



# Great Eastern Country Zone

## Minutes

**Merredin Recreation and Leisure Centre**

**Commenced at 9:30am  
Thursday 27 June 2019**

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# Great Eastern Country Zone

Meeting to be held at the Merredin Recreation and Leisure Centre  
Commenced at 9.30am, Thursday 27 June 2019

## Minutes

1. OPENING AND WELCOME
2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

### Attendance

<b>Shire of Bruce Rock</b>	President Cr Stephen Strange Cr Ramesh Rajagopalan Mr Darren Mollenoyux Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Cunderdin</b>	Mr Neville Hale Chief Executive Officer
<b>Shire of Dowerin</b>	President Cr Darrel Hudson Cr Brenton Walsh Ms Rebecca McCall Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Kellerberrin</b>	President Cr Rodney Forsyth Cr Scott O'Neill Mr Raymond Griffiths Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Kondinin</b>	President Cr Sue Meeking Cr Kent Mouritz Ms Mia Dohnt Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Koorda</b>	President Cr Ricky Storer
<b>Shire of Merredin</b>	President Cr Ken Hooper <b>Chair</b> Cr Julie Flockart Mr Greg Powell Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Mount Marshall</b>	President Cr Tony Sachse Mr John Nuttall Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Mukinbudin</b>	President Cr Gary Shadbolt Cr Sandie Ventris Mr Dirk Sellenger Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Narembeen</b>	Cr Kellie Mortimore Mr Chris Jackson Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Nungarin</b>	President Cr Eileen O'Connell

	Cr Gary Combe
	Mr Adam Majid Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Tammin</b>	Mr Neville Hale Chief Executive Officer
<b>Shire of Trayning</b>	Cr Geoff Waters
<b>Shire of Westonia</b>	President Cr Karin Day
	Mr Jamie Criddle Chief Executive Officer
<b>Shire of Wyalkatchem</b>	Cr Owen Garner
	Ms Taryn Dayman Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Yilgarn</b>	President Cr Onida Truran
	Cr Wayne Della Bosca
	Mr Peter Clarke Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>GUESTS</b>	Kathleen Brown, Electorate Officer, Mia Davies MLA Office
	Karen Strange, RDA Wheatbelt
	Mr Noel Chamberlain, Principal, School of Isolated Distance Education
	Ms Sally Panizza, Principal, WA College of Agriculture
	Alby Hutts, Principal, Merredin College
	Mr Neil Darby, Regional Executive Director, Wheatbelt Education Region
	Mr Sean Conlan, Wheatbelt Regional Director, WACHS
	Mr Craig Manton, Regional Manager, Wheatbelt, Main Roads WA
<b>WALGA Representatives</b>	Mr Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Development
	Mr Nebojsa Franich, Policy Manager, Economics
	Ms Marissa MacDonald, Senior Policy Officer, Community
	Mr Cliff Simpson, Road Safety Advisor Wheatbelt North

## Apologies

Shire of Cunderdin	President Cr Dennis Whisson Cr Alison Harris
Shire of Koorda	Cr Pamela McWha Mr Darren Simmons Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Merredin	Mr Greg Powell Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Mount Marshall	Cr Nick Gillett
Shire of Narambeen	President Cr Rhonda Cole
Shire of Tammin	Cr Glenice Batchelor Cr Tania Daniels

Shire of Trayning                      President Cr Melanie Brown  
Mr Brian Jones Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

Shire of Westonia                      Cr Bill Huxtable

Shire of Wyalkatchem                President Cr Quentin Davies

DLGSC Representative                Jennifer Collins, Regional Manager - Wheatbelt

Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt  
Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt  
Ms Chantelle O'Brien, Governance Support Officer

### **Agenda Attachments**

The following were provided as attachments to the agenda:

1. Great Eastern Country Zone Minutes 24 April 2019.
2. Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee Minutes 13 June 2019.
3. State Council Agenda – via link:  
<https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/a6732516-4261-4b43-a5e7-94187f99c7bf/State-Council-Agenda-3-July-2019.pdf>
4. Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries – Update National Redress
5. RDA Wheatbelt Update

### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil.

### **4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Nil.

### **5. GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS**

#### **5.1 Education Forum**

##### **5.1.1 School of Isolated Distance Education**

Mr Noel Chamberlain, Principal, School of Isolated Distance Education, presented to the Zone.

##### **5.1.2 WA College of Agriculture**

Ms Sally Panizza, Principal, WA College of Agriculture, presented to the Zone.

Presentation attached (Attachment A)

##### **5.1.3 Merredin College**

Alby Hutts, Principal, Merredin College, presented to the Zone.

Presentation attached (Attachment B)

#### **5.1.4 Wheatbelt Education Region – Department of Education**

Mr Neil Darby, Regional Executive Director, Wheatbelt Education Region, presented to the Zone.

Presentation attached (Attachment C)

The meeting adjourned for morning tea at 11am and resumed at 11.15am.

#### **5.2 Agency Reports (brought forward)**

##### **5.2 Main Roads Western Australia**

Mr Craig Manton, Regional Manager, Wheatbelt, Main Roads WA provided an update to the Zone meeting. School bus routes were noted for Craig Manton to follow up with the Public Transport Authority.

#### **5.3 Health Matters**

##### **5.3.1 WA Country Health Services – Merredin Hospital Doctor Availability**

Mr Sean Conlan, Wheatbelt Regional Director, WACHS, presented to the Zone on Doctor availability at the Merredin Hospital.

### **6. MINUTES**

#### **6.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held Wednesday 24 April 2019**

The Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on Wednesday 24 April 2019 have previously been circulated to Member Councils.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Cr Onida Truran**  
**Seconded: Cr Geoff Waters**

**That the minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held Wednesday 24 April 2019 are confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.**

**CARRIED**

#### **6.2 Business Arising from the Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting Wednesday 24 April 2019**

**Nil.**

#### **6.3 Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee Meeting held Thursday 13 June 2019**

The recommendations from the Executive Committee Meeting have been extracted for the Zones consideration.

### 6.3.1 (Item 5.1) 2020 Wheatbelt Conference

#### Background:

Executive Committee members will be aware that in April 2018 the last Wheatbelt conference was held in Jurien Bay. The conference is a collaborative arrangement between the Avon Midland Country Zone, Central Country Zone and the Great Eastern Country Zone with the conference in the past being managed from both an administrative and financial point of view by the Executive Officer of the Great Eastern Country Zone.

The Conference is now held every two years with previous conferences being held in York, Merredin, Kellerberrin, and Narrogin.

The issue of the future of the Wheatbelt conference was recently considered at the Central Country Zone where it was acknowledged that the previous conferences have been successful, however there was concern at the difficulty in developing new and interesting topics and finding suitable keynote speakers and also the issue of time and cost for attendees.

At its meeting on the 24 May 2019, Central Country Zone resolved the following:

*RESOLUTION:                      Moved: Cr Ridgway                      Seconded: President Ballard  
That the Central Country Zone does not support the holding of a Wheatbelt Conference in 2020 however the Zone will review the decision in relation to future Wheatbelt Conferences in May 2020.  
CARRIED*

Whilst there were some views for and against it was considered that the organisers needed to be mindful that it is difficult to keep developing new and interesting topics and finding suitable keynote speakers at an affordable cost to attendees.

The Central Country Zone has not included any funds in its 2019/2020 budget to support a Conference.

#### Comment:

The issue of holding a Wheatbelt conference will be listed on the Great Eastern Country Zone agenda for the June meeting and it is worth the Executive Committee having some discussion and offering a recommendation on the matter.

It was also noted at the recent Central Country Zone meeting, with the October Local Government Elections and potentially universal training coming on board that time maybe limited in 2020.

Executive Committee Recommendation      Moved: Cr Tony Sachse      Seconded: Cr Onida Truran

That the Great Eastern Country Zone position on the Wheatbelt Conference be;

1. There is value in holding Wheatbelt Conferences;
2. Not hold a Wheatbelt Conference in 2020 and look to hold a conference in 2021;
3. Request the three (3) Wheatbelt Zone Executive Committees to meet and discuss the future of Wheatbelt conferences during the 2019 Local Government convention.

CARRIED

#### RESOLUTION

**Moved:              Cr Eileen O'Connell  
Seconded:        Cr Kellie Mortimore**

**That the Great Eastern Country Zone position on the Wheatbelt Conference be;**



1. There is value in holding Wheatbelt Conferences;
2. Not hold a Wheatbelt Conference in 2020 and look to hold a conference in 2021;
3. Request the three (3) Wheatbelt Zone Executive Committees to meet and discuss the future of Wheatbelt conferences during the 2019 Local Government convention

**CARRIED**

### **6.3.2 (Item 5.4) Zone Budget for the Year Ending 30 June 2020**

#### **Executive Officer Comment:**

The Great Eastern Country Zone of WALGA Budget for the 2019/20 year has been prepared for consideration and adoption.

Consistent with the accrual accounting approach, the budget will consist of a Profit and Loss Account which will recognise income and expenses as earned or incurred regardless of the timing of cashflow.

Projected cash reserves for the end of the budget year is also provided and is prepared on the assumption that all income and expenses will be received and paid within the 2019/20 year.

In presenting the Budget the format shows the comparison of the following columns:

- Budget for the 2018/19 year as revised in November 2018.
- Projected actual for the 2018/19 based upon YTD May accounts plus projections for June expenditure
- Two options for the 2019/20 Budget are provided providing the committee with a choice of subscription income.

Key Assumptions for the preparation of the 2019/20 budget include the following:

- Wheatbelt Conference expenditure has not been included at this stage,
- WALGA continues as Executive Officer
- Reduction in budget allocations for Executive Officer – Travel and Accommodation
- Retention of budget allocation for
  - Zone Expenses – Ordinary Meetings,
  - Zone Representative - Honoraria
  - Zone Representative - Meeting Fees
  - Zone Representative - Travel Costs
- Interest income has been increased on the expectation that a better interest rate can be secured

#### Two budget options presented

Savings of \$33,950 arising from changing the Executive Officer has resulted in a reduction in expenditure.

Budget Option one allows this Committee to keep subscription income at \$56,000. Fees per member would remain unchanged at \$3,500 per member. This option leads to a budgeted profit of \$29,000 and projected cash reserves of \$182,541.

Alternatively, under Budget Option 2 membership income can be reduced by 50 percent from \$56,000 to \$28,000. Fees per member will fall from \$3,500 to \$1,750. Budgeted profit would be \$1,000 and projected cash reserves would be expected to be \$154,541 at 30 June 2020.

The committee discussed that the Zone is in a solid financial position and does not need to charge the full amount for this year and Councils have other financial pressures and that it would be good to reduce the subscriptions this year.

Executive Committee Recommendation: Moved: Cr Onida Truran Seconded: Cr Stephen Strange

That the Budgeted Profit and Loss Statement and Projected Cash Reserves of the Great Eastern Country Zone of WALGA for the year ending 30 June 2020 be adopted utilising option 2, which provides for the subscriptions to be halved and set at \$1,750.00 per Council.

CARRIED

## RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Stephen Strange  
Seconded: Cr Geoff Waters

That the Budgeted Profit and Loss Statement and Projected Cash Reserves of the Great Eastern Country Zone of WALGA for the year ending 30 June 2020 be adopted utilising option 2, which provides for the subscriptions to be halved and set at \$1,750.00 per Council.

CARRIED

### 6.3.3 Minutes of the Executive Committee 13 June 2019

## RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Stephen Strange  
Seconded: Cr Tony Sachse

That the remaining items contained in the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the Great Eastern Country Zone held Thursday 13 June 2019 be endorsed.

CARRIED

## 7. ZONE BUSINESS

### 7.1 WALGA Advocacy Regarding Greenfinch Mine Expansion

*Shire of Westonia*

#### BACKGROUND

Development of the proposed Greenfinch Open Pit involves the excavation of an open pit, construction of a noise/abandonment bund, the extension of a waste rock landform, processing of circa 1.7Mt of ore and realignment of the Westonia Shire's Warrachuppin Road (and other associated infrastructure within the road corridor).

The project requires clearing of 62.3ha of vegetation, ~44ha of which is comprises of Eucalypt woodland/Mallee Woodland in good to very good condition and the remaining 18.3ha comprises of regrowth/cleared vegetation which is degraded.

Approximately 39.1ha of the proposed clearing is located within a TEC (Federal) and PEC (WA) area, which represents an impact on only 1.8% of the local extent of the TEC/PEC within the local Westonia Common. The vegetation recorded within the clearing area is representative of the broader Beard vegetation association 536 (Medium woodland; Morrel (*Eucalyptus longicornis*) and Rough-fruited Mallee (*Eucalyptus corrugata*) which still occupies over 30% of its pre-European extent in Western Australia and in the Merredin subregion. Clearing will not reduce the extent of this vegetation association below the EPA's 30% threshold.

**Four plants** of the Threatened Flora taxon, **Eremophila Resinosa** which is listed under Federal and State legislation are located within the clearing area. There are sixteen known populations of E. resinosa (T) within a 20km radius of the Project, two of which occur within the Project area. These sixteen populations contain a total of 1514 plants. Regionally there are a total of 26 natural populations of E. resinosa currently listed by DBCA (WAHERB, 2018), including the areas of Mukinbudin, Wyalkatchem, Southern Cross, Koorda, Nungarin Kalannie and Mt Marshall. Multiple fauna surveys across the Project area have been completed and there has been no evidence of conservation significant fauna or short range endemic species within the area.

Offsets for the clearing have been proposed, including but not limited to, post-mining rehabilitation of cleared areas, revegetation of up to 70 ha of local farmland to provide/increase habitat corridors, protection and management of a 15ha remnant woodland block and a \$10,000 annual contribution to local and regional environmental initiatives in the local Westonia Common. **The Edna May Operation has to date planted some 4,000 Eremophila resinosa within the district in Trans-location sites in and surrounding the Westonia townsite and undertaken revegetation of some 101.6ha of existing farmland to the north of the mine.**

The Greenfinch Project was then rejected by the PEC and as a result between **80-90 redundancies** have taken place at the minesite.

The recent forced redundancies and terminations at Edna May have had a significant impact on our local economy first and foremost but have also felt the wave of impact in regional centres at Merredin, Southern Cross and Northam whom all support the Edna May Operations through direct employment, servicing, manufacturing and parts supply. Numerous local families have been forced to leave the communities of Westonia and Merredin and move to Perth to seek FIFO employment. As their employment at Edna May was Drive-in, Drive-out, this allowed them to be at home each night and a part of the family unit. Now seeking FIFO employment, this will potentially place added pressure on the family unit as well as being away from extended family.

The impact is far more noticeable in a small community such as Westonia as the smallest variation in sales can have a large impact on the bottom line and staff numbers. This was first noticed when open pit mining was reduced to a single (day) shift operation due to delays in the environmental assessment process. As an example, shop sales at the community owned Cooperative reduced by 11% by reducing the nightshift. Workers would normally come in on a daily basis to purchase drinks, food, cigarettes and consumables. This dried up overnight and then was exacerbated at the completion of the Stage 2 cutback, making a total of 90 employees (72% reduction) in the workforce no longer contributing to the local economy. Sales reduced by 18% overall, with the shop reverting to shortened hours to minimize operating costs. Six months of this reduction has been hard to manage, but cash surpluses have enabled operation to continue. Further reductions and reduced patronage of mine employees and commuting suppliers and contractors will have a disastrous effect on the bottom line of the shop and cause potential reduction in services, staff and opening hours or potential closure!!!

This Cooperative shop not only acts as the only food & grocery outlet in the district, it is also the Post Office, Café, Newsagency and Gas supplier.

This is an example of one business impacted by the reduction in staff at the Edna May Mine, impacts such as these in small communities have lasting and disastrous flow on effect to the whole district.

Company payments to numerous community groups via Memorandum of Understanding agreements (MOU) are also jeopardised as they rely on bed numbers in the mine camp situated in the town. These numbers have severely reduced which will result in up to a 60% reduction in MOU payments of \$45,000 per annum that would normally be distributed to community projects via the Westonia Progress Association. There are numerous other similar agreements in place that would also be jeopardised as a result of the limited mining operations.

## RESOLUTION

Moved: Mr Jamie Criddle  
Seconded: Cr Rodney Forsyth

### That the Great Eastern Country Zone

1. Supports the Shire of Westonia's position to seek clearing and mining approval for the proposed Greenfinch mining operation.
2. Requests WALGA to raise the issue with relevant authorities to ensure that the Greenfinch Project has every chance of success.

CARRIED

## 7.2 Universal Training

*Executive Officer*

### BACKGROUND

The Local Government Amendment Bill 2019 was introduced into the Legislative Assembly on 14 March 2019 and was passed on 10 April 2019.

The Bill was introduced into the Legislative Council on 11 April 2019. The Bill is currently being debated and it is anticipated that the Bill will be approved by Parliament to apply for the 2019 Local Government Elections.

The proposal for Universal Training includes Elected Members undertaking the following courses:

- Understanding Local Government
- Conflicts of Interest
- Serving on Council
- Understanding Financial Reports and Budgets
- Meeting Procedures and Debating

If the Bill passes through Parliament, new and re-elected Elected Members at 2019 Local Government Elections will be required to complete the five (5) core units above within 12 months of their election. Sitting Elected Members whose term of office does not conclude until the 2021 Local Government Elections, will only be required to complete the training in the 12-months following their re-election in October 2021.

### Funding

In respect to funding for training, it is the Associations position that the training is the State Government's proposal, so the State Government should fund the associated costs. WALGA will continue to advocate for the Universal Training to be fully funded by State Government.

However, in the absence of a funding commitment from State Government, Local Governments may wish to provide a 2019/20 budget allocation for Universal Training. Alternatively, if State Government funding does not eventuate, Local Governments may be required to make Budget amendments to fund Universal Training requirements.

Indicative costing is as per below;

Face to Face Cost + eLearning

3 face to face courses and 2 eLearning will be approximately = \$2,390 per Elected Member

Individual eLearning Cost

All 5 courses by eLearning will be approximately \$975 per Elected Member

However a council could subscribe to a licence where all Elected Members and Officers from that Local Government can purchase a licence for a course or all courses. This reduces the cost considerably.

### Types of Learning

The proposed training will be structured as a blended learning program to allow for a flexible approach to delivery of training. Both in-person and Electronic Learning will be provided.

### Recognition of Prior Learning

WALGA is advocating that an Elected Member should not have to complete the prescribed Universal Training if:

- (a) they have successfully passed the modules of the prescribed training within the last five years; or
- (b) have been awarded any of the following within the last five years (or it's successor):
  - i. Diploma of Local Government (Elected Member) accredited course number 52756WA; or
  - ii. Diploma of Local Government (Elected Member Stream)(LGA50712), or
  - iii. Elected Member Skill Set (LGASS00002).

### **Noted**

## **7.3 State Emergency Management Committee - Power Outages Effecting Communications**

### **Background:**

*The Zone resolved the following at the March 2019 meeting:*

1. *Requests WALGA to advocate through the State Emergency Management Committee for action in respect to power outages effecting telecommunications and the eligibility for Local Governments to turn generators on.*

### **Comment:**

The following are the responses received to this issue;

1. SEMC responded

There is no easy answer to this issue (I assume they are all mobile/cell related?). One is of coverage, the other of course is of the resilience of the infrastructure itself during extended power outages. The issue has been raised at every level of government and the Telco's say they do what they can to improve their performance - often with Government subsidy in rural areas. All SEMC can do is continue to raise it formally and informally at all available forums.

2. The DEMC Executive Officer indicated that in lieu of a formal state or federal resolution to this matter they were implementing local solutions including have satellite phones for critical communications and exploring the crisp wireless network.

3. In Dec 2018, WALGA's IT Manager recommended the following:

It is understood that the Great Eastern Country Zone of WALGA (GECZ) is concerned that during a power outage, some exchanges and mobile phone towers are not consistently switching over to battery back-up; in addition the back-up battery is not lasting long enough for Telstra technicians to start generators at various sites. GECZ are afraid that this could have great implications for telecommunications. GECZ are also concerned about the time it takes between power failure, activation of back-up batteries and starting the generators.

It may be the exchanges and mobile phone towers that are having issues need their batteries replaced as they are nearing end of life. We are suggesting that each Local Government that make up the GECZ make a complaint to the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman. The complaints need to be made by individuals (each Shire as a business) as the Telecommunication Industry

Ombudsman may not respond to complaints made on behalf of others; they will respond to actual users reporting issues. Please make sure the complaints made are detailed and include dates of failures.

The Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman are able to handle complaints about telephone and internet services, including by collecting any documents or information relevant to the complaint. They have the authority to decide the resolution of a complaint (the telecommunications company is legally obliged to implement) up to \$50,000, and make recommendations up to \$100,000.

## Noted

## 8. ZONE REPORTS

### 8.1 Zone President Report

Cr Rhonda Cole was an apology for this meeting.

### 8.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group & Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network

*By Cr Rod Forsyth & Cr Ricky Storer*

Cr Forsyth advised that the Agricultural Freight Group next meeting will be on 12 July 2019. The State Government have asked for comment on the “*The draft Revitalising Agricultural Region Freight Strategy*” which will be discussed at the meeting.

Cr Ricky Storer provided an update on the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network (WSFN) progress.

An announcement by Minister MacTiernan of \$100,000 through the RED’s fund, to the Shire of Koorda, as lead agency in the application, to assist with the project management of the WSFN project for both the pre-construction and actual on ground work.

It is estimated that it will be a 3 to 4 year timeframe, depending on the capacity of LG’s and contractors, for the delivery of the works.

A request has been made to all 42 Local Governments for a consideration to contribute \$6,000 for the unsuccessful BBRF application to a co-contribution towards the RED’s funding announcement.

## RESOLUTION

**Moved: Cr Onida Truran**

**Seconded: Cr Geoff Waters**

**That the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Report and the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network reports be received.**

**CARRIED**

### **8.3 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee**

*By Cr Tony Sachse*

Cr Tony Sachse provided an update and is attached to the minutes (Attachment D)

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Cr Ricky Storer**

**Seconded: Cr Eileen O'Connell**

**That the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee Report be received.**

**CARRIED**

### **9. WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (WALGA) BUSINESS**

#### **9.1 State Councillor Report**

*Cr Stephen Strange*

Cr Strange provided a report on the WALGA State Council meeting and the current review of WALGA Governance Structures and processes. A working group has been established to carry out the review with Cr Strange as a member.

The working group, which is comprised of the President, Deputy President, State Councillors, an Elected Member from WA Regional Cities Alliance, Local Government CEOs and senior WALGA staff, has been charged with developing an alternative model to the existing arrangements, with corresponding recommendations, for State Council consideration. If State Council considers that the alternative model or models are worthy of further consideration, consultation with WALGA members will be undertaken.

Specifically, the working group could consider the following:

- Composition of State Council as a representative board;
- Underpinning principle that metropolitan and country Local Governments should be equally represented on State Council;
- Role of Zones;
- Method of election of State Councillors;
- Relationship between State Council and Zones;
- Existing Zone structures and the basis for the membership of Zones;
- Method of election of the President;
- Role of the Deputy President;
- Role and membership of the Executive Committee;
- Continuing effectiveness of State Council committees such as the Selection Committee, and Honours Panel;
- Membership and efficacy of State Council Policy Teams, and Policy Forums;
- Ability of Zones to shape State Council decision-making through emerging issues;
- Interim submission process to meet Government deadlines;
- Format of State Council meetings and agendas;
- Continuing need to print and distribute hard-copy State Council agendas;
- Protocols for Zone delegates and Local Governments putting forward Zone agenda items;
- Any other matters relating to the existing structure or process of State Council, committees of State Council and Zones.

It is anticipated that the working group's recommendations will be presented to State Council in September 2019, which will be followed by consultation with the Local Government sector if required.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Cr Stephen Strange**

**Seconded: Cr Rodney Forsyth**

**That the State Councillor Report be received**

**CARRIED**



## 9.2 WALGA Status Report

By Tony Brown, Executive Officer

### BACKGROUND

Presenting the Status Report for June 2019 which contains WALGA's responses to the resolutions of previous Zone Meetings.

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Grt Eastern C	<b>2018 November 29 Zone Agenda Item 7.4</b> Water Corporation - New management and billing structure for standpipes	That the Great Eastern Country Zone request WALGA to advocate opposing the WA Water Corporation proposed fee structure in remote parts of the eastern Wheatbelt and;  1. Request the Water Corporation look to possible subsidised billing to remote user standpipes for users without any other possible means of potable water;  Write to the Department of Water suggesting that as a result of the increased Standpipe water costs that they re-introduce the Farm Water Grants to allow effected landholders the ability to create on-farm water storage and water connections	Considered by the Infrastructure Policy Team at its March meeting and further follow-up with Councils requested with feedback to the June meeting.	June 2019	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure <a href="mailto:iduncan@walga.asn.au">iduncan@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2031
Grt Eastern C	<b>2019 March Zone Agenda Item 12.3</b> Telstra – Power Outages Effecting Communications	1. Requests WALGA to advocate through the State Emergency Management Committee for action in respect to power outages effecting telecommunications and the eligibility for Local Governments to turn generators on.	WALGA have written to the SEMC to request action in respect to power outages effecting telecommunications.  Please refer to agenda item on this issue.	June 2019	Joanne Burges Executive Manager, People and Place <a href="mailto:jburges@walga.asn.au">jburges@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2018
Grt Eastern C	<b>2018 November 29 Zone Agenda Item 7.3</b> Container Deposit Scheme Locations	That the Great Eastern Country Zone requests that:  1. All Local Governments be guaranteed, as a minimum, one flexible refund point in their area.  2. A flexible access point should be defined as a refund point which, as a minimum, is open 16 hours each two	WALGA provided an extensive Submission to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) Draft Customer Service Standard for the Container Deposit Scheme.  In relation to the Zone's recommendation, WALGAs Submission supported the approach of ensuring that all Local Governments be guaranteed a flexible refund point and the operating hours for a flexible refund point be clearly defined.  WALGA will continue to advocate for State Government funding for infrastructure to assist the sector in implementing the CDS and	Ongoing	Mark Batty Executive Manager Environment and Waste <a href="mailto:Mbatty@walga.asn.au">Mbatty@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2078

		<p>week period, including at least 8 hours at weekends</p> <p>The State Government provide appropriate funding for the refund points.</p>	<p>for the minimum network standards to be expanded in line with the WALGA submission recommendation.</p> <p>The Minimum Network Standard was released on May 14<sup>th</sup>, which did not guarantee each Shire would receive a flexible collection point, but did agree to flexible refund points being open as a minimum 16 hours each two week period, including at least 8 hours at weekends.</p>		
<b>Grt Eastern C</b>	<b>2019 March Zone Agenda Item 12.2</b> Office of the Auditor General (OAG) Audit Fee Increase	The Zone request WALGA to undertake research into the audit costs including why the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) fees have increased significantly and what is the criteria for the fee increases.	<p>WALGA staff are currently researching the Office of Auditor General audit costs for Local Governments.</p> <p>Once information is collated a response will be provided to the Zone</p>	<b>June 2019</b>	<p><b>Tony Brown</b> <b>Executive Manager</b> <b>Governance and</b> <b>Organisational Services</b> <b>9213 2051</b> <a href="mailto:tbrown@walga.asn.au">tbrown@walga.asn.au</a></p>

## **ZONE COMMENT**

This is an opportunity for Member Councils to consider the response from WALGA in respect to the matters that were submitted at the previous Zone Meeting.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** President Cr Eileen O'Connell

**Seconded:** Cr Onida Truran

**That the Great Eastern Country Zone WALGA June 2019 Status Report be noted.**

**CARRIED**

### **9.3 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Matters for Decision**

#### **BACKGROUND**

WALGA State Council meets five times each year and as part of the consultation process with Member Councils circulates the State Council Agenda for input through the Zone structure.

The full State Council Agenda can be found via link: <https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/a6732516-4261-4b43-a5e7-94187f99c7bf/State-Council-Agenda-3-July-2019.pdf>

The Zone is able to provide comment or submit an alternative recommendation that is then presented to the State Council for consideration.

#### **5.1 National Redress and Local Government**

##### **WALGA Recommendation**

That WA Local Government participation in the State's National Redress Scheme declaration with full financial coverage by the State, be endorsed in principal, noting that further engagement with the sector will occur in the second half of 2019.

#### **5.2 Draft Guidelines for Local Heritage Surveys and *Heritage Act 2018* Proclamation Regulations**

##### **WALGA Recommendation**

That the interim submission on the Draft Guidelines for Local Heritage Surveys and *Heritage Act 2018* Proclamation Regulations be endorsed.

#### **5.3 Review of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (Phase Two)**

##### **WALGA Recommendation**

That the interim submission on the Aboriginal Heritage Act Review Phase Two be endorsed.

## **5.4 Planning for Bushfire Guidelines: Element 3 Vehicular Access**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

That:

1. the interim submission to the Western Australian Planning Commission on the proposed modifications to Appendix 4 Element 3: Vehicular Access of the Planning for Bushfire Guidelines, be endorsed; and
2. WALGA formally advise the Western Australian Planning Commission that draft Appendix 4 Element 3 is not supported, due to significant concerns with the proposed modifications to road designs and difficulties in implementing the draft Guidelines.

## **5.5 Remote Area Tax Concessions**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

That WALGA's interim submission to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Remote Area Tax Concessions be endorsed.

## **5.6 Directions Paper for the 10 Year Strategy on Homelessness**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

That the interim submission to the Directions Paper for the 10-Year Strategy on Homelessness be endorsed.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Cr Onida Truran**  
**Seconded: Cr Kellie Mortimore**

**That the Great Eastern Country Zone supports all Matters for Decision as listed above in the State Council Agenda.**

**CARRIED**

<b>9.4 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Matters for Noting / Information</b>
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**6.1 Report on Local Government Road Assets and Expenditure 2017/18**

**6.2 2019-2020 State and Federal Budgets**

**6.3 Public Library Assets**

**6.4 Climate Change Policy Advocacy Update**

**6.5 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC)**

## **9.5 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Organisational Reports**

### **7.1 Key Activity Reports**

- 7.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Environment and Waste Unit**
- 7.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Governance and Organisational Services**
- 7.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure**
- 7.1.4 Report on Key Activities, People and Place**

## **9.6 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Policy Forum Reports**

### **7.2 Policy Forum Reports**

- 7.2.1 Mayors/Presidents Policy Forum**
- 7.2.2 Mining Community Policy Forum**
- 7.2.3 Container Deposit Legislation Policy Forum**
- 7.2.4 Economic Development Forum**

## **9.7 WALGA President's Report**

The WALGA President's Report will be distributed prior to the meeting.

Tony Brown presented the Presidents report as attached (Attachment E)

Advice was provided on the decision in the Legislative Council on 26 June to form a Select Committee enquiring into Local Government.

The Hon Simon O'Brien MLC introduced a Notice of Motion in the Legislative Council as follows;

*I give notice at the next sitting of the House I will move —*

- (1) That a Select Committee into Local Government is established.*
- (2) The Select Committee is to inquire into how well the system of Local Government is functioning in Western Australia, with particular reference to —*
  - (a) whether the Local Government Act 1995 and related legislation is generally suitable in its scope, construction and application;*
  - (b) the scope of activities of Local Governments;*
  - (c) the role of the Department of State administering the Local Government Act 1995 and related legislation;*
  - (d) the role of Elected Members and Chief Executive Officers/employees and whether these are clearly defined, delineated, understood and accepted;*
  - (e) the funding and financial management of Local Governments; and*
  - (f) any other related matters the Select Committee identifies as worthy of examination and Report.*
- (3) The Select Committee shall comprise five Members.*
- (4) The Select Committee shall report by no later than 12 months after the motion for its establishment is agreed to and may, if it sees fit, provide interim reports to the House.*

The motion was debated in the Council on 26 July and carried – establishing the Select Committee with the terms outlined above.

The Association is concerned about which direction this enquiry will head, based on the commentary during the debate and believe that the current Local Government Act review is the appropriate process to review the system of Local Government.

The Zone will be kept informed of the progress of the Select Committee process.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Cr Wayne Della Bosca**

**Seconded: Cr Ricky Storer**

**That the Great Eastern Country Zone notes the following reports contained in the WALGA State Council Agenda.**

- **Matters for Noting/Information**
- **Organisational Reports**
- **Policy Forum Reports; and**
- **WALGA President's Report**

**CARRIED**

## **10. AGENCY REPORTS**

### **10.1 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries**

Jennifer Collins, Regional Manager, Wheatbelt, from the Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries was an apology and an update has been provided and was attached to the agenda.

### **10.2 Wheatbelt RDA**

Karen Strange, Wheatbelt RDA departed the meeting at 12:35pm. The update was attached with the Agenda and was taken as read.

## **11. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT**

Kathleen Brown, Electorate Officer, Mia Davies MLA Office provided an update to the Zone on the situation with Merredin Hospital in respect to Doctor Availability.

Please refer to attached advice from the Hon Mia Davies (Attachment F)

## **12. EMERGING ISSUES**

### **12.1 Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH)**

The Zone noted the impact of Government Regional Officer Housing on retaining public sector professionals (Doctors, nurses, teachers) in their communities. The parameters and standards are too restrictive.

#### **Resolved**

**That the Zone request WALGA to advocate on the impact of Government Regional Officer Housing on retaining public sector professionals (Doctors, nurses, teachers) in the Great Eastern Country Zone.**

## **13. WALGA ROADWISE UPDATE**

Cliff Simpson, WALGA RoadWise Road Safety Advisor Wheatbelt North, provided an update to the Zone. Workshops on the new State Government road safety strategy will be held in Merredin on 15 and 16 August 2019.

## **14. URGENT BUSINESS**

Nil.

## **15. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

The next meeting of the Great Eastern Country Zone will be held in Kellerberrin on Thursday 22 August, commencing at 9.30am. To be confirmed.

## **16. CLOSURE**

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 1:25pm.

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