



Northern Country Zone

MINUTES

27 JUNE 2022

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



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- Item 4.1: Curtin University Regional Resilience Presentation
- Item 7.1.1: Minutes of the 26 April 2022 meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA
- Item 7.1.2: Minutes of the 9 June 2022 meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA
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- Item 12.3: Main Roads In-house Delivery of Roadworks
- Item 12.3: RDA Grants Hub Flyer

Zone Delegates are requested to provide written notice on amendments to recommendations within the State Council agenda ASAP to the Zone President and Executive Officer, to allow Zone Members time to consider the alternative recommendation.

1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1.1 Opening

The Meeting was declared open at 10:04 am.

1.2 Acknowledgment of Country

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA acknowledges the Yamatji people, who are the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today and pays its respects to their Elders past and present.

1.3 Announcements

COVID-19 Information

At the time of writing and as of 1 June 2022, more Public Health measures were phased out across WA and there are now no restrictions relevant to the meeting.

A contact register was passed around for all to sign.

2. WELCOME, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

2.1 Welcome and Attendance

MEMBERS

NB: One Voting Delegate from each Member Council

Shire of Carnamah

Cr Dwayne Woollorton - Deputy President
Mr Paul Sheedy – Acting Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Chapman Valley Cr Kirrilee Warr - President
Mr Jamie Criddle - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

City of Greater Geraldton Cr Jerry Clune - Deputy Mayor
Mr Ross McKim - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Irwin Cr Mike Smith - President
Mr Shane Ivers - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Mingenew Cr Gary Cosgrove – President
Cr Jon Holmes
Ms Erin Greaves – Acting Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Morawa Cr Karen Chappel - President
Cr Ken Stokes - Deputy President
Mr Scott Wildgoose - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Northampton Cr Elizabeth (Liz) Sudlow - President

Shire of Perenjori Cr Chris King - President

Shire of Three Springs Cr Chris Lane - President
Mr Keith Woodward - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

EXECUTIVE Ms Dianne Daniels - NCZ Executive Officer
Mr Nick Sloan – WALGA Chief Executive Officer
Ms Kelly McManus – WALGA Principal, Policy and Advocacy

INVITED GUESTS

Member for Moore Mr Shane Love MLA

Member for Agricultural Region Hon. Sandra Carr MLC
Mr Mark Cairn – Electoral Officer

Regional Development Midwest Gascoyne Ms Karin Grima – Project Manager RDA & Murchison GeoRegion

Main Roads WA Ms Janet Hartley-West – Regional Manager Mid West-Gascoyne

2.2 Apologies

Shire of Carnamah Cr Merle Isbister – President

Shire of Chapman Valley Cr Darrell Forth – Deputy President

Shire of Coorow Cr Moira Girando – President
Cr Bruce Jack – Deputy President
Ms Mia Maxfield – Chief Executive Officer

City of Greater Geraldton Mayor Shane Van Styn

Shire of Irwin Cr Isabelle Scott - Deputy President

Shire of Mingenew	Cr Hellene McTaggart
Shire of Northampton Member for Agricultural Region	Cr Robert Horstman - Deputy President Hon. Darren West MLC
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon. Steve Martin MLC
Member for Geraldton	Ms Lara Dalton MLA
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon. Martin Aldridge MLC
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon. Shelley Payne MLC
Mid West Development Commission	Ms Anne Finlay - Acting Chief Executive Officer
Regional Development Midwest Gascoyne	Mr Mark Holdsworth - Director of Regional Development/Executive Officer Ms Yvonne Messina - Chair
Dept of Local Government Sport & Cultural Ind	Ms Angele Gray – Regional Manager Mid West Gascoyne

Ms Finlay apologised for not being able to attend this meeting to say her farewells personally – Qantas re-scheduled her flight. She asked that the Zone President pass on to members that she had enjoyed working with them and wished them all the best in their endeavours to make the Mid West a better place to live.

The Executive Officer Assumed the Chair for the Election Declaration

3. ELECTION OF WALGA DEPUTY STATE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

Attachments: Nomination Form - Cr Isabelle Scott

Matter for Consideration:

A WALGA Deputy State Council Representative is to be elected for a term commencing immediately following the election until and including the day prior to the December 2023 meeting of State Council.

Comment:

The position became vacant after the incumbent, Cr Moira Girando, was elected as WALGA State Council Representative at the 26 April 2022 meeting.

Guidelines for the election and Nomination Forms were distributed to Member Councils by email dated 30 May 2022, calling for nominations for Deputy State Council Representative. The closing date for nominations was COB Wednesday 15 June 2022.

Nomination Received:

Cr Isabelle Scott Shire of Irwin Zone Delegate appointed by Council 26/10/2021

Election Process for WALGA Deputy State Council Representative:

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

If no nominations are received, nominations may be accepted from the floor immediately prior to the ballot and not otherwise.

Where there is more than one nomination for a position, an election will be conducted using a secret ballot and the person with the most votes will fill the position. In the event of a tied vote, the election will be determined by drawing names from a box. The Executive Officer will put the names of the candidates concerned in a box and the first name drawn will fill the position.

If there is only one nominee for a position, then that nominee will fill the position unopposed.

As there was a nomination received prior to the closing date, no nominations were taken from the floor and that nominee filled the position unopposed.

Declaration of Election Result:

That Cr Isabelle Scott, of the Shire of Irwin, be elected as the WALGA Deputy State Council Representative for the Northern Country Zone of WALGA for a term commencing immediately following the election until and including the day prior to the December 2023 meeting of State Council.

The Zone President resumed the Chair

4. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Curtin University/Mid West Development Commission via ZOOM 10:05 – 10:30

Attachment: Regional Resilience Presentation

Dr Francesca Perugia Lecturer, School Design and Built Environment
Course Coordinator, Urban and Regional Planning

Dr Perugia presented on a project being undertaken by the MWDC and Curtin University:

Building Resilience: Exploring challenges for the housing supply and affordability in the Mid West

Housing affordability and availability is one of the underpinning elements supporting liveability and enabling the building of resilience. This research aims to map and understand how major events and decisions have impacted the housing market with the scope to identify underpinning factors enabling resilience building and increasing liveability in the Mid West region of Western Australia.

The project will look to answer/address the following:

- Understand the housing market behaviours in the region in the last 10 years
- Explore the link between housing affordability and main events impacting the region (policy implementation, investments, infrastructure delivery, natural disasters, Covid)
- What are the barriers to delivering affordable housing in the context of existing policy and planning frameworks
- Identify opportunities for policy implementation

Dr Perugia has been given contact details for the relevant Shires, through MWDC, and will be in touch in the near future.

5. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillors must declare to the Zone President any potential conflict of interest they have in a matter before the Zone as soon as they become aware of it. Delegates 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

7.1 Confirmation of Minutes

7.1.1 Confirmation of Minutes of 26 April 2022 Meeting

Attachment: Minutes of the Meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA 26 April 2022

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 26 April 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

7.1.2 Confirmation of Minutes of 9 June 2022 ZOOM Meeting

Attachment: Minutes of the Meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA 9 June 2022

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 9 June 2022, via ZOOM, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Items 7.1.1 and 7.1.2 were considered en bloc.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Warr

Seconded: Cr Sudlow

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 26 April 2022 and 9 June 2022 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 6 July 2022

The Matters for Decision in the State Council agenda are numbered 5.1 to 5.3

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) Review of advocacy positions relating to Emergency Management (05-024-02-0059 SM)

By Susie Moir, Policy Manager, Resilient Communities

Recommendation:

That State Council:

1. Endorse the removal of the following Emergency Management Advocacy Positions
 - 8.1 Community Resilience
 - 8.2 Disaster Mitigation
 - 8.3 Emergency Services Levy
2. Endorse the following Emergency Management Advocacy Positions:
 - 8.1 Emergency Management Principles
 - 8.2 State Emergency Management Framework
 - 8.3 Sustainable Grant Funding Model for Emergency Management
 - 8.4 Consolidated Emergency Services Act
 - 8.5 Resource Sharing
 - 8.6 Lessons Learnt Management
 - 8.7 Emergency Services Levy
 - 8.8 Local Government Grants Scheme (LGGS)

Executive Summary:

- It is proposed to remove the three existing Emergency Management Advocacy Policy Positions and replace them with a series of more comprehensive policy positions (Appendix 1).
- The new [Advocacy Positions](#) are based on previous State Council endorsed submissions, recommendations from significant reviews and inquiries, and information and priorities captured in sector-wide consultations.

As no Delegates initially moved or seconded the recommended Resolution, Cr King moved a motion to debate the item, which was seconded by Cr Clune. After a brief debate, the Resolution was again put to the meeting.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Clune

Seconded: Cr Smith

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

Carried

8.2 (5.2) New Emergency Management Advocacy Position – Community Emergency Service Manager Program (05-024-02-0059 SM)

By Susie Moir, Policy Manager, Resilient Communities

Recommendation:

That the following WALGA Advocacy Position relating to the Community Emergency Service Manager (CESM) Program be endorsed:

8.9 Expansion of the Community Emergency Services Manager Program

That the Association advocates for an expansion of the Community Emergency Service Manager (CESM) Program, as follows:

1. *All Local Governments should have the option of participating in the CESM Program.*
2. *The full cost of the CESM Program should be funded through the Emergency Services Levy.*

Executive Summary:

- The Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) Program was established to provide Local Governments with additional support to undertake their emergency management functions.
- Following consultation with the sector in 2021, it is proposed to endorse an Advocacy Position for the expansion of the CESM Program.

Cr King noted that the services delivered by the CESM officers were invaluable but thought that councils should part-fund the positions to give them more input into the program. Cr Chappel agreed. Cr Clune was concerned that DFES would not have the ability to supply officers if the program was expanded and even though the City funded their CESM 50/50, DFES had ultimate control.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr King

Seconded: Cr Warr

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

Carried

8.3 (5.3) Draft WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026 and Updated Advocacy Position

By Susie Moir, Policy Manager, Resilient Communities

Recommendation:

That:

1. the draft WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026 be endorsed.
2. WALGA's existing Advocacy Position on Public Libraries be deleted and replaced as follows:

3.8 Public Libraries

1. *Western Australian Local Government public libraries provide valuable local cultural infrastructure, creating social and community hubs for community capacity building, recreation, education and literacy, digital inclusion, and social connection, cohesion and inclusion.*
2. *WALGA supports the provision of Public Library services in Western Australia through a formal partnership between Local Government and the State Government of Western Australia, governed by the Library Board Act 1951, namely the State and Local Government Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia (2020).*
3. *The WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026 provides a framework for a shared vision, strategic direction and collaborative action in the provision of a vibrant and sustainable 21st century public library network.*
4. *It is essential that a sustainable funding model enables Local Governments to continue to deliver library services to support continued growth and adaptation to changing community needs.*

Executive Summary:

- The Public Libraries Working Group (PLWG) has been overseeing the development of a new WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026 (Strategy) with a focus on strengthening communities, digital inclusion and the value placed on public libraries.
- Consultation was undertaken between February 2021 and April 2022 through workshops with public library professionals; stakeholder interviews with a targeted selection of metropolitan, regional and remote Local Government public libraries; and public consultation via an online survey.
- The new Strategy will support the work of 232 public libraries operated by Local Government around Western Australia.
- Endorsement of the Strategy is being sought from WALGA State Council and the Library Board of Western Australia, prior to submission to the Minister for Culture and the Arts for final approval.

- An updated advocacy position is proposed to reflect current governance arrangements, the outcomes being sought under the new Strategy and the achievement of elements of the existing position under the *2016-2021 WA Public Libraries Strategy*.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Cosgrove

Seconded: Cr Sudlow

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

Carried

9. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 6 July 2022

The Matters for Noting/Information in the State Council agenda are numbered 6.1 to 6.10.

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) 2020/21 Local Government Performance Monitoring Project (05-047-01-0011 CH)

Prepared by: Chris Hossen, Policy Manager, Planning and Building

Recommendation:

That the results of the 2020/21 Local Government Performance Monitoring Project and publication of the Performance Monitoring Dashboard be noted.

Executive Summary:

- The 2022 Local Government Performance Monitoring Project (Project) and associated Local Government Performance Monitoring Report shows that Local Governments have maintained high performance in undertaking their planning and building functions during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- WALGA has undertaken the Project annually since 2018 with data provided by participating Local Governments. The Project has continued to expand with 30 Local Governments participating this year in 2022.
- This year the written Report has been replaced with an [online interactive dashboard](#) accessible on the WALGA website.
- The new format provides several benefits for participating Local Governments, reduces overall project cost and reporting times for WALGA, and will allow the project to grow at an accelerated rate in future years.

9.2 (6.2) Proposed Advocacy Position on Arrangements for Management of Volunteer Bushfire Brigades (05-024-02-0059 SM)

Prepared by: Susie Moir, Policy Manager, Resilient Communities

Recommendation:

That the Proposed Advocacy Position Paper regarding the arrangements for the management of Bush Fire Brigades be noted.

Executive Summary:

- The Association has prepared a Proposed Advocacy Position on the arrangements for management of Bush Fire Brigades Paper to guide sector consultation on this matter.

- The Paper was circulated to all CEOs on 24 May 2022 seeking feedback, preferably endorsed by Councils, by 8 July 2022 to inform the preparation of a proposed Advocacy Position for consideration by State Council at their September 2022 meeting.
- Adoption of an Advocacy Position on the arrangements for management of Bush Fire Brigades is timely as the State Government is currently preparing the *Consolidated Emergency Services Act*, which is expected to be released for consultation in early 2023.

9.3 (6.3) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 Co-design Process, Phase 1 Submission

Prepared by: Susie Moir, Policy Manager, Resilient Communities

Recommendation:

That the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021* Co-design Process, Phase 1 Submission endorsed via Flying Minute on 26 May 2022 be noted.

Executive Summary:

- The *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021* (ACH Act) passed the Parliament in December 2021 and is expected to commence in 2023.
- The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) recently undertook Phase 1 of the co-design process for the regulations, statutory guidelines and operational policies that will support the ACH Act.
- WALGA's submission made 25 recommendations, particularly relating to the proposed activity categories, the need for ongoing sector consultation, and the need to balance the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage against the requirements for Local Governments to undertake necessary infrastructure and maintenance works in the interests of local communities.
- WALGA's submission was circulated to State Council via Flying Minute process and was endorsed on 26 May 2022.
- Minor amendments were made to the submission as a result of comments received through the Flying Minute process and the submission was provided to DPLH on 27 May 2022.

9.4 (6.4) Western Power Access Arrangement Review Submission (05-001-03-0019 ID)

Prepared by: Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure

Recommendation:

That the submission to the Economic Regulation Authority concerning the proposed Western Power Access Arrangement 2022-23 – 2026/27 endorsed via Flying Minute on 20 April 2022 be noted.

Executive Summary:

- The Economic Regulation Authority invited submissions from stakeholders concerning the Access Arrangement proposed by Western Power, that will govern services offered, prices charged, capital and operating expenditure over the five years from 2022/23 – 2026/27.
- The ERA has published a Discussion Paper and held a stakeholder briefing. In addition, Local Government representatives attended a briefing from Western Power.
- A submission has been prepared that identifies matters that require further review and investigation by the ERA particularly relating to streetlighting, safety (pole top fires), network reliability performance measurement and pricing for infrastructure related services.
- Strong support for the proposed network initiated underground power program is offered. Underground power has been demonstrated to offer significant benefits and delivering this in a way that avoids Western Power incurring significant renewal costs to old overhead infrastructure enables residents to face lower costs.
- State Council endorsed the submission by Flying Minute on 20 April 2022.
- The submission was provided to the Economic Regulation Authority on 20 April 2022.

9.5 (6.5) Economic Development Research (05-088-03-0004 DM)

Prepared by: Dana Mason, Manager Economics and Strategic Projects

Recommendation:

That the research into the Local Government sector's economic development priorities and activities be noted.

Executive Summary:

- With COVID-19 having a significant impact on economic and business activity, WALGA is seeking to gain a renewed understanding of the sector's economic development priorities and activities.
- WALGA has commenced a research project to gather insights into the current economic development landscape and to identify the key issues for local economies for use in policy discussions with the State and Federal Government.
- The findings of the research will be brought to the State Council Economic Development Policy Forum in the second half of 2022 and will be used to shape WALGA's support to the sector on economic issues.

9.6 (6.6) Development of Child Safe Policy for Local Government (05-065-03-006 BW)

Prepared by: Bec Waddington, Policy Advisor Community

Recommendation:

That the update on the development of the Child Safe Policy for Local Government be noted.

Executive Summary:

- The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse recommended that Local Governments should designate child safety officer positions from existing staff profiles with support from governments at the national, state and territory levels.
- The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) and the Department of Communities (DoC) are developing a Child Safe Policy for Local Government.
- The development of the policy builds upon the Child Safety Officers Consultation undertaken during 2021.
- A series of co-design workshops will be held with Local Government sector representatives during June 2022. Sector wide consultation is planned for July 2022.
- It is anticipated that the draft policy will be presented to WALGA State Council for endorsement in December 2022, prior to consideration for Ministerial endorsement.

9.7 (6.7) National Reconciliation Week Local Government Activation Program (05-032-03-0011 VB)

Prepared by: Vikki Barlow, Senior Policy Advisor Community

Recommendation:

That the update on the National Reconciliation Week Local Government Activation Program be noted.

Executive Summary:

- National Reconciliation Week (NRW), 27 May - 3 June, is an important annual event central to the *Relationships* pillar of [WALGA's Reconciliation Action Plan](#) (RAP).
- WALGA partnered with Reconciliation WA to support a NRW activation program for all Local Governments.
- 33 Local Governments participated in NRW, delivering 60 events with approximately 1814 attendees.

9.8 (6.8) WA Strategic Trails Blueprint 2022-2027 – Draft for Comment (05-053-03-007 BW)

Prepared by: Bec Waddington, Policy Officer Community

Recommendation:

That the update on the WA Strategic Trails Blueprint 2022-2027 – Draft for Comment be noted.

Executive Summary:

- The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) in partnership with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) have drafted the *Western Australian Strategic Trails Blueprint 2022-2027* which is now open for comment.
- Local Governments have been invited to provide comments directly to DLGSC on the draft plan until 29 July 2022.

9.9 (6.9) Issues Paper: Local Government Approaches to Tree Retention (05-036-03-0020 RP)

Prepared by: Ruby Pettit, Policy Officer Planning

Recommendation:

That the WALGA Issues Paper: Local Government Approaches to Tree Retention (May 2022) be noted.

Executive Summary:

- The Issues Paper: Local Government Approaches to Tree Retention (Issues Paper) seeks to identify issues that Local Governments are experiencing in using existing mechanisms to retain trees on public and private land, further mechanisms which may be used by Local Governments, and possible options for resolving these issues.
- The Issues Paper has been prepared by WALGA's Planning and Environment teams in close consultation with the Tree Retention Subcommittee (the Subcommittee) of the WALGA Urban Forest Working Group, comprising regional and metropolitan Local Government officers and the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH).
- The legal questions arising from the Issues Paper will be used to prepare a Request for Quote for advice from suitably experienced legal firms on the WALGA preferred supplier panel. It is proposed that this work will to be funded collaboratively by Local Governments that wish to receive this advice.
- The legal advice will inform further priorities and actions, for example development of policy guidance for the sector and further advocacy to the State Government on tree retention in the State planning framework.

9.10 (6.10) Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) (01-006-03-0008 RNB)

Prepared by: Rebecca Brown, Manager, Waste & Recycling

Recommendation:

That the resolutions of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council from its 27 April 2022 meeting be noted.

Executive Summary:

This item summaries the outcomes of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) meeting held on 27 April 2022.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Warr

Seconded: Cr Sudlow

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes State Council Agenda Items 6.1 to 6.10

Carried

10. REPORTS

10.1 Zone President's Report for June 2022

It seems a little strange to write this report alongside Cr Girando's State Councillor Report and my WALGA President's report, but I will endeavour to cover off on other matters.

Thank you to everyone who attended the virtual meeting with the ERA; it was valuable and I believe our input on the day and following submissions will be valuable to the Mid West.

Since we last met, there has been a change in government. The new Minister for Local Government, Kristy McBain addressed both the ALGA Board and the Assembly with a good understanding of the challenges Local Government face. Kristy is also Minister for Regional Development so we will need to see how the funding committed to the Strategic Agricultural Freight Routes is to be distributed along with the funds announced in the State Budget.

The cancellation of flights in and out of Geraldton is of great concern to all of us, it is going to have an immense impact. Apart from inconvenience to the ordinary traveller, any specialist in health, education, government or industry is unlikely to be able to fit a trip to the Mid West into their diary unless they drive. Our residents requiring medical treatment in Perth will struggle to work in with Qantas and their diminished timetable. We all need to support the City of Greater Geraldton in their advocacy in this matter.

It was great to attend the ALGA National General Assembly along with members from our Zone. CEO Garry Keeffe presented beautifully at the Regional Forum on Sunday. We were represented by Cr Sudlow, Cr Horstman, Cr Hepworth, and CEO Keeffe. It was really comforting for me personally to have familiar and friendly faces around, so thank you all. The motions put forward from WA Councils were well received and there was plenty to take away from the Assembly.

I wish to acknowledge and thank CEO Nils Hay as he departs the Shire of Mingenew. Nils has been a great advocate for Mingenew and the Mid West. I am sure the knowledge he gained in Mingenew will be an advantage to the region in his role at the MWDC.

It is timely to thank Anne Finlay. Anne has worked closely with all our Local Governments over a very long period and has always strived to understand our need. The last eighteen months as Acting CEO of the MWDC has seen Anne strive even harder for us all and we wish her well.

Our WALGA convention planning is well underway; it is planned for the first week in October at the Crown. The Mayors and Presidents Forum will be on the Sunday, followed by welcome drinks and then the Convention will be on Monday and Tuesday. Please put the dates in your diary now, there will be some great speakers and of course and amazing President!

As always, please call anytime.

Karen.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Sudlow

Seconded: Cr Clune

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the report from the Zone President for June 2022

Carried

10.2 WALGA State Council Representative's Report for June 2022

Northern Country Zone of WALGA
WALGA State Council Representative's Report
Cr Moira Girando

On May 4th I attended my first State Council Meeting as NCZ delegate, the meeting took place at City of Cockburn. All matters before the meeting were passed without any amendment from the suggested composite resolutions.

I have been appointed to WALGA's Finance and Services Committee and Selection Committee.

Of note to this zone and its members were the sector submission on the Food Act, which can be fully read in the State Council minutes, The Local Government Grant Scheme position which among a number of other recommendations asks for a full audit of existing facilities, this relates especially to our emergency management facilities and equipment and the development of a 10-year plan. (again full details in WALGA minutes).

There are also some proposed changes to the operation of Development Assessment Panels (DAP) lifting the dollar value of some categories.

May 18th. I took part in a selection Committee meeting and also submitted comment on slight proposed changes to how positions on various boards and committees were advertised and the applicants rated.

June 1st attended via Teams finance & Services Committee workshop on the development of the 22-23 WALGA Budget. Of note from this there is a recommendation to increase some staffing to provide enhanced services. This will be partly funded by reallocation of resources and a proposed 2.5% increase in member councils' subscriptions. This needs to be considered by councils in their upcoming budgets should the recommended budget be adopted by State Council.

June 1st State Council Info Forum with a briefing on proposed budget.

Moira Girando

10.3 WALGA President's Report

The WALGA President's Report to the Zone for July 2022 is attached to the Agenda.

Items 10.2 and 10.3 were considered en bloc.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Sudlow

Seconded: Cr Warr

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the June 2022 WALGA State Council Representative's Report and the July 2022 WALGA President's Report to the Zone.

Carried

10.4 Zone Status Report

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

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Cosgrove

Seconded: Cr Lane

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the June 2022 Status Report outlining actions taken on the Zone's resolutions.

Carried

11. ZONE MATTERS FOR NOTING/DECISION

11.1 Correspondence

11.1.1 Correspondence Out

11.1.1 (a) 11/05/2022 Economic Regulation Authority

Attachment: Letter to CEO Jenness Gardner

At Item 7.3 (a) of the April 26 2022 meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA, members requested that the Executive Officer write to the ERA regarding Western Power's inadequate response to power outages during Total Fire Bans.

11.1.2 Correspondence In

11.1.2 (a) 16/06/2022 Western Power

Attachment: Email from Nic Fitzgerald

In April 2022, Ryan Dawson, Senior Communications Specialist for Western Power (WP) AA5 Team phoned the Executive Officer and asked if they could attend the April 26 meeting. After discussion with the Zone President, it was decided to instead offer them a place at our June 27 meeting, as the Economic Regulation Authority were scheduled to attend the April meeting. Nic Fitzgerald, Community Engagement Manager for WP, was nominated to attend on their behalf, but they decided to postpone their attendance to the August 29 meeting. The attached email gives their reasons for the postponement.

<p>Northern Country Zone Resolution:</p>

<p>Moved: Cr King</p>

<p>Seconded: Cr Cosgrove</p>

<p>That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes Correspondence Out at Items 11.1.1 (a) and receives Correspondence In at 11.1.2 (a).</p>

<p>Carried</p>

11.2 Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 31 May 2022

Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer

Attachments: Bank Statements April, May 2022

Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31 May 2022

Comments:

The Detailed Income Statement shown below represents the cash position of NCZ at 31 May 2022 as reconciled to the Bank Statement.

NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

For the period ending

31-May-22

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Description</i>
Statement Balance B/F	01-07-21		16,104.12	
Deposits			10,000.00	2021-22 Membership Subscriptions x 10
			1.29	Interest received
TOTAL RECEIPTS			10,001.29	
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE			26,105.41	
Payments Made	29-07-21		-2,600.00	Internet Tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 212201 - EO Services 29/04/2021-30/06/2021
	26-08-21		-275.00	Internet Tsf - North Midlands Accounting - Inv 2022-000134 - 20-21 Audit
	26-08-21		-2,805.66	Internet Tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 212202 - EO Services 01/07/2021-25/08/2021; Travel
	14-09-21		-513.48	Internet Bpay - Shire of Mingenew - Inv 9595; 9322; 9427 - Reimburse Catering August and November 20 Meetings
	25-11-21		-2,805.66	Internet Tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 212203 - EO Services 26/08/2021 - 24/11/2021; Travel
	12-01-22		-309.55	Chq 375 - Shire of Mingenew - Inv 9754 - Reimburse catering for November 2021 meeting.
	04-03-22		-2,890.76	Internet Tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 212204 - EO Services 25/11/2022 - 16/02/2022; Travel; Reimbursements
	31-03-22		-581.18	Internet Bpay - Shire of Mingenew - Inv 9859 - Reimburse Catering February 2022 Meeting
	12-05-22		-2,805.66	Internet Tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 212205 - EO Services 13/02/2022 - 11/05/2022; Travel
TOTAL PAYMENTS MADE			-15,586.95	
Closing Cash Balance	31-05-22		10,518.46	

NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA

BANK RECONCILIATION SUMMARY

For the period ending

31-May-22

Statement Balance B/F	01-07-21	16,104.12
Deposits and Credits		10,001.29
Cheques and Payments		-15,586.95
Total Cleared Transactions	31-05-22	10,518.46
Add back o/s		0.00
Reconciled Balance		10,518.46
Bank Statement	31-05-22	10,518.46
Difference I&E to Bank Statement		0.00

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Woollorton

Seconded: Cr Sudlow

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31 May 2022.

Carried

11.3 Budget 2022-2023

*Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer
Attachment: Adopted Budget*

Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA adopts the Budget 2022-2023, as presented, including membership fees of \$1,300 per member.

Background:

Item 13 of the Constitution calls for a Budget to be prepared annually and presented to the Zone for approval no later than 30 June prior to the financial year to which it relates.

NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA

BUDGET

For the period

1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Cash Balance	31 May 2022		10,518.46
Payments	Reimburse Mingenew for catering 26 April 2022	say	-600.00
Cash Balance B/F	1 July 2022		9,918.46
Deposits			
Membership Fees	10 x \$1,300		13,000.00
Bank Interest Received			2.50
TOTAL RECEIPTS			13,002.50
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE			22,920.96
Payments			
Audit			-300.00
Executive Officer Services			-13,000.00
Executive Officer Travel	5 meetings x \$206		-1,030.00
Office Supplies			-300.00
IT Support	Biennial Fee Domain Name		-60.00
	Annual Fee Mail Box		-80.00
Catering for Meetings	5 x \$600		-3,000.00
Allow for NCZ Forum	Venue Hire		-650.00
	Staff		-500.00
	Catering User Pays except say 6 guests x \$50		-300.00
	EO additional activities (24hrs x \$50)		-1,200.00
Allow for Online Meeting Subscription (say ZOOM or TEAMS) if required			-300.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS			-20,720.00
Closing Cash Balance	30 June 2023		2,200.96

Cr Clune asked for a Point of Clarification – is the Budget sustainable? The EO explained that when she had first started in the role, the fees were \$1,500, but there was a lot of money in the bank at the end of the year, so those fees had been reduced to \$1,000. This year it's been necessary to increase them again, to cover costs. Cr Cosgrove suggested that the Budget be adopted with membership fees of \$1,500 per member, so that the increase wouldn't have to be too extreme in the future.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Cosgrove

Seconded: Cr Clune

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA adopts the Budget 2022-2023, as presented, except that membership fees be \$1,500 per member, rather than \$1,300 per member.

Carried

11.4 Executive Officer Contract Renewal

Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer

Attachment: Draft Service Contract – NCZ and EO 22-26

Recommendation:

That the Executive Officer Service Contract attached to the Agenda, between Dianne Daniels and the Northern Country Zone of WALGA, be renewed for a four year period from 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2026 and that the Contract be executed by the President of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA on behalf of the Zone.

Comment:

The current Contract for Service Provision between the Executive Officer, Dianne Daniels and the Northern Country Zone of WALGA calls for a decision on renewal to be made not later than 3 months prior to the expiry of the Term, which is 30 September 2022.

The Zone President, in consultation with the Deputy President, suggested that a four year term would give us all security of tenure and I am happy to accept the conditions and remuneration, unchanged from the 20-22 Contract, for that term. There are some minor wording changes, shown in the marked up document, which better reflect the way we may meet in the future ie still five meetings a year as standard, but including meeting platforms such as Zoom or Teams.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:**Moved:** Cr Cosgrove**Seconded:** Cr Sudlow

That the Executive Officer Service Contract attached to the Agenda, between Dianne Daniels and the Northern Country Zone of WALGA, be renewed for a four year period from 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2026 and that the Contract be executed by the President of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA on behalf of the Zone.

Carried**11.5 WALGA Best Practice Governance Review Update**

*Prepared by By: Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services and
Tim Lane, Manager Strategy and Association Governance*

Recommendation:

That the update on the WALGA Best Practice Governance Review Project be noted.

Background:

WALGA has embarked on a significant project to review WALGA's governance model to ensure the organisation is governed by a contemporary, sound, and agile governance model that:

- Facilitates meaningful engagement with Local Government members,
- Enhances WALGA's legitimacy among members and stakeholders, and
- Enables sound and focused decision making to guide advocacy, policy, and service delivery.

WALGA's [Corporate Strategy 2020-25](#) identifies "contemporary governance and engagement models" as a key strategic priority leading to State Council's commissioning of the Best Practice Governance Review project.

A further goal of the project is to fundamentally review, and subsequently amend, WALGA's governance documentation – Constitution, Corporate Governance Charter, State Council Code of Conduct, and Standing Orders – to ensure consistency and alignment.

To oversee the project, State Council appointed a Steering Committee with the following membership:

President Cr Karen Chappel JP
Cr Paul Kelly
President Cr Phil Blight
Mayor Carol Adams OAM
President Cr David Menzel
Mayor Albert Jacob

WALGA President (Chair)
WALGA Deputy President
Country State Councillor
Metropolitan State Councillor
Country Elected Member
Metropolitan Elected Member

Andrew Sharpe
David MacLennan
Nick Sloan

Country Chief Executive Officer
Metropolitan Chief Executive Officer
WALGA Chief Executive Officer

Senior WALGA staff are providing executive support and PwC has been appointed to facilitate meetings of the Steering Committee and to produce an Options Paper and a Final Report.

The Steering Committee has met twice. At the first meeting, held on 5 May 2022, the Committee:

- Adopted Terms of Reference
- Reviewed the Project Plan
- Considered existing governance documentation
- Discussed the project methodology, and
- Agreed five comparator organisations whose governance models would be reviewed:
 - i. Australian Hotels Association (AHA)
 - ii. Australian Medical Association (AMA)
 - iii. Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA (CCIWA)
 - iv. Chamber of Minerals and Energy (CME), and
 - v. Pharmacy Guild of WA

The comparator organisations were selected for their similarity to WALGA as membership organisations (with organisations as members) and their perceived effectiveness as advocacy peak bodies.

At the Steering Committee's second meeting, held on 8 June 2022, the Committee reviewed the governance models of comparator organisations presented by PwC and identified initial performance assessment criteria that will guide the evaluation of alternative governance model options.

The Steering Committee will be meeting again in late June to consider an Options Paper which will present alternative governance model options. The Options paper will be presented to State Council at the 6 July Strategic Forum. Member feedback will then be sought on the Options Paper during July and August.

Following member feedback, the Steering Committee will direct the development of an agenda item outlining high level principles and non-negotiables of a future governance model for the 2022 Annual General Meeting. This agenda item and debate will gauge members' views on the direction of the project.

The final report due to be completed by mid-October 2022 will be the subject of further consultation with members, including through a full round of Zone meetings in November in the lead-up to the December State Council meeting.

Substantive structural changes to WALGA's governance model will require amendments to the Constitution, which must be approved by a special (75 percent) majority at both a meeting of State Council and an Annual General Meeting. As such, any proposed changes will need to have strong support of members for Constitutional change to be ratified. The aim of the project is to put forward constitutional amendments to members at the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

Comment:

The Best Practice Governance Review Project represents a significant opportunity to improve WALGA's governance model to improve decision making effectiveness while ensuring meaningful member representation and participation.

Past reviews since the formation of WALGA as the single Local Government sector peak body over 20 years ago have led to significant process and other improvements while the structure and composition of State Council has remained broadly unchanged. WALGA receives mixed feedback on its governance model through member surveys and other mechanisms suggesting there is room for improvement.

Any future governance model will need to balance member representation and participation in decision making processes with efficiency and strategic focus. The forthcoming Options Paper will present potential options that aim to balance competing objectives identified by the Steering Committee.

Member engagement and consultation will be crucial to the success of the project and very high levels of member support will be required for constitutional amendments to be ratified, as outlined above. Consequently, members should anticipate opportunities to contribute to the project and provide insight in relation to options put forward over coming months.

Cr King asked if member feedback had driven the Terms of Reference and CEO Sloan noted that WALGA had engaged the services of an external consultant to guide the review and that member feedback had informed the Terms of Reference. Members will determine what changes will happen if any – options will be presented to members for consideration over the coming months.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr King

Seconded: Cr Wooltoorton

That the update on the WALGA Best Practice Governance Review Project be noted.

Carried

11.6 WALGA Proposed Advocacy Position for Management of Bushfire Brigades Discussion Paper

Background:

WALGA is seeking the views of the sector on a new Advocacy Position on the management of Bushfire Brigades, as per the Discussion Paper, [Arrangements for Management of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades: Proposed Advocacy Position](#).

Western Australian Local Governments have extensive roles and responsibilities prescribed in the State Emergency Management Framework (State Framework) across the emergency management activities of prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. Relevantly, pursuant to the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, Local Governments have responsibility for bushfire and the management of volunteer Bush Fire Brigades (BFBs).

The Paper proposes a new Advocacy Position on the management of BFBs to guide the Association's emergency management advocacy on behalf of Local Government, and in particular its engagement with the State Government on the development of the Consolidated Emergency Services Act which is expected to be released for stakeholder consultation in early 2023.

Four options are identified for the future management of BFBs:

1. Status quo – continue with the current arrangements for management of BFBs whereby the majority are managed by Local Government and transfer arrangements are negotiated on an ad hoc basis between DFES and Local Governments (or their BFBs).
2. Improvements – continue with the current arrangements for Local Government management of BFBs with additional support provided by the State Government with respect to increased funding and better access to training resources and other support.
3. Hybrid Model – Local Government continues to manage BFBs where they have the capacity, capability and resources to do so; however where they do not have the capacity, capability and resources, responsibility for management of BFBs is transferred to DFES.
4. Transfer – Responsibility for management of all BFBs is transferred to the State Government, consistent with the arrangements in other States and Territories.

Comment:

Based on the feedback received from Local Governments in the WALGA Emergency Management Survey and the other considerations outlined in the paper, it is considered appropriate for the Association to support a hybrid model for the management of BFBs.

A hybrid model would enable the continued management of BFBs by those Local Governments with capacity, capability and resources to do so, while providing a framework for the transfer of the management of BFBs to the State Government where a Local Government does not.

Whatever the arrangements for future management of BFBs, it is apparent that Local Governments with responsibility for management of BFBs require additional support and resourcing which should be provided by the State Government, including:

- Development of a suite of guidelines and resources to assist Local Governments in their management of BFBs, particularly with respect to the discharge of obligations under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2021*;
- Expansion of the Community Emergency Services Manager Program (CESM) so that every Local Government with responsibility for managing BFBs has access to the Program if they wish to participate;
- Universal access to DFES training for BFBs; and
- Development of mandatory and minimum training requirements including recognition of competency for volunteers.

Local Governments are encouraged to provide a written response to this Paper or to complete the survey. Formal Council resolutions will assist the Association understand the sentiment of the sector on this important issue.

Questions are provided at the end of the Paper to guide feedback.

Feedback should be provided in response to the questions via email to em@walga.asn.au by 5pm Friday 8 July 2022.

There was concern amongst members regarding changes to the Work, Health and Safety legislation. CEO Sloan agreed that the changes were important to consider, but even prior to the changes, some Local Governments had transferred the management of their Bush Fire Brigades to DFES.

There was general consensus that there was no one size fits all model and it was best that each council make its own submission.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Clune

Seconded: Cr Smith

That the WALGA Proposed Advocacy Position for Management of Bushfire Brigades Discussion Paper be noted.

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

*Attachments: Main Roads In-house Delivery of Roadworks
RDA Grants Hub Flyer*

President Chappel offered guests the opportunity to address the meeting.

Mr Shane Love MLA accepted the opportunity, updating members on relevant items, noting that he had been appointed as Shadow Minister for Local Government. In this role, he had been visiting other Zones and saw that many of the issues faced by local government were universal, such as housing shortages. He also mentioned that Minister John Carey had been forthcoming in meetings regarding LG Reform; that preferential voting had the potential to drive factions and deliver adverse outcomes; that the southern section of the Dongara Geraldton Northampton Bypass had been announced; and that Vince Catania had retired and had given his Valedictory speech in Parliament last week.

The Hon. Sandra Carr MLC agreed that preferential voting creates undesirable outcomes and noted that the timeframe for the bypass was 2035, giving effected landowners certainty of time.

Ms Janet Hartley-West, Main Roads, delivered a Power Point presentation regarding the change to in-house delivery of roadworks by Main Roads – the presentation is attached to the Minutes.

Ms Karin Grima, RDA, gave members a refresher on who the RDA are and updated them on the Community Builder Program and the Grant Hub. A Grant Hub flyer is attached to the minutes.

Ms Sam Adams, WALGA Roadwise spoke of road safety.

President Chappel asked Cr Sudlow to report on her trip to the ALGA NGA conference.

Cr Sudlow gave a thorough report, saying that it was a privilege to have attended. The highlight for her was the Regional Forum, at which CEO Garry Keefe spoke very well. Over a thousand Delegates from around the country attended and it was interesting to hear that the challenges across the country are very similar, such as climate change, natural disasters and housing affordability. There is an anticipation of change with the new federal government as it looks towards the regions. There were stirring presentations by Stan Grant regarding the challenges faced by global democracies and also by the Ukraine Ambassador regarding the devastation in Ukraine. A theme running through the conference was the importance of collaboration.

President Chappel then asked members if they had any questions of CEO Sloan.

Cr Clune queried if there were any changes forecast for the ESL funding model as currently Local Governments collect the money but have no say in the way it is distributed. CEO Sloan noted that WALGA's proposed position is advocating for the recommendations from the Economic Regulation Authority's 2017 review (*refer State Council Agenda Page 8*). Also, the Office of the Auditor General is currently undertaking a performance audit of the administration of funding for volunteer fire and emergency services. Depending on the OAG report whether or not the distribution model will be reformed.

Cr King suggested that ESL could help fund paramedics in regional areas, as they aren't getting the volunteers needed and CEO McKim added that remote GP's could also be funded from the ESL bucket. CEO Sloan noted that some LG's are lobbying for tender exemption for GP and Health Care services and suggested that council's contact WALGA with their ideas for the ESL to help identify areas of need.

The questions moved to liability - global underwriters are most interested in the impacts of climate change and LG's role in mitigating risks through issuing permits, training etc; and land planning and development – there is a need to demonstrate that LG performance is strong on the planning front when sitting down with policy makers. 97% of applications get through LG in a timely manner.

Cr Warr asked President Chappel the status of the Mid West Secondary Grain Freight Routes Funding. Cr Cosgrove, as Chair of the MWSGFR Working Group, will meet with the CEO of the Mid West Development Commission to progress the project.

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 29 August 2022, commencing at 10 am, at Mingenew Sports Pavilion.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Warr

Seconded: Cr Lane

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be held on Monday 29 August 2022, commencing at 10:00 am, at Mingenew Sports Pavilion.

Carried

14. MEETING CLOSURE

Meeting declared closed at 12:05pm.