

# **South West Country Zone Minutes**

## **19 April 2024**

**Hosted by the Shire of  
Donnybrook-Balingup  
Cnr Bentley Street & Collins Street,  
Donnybrook**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Zone Delegates were requested to provide sufficient written notice, wherever possible, on amendments to recommendations within the State Council or Zone agenda to the Zone Chair and Secretariat prior to the Zone meeting.

Agenda Papers were emailed 7 days prior to the meeting date.

Confirmation of Attendance An attendance sheet was circulated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

## ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Minutes of previous meeting
2. April 2024 Update – Department of Local Government, Sports and Cultural Industries
3. President's Report
4. State Councillors' Report to the Zone

### **Additional Item Attachments were provided with the agenda:**

Attachment 1 - 2023 SW DAMA Annual Report

Attachment 2 - Combined Statistics

## 1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

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### 1.1 OPENING

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*The Chair, President Cr Tony Dean opened the meeting at 9:10am.*

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### 1.2 ATTENDANCE

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#### **MEMBERS**

#### **1 Voting Delegates from each Member Council**

Shire of August Margaret River

President Cr Julia Meldrum  
Mr Arthur Kyron, Acting Chief Executive Officer,  
non-voting delegate

Shire of Boyup Brook

President Cr Richard Walker  
Mr Leonard Long, Chief Executive Officer, non-  
voting delegate

City of Bunbury

Mayor Jaysen De San Miguel  
Mr Alan Ferris, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting  
delegate

City of Busselton

Mr Tony Nottle, Chief Executive Officer

Shire of Capel

President Cr Doug Kitchen  
Mr Gordon MacMile, Chief Executive Officer, non-  
voting delegate

Shire of Collie	President Cr Ian Miffling Mr Stuart Devenish, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Dardanup	President Cr Tyrrell Gardiner Mr André Schönfeldt, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Donnybrook Balingup	President Cr Vivienne McCarthy Mr Gary Hunt, Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Harvey	President Cr Michelle Campbell Ms Annie Riordan, Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Manjimup	President Cr Donnelle Buegge Mr Jason Giadresco, Acting Director Development and Regulatory Services, non-voting delegate
Shire of Nannup	President Cr Tony Dean ( <b>Chair</b> ) Mr David Taylor, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
WA Local Government Association Secretariat	Mr Chris Hossen, Policy Manager Planning and Building Ms Rebecca Hicks, Policy Officer Community
RDA South West	Mr Charles Jenkinson, Director Regional Development
Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries	Mr Tim Fraser, Executive Director
<b>Guest Speakers</b>	Nil

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### 1.3 APOLOGIES

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Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes	President Cr Jenny Mountford Ms Nicole Gibbs, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
City of Bunbury	Mayor Jaysen De San Miguel
City of Busselton	Mayor Phill Cronin
Shire of Manjimup	Mr Ben Rose, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Australia's South West	Ms Catrin Allsop, Chief Executive Officer

## 2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

Whadjuk Noongar People, where WALGA is located and we acknowledge and pay respect to Elders past and present.

## 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

## 4 DEPUTATIONS

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### 4.1 SHIRE OF DONNYBROOK-BALINGUP

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*President Cr Vivienne McCarthy and Mr Gary Hunt, Chief Executive Officer*

President Cr Vivienne McCarthy and Chief Executive Officer Mr Gary Hunt provided an update to the Zone on current priorities and key projects.

**Noted**

## 5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the South West Country Zone meeting held on 23 February 2024 have previously been circulated to Member Councils and were provided as an attachment to the Agenda.

### RESOLUTION

**Moved:** President Cr Doug Kitchen  
**Seconded:** President Cr Richard Walker

**That the Minutes of the meeting of the South West Country Zone held on 23 February 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.**

**CARRIED**

## 6 BUSINESS ARISING

### 6.1 STATUS REPORT

*By Chantelle O'Brien, Zone Executive Officer*

#### BACKGROUND

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

Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
3 May State Council Agenda Item 7.4 <b>Speed Management Reform Advocacy Position</b>	<p>That the Speed Management Advocacy Position as follows, be endorsed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>That WALGA supports Local Governments wishing to manage travel speeds, including speed limit changes, as a means of achieving the many health, social and environmental benefits for communities.</i></li> <li>2. <i>That Main Roads WA (MRWA) retain the overarching authority for speed limit setting/zoning.</i></li> <li>3. <i>That Main Roads WA speed zoning policies and processes be reformed so that Local Governments are more influential in the determination of speed limit decreases or increases for local roads.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <i>This will include applications that are deemed to be approved when the application:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <i>is based on assessments by competent Local Government practitioners,</i></li> <li>ii. <i>contains evidence-based identification of the benefits,</i></li> <li>iii. <i>contains preliminary designs for infrastructure safety upgrades associated with applications to increase speed limits, and</i></li> <li>iv. <i>includes an engagement strategy for managing community and stakeholder expectations, and provides a greater weighting for community views on speed changes.</i></li> </ol> </li> <li>b. <i>Allows for Main Roads WA to decline an application, within a mutually agreed timeframe, on the basis that it:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <i>does not meet the above criteria, and</i></li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>State Council Resolution</p> <p>That the Speed Management Advocacy Position as follows, be endorsed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That WALGA supports Local Governments wishing to manage travel speeds, including speed limit changes, as a means of achieving the many health, social and environmental benefits for communities.</li> <li>2. That Main Roads WA (MRWA) retain the overarching authority for speed limit setting/zoning.</li> <li>3. That Main Roads WA speed zoning policies and processes be reformed so that Local Governments are more influential in the determination of speed limit decreases or increases for local roads.</li> </ol> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. This will include applications that are deemed to be approved when the application: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. is based on assessments by competent Local Government practitioners,</li> <li>ii. contains evidence-based identification of the benefits,</li> <li>iii. contains preliminary designs for infrastructure safety upgrades associated with applications to increase speed limits, and</li> <li>iv. includes an engagement strategy for managing community and stakeholder expectations.</li> </ol> </li> <li>b. Allows for Main Roads WA to decline an application, within a mutually agreed timeframe, on the basis that it: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. does not meet the above criteria, and</li> <li>ii. provides specific evidence for declining the application.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. That WALGA seeks to work with Main Roads WA and other stakeholders, to</li> </ol>	Ongoing	<p>Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure <a href="mailto:iduncan@walg.a.asn.au">iduncan@walg.a.asn.au</a> 9213 2031</p>

	<p>ii. <i>provides specific evidence for declining the application.</i></p> <p>4. <i>That WALGA seeks to work with Main Roads WA and other stakeholders, to develop a speed management guide for Local Governments.</i></p>	develop a speed management guide for Local Governments.		
23 June 2023 Zone Agenda Item 7.2 - <b>Mining Tenements Applications – DMIRS Procedural Review</b>	<p>That the South West Country Zone request the WALGA State Council to adopt an advocacy position that seeks the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety to undertake:</p> <p>1. A formal review of the current statutory consultation procedures as they relate to mining tenements; and</p> <p>2. Improved public consultation for mining tenement applications, particularly for private landowners, regardless of the depth of land applicable.</p>	The WALGA secretariat will review this request and provide a response for a future Zone meeting.	<b>August 2023</b>	<b>Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services,</b> <a href="mailto:tbrown@walga.asn.au">tbrown@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2051

## Noted

## 7 STATE COUNCIL AGENDA – MATTERS FOR DECISION AND NOTING

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

The full State Council Agenda can be found via link: [State Council Agenda - 1 May 2024](#)

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

### 7.1 MATTERS FOR DECISION

#### 7.1 Waste Levy Advocacy Position

*By Rebecca Brown, Manager Waste and Environment*

#### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

**That State Council:**

- Replace the existing WALGA *Waste Levy Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 7.4 Waste Management Funding.***

**Local Government considers that:**

- Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy funds should be hypothecated to strategic waste management activities in line with the State Waste Strategy and strongly opposes the application of the Levy to non-waste management related activities, such as funding State Government core activities; and**
- The Levy should not be applied to licensed landfills outside the metropolitan area.**

**2. Endorse a new Waste Levy Advocacy Position as follows:**

**The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy (the Levy) was established in WA to fund programs relating to the management, reduction, reuse, recycling, monitoring or measurement of waste and administering the fund. The current Levy is applied to waste generated, or landfilled, in the Perth metropolitan area.**

**Currently, only 25% of the collected funds are retained for strategic waste management activities, 75% are allocated to the ongoing operations of the Department responsible for administration of the Levy.**

**Local Government considers that:**

- 1. The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy funds must be fully hypothecated to strategic waste management activities in line with the State Waste Strategy and not be used for non-waste management related activities, such as funding State Government core activities.**
- 2. Strategic waste management activities funded by the State Government should:**
  - a. Provide adequate funding and support for Regional Councils, non-metropolitan and metropolitan Local Governments;**
  - b. Reflect the targets and priorities within the Waste Strategy;**
  - c. Fully fund and acknowledge the life cycle costs of infrastructure and services; and**
  - d. Facilitate the development, implementation and ongoing operation of Product Stewardship Schemes.**
- 3. The Levy should not be applied to waste generated in the non-metropolitan area as it is not feasible, or appropriate, to implement the Levy in areas with a limited rate base, access to markets for recycled materials, economic growth and resources to manage such a change.**
- 4. The Levy should not be applied to waste received at premises undertaking licensed activities whose primary purpose is resource recovery.**
- 5. The Levy must be supported by a clear, evidence-based rationale to demonstrate the suitability of how charges are set, how and where funds are allocated, and the extent to which it is delivering on its objectives.**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- The Waste Levy and Strategic Waste Funding Policy Statement was first endorsed in 2008 and was amended in 2018.
- The Statement outlines the Local Government position on levies charged on the weight or volume of waste received at licensed premises and the application of those funds to waste management activities.
- In 2023, the WA Government published the findings of a Review of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Levy. The consultation summary report and supporting consultant report can be accessed on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) [website](#).
- Key outcomes of the Levy Review included a five-year schedule of increases and a commitment to investigate extending the levy boundary to regional areas.
- The new Waste Levy Advocacy Position uses contemporary language emphasises:
  - Full hypothecation of the Levy;



- The key areas of expenditure for the Levy;
- Opposition to the expansion of the Levy's geographic application;
- Opposition to the application of the Levy to resource recovery activities; and
- The need for a clear evidence-based rationale for setting and expending the Levy.
- The Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) endorsed the new Advocacy Position in February 2024.

## RESOLUTION

**Moved: President Cr Richard Walker**

**Seconded: Mr Tony Nottle**

**That the South West Country Zone supports agenda item 7.1 in the May State Council Agenda with the following amendment:**

**At heading 2 - Strategic Waste Management, insert point e to include the following:**

***“e. monitoring and regulation of activities at regional facilities with staffing based within regional locations in order to ensure a more proactive and responsive compliance regime.”***

**CARRIED**

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## 7.2 POLICY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

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- 8.1 Environment Policy Team Report
- 8.2 Governance Policy Team Report
- 8.3 Infrastructure Policy Team Report
- 8.4 People and Place Policy Team Report
- 8.5 Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Report

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## 7.3 MATTERS FOR NOTING/INFORMATION

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- 9.1 WALGA 2023 Emergency Management Survey
- 9.2 Tree Retention Model Local Planning Policy
- 9.3 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement Plan Implementation
- 9.4 Planning and Building Performance Monitoring Project
- 9.5 2024 WALGA Aboriginal Engagement Forum

## RESOLUTION

**Moved: President Cr Julia Meldrum**

**Seconded: President Cr Tyrrell Gardiner**

**That the South West Country Zone:**

- 1. Supports State Council Matters for Decision 7.1 in the May 2024 State Council Agenda as amended above, and**
- 2. Notes all other Policy Team and Committee Reports and Organisational Reports as listed in the May 2024 State Council Agenda.**

**CARRIED**

## 8 ZONE BUSINESS

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### 8.1 CARAVAN AND CAMPING REGULATIONS ADVOCACY

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*By Shire of Augusta Margaret River*

#### **BACKGROUND**

There is substantive interest in Tiny Homes on Wheels (THOW) as an emerging form of housing, however they do not fit neatly into existing regulations, meaning there are high levels of uncertainty pursuing this accommodation for long term occupation.

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River's Local Planning Strategy promotes establishing approval pathways for this form of accommodation, to add to the mix of housing options available within the Shire. Shire staff have been investigating this for a number of years, including participating in a working group established in 2023 with the Australian Tiny Homes Association and the Shire's of Denmark, Esperance and Bridgetown-Greenbushes.

Tiny Homes on Wheels are capable of approval under the planning framework in place across the state. The current barriers are compliance with either the National Construction Code or the Caravan Grounds and Camping Regulations, both of which are not Local Government controlled legislation.

Construction standards specific to this type of accommodation are yet to be developed, and are likely to take a considerable time to prepare.

It is difficult for Tiny Homes on Wheels to meet the National Construction Code due to headroom clearance requirements, stair gradients and wind rating/tethering standards. This will be complicated further by the increased requirements for circulation space with the implementation of the 2022 National Construction Code in 2025.

If a Tiny House on Wheels does not meet the National Construction Code, it is treated as a caravan which is regulated under the *Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995* and Regulations 1997. Occupation of a caravan or sleeping in a vehicle on private property is restricted to 3 days in any consecutive period of 28 days. Local Government has the capacity to approve this up to a 3-month period, and the Minister has the capacity to approve up to a 12-month period.

While these shorter (3 month) approval timeframes may suit some limited circumstances, it does not address the current unavailability of long-term rentals being experienced across the region.

The option of delegating the capacity to issue 12-month approvals to Local Government has been investigated but is not possible under the current legislation.

#### **Suggested Changes**

There is a current review being undertaken on the *Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995* and Regulations 1997 lead by the State Government.

The standards contained in Part 2(b) of the Regulations need to be changed to enable Local Government to approve occupation for a period of up to 12-months, with capacity for this to be renewed for additional periods. This would only involve minor changes to the regulations.

A suggested modification to Part 2(b) the Regulations is provided below in red:

*Written approval may be given for a person to camp on land referred to in subregulation (1)(a) for a period specified in the approval which is longer than 3 nights –*

- (a) by the local government of the district where the land is situated, if such approval will not result in the land being camped on for longer than 3 months in any period of 12 months; or*
- (b) by the Minister if such approval will result in the land being camped on for longer than 3 months in any period of 12 months;*
- (c) by the local government of the district where the land is situated, if such approval will result in the land being camped on for longer than 3 months in any period of 12 months, if the local government has an adopted policy to determine the circumstances where land can be camped on for longer than 3 months.*

This would give Local Government the ability to approve terms of occupation longer than 3 months, as well as the capacity to establish policy settings to ensure that the location, placement and type of camping is appropriate for the amenity of the locality.

In the case of the Shire of Augusta Margaret River, policy would require that this would need to be in the form of a Tiny House on Wheels, as opposed to a conventional caravan or other form of accommodation design for immediate movement.

This would allow a Local Government to 'opt in' via preparation of a policy if they sought to enable camping beyond three months but would not impact those Local Governments not interested in pursuing this type of approach.

## **MOTION**

**Moved: President Cr Julia Meldrum**

**Seconded: President Cr Doug Kitchen**

**That the South West County Zone:**

- 1. Supports changes to Part 2(b) of the Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Regulations 1997 that allow Local Governments to consider camping on private property for a period of up to 12 months;**
- 2. Allows Local Governments to establish policy to guide approvals beyond 3 months to ensure that camping is locally appropriate; and**
- 3. Calls on WALGA to adopt a sector wide advocacy position in relation to 1 and 2, above.**

## AMENDMENT

Moved: President Cr Julia Meldrum

Seconded: President Cr Doug Kitchen

1. Remove the words "up to 12 months" and replace with "greater of three months" in point 1; and
2. Insert the words "and provide for circumstances where tiny homes can be occupied on a more permanent basis" to the end of point 2.

CARRIED

## THE MOTION AS AMENDED NOW READS

That the South West County Zone:

1. Supports changes to Part 2(b) of the Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Regulations 1997 that allow Local Governments to consider camping on private property for a period of greater of three months.
2. Allows Local Governments to establish policy to guide approvals beyond 3 months to ensure that camping is locally appropriate and provide for circumstances where tiny homes can be occupied on a more permanent basis; and
3. Calls on WALGA to adopt a sector wide advocacy position in relation to 1 and 2, above.

CARRIED

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## 8.2 ENHANCED AND ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR REGIONAL WA

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The Executive Officer of the Great Southern Country Zone has asked for this Item to be considered for inclusion in the Zone Agenda.

*Report by: Great Southern Country Zone*

### BACKGROUND

The Great Southern Country Zone has written to the Minister for Education, Hon. Tony Buti MLA Zone seeking support to prioritise increased State Government investment to improve regional education, including:

- Increased access to alternative programs for students disaffected by main-stream education, those at risk or who have specific learning needs, who may be disruptive, falling behind and at risk of failing to learn; providing these students with intensive support, active, empathic, and practical instruction, combined with health and other services to enable their success.
- Increased secondary education distance ATAR, VET and other WACE subject courses, if necessary supplemented by private providers, with qualified teacher mentoring and support provided in schools closest to students, supplemented with online access to subject specialist teachers to enable student success.
- Implement strategies to attract and retain quality teachers and subject specialists in remote communities, including:

- Subsidised high standard GROH housing.
- Increased financial bonuses, for remote locations and to encourage longer term retention.
- Providing sufficient GROH housing for State Government employees to reduce pressure on regional private rental availability and improve housing security for teachers and all Government service staff when transferring to regional locations.

The Great Southern Country Zone's call to action from State Government, seeks to reduce disadvantage for students living in regional Western Australia, so they can access the same quality educational opportunities available in metropolitan and regional centres, without need to attend boarding schools. In addition, these strategies will also deliver substantial economic and social benefit for regional communities.

## **COMMENT**

If your region also experiences disadvantage in educational opportunities, the Great Southern Country Zone now seeks your consideration of the below recommendations and if the South West Country Zone accepts the recommendations below, then your Zone may use the above content to assist in developing your submissions.

The Great Southern Country Zone have requested that the Central Country Zone consider the following request;

1. Supports the call to action to reduce regional disadvantage in educational opportunities,
2. Agrees to write to the Minister for Education requesting action; and
3. Requests the WALGA Secretariat to advocate to State Government on this matter.

**Noted**

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## **8.3 SOUTH WEST DAMA ANNUAL REPORT**

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*By the Shire of Dardanup*

### **BACKGROUND**

The South-West region entered into a Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) with the Commonwealth as a way to address the current skills shortages affecting the region.

A Memorandum of Understanding between the twelve local governments was endorsed by the SW Zone in 2020 and signed in 2021. The South West DAMA was signed in December 2021 and took effect from January 2022. The DAMA is accessible for businesses operating within the designated South-West region that have advertised but been unable to source skilled workers locally to fill nominated positions within their workforce. Under the terms of a DAMA, businesses operating within the South-West area may be able to access a broader range of occupations as well as concessions not generally available through the standard skilled visa programs.

Employers who have an interest in accessing the DAMA are required to first submit an application to the Shire of Dardanup, who are the appointed Designated Area Representative (DAR) for the South-West DAMA. A positive endorsement then allows you to request a Labour Agreement with the Department of Home Affairs.

More information on the SW DAMA is available on the following web-page [South-West DAMA » Shire of Dardanup](#)

The 2023 SW DAMA Annual Report is included in Attachment 1 for noting. Additionally the combined statistics of the number of businesses, labour agreements and visas approved are included for noting in Attachment 2.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** President Cr Julia Meldrum  
**Seconded:** President Cr Tyrrell Gardiner

### **The South West Country Zone:**

- 1. Notes the 2023 South West Designated Area Migration Agreement Annual report as per attachment 1;**
- 2. Notes the summary data for the DAMA for the first two years 2022 and 2023 as per attachment 2; and**
- 3. Requests WALGA to give an update to the Zone on their position on a Statewide DAMA and the merits of this approach.**

**CARRIED**

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## **8.4 BUSSELTON MARGARET RIVER AIRPORT UPDATE**

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*By the City of Busselton*

### **BACKGROUND**

Commencing from the April 2024 Zone meeting, City of Busselton requested that a quarterly update be provided to members of the Zone on the Busselton Airport Business Plan. Each Zone meeting will have a standing Agenda item on this topic. When available, an update will be provided on the Agenda.

Report was attached with the Agenda.

**Noted**

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## 8.5 IMPORTANCE OF WALGA BECOMING A REGISTERED EMPLOYER ORGANISATION

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*By Tony Brown, Executive Director, Member Services,*

### BACKGROUND

Currently, WALGA is a registered industrial agent under the [Industrial Relations Act 1979 \(WA\) \(IR Act\)](#) which allows us to:

- appear as an agent for a WA Local Government or Regional Council (**Local Government**) in the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission (**WAIRC**), Industrial Magistrate's Court or Industrial Appeal Court (**State Courts**); and
- provide advice or other services to Local Governments in relation to 'industrial matters' as defined in s.7 of the IR Act.

Since the mandate for Local Governments<sup>1</sup> to operate in the State industrial relations (**IR**) system from 1 January 2023, unions<sup>2</sup> have commenced various Local Government State awards<sup>3</sup> (**LG State Awards**) variation claims in the WAIRC to amend industry employment conditions including to:

- increase minimum wages for outside workers;
- introduce Fair Work standards in the State system (increase casual loading from 20 to 25%; insert casual conversion; and insert flexible working arrangements) and other conditions (insert employment equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons; insert cultural and ceremonial leave; and amend severance pay for regional redundancies); and
- increase industry allowance for compensation for disabilities on construction and maintenance work.

In addition the WASU, LGRCEU and other unions (such as the **Construction, Forestry, and Maritime Employees Union (CFMEU)**) as 'employee organisations' can make industrial agreements with Local Government employers under the IR Act.

A [recent decision of the WAIRC](#) has outlined although WALGA may intervene in award matters we are unable to represent named LG State Award employers and the broader Local Government sector in our own right.

Despite WALGA's advocacy since December 2022, the State Government has not agreed a pathway for WALGA to be provided with standing as an employer organisation under the IR Act.

For WALGA to represent Local Governments' views and have the same standing as the unions under the IR Act it has become vital for WALGA to seek to amend its constitution to apply to become an employer organisation.

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<sup>1</sup> with the exception of the Shires of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands

<sup>2</sup> The Western Australian Municipal, Administrative, Clerical and Services Union of Employees (**WASU**) and the Local Government, Racing and Cemeteries Employees Union (WA) (**LGRCEU**)

<sup>3</sup> The [Local Government Officers' \(Western Australia\) Award 2021](#) and the [Municipal Employees \(Western Australia\) Award 2021](#). These awards have not been updated significantly since prior to the introduction of the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Cth). They were old 1999 Federal awards which were registered without amendment as interim awards in 2011 in the State system. They then became State awards in 2021. No significant amendments have been made to these awards over 23 years.

If WALGA was to become an employer organisation it would provide more opportunity for WALGA to modernise the LG State Awards and intervene in industrial matters concerning the Local Government sector. In addition, the WAIRC is more likely to notify WALGA of award applications or variations and industrial agreement changes reducing the risk of unions being able to change the terms and conditions of the sector, with limited to no input from Local Governments or WALGA.

## **COMMENT**

WALGA will be looking to amend its constitution to enable WALGA to become a registered employer organisation at the 2024 AGM in October 2024.

An agenda item will be prepared for the June/July round of Zone/State Council meetings detailing the proposed amendments.

This item is for the Zones awareness of the need for WALGA to become an employer organisation and to note that constitutional amendments will be required.

For any questions about the constitutional amendment process, please contact Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services, [tbrown@walga.asn.au](mailto:tbrown@walga.asn.au) or (08) 9213 2051.

## **Noted**

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## **8.6 ADOPTION OF POLICY AND ADVOCACY PRIORITISATION FRAMEWORK**

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*By Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance*

### **BACKGROUND**

State Council uses a Policy and Advocacy Prioritisation Framework to guide discussion and decision-making on policy and advocacy issues. The Framework was developed in 2020 on the request of State Council to assist State Councillors in determining the priority of a particular issue relative to existing (and competing) policy and advocacy priorities.

The Framework (included below) utilises 11 criteria to sharpen thinking (e.g. the impact on the Local Government sector, the number of Member Local Governments affected, the level of support amongst the public or other stakeholders, etc.), and encourage decision-makers to consider the wider context and impacts of the issue before settling on a pathway forward.

The Great Southern Country Zone also adopted the Prioritisation Framework not long after it was developed in 2020.

### **COMMENT**

It is proposed that all Zones consider adopting the Policy and Advocacy Prioritisation Framework as included below.

If the Zone were to adopt the Prioritisation Framework, Zone Delegates could use it to guide their decision-making when determining whether or not to request action or advocacy from WALGA on a particular issue (that is, sector-wide issues). Issues that are not sufficiently prioritised (that



is, regional issues) could instead be dealt with at the Zone level (e.g. through direct advocacy efforts on behalf of the Zone).

The Prioritisation Framework could also be used by Zone Delegates when drafting Agenda items and motions on policy or advocacy issues, using the criteria as prompts for what kind of information to include.

The Prioritisation Framework does not remove the need for judgements to be made and is intended to *guide*, not replace, decision-making.

How to use the Framework:

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

Following prioritisation, an appropriate and proportionate policy and advocacy approach can be determined.

<b>Impact on Local Government Sector</b> Impact on Local Government sector without intervention	High	Medium	Low
<b>Reach</b> Number of member Local Governments affected	Sector-wide	Significant (multiple regions, Zones, or bands)	Few
<b>Influence</b> Capacity to influence decision makers	High	Medium	Low
<b>Principles</b> Alignment to core principles such as autonomy, funding, general competence	Strong	Partial	Peripheral
<b>Clarity</b> Policy change needed is clear and well-defined	Clear	Partial	Unclear
<b>Decision-maker support</b> Level of support among decision-makers (political and administrative)	High	Medium	Low
<b>Public support</b> Level of support among the public or other stakeholders	High	Medium	Low
<b>Positive consequences for WALGA</b> Prospect of positive consequences for WALGA. E.g. enhanced standing among members or leverage for other issues.	High	Medium	Low

<b>Negative consequences for WALGA</b> Prospect of negative consequences for WALGA for not undertaking the advocacy effort. E.g. diminished standing among members or other stakeholders.	High	Medium	Low
<b>Partnerships</b> Potential for partnerships with other stakeholders	Yes (3+)	Possibly (1-2)	No (0)

## RESOLUTION

**Moved:** President Cr Julia Meldrum  
**Seconded:** President Cr Vivienne MacCarthy

**That the South West Country Zone adopt the Policy and Advocacy Prioritisation Framework to determine the priority of a particular policy or advocacy issue, and guide future decision-making.**

**CARRIED**

## 9 OTHER BUSINESS

### 9.1 STATE COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETING

The Regional State Council meeting due to be hosted by the South West Country Zone in Busselton has been rescheduled to Thursday-Friday, 5-6 December to align with the ALGA Roads Congress which is being held in Margaret River around the same time.

City of Busselton are hosting the Regional State Council meeting in the Undalup room at the City of Busselton Administration Centre.

The Zone Forum will be held on Thursday from 1:00pm – 5:30pm, and State Council business will be held on the Friday morning.

WALGA encourages Zone Members to invite Elected Members and senior officers to attend.

WALGA will seek advice from the Zone on how the Zone wants to deliver their event, particularly the format and content of the Zone Forum.

Further information, including a more detailed program, will be distributed closer to the event.

**Noted**

## 10 EXECUTIVE REPORTS

### 10.1 WALGA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Chris Hossen presented the President's Report. The report was attached within the Agenda.

**Noted**

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## **10.2 STATE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT TO THE ZONE**

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WALGA State Councillor, President Cr Tony Dean presented on the previous State Council meeting.

**Noted**

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## **10.3 SOUTH WEST DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

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Ms Mellisa Teede, Chief Executive Officer, is an apology for this meeting.

**Noted**

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## **10.4 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA – SOUTH WEST**

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Charles Jenkinson, Director Regional Development, provided a brief update to the Zone.

**Noted**

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## **10.5 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SPORT AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES**

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Mr Tim Fraser, Executive Director, from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries provided an update on Legislative Priorities, Meeting Procedures submissions and Regulatory Reform.

The April 2024 DLGSC update was attached within the Agenda.

**Noted**

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## **10.6 AUSTRALIA'S SOUTH WEST**

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Chief Executive Officer at Australia's South West, Ms Catrin Allsop, was an apology for this meeting.

**Noted**

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## **10.7 NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

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Due to Sam Ramsay's departure from NEMA, Steve Gray, Acting Director Coordination and Planning has advised that a representative will no longer be able to attend in person. Any information can be provided via WALGA's Emergency Management Officer, Rachel Armstrong.

**Noted**

11 FINANCIAL REPORT

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11.1 SOUTH WEST COUNTRY ZONE FINANCIAL REPORT

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**South West Country Zone  
Cashflow  
Period Ending 31 March 2024**

	Actual	Comments
	-	
	\$	
Opening Cash Balance	19,883	
<b>Income</b>		
Subscription Income	7,200	All 12 members invoiced & funds collected
	<hr/>	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>7,200</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>		
Bank Charges	49	
Meeting expenses	26	
Plaques	491	3 x plaques for retiring members
	<hr/>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>566</b>	
Closing Cash Balance	26,518	

**RESOLUTION**

**Moved: President Cr Julia Meldrum  
Seconded: President Cr Doug Kitchen**

**That the South West Country Zone financial report for April 2024 be received.**

**CARRIED**

## 12 EMERGING ISSUES

Members raised the following matters:

- Land bleaching, drought and current bushfire risks.
- No apparent recognition from the State Government about how dire the situation is with a lack of water in the region and consideration of whether the Water Corporation can assist in making water more available during drought times.
- Collie has been identified as a possible site for small nuclear reactors. This may become a matter of concern for the entire South-West region.

**Noted**

## 13 2024 MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS

Meeting dates for 2024 are listed below. Please note if any changes need to be made.

<b>MEETING DATE</b>	<b>HOST LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b>
Friday, <b>23 February</b> 2024	Bunbury
Friday, <b>19 April</b> 2024	Donnybrook-Balingup
Friday, <b>21 June</b> 2024	Dardanup
Friday, <b>23 August</b> 2024	Harvey
Friday, <b>22 November</b> 2024	Manjimup

## 14 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the South West Country Zone will be held on Friday, 21 June 2024 at the Shire of Dardanup commencing at 9:00am.

## 15 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at **11:45am**