of Transport – Narrow Seal Rural Roads
4. Election Advocacy Manifesto
5. WALGA President’s Report
6. State Council Agenda – via link only: <https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/a0676f1f-652d-4ebf-96ec-ff8fa747425b/Agenda-State-Council-3-March-2021.pdf>

## **5. GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS**

### **5.1 Presentation by Host Local Government – City of Bunbury**

Mayor Gary Brennan and Mr Mal Osborne provided an update to the Zone.

### **5.2 Presentation by Forest Industries Federation**

Matt Granger, Forest Industries Federation of WA, presented to the Zone.

## **6. MINUTES**

### **6.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the South West Country Zone meeting held Friday 26 November 2020 (Attachment 1)**

The Minutes of the South West Country Zone meeting held on Friday 26 November 2020 have previously been circulated to Member Councils and are provided as an attachment to this agenda.

### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: President Cr Brian Piesse**

**Seconded: President Cr Ian Earl**

**That the minutes of the South West Country Zone meeting held Friday 26 November 2020 are confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.**

**CARRIED**

#### **6.1.1 Business Arising**

The following correspondence was sent as outcomes from the November Zone meetings:

- Letter to Chair of the Biosecurity Council
- Letter to the Department of Transport – Narrow Seal Rural Roads

No formal replies have been received.

**Noted**

## **7. ZONE BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Lobbying For State Government Policy Alignment With Respect to Development**

*Shire of Augusta Margaret River*

#### **Background**

As part of the normal development application process, Local Governments routinely refer applications to State Government agencies. Increasingly, this referral process is yielding widely divergent feedback from Government agencies leading to longer approval times and in some circumstances, proposals which cannot progress. The issues are most prevalent for tourism development and particularly where road access is taken from roads under the control of the State Government.

#### **Comment**

The State's high order road network, which includes Caves Road and Bussell Highway, is under the care and control of Main Roads. These roads are natural attractors for development due to their natural and rural amenity (Caves Road) and the significant volumes of traffic they carry.

Development proposals dealt with by the Shire of Augusta Margaret River which are on or near these roads have been met with divergent input from State Government agencies to the effect that conflicting advice from agencies is being received. For example: -

1. Development should not result in removal of vegetation / significant vegetation should be removed for fire safety.
2. No access to Caves Road/Bussell Highway is permitted / two access/egress routes are required.

The advice of State Government agencies is informed by their respective policy positions. In order to provide certainty to investors, proponents, Local Government and the wider community, transparent policies need to be developed which unify the State Government's approach to development and provide consistent advice with respect to bushfire, road access and environmental elements.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: President Cr Ian Earl**  
**Seconded: President Cr Paul Omodei**

**That WALGA writes to relevant Ministers and Directors General to request the current lack of policy alignment be addressed with respect to planning and development matters.**

**CARRIED**

### **7.2 Regional Election Campaign Update**

#### **Background**

Cr Brian Piesse updated the Zone on the South West Regional Election advocacy. The final version of the manifesto, which has been distributed to candidates and members, is attached.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: President Cr Michael Bennett**  
**Seconded: President Cr Paul Omodei**

**That the South West Regional election advocacy update be noted.**

**CARRIED**

## 7.3 Proposed Review of the Road Asset Preservation Model (APM) – Options Paper

*By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure*

### Recommendation

That the Zone:

- Provide feedback to the WALGA Infrastructure Policy Team regarding a preferred advocacy approach to any review of the Road Asset Preservation Model (APM).

### Executive Summary

- A Zone Council recommendation to review the Road Asset Preservation Model (APM) was referred to the Infrastructure Policy Team in December 2020. The Policy Team resolved to seek views from Zones before recommending the development of a formal State Council agenda paper.
- This paper sets out options to guide the development of a Zone resolution.
- The Asset Preservation Model was developed as a Commonwealth requirement for the distribution of Commonwealth Government road grants among Local Governments in an efficient and equitable manner, taking account of local asset preservation needs and costs. It is currently used to distribute a range of Federal and State Government grant funding allocations.
- Despite being used to allocate large sums of public funding, operation of the APM is not well understood within the Local Government sector.
- The APM is not readily accessible to Local Governments. Limited documentation and complexity means that more open access alone would not be helpful in achieving strong understanding of the processes that underpin the output.
- Complexity of the APM makes it difficult to predict the effects on funding allocations of changes to the model or input parameters.
- This paper proposes five options that could be considered to address this issue, for WALGA to advocate to the Grants Commission.
- The options are not mutually exclusive, and some could be combined as a staged approach.
- The five options are:
  1. Re-format and re-label the model, to improve its legibility for all users and make it available to the Local Government sector in a form that would enable stakeholders to understand it.
  2. Review the parameters within the model, in order to increase the accuracy of road maintenance costs within the model.
  3. Advocate to the Grants Commission to undertake a review of the cost regions and minimum standards to ensure that these appropriately reflect the costs faced by Local Government and the current development of the road network
  4. Advocate to the Grants Commission to undertake an appropriately-resourced process to review and rebuild the road Asset Preservation Model. This new model should be as simple as possible while still delivering an equitable distribution of funding among Local Governments. Its variables and assumptions should be easily indefinable to model users, being clearly labelled and documented.
  5. Accept the status quo with no further action

### Background

A Zone Council recommendation to review the APM was referred to the Infrastructure Policy Team in December 2020. The Team resolved to seek feedback from the Zones as the matter had not been widely identified as an issue of concern.

The Asset Preservation Model was developed by Main Roads WA and Local Government representatives, to distribute the untied roads component of the Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants between Local Governments.

The WA Local Government Grants Commission took over responsibility for distributing the identified Commonwealth road funds and undertook a comprehensive review of the Asset Preservation Model and modified and refined it. Application of the APM has since been broadened and it is now used to determine the distribution between Local Governments of a range of state and federal funding.

To assist Local Governments make decisions regarding preferred approaches to the use and development of the Asset Preservation Model a manual has been developed by WALGA describing the APM and how it functions. The manual can be viewed [here](#).

## **Problem Statement**

The Road Asset Preservation Model is used to allocate large sums of funding. Despite the importance of the model, it is not widely understood, due to its complexity and limited documentation. This results in a lack of transparency, risk of corporate memory loss, the risk of unfair or otherwise inappropriate allocations of funding, and the reputational risk due to funds distribution not being fully explainable and region allocations being subject to question.

## **Options**

***There are five options identified in the text below, and the table on the final page of this paper. Note that the options are not mutually exclusive and all or some of them could be recommended to be implemented in phased approach.***

1. Advocate to the Grants Commission to re-format and re-label the APM, to improve its legibility for all users. A detailed record should also be made of the model's parameters, and the process that was used for determining their values.
2. Advocate to the Grants Commission for a review of the various parameters contained within the APM, such as the array of annual maintenance costs for different asset types, road reconstruction frequencies and the components of reconstruction costs. This option would increase the accuracy of road maintenance costs within the model, although would not address the underlying problems of excessive complexity and a lack of transparency and predictability.
3. Advocate to the Grants Commission to undertake a review of the cost regions and minimum standards to ensure that these appropriately reflect the costs faced by Local Government and the current development of the road network.
4. Advocate to the Grants Commission to undertake an appropriately-resourced process to review and rebuild the APM. This new model should be as simple as possible while still delivering an equitable distribution of funding among Local Governments. Its variables and assumptions should be easily indefinable to model users, being clearly labelled and documented.
5. Retain Status quo.

It should be noted that these are all advocacy positions. The Road Asset Preservation Model is controlled by the WA Local Government Grants Commission and any decisions regarding development of the model or use of a different approach would be made by the Commission. It must be noted that if Options 2, 3 or 4 are



implemented, there is a risk of some Local Governments receiving a lower grant allocation. This risk may be mitigated by advocating for increased funding from the State or Federal Governments, although there is no guarantee that such funding would be forthcoming.

The current membership of the WA Local Government Grants Commission is:

- Chairperson — Hon Cr Fred Riebeling AM JP
- Deputy Chairperson — Mr Luke Stevens, Legal Counsel, DLGSC
- Metropolitan Member — Cr Deb Hamblin, Deputy Mayor, City of Rockingham
- Country Urban Member — Dr Wendy Giles, Councillor, City of Bunbury
- Country Rural Member — Cr Ian West, Shire of Irwin
- Deputy to the Deputy Chairperson — Ms Darrelle Merritt, A/Director - Strategic Initiatives, DLGSC
- Deputy Metropolitan Member — Vacant
- Deputy Country Urban Member — Cr Deborah Botica, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
- Deputy Country Rural Member — Cr Moira Girando, President, Shire of Coorow

## Analysis of the Options

The options have varying levels of cost, effort and risk attached to them.

Changes to the APM would affect the funding allocation between Local Governments in ways that are difficult to predict, due to the complexity of the model. The total available funding is fixed, so an increase in one Local Government's funding would necessarily reduce the level of funding available to others, unless additional funding can be secured.

There are also risks associated with no change being made to the APM. The model's complexity and incomplete documentation and labelling creates a risk of corporate memory loss. There is also a reputational risk associated with large sums of money being allocated based on a model that is not well understood by the Local Government sector.

Comparatively simple and lower-cost changes can be made to the APM, under Options 1, 2 and 3. These options would address some of the concerns raised here, but do not address the underlying problems noted above.

	<b><i>Option 1</i></b>	<b><i>Option 2</i></b>	<b><i>Option 3</i></b>	<b><i>Option 4</i></b>	<b><i>Option 5</i></b>
	<b><i>Reformat and label</i></b>	<b><i>Review model cost parameters</i></b>	<b><i>Review cost regions/ min. standards</i></b>	<b><i>Full model review and rebuild</i></b>	<b><i>Status quo</i></b>
<b><i>Advantages</i></b>	Improves operation of existing model. Helps retain corporate memory. Improves transparency. Low risk and cost, in the short term.	Improves link between funding allocation and road maintenance costs.	Addresses concerns about inappropriate groupings of Local Governments.	Opportunity to review the model objectives. Improvement in transparency. Opportunity to incorporate contemporary modelling and user functionality.	Avoids conflict between Local Governments over funds distribution. Lowest short-term risk. No direct cost.
<b><i>Disadvantages</i></b>	Does not address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• questionable parameter values.</li> </ul>	May require some additional resourcing. Does not address	May require some additional resourcing. Does not address	If no material impact on funds distribution, the rationale for the exercise may be questionable.	Does not address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• questionable parameter values.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>complexity and transparency</li> </ul>	<p>complexity and transparency.</p> <p>Possible reduction in funding for some LGs.</p>	<p>complexity and transparency.</p> <p>Likely reduction in funding for some LGs.</p>	<p>Would require additional resourcing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>complexity and transparency</li> <li>corporate memory issues.</li> </ul>
<b>Risks / Dependencies</b>	<p>Reputational risk, due to funds distribution not being fully explainable.</p>	<p>Reputational risk, due to funds distribution not being fully explainable.</p>	<p>Reputational risk, due to funds distribution not being fully explainable.</p> <p>Continued risk of corporate memory loss.</p>	<p>Difficult to predict the distribution of funds.</p> <p>A review may trigger disagreement between Local Governments over the distribution of funds.</p> <p>The Grants Commission may not agree to implement.</p>	<p>Reputational risk, due to funds distribution not being fully explainable and regional allocations being subject to question.</p> <p>Continued risk of corporate memory loss.</p>
<b>Effort / Cost</b>	Low-medium	High	Medium	Very high	None
<b>Notes</b>		<p>Assumes Option 1 also undertaken: reformat and labelling.</p>		<p>Mutually exclusive of the other options or as an aspirational addition.</p>	<p>Mutually exclusive of the other five options.</p>

## Next Steps

Resolutions made by the Zones will guide the development of an agenda item for the next meeting of State Council, to provide WALGA with direction on the sector's preference for its advocacy position regarding the Road Asset Preservation Model.

## RESOLUTION

**Moved:** Cr Tresslyn Smith

**Seconded:** Cr Ian Miffing

**That the South West Country Zone of WALGA:**

1. Supports option one of the options presented
2. Requests that discussion on this issue be referred to Regional Road Groups
3. Request Chris Berry, or an appropriate officer from the WA Local Government Grants Commission, to present to the Zone on the Asset Preservation Model methodology

**CARRIED**

## 8. ZONE REPORTS

### 8.1 Zone President / State Councillor Report

*By President Cr Tony Dean*

President Cr Tony Dean updated the Zone on recent WALGA matters.

**NOTED**

## 9. WALGA BUSINESS

### 9.1 WALGA Status Report

*By Tim Lane, Zone Executive Officer*

#### **BACKGROUND**

Presenting the Status Report for February 2021 which contains WALGA's responses to the resolutions of previous Zone Meetings.

Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
<b>27 November 2020</b> <b>Zone Agenda Item</b> 7.3 Request for WALGA to advocate for a reduction in Local Government expenditure for Regional Road Group projects	That WALGA advocate to Main Roads Western Australia to reduce the 33 percent Local Government contribution to 15 percent for all approved Regional Road Group projects.	The Zone resolution was considered by the Infrastructure Policy Team on 14 December 2020 which resolved that WALGA: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Draw to the attention of Local Governments through the Regional Road Groups, the opportunity to seek SAC approval to vary the co-contribution arrangements for Road Project Grant funded projects in exceptional circumstances (Procedures Section 12.5 p24);</li> <li>2. Write to the South West Country Zone informing that a similar request in early 2020 was not supported by Local Governments and detailing the reasons why the risks associated with adopting a lower co-contribution model are considered too high; and</li> <li>3. Focus attention on assisting Local Governments and Regional Road Groups acquit Road Project Grants within each budget year.</li> </ol>	<b>February 2021</b>	<b>Ian Duncan</b> <b>Executive Manager</b> <b>Infrastructure</b> <a href="mailto:iduncan@walga.asn.au">iduncan@walga.asn.au</a> <a href="tel:92132031">u</a> <b>9213 2031</b>
<b>2019 March 22</b> <b>Zone Agenda Item</b> 7.7 Funding Commitment Towards Strategic Transport Network Infrastructure In South West Western Australia	1. That the South West Zone of WALGA adopts an advocacy position of seeking a commitment to funding from: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Western Australian State Government; and/or</li> <li>b. Australian Federal Government; and/or</li> <li>c. Private industry to better manage the ever increasing numbers of heavy vehicle haulage and light vehicle users within the south-west (particularly including South Western Highway), including the possibility of re-instating and re-</li> </ol>	The Infrastructure Policy Team requested that the Association investigate the need for and feasibility of developing a road project advocacy tool to support Local Governments and Zones in their advocacy for specific road developments given the large number of potential projects across the State.	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Ian Duncan</b> <b>Executive Manager</b> <b>Infrastructure</b> <a href="mailto:iduncan@walga.asn.au">iduncan@walga.asn.au</a> <a href="tel:92132031">u</a> <b>9213 2031</b>

	<p>opening the disused South West Railway, as well as the future expansion and improvements of our road networks for the south-west region as part of the investment of our future infrastructure and road networks.</p> <p>2. That the South West Zone of WALGA requests the WALGA State Council to consider adopting the advocacy position outlined in Recommendation 1, above.</p>			
<p><b>27 November 2020</b> <b>Zone Agenda Item</b> 7.5 SWAMS HealthHUB</p>	<p>That the WALGA South West Country Zone</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supports the South West Aboriginal Medical Service's (SWAMS) proposal for a SWAMS HealthHUB to be located in Bunbury, and</li> <li>Requests that WALGA write to State Government on behalf of Local Governments to advocate for funding for the project.</li> </ol>	<p>The People and Place Policy team resolved at their meeting on 22 December 2020 to note this item.</p>	<p><b>February 2021</b></p>	<p><b>Narelle Cant</b> <b>Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning</b> <a href="mailto:ncant@walga.asn.au">ncant@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2078</p>
<p><b>27 November 2020</b> <b>Zone Agenda Item</b> 7.4 Slip-on Eligibility for ESL Grant Support</p>	<p>That the South West Country Zone of WALGA supports the recommendation that slip-on fire units be reinstated onto the eligibility list for ESL grant funding.</p>	<p>The People and Place Policy team resolved at their meeting on 22 December 2020 that WALGA prepare an Item for State Council's March 2021 meeting on this issue.</p> <p>Please refer to State Council agenda item 5.3</p>	<p><b>February 2021</b></p>	<p><b>Narelle Cant</b> <b>Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning</b> <a href="mailto:ncant@walga.asn.au">ncant@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2078</p>
<p><b>2018 August 24</b> <b>Zone Agenda Item</b> 7.1 Restrictions on taking gravel from DBCA Reserves</p>	<p>THAT: The South West Zone of WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request WALGA to seek reconsideration of present DBCA (Parks and Wildlife Service) policy/position of refusing approval and/or prohibiting access by local governments to extract gravel on DBCA reserves and forest areas.</li> <li>Propose a policy to DBCA that protects forests from the spread of dieback while allowing access to gravel for road building by local government authorities</li> </ol>	<p>Cost effective and timely access to gravel is a problem faced by many Local Governments. WALGA is preparing new <i>Guidelines for Gravel Supplies for Public Road Construction</i> to assist Local Governments in this matter. This will cover access to gravel on land under a range of tenures.</p> <p>Association staff have met with representatives from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) in the process of developing this guideline. This guideline addresses extraction of gravel from reserves that fall under the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 (including nature reserves and state forests) and the process for applying for a license to clear native vegetation. The guideline will be circulated shortly to the Gravel Supply Interagency Working Group for review.</p> <p>DBCA's strong preference is for land under Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 to <u>be considered a last resort for gravel supply</u>, and that Local Governments should plan well in advance if they do require gravel from these lands.</p> <p>In addition receiving a permit from Department of Water and Environmental Regulation for native vegetation clearing to extract gravel, other statutory considerations that need to be addressed when accessing gravel from these reserves include: aboriginal heritage and native title and dieback management. These all become potentially more difficult without the support of the land manager.</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p>	<p><b>Narelle Cant</b> <b>Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning</b> <a href="mailto:ncant@walga.asn.au">ncant@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2078</p>
<p><b>2019 March 22</b> <b>Zone Agenda Item</b> 7.3 Domestic Violence Communities</p>	<p>That</p> <p>The SWZ request WALGA to begin to develop an advocacy position on family and domestic violence.</p>	<p><b>Council Resolution December 2020</b></p> <p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WA Local Governments recognise the prevalence, seriousness and preventable nature of family and domestic violence and</li> </ol>	<p><b>February 2021</b></p>	<p><b>Narelle Cant</b> <b>Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning</b> <a href="mailto:ncant@walga.asn.au">ncant@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2078</p>

	<p>A sector working group is formed to guide the consultation process and a state wide forum be held to raise awareness of the issue within the sector</p> <p>A formal request be made that Our Watch and other key stakeholders are invited to present to the sector.</p>	<p>the roles that Local Governments can play in addressing gender equity and promoting respectful relationships in their local community.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. WALGA advocates to the State Government: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. to work with Local Government in defining the role and responsibilities and expectations of Local Governments in family and domestic violence.</li> <li>b. for adequate funding for family and domestic violence programs and services, particularly in regional areas.</li> <li>c. for appropriate resources and funding be allocated to Local Governments to implement any particular roles and actions addressing family and domestic violence as defined in the State Strategy.</li> <li>d. to provide support to Local Government in the broader rollout of the Prevention Toolkit for Local Government.</li> <li>e. to continue advocacy to the Commonwealth Government for additional funding and support.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. WALGA organises presentations for Local Governments that address family and domestic violence, as part of relevant events or webinars.</li> </ol> <p>RESOLUTION 144.6/2020 CARRIED</p> <p>WALGA is currently developing an Advocacy Plan for Family and Domestic Violence.</p>		
<p><b>2020 28 August Zone Agenda Item 7.2 Family and Domestic Violence discussion paper</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That WA Local Governments recognise the prevalence, seriousness and preventable nature of family and domestic violence and the roles that Local Governments which have capacity can voluntarily play in addressing gender equity and promoting respectful relationships in their local community.</li> <li>2. That WALGA advocates to the State Government: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. to define and communicate the role, responsibilities and expectations of Local Governments in family and domestic violence.</li> <li>b. for adequate funding for family and domestic violence programs and services, particularly in regional areas.</li> <li>c. for appropriate resources and funding be allocated to Local Governments to implement any particular roles and actions addressing family and domestic violence as defined in the State Strategy.</li> <li>d. to provide support to Local Government in the broader rollout of the Prevention Toolkit for Local Government.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p><b>Council Resolution November 2020</b></p> <p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. WA Local Governments recognise the prevalence, seriousness and preventable nature of family and domestic violence and the roles that Local Governments can play in addressing gender equity and promoting respectful relationships in their local community.</li> <li>2. WALGA advocates to the State Government: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. to work with Local Government in defining the role and responsibilities and expectations of Local Governments in family and domestic violence.</li> <li>b. for adequate funding for family and domestic violence programs and services, particularly in regional areas.</li> <li>c. for appropriate resources and funding be allocated to Local Governments to implement any particular roles and actions addressing family and domestic violence as defined in the State Strategy.</li> <li>d. to provide support to Local Government in the broader rollout of the Prevention Toolkit for Local Government.</li> <li>e. to continue advocacy to the Commonwealth Government for additional funding and support.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. WALGA organises presentations for Local Governments that address family and</li> </ol>	<p><b>February 2021</b></p>	<p><b>Narelle Cant</b>  <b>Executive Manager,</b>  <b>Strategy, Policy and Planning</b>  <a href="mailto:ncant@walga.asn.au">ncant@walga.asn.au</a>  <b>9213 2078</b></p>

	<p>e. to continue advocacy to the Commonwealth Government for additional funding and support.</p> <p>3. That WALGA organises presentations for Local Governments that address family and domestic violence, as part of relevant events or webinars.</p>	<p>domestic violence, as part of relevant events or webinars.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 144.6/2020 CARRIED</p> <p>WALGA is currently developing an Advocacy Plan for Family and Domestic Violence.</p>		
<p><b>2020 25 June Zone Agenda Item 7.1</b> Regulation of Park Homes / Manufactured Homes / Lifestyle Villages</p>	<p>That the South West Zone seek WALGA's support to request that the State Government urgently amend the Caravan Parks Legislation to allow the continued lawful placement of new manufactured homes on caravan park sites, until approximately 2030, providing regulatory certainty in the short term to the industry, its customers and local governments, and providing time in which more comprehensive regulatory reform can be undertaken.</p>	<p>State Council Resolution at the September meeting.</p> <p>That WALGA urgently requests the State Government to undertake a full review of the Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995 and associated legislation and regulations, to address manufactured homes on caravan park sites.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 116.4/2020</p> <p>Correspondence and the background information has been sent to the Minister for Local Government for consideration of an urgent review of the <i>Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995</i>.</p> <p>A letter has been received from the Minister (as attached), stating that <i>"Government is considering a broader review of the regulatory system regarding lifestyle villages; however, its legislative priority will not be considered until after the 2021 election."</i></p>	Ongoing	<p><b>Narelle Cant</b> Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning <a href="mailto:ncant@walga.asn.au">ncant@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2078</p>
<p><b>2020 26 June Zone Agenda Item 9.2</b> WALGA Status Report</p>	<p>2. In relation to ESL eligible expenditure, slip line water tanks be considered by DFES as eligible for funding as part of the Local Government Grant Scheme.</p>	<p>WALGA sought input from the Local Government Emergency Management Advisory Group (WALGA officer group), which provided responses to a range of motions on eligible and ineligible items in the LGGS Manual. WALGA brought these responses to the Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group on November 2, 2020.</p> <p>Since commencement of the LGGS Working Group in 2019, WALGA staff have represented Local Governments at Working Group meetings. The Working Group includes two members from each of the following organisations: WALGA, DFES, State Emergency Service and Association of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades.</p> <p>In December 2020, WALGA was requested by the People and Place Policy Team to address the eligibility of Slip on Units in the LGGS Manual, and consider more appropriate representation for Local Governments on the LGGS Working Group. A State Council Item for Decision for the March meeting addresses these matters. Once representation on the Working Group is finalized at the May State Council meeting, these members will continue to advocate on behalf of Local Governments for equity of expenditure across emergency services for operating costs associated with their activities.</p>	Ongoing	<p><b>Narelle Cant</b> Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning <a href="mailto:ncant@walga.asn.au">ncant@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2078</p>

<p><b>2017 November 24 Zone Agenda Item 9.2</b> Shire of Capel Submission Local Government Grant Scheme (ESL) Eligible Expenditure</p>	<p>That WALGA be requested to lobby the State Government for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A comprehensive review of items of eligible expenditure under the Local Government Grant Scheme to enable the full costs of operating Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades to be met; and</li> <li>2. The establishment of the general principle of equality of eligible expenditure across all emergency services for operating costs associated with their activities.</li> </ol>	<p>The State Government has advised that the recommendations from the Economic Regulation Authority review of the Emergency Services Levy is being considered as part of the Machinery of Government process currently reviewing the structure of DFES. This process includes a review of the ESL governance and operational arrangements.</p> <p>WALGA will continue to lobby for a review of the items of eligible expenditure under the Local Government Grant Scheme to enable the full costs of operating Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades to be met; and the general principle of equality of eligible expenditure across all emergency services for operating costs associated with their activities.</p> <p>WALGA are in discussions with DFES regarding a comprehensive review of the eligible and ineligible item lists contained within the Local Government Grant Scheme Manual.</p> <p>It is an ongoing discussion in the Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group, which will meet on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.</p> <p>WALGA sought input from the Local Government Emergency Management Advisory Group (WALGA officer group), which provided responses to a range of motions on eligible and ineligible items in the LGGGS Manual. WALGA brought these responses to the Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group on November 2, 2020.</p> <p>Since commencement of the LGGGS Working Group in 2019, WALGA staff have represented Local Governments at Working Group meetings. The Working Group includes two members from each of the following organisations: WALGA, DFES, State Emergency Service and Association of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades.</p> <p>In December 2020, WALGA was requested by the People and Place Policy Team to address the eligibility of Slip on Units in the LGGGS Manual, and consider more appropriate representation for Local Governments on the LGGGS Working Group. A State Council Item for Decision for the March meeting addresses these matters. Once representation on the Working Group is finalized at the May State Council meeting, these members will continue to advocate on behalf of Local Governments for equity of expenditure across emergency services for operating costs associated with their activities.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p><b>Narelle Cant Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning</b> <a href="mailto:ncant@walga.asn.au">ncant@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2078</p>
<p><b>2020 April 24 Zone Agenda Item 7.1 Payments to Volunteers Impacted by Emergency Events</b></p>	<p>That the South West Country Zone request WALGA to advocate for the State and Commonwealth Governments to introduce a payment system for emergency services volunteers to partially offset their income lost when volunteering in emergency events.</p>	<p>On 29 December 2019, the Prime Minister announced a Commonwealth Volunteer Compensation Scheme.</p> <p>On 15 January 2020, the Minister for Emergency Services convened a Ministerial Volunteer Advisory Forum to consider feedback on the compensation proposal on behalf of emergency services volunteers as well as explore any other concepts to support volunteers. Discussions took places around;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. feedback and suggestions about the challenges volunteers are experiencing at a local level;</li> </ol>	<p>February 2021</p>	<p><b>Narelle Cant Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning</b> <a href="mailto:ncant@walga.asn.au">ncant@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2078</p>

		<p>2. volunteer recruitment and retention, training processes, resourcing requirements and the impact of a changing climate; and</p> <p>3. the forum also provided volunteers with the opportunity to share local learnings in an open and safe environment.</p> <p>The Minister for Emergency Services then wrote to Minister Littleproud to recognise and acknowledge the value of volunteers and to share the matters that volunteers raised on financial disincentives surrounding emergency services volunteering in Western Australia.</p> <p>DFES acknowledges the valuable contribution played by volunteers who support their local communities and has progressed a working group to review and advise on necessary changes to expenditure to ensure brigades are supported financially. DFES has embedded volunteer engagement in appliance design, testing and evaluation through Project Advisory Teams which will ensure that replacement appliances deliver improved operational and safety outcomes for volunteers. DFES has invested significantly in delivering the improved Volunteer Hub to make access to information easier and faster.</p>		
<p><b>2020 28 August Zone Agenda Item 12.1 Waste Management Levy Charges</b></p>	<p>That the South West Zone of WALGA seek the support of the State Council of WALGA to advocate with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries to resolve discrepancies in interpretation of the provision of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007 relating to the application of minimum payment levels for waste management rates.</p>	<p>WALGA's legal advice on waste charges does include the same reference (at 3.4 below) to the provisions contained in s. 66(2) that were pointed out by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries in their letter of 15 June.</p> <p>WALGA would appreciate receiving any recommendations from the Zone that would result in a simplified and consistent method for raising a waste services levy.</p>	<p><b>November 2020</b></p>	<p><b>Narelle Cant</b>  <b>Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning</b>  <a href="mailto:ncant@walga.asn.au">ncant@walga.asn.au</a>  <b>9213 2078</b></p>
<p><b>2 December 2020 State Council Agenda Item 5.1 Local Government Act Review Advocacy Paper – Key Issues from Recent Inquiries into Local Government</b></p>	<p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing advocacy relating to the Review of the Local Government Act 1995 be noted; and,</li> <li>The Advocacy Positions for a New Local Government Act: Key issues from recent Inquiries into Local Government – be endorsed, subject to the paper being amended so that recommendation 3 relating to External Oversight be amended to read:</li> </ol> <p>“That an early intervention framework of monitoring to support Local Governments be provided with any associated costs to be the responsibility of the State Government”</p>	<p>The Zones amendment on an early intervention framework was endorsed by State Council as per item 2 (II) (3) below.</p> <p>State Council Resolution</p> <p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing advocacy relating to the Review of the Local Government Act 1995 be noted; and,</li> <li>The Advocacy Positions for a New Local Government Act: Key issues from recent Inquiries into Local Government – be endorsed, subject to the following amendments;</li> </ol> <p>I. Roles and Responsibilities: That clarification of the roles and responsibilities for mayors / presidents, councillors and CEO's be considered to ensure that there is no ambiguity.</p> <p>II. External Oversight: The Local Government sector supports:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishing an Office of the Independent Assessor to replace the Standards Panel to provide an independent body to receive,</li> </ol>	<p><b>February 2021</b></p>	<p><b>Tony Brown</b>  <b>Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services</b>  <b>9213 2051</b>  <a href="mailto:tbrown@walga.asn.au">tbrown@walga.asn.au</a></p>



		<p>investigate and assess complaints against elected members and undertake inquiries.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Remove the CEO from being involved in processing complaints.</li> <li>3. That an early intervention framework of monitoring to support Local Governments be provided with any associated costs to be the responsibility of the State Government.</li> </ol> <p>III. Financial Management and Procurement: That the Local Government sector:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Requests the Minister for Local Government to direct the Department of Local Government to prepare a Model set of Financial Statements and Annual Budget Statements for the Local Government sector, in consultation with the Office of the Auditor General;</li> <li>2. Requests the Department of Local Government to re-assess the amount of detail required to be included in annual financial reports, in particular for small and medium sized entities as suggested by the Office of Auditor General;</li> <li>3. Supports Local Governments being able to use freehold land to secure debt;</li> <li>4. Supports Building Upgrade Finance being permitted for specific purposes such as cladding, heritage and green improvements;</li> <li>5. Supports the alignment of Local Government procurement thresholds, rules and policies with the State Government.</li> </ol> <p>IV. Intergovernmental Cooperation: That a Partners in Local Government Agreement promoting a collaborative partnership approach be signed by the Premier, Minister for Local Government, Western Australian Local Government Association and Local Government Professionals WA, at the commencement of each term of the State Government.</p>		
		RESOLUTION 142.6/2020 CARRIED		
<p><b>2019 June 28 Zone Agenda Item 7.2</b> Community Newspaper Awards</p>	<p>The Zone requests WALGA support a regional annual award program to recognize the significant contribution of community news publications.</p>	<p>The proposal by the Zone will be forwarded to the 2021 Local Government Convention executive organizing committee to consider the establishment of such awards as part of the 2021 program.</p>	<p><b>February 2021</b></p>	<p><b>Zac Donovan</b> Executive Manager, Finance and Marketing <a href="mailto:zdonovan@walga.asn.au">zdonovan@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2038</p>

## RESOLUTION

**Moved: Mayor Grant Henley**  
**Seconded: President Cr Michael Bennett**

**That the WALGA South West Country Zone writes to the State Government to advocate for funding for the SWAMS HealthHub project.**

**CARRIED**

## RESOLUTION

**Moved:** President Cr Paul Gillett  
**Seconded:** President Cr Michael Bennett

**That the South West Country Zone WALGA February 2021 Status Report be noted.**

**CARRIED**

### 9.2 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Matters for Decision

#### 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.

The full State Council Agenda can be found via link: <https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/a0676f1f-652d-4ebf-96ec-ff8fa747425b/Agenda-State-Council-3-March-2021.pdf>

The Zone is able to provide comment or submit an alternative recommendation that is then presented to the State Council for consideration.

#### Matters for Decision

##### 5.1 External Oversight and Intervention – Authorised Inquiries and Show Cause Notices

That WALGA:

1. Continues to advocate for the State Government to ensure that there is proper resourcing of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries to conduct timely inquiries and interventions when instigated under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1995; and
2. Requests the Minister for Local Government to:
  - a. Engage with affected Local Governments in order to attempt to resolve identified issues, improve performance and achieve good governance before considering an intervention under Part 8 of the Local Government Act 1995;
  - b. Provide written reasons prior to issuing any Show Cause Notices;
  - c. Require regular progress reports to be provided to any Local Government that is the subject of any Authorised Inquiry; and
  - d. Require that any Authorised Inquiry be conducted within a specified timeframe that may be extended with the approval of the Minister.

##### 5.2 Cost of Revaluations

That WALGA advocate to the State Government for the equal distribution of valuation costs for properties where the Water Corporation, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and the Local Government require the valuation.

### **5.3 Eligibility of Slip On Fire Fighting Units for Local Government Grants Scheme Funding**

That WALGA:

1. Supports the inclusion of capital costs of Slip On Fire Fighting Units including for Farmer Response Brigades (for use on private motor vehicles) on the Eligible List of the Local Governments Grants Scheme (LGGS).
2. Requests the Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group to include this matter on the Agenda of their next Meeting (expected March 2021).
3. Requests WALGA to work with the Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group to develop appropriate operational guidelines and procedures for the safe use of Slip On Fire Fighting Units funded in accordance with the LGGS.
4. Supports the update of the WALGA membership of the Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group to include one Local Government Elected Member and one Local Government Officer, with these appointments determined through the WALGA Selection Committee process.

### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: President Cr Brian Piesse**

**Seconded: President Cr Paul Omodei**

**That the South West Country Zone supports Items 5.1, 5.2, and 5.3, Matters for Decision as listed above in the 3 March 2021 State Council Agenda.**

**CARRIED**

### **9.3 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Matters for Noting / Information**

- 6.1 Local Government Car Parking Guideline – Western Australia
- 6.2 Submission – Draft Local Government Regulations Amendment (Employee Code of Conduct) Regulations 2020
- 6.3 Submission – Proposed Reportable Conduct Scheme for Western Australia
- 6.4 Submission – Draft State Planning Policy 4.2: Activity Centre
- 6.5 Submission – Registration of Builders (and Related Occupations) Reforms
- 6.6 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC)

### **9.4 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Organisational Reports**

#### **7.1 Key Activity Reports**

- 7.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Commercial and Communications
- 7.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Governance and Organisational Services
- 7.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure
- 7.1.4 Report on Key Activities, Strategy, Policy and Planning

## 7.2 Policy Forum Reports

### RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Michael Bennett  
Seconded: President Cr Ian Earl

That the South West Country Zone notes the following reports contained in the WALGA 3 March 2021 State Council Agenda.

- Matters for Noting/Information
- Organisational Reports
- Policy Forum Reports

CARRIED

### 9.5 WALGA President's Report

### RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Paul Omodei  
Seconded: President Cr Michael Bennett

That the WALGA President's Report be received.

CARRIED

## 10. AGENCY REPORTS

### 10.1 South West Development Commission

Ashley Clements provided an update to the meeting.

NOTED

### 10.2 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

Gordon MacMile, A/Executive Director Local Government, presented to the Zone on three recent regulatory amendments and their impact on the Local Government sector – the regulatory amendments relate to the following three issues:

1. Model Standards for CEO Recruitment, Performance Review and Termination
2. Model Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates
3. Employee Code of Conduct

In addition, the general DLGSC update for Zones is [available here](#).

NOTED

## **11. FINANCIAL REPORTS – South West Country Zone**

Transfer of the Zone's finances is underway. Bank account signatories are in the process of being changed.

**NOTED**

## **12. EMERGING ISSUES / GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **12.1 Invitations to Future Meetings**

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** President Cr Ian Earl

**Seconded:** President Cr Paul Omodei

**That the following be invited to future meetings of the South West Country Zone of WALGA:**

- Premier
- Minister for Local Government
- Minister for Planning
- Leader of the Opposition
- Commissioner Darren Klemm, Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner, DFES
- Mr Murray Carter, Executive Director, Rural Fire Division, DFES
- Bushfire Volunteers Association President

**CARRIED**

### **12.2 Federal Election**

The Zone agreed that time will be allocated as part of a future meeting round to develop a Federal Election Advocacy document and strategy.

## **13. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

### **13.1 2021 Meeting Dates**

<b>MEETING DATE</b>	<b>HOST LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b>
Friday <b>19 February</b> 2021	Bunbury
Friday <b>23 April</b> 2021	Augusta Margaret River
Friday <b>25 June</b> 2021	Capel
Friday <b>20 August</b> 2021	Collie
Friday <b>19 November</b> 2021	Dardanup

### 13.2 Next Meeting

MEETING DATE	HOST LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Friday, 23 April 2021	Shire of Augusta Margaret River

### 14. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 11:34am.

*Following the closure of the formal meeting, Nick Edwards, Project Officer South West Regional Waste Group, provided an update to the Zone on the South West Regional Waste Project.*