

South West Country Zone Minutes

21 November 2025

**Hosted by the City of Bunbury
4 Stephen Street, Bunbury**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES.....	5
1.1	Opening	5
1.2	Attendance	5
1.3	Apologies	7
2	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY	7
3	ELECTIONS	7
3.1	Elections of Chair and Deputy Chair of the South West Country Zone	7
3.2	Elections of State Council Representatives and Deputy State Council Representatives of the South West Country Zone	8
4	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.....	9
5	DEPUTATIONS.....	10
5.1	City of Bunbury	10
5.2	Department of Communities	10
5.3	WALGA Presentation.....	10
6	AGENCY REPORTS	10
6.1	South West Development Commission.....	10
6.2	Regional Development Australia – South West.....	10
6.3	Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS)....	10
6.4	Australia’s South West	11
6.5	Department of Fire and Emergency Services	11
6.6	Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	11
7	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.....	11
8	BUSINESS ARISING.....	11
8.1	Status Report.....	11
9	ZONE BUSINESS	12
9.1	Climate Emergency Australia	12
9.2	Rating Costs of Traffic Management and the Effect of Community Events.....	13
9.3	Submissions to the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members	15
9.4	DAMA Update	15
9.5	Polyphagous shot-hole borer Update – November 2025.....	16
10	WALGA STATE COUNCIL AGENDA	18
10.1	2025 Annual General Meeting Resolutions (State Council Agenda Item 8.1)...	18
10.2	2026 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members (State Council Agenda Item 8.2)	21
10.3	Tourism Advocacy Position Update (State Council Agenda Item 8.3).....	25
10.4	Waste Management Advocacy Positions (state Council Agenda Item 8.4)	29
10.5	Electoral Material – Authorisation Statement Address Requirements (State Council Agenda Item 8.5).....	31
10.6	Other State Council Agenda items.....	33
11	OTHER BUSINESS.....	34
11.1	South West Agribusiness Precinct.....	34
11.2	Motion of Appreciation – Tony Dean.....	34
12	EXECUTIVE REPORTS	34
12.1	WALGA President’s Report	34
12.2	WALGA State Councillor Report.....	34
13	FINANCIAL REPORT	35

	13.1 South West Country Zone Financial Report	35
14	EMERGING ISSUES	36
15	2026 MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS.....	36
	15.1 2026 Proposed Meeting Dates.....	36
16	NEXT MEETING.....	36
17	CLOSURE	36

PRIORITISATION FRAMEWORK

The below Prioritisation Framework was endorsed at the April 2024 South West Country Zone meeting.

Zone Delegates when drafting Agenda items and motions on policy or advocacy issues, using the below criteria as prompts for what kind of information to include. The Prioritisation Framework does not remove the need for judgements to be made and is intended to guide, not replace, decision-making.

How to use the Framework:

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

Impact on Local Government Sector Impact on Local Government sector without intervention	High	Medium	Low
Reach Number of member Local Governments affected	Sector-wide	Significant (multiple regions, Zones, or bands)	Few
Influence Capacity to influence decision makers	High	Medium	Low
Principles Alignment to core principles such as autonomy, funding, general competence	Strong	Partial	Peripheral
Clarity Policy change needed is clear and well-defined	Clear	Partial	Unclear
Decision-maker support Level of support among decision-makers (political and administrative)	High	Medium	Low
Public support Level of support among the public or other stakeholders	High	Medium	Low
Positive consequences for WALGA Prospect of positive consequences for WALGA. E.g. enhanced standing among members or leverage for other issues.	High	Medium	Low
Negative consequences for WALGA	High	Medium	Low

Prospect of negative consequences for WALGA for not undertaking the advocacy effort. E.g. diminished standing among members or other stakeholders.			
Partnerships Potential for partnerships with other stakeholders	Yes (3+)	Possibly (1-2)	No (0)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

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

ATTACHMENTS

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

President Cr Tony Dean was invited to open the meeting as outgoing Chair, and then the WALGA Secretariat assumed the Chair to conduct the Zone Elections.

1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

1.1 OPENING

President Cr Tony Dean opened the meeting at 9:01am.

1.2 ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS

1 Voting Delegates from each Member Council

Shire of Augusta Margaret River

President Cr Julia Jean-Rice

Shire of Boyup Brook

President Cr Helen O'Connell
Mr Leonard Long, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate

Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes

President Cr Stephen Carstairs
Mr Garry Adams, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate

City of Bunbury	Mayor Jaysen de San Miguel
City of Busselton	Mayor Phill Cronin Dr Garry Hunt PSM, Chief Executive Officer (Temporary), non-voting delegate
Shire of Capel	President Cr John Fergusson Mr Gary Clark, Chief Executive Officer (Temporary), non-voting delegate
Shire of Collie	President Cr Ian Miffling Mr Phil Anastasakis, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Dardanup	President Cr Tyrrell Gardiner Mr André Schönfeldt, Chief Executive Officer, non- voting delegate
Shire of Donnybrook Balingup	President Cr Vivienne MacCarthy Mr Nick O'Connor, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Harvey	President Cr Michelle Campbell Ms Annie Riordan, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Manjimup	President Cr Donnelle Buegge Mr Jayson Giadresco, Director Development Services, non-voting delegate
Shire of Nannup	President Cr Tony Dean Mr David Taylor, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
WALGA Secretariat	Mr Chris Hossen, Policy Manager Planning and Building Mr Saul Cresswell, Principal Policy Advisor Economic Development
South West Development Commission	Ms Cate Brooks, Chief Executive Officer
RDA South West	Mr Charles Jenkinson, Director Regional Development
Australia's South West	Ms Emma Brown, Tourism Engagement Manager
Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	Mr Matt Beahan, Regional Workforce Transition Officer
Guest Speakers Department of Communities	Ms Louise Koyd, Manager (Office of Homelessness)

1.3 APOLOGIES

Shire of Augusta Margaret River	Ms Andrea Selvey, Chief Executive Officer
City of Bunbury	Mr Alan Ferris, Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Manjimup	Mr Ben Rose, Chief Executive Officer
Australia's South West	Ms Catrin Allsop, Chief Executive Officer
Aboriginal Affairs; Water; Climate Resilience; South West	Hon Don Punch MLA

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We, the South West Country Zone of WALGA, acknowledge the Nyoongar people, the Traditional Custodians of this land, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and future.

Mr Chris Hossen assumed the Chair to conduct the elections.

3 ELECTIONS

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

3.1 ELECTIONS OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE SOUTH WEST COUNTRY ZONE

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

Zone Chair

The following written nominations were received for the position of Chair.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| • President Cr Donelle Buegge | Shire of Manjimup |
| • President Cr Tony Dean | Shire of Nannup |

No nominations were received from the floor.

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

DECLARATION

That President Cr Donelle Buegge, Shire of Manjimup, is elected as Chair of the South West Country Zone for the term of 2 years, November 2025 to November 2027.

Deputy Zone Chair

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

- President Cr John Fergusson Shire of Capel

Councillor Fergusson withdrew his nomination.

Further nominations were accepted from the floor:

- President Cr Julia Jean-Rice Shire of Augusta Margaret River

As only one nomination is received, the position of Deputy Chair was declared.

DECLARATION

That President Cr Julia Jean-Rice, Shire of Augusta Margaret River, is elected as Deputy Chair of the South West Country Zone for the term of 2 years, November 2025 to November 2027.

3.2 ELECTIONS OF STATE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES AND DEPUTY STATE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOUTH WEST COUNTRY ZONE

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

For the South West Country Zone, there is one (1) representative position on State Council and one (1) deputy representative position.

State Councillor

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

- President Cr Donelle Buegge Shire of Manjimup
- President Cr Julia Jean-Rice Shire of August Margaret River
- President Cr Tony Dean Shire of Nannup

Further nominations were accepted from the floor.

The following nomination was received from the floor:

- Mayor Phill Cronin City of Busselton

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

5 DEPUTATIONS

5.1 CITY OF BUNBURY

Mayor Jaysen de San Miguel

Bunbury Mayor Jaysen de San Miguel provided an update to the Zone on current priorities and key projects.

Noted

5.2 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES

Ms Louise Koyd, Manager from Office of Homelessness was unable to attend the meeting, and will be invited to attend an upcoming Zone meeting.

Noted

5.3 WALGA PRESENTATION

Chris Hossen, Zone Executive Officer provided a presentation to the Zone about WALGA and the role of Zone Delegates.

Noted

6 AGENCY REPORTS

6.1 SOUTH WEST DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Cate Brooks, Chief Executive Officer, provided an update to the Zone.

Noted

6.2 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA – SOUTH WEST

Charles Jenkinson, Director Regional Development, provided a brief update to the Zone.

Noted

6.3 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY REGULATION AND SAFETY (LGIRS)

The November 2025 LGIRS update was attached within the Agenda.

Noted

6.4 AUSTRALIA'S SOUTH WEST

Tourism Engagement Manager at Australia's South West, Emma Brown, provided a brief update to the Zone.

Noted

6.5 DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Mr Murray Carter was an apology for this meeting.

Noted

6.6 AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

Mr Matt Beahan provided a brief update to the Zone.

Noted

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the South West Country Zone meeting held on 22 August 2025 have previously been circulated to Member Councils and were provided as an attachment to the Agenda.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Julia Meldrum
Seconded: President Cr Tyrrell Gardiner

That the Minutes of the meeting of the South West Country Zone held on 22 August 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

8 BUSINESS ARISING

8.1 STATUS REPORT

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

Noted

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Julia Jean-Rice
Seconded: Mayor Phill Cronin

With regard to item 8.7 Lack of Biosecurity Management by Government Agencies of the Zone Status Report, and in relation to the Polyphagous shot-hole borer biosecurity response, the South West Country Zone:

1. calls on the State Government to implement permanent signage along major transport routes into the South West Region to slow the spread of the PSHB and protect important agricultural industries and forests,
2. requests senior DPIRD officials attend an upcoming Zone meeting,
3. encourages Local Government within the Zone to work together to develop uniform signage and communication materials.

CARRIED

9 ZONE BUSINESS

9.1 CLIMATE EMERGENCY AUSTRALIA

By Shire of August Margaret River

BACKGROUND

Climate Emergency Australia (CEA) is a network of Australian councils that have declared, recognised or acknowledged the climate emergency.

Over sixty councils came together in February 2020 and resolved to form this nationwide network. CEA is overseen by an Executive made up of senior representatives from five member councils.

More than one hundred councils around Australia have now declared or recognised the climate emergency.

MOTION / COUNCIL DECISION

CR TOWNSHEND, CR LANE OM2019/191

That Council:

1. *Declares a climate emergency and the Shire President to convey this message to our State and Federal government leaders, and lobby for those governments to take a stronger position on environmental issues contributing to climate change;*
2. *Acts urgently on the environmental issues which contribute to greenhouse gas emissions;*
3. *Continues to work on measures to adapt to climate change throughout the Shire district; and*
4. *Considers an allocation (potentially to a community group) in the mid-year budget review to:*
 - a) *facilitate and enable engagement with key stakeholders in the community; and*
 - b) *determine appropriate goals and method of measuring the improvements in environmental issues which are contributing to climate change.*

CARRIED 5/2

CRS EARL AND MCLEOD VOTED AGAINST

Climate Emergency Australia advocates on behalf of our members to other levels of government to respond to the Climate Emergency and is building the capacity of councils to respond to the climate emergency.

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River has recently joined this network, as one of only two local governments in Western Australia.

This report to the WALGA South West Country Zone aims to raise awareness of CEA and the benefits of joining this network.

Benefits and costs are summarised in the attached Climate Emergency Australia Prospectus 2025-2026 – see attached.

The CEA Coordinator has offered to present to the WALGA Zone.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Julia Jean-Rice
Seconded: President Cr Vivienne MacCarthy

That the South West Country Zone invites the Climate Emergency Australia Coordinator to present at a future Zone meeting.

CARRIED

9.2 RATING COSTS OF TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND THE EFFECT OF COMMUNITY EVENTS

By Shire of Manjimup

BACKGROUND

Traffic management around road works, maintenance and construction has long been a critical component of ensuring safety for both road users and the workers involved. In Western Australia, the Main Roads WA Code of Practice provides a framework aligning with national standards while reflecting WA-specific conditions. The Code sets out requirements for preparing Traffic Management Plans, accrediting personnel, designing temporary signage, traffic control devices, speed zones and lane closures. These are essential given the risk exposures at worksites on or adjacent to live traffic lanes.

The “Traffic Management for Events Code of Practice” issued by MRWA outlines the requirements for events that affect roads (vehicular traffic, pedestrians, cyclists, emergency vehicles) in Western Australia. It emphasises that event organisers must consider all road user needs (not just vehicle traffic) and provide safe, clear traffic routing, signage, closures, detours and communications.

Both codes are in place to protect people and communities. We understand that safety comes first.

In October 2024, Main Roads WA made changes to its Traffic Management Company Registration Scheme, mandating a minimum ordinary hourly rate of \$37.24 per hour for all traffic controllers on state roads – whether they’re working on a Main Roads project, or for any other client.

Traffic controllers must also receive all relevant loadings and entitlements in the Building and Construction General On-site Award 2020. An entry-level traffic controller's base 38-hour week wage will now be \$73,586 per annum, or \$78,672 per annum with fares and travel allowance. Working a 50-hour week, they'll be paid \$116,851 per annum. This is where the cost implications arise.

This motion, quite simply, is to highlight the concerns and elevated costs related to traffic management, particularly that effecting local community events.

SECRETARIET COMMENT

WALGA actively participates in the Main Roads WA Temporary Traffic Management Advisory Group and the Traffic Management for Events Advisory Group, where significant concerns have been raised regarding the large increases in cost precipitated by the State Government-mandated wage increase for Temporary Traffic Management workers working on Main Roads WA projects.

Following the initial implementation of the wage increase, WALGA communicated with both the Commissioner of MRWA and Minister of Transport to point out the significant implications that this will have on Local Governments and express disappointment in this decision. Two subsequent meetings were held between the WALGA CEO and staff with Main Roads executives in 2024 to reiterate the significant consequences of the proposed changes. Despite significant concerns and multiple discussions, the position on increased pay and conditions remains and continues to affect a substantial increase on Temporary Traffic Management costs on both Main Roads-maintained roads and Local Government roads. It is unclear whether the quality of traffic management has improved and the retention of qualified traffic management personnel has increased.

Regarding event management, WA Police may have capacity to support with traffic management for non-commercial events, while work is ongoing to expand the allowable activities of personnel holding the Event Traffic Controller designation. WALGA will continue to advocate for policies and practices which clearly outline Local Government's responsibilities, assign clear responsibilities, mitigate risk, and ensure safe conditions for both traffic management personnel and the general public.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Donelle Buegge
Seconded: Mayor Phill Cronin

That the South West Zone request the WALGA State Council to:

- 1. Advocate to the WA State Government to review the Main Roads WA Codes of Practice in relation to Traffic Management, including but not limited to:**
 - 1.1 Regulation on events management, particularly in regional Western Australia.**
 - 1.2 Research into best practice, innovation and fit-for-purpose solutions applied outside of Western Australian (and Australian) jurisdictions.**
- 2. Advocate to the WA State Government to improve public road safety education and awareness, particularly as it relates to transport environments under active traffic management conditions."**

CARRIED

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

By Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance

BACKGROUND

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

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

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

COMMENT

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

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

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

Noted

9.4 DAMA UPDATE

By Shire of Dardanup

The DAMA Update for members of the South West Country Zone was attached with the Agenda.

Noted

9.5 POLYPHAGOUS SHOT-HOLE BORER UPDATE – NOVEMBER 2025

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager Environment and Waste

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Since the State Council Agenda and Item for Noting was developed, there has been a further development relating to PSHB management.
- On Friday 14 November, the State Government [gazetted](#) changes to the zones within the Quarantine Area for Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB).
- This change sees a significantly larger portion of the metropolitan area, and all 30 Local Governments, having responsibility for managing PSHB infestations.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

BACKGROUND

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

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

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

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

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

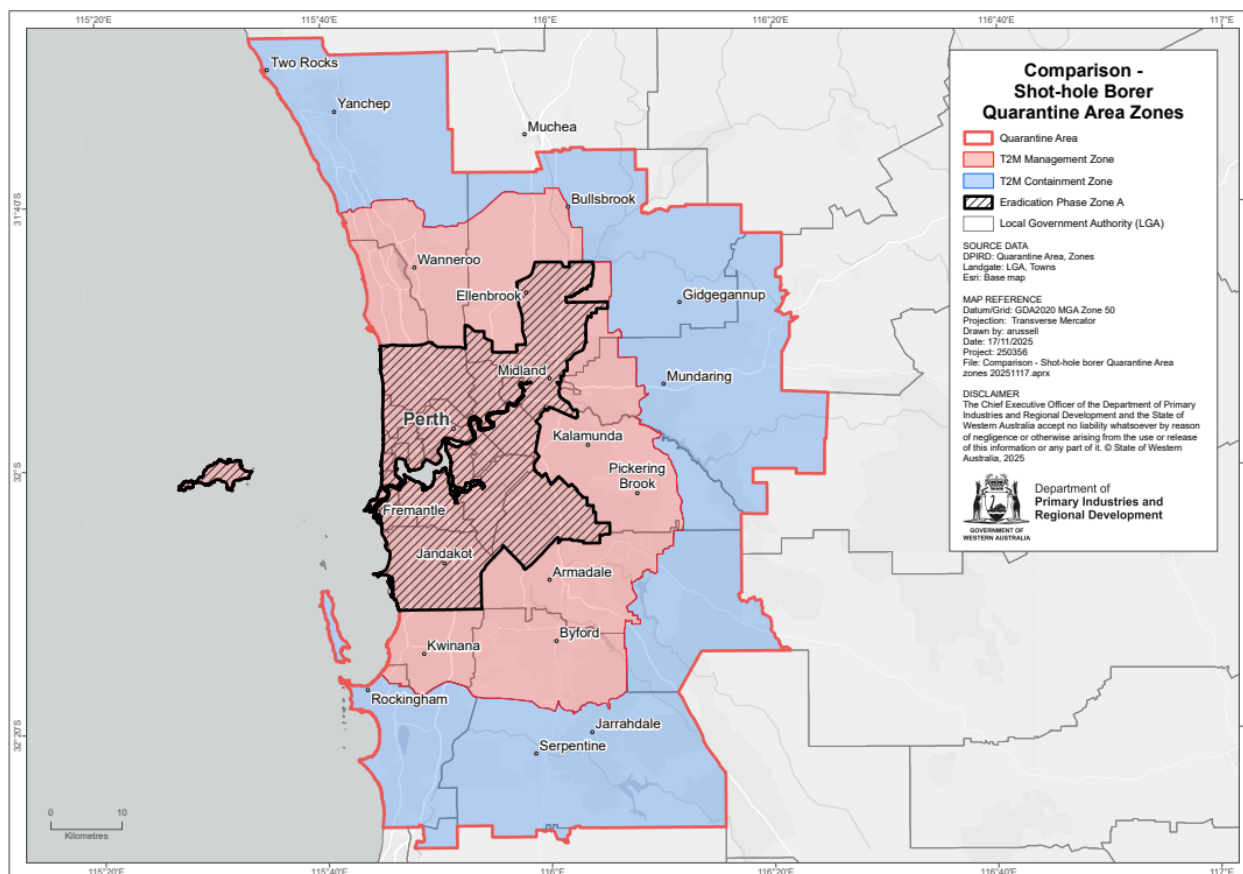


Figure 1: Quarantine Area, with Management and Containment Zones, compared to previous Zone A and B

COMMENT

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

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

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

Noted

10 WALGA STATE COUNCIL AGENDA

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

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

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

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

ATTACHMENT

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

BACKGROUND

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

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

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

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

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

7.2 Homelessness – Short-term Accommodation Solutions

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

7.3 Rating Exemption Advocacy Position

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

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

7.5 Rateability of Miscellaneous Licenses

That WALGA:

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

COMMENT

Comment on each of the 2025 AGM resolutions is below.

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

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

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

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

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

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

7.2 Homelessness – Short-term Accommodation Solutions

WALGA is currently reviewing the Homelessness Advocacy Position as part of a regular advocacy position review process. To inform the review, WALGA will survey Local Governments to gather information on the extent of Local Government engagement with homelessness and the extent of services, including accommodation options, available within their Local Government areas.

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

7.3 Rating Exemption Advocacy Position

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

7.5 Rateability of Miscellaneous Licenses

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

It is recommended that this resolution is endorsed.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That:

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

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Tony Dean
Seconded: President Cr Julia Jean-Rice

That the South West Country Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.1 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED

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

By Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

ATTACHMENT

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

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

2.10 Elected Member Remuneration

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

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

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

2.2.3 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees

The Local Government sector:

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

2.10A Chief Executive Officer Remuneration

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

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

2.10A.1 Regional/Isolation Allowance

The Local Government sector:

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

BACKGROUND

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Tribunal also made two commitments in relation to:

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

COMMENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

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

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Julia Jean-Rice
Seconded: Mayor Phill Cronin

That the South West Country Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.2 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED

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

By Saul Cresswell, Principal Policy Advisor Economic Development

BACKGROUND

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

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

Local Governments are instrumental in maintaining the amenity of destinations, a critical factor in safeguarding tourism reputation and repeat visitation. There has been a growth in demands on Local Government resources to meet gaps in service delivery from other levels of Government or the private sector and to align with changes in community expectations (see [WALGA's submission on the Inquiry into Local Government Financial Sustainability](#)). The WA Government's [Diversify WA](#) economic framework considers tourism and events a priority sector in the diversification of the state's economy. The *WA Visitor Economy Strategy* (WAVES) sets a vision for a \$25 billion visitor economy by 2033.

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

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

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

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

Key sector feedback during WALGA's consultation, included:

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

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

ATTACHMENT

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

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

WALGA's **current** position:

That WALGA:

1. *Continues to advocate for a Local Government tourism strategy to deliver local tourism outcomes;*
2. *In the short-medium term, advocates that the State Government:*
 - a. *Produces targeted communication and education for Local Government using existing Tourism WA data to demonstrate the value of tourism to local communities, Elected Members and Local Government officers;*
 - b. *Provides guidance for Local Government on marketing small projects including events and attractions;*
 - c. *Directs Regional Development Commissions to facilitate the coordination of tourism stakeholders to provide strategic support where required for Local Government; and*

- d. *Provides funding to Local Government for tourist infrastructure.*
- 3. *In the long term, advocates that the State Government:*
 - a. *Articulates the lead agency and defines the roles of other agencies in tourism, to facilitate coordination and collaboration of tourism activities across the State and to enhance Local Government's understanding of tourism in WA;*
 - b. *Defines and communicates how it provides destination marketing support to Local Governments and communicates how Local Governments can most effectively direct their resources;*
 - c. *Develops a sustainable State Government tourism funding mechanism for both regional and metropolitan Local Governments which is clearly communicated to Local Governments;*
 - d. *Implements and invests in Regional Investment Blueprints and delivers through appropriate funding models such as Royalties for Regions and federal funding opportunities which are clearly communicated to Local Government;*
 - e. *Continues funding to support sustainability of visitor centres;*
 - f. *Undertakes improvements to tourism-related infrastructure and technology including mobile signals and WIFI in regional areas; and*
 - g. *Undertakes measures to reduce the cost and improve the scheduling and routes of regional air services.*

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

WALGA calls on the State Government to:

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

COMMENT

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

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

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

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

The proposed updates to the advocacy position seek to:

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

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

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

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

WALGA calls on the State Government to:

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

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Tony Dean
Seconded: President Cr Julia Jean-Rice

That the South West Country Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.3 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED

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

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager Environment and Waste

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

7.2 State Waste Strategy

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

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

7.3 Waste Authority

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

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

7.11 Waste Management and Resource Recovery Partnership Agreement

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

BACKGROUND

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

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

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

COMMENT

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

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council retire Advocacy Positions:

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

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr John Fergusson

Seconded: Mayor Phill Cronin

That the South West Country Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.4 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED

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

By Felicity Morris, Manager Governance and Procurement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

ATTACHMENT

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

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

BACKGROUND

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

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

COMMENT

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

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

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

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

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

It should be acknowledged that elected Council Members may be required to disclose their addresses in Primary and Annual Returns, which are available for public inspection. Similarly, a disclosure of a proximity interest in Council Meeting documents may allow a

Council Member's address to be identified. However, these materials are not circulated as widely as electoral materials or subject to the heightened electoral context.

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

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

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

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

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Julia Jean-Rice

Seconded: Mayor Phill Cronin

That the South West Country Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.5 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED

10.6 OTHER STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

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

Nil.

11 OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 SOUTH WEST AGRIBUSINESS PRECINCT

By the Shire of Capel

The South West Agribusiness Precinct prospectus was previously distributed to members. Mr Gary Clark, CEO Shire of Capel discussed this item.

Noted

11.2 MOTION OF APPRECIATION – TONY DEAN

By the Shire of Capel

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Julia Jean-Rice
Seconded: Mayor Phill Cronin

The South West Country Zone acknowledge and thank President Cr Tony Dean for his service to the Zone, particularly as Chair, and to WALGA as State Councillor.

CARRIED

12 EXECUTIVE REPORTS

12.1 WALGA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Chris Hossen provided a brief update to the Zone on behalf of the President. The report was provided as an attachment to the Agenda.

Noted

12.2 WALGA STATE COUNCILLOR REPORT

President Cr Tony Dean provided a report to the Zone on State Council activities since the last meeting.

Noted

13 FINANCIAL REPORT

13.1 SOUTH WEST COUNTRY ZONE FINANCIAL REPORT

Period Ending Sep 2025 Report		
	Actual	Note
	\$	
Opening Cash Balance	23,636	
Income		
Subscription Income	-	1
Total Income	-	
Expenses		
Bank Charges	16	
Sponsorship	-	
Plaques	-	
Total Expenses	16	
Closing Cash Balance	23,620	

Note

1: Subscription invoices have been issued, and payments are currently held in the WALGA bank account. The total amount will be transferred to the SWCZ account once all payments have been received, currently received 10/12.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Mayor Phill Cronin
Seconded: President Cr Michelle Campbell

That the South West Country Zone financial report for September 2025 be received.

CARRIED

14 EMERGING ISSUES

Nil.

15 2026 MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS

15.1 2026 PROPOSED MEETING DATES

Meeting dates for 2026 have been prepared to coincide with the State Council meeting timeframes. These dates are listed below with the host Local Governments continuing in alphabetical order.

Please note if any changes need to be made.

MEETING DATE	HOST LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Friday, 20 February 2026	Busselton
Friday, 24 April 2026	Capel
Friday, 19 June 2026	Collie
Friday, 21 August 2026	Dardanup
Friday, 20 November 2026	Donnybrook-Balingup

16 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the South West Country Zone will be held on Friday, 20 February 2026 at the City of Busselton commencing at 9:00am.

17 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 12:14pm.