

## MINUTES OF THE ZONE MEETING

held at the Moora Performing Arts Centre, 36 Padbury Street, Moora  
Friday 19 February 2021 commencing at 10:55 am

### 1 OPENING & WELCOME

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Shire of Moora took delegates on a short tour which included the Central Midlands Hydrotherapy Pool.

The Zone President and Chair of the meeting, Cr Ken Seymour, welcomed delegates and observers and introduced Cr Tracy Lefroy, President Shire of Moora. Cr Lefroy welcomed delegates to Moora and commented on –

- A reflection of 2020 - Proud of the resilience, kindness and adaptability of our community. Appreciate living in regional WA during a global pandemic - we are safe and have outstanding medical services and an exceptional State to explore.
- Funding for the Early Childhood Development and Childcare Centre secured. Construction commencing in 2021.
- New hydrotherapy pool and dental surgery operating.
- Local planning strategy completed.
- Ageing infrastructure is requiring detailed assessment and planning, with a high level of engagement and consultation with the community. A Sport and Recreation Working Group established. Looking at what can be funded and what can be sustained.
- Funding
  - How do we look at better accessing funding to help our communities, our economies and our regions thrive? Is there the avenue for our local governments to collectively and collaboratively communicate our local needs to the relevant Ministers?
  - An example is the past two rounds of Regional Economic Development (RED) funding where no projects from the Central Midlands region were funded. Believe that this is not due to a lack of sound and innovative projects in the region but is due to a lack of transparency in the funding's priority areas. There appears to be a disconnect between the demands of the relevant Minister and the needs of our communities.
  - Following the most recent round of RED funding it was clear that the decision to fund agribusinesses only was a problem, there was comment about the lack of respect for applicants, the goal posts were changed mid-process which meant that many applicants had committed considerable effort without having any hope of securing funding.
  - For any grants program to be effective, they need to be less political and more outcome focussed. I challenge the Avon-Midland Zone delegates to work collaboratively to influence the grant application process to ensure that the needs of our community are met by the grant guidelines and we can work together to guarantee our communities, economies and our regions thrive.

### 2 ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

#### 2.1 Attendance

Delegates -

Cr Kylie Hughes	Shire of Chittering
Cr Jan Court	Shire of Gingin (Deputy President) (via Video)
Cr Barry Haywood	Shire of Goomalling
Cr Ken Seymour	Shire of Moora (President)
Cr Chris Antonio	Shire of Northam
Cr Rosemary Madacsi	Shire of Toodyay
Cr Pauline Bantock	Shire of Victoria Plains
Cr Denise Smythe	Shire of York (via Video)

Observers –

Cr Carmel Ross	Shire of Chittering
Mr Matthew Gilfellon	Shire of Chittering
Mr Aaron Cook	Shire of Gingin (via Video)
Cr Chrissie Barratt	Shire of Goomalling
Mr Peter Bentley	Shire of Goomalling

Cr Tracy Lefroy	Shire of Moora
Mr Alan Leeson	Shire of Moora
Ms Suzie Hazlehurst	Shire of Toodyay
Cr Beth Ruthven	Shire of Toodyay
Mr Chris Linnell	Shire of York (via Video)
Ms Susie Moir	WALGA Policy Manager, Resilient Communities
Ms Lyn Fogg	WALGA Governance Advisor, Sector Support and Advice
Ms Cassandra Mora	WALGA Policy Officer, Resilient Communities
Ms Jenifer Collins	Regional Manager Wheatbelt, Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries
Mr Craig Manton	Regional Manager Wheatbelt, Main Roads WA
Ms Mandy Walker	Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt
Ms Rebecca Kelly	Wheatbelt Development Commission
Robert Dew	Zone Executive Officer

## 2.2 Apologies

Delegates	Shire of Dandaragan
Mr Jason Whiteaker	Shire of Northam
Ms Glenda Teede	Shire of Victoria Plains
Cr Stuart Boekeman	Shire of Wongan-Ballidu
Mr Cliff Simpson	RoadWise (Wheatbelt North)
Mr Rob Cossart	Wheatbelt Development Commission
Hon Martin Aldridge MLC	Member for Agricultural Region
Hon Colin de Grussa	Member for Agricultural Region
Hon Laurie Graham MLC	Member for Agricultural Region
Hon Mia Davies MLA	Member for Central Wheatbelt
Mr Shane Love MLA	Member for Moore

## 3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## 4 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

## 5 **MINUTES**

### 5.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Zone Meeting held 20 November 2020 at Muchea. Copies of these Minutes have been circulated to all member Councils.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held on 20 November 2020, as printed and circulated, be confirmed.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –**

**That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held on 20 November 2020 as printed and circulated, be confirmed. CARRIED**

### 5.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

(a) Cyber Security and Local Government (Item 5.2 (d))

At its June 2020 meeting the Zone resolved that the WA Local Government Association be requested (a) to provide feedback on cyber security policy for the whole of local government; and (b) to give a presentation on cyber security and local government to a forthcoming meeting of the Zone.

The WA Local Government Association has advised that cyber security is an important sector issue and that staff are carrying out research on cyber security in-conjunction with LGIS. A presentation for the Zone on cyber security will be arranged for a future Zone meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION**

For noting

**NOTED**

Ms L Fogg confirmed that a presentation to the Zone will be arranged.

(b) Zone Meeting Format (Item 10.2)

Last meeting noted the report on the trial of hybrid meetings incorporating video conferencing into the in-person meeting and the issues arising in the delivery of this type of meetings. The meeting resolved:

- (a) *That hybrid meetings continue to be trialled for Zone meetings to determine the best options for the Zone; and*
- (b) *That the Executive Officer be authorised to make enquiries as to the suitability and costs of audio/visual equipment which will meet the Zone's requirements for hybrid meetings after taking into account the options trialled.*

Enquiries into the suitability and costs of audio/visual equipment which will meet the Zone's requirements is ongoing. Feedback from delegates is requested.

**RECOMMENDATION**

For noting

**NOTED**

(c) WALGA AGM Venue (Item 11.1)

Last meeting resolved to recommend to the WA Local Government Association that the Association's Annual General Meeting revert to being held at the Perth Convention Centre. The meeting commented –

- 1) The change was requested by the 2020 Annual General Meeting.
- 2) The Convention Centre has tiered seating which is preferred to the single level with round tables available at Crown.
- 3) Trade display and exhibitors can be better accommodated at the Convention Centre.
- 4) A wider range of accommodation is available in proximity to the Convention Centre; important for country local governments. At Crown accommodation was limited to 1 or 2 expensive hotels.

The WA Local Government Association has advised that following the 2020 AGM held at Crown, the overwhelming response from the sector has been to request that the 2021 Convention be held at Crown. In respect to accommodation, there will be a range of price points at the Crown complex and nearby.

Arrangements for the 2021 WA Local Government Convention are that it will be held at Crown Perth on 20–21 September 2021 with the Opening Welcome Reception being held on the evening of 19 September.

**The Provisional Program is –**

**Sunday, 19 September 2021**

Mayors and Presidents' Forum  
Convention Cocktails

**Monday, 20 September 2021**

Breakfast with Directors General  
Conference Sessions  
Gala Cocktails

**Tuesday, 21 September 2021**

Convention Breakfast with Special Guest  
Conference Sessions

**RECOMMENDATION**

For noting

**NOTED**

(d) Other

No other matters were brought forward.

<b>6 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION BUSINESS</b>
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**6.1 WALGA State Council Agenda**

Review of the Agenda for the State Council meeting to be held Wednesday 3 March 2021. The Zone is able to provide comment or submit alternate recommendations to State Council for consideration.

**Matters for Decision**

5.1 External Oversight and Intervention – Authorised Inquiries and Show Cause Notices (Page 5)

WALGA Recommendation

*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.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- The Central Metropolitan Zone has requested WALGA advocacy for improved and consistent processes for Authorised Inquiries and Show Cause Notices.
- The Local Government sector has expressed concern at the time taken for authorised enquiries to be carried out and the manner in which the powers under Part 8 of the Local Government Act have been exercised.
- This item is recommending amendments to the State Government process for more engagement with Local Governments when issues arise to avoid Show Cause notices and Authorised Inquiries and for any inquiry to be carried out with regular progress reports and within a specified timeframe.

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

5.2 Cost of Revaluations (Page 8)

WALGA Recommendation

*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.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- The South East Metropolitan Zone has requested WALGA advocacy in respect to the sharing of costs for the carrying out of revaluations by the Valuer General.
- Currently the cost is not divided equally by the three organisations that utilise the valuations.
- This item recommends advocating to the State Government for the equal distribution of costs.

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

5.3 Eligibility of Slip On Fire Fighting Units for Local Government Grants Scheme Funding (Page 9)

WALGA Recommendation

*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.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- The South West Country Zone passed a resolution at their meeting on 27 November 2020 supporting the reinstatement of Slip On Fire Fighting Units (for use on private motor vehicles) as an eligible item under the LGGS administered by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES).
- Prior to 2010, Slip On Fire Fighting Units were an eligible item under the LGGS. The 2011/12 LGGS Manual provided that "slip-on units were not an eligible item as they are subject to an alternative grants program". The 2014/15 LGGS Manual provided that Slip On Fire Fighting Units were an ineligible item. Presently they are ineligible items and there is no alternative grants program.
- Slip On Fire Fighting Units attached to private vehicles provide the majority of the firefighting capacity across many rural regions in Western Australia, especially broadacre farming areas, where there are only a small number of bushfire brigade appliances for vast areas of land and the majority of landowners own Slip On Fire Fighting Units to enable them to respond to fires on their own and neighbouring properties.
- The Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group was established in 2019 to provide a consultative forum between stakeholders for key matters pertaining to the operations of the LGGS and includes two representatives from WALGA, DFES, the Association of Volunteer Bushfire Brigades and the State Emergency Services Association. Thus far, WALGA staff members have attended the Working Group. As the LGGS Working Group meetings involve technical discussions on Bush Fire Brigade issues, it is proposed that the Local Government sector is represented by a Local Government Elected Member and Officer representatives, with WALGA staff attending as observers.

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

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the above recommendations and comments be endorsed.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –**

**That the above recommendations and comments be endorsed.**

**CARRIED**

**Matters for Noting/information**

6.1 Local Government Car Parking Guideline – Western Australia (Page 11)

WALGA Recommendation

*That State Council note the Local Government Car Parking Guideline – Western Australia.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- New development car parking requirements have historically been regulated by setting minimum parking requirements for each land use in local planning schemes or policies.
- In December 2020, WALGA launched the *Local Government Car Parking Guideline - Western Australia*. The guideline has been prepared for Local Governments who are seeking to trial and adopt alternative policy approaches to improve parking provision and management in cities or town centres.

- The guideline was launched at an event attended by over 120 people from Local Government, State agencies and industry groups. Since the launch, the guideline has been accessed by over 100 Local Government staff and is already being used by Local Governments to review and prepare parking strategies, plans and local planning policies.
- The guideline is an innovative and collaborative project that demonstrates WALGA's capacity to bring its members together with State agencies, to collaborate and address key planning issues.

6.2 Submission – Draft Local Government Regulations Amendment (Employee Code of Conduct) Regulations 2020 (Page 13)

WALGA Recommendation

*That the submission to the Draft Local Government Regulations Amendment (Employee Code of Conduct) Regulations 2020 be noted.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- The Department of Local Government sought feedback on draft regulations relating to an employee code of conduct.
- The Government is seeking to have the regulations gazetted early February 2021 ahead of the caretaker period commencing.
- The draft submission highlights a number of issues, most notably relating to gifts and inconsistencies with existing requirements for Elected Members and the CEO.
- State Council endorsed the submission by Flying Minute on 6 January 2021.

Ms L Fogg pointed out that under the Code an authorised person is to receive complaints; form for lodging complaints and that procedures are very important.

Cr R Madacsi expressed concern with the inconsistencies between the gifts register requirements for elected members and for staff. Ms L Fogg replied that the Employee Code is largely administered by the CEO, the CEO can set values and disclosure requirements for staff and WALGA is working on a template for the sector.

Cr P Bantock commented on the timeframe and the impost on local governments.

Ms L Fogg commented on the Model Standards for employment of CEOs and the impact on terms which extended over 10 years.

6.3 Submission – Proposed Reportable Conduct Scheme for Western Australia (Page 14)

WALGA Recommendation

*That the submission to the Ombudsman, Western Australia in respect to the Draft Reportable Conduct Scheme for Western Australia be noted.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- The State Government is consulting on a proposed Reportable Conduct Scheme for Western Australia that will require relevant organisations to investigate and report employee misconduct involving children.
- The proposed Scheme was a recommendation of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and will provide independent oversight of how certain organisations prevent and handle allegations and convictions of child abuse involving employees.
- The Ombudsman released the *Parliamentary Commissioner Amendment (Reportable Conduct) Bill 2020* for consultation.
- WALGA's submission highlights that obligations imposed on a Local Government and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of a Local Government (as the head of a relevant entity) are significant. The Scheme introduces a complex and onerous reporting framework (more onerous than the reporting obligations under the *Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003*) that will require support and funding from the State and/ or Commonwealth Government to educate Local Governments on Scheme obligations.
- State Council endorsed the submission by Flying Minute on 29 January 2021.

Ms S Moir commented that a series of consultations on child safety is to be held over the coming year. Issues include the independent oversight body and local government appointed child safety officers. A Working Group has been established.

6.4 Submission – Draft State Planning Policy 4.2: Activity Centre (Page 16)

WALGA Recommendation

*That the endorsed submission on the draft State Planning Policy 4.2: Activity Centres be noted.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- In October 2020 the Western Australian Planning Commission released the draft *State Planning Policy 4.2: Activity Centres* (SPP4.2) with implementation guidelines,
- The intent of SPP4.2 is to ensure planning and development adequately considers the distribution, function and broad land use considerations for activity centres.
- The submission was endorsed by State Council by Flying Minute on 28 January 2021.

6.5 Submission – Registration of Builders (and Related Occupations) Reforms (Page 18)

WALGA Recommendation

*That the endorsed submission on the Registration of builders (and related occupations) reforms be noted.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- In October 2020 Department of Mines Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) released a consultation paper proposing changes to the Building Services (Registration) Act 2011 (BSR Act) and Building Services (Registration) Regulations 2011.
- Submissions on the Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement close on 29 January 2021 However, an extension until 12 February 2021 has been requested and granted by DMIRS.
- The submission was endorsed by State Council by Flying Minute.

6.6 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) (Page 20)

WALGA Recommendation

*That State Council note the resolutions of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council at its 26 August, 28 October and 9 December 2020 meetings.*

WALGA Executive Summary

This item summaries the outcomes of the MWAC meetings held on 26 August, 28 October and 9 December 2020.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the above matters for noting/information be noted.

**RESOLUTION**

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

**CARRIED**

**Organisational Reports**

7.1 Key Activity Reports

- 7.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Commercial and Communications (Page 23)
- 7.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Governance and Organisational Services (Page 29)
- 7.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure (Page 32)
- 7.1.4 Report on Key Activities, Strategy, Policy and Planning (Page 34)

7.2 Policy Forum Reports (Page 38)

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the above organisational reports be noted.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –  
That the above organisational reports be noted.**

**CARRIED**

**6.2 WALGA President's Report**

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

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the WALGA President's Report be received.

Ms L Fogg presented the WALGA President's report and highlighted the State Election Campaign update and urged all members to advocate for the document.

**RESOLUTION**

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

**CARRIED**

**6.3 State Councillor's Report**

(a) Report by Cr Jan Court on her attendance at the State Council meeting held 2 December 2020.

Cr J Court gave a brief summary of the December State Council meeting.

(b) Report by Cr Ken Seymour.

Cr K Seymour commented on –

- Thanks to Deputy President, Cr Jan Court, for Chairing the last zone meeting and attending the December State Council meeting.
- A year on from the COVID-19 pandemic that has wreaked havoc in many parts of the world, regional WA remains largely unaffected by the virus. We can thank our three strong tiers of Government for decisive leadership on this issue. For local government Councillors and staff who often don't receive enough recognition for their efforts during these testing times, your efforts are appreciated.
- The recent fire in the Perth hills has highlighted how many communities and government agencies team up during a crisis. With at least two months of warm weather left of the bushfire season, caution is still needed across WA and in the Avon-Midland Zone.
- Finally, a special thanks to WALGA and the WALGA staff who attend our Zone meetings. Your presence, commitment and wise council during these meetings is always appreciated.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the State Councillor's Reports be received.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr B Haywood moved and Cr R Madacsi seconded –  
That the State Councillor's Reports be received.**

**CARRIED**

**6.4 Zone Status Report**

Report by WA Local Government Association on status of Zone resolutions for action by the Association – February 2021(attached to Agenda).

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the February 2021 Status Report be received.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr R Madacsi moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –  
That the February 2021 Status Report be received.**

**CARRIED**



## 7 ZONE REPORTS

### 7.1 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group

No meeting of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group has been held since the last Zone meeting. The next meeting of the Group is scheduled for 9 April 2021.

**NOTED**

### 7.2 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee

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

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

Cr C Antonio commented on –

- The Committee is moving from meeting weekly to meeting fortnightly and then monthly.
- Meetings are mainly to do with COVID-19
- The March meeting will be a full meeting.
- COVID-19 vaccination program and response.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr D Smythe seconded –**

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

**CARRIED**

## 8 AGENCY REPORTS

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

- (a) Presentation of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries report (attached to Agenda).
- (b) Consideration of any topics or presentations the Zone would like the Department to give to the next Zone meeting.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

Ms J Collins presented the Department's reports and commented that the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse made 409 recommendations of which 310 refer to the States. The State Government is seeking comments (preferably endorsed by council) from local governments on the Royal Commission's recommendation that local governments should designate child safety officers in their organisations from within existing staff profiles. Comments by Friday 2 April 2021.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –**

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

**CARRIED**

**The meeting put forward the following matters for discussion at forthcoming meetings –**

- **How to work with the new Minister for Local Government.**
- **State Government priorities.**
- **How does local government work better with the Government of the day.**

## **8.2 RDA Wheatbelt**

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

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the RDA Wheatbelt Report be received.

Ms M Walker presented the report and commented on –

- Mr Tuck Waldron has been reappointed as Chair for a 5 year term.
- Requested that local governments considering submitting an application under the Better Building Regions program let her know. Letter of support and how the project aligns with the criteria.
- Wander the Wheatbelt
- Grant Guru
- Regional Plan – What are the Zone's priorities and their alignment with Federal and State priorities.

### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr P Bantock moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –  
That the RDA Wheatbelt Report be received.**

**CARRIED**

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

Presentation of the Transport Portfolio report.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Transport Portfolio report be received.

Mr C Manton commented on –

- Stimulus funding.
- Issues with availability of contractors.
- Likely to be more stimulus packages over the next 18 months.
- Ms Janet Hartley-West from Main Roads Wheatbelt Region office has been appointed as Regional Manager for Mid-West and Gascoyne Region. Process for her replacement has commenced.
- Due to increased funding extra managers are being employed in the Region.

Cr K Seymour enquired as to the long-term effects of Accredited Mass Management Scheme (AMMS) axle weights on roads and how sustainable was this. Mr Manton replied that there are three approved levels under AMMS (1 = 21.5t, 2 = 22.5t, 3 = 23.5t); roads are designed base on the number of axle loads; AMMS Level 3 will cause 1.95 times more damage to a road than normal axle loads; permits are required; AMMS can trigger modal changes (ie Level 3 replace trains); local governments will be asked if they are happy for Level 3 on routes; specific funding agreements can be put in place (eg 0.4c per tonne per km).

### **RESOLUTION**

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

**CARRIED**

## **8.4 RoadWise (Wheatbelt North)**

Presentation of report from RoadWise (Wheatbelt North).

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the RoadWise (Wheatbelt North) Report be received.

No report.

## **8.5 Wheatbelt Development Commission**

Presentation of the Wheatbelt Development Commission report.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Wheatbelt Development Commission Report be received.

Ms R Kelly presented the Wheatbelt Development Commission report and commented on –

- Regional Economic Development Grants – Assessment process changed this year. Wheatbelt Development Commission's new strategic plan will help guide applications under the scheme. 51 applications in latest round, 13 recipients for grants totalling \$590,000.
- Water Smart Farm Project – desalination work on farm.
- Wheatbelt Strategic Freight Network.
- CEO available to present to individual local governments or the Zone.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr R Madacsi moved and Cr C Antonio seconded –**

**That the Wheatbelt Development Commission report be received.**

**CARRIED**

**9 FINANCE**

**9.1 Financial Reports**

Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Report for the period ending 31 January 2021 are attached to the agenda.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the financial reports for the period ending 31 January 2021, as attached, be received.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr P Bantock moved and Cr D Smythe seconded –**

**That the financial reports for the period ending 31 January 2021, as attached, be received.**

**CARRIED**

**9.2 Accounts for Payment**

The following accounts are submitted for payment -

<u>Payee</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Amount</u>
R W & S Dew	Secretarial Services to Zone – March 2021 Quarter	3,684.25
	TOTAL (no GST)	<u>\$3,684.25</u>

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the accounts as listed totalling \$3,684.25 be approved for payment.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr R Madacsi moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –**

**That the accounts as listed totalling \$3,608.50 be approved for payment.**

**CARRIED**

**10 ZONE BUSINESS**

**10.1 Proposed Review of the Road Asset Preservation Model (APM)**

The WA Local Government Association has requested that Zones provide feedback to the WALGA Infrastructure Policy Team regarding a preferred advocacy approach to any review of the Road Asset Preservation Model (APM).

**WALGA 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 is attached to the Agenda.

### **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.

### **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.

	<b>Option 1</b> <b>Reformat and label</b>	<b>Option 2</b> <b>Review model cost parameters</b>	<b>Option 3</b> <b>Review cost regions/ min. standards</b>	<b>Option 4</b> <b>Full model review and rebuild</b>	<b>Option 5</b> <b>Status quo</b>
<b>Advantages</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>Disadvantages</b>	Does not address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>questionable parameter values.</li> <li>complexity and transparency.</li> </ul>	May require some additional resourcing. Does not address complexity and transparency. Possible reduction in funding for some LGs.	May require some additional resourcing. Does not address complexity and transparency. Likely reduction in funding for some LGs.	If no material impact on funds distribution, the rationale for the exercise may be questionable. Would require additional resourcing.	Does not address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>questionable parameter values.</li> <li>complexity and transparency</li> <li>corporate memory issues.</li> </ul>
<b>Risks / Dependencies</b>	Reputational risk, due to funds distribution not being fully explainable.	Reputational risk, due to funds distribution not being fully explainable.	Reputational risk, due to funds distribution not being fully explainable. Continued risk of corporate memory loss.	Difficult to predict the distribution of funds. A review may trigger disagreement between Local Governments over the distribution of funds. The Grants Commission may not agree to implement.	Reputational risk, due to funds distribution not being fully explainable and regional allocations being subject to question. Continued risk of corporate memory loss.
<b>Effort / Cost</b>	Low-medium	High	Medium	Very high	None
<b>Notes</b>	Assumes Option 1 also undertaken: reformat and labelling.			Mutually exclusive of the other options or as an aspirational addition.	Mutually exclusive of the other five options.

**RECOMMENDATION**

For consideration and feedback to the WALGA Infrastructure Policy Team.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –  
That the Zone's preferred option is retention of the status quo.**

**CARRIED**

**11 URGENT BUSINESS (as permitted by the Presiding Member)**

No business was brought forward.

**12 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT**

No matters were brought forward.

**13 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

Future meetings of the Zone are scheduled for –

23 April 2021	Shire of Wongan-Ballidu
25 June 2021	Shire of Goomalling
20 August 2021	Shire of Gingin
19 November 2021	Shire of Toodyay

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the next ordinary meeting of the Zone be held Friday 23 April 2021 and be hosted by the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr B Haywood moved and Cr C Antonio seconded –  
That the next ordinary meeting of the Zone be held Friday 23 April 2021 and be hosted by the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu.**

**CARRIED**

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12:05 pm.

**RESUMPTION:** The meeting resumed at 12:42 am. With the exception of Cr D Smythe, Cr T Lefroy, Mr C Manton, Mr C Linnell and Mr A Cook, all those present at the time of adjournment were present on resumption.

**14 GUEST SPEAKERS**

**14.1 Thriving Tennis Communities**

Ms Olivia Birkett, Acting CEO, and Mr Craig Vinci, Regional Tennis Lead (WA North), gave a Presentation on vision by Tennis West to build thriving tennis communities in WA and answered questions from delegates.

**15 CLOSURE**

There being no further business the President thanked attendees, the Shire of Moora for hosting the meeting, and declared the meeting closed at 12:58 pm.

**CERTIFICATION**

These Minutes were confirmed by the meeting held on .....

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