

Northern Country Zone

MINUTES

Monday 22 February 2021

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



Table of Contents

1.	OPENING, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS	3
1.1.1	Opening.....	3
1.1.2	Acknowledgment of Country.....	3
1.1.3	Welcome.....	3
1.1.4	Announcements.....	3
2.	ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES	4
3.	DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS	5
3.1	LGISWA (10:05am – 10:35am).....	5
3.2	WA Police (10:35am – 10:50am).....	6
4.	DECLARATION OF INTEREST	7
5.	ADJOURNED BUSINESS	7
6.	MINUTES	7
6.1	Confirmation of Minutes.....	7
6.2	Business Arising from Minutes.....	7
7.	STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR DECISION	7
7.1	(5.1) External Oversight and Intervention – Authorised Inquiries and Show Cause Notices (05-034-01-0001 FM).....	7
7.2	(5.2) Cost of Revaluations (05-034-01-0001 TB).....	8
7.3	(5.3) Eligibility of Slip On Fire Fighting Units for Local Government Grants Scheme Funding (05-024-02-0001 SM).....	9
8.	STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION	10
8.1	(6.1) Local Government Car Parking Guideline – Western Australia (05-036-03-0063 AR).....	10
8.2	(6.2) Submission – Draft Local Government Regulations Amendment (Employee Code of Conduct) Regulations 2020 (05-034-01-0104 TB).....	10
8.3	(6.3) Submission – Proposed Reportable Conduct Scheme for Western Australia (05-034-01-0104 TB).....	10
8.4	(6.4) Submission – Draft State Planning Policy 4.2: Activity Centre (05-036-03-0020 CH).....	11
8.5	(6.5) Submission – Registration of Builders (and Related Occupations) Reforms (05-015-02-0010 CL).....	11
8.6	(6.6) Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) (01-006-03-0008 RNB).....	11
9.	REPORTS	12
9.1	Zone Chairperson/State Councillor’s Report February 2021.....	12
9.2	WALGA President’s Report.....	13
9.3	Zone Status Report.....	13
9.4	Midwest Suicide Prevention Steering Group Report.....	15
9.5	CA07 Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition Working Group.....	15
9.6	Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries February 2021 Zone Update.....	15
9.7	Coordinated Corella Control Working Group.....	16
10.	ZONE MATTERS FOR NOTING/DECISION	17
10.1	Correspondence.....	17
10.1.1	Correspondence Out.....	17
10.1.2	Correspondence In.....	17
10.2	Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 29 January 2021.....	18
10.3	Proposed Review of the Road Asset Preservation Model (APM).....	19
11.	GENERAL BUSINESS	24
11.1	Regional Issues.....	24
11.2	Regional Tourism Initiatives.....	24
11.3	Other General Business.....	24
12.	DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING	25
13.	MEETING CLOSURE	25

ATTACHMENTS TO THE AGENDA

- Item 3.1 Corella Management Presentation
- Item 6: Minutes Northern Country Zone Meeting 23 November 2020
- Item 7&8: Agenda State Council Meeting 3 March 2021
- Item 9.2: WALGA President's Report March 2021
- Item 9.3: Zone Status Report February 2021
- Item 9.6: DLGSC February 2021 Zone Update
- Item 10.1 Correspondence
- Item 10.1.1a: Letter to Hon. Melissa Price introducing version 2 of the Mid West Secondary Grain Freights Routes Funding Application
- Item 10.1.1b: Letter to Mr Richard Sellers CEO Public Transport Authority re school bus routes
- Item 10.1.1c: Letter to Mr Richard Malacari thanking him for his service to the Northern Country Zone
- Item 10.1.2a: Minutes State Council Meeting 2 December 2021
- Item 10.1.2b: Letter from Mr John Bailly Manager School Bus Services re school bus routes
- Item 10.1.2c: Letter from Hon David Templeman MLA with updates on topical issues
- Item 10.1.2d: Email from Mr Rob Dickie with information on the latest round of CBH Grass Roots Community Grants
- Item 10.2 Bank Statements Nov 2020, Dec 2020, Jan 2021
- Item 10.3 Methodology for the Distribution of Commonwealth FAGs to WA Local Governments

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

1. OPENING, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1.1.1 Opening

The Meeting was declared open at 10:02 am.

1.1.2 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.

1.1.3 Welcome

The Chair welcomed members and guests, including Mr Ian Duncan, WALGA Executive Manager of infrastructure; Ms Felicity Morris, WALGA Governance Advisor, Sector Support and Advice; Mr Damien Gaughan, LGIS Account Manager; Mr Peter Wennekes, LGIS Regional Risk Coordinator; Sergeant Neil Boonzaaier, Officer in Charge Mingenew Police; Officer Glen Hillman, Mingenew Police; Ms Yvonne Messina, Chair Regional Development Midwest Gascoyne.

The Chair introduced those new to the Northern Country Zone meetings: Ms Myra Henry DCEO Coorow; Ms Anne Finlay, Acting CEO Mid West Development Commission; Tim Glenister, Chair Mid West Development Commission; Janet Hartley-West, Regional Manager Main Roads Mid West-Gascoyne

1.1.4 Announcements

COVID-19 Rules

At the time of writing, gathering sizes are limited by the 2sqm per person rule. The Mingenew Sports Pavilion has a capacity of 70 based on that rule and as we usually have between 30-35 people at the meetings, there is more than enough room to spread out. Please note that social distancing and good hygiene still apply. People displaying any cold or flu symptoms should not attend the meeting.

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

MEMBERS

NB: One Voting Delegate from each Member Council

Shire of Carnamah	Cr Merle Isbister - President Mr Vincent Fordham Lamont - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Chapman Valley	Mr Maurice Battilana - Chief Executive Officer (Proxy)
Shire of Coorow	Cr Moira Girando - President Ms Myra Henry – Acting Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
City of Greater Geraldton	Cr Tahleah Thomas - Deputy Mayor (NCZ Deputy Chair) Mr Ross McKim, Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Irwin	Cr Mike Smith - President Cr Ian West Mr Shane Ivers - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Mingenew	Cr Gary Cosgrove, President Mr Nils Hay - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Morawa	Cr Karen Chappel - President Mr Scott Wildgoose - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Northampton	Cr Craig Simkin - President Mr Garry Keeffe - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Perenjori	Cr Chris King - President Mr Mario Romeo – Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Three Springs	Cr Chris Lane – President Cr Chris Connaughton Mr Keith Woodward - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
EXECUTIVE	Ms Dianne Daniels – Northern Country Zone of WALGA Executive Officer Mr Ian Duncan – WALGA Executive Manager of Infrastructure Ms Felicity Morris – WALGA Governance Advisor, Sector Support & Advice Ms Samantha Adams – WALGA Regional Road Safety Advisor

INVITED GUESTS

LGIS	Mr Damien Gaughan - Account Manager
LGIS	Mr Peter Wennekes - Regional Risk Coordinator
WA Police	Sergeant Neil Boonzaaier – Officer in Charge, Mingenew Officer Glen Hillman - Mingenew
Mid West Development Commission	Ms Anne Finlay – Acting Chief Executive Officer Mr Tim Glenister - Chair
Regional Development Midwest Gascoyne	Ms Yvonne Messina – Chair

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

APOLOGIES

Shire of Chapman Valley Cr Anthony Farrell - President
Cr Kirra Warr - Deputy President

Member for Moore Mr Shane Love MLA

Member for Geraldton Mr Ian Blayney MLA

Main Roads Mr Bernie Miller (Retired 5/2/21)

Member for Agricultural Region Hon. Darren West MLC

Dept Local Government Sport & Cultural Ind Ms Angele Gray – Regional Manager Mid West

Member for Agricultural Region Hon. Martin Aldridge MLC

Regional Development Mid West Gascoyne Mr Mark Holdsworth – Director of Regional Development/Executive Officer

3. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

3.1 LGIS (10:05am – 10:35am)

Attachments: Power Point Presentation as PDF

Mr Damien Gaughan Account Executive
Mr Peter Wennekes Regional Risk Coordinator

Corella control (by shooting) presentation covering:

- Licencing Requirements
- Roles and Responsibilities – Contractors/Shire Staff/Volunteers
- LGIS Cover for Volunteers
- Culling management planning
- Pre-shooting Checklist

Questions followed the presentation:

When asked if culling by shooting could only be done in single events, Mr Gaughan replied that so long as the protocols are followed then the event can be longer, for example, every Sunday. Also, it is permitted to shoot in townsites and on private property so long as protocols are followed, including getting written permission from the owner.

When asked if there is an expectation that staff would complete the checklist prior to culling by shooting, Mr Gaughan responded that it was an expectation but not a requirement to ensure insurance coverage and Mr Wennekes added, however, that all requirements on the checklist needed to be fulfilled, even if the checklist wasn't completed.

3.2 WA Police (10:35am – 10:50am)

Sergeant Neil Boonzaaier Officer in Charge Mingenew Police Station

Corella control (by shooting) presentation covering:

- firearms legislation
- safety of community/officers (use of firearms in public places, type of ammunition, time of day etc)
- training for/safety of licensed shooter
- public awareness and perception

Prior to commencing, Sergeant Boonzaaier put a caveat on his presentation, noting that it had not been ratified by their legal department, but came from his experience in the field.

Ownership and use of firearms is covered by the Firearms Act 1973. Referring to s23 no.9 of the Act:

- a firearm can't be discharged onto, from or across any road;
- a firearm can't be discharged in a manner to cause fear;
- a firearm can't be used on the land of another person without their permission.

As part of their preparation for culling, Local Governments should consider accreditation and training; all vehicles and personnel should be clearly marked at time of shooting; and the shooter must have a licence.

Sergeant Boonzaaier asked the meeting if there were any other methods that worked apart from shooting. Mr Ross McKim responded that the City of Great Geraldton (CGG) had success with scaring the corellas for a couple of years, but that method stopped working. They then started netting and shooting, but netting lost its effectiveness and so it is now down to shooting.

Moving onto weapons and ammunition, the greater the calibre, the bigger the risk to the public and so there needs to be a cross between what is humane and public safety. Mr McKim made note that in the CGG's experience, shotguns were not effective, but a high-powered air rifle was proving to be effective.

A shooter can't have a licence for a firearm they don't own, unless the firearm is owned under a corporate licence, in which case volunteers, staff etc can then be added to the corporate licence for that particular firearm.

Shooting of corellas is a very emotive issue. Issue motivated groups have been known to harass staff/contractors/volunteers involved in the culling process and so it is important to engage those groups from a corporate perspective.

Mr Battilana brought the meetings attention to the Work Health and Safety Act 2020, noting that there is no indemnity against industrial manslaughter. If a person is found guilty there can be a fine of up to 5 million dollars and up to 20 years imprisonment. For a corporation, there is a fine of up to 20 million dollars. So, do CEOs want to put themselves in the line of the industrial manslaughter legislation or just fix the damage caused by corellas?

Mr Gaughan agreed that insurance companies can no longer insure against these penalties - Statutory Liability does not cover industrial manslaughter. There is major concern with this legislation and LGIS are trying to assist Local Governments in this area.

Mr McKim noted that CGG look at risk mitigation: they don't shoot in the CBD and put shooting clubs in direct contact with sporting clubs, so that they can work together on the culling.

Prior to moving on to the next item, Chair Chappel introduced Mr Scott Wildgoose, the new CEO at Morawa Shire and apologised for missing him in the Welcome address.

4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

Cr Moira Girando declared her interest in Item 10.3, as she is a Deputy Member of the Grants Commission.

Cr Ian West declared an interest as a Member of the Grants Commission, but as he was not the voting member on the occasion of this NCZ meeting, it was agreed that it was not necessary for him to declare an interest, but it would be noted.

5. ADJOURNED BUSINESS

Nil

6. MINUTES

Attachments: Minutes of the Meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA 23 November 2021

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 23 November 2020 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Thomas

Seconded: Cr Cosgrove

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 23 November 2020 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Carried

6.2 Business Arising from Minutes

Nil

7. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR DECISION

The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 3 March 2021.

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.

7.1 (5.1) External Oversight and Intervention – Authorised Inquiries and Show Cause Notices (05-034-01-0001 FM)

*By Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services, and
Felicity Morris, Acting Manager Governance and Procurement*

Recommendation:

That WALGA:

1. Continues to advocate for the State Government to ensure that there is proper resourcing of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries to conduct timely inquiries and interventions when instigated under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1995; and
2. Requests the Minister for Local Government to:
 - a. Engage with affected Local Governments in order to attempt to resolve identified issues, improve performance and achieve good governance before considering an intervention under Part 8 of the Local Government Act 1995;
 - b. Provide written reasons prior to issuing any Show Cause Notices;
 - c. Require regular progress reports to be provided to any Local Government that is the subject of any Authorised Inquiry; and
 - d. Require that any Authorised Inquiry be conducted within a specified timeframe that may be extended with the approval of the Minister.

Executive Summary:

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

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Girando

Seconded: Cr Isbister

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

Carried

7.2 (5.2) Cost of Revaluations (05-034-01-0001 TB)

By Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services

Recommendation:

That WALGA advocate to the State Government for the equal distribution of valuation costs for properties where the Water Corporation, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and the Local Government require the valuation.

Executive Summary:

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

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Cosgrove

Seconded: Proxy Battilana

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

Carried

7.3 (5.3) Eligibility of Slip On Fire Fighting Units for Local Government Grants Scheme Funding (05-024-02-0001 SM)

By Susie Moir, Policy Manager Resilient Communities

Recommendation:

That WALGA:

1. Supports the inclusion of capital costs of Slip On Fire Fighting Units including for Farmer Response Brigades (for use on private motor vehicles) on the Eligible List of the Local Governments Grants Scheme (LGGGS).
2. Requests the Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group to include this matter on the Agenda of their next Meeting (expected March 2021).
3. Requests WALGA to work with the Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group to develop appropriate operational guidelines and procedures for the safe use of Slip On Fire Fighting Units funded in accordance with the LGGGS.
4. Supports the update of the WALGA membership of the Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group to include one Local Government Elected Member and one Local Government Officer, with these appointments determined through the WALGA Selection Committee process.

Executive Summary:

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

There was a lengthy discussion around the re-introduction of eligibility for Slip On Fire Fighting Units. Their eligibility was taken away due to safety concerns and if re-introduced, the farmers would own them and be responsible for their maintenance and safe operation. There would be no new funding for the units and so applicants would compete for the current pool of funding. There was concern that if there was a death at a fire due to poor maintenance/operation then the Local Government would be responsible, as the application for the slip on unit goes through them. In the end, members concurred to support the officer's recommendation, as part 3 of the Item addresses the safety issues and if eligibility is not re-introduced, then there would hardly be any fire-fighting gear as farmers are often the first to respond to a fire.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr King

Seconded: Cr Cosgrove

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

Carried (9/1)

8. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 3 March 2021.

The Matters for Noting/Information in the State Council agenda are numbered 6.1 to 6.6.

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 (6.1) Local Government Car Parking Guideline – Western Australia (05-036-03-0063 AR)

By Ashley Robb, Project Officer Planning and Improvement

Recommendation:

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

Executive Summary:

- New development car parking requirements have historically been regulated by setting minimum parking requirements for each land use in local planning schemes or policies.
- In December 2020, WALGA launched the *Local Government Car Parking Guideline - Western Australia*. The guideline has been prepared for Local Governments who are seeking to trial and adopt alternative policy approaches to improve parking provision and management in cities or town centres.
- The guideline was launched at an event attended by over 120 people from Local Government, State agencies and industry groups. Since the launch, the guideline has been accessed by over 100 Local Government staff and is already being used by Local Governments to review and prepare parking strategies, plans and local planning policies.
- The guideline is an innovative and collaborative project that demonstrates WALGA's capacity to bring its members together with State agencies, to collaborate and address key planning issues.

8.2 (6.2) Submission – Draft Local Government Regulations Amendment (Employee Code of Conduct) Regulations 2020 (05-034-01-0104 TB)

By Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services

Recommendation:

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

Executive Summary:

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

8.3 (6.3) Submission – Proposed Reportable Conduct Scheme for Western Australia (05-034-01-0104 TB)

By Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services

Recommendation:

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

Executive Summary:

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

8.4 (6.4) Submission – Draft State Planning Policy 4.2: Activity Centre (05-036-03-0020 CH)

Chris Hossen, Acting Policy Manager, Planning & Improvement

Recommendation:

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

Executive Summary:

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

8.5 (6.5) Submission – Registration of Builders (and Related Occupations) Reforms (05-015-02-0010 CL)

Claire Lings, Project Officer, Planning and Improvement

Recommendation:

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

Executive Summary:

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

8.6 (6.6) Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) (01-006-03-0008 RNB)

By Rebecca Brown, (Manager, Waste & Recycling)

Recommendation:

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

Executive Summary:

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

Northern Country Zone Resolution:**Moved:** Cr Isbister**Seconded:** Cr Thomas

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes State Council Agenda Items 6.1 to 6.6.

Carried

9. REPORTS

9.1 Zone Chairperson/State Councillor's Report February 2021

Northern Country Zone of WALGA
Chairperson's Report (February 2021)

We all left 2020 behind with glee, though it now seems for many that 2021 may be just as challenging. Our thoughts go out to all the Local Governments and communities that are now dealing with the after-effects of the fires and floods.

The Corella Control Working group held an informal meeting in Carnamah. The notes are in the agenda, and we will cover off on matters of concern at our Zone meeting. Thanks to Cr Girando, Cr King and Cr Connaughton.

At the moment there are many projects and funding buckets that are keeping Local Governments under pressure to complete projects in expected acquittal time frames. I would like feedback from you at the meeting as to whether your Local Government is struggling to complete projects. The other concern seems to be the annual Audits and the delay in this process causing a risk of non-compliance. The responsibility for this lay with the Department of Local Government. Another result of under resourcing the Department, but costing Local Government.

I attended a 2-day Strategic Planning workshop for ALGA this week (via Zoom); our new President Linda Scott and the board are keen to streamline the focus areas. The National General Assembly is still planned to go ahead in June if Covid allows.

The State Council Agenda may be light but all three matters for decision are causing concern in the sector and need advocacy from WALGA.

As we are in the formal caretaker mode there will be little action in regulation in the near future; there was a flurry of regulation amendments that went through just recently and there will surely be some after the election. WALGA sent an information sheet covering these amendments out to all CEO's last week.

The Midwest has a couple of events coming up that will be informative for all of us, the Midwest Economic Summit on the 18th February and the Shire of Mingenew is hosting an Agri-Tourism Conference in Mingenew on March 11th. Look forward to seeing you all at one of these events.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge Bernie Millar on his retirement and thank him for his commitment to improved transport infrastructure in our Zone. Bernie has always endeavoured to do the best for the Mid-West and the Murchison and will be sorely missed.

As always, I am happy for you to call at any time.

Karen Chappel

The Chair spoke to the report and reiterated her call for feedback from members as to why projects were not being completed on time. Once armed with this information, she will take it back to ALGA, who have acknowledged that there is a disconnect with regional Australia.

WALGA CEO, Nick Sloan is meeting with the Office of the Auditor General to discuss the delays in the annual audits, much of which relates to delays in legislation.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Girando

Seconded: Cr Isbister

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the report from the Chairperson/State Councillor for February 2021.

Carried

9.2 WALGA President's Report

Attachment: WALGA President's Report March 2021

Mr Ian Duncan spoke to the report.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Smith

Seconded: Cr Thomas

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the March 2021 WALGA President's Report.

Carried

9.3 Zone Status Report

Attachment: February 2021 Status Report outlining the actions taken on the Zone's Resolutions

A carry-over item regarding Hydraulic Fracking has been on the Zone Status Report since August 2019 and requires resolution.

Both the NCZ original resolution and the background information provided by Mr Mark Batty, WALGA Executive Manager Environment and Waste, are shown below:

Resolution Agenda Item 14 24 June 2019 – First appears on Status Reports August 2019

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA works with WALGA to confirm the State Government Policy with respect to hydraulic fracking in coal seam gas.

WALGA Response August 2019 and November 2019 Status Report

Background

In September 2017, the State Government announced the establishment of the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracture Stimulation in Western Australia. The Panel handed its final report to the government in September 2018, which included 91 findings and 44 recommendations.

Following consideration of the Inquiry's report, the government accepted in-principle the Inquiry's recommendations; and on 27 November 2018 announced a raft of controls to ensure risks associated with hydraulic fracturing are low and manageable.

Government's Policy Decisions relating to hydraulic fracturing in Western Australia:

- 1. lift the hydraulic fracture stimulation moratorium on all onshore petroleum titles existing as of 26 November 2018; and maintain the ban over the South-West, Peel and Perth Metropolitan regions;*

2. *ban hydraulic fracture stimulation in national parks, the Dampier Peninsula and other iconic natural heritage areas (to be defined and delineated on maps);*
3. *introduce a requirement for consent of relevant Traditional Owners and private landowners before hydraulic fracture stimulation production is permitted;*
4. *restore the 10 per cent royalty rate for all onshore petroleum;*
5. *establish a Clean Energy Future Fund (with a \$9-million seed allocation), using net royalties from onshore hydraulic fracture stimulation petroleum projects, to support facilitation of clean energy developments; and*
6. *prohibit hydraulic fracture stimulation within 2,000 metres of gazetted Public Drinking Water Source Areas.*

To lead the government's response, a Senior Officials Steering Group (SOSG) has been formed, which includes officials from the Departments of the Premier and Cabinet; Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER); Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS); Health; Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions; Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation; Planning, Lands and Heritage; and Treasury. This Group is co-chaired by DWER and DMIRS as the lead agencies charged with oversight of the Government response.

To drive the response, the SOSG has been tasked with developing an Implementation Plan, which is designed to address the Inquiry's recommendations and government's decisions relating to hydraulic fracturing. The Plan outlines the methodology and timelines of this process.

Implementation of the Plan is designed to strengthen regulation, ensuring industry is accountable for its practices and risks associated with hydraulic fracture stimulation are low and manageable.

All applications for onshore exploration and production hydraulic fracturing activities will also now be referred to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) for assessment under the Environmental Protection Act 1986. Utilising the EPA process, underpinned by regulatory changes to environmental and petroleum legislation, ensures that issues of scale and cumulative impact of hydraulic fracturing activities are addressed and managed. A new Code of Practice will also be developed, prescribing minimum enforceable standards for hydraulic fracturing activities.

A DWER 24-hour Pollution Watch Hotline will be utilised as a central point of contact for the public to report concerns relating to non-compliance of hydraulic fracturing activities.

Progress on Implementation Plan activities will be reported via a dedicated website developed to provide a single source of information for stakeholders and parties interested in the Implementation Plan.

For more information about the government's response to the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracture Stimulation in Western Australia, and to view the Implementation Plan, please refer to: www.hydraulicfracturing.wa.gov.au

WALGA response since November 2019 Status Report

Following the last update, WALGA awaits the determinations of the Zone in pursuing this matter.

It is the EO's opinion that WALGA have addressed the Resolution and therefore the item can be removed from the Status Report.

Members may wish to propose another resolution on this issue if they feel that more work needs to be done.

Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the February 2021 Status Report outlining actions taken on the Zone's resolutions and in particular WALGA's response to its June 2019 Resolution regarding Hydraulic Fracking. The Zone asks that the item regarding Hydraulic Fracking be removed from the Status Report as WALGA has previously addressed the Resolution as written.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Simkin

Seconded: Cr Isbister

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the February 2021 Status Report outlining actions taken on the Zone's resolutions and in particular WALGA's response to its June 2019 Resolution regarding Hydraulic Fracking. The Zone asks that the item regarding Hydraulic Fracking be removed from the Status Report as WALGA has previously addressed the Resolution as written.

Carried

9.4 Midwest Suicide Prevention Steering Group Report

The Northern Country Zone's Standing Invitee to the Midwest Suicide Prevention Steering Group is Merle Isbister.

Nil to report

9.5 CA07 Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition Working Group

The Northern Country Zone's representative on the CA07 Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition Working Group is Gary Cosgrove.

Nil to report

Ian Duncan noted that there will be further consultation post-election.

9.6 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries February 2021 Zone Update

Attachment: February 2021 DLGSC Zone Update emailed to members 8 February 2021

The DLGSC have a standing call for members to provide feedback to the Department regarding topics or presentations that would be of interest to them.

Members may take this opportunity to respond to that call.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Isbister

Seconded: Cr Lane

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the February 2021 Zone Update from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.

Carried

9.7 Coordinated Corella Control Working Group

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA adopted Terms of Reference for a Coordinated Corella Control Working Group (CCCWG) on 4 September 2020 and at its 23 November 2020 meeting elected the following delegates to sit on the Working Group:

Cr Moira Girando, Cr Chris King , Cr Chris Connaughton and Cr Karen Chappel

The inaugural meeting of the CCCWG was held on 25 January 2021. The following notes report on that meeting.

Corella Control Working Group

Meeting Held 25th January 2021

3p.m. Carnamah Shire Chambers

Attendees

Cr Moira Girando, Cr Chris King , Cr Chris Connaughton & Cr Karen Chappel

Consensus was that currently shooting appears to be the most effective way forward.

Outcomes - Corella Flock Reduction Program

The following to be developed or investigated

- Policies & Protocols
- Uniform Code of Conduct
- LGIS Position on insurance for L.G.
- Partnering with CBH
- Partnering with Sporting Shooters WA
- Scope for Contract Shooters
- Using Local Bio Security Groups to lodge submissions for vermin control
- Can L.G. have a register of Local Volunteers
- Funding for ammunition
- Communication Policy
- Police and the Firearms Act

Actions

- Invitation to Roger Beer District Superintendent to NCZ meeting to address Police position
- Invitation to LGIS to understand our insurance cover
- Contact Mike Bowley
- Contact DWER for support
- Then follow up with Minister
- Type of agreement Shire of Coorow has enabling non staff to shoot for it (Cr Girando)

Notes

- Shire of Carnamah has a gas cannon for flock control that they are willing to share with LG's.

Members discussed the possibility of advocating that the three Biosecurity Groups in the Northern Country Zone Region (Northern, Midlands and Central Wheatbelt) develop a plan for corella control. Chair Chappel had confirmed previously with Kim Haywood, RBG Project Officer DPIRD, that funding could be sourced through the RBG model.

The Chair thanked the Shire of Carnamah for hosting the meeting of the Corella Control Working Group.

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

That the Executive Officer write to the three Recognised Biosecurity Groups to consider the likelihood of including corella control as a biosecurity threat, in their annual plans.

Carried**Northern Country Zone Resolution:****Moved:** Cr Isbister**Seconded:** Cr Girando

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the 25 January 2021 report from the inaugural meeting of the Northern Country Zone Corella Control Working Group.

Carried

10. ZONE MATTERS FOR NOTING/DECISION

10.1 Correspondence**10.1.1 Correspondence Out****10.1.1 (a) 26/11/2020 Hon. Melissa Price MP***Attachment: Letter to Hon. Melissa Price*

A letter to Ms Price introducing version 2 of the Mid West Secondary Grain Freights Routes Funding Application.

In January 2021, Ms Price queried the involvement of Main Roads in the project. Once it was explained to her that member Councils would deliver the works in their own regions and Main Roads would provide an administrative support role, she was happy to forward the second version of the application to Minister McCormack.

10.1.1 (b) 26/11/2020 Mr Richard Sellers CEO Public Transport Authority*Attachment: Letter to Mr Richard Sellers**Emailed to members 04/01/2021*

Following the November 23 2020 NCZ meeting, a letter was written to Mr Sellers to convey member's concerns regarding lack of consultation with Local Government when allocating school bus routes.

10.1.1 (c) 26/11/2020 Mr Richard Malacari*Attachment: Letter to Mr Richard Malacari*

A letter was sent to Mr Malacari conveying the thanks of the Northern Country Zone for his efforts during his time with DLGSC as Regional Manager Mid West Gascoyne.

10.1.2 Correspondence In**10.1.2 (a) 10/12/2020 Ms Margaret Degebrot WALGA EO Governance***Attachment: Minutes State Council Meeting 2 December 2020**Emailed to members 11/12/2020*

10.1.2 (b) 22/12/2021 Mr John Bailly, Manager School Bus Services (on behalf of Mr Richard Sellers)

*Attachment: Letter from Mr John Bailly
Emailed to members 04/01/2021*

A letter was received from Mr Bailly in response to the Northern Country Zone's letter to Mr Richard Sellers regarding lack of consultation when allocating school bus routes.

10.1.2 (c) 13/01/2021 Hon David Templeman MLA

*Attachment: Letter from Minister Templeman
Emailed to members 13/01/2021*

A letter was received from Minister Templeman thanking the Northern Country Zone for hosting him and the Hon. Laurie Graham MLC in Geraldton on 24 November 2020 and included an update on topical issues.

10.1.2 (d) 03/02/2021 Mr Rob Dickie, Principal Government and Industry Relations CBH

*Attachment: Email from Mr Dickie
Emailed to members 03/02/2021*

An email was received from Mr Dickie informing WALGA Zones of CBH's latest round of Grass Roots Community Grants.

There was general dissatisfaction from members with the response from Mr John Bailly regarding the school bus routes letter sent from NCZ to Mr Richard Sellers. Members agreed to send a delegation to meet with Mr Sellers in the first instance and asked the Executive Officer to organise a meeting. Cr King and Cr Chappel volunteered to meet with Mr Sellers.

There was also general dissatisfaction with the letter from Minister Templeman, especially regarding the last paragraph referring to Department Contacts. It's of concern to members that the DLGSC is no longer the go to for queries on the interpretation of Acts and Regulations, but that WALGA is now filling the void – should WALGA be resourced for that?

The Chair noted that the Office of the Auditor General has undertaken a Performance Audit on the DLGSC, which will be published shortly.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Cosgrove

Seconded: Cr King

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes Correspondence Out at Items 10.1.1 (a) through to 10.1.1 (c) and receives Correspondence In at Items 10.1.2 (a) through to 10.1.2 (d).

Carried

10.2 Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 29 January 2021

Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer

Attachments: Bank Statements (Nov 20, Dec 20 Jan 21)

Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 29 January 2021

Comments:

The Detailed Income Statement shown below represents the cash position of NCZ at 29 January 2021, as reconciled to the Bank Statement.

NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

*For the period ending
29-Jan-21*

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Description</i>
Statement Balance B/F	01-07-20		21,130.81	
Deposits			10,000.00	2020-21 Membership Subscriptions x 10
			1.19	Interest received
TOTAL RECEIPTS			10,001.19	
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE			31,132.00	
Payments Made	03-07-20		-2,805.66	Internet tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 202101 - EO services 01/05/2020 - 01/07/2020; Travel expenses
	05-08-20		-275.00	Internet tsf - North Midlands Accounting Service - Inv 2021-000003 - Audit Report for Year Ended 30 June 2020
	27-08-20		-408.24	BPay - Shire of Mingenew - Inv 9161 - Reimburse Catering for NCZ Meeting 22/06/2020
	27-08-20		-2,877.84	Internet tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 202102 - EO services 02/07/2020 - 25/08/2020; Travel/Stationery expenses
	30-11-20		-2,805.66	Internet tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 202102 - EO services 26/08/2020 - 26/11/2020; Travel
	04-01-21		-55.00	Internet tsf - Norris & Hyde IT - Inv 31842 - Domain name renewal 2 yrs
TOTAL PAYMENTS MADE			-9,227.40	
Closing Cash Balance	29-01-21		21,904.60	

NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA

BANK RECONCILIATION SUMMARY

*For the period ending
29-Jan-21*

Statement Balance B/F	01-07-20		21,130.81
Deposits and Credits			10,001.19
Cheques and Payments			-9,227.40
Total Cleared Transactions	29-01-21		21,904.60
Add back o/s			0.00
Reconciled Balance			21,904.60
Bank Statement	29-01-21		21,904.60
Difference I&E to Bank Statement			0.00

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Proxy Battilana

Seconded: Cr Simkin

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 29 January 2021.

Carried

10.3 Proposed Review of the Road Asset Preservation Model (APM)

Attachment: Methodology of Distribution of FAGS to WA Local Governments

Executive Officer Comment:

WALGA have provided the Item below for your consideration. Resolutions made by the Zones will guide the development of an agenda item for the next meeting of State Council, to provide WALGA with direction on the

sector's preference for its advocacy position regarding the Road Asset Preservation Model. When considering Options, please take into consideration the comments in the 'Notes' row in the table.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Thomas

Seconded: Cr Lane

That Standing Orders be suspended.

Carried

Options Paper

Recommendation:

That the Zone:

- Provide feedback to the WALGA Infrastructure Policy Team regarding a preferred advocacy approach to any review of the Road Asset Preservation Model (APM).

Executive Summary:

- A Zone Council recommendation to review the Road Asset Preservation Model (APM) was referred to the Infrastructure Policy Team in December 2020. The Policy Team resolved to seek views from Zones before recommending the development of a formal State Council agenda paper.
- This paper sets out options to guide the development of a Zone resolution.
- The Asset Preservation Model was developed as a Commonwealth requirement for the distribution of Commonwealth Government road grants among Local Governments in an efficient and equitable manner, taking account of local asset preservation needs and costs. It is currently used to distribute a range of Federal and State Government grant funding allocations.
- Despite being used to allocate large sums of public funding, operation of the APM is not well understood within the Local Government sector.
- The APM is not readily accessible to Local Governments. Limited documentation and complexity means that more open access alone would not be helpful in achieving strong understanding of the processes that underpin the output.
- Complexity of the APM makes it difficult to predict the effects on funding allocations of changes to the model or input parameters.
- This paper proposes five options that could be considered to address this issue, for WALGA to advocate to the Grants Commission.
- The options are not mutually exclusive, and some could be combined as a staged approach.
- The five options are:
 1. Re-format and re-label the model, to improve its legibility for all users and make it available to the Local Government sector in a form that would enable stakeholders to understand it.
 2. Review the parameters within the model, in order to increase the accuracy of road maintenance costs within the model.
 3. Advocate to the Grants Commission to undertake a review of the cost regions and minimum standards to ensure that these appropriately reflect the costs faced by Local Government and the current development of the road network.
 4. Advocate to the Grants Commission to undertake an appropriately-resourced process to review and rebuild the road Asset Preservation Model. This new model should be as simple as possible while still delivering an equitable distribution of funding among Local Governments. Its variables and assumptions should be easily indefinable to model users, being clearly labelled and documented.
 5. Accept the status quo with no further action.

Background:

A Zone Council recommendation to review the APM was referred to the Infrastructure Policy Team in December 2020. The Team resolved to seek feedback from the Zones as the matter had not been widely identified as an issue of concern.

The Asset Preservation Model was developed by Main Roads WA and Local Government representatives, to distribute the untied roads component of the Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants between Local Governments.

The WA Local Government Grants Commission took over responsibility for distributing the identified Commonwealth road funds and undertook a comprehensive review of the Asset Preservation Model and modified and refined it. Application of the APM has since been broadened and it is now used to determine the distribution between Local Governments of a range of state and federal funding.

To assist Local Governments make decisions regarding preferred approaches to the use and development of the Asset Preservation Model a manual has been developed by WALGA describing the APM and how it functions. The manual can be viewed [here](#).

Problem Statement:

The Road Asset Preservation Model is used to allocate large sums of funding. Despite the importance of the model, it is not widely understood, due to its complexity and limited documentation. This results in a lack of transparency, risk of corporate memory loss, the risk of unfair or otherwise inappropriate allocations of funding, and the reputational risk due to funds distribution not being fully explainable and region allocations being subject to question.

Options

There are five options identified in the text below, and the table on the final page of this paper. Note that the options are not mutually exclusive and all or some of them could be recommended to be implemented in phased approach.

1. Advocate to the Grants Commission to re-format and re-label the APM, to improve its legibility for all users. A detailed record should also be made of the model's parameters, and the process that was used for determining their values.
2. Advocate to the Grants Commission for a review of the various parameters contained within the APM, such as the array of annual maintenance costs for different asset types, road reconstruction frequencies and the components of reconstruction costs. This option would increase the accuracy of road maintenance costs within the model, although would not address the underlying problems of excessive complexity and a lack of transparency and predictability.
3. Advocate to the Grants Commission to undertake a review of the cost regions and minimum standards to ensure that these appropriately reflect the costs faced by Local Government and the current development of the road network.
4. Advocate to the Grants Commission to undertake an appropriately-resourced process to review and rebuild the APM. This new model should be as simple as possible while still delivering an equitable distribution of funding among Local Governments. Its variables and assumptions should be easily indefinable to model users, being clearly labelled and documented.
5. Retain Status quo.

It should be noted that these are all advocacy positions. The Road Asset Preservation Model is controlled by the WA Local Government Grants Commission and any decisions regarding development of the model or use of a different approach would be made by the Commission. It must be noted that if Options 2, 3 or 4 are implemented, there is a risk of some Local Governments receiving a lower grant allocation. This risk may be mitigated by advocating for increased funding from the State or Federal Governments, although there is no guarantee that such funding would be forthcoming.

The current membership of the WA Local Government Grants Commission is:

- Chairperson — Hon Cr Fred Riebeling AM JP
- Deputy Chairperson — Mr Luke Stevens, Legal Counsel, DLGSC
- Metropolitan Member — Cr Deb Hamblin, Deputy Mayor, City of Rockingham
- Country Urban Member — Dr Wendy Giles, Councillor, City of Bunbury
- Country Rural Member — Cr Ian West, Shire of Irwin
- Deputy to the Deputy Chairperson — Ms Darrelle Merritt, A/Director - Strategic Initiatives, DLGSC
- Deputy Metropolitan Member — Vacant
- Deputy Country Urban Member — Cr Deborah Botica, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
- Deputy Country Rural Member — Cr Moira Girando, President, Shire of Coorow

Analysis of the Options

The options have varying levels of cost, effort and risk attached to them.

Changes to the APM would affect the funding allocation between Local Governments in ways that are difficult to predict, due to the complexity of the model. The total available funding is fixed, so an increase in one Local Government's funding would necessarily reduce the level of funding available to others, unless additional funding can be secured.

There are also risks associated with no change being made to the APM. The model's complexity and incomplete documentation and labelling creates a risk of corporate memory loss. There is also a reputational risk associated with large sums of money being allocated based on a model that is not well understood by the Local Government sector.

Comparatively simple and lower-cost changes can be made to the APM, under Options 1, 2 and 3. These options would address some of the concerns raised here, but do not address the underlying problems noted above.

Next Steps

Resolutions made by the Zones will guide the development of an agenda item for the next meeting of State Council, to provide WALGA with direction on the sector's preference for its advocacy position regarding the Road Asset Preservation Model.

	<i>Option 1</i>	<i>Option 2</i>	<i>Option 3</i>	<i>Option 4</i>	<i>Option 5</i>
	<i>Reformat and label</i>	<i>Review model cost parameters</i>	<i>Review cost regions/ min. standards</i>	<i>Full model review and rebuild</i>	<i>Status quo</i>
Advantages	Improves operation of existing model. Helps retain corporate memory. Improves transparency. Low risk and cost, in the short term.	Improves link between funding allocation and road maintenance costs.	Addresses concerns about inappropriate groupings of Local Governments.	Opportunity to review the model objectives. Improvement in transparency. Opportunity to incorporate contemporary modelling and user functionality.	Avoids conflict between Local Governments over funds distribution. Lowest short-term risk. No direct cost.
Disadvantages	Does not address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • questionable parameter values. • complexity and transparency. 	May require some additional resourcing. Does not address complexity and transparency. Possible reduction in funding for some LGs.	May require some additional resourcing. Does not address complexity and transparency. Likely reduction in funding for some LGs.	If no material impact on funds distribution, the rationale for the exercise may be questionable. Would require additional resourcing.	Does not address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • questionable parameter values. • complexity and transparency • corporate memory issues.

Risks / Dependencies	Reputational risk, due to funds distribution not being fully explainable.	Reputational risk, due to funds distribution not being fully explainable.	Reputational risk, due to funds distribution not being fully explainable. Continued risk of corporate memory loss.	Difficult to predict the distribution of funds. A review may trigger disagreement between Local Governments over the distribution of funds. The Grants Commission may not agree to implement.	Reputational risk, due to funds distribution not being fully explainable and regional allocations being subject to question. Continued risk of corporate memory loss.
Effort / Cost	Low-medium	High	Medium	Very high	None
Notes		Assumes Option 1 also undertaken: reformat and labelling.		Mutually exclusive of the other options or as an aspirational addition.	Mutually exclusive of the other five options.

There was a robust discussion regarding this item, with Mr Duncan clarifying that the Road Asset Preservation Model (APM) is a tool used by the WA Local Government Grants Commission to allocate Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants (FAGS). Originally, A request came from one of the WALGA zones that some of the parameters within the Model needed to be reviewed and because it is such a complex issue the Policy Team have reached out to all Zones for feedback.

Concern was voiced by Cr Girando that, even if the Tool is improved, local governments don't get the amount of money they require to preserve their assets. As FAGS comes through the State from the Commonwealth, perhaps the Commonwealth needs to be lobbied to increase funding.

When asked by Cr King which parts of the APM have deficiencies, Mr Duncan responded that there were deficiencies in life cycle costs; assumed costs and cost zones (17 of); and path infrastructure was not included at all.

Cr West addressed the meeting, noting that the APM methodology was on the (DLGSC) website. It's not well understood because it is not widely read and it is complex because it needs to look at all aspects. From his point of view as a councillor, he regards the Model to be robust and it is periodically updated, with the last cost review carried out in 2020. Any changes to the APM will impact the General Purpose Grant and R2R and may negatively impact the funding for individual local governments.

<p>Northern Country Zone Resolution: Moved: Cr Lane</p> <p>That Standing Orders be resumed.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Seconded: Cr Battilana</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p>

<p>Northern Country Zone Resolution: Moved: Cr King</p> <p>The Northern Country Zone of WALGA recommends that WALGA advocate to review the Road Asset Preservation Model according to Option 5.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Seconded: Cr Battilana</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p>

11. 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.

11.1 Regional Issues

Background:

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

The Chair invited guests to address the meeting. A brief summary of the main points of their address is noted below:

Ms Janet Hartley-West, the newly appointed Main Roads Regional Manager Mid West-Gascoyne, briefly addressed the meeting. She has only been in the role for two weeks and is still feeling her way; there is no news yet in regard to the Mid West Secondary Grain Freight Routes Funding Application; and she will be attending the next round of RRG meetings.

Ms Samantha Adams, WALGA Regional Road Safety Advisor reinforced with members that she is happy to attend road safety meetings in the regions and is always contactable to assist with anything concerning road safety.

Ms Yvonne Messina, Chair Regional Development Midwest Gascoyne noted that applications for the Building Better Regions Fund Round 5 close on March 5 2021; Board positions for RDA Midwest Gascoyne have recently been advertised. RDA are looking for regional representation; one of the roles of RDA is to feed into government and Ms Messina encouraged members to get in touch with EO Mr Mark Holdsworth to help find solutions to local issues; they are currently focusing on recovery plans; and in BBRF Round 4, the Mid West Gascoyne picked up 52% of the funding.

Ms Anne Finlay, Acting CEO Mid West Development Commission is keen to get feedback from members on the issues and opportunities that face their communities including housing and skills shortages; there are currently permits available through the Department of Home Affairs to import labour for horticulture, but not agriculture; a skills audit may help to change this; Ms Finlay will put together a survey which will be distributed to members via the Zone EO.

11.2 Regional Tourism Initiatives

Background:

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

Mr Nils Hey, CEO Mingenew gave a brief overview of tourism initiatives currently underway and reminded members that the Agri-Tourism 101 Workshop is being held in Mingenew on March 11; also, with the Wildflower Friendliness Scheme being revisited, it's a good opportunity to prepare a re-draft to take to Minister Papalia. Chair Chapel suggested that the re-draft comes through the Zone as a Flying Minute.

11.3 Other General Business

Nil

12. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Recommendation:

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be held on Tuesday 27 April, by Flying Minute.

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

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be held on Tuesday 27 April 2021, by Flying Minute.

Carried

13. MEETING CLOSURE

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 11:54 am.