

# Peel Country Zone Minutes

**18 June 2026**

Hosted by the Shire of Murray  
1915 Pinjarra Road, Pinjarra

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## PRIORITISATION FRAMEWORK

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.

<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)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Zone Delegates were requested to provide sufficient written notice, wherever possible, of 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. LGIRS Local Government Division Report
2. Minutes of previous meeting
3. Zone Status Report
4. President's Report

## 1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

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### 1.1 OPENING

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*Zone Chair, President Cr Michael Walmsley opened the meeting at 1.13pm*

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### 1.2 ATTENDANCE

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<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>2 Voting Delegates from each Member Local Government</b>
Shire of Boddington	President Cr Eugene Smallberger Ms Julie Burton, Chief Executive Officer – non-voting
City of Mandurah	Mayor Amber Kearns Cr Shannon Wright Ms Casey Mihovilovich, Chief Executive Officer – non-voting
Shire of Murray	President Cr Douglas McLarty Cr Ange Rogers Mr Dean Unsworth, Chief Executive Officer – non-voting
Shire of Serpentine - Jarrahdale	President Cr Rob Coales  Mr Paul Martin, Chief Executive Officer – non-voting
Shire of Waroona	President Cr Michael Walmsley ( <b>Chair</b> ) Cr Brad Vitale Ashleigh Nuttall, Director Corporate Services - non-voting
<b>WALGA Secretariat</b>	President Chris Antonio, Deputy President Ms Hannah Godsave, Policy Manager Community Ms Samantha Kennedy, Senior Policy Advisor Emergency Management

## GUEST SPEAKERS

Telstra

Mr Boyd Brown, Regional General Manager WA

Office of the Local

Mr Tony Brown, Local Government Inspector

Government Inspector

Department of Fire and

Mr Murray Carter, Executive Director Rural Fire Division

Emergency Services

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## 1.3 APOLOGIES

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Members of Parliament

Hon Jessica Stojkovski MLA, Minister for Peel

Shire of Boddington

Cr Paul Carrots

Shire of Waroona

Mr Mark Goodlet, Chief Executive Officer

Shire of Serpentine  
Jarrahdale

Cr Courtney Mazzini

## 2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We, the delegates of the Peel Country Zone acknowledge the traditional owners of this land that we are meeting on today and pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

## 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Zone Delegates must declare to the Chair any potential conflict of interest they have in a matter before the Zone as soon as they become aware of it. Zone Delegates and Deputies may be directly or indirectly associated with some recommendations of the Zone and State Council. If you are affected by these recommendations, please excuse yourself from the meeting and do not participate in deliberations.

Nil.

## 4 DEPUTATIONS

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### 4.1 OFFICE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR

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Local Government Inspector, Mr Tony Brown provided an overview of the functions of the Office of the Inspector, his priorities for 2026 and his expectations of the sector.

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### 4.2 TELSTRA

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Telstra Regional General Manager WA, Mr Boyd Brown provided an update to the Zone.

## 5 AGENCY REPORTS

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### 5.1 LGIRS LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIVISION REPORT

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The June 2026 report from the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS) Local Government Division was enclosed as an attachment.

**Noted**

### 5.2 DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (DFES)

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DFES Executive Director Rural Fire Division, Mr Murray Carter provided a brief update to the Zone.

**Noted**

## 6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The previous meeting Minutes of the Peel Country Zone have been circulated to Zone Delegates and was provided as an attachment to the Agenda.

### RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Douglas McLarty  
Seconded: Cr Ange Rogers

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Peel Country Zone held on 23 April 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

**CARRIED**

## 7 BUSINESS ARISING

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### 7.1 STATUS REPORT

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A Status Report outlining any recent updates and/or actions taken on the Zone's previous meetings resolutions for both State Council and Zone items was enclosed as an attachment. These item updates will remain on the Status Report until completed or no further action is required by WALGA.

**Noted**

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## 7.2 ACTIONS FROM APRIL ZONE MEETING

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At the April meeting, Zone Delegates discussed item 9.3 Off Road Vehicles Advocacy Position from the May State Council Agenda. In response to these discussions, the WALGA Secretariat contacted the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety for an update on the current status of the Off Road vehicles Advisory Committee.

The Off Road Vehicle Advisory Committee (Committee) is a statutory body established under the *Off Road Vehicles Act*. The Committee members are appointed by the Minister for Local Government for a three year term. Committee membership included two representatives of the Local Government sector, with nominations progressed through the WALGA Selection Committee process.

In May 2026, two new Local Government representatives were appointed to the Committee. The first meeting of the Committee under the new Membership is scheduled for 18 June 2026.

The Department representative was not aware of any recent discussions regarding previous proposals for Off Road Vehicle areas in Paganoni Swamp, mining rehabilitation areas within the Shire of Murray or Myalup. The recommendation was for enquiring Local Governments to contact the Department team directly via [orv@lgirs.wa.gov.au](mailto:orv@lgirs.wa.gov.au) to discuss further.

On 28 May, the second round of the Off-road Vehicles Area Grants Program opened. Grants up to \$1 million are available for Local Governments to establish new or upgrade existing off-road vehicle areas. Applications close Monday, 31 August. More information is available on the [DLGSC website](#).

**Noted**

## 8 ZONE BUSINESS

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### 8.1 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM GREAT SOUTHERN COUNTRY ZONE CHAIR - COST SHIFTING TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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#### **BACKGROUND**

Cr Scott Crosby, Zone Chair for the Great Southern Country Zone wrote to all Zone Chairs to express the Zone's position and concerns in regard to cost shifting to Local Government.

A copy of the letter was attached with the Agenda.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** President Cr Douglas McLarty

**Seconded:** Cr Brad Vitale

**That the Peel Country Zone recommends the Great Southern Country Zone raise the motion at the WALGA AGM.**

**CARRIED**

## 9 WALGA STATE COUNCIL AGENDA

Zone Delegates are invited to read and consider the WALGA State Council Agenda which can be found via the link [here](#).

The Zone can provide comment or submit an alternative recommendation on any of the items. The Zone comment will then be presented to the State Council for consideration at their next meeting.

The State Council Agenda items requiring a decision of State Council are extracted for Zone consideration below.

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### 9.1 CLIMATE CHANGE ADVOCACY POSITION

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*By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste*

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A new climate change Advocacy Position is proposed to replace the position endorsed by State Council in 2018.
- WALGA released a Consultation Paper and draft Climate Change Advocacy Position in January 2026 for Council endorsed feedback by 1 May 2026.
- 39 Council endorsed submissions and two officer level comments were received:
  - 18 (44%) supported the draft Position.
  - 18 (44%) supported the draft Position with comments and/or proposed changes.
  - four (10%) did not support the draft Position and proposed an alternative.
  - one (2%) did not support the Advocacy Position.
- The draft Advocacy Position has been refined in response to the feedback received, noting that the majority of submissions either supported the draft position in its entirety or supported with comment and/or amendment:
  - *"to meet the needs of their communities"* has been added to Point 1 to better reflect Local Government context.
  - Point 2b has been revised to:
    - Include explicit reference to increasing risk and expanded legislative requirements and align with language in the *Local Government Act* (mitigation, rather than emissions reduction).
    - Be clear that Local Government must be provided with the funding, guidance and practical support required to meet increasing risk and legislative requirements.
- At its meeting on 25 May 2026, the Environment Policy Team considered this item and recommended that State Council replace the current Climate Change Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 4.1 with the new Advocacy Position.

#### ATTACHMENT

- [Climate Change Advocacy Position Consultation Report](#)

#### STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item aligns with WALGA's Strategic Pillars:

- **Influence:** Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government and lead policy development for the Local Government sector.
- **Support:** Anticipate, understand and respond to Member needs.

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

It is proposed that the [Climate Change Policy Statement](#) and **current** Advocacy Position 4.1 Climate Change as follows:

*Local Government acknowledges:*

1. *The science is clear: Climate change is occurring and greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are the dominant cause.*
2. *Climate change threatens human societies and the Earth's ecosystems.*
3. *Urgent action is required to reduce emissions, and to adapt to the impacts from climate change that are now unavoidable.*
4. *A failure to adequately address this climate change emergency places an unacceptable burden on future generations.*

*Local Government is committed to addressing climate change.*

*Local Government is calling for:*

1. *Strong climate change action, leadership and coordination at all levels of government.*
2. *Effective and adequately funded Commonwealth and State Government climate change policies and programs.*

be **replaced** with (changes following consultation underlined):

1. *Local Government acknowledges the risks associated with, and is committed to addressing, climate change to meet the needs of their communities.*
2. *WALGA calls on the Australian and Western Australian Governments to:*
  - a. *provide the necessary climate leadership, coordination and action to ensure an orderly transition to achieve emission reduction targets and address the impacts of climate change.*
  - b. *ensure that Local Government has the funding, guidance and practical support required to meet increasing risk and expanded legislative requirements to plan for, mitigate and adapt to climate impacts.*

## BACKGROUND

In 2018, State Council endorsed a [Climate Change Policy Statement](#) and Advocacy Position, following extensive sector consultation. Since this position was adopted there have been significant legislative, policy, technological and scientific changes, including:

- The national *Climate Change Act 2022* and the Western Australian Climate Change Bill 2023.
- Increased legislative responsibilities, including the *Local Government Amendment Act 2023*, which expanded Western Australian Local Governments' general function under Part 3 s3.1(1A) of the *Local Government Act 1995*:
  - a. To promote the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the district;
  - b. To plan for, and to plan for mitigating, risks associated with climate change; and
  - c. In making decisions, to consider potential long-term consequences and impacts on future generations
- The release of the Australian Government's [National Climate Risk Assessment](#) and [National Adaptation Plan](#) in 2025.
- Escalation of the transition to renewable energy, uptake of electric vehicles and energy efficiency standards under the National Construction Code.

- Climate science and projections ([international](#), [national](#) and [WA specific](#)) have also become clearer regarding the risks posed by climate change and the need for action to address the consequential impacts.

Work commenced on the review of the current position in 2024. An updated draft position was considered at the March 2025 State Council meeting, with the position referred back to the Environment Policy Team for further development. In January 2026, WALGA released a Consultation Paper and draft Advocacy Position, with Council endorsed feedback requested by 1 May 2026.

## COMMENT

Responses were received from 41 Local Governments, 39 Council endorsed submissions and two officer level comments (Karratha and Melville):

- 18 (44%) supported the draft Advocacy Position:
  - Metropolitan: Joondalup, Stirling, Bayswater, Kalamunda, Bassendean, Canning, Cockburn, Melville, Rockingham, Cambridge, Subiaco and Serpentine Jarrahdale.
  - Regional: Harvey, Victoria Plains, Gnowangerup, Kalgoorlie Boulder, Ngaanyatjaraku and Karratha.
- 18 (44%) were supported with comment and/or proposed changes:
  - 7 sought minor wording refinements or small additions:
    - Metropolitan: Belmont, Gosnells and Kwinana.
    - Regional: Dumbleyung, West Arthur, York and Mingenew.
  - 11 proposed more substantial amendments:
    - Metropolitan: Mundaring, Armadale, Victoria Park, East Fremantle, Fremantle, Perth and Vincent.
    - Regional: Augusta Margaret River, Busselton, Kent and Cocos (Keeling) Islands.
- Four (10%) did not support the draft Advocacy Position and proposed an alternative position:
  - Regional: Waroona (alternative position). Quairading, Wagin and Cue provided the Central Country Zone position.
- One (2%) did not support the draft Advocacy Position and did not provide an alternative:
  - Regional: Collie.

Responses were received from Local Governments across all Metropolitan Zones and from all but two Country Zones.

Across both metropolitan and regional submissions, Local Governments emphasised that the roles and responsibilities of each level of government in climate change mitigation and adaptation remain unclear, while legislative obligations placed on Local Governments have expanded without a sustainable funding model to support implementation. Small, rural and remote Local Governments raised concerns about their communities' heightened exposure to heat, extreme weather and infrastructure failure, combined with limited local capacity and resources to respond effectively.

The draft Advocacy Position has been refined in response to the feedback received, noting that the majority of submissions either supported the draft position in its entirety or supported with comment and/or amendment:

- "*to meet the needs of their communities*" has been added to Point 1 to better reflect Local Government context.
- Point 2b has been revised to:

- Include explicit reference to increasing risk and expanded legislative requirements and align with language in the Local Government Act (mitigation, rather than emissions reduction).
- Be clear that Local Government must be provided with the funding, guidance and practical support required to meet increasing risk and legislative requirements.

The Position has been kept high level, noting that many of the specific matters raised in the feedback are included in other WALGA Advocacy Positions (or will be incorporated when these positions are reviewed) and/or will inform WALGA's more detailed climate advocacy.

A [Climate Change Advocacy Position Consultation Report](#) providing a summary of feedback received and rationale for the changes to the position is attached.

At its meeting on 25 May 2026, the Environment Policy Team considered this item and recommended that State Council replace the existing Climate Change Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 4.1 with the new Climate Change Advocacy Position.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That State Council replace the Climate Change Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 4.1 with a new Climate Change Advocacy Position as follows:

1. *Local Government acknowledges the risks associated with, and is committed to addressing, climate change to meet the needs of their communities.*
2. *WALGA calls on the Australian and Western Australian Governments to:*
  - a. *Provide the necessary climate leadership, coordination and action to ensure an orderly transition to achieve emission reduction targets and address the impacts of climate change.*
  - b. *Ensure that Local Government has the funding, guidance and practical support required to meet increasing risk and expanded legislative requirements to plan for, mitigate and adapt to climate impacts.*

#### RESOLUTION

**Moved: Cr Ange Rogers**  
**Seconded: Mayor Amber Kearns**

**That the Peel Country Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.1 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.**

**CARRIED**

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## 9.2 TRAIN STATION PRECINCTS ADVOCACY POSITION

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*By Coralie Claudio, A/Manager Planning and Building*

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- In November 2025, the State Government [announced](#) it would commence the preparation of Improvement Plans and Improvement Schemes for ten train station precincts across the Perth metropolitan region.
- A new Train Station Precinct Advocacy Position is proposed, which identifies the need for collaborative, place-based, and infrastructure-led precinct planning that enables housing delivery while respecting local planning frameworks and maintaining community confidence, supported by strong State Government coordination and funding.
- The position is intended to support timely and direct engagement with the State Government on sector priorities for current and future State-led train station precincts.
- The draft position has been informed by a review of Council resolutions and feedback from Local Governments, including those associated with the initial ten identified train station precincts.
- The Environment Policy Team endorsed the position at its meeting on 18 May 2026.

### ATTACHMENT

- [Rationale New Advocacy Position: Train Station Precincts](#)

### STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item aligns with WALGA's Strategic Pillars:

- **Influence** – Lead advocacy on issues that are important to Local Government, including coordinated precinct planning and housing delivery.
- **Support** – Anticipate, understand, and respond to Member needs, ensuring Local Governments are effectively engaged in State-led precinct planning processes.

### POLICY IMPLICATIONS

It is proposed that the **new** Train Station Precincts Advocacy Position be **endorsed**.

This draft position is consistent with, and builds upon, Advocacy Position 6.1 Planning Principles and Reform:

1. *The Local Government sector supports an efficient and effective planning system guided by legislation, policy, and processes that:*
  - a. *facilitates the creation of sustainable and liveable communities and places;*
  - b. *has a focus on strategic planning that delivers on long-term objectives and outcomes that balance social, environmental, cultural, and economic interests;*
  - c. *is easy to understand, accessible and transparent;*
  - d. *recognises the diversity of Western Australia and ensures that local environment, context, communities and character are appropriately reflected in planning frameworks and decision making;*
  - e. *ensures decisions are made by the level of government closest to and most impacted by a planning proposal; and*
  - f. *establishes consistent planning frameworks and streamlines planning processes where there is a demonstrated benefit in doing so.*
2. *Reforms to the planning system should:*
  - a. *be guided by the above principles;*

- b. deliver community benefit;*
- c. promote system efficiency, including through the use of technology;*
- d. be evidence-based and informed by robust, transparent data;*
- e. proceed at an appropriate pace to enable effective implementation;*
- f. be informed by engagement with the community; and be amended only with WALGA involvement and consultation with Local Government.*

## **BACKGROUND**

Planning around train stations, including the establishment of local planning frameworks and the determination of development applications, has historically been the responsibility of Local Governments.

In November 2025, the State Government announced it was commencing the establishment of Improvement Plans and Schemes around ten train station precincts across the Perth metropolitan region to streamline planning and development and facilitate housing development. Through this process, the State would become responsible for setting planning frameworks, including elements such as height and zoning, and determining development applications.

The ten station precincts, involving 14 directly affected Local Governments, are listed below:

- Ballajura (City of Swan);
- Bassendean (Town of Bassendean);
- Carlisle/Oats Street (Town of Victoria Park);
- Claisebrook (City of Perth and City of Vincent);
- Cottesloe (Town of Cottesloe and Shire of Peppermint Grove);
- Glendalough (City of Vincent and City of Stirling);
- Morley (City of Bayswater);
- Mosman Park (Town of Mosman Park and Shire of Peppermint Grove);
- Redcliffe (City of Belmont); and
- Swanbourne (Town of Claremont, City of Nedlands and Town of Cottesloe).

Improvement Plans and Schemes for the Ballajura and Redcliffe stations were already underway prior to this announcement. Importantly, the announcement noted these were only the first stations, indicating additional state-led station precincts may be identified in the future.

At its December 2025 meeting, State Council resolved that:

- 1. State Council request WALGA to prepare an Advocacy Position in consultation with Members, regarding the transport and planning principles required to ensure quality outcomes in the newly announced "Station Precinct Improvement Plans and Schemes" in Metropolitan Perth and regional stations if included.*
- 2. The Advocacy Position will include transport and place-making outcomes on both government controlled and private land that maximise liveability and use of the public transport network.*

*RESOLUTION 069.5/2025*

To inform the development of the Advocacy Position, WALGA sought feedback from Local Governments associated with the initial ten station precincts, including collecting and reviewing relevant Council reports and resolutions from ten Local Governments.

The draft position supports a coordinated approach to station precinct planning and makes the following key recommendations to support effective development and implementation of Improvement Plans and Schemes:

- Promote housing density, diversity and delivery while ensuring place-responsive and transit-oriented development outcomes.
- Recognise the State Government's critical role in coordination and investment, including redevelopment of underutilised State land.
- Call for recognition of existing and progressing local planning frameworks and meaningful engagement with Local Governments and communities.
- Support a strategic, evidence-based and transparent approach to identifying and delivering future State-led station precincts.

The draft advocacy position was circulated to the sector for feedback over a two-week period until 7 May. WALGA received 22 responses, all from metropolitan Local Governments, including nine of the 14 Local Governments directly affected by the initial ten identified train station precincts.

### **COMMENT**

This Advocacy Position is intended to enable WALGA to make timely and direct representations to the State Government on the sector's priorities for State-led train station precincts.

The proposed new Advocacy Position will complement WALGA's planning Advocacy Position, 6.1 Planning Principles and Reform, which notes that planning frameworks and decision-making should reflect local environment, context, communities and character, and that decisions should be made by the level of government closest to and most impacted by a planning proposal.

The draft position has been informed by a review of relevant Council resolutions and Local Government officer input, including feedback from WALGA's Planning Advisory Group.

The draft advocacy position was refined following sector consultation to emphasise that a planning framework alone will not deliver on-the-ground outcomes. Instead, it highlights the substantial scale of State Government collaboration, coordination and funding required to enable and accelerate precinct delivery, including a stronger focus on the redevelopment of underutilised State Government land.

The position was also refined to avoid blanket support for all State Improvement Plans and Schemes, instead clarifying the circumstances in which State-led planning may be appropriate for future station precincts.

The Environment Policy Team recommended that State Council endorse the position at its meeting on 18 May 2026.

#### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

That State Council endorse the following new Advocacy Position:

*Train Station Precincts*

1. *Local Government supports a coordinated approach to the planning and development of train station precincts that is transport-orientated, place responsive and provides for increased housing density and diversity.*
2. *In developing Train Station Precinct Improvement Plans and Schemes the State Government should:*
  - a. *Respect, acknowledge and build on existing and progressing local planning frameworks.*
  - b. *Ensure effective collaboration, partnerships and coordination across Government agencies and with Local Government.*
  - c. *Prioritise redevelopment of State-owned land to deliver optimal housing and mixed-use outcomes.*
  - d. *Undertake meaningful and ongoing community engagement.*
  - e. *Directly fund and/or implement funding mechanisms to deliver public realm and infrastructure requirements.*
3. *Decisions on any future State-led train station precincts must be evidence-based, transparent and made in consultation with Local Government.*

## RESOLUTION

**Moved: President Cr Eugene Smallberger**

**Seconded: Cr Shannon Wright**

**That the Peel Country Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.2 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.**

**CARRIED**

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## 9.3 SUBMISSION ON THE CAT ACT REVIEW

*By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager Environment and Waste and Felicity Morris, Manager Governance and Procurement*

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- On 13 February 2026 the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS) opened consultation on the second statutory review of the *Cat Act 2011* (the Cat Act).
- All elements of the Cat Act are under review, including registration, enforcement/compliance, sterilisation, microchipping, breeding and limits on the number of cats.
- WALGA used current Advocacy Positions, previous submissions, a webinar with the sector and opportunity to comment on a draft submission to gather feedback.
- The submission identifies that reform to the legislation is required, in relation to:
  - Consolidation of the Cat Act and *Dog Act 1976*;
  - Stronger provisions for consistent non-compliance;
  - Clear definitions for owned and unowned cats;
  - Development of a Model Cat Local Law;
  - A limit on the number of cats; and
  - Lowering the age of sterilisation.
- Consultation by LGIRS closes at 5:00pm on Monday, 31 August 2026.
- A joint meeting of the Governance and Environment Policy Teams on 25 May 2026 recommended that State Council endorse the submission.

## ATTACHMENT

- [Submission on the Review of the \*Cat Act 2011\*](#)

## STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item aligns with WALGA's Strategic Pillars:

- **Influence:** Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government and lead policy development for the Local Government sector.
- **Support:** Anticipate, understand and respond to Member needs.

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This submission has been developed based on current WALGA [Advocacy Positions](#):

- 2.12.1 Review of the *Cat Act 2011* and *Dog Act 1976*, and
- 2.12.2 Dog and Cat Management.

And previous submissions and positions on the legislation.

## BACKGROUND

On 13 February 2026, the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS) opened [consultation](#) on the review of the *Cat Act 2011* (the Cat Act), the second statutory review of the legislation. The previous review was undertaken in 2019. The Cat Act provides for the control and management of cats and aims to promote and encourage the responsible ownership of cats, and for related matters.

As articulated in the Second Reading Speech, the Cat Act was introduced with the aim to reduce the number of stray cats being euthanised each year, encourage responsible cat ownership and provide for better management of the unwanted impacts of cats on the community and environment.

The submission provides recommendations on provisions in the Cat Act and identifies some of the issues Local Governments experience with implementing the legislation. WALGA used current Advocacy Positions, previous submissions, a webinar with the sector and opportunity to comment on a draft submission to gather feedback. The webinar, held on 26 March 2026, had 61 registrations from Local Government. Feedback was received, and incorporated, on the draft submission. The submission was considered, and is recommended to State Council for endorsement, by a joint meeting of the Governance and Environment Policy Teams on 25 May 2026.

## COMMENT

In this submission WALGA has identified several areas where reform to the legislation is required, including:

- Consolidation of the Cat Act and *Dog Act 1976*;
- Stronger provisions for consistent non-compliance;
- Clear definitions for owned and unowned cats;
- Development of a Model Cat Local Law;
- A limit on the number of cats; and
- Lowering the age of sterilisation.

In drafting the submission, WALGA has also identified implementation challenges for the sector in particular low registration rates for cats, the lack of a centralised database for registration and limited resourcing.

Cat containment is out of scope of this submission, as the State Government is progressing the [Cat Amendment \(Local Laws\) Bill 2026](#) to enable Local Governments to make cat containment Local Laws. WALGA is engaging separately with the sector on this matter.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse the submission on the Review of *Cat Act 2011*.

**RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Cr Brad Vitale

**Seconded:** Mayor Amber Kearns

**That the Peel Country Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.3 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.**

**CARRIED**

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**9.4 OTHER STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS**

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

**9.4.1 WALGA 2025 Local Government Emergency Management Survey Findings  
– State Council Agenda Item 10.1**

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The 2025 WALGA Local Government Emergency Management Survey, undertaken in partnership with Edith Cowan University (ECU), highlights ongoing resource, workforce and funding pressures across the Local Government sector, including rising emergency management expectations, structural funding challenges, grant access difficulties, and increasing staffing and capacity constraints.

An additional confidential attachment was available for Zone Delegates.

**Noted**

## 10 EXECUTIVE REPORTS

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### 10.1 WALGA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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President Chris Antonio, WALGA Deputy President presented the President's Report. The report was enclosed as an attachment.

**Noted**

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

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Peel Country Zone State Councillor, President Cr Mike Walmsley provided an update on the activities of State Council since the last Zone meeting.

**Noted**

## 11 OTHER BUSINESS

Nil.

## 12 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Peel Country Zone will be held on Thursday, 20 August 2026 via MS Teams, commencing at 1:00pm.

## 13 CLOSURE

*There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 3:25pm.*