

MINUTES OF THE ZONE MEETING

held at the Goomalling Sport & Community Centre, Cnr Quinlan & Hoddy Streets, Goomalling
Friday 24 November 2023 commencing at 10:03 am

1 OPENING & WELCOME

The Zone President and Chair of the meeting, Cr Chris Antonio, welcomed delegates and introduced Cr Julie Chester, President, Shire of Goomalling. Cr Chester welcomed delegates to Goomalling and highlighted aspects of Goomalling and the district.

The Zone President, Cr Antonio, acknowledged the traditional owners of the land on which the Zone meets and paid respects to Elders, past present and emerging.

2 ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

2.1 Attendance

Delegates -

Cr Chris Antonio	Shire of Northam (President)
Cr Aaron King	Shire of Chittering
Cr Keith Carter	Shire of Dalwallinu (via Video)
Cr Lincoln Stewart	Shire of Gingin
Cr Julie Chester	Shire of Goomalling
Cr Tracy Lefroy	Shire of Moora
Cr Michael McKeown	Shire of Toodyay
Cr Pauline Bantock	Shire of Victoria Plains
Cr Dwight Coad	Shire of Wongan-Ballidu
Cr Kevin Trent	Shire of York

Observers –

Cr Mary Angus	Shire of Chittering
Ms Melinda Prinsloo	Shire of Chittering
Mr Aaron Cook	Shire of Gingin (via Video) (from 10:42 am)
Cr Rolly Van Gelderen	Shire of Goomalling
Cr Barry Haywood	Shire of Goomalling
Mr Peter Bentley	Shire of Goomalling
Cr Julie Williams	Shire of Northam
Ms Debbie Terelinck	Shire of Northam
Cr Shelly Dival	Shire of Toodyay
Mr Sean Fletcher	Shire of Victoria Plains
Cr Denese Smythe	Shire of York
Mr Chris Linnell	Shire of York
Ms Rebecca Brown	Manager Waste & Environment, WALGA
Mr Grant Arthur	Director Regional Development, Wheatbelt Development Commission (from 10:10 am)
Ms Mandy Walker	Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt Inc
Hon Shane Love MLA	Leader of the Opposition, Member for Moore (via Video)
Hon Steve Martin MLC	Member for Agricultural Region (via Video)
Ms Jenny Thomas	Community Engagement Manager, Northern Region WA, NBN (from 11:30 am)
Mr Boyd Brown	Regional General Manager WA, Telstra Retail & Regional (from 11:30 am)
Robert Dew	Zone Executive Officer

The Zone President drew attention to the number of new delegates and observers attending the meeting and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

Apologies

Cr Tony O’Gorman	Shire of Dandaragan
Cr Elyssa Giedraitis	Shire of Wongan-Ballidu
Mr Cliff Simpson	Road Safety Advisor, WALGA
Ms Elizabeth Davies	Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Wheatbelt Region, MRWA
Hon Darren West MLC	Member for Agricultural Region
Ms Mia Davies MLA	Member for Central Wheatbelt

14 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

The Zone President drew attention to advice from Hon Steve Martin MLC that he would have to leave the meeting early. With the approval of the meeting Item 14 was brought forward.

Hon Shane Love MLA commented –

- Congratulated those elected at the recent local government elections and those appointed as delegates to the Zone. He wished them the best over the coming term.
- Communities are proving resilient even though the season has been hard.
- Change to the Legislative Council’s Agricultural Region at the 2025 State election will present a new dynamic for local government.
- Extended best wishes for Christmas.

Hon Steve Martin MLC commented –

- Congratulated all those elected at the recent local government elections.
- Keen to hear from people regarding issues with power.
- The changes to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act have been made and the Act is back to the 1972 legislation with some amendments. He stressed the need to keep an eye on the operation of the legislation.
- Wished all the best for Christmas.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

5 ZONE ELECTIONS

Nominations for the positions of Zone President, Deputy Zone President, Zone Representative to State Council and Zone Deputy Representative to State Council closed 17 November 2023. All member Councils and Delegates to the Zone were advised of the call for nominations. The term of office for each position is for two years –

- Zone President and Deputy Zone President expiring in November 2025; and
- Zone Representative to State Council and Zone Deputy Representative to State Council from the Ordinary Meeting of State Council in December 2023 and concluding at the Ordinary Meeting of State Council in December 2025.

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

- President –
 - Cr Chris Antonio, Shire of Northam
- Deputy President –
 - Cr Tracy Lefroy, Shire of Moora
- Zone Representative to State Council –
 - Cr Chris Antonio, Shire of Northam
- Zone Deputy Representative to State Council –
 - Cr Tracy Lefroy, Shire of Moora

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

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

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

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

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

RECOMMENDATION

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

As there was only one nomination for each of the positions of Zone President, Deputy Zone President, Zone Representative to State Council and Zone Deputy Representative to State Council, the Executive Officer declared Cr Chris Antonio and Cr Tracy Lefroy elected to their respective positions for a term of 2 years (2023-2025).

6 APPOINTMENT OF ZONE REPRESENTATIVES

6.1 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management

Appointment of the Zone's representatives to the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee. Previously Cr Chris Antonio (Delegate) and, until her retirement from Council, Cr Jan Court (Deputy Delegate).

RECOMMENDATION

That the Zone appoints Cr _____ as its delegate and Cr _____ as its deputy delegate to the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee.

RESOLUTION

Cr T Lefroy moved and Cr J Chester seconded –

That the Zone appoints Cr Pauline Bantock as its delegate and Cr Lincoln Stewart as its deputy delegate to the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee. CARRIED

6.2 Wheatbelt Health Services

(a) Wheatbelt Health & Wellbeing Plan: Towards 2035 Working Group

Appointment of Zone representative to the Wheatbelt Health & Wellbeing Plan: Towards 2035 Working Group. Currently Cr Chris Antonio.

RECOMMENDATION

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

RESOLUTION

Cr K Trent moved and Cr L Stewart seconded –

That the Zone appoints Cr Tracy Lefroy as its representative and Cr Mike McKeown as its deputy representative on the Wheatbelt Health & Wellbeing Plan: Towards 2035 Working Group.

CARRIED

(b) Wheatbelt Local Government & Health Partners Collaborative Series

Each month during 2023 there's been an online collaborative meeting between WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA), WA Country Health Service – Wheatbelt's Public Health/Health Promotion teams and local governments (43 LGAs invited). The forum is held each month by MS Teams with topics to assist local government in their public health planning and consideration of health & wellbeing issues in their communities and the roles local government plays in influencing health and wellbeing outcomes. WACHS invited the President and Deputy President of the three Wheatbelt Zones to participate and Cr Seymour and Cr Smythe were included on the attendees list for each session.

RECOMMENDATION

The Zone's newly elected President and Deputy President may care to participate.

RESOLUTION

Cr K Trent moved and Cr L Stewart seconded –

That the Zone President and Zone Deputy President be appointed as the Zone's representatives to participate in Wheatbelt Local Government and Health Partners collaborative forums.

CARRIED

7 MINUTES

7.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Zone Meeting held 25 August 2023 at Moora. Copies of these Minutes have been circulated to all member Councils.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held on 25 August 2023, as printed and circulated, be confirmed.

RESOLUTION

Cr P Bantock moved and Cr A King seconded –

That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held on 25 August 2023, as printed and circulated, be confirmed.

CARRIED

7.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

(a) Really Awesome Regional Events (Item 6.2 (c))

The June 2023 meeting resolved that Ms Bourby Webster be invited to give a presentation to the Zone on Really Awesome Regional Events (RARE) and her intent to establish regular regional events across the Wheatbelt.

Last meeting noted that Ms Webster's office had advised that she is currently overseas and will not be able to attend the August meeting. Tentative arrangements have been made for her to attend the November meeting; to be confirmed on her return. At the time of writing confirmation has not been received from Ms Webster's office on her availability. Follow up enquiries are being made.

RECOMMENDATION

For Noting

NOTED

(b) Northam Regional Hospital Upgrade (Item 8.3)

Last meeting resolved that arrangements be made for a delegation comprising the Zone President and Zone representative, Cr C Antonio, to meet with the Minister for Health to advocate for the Northam Regional Hospital being upgraded to a larger Regional Hospital.

Cr Antonio may care to report on progress.

RECOMMENDATION

For Noting

Cr Antonio reported that to date he had not been able to set up the meeting, that he will endeavour to do so and continue to update the Zone. **NOTED**

(c) Zone Meetings – Starlink Internet Service (Item 10.4)

Last meeting included provision in the Zone's 2023/2-24 budget for the purchase of the Starlink Roam hardware and associated service fee to provide dedicated internet for Zone meetings. In discussion with the Zone President following the meeting it was agreed that the 45 m extension cable for the satellite dish be purchased rather than the 22 m cable included in the cost estimate to the meeting – additional cost \$55.00. The equipment was purchased and has been received (cost \$1,314.00).

Payment of the service fee is by card (\$174 for each month the service is activated). This is currently by automatic payment from the Executive Officer's personal credit card. Arrangements will need to be authorised for recoup of these amounts.

RECOMMENDATION

That purchase of the Starlink Roam hardware including the 45 m extension cable (\$1,314.00) be approved.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Coad moved and Cr T Lefroy seconded –

That purchase of the Starlink Roam hardware including the 45 m extension cable (\$1,314.00) be approved. **CARRIED**

(d) Other

No other matters were brought forward.

8 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

8.1 WALGA State Council Agenda

Review of the Agenda for the meeting of State Council to be held Wednesday 6 December 2023. The Zone is able to provide comment or submit alternate recommendations to State Council for consideration.

Matters for Decision

7.1 2023 Annual General Meeting Resolutions (Page 8)

WALGA Recommendation

That:

1. the following resolutions from the 2023 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the People and Place Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:
 - 5.1 Local Governments' representation at the State Administrative Tribunal relating to planning matters within its district

That WALGA lobby the State Government for legislative reform to enable Local Governments the automatic right to be a represented party at all State Administrative Tribunal hearings related to planning matters within its district.

5.2 Land Use Policy

That WALGA establish and promote policies to protect and prioritise the preservation of agricultural land against its displacement by non-agricultural activities that lead to a net reduction of the State's productive agricultural land.

5.4 Regional and Remote Housing

That WALGA advocates to the WA State and Commonwealth Governments to address the dire shortage of affordable key worker family housing options in regional and remote towns to encourage families to live and work in regional and remote towns. Social housing is addressed at both the State and Federal levels.

2. State Council notes that the following resolution is being considered in Agenda item 7.2 of this meeting Agenda:

5.3 Transparency – Management Order Determinations

That WALGA:

1. *Advocates for Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage to consult and collaborate with Local Governments in reviewing and publishing its policies, decision making criteria, guidelines and procedures associated with the administration of management orders;*
2. *Ensure the review recognises the cost burden on local governments in managing reserves and options for supporting local governments in meeting that responsibility; and*
3. *Calls for proactive consultation and advice to Local Government management bodies.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- WALGA's 2023 Annual General Meeting was held on Monday, 18 September 2023.
- The meeting resolved for WALGA to act in relation to four Member motions:
 1. Local Governments' representation at the State Administrative Tribunal relating to planning matters within its district
 2. Land Use Policy
 3. Transparency – Management Order Determinations
 4. Regional and Remote Housing
 5. Proposed New WALGA Constitution
- Two Executive Motions, one proposing a new Constitution giving effect to an alternative governance structure and the other proposing amendments to the existing Constitution, were both lost as they failed to reach the required Special Majority of support from Members.
- The action taken or proposed to be taken in relation to each of the resolutions since the Annual General Meeting has been summarized for State Council's information.

WALGA recommendation 5.2 Land Use Policy was considered separately – See item immediately following the morning tea adjournment.

Other than the recommendation under 5.2 Land Use Policy, the meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

7.2 Advocacy Position – Crown Land and Management Order Administration – Land Administration Act 1997 (Page 11)

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA endorse the below Advocacy Position:

Crown Land and Management Order Administration - Land Administration Act 1997

WALGA advocates to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) to:

1. *Apply the following principles when dealing with matters affecting Local Government's role in managing Crown land:*
 - a. *Local Government is an equal partner with State Government in managing, developing and administration of Crown land for community benefit.*

- b. *Local Government should be provided timely advice and consulted where State Government proposals impact management of or investment in Crown land.*
 - c. *Ensure timely communication with Local Government where DPLH intends to challenge an intention to levy leasing or land use revenues under a power to lease arrangement.*
 - d. *Decision-making criteria, policy and procedure transparency contributes to whole of government efficiency, effectiveness and accountability.*
2. *Publish the policies and procedures that underpin decision making regarding:*
 - a. *Establishing, varying or revoking management orders.*
 - b. *Leasing Crown land or facilities, subject to a management order.*
 - c. *Decision review where a management body or proponent lessee is dissatisfied with a decision or process.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- Issues have been raised by the Gascoyne Country Zone and Growth Alliance Perth and Peel and are subject of a resolution from the 2023 WALGA Annual General Meeting (see Agenda Item 7.1).
- Issues are further evidenced by a sample survey of Local Governments in the: Pilbara, Gascoyne, Northern Country, Peel Country, South-West Country and South-East Metropolitan Zones.
- Transparency of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) decision making policy and procedures will help to:
 - Streamline application and decision-making processes, reduce backlog and delays.
 - Avoid wasted time, effort, resources and costs and enable consistent, transparent, and accountable decisions.
- This report seeks adoption of a new WALGA Advocacy position: 'Crown Land and Management Order Administration - Land Administration Act 1997'.

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

7.3 Review of Public Open Space Advocacy Positions (Page 14)

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA endorse:

1. *the deletion of Advocacy Position 4.3 Water Management;*
2. *the deletion of Advocacy Position 4.4 Public Open Space; and*
3. *new Advocacy Position 6.11 Public Open Space as follows:*

6.11 Public Open Space

New subdivisions and developments should provide appropriate Public Open Space (POS) or POS contributions to provide environmental benefits and meet the needs of the community.

The State Government should take a leadership role in the strategic planning of POS, in consultation with Local Government, including:

1. *Reviewing the requirement for a minimum 10 per cent of all new residential land to be provided as POS to determine if this metric is still appropriate.*
2. *Developing a 10+ year regional level sporting facilities plan to identify and prioritise gaps in regional sporting facilities and acquire and fund regional open spaces, specifically sporting facilities, in a timely manner to align with population growth.*
3. *Developing contemporary legislative and policy mechanisms to ensure that:*
 - a. *POS design and delivery:*
 - i. *appropriately allocates different POS uses and purposes, balancing environmental, recreational, sporting and community needs.*
 - ii. *does not have its use impeded by drainage and utilities facilities.*
 - iii. *is accessible and appropriately distributed.*
 - iv. *is cost effective to enable sustainable maintenance and replacement by Local Government.*
 - v. *is responsive to urban ecology, regional climatic conditions, and climate change.*
 - vi. *considers water requirements and availability as a priority, includes water sensitive urban design principles, and prioritises water allocations for the irrigation and maintenance of functional active recreational and sport facilities.*

- b. *POS cash in lieu contributions are equitable, transparent, and simplified by:*
 - i. *streamlining the process to collect and expend cash in lieu contributions by delegating functions to Local Government.*
 - ii. *broadening how cash in lieu funds can be spent to include works beyond the current scope.*
 - iii. *allowing for the collection of cash in lieu contributions at development application stage and for all forms of subdivision, including two lot subdivisions or developments.*
 - iv. *investigating the option of a standard fixed rate contribution fee per lot or dwelling when contributions are intended for public open space upgrades.*
4. *Providing guidance documents and support to assist Local Governments with their strategic POS planning.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- It is proposed that the Advocacy Positions 4.4 and 6.11 Public Open Space be replaced with a new position that reflects Local Governments' Public Open Space priorities.
- The new position has been informed by WALGA's Background Paper: Public Open Space in Residential Areas, WALGA's submission on draft *Operational Policy 2.3 Planning for Public Open Space* and input from Local Governments.
- The position was endorsed by both the People and Place Policy Team and the Environment and Waste Policy Team at a joint meeting on 17 October.

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

7.4 2024 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members (Page 20)

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA endorse the submission to the 2024 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members

WALGA Executive Summary

- The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal (SAT) conduct an annual inquiry into Local Government Chief Executive Officer and Elected Member remuneration.
- In preparation for the inquiry to be undertaken early next year, WALGA has prepared a draft submission to SAT that makes recommendations in relation to Elected Member remuneration, Chief Executive Officer remuneration and the Regional/Isolation Allowance.
- The submission argues for:
 - An increase of 4 percent for Elected Member Fees and Allowances (including maximum reimbursable expenses);
 - An increase to the Chief Executive Officer remuneration bands of 4 percent;
 - An increase to the maximum payable Regional/Isolation Allowance for Local Governments that are particularly isolated, long distances from population centres and lacking in amenities;
 - A review of the methodology, criteria and weightings for the Regional/Isolation Allowance; and
 - Publication of guidance about how the Regional/Isolation Allowance is applied in terms of methodology, criteria and weightings.
- SAT will likely publish its determination for 2024-2025 in April.

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

7.5 Household Hazardous Waste Policy Statement and Advocacy Position (Page 27)

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA:

1. *Rescind the 2003 WALGA Household Hazardous Waste Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 7.10 Household Hazardous Waste; and*
2. *Endorse a new Household Hazardous Waste Policy Statement and Advocacy Position as follows:*

7.10 Household Hazardous Waste

1. *Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) is a small but significant component of the waste stream which requires specialised management strategies to protect human health, property and the environment.*
2. *This requires:*
 - a. *Effective Product Stewardship for all HHW; and*
 - b. *The maintenance and expansion of the HHW Program, funded by the State Government and Product Stewardship Schemes, to provide for the management of HHW collected from the community by Local Government.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- The Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 7.10 Household Hazardous Waste are 20 years old and require updating to reflect the roles and expectations of all tiers of government, industry and the producers of materials which become HHW.
- The Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) endorsed a new Policy Statement and Advocacy Position in August 2023.
- The new Policy Statement and Position will support WALGA's ongoing advocacy on behalf of the sector.

Consideration deferred to consider recommendation by AROC – See item following the morning tea adjournment.

7.6 Waste Education Policy Statement and Advocacy Position (Page 33)

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA:

1. *Rescind the existing WALGA Waste Management Education Policy Statement 2008 and Advocacy Position 7.8 Waste Management Education; and*
2. *Endorse a revised WALGA Waste Education Policy Statement 2023 and Advocacy Position as follows:*

1. *Waste education is essential part of waste management that empowers the community to engage in waste avoidance, reuse and recovery, and to use services correctly.*
2. *Effective waste education requires:*
 - a. *Consistent communications by all stakeholders to ensure messages are clear and the community has confidence in the information provided.*
 - b. *A strategic and long-term investment from the State Government, with funding mechanisms in place to support and enable collaboration between Local Governments and Regional Councils.*
 - c. *Recognition of waste education in the definition of 'waste service' in the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007, in order to allow a charge for waste education as part of the waste service charge.*
 - d. *Identification of priority problematic materials within the waste stream and ongoing advocacy for evidence based alternative approaches.*

WALGA Executive Summary

- The WALGA Waste Management Education Policy Statement was endorsed in 2008, prior to prior to any significant State or Federal Government involvement or investment in waste education.
- The Policy Statement has been updated to incorporate feedback from MWAC to define the role of Regional Councils and highlighting the need for a long-term strategic approach to waste education.
- The Advocacy Position on Waste Education has been updated to reflect the essential nature of waste education in the management of waste, roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders, the importance of sustained and strategic investment and the challenges certain materials pose at point of disposal.

- The Advocacy Position and Policy Statement were considered and endorsed by the Municipal Waste Advisory Council in October 2023.

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

7.7 Submission E-Waste Landfill Ban Regulations (Page 40)

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA endorse the Submission on the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (e-waste) Regulations 2023.

WALGA Executive Summary

- The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) has released a consultation draft of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (e-waste) Regulations 2023 (draft Regulations) for comment.
- The draft Regulations have been developed to support the implementation of a statewide ban on e-waste disposal to landfill by 2024, with the aim of improving management and recycling of e-waste produced by households and businesses across the State.
- The draft Regulations outline the materials to be covered in the first stage of the ban from 1 July 2024, as well as the regulatory obligations for e-waste service providers, commercial e-waste generators and landfill operators.
- WALGA has developed a Submission on the regulations which requests clarification on several areas and reiterates our Advocacy Position that comprehensive and effective product stewardship schemes must be implemented for products subject to the e-waste landfill ban prior to the ban taking effect.
- WALGA was granted an extension to the 22 November 2023 closing date to allow State Council consideration of the submission at the 6 December meeting.

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

7.8 Submission on Philanthropic Engagement Framework for Emergency Management (Page 48)

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA endorse the submission to the State Emergency Management Committee on the Draft Philanthropic Engagement Framework for Emergency Management.

WALGA Executive Summary

- The State Emergency Management Committee is currently consulting on a draft Philanthropic Engagement Framework for Emergency Management.
- The Framework has been developed in recognition of the increasing role of philanthropic organisations in emergencies, the increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters, and the current lack of a governance framework to guide and manage these interactions.
- The Framework aims to support increased collaboration between public and private sectors for an effective and efficient emergency management system and provides guidance on the key issues to be considered when determining appropriate governance arrangements for public-private partnerships for emergency management across preparedness, prevention, response and recovery (PPRR).
- WALGA's submission supports the development of the Framework as an important milestone in the growing maturity of emergency management governance in Western Australia, noting that fundamental responsibility for emergency management rests with the State Government, and makes a number of recommendations, including that the Framework should:
 1. Seek to strengthen the decision-making and ownership of community across PPRR.
 2. Ensure equitable philanthropic funding to meet the needs of communities.
 3. Clarify the roles and responsibilities of philanthropic organisations across PPRR.
 4. Support LEMCs and DEMCs to identify, develop and maintain partnerships with philanthropic organisations.
 5. Incorporate an additional guiding principle based on building resilience.

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

Mr Aaron Cooke entered the meeting via video at 10:42 am.

7.9 Submission to the WA Action Plan for Young People Consultation Paper (Page 55)

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA endorse the submission to the WA Action Plan for Young People Consultation Paper.

WALGA Executive Summary

- On 25 August 2023, the Department of Communities (DoC) released the consultation paper 'WA Action Plan for Young People Consultation Paper'. WALGA obtained an extension to enable this draft submission to be considered by State Council and zones.
- The development of a new three-year whole-of-government Action Plan for Young People in Western Australia (the Action Plan), follows the expiry of the existing 'Beyond 2020 WA Youth Action Plan 2020-22'.
- The submission reflects WALGA's advocacy position on Children and Young People, the key issues for the sector on youth policy, and highlights case studies of best practice engagement with youth across the sector.
- The recommendations focus on the need to reflect the diversity of young peoples' needs across the State, the need for ongoing engagement and funding for initiatives, including those delivered by Local Governments, and the need for an evaluation process.
- The submission also restates the WALGA 2024-25 State Budget Submission call to prioritise the establishment of a Child Safeguarding Independent Oversight Body, increased State and Commonwealth funding for primary healthcare services and increased funding for libraries.

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

RECOMMENDATION

That the above recommendations and comments be endorsed.

RESOLUTION

Cr K Trent moved and Cr T Lefroy seconded –

That the above recommendation and comments be endorsed.

CARRIED

7.1 2023 Annual General Meeting Resolutions

WALGA recommendation relating to 5.2 Land Use Policy was considered.

There was general discussion.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned for morning tea at 11:05 am.

RESUMPTION: The meeting resumed at 11:19 am. Except for Hon S Martin MLC, all those present at the time of adjournment were present on resumption.

RESOLUTION

Cr T Lefroy moved and Cr L Stewart seconded –

That the Zone recommends to the WA Local Government Association that in considering land use policy WALGA establish policies *that provide local governments options* to protect and prioritise the preservation of agricultural land against its displacement by non-agricultural activities that lead to a net reduction of the State's productive agricultural land.

CARRIED

7.5 Household Hazardous Waste Policy Statement and Advocacy Position

The following recommendation from AROC was presented -

That AROC submit a motion to the WALGA Avon Zone meeting to advocate for a (or the) metropolitan waste levy to fund investment in alternative waste management locations and technologies in regional areas.

RESOLUTION

Cr M McKeown moved and Cr J Chester seconded –

That the Zone supports the recommendation to State Council with the following addition to part 2 of the recommendation –

7.10 Household Hazardous Waste

- 3. Advocate for a (or the) metropolitan waste levy to fund investment in alternative Waste management locations and technologies in regional areas**

CARRIED

Policy Team Reports

- 8.1.1 Environment and Waste Policy Team Report (Page 64)
- 8.2 Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team Report (Page 65)
- 8.3 Infrastructure Policy Team Report (Page 66)
- 8.4 People and Place Policy Team Report (Page 68)
- 8.5 Municipal Waste Advisory Council (Page 69)

RECOMMENDATION

That the above Policy Team Reports be noted.

RESOLUTION

Consensus Resolution –

That the above Policy Team Reports be noted.

CARRIED

Matters for Noting/Information

- 9.1 Planning & Development Amendment Bill 2023 & Associated Regulations & Guidelines (Page 71)

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council notes the Planning and Development Act Bill 2023 and associated Regulations and Guidance documents.

WALGA Executive Summary

- The Planning and Development Amendment Bill 2023 (the Bill) was introduced to Parliament on 18 October 2023.
- The Bill includes various changes to the Planning and Development Act 2005 including creation of new permanent significant development pathway, reforms to Development Assessment Panel (DAPs), reform of the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC), changes to Local Government delegations relating to Single House developments and other additional modifications with the stated aim to streamline and simplify planning processes.
- The Bill is supported by various new regulations, regulation amendments and guidance documents.
- Previous consultation with WALGA and Local Government on the key elements of the Bill has been occurred over previous years.

- 9.2 WALGA Emergency Management Survey 2023 (Page 76)

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note the update on the WALGA Emergency Management Survey 2023.

WALGA Executive Summary

- WALGA's 2023 Emergency Management Survey was provided to all Local Government CEOs on Monday, 6 November, and will be open until Friday, 1 December 2023.
- Focus areas for the 2023 survey include: resources for emergency management, the Local Government Grants Scheme (LGGs), Community Emergency Services Managers (CESMs), the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA-WA), and the Consolidated Emergency Services legislation, which is currently under development by the State Government.

- The results from the 2023 Survey will support WALGA's emergency management advocacy on 2024-25 State Budget Submission priorities and in the lead up to the 2025 State Government elections.
- A report on the survey results will be provided to State Council in March 2024.

9.3 WALGA Submission on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Legislation dated 26 September 2023 and Update (Page 78)

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note:

The submission to the Department of Lands, Planning and Heritage on the Aboriginal Heritage Legislation Amendment and Repeal Bill Regulations, Consultation Policy and Section 18 Guideline, as endorsed via Flying Minute; and

The update on the commencement of the amended Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972.

WALGA Executive Summary

- On 8 August 2023 the State Government announced it would repeal the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 (the ACH Act) and restore the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (AH Act), with amendments.
- WALGA engaged with the State Government on the development and implementation of the amended legislation through membership to the DPLH Implementation Group, as well as direct contact with the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and senior Department officials.
- WALGA provided two submissions to State Government on the Aboriginal Heritage Legislation Amendment and Repeal Bill, including feedback on the draft Regulations, Consultation Policy and Section 18 Guideline.
- The feedback aligns to WALGA's relevant Advocacy Position, previous sector consultations and submissions, and discussions with WALGA's Local Government Aboriginal Heritage Reference Group and People and Place Policy Team.
- WALGA's submission was supportive of the content of the Bill and supporting documents, with the exception of the Fees Regulations.
- WALGA sought, and shared with DPLH, legal advice to give effect to an exemption for Local Government from per site investigation fees.
- State Council endorsed WALGA's submission pertaining to the draft legislation and supporting documents via Flying Minute on 23 September 2023 (RESOLUTION 234.FM/2023).
- The repeal of the ACH Act and commencement of the AH Act as amended will take effect on 15 November 2023.
- Local Government has not been provided with an exemption from per site investigation fees in the Regulations, however DPLH Director General, Anothony Kannis, has agreed to work with WALGA to determine the parameters on Local Government projects that may be eligible for a fee waiver and to provide guidance for works that require approval under Regulation 10 versus Section 18.

9.4 Legal Response to the Local Government Approaches to Tree Retention Issues Paper (Page 81)

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council notes the Legal Response to Local Government Approaches to Tree Retention Issues Paper prepared by McLeods Lawyers.

WALGA Executive Summary

- The Legal Response to the Local Government Approaches to Tree Retention (2023) provides a certified legal response to questions posed in the March 2023 Issues Paper Local Government Approaches to Tree Retention.
- The legal advice assists Local Governments to understand the existing measures available to retain trees on public (street trees) and private land and the further mechanisms in the planning framework that could be used to Local Government.
- 47 Local Governments have purchased the legal advice from WALGA, with estimated savings of approximately \$1.2 million in legal fees compared to participating Local Government seeking their own advice.
- The legal advice will inform the development of further policy guidance for the sector and advocacy to the State Government on tree retention in the State planning framework.

9.5 Flying Minute: Submission to the Review of the Main Roads Pedestrian Crossing Facilities Guidelines (Page 84)

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note:

the new Advocacy Position regarding the design and implementation of pedestrian crossings; and the submission to Main Roads WA on the draft Pedestrian Crossing Facilities Guidelines as endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute.

WALGA Executive Summary

- Main Roads provided the draft Pedestrian Crossing Facilities Guidelines to WALGA for review and comment.
- Seven overarching principles are proposed to inform revisions to the draft Guidelines document:
 - That planning at the Local Government level be considered in determining where and which crossing types are implemented;
 - That pedestrians must be accommodated with facilities, regardless of vehicle speeds and vehicle volume considerations;
 - That high-quality, pedestrian-priority crossings be considered first rather than last;
 - That lower cost high-quality, pedestrian-priority crossings be considered first, rather than higher cost crossings
 - That the guidelines incorporate a proactive approach, rather than react to pedestrian demand, which is often not present;
 - That the operating speed to implement high-quality, pedestrian-priority crossings be increased, so this is not a barrier to implementing pedestrian crossings;
 - That intersection designs, particularly roundabouts, be included that support pedestrian-priority crossings.
- These principles guide numerous proposed revisions to the text of the draft Guidelines.
- Revisions to the Pedestrian Crossing Facility Guidelines are important to Local Government, as Local Governments maintain most of the path network, have a nuanced understanding of transport in their jurisdiction, and often prepare active transport planning documents that include priority pedestrian networks.
- State Council endorsed the new Advocacy Position and submission via Flying Minute on 11 August. The Advocacy Positions Manual has subsequently been updated and the submission provided to Main Roads.

9.6 Flying Minute – Draft Operational Policy 2.3: Planning for Public Open Space (Page 88)

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note the submission on Draft Operation Policy 2.3 Planning for Public Open Space to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage as endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute.

WALGA Executive Summary

- Draft Operational Policy 2.3 Planning for Public Open Space (draft Policy) released by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) will replace Development Control Policy 2.3 – Public Open Space (DCP 2.3) in Residential Areas and Position Statement – Expenditure of Cash in Lieu of Public Open Space and will supplement the Liveable Neighbourhoods policy.
- The draft Policy seeks to retain the minimum 10 per cent POS contribution for greenfield areas and clarifies the circumstances when cash-in-lieu contributions can be charged for infill development and the calculation of the contribution. The draft Policy also provides a greater emphasis on Local Planning Strategies and other higher order planning documents to strategically inform the POS needs of communities.
- WALGA's submission generally supports the draft Policy as it will provide a contemporary update to the current policy framework and sets clear provisions, including clarity and consistency on POS contributions and proposes reasonable reduced contribution amounts for infill development. WALGA recommends further guidance and support from DPLH on the impact of the draft Policy in preparing Local Planning Strategies.
- State Council endorsed the submission via Flying Minute on 21 August and the submission was provided to DPLH on 23 August.

9.7 Flying Minute – Submission on Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding Arrangements (Page 90)

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note WALGA's Submission to the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding Arrangements as endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute.

WALGA Executive Summary

- The Federal Minister for Emergency Management has commissioned an Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding (the Review), led by Andrew Colvin AO.
- The Review will consider how Commonwealth arrangements for disaster funding can be optimized, following the significant government financial support provided to communities over the last three years in response to disasters.
- WALGA's submission to the Independent Review on Commonwealth Disaster Funding was endorsed by the State Council via flying minute in August 2023.
- The final report on the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding is expected to be provided to Government in April 2024.

9.8 Flying Minute – Objection to the 2023 WA Electoral Distribution Commission Proposed Boundaries (Page 93)

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA's objection to the 2023 Western Australian Distribution Commission's proposed boundaries as endorsed via Flying Minute be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

- In July, the WA Electoral Commission published their proposed electoral boundaries to be used at the next State election in 2025.
- A key proposal from the Commissioners is to amalgamate two non-metropolitan districts.
- Objections to the proposed boundaries could be submitted to the Commissioners up until 21 August.
- Based on existing advocacy positions as well as discussions with State Council at the August Information Forum, the Association drafted an objection on behalf of Local Government Members.
- The objection primarily focused on the impact of reduced political representation for non-metropolitan communities, and asks for increased resourcing for regional electorate offices, particularly those in districts of large geographical size.
- State Council endorsed the submission by way of Flying Minute on 16 August.

9.9 Flying Minute: Submission on the Exposure Draft of the Recycling and Waste Reduction (Export – Paper and Cardboard) Rules 2023 (Page 95)

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note the Submission on the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)'s Exposure Draft of the Recycling and Waste Reduction (Export - Paper and Cardboard) Rules 2023 as endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute.

WALGA Executive Summary

- Western Australia currently relies heavily on export of paper and cardboard for recycling due to the lack of processing infrastructure within the State.
- The draft Rules provide conditions for export including being recyclers being licenced, providing export declarations and meeting strict contamination limits.
- Material Recovery Facility (MRF) operators have expressed concern over meeting the new requirements with their existing infrastructure and resources.
- If paper and cardboard, which represent just over 50% of the material in the kerbside bin, cannot be exported, or requires significantly more processing prior to export, the impact on the cost of kerbside recycling will be significant.

- On the basis of these risks and the lack of processing infrastructure in the State, WALGA strongly recommends an exemption be granted for WA exports of paper and cardboard a minimum of six months before the bans come into effect and will continue advocating for effective product stewardship for the materials covered by the Export Bans.
- State Council endorsed the Submission via Flying Minute on 21 September.

9.10 Flying Minute: Submission on National Asbestos Strategic Plan (Page 97)

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note the Submission on the Draft Asbestos National Strategic Plan (2024-2030) as endorsed via Flying Minute.

WALGA Executive Summary

- The Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (ASEA) has released the Draft Asbestos National Strategic Plan (2024-2030) for comment by 13 October. WALGA's request for an extension to this deadline was refused.
- The Plan documents the national priorities for action in relation to asbestos management and identifies the roles and responsibilities of Government and Regulators, including Local Government, in implementing the Plan.
- WALGA's Submission was developed in consultation with other Local Government Associations and national discussions with Local Governments across Australia.
- WALGA's submission generally supports the draft Plan, but recommends further clarification be provided on resourcing, responsibilities, performance measures and targets for the plan to be effectively implemented.
- The Submission was endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute on 12 October 2023 and was provided to ASEA on 13 October 2023.

9.11 Flying Minute: Draft Code of Practice for On-Site Wastewater Disposal (Page 99)

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note the Submission on the Draft Code of Practice for On-Site Wastewater Disposal in Western Australia 2023, as endorsed via Flying Minute.

WALGA Executive Summary

- The Department of Health (DoH) is consulting on a Draft Code of Practice for on-site wastewater disposal.
- Local Government has a key role in approving the installation and construction of wastewater disposal systems, including Local Government Authorised Officers (Environmental Health Officers (EHOs)) reviewing all stages of the approval process and ensuring compliance.
- WALGA's submission includes the concerns expressed by the EHOs, as those officers currently implementing the approval/regulatory system, and the impact on cost and complexity in regional and remote areas.
- The WALGA Submission also identifies opportunities to streamline some of the proposed processes and that further resourcing and clarification is needed for successful implementation.
- The Submission was endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute on 12 October 2023 and was provided to DoH on 13 October 2023.
- A copy of the submission is attached.

9.12 Flying Minute – 2024-25 WALGA State Budget Submission (Page 101)

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note WALGA's 2024-25 State Budget Submission as endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute.

WALGA Executive Summary

- Each year, WALGA prepares a submission to the State Government outlining the sector's priorities for the upcoming budget.
- Given the 2024-25 Budget will be the last before the State election and the State's financial position is strong, WALGA is seeking funding for a wider range of initiatives than in previous years.
- WALGA's 2024-25 State Budget Submission was endorsed by the State Council via Flying Minute in October 2023.
- A copy of the final submission is attached, along with the Flying Minute.

RECOMMENDATION

That the above matters for noting/information be noted.

The Chair gave background to new delegates regarding flying minutes.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Coad moved and Cr M McKeown seconded –
That the above matters for noting/information be noted.**

CARRIED

Key Activity Reports

- 10.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Advocacy Portfolio (Page 102)
- 10.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure Portfolio (Page 104)
- 10.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Member Services Portfolio (Page 107)
- 10.1.4 Report on Key Activities, Policy Portfolio (Page 110)

RECOMMENDATION

That the above Key Activity Reports be noted.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Coad moved and Cr M McKeown seconded –
That the above matters for noting/information be noted.**

CARRIED

8.2 WALGA President's Report

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

RECOMMENDATION

That the WALGA President's Report be received.

RESOLUTION

**Cr T Lefroy moved and Cr L Stewart seconded –
That the WALGA President's Report be received.**

CARRIED

8.3 State Councillor's Report

No Report.

NOTED

8.4 Zone Status Report

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

RECOMMENDATION

That the November 2023 Status Report be received.

RESOLUTION

**Cr M McKeown moved and Cr T Lefroy seconded –
That the November 2023 Status Report be received.**

CARRIED

9 ZONE REPORTS

9.1 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group

At its August meeting the Zone noted the report from the Chair of the Local Government Freight Group that he had had informal discussions with the Executive Officer and some delegates to the Group in regard to the future activity of the Group. He proposed that the Group go into 'recess' on the basis that:

- There are several other groups and processes that now adequately address the Group's Terms of Reference objectives.
- Placing the Group into 'recess', rather than disbanding it, means the group may be reactivated if required in future.

At the August 2023 round of meetings of the Group's constituent Zones the following items were noted –

Avon-Midland Country Zone

Resolved –

That the Avon-Midland Country Zone supports, subject to the agreement of the other constituent Zones, the proposal that the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group go into recess.

Central Country Zone

Resolved –

1. That the Central Country Zone withdraw from the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group; and
2. If the Group is re-established, the Zone can provide feedback on any issue

Great Southern Zone

Noted the option for the Group to go into recess and that a meeting was proposed for September to formally consider the matter.

The proposal that the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group go into recess was discussed at a meeting of the Group held 18 September 2023 at the WALGA Local Government Convention. The meeting supported the proposal and formally resolved that the Group go into recess.

There was discussion around the need for the Group to be able to be reactivated in the event of any matters which may arise where there would be value in the Group having input. It was agreed that any Constituent Zone could make a request to the other Constituent Zones for the Group to be reactivated.

RECOMMENDATION

For Noting

RESOLUTION

Cr K Trent moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –

- (a) that the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group report be received; and**
(b) that in the event of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group being reactivated the Zone's Delegate be Cr Dwight Coad and Deputy Delegate Cr Mike McKeown. CARRIED

The meeting noted Cr Barry Haywood's advice that he would be available to assist.

Mr Boyd Brown entered the meeting at 11:30 am.

9.2 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 Committee be received.

Cr Antonio commented on –

- Desktop workshop.
- Bushfire top of the list.
- Hot dry conditions forecast for next year and all agencies aware.

RESOLUTION

Cr T Lefroy moved and Cr D Coad seconded –

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

10 AGENCY REPORTS

10.1 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 L Stewart moved and Cr T Lefroy seconded –

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

Delegates were requested to advise the President and Executive Officer of any topics or presentations they would like the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries to give at future Zone meetings.

10.2 RDA Wheatbelt

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

RECOMMENDATION

That the RDA Wheatbelt report be received.

Ms M Walker commented –

- She will be leaving RDA Wheatbelt at the end of the year to move back into her consultancy business and to spend more time in Walkers Diesel Services.
- New Regional Director for RDA Wheatbelt is Mr Josh Pomykala. He will commence on 15 January 2024.

Ms Jennifer Thomas entered the meeting at 11:38 am.

On behalf of the Zone, the Zone President extended best wishes to Ms Walker for the future. Supported by acclamation.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Coad moved and Cr T Lefroy seconded –

That the RDA Wheatbelt report be received and thanked Ms Walker for her efforts, contribution and collaboration in her time with RDA Wheatbelt. CARRIED

10.3 Transport Portfolio (Main Roads, Department of Transport, Public Transport Authority)

Presentation of the Transport Portfolio report (attached to Agenda).

RECOMMENDATION

That the Transport Portfolio report be received.

RESOLUTION

**Cr K Trent moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –
That the Transport Portfolio report be received.**

CARRIED

10.4 RoadWise (Wheatbelt North)

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

RECOMMENDATION

That the Roadwise (Wheatbelt North) report be received.

RESOLUTION

**Cr K Trent moved and Cr L Stewart seconded –
That the Roadwise (Wheatbelt North) report be received.**

CARRIED

10.5 Wheatbelt Development Commission

Presentation of Wheatbelt Development Commission's report.

Mr G Arthur tabled the Wheatbelt Development Commission update and commented on –

- Space and technology.
- Defence support opportunities.
- Regional housing issues.
- Opportunities for development in the region and the need to maximise benefits.

Cr T Lefroy commented on the need for more work around local governments being better equipped to deal with new development opportunities; there was a lot of talk around stakeholder engagement but no action. Mr Arthur replied that the work with NEWROC was a test case.

Cr T Lefroy, Cr D Coad, Cr M McKeown and Mr C Linnell expressed interest in working with the Wheatbelt Development Commission to progress discussions on community preparedness for new industry growth. Mr Arthur undertook to make contact and bring them together for discussions.

RESOLUTION

**Cr T Lefroy moved and Cr D Coad seconded –
That the Wheatbelt Development Commission update be received and that discussions between the Wheatbelt Development Commission and interested local governments on community preparedness for new industry be progressed.**

CARRIED

10.6 Other

There were no other reports.

11 FINANCE

11.1 Financial Reports

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

RECOMMENDATION

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

RESOLUTION

**Cr L Stewart moved and Cr K Trent seconded –
That the financial reports for the period ending 31 October 2023, as attached, be received.**
CARRIED

11.2 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts are submitted for payment –

<u>Payee</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Amount</u>
R W & S Dew	Secretarial Services to Zone – December 2023 Quarter	4,236.00
R W & S Dew	Recoup Starlink Service Fee – November 2023	174.00
	TOTAL (no GST)	<u><u>\$4,410.00</u></u>

RECOMMENDATION

That the accounts as listed totalling \$4,410.00 be approved for payment.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Coad moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –
That the accounts as listed totalling \$4,410.00 be approved for payment.**
CARRIED

12 ZONE BUSINESS

12.1 Delegates and Deputy Delegates to Zone

BACKGROUND

Following the 2023 local government elections member Councils are to appoint a delegate and deputy delegate to the Zone.

COMMENT

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

Council	Delegate	Deputy Delegate
Shire of Chittering	Cr Aaron King	Cr Mary Angus
Shire of Dalwallinu	Cr Keith Carter	Cr Steven Carter
Shire of Dandaragan	Cr Tony O’Gorman	Cr Maddi McDonald
Shire of Gingin	Cr Lincoln Stewart	Cr Eric Sorensen
Shire of Goomalling	Cr Julie Chester	Cr Rolly Van Gelderen
Shire of Moora	Cr Tracy Lefroy	Cr Ken Seymour
Shire of Northam	Cr Chris Antonio	Cr Attila Mencshelyi
Shire of Toodyay	Cr Michael McKeown	Cr Shelly Dival
Shire of Victoria Plains	Cr Pauline Bantock	Cr Suzanne Woods
Shire of Wongan-Ballidu	Cr Dwight Coad	Cr Elyssa Giedraitis
Shire of York	Cr Kevin Trent	Cr Denese Smythe

RECOMMENDATION

For noting

NOTED

12.2 Bank Signatures

BACKGROUND

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

COMMENT

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

RECOMMENDATION

That the persons authorised to operate the Zone's Bank Accounts be changed to any two of Cr Chris Antonio (President), Cr Tracy Lefroy (Deputy President) and Robert Dew (Executive Officer) – Cr Antonio to replace Cr Ken Seymour and Cr Lefroy to replace Cr Denise Smythe.

RESOLUTION

Cr L Stewart moved and Cr K Trent seconded –

That the persons authorised to operate the Zone's Bank Accounts be changed to any two of Cr Chris Antonio (President), Cr Tracy Lefroy (Deputy President) and Robert Dew (Executive Officer) – Cr Antonio to replace Cr Ken Seymour and Cr Lefroy to replace Cr Denise Smythe.

CARRIED

12.3 Proposed Changes to the Regulations on Performing Road Works During a Total Fire Ban

BACKGROUND

Recent changes to the Australian Fire Danger Rating System and Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) internal policies have resulted in an increase in the declaration of Total Fire Bans (TFB) across Western Australia. This increase has resulted in frequent and substantive impacts to road works on Local Government roads with a consequent loss of productivity and increased risk for road users, as road repair issues are not able to be addressed in a timely fashion.

DFES have identified some changes to the current regulations and have held information sessions outlining the proposed changes, as indicated in the attached presentation. These changes acknowledge that a uniform approach to regulating road work during a TFB is not effective or applicable across the diverse spectrum of Local Government activities and landscapes in WA and greatly simplify the requirements placed on Local Governments with regard to performing road works during a TFB.

Notwithstanding this change, the onus will remain on Local Governments to ensure that fire safety provisions, based on type of work, prevailing conditions, and work area, etc. are sufficient and that a risk assessment has been undertaken.

RECOMMENDATION

For noting

NOTED

12.4 Submissions to the 2024 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members

BACKGROUND

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

SAT generally advertises its intention to receive submissions in December. The Tribunal will invite individual Local Governments, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, WALGA, Local Government Professionals WA and other interested individuals to provide information or submissions.

SAT will likely publish its determination for 2024-2025 in April 2024.

COMMENT

In preparation for the inquiry to be undertaken early next year, a draft submission from WALGA has been prepared that makes recommendations in relation to Elected Member remuneration, Chief Executive Officer remuneration and the Regional/Isolation Allowance. The draft WALGA submission is contained in the December State Council Agenda (see Agenda item 7.4) for Zone and State Council consideration.

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

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

RECOMMENDATION

For noting

NOTED

12.5 Wheatbelt District Leadership Group Local Government Representative

From: Jamie Strickland, Chair Wheatbelt District Leadership Group (DLG).

BACKGROUND

DLG's exist across 17 regions in Western Australia, with the Wheatbelt DLG area covering three Local Government Zones: Avon-Midland, Great Eastern Country, and Central Country.

The purpose of the Wheatbelt DLG is to develop and deliver coordinated, place-based human service responses to achieve better outcomes for the Wheatbelt region.

Currently, the membership of the Wheatbelt DLG is comprised of regional executive leads from the core human services agencies in State Government: Department of Communities, Education, Health and Justice and WA Police Force; Wheatbelt Development Commission CEO; Chair of the Wheatbelt Human Services Managers Forum; and CEOs from Yued, Balladong and Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporations.

Developing a collaborative relationship between all levels of government, Aboriginal community, community services sector, not-for-profit sector, and community leaders is a key function of the Wheatbelt DLG.

COMMENT

The members of the Wheatbelt DLG believe a Local Government representative will be a valuable addition to the membership to represent community interest, facilitate communication between Local Government and the DLG and to participate in shared decision-making.

As such, the Wheatbelt DLG is seeking an expression of interest from one Local Government representative from each of the three Zones to serve as a member on the DLG.

A recognised strength of Local Government is its closeness to the community and its ability to consider and act on local opinions and perspectives. Council members, being the grass roots level of government, are in a perfect position to observe the shifting needs of local communities and to design strategies to satisfy those needs.

As a member of the Wheatbelt DLG a representative would have responsibilities such as:

- Commit to regular attendance at meetings and active support of the Wheatbelt DLGs activities.
- Align key initiatives and strategic priorities across the region.
- Provide updates from agencies, organisations, and other related groups of which they are a member.
- Commit to building the collective knowledge, skills, and capability of the Wheatbelt DLG.

Further details regarding the role of members and function of the Wheatbelt DLG can be found in the attached Terms of Reference.

The Wheatbelt DLG meet six times a year with three meetings held in Northam (two hours) and three meetings held in various Wheatbelt locations (one day). Members may attend meetings via video conference.

RECOMMENDATION
For Consideration

RESOLUTION

**Cr T Lefroy moved and Cr J Chester seconded –
That the Zone appoints Cr Chris Antonio as its delegate and Cr Tracy Lefroy as its deputy delegate
to the on the Wheatbelt District Leadership Group. CARRIED**

13 URGENT BUSINESS (as permitted by the Presiding Member)

No business was brought forward.

14 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Hon Shane Love MLA congratulated the Zone on its recommendation regarding agricultural land use.

15 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Future meetings of the Zone are scheduled for –

23 February 2024	Shire of Gingin
19 April 2024	Shire of Toodyay
21 June 2024	Shire of Northam
23 August 2024	Shire of Dalwallinu
22 November 2024	Shire of Dandaragan

RECOMMENDATION

That the next ordinary meeting of the Zone be held Friday 23 February 2024 and be hosted by the Shire of Gingin.

RESOLUTION

**Cr L Stewart moved and Cr K Trent seconded –
That the next ordinary meeting of the Zone be held Friday 23 February 2024 and be hosted by the
Shire of Gingin. CARRIED**

16 GUEST SPEAKERS

16.1 NBN Emergency Response (12 noon)

Ms Jenny Thomas, Community Engagement Manager – Northern Region WA

16.2 Telstra (12:20 pm)

Mr Boyd Brown, Regional General Manager WA, Telstra Retail & Regional.

Topics to include 3G network closure, emergence of low earth orbit satellites and mobile network resilience.

The Zone President thank Ms Thomas and Mr Boyd for their presentations.

17 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair thanked attendees and the Shire of Goomalling for hosting the meeting and declared the meeting closed at 12:51 pm.

CERTIFICATION

These Minutes were confirmed by the meeting held on

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