

Central Metropolitan Zone Minutes

20 November 2025

Hosted by the City of Nedlands

**To be held at the Mt Claremont Community
Centre, 105 Montgomery Avenue, Mount
Claremont – Hakea Room**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES.....	4
1.1	Opening	4
1.2	Attendance	4
1.3	Apologies	5
2	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY	6
3	ELECTIONS	6
3.1	Elections of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Central Metropolitan Zone	6
3.2	Elections of State Council Representatives and Deputy State Council Representatives of the Central Metropolitan Zone	7
4	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.....	8
5	DEPUTATIONS.....	8
5.1	North Metropolitan Health Service	8
5.2	WALGA Presentation.....	8
6	AGENCY REPORTS	9
6.1	Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety Update Report	9
7	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.....	9
8	BUSINESS ARISING.....	9
8.1	Status Report.....	9
9	ZONE BUSINESS	9
9.1	Submissions to the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members.....	9
9.2	2026 Proposed Meeting Dates.....	10
9.3	May 2026 Regional State Council meeting	12
9.4	Installation of LifeVac® Anti-Choking Devices at Suitable Community Facilities in Western Australia.....	14
9.5	Polyphagous shot-hole borer Update – November 2025.....	15
10	WALGA STATE COUNCIL AGENDA	18
10.1	2025 Annual General Meeting Resolutions (State Council Agenda Item 8.1)...	18
10.2	2026 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members (State Council Agenda Item 8.2)	21
10.3	Tourism Advocacy Position Update (State Council Agenda Item 8.3).....	25
10.4	Waste Management Advocacy Positions (state Council Agenda Item 8.4)	29
10.5	Electoral Material – Authorisation Statement Address Requirements (State Council Agenda Item 8.5).....	31
10.6	Other State Council Agenda items.....	33
11	EXECUTIVE REPORTS	33
11.1	WALGA President's Report	33
11.2	State Councillor's report to the Zone.....	33
12	OTHER BUSINESS.....	33
13	NEXT MEETING.....	33
14	CLOSURE	34

PRIORITISATION FRAMEWORK

How to use the Framework:

- If the majority of the factors are towards the left column, the issue is a high priority.
- If the majority of the factors are towards the middle, the issue requires action, but is not a high priority.
- If the majority of the factors are towards the right column, the issue is a low priority.

Impact on Local Government Sector Impact on Local Government sector without intervention	High	Medium	Low
Reach Number of member Local Governments affected	Sector-wide	Significant (multiple regions, Zones, or bands)	Few
Influence Capacity to influence decision makers	High	Medium	Low
Principles Alignment to core principles such as autonomy, funding, general competence	Strong	Partial	Peripheral
Clarity Policy change needed is clear and well-defined	Clear	Partial	Unclear
Decision-maker support Level of support among decision-makers (political and administrative)	High	Medium	Low
Public support Level of support among the public or other stakeholders	High	Medium	Low
Positive consequences for WALGA Prospect of positive consequences for WALGA. E.g. enhanced standing among members or leverage for other issues.	High	Medium	Low
Negative consequences for WALGA Prospect of negative consequences for WALGA for not undertaking the advocacy effort. E.g. diminished standing among members or other stakeholders.	High	Medium	Low
Partnerships Potential for partnerships with other stakeholders	Yes (3+)	Possibly (1-2)	No (0)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Zone Delegates were requested to provide sufficient written notice, wherever possible, on amendments to recommendations within the State Council or Zone agenda to the Zone Chair and Secretariat prior to the Zone meeting.

Agenda Papers were emailed 7 days prior to the meeting date.

Confirmation of Attendance An attendance sheet was circulated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Minutes of previous meeting
2. November 2025 Update – Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety
3. Zone Status Report
4. President's Report
5. Standing Orders

Cr Paul Kelly (as outgoing Chair) opened the meeting, Commissioner David Caddy welcomed everyone in attendance to the City of Nedlands and then the WALGA Secretariat assumed the Chair to conduct the Zone Elections.

1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

1.1 OPENING

Cr Paul Kelly opened the meeting at 6:00pm.

1.2 ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS

2 Voting Delegates from each Member Council

Town of Cambridge

Cr Kate Barlow
Cr Ben Mayes

Town of Claremont

Cr Paul Kelly
Cr Ryan Fernandes

Town of Cottesloe

Cr Helen Sadler
Cr Margaret (Chilla) Bulbeck

Town of Mosman Park

Cr Nick Lonie
Cr Sarah Corbyn

City of Nedlands

Commissioner David Caddy
Mr Arthur Kyron, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate

Shire of Peppermint Grove

Cr Charles Hohnen

City of Perth

Cr David Goncalves (electronically via MSTeams)

	Cr Liam Gobbert
City of Subiaco	Cr Daniel Fyffe Cr Rosemarie de Vries
City of Vincent	Mayor Alison Xamon Cr Nicole Woolf
WALGA Secretariat	Ms Felicity Morris, Manager Governance and Procurement Ms Meghan Dwyer, Governance Specialist Ms Habiba Farrag, State Council Governance Officer
Guest Speakers	
North Metropolitan Health Service	Ms Assunta Di Francesco, Health Promotion Coordinator

1.3 APOLOGIES

MEMBERS

Town of Cambridge	Ms Lisa Clack, Chief Executive Officer
Town of Claremont	Ms Liz Ledger, Chief Executive Officer
Town of Cottesloe	Cr Lorraine Young Mr Mark Newman, Chief Executive Officer
Town of Mosman Park	Cr Russell Armstrong Ms Natalie Martin Goode, Chief Executive Officer
City of Nedlands	Commissioner Catherine Hart Commissioner Bianca Sandri
Shire of Peppermint Grove	President Karen Farley Mr Don Burnett, Chief Executive Officer
City of Perth	Ms Michelle Reynolds, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
City of Subiaco	Mr Colin Cameron, Chief Executive Officer
City of Vincent	Mr David MacLennan Chief Executive Officer

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We, the Zone members acknowledge the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to Country, culture and community. We embrace the vast Aboriginal cultural diversity throughout Western Australia, including Boorloo (Perth), on the land of the Whadjuk Noongar People, where this meeting is being held and we acknowledge and pay respect to Elders past and present.

3 ELECTIONS

Pursuant to the WALGA Constitution, the Secretariat assumed the Chair for conducting the election of office bearers, State Council Representatives and Deputy State Council Representatives.

3.1 ELECTIONS OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE CENTRAL METROPOLITAN ZONE

The election for the Chair and Deputy Chair was conducted and the term set at two years expiring in November 2027, in line with the terms of State Council representatives and in sync with Local Government Elections.

Zone Chair

The following written nomination was received for the position of Chair.

- Cr Rosemarie de Vries City of Subiaco

Further nominations were called from the floor. The following further nomination was received from the floor.

- Cr Liam Gobbert City of Perth

As more than one nomination was received, ballot papers were distributed and a secret ballot conducted.

DECLARATION

That Cr Liam Gobbert, is elected as Chair of the Central Metropolitan Zone for the term of 2 years, November 2025 to November 2027.

Deputy Zone Chair

The following written nomination was received for the position of Deputy Chair.

- Cr Helen Sadler Town of Cottesloe

Further nominations were called from the floor. The following further nomination was received from the floor.

- Cr Rosemarie de Vries City of Perth
- Cr Helen Sadler withdrew her nomination.

DECLARATION

That Cr Rosemarie de Vries is elected as Deputy Chair of the Central Metropolitan Zone for the term of 2 year, November 2025 to November 2027.

3.2 ELECTIONS OF STATE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES AND DEPUTY STATE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CENTRAL METROPOLITAN ZONE

In accordance with sub-clause 9(3) of the WALGA Constitution, representatives and deputy representatives to the State Council were elected by Zones of the Metropolitan and Country constituencies for two (2) year terms, commencing from the Ordinary Meeting of State Council in December 2025 and concluding on the day before the Ordinary Meeting of State Council in December 2027.

For the Central Metropolitan Zone, there are two (2) representative positions on State Council and two (2) deputy representative positions.

State Councillor

The following written nominations were received for the position of State Council Representative:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| • Cr Helen Sadler | Town of Cottesloe |
| • Cr Ben Mayes | Town of Cambridge |
| • Mayor Alison Xamon | City of Vincent |
| • Cr Paul Kelly | Town of Claremont |

The following further nominations were accepted from the floor.

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| • Cr Liam Gobbert | City of Perth |
|-------------------|---------------|

In accordance with the guidelines endorsed by State Council, candidates were afforded the opportunity to make a 2 minute election bid prior to the secret ballot being taken.

Ballot papers were distributed and a secret ballot conducted.

DECLARATION

That

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| • Cr Paul Kelly | Town of Claremont |
| • Cr Helen Sadler | Town of Cottesloe |

are elected as State Council Representatives of the Central Metropolitan Zone to the State Council for the term of 2 years, December 2025 to December 2027.

Deputy State Councillor

The following written nomination was received for the position of Deputy State Council Representative.

- Cr Ben Mayes Town of Cambridge

Further nominations were called from the floor. The following further nomination was accepted from the floor.

- Cr Liam Gobbert City of Perth

DECLARATION

That

- Cr Ben Mayes Town of Cambridge
- Cr Liam Gobbert City of Perth

are elected as Deputy State Council Representatives of the Central Metropolitan Zone to the State Council for the term of 2 years, December 2025 to December 2027.

Cr David Goncalves left the meeting and did not return.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Nil.

5 DEPUTATIONS

5.1 NORTH METROPOLITAN HEALTH SERVICE

Assunta Di Francesco provided an update to the Zone on Public Health Plans for Local Government.

5.2 WALGA PRESENTATION

Felicity Morris, Manager Governance and Procurement provided a presentation on WALGA and the roles of Zone Delegates. A copy of the presentation was distributed with the Minutes.

6 AGENCY REPORTS

6.1 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY REGULATION AND SAFETY UPDATE REPORT

The November 2025 report from the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (DLGIRS) was provided as an attachment to the Agenda.

Noted

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Kate Barlow
Seconded: Cr Rosemarie de Vries

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Central Metropolitan Zone held on 21 August 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

8 BUSINESS ARISING

8.1 STATUS REPORT

A Status Report outlining the actions taken on the Zone's resolutions was enclosed as an attachment to the Agenda.

Noted

9 ZONE BUSINESS

9.1 SUBMISSIONS TO THE SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES TRIBUNAL REMUNERATION INQUIRY FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND ELECTED MEMBERS

By Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance

BACKGROUND

The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal (SAT) conduct an annual inquiry into Local Government Chief Executive Officer and Elected Member remuneration.

SAT generally advertises its intention to receive submissions in December for its inquiry and Determination in relation to the following financial year. The Tribunal will invite individual Local Governments, the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulations and Safety, WALGA, Local Government Professionals WA and other interested individuals to provide information or submissions.

SAT will likely publish its Determination for 2026-2027 in April 2026.

COMMENT

In preparation for the inquiry to be undertaken early next year, a draft submission from WALGA has been prepared making recommendations to SAT on behalf of the sector in relation to Elected Member fees and allowances, Chief Executive Officer remuneration, the Regional/Isolation Allowance, and independent audit, risk and improvement committee member fees. The draft WALGA submission is contained in the December State Council Agenda for Zone and State Council consideration.

Local Governments can also put forward a submission, particularly in relation to their own circumstances, including requests to be classified in a different Band.

WALGA encourages all Local Governments to make a submission to SAT.

Noted

9.2 2026 PROPOSED MEETING DATES

By Chantelle O'Brien, Zone Governance Officer, WALGA

BACKGROUND

A schedule of the proposed 2026 meeting dates for the Central Metropolitan Zone has been prepared and is set out below. The dates have been set to coincide with the WALGA State Council meetings.

The proposed meeting dates for the Central Metropolitan Zone for 2026 require adoption by delegates.

As with previous years, the venue for each meeting has been rotated amongst Members.

Previously, there has been discussion around the consideration of having the Zone meetings during business hours to potentially accommodate increased availability to attend.

Historically, the Central Metropolitan Zone have always met on a Thursday evening.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS CENTRAL METROPOLITAN ZONE MEETING 2026

Zone Meeting Dates Thursday	Time	HOST COUNCIL	State Council Meeting Dates 2026
19 February	6:00pm	Shire of Peppermint Grove	Wednesday, 4 March
23 April	6:00pm	City of Perth	Regional Meeting Wednesday, 6 May
18 June	6:00pm	City of Subiaco	Wednesday, 1 July
20 August	6:00pm	City of Vincent	Regional Meeting Friday, 4 September
19 November	6:00pm	Town of Cambridge	Wednesday, 2 December

Members may want to discuss potential changes to the day and/or time of the Central Metropolitan Zone meetings.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Ben Mayes

Seconded: Mayor Alison Xamon

That the 2026 proposed schedule of meetings for the Central Metropolitan Zone be amended as follows and adopted:

Zone Meeting Dates Wednesday	Time	HOST COUNCIL	State Council Meeting Dates 2026
18 February	4:00pm	Shire of Peppermint Grove	Wednesday, 4 March
22 April	4:00pm	City of Perth	Regional Meeting Wednesday, 6 May
17 June	4:00pm	City of Subiaco	Wednesday, 1 July
19 August	4:00pm	City of Vincent	Regional Meeting Friday, 4 September
18 November	4:00pm	Town of Cambridge	Wednesday, 2 December

Reasons for amendment:

- The WALGA Central Metropolitan Zone (CMZ) has generally had limited to no attendance of Chief Executive Officers (CEOs). It is understood that this is largely due to the time of the CMZ meetings.
- Further to this, at least three delegates to the CMZ are also delegates for the Catalina Regional Council (CRC), making the proposed Thursday meetings for 2026 problematic for CRC delegates.
- The CRC adopted their 2026 meetings schedule prior to the 2025 local government elections.
- WALGA's proposed 2026 meeting dates for the CMZ clash with the adopted CRC meeting dates.
- In acknowledgement of the historic clash with CRC meeting dates, the WALGA North Metropolitan Zone (NMZ) moved their meetings to Wednesday in 2025. This change has proven to be successful in accommodating CRC delegates who are also NMZ delegates.
- The CEOs consulted on this change support both an earlier meeting start time and a move to Wednesday meetings.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ben Mayes

Seconded: Mayor Alison Xamon

To suspend the Standing Orders to discuss dates for 2026.

CARRIED

During discussion, the following dates for 2026 were agreed.

Zone Meeting Dates Thursday	Time	HOST COUNCIL	State Council Meeting Dates 2026
12 February	5:00pm	Shire of Peppermint Grove	Wednesday, 4 March
23 April	5:00pm	City of Perth	Regional Meeting Wednesday, 6 May
11 June	5:00pm	City of Subiaco	Wednesday, 1 July
13 August	5:00pm	City of Vincent	Regional Meeting Friday, 4 September
19 November	5:00pm	Town of Cambridge	Wednesday, 2 December

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ben Mayes
Seconded: Cr Helen Sadler

To resume Standing Orders.

CARRIED

The mover and seconder agreed to amend the motion, as determined during discussion.

THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION AS AMENDED WAS PUT TO THE VOTE

That the 2026 proposed schedule of meetings for the Central Metropolitan Zone be adopted.

Zone Meeting Dates Thursday	Time	HOST COUNCIL	State Council Meeting Dates 2026
12 February	6:00pm	Shire of Peppermint Grove	Wednesday, 4 March
23 April	6:00pm	City of Perth	Regional Meeting Wednesday, 6 May
11 June	6:00pm	City of Subiaco	Wednesday, 1 July
13 August	6:00pm	City of Vincent	Regional Meeting Friday, 4 September
19 November	6:00pm	Town of Cambridge	Wednesday, 2 December

CARRIED

9.3 MAY 2026 REGIONAL STATE COUNCIL MEETING

By Habiba Farrag, State Council Governance Officer

BACKGROUND

Each year, the WALGA State Council meets in a regional location hosted by a Zone. There are generally two regional State Council meetings per year – one hosted by a Metropolitan

Zone and another hosted by a Country Zone. Regional meeting hosts are rotated between the Zones.

It is proposed that the May 2026 Regional State Council meeting be hosted by the Central Metropolitan Zone.

The Central Metropolitan Zone last hosted a regional meeting in 2019 in the City of Perth.

The date scheduled for the 2026 regional meeting is **Wednesday, 6 May 2026**.

An indicative program for the day is as below:

State Council Business – 9:30am to 2:30pm

9:30am – 10:00am	Morning tea on arrival
10:00am – 12:00pm	State Council Strategic Forum
12:00pm – 12:30pm	Lunch
12:30pm – 2:30pm	State Council Meeting

Zone Forum – 2:30pm to 5:00pm

2:30pm – 3:00pm	Afternoon Tea
3:00pm – 5:00pm	Zone Forum (<i>presentations from each Member Local Government in the Zone</i>)

Sundowner – 5:00pm – 6:00pm

The host Local Government is asked to provide a venue to accommodate the following:

Strategic Forum and State Council meeting	U-shaped seating for 24 people, plus head table for 6 people Additional seating for 20 people (observers) A screen with HDMI connectivity for screen sharing Microphones (at least one for the Chair)
Zone Forum	Theatre style seating for 40 people Lectern and microphone for presenters
General	Break out area for morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea, sundowner

WALGA requests the Local Government to set up facilities and arrange catering (including the sundowner), with WALGA to reimburse the cost of catering.

WALGA is seeking the appointment of a host Local Government and a Zone representative to act as liaison between WALGA and the Zone to plan the Regional State Council meeting, particularly in relation to venues and the format of the Zone Forum. The appointed liaison person would normally be an officer from the host Local Government.

Following the appointment of a host Local Government, the WALGA secretariat will liaise with the appointed person to plan the event.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Liam Gobbert
Seconded: Cr Ben Mayes

That the Central Metropolitan Zone endorse:

1. the proposal to host the May 2026 Regional State Council meeting;
2. the appointment of the City of Perth as the host Local Government; and
3. the appointment of the City of Perth CEO to act as liaison between the Zone and WALGA in planning the Regional State Council meeting.

CARRIED

9.4 INSTALLATION OF LIFEVAC® ANTI-CHOKING DEVICES AT SUITABLE COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

By the City of Vincent

BACKGROUND

Choking injuries in Australia - The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) notes that choking injuries resulted in 1,430 hospitalisations and 1427 deaths from choking in 2022-23, with 0-4 year olds recording the highest hospitalisation rates and people over 85 experiencing the highest death rates. Analysis of AIHW data over the past decade has indicated that choking is becoming a more concerning risk, particularly among older age groups. <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/injury/choking-and-suffocation>

In January 2025, the City of Vincent received a request for a notice of motion from a community member, Mr. Brian Bwoga, following the tragic death of his young son, ZaZa, who choked on a grape in 2024.

Despite immediate CPR efforts and paramedic attendance, ZaZa passed away within minutes.

Mr. Bwoga has since advocated strongly for the installation of LifeVac® devices across Western Australia to help prevent similar tragedies.

LifeVac® is a non-powered upper airway clearance device, registered on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) as a Class 1 Medical Device. It is designed for emergency use when standard choking protocols are unsuccessful. Clinical studies and post-market audits have confirmed its safety, effectiveness, and ease of use.

While not a substitute for first-line treatment, they provide an additional, evidence-based intervention that can support first responders and community members in life-threatening choking incidents.

The City of Vincent undertook a detailed evaluation in May 2025 and resolved in June 2025 to install LifeVac® devices across key community facilities, alongside Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). Whilst the devices are designed to be easy for anyone to use without specialist training, City staff at operated facilities will receive familiarisation to support their use in emergency situations, with clear public signage also to be installed.

Other Local Governments, including Joondalup, Stirling and Wanneroo, are also installing LifeVac® devices.

However, adoption across the sector remains inconsistent. Smaller and regional councils in particular face barriers to funding.

LifeVac® devices are low-cost relative to other emergency equipment such as AEDs. Installation alongside existing AEDs means no significant infrastructure cost.

Without State Government leadership, the availability of these life-saving devices will remain inconsistent, and preventable tragedies may continue to occur.

State Government support would reduce the cost burden on Local Governments, particularly smaller councils, and ensure equitable access.

Installing LifeVac® devices at community facilities represents a low-cost, high-impact measure that provides an additional safeguard in life-threatening emergencies, improves survival chances, and builds community confidence.

A coordinated program led by the State would avoid piecemeal adoption, ensure consistent guidance and familiarisation, and support Local Governments in delivering safe, well-equipped community facilities across WA.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

WALGA does not typically endorse specific products to be funded by State Government. WALGA also notes that at present this is not consensus on the effectiveness of anti-choking devices among medical bodies. Local Governments can consider the merits and funding of such devices individually. It is recommended that advocacy for State funding for anti-choking devices be channelled through health organisations with relevant expertise.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Nicole Woolf
Seconded: Cr Kate Barlow

That the State Council advocate to the State Government for a funding and education program to support the installation of LifeVac® Devices at suitable community facilities in WA.

LOST

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Helen Sadler
Seconded: Cr Charles Hohnen

That the Central Metropolitan Zone request WALGA to request the Health Department to investigate the efficiency and feasibility of airway clearing devices, and report back to State Council with a view to WALGA forming an advocacy position, if appropriate.

CARRIED

9.5 POLYPHAGOUS SHOT-HOLE BORER UPDATE – NOVEMBER 2025

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager Environment and Waste

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Since the State Council Agenda and Item for Noting was developed, there has been a further development relating to PSHB management.

- On Friday 14 November, the State Government [gazetted](#) changes to the zones within the Quarantine Area for Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB).
- This change sees a significantly larger portion of the metropolitan area, and all 30 Local Governments, having responsibility for managing PSHB infestations.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This item relates to [advocacy positions](#) 4.4 Post Border Biosecurity and 4.7 Polyphagous shot-hole borer.

BACKGROUND

On Friday 14 November, the State Government [gazetted](#) changes to the zones within the Quarantine Area (QA) for Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB). Figure 1 shows a comparison of the previous and new areas.

Previously the QA included Zone A and B; with DPIRD undertaking limited activity in Zone A and some tree removal and surveillance in Zone B. Zone A and B have been renamed the Management Zone and Containment Zone, respectively. Zone A, now the Management Zone, has been expanded to cover all 30 Local Governments in the metropolitan area. Previously, Zone A completely covered 15 Local Government areas and partially included 6. The new Management Zone covers 23 Local Governments completely and parts of a further 7 Local Governments.

All Local Governments and other landowners and managers in the Management Zone are now responsible for managing borer-affected trees on their land. The Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development (DPIRD) has discontinued tree removal and pruning in the Management Zone – except where trees were already designated for removal or pruning during the eradication phase of the response.

The Containment Zone is the area between the Management Zone and the outer boundary of the QA. Under the Transition to Management Plan, DPIRD's response will now be limited to pruning and removal of trees in the Containment Zone that pose a risk of spreading the borer outside of the QA.

WALGA met with the DPIRD on Thursday 13 November regarding these changes and requested an urgent briefing for Local Governments in the QA – this was held on Tuesday 18 November. A recording of this session will be made available to Local Government. DPIRD are hosting a more extensive briefing on Monday 8 December.

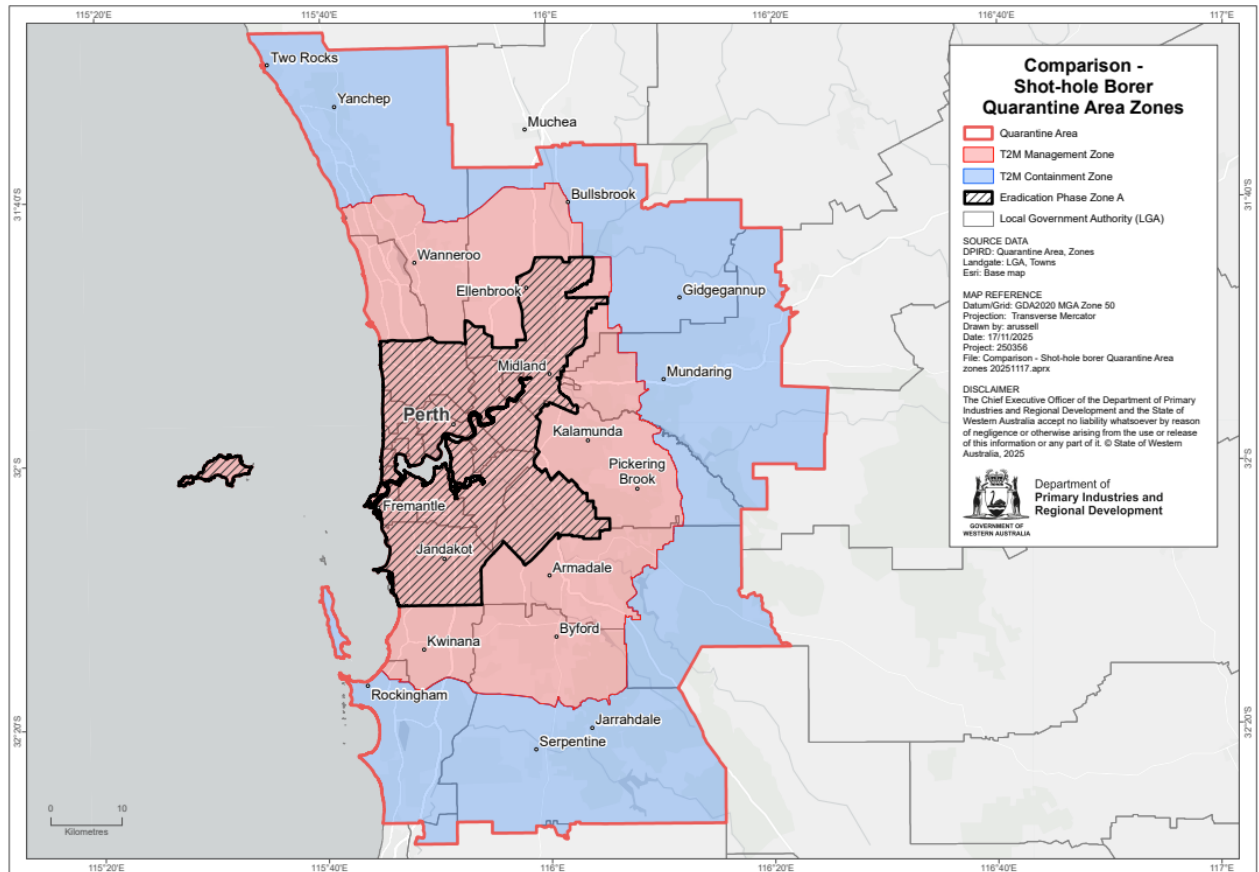


Figure 1: Quarantine Area, with Management and Containment Zones, compared to previous Zone A and B

COMMENT

WALGA was not consulted on these changes, which have immediate and unanticipated impacts for Local Governments that are now in the Management Zone and ongoing impacts for Local Governments who have been managing PSHB since the Transition to Management commenced in July 2025.

WALGA has expressed its concerns to DPIRD regarding the impact of these changes for the spread of PSHB, on Local Government and the urgent need for further financial support.

To assist Local Governments undertaking management activities, WALGA is hosting capacity building webinars and events.

Noted

10 WALGA STATE COUNCIL AGENDA

Zone Delegates are invited to read and consider the WALGA State Council Agenda, which has been provided as an attachment with this Agenda and can be found via the link [here](#).

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

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

10.1 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING RESOLUTIONS (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.1)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA's 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 23 September.
- The meeting resolved for WALGA to act in relation to four Member Motions:
 - Provision of Medical Services in Remote and Very Remote Local Governments
 - Homelessness – Short-term Accommodation Solutions
 - Rating Exemption Advocacy Motion
 - Rateability of Miscellaneous Licenses
- The action proposed to be taken in relation to each of the resolutions has been summarised for State Council's consideration.

ATTACHMENT

- [WALGA 2025 Annual General Meeting Minutes](#)

BACKGROUND

The 2025 WALGA AGM was held on 23 September 2025. 220 Voting Delegates were in attendance, with 124 Local Governments represented.

Five Member Motions were considered, with four being supported by Members at the AGM, as follows.

7.1 Provision of Medical Services in Remote and Very Remote Local Governments

That WALGA calls on the Western Australian Government and WA Grants Commission to:

1. *increase the total funding and then the Medical Facilities Cost Adjuster component of the Financial Assistance to Local Governments; and*
2. *recalculate distributions to those Local Governments that are providing block cash payments to attract and retain general practitioners to allow affected Council to redirect ratepayer funds to Local Government responsibilities.*

7.2 Homelessness – Short-term Accommodation Solutions

That WALGA advocate to the State Government to provide culturally appropriate short-term accommodation options and wrap-around support services that provide sustainable homelessness solutions in all Local Governments across Western Australia.

7.3 Rating Exemption Advocacy Position

That WALGA, in addition to its current advocacy positions 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 relating to rating exemptions, advocate to the WA Government for the introduction of a reimbursement model, whereby the WA Government repays Local Government the greater of:

- 1. 75% of the value of rates lost in applying the charitable purposes exemption; or*
- 2. 1% of the total revenue of the Local Government.*

7.5 Rateability of Miscellaneous Licenses

That WALGA:

- 1. Formally oppose any move by the Local Government Minister to introduce amendments to the Local Government Act to restrict the application of rates on Miscellaneous Licences.*
- 2. Develop an advocacy position on sector consultation prior to any amendment to the Local Government Act.*
- 3. Undertake a financial analysis of the cost to the Mining Industry of the rating of Miscellaneous Licences compared to the benefit to the Local Government sector.*

COMMENT

Comment on each of the 2025 AGM resolutions is below.

In considering these resolutions, State Council and the relevant Policy Teams are guided by Clause 22(7) of the [WALGA Constitution](#), as follows:

Where the State Council considers that a direction or decision from an Annual General Meeting has been made without information or a material nature or in circumstances which have materially altered and such direction or decision is not in the best interests of the Association, the State Council may decline to follow that direction or decision and, in that event, the Chief Executive Officer by notice shall advise the Ordinary Members of the decision of the State Council and the reasons for that decision.

Members will be informed of progress on the above issues through Policy Team Reports in future State Council Agendas and through the AGM Status Report in next year's AGM Agenda.

7.1 Provision of Medical Services in Remote and Very Remote Local Governments

A revised Rural and Remote Healthcare Services Advocacy Position was endorsed by State Council on 5 September 2025. The AGM resolution and WALGA's ongoing advocacy align on the need for financial reimbursement for Local Government support for essential primary health care services. WALGA's approach does not specify how reimbursement to Local Governments should be undertaken, or which Local Governments should be eligible. This approach aims to provide flexibility to achieve the same outcome, such as utilising the upcoming renewal of the National Health Reform Agreement.

It is recommended that this resolution be referred to the People and Place Policy Team.

7.2 Homelessness – Short-term Accommodation Solutions

WALGA is currently reviewing the Homelessness Advocacy Position as part of a regular advocacy position review process. To inform the review, WALGA will survey Local Governments to gather information on the extent of Local Government engagement with

homelessness and the extent of services, including accommodation options, available within their Local Government areas.

It is recommended that this resolution be referred to the People and Place Policy Team.

7.3 Rating Exemption Advocacy Position

It is recommended that this resolution be referred to the Governance Policy Team.

7.5 Rateability of Miscellaneous Licences

An Advocacy Position on Rating of Miscellaneous Licences was endorsed by State Council on 5 September 2025. WALGA will continue to advocate for a broad review on all rating exemption categories and oppose legislative amendments that seek to exempt occupied miscellaneous licence land from rating.

It is recommended that this resolution is endorsed.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. the following resolutions from the 2025 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the People and Place Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:
 - 7.1 Provision of Medical Services in Remote and Very Remote Local Governments
 - 7.2 Homelessness – Short-term Accommodation Solutions
2. the following resolution from the 2025 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the Governance Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:
 - 7.3 Rating Exemption Advocacy Position
3. the following resolution from the 2025 WALGA Annual General Meeting be endorsed:
 - 7.5 Rateability of Miscellaneous Licences

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Liam Gobbert

Seconded: Commissioner David Caddy

That the Central Metropolitan Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.1 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED

10.2 2026 SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES TRIBUNAL REMUNERATION INQUIRY FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND ELECTED MEMBERS (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.2)

By Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal (SAT) conduct an inquiry into Local Government Chief Executive Officer and Elected Member remuneration annually.
- In preparation for the Inquiry to be undertaken early next year, WALGA has prepared a draft submission to SAT that makes recommendations in relation to Elected Member fees and allowances, Chief Executive Officer remuneration, the Regional/Isolation Allowance and independent Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) member fees.
- The 2026 submission recommends:
 - an increase to Elected Member fees and allowances (including maximum reimbursable expenses) of 3%;
 - an increase to Chief Executive Officer remuneration bands of 3%;
 - an increase to the Regional/Isolation Allowance payable for Local Governments that are particularly isolated, long distances from population centres, and lacking in amenities;
 - the publication of clear guidance to the Local Government sector outlining how the Regional/Isolation Allowance is applied in terms of methodology, criteria and weightings; and
 - an increase to the current fee range for independent committee members, including ARIC members and chairs; and
 - a higher fee range for independent ARIC chairs, in recognition of the additional skill, knowledge and time commitment of the role.
- SAT will publish its determination for 2026-27 in April 2026.
- The Governance Policy Team considered the submission at its meeting on 29 October and recommended that it be included in the December Agenda for State Council endorsement.

ATTACHMENT

- Draft WALGA submission to the 2026 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry – Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The current Advocacy Positions relating to this submission are [Position 2.10 Elected Member Remuneration](#), [Position 2.2.3 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees](#), [Position 2.10A Chief Executive Officer Remuneration](#), and [Position 2.10A.1 Regional/Isolation Allowance](#).

2.10 Elected Member Remuneration

The Local Government sector supports appropriate remuneration of Local Government Elected Members on the basis of:

1. *Vibrant democracy and good governance: fees and allowances payable to Elected Members should be sufficient to ensure that a diversity of candidates from a range of backgrounds seek election to Local Government leadership positions;*

2. *Demands of the role: as the complexity of Local Government increases, and community expectations placed upon Elected Members grow in the social media age, the remuneration paid to Elected Members for their significant time commitment must compensate them for the personal and opportunity costs of taking on significant community leadership positions;*
3. *Skills and training: with the implementation of the State Government's universal Elected Member training policy and the increasing expectation for Elected Members to undertake training, the time that Elected Members spend on professional development should be recognised by the fees and allowances framework; and*
4. *Economic conditions: Elected Member fees and allowances must be considered within the surrounding economic environment. The value of fees and allowances paid to Elected Members should keep pace with the increasing costs of living and rates of inflation, to ensure that the relative value of Elected Member fees and allowances does not erode over time.*

2.2.3 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees

The Local Government sector:

1. *supports Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees (ARIC) having a clearly defined role with an Elected Member majority;*
2. *supports the option for smaller Local Governments to share ARIC to reduce the burden on their resources;*
3. *does not support the requirement for the chair of the ARIC to be an independent member. The appointment of the chair should be at the discretion of the Local Government; and*
4. *supports the payment of meeting fees or defined reimbursements to independent ARIC members. The fees payable should be set by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal within a separate fee category and at a suitable level that recognises the skills and knowledge required for such a role.*

2.10A Chief Executive Officer Remuneration

The Local Government sector supports appropriate remuneration of Local Government Chief Executive Officers on the basis of:

1. *Importance of the role: the role of the CEO within Local Government is undeniably one of importance. The efficient operations and accountability of Local Governments is dependent on the appointment of a suitably qualified CEO.*
2. *Attraction and retention: Local Governments must compete in the broader labour market to attract and retain CEOs with the requisite qualifications and experience.*
3. *Demands of the role: the skill, workload and time commitment required from the role of a Local Government CEO must be fairly compensated.*

2.10A.1 Regional/Isolation Allowance

The Local Government sector:

1. *values the Regional/Isolation Allowance payable to Chief Executive Officers as an important means for Local Governments, particularly those that are remote or isolated, to supplement remuneration and attract suitably qualified Chief Executive Officers; and*
2. *supports greater transparency regarding methodology of application for the Regional/Isolation Allowance.*

BACKGROUND

The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal (SAT) conduct an annual Inquiry into Local Government Elected Members' fees and allowances and Chief Executive Officers' remuneration. SAT invites submissions from Local Governments and other stakeholders.

SAT are yet to invite submissions for the 2026 Inquiry, however in anticipation of the upcoming end of year closure period and noting that the next ordinary meeting of State Council will be in March, the submission has been drafted early for consideration by Zones and State Council.

Local Governments are also encouraged to make their own submission to SAT, particularly in relation to their individual circumstances including requests to be classified in a different Band.

The content and recommendations in this submission were shaped by existing advocacy positions, previous submissions and feedback from individual Members since the 2025 Determination was published earlier this year.

The 2025 SAT Determination broadly aligned with WALGA's submission on behalf of Members, including:

- 3.5% increase to CEO remuneration band ranges (plus the 0.5% additional Superannuation Guarantee);
- 3.5% increase to the fee band ranges and some allowances for Elected Members (exclusive of superannuation where relevant);
- reduction of the four band ranges for independent committee members to one band, with the range to be from \$0 to \$450; and
- for the first time, provision for reimbursement of expenses for independent committee members.

The Tribunal also made two commitments in relation to:

- conducting a comprehensive survey of Local Governments in the latter half of 2025, the results of which will assist SAT in reviewing the quantum and effectiveness of the Regional/Isolation Allowance; and
- determining the rates for the independent chair of the audit, risk and improvement committee at a future date, to coincide with the commencement of the legislative changes.

COMMENT

WALGA's submission for the 2026 Inquiry makes six recommendations:

1. That Elected Member Fees and Allowances (including maximum reimbursable expenses) are increased by 3%.
2. That the Chief Executive Officer remuneration bands are increased by 3%.
3. That the maximum payable Regional/Isolation Allowance be increased for Local Governments that are particularly isolated, long distances from population centres, and lacking in amenities.
4. That clear guidance be published to the Local Government sector outlining how the Regional/Isolation Allowance is applied in terms of methodology, criteria and weightings.
5. That the current fee range for independent committee members be increased to recognise the level of skill and knowledge required of independent audit, risk and improvement committee members, and to attract suitably skilled individuals to the role.

6. That a higher fee range be determined for independent chairs of audit, risk and improvement committees to recognise the additional skill, knowledge and preparation required to fulfil the role, and to attract suitably skilled individuals.

In relation to Recommendation 1: Elected Member Fees and Allowances, the submission:

- Reiterates WALGA's current advocacy position.
- Points to the current economic conditions putting pressure on households, including those of Elected Members and potential candidates, which lends itself to an increase in fees and allowances. Noting that CPI is currently at 2.1% and WPI 3.7%

In relation to Recommendation 2: Chief Executive Officer Remuneration, the submission:

- Summarises WALGA's current advocacy position in relation to the importance of the role of Chief Executive Officer, including the skill, workload and time commitment required from the role, and the difficulties of attracting and retaining suitable candidates in a competitive labour market.

In relation to Recommendations 3 and 4: Regional/Isolation Allowance, the submission:

- Underlines the importance of the Regional/Isolation Allowance for attracting and retaining quality Chief Executive Officers to some Local Governments that are particularly isolated or remote.
- Recommends both a review of, and publication of guidance about, the methodology, criteria and weightings for the Allowance to provide clarity for the sector.

In relation to Recommendations 5 and 6: Independent Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Member Fees, the submission:

- Recognises the 2025 Determination went some way to help attract, retain and adequately compensate suitable individuals to the roles of member and chair of ARICs.
- Notes that the current maximum rate of \$450 is not adequately competitive when trying to recruit members and chairs within the broader labour market and should be increased.
- Reinforces WALGA's existing position that a separate, higher fee range needs to be established for ARIC independent chairs.

On 29 October, the Governance Policy Team considered the submission and recommended that it be included in the December State Council Agenda for endorsement.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse the submission to the 2026 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Liam Gobbert

Seconded: Cr Helen Sadler

That the Central Metropolitan Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.2 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED

10.3 TOURISM ADVOCACY POSITION UPDATE (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.3)

By Saul Cresswell, Principal Policy Advisor Economic Development

BACKGROUND

The visitor economy is an important driver of economic development for metropolitan and regional Local Governments in Western Australia. Comprising people travelling for leisure, business events, education, and those visiting friends and relatives, the visitor economy contributed \$18.3 billion to the Western Australian economy in 2023-24. Approximately 45 per cent of this spend took place in the regions.

In 2015, WALGA undertook research and consultation on tourism, developing a *Local Government and Tourism Discussion Paper* that included recommendations. As part of the recommendations, Advocacy Position 3.9 Tourism was endorsed by State Council in March 2017.

Local Governments are instrumental in maintaining the amenity of destinations, a critical factor in safeguarding tourism reputation and repeat visitation. There has been a growth in demands on Local Government resources to meet gaps in service delivery from other levels of Government or the private sector and to align with changes in community expectations (see [WALGA's submission on the Inquiry into Local Government Financial Sustainability](#)).

The WA Government's [Diversify WA](#) economic framework considers tourism and events a priority sector in the diversification of the state's economy. The *WA Visitor Economy Strategy* (WAVES) sets a vision for a \$25 billion visitor economy by 2033.

The State Government, through Tourism WA and the Regional Tourism Organisations, have developed regional tourism strategies, known as Tourism Destination Management Plans (TDMPs), to identify the challenges and opportunities across demand, supply and capability. TDMPs are the most informed articulation of a shared tourism vision undertaken to date, yet have no funding mechanism to implement them.

Tourism emerged as a key topic in WALGA's 2024 Economic Development Survey, with visitor attraction a focus area for Local Government economic development efforts. Responding to the findings, WALGA undertook a Tourism Survey in June 2025, which received 36 Local Government responses from a diversity of regions, with 92% of respondents stating that tourism had medium or high importance to their Local Government.

WALGA developed the *Role of Local Government in Tourism Discussion Paper*, which outlined the constraints and opportunities for Local Governments, and was distributed for Member and stakeholder feedback in September 2025. It also included a draft revised advocacy position. Feedback was received from 28 Local Governments, plus Tourism WA, Tourism Council WA and Regional Tourism Organisations. Local Government responses were received from each of the five tourism regions: Australia's South West, Australia's North West, Australia's Coral Coast, Australia's Golden Outback and Destination Perth.

The consultation provided unanimous support for the overarching intent of the draft advocacy position. Nearly half of respondents proposed amendments, which were considered and incorporated into the revised draft advocacy positions.

Key sector feedback during WALGA's consultation, included:

- Inadequate recognition of the pivotal role Local Government plays in providing community infrastructure and services that underpins amenity for visitors, and the need for sustainable funding mechanisms.
- Continued confusion about the roles of tourism agencies across WA and who to turn to for support.
- The prohibitive costs of accessing data relating to tourism in Local Government areas.
- Impacts of a difficult regulatory environment at all levels of government on tourism and events.
- The need for support addressing tourism literacy and the visitor economy.

The People and Place Policy Team endorsed the updated advocacy position at its meeting on 22 October 2025, with the inclusion of an additional point requesting resourcing for emergency management and medical services that face significantly increased demand during peak tourism periods.

ATTACHMENT

- [The Role of Local Government in Tourism - 2025 Research Paper](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

WALGA's **current** position:

That WALGA:

1. *Continues to advocate for a Local Government tourism strategy to deliver local tourism outcomes;*
2. *In the short-medium term, advocates that the State Government:*
 - a. *Produces targeted communication and education for Local Government using existing Tourism WA data to demonstrate the value of tourism to local communities, Elected Members and Local Government officers;*
 - b. *Provides guidance for Local Government on marketing small projects including events and attractions;*
 - c. *Directs Regional Development Commissions to facilitate the coordination of tourism stakeholders to provide strategic support where required for Local Government; and*
 - d. *Provides funding to Local Government for tourist infrastructure.*
3. *In the long term, advocates that the State Government:*
 - a. *Articulates the lead agency and defines the roles of other agencies in tourism, to facilitate coordination and collaboration of tourism activities across the State and to enhance Local Government's understanding of tourism in WA;*
 - b. *Defines and communicates how it provides destination marketing support to Local Governments and communicates how Local Governments can most effectively direct their resources;*
 - c. *Develops a sustainable State Government tourism funding mechanism for both regional and metropolitan Local Governments which is clearly communicated to Local Governments;*
 - d. *Implements and invests in Regional Investment Blueprints and delivers through appropriate funding models such as Royalties for Regions and federal funding opportunities which are clearly communicated to Local Government;*
 - e. *Continues funding to support sustainability of visitor centres;*

- f. Undertakes improvements to tourism-related infrastructure and technology including mobile signals and WIFI in regional areas; and*
- g. Undertakes measures to reduce the cost and improve the scheduling and routes of regional air services.*

It is proposed that the position **be replaced** with:

WALGA calls on the State Government to:

- 1. Fund the implementation of the WA Visitor Economy Strategy and the supporting Tourism Destination Management Plans and Regional Tourism Development Strategies, including for:*
 - a. maintenance and renewal of Local Government assets and services that underpin a positive visitor experience*
 - b. new and existing tourism infrastructure*
 - c. improving telecommunications infrastructure*
 - d. measures to reduce the cost and improve the scheduling and routes of regional air services*
 - e. accredited Visitor Centres.*
- 2. Ensure that tourism destinations with significant seasonal influxes of visitors have adequate medical and emergency services and reliable telecommunications.*
- 3. Articulate a clear tourism governance framework with defined roles and responsibilities to facilitate coordination and collaboration of tourism activities across the State.*
- 4. Adequately consult and consider Local Government when undertaking strategic tourism planning across Western Australia.*
- 5. Provide improved access to affordable, timely and granular data that delivers LGA-level insights on visitation, spend and event impacts.*

COMMENT

Since the current advocacy position was adopted, tourism across the State has continued to evolve and change, including post pandemic visitation growth, changing tourism behaviour, and the increasing costs of doing business.

Many challenges identified in the current advocacy position persist and remain part of the new draft advocacy position. These include:

- a lack of clarity in tourism organisation roles and responsibilities
- ineffective coordination efforts
- lack of capacity building opportunities for Local Government
- and inaccessible and expensive data, often missing a localised focus.

The suggested revision to Advocacy Position 3.9 Tourism aims to provide a consolidated and contemporary position on the important role Local Government provides for tourism in WA and how best to capitalise on opportunities to benefit their communities.

The proposed updates to the advocacy position seek to:

- Align State Government investment and support with the contemporary Tourism Destination Management Plans (TDMPs).
- Reiterate the need for clear tourism governance across the State, without reference to which agency should lead the work.
- Reiterate and further clarify the need for accessible data to support informed decision making.
- Emphasise the pivotal role the Local Government sector plays in supporting the visitor experience, and advocate for adequate consultation and funding to ensure this role can be sustained.

WALGA will continue to work with State Government agencies and support the Local Government sector, including sharing the updated tourism research paper which provides context around tourism and the diverse roles Local Government can play.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council replace Advocacy Position 3.9 Tourism with an updated position as follows:

WALGA calls on the State Government to:

- 1. Fund the implementation of the WA Visitor Economy Strategy and the supporting Tourism Destination Management Plans and Regional Tourism Development Strategies, including for:*
 - a. maintenance and renewal of Local Government assets and services that underpin a positive visitor experience*
 - b. new and existing tourism infrastructure*
 - c. improving telecommunications infrastructure*
 - d. measures to reduce the cost and improve the scheduling and routes of regional air services*
 - e. accredited Visitor Centres.*
- 2. Ensure that tourism destinations with a significant seasonal visitor influx have adequate medical and emergency services and reliable telecommunications.*
- 3. Articulate a clear tourism governance framework with defined roles and responsibilities to facilitate coordination and collaboration of tourism activities across the State.*
- 4. Adequately consult and consider Local Government when undertaking strategic tourism planning across Western Australia.*
- 5. Provide improved access to affordable, timely and granular data that delivers LGA-level insights on visitation, spend and event impacts.*

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Liam Gobbert

Seconded: Cr Helen Sadler

That the Central Metropolitan Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.3 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED

10.4 WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVOCACY POSITIONS (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.4)

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager Environment and Waste

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA has been undertaking a process of reviewing and updating Advocacy Positions and Policy Statements.
- There are three Waste Management Advocacy Positions (7.2 State Waste Strategy, 7.3 Waste Authority and 7.11 Waste Management and Resource Recovery Partnership Agreement) which have been recently reviewed.
- It was determined that these positions are either no longer relevant or have been incorporated into other positions and it is therefore recommended they be retired.
- To ensure a clear Local Government position on all relevant waste management matters, WALGA is also undertaking a policy position gap analysis to inform the development of future Advocacy Positions.
- The Municipal Waste Advisory Council endorsed retiring the three Advocacy Positions at its meeting on 15 October 2025.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The item retires the existing [Advocacy Positions](#):

7.2 State Waste Strategy

Local Government requires leadership and clear direction from the State Government in relation to waste management. As such, Local Government supports the development and implementation of a comprehensive State Waste Strategy which:

- 1. Is consistent with the content, purpose and objective of existing legislation and policy at both a state and national level;*
- 2. Clearly identifies the roles and responsibilities of the Waste Authority in regard to the development and implementation of the Strategy, as outlined in the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007;*
- 3. Is reviewed, with Stakeholder input, within 2 years of implementation; and*
- 4. Includes achievable targets for all waste streams and focuses on waste reduction, resource recovery and the diversion of waste from landfill. Targets should be based on accurate baseline data and clearly identify roles, responsibilities and funding for each target area.*

7.3 Waste Authority

Local Government considers that an independent and effective Waste Authority is required. The role of the Waste Authority should be of a collaborative, facilitative and strategic nature. Specific activities should include:

- 1. Developing, administering, monitoring and reviewing the State Waste Strategy;*
- 2. Developing a Priority Waste List (for Extended Producer Responsibility) as required in the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007; and*
- 3. Developing and implementing an annual Business Plan that delivers the objectives of the Waste Strategy.*

7.11 Waste Management and Resource Recovery Partnership Agreement

The Local Government sector supports the initiation of a State Local Government Partnership Agreement on Waste Management and Resource Recovery.

BACKGROUND

The process to review and update Advocacy Positions and Policy Statements relating to waste management is nearing completion. Three Advocacy Positions remain which have recently been reviewed:

- *7.2 State Waste Strategy* - The substance of this position is covered in the [Advocacy Position 7.1 Waste Management Legislation](#) which was endorsed by State Council in March 2025, and outlines requirements for State and Australian Government Waste Strategies.
- *7.3 Waste Authority* - This advocacy position is no longer required, as the Waste Authority's legislative requirements are defined under the WARR Act, and other aspects of waste management are addressed through Policy Position 7.1, endorsed by State Council in March 2025.
- *7.11 Waste Management and Resource Recovery Partnership Agreement* - Partnership agreements have not continued and advocacy efforts are being pursued through a variety of other approaches.

The Municipal Waste Advisory Council endorsed the retirement of the three Advocacy Positions at its meeting on 15 October 2025.

COMMENT

A review of all existing Advocacy Positions and Policy Statements has been progressed over the last two years. The three remaining advocacy positions are covered or included in other advocacy positions or have become dated and are no longer a relevant focus of advocacy. The Officers Advisory Group supported retiring the Advocacy Positions acknowledging that they are either incorporated into other existing positions or have become outdated. The Municipal Waste Advisory Council endorsed retiring the three Advocacy Positions and supported a gap analysis of advocacy positions.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council retire Advocacy Positions:

1. 7.2 State Waste Strategy;
2. 7.3 Waste Authority; and
3. 7.11 Waste Management and Resource Recovery Partnership Agreement.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Liam Gobbert
Seconded: Cr Rosemarie de Vries

That the Central Metropolitan Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.4 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED

10.5 ELECTORAL MATERIAL – AUTHORISATION STATEMENT ADDRESS REQUIREMENTS (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.5)

By Felicity Morris, Manager Governance and Procurement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Authorisation requirements for electoral material are intended to protect the transparency and accountability of the electoral process.
- The mandatory publication of a street address, often the candidate's home, raises privacy and safety concerns, potentially deterring participation in Local Government elections.
- Other Australian jurisdictions offer more flexible approaches, such as allowing post office boxes or partial addresses, which maintain transparency without compromising safety.
- It is proposed that WALGA advocate that only the locality is included in the authorisation statement.
- The Governance Policy Team revised and endorsed the new advocacy position at its meeting on 20 October.

ATTACHMENT

- [Jurisdictional comparison - Electoral material authorisation requirements](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The purpose of this report is to provide a new advocacy position for endorsement. WALGA has several existing advocacy positions regarding election matters, but none dealing with electoral material.

BACKGROUND

Section 4.87 of the *Local Government Act 1995* requires all printed, published or distributed electoral material to include the name and address of the person who authorised the electoral material. The address cannot be a post office box. Printed electoral material must also include the name and business address of the printer.

In recent electoral cycles, concerns have been raised regarding the requirement to publish a physical address, often the residential address of the candidate. Members increasingly raised these concerns in the lead up to the 2025 Ordinary Local Government Elections, including at the Mayors and Presidents Forum at the 2025 WALGA Convention.

COMMENT

Authorisation requirements for election advertising are designed to enhance transparency and accountability in the electoral process. By clearly identifying the individual or organisation responsible for electoral communications, these rules ensure that voters can assess the source, credibility, and intent behind campaign materials. This transparency helps voters make informed decisions, discourages misinformation, and prevents "irresponsibility through anonymity". Authorisation also enables regulatory bodies to trace and address any breaches of electoral laws, reinforcing the integrity of democratic participation.

However, the obligation to publish a candidate's physical address raises significant privacy and safety concerns. Candidates for Local Government elections in Western Australia do not typically have official campaign headquarters. They may not have a business or other suitable address to use and are often required to list their personal residence. The internet and social media have increased the accessibility and permanence of personal information, making it easier for individuals to be targeted. Publicly disclosing a residential address can expose candidates and their families to risks such as harassment, intimidation, or unwanted contact, particularly in contentious or high-profile elections. These concerns are especially acute for candidates from vulnerable groups or those campaigning on polarising issues. This may deter individuals from standing for election, thereby limiting diversity and participation in local democracy.

A review of the requirements in other Australian jurisdictions has been carried out and is provided as an attachment. While many jurisdictions have similar requirements to WA, others have more flexible approaches:

- PO boxes satisfy the address requirement in Local Government elections in South Australia and Victoria.
- The locality (town/city) is sufficient for material that is published by an individual in Local Government elections in the Northern Territory, while a full address is required for material published by an organisation.
- The street name and locality are sufficient for material published by an individual in Territory elections in the Northern Territory, while a full address is required for material published by an organisation.
- Only the name of the person authorising the material is required for ACT Territory elections.

This demonstrates that there are a range of options for identifying the person responsible for the material, without needing to provide their address. The Returning Officer and regulatory bodies have access to candidates' contact and nomination details, ensuring that any breaches can be investigated and enforced without compromising personal privacy. The draft advocacy position recommends that the requirement is limited to the name and locality of the person authorising the material.

It should be acknowledged that elected Council Members may be required to disclose their addresses in Primary and Annual Returns, which are available for public inspection. Similarly, a disclosure of a proximity interest in Council Meeting documents may allow a Council Member's address to be identified. However, these materials are not circulated as widely as electoral materials or subject to the heightened electoral context.

As a final matter, if candidates print materials at home, the WAEC advises that no separate statement of the printer's address is required, as this is satisfied by the authorisation statement. Many Australian jurisdictions do not require the printer's name or address on printed electoral materials. Increasingly, printing may be done through companies operating online only, without physical addresses. The review of authorisation requirements provides an opportunity to remove the requirement to include the printer's details.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA advocate to the State Government to amend section 4.87 of the *Local Government Act 1995* to:

1. Replace the requirement to include the name and address of the person authorising the electoral material, with a requirement to include the name and locality of the person authorising the material.
2. Remove the requirement for the name and business address of the electoral material printer to appear at the end of the electoral material

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Liam Gobbert

Seconded: Cr Nick Lonie

That the Central Metropolitan Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.5 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED

10.6 OTHER STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

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

11 EXECUTIVE REPORTS

11.1 WALGA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Cr Paul Kelly presented the President's Report. The report was attached within the Agenda.

Noted

11.2 STATE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT TO THE ZONE

A copy of the State Councillor's Report was distributed with the Minutes.

Noted

12 OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

13 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Central Metropolitan Zone will be held on Thursday, 12 February 2026 at the Shire of Peppermint Grove commencing at 6:00pm.

14 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8:58pm.