



Northern Country Zone

MINUTES

29 NOVEMBER 2019

Hosted by the Shire of Mingenew
Mingenew Sports Pavilion
commencing at 10am



Table of Contents

1.	OPENING AND WELCOME	4
2.	ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES	4
3.	ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS	5
3.1	Election of Chairperson of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA	5
3.2	Election of Deputy Chairperson of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA	6
3.3	Election of WALGA State Council Representative.....	6
3.4	Election of Deputy WALGA State Council Representative	7
4.	DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS	8
5.	DECLARATION OF INTEREST	8
6.	ADJOURNED BUSINESS	8
7.	MINUTES	8
7.1	Confirmation of Minutes	8
7.2	Business Arising from Minutes.....	8
8.	STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR DECISION	8
8.1	(5.1) 2020-21 State Budget Submission (05-001-03-0006 NF)	9
8.2	(5.2) Interim Submission - Remote Area Tax Concessions (05-001-03-0006 NF).....	9
8.3	(5.3) Mandatory Code of Conduct for Council Member, Committee Members and Candidates – Sector Feedback (05-034-01-0001JMc)	10
8.4	(5.4) Standards and Guidelines for CEO Recruitment and Selection, Performance Review and Termination – Sector Feedback (05-034-01-0001 JMC).....	11
8.5	(5.5) Local Government Financial Ratios (05-034-01-0001 TB).....	12
8.6	(5.6) Local Government Audits (05-034-01-0001 TB).....	13
8.7	(5.7) Review of State Council and Zone Structure and Processes – Working Group Report and Recommendations (01-004-05-0002 TL)	13
8.9	(5.9) Interim Submission - Draft State Planning Policy 3.6 – Infrastructure Contributions (05-036-03-0010 VJ)	14
8.10	(5.10) Local Government as Collection Agency for Construction Training Fund (05-015-02-0005 VJ)..	14
8.11	(5.11) Interim Submission - Public Health Regulations Review Discussion Papers (05-031-01-0001 BW)	15
8.12	(5.12) Reforms to the Building Approval Process for Single Residential Buildings in Western Australia (05-015-02-0010 VJ)	15
8.13	(5.13) Wheatbelt Regional Health Services 05-030-03-0006 MM)	16
8.14	(5.14) Interim Submission to the Climate Health WA Inquiry (05-031-01-0001 KD)	16
8.15	(5.15) Submission on the Climate Change in Western Australia Issues Paper (05-028-03-0011MB) ...	17
8.16	(5.16) Interim Submission – Policy and Application Guidelines for Speed Zoning (05-009-02-0035 MS)..	17
8.17	(5.17) Interim Submission - Response to the Select Committee on Northern Australia (05-049-03-0001 NF)	18
8.8	(5.8) Membership of Development Assessment Panels (05-047-01-0016 VJ)	18
9.	STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION	19
9.1	(6.1) Ministerial Review of State IR System (05-034-01-0001 EC)	19
9.2	(6.2) Action Plan for Planning Reform (05-04702-0015 VJ)	19
9.3	(6.3) Parliamentary Inquiry into Short Stay Accommodation – Final Report (05-036-03-0016 CH)	20
9.4	(6.4) Draft State Planning Policy 7.2: Precinct Design – Submission (05-036-03-0067 AR)	20
9.5	(6.5) Managing Public Health Risks Associated with Pesticides in WA (05-031-01-0001 MM).....	21
9.6	(6.6) Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group (05-024-03-0034 MP)	21
9.7	(6.7) Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) Program (05-024-03-0035 MP).....	21
9.8	(6.8) WALGA Emergency Management Engagement Project (05-024-02-0059 EDR).....	22
9.9	(6.9) WALGA Submission to the Inquiry into 5G in Australia (05-001-02-0014 MB).....	22
9.10	(6.10) WALGA Comments on the Environmental Offsets Framework Review Report (05-025-03-0000 MB)	22
9.11	(6.11) Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) (01006-03-0008 RNB).....	23
10.	REPORTS	23
10.1	Zone Chair / State Councillor’s Report – to 28 November 2019.....	23

10.2	WALGA President's Report	24
10.3	Zone Status Report	25
10.4	Midwest Suicide Prevention Steering Group Report	25
11.	ZONE MATTERS FOR NOTING/DECISION	25
11.1	Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 31 October 2019	25
11.2	Correspondence Out.....	26
11.3	Correspondence In.....	27
11.4	Proposed alternative to the CA07 Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition Working Group	28
11.5	Constitution and Standing Orders.....	28
11.6	Council Members Essentials Training	29
11.7	Proposed Meeting Dates for 2020	30
12.	GENERAL BUSINESS	31
12.1	Regional Issues.....	32
12.2	Regional Tourism Initiatives.....	32
12.3	Other General Business.....	32
13.	DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING	33
14.	MEETING CLOSURE	33

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Zone Delegates are requested to provide written notice on amendments to recommendations within the State Council agenda ASAP to the Zone Chair and Secretariat, to allow Zone Members time to vote on the alternative recommendation.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE AGENDA

- Item 3.0 Nomination Forms and Election Bid Letters
- Item 3.3: Elected Member Prospectus
- Item 7.1: Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held 26 August 2019
- Item 8.0: State Council Agenda 4 December 2019
- Item 8.0 State Council Agenda Item 5.1 Budget Submission Document Draft
- Item 10.2 WALGA President's Report December 2019
- Item 10.3: Zone Status Report November 2019
- Item 11.1 Bank Statements – August, September, October 2019
- Item 11.2.1 Correspondence Out – Wildflower Society of Western Australia (Inc)
- Item 11.2.2 Correspondence Out - Midwest Suicide Prevention Steering Group
- Item 11.2.3 Correspondence Out - Rural Water Council of WA (Inc)
- Item 11.3.1 Correspondence In - Wildflower Society of Western Australia (Inc)
- Item 11.3.2 Correspondence In - CEO Nils Hay
- Item 11.3.3 Correspondence In – Duncan Ord OAM, Director General DLGSC
- Item 11.3.4 Correspondence In – Zone Update from DLGSC
- Item 11.5 Northern Country Zone Constitution Adopted March 2003
- Item 11.5 Northern Country Zone Standing Orders Adopted March 2003

The Secretariat assumed the Chair until the election of office bearers was finalised.

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

The Executive Officer declared the meeting open at 10:03 and welcomed Members and Guests.

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

MEMBERS

NB: One Voting Delegate from each Member Council

Shire of Carnamah

Cr Dwayne Woollorton, Deputy President
Mr Sean Fletcher, Acting Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Chapman Valley

Mr Simon Lancaster, Acting Chief Executive Officer
(Proxy for Cr Anthony Farrell – signed Proxy Form rcvd 9:07 am 29/11/2019)

Shire of Coorow

Cr Moira Girando, President

City of Greater Geraldton

Cr Tahleah Thomas, Deputy President
Mr Ross McKim, Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Irwin

Cr Mike Smith, President
Cr Ian West
Mr Shane Ivers, Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Mingenew

Cr Gary Cosgrove, President
Mr Nils Hay, Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Morawa

Cr Karen Chappel, President
Mr Chris Linnell, Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Northampton

Cr Craig Simkin, President
Cr Shane Krakouer, Deputy President

Shire of Three Springs

Cr Chris Lane, President
Mr Keith Woodward, Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dianne Daniels

INVITED GUESTS

Member for Moore

Mr Shane Love MLA

Mid West Development Commission

Mr Gavin Treasure - Chief Executive Officer

WALGA

Mr James McGovern

APOLOGIES

Member for Geraldton	Mr Ian Blayney MLA
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon. Laurie Graham MLC
Regional Development Midwest Gascoyne	Mr Mark Holdsworth - Director of Regional Development/Executive Officer Yvonne Messina – Chair
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon. Darren West MLC
Dept of Local Government Sport & Cultural Ind	Mr Richard Malacari - Regional Manager Mid West Gascoyne
Shire of Carnamah	Cr Merle Isbister, President
Shire of Chapman Valley	Cr Anthony Farrell Mr Maurice Battilana, Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Coorow	Mr John Merrick, Acting Chief Executive Officer
City of Greater Geraldton	Mayor Shane Van Styn
Shire of Northampton	Mr Garry Keefe, Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Perenjori	Commissioner Paul Omodei Mr Mark Chester, Acting CEO

3. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Attachments: Nomination Forms and Election Bid Letters

The Executive Officer noted that there was a quorum and that there was only one voting Delegate from each Member Council.

3.1 Election of Chairperson of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA

Matter for Consideration:

A Chairperson is to be elected for a term of two years, commencing immediately after the election of Office Bearers and continuing up to and including the day prior to the November 2021 Northern Country Zone meeting.

Comment:

Guidelines for the elections, the Call for Nominations and Nomination Forms were distributed to Member Councils by email dated 4 November 2019. The closing date for nominations was originally COB Friday 15 November 2019, but this was extended to COB Wednesday 27 November 2019 with the change of meeting date from 25 November 2019 to 29 November 2019.

Only Elected Members who are also a Zone Delegate for their Council were eligible to nominate for the position.

As nominations were received prior to the closing date, there was no call for nominations from the floor, as per the election guidelines.

Nominations Received:

Cr Moira Girando Shire of Coorow Zone Delegate appointed by Council 23/10/2019
Cr Karen Chappel Shire of Morawa Zone Delegate appointed by Council 14/11/2019

Candidates were afforded the opportunity to make a two-minute election bid prior to the secret ballot being taken and both Cr Chappel and Cr Girando addressed the meeting.

The election was then conducted using a secret ballot.

Declaration of Election Result:

That Cr Karen Chappel, of the Shire of Morawa, be elected as Chairperson of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA for the term of 2 years, from 29 November 2019 up to and including the day prior to the November 2021 Northern Country Zone meeting.

3.2 Election of Deputy Chairperson of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA**Matter for Consideration:**

A Deputy Chairperson is to be elected for a term of two years, commencing immediately after the election of Office Bearers and continuing up to and including the day prior to the November 2021 Northern Country Zone meeting.

Comment:

Guidelines for the elections, the Call for Nominations and Nomination Forms were distributed to Member Councils by email dated 4 November 2019. The closing date for nominations was originally COB Friday 15 November 2019, but this was extended to COB Wednesday 27 November 2019 with the change of meeting date from 25 November 2019 to 29 November 2019.

Only Elected Members who are also a Zone Delegate for their Council were eligible to nominate for the position.

As nominations were received prior to the closing date, there was no call for nominations from the floor, as per the election guidelines.

Nominations Received:

~~Cr Ian West Shire of Irwin Zone Delegate appointed by Council 22/10/2019 (withdrawn)~~
Cr Tarleah Thomas City of Greater Gtn Zone Delegate appointed by Council 26/11/2019

Cr Ian West withdrew his nomination in order to give a new person the opportunity to represent the Zone in this position and so the remaining nominee filled the position unopposed.

Declaration of Election Result:

That Cr Tarleah Thomas, of the City of Greater Geraldton, be elected as Deputy Chairperson of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA for the term of 2 years, from 29 November 2019 up to and including the day prior to the November 2021 Northern Country Zone meeting.

3.3 Election of WALGA State Council Representative

Attachment: Elected Member Prospectus

Matter for Consideration:

A WALGA State Council Representative is to be elected for a term of two years, commencing 4 December 2019 at the first Ordinary Meeting of the new State Council until and including the day prior to the December 2021 meeting of State Council.

Comment:

Only Elected Members who are also a Zone Delegate for their Council are eligible to nominate for the position.

WALGA incorporates a 24 members State Council with its members derived from Metropolitan and Country Zones. The State Council is chaired by the Association President. In accordance with sub-clause 9(3) of the WALGA Constitution, representatives to the State Council shall be elected by Zones of the Metropolitan and Country constituencies for a two (2) year term.

A paper providing information on WALGA, the State Council, the role of State Councillors and what makes an effective State Councillor was distributed to members by email dated 4 November 2019 and is attached to the Agenda.

As nominations were received prior to the closing date, there was no call for nominations from the floor, as per the election guidelines.

Nominations Received:

Cr Moira Girando	Shire of Coorow	Zone Delegate appointed by Council 23/10/2019
Cr Karen Chappel	Shire of Morawa	Zone Delegate appointed by Council 14/11/2019

Candidates were afforded the opportunity to make a two-minute election bid prior to the secret ballot being taken, but both Cr Chappel and Cr Girando were satisfied that the bid already presented for the Chairperson position served this position as well.

The election was then conducted by secret ballot.

Declaration of Election Result:

That Cr Karen Chappel, of the Shire of Morawa, be elected as the WALGA State Council Representative for the Northern Country Zone of WALGA for the term of 2 years, commencing 4 December 2019 at the first Ordinary Meeting of the new State Council until and including the day prior to the December 2021 meeting of State Council.

3.4 Election of Deputy WALGA State Council Representative

Matter for Consideration:

A Deputy WALGA State Council Representative is to be elected for a term of two years, commencing 4 December 2019 at the first Ordinary Meeting of the new State Council until and including the day prior to the December 2021 meeting of State Council.

Comment:

Only Elected Members who are also a Zone Delegate for their Council are eligible to nominate for the position.

WALGA incorporates a 24 members State Council with its members derived from Metropolitan and Country Zones. The State Council is chaired by the Association President. In accordance with sub-clause 9(3) of the WALGA Constitution, representatives to the State Council shall be elected by Zones of the Metropolitan and Country constituencies for a two (2) year term.

A paper providing information on WALGA, the State Council, the role of State Councillors and what makes an effective State Councillor was distributed to members by email dated 4 November 2019 and is attached to the Agenda.

As nominations were received prior to the closing date, there was no call for nominations from the floor, as per the election guidelines.

Nominations Received:

Cr Ian West	Shire of Irwin	Zone Delegate appointed by Council 22/10/2019 (withdrawn)
Cr Tarleah Thomas	City of Greater Gtn	Zone Delegate appointed by Council 26/11/2019

Cr Ian West withdrew his nomination in order to give a new person the opportunity to represent the Zone in this position and so the remaining nominee filled the position unopposed.

Declaration of Election Result:

That Cr Tarleah Thomas, of the City of Greater Geraldton, be elected as the Deputy WALGA State Council Representative for the Northern Country Zone of WALGA for the term of 2 years, commencing 4 December 2019 at the first Ordinary Meeting of the new State Council until and including the day prior to the December 2021 meeting of State Council.

The newly appointed Chairperson now assumed the position.

4. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Nil

5. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Pursuant to our Code of Conduct, Councillors must declare to the Chairperson any potential conflict of interest they have in a matter before the Zone as soon as they become aware of it. Councillors 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

6. ADJOURNED BUSINESS

Nil

7. MINUTES

Attachments: Minutes of the Meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA 26 August 2019

7.1 Confirmation of Minutes**Recommendation:**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 26 August 2019 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Simkin

Seconded: Cr Lane

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 26 August 2019 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Carried

7.2 Business Arising from Minutes

Nil

8. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR DECISION

The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 4 December 2019.

The Matters for Decision in the State Council agenda are numbered 5.1 to 5.17

The Recommendation and Brief only have been included. Please refer to the attached PDF version of the State Council Agenda for more detail.

8.1 (5.1) 2020-21 State Budget Submission (05-001-03-0006 NF)

By Nebojsa Franich, Policy Manager - Economics

Recommendation:

That WALGA's submission to the State Government in advance of the 2020-21 Budget be endorsed.

In Brief:

- Each year, WALGA prepares a submission to the State Government outlining the sector's priorities for the upcoming budget.
- WALGA's strategy for the 2020-21 Budget Submission is to:
 1. Recognise the challenging economic context the State is in
 2. Align the sector's asks with State Government priorities and KPIs
 3. Demonstrate value for money for anything that we ask for
 4. Be as specific as possible in our asks
 5. Stand out from the crowd by being targeted and succinct
 6. Establish relationships and united voices with other advocacy bodies and within Government wherever possible.
- The following four strategic themes form the basis of WALGA's Submission and highlight the key areas the sector is seeking funding or policy change in the 2020-21 State Budget.
 - Empowering Local Governments to contribute to the State's priorities
 - Establishing a Strategic Approach to Economic Development in WA
 - Investing in Important Local Government Infrastructure
 - Ensuring a Sustainable Environment for our Communities
- Across the identified four strategic themes, WALGA has put forward 18 initiatives in its 2020-21 State Budget Submission that total \$287 million across the four year forward estimates period. Some 90 per cent of the total funding ask is contained within just six initiatives – demonstrating that WALGA's funding asks are targeted and are not extensive. In addition, WALGA has suggested a reprioritisation of expenditure from specific existing sources of funding for the majority of the initiatives put forward, in order to ensure future budget surpluses are maintained.
- In developing the Submission, WALGA has sought feedback from State Council at the Strategic Forum in September and from members throughout September and October.
- Once it has been endorsed by State Council and submitted to the State Government in mid-December, each Elected Member will be provided with a copy of the Submission to assist them as they advocate to Members of Parliament in their own regions.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Simkin

Seconded: Cr Lane

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 5.1.

Carried

8.2 (5.2) Interim Submission - Remote Area Tax Concessions (05-001-03-0006 NF)

By Nebojsa Franich, Policy Manager Economics

Recommendation:

That WALGA's interim submission to the Productivity Commission's Draft Report into Remote Area Tax Concessions and Payments be endorsed.

In Brief:

- In late 2018, Treasurer Josh Frydenberg provided the Productivity Commission with a terms of reference to undertake a study into the zone tax offset and related remote area tax concessions and payments.
- In September 2019, the Productivity Commission released its Draft Report, which recommended:
 - the abolition of the Zone Tax Offset;
 - a review of remote area assistance payments and boundaries;
 - a tightening of fringe benefits tax treatment related to employer provided and employee sourced housing;
 - a tightening of fringe benefits tax treatment for concessions and exemptions relating to residential fuel, meals and holiday transport, and no changes to existing fringe benefit tax exemptions and concessions for FIFO arrangements.
- In October 2019, WALGA provided an Interim Submission to the draft report. WALGA's Submission was based on member feedback and was in alignment with its original Submission to the Issues Paper. In brief, WALGA's Submission:
 - highlighted some of the challenges that make it difficult for regional and remote communities to secure sustained population and workforce growth;
 - maintained that the rationale for retaining remote area tax concessions and payments of regional development still exists;
 - outlined concerns that some of the recommendations contained in the Draft Report go directly against regional development objectives and will have a considerable negative impact on the WA Local Government sector; and
 - outlined concerns that the Draft Report fails to adequately assess the employment and economic impacts of the proposed changes, and also doesn't provide a realistic view of alternative, better mechanisms to support regional development.
- It is anticipated that the Productivity Commission will release its Final Report in February 2020.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:**Moved:** Cr Lane**Seconded:** Cr Girando

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 5.2.

Carried

8.3 (5.3) Mandatory Code of Conduct for Council Member, Committee Members and Candidates – Sector Feedback (05-034-01-0001JMc)

By James McGovern, Manager Governance

Recommendation:

That WALGA:

1. Request the Mandatory Code of Conduct Working Group be reconvened by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries;
2. Refer the following matters to the Working Group for further consideration:
 - (a) Part B – Behaviours
 - i. ensuring principles of natural justice can be adequately upheld in all circumstances;
 - ii. training opportunities that will assist Council Members determine complaint outcomes under Part B;
 - iii. development of a template Complaints Management Policy;

- iv. reconsider the purpose of allowing 'any person' to make a complaint;
- v. ensuring Committee Members and Candidates are included in Part B; and
- vi. re-naming 'Rules' to an appropriate term throughout Part B.

(b) Part C – Rules of Conduct

- i. review the rationale for creating a new Rule of Conduct breach where three or more breaches of Part B – Behaviours are found and the Local Government resolves to refer the matter to the Local Government Standards Panel; and
 - ii. review the proposal to amend the definition of an 'interest' relating to Impartiality Interests from the present definition in Regulation 11 of the Local Government (Rules of Conduct) Regulations.
3. Recommend the Working Group develop an endorsed Mandatory Code of Conduct for further consultation with the Local Government sector.

In Brief:

- The *Local Government Legislation Amendment Act 2019* was assented to in July 2019 and introduced a range of Act amendments, including provision by future amendment to Section 5.103, for a mandatory Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Election Candidates.
- In preparation for the new Code, the Department formed a Working Group that included WALGA, to consider the content of a future Code.
- Prior to endorsement by the Working Group, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries released a Consultation Paper in September requesting sector feedback by the amended date of 6 December 2019.
- WALGA provided a Draft Submission to Member Local Governments and feedback received by 25 October is incorporated in this report; additional commentary is anticipated as part of the WALGA Zone process.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Simkin

Seconded: Cr Girando

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 5.3.

Carried

The Chair then proposed that the remaining State Council Matters for Decision be moved en bloc, unless there was a particular matter that a Delegate wished to consider separately.

Cr Girando wanted to discuss Matter 8.8 (5.8) Membership of Development Assessment Panels.

The other remaining Matters 8.4 through to 8.17 (excl 8.8) were considered en bloc.

8.4 (5.4) Standards and Guidelines for CEO Recruitment and Selection, Performance Review and Termination – Sector Feedback (05-034-01-0001 JMC)

By James McGovern, Manager Governance

Recommendation:

That WALGA:

1. Request the CEO Recruitment and Selection, Performance Review and Termination Working Group be reconvened by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries; and
2. Refer the following matters to the Working Group for consideration:

- (a) Removal from the Model Standards the requirement to readvertise CEO positions after 10 years of continuous service;
 - (b) Encouraging, rather than mandating, the involvement of an independent person in the CEO Recruitment and Selection Process;
 - (c) Reconsideration of the proposal for independent review of the recruitment process;
 - (d) Support the role of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries as the regulator for monitoring and compliance; and
 - (e) Further investigate a role for a Local Government Commissioner.
3. Recommend the Working Group develop endorsed Model Standards for further consultation with the Local Government sector.

In Brief:

- The *Local Government Legislation Amendment Act 2019* was assented to in July 2019 and introduced a range of Act amendments, including provision by future commencement of new Section 5.39A 'Model standards for CEO recruitment, performance and termination.'
- The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries formed a Working Group that included WALGA, to consider the content of future Model Standards.
- Prior to endorsement by the Working Group, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries released a Consultation Paper in September requesting sector feedback by the amended date of 6 December 2019.
- WALGA provided a Draft Submission to Member Local Governments and feedback received by 25 October is incorporated in this report; additional commentary is anticipated as part of the WALGA Zone process.

8.5 (5.5) Local Government Financial Ratios (05-034-01-0001 TB)

By Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services

Recommendation:

- 1) That WALGA advocate to the Minister for Local Government to amend the Local Government Financial Management Regulations to provide for the following ratios;
 - a. Operating Surplus Ratio
 - b. Debt Service Coverage Ratio
 - c. Asset Sustainability Ratio
 - d. Current Ratio
 - e. Net Financial Liabilities Ratio
- 2) The recommended indicators to the financial ratios be referred to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and the Office of the Auditor General for consideration;
 - a) Operating Surplus Ratio
A key indicator of a Local Government's financial performance is the Operating Surplus relative to the operating revenues. A benchmark result of 0% or greater is considered acceptable. Advanced is 15% or above-
 - b) Debt Service Coverage Ratio
A Local Government's ability to service debt is measured by the "Debt Service Cover Ratio". This is the measurement of a local government's ability to produce enough cash to cover its debt payments. A Basic standard is achieved if the ratio is greater than or equal to 2. An Advanced standard is achieved if the ratio is greater than 5.
 - c) Asset Sustainability Ratio
Measures capital expenditure on renewal or replacement of assets, relative to depreciation expense. Standard is met if the ratio can be measured and is 90% (or 0.90) Standard is improving if this ratio is between 90% and 110% (or 0.90 and 1.10).
 - d) Current Ratio
Liquidity refers to how quickly and cheaply an asset can be converted into cash. A Local Government's liquidity is measured by the "Current Ratio". This ratio provides information on the

ability of a Local Government to meet its short-term financial obligations out of unrestricted current assets. Standard is met if the ratio can be measured and is at least 90%. Standard is improving if this ratio is between 90% and 110%.

e) Net Financial Liabilities Ratio

An indicator of the extent to which the net financial liabilities of a Local Government can be serviced by its operating revenues. Target < 60% per annum.

In Brief:

- Currently, there are seven financial performance indicators which are required to be included in the annual financial report of a Local Government under section 6.4(2) of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 50 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996.
- Over a number of years there has been mounting concern as to the appropriateness of these indicators in providing a reasonable benchmark and measure of the financial performance of all local governments in WA.
- WALGA has contracted a Local Government Financial consultant to provide recommendations on meaningful ratios and what the recommended indicators are for each ratio.
- This agenda item recommends the 7 ratios be replaced with 5 more meaningful and relevant ratios

8.6 (5.6) Local Government Audits (05-034-01-0001 TB)

By Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services

Recommendation:

That WALGA:

- 1) Write to the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) advising of the cost increases to the Local Government sector in respect to financial audits over the first 2 years of OAG audits and request constraint on audit cost increases in the future.
- 2) Write to the Minister for Local Government seeking formal commitment that Performance Audits carried out by the Office of the Auditor General are the responsibility of the State Government.

In Brief:

- In 2017 the Local Government Amendment (Auditing) Act 2017 was proclaimed, giving the Auditor General the mandate to audit Western Australia's Local Governments.
- Feedback from Local Governments indicates that audit costs have increased by 92% across the first two year period since introduced.
- Local Government staff time for providing evidence of financial transactions has also increased significantly.
- Performance Audits of Local Governments are seen as beneficial for the sector, although the cost of performance audits needs to remain as the responsibility of the State Government.
- Advocacy to the Auditor General on constraining further audit cost increases has been requested by the Local Government sector.

8.7 (5.7) Review of State Council and Zone Structure and Processes – Working Group Report and Recommendations (01-004-05-0002 TL)

By Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services and Tim Lane, Manager Strategy and Association Governance

Recommendation:

That:

1. The Working Group's Final Report, and State Council's prior endorsement of Recommendations 5, 6, 7, and 8 from the Working Group's Final Report, be noted; and,
2. Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, and 10, from the Working Group's Final Report be endorsed.

In Brief:

- State Council, at its 27 March 2019 meeting, established a Working Group to develop options to revise State Council's structure and processes;
- The Working Group, comprised of the WALGA President, Deputy President, eight State Councillors, a representative from the Regional Cities Alliance, two Local Government Chief Executive Officers supported by senior WALGA staff, had a brief to consider all aspects of WALGA's governance structures and processes and report back to State Council with recommendations;
- The Working Group met three times and considered outcomes of previous reviews, arrangements of other associations of Local Government, strengths and weaknesses of the current model and options for change;
- The Working Group's final report and recommendations were presented for State Council consideration at the September 2019 State Council meeting;
- Recommendations 5, 6, 7, and 8 were endorsed by State Council at the September 2019 meeting, with the balance of the recommendations endorsed in principle subject to sector consultation;
- The Final Report was then distributed to the Local Government sector for comment and a number of submissions were received;
- As per the report below, it is recommended that recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, and 10 from the Final Report be endorsed.

8.9 (5.9) Interim Submission - Draft State Planning Policy 3.6 – Infrastructure Contributions (05-036-03-0010 VJ)

By Vanessa Jackson, Policy Manager, Planning and Improvement

Recommendation:

1. That the interim submission to the WA Planning Commission on draft State Planning Policy 3.6 – Infrastructure Contributions, be endorsed.
2. That the West Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) be advised that the proposed cap on community infrastructure contributions is strongly opposed and without the removal of this proposed cap, WALGA does not support draft State Planning Policy 3.6 – Infrastructure Contributions.

In Brief:

- In July 2019, the WA Planning Commission (WAPC) released a revised State Planning Policy 3.6 - Infrastructure Contributions and revised Guidelines.
- The revised State Planning Policy and revised Guidelines aim to provide better guidance and consistency in the application of development contribution plans throughout the State.
- The WA Planning Commissions public comment period closed on 2 September 2019, therefore an interim submission was prepared and submitted.

8.10 (5.10) Local Government as Collection Agency for Construction Training Fund (05-015-02-0005 VJ)

By Vanessa Jackson, Policy Manager Planning and Improvement

Recommendation:

1. That WALGA advise the Construction Training Fund (CTF):
 - 1.1 That due to the operational improvements and establishment of an on-line portal for payments of the Building and Construction Industry Training Fund, Local Government will not continue to be a collection agency for these payments
 - 1.2 That the online receipt issued upon payment of the *Building and Construction Industry Training Fund*, must clearly show the property address and estimated building value to ensure it complies with section 20 of the *Building Act 2011*
 - 1.3 That the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) must provide access to the data collated in the Building Permit Database Project to assist CTF in their acquittal process, and
 - 1.4 That a review of the apprenticeship pathways should be undertaken, as the Local Government sector can provide many potential apprentice pathways directly connected to the construction and development industry.

2. That WALGA advise the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Education & Training and Minister for Commerce that the current CTF collection process is unnecessary administrative red tape for the Local Government sector and seek their support for Local Government to not continue to be a collection agency for these payments.

In Brief:

- The Construction Training Fund (CTF) has recently established a secure on line portal for payments of the *Building and Construction Industry Training Fund (BCITF)*.
- WALGA has sought member's views on whether Local Government should continue to be the collection agency for the Construction Training Fund.
- The responses indicate that the administrative burden is onerous, fees received do not achieve cost recovery, therefore, the processing of CTF payments by Local Government should not continue.

8.11 (5.11) Interim Submission - Public Health Regulations Review Discussion Papers (05-031-01-0001 BW)

By Bec Waddington, Policy Officer Community

Recommendation:

That the interim submissions provided to the Department of Health on the following discussion papers be endorsed:

1. Managing public health risks at events in WA
2. Management of public health risks related to offensive trade in WA
3. Managing the public health risks associated with cooling towers and warm water systems in WA
4. A new regulatory framework for managing drinking water in WA

In Brief:

- The *Public Health Act 2016* is progressing through a five-stage process of implementation and is currently at Stage 4. All regulations from the previous *Health Act 1911* will be repealed and replaced with new regulations at the commencement of Stage 5, which is anticipated to commence in 2021.
- Interim submissions for all of the above discussion papers were prepared to meet Department of Health deadlines and are now presented to State Council for final endorsement.

8.12 (5.12) Reforms to the Building Approval Process for Single Residential Buildings in Western Australia (05-015-02-0010 VJ)

By Vanessa Jackson, Policy Manager Planning and Improvement

Recommendation:

That WALGA:

1. Advise the Department of Mines Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) that Option 3 of the Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement, improvements to the single residential building approvals process, is supported in principle, subject to the following matters being addressed in consultation with the Local Government sector:
 - a) Prior to any regulatory changes, a review of the building fees and charges is essential, to ensure that any costs associated with the approval of building work, implementation of mandatory inspections, compliance and enforcement actions, and record keeping requirements for the Local Government sector, will result in full cost recovery
 - b) The Independent Building Surveyor who signed the Certificate of Design Compliance should be responsible for undertaking the inspections, therefore, Local Government would not be solely responsible for mandatory inspections
 - c) The State Government's registration process for the Builder should be strengthened to ensure that the builder fulfils their obligations for compliance with the National Construction Code

- d) Implementation of mandatory inspections should be undertaken by properly qualified and independent personnel, at the following stages (at a minimum) of the construction process
 1. Foundations and footings
 2. Slab/reinforcement of bearers/joists
 3. Waterproofing
 4. Roof, and
 5. Occupancy or final completion
 - e) The occupancy or final completion inspection must ensure that the bushfire construction and energy efficiency requirements have been complied with, and
 - f) The removal of the proposed 'fast track approval' concept, as is not warranted nor properly justified as an improvement option.
2. Endorse the submission of this State Council report to the DMIRS, as the Association's submission on the Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement.

In Brief:

- In September 2019, DMIRS released a Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement for public comment focusing on improvements to the building approvals process for single residential buildings.
- The paper proposes three options for stakeholders; business as usual; introduction of full private certification; or improvements to the current building approval process.
- Submissions on the Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement close on the 9 December 2019.

8.13 (5.13) Wheatbelt Regional Health Services 05-030-03-0006 MM)

By Marissa MacDonald, Senior Policy Advisor Community

Recommendation:

That WALGA:

1. Re-establishes a working group to progress a Memorandum of Understanding with Local Governments in the Wheatbelt region and the WA Country Health Service, based on the previous work by the former Wheatbelt Health MOU Group, which outlines communication, responsibilities and strategic priorities unique to the region; and
2. Work with key service providers and stakeholders to engage with Local Government to further discuss the issues and develop solutions in the aged care services sector.

In Brief:

- The North East Wheatbelt Region Organisation of Councils (NEWROC) approached WALGA to deliver a regional health forum on 20 September 2019 in Trayning. The Forum was held with key service providers and stakeholders.
- At the forum WALGA coordinated a discussion where attendees recommended the re-establishment of the Wheatbelt Health MOU and to provide an opportunity for Local Governments to continue discussing the issues associated with aged care services.
- The Wheatbelt MOU Group was active between 2006 and 2015, advocated on behalf of Wheatbelt Local Governments and was a partnership between the Avon Midland Country, Central Country and Great Eastern Country Zones, Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt, WA Country Health Service (WACHS) and Wheatbelt Development Commission.

8.14 (5.14) Interim Submission to the Climate Health WA Inquiry (05-031-01-0001 KD)

By Kirstie Davis, Policy Manager Community

Recommendation:

That the WALGA interim submission to the Climate Health WA Inquiry be endorsed.

In Brief:

- In March 2019, the State Government, announced the [Climate Health WA Inquiry](#) into the implications of climate change on health.
- WALGA was invited to make a written submission to the Inquiry by 13 September 2019 and to appear before the Inquiry at a public hearing held on 14 November 2019.
- The Association sought comments from Local Governments via an InfoPage to inform the WALGA submission.
- The interim submission was endorsed by the WALGA People and Place Policy Team and submitted to the Department of Health as an interim submission.
- WALGA's submission to the Inquiry aligns with WALGA's Policy Statement on Climate Change endorsed by State Council in July 2018, which calls for strong climate change action and coordination by all levels of government.

8.15 (5.15) Submission on the Climate Change in Western Australia Issues Paper (05-028-03-0011MB)

By Mark Batty - Executive Manager Environment and Waste

Recommendation:

That the WALGA submission on the *Climate Change in Western Australia Issues Paper* be endorsed.

In Brief:

- The State Government released the [Climate Change in Western Australia Issues Paper](#) on 4 September 2019 for public comment.
- Feedback received on the Issues Paper will inform the development of the State Government Climate Policy due for release in 2020.
- The Issues Paper outlines the key issues facing Western Australia in 'the transition to a resilient, low-carbon economy, and identifies opportunities to build on actions already underway'.
- The Issues Paper references and sits within the context of the net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 target announced by the State Government in August 2019.
- WALGA's submission is consistent with the WALGA Climate Change Policy Statement, endorsed by State Council in July 2018 and previously endorsed WALGA climate change related submissions.
- The draft submission was provided to the sector for comment on 9 October 2019. 15 responses were received, all in support of the submission.

8.16 (5.16) Interim Submission – Policy and Application Guidelines for Speed Zoning (05-009-02-0035 MS)

By Mal Shervill, Policy Officer Road Safety, Transport and Roads

Recommendation:

The interim submission to Main Roads WA on the Policy and Application Guidelines for Speed Zoning be endorsed.

In Brief:

- Main Roads WA revised the Policy and Application Guidelines for Speed Zoning, which provides the principles and objectives applied in setting speed limits for all public roads in Western Australia.
- Local Governments use the Policy to guide their considerations for speed zoning on local roads and as a basis to develop an application for new or to amend existing speed limits.
- Local Governments gave feedback on the revised Policy and an interim submission, as amended by the Infrastructure Policy Team, was provided to Main Roads WA in September 2019.

8.17 (5.17) Interim Submission - Response to the Select Committee on Northern Australia (05-049-03-0001 NF)

By Nebojsa Franich, Policy Manager, Economics

Recommendation:

That WALGA's interim submission to the Select Committee on the effectiveness of the Australian Government's Northern Australia agenda be endorsed.

In Brief:

- On 4 July 2019 the Senate agreed to the establishment of the Select Committee on the effectiveness of the Australian Government's Northern Australia agenda.
- The Australian Government's Northern Australia agenda includes the development and release of the Northern Australia Green and White papers, and the subsequent implementation of the initiatives identified in the White Paper to progress Northern Australia.
- WALGA's Submission to the Select Committee on the effectiveness of the Australian Government's Northern Australia Agenda:
 - applauds the extensive body of work undertaken by the Australian Government in recent years to understand the drivers of economic and social development in Northern Australia;
 - recommends the adoption of a more formalised Program Evaluation structure to report on and evaluate progress;
 - recommends regular reviews of the Northern Australia agenda; and
 - recommends the implementation of other reforms that WALGA has advocated for in the past that would allow Northern Australia to reach its full economic and social potential, including limiting the use of FIFO to when it is necessary, the implementation of designated area migration agreements and increasing the quantum of financial assistance grants provided to Local Governments.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Thomas

Seconded: Cr Cosgrove

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Items 8.4, 8.5, 8.6, 8.7, 8.9, 8.10, 8.11, 8.12, 8.13, 8.14, 8.15, 8.16 and 8.17.

Carried

8.8 (5.8) Membership of Development Assessment Panels (05-047-01-0016 VJ)

By Vanessa Jackson, Policy Manager Planning and Improvement

Recommendation:

That WALGA advocate to the Minister for Planning, that the composition of Development Assessment Panels (DAPs) be modified to provide equal representation of technical advice and local knowledge, in accordance with the original objectives of the DAP system to enhance the decision making process by improving the balance of experts.

In Brief:

- At the 2019 WALGA AGM, a request to advocate for a change in the membership of Development Assessment Panels was considered and carried at the meeting.
- Appointing an additional Elected Member to DAPs would mean there would be three local experts and three planning experts, which provides a balance of the local knowledge and the technical expertise on the Panels.
- Although the recently released Planning Reform Action Plan states that there will be no change to Local Government membership, advocating for equal representation is still considered appropriate.

Cr Girando spoke against the motion stating that her council considered that an extra council member on the panel was an impost on local government.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Girando

Seconded: Cr Chappel

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 5.8.

Lost

9. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 4 December 2019.

The Matters for Noting/Information in the State Council agenda are numbered 6.1 to 6.11.

The Recommendation and Brief only have been included. Please refer to the attached PDF version of the State Council Agenda for more detail.

9.1 (6.1) Ministerial Review of State IR System (05-034-01-0001 EC)

By Emma Clements, Employee Relations Service Manager

Recommendation:

That State Council notes the sector's position to oppose the State Government's recommendation to amend the *Industrial Relations Act 1979 (WA)* to enable a declaration to be made that WA Local Governments are not "national system employers" for the purposes of the Fair Work Act.

In Brief:

- The Final Report (Report) of the review into the WA State industrial relations system was tabled in State Parliament on 11 April 2019.
- This report makes the recommendation to amend the *Industrial Relations Act 1979 (IR Act)* to enable a declaration to be made that WA Local Government authorities are not "national system employers" for the purposes of the *Fair Work Act 2009 (FW Act)*.
- If endorsed at state and federal levels there will be transitional arrangements to assist the 93% of Local Government currently operating in the Federal system transition to the State system.
- A Taskforce comprising of key stakeholders, including WALGA, has been formed to discuss and scope out the 'unintended' consequences of the recommendation and proposed two year transition process.
- State Council endorsed a position opposing the States Governments proposal to place all Local Governments in the State Industrial Relations systems at the March 2018 State Council meeting (Resolution number 8.1/2018).
- To ensure the interests of Local Government are represented WALGA has established a Sector Reference Group to seek feedback and invited the Minister to address the sector at WALGA's annual People and Culture seminar in October 2019.

9.2 (6.2) Action Plan for Planning Reform (05-04702-0015 VJ)

By Vanessa Jackson, Policy Manager, Planning and Improvement

Recommendation:

That the release of the Action Plan for Planning Reform be noted.

In Brief:

- The Minister for Planning has released an Action Plan for Planning Reform, in response to the Independent Planning Reform Team's Green Paper - *Modernising WA's Planning System: Concepts for a strategically-led system* released in 2018.
- The Action Plan proposes three overarching goals and 19 reform initiatives to achieve these aims, with Stakeholder Reference Groups and Initiative Working Groups established to guide the implementation of these reform projects.
- Nominations for the Stakeholder and working groups were sought from the Local Government Sector and forwarded to the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage to meet their deadline of the 6 September 2019.

9.3 (6.3) Parliamentary Inquiry into Short Stay Accommodation – Final Report (05-036-03-0016 CH)

By Christopher Hossen, Senior Planner, People and Place

Recommendation:

That State Council note:

1. the findings and recommendations of the Economics and Industry Standing Committee's Inquiry into Short-Stay Accommodation, and
2. the contribution by the sector to this Inquiry and the positive impact this has had on the findings and recommendations of the Inquiry.

In Brief:

- In 2017, WALGA requested a review of the planning framework in relation to short-stay accommodation, while recognising that Local Government is best placed to determine specific controls on short-term rental accommodation
- On 13 February 2019 the Association appeared before a hearing of the Committee
- The Committee released its findings in September 2019 in a report titled, '*Levelling the Playing Field: Managing the impact of the rapid increase of Short-Term Rentals in Western Australia*'.

9.4 (6.4) Draft State Planning Policy 7.2: Precinct Design – Submission (05-036-03-0067 AR)

By Chris Hossen, Senior Planner and Ashley Robb, Project Officer, Planning and Improvement

Recommendation:

That the submission to the draft *State Planning Policy 7.2: Precinct Design* be noted.

In Brief:

- In August 2019 the Western Australian Planning Commission released the draft *State Planning Policy 7.2: Precinct Design* (SPP7.2) with policy guidelines and a discussion paper.
- The purpose of the policy is to facilitate precinct planning which achieves good design quality and built form outcomes in both greenfield and developed areas.
- This submission was prepared in consultation with Local Governments, reviewed by WALGA's People and Place Policy Team, endorsed by State Council and submitted to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) in October 2019.

9.5 (6.5) Managing Public Health Risks Associated with Pesticides in WA (05-031-01-0001 MM)

By Marissa MacDonald, Senior Policy Advisor, Community

Recommendation:

That the submission to the Department of Health in response to the Managing Public Health Risks Associated with Pesticides in WA discussion paper be noted.

In Brief:

- The *Public Health Act 2016* is progressing through a five-stage process of implementation and is currently at Stage 4. All regulations from the previous *Health Act 1911* will be repealed and replaced with new regulations at the commencement of Stage 5, which is anticipated to commence in 2021.
- The Department of Health released the “Managing Public Health Risks Associated with Pesticides in WA” discussion paper for public comment with three options for consideration.
- WALGA’s Submission discusses the majority of Local Governments preference for Option C, with Local Governments rejecting two of nine proposals that would see a transfer of responsibilities to Local Governments.

9.6 (6.6) Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group (05-024-03-0034 MP)

By Melissa Pexton, Policy Manager Emergency Management

Recommendation:

That State Council note the establishment of the Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group and that sector wide consultation will be undertaken as discussion papers are released regarding proposed amendments to the Local Government Grants Scheme operating manual.

In Brief:

- The Association has been advocating for a review of the Local Government Grants Scheme (LGGS) following the review of the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) undertaken by the Economic Regulation Authority.
- The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) have initiated and formalised a working group consisting of DFES, WALGA, Association of Volunteer Bushfire Brigades (AVBFB) and State Emergency Services Volunteers Association (SESVA). The working group have agreed to priority areas within the LGGS that require consideration and review.
- WALGA will be consulting with members on the various priority areas as the discussion papers are released.

9.7 (6.7) Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) Program (05-024-03-0035 MP)

By Melissa Pexton, Policy Manager Emergency Management

Recommendation:

That State Council note

- the implementation of the Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) program as a national project being overseen by the Australian New Zealand Emergency Management Committee and,
- advice from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) for Local Governments to suspend investment in current fire danger rating signage (including electronic signs) until a final prototype is announced.

In Brief:

- The Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) Program will design, develop and implement a national fire danger rating system to better describe the overall fire danger and risk to firefighters, land managers, broader government including Local Governments, utilities, businesses and the community.
- The project has been endorsed and overseen by the Australian New Zealand Emergency Management Committee and commenced in 2016. Critical research and prototypes are being socialised with all jurisdictions with workshops having been held in WA in September 2019. Implementation of the revised system is scheduled for 2020/21.
- There are possible changes to the current fire danger rating system signage and it is recommended that Local Governments suspend investment into signage until a final prototype is announced.

9.8 (6.8) WALGA Emergency Management Engagement Project (05-024-02-0059 EDR)

By Evie Devitt-Rix, Senior Policy Advisor Emergency Management

Recommendation:

That the announcement of the consolidation of the three WA Emergency Services Acts be noted.

In Brief:

- Currently Western Australia has three Emergency Services Acts: the *Fire Brigades Act 1942*, *Bush Fires Act 1954* and *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998*.
- The Minister for Fire and Emergency Services has announced the consolidation of these three Acts into the Consolidated Emergency Services Act (CES Act).
- The Association's recent engagement of Local Governments has noted that their number one priority in the State Emergency Management Framework is the simplification of legislation by consolidating of the three Acts. WALGA will ensure that once the CES Act is drafted a robust consultation process will be held across the sector.

9.9 (6.9) WALGA Submission to the Inquiry into 5G in Australia (05-001-02-0014 MB)

By Mark Bondiotti, Policy Manager Transport and Roads

Recommendation:

That the WALGA Submission to the Inquiry into 5G in Australia be noted.

In Brief:

- The Federal House of Representatives Standing Committee on Communications and the Arts is undertaking an inquiry into the deployment, adoption and application of 5G in Australia.
- WALGA has prepared a submission that has been endorsed by the Infrastructure Policy Team and State Council by Flying Minute.
- The submission draws attention to the negative impacts of uncontrolled installation of a network of antennas on Local Government infrastructure.
- The submission recommends that telecommunications carriers must consult and obtain agreement with Local Governments before installing infrastructure.

9.10 (6.10) WALGA Comments on the Environmental Offsets Framework Review Report (05-025-03-0000 MB)

By Nicole Matthews, Environment Policy Manager

Recommendation:

That WALGA's endorsed submission on the Environmental Offsets Framework Review Report be noted.

In Brief:

- The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER), at the request of the Environment Minister, has conducted a review of the effectiveness of the WA Environmental Offsets Framework and its implementation in delivering its environmental objectives.
- The review found that 'environmental offsets approved since the release of the offsets policy have not fully counterbalanced the significant residual impacts of approvals' and made 12 recommendations (a summary of 25 recommendations are in the body of the report) designed to improve the effectiveness of the offsets framework.
- WALGA participated in the review as a member of the Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG).
- WALGA supports the review recommendations with some qualifications, as detailed in the attached comments.
- On 1 October 2019 State Council resolved by Flying Minute that the submission to DWER on the Environmental Offsets Framework Review be endorsed.

9.11 (6.11) Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) (01006-03-0008 RNB)

By Rebecca Brown, Manager, Waste & Recycling

Recommendation:

That State Council note the resolutions of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council at its 28 August and 9 October 2019 meetings.

In Brief:

- This item summaries the outcomes of the MWAC meetings held on 28 August and 9 October 2019.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Simkin

Seconded: Cr Wooltorton

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes State Council Agenda Items 6.1 to 6.11

Carried

10. REPORTS**10.1 Zone Chair / State Councillor's Report – to 28 November 2019**

Northern Country Zone of WALGA
Presidents Report November 2019

State Council in September was held in Shark Bay. The emphasis at this meeting was Climate Emergency and Road Safety. Both matters are to the forefront of Local Governments with concerns as varied as our State.

The Local Government Elections kept everyone busy until October 19th. Congratulations to all returning and newly Elected Members. This year the Postal Elections received a poor turnout due to Australia Post delivery standards - this will need to be addressed next Election.

I recently attended the Freight Logistics Council Conference on behalf of WALGA as a moderator. It was very interesting, the last mile for delivery of goods is becoming problematic. As is Street greening; the tree canopy is causing damage to trucks. Planning by Local Governments was a concern for the freight industry.

Last week I attended the State Road Funds to Local Govt Committee meeting at Main Roads. The 22million underspend was the main subject. The committee agreed to look at options for improving the spend across the State. The Plan to Advance Programme hopefully will assist in Local Govt spending its full allocation in 20/21. Reserve projects are the key and being prepared to embrace any offers of extra funding when other RR Groups refuse the extra money offered to them.

Mayor Logan Howlett and I have been asked to lead the negotiations with the Department of Transport and the Minister of Transport on the review of the State Agreement. State Council has a resolution that we aim to be back at 27% of vehicle licences by 2024. If we spend our whole allocation these negotiations will be easier. I am currently at the Roads Congress in Adelaide. A strong emphasis on using recycled road base, using data recording for evidence of the quality of our roads and the use of drones for asset management records. I will provide a further update verbally at the meeting on the 29th November.

Karen Chappel

Chair Cr Chappel added that she had attended the Roads Congress and it was interesting to note that by 2025 electric vehicles will be a large part of our lives, which will be of particular importance to local government and drones will be valuable for assessing assets.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Lane

Seconded: CEO Lancaster

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the report from the Chair/State Councillor to 28 November 2019.

Carried

10.2 WALGA President's Report

The December 2019 WALGA President's Report to the Zone for December 2019 is attached to the Agenda.

The Chair called on Mr James McGovern to read to the WALGA Presidents Report. Mr McGovern noted the report as read and called for questions from the floor.

Cr Ian West noted that he had attended the ALGA Conference and attendees had been made aware that it was intended to top up FAGs to assist Councils in their management of coastal erosion. Cr West was of the opinion that it would have better impact if the money was allocated through a separate fund, especially as FAGs is untied money and the extra money for coastal erosion may not be spent as intended.

Mr McGovern is going to seek further information from Mr Mark Batty, Executive Manager Environment and Waste and refer that information back to the Zone.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Girando

Seconded: Cr Cosgrove

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the December 2019 WALGA President's Report to the Zone.

Carried

10.3 Zone Status Report

A Status Report outlining the actions taken on the Zone's resolutions is attached.

Cr Girando queried whether or not a meeting had been organised with minister Papalia regarding the Wildflower Friendliness Rating Scheme and the use of road verges as nature reserves. The Chair clarified that it had been organised for the 17/12/2019 and that she, Cr Girando and the CEO of Chapman Valley, Mr Maurice Battilana, would be attending.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Simkin

Seconded: Cr Wooltorton

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the November 2019 Status Report outlining actions taken on the Zone's resolutions.

Carried

10.4 Midwest Suicide Prevention Steering Group Report

The Northern Country Zone's Standing Invitee to the Midwest Suicide Prevention Steering Group, Merle Isbister, met with members of the Steering Group to discuss the implementation of the Support after Suicide Procedures, following a recent death by suicide in her area and has maintained communication with steering group co-secretary, Isabel Ross to ensure continued support for the Communities affected.

A copy of the Midwest Gascoyne Support After Suicide Procedures will be made available to members once received by Cr Isbister.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Lane

Seconded: Cr Thomas

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the November 2019 Report from the Standing Invitee to the Midwest Prevention Steering Group.

Carried

11. ZONE MATTERS FOR NOTING/DECISION

11.1 Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 31 October 2019

Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer

Attachments: Bank Statements August, September, October 2019

Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31 October 2019.

Comments:

The Detailed Income Statement shown below represents the cash position of NCZ at 31 October 2019, as reconciled to the Bank Statement.

NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

For the period ending

31-Oct-19

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Description</i>
Statement Balance B/F	01-07-19		37,968.63	
Deposits				
Bank Interest Received			0.87	
TOTAL RECEIPTS			0.87	
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE			37,969.50	
Payments Made	03-07-19		-2,805.66	Internet tsf - Dianne Daniels - EO services 01/05/2019 - 30/06/2019; Travel expenses
	12-08-19		-275.00	Internet tsf - North Midlands Accounting - Inv 2020-00041 2018-19 Audit
	29-08-19		-203.46	Internet BPay - Shire of Mingenew - Inv 8802 Reimburse catering for meeting 26/08/2019
	29-08-19		-396.00	Internet BPay - Shire of Mingenew - Inv 8803 Reimburse catering for meeting 26/06/2019
	29-08-19		-2,822.04	Internet tsf - Dianne Daniels - EO services 01/07/2019 - 26/08/2019; Travel expenses
	16-10-19		-2.19	Internet tsf - Norris & Hyde IT - Inv 25237 Align Email payment with 1st of month billing cycle
TOTAL PAYMENTS MADE			-6,504.35	
Closing Cash Balance	31-10-19		31,465.15	

NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA

BANK RECONCILIATION SUMMARY

For the period ending

31-Oct-19

Statement Balance B/F	01-07-19		37,968.63
Deposits and Credits			0.87
Cheques and Payments			-6,504.35
Total Cleared Transactions	31-10-19		31,465.15
Add back o/s			0.00
Reconciled Balance			31,465.15
Bank Statement	31-10-19		31,465.15
Difference I&E to Bank Statement			0.00

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Girando

Seconded: Cr Thomas

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31 October 2019.

Carried

The Chair proposed to move 11.2 Correspondence Out and 11.3 Correspondence In, en bloc.

11.2 Correspondence Out

11.2.1 Wildflower Society of Western Australia (Inc)

Attachment: Letter dated 27/08/2019

Letter addressed to Dr E Wajon, Chair Wildflower Society Roadside Vegetation Sub-committee, further to:

1. his correspondence of the 21/07/2019 requesting a meeting with the Chair of the Northern Country Zone to discuss alternatives to the removal of roadside vegetation as a strategy to save lives; and
2. a decision made at the Northern Country Zone meeting of the 26/08/2019 that the Executive Officer formulate a letter to the Wildflower Society of WA (Inc) strongly voicing NCZ's position that road reserves aren't nature reserves and that future road planning and road safety are the Zone's highest priority in this matter (*refer Item 9.1 of Minutes 26 August 2019*)

11.2.2 Midwest Suicide Prevention Steering Group

Attachment: Letter dated 27/08/2019

Letter addressed to Isabel Ross co-secretary, notifying her that Cr Isbister had been nominated by the Northern Country Zone at their 26/08/19 meeting to serve as standing invitee to the Steering Group.

11.2.3 Rural Water Council of WA (Inc)

Attachment: Letter dated 27/08/2019

Letter addressed to Robert Dew, Executive Officer, notifying him that the Northern Country Zone of WALGA had, at their 26/08/2019 meeting, rescinded their decision to join the Rural Water Council.

11.3 Correspondence In

11.3.1 Wildflower Society of Western Australia (Inc)

Attachment: Letter from Dr E Wajon, Chair Wildflower Society Roadside Vegetation Sub-Committee, dated 09/09/2019

Letter to the Zone President noting the Northern Country Zone's letter dated 27/08/2019, requesting a meeting to further discuss alternatives to roadside clearing to save lives on country roads.

11.3.2 Mr Nils Hay CEO Mingenew

Attachment: Email from Mr Hay dated 27/09/2019

Email flagging potential discussion regarding the Wildflower Friendliness Rating Scheme being promoted by the Hon. Paul Papalia CSC MLA, Minister for Tourism.

11.3.3 Duncan Ord OAM, Director General DLGSC

Attachment: Letter from Mr Ord dated

Letter seeking feedback from the Zone on what the role of the Department should be and the type of information the NCZ would like to receive.

11.3.4 DLGSC Zone Update

Attachment: Zone Update

Regular Newsletter to WALGA Zones.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Smith

Seconded: Cr Lane

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes Correspondence Out at 11.2.1 through to 11.2.3 and receives Correspondence In at Items 11.3.1 through to 11.3.4

Carried

11.4 Proposed alternative to the CA07 Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition Working Group

Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA appoints _____ to be its representative on the CA07 Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition Working Group

Background:

At the December 2018 meeting State Council resolved that WALGA:

1. Opposes withdrawal of the "Letter of Approval" Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition until an acceptable alternative to Local Government is developed;
2. Supports the position that Local Governments not use provision of the Letter of Authority to charge transport operators to access the Restricted Access Vehicle network;
3. Supports the development of standard administrative procedures including fees and letter formats;
4. Supports the practice of Local Governments negotiating maintenance agreements with freight owners/generators in cases where the operations are predicted to cause extraordinary road damage as determined by the Local Government; and
5. Advocates to Main Roads to establish a stakeholder working group to develop an appropriate mechanism through which the increased infrastructure costs from the use of heavy vehicles and those loaded in excess of limits (concessional loading) can be recovered from those benefiting, and redirected into the cost of road maintenance.

Comment:

Main Roads are proposing an alternative to the CA07 condition which will replace the condition with a notification process. They are presenting the proposal to all Regional Road Groups and have requested Local Governments provide feedback through an online survey.

WALGA is establishing a stake holder working group to advise if the proposal is "an acceptable alternative", or to recommend amendments to Main Roads WA and to advise a policy position for State Council consideration. In accordance with the State Council resolution each Zone is invited to nominate a representative to serve on the Group. Please supply name and contact details before Wednesday, 4 December 2019 to Audra de Pina, Administration Officer, Infrastructure, on (08) 9213 2059 or email AdePina@walga.asn.au

For further information please contact Mark Bondiotti on 94478453 or email mbondiotti@walga.asn.au

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Smith

Seconded: Cr Thomas

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA appoints Cr Gary Cosgrove to be its representative on the CA07 Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition Working Group.

Carried

11.5 Constitution and Standing Orders

Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer

Attachment: Constitution adopted March 2003; Standing Orders adopted March 2003

Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA commence the review of the attached March 2003 Constitution and Standing Orders at the February 2020 meeting.

Comment:

WALGA was formed in 2001 with the merging of the WA Municipal Association, the Local Government Association of WA, the Country Urban Councils Association and the Country Shire Councils Association.

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA, at its inaugural meeting, carried a motion to develop a Constitution to guide it. The Constitution and Standing Orders were adopted in March 2003 after a review of Draft documents throughout 2002 and in February 2003.

As some current practices don't reflect the rules laid down by the Northern Country Zone's adopted Constitution and Standing Orders and because WALGA regularly review theirs, it would be in order to review the Northern Country Zone documents to align them with current practice and the current WALGA documents and practices.

The Executive officer has highlighted some clauses in the documents that the Zone may wish to revise.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:	
Moved: Cr Lane	Seconded: Cr Cosgrove
That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA commence the review of the attached March 2003 Constitution and Standing Orders at the February 2020 meeting.	
Carried	

11.6 Council Members Essentials Training

Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer
Attachment: Council Member Essentials Flyer

Recommendation:

The Executive Officer defers to members to decide to: pursue or not to pursue, Council Members Essentials Training through the Northern Country Zone, based on discussions at the November meeting. If the members decide to pursue this training through NCZ, then times, dates and locations will need to be decided so that the trainers can be booked.

Background:

At Item 14.1 of the 26 August Zone meeting, the Chair discussed the possibility of regional Councillor training sessions and it was agreed that the Executive Officer would approach WALGA regarding training options and costs, after canvassing members regarding the place(s), times and dates that would be most suitable. Findings to be reported back to the Zone.

Comment:

WALGA is an Approved Training Provider for the Council Member Essentials program for Elected Members. The training program consists of all five of WALGA's Stage One training courses that all newly Elected members will be required to complete within 12 months of being elected. The courses are:

- Understanding Local Government – ½ day face-to-face or 2 hours online
- Conflicts of Interest - ½ day face-to-face or 2 hours online
- Serving on Council - 2 days face-to-face or 4 hours online
- Meeting Procedures - 1 day face-to-face or 2 hours online
- Understanding Financial Reports and Budgets - 1 day face-to-face or 2 hours online

After discussions with the Chair and as a starting point, the Executive Officer requested a quote to have the following sessions delivered face-to-face:

Session 1:

COURSE	LOCATION	DATES	NO ATTENDEES
Serving on Council	Geraldton	Weekend early February	Max. 20

and

COURSE	LOCATION	DATES	NO ATTENDEES
Serving on Council	North Midlands eg Carnamah	Midweek early February	Max. 20

Session 2:

COURSE	LOCATION	DATES	NO ATTENDEES
Understanding Financial Reports and Budgets	Geraldton	Saturday or Sunday early March	Max. 20

and

COURSE	LOCATION	DATES	NO ATTENDEES
Understanding Financial Reports and Budgets	North Midlands eg Carnamah	Midweek early March	Max. 20

The quote received from WALGA was that each day would cost \$4,000. So, to have the sessions listed in the table above delivered face-to-face would be a total of \$24,000 (6 days x \$4,000) plus accommodation and meals, plus catering, plus on-ground transport. The \$4,000 per session would cover up to 20 participants with no deductions for lesser numbers.

The Executive Officer sent this information to members on October 16 and received four responses (Chapman Valley, CGG, Northampton and Coorow) that indicated that those Councils would probably not support the Regional face-to face training due to cost and time impositions.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Simkin

Seconded: Cr Cosgrove

That the Northern Country Zone does not pursue Council Members Essentials Training through the Zone.

Carried

11.7 Proposed Meeting Dates for 2020

Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil

Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA meet, in 2020, on the Monday in the week prior to State Council Meeting, as has been done historically. The exception to this would be Tuesday 28 April 2020, as Monday 27 April 2020 is the Anzac Day Public Holiday. Those dates would be:

Northern Country Zone Meeting Dates 2020	State Council Meeting Dates 2020 (to be endorsed at the December 2019 meeting of State Council)
Monday 24 February 2020	Wednesday 4 March 2020
Tuesday 28 April 2020	Regional Meeting Wednesday 6 May 2020 xx pm Venue TBA
Monday 22 June 2020	Wednesday 1 July 2020
Monday 24 August 2020	Regional Meeting 3-4 September 2020 Venue TBA
Monday 23 November 2020	Wednesday 2 December 2020

Comments:

I received correspondence from WALGA on the 6th of September, bringing my attention to 2020 meeting dates for WALGA State Council and showing preferred dates for Zone meetings.

Those dates are:

PREFERRED DATES FOR ZONE MEETINGS	STATE COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2020 (to be endorsed at December State Council meeting)
Friday 21 Feb to Friday 28 Feb	Wednesday 4 March
Friday 24 April to Friday 1 May	Regional Meeting Wednesday 6 May xx pm Venue TBA
Friday 19 June to Friday 26 June	Wednesday 1 July
Friday 21 Aug to Friday 28 Aug	Regional Meeting 3-4 September Venue TBA
Friday 20 Nov to Friday 27 Nov	Wednesday 2 December

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Simkin

Seconded: Cr Smith

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA meet on the following days in 2020: Monday 24 February; Tuesday 28 April; Monday 22 June; Monday 24 August; Monday 23 November.

Carried

12. GENERAL BUSINESS

As per Item 35 of the Zone Standing Orders, a Delegate may under General Business introduce a motion relating to any item of interest to Local Government, but not otherwise.

12.1 Regional Issues

Background:

As per the resolution at Item 9.1 of the February 2018 minutes, Regional Issues are open for discussion.

Nil

12.2 Regional Tourism Initiatives

Background:

As per the resolution at Item 10.1 of the April 2019 minutes, Regional Tourism Initiatives are open for discussion.

Nil

12.3 Other General Business

The Chair offered Mr Shane Love the opportunity to address the meeting.

Mr Love commented on Item 8.13 (5.13) Wheatbelt Regional Health Services noting that Health in the Northern Country Zone also needs championing – not that local government necessarily wants to be involved in the provision of health services, but local government needs to voice an opinion. Health issues could be discussed with the assistance of WALGA - all regional towns are struggling to recruit/retain Doctors and we need to work as a region to try and solve that.

In regard to coastal erosion, the Nationals have a policy that legislation needs to change so that there is a whole of government approach – everyone then knows where responsibility lies.

The meeting once again moved back to a discussion regarding Health, with Mr Love commenting that the Wheatbelt MOU was not a new concept - it fell away over time and the Wheatbelt are trying to rejuvenate it.

The Chair suggested that the Executive Officer organise a meeting, to be hosted at Three Springs, for early January, bringing all the relevant players together including CEO of WA Country Health Service, Mid West, Development Commission, RDA, Members of Parliament and local government.

Cr Smith questioned the wisdom of having a meeting early January, as the relevant stakeholders might not be available and there was general agreement that the Executive Officer work with WALGA to organise a Health Forum for early February 2020.

The Chair then offered Mr Gavin Treasure the opportunity to address the meeting.

Mr Treasure updated the meeting on the Mid West Digi Farm Project, which is the most advanced in the state, with input of \$1,000,000 of state government funding and \$1,500,000 from partner, Node1. Any farms that want enterprise grade Broadband connectivity can contact Node1. A dish needs to be installed with line of site to the nearest tower and an internal modem. Mr Treasure handed out a map which was colour coded to show areas where the service is currently available and areas where it will soon be available.

Mr Treasure also noted that the Regional Economic Development Grants round had closed and was waiting on the Minister to declare which projects had been selected for funding.

Cr Cosgrove made a complaint against the mobile phone service in the area, stating that it was third world. He suggested that the Zone needed to work together to push the Telcos to make the required improvements. Cr Girando noted that the Department of Commerce sign off on Towers and if they aren't financially viable for Telstra, then they power them down which results in unsatisfactory connectivity.

There was general agreement that the Executive Officer, corresponding through Mr Shane Love, organise for a Representative of the Telcos to be invited to the February 2020 meeting.

13. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Recommendation:

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be held on Monday 24 February 2020, commencing at 10 am, at the Mingenew Sports Pavilion.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:**Moved:** Cr Girando**Seconded:** Cr Wooltorton

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be held on Monday 24 February 2020, commencing at 10:00 am, at the Mingenew Sports Pavilion.

Carried

14. MEETING CLOSURE

Meeting declared closed at 11:06 am.