

**MINUTES OF THE ZONE MEETING**

held at the Chinkabee Sport & Recreation Complex, Great Northern Highway, Bindoon  
Friday 14 April 2023 commencing at 10:02 am

**1 OPENING & WELCOME**

The Zone President and Chair of the meeting, Cr Ken Seymour, welcomed delegates and observers and asked attendees to introduce themselves. Cr Seymour introduced Cr Mary Angus, Deputy President, Shire of Chittering. Cr Angus welcomed delegates to Bindoon, gave a welcome to country and commented on –

- Thoughts with all those affected by Cyclone Isla.
- The Shire is growing and referred to new residential estates Bindoon Vista and Wildflower Ridge.
- The Muchea Industrial Estate is progressing.
- Staff shortages and difficulty in finding staff an issue.
- Current projects include –
  - Bindoon Mountain Bike and Adventure Park.
  - Muchea Sporting Complex
- Engagement by the community an issue.
- Introduced new CEO Melinda Prinsloo.

Ms Prinsloo gave a presentation on the Bindoon Mountain Bike and Adventure Park; Muchea Recreation Centre (Muchea Sporting Complex) development; development approvals of interest - Muchea Industrial Park, Battery Energy Storage System in Muchea, Club Moolia, Tiny Cabins; Challenges and frustrations – Western Power timeframes, timeframe for clearing permits, revaluation of assets.

**2 ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES**

**2.1 Attendance**

Delegates -

Cr Ken Seymour	Shire of Moora (President)
Cr Denese Smythe	Shire of York (Deputy President) (via video)
Cr Mary Angus	Shire of Chittering
Cr Linda Balcombe	Shire of Gingin
Cr Barry Haywood	Shire of Goomalling
Cr Chris Antonio	Shire of Northam
Cr Rosemary Madacsi	Shire of Toodyay
Cr Pauline Bantock	Shire of Victoria Plains
Cr Dwight Coad	Shire of Wongan-Ballidu

Observers –

Ms Melinda Prinsloo	Shire of Chittering
Mr Aaron Cook	Shire of Gingin
Mr Peter Bentley	Shire of Goomalling
Cr Susan Pearce	Shire of Toodyay
Mr Sean Fletcher	Shire of Victoria Plains
Mr Chris Linnell	Shire of York (via video)
Cr Paul Kelly	Deputy President, WALGA
Ms Nicole Matthews	Executive Manager Policy, WALGA
Mr Suvrat Patel	A/Network Manager, Wheatbelt Region, Main Roads WA
Ms Susan Hall	A/CEO, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Mr Grant Arthur	Director Regional Development, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Ms Annette Balmer	Recovery Support Officer, Wheatbelt & Central Goldfields Region, National Emergency Management Agency
Robert Dew	Zone Executive Officer

## 2.2 Apologies

Cr Aaron King	Shire of Chittering
Mr Jason Whiteaker	Shire of Northam
Cr Beth Ruthven	Shire of Toodyay
Cr Stuart Boekeman	Shire of Wongan-Ballidu
Mr Cliff Simpson	Regional Road Safety Advisor, WALGA
Ms Mandy Walker	<del>Director</del> Director Regional Director. RDA Wheatbelt Inc
Hon Colin de Grussa MLC	Member for Agricultural Region
Hon Darren West MLC	Member for Agricultural Region

## 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

## 4 ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

## 5 GUEST SPEAKER

### 5.1 Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Update by Mr Murray Carter, Executive Director Rural Fire Division, Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

Mr M Carter left the meeting at 11:00 am.

## 6 MINUTES

### 6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Zone Meeting held 10 February 2023 at York. Copies of these Minutes have been circulated to all member Councils.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held on 10 February 2023, as printed and circulated, be confirmed.

#### RESOLUTION

**Cr r Madacsi moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –**

**That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held on 10 February 2023, as printed and circulated, be confirmed.** **CARRIED**

### 6.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

#### (a) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advocacy Act (Item 5.2(c))

Last resolved that representatives of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage be invited to a future Zone meeting to present on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act. An invitation was made to the Department, and they have advised that they will be able to give a presentation at the Zone's meeting scheduled for 23 June.

#### RECOMMENDATION

For Noting

**NOTED**

Ms N Matthews advised that WALGA will be holding a webinar on 10 May 2023.

Cr D Coad asked whether there would be any objections to inviting local Aboriginal Elders to the presentation by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage at the Zone's June meeting. The meeting raised no objections. Cr Coad indicated that he would follow up with the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu.

(b) Western Power – Attendance at Zone Meeting (Item 10.1)

Last meeting requested that the presentation by Western Power to provide information on what Western Power is doing in the region to manage power reliability, bushfire risk, transition to modular grid and regional capacity constraints be deferred to a future meeting pending arrangements for a presentation by the Department of Planning, Land and Heritage on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act. Also see Item 6.2(a).

**RECOMMENDATION**

For Noting

**The meeting indicated that representatives of Western Power be invited to the Zone's August 2023 meeting.**

(c) Child Safe Awareness – Attendance at Zone Meeting (Item 10.3)

Last meeting considered the request from the Child Safeguarding Implementation Unit, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, to give a presentation to this meeting on the Child Safe Awareness Policy template for Local Government that the Unit is aiming to take to the WA Local Government Association State Council's May meeting for approval. The meeting suggested that the Unit attend the April meeting and give a shortened presentation in place of the Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries report.

Since the last meeting the Unit has advised that they have been working with WALGA to get the Child Safe Awareness Policy template on the State Council agenda for their May meeting for endorsement. Although they are still running the Policy Pilot (which the Shire of Victoria Plains is participating in), they have been advised that we should wait until the State Council decision before we do any more presentations at Zone meetings. They apologise for the late notice and advise that Zone members are free to contact the Unit (childsafeguarding@dlgsc.wa.gov.au) if they would like more information about the Policy.

**RECOMMENDATION**

For Noting

**The meeting indicated that a presentation on the Child Safe Awareness Policy template for Local Government be scheduled for a future meeting.**

(d) CBH Group – Attendance at Meeting (Item 10.4)

Last meeting requested that arrangements for a presentation by CBH Group be deferred to a future meeting pending arrangements for a presentation by the Department of Planning, Land and Heritage on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act. Also see Item 6.2(a).

**RECOMMENDATION**

For Noting

**The meeting indicated that representatives of CBH Group be invited to the Zone's August 2023 meeting.**

(e) Other

No other matters were brought forward.

## 7 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

### 7.1 WALGA State Council Agenda

Review of the Agenda for the meeting of State Council to be held Wednesday 3 May 2023. The Zone is able to provide comment or submit alternate recommendations to State Council for consideration.

#### Matters for Decision

#### 7.1 Best Practice Governance Review – Feedback on Governance Model (Page 5)

WALGA Recommendation

*That:*

1. *This report summarising feedback from Members on the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report be received; and*
2. *Two sets of constitutional changes be developed for consideration by State Council at the July 2023 meeting to be put to the 2023 Annual General Meeting, that:*
  - a. *Give effect to the revised Model 1, as per the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report; and*
  - b. *Refine the constitution to address inconsistencies and other issues while maintaining the current governance model.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- State Council commissioned the Best Practice Governance Review with the appointment of a Steering Committee in March 2022.
- The Steering Committee, which met nine times over the course of the project to date and reported back to State Council several times, finalised its Final Report in February 2023.
- On the basis of member feedback, the Steering Committee recommended Model 1 as the alternate governance model, which would result in the retention of State Council and Zones and the creation of a Board, with the majority of members elected from and by State Council.
- At their March 2023 meeting, State Council resolved to seek feedback from Members on the proposed model.
- To facilitate feedback from Members, the Final Report was distributed, and a webinar was held, which was attended by 48 Local Government leaders.
- Feedback was received from 17 Member Local Governments, with nine Member Local Governments expressing support for the proposed Model 1, and eight Member Local Government outlining concerns with the proposed Model 1 or expressing support for the Current Governance Model.
- Concerns with the proposed Model 1 mostly related to concerns around representation at Board level, including the potential for representational imbalances, and the appointment of independent members, including a suggestion that independent members would be more likely to be metropolitan based.
- Next steps for the project are for two sets of constitutional amendments to be presented to State Council at the July 2023 meeting with the view that these amendments would be presented to Members at the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

Cr R Madacsi has raised some concern about the method used to determine support for Option 1 at the March State Council on the Best Practice Governance Review – Final Report. She comments that clearly the majority of Councils supported Option 5 (current system), but some statistical creativity has resulted in the vastly different Option 1 being the outcome and in her option, this does not reflect the position of most local governments, which was the intent of the survey.

There was general discussion.

Cr P Kelly outlined the process and outcomes of the Best Practise Governance Review and responses received by the WA Local Government Association from Local Governments.

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

7.2 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' Child Safe Awareness Policy Template (Page 9)

WALGA Recommendation

*That State Council:*

1. *Supports the draft Child Safe Awareness Policy Template being provided to Local Governments to assist with their implementation of Recommendation 6.12 of the Royal Commission (Child Safety Officers in Local Government); and*
2. *Notes the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' commitment to providing ongoing support and resourcing assistance to Local Governments to assist with implementation of the draft Child Safe Awareness Policy Template and other relevant actions relating to child safeguarding, through the Child Safeguarding Implementation Unit.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- Since 2020, the State Government has consulted with the Local Government sector in relation to Recommendation 6.12 from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (Royal Commission), which recommended that Local Governments should designate Child Safety Officers, with support from governments at the National and State level.
- In 2022, the Department of Communities (DoC) facilitated a series of co-design sessions which involved 35 representatives from Local Government, the Commissioner for Children and Young People (CCYP), WALGA, and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) to develop the Child Safe Awareness Policy Template for Local Government (the Policy) to support implementation of Recommendation 6.12.
- The Policy supports initial action by Local Governments in addressing Recommendation 6.12, and forms part of the broader environment of child safe reforms developed out of the findings of the Royal Commission that will impact Local Government.
- DLGSC is seeking WALGA support for the Policy.
- WALGA considers support for the Policy is appropriate but notes that Local Governments will require ongoing support and resourcing assistance consistent with WALGA's *Advocacy Position 3.10.2 Child Safeguarding*.
- WALGA will continue to advocate to the State Government for the Policy to be considered in the context of a broader implementation plan for all the Royal Commission's recommendations relevant to Local Government.

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

7.3 Abandoned Shopping Trolleys Advocacy Position (Page 19)

WALGA Recommendation

*That State Council endorse the following position on Abandoned Shopping Trolleys:*

*The Local Government Sector advocates for State Government to consult with the Sector and prioritise legislative reforms that require retailers to contain shopping trolleys within shopping centre property boundaries, inclusive of enforcement and modified penalty mechanisms that are a realistic economic imperative for retailers to comply with containment requirements.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- Abandoned trolleys in the public domain, create safety hazards for pedestrian and vehicular traffic and negatively impact public amenity and the natural environment.
- Some retailers prioritise their civic and social responsibilities, however the cost of physically retrieving illegally dumped trolleys is now substantially more than the cost of replacing trolleys.
- The absence of economic or legally enforceable imperative means retailers are increasingly not responding to this issue within reasonable timeframes, if at all.
- In response to community expectations, Local Governments bear the increasing cost burden to remove, impound and eventually dispose of abandoned trolleys.
- The *Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021 (NSW)* presents an example of how legislation can be used to address issues arising from shopping trolleys.

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

#### 7.4 Speed Management Reform Advocacy Position (Page 21)

##### WALGA Recommendation

*That the Speed Management Advocacy Position as follows, be endorsed:*

1. *That WALGA supports Local Governments wishing to manage travel speeds, including speed limit changes, as a means of achieving the many health, social and environmental benefits for communities.*
2. *That Main Roads WA (MRWA) retain the overarching authority for speed limit setting/zoning.*
3. *That Main Roads WA speed zoning policies and processes be reformed so that Local Governments are more influential in the determination of speed limit decreases or increases for local roads.*
  - a. *This will include applications that are deemed to be approved when the application:*
    - I. *is based on assessments by competent Local Government practitioners,*
    - II. *contains evidence-based identification of the benefits,*
    - III. *contains preliminary designs for infrastructure safety upgrades associated with applications to increase speed limits, and*
    - IV. *includes an engagement strategy for managing community and stakeholder expectations.*
  - b. *Allows for Main Roads WA to decline an application, within a mutually agreed timeframe, on the basis that it:*
    - I. *does not meet the above criteria, and*
    - II. *provides specific evidence for declining the application.*
4. *The WALGA seeks to work with Main Roads WA and other stakeholders, to develop a speed management guide for Local Governments.*

##### WALGA Executive Summary

- WALGA's existing policy on speed management is narrow in scope and is inadequate for advocating the varying needs of the Local Government sector.
- Speed management is an important tool for Local Governments, for managing the safety performance of local roads and to help create healthy, vibrant, and connected communities.
- Changing speed limits is an important element of speed management but the application process can be difficult and Local Governments currently have limited influence in the determination of speed limit changes on local roads.
- A contemporary advocacy position on speed management will enable WALGA to advocate for reforms that are needed to better reflect the diverse needs of Local Governments and enable effective and responsible management of travel speeds on local roads.

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

#### 7.5 State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement 2023/24 to 2027/28 (Page 24)

##### WALGA Recommendation

*That the State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement 2023/24 – 2027/28 be endorsed.*

##### WALGA Executive Summary

- The State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement (Agreement) provides funding for Local Governments to improve and maintain the local road network.
- The new Agreement continues to provide 20% of vehicle license fee revenue collected by the State Government to be applied to Local Government roads and paths.
- The proposed Agreement is for a five-year term from 2023/24 to 2027/28.
- The overall structure and intent of the Agreement remains largely unchanged from the previous Agreement.
- Commitments to road safety, aboriginal employment and recycled materials have been expanded.
- The Agreement was developed through consultation with Local Government members of the State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee (SAC), Main Roads WA and Regional Road Group representatives.

Cr R Madacsi asked whether the 20% of vehicle license fee revenue provided under the State Roads Funds to Local Government Agreement was incrementally increased over the life of the Agreement. Cr P Kelly replied that the 20% was fixed but it was projected that funds provided under the Agreement would increase each year in line with State Budget forward forecasts for increases in vehicle license fee revenue. The actual amounts will be adjusted when each year's State Budget estimate is approved. He pointed out that the new Agreement was now finalised and there was no opportunity for renegotiation. Cr Kelly highlighted the ongoing problem with local government underspending the funds available under successive Agreements (18% underspend year-on-year) and that while this situation continued the State Government is not prepared to consider any variation to the funding arrangements. Ms N Matthews commented that the WA Local Government Association was aware of the concerns with the amount of funding received and that the Association would be seeking feedback and comment from local governments, probably in May.

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

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the above recommendations and comments be endorsed.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr R Madacsi seconded –**

**That the above recommendation and comments be endorsed.**

**CARRIED**

Mr C Linnell left the meeting at 11:47 am.

**Policy Team Reports**

- 8.1 Environment and Waste Policy Team Report (Page 38)
- 8.2 Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team Report (Page 40)
- 8.3 Infrastructure Policy Team Report (Page 42)
- 8.4 People and Place Policy Team Report (Page 43)

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the above Policy Team Reports be noted.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –**

**That the above Policy Team Reports be noted.**

**CARRIED**

**Matters for Noting/Information**

- 9.1 2023 Policy Priorities (Page 44)

**WALGA Recommendation**

*That the update on WALGA's 2023 Policy Priorities be noted.*

**WALGA Executive Summary**

- It is important that WALGA focuses on issues of most importance to Local Governments to maximise sector outcomes and avoid diluting our effectiveness in influencing key decision-makers.
- At the March Strategic Forum, the State Council discussed WALGA's policy priorities for 2023. The agreed priorities are now available on the WALGA website.
- Any new issues emerging through Zones or other channels will be considered in the context of these identified priorities.

## 9.2 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review Project (Page 46)

### WALGA Recommendation

*That the update on the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review Project be noted*

### WALGA Executive Summary

- The LEMA Review is a partnership between the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and WALGA, initiated in response to reports that the current LEMA model is not fit-for-purpose for Local Government.
- The LEMA Review is an opportunity to develop new LEMA approaches, reshape emergency management (EM) procedures and enhance disaster preparedness at the local level.
- WALGA received AWARE funding to lead a consultation with Local Government for the LEMA Review to ensure that the outcomes were sector-led and representative of a diverse range of Local Governments.
- From April to December 2022, WALGA engaged with the sector to identify LEMA strengths, weaknesses, and improvement opportunities in a consultation process. 100 Western Australian Local Governments participated in the consultation process.
- WALGA's LEMA Review Consultation with Western Australian Local Governments: Project Summary and Recommendations Report summarises the key findings of this consultation process that will inform a LEMA Improvement Plan developed by DFES.
- A final LEMA Improvement Plan, which will include implementation actions, will be submitted to the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) for endorsement in August 2023.

## 9.3 Submission to the Independent Review of WA's COVID-19 Management & Response (Page 48)

### WALGA Recommendation

*That the Submission to the Independent Review of Western Australia's COVID-19 Management and Response, endorsed via Flying Minute on 15 March 2023, be noted.*

### WALGA Executive Summary

- The State Government has commissioned an independent review of WA's response and management of COVID-19, with submissions due by 16 March 2023.
- The scope of the review is limited to the Western Australian Government's response and management of COVID-19 and specifically excludes Local Government, Commonwealth Government and non-government organisations.
- WALGA's submission is based on the Association's, and Local Governments', experience and interaction with the State Government in responding to COVID-19.
- The submission acknowledges the effectiveness of the State Government's response and focuses on WALGA and Local Governments experience of the State Government's COVID-19 response relating to public sector capacity and capability, intragovernmental communication and cooperation, community support, engagement and communication and the economic and social outcomes.
- Feedback from State Councilors, provided via the Flying Agenda process, was incorporated into the final submission.

## 9.4 Submission to the DWER E-waste to Landfill Ban Consultation Paper (Page 50)

### WALGA Recommendation

*That the Submission to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's E-Waste to Landfill Ban Consultation paper, endorsed via Flying Minute on 30 March 2023, be noted.*

### WALGA Executive Summary

- The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation has released a Consultation Paper on the proposed e-waste to landfill ban.
- The State Government made an election commitment to deliver a state-wide ban by 2024, with the aim of improving management and recycling of e-waste produced by households and businesses across the State.



- WALGA acknowledges the objectives of the ban and its alignment to global, national and local environmental and recovery targets, in particular the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030*. However, the implementation of an e-waste to landfill ban by 2024, in its proposed form, could have significant financial implications for Local Governments, and the communities they service.
- Currently, there are no fully effective product stewardship schemes in place for the materials covered by the bans, which means if the ban is implemented the costs will be borne by Local Government and the community.
- WALGA's submission has been developed with input from Local Governments, and highlights issues raised by the sector regarding e-waste recycling.
- The submission was endorsed by State Council via the Flying Agenda process.

#### 9.5 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) (Page 52)

##### WALGA Recommendation

*That the resolutions of the 22 February 2023 Municipal Waste Advisory Council meeting be noted.*

##### WALGA Executive Summary

This item summaries the outcomes of the MWAC meeting held on Wednesday, 22 February.

#### 9.6 March 2023 Economic Briefing (Page 54)

##### WALGA Recommendation

*That the update on the March 2023 Economic Briefing be noted.*

##### WALGA Executive Summary

- WALGA recently released the March 2023 Economic Briefing.
- This quarter's edition is the most important issue of the year, as it contains information and forecasts to assist Local Governments to prepare their Budgets for the next financial year.
- A new campaign was undertaken this quarter to raise awareness of the publication, which has seen subscription rates increase by almost 200%.

##### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the above matters for noting/information be noted.

##### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr L Balcombe seconded –  
That the above matters for noting/information be noted.**

**CARRIED**

#### **Key Activity Reports**

- 10.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Advocacy Portfolio (Page 55)
- 10.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure Portfolio (Page 58)
- 10.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Member Services Portfolio (Page 60)
- 10.1.4 Report on Key Activities, Policy Portfolio (Page 64)

##### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the above Key Activity Reports be noted.

**NOTED**

##### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –  
That the above matters for noting/information be noted.**

**CARRIED**

## **7.2 WALGA President's Report**

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

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the WALGA President's Report be received.

Cr P Kelly presented the WALGA President's report and highlighted the following –

- Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.
- Local Government Act reforms.
- Local Government Insurance Service:
  - Workers Compensation – Funding arrangements likely to be reviewed. The number of claims is dropping but the quantum has increased dramatically.
  - Motor Vehicle Insurance has been incorporated into the Scheme.
  - Revaluation of assets is very important.
- Concern by the Auditor General with the tardiness of local governments in having audits completed.
- Cyber Security – Local governments are highly exposed.

### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr B Haywood moved and Cr M Angus seconded –  
That the WALGA President's Report be received.**

**CARRIED**

## **7.3 State Councillor's Report**

Report by Cr Ken Seymour.

Cr K Seymour reported –

On the 8th of March I attended a Transport and Roads Forum hosted by WALGA in Perth. This forum was a great success and hopefully will be back to being an annual event. Mr Brendon Moon, Coordinator-General of the National Emergency Management Agency was the keynote speaker. It is so important that people like Brendon visit Western Australia on a regular basis to hear first hand the difficulties we often face in such a vast State. Please spare a thought for the people in our North being affected by a category five cyclone. As highlighted at last year's ALGA Conference, in the past, three percent of funds are spent before a natural disaster and ninety seven percent afterwards. We expect this to change significantly in the near future.

Western Australia is the only State in the Country to have a Local Government agreement with the State Government for road funding. We were also the first State Government to outsource road building and are now the ~~the~~ first State to reintroduce road maintenance under Main Roads. Main Roads are proactively researching crumbed rubber and other recyclable materials to improve our road surfaces. They also stated that the price of bitumen will only increase in Australia due to no oil in this country being suitable for its production. However, we are able to add rubber to ~~te~~ the bitumen in WA.

Dr Penny Burns left us with a memorable quote "the time for asset management is when the Council is financial".

Another quote from the Forum from the training and recruitment group, Nudge, was "employment has the biggest single impact on people's lives".

Widespread rainfall across the Wheatbelt over the last month has been welcomed after a dry summer without too many major bushfires in our region.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the State Councillor's Report be received.

### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr R Madacsi moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –  
That the State Councillor's Report be received.**

**CARRIED**

#### **7.4 Zone Status Report**

Report by WA Local Government Association on status of Zone resolutions for action by the Association – April 2023 (attached to Agenda).

##### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the April Status Report be received.

##### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr L Balcombe seconded –  
That the April 2023 Status Report be received.**

**CARRIED**

### **8 ZONE REPORTS**

#### **8.1 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group**

##### **(a) Minutes**

No meetings of the Group have been held since the last Zone meeting.

**NOTED**

##### **(b) Next Meeting**

No date has been set for the next meeting.

**NOTED**

##### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the report of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group be received.

No Report.

#### **8.2 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee**

Report by Zone Delegate Cr C Antonio on activities of the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee.

##### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Report on the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management be received.

Cr Antonio commented on –

- Very quiet.
- Not many Bush Fires.
- Local Emergency Management Arrangements review.
- Desktop training session to be held in the near future.

##### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr B Haywood moved and Cr L Balcombe seconded –**

**That the report on the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management be received.**

**CARRIED**

### **9 AGENCY REPORTS**

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

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

(b) Consideration of any topics or presentations the Zone would like the Department to give to the next Zone meeting.

##### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr L Balcombe seconded –  
That the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries report be received.**  
**CARRIED**

Cr R Madacsi commented on the recent establishment in Toodyay by Ms Bourby Webster of Really Awesome Regional Events (RARE). She pointed out that Ms Webster comes from a rich musical background, she was the founder of the Perth Symphony Orchestra, and the intent of RARE is to establish regional events over a regular annual calendar across the Wheatbelt from Toodyay. She is seeking introductions to regional towns. Mr Madacsi recommended that Ms Webster be invited to give a presentation at a Zone meeting.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr R Madacsi moved and Cr D Coad seconded –  
That Ms Bourby Webster be invited to the August 2023 Zone meeting to give a presentation on Really Awesome Regional Events.**  
**CARRIED**

**9.2 RDA Wheatbelt**

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

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the RDA Wheatbelt report be received.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr P Bantock moved and Cr C Antonio seconded –  
That the RDA Wheatbelt report be received.**  
**CARRIED**

**9.3 Transport Portfolio (Main Roads, Department of Transport, Public Transport Authority)**

Presentation of the Transport Portfolio report.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Transport Portfolio report be received.

Mr [SuvatSuvrat](#) Patel presented his report.

Mr A Cook advised that recently a representative of Main Roads had attended a Shire of Gingin roadwork site and had commented on the signage in place. Mr Cook pointed out that the Main Roads representative had not requested access to the work site and from his comments on the signage clearly did not know what he was talking about. Mr Cook expressed concern that people who were outside of Shire staff could dictate traffic management on Shire works and drew attention to the standard of traffic management by Main Roads on recent works on the Brand Highway. The Shire had spoken to Main Roads Head Office regarding their concerns with the attendance of a Main Roads representative at the Shire roadwork site and their appeared to be a complete lack of understanding from the Main Roads officers spoken to. Mr Patel requested details and advised that he would follow up the Shire of Gingin's concerns.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr D Coad seconded –  
That the Transport Portfolio report be received.**  
**CARRIED**

#### **9.4 Wheatbelt Development Commission**

Presentation of the Wheatbelt Development Commission report.

##### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Wheatbelt Development Commission report be received.

Ms Susan Hall commented on –

- Regional Housing - Identified as a limiting factor in growth.
- Northern Growth Alliance.
- Northam freight hub.
- Avon Industrial Park.
- Northam rail hub.
- Regional local content plan.
- Childcare in the region.
- Minister's interest in lime sand mining and interaction with recreation.
- Commission staff will be visiting Moora, Dalwallinu and Wongan- Ballidu in the next two weeks.
- South West Native Title Settlement.
- Wheatbelt Futures Forum, Muresk 3 May 2023.
- Regional Economic Development Grants – Round 6 opening soon.

##### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr D Coad seconded –**

**That the Wheatbelt Development Commission report be received.**

**CARRIED**

#### **9.5 RoadWise (Wheatbelt North)**

Presentation of the RoadWise (Wheatbelt North) report.

##### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the RoadWise (Wheatbelt North) report be received.

No Report.

#### **9.6 Other**

There were no other reports.

## **10 FINANCE**

#### **10.1 Financial Reports**

Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Report for the period ending 31 March 2023 are attached to the agenda.

##### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the financial reports for the period ending 31 March 2023, as attached, be received.

##### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr L Balcombe moved and Cr R Madacsi seconded –**

**That the financial reports for the period ending 31 January 2023, as attached, be received.**

**CARRIED**

## 10.2 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts are submitted for payment –

<u>Payee</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Ctl Alt Lyle	Final Payment Video Conference Equipment	938.60
R W & S Dew	Secretarial Services to Zone – June 2023 Quarter	3,910.75
	TOTAL (no GST)	<u><u>\$4,849.35</u></u>

### RECOMMENDATION

That the accounts as listed totalling \$4,849.35 be approved for payment.

### RESOLUTION

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –**

**That the accounts as listed totalling \$4,849.35 be approved for payment.**

**CARRIED**

## 11 ZONE BUSINESS

### 11.1 National General Assembly of Local Government 2023

#### BACKGROUND

In 2019 and 2022 representatives of the Zone attended the National General Assembly of Local Government in Canberra. The Zone has made provision in its 2022/2023 budget (\$7,400) for representatives to attend the 2023 Assembly.

#### COMMENT

The 2023 Assembly is once again a hybrid event and is open to in person and virtual attendees. Registrations are now open with Early Bird registrations closing 19 May 2023 (registration brochure attached to agenda).

Estimated costs are:

Registration Fees –

General Assembly (in Person)	
Early Bird	\$895.00 *
Late (after 19 May 2023)	\$995.00
General Assembly (Virtual)	\$689.00
Regional Forum	\$225.00 *
General Assembly Dinners (Optional)	\$175.00
(Note: Tickets limited)	
Accommodation (4 nights)	\$1,000.00 *
Airfares (Return)	\$1,610.00 *
Estimated Total Costs (2 delegates)	\$7,460.00 *

The Zone may care to consider if it wishes to send representatives to this year's National General Assembly and if so to appoint its delegates. Cr Denese Smythe has expressed her interest in attending and representing the Zone.

#### RECOMMENDATION

- That the Zone appoints \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as its delegates to the ALGA National General Assembly to be held 13-15 June 2023; and
- Authorises payment of the Assembly and Regional Development Forum registration fees, Assembly dinners, accommodation and airfares up to the amount of \$7,800.

Cr D Smythe declared her interest in this matter in that she had expressed interest in representing the Zone at the National General Assembly.

Cr R Madacsi expressed interest in representing the Zone at the National General Assembly and declared her interest in this matter.

Cr P Kelly drew attention to the reestablishment by the Federal Government of the Australian Council of Local Government. The Council will meet on 16 June following the National General Assembly of Local Government and participation is open to Mayors and Presidents. Cr Kelly also commented that Federal Parliament will be sitting during the National General Assembly.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr P Bantock moved and Cr D Coad seconded –**

- **That the Zone appoints Cr Denese Smythe and Cr Rosemary Madacsi as its delegates to the ALGA National General Assembly to be held 13-15 June 2023; and**
- **Authorises payment of the Assembly and Regional Development Forum registration fees, Assembly dinners, accommodation and airfares up to the amount of \$7,800.**

**CARRIED**

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr L Balcombe seconded –**

**That the Zone meet the additional cost of accommodation for Cr Denese Smythe and Cr Rosemary Madacsi to allow them to attend the Australian Council of Local Government and authorises payment.**

**CARRIED**

**The meeting noted that in registering to attend the Australian Council of Local Government, Cr Smythe and Cr Madacsi be registered as representing their respective local governments and not the Zone.**

**11.2 National General Assembly – Motion GP Shortages**

Cr R Madacsi has advised that the Shire of Toodyay has submitted the following motion to the National General Assembly regarding the issue of the provision and shortage of General Practitioners (GPs) in outer metropolitan, regional, and rural areas -

*This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:*

- Urgently address critical shortages of general practitioners in regional, rural and remote Australia.*
- Refer the Report of the Senate Community Affairs References Committee Inquiry into the provision of general practitioner and related primary health services to outer metropolitan, rural, and regional Australians, tabled in April 2022, to this Parliament.*
- Determine a maximum subsidy amount to be paid by local governments for the provision of general practitioners to halt the increasing burden on regional, rural and remote Australian communities.*

She has requested the opportunity to discuss the Shire of Toodyay's motion and points out that as the theme for the National Assembly is "Our communities, Our future" this represents an opportunity to notify the WA Local Government Association of support for the motion.

**RECOMMENDATION**

For discussion

Cr P Kelly advised that he was on the Committee reviewing the motions to the National General Assembly and would be happy to engage with Cr Madacsi.

**RESOLUTION**

**Cr D Coad moved and Cr C Antonio seconded –**

**That the Zone supports the motion on GP shortages put forward by the Shire of Toodyay to the 2023 National General Assembly.**

**CARRIED**

### **11.3 Wheatbelt Health Services**

At the last meeting a presentation was made by representatives of WA Country Health Service – Wheatbelt, WA Primary Health Alliance and Rural Health West on the interagency Wheatbelt Health & Wellbeing Plan: Towards 2035. The Plan will consider health and wellbeing priorities to improve access to care and health outcomes of the Wheatbelt population and will inform and be informed by local government Public Health/Health & Wellbeing plans under the Public Health Act.

WA Country Health Service – Wheatbelt has advised that a small informal working group that has met fortnightly for around 6 months considering the Plan. They are now formalising the Working Group and have indicated that they would value 1-3 Local government representatives (possibly one representative from each of the 3 Zones that cover the Wheatbelt region or 1 local government representatives that can report back to the 3 zones/all Wheatbelt Shires?).

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Zone appoints \_\_\_\_\_ as its representative on the Wheatbelt Health & Wellbeing Plan: Towards 2035 Working Group.

During the presentation the matter of a memorandum of understanding or similar be to focus on health services in the Wheatbelt. Cr R Madacsi has enquired if there have been any further conversations in this area, and if not, can the Zone initiate a meeting with the relevant stakeholders.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

For Discussion

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr D Coad moved and Cr R Madacsi seconded –**

**That the Zone appoints Cr Chris Antonio as its representative on the Wheatbelt Health & Wellbeing Plan: Towards 2035 Working Group. CARRIED**

### **11.4 Attendance by Main Roads WA Representatives**

Main Roads Wheatbelt Region has commented on the clash of meeting dates of the three Wheatbelt Zone. They point out that the Regional Director would like to attend all three meetings and have asked if consideration could be given to holding the meetings on different dates.

Main Roads has been advised that while each Zone sets the dates for its meeting the WA Local Government Association provides a preferred date range (8 working days) for Zone meetings to coincide with State Council meetings. This allows Zones to receive, consider and respond to matters listed for discussion on the forthcoming State Council Agenda and to raise other matters which may need WALGA consideration. In setting their meeting dates Zones also consider the need to avoid their members' Council meeting days. As such the timeframe is quite tight and there is often an overlap in Zone meeting dates.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

For consideration

**NOTED**

### **11.5 NBN Emergency Management Preparedness**

The Great Eastern Country Zone has advised that at its February 2023 meeting they received a presentation from NBN, Country Engagement Manager, Jennifer Thomas on the 2022/23 Emergency Management Preparedness Campaign. Does the Zone wish to invite Ms Thomas to give a presentation, and if so, when?

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

For consideration

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Consensus Resolution –**

**That Ms Jennifer Thomas, NBN Country Engagement Manager, be invited to the Zone's November 2023 meeting to present on the Emergency Management Preparedness Campaign.**

**CARRIED**



### **11.6 Wheatbelt Conference**

The November 2021 meeting noted that the proposal for a future Wheatbelt Conference had not progressed and requested that this item remain on the agenda until further notice. It was noted that any consideration of a future Wheatbelt Conference will need to take into account the prevailing COVID-19 situation and any restrictions that may be in place for gatherings.

The meeting may care to note that the Great Eastern Country Zone held a one day Zone Conference on 28 February 2023 with the theme Regional Collaboration.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

For Noting

**NOTED**

## **12 URGENT BUSINESS (as permitted by the Presiding Member)**

### **12.1 State Electoral Boundary Redistribution**

Cr C Antonio drew attention to letter to Shire Presidents from the Hon Shane Love MLA, Leader of the Opposition, regarding the required redistribution of State electoral boundaries conducted at the mid-point between elections and pointing out that under the rules for a boundary distribution there is no need to adjust the boundaries of regional seats and encourages submissions supporting the retention of the current 16 regional seats. Submissions close 1 May 2023.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr C Antonio moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –**

**That the Zone supports the retention of the current 16 regional seats as part of the State electoral boundary review.**

**CARRIED**

The meeting requested that the letter from the Leader of the Opposition be circulated to delegates.

## **13 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT**

No Members of Parliament were present.

## **14 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

Future meetings of the Zone are scheduled for –

23 June 2023	Shire of Wongan-Ballidu
25 August 2023	Shire of Moora
24 November 2023	Shire of Goomalling

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the next ordinary meeting of the Zone be held Friday 23 June 2023 and be hosted by the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Cr B Haywood moved and Cr D Smythe seconded –**

**That the next ordinary meeting of the Zone be held Friday 23 June 2023 and be hosted by the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu.**

**CARRIED**

**15 CLOSURE**

There being no further business the Chair thanked attendees and the Shire of Chittering for hosting the meeting and declared the meeting closed at 12:49 pm.

**CERTIFICATION**

These Minutes were confirmed by the meeting held on .....

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