

MINUTES OF THE ZONE MEETING

held at the Dalwallinu Recreation Centre, Myers Street, Dalwallinu
Friday 22 November 2019 commencing at 10:03 am

1 OPENING & WELCOME

The Executive Officer, Robert Dew, opened the meeting and welcomed new delegates and returning delegates to the Zone. He introduced Cr Steve Carter, President of the Shire of Dalwallinu. Cr Carter commented on –

- The Dalwallinu Recreation Centre –
 - Original part of the building built in 1960.
 - A facelift was carried out in 1980.
 - Redeveloped and extended in 2019 –
 - Design work completed about 6 years ago.
 - Unsuccessful with applications for grant funding for the building.
 - Building funded by the Shire.
 - Surrounds funded through a Lotteries Commission grant.
 - Community hub joining together, tennis courts, bowling green, swimming pool and the Recreation Centre building.
 - Cost \$4m.
- CBH Group has just completed a \$7m upgrade to their McLevie Receptal Site.
- 2 subdivisions were undertaken in Dalwallinu by Landcorp in 2017/2018; all blocks have been sold. There is demand for more land, however Landcorp has advised that it has no funding for further subdivisions. Next subdivision will be funded by the Shire.
- Approximately 200 Filipino people live in the town as well as others from different ethnic backgrounds. Dalwallinu is a multicultural village and proud of it.
- The Shire features on Australia Posts' \$1.00 coin set with X for Xantippe.
- Channel 7s Sunrise program came to Xantippe earlier in the year. Had to be at Xantippe at 1:00 am. About 300 people attended.
- Dalwallinu is a progressive and forward thinking town.
- He welcomed attendees to Dalwallinu.

2 ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

2.1 Attendance

Delegates -

Cr John Davis	Shire of Chittering
Cr Steven Carter	Shire of Dalwallinu
Cr Dahlia Richardson	Shire of Dandaragan
Cr Jan Court	Shire of Gingin
Cr Barry Haywood	Shire of Goomalling
Cr Ken Seymour	Shire of Moora
Cr Bill Manning	Shire of Toodyay
Cr Pauline Bantock	Shire of Victoria Plains
Cr Stuart Boekeman	Shire of Wongan-Ballidu
Cr Denese Smythe	Shire of York

2.2 Observers

Mr Matthew Gilfellow	Shire of Chittering
Mr Brent Bailey	Shire of Dandaragan
Mr Aaron Cook	Shire of Gingin
Cr Tracy Lefroy	Shire of Moora
Cr Rosemary Madacsi	Shire of Toodyay
Mr Stan Scott	Shire of Toodyay
Mr Peter Bentley	Shire of Goomalling
Cr Denis Warnick	Shire of York

Hon Shane Love MLA	Member for Moore.
Ms Mandy Walker	Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt
Ms Jennifer Collins	Regional Manager Wheatbelt, Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries
Mr Grant Arthur	Director Regional Services, Wheatbelt Development Commission (from 10 38 am)
Mr Craig Manton	Regional Manager, Main Roads Wheatbelt
Mr Mark Batty	Executive Manager, Environment & Waste, WALGA
Mr Cliff Simpson	Road Safety Advisor (Wheatbelt North), WALGA
Robert Dew	Zone Executive Officer

Apologies

Cr Don Gibson	Shire of Chittering
Ms Jean Knight	Shire of Dalwallinu
Cr Chris Antonio	Shire of Northam
Cr Julie Williams	Shire of Northam
Ms Glenda Teede	Shire of Victoria Plains
Hon Mia Davies MLA	Member for Central Wheatbelt
Hon Martin Aldridge MLC	Member for Agricultural Region
Hon Colin de Grussa MLC	Member for Agricultural Region
Hon Laurie Graham MLC	Member for Agricultural Region
Hon Darren West MLC	Member for Agricultural Region
Mr Gavin Robins	A/CEO, Wheatbelt Development Commission

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

5 ZONE ELECTIONS

Nominations for the positions of Zone President, Deputy Zone President, Zone Representative to State Council and Zone Deputy Representative to State Council closed 18 November 2019. All member Councils and Delegates to the Zone were advised of the call for nominations. The term of office for each position is for two years –

- Zone President and Deputy Zone President expiring in November 2021; and
- Zone Representative to State Council and Zone Deputy Representative to State Council from the Ordinary Meeting of State Council in December 2019 and concluding at the Ordinary Meeting of State Council in December 2021.

At the close of nominations, the following nominations were received –

- President –
 - Cr Jan Court, Shire of Gingin
 - Cr Ken Seymour, Shire of Moora
- Deputy President –
 - No Nominations
- Zone Representative to State Council –
 - Cr Jan Court, Shire of Gingin
 - Cr Ken Seymour, Shire of Moora

- Zone Deputy Representative to State Council –
 - No Nominations

Nominations for the positions for which no nominations were received (Deputy President and Zone Deputy Representative to State Council) will be taken from the floor of the meeting. Only elected members who are delegates to the Zone are eligible to be nominated (deputy delegates are not eligible).

Where more nominations are received than there are vacancies for a position, an election will be held for those positions.

Where an election is held voting is by secret ballot and only each member Council's delegate or the deputy delegate acting in the absence of the delegate is entitled to vote (1 vote per member Council). The candidate with the greater or greatest number of votes is elected to the office.

In the event of a tied vote, election will be determined by drawing names from a box. The Returning Officer will put the names of the candidates concerned in a box and the first name drawn is the Elected Member.

The Executive Officer represents WALGA as the Returning Officer for the election.

Prior to the ballot, nominees for each position will be extended the opportunity to provide a 2 minute election bid to delegates.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Returning Officer be authorised to destroy all ballot papers used in the election process.

President

Cr Ken Seymour and Cr Jan Court addressed the meeting.

The Executive Officer distributed, collected and counted the ballot papers.

The Executive Officer announced that a majority of votes had been cast in favour of Cr Seymour. The Executive Officer declared Cr Seymour elected as the Zone President for a term of 2 years (2019-2021).

Deputy President

As no nominations had been received for Zone Deputy President the Executive Officer invited nominations from the floor.

Cr Denese Smythe nominated Cr Jan Court (accepted).

There being no further nominations the Executive Officer declared Cr Jan Court elected as Zone Deputy President for a term of 2 years (2019-2021).

Zone Representative to State Council

The Executive Officer distributed, collected and counted the ballot papers.

The Executive Officer announced that a majority of votes had been cast in favour of Cr Seymour. The Executive Officer declared Cr Seymour elected as the Zone President for a term of 2 years (2019-2021).

Deputy Zone Representative to State Council

As no nominations had been received for the Zone's Deputy Representative to State Council the Executive Officer invited nominations from the floor.

Cr Denese Smythe nominated Cr Jan Court (accepted).

There being no further nominations the Executive Officer declared Cr Jan Court elected as Deputy Zone Representative to State Council for a term of 2 years (2019-2021).

Cr Ken Seymour assumed the chair. He thanked Cr Court for her work she as Zone President

RESOLUTION

Cr D Smythe moved and Cr S Carter seconded –

That the Returning Officer be authorised to destroy all ballot papers used in the election process.
CARRIED

6 APPOINTMENT OF ZONE REPRESENTATIVES

6.1 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group

The Zone is represented on the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group by a delegate and a deputy delegate.

The Group's Terms of Reference provide –

- That a Zone's delegate and deputy delegate shall both be elected members.
- That the Chair of the Group is appointed from one of the constituent Zones. The Constituent Zone from whom the Chair is appointed is entitled to appoint a further delegate to the Group. The position of Chair is a non-voting one.

The Zone's representatives have been Cr Ken Seymour (Group Chair), Cr Brian Rayner (Delegate) and Cr Denese Smythe (Deputy Delegate).

Future meetings of the Group are scheduled for –

Friday 10 February 2020
Friday 3 April 2020
Friday 10 July 2020
Friday 2 October 2020

Meetings are generally held at WA Local Government Association in West Leederville.

RESOLUTION

Cr S Carter moved and Cr D Smythe seconded –

That Cr Ken Seymour be appointed as the Zone's delegate to the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group.
CARRIED

RESOLUTION

Cr S Carter moved and Cr D Smythe seconded –

That Cr Barry Haywood be appointed as the Zone's deputy delegate to the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group.
CARRIED

6.2 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management

The Zone has been represented on the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee by a delegate and a deputy delegate. The District Emergency Management Advisor, Wheatbelt and Goldfields-Esperance Districts has confirmed that it would be appropriate for the Zone to be represented on the Committee.

The Zone's representatives have been Cr Chris Antonio (Delegate) and Cr Denese Smythe (Deputy Delegate).

Future meetings of the Committee are scheduled for –

Wednesday 19 February 2020
Friday 17 July 2020
Wednesday 21 October 2020

Meetings are held at various locations within the district.

The Executive Officer advised that Cr Antonio had indicated that he was happy to accept appointment as the Zone delegate to the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr J Court seconded –
That Cr Chris Antonio be appointed as the Zone’s delegate to the Wheatbelt District Emergency
Management Committee. CARRIED**

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –
That Cr Jan Court be appointed as the Zone’s deputy delegate to the Wheatbelt District Emergency
Management Committee. CARRIED**

Mr G Arthur entered the meeting at 10:38 am.

7 MINUTES

7.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Zone Meeting held 23 August 2019 at Northam. Copies of these Minutes have been circulated to all member Councils.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held on 23 August 2019, as printed and circulated, be confirmed.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –
That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held on 23 August 2019, as printed and circulated, be
confirmed. CARRIED**

7.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

(a) Off Road Vehicles and Local Government (Item 5.2(a))

Last meeting noted that arrangements had been made for Mr Gordon MacMile, Director Strategic Coordination and Delivery, Planning and Service Delivery, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, to attend the November meeting to speak on off-road vehicles.

Mr MacMile has since advised that he will have more to report and discuss in the new year and has requested that his presentation be deferred until next year. Mr MacMile has been advised of the Zone’s 2020 meeting schedule and requested to advise a suitable meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

For Noting

NOTED

(b) Local Government Auditing (Item 5.2(a))

Last meeting noted arrangements were in hand for representatives of the Auditor General’s Office to attend this meeting to give an update on local government auditing to date and to look at some of the recent audits undertaken by the Auditor General’s Office.

The Auditor General’s Office has advised that unfortunately they will not be able to attend this meeting. Arrangements are being made for them to attend a meeting early next year.

RECOMMENDATION

For Noting

NOTED

(c) Select Committee into Local Government (Item 6.1)

Last meeting resolved that the Zone make a submission to the Select committee into Local Government endorsing the submission by the WA Local Government Association and inviting the Select Committee to meet with the Zone.

The Select Committee has acknowledged the Zone's submission, but no response has been made to the Zone's request to meet with the Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

For Noting

NOTED

(d) Other

No other matters were brought forward.

8 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

8.1 WALGA State Council Agenda

Review of the Agenda for the State Council meeting to be held Wednesday 4 December 2019. The Agenda has been circulated by WA Local Government Association to member Councils for distribution to delegates. The Zone is able to provide comment or submit alternate recommendations to State Council for consideration.

Matters for Decision

5.1 2020-21 State Budget Submission (Page 6)

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA's submission to the State Government in advance of the 2020-21 Budget be endorsed.

In Brief

- Each year, WALGA prepares a submission to the State Government outlining the sector's priorities for the upcoming budget.
- WALGA's strategy for the 2020-21 Budget Submission is to:
 1. Recognise the challenging economic context the State is in
 2. Align the sector's asks with State Government priorities and KPIs
 3. Demonstrate value for money for anything that we ask for
 4. Be as specific as possible in our asks
 5. Stand out from the crowd by being targeted and succinct
 6. Establish relationships and united voices with other advocacy bodies and within Government wherever possible.
- The following four strategic themes form the basis of WALGA's Submission and highlight the key areas the sector is seeking funding or policy change in the 2020-21 State Budget.
 - Empowering Local Governments to contribute to the State's priorities
 - Establishing a Strategic Approach to Economic Development in WA
 - Investing in Important Local Government Infrastructure
 - Ensuring a Sustainable Environment for our Communities
- Across the identified four strategic themes, WALGA has put forward 18 initiatives in its 2020-21 State Budget Submission that total \$287 million across the four year forward estimates period. Some 90 per cent of the total funding ask is contained within just six initiatives – demonstrating that WALGA's funding asks are targeted and are not extensive. In addition, WALGA has suggested a reprioritisation of expenditure from specific existing sources of funding for the majority of the initiatives put forward, in order to ensure future budget surpluses are maintained.
- In developing the Submission, WALGA has sought feedback from State Council at the Strategic Forum in September and from members throughout September and October.
- Once it has been endorsed by State Council and submitted to the State Government in mid-December, each Elected Member will be provided with a copy of the Submission to assist them as they advocate to Members of Parliament in their own regions.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

5.2 Interim Submission - Remote Area Tax Concessions (Page 9)

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA's interim submission to the Productivity Commission's Draft Report into Remote Area Tax Concessions and Payments be endorsed.

In Brief

- In late 2018, Treasurer Josh Frydenberg provided the Productivity Commission with terms of reference to undertake a study into the zone tax offset and related remote area tax concessions and payments.
- In September 2019, the Productivity Commission released its Draft Report, which recommended:
 - the abolition of the Zone Tax Offset;
 - a review of remote area assistance payments and boundaries;
 - a tightening of fringe benefits tax treatment related to employer provided and employee sourced housing;
 - a tightening of fringe benefits tax treatment for concessions and exemptions relating to residential fuel, meals and holiday transport, and no changes to existing fringe benefit tax exemptions and concessions for FIFO arrangements.
- In October 2019, WALGA provided an Interim Submission to the draft report. WALGA's Submission was based on member feedback and was in alignment with its original Submission to the Issues Paper. In brief, WALGA's Submission:
 - highlighted some of the challenges that make it difficult for regional and remote communities to secure sustained population and workforce growth;
 - maintained that the rationale for retaining remote area tax concessions and payments of regional development still exists;
 - outlined concerns that some of the recommendations contained in the Draft Report go directly against regional development objectives and will have a considerable negative impact on the WA Local Government sector; and
 - outlined concerns that the Draft Report fails to adequately assess the employment and economic impacts of the proposed changes, and also doesn't provide a realistic view of alternative, better mechanisms to support regional development.
- It is anticipated that the Productivity Commission will release its Final Report in February 2020.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

5.3 Mandatory Code of Conduct for Council Member, Committee Members and Candidates – Sector Feedback (Page 12)

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA:

1. *Request the Mandatory Code of Conduct Working Group be reconvened by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries;*
2. *Refer the following matters to the Working Group for further consideration:*
 - (a) Part B – Behaviours
 - i. *ensuring principles of natural justice can be adequately upheld in all circumstances;*
 - ii. *training opportunities that will assist Council Members determine complaint outcomes under Part B;*
 - iii. *development of a template Complaints Management Policy;*
 - iv. *reconsider the purpose of allowing 'any person' to make a complaint;*
 - v. *ensuring Committee Members and Candidates are included in Part B; and*
 - vi. *re-naming 'Rules' to an appropriate term throughout Part B.*
 - (b) Part C – Rules of Conduct
 - i. *review the rationale for creating a new Rule of Conduct breach where three or more breaches of Part B – Behaviours are found and the Local Government resolves to refer the matter to the Local Government Standards Panel; and*
 - ii. *review the proposal to amend the definition of an 'interest' relating to Impartiality Interests from the present definition in Regulation 11 of the Local Government (Rules of Conduct) Regulations.*
3. *Recommend the Working Group develop an endorsed Mandatory Code of Conduct for further consultation with the Local Government sector.*

In Brief

- The *Local Government Legislation Amendment Act 2019* was assented to in July 2019 and introduced a range of Act amendments, including provision by future amendment to Section 5.103, for a mandatory Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Election Candidates.
- In preparation for the new Code, the Department formed a Working Group that included WALGA, to consider the content of a future Code.
- Prior to endorsement by the Working Group, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries released a Consultation Paper in September requesting sector feedback by the amended date of 6 December 2019.
- WALGA provided a Draft Submission to Member Local Governments and feedback received by 25 October is incorporated in this report; additional commentary is anticipated as part of the WALGA Zone process.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

5.4 Standards and Guidelines for CEO Recruitment and Selection, Performance Review and Termination – Sector Feedback (Page 17)

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA:

1. *Request the CEO Recruitment and Selection, Performance Review and Termination Working Group be reconvened by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries; and*
2. *Refer the following matters to the Working Group for consideration:*
 - (a) *Removal from the Model Standards the requirement to readvertise CEO positions after 10 years of continuous service;*
 - (b) *Encouraging, rather than mandating, the involvement of an independent person in the CEO Recruitment and Selection Process;*
 - (c) *Reconsideration of the proposal for independent review of the recruitment process;*
 - (d) *Support the role of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries as the regulator for monitoring and compliance; and*
 - (e) *Further investigate a role for a Local Government Commissioner.*
3. *Recommend the Working Group develop endorsed Model Standards for further consultation with the Local Government sector.*

In Brief

- The *Local Government Legislation Amendment Act 2019* was assented to in July 2019 and introduced a range of Act amendments, including provision by future commencement of new Section 5.39A 'Model standards for CEO recruitment, performance and termination.'
- The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries formed a Working Group that included WALGA, to consider the content of future Model Standards.
- Prior to endorsement by the Working Group, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries released a Consultation Paper in September requesting sector feedback by the amended date of 6 December 2019.
- WALGA provided a Draft Submission to Member Local Governments and feedback received by 25 October is incorporated in this report; additional commentary is anticipated as part of the WALGA Zone process.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

5.5 Local Government Financial Ratios (Page 21)

WALGA Recommendation

- (1) *That WALGA advocate to the Minister for Local Government to amend the Local Government Financial Management Regulations to provide for the following ratios;*
 - a. *Operating Surplus Ratio*
 - b. *Debt Service Coverage Ratio*
 - c. *Asset Sustainability Ratio*
 - d. *Current Ratio*
 - e. *Net Financial Liabilities Ratio*

- (2) *The recommended indicators to the financial ratios be referred to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and the Office of the Auditor General for consideration;*
- a) *Operating Surplus Ratio*
A key indicator of a Local Government's financial performance is the Operating Surplus relative to the operating revenues. A benchmark result of 0% or greater is considered acceptable. Advanced is 15% or above.
 - b) *Debt Service Coverage Ratio*
A Local Government's ability to service debt is measured by the "Debt Service Cover Ratio". This is the measurement of a local government's ability to produce enough cash to cover its debt payments. A Basic standard is achieved if the ratio is greater than or equal to 2. An Advanced standard is achieved if the ratio is greater than 5
 - c) *Asset Sustainability Ratio*
Measures capital expenditure on renewal or replacement of assets, relative to depreciation expense. Standard is met if the ratio can be measured and is 90% (or 0.90) Standard is improving if this ratio is between 90% and 110% (or 0.90 and 1.10)
 - d) *Current Ratio*
Liquidity refers to how quickly and cheaply an asset can be converted into cash. A Local Government's liquidity is measured by the "Current Ratio". This ratio provides information on the ability of a Local Government to meet its short-term financial obligations out of unrestricted current assets. Standard is met if the ratio can be measured and is at least 90%. Standard is improving if this ratio is between 90% and 110%.
 - e) *Net Financial Liabilities Ratio*
An indicator of the extent to which the net financial liabilities of a Local Government can be serviced by its operating revenues. Target < 60% per annum.

In Brief

- Currently, there are seven financial performance indicators which are required to be included in the annual financial report of a Local Government under section 6.4(2) of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 50 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996.
- Over a number of years there has been mounting concern as to the appropriateness of these indicators in providing a reasonable benchmark and measure of the financial performance of all local governments in WA.
- WALGA has contracted a Local Government Financial consultant to provide recommendations on meaningful ratios and what the recommended indicators are for each ratio.
- This agenda item recommends the 7 ratios be replaced with 5 more meaningful and relevant ratios

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

5.6 Local Government Audits (Page 28))

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA:

- 1) *Write to the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) advising of the cost increases to the Local Government sector in respect to financial audits over the first 2 years of OAG audits and request constraint on audit cost increases in the future.*
- 2) *Write to the Minister for Local Government seeking formal commitment that Performance Audits carried out by the Office of the Auditor General are the responsibility of the State Government.*

In Brief

- In 2017 the Local Government Amendment (Auditing) Act 2017 was proclaimed, giving the Auditor General the mandate to audit Western Australia's Local Governments.
- Feedback from Local Governments indicates that audit costs have increased by 92% across the first two year period since introduced.
- Local Government staff time for providing evidence of financial transactions has also increased significantly.
- Performance Audits of Local Governments are seen as beneficial for the sector, although the cost of performance audits needs to remain as the responsibility of the State Government.
- Advocacy to the Audit General on constraining further audit cost increases has been requested by the Local Government sector.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

5.7 Review of State Council and Zone Structure and Processes – Working Group Report and Recommendations (Page 34)

WALGA Recommendation

That:

1. *The Working Group's Final Report, and State Council's prior endorsement of Recommendations 5, 6, 7, and 8 from the Working Group's Final Report, be noted; and,*
2. *Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, and 10, from the Working Group's Final Report be endorsed.*

In Brief

- State Council, at its 27 March 2019 meeting, established a Working Group to develop options to revise State Council's structure and processes;
- The Working Group, comprised of the WALGA President, Deputy President, eight State Councillors, a representative from the Regional Cities Alliance, two Local Government Chief Executive Officers supported by senior WALGA staff, had a brief to consider all aspects of WALGA's governance structures and processes and report back to State Council with recommendations;
- The Working Group met three times and considered outcomes of previous reviews, arrangements of other associations of Local Government, strengths and weaknesses of the current model and options for change;
- The Working Group's final report and recommendations were presented for State Council consideration at the September 2019 State Council meeting;
- Recommendations 5, 6, 7, and 8 were endorsed by State Council at the September 2019 meeting, with the balance of the recommendations endorsed in principle subject to sector consultation;
- The Final Report was then distributed to the Local Government sector for comment and a number of submissions were received;
- As per the report below, it is recommended that recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, and 10 from the Final Report be endorsed.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

5.8 Membership of Development Assessment Panels (Page 40)

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA advocate to the Minister for Planning, that the composition of Development Assessment Panels (DAPs) be modified to provide equal representation of technical advice and local knowledge, in accordance with the original objectives of the DAP system to enhance the decision making process by improving the balance of experts.

In Brief

- At the 2019 WALGA AGM, a request to advocate for a change in the membership of Development Assessment Panels was considered and carried at the meeting.
- Appointing an additional Elected Member to DAPs would mean there would be three local experts and three planning experts, which provides a balance of the local knowledge and the technical expertise on the Panels.
- Although the recently released Planning Reform Action Plan states that there will be no change to Local Government membership, advocating for equal representation is still considered appropriate.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

5.9 Interim Submission - Draft State Planning Policy 3.6 – Infrastructure Contributions (Page 43)

WALGA Recommendation

1. *That the interim submission to the WA Planning Commission on draft State Planning Policy 3.6 – Infrastructure Contributions, be endorsed.*
2. *That the West Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) be advised that the proposed cap on community infrastructure contributions is strongly opposed and without the removal of this proposed cap, WALGA does not support draft State Planning Policy 3.6 – Infrastructure Contributions.*

In Brief

- In July 2019, the WA Planning Commission (WAPC) released a revised State Planning Policy 3.6 - Infrastructure Contributions and revised Guidelines.
- The revised State Planning Policy and revised Guidelines aim to provide better guidance and consistency in the application of development contribution plans throughout the State.
- The WA Planning Commissions public comment period closed on 2 September 2019, therefore an interim submission was prepared and submitted.

The meeting queried the additional costs to local governments and pointed out that it was detrimental to development as it added to costs. Mr M Batty indicated that he would follow up the Zone's query.

5.10 Local Government as Collection Agency for Construction Training Fund (Page 57)

WALGA Recommendation

1. *That WALGA advise the Construction Training Fund (CTF):*
 - 1.1 *That due to the operational improvements and establishment of an on-line portal for payments of the Building and Construction Industry Training Fund, Local Government will not continue to be a collection agency for these payments*
 - 1.2 *That the online receipt issued upon payment of the Building and Construction Industry Training Fund, must clearly show the property address and estimated building value to ensure it complies with section 20 of the Building Act 2011*
 - 1.3 *That the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) must provide access to the data collated in the Building Permit Database Project to assist CTF in their acquittal process, and*
 - 1.4 *That a review of the apprenticeship pathways should be undertaken, as the Local Government sector can provide many potential apprentice pathways directly connected to the construction and development industry.*
2. *That WALGA advise the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Education & Training and Minister for Commerce that the current CTF collection process is unnecessary administrative red tape for the Local Government sector, and seek their support for Local Government to not continue to be a collection agency for these payments.*

In Brief

- The Construction Training Fund (CTF) has recently established a secure on line portal for payments of the *Building and Construction Industry Training Fund (BCITF)*.
- WALGA has sought member's views on whether Local Government should continue to be the collection agency for the Construction Training Fund.
- The responses indicate that the administrative burden is onerous, fees received do not achieve cost recovery, therefore, the processing of CTF payments by Local Government should not continue.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

5.11 Interim Submission - Public Health Regulations Review Discussion Papers (Page 74)

WALGA Recommendation

That the interim submissions provided to the Department of Health on the following discussion papers be endorsed:

1. *Managing public health risks at events in WA*
2. *Management of public health risks related to offensive trade in WA*
3. *Managing the public health risks associated with cooling towers and warm water systems in WA*
4. *A new regulatory framework for managing drinking water in WA*

In Brief

- The *Public Health Act 2016* is progressing through a five-stage process of implementation and is currently at Stage 4. All regulations from the previous *Health Act 1911* will be repealed and replaced with new regulations at the commencement of Stage 5, which is anticipated to commence in 2021.
- Interim submissions for all of the above discussion papers were prepared to meet Department of Health deadlines and are now presented to State Council for final endorsement.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

5.12 Reforms to the Building Approval Process for Single Residential Buildings in Western Australia
(Page 78)

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA:

1. *Advise the Department of Mines Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) that Option 3 of the Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement, improvements to the single residential building approvals process, is supported in principle, subject to the following matters being addressed in consultation with the Local Government sector:*
 - a) *Prior to any regulatory changes, a review of the building fees and charges is essential, to ensure that any costs associated with the approval of building work, implementation of mandatory inspections, compliance and enforcement actions, and record keeping requirements for the Local Government sector, will result in full cost recovery*
 - b) *The Independent Building Surveyor who signed the Certificate of Design Compliance should be responsible for undertaking the inspections, therefore, Local Government would not be solely responsible for mandatory inspections*
 - c) *The State Government's registration process for the Builder should be strengthened to ensure that the builder fulfils their obligations for compliance with the National Construction Code*
 - d) *Implementation of mandatory inspections should be undertaken by properly qualified and independent personnel, at the following stages (at a minimum) of the construction process*
 1. *Foundations and footings*
 2. *Slab/reinforcement of bearers/joists*
 3. *Waterproofing*
 4. *Roof, and*
 5. *Occupancy or final completion*
 - e) *The occupancy or final completion inspection must ensure that the bushfire construction and energy efficiency requirements have been complied with, and*
 - f) *The removal of the proposed 'fast track approval' concept, as is not warranted nor properly justified as an improvement option.*
2. *Endorse the submission of this State Council report to the DMIRS, as the Association's submission on the Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement.*

In Brief

- In September 2019, DMIRS released a Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement for public comment focusing on improvements to the building approvals process for single residential buildings.
- The paper proposes three options for stakeholders; business as usual; introduction of full private certification; or improvements to the current building approval process.
- Submissions on the Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement close on the 9 December 2019.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

5.13 Wheatbelt Regional Health Services (Page 90)

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA:

1. *Re-establishes a working group to progress a Memorandum of Understanding with Local Governments in the Wheatbelt region and the WA Country Health Service, based on the previous work by the former Wheatbelt Health MOU Group, which outlines communication, responsibilities and strategic priorities unique to the region; and*
2. *Work with key service providers and stakeholders to engage with Local Government to further discuss the issues and develop solutions in the aged care services sector.*

In Brief

- The North East Wheatbelt Region Organisation of Councils (NEWROC) approached WALGA to deliver a regional health forum on 20 September 2019 in Trayning. The Forum was held with key service providers and stakeholders.
- At the forum WALGA coordinated a discussion where attendees recommended the re-establishment of the Wheatbelt Health MOU and to provide an opportunity for Local Governments to continue discussing the issues associated with aged care services.

- The Wheatbelt MOU Group was active between 2006 and 2015, advocated on behalf of Wheatbelt Local Governments and was a partnership between the Avon Midland Country, Central Country and Great Eastern Country Zones, Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt, WA Country Health Service (WACHS) and Wheatbelt Development Commission.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

5.14 Interim Submission to the Climate Health WA Inquiry (Page 93)

WALGA Recommendation

That the WALGA interim submission to the Climate Health WA Inquiry be endorsed.

In Brief

- In March 2019, the State Government, announced the Climate Health WA Inquiry into the implications of climate change on health.
- WALGA was invited to make a written submission to the Inquiry by 13 September 2019 and to appear before the Inquiry at a public hearing held on 14 November 2019.
- The Association sought comments from Local Governments via an InfoPage to inform the WALGA submission.
- The interim submission was endorsed by the WALGA People and Place Policy Team and submitted to the Department of Health as an interim submission.
- WALGA's submission to the Inquiry aligns with WALGA's Policy Statement on Climate Change endorsed by State Council in July 2018, which calls for strong climate change action and coordination by all levels of government.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

5.15 Submission on the Climate Change in Western Australia Issues Paper (Page 95)

WALGA Recommendation

That the WALGA submission on the Climate Change in Western Australia Issues Paper be endorsed.

In Brief

- The State Government released the Climate Change in Western Australia Issues Paper on 4 September 2019 for public comment.
- Feedback received on the Issues Paper will inform the development of the State Government Climate Policy due for release in 2020.
- The Issues Paper outlines the key issues facing Western Australia in 'the transition to a resilient, low-carbon economy, and identifies opportunities to build on actions already underway'.
- The Issues Paper references and sits within the context of the net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 target announced by the State Government in August 2019.
- WALGA's submission is consistent with the WALGA Climate Change Policy Statement, endorsed by State Council in July 2018 and previously endorsed WALGA climate change related submissions.
- The draft submission was provided to the sector for comment on 9 October 2019. 15 responses were received, all in support of the submission.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

5.16 Interim Submission – Policy and Application Guidelines for Speed Zoning (Page 127)

WALGA Recommendation

The interim submission to Main Roads WA on the Policy and Application Guidelines for Speed Zoning be endorsed.

In Brief

- Main Roads WA revised the Policy and Application Guidelines for Speed Zoning, which provides the principles and objectives applied in setting speed limits for all public roads in Western Australia.
- Local Governments use the Policy to guide their considerations for speed zoning on local roads and as a basis to develop an application for new or to amend existing speed limits.

- Local Governments gave feedback on the revised Policy and an interim submission, as amended by the Infrastructure Policy Team, was provided to Main Roads WA in September 2019.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

5.17 Interim Submission - Response to the Select Committee on Northern Australia (Page 131)

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA's interim submission to the Select Committee on the effectiveness of the Australian Government's Northern Australia agenda be endorsed.

In Brief

- On 4 July 2019 the Senate agreed to the establishment of the Select Committee on the effectiveness of the Australian Government's Northern Australia agenda.
- The Australian Government's Northern Australia agenda includes the development and release of the Northern Australia Green and White papers, and the subsequent implementation of the initiatives identified in the White Paper to progress Northern Australia.
- WALGA's Submission to the Select Committee on the effectiveness of the Australian Government's Northern Australia Agenda:
 - applauds the extensive body of work undertaken by the Australian Government in recent years to understand the drivers of economic and social development in Northern Australia;
 - recommends the adoption of a more formalised Program Evaluation structure to report on and evaluate progress;
 - recommends regular reviews of the Northern Australia agenda; and
 - recommends the implementation of other reforms that WALGA has advocated for in the past that would allow Northern Australia to reach its full economic and social potential, including limiting the use of FIFO to when it is necessary, the implementation of designated area migration agreements and increasing the quantum of financial assistance grants provided to Local Governments

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

RECOMMENDATION

That the above recommendations and comments be endorsed.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Smythe moved and Cr S Carter seconded –

That the above recommendations and comments be endorsed.

CARRIED

Matters for Noting/information

6.1 Ministerial Review of State IR System (Page 133)

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council notes the sector's position to oppose the State Government's recommendation to amend the Industrial Relations Act 1979 (WA) to enable a declaration to be made that WA Local Governments are not "national system employers" for the purposes of the Fair Work Act.

In Brief

- The Final Report (Report) of the review into the WA State industrial relations system was tabled in State Parliament on 11 April 2019.
- This report makes the recommendation to amend the *Industrial Relations Act 1979* (IR Act) to enable a declaration to be made that WA Local Government authorities are not "national system employers" for the purposes of the *Fair Work Act 2009* (FW Act).
- If endorsed at state and federal levels there will be transitional arrangements to assist the 93% of Local Government currently operating in the Federal system transition to the State system.
- A Taskforce comprising of key stakeholders, including WALGA, has been formed to discuss and scope out the 'unintended' consequences of the recommendation and proposed two year transition process.

- State Council endorsed a position opposing the States Governments proposal to place all Local Governments in the State Industrial Relations systems at the March 2018 State Council meeting (Resolution number 8.1/2018).
- To ensure the interests of Local Government are represented WALGA has established a Sector Reference Group to seek feedback and invited the Minister to address the sector at WALGA's annual People and Culture seminar in October 2019.

6.2 Action Plan for Planning Reform (Page 136)

WALGA Recommendation

That the release of the Action Plan for Planning Reform be noted.

In Brief

- The Minister for Planning has released an Action Plan for Planning Reform, in response to the Independent Planning Reform Team's Green Paper - *Modernising WA's Planning System: Concepts for a strategically-led system* released in 2018.
- The Action Plan proposes three overarching goals and 19 reform initiatives to achieve these aims, with Stakeholder Reference Groups and Initiative Working Groups established to guide the implementation of these reform projects.
- Nominations for the Stakeholder and working groups were sought from the Local Government Sector and forwarded to the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage to meet their deadline of the 6 September 2019.

6.3 Parliamentary Inquiry into Short Stay Accommodation – Final Report (Page 139)

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note:

1. *the findings and recommendations of the Economics and Industry Standing Committee's Inquiry into Short-Stay Accommodation, and*
2. *the contribution by the sector to this Inquiry and the positive impact this has had on the findings and recommendations of the Inquiry.*

In Brief

- In 2017, WALGA requested a review of the planning framework in relation to short-stay accommodation, while recognising that Local Government is best placed to determine specific controls on short-term rental accommodation
- On 13 February 2019 the Association appeared before a hearing of the Committee
- The Committee released its findings in September 2019 in a report titled, '*Levelling the Playing Field: Managing the impact of the rapid increase of Short-Term Rentals in Western Australia*'.

6.4 Draft State Planning Policy 7.2: Precinct Design – Submission (Page 142)

WALGA Recommendation

That the submission to the draft State Planning Policy 7.2: Precinct Design be noted.

In Brief

- In August 2019 the Western Australian Planning Commission released the draft *State Planning Policy 7.2: Precinct Design* (SPP7.2) with policy guidelines and a discussion paper.
- The purpose of the policy is to facilitate precinct planning which achieves good design quality and built form outcomes in both greenfield and developed areas.
- This submission was prepared in consultation with Local Governments, reviewed by WALGA's People and Place Policy Team, endorsed by State Council and submitted to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) in October 2019.

6.5 Managing Public Health Risks Associated with Pesticides in WA (Page 144)

WALGA Recommendation

That the submission to the Department of Health in response to the Managing Public Health Risks Associated with Pesticides in WA discussion paper be noted.

In Brief

- The *Public Health Act 2016* is progressing through a five-stage process of implementation and is currently at Stage 4. All regulations from the previous *Health Act 1911* will be repealed and replaced with new regulations at the commencement of Stage 5, which is anticipated to commence in 2021.
- The Department of Health released the “Managing Public Health Risks Associated with Pesticides in WA” discussion paper for public comment with three options for consideration.
- WALGA’s Submission discusses the majority of Local Governments preference for Option C, with Local Governments rejecting two of nine proposals that would see a transfer of responsibilities to Local Governments.

6.6 Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group (Page 146)

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note the establishment of the Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group and that sector wide consultation will be undertaken as discussion papers are released regarding proposed amendments to the Local Government Grants Scheme operating manual.

In Brief

- The Association has been advocating for a review of the Local Government Grants Scheme (LGGS) following the review of the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) undertaken by the Economic Regulation Authority.
- The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) have initiated and formalised a working group consisting of DFES, WALGA, Association of Volunteer Bushfire Brigades (AVBFB) and State Emergency Services Volunteers Association (SESVA). The working group have agreed to priority areas within the LGGS that require consideration and review.
- WALGA will be consulting with members on the various priority areas as the discussion papers are released.

6.7 Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) Program (Page 148)

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note

- *the implementation of the Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) program as a national project being overseen by the Australian New Zealand Emergency Management Committee and,*
- *advice from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) for Local Governments to suspend investment in current fire danger rating signage (including electronic signs) until a final prototype is announced.*

In Brief

- The Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) Program will design, develop and implement a national fire danger rating system to better describe the overall fire danger and risk to firefighters, land managers, broader government including Local Governments, utilities, businesses and the community.
- The project has been endorsed and overseen by the Australian New Zealand Emergency Management Committee and commenced in 2016. Critical research and prototypes are being socialised with all jurisdictions with workshops having been held in WA in September 2019. Implementation of the revised system is scheduled for 2020/21.
- There are possible changes to the current fire danger rating system signage and it is recommended that Local Governments suspend investment into signage until a final prototype is announced.

6.8 WALGA Emergency Management Engagement Project (Page 150)

WALGA Recommendation

That the announcement of the consolidation of the three WA Emergency Services Acts be noted.

In Brief

- Currently Western Australia has three Emergency Services Acts: the *Fire Brigades Act 1942*, *Bush Fires Act 1954* and *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998*.
- The Minister for Fire and Emergency Services has announced the consolidation of these three Acts into the Consolidated Emergency Services Act (CES Act).
- The Association's recent engagement of Local Governments has noted that their number one priority in the State Emergency Management Framework is the simplification of legislation by consolidating of the three Acts. WALGA will ensure that once the CES Act is drafted a robust consultation process will be held across the sector.

6.9 WALGA Submission to the Inquiry into 5G in Australia (Page 153)

WALGA Recommendation

That the WALGA Submission to the Inquiry into 5G in Australia be noted.

In Brief

- The Federal House of Representatives Standing Committee on Communications and the Arts is undertaking an inquiry into the deployment, adoption and application of 5G in Australia.
- WALGA has prepared a submission that has been endorsed by the Infrastructure Policy Team and State Council by Flying Minute.
- The submission draws attention to the negative impacts of uncontrolled installation of a network of antennas on Local Government infrastructure.
- The submission recommends that telecommunications carriers must consult and obtain agreement with Local Governments before installing infrastructure.

6.10 WALGA Comments on the Environmental Offsets Framework Review Report (Page 155)

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA's endorsed submission on the Environmental Offsets Framework Review Report be noted.

In Brief

- The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER), at the request of the Environment Minister, has conducted a review of the effectiveness of the WA Environmental Offsets Framework and its implementation in delivering its environmental objectives.
- The review found that 'environmental offsets approved since the release of the offsets policy have not fully counterbalanced the significant residual impacts of approvals' and made 12 recommendations (a summary of 25 recommendations are in the body of the report) designed to improve the effectiveness of the offsets framework.
- WALGA participated in the review as a member of the Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG).
- WALGA supports the review recommendations with some qualifications, as detailed in the attached comments.
- On 1 October 2019 State Council resolved by Flying Minute that the submission to DWER on the Environmental Offsets Framework Review be endorsed.

6.11 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) (Page 157)

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note the resolutions of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council at its 28 August and 9 October 2019 meetings.

In Brief

- This item summaries the outcomes of the MWAC meetings held on 28 August and 9 October 2019.

RECOMMENDATION

That the above matters for noting/information be noted.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –
That the above matters for noting/information be noted.**

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 11:15am.

RESUMPTION: The meeting resumed at 11:45 am. All those present at the time of adjournment were present on resumption.

Organisational Reports

7.1 Key Activity Reports

- 7.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Environment and Waste Unit (Page 163)
- 7.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Governance and Organisational Services (Page 167)
- 7.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure (Page 173)
- 7.1.4 Report on Key Activities, People and Place (Page 177)

7.2 Policy Forum Reports

- 7.2.1 Mayors/Presidents Policy Forum (Page 182)
- 7.2.2 Mining Community Policy Forum (Page 182)
- 7.2.3 Container Deposit Legislation Policy Forum (Page 183)
- 7.2.4 Economic Development Policy Forum (Page 183)

RECOMMENDATION

That the above organisational reports be noted.

RESOLUTION

**Cr B Haywood moved and Cr D Smythe seconded –
That the above organisational reports be noted.**

CARRIED

8.2 WALGA President's Report

Presentation of the WALGA President's Report (attached to Agenda).

RECOMMENDATION

That the WALGA President's Report be received.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr S Carter seconded –
That the WALGA President's Report be received.**

CARRIED

8.3 State Councillor's Report

Report by Cr Jan Court.

RECOMMENDATION

That the State Councillor's report be received.

Cr J Court commented on –

- Meeting held at Shark Bay; very interesting.
- Item 5.7 – Zone's resolution in relation to increasing the speed limit on specified rural highways created a lot of interest. Both Cr Seymour and she had spoken to the media in relation to the resolution.
- WA Local Government Association is consulting with LGIS regarding support to be provided to elected members around bullying etc.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –
That the State Councillor’s Report be received.**

CARRIED

8.4 Zone Status Report

Report by WA Local Government Association on status of Zone resolutions for action by the Association – November 2019 (attached to Agenda).

RECOMMENDATION

That the November 2019 Status Report be received.

Mr M Batty drew attention to the recent announcement by the Minister for Agriculture of the review of the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act and that this gave an opportunity to comment on Corella control.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr J Court seconded –
That the November 2019 Status Report be received.**

CARRIED

9 ZONE REPORTS

9.1 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group

The Local Government Agricultural Freight Group met on 11 October 2019 (Minutes attached to the Agenda). The Zone’s delegates may care to report.

The next meeting of the Group is scheduled for 10 February 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

- That the Minutes of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group held 11 October be received.
- That the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Report be received.

Cr K Seymour commented on –

- A good meeting the majority of which was spent on the requirements for the movement of agricultural vehicles. Hats off to Main Roads for listening and acting on concerns raised.
- Mr John Henchy, Farm Machinery & Industry Association of WA, attended the meeting and highlighted the different culture towards farmers and food production in Canada and USA and that the Australian market for agricultural machinery was only 3% of the worldwide market and as such it was very unlikely that manufacturers would build machinery specifically for Australia.
- The number of agricultural machinery combinations allowed to be moved in a convoy has been increased from 2 to 3. Believe more work needs to be done in this area and that the number of combinations allowed should be further reviewed.
- Good to see that representatives from Main Roads attend agricultural machinery Field Days.

RESOLUTION

Cr K Seymour moved and Cr D Smythe seconded –

- **That the Minutes of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group held 11 October be received.**
- **That the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Report be received.**

CARRIED

9.2 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee

Minutes of meeting held 16 October 2019 in Northam (attached to Agenda).

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee held 16 October 2019 be received.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Smythe moved and Cr S Carter seconded –

That the Minutes of the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee held 16 October 2019 be received. CARRIED

10 AGENCY REPORTS

10.1 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

(a) Report

Presentation of report from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (attached to Agenda).

RECOMMENDATION

That the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Report be received.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Smythe moved and Cr J Court seconded –

That the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Report be received. CARRIED

(b) Feedback

The Department is seeking feedback on what the role of the Department should be and the type of information the Zone would like to receive. They advise that they can provide information relating to the following business areas of the Department or source information from across State Government more broadly –

- Local Government
- Culture and the Arts
- Sport and recreation
- Office of Multicultural interests
- Racing Gaming and Liquor
- Aboriginal History Unit

They have suggested the following for consideration –

- The Department to provide a 20 minute presentation at the first or second meeting of 2020 on relevant key projects.
- Zones to allow 10 minutes for the Department on the agenda to provide a brief update and time for discussion around key issues and opportunities for the Zone; and
- At each Zone meeting, members provide the Department with topics or presentations they would like to receive at the next meeting, either from DLGSC or other State Government agencies.

Feedback is requested by 6 December 2019.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Zone provide provision on each meeting agenda for (a) a brief Departmental update and discussion around key issues; and (b) opportunity for members to put forward topics or presentation they would like the Department to give to the next Zone meeting.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Smythe moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –

That the Zone provide provision on each meeting agenda for (a) a brief Departmental update and discussion around key issues; and (b) opportunity for members to put forward topics or presentation they would like the Department to give to the next Zone meeting. CARRIED

10.2 RDA Wheatbelt

Presentation of report from RDA Wheatbelt (attached to Agenda).

Recommendation

That the RDA Wheatbelt Report be received.

Mr M Walker commented on –

- GrantGuru
 - An on-line portal which brings together grants and best practise grant writing into one platform.
 - A subscription service – cost \$7,000 per year per local government. A fee of \$40,000 per year to cover the 63 local governments in the Mid-West-Gascoyne and Wheatbelt regions has been negotiated. RDA Wheatbelt proposes that for the 42 local governments in the Wheatbelt a cost sharing arrangement be put in place based on a local government's population.
 - Seeking feedback of interest from Wheatbelt local governments
- Building Better Regions Fund – seeking clarification of WA's eligibility for the drought support measures.
- Aged and Disability Care Reform – Looking at how to structure a Wheatbelt region 'pitch' to government for funding for aged and disability care. Possibly based on the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Route model. Considering how best to get local government representation.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –
That the RDA Wheatbelt Report be received.**

CARRIED

Main Roads Wheatbelt

Presentation of report from Main Roads Wheatbelt.

Recommendation

That the Main Roads Wheatbelt Report be received.

Mr C Manton commented on –

- The hot weather has affected work on the Great Northern Highway. Defect liability of 1 year for contractors.
- It is known that the Wheatbelt has one of the oldest road networks in the State. The Wheatbelt region has received the biggest budget outside of the metropolitan areas and its biggest ever - \$150m. Talk of higher funding levels for next year. However many years of catch-up. Funding does not include work on the Great Northern Highway or the Secondary Freight network.
- Annual works plan to be sent to all CEOs.
- Roads on the Secondary Freight Network are being surveyed to assist in allocating priorities.

Cr S Carter asked if funding had been received for work on the Northam-Pithara Road. Mr Manton replied that indications were that funding would be received for widening of the northern section of the road. He was now pushing for funds for overlay works.

RESOLUTION

**Cr S Carter moved and Cr D Smythe seconded –
That the Main Roads Wheatbelt Report be received.**

CARRIED

10.3 RoadWise (Wheatbelt North)

Presentation of report from RoadWise (Wheatbelt North) (attached to Agenda).

Mr Cliff Simpson presented his report and drew attention to a number of areas.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr J Court seconded –
That the RoadWise (Wheatbelt North) Report be received.**

CARRIED

11 FINANCE

11.1 Financial Reports

Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Report for the period ending 31 October 2019 are attached to the agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

That the financial reports for the year ending 31 October 2019, as attached, be received.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Smythe moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –

That the financial reports for the year ending 31 October 2019, as attached, be received.

CARRIED

Accounts for Payment

The following accounts are submitted for payment -

<u>Payee</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Amount</u>
R W & S Dew	Secretarial Services to Zone – December 2019 Quarter	<u>3,647.75</u>
	TOTAL (no GST)	<u><u>\$3,647.75</u></u>

This amount includes underpayment of \$39.25 for Secretarial Services to the Zone for the September 2019 quarter – CPI increase from 1 July 2019 not taken into account.

RECOMMENDATION

That the accounts as listed totalling \$3,647.75 be approved for payment.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Smythe moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –

That the accounts as listed totalling \$3,647.75 be approved for payment.

CARRIED

12 ZONE BUSINESS

12.1 National Redress Scheme – Recommendation by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

BACKGROUND

At its June 2019 meeting the Zone noted the National Redress Scheme update from the State Government on engagement with WA local governments regarding participation in the Scheme. The update indicated that a stage phase 2 discussion paper would be released in late August 2019 and that Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries representatives would attend the November 2019 Zone meetings to discuss local government participation.

COMMENT

Arrangements had been made for Mr Gordon MacMile, Director Strategic Coordination and Delivery, Planning and Service Delivery, to attend this meeting. Mr MacMile has advised the need to reschedule discussions with the Zone until the new year as the Department is waiting for a clear direction on Redress from the State Government. This is not expected before Christmas.

RECOMMENDATION

For Noting

Mr A Cook asked as to the timeline for local governments to advise whether they will participate in the Scheme. Mr M Batty replied that he would follow up

12.2 Delegates and Deputy Delegates to Zone

BACKGROUND

Following the 2019 local government elections member Councils are to appoint a delegate and deputy delegate to the Zone.

COMMENT

Member Councils have advised their delegates and deputy delegates to the Zone as follows –

Council	Delegate	Deputy Delegate
Shire of Chittering	Cr Don Gibson	Cr John Davis
Shire of Dalwallinu	Cr Steven Carter	Cr Keith Carter
Shire of Dandaragan	Cr Dahlia Richardson	Cr Leslee Holmes
Shire of Gingin	Cr Jan Court	Cr Wayne Fewster
Shire of Goomalling	Cr Barry Haywood	Cr Roly Van Geldren Cr Julie Chester Cr Rodney Sheen
Shire of Moora	Cr Ken Seymour	Cr Tracy Lefroy
Shire of Northam	Cr Chris Antonio	Cr Julie Williams
Shire of Toodyay	Cr Bill Manning	Cr Rosemary Madacsi Mr Stan Scott
Shire of Victoria Plains	Cr Pauline Bantock	Cr Jacqui Corless-Crowther
Shire of Wongan-Ballidu	Cr Stuart Boekeman	Cr Mandy Stephenson
Shire of York	Cr Denese Smythe	Cr Denis Warnick

RECOMMENDATION

For noting

NOTED

12.3 Bank Signatures

BACKGROUND

The persons authorised to operate the Zone's Bank Accounts are to any two of the President, Deputy President and Executive Officer.

COMMENT

In the event of any change in the Zone's officer holders following the Zone elections, the Zone's bank will require a resolution to authorise the change of signatures at the bank.

RECOMMENDATION

That the persons authorised to operate the Zone's Bank Accounts be changed to any two of _____ President), _____ (Deputy President) and Robert Dew (Executive Officer).

RESOLUTION

Cr S Carter moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –

That the persons authorised to operate the Zone's Bank Accounts be changed to any two of Cr Ken Seymour (President), Cr Jan Court (Deputy President) and Robert Dew (Executive Officer).

CARRIED

12.4 Proposed Alternative to the CA07 Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition

BACKGROUND

At the December 2018 meeting State Council resolved that WALGA:

- (1) Opposes withdrawal of the "Letter of Approval" Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition until an acceptable alternative to Local Government is developed;
- (2) Supports the position that Local Governments not use provision of the Letter of Authority to charge transport operators to access the Restricted Access Vehicle network;
- (3) Supports the development of standard administrative procedures including fees and letter formats;
- (4) Supports the practice of Local Governments negotiating maintenance agreements with freight owners/ generators in cases where the operations are predicted to cause extraordinary road damage as determined by the Local Government; and
- (5) Advocates to Main Roads to establish a stakeholder working group to develop an appropriate mechanism through which the increased infrastructure costs from the use of heavy vehicles and those loaded in excess of limits (concessional loading) can be recovered from those benefiting, and redirected into the cost of road maintenance.

COMMENT

Main Roads are proposing an alternative to the CA07 condition which will replace the condition with a notification process. They are presenting the proposal to all Regional Road Groups and have requested Local Governments provide feedback through an online survey.

WALGA is establishing a stakeholder working group to advise if the proposal is "an acceptable alternative", or to recommend amendments to Main Roads WA and to advise a policy position for State Council consideration. In accordance with the State Council resolution each Zone is invited to nominate a representative to serve on the Group. Please supply name and contact details before Wednesday, 4 December 2019

RECOMMENDATION

That the Avon-Midland Country Zone appoints _____ to be its representative on the CA07 Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition Working Group.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Smythe moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –

That the Avon-Midland Country Zone appoints Cr Ken Seymour to be its representative on the CA07 Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition Working Group. CARRIED

12.5 WA Community Resource Centre Network

Hon Mia Davies MLA forwarding copy of response by the Minister for Regional Development to her enquiry regarding the ability and capacity of Community Resource Centres (CRCs) to assist the Government to further enhance its public consultation processes in regional Western Australia –

CRCs are an important part of regional WA and as you note, the McGowan Government is already taking steps to better utilise the CRCs in service delivery.

Following the review of CRCs undertaken last year by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) at my request, work is progressing on certain actions aimed at building stronger relationships between CRCs and government agencies, and the role of CRC in regional service delivery.

DPIRD has engaged the services of the Wheatbelt Business Network (WBN) to undertake pilot projects to improve the use of CRCs by government agencies. In this regard, the WBN has:

- *negotiated the use of 10 CRCs by the Australian Electoral Commission for the recent Federal election; and*
- *held productive discussions with the Western Australian Electoral Commission to use CRCs for the next State election and with the Australian Bureau of Statistics in relation to CRCs assisting with the delivery of Census 2021.*

DPIRD is also holding discussions with government agencies about CRCs delivering services and in relation to establishing a senior officers group in government. It is also working with

the Department of Finance in relation to CRCs being part of the State Government's ServiceWA initiative.

DPIRD will continue to work with CRC staff and their management committees and other relevant stakeholders in progressing initiatives to improve the delivery of government services in, and consultation with, regional WA through greater use of CRCs.

RECOMMENDATION
For Noting

NOTED

13 URGENT BUSINESS (as permitted by the Presiding Member)

13.1 Future Drought Fund and the National Drought Response Resilience Plan

WA Local Government Infopage on the Future Drought Fund and the National Drought Response Resilience Plan was brought forward. Copies of the Infopage were circulated to delegates prior to the meeting.

Key issues -

- The Commonwealth has released its consultation draft on the Drought Resilience Funding Plan.
- Submissions on the draft Plan close 13 December 2019.
- The Fund begins with an initial credit of \$3.9 billion. From 1 July 2020, \$100 million will be made available each year to support Australian farmers and communities.
- Funds can be used for communities to prepare for, and become resilient to, the effects of inevitable future drought.
- Local Governments can apply for relevant projects.

The WA Local Government Association is seeking comment of the draft plan and input on what the funding criteria should be to assist in developing its submission. WALGA has requested copy of any submissions by 6 December 2019.

The meeting requested that members provide comment to the Zone Executive Officer so that a collated response can be provided to the WA Local Government Association by 6 December 2019.

14 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Mr S Love MLA extended his congratulations to recently elected and re-elected members, to Zone delegates and to Cr Seymour on his election as Zone President. He thanked Cr Court for her time as Zone President.

15 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Future meetings of the Zone are scheduled for –

21 February 2020	Shire of Dandaragan
24 April 2020	Shire of Victoria Plains
19 June 2020	Shire of York
21 August 2020	Shire of Chittering
20 November 2020	Shire of Wongan-Ballidu

RECOMMENDATION

That the next ordinary meeting of the Zone be held Friday 21 February 2020 and be hosted by the Shire of Dandaragan.

RESOLUTION

Cr S Carter moved and Cr D Richardson seconded –

That the next ordinary meeting of the Zone be held Friday 21 February 2020 and be hosted by the Shire of Dandaragan.

CARRIED

16 GUEST SPEAKERS

16.1 Arc Infrastructure

Mr Murray Cook, Executive Director and Claire Walker, Head of Stakeholder Engagement.

Arc Infrastructure has recently announced that Mr Cook has been appointed Chief Executive Officer effective 1 January 2020.

NOTED

Following the meeting Mr Cook gave a presentation on the rail network managed by Arc Infrastructure and on the WA Supernet proposal.

16.2 Synergy

Following lunch Synergy will be conducting an interactive workshop on the energy needs of local governments and how Synergy can partner with local government.

NOTED

Following the meeting, Synergy representatives gave a presentation on partnering with the community to transition to a new energy future. They indicated that a copy of the presentation would be made available for circulation to delegates and that the outcomes of today's workshop would be collated and feedback provided to the Zone early next year.

17 CLOSURE

There being no further business the President thanked attendees, the Shire of Dalwallinu for hosting the meeting, and declared the meeting closed at 12:33 pm.

CERTIFICATION

These Minutes were confirmed by the meeting held on

Signed:
(Chairman of meeting at which the Minutes were confirmed)