



Gascoyne Country Zone

Minutes

Videoconference – BeingThere

10:00am

Friday, 1 May 2020

Gascoyne Country Zone

Meeting held via video conference

Commencing at 10:06am, Friday, 1 May 2020

Agenda

ATTENDEES

Shire of Carnarvon

President Eddie Smith
David Burton – Chief Executive Officer

Shire of Exmouth

President Cr Matthew Niikkula
Cameron Woods – Chief Executive Officer

Shire of Shark Bay

President Cr Cheryl Cowell – Chair
Paul Anderson – Chief Executive Officer

Shire of Upper Gascoyne

President Cr Don Hammarquist OAM
John McCleary – Chief Executive Officer

WALGA

Tim Lane – Manager Strategy and Association Governance
Mark Bondietti – Policy Manager Transport and Roads
Engel Prendergast – Senior Road Safety Consultant

GUESTS

Department of Local Government,
Sport and Cultural Industries

Benita Donda – Regional Officer
Sheryl Siekierka – Director Strategic Initiatives

Gascoyne Development Commission

Tym Duncanson – Chief Executive Officer

RDA MidWest Gascoyne

Yvonne Messina – Chair
Mark Holdworth – Director Regional Development /
Executive Officer

APOLOGIES

Department of Local Government,
Sport and Cultural Industries

Richard Malacari – Regional Manager MidWest Gascoyne
Liz Toohey – A/Manager Local Government Policy and
Engagement

4.2 Business Arising

5. ZONE BUSINESS

5.1 Solar Eclipse 2023

Shire of Exmouth

Standing Item on the agenda relating to planning for the 2023 Solar Eclipse.

NOTED

5.2 Zone Status Report

Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
2019 June 20 Zone Agenda Item 5.2 Asset Preservation Model	That the Gascoyne Country Zone request WALGA to undertake a review of the Asset Preservation Model that informs the distribution of road funding to ensure equity, recognition of Local Government circumstances and the validity and accuracy of assumptions that inform the model.	Work has commenced to review and document the Asset Preservation Model in order to facilitate an informed discussion about how the model works, its sensitivity to inputs and assumptions and the implications of changes. This project will continue through 2020.	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
2019 September 5 Zone Agenda Item 5.1 Nyinggulu (Ningaloo) Coastal Reserves Draft Joint Management Plan	That the Gascoyne Zone request WALGA to follow up on the Ningaloo Coast Regional Strategy Carnarvon to Exmouth – Nyinggulu (Ningaloo) Coastal Reserves, Draft Joint Management Plan seeking a response before the November meeting.	WALGA has commenced discussions with the Shire, the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions and the Gascoyne Development Commission on the development of the Regional Strategy, and the concerns raised by the Shire of Exmouth. Ongoing.	Ongoing	Mark Batty Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning mbatty@walga.asn.au 9213 2078
2019 March 22 Zone Agenda Item 5.4 Ningaloo Coast Regional Strategy Carnarvon to Exmouth – Nyinggulu (Ningaloo) Coastal Reserves, Draft Joint Management Plan.	That the Gascoyne Zone requests WALGA to advocate to the State Government to undertake an independent economic assessment of Wilderness Camping in the Shire of Exmouth and the broader Gascoyne Region.	WALGA has commenced discussions with the Shire, the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions and the Gascoyne Development Commission on the development of the Regional Strategy, and the concerns raised by the Shire of Exmouth. Ongoing.	Ongoing	Mark Batty Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning mbatty@walga.asn.au 9213 2078
2019 September 5 Zone Agenda Item 5.1 Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition	That the Gascoyne Zone request WALGA to establish a Working Group relating to the Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition issue as soon as possible, to allow the Working Group to develop possible options prior to meeting with Main Roads.	The RAV Access working group met by teleconference in early December 2019. Based on the resolution of this meeting a letter detailing Local Government expectations was sent to Main Roads WA. To date there has been no response from Main Roads WA and the existing regulatory arrangements remain in place	February 2020	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
2019 June 20 Zone Agenda Item 5.1 Regional Strategy Carnarvon to Exmouth – Nyinggulu (Ningaloo) Coastal Reserves, Draft	That the Gascoyne Zone: 1. Request WALGA continue to advocate to the State Government that an independent economic assessment of Wilderness Camping in the Shire of Exmouth and the broader Gascoyne Region be undertaken prior to any decisions being made; and,	WALGA has commenced discussions with the Shire, the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions and the Gascoyne Development Commission on the development of the Regional Strategy, and the concerns raised by the Shire of Exmouth. Ongoing.	February 2020	Mark Batty Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning mbatty@walga.asn.au 9213 2078

Joint Management Plan	2. Note that the Shire of Exmouth will draft a statement to be sent to Gascoyne Local Government Chief Executive Officers outlining concerns with the current proposal.			
Zone Agenda Item 28 February 2020 5.2 Ningaloo Coast Regional Strategy	That WALGA advocate for the DBCA to undertake economic impact studies on state management plans.	In response to correspondence and discussions with WALGA, correspondence from the Director General of DBCA has been received. This correspondence underpins a specific agenda item for the zone to consider the DBCA response and determine next steps. Awaiting further consideration of the DBCA correspondence by the zone. Ongoing.	April 2020	Mark Batty Executive Manager, Strategy, policy and Planning mbatty@walga.asn.au 9213 2078
2019 September 6 State Council Agenda Item 5.5 Submission on the Draft Compliance and Enforcement Policy	That the submission to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation relating to the draft Compliance and Enforcement Policy be endorsed, subject to: 1. Noting the lack of enforcement resources dedicated to rural and remote areas; and, 2. A request that other Government officers be trained to undertake enforcement actions on behalf of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation.	State Council Resolution That the submission to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation relating to the draft Compliance and Enforcement Policy be endorsed subject to: 1. Noting the lack of enforcement resources dedicated to rural and remote areas; and, 2. A request that other Government officers be trained to undertake enforcement actions on behalf of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. RESOLUTION 97.6/2019	April 2020	Mark Batty Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning mbatty@walga.asn.au 9213 2078
2019 September 5 Zone Agenda Item 5.1 Financial Assistance Grants	That the Gascoyne Zone request WALGA to: 1. Vigorously pursue the release of the findings of the 2013 FAGs Review; 2. Note the position taken at the ALGA National General Assembly supporting a review of the FAGs allocations; and, 3. Develop a policy position supporting a review of the FAGs methodology.	WALGA sought advice on this issue from the Governance and Organisational Services Policy team on 4 March 2020. The following action is being carried out; That WALGA request ALGA to advocate for a national position on the need for a Financial Assistances Grants (FAGs) Review to be conducted by the Productivity Commission that addresses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current complex and confusing assessment and allocation methodology; Clarification of how 'disabilities' are defined and administered within these methodologies; The need for more money to be provided in the total funding pool; and Support for the retention of minimum grant allocations. 	April 2020	Nebojsa Franich, Policy Manager, Economics, nfranich@walga.asn.au 9213 2096
2019 March 22 Zone Agenda Item 2.1 Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) Peer Support Program	That the Gascoyne Zone request WALGA to: 1. Support Local Government in their tourism endeavours as a key component of the Economic Development project; 2. Continue to prosecute the economic development and tourism agenda; 3. Advocate to the State Government to review the regional development commission and tourism structures in WA aiming for a more strategic and collaborative approach; and, 4. Advocate to the State for revitalization of the regional development commission regional plans.	State Council adopted the <i>Local Government Economic Development: Research Findings and Future Directions Discussion Paper</i> and <i>Local Government Economic Development Framework</i> at its meeting of 27 th March 2019. This includes the endorsement of a range of Economic Development policy positions, including those relating to tourism. With the support of State Council's Economic Development Policy Forum, WALGA will now implement its Advocacy Strategy to prosecute this policy agenda. In response to the Gascoyne's resolution, as a matter of priority, WALGA will seek a response from the Minister of Regional Development on the status of the Regional Development Commissions and the development of regional plans.	April 2020	Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au

		At the time of writing this update a response has not been received from the Minister's office.		
Zone Agenda Item 28 February 2020 5.1 State Aviation Strategy	That: 1. The Zone note the update relating the State Aviation Strategy; and, 2. Zone members consider making a submission to the Department of Transport and providing input to WALGA for the preparation of a sector submission. 3. WALGA include in its submission: a. Future planning for the long term horizon of aviation including tourism, mining and other industries, b. Interconnectedness between towns, with a particular emphasis on tourism; and, c. Broader aviation infrastructure needs including upgrade of airstrips for remote Western Australia to service RFDS and other needs.	A submission has been prepared and considered by the Infrastructure Policy Team, as the (extended) due date is prior to the May State Council meeting. A copy of the submission will be included for the July State Council meeting.	July 2020	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure idualcan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
2019 March 22 Zone Agenda Item 5.2 Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition	That the Gascoyne Zone request WALGA to: 1. Advocate for thorough consultation with the Local Government sector regarding alternative approaches to the CA07 operating condition; and, 2. Establish a Working Group consisting of representatives from MRWA, WALGA, LGIS, DoT and the Local Government sector incorporating at least one member from each affected WALGA Zone to consider alternative approaches.	The RAV Access working group met by teleconference in early December. Based on the resolution of this meeting a letter detailing Local Government expectations was sent to Main Roads WA. To date there has been no response from Main Roads WA and the existing regulatory arrangements remain in place	July 2020	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure idualcan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031

NOTED.

6. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA – MATTERS FOR DECISION

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

The State Council agenda is available here: <https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/45d4ad85-cc25-4110-b80e-189dddc7a564/Agenda-State-Council-6-May-2020.pdf>

MATTERS FOR DECISION

4.1 COVID-19 Pandemic – WALGA Response

That the information contained in this report relating to WALGA's response to the COVID-19 pandemic be noted.

4.2 Local Government Act Emergency Provisions

That WALGA:

1. Notes and supports the introduction of legislation that:
 - a. Provides for Ministerial emergency powers on the condition that the Local Government sector is consulted prior to the issuing of an order using this power, and,
 - b. Provides the ability for Local Governments to suspend a provision of a local law
2. Continues to advocate for the 2019-20 valuations to apply to the 2020-21 rates.

5.1 Amendment to Third Party Appeal Rights – Preferred Model

1. That the proposed amendment to the Third Party Appeals Process Preferred Model, being that third parties in addition to Local Governments are able to make an appeal on decisions made by Development Assessment Panels, is not supported, and
2. That the proposed amendment to the Third Party Appeals Process Preferred Model, being that closely associated third parties in addition to Local Governments are able to appeal decisions made by the Western Australian Planning Commission and the State Administrative Tribunal, in addition to Development Assessment Panels, is not supported.

5.2 Managing Lodging House Health Risks in WA

That the submission to the Department of Health in response to the Managing Lodging House Health Risks in WA discussion paper be endorsed.

MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

- 6.1 Submission Position Statement: Special Entertainment Precincts and Options Paper for Proposed Amendments to the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997
- 6.2 Submission on the Proposed Reforms to the Approval Process for Commercial Buildings
- 6.3 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC)

ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

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

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: President Cr Smith
Seconded: President Cr Matthew Niikkula

That the Gascoyne Zone supports all Matters for Decision as listed above in the May 2020 State Council Agenda.

CARRIED

7. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

7.1 State Councillor's Report to the Zone

Cr Cheryl Cowell provided an update on the previous State Council meeting.

NOTED

7.2 President's Report to the Zone

The President's Report was received by the Zone.

NOTED

7.3 Gascoyne Development Commission

Chief Executive Officer, Tym Duncanson, provided an update to the Zone.

NOTED

7.4 RDA MidWest Gascoyne

Chair, Yvonne Messina, and Executive Officer, Mark Holdsworth, provided an update to the Zone.

NOTED

7.5 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Zone Update is available here: [Dept. Update is available online](#)

Benita Donda and Sheryl Siekierka provided updates to the Zone.

NOTED

8. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 RoadWise Update

Engel Prendergast provided an update to the Zone.

NOTED

8.2 Solar Eclipse 2023

Tym Duncanson provided an update from the perspective of the State Government regarding planning for the 2023 Solar Eclipse.

NOTED

8.3 Regional Boundary Openings

The Zone discussed the issue of enforcement of regional boundary restrictions and the plan for their unwinding.

RESOLUTION

That the Gascoyne Country Zone submits the following statement and question to the Minister for Tourism to be addressed at the 1 May 2020 webinar:

There is concern within the Gascoyne Country Zone of WALGA regarding regional boundaries and what constitutes 'essential travel' in the context of the opening of national parks, reserves and campgrounds.

There also seems to be a lack of enforcement regarding the boundaries and non-essential travel in Gascoyne towns with visitors observed towing caravans and boats.

Given the mixed messages, can the State provide direction and clarity regarding the plan for the opening up of regional boundaries?

CARRIED

8.4 Local Law Process

The Zone discussed the local law making process and the need for it to be streamlined.

In particular there was discussion regarding the role of the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation taking a view at the end of the process that often requires Local Governments to redo significant aspects of the process.

RESOLUTION

That WALGA advocate for the Local Law making process to be streamlined as part of the Review of the Local Government Act.

CARRIED

9. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Next in-person meeting: 10:00am, Friday 26 June, Shire of Exmouth if possible; otherwise via videoconference.

10. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 11:33pm.