

State Council

Agenda

4 March 2026

Ordinary meeting no. 1 of 2026 of the Western Australian Local Government Association State Council to be held at ONE70, LV3, 170 Railway Parade, West Leederville at 4:15pm.

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1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

1.1 OPENING

1.2 ATTENDANCE

Members	WALGA President - Chair WALGA Deputy President Central Metropolitan Zone Avon-Midland Country Zone Central Country Zone Central Metropolitan Zone East Metropolitan Zone East Metropolitan Zone Gascoyne Country Zone Goldfields Esperance Country Zone Great Eastern Country Zone Great Southern Country Zone Kimberley Country Zone Murchison Country Zone North Metropolitan Zone North Metropolitan Zone North Metropolitan Zone Northern Country Zone Peel Country Zone Pilbara Country Zone South East Metropolitan Zone South East Metropolitan Zone South Metropolitan Zone South Metropolitan Zone South Metropolitan Zone South West Country Zone	Karen Chappel AM JP Paul Kelly Chris Antonio Phillip Blight Helen Sadler Paige McNeil Cate McCullough Matthew Niikkula Laurene Bonza Stephen Strange Scott Crosby Chris Mitchell JP Les Price Mark Irwin Lewis Hutton Eman Seif Elizabeth Sudlow Mike Walmsley Audra Smith Patrick Hall Teresa Lynes Robert Schmidt Karen Wheatland Barry Winmar Donelle Buegge
Ex Officio	The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor – City of Perth Local Government Professionals WA President	Lord Mayor, Bruce Reynolds Mr Scott Wildgoose
Secretariat	Chief Executive Officer Executive Manager Member Services Executive Manager Infrastructure Executive Manager Policy Executive Manager Advocacy Chief Financial Officer Manager Governance and Procurement Manager Association and Corporate Governance State Council Governance Officer	Mr Nick Sloan Ms Kirsty Martin Mr Ian Duncan Ms Nicole Matthews Ms Rachel Horton Mr Rick Murray Ms Felicity Morris Ms Kathy Robertson Ms Habiba Farrag

1.3 APOLOGIES

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

WALGA is committed to supporting the efforts of WA Local Governments to foster respectful partnerships and strengthen relationships with local Aboriginal communities.

3 ELECTION OF WALGA PRESIDENT AND DEPUTY PRESIDENT

An election for the position of WALGA President and Deputy President will be conducted in accordance with clause 16A of the Association Constitution.

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Nick Sloan, shall act as the Returning Officer.

Nominations opened on Thursday, 5 February 2026 and close at 5:00pm on Monday, 23 February 2026.

The term of office of both the President and Deputy President is for a two (2) year period from 4 March 2026 and expires at the first ordinary meeting of State Council in 2028.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS

5 MINUTES

5.1 MINUTES OF THE STATE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 3 DECEMBER 2025

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the WALGA State Council meeting held on 3 December 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

5.1.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE STATE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 3 DECEMBER 2025

5.2 FLYING MINUTE – 2026-27 STATE BUDGET SUBMISSION

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the Flying Minute – 2026-27 State Budget Submission be confirmed as a true and correct record of decision.

5.2.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FLYING MINUTE – 2026-27 STATE BUDGET SUBMISSION

5.3 FLYING MINUTE – SELECT COMMITTEE INTO LAND DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the [Flying Minute – Select Committee into Land Development and Planning](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of decision.

5.3.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FLYING MINUTE – SELECT COMMITTEE INTO LAND DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

5.4 FLYING MINUTE – STATUTORY REVIEW OF THE *WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT 2020* WALGA SUBMISSION

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the [Flying Minute – Statutory Review of the Work Health and Safety 2020 Act WALGA Submission](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of decision.

5.4.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FLYING MINUTE- STATUTORY REVIEW OF THE *WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT 2020* WALGA SUBMISSION

5.5 FLYING MINUTE – WALGA SUBMISSION ON THE DRAFT STATE WASTE STRATEGY

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the [Flying Minute – WALGA Submission on the Draft State Waste Strategy](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of decision.

5.5.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FLYING MINUTE – WALGA SUBMISSION ON THE DRAFT STATE WASTE STRATEGY

5.6 FLYING MINUTE – INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the [Flying Minute – Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of decision.

5.6.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FLYING MINUTE – INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

5.7 FLYING MINUTE – SECTOR CONSULTATION – COMPULSORY AND VOLUNTARY VOTING AND ELECTION FREQUENCY

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the Flying Minute – Sector Consultation – Compulsory and Voluntary Voting and Election Frequency be confirmed as a true and correct record of decision.

5.7.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FLYING MINUTE – SECTOR CONSULTATION – COMPULSORY AND VOLUNTARY VOTING AND ELECTION FREQUENCY

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pursuant to our Code of Conduct, State Councillors must declare to the Chair any potential conflict of interest they have in a matter before State Council as soon as they become aware of it.

7 EX OFFICIO REPORTS

7.1 CITY OF PERTH REPORT

Lord Mayor, Bruce Reynolds, will provide the City of Perth report to the meeting.

7.2 LG PROFESSIONALS REPORT

Mr Scott Wildgoose, President, LG Professionals WA, will provide a report to the meeting.

8 EMERGING ISSUES

Notification of emerging issues must be provided to the Chair no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting.

9 MATTERS FOR DECISION

9.1 AVIATION ADVOCACY POSITIONS

By Negar Nili, Policy Officer Transport and Roads

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse two new Advocacy Positions on Aviation as follows:

1. Regional Airports

WALGA supports the sustainable operation of Local Government owned regional airports and advocates for proportionate regulatory frameworks, targeted funding, and operational guidance to ensure safe, efficient, and resilient airport infrastructure and services.

2. Regional and Remote Air Services

WALGA advocates for reliable, affordable, and equitable regional air services, calling for greater oversight of airline pricing practices, including transparent fare structures and equitable access to discounted and lower-cost fares, to mitigate the impacts of limited competition and dynamic pricing on regional residents, businesses, and essential travel. WALGA also promotes the continued viability of essential routes and recognises regional aviation as an essential service supporting community access, workforce mobility, and regional economic development.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Two new Advocacy Positions are proposed to strengthen WALGA's aviation advocacy framework and to inform WALGA's response to future inquiries and/or consultation relating to aviation.
- The aim of the new positions is to provide clearer and more contemporary guidance on:
 - the sustainability and ongoing viability of Local Government-owned regional airports; and
 - the affordability, reliability and accessibility of regional and remote air services for Western Australian communities.
- The proposed positions will assist WALGA to advocate more effectively on behalf of its Members by:
 - clearly articulating the essential service role of aviation in regional, rural and remote Western Australia;
 - strengthening WALGA's capacity to engage with State and Commonwealth governments on aviation policy and funding; and
 - supporting Local Governments facing regulatory, financial and service-delivery challenges associated with regional aviation.
- The development of the proposed Advocacy Positions has been informed by engagement with a sample of Local Governments, which highlighted shared concerns regarding high regional airfares, service reliability, capacity constraints and the role of aviation in supporting health access, emergency response and regional economic development.
- WALGA currently has two existing aviation Advocacy Positions; however, feedback from Local Governments clarified that the inclusion of additional, targeted policy

positions is essential to better reflect contemporary challenges and to strengthen support for Councils.

- The proposed positions build on existing WALGA policy and provide a stronger basis for:
 - sector advocacy;
 - engagement with State Council and Zones to seek feedback; and
 - informing WALGA's potential submission to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Regional Airfares.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The current [WALGA Advocacy Positions](#) relating to Aviation are positions 5.9 Aviation and 5.9.1 Airfare Pricing in Regional Western Australia. The proposed new positions would be in addition to these existing positions.

5.9 Aviation

Position Statement *The Local Government sector supports the Department of Transport's State Aviation Strategy 2020, with more focus required on non-RPT airports to ensure it is representative of all of WA, more focus on general aviation development across WA and noting that the preferred ownership and governance of Local Governments is Council Controlled Organisations. The Local Government sector advocates for a clear position on the economic benefit of airports in regional areas to be included in the future state wide Airports State Planning Policy.*

5.9.1. Airfare Pricing in Regional Western Australia

Position Statement *The Local Government sector supports:*

1. *An evidence-based assessment commissioned by the State Government to determine the degree to which market structure and other factors influence the cost of providing air services on each route, the pricing structure offered and the actual prices paid.*
2. *The State Government providing oversight of airfares ensuring transparency, encouraging partnerships between Local Governments and airline carriers to grow the market and the provision of subsidies in some situations.*

BACKGROUND

Aviation plays a critical role in Western Australia, particularly for regional, rural, and remote communities, by providing essential connectivity for access to healthcare, education, employment, and social engagement. Reliable and affordable air services are also vital to regional economic development, workforce mobility, and community resilience, especially where alternative transport options are limited.

WALGA's advocacy on aviation is underpinned by its existing policy framework, which emphasises the need for safe, reliable, and cost-effective air services across regional and remote Western Australia. These policies highlight the critical role of aviation in enabling regional connectivity, supporting service delivery, and contributing to economic development, while recognising the operational and regulatory responsibilities faced by Local Government-managed airports.

WALGA has also contributed to State-level policy development including the State Aviation Strategy 2020. This strategy supports key initiatives including regulating certain routes to support a sustainable service, the Regional Airfare Zone Cap, Regional Airports Development Scheme and regulation of closed charters in some situations. It is anticipated that the Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure will review and refresh the State Aviation Strategy in 2026-27.

At the national level, WALGA engaged in consultation processes leading to the Green and White Papers on Regional Transport and Aviation, representing Local Government perspectives and regional needs.

Two recently initiated inquiries — the Productivity Commission Inquiry into the determinants of regional airfares and the Senate (Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee) Inquiry into the State of Australia's Aviation Sector and its ability to deliver reliable and affordable services to rural, regional and remote communities — provide important opportunities to review and improve policies supporting regional aviation. Both inquiries have overlapping focus areas, including affordability, government intervention, and impacts on regional communities.

To inform its responses to both inquiries, WALGA has engaged with a sample of Local Governments to understand their experiences, challenges, and priorities for regional air services. This engagement has clarified the needs of Local Governments and communities, forming the basis for developing two proposed new Advocacy Positions to support Members and advocate for improved connectivity, affordability, and service sustainability across regional Western Australia.

NEW ADVOCACY POSITIONS

Regional Airports

Position Statement *WALGA supports the sustainable operation of Local Government owned regional airports and advocates for proportionate regulatory frameworks, targeted funding, and operational guidance to ensure safe, efficient, and resilient airport infrastructure and services.*

Background Regional airports are vital for connectivity, economic development, tourism, health access, and emergency response in Western Australia. Local Governments operating regional airports face increasing regulatory and operational pressures, including aviation security requirements, compliance obligations, ageing infrastructure, and limited staffing capacity. Many Council-owned airports cover day-to-day operating costs but lack sufficient capital to fund major infrastructure renewal or security upgrades. Airports that support both community access and FIFO activity can face additional funding constraints despite their ongoing role in servicing regional communities. These challenges highlight the need for regulatory settings and funding arrangements that reflect airport scale, risk profile, and regional operating conditions.

Regional and Remote Air Services

Position Statement

WALGA advocates for reliable, affordable, and equitable regional air services, calling for greater oversight of airline pricing practices, including transparent fare structures and equitable access to discounted and lower-cost fares, to mitigate the impacts of limited competition and dynamic pricing on regional residents, businesses, and essential travel. WALGA also promotes the continued viability of essential routes and recognises regional aviation as an essential service supporting community access, workforce mobility, and regional economic development.

Background

Regional communities rely on air services for essential travel, including access to health care, employment, education, and family connections, particularly where alternative transport options are limited. High airfares, limited availability of lower-cost seats, and opaque pricing structures reduce affordability for residents and businesses, even in markets with more than one airline. Regional air services are also vulnerable to sudden service reductions or route withdrawals, which can isolate communities and disrupt economic and social activity. These challenges underscore the importance of policy settings that support affordability, service continuity, and equitable access.

COMMENT

Engagement with a sample of Local Governments operating airports with Regular Passenger Transport (RPT) services highlighted operational, financial, and service delivery issues affecting both Council-owned airports and regional air services.

Key matters raised by Councils include:

- Airline pricing and equitable access: Complex, opaque, and highly variable fare structures; limited availability of lower-cost seats; competition does not always deliver affordable or equitable outcomes.
- Aviation security requirements: Standards designed for larger airports impose significant operational and financial burdens, with outdated equipment, regulatory ambiguities, and high upgrade costs creating compliance challenges.
- Funding and resource constraints: Many Councils operate airports with limited staff and capital; while day-to-day operating costs may be covered, major infrastructure renewal or expansion and security upgrades are often unfunded.
- Service continuity and reliability: Regional air services are fragile, with sudden route reductions or withdrawals impacting essential travel, community connectivity, and local economies.
- Coordination across governments and industry: Fragmented policy, regulatory, and funding arrangements limit Local Governments' ability to respond quickly to changes, highlighting the need for improved collaboration.
- Regional aviation as an essential service: Airports and air services underpin health access, emergency response, tourism, economic development, and social cohesion, demonstrating their broader value beyond transport alone.

Based on these issues and priorities identified through Local Government engagement, WALGA has developed the two proposed Advocacy Positions above on aviation – one focusing on regional airports and the other on regional and remote air services – to address

the challenges of affordability, accessibility, operational sustainability, and service continuity for regional communities.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY STATE COUNCILLORS (UNDER SEPARATE COVER)

Items Under Separate Cover to State Council only.

10 POLICY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY TEAM REPORT

By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure

FOR NOTING

This Report provides an update on matters considered, since the last State Council meeting, by the Infrastructure Policy Team at its meeting held on 20 January 2026.

Stephen Strange was elected by members to Chair the Policy Team, subject to State Council endorsement.

1. Matters for State Council Decision

Submissions to the Economic Regulation Authority concerning the Framework and Approach to the next Western Power Access Arrangement (AA6); and to the Senate Inquiry into the Aviation Sector and its ability to deliver reliable and affordable services to rural, regional and remote communities were developed and subsequently considered by State Council by way of Flying Agenda.

The Policy Team considered new and revised aviation Advocacy Positions in relation to Regional Airports and Regional and Remote Air Services, which are included in this Agenda for endorsement at [item 9.1](#).

2. Matters for State Council Noting

The Policy Team noted an update on the Active Transport Advocacy Plan.

Matters referred from Zones considered were:

1. International Driver Safety – which was recommended to be referred to the Road Safety Commission;
2. State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee membership was noted and will be considered by State Council as part of the broader Corporate Governance Charter review;
3. Advocate for the Auditor General to undertake a performance audit of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia (DRFAWA) which was supported as an action; and
4. Advocate for Local Governments to manage access on Local Government Roads for Restricted Access Vehicles. This would have very large resource implications for Local Governments to establish and manage such a system, as well as requiring extensive legislative and regulatory changes. Short term work is focused on recent changes to access conditions implemented by Main Roads without any consultation. The broader policy implications will be considered following this.

10.2 PEOPLE AND PLACE POLICY TEAM REPORT

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy

FOR NOTING

The People and Place Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

- *Community*
- *Emergency Management*

This Report provides an update on matters considered, since the last State Council meeting, by the People and Place Policy Team at the Joint Governance and People and Place Policy Team meeting held on 1 December 2025.

The People and Place Policy Team have not held a meeting since the new State Council commenced on 3 December. The Policy Team will elect a new Chair at the next meeting.

1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION

Nil.

2. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING

During a joint meeting of the Governance and People and Place Policy teams, the Policy team members endorsed the submission for the Statutory Review of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* (WHS Act).

WALGA's submission primarily focussed on the significant implications for Local Governments' management of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades (VBFBs) that arise from the inclusion of volunteers as workers under the WHS Act.

The submission made three recommendations:

1. Providing greater legislative clarity on PCBU responsibilities during bushfire response.
2. The implementation of a contemporary legislative and policy framework for bushfire management that addresses WHS concerns for VBFBs and provides certainty on what "reasonably practicable" means under the WHS Act, as applied to VBFBs, and how it should be achieved.
3. Increased funding and support for VBFBs through the LGGS and for the CESM program.

More generally, the submission further recommended the provision of specific, practical guidance for Local Governments to clarify Council Members' protections and duties under the WHS Act and support a consistent approach across the sector.

The submission was endorsed by the Governance and People and Place Policy Teams at a joint meeting on 1 December 2025 and endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute on 10 December 2025. The submission was lodged with WorkSafe on 12 December 2025.

State Council [item 11.5](#) relates to this matter.

10.3 GOVERNANCE POLICY TEAM REPORT

By Kirsty Martin, Executive Manager Member Services

FOR NOTING

The Governance Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

- *Governance (Local Government legislation)*
- *Local Government Reform/Regional Service Delivery*
- *Local Government Revenue*
- *Local Government Elections*
- *Employee Relations/Industrial Relations*
- *Training*

The Governance Policy Team have not had a meeting since the last State Council meeting in December 2025.

The Policy Team will elect a new Chair at the next meeting.

10.4 ENVIRONMENT POLICY TEAM REPORT

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy

FOR NOTING

The Environment Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

- *Climate change*
- *Native vegetation and biodiversity*
- *Biosecurity*
- *Water resources*
- *Sustainability*
- *Planning and building*

This Report provides an update on matters considered, since the last State Council meeting, by the Environment Policy Team at its meeting held on 14 January 2026.

Les Price was elected as Chair of the Policy Team and Karen Wheatland was elected as Deputy Chair, subject to State Council endorsement.

1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION

Nil.

2. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING

The Environment Policy Team considered the submission to the Select Committee into WA Land Development and Planning

WALGA's submission was informed by relevant planning Advocacy Positions, [data collection projects](#) and sector feedback.

The submission emphasised the critical role Local Government plays in the planning system, and highlighted concerns over the erosion of Local Government decision making powers by bodies such as Development Assessment Panels and the state significant development pathways.

The submission called for a recalibration of the planning system that restores the essential role of Local Government, ensures transparency and accountability in State decision-making, and prioritises reforms that are evidence-based and developed in genuine partnership with the Local Government sector.

The submission was endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute and submitted on 14 November 2025.

State Council [item 11.5](#) relates to this matter.

3. ENVIRONMENT POLICY TEAM MATTERS

Transit Oriented Development Advocacy Position

At the December meeting, State Council endorsed a motion requesting WALGA prepare an Advocacy Position regarding the transport and planning principals required to ensure quality outcomes in the Station Precinct Improvement Plans and Schemes.

During the January meeting, the Environment Policy Team was provided an update on the process and timeline of the development of a Transit Oriented Development Advocacy Position. To address concerns of the Policy Team regarding delayed advocacy as a result of the creation and endorsement of a new Advocacy Position, WALGA will commence consultation on a new position with an initial focus on immediately impacted Local Governments while continuing to make representations to Government under cover of existing positions.

Climate Change Advocacy Position Review

The Environment Policy Team considered the Climate Change Discussion Paper and draft Advocacy Position. Policy Team feedback was incorporated, and the Paper was released for Council endorsed feedback by 1 May 2026. Emails were sent to all CEOs and Mayors and Presidents to inform them of the Paper's release and strongly encouraging their Local Government to provide feedback.

The Policy Team was provided with an overview of the portfolio areas and priorities and also received an update on the Water Advocacy Position review.

10.5 MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL (MWAC) REPORT

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste

FOR NOTING

This report provides an update on matters considered, since the last State Council meeting, by the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC), at the meeting held on 10 December 2025.

1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION

Nil.

2. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING

Submission on Draft State Waste Strategy

MWAC considered WALGA's draft submission on [Beyond WAste 2030](#) – the modified draft State Waste Strategy which sets out the vision, goals, targets and priorities for the State and [Beyond WAste 2030 roadmap](#) – the draft five-year action plan that will underpin the Waste Strategy.

State Council endorsed the submission on 17 December 2025 via Flying Minute, and the submission was lodged on 18 December 2025.

State Council Agenda [item 11.5](#) relates to this matter.

Submission on Parliamentary Inquiry into Tyre Industry

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Industry, Innovation and Science has commenced an [Inquiry](#) into the current state of the Australian tyre industry, and any challenges and opportunities for the industry within the context of a circular economy.

The first stage of the Inquiry is seeking feedback on the Terms of Reference. WALGA developed a short submission, based on the [7.15 Product Stewardship Advocacy Position](#) and previous submissions on tyre Product Stewardship.

State Council Agenda [item 11.2](#) relates to this matter.

3. MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MATTERS

MWAC considered:

- Emergency Waste Management Plan Template:
 - WALGA, working with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and Local Government, has developed a Template Emergency Waste Management Plan.
 - The Plan provides a way for Local Governments to explore, at a high level, the likely types of waste that could be generated from an event and consequent considerations and management options.

- Future of MWAC:
 - Given changes in number and composition of Regional Councils, WALGA is considering a revised waste policy governance structure from 2026-27.
 - Feedback will be sought from MWAC in February 2026 and State Council at the next Strategic Forum in March 2026.
 - It is intended that this issue will be formally considered by State Council at its May meeting.

MWAC received updates on:

- Review of policy statements and better practice documents;
- Resource Recovery Group closure;
- FOGO accepted materials short list progression;
- Reconvening of the Reducing Illegal Dumping (RID) Working Group;
- Charity Bin Management Better Practice Guideline review;
- Issues relating to waste truck fires (Hot Loads);
- B-cycle Battery Product Stewardship Scheme accredited for another five years;
- Soft plastics determination for Soft Plastics Stewardship Australia;
- Progress with the Department of Housing and Works on collaborating on consistent approach to waste management;
- Polyphagous shot-hole borer new management zone;
- New South Wales draft product lifecycle responsibility regulation; and
- Regulation update for Containers for Change.

11 MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

11.1 2026-27 FEDERAL BUDGET SUBMISSION

By Dana Mason, External Affairs Manager

FOR NOTING

BACKGROUND

The Federal Assistant Treasurer recently called for submissions for the 2026-27 Budget.

Each year, ALGA prepares a submission on behalf of the Local Government sector nationally. The 2026-27 ALGA submission requests funding for a range of initiatives across the following key themes:

- Financial sustainability;
- Housing infrastructure;
- Community infrastructure;
- Safer roads;
- Emergency Management; and
- Climate adaptation.

A copy of ALGA's 2026-27 Budget Submission is attached.

WALGA's submission (attached) supports ALGA's, and seeks a commitment to address additional issues of particular importance for WA Local Governments, including:

- Additional ongoing, formula-based targeted funding streams for Local Governments to provide certainty and enable effective planning for community needs.
- A funding contribution to match the Western Australian Government commitment to apply proven road safety countermeasures on 1,474km of regional roads, representing the prioritised sections of the proposed Regional Road Safety Program.
- A dedicated Coastal Hazard Adaptation program.
- Funding support to address the gaps in the Long-Term Cycle Network.
- Dedicated funding for Councils across Australia to improve mitigation and resilience and build their capacity and capability to respond to emergencies in our communities.
- Support for rural and remote Local Governments in Western Australia to cover the costs of providing essential primary healthcare services, until long-term funding and workforce solutions are in place.
- Extension and expansion of the Mobile Network Hardening Program to ensure reliable and resilient telecommunications in peri-urban, rural, regional and remote areas.
- Funding for Stage 2 of the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Routes.

ATTACHMENT

- [WALGA 2026-27 Federal Budget Submission](#)
- [ALGA 2026-27 Federal Budget Submission](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This submission supports existing WALGA Advocacy Positions.

COMMENT

The 2026-27 Federal Budget is an ideal opportunity to advocate for priority initiatives for the WA Local Government sector, following the 2025 Federal Election.

WALGA's submission has been provided to all WA Members of Federal Parliament to highlight these priority initiatives.

WALGA will be seeking opportunities to engage with WA Members of Federal Parliament on these priorities and other key issues for the sector.

11.2 SUBMISSION ON THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR INQUIRY INTO THE CURRENT STATE OF THE AUSTRALIAN TYRE INDUSTRY AND CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

By Conor Macgill, Senior Policy Advisor Waste Management

FOR NOTING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Industry, Innovation and Science has commenced an [Inquiry](#) into the current state of the Australian tyre industry, and any challenges and opportunities for the industry within the context of a circular economy.
- The first stage of the Inquiry seeks feedback on the Terms of Reference.
- WALGA has developed a short submission, aligned to the [Advocacy Position 7.15 Product Stewardship](#) and previous WALGA submissions on tyre product stewardship.
- The Submission was endorsed by the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) under delegated authority from State Council on 10 December 2025 and lodged with the Committee on 19 December 2025.

ATTACHMENT

- [WALGA submission on the Inquiry into the Current State of the Australian Tyre Industry](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The submission aligns with the current WALGA [Advocacy Position](#) 7.15 Product Stewardship.

7.15 Product Stewardship

Position Statement

1. *Industry should take responsibility (physical and/or financial) for the waste that it generates through the entire life cycle of the products it produces through the implementation of effective product stewardship. Without effective Product Stewardship, there will be increasing costs for the community, resource recovery targets will be difficult to reach and a transition to a circular economy is unlikely.*
2. *Effective Product Stewardship is characterised by:*
 - Producers and importers taking responsibility for post consumption product impacts.*
 - Schemes covering the entire cost of product recycling or recovery, including transport.*
 - Leveraging existing Schemes and collection locations.*
 - Being easy and convenient for the community to access.*
 - Having equitable national coverage and access for all, including regional and remote locations.*
 - Being evidence based.*
 - Consistent regulation and implementation across Australia using national Product Stewardship legislation.*

- h. *Timely action and industry cooperation during Scheme development and implementation.*
- i. *Being demand based and aiming to recover the maximum amount of material, rather than being limited by targets.*
- j. *No additional cost to consumers when the product is disposed of post consumption.*
- 3. *Local Government calls on the Commonwealth Government to implement effective Product Stewardship schemes for all products that drive environmentally and socially sustainable outcomes through the design, manufacture and distribution of products that can be more easily reused, repaired, recovered or recycled.*
- 4. *If national action is not progressed within a reasonable timeframe, or in a way that meets the needs of the Western Australian community, then Local Government supports a State based approach to Product Stewardship.*

BACKGROUND

The Parliament of Australia's Standing Committee on Industry, Innovation and Science has commenced an [Inquiry](#) into the current state of the Australian tyre industry and any challenges and opportunities for the industry within the context of a circular economy.

The first stage of the Inquiry is requesting feedback on the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry. Following this consultation, the Standing Committee will confirm the Terms of Reference and commence development of an inquiry report and recommendations.

The proposed Terms of Reference are:

1. Reviewing tyre manufacturing, distribution, importation, and retail trends.
2. Investigating current practices in tyre reuse, retreading, recycling, and resource recovery, including reviewing federal, state, and local regulations governing tyre production, disposal, and recycling.
3. Exploring technological advancements in tyre design, recycling processes, and alternative materials.
4. Identifying opportunities to develop high-value uses for waste tyres and tyre-derived materials, including applications in construction, manufacturing, and other commercial sectors.
5. Evaluating the effectiveness of the existing circular economy models and identifying opportunities for research and development to support improved sustainable practices.
6. Considering the role of commercially viable product stewardship schemes and whether these should be made mandatory, and identifying infrastructure gaps in collection, processing, and recycling facilities.
7. Investigating environmental, community, and health and safety concerns related to tyre waste and recycling operations.

COMMENT

In managing end of life tyres, waste providers and Local Governments are constrained by high collection costs, limited recycling options and transport costs to processors, along with the cost to recycle the material. Lack of widespread, accessible and affordable disposal options for community members leads to activities such as stockpiling and illegal dumping, creating environmental and health risks and amenity issues within communities.

WALGA [Advocacy Position 7.15 Product Stewardship](#) states effective product stewardship schemes should cover the entire cost of collection and recycling, have equitable coverage, including regional and remote locations, and impose no additional costs on consumers when the product is disposed of post consumption.

The submission focuses on the importance of mandatory product stewardship and identifying the issues Local Governments continue to experience in relation to tyre management. The Submission was endorsed by the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) under delegated authority from State Council on 10 December 2025 and lodged with the Committee on 19 December 2025.

WALGA will undertake further engagement with the sector when the next stage of the Inquiry is released.

11.3 SUBMISSION ON THE STATE HAZARD PLAN HAZMAT ANNEX B SPACE RE-ENTRY DEBRIS (SPRED)

By Amberley Bradley, Policy Advisor Emergency Management

FOR NOTING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The WA Police Force has completed a five yearly review of the State Hazard Plan HAZMAT Annex B Space Re-entry Debris (SPRED).
- WALGA submitted officer-level feedback on the proposed amendments on 22 December 2025, utilising WALGA's established Advocacy Positions and priorities outlined in State Council-endorsed documents, including The West at Its Best.
- WALGA's recommendations focus on clarifying roles and responsibilities, ensuring Local Governments are not assigned Hazard Management Agency functions, and reinforcing the need for strong State-level responsibility and coordination.

ATTACHMENT

- [WALGA submission - State Hazard Plan Annex B SPRED](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This submission related to the following existing WALGA [Advocacy Positions](#):

- 7.1 Waste Management Legislation,
- 8.1 Emergency Management Principles,
- 8.2 State Emergency Management Framework,
- 8.3 Sustainable Grant Funding Model for Emergency Management, and
- 8.11 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA).

BACKGROUND

The WA Police Force has completed a five yearly review of the State Hazard Plan HAZMAT Annex B Space Re-entry Debris (SPRED). Initial review and consultation occurred between January and August 2025 with the WA Space Debris Emergency Response Team, and representatives from the National Emergency Management Agency, Australian Space Agency, State Emergency Management Policy Branch, Department of Fire and Emergency Services (Recovery), Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Department of Health (Radiation Health), and the Department of Communities.

A 12-week broad consultation with the Local Government sector occurred between October and December 2025. The sector was notified via the Local Government Emergency Management e-network and e-newsletter. WALGA submitted officer-level feedback on the proposed amendments on 22 December 2025 via CEO Nick Sloan, guided by existing WALGA Advocacy Positions and budget submissions.

Stakeholder feedback is currently being considered, for which WALGA has received commentary against submission points, noting their acknowledgement and where relevant, their resulting amendments to the Plan.

COMMENT

The Annex outlines activities in line with the State Emergency Management Framework. There was minor reference to Local Government, however, WALGA still found value in reviewing to ensure consistency of responsibilities and providing Local Government representation.

WALGA's comments on the State Hazard Plan – HAZMAT Annex B Space Re-entry Debris (SPRED) draw on and align to previous WALGA State Council endorsed submissions and Advocacy Positions. WALGA's recommendations included to make clear the primary role of WA Police in preparedness and response to SPRED and remove any references to Local Government responsibility to plan for SPRED. It also recommended ensuring inclusion of Local Government in local level incident response structures, such as the Incident Support Group (ISG). The final recommendation was to ensure the SPRED is fully aligned with upcoming revisions to the State Emergency Management Framework.

11.4 COMMUNITY SPORTING AND RECREATION FACILITIES FUND AND COMMUNITY NIGHT LIGHTS PROGRAM FUNDING PAUSE

By *Rebecca Hicks, Policy Advisor Community*

FOR NOTING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF) and Club Night Lights Program (CNLP) are critical funding streams for Local Government and community sporting organisations investment in sports and recreation infrastructure.
- The 2025-26 budget committed \$88.8 million to the two programs over four years.
- In late 2025 the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport (CITS) informed WALGA that the CSRFF and CNLP funding rounds have been temporarily paused, including remaining funding allocations for 2025-26 and that these programs are being reviewed.
- WALGA understands that funding for these programs is being paused to focus on delivery of the State Government's 2025 sport and recreation election commitments.
- The Local Government sector has not been formally advised of the pausing of these programs, which will have a significant impact on the delivery of community infrastructure projects.
- The WALGA President wrote to the Minister for Sport and Recreation in December 2025 and is awaiting a response (see attachment) to stress the importance of these programs and seeking urgent advice regarding the Government's intention for the remaining 2025-26 funding allocations.
- WALGA is urgently seeking a meeting with the Director General of CITS.
- WALGA will continue to advocate for the ongoing, sustainable funding of the CSRFF and CNLP, separate to election commitments.
- Updates will be provided to State Council and Members as information becomes available.

ATTACHMENT

- [Letter to Minister Saffioti on CSRFF Funding](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This Item for Noting aligns to WALGA [Advocacy Position 3.7 Community Infrastructure](#):

Local Governments own, lease, and maintain vital community infrastructure across Western Australia that delivers essential benefits to local communities. Local Governments face significant funding pressures to ensure this infrastructure is effectively planned, developed, maintained, and enhanced to meet evolving community needs and population growth.

1. *WALGA calls on the Australian Government to provide \$500 million per annum for community infrastructure through a national formula based, targeted Local Government funding program.*
2. *WALGA calls on the State Government to:*
 - i. Provide \$60 million per annum for the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund, separate to the PlayOn WA 2030 Funding commitments.*
 - ii. Provide \$60 million per annum for community arts and cultural infrastructure,*
 - iii. Provide funding for retrofitting accessible design features to community infrastructure,*

iv. Align all community infrastructure funding with existing State co-contribution of at least two-thirds.

September 2025 - 052.4/2025

BACKGROUND

The CSRFF is a well-established State Government funding program that provides financial assistance to Local Governments and community groups to develop infrastructure for sport and recreation. The CNLP provides financial assistance for sports floodlighting infrastructure. Both programs are well utilised by the sector with funding allocations oversubscribed in recent years.

The funding levels of the CSRFF is an existing priority for WALGA, included in the WALGA [2026-27 State Budget Submission](#) and [State Election priorities](#), and aligned to the Advocacy Position endorsed by State Council in September 2025 (3.7 Community Infrastructure, as included above).

[PlayOn WA](#) is an overarching initiative announced in 2025 to guide State Government investment in community sport and recreation infrastructure. The initiative aims to deliver "2030 by 2030": 2,030 community sport and recreation infrastructure items by 2030 in partnership with Local Governments, clubs and community groups.

In November 2025, WALGA became aware via Members that advertised funding rounds for CSRFF and CNLP had not opened. CITS advised that funding rounds for 2025-26 had been paused while a review of the programs was undertaken. Further information on the impact on current and future rounds was requested but not provided.

WALGA understands that funding for these programs is being paused to focus on delivery of the State Government's 2025 sport and recreation election commitments.

On 17 December 2025, WALGA wrote to the Minister for Sport and Recreation, the Hon Rita Saffiotti, raising sector concerns and seeking urgent advice on the Government's intentions regarding the CSRFF and CNLP (see attachment) and requesting to meet to discuss the strategic direction of sport and recreation infrastructure funding. A response to this letter is yet to be received.

Concurrently, Lotterywest is undertaking a grant strategy review on the current state of Lotterywest grant-making and possibilities for its future state. Feedback from Local Governments indicates that this is impacting current grant applications. WALGA has been engaged in the consultation process.

WALGA emphasised the importance of dedicated funding for community sports and recreation infrastructure as part of the submission and Local Government joint hearing to the Inquiry into Community Use of WA Public School Facilities by the Education and Health Standing Committee in late 2025.

COMMENT

The CSRFF and CNLP are critical programs for investment in community infrastructure, based on identified need at the local level. WALGA is advocating strongly for the retention of, and increased funding for these programs, separate to the funding of election commitments and PlayOn WA.

WALGA is urgently seeking clarity and further information on the Government's intentions on this matter. Updates will be provided to State Council and Members as information becomes available.

11.5 FLYING MINUTES ENDORSED BY STATE COUNCIL

FOR NOTING

The following Flying Minutes have been endorsed by State Council since the December 2025 meeting:

- 2026/27 State Budget Submission;
- Select Committee into Land Development and Planning Submission;
- Submission on the Statutory Review of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020*;
- Submission on the Draft State Waste Strategy;
- Submission to the Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability; and
- Sector consultation paper on Compulsory and Voluntary Voting and Election Frequency.
 - Based on State Councillor feedback collected during the Flying Agenda process, refinements will be made to the Discussion Paper. Once finalised the Electoral Reform Discussion Paper will be circulated to all Local Governments. The consolidated feedback would inform a report and proposed advocacy positions to be presented to State Council.

The full Flying Minutes are available on the [WALGA website](#).

12 ORGANISATION REPORTS

12.1 KEY ACTIVITY REPORTS

12.1.1 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, ADVOCACY PORTFOLIO

By Rachel Horton, Executive Manager Advocacy

FOR NOTING

The Advocacy Portfolio comprises the following work units:

- *Association Governance*
- *Marketing*
- *Communications*
- *Media*
- *Events*

The following outlines the activities of the Advocacy Portfolio since the December 2025 State Council meeting.

1. ASSOCIATION GOVERNANCE

Zones Delegates and State Councillors

Following the 2025 Local Government Elections, induction sessions have been provided for all new Zone Delegates, State Councillors and Deputy State Councillors to familiarise them with their role and responsibilities. A Zone Chair induction is currently being planned, with invitations to be sent shortly.

Local Government Honours Program

Nominations for the 2026 Honours Program has now launched. WALGA's Local Government Honours Program enables significant public recognition and celebration of the outstanding achievements and lasting contributions made by Elected Members and employees to their respective Councils, the Local Government sector and the Association. The Honours Panel, a delegated Committee of State Council, is responsible for the format, criteria and judging of the Honours awards.

The 2026 Program includes five award categories, all open to both Elected Members and Officers including the Local Government Medal, Life Membership, the Eminent Service Award, Merit Award and Young Achievers Award.

2. MARKETING

WALGA Training Campaigns

Multiple marketing campaigns ran at the end of 2025 and into 2026 to raise awareness of the below training courses:

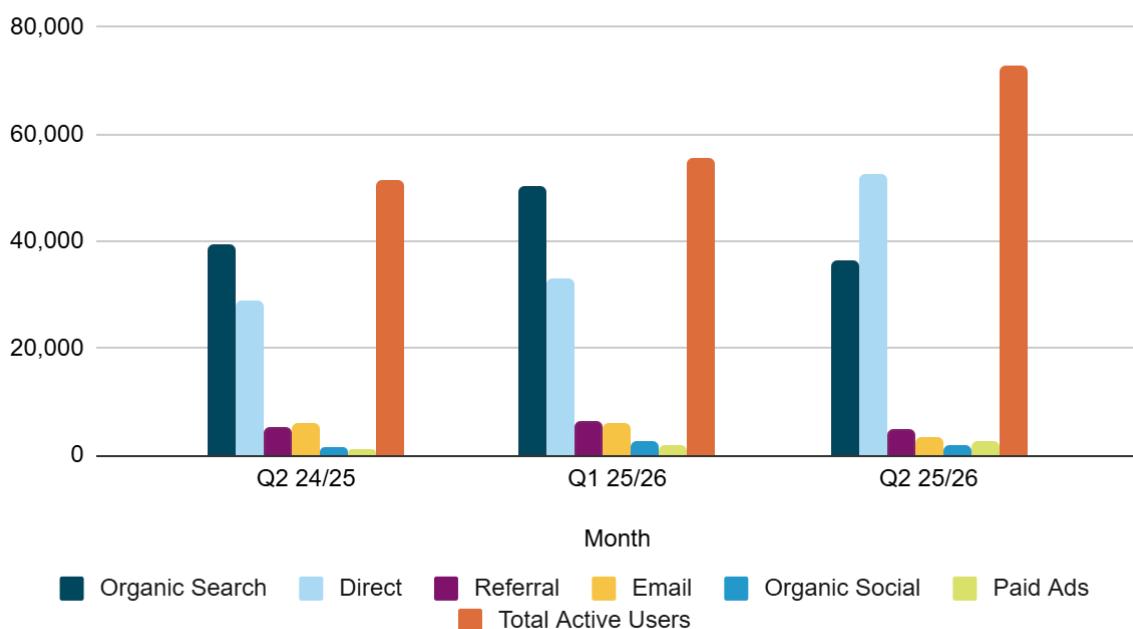
- Diploma of Local Government – Elected Members
- Nationally Recognised Training for Officers

With the Certificate III and Diploma running concurrently in 2026, messaging shifted to a training pathway approach, positioning training as part of a broader professional journey. This approach performed well with a high level of enquiries and conversions to courses booked.

Website

Q2 2025/26 recorded over 101,000 sessions and 72,439 active users (a 30% year-on-year increase in sessions), with a 2% uplift from Q1 2025/26. The boost in traffic was generated from December media releases and interest in the showcase in Pixels competition.

Quarterly Web Traffic by Source



Publications

The Marketing team supported the production of the 2025-26 State Budget Submission, 2025-26 Federal Budget Submission and issue of the final Western Councillor of 2025.

External Campaigns

In line with our advocacy, WALGA continues to partner with DWER producing assets and supporting promotion of the successful battery disposal campaign.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

Multiple internal and external communications were prepared throughout the reporting period between Saturday, 1 November - Tuesday, 20 January (80 days) including:

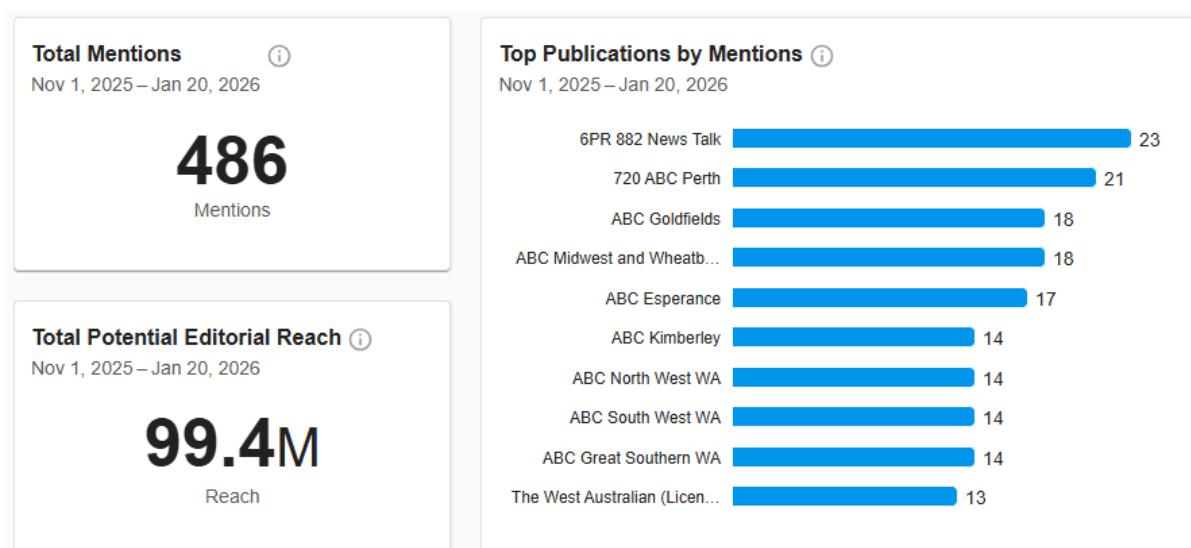
- 10 LG Direct weekly newsletters distributed to more than 2,000 Elected Members and senior staff; and
- Copywriting of WALGA's December Western Councillor Magazine.

4. MEDIA

There were 486 mentions of WALGA and President Karen Chappel between Saturday, 1 November 2025 - Tuesday, 20 January 2026 (80 days).

This is a decrease from 1,242 in the previous reporting period (85 days), which can be attributed to the previous period including WALGA's Local Government Convention, Local Government Elections and the introduction of the Local Government Amendment (Rating of Certain Mining Licences) Bill 2025 to State Parliament, which generated significant media coverage.

The majority of mentions were from 6PR, 720 ABC Perth, ABC Midwest and Wheatbelt.



Earned Media:

WALGA received 37 requests for comment across print, radio, television and online media. Topics included emergency management, renewables, tree canopy, planning reform and rating.

- 15 x Print Media
- 12 x TV
- 10 x Radio

Top Advocacy mainstream media mentions by reach:

- Emergency management – 15.8m
- Renewables – 14.5m
- Tree canopy – 15.9m

Media Releases:

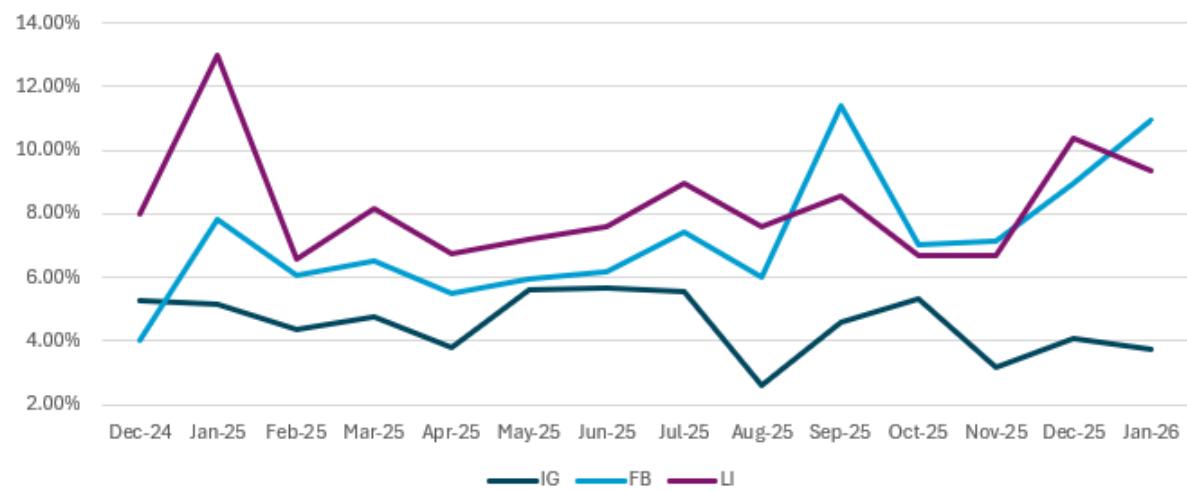
WALGA released five proactive media statements in the reporting period including Emergency Management and the release of WALGA's State Budget Submission.

- [Showcase in Pixels celebrates creativity across the State](#) - Tuesday, 2 December 2025
- [Statement from WALGA President Karen Chappel AM JP](#) - Wednesday, 3 December 2025
- [WALGA releases 2026-27 State Budget Submission](#) - Monday, 15 December 2025
- [WALGA supports release of draft Renewable Energy Planning Code](#) - Tuesday, 16 December 2025
- [WALGA welcomes release of the State Government Urban Greening Strategy for Perth and Peel](#) - Friday, 16 January 2026

Social Media:

Despite less posts in this reporting period and no paid campaigns, LinkedIn and Facebook achieved an increase in engagement rate.

Social Media Engagement %



5. EVENTS

2025 New Elected Member Seminar

The New Elected Member Seminar provided an important induction opportunity for newly elected Councillors, supporting them to understanding their governance responsibilities and the broader Local Government landscape.

The 2025 seminar attracted 70 in-person attendees and 50 virtual participants, from across the state. Feedback highlighted the practical format, clarity of content, and highly regarded speakers.

2025 Showcase in Pixels

The 2025 Showcase in Pixels competition attracted more than 300 entries, giving judges the challenging task of shortlisting finalists and selecting winners across six categories, with the People's Choice Award voted by the public. The display generated strong community engagement and celebrated the creativity of residents across Western Australia.

2025 WALGA Wrap

Over 200 guests including key stakeholders across Government, Industry and WALGAs Preferred Program attended the WALGA Wrap to celebrate the achievements of 2025.

2026 Aboriginal Engagement Forum

Planning is well underway for the 2026 WALGA Aboriginal Engagement Forum, which will be held at Kaarta Gar-rup (Kings Park) on Wednesday, 18 March. The Forum continues to be a key event in the WALGA calendar providing a sector-wide platform for relationship building and collaboration.

Following its success in 2025, the Aboriginal Elected Member Roundtable will take place the day prior, on Tuesday, 17 March. The roundtable aims to foster collaboration, provide peer support, and gather feedback on the barriers and challenges faced by Aboriginal Elected Members in their roles.

Upcoming Events

- Aboriginal Engagement Forum Elected Member Roundtable – 17 March 2026
- Aboriginal Engagement Forum – 18 March 2026
- Mayors and Presidents Forum – 27 March 2026
- Emergency Management Forum – 26 May 2026
- Local Government Awards – 12 June 2026

12.1.2 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE PORTFOLIO

By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure

FOR NOTING

The Infrastructure Portfolio comprises the following work units:

- Roads
- Road Funding
- Transport
- Asset Management
- Utilities
- Road Safety

The following outlines the activities of the Infrastructure Portfolio since the last State Council meeting.

1. ROADS

Local Government Transport and Roads Research and Innovation Program (LGTRRIP)

The development of a road safety rating tool for intersections is progressing, while work on the Crumb Rubber in Asphalts Guideline is nearing completion. Work on a guideline for use of Marginal Materials will commence soon.

Road Rail Interface Agreements

Following an internal error on the part of Arc Infrastructure, model *pro forma* Interface Agreement templates between Local Governments and Arc Infrastructure will be redistributed by Arc Infrastructure to Local Governments in the South West, Goldfields, and Great Southern regions. Agreements will also be sent to Local Governments in the Mid West and Wheatbelt regions as part of this re-release. A memorandum outlining what has changed between the old and new agreements, the main issues of contention, their resolution, and other key updates was provided to all Local Governments hosting Arc Infrastructure operated rail in July 2025.

Rail Interface Agreements have been required since 2010 with the details now set out under the *Rail Safety National Law (WA) 2024*.

Guidelines and Specifications for Residential Crossovers

WALGA is currently reviewing the practicality and effectiveness of the Residential Crossover Guidelines and Specifications to ensure they continue to meet the needs of Local Governments. A survey was undertaken to gather feedback from Local Governments on how the document is being applied, which sections are most useful, and where improvements may be required.

The survey responses have now been reviewed, and the next phase of work is progressing, including further engagement to inform potential updates to the document.

2. ROAD FUNDING

State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee (SAC)

To reduce the impact of project delays on funding carried forward, a rapid evaluation of 68 “shovel ready” project proposals from Local Governments with a grant value of over \$30 million was undertaken with Main Roads WA and a series of recommendations made.

The SAC met in December and approved:

1. 2025/26 funding for 27 “shovel ready” projects from non-metropolitan regions with a grant value of \$10.1 million to be funded from future Metro RRG funding allocations.
2. 2025/26 funding for 21 rehabilitation projects in the metropolitan region with a grant value of \$5 million to be funded from future Metro RRG funding allocations.
3. changes to the SAC Procedures to provide guidance on Regional Road Group Policies.

Key issues for discussion and further action were:

1. Overcoming challenges in delivering an Aboriginal employment commitment project;
2. Response to the Auditor General Report on regional Local Government road maintenance;
3. Timetable for BlackSpot program to be completed and communicated to Local Governments;
4. Support from Main Roads WA for DRFA WA assessments on local roads;
5. Changes made to the Restricted Access Vehicle (RAV) condition of access requiring Local Governments to provide a letter of support for transport tasks.

Regional Road Safety Program

Working in partnership with the RAC and Main Roads WA, WALGA provided guidance to updating the original 2022 Business Case for investment in regional road safety improvements. The update reflects road improvements recently completed, revised cross-sections, construction cost increases and benefits from reduced shoulder maintenance costs. Main Roads WA have provided the updated case to Infrastructure Australia.

Responses from the 27 Local Governments invited to deliver projects funded under Tranche 2 of the program will be assessed in February, with a proposed program to be finalised as soon as possible.

Changes to the MOU between Main Roads WA and participating Local Governments were negotiated following feedback from LGIS regarding proposed provisions in relation to liability and insurance.

Multi-Criteria Assessment (MCA) Model Revisions

WALGA continues to work with the Regional Road Groups to better align the MCA models used by Regional Road Groups to prioritise projects for Road Project Grant funding with the provisions outlined in the procedures document of the State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement (Agreement). The proposed changes to the MCA models reflect the new focus areas of the Agreement, while still allowing for flexibility to recognise the significant differences between regions. All the Regional Road Groups have commenced the MCA revision process, with the process in the Gascoyne, Great Southern, Kimberley, and South-West region now complete. Significant progress has been made in each of the other regions.

3. TRANSPORT

Active Transport and Micromobility Advocacy Plan

Development of the Active Transport Advocacy Plan is underway, with a number of initial advocacy actions identified to support the implementation of the endorsed policy positions. These actions include a range of advocacy and engagement activities, with indicative timeframes and target audiences identified.

Delivery of the advocacy actions will require both internal and external collaboration, with stakeholder engagement undertaken as appropriate to the purpose of each action.

4. ASSET MANAGEMENT

Road Assets and Expenditure Report Project

In a significant shift, WALGA's Strategic Executive Team was presented with and approved a proposal to engage the internal WALGA Business Intelligence & Analytics team to undertake the work to modernise the architecture and processes used to manage data and generate the Road Assets and Expenditure Report, rather than moving forward with an external consultant. The work undertaken by Tango IT to detail the current processes used to develop the Road Asset and Expenditure Report and a future state will still be used as a basis for completing this work. The project will include the development of a database, reporting interface, and dashboard and will commence in early 2026.

Review of the WALGA Road Visual Condition Assessment Manual

The revisions of the WALGA Road Visual Condition Manual, originally published in 2016, are now almost complete, with a final draft version currently circulating with key stakeholders for a final review. This manual provides important support to Local Government road managers and provides the framework for being able to understand the condition of the road network statewide. This is aligned with recommendations in the Auditor General's report, *Maintaining Regional Local Roads*.

5. UTILITIES

Western Power

WALGA met with the Economic Regulation Authority and Western Power to discuss progress on the undertakings within the current Access Arrangement (AA5) and the issues for consideration in the next Arrangement (AA6).

The next meeting with the Western Power Customer Connections team is scheduled for 9 February. An agenda has been developed, and a representative group of metropolitan Local Governments will be providing feedback on the effectiveness of the changes that were agreed.

ERA Framework and Approach

As a State-owned monopoly, Western Power is regulated by the Economic Regulation Authority (ERA) primarily through a mechanism called an Access Arrangement, which sets out Western Power's undertakings, describes the terms and conditions of access to the Western Power network, and stipulates the prices it can charge for specific services. The current iteration, AA5, runs until 2027. Work has commenced to review the current Arrangement and the framework and approach for the next Arrangement (AA6). WALGA prepared a discussion paper for Local Government input and will provide a formal submission to the ERA by the deadline of 6 February 2026.

Streetlighting

WALGA continued to support Western Power and their consultants in their initial engagement with Local Governments through a survey of streetlighting requirements, expectations and issues. Around half of the Local Governments in the area served by Western Power responded to the survey. In addition to providing feedback, most indicated an interest in further providing more detailed input to the streetlight asset management strategy.

Telecommunications

A range of risk, liability and operational constraints need to be resolved in order to progress a pilot deployment of backup generators to support telecommunications during power failures. WALGA is meeting regularly with Telstra, the Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development and other stakeholders seeking to define an operational model and agreements to put this in place.

6. ROAD SAFETY

RoadWise Councils

As of 1 January 2026, there were 75 Local Governments registered as a RoadWise Council, spread across all 10 Regional Road Group regions. During the October–December 2025 quarter, 65 RoadWise Councils implemented 257 local road safety activities, supported by WALGA's team of road safety staff.

RoadWise Recognised

The RoadWise Recognised Advisory Committee last met in November 2025 and endorsed the allocation of 3,441 Points to the 73 RoadWise Councils who collectively recorded road safety actions during the July–September quarter. Points are allocated for each road safety activity or intervention undertaken as per the RoadWise Framework. Points are based on the effectiveness, longevity and scale of the road safety activity and considers the capacity of the RoadWise Council.

Road Safety Council

The Road Safety Council Communiques can be viewed [here](#).

12.1.3 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, MEMBER SERVICES PORTFOLIO

By *Kirsty Martin, Executive Manager Member Services*

FOR NOTING

The Member Services Portfolio comprises the following work units:

- *Commercial Contract Services*
- *Commercial Development*
- *Commercial Management*
- *Employee Relations*
- *Governance and Procurement*
- *Training*

The following outlines the activities of the Member Services Portfolio since the December 2025 State Council meeting.

1. COMMERCIAL

The Commercial Development team has completed Tenders contracting 145 Preferred Suppliers to the Preferred Supplier Program (PSP). This includes 34 new Contracts for Aboriginal businesses resulting from a special project to enhance the presence of Aboriginal businesses within the PSP. New PSP development and enhancements are progressing in the areas of ICT (ERP systems), Sustainable Energy Infrastructure, Building Inspection Services, Project and Operations Management.

The Commercial Management team has commenced onboarding new Preferred Suppliers following the recent PSP and Aboriginal business tender processes. With 145 suppliers successfully tendering, onboarding is expected to continue through to late February or early March. The reporting period for Quarter 2 PSP engagement opened to Preferred Suppliers on 5 January 2026, with Contract Managers continuing to monitor reporting compliance.

ARENA/EV Project

The ARENA project continues to progress through a reporting and knowledge-sharing phase, with intended closure by 30 June.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Project

The Sector and WALGA (internal) AI readiness assessment has been completed. Work on potential initiatives related to AI and cybersecurity for Members is ongoing.

2. EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

WALGA ER continues to represent the sector in a number of applications in the WA Industrial Relations Commission (WAIRC), including:

- Applications CICS 5, 8 and 9 of 2023 - Union demarcation dispute and associated applications:
 - CICS 5, 8 and 9 of 2023 is an application by the Western Australian Municipal, Administrative, Clerical and Services Union of Employees (WASU), for coverage

- of Local Government employees to the exclusion of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union of Workers (CFMEUW) (the Demarcation claim).
- The Local Government, Racing and Cemeteries Employees Union (LGRCEU) and WALGA are intervenors.
- The Demarcation claim was heard by the WAIRC, sitting as the Commission in Court Session (CICS), over 41 days in July and October of 2024 and October and November 2025.
- During the course of the Demarcation claim the CFMEUW made various applications for production of documents and to dismiss the Demarcation claim which caused significant delays and costs. Four key applications were:
 - The first application was to dismiss the matter, which the Commission rejected and dismissed.
 - The second application was for discovery of documents from WALGA and the WASU, which the Commission ordered and WALGA and WASU complied with. WALGA and WASU have claimed privilege over these documents (Privilege Claim).
 - The third application was for discovery of documents from WALGA, WASU and the LGRCEU. In response the WASU, LGRCEU and WALGA applied to dismiss the CFMEUW's second application for production of documents. This was dismissed by the CICS on 26 March 2025 (Dismissal Decision)
 - The CFMEUW lodged an appeal to the Industrial Appeal Court (IAC) against the Dismissal Decision (IAC 2/2025).

The Privilege Claim was heard by the CICS as an interlocutory matter on 28 May 2025. The CICS issued a decision on 11 July 2025, upholding the claims of legal professional privilege and accordingly no orders for production of these documents will occur.

Following the Privilege decision the CFMEUW withdrew its appeal to the Industrial Appeal Court against the CICS decision to dismiss the CFMEUW's Second application for production of documents (IAC 2/2025).

- The CICS has reserved its decision in the Demarcation claim. Given the length of the hearing, the number of witnesses and amount of evidence produced during the hearing it is not possible to predict when the Demarcation claim decision will be handed down.
- Applications APPL 3 and 4 of 2023 – concerned award variations sort by the WASU to the Local Government Officers' (WA) Award 2021 (LGO Award) and the Municipal Employees Award (WA) 2021 (ME Award) as follows:
 - increase casual loading from 20% to 25%;
 - conversion of casual employees who have worked for more than 12 months to permanent employment;
 - increased regional redundancy entitlements for employees working outside Perth;
 - an additional week of entitlement to annual leave for shift workers;
 - preferential treatment of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander persons in Local Government employment processes;
 - up to 5 days of Cultural and Ceremonial Leave for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander persons in the LGO Award; and
 - inclusion of Flexible Working Arrangements.

A consent position was reached in relation to the 25% casual loading and flexible working arrangements. The matter was heard over 6 days concluding on 29 November 2024 before Commissioner Walkington and the decision has been reserved.

- State Wage Case:
 - Annually the WAIRC in Court Session issues a decision setting the WA minimum wage.
 - The WAIRC will likely call for submission in April and the lodgement deadline for submissions will likely be in May 2026. WALGA intends to submit a written submission on behalf of the Local Government sector.

WALGA's Salary and Workforce Survey closed on 21 November 2025. 82 WA Local Governments completed the survey. The results of the survey are expected to be released in February 2026. Subscribers of the ER Service who completed the survey will have full access to the results of the survey as part of their subscription.

3. GOVERNANCE AND PROCUREMENT

WALGA continues to support Local Governments through the ongoing *Local Government Act* reform process. During November and December, WALGA attended meetings of the Local Government Reform Regulations Working Group and the Integrated Planning and Reporting Working Group, both convened by the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety for the purpose of facilitating consultation on regulatory reform proposals.

The first Governance Newsletter of 2026 has been circulated to subscribers, highlighting key reforms requiring action by Local Governments.

During November and December, Governance and Procurement team members facilitated WALGA training sessions and custom workshops both at WALGA and onsite for regional Local Governments.

4. TRAINING

The WALGA Training team continues to ensure all training offerings remain current, relevant, and engaging for the sector.

Training Content Review

Over the past 12 months, the Training team have completed an extensive update of all Council Member Essentials (CME) courses for both in-person delivery and eLearning. Four of the five eLearning modules have been rebuilt using new software, with the review focusing on refreshed content and a modernised learning experience incorporating animation, video, learner reflections and interactive quizzes to support high learner engagement.

A full refresh of the Meeting Procedures module is scheduled for 2026 to capture all legislative changes and deliver an updated, comprehensive program.

The team has also redeveloped and modernised Introduction to Local Government, now offering an interactive induction program to support the sector with a cost-effective onboarding tool for new officers.

New 2026 Projects to build capacity in the sector

Two new training initiatives aim to build sector capability incorporating best practice principles and practical application in specialised fields. These courses will be available in 2026.

Environment and Waste

- 1-day Introduction to Waste for Local Governments (on-site delivery).
- 3-day Local Government Waste Management – Advanced.
- 1-day Introduction to Environment.

Design Review Training

In collaboration with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, this project offers online design review training to support Local Government Planning Officers, Panel Members and Chairs. The modules assist participants to understand and apply design review processes and State Planning Policy 7.0. Five eLearning modules have been developed by the Government Architect Western Australia (GAWA) and WALGA Training has been engaged to host these eLearning modules for easy access to the sector.

Council Member Essentials and Professional Development

The team is currently inputting and verifying recent Elected Member election data into WALGA's database. Of the 578 Elected Members from the 2025 elections, there are 231 who have been elected for the first time. A trend of lower enrolments compared to previous election years has been identified, which is likely influenced by CME exemptions within the five-year period and an overall reduction in Elected Member positions across the State.

As part of the training marketing strategy, Elected Members will be reminded of their legislative obligations and professional development opportunities such as standalone workshops, and the nationally recognised qualification, the Diploma of Local Government – Elected Member, will be promoted to Elected Members who have completed CME and are seeking additional development opportunities.

On-Site Training

Between mid-December and mid-January, WALGA Training received 61 on-site requests for quotation and have confirmed 16 on-site bookings for February 2026 – the highest level of on-site training activity to date and a significant increase from previous years.

Certificate III in Local Government

Following a slower October 2025 intake, there is now a strong increase in enrolments for February 2026, with:

- 8 Trainees enrolled;
- 1 Fee-for-Service enrolment; and
- Additional enquiries continuing to come through.

12.1.4 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, POLICY PORTFOLIO

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy

FOR NOTING

The Policy Portfolio comprises the following work units:

- *Economics*
- *Environment and Waste*
- *Planning and Building*
- *Resilient Communities*
- *Community*

The following outlines the activities of the Policy Portfolio since the December 2025 State Council meeting.

1. ECONOMICS

Economic Briefing

In December WALGA released the quarterly Economic Briefing and Local Government Cost Index (LGCI). Previously named for the month of release, this edition is called the Q4 2025 Economic Briefing, using a new naming convention to help clarify which period it refers to. The Briefing provides Local Governments with a snapshot of the current economic climate and economic conditions impacting the sector, as well as unique data and insights tailored for Local Governments in WA.

Western Australia's economy has continued to grow faster than the national average, fuelled by the private sector as public demand eases. While WA's inflation remains above the national level, the Australian economy has grown at its fastest pace in two years, causing inflation to re-emerge as an issue. The Reserve Bank of Australia has maintained interest rates at 3.6%, cautious about the upside risks to inflation.

The labour market remains tight as wages continue to grow, especially in the public sector. These increases, along with rising construction costs, have contributed to a 4.5% annual rise in Local Government expenses over the last 12 months.

Tourism

In November 2025, WALGA hosted a well-attended webinar with Tourism WA (TWA) on the role of local government in tourism. TWA's Director Insights and Strategy spoke to data available and how to determine visitor market segmentation, and TWA's Director Partnerships and Industries provided an overview of the State Government's tourism focus, strategy and avenues of support for Local Government. A new [tourism web page](#) has been included on the WALGA website to provide further resources for the sector.

2. ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE

Regional Waste Management Funding

Following strong WALGA advocacy, on 19 January 2026 the State Government [released](#) \$6 million for regional Local Governments to assist with infrastructure, transport and recycling of plastic, tyres and paper and cardboard. Funding is being provided by the

Australian Government, through the Recycling Modernisation Fund focusing on increasing options for materials subject to the [Waste Export Bans](#) – which provides some constraints on how the funding can be used. Grants of between \$50,000 to \$1 million are available.

The funding aligns with WALGA's Budget Submission which seeks \$10 million for regional waste infrastructure, planning and capacity building. WALGA will continue to advocate for additional funds.

Cat Containment

WALGA, and other key stakeholders, received a confidential briefing on the proposed amendments to the *Cat Act 2011* which will allow Local Governments to include cat containment in Local Laws. The Amendments are anticipated in the first quarter of 2026.

WALGA is a member of the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety Cat Containment Local Law Working Group.

3. PLANNING AND BUILDING

Urban Greening Strategy

The State Government released the long-awaited [Urban Greening Strategy for Whadjuk \(Perth\) and Bindjareb \(Peel\) Let's Grow: Leafy & Liveable Communities](#) on 16 January 2025.

The long-awaited Strategy outlines how the State Government plans to enhance tree canopy and create more green spaces within the Perth and Peel regions across three action areas – Growing More, Growing Together and Growing Stronger. It sets a canopy cover target 30% for Perth and Peel by 2040, consistent with WALGA's advocacy position. The Urban Greening Strategy also includes an Urban Greening Grant Program for community groups and schools and affirms the State Government's commitment to supporting Local Governments with their public realm planting programs. The Strategy will be supported by the *Let's Grow Action Plan*, which is expected to be released in February.

WALGA has welcomed the release of the Strategy, which has been a key advocacy ask as part of the sectors' drive to increase tree canopy cover in urban areas across the State. Unfortunately the strategy does not extend to urban areas outside of Perth and Peel and does not make any commitments towards reducing the loss of trees on private land, which is critical to meeting the 30% target. Local Governments are leading the way in protecting trees on private land, with nine Local Governments so far adopting WALGA's Model Local Planning Policy that provides regulatory protection for trees of significant size.

WALGA's 2026-27 State Budget Submission is calling on the State Government to invest \$40 million in Local Governments' urban greening programs over the next 10 years to increase access to green spaces and create cooler, more liveable neighbourhoods in urban areas statewide.

WALGA's media release can be read [here](#).

Tree Retention Model Local Planning Policy Update

WALGA developed the Model Local Planning Policy (LPP) for Tree Retention in 2024 to regulate trees on private land. Nine Local Governments have adopted the model LPP, providing WALGA with valuable data and insights to inform improvements. The Town of Bassendean has also successfully prosecuted two cases involving the unauthorised removal of regulated trees. A revised version of the model LPP has now been released,

incorporating minor amendments to reflect best practice and respond to implementation challenges. A key change is revising the definition of 'maintenance pruning' to be less prescriptive, reducing the need for Development Assessments for pruning activities. Other refinements include restructuring the document to align with current State planning guidelines and removing redundant provisions, such as lists of specific development and subdivision conditions. The [updated model LPP](#) is available to Local Governments to adopt following the procedures set out in the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Scheme) Regulations 2015*, which includes community consultation and consideration by Council.

CoastWA Funding Extension

The State Government announced a three-year extension to the CoastWA Program as part of the mid-year budget review. While the extension of CoastWA is welcome, the funding of \$18.1 million over 3 years is \$2 million less than that provided over the previous three years of the Program. WALGA has advocated for an annual funding of at least \$16 million per annum to cover future adaptation needs for both erosion and inundation, consider rising construction costs, newly identified hotspots, and increasing risks.

Draft Renewable Energy Planning Code – Information Sessions

The Western Australian Planning Commission is introducing a draft Renewable Energy Planning Code and Guidelines to provide a clear and consistent framework for assessing energy infrastructure that supports the generation, storage and transmission of renewable energy across Western Australia. The draft Code proposes consistent development standards and application requirements for renewable energy projects, supported by Guidelines that explain how applicants and decision-makers can meet these requirements.

WALGA hosted two online information sessions on the draft Code alongside the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. The first, on 5 February for Local Government officers focussed on how the Code would operate in the current planning framework and the second session on 9 February was for Elected Members to understand the implications of the Code. Comments and questions raised through these sessions will inform WALGA's submission.

Submissions on the Code are due by Friday, 10 April 2026. WALGA is preparing a submission on behalf of the sector for State Council consideration and has requested Local Government feedback by 27 February. Local Governments are also encouraged to make their own submissions. An item on the Code has also been prepared for inclusion in all Country Zone Agendas for the February meetings.

4. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement Project

WALGA's LEMA pilot project, launched in February 2025, is progressing with five Local Governments: the Shires of Manjimup, Shark Bay, Chittering, Gingin, and the City of Kwinana. The pilot is testing and refining LEMA templates and resources while gathering input to inform future guidance and tools.

DFES, with support from WALGA, has launched an online Statement of Policy, the [Knowledge Hub](#), and continues to develop a LEMA Development Framework. This collaboration has included trialling a new methodology for local emergency risk profiling with each of the pilot Local Governments and preparing summary reports for each, along with an evaluation report on the trial risk workshops.

WALGA and DFES will present the refined templates, key observations, lessons learnt, and proposals for Phase 2 of the project to the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) in March 2026. WALGA's delivery of the pilot has been extended until mid-April 2026 to allow for completion of additional deliverables, including an overview for Elected Members on the role of Local Government in emergency management.

WALGA 2026 Emergency Management Forum – 26 May

The WALGA Emergency Management forum will be held on Tuesday, 26 May. The Forum will be filled with expert advice from Emergency Management practitioners, share lessons learned, showcase best practice and collaborative tools, and provide a platform for connection and networking with stakeholders across the sector. More details and registration information will be released soon.

Initial Consultation: Community Recovery Guidelines

A review of the *Western Australian Community Evacuation in Emergencies Guideline* is underway via [Engage WA EM](#). The update aims to deliver contemporary, fit-for-purpose State arrangements that support Emergency Management Agencies in planning and conducting community evacuations for all hazards. Local Governments can provide feedback on the initial review and consultation until 20 February 2026. WALGA provided officer level feedback in the initial review and consultation and prepared a formal submission during the 3-month consultation period, which is expected to be initiated in May 2026.

Revised State Recovery Arrangements Approved

The State Recovery Arrangements were approved by the State Emergency Management Committee on 4 December 2025. The amendments maintain Local Governments statutory responsibility for recovery under the *Emergency Management Act 2005* but provide clearer guidance on how State agencies collaborate to support community recovery. Key changes include:

- State Strategic Recovery Priorities introduced to guide governance, planning, and delivery of recovery in WA.
- Model for Recovery Coordination established, outlining a four-tiered framework (R1 – R4) for recovery coordination arrangements between State and Local Governments.
- Clarified roles and responsibilities for the State Government, including DFES, Hazard Management Agencies and other State Agencies.
- Defined State-level recovery positions, including a new event-specific State Recovery Coordinator Role.
- Clarified arrangements and procedures for transition from response to recovery, community engagement, public information and members.

A comprehensive overview of the framework and consultation can be viewed via [Engage WA Emergency Management](#).

5. COMMUNITY

WA Multicultural Act Discussion Paper

A [Discussion Paper](#) on a proposed WA Multicultural Act was released by the Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI) on 24 November 2025.

The purpose of the proposed Act would be to formally commit the State to:

- promote inclusion and equity for everyone, regardless of their cultural or linguistic background; and

- ensure that government decisions, services and policies reflect multicultural values like respect, equity, participation and belonging.

On 15 January, WALGA hosted a webinar with OMI and 34 attendees from 26 Local Governments (13 metropolitan and 13 regional). The webinar provided an opportunity for OMI to engage directly with Local Government representatives and for the sector to provide feedback on the Discussion Paper. Local Governments represented at the webinar were invited to provide feedback on WALGA's draft submission.

WALGA's submission will be provided to the People and Place Policy Team and State Council for consideration via Flying Minute in time to meet the submission deadline of 28 February 2026.

2026 Aboriginal Engagement Forum – 18 March

WALGA's [2026 Aboriginal Engagement Forum](#) (Forum), will be held on Wednesday, 18 March at the State Reception Centre, Kaarta Gar-Up (Kings Park). Since its inception in 2017, the Forum has provided an opportunity for the Local Government sector to come together and explore leading practice in Aboriginal engagement and reconciliation.

The theme of the Forum is *Kaartidjin kwop koorliny / Empowerment in Action*, with the program focused on opportunities for the Local Government sector to build sustainable employment, business and leadership pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The theme aims to build momentum created by WALGA initiatives such as the Preferred Supplier Program's Aboriginal Business Tender and [Kolbang Yanciny](#), the new Local Government Reconciliation Resource. The program was also informed by the Reference Group and outcomes of the 2025 Aboriginal Elected Member Roundtable.

WALGA State Councillors are encouraged to attend the Forum and have been offered a [complimentary ticket](#). A full report on the outcomes of the Roundtable and Forum will be provided at the May State Council Meeting.

2026 Aboriginal Elected Member Roundtable

WALGA's second Aboriginal Elected Member Roundtable will take place on 17 March 2026, the day prior to the Aboriginal Engagement Forum. Now an annual event, the Roundtable enables Aboriginal Elected Members from across the State to connect, meet WALGA's Senior Leadership team and share their experiences and aspirations as Councillors.

With several Aboriginal leaders newly elected and re-elected to Councils in the 2025 Local Government elections, the Roundtable provides an exciting opportunity for ongoing network development, information sharing and partnership.

Rural and Remote Healthcare Advocacy

The need for funding and system reform has been included in the WALGA [Federal](#) and [State Budget Submissions](#) and submission to the Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability. WALGA is also preparing a submission to the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee Inquiry into rural, regional and remote Medicare access and funding which closes on 27 March.

WALGA continues to refine its advocacy ask to focus on long-term solutions to this gap in healthcare service funding. In February 2026 WALGA held discussions with key stakeholders in the regional and health sectors to further develop viable options for innovative models of service and funding solutions and areas for joint advocacy.

Working With Children (Screening) Amendment Bill 2025

On 4 December 2025 the State Government introduced the [Working With Children \(Screening\) Amendment Bill 2025](#) (Amendment Bill). The Amendment Bill revises the existing *Working with Children (Screening) Act 2004* to respond to the agreement from the Standing Council of Attorneys-General that States and Territories will implement mutual recognition of negative Working with Children Check (WWCC) notices across jurisdictions.

WALGA does not perceive any direct impacts on Local Government from the Amendment Bill. WALGA provided a [submission to the Phase 2 Reforms of West Australia's Working With Children Check \(WWCC\) Law](#) consultation in October 2025. The submission supported national consistency and portability of WWCC decisions across Australia in addition to other recommendations to support child safeguarding within the sector. WALGA will continue to advocate for increased protections for children and young people including a strengthened WWCC system.

Preventative Health Strategy

On 20 January 2026, the WA Government announced the [development of a Preventative Health Strategy](#). WALGA Executive Manager Policy attended one of the six roundtables with other key stakeholders to inform the development of the Strategy, highlighting key linkages to Local Public Health Plans and WALGA's advocacy asks, including regional and remote health, active transport, road safety, urban planning and climate resilience.

2025 MACWA Awards

On 10 December 2025, in partnership with the Department of Communities, the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety and Regional Capital Alliance, WALGA hosted the Most Access Communities WA (MACWA) Awards. These awards acknowledged Local Governments for their efforts in creating accessible and inclusive communities across major and minor projects, public open spaces, employment services and events. More information about this year's winners was included in a recent edition of [LG Direct](#).

12.2 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The [President's Report](#) was made available at the time the Agenda was published.

FOR NOTING

12.3 CEO'S REPORT

The CEO's Report will be circulated to State Councillors with the Revised Agenda (under separate cover).

FOR NOTING

13 ADDITIONAL ZONE RESOLUTIONS

To be advised following Zone meetings.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary meeting of the WALGA State Council will be a Regional Meeting, hosted by the Central Country Zone in the Shire of Pingelly, on Thursday, 7 May.

15 CLOSURE

STATUS REPORT ON STATE COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
3 December 2025 Item 7.1 Transport Oriented Development Advocacy Position	<p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State Council request WALGA to prepare an Advocacy Position in consultation with members, regarding the transport and planning principals required to ensure quality outcomes in the newly announced "Station Precinct Improvement Plans and Schemes" in Metropolitan Perth and regional stations if included. 2. The Advocacy Position includes transport and place-making outcomes on both government controlled and private land that maximise liveability and use of the public transport network. <p>RESOLUTION 069.5/2025</p>	<p>The Environment Policy Team considered this issue at its meeting on 14 January 2026 and was concerned to ensure that WALGA does not delay advocating on this issue while waiting for a new specific position to be developed and endorsed by State Council.</p> <p>WALGA has commenced consultation on a new position with an initial focus on immediately impacted Local Governments and in the meantime will make representations to Government under cover of existing positions.</p>	Ongoing	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy
3 December 2025 Item 8.1 2025 Annual General Meeting Resolutions	<p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7.1 Provision of Medical Services in Remote and Very Remote Local Governments 7.2 Homelessness – Short-term Accommodation Solutions <p>RESOLUTION 070.5/2025</p> <p><i>The AGM resolutions are as follows:</i></p>	<p>Improving access to primary healthcare services in rural and remote areas remains an advocacy priority for WALGA. This is reflected in the current Federal and State Budget Submissions and aligned to the revised Advocacy Position endorsed by State Council in September 2025.</p> <p>WALGA is exploring opportunities for partnership advocacy on this matter with</p>	Ongoing	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	<p>7.1 Provision of Medical Services in Remote and Very Remote Local Governments <i>That WALGA calls on the Western Australian Government and WA Grants Commission to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>increase the total funding and then the Medical Facilities Cost Adjuster component of the Financial Assistance Grants to Local Governments; and</i> <i>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.</i> <p>7.2 Homelessness – Short-term Accommodation Solutions <i>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.</i></p>	<p>health sector stakeholders. This work includes developing solution options.</p> <p>WALGA will present developments to the April People and Place Policy Team meeting for consideration.</p> <p>WALGA is currently reviewing its homelessness Advocacy Position. A Local Government Homelessness Survey is scheduled to open in early February to inform the review.</p> <p>WALGA will consider the matter of short-term accommodation as part of the review and report to the April 2026 People and Place Policy Team meeting.</p>		
3 December 2025 Item 8.1 2025 Annual General Meeting Resolutions	<p>That:</p> <p>...</p> <p>2. the following resolution from the 2025 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the Governance Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:</p> <p> 7.4 Rating Exemption Advocacy Position</p> <p>RESOLUTION 070.5/2025</p> <p><i>The AGM resolution is as follows:</i></p>	<p>This item has been referred to the Governance Policy Team for further consideration. It is intended to be included in the March Governance Policy Team Agenda.</p>	Ongoing	Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	<p>7.4 Rating Exemption Advocacy Position <i>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:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. 75% of the value of rates lost in applying the charitable purposes exemption; or</i> <i>2. 1% of the total rate revenue of the Local Government.</i> 			
3 December 2025 Item 8.1 2025 Annual General Meeting Resolutions	<p>That:</p> <p>...</p> <p>3. the following resolution from the 2025 WALGA Annual General Meeting be endorsed:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">7.5 Rateability of Miscellaneous Licences</p> <p>RESOLUTION 070.5/2025</p> <p><i>The AGM resolution is as follows:</i></p> <p>7.5 Rateability of Miscellaneous Licences <i>That WALGA:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>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 Licenses.</i> <i>2. Develop an advocacy position on sector consultation prior to any amendment to the Local Government Act.</i> <i>3. Undertake a financial analysis of the cost to the Mining Industry of the rating of Miscellaneous Licenses compared to the benefit to the Local Government sector.</i> 	<p>This item has been referred to the Governance Policy Team for further consideration. It is intended to be included in the March Governance Policy Team Agenda.</p>	Ongoing	Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
3 December 2025 Item 8.2 2026 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members	<p>That State Council endorse the submission to the 2026 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members, with the following additions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A new recommendation that the Regional/Isolation Allowance be reviewed in full, noting that the application of the Allowance is unequal and inconsistent. 2. A new recommendation that an appropriate fee be set for the deputy to the presiding member of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees to attend meetings. 3. A new recommendation that the travel costs incurred while driving a privately owned or leased vehicle be calculated at the same rate contained in the <i>Public Service Award 1992</i> to bring it in parity with the public sector. 4. The percentage values in recommendations 1 and 2 of the submission be amended from 3% to 4%. 5. Include a work-value argument regarding Elected Member remuneration to strengthen the case for an increase to Elected Member fees and allowances, and to refer the request to reclassify Elected Members as not volunteers to the relevant Policy Team. <p>RESOLUTION 073.5/2025</p>	<p>The submission to SAT was updated to include those additional points and provided to the Tribunal on 6 January 2026.</p> <p>The Advocacy Positions Manual has also been updated to reflect the recommendations contained in the submission.</p> <p>The request to reclassify Elected Members as not volunteers (as per point 5 of the resolution) has been referred to the Governance Policy Team for further consideration.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Rachel Horton Executive Manager Advocacy</p> <p>Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services</p>
3 December 2025 Item 8.3 Tourism Advocacy Position Update	<p>That State Council replace Advocacy Position 3.9 Tourism with an updated position as follows:</p> <p><i>WALGA calls on the State Government to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Fund the implementation of the WA Visitor Economy Strategy and the supporting Tourism</i> 	<p>The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.</p>	COMPLETE	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	<p><i>Destination Management Plans and Regional Tourism Development Strategies, including for:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>maintenance and renewal of Local Government assets and services that underpin a positive visitor experience</i> b. <i>new and existing tourism infrastructure</i> c. <i>improving telecommunications infrastructure</i> d. <i>measures to reduce the cost and improve the scheduling and routes of regional air services</i> e. <i>accredited Visitor Centres.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. <i>Ensure that tourism destinations with a significant seasonal visitor influx have adequate medical and emergency services and reliable telecommunications.</i> 3. <i>Articulate a clear tourism governance framework with defined roles and responsibilities to facilitate coordination and collaboration of tourism activities across the State.</i> 4. <i>Adequately consult and consider Local Government when undertaking strategic tourism planning across Western Australia.</i> 5. <i>Provide improved access to affordable, timely and granular data that delivers LGA-level insights on visitation, spend and event impacts.</i> <p>RESOLUTION 074.5/2025</p>			
3 December 2025 Item 8.4 Waste Management	That State Council retire Advocacy Positions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 7.2 State Waste Strategy; 2. 7.3 Waste Authority; and 3. 7.11 Waste Management and Resource Recovery Partnership Agreement. 	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.	COMPLETE	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
Advocacy Positions	RESOLUTION 075.5/2025			
3 December 2025 Item 8.5 Electoral Material – Authorisation Statement Address Requirements	<p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WALGA advocate to the State Government to amend section 4.87 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 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. b. Remove the requirement for the name and business address of the electoral material printer to appear at the end of the electoral material. 2. The suggestion from the South East Metropolitan Zone to advocate to amend section 5.95 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> to specify that the right to inspect Primary and Annual Returns contained in the Register of Financial Interests under s.5.94(b) does not extend to the residential address of the relevant person be referred to the Governance Policy Team so that a full report can be presented to State Council for consideration. <p>RESOLUTION 077.5/2025</p>	<p>The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.</p> <p>Resolution 2 has been referred to the Governance Policy Team and is intended to be included in the March Agenda.</p>	Ongoing	Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
5 September 2025 Item 8.2 Rating of Miscellaneous Licenses	<p>That WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for Local Governments to continue to have the ability to rate miscellaneous licences under the <i>Mining Act 1978</i>; and Oppose legislative amendments that seek to exempt occupied miscellaneous licence land from rating. Continue to advocate for a broad review to be conducted into the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under section 6.26 of the Local Government Act 1995. <p>RESOLUTION 050.4/2025</p>	<p>The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.</p> <p>Correspondence has been sent to the Premier and Minister for Local Government. Opposition parties have been briefed.</p> <p>In addition, funding for the broad review of rating exemptions is included in the State Budget submission.</p>	Ongoing	Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services
5 September 2025 Item 8.6 Advocacy Positions on Active Transport and Micromobility	<p>That WALGA endorse the proposed advocacy positions on Active Transport and micromobility subject to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The following item added to the Priority Actions of the Funding Position Statement: <p><i>Allocate dedicated funding to deliver safe, pedestrian- and bicycle-priority crossing points on local and distributor roads, particularly around schools, community hubs, and public transport nodes, to support safe and accessible active transport journeys.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Request the CEO to prepare an Active Transport Advocacy Plan for WALGA including, but not limited to, funding models to achieve the advocacy positions. That the Plan be brought back to the Infrastructure Policy Team for discussion. 	<p>The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.</p>	COMPLETE	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	RESOLUTION 055.4/2025			
2 July 2025 Item 8.1 Suspension and Disqualification for Offences Advocacy Position	<p>That WALGA defers consideration of this matter for further work, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. defining appropriately serious offences for intervention; and b. addressing the role of the Local Government Inspector. c. evaluating whether advocacy for disqualification based on convictions under the Planning and Development Act 2005 and Building Act 2011 should be retained. RESOLUTION 037.3/2025	<p>Work has commenced on defining appropriately serious offences for intervention.</p> <p>Consideration of how the Office of the Inspector affects this position is awaiting the release of regulations pertaining to the office.</p>	Ongoing	Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services
5 March 2025 Item 9.1 Infrastructure Policy Team Report	<p>That State Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the report from the Infrastructure Policy Team for the 5 March 2025 meeting. 2. Determine to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Delete Advocacy Position 5.2.8 (Towards Zero Road Safety Strategy 2008 – 2020). b. Amend the title of Advocacy Position 5.2.7 from Road Safety Strategy (Imagine Zero) to Driving Change Road Safety Strategy 2020-2030. 3. Undertake further policy development and consultation with Members regarding the default open road speed limit in Western Australia. RESOLUTION 013.1/2025	<p>The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.</p> <p>The Infrastructure Policy Team resolved to recommend WALGA engage an independent specialist to develop a framework to support the Local Government sector in decision making and advocacy relating to speed limits.</p>	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure
6 December 2024 Item 8.1	<p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the item 7.1 Amendments to <i>Cat Act 2011</i>- Allow Local Governments to Make Local Laws to Contain Cats to the Owner's Property be endorsed. ... 	<p>The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.</p> <p>WALGA, and other key stakeholders, received a briefing</p>	Ongoing	Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
2024 Annual General Meeting Resolutions	<p>3. the following resolutions from the 2024 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the Governance Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:</p> <p>7.2 Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land-Banking</p> <p>7.3 Advocacy for Expansion of Differential Rating to Include Long Term Unoccupied Commercial Buildings (Property Activation Levy).</p> <p>RESOLUTION 089.5/2024</p>	<p>on the proposed amendments to the <i>Cat Act 2011</i> which will allow Local Governments to include cat containment in Local Laws. WALGA will continue to engage with Local Government and advocate that for effective implementation of these changes a collaborative, and resourced, approach will be needed.</p> <p>WALGA sought legal advice which confirmed that amendments to the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> (the Act) would be required to allow differential rating based on occupancy status.</p> <p>A joint meeting of the Governance and Environment Policy teams was held on 12 September. The Joint Policy Teams considered that there was a significant level of risk associated with the proposal and that it should not proceed. Instead, incentives and activation programs can be explored by Local Governments to encourage occupancy of buildings.</p>		
6 December 2024	That: ...	Resolution 7.2 (regarding the planning related items within this	COMPLETE	Nicole Matthews

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
Item 8.1 2024 Annual General Meeting Resolutions	<p>2. the following resolutions from the 2024 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the Environment Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:</p> <p>7.2 Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land-Banking 7.4 Action on Asbestos for Western Australia 7.6 Advocacy for Accessibility.</p> <p>...</p> <p>RESOLUTION 089.5/2024</p>	<p>resolution): The demolition of single houses is generally a form of development exempt from requiring development approval, and only a demolition permit is required for the complete or partial demolition, dismantling or removal of a building or an incidental structure. The current planning and building legislation do not allow the conditioning of approval or refusal of a building permit in a manner proposed by the AGM resolution.</p> <p>A joint meeting of the Environment and Governance Policy Teams has been scheduled for 12 September to consider this item.</p> <p>Resolution 7.4: WALGA is engaging at the State and National level on this issue, including through membership of the WA Interagency Asbestos Group and nationally the Asbestos Safety Eradication Agency reference group and has raised the issues impacting Local Governments in relation to safe removal and disposal, including ensuring statewide options.</p>		Executive Manager Policy

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
		<p>WALGA continues to undertake work in this area and is scoping an asbestos survey for members to identify specific challenges, activities and opportunities.</p> <p>Resolution 7.6: Liveable Housing Design Standard as part of the National Construction Code (NCC) provides a set of technical provisions that if complied with enable dwellings to better meet the needs of the community, including older people and people with mobility limitations. The code specifies seven minimum standards to ensure all new homes are accessible with modifications including step-free entrances and showers and wider doors and corridors that can accommodate wheelchairs and walking aids.</p> <p>All states enact the NCC through state legislation and regulation. A range of states are taking different approaches in terms of adopting the liveable housing requirements, but at time of writing all states except NSW and Western Australia have adopted the liveable housing provisions.</p>		

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		<p>The NCC 2022 only became operational in WA on 1 May. The appointment of a new Commerce Minister following the 2025 State Election provided an opportunity to engage on this matter.</p> <p>WALGA raised the prospects of WA adopting the standard at its meeting with the Minister in July 2025.</p> <p>On 24 August 2025, the Commonwealth Minister for Housing announced that they will work with states and territories to pause new residential regulation changes to the NCC until mid-2029, following the finalisation of NCC 2025. This pause will apply except for essential safety and quality changes.</p> <p>In light of this decision, which is supported by all State and Territory Governments, it is unlikely that changes to the NCC in WA to incorporate Liveable Housing Design Standard will occur in the near future.</p>		
6 December 2024 Item 8.2	That item 1 be deferred, and the Secretariat further investigate implications of compulsory and voluntary	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.	Ongoing	Kirsty Martin Executive Manager

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
Local Government Elections Advocacy Positions	<p>participation in Local Government elections and report back to State Council.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 090.5/2024</p> <p>That WALGA adopt the following Elections Advocacy Positions:</p> <p><i>The Local Government sector supports:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Councillors serve four-year terms with elections every two years and half of the Council positions spilled at each election.</i> <i>First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system for Local Government elections. If Optional Preferential Voting (OPV) remains as the primary method of voting, the sector supports the removal of the 'proportional' part of the voting method for general elections.</i> <i>First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system for internal Council elections.</i> <i>Councils holding elections by means of in-person, postal and/or electronic voting.</i> <i>Current legislative provisions of Mayor/President of Class 1 and Class 2 Local Governments being directly elected by the community and Class 3 and Class 4 Local Governments determining whether its Mayor or President is elected by the Council or by the community.</i> <p>RESOLUTION 091.5/2024</p>	<p>Correspondence has been sent to the Minister for Local Government advising on the five Advocacy Positions endorsed.</p> <p>Investigation of the implications of compulsory and voluntary voting continued with engagement from the Governance Policy Team.</p> <p>State Council endorsed a Discussion Paper for the purpose of sector consultation by Flying Minute on 20 January 2026 (see Agenda item 11.5).</p>		Member Services