

Central Country Zone

MINUTES

Friday, 23 June 2023 at 9.30am

Morning tea from 9.00am

Venue

Shire of Dumbleyung
Stubbs Park, Bahr Road
Dumbleyung 6530

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1. Opening and Welcome

The Chair declared the meeting open at **9:30am**.

1.1 Housekeeping – Zone Chair

1. **Welcome:**
The Zone Chair welcomed Zone members and provided OSH/bathroom/exit information to those in attendance.
2. **Share your name and Local Government:**
Delegates were reminded to ensure that they call their name and Local Government when taking the floor to allow for accurate Minutes to be recorded.

1.2 Host Council Presentation

Cr Julie Ramm, President from the Shire of Dumbleyung, extended a welcome to delegates and guests and provided a presentation on Local Government issues.

2. Attendance and Apologies

Attendance

Shire of Beverley	President Cr David White Mr Steve Gollan Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Brookton	Cr Tamara Lilly Mr Gary Sherry Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Corrigin	President Cr Des Hickey (Deputy Chair) Ms Natalie Manton Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Cuballing	Deputy President Cr Rob Harris
Shire of Dumbleyung	President Cr Julie Ramm Deputy President Cr Amy Knight Mr Gavin Treasure Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Kulin	President Cr Grant Robins Cr Robbie Bowey Mr Judd Hobson, Executive Works Manager, non-voting
Shire of Lake Grace	President Cr Len Armstrong Deputy President Cr Ross Chappell Mr Alan George Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Narrogin	President Leigh Ballard (Chair)
Shire of Pingelly	Deputy President Cr Jackie McBurney Mr Andrew Dover Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

Shire of Quairading	Cr Jonathan Hippisley Cr Trevor Stacey
Shire of Wagin	President Cr Phillip Blight Cr Brian Kilpatrick Mr Ian McCabe Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Wandering	Cr Sheryl Little Mr Alan Hart Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of West Arthur	President Cr Neil Morrell Cr Karen Harrington Mr Vin Fordham Lamont, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Wickepin	President Cr Julie Russell Mr Nathan Cain, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Williams	Cr Moya Carne Mr Geoff McKeown Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Guests	
Main Roads WA Water Corporation	Brad Pearce, Operations Manager Narrogin Michael Roberts, Regional Manager Goldfields & Agricultural Region
Members of Parliament	Hon Steve Martin MLC, Member for Central Wheatbelt Hon Shelley Payne MLC, Member for Agricultural Region
WALGA	Karen Chappel, WALGA President Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services Kathy Robertson, Executive Officer Governance

Apologies

Shire of Beverley	Deputy President Cr Chris Lawlor
Shire of Brookton	President Cr Katrina Crute Deputy President Cr Neil Walker
Shire of Corrigin	Deputy President Cr Mike Weguelin
Shire of Cuballing	President Cr Eliza Dowling Mr Stan Scott Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Kulin	Deputy President Cr Brad Smoker Mr Alan Leeson Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Narrogin	Deputy President Cr Graham Broad Mr Dale Stewart Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Pingelly	President Cr Bill Mulrone
Shire of Quairading	President Cr Peter Smith Ms Nicole Gibbs Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Wagin	Deputy President Cr Gregory Ball
Shire of Wandering	President Cr Ian Turton
Shire of Wandering	Deputy President Cr Paul Treasure
Shire of Wickiepin	Deputy President Cr Wes Astbury
Shire of Williams	President Cr Jarrad Logie
Guests	
WALGA	Rodney Thornton, Regional Road Safety Advisor
Wheatbelt Development Commission	Pip Gooding, Regional Development Officer Wheatbelt South
Regional Development Commission	Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development
Department of Local Government, Sport, & Cultural Industries	Samantha Cornthwaite, Regional Manager Wheatbelt
Wheatbelt Development Commission	Susan Hall A/Chief Executive Officer
Members of Parliament	Hon Colin de Grussa MLC, Member for Agricultural Region Hon Peter Rundle MLA, Member for Agricultural Region Hon Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt Hon Martin Aldridge MLC, Member for Agricultural Region

Hon Darren West MLC, Member for Agricultural Region
Rick Wilson MP, Federal Member for O'Connor

Attachments to Agenda

The following were provided as attachments to the Agenda:

1. Item No. 7.1 DLGSC Zone Report – May 2023
2. Item No. 7.3 RDAW Zone Report – June 2023
3. Item No. 8.3 Minutes of Executive Committee meeting – 7 June 2023
4. Item No. 9.3 WALGA draft Submission: Review Biosecurity & Agriculture Management Act 2007
5. Item No. 11.4 WALGA President's Report – June 2023

3. Declarations of Interest

Nil

4. Announcements

Nil

5. Guest Speakers / Deputations

5.1 Murray Carter, Executive Director, DFES

Murray Carter provided an update on Fire and Emergency Service matters.

Noted

5.2 Ben Harvey, Executive Director, Department of Planning Lands & Heritage

Ben Harvey presented to the Zone on the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act*.

A copy of the presentation is attached.

Noted

6. Members of Parliament

Members of Federal and State Government, representing the Zone Member Local Government Districts, were invited to provide a brief update on matters relevant to Zone Members.

Hon Steve Martin MLC, Member for Central Wheatbelt provided a brief update to the Zone.

Hon Shelley Payne MLC, Member for Agricultural Region provided a brief update to the Zone.

7. Agency Reports

7.1 Department of Local Government, Sport, and Cultural Industries (DLGSC)

Samantha Cornthwaite, Regional Manager Wheatbelt was an apology. Please see attached report. (Attachment 1.)

Noted

7.2 Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt (RDAW)

Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development, was an apology. Please see attached report. (Attachment 2.)

Noted

7.3 Wheatbelt Development Commission (WDC)

Pip Gooding, Regional Development Officer Wheatbelt South was an apology.

Noted

7.4 Main Roads Western Australia

Brad Pearce, Operations Manager Narrogin, provided an update to the Zone.

Noted

8. Minutes

8.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the Central Country Zone meeting held on Friday, 14 April 2023

The Minutes of the Central Country Zone meeting held on Friday, 14 April 2023 have previously been circulated to Member Councils.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: President Cr Len Armstrong

Seconded: President Cr Julie Ramm

That the Minutes of the Central Country Zone meeting held on Friday, 14 April 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

8.2 Business Arising from the Minutes from the Central Country Zone Meeting held on Friday, 14 April 2023

Nil

8.3 Minutes of the Central Country Executive Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 7 June 2023

The recommendations from the Executive Committee Meeting that require Zone consideration have been extracted for the Zones consideration.

8.3.1 (Item 5.3) Budget 2023/2024**Executive Committee Comment**

The following Budget for 2023-24 is submitted for consideration.

Central Country Zone WALGA**ABN 12 975 113 390****Budget Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ending 30 June 2024**

	Budget 2022-23	Actual YTD 31/5/2023	Budget 2023-24	
Members			15	
Subscription Rate		\$	1,000	
Income				
501 General Subscriptions	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 15,000	Reduction 50%. 15 Zones @ \$1,000 (2023-24 rate)
575 Interest Earned	\$ 30	\$ 216	\$ 1,000	Surplus funds invest in higher rates w ith CBA
Total Income	\$ 30,030	\$ 30,216	\$ 16,000	
Expenditure				
1535 Zone Expenses - Audit Costs	\$ 1,200	\$ 975	\$ 1,200	
1546 Zone Expenses - In-Person Meetings	\$ 8,800	\$ 4,679	\$ 8,800	
1555 Zone Expenses - Agricultural Freight Group	\$ 800	\$ 528	\$ 800	Retain pending confirmation of future need.
1558 Zone Expenses - Financial Management	\$ 2,700	\$ 1,778	\$ 2,781	
1572 Zone Expenses - Other	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500	
1580 Zone Representative - Honoraria	\$ 2,600	\$ -	\$ 2,600	
1605 Zone Representative - Meeting Fees	\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ 2,500	
1610 Zone Representative - Travel Costs	\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ 2,000	
Total Expenditure	\$ 21,600	\$ 7,960	\$ 21,181	
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 8,430	\$ 22,256	-\$ 5,181	

Estimated brought forward Balance 1 July 2023 \$ 62,000

Surplus \$ 9,069

Estimated Balance 30 June 2024 \$ 71,069

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: President Cr Des Hickey

Seconded: President Cr Phil Blight

That:

1. the Budget Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ending 30 June 2024 be received;
2. the General Subscriptions be reduced from \$2000.00 to \$1000.00 per subscriber; and
3. the estimated surplus balance be moved from Westpac Bank to WALGA's Commonwealth Bank account to obtain a better interest rate.

CARRIED

8.4 Minutes of the Central Country Executive Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 7 June 2023

The Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 7 June 2023 are attached. (**Attachment 3.**)

The remainder of the items are for the Zones consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: President Cr Des Hickey

Seconded: Cr Karen Harrington

That the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 7 June 2023 be noted, and the items not considered above be endorsed.

CARRIED

9. Zone Business

9.1 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act update

With the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021* (ACH Act) coming into effect on 1 July 2023 I wanted to take the opportunity to provide you with some information on the legislation's operation and WALGA's advocacy.

The ACH Act replaces the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*. It is intended to provide a contemporary legislative framework for the identification, protection, and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage across WA. Key features of the ACH Act include:

1. An updated definition of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (ACH);
2. New structures for the management of ACH, including Local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services (LACHS) as a central point of contact for proponents, and the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Council (ACH Council) to oversee the system;
3. A tiered land use assessment and approvals system that focuses on consultation and agreement making between Traditional Owners and land users;
 - a. This is based around the classification of [activities into tiers](#), depending on the level of ground disturbance;
 - b. Each tier has a corresponding process, and activities are classified as tier 1, tier 2, tier 3, or exempt activity;
 - c. Land users will be required to negotiate agreements with Traditional Owners for any activities considered medium to high ground disturbance that may harm ACH;
 - d. Activities involving minimal or low ground disturbance will benefit from a streamlined approval pathway, encouraging proponents to avoid or minimise impacts;
4. The establishment an online ACH directory of information and documents relevant to Aboriginal cultural heritage;
5. Provisions for the establishment of Protected Areas; and
6. The establishment of new penalties and offences for breaches of the ACH Act.

It is important to bear in mind that all ACH is also protected under the current legislation – the approvals process for disturbing ACH and the system is changing, however all ACH is protected under the current legislation and in fact the exemptions under the new ACH Act do not exist under the current legislation.

WALGA facilitated an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Education Session delivered by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) and WALGA on Wednesday, 10 May which was attended by 80 Local Government representatives from across the State. I encourage those who were unable to attend this session to view the [presentation](#) and [recording](#) from the workshop (including a Q&A session) which provide detailed information on the development and operation of the ACH Act.

Since 2018, WALGA has undertaken the following advocacy and capacity building activities in relation to the development of the ACH Act:

1. Developed five State Council endorsed submissions – most recently WALGA's Phase Three submission which was endorsed by State Council on 23 December 2022. WALGA's submissions to the 2022 co-design process can be viewed [here](#).
2. DPLH Director General Anthony Kannis and staff presenting to State Council in September 2022.
3. Provision of formal feedback to DPLH twice via correspondence and a survey.
4. Co-delivered 10 place-based online workshops to contribute to the preliminary work in developing the activity categories in 2021.
5. Convened the Local Government Aboriginal Heritage Reference Group, which has included representation from 26 Local Governments.
6. Co-delivered five information sessions and webinars with DPLH to facilitate consultation with, and provide information to, Local Governments.
7. Advocated for funding for the establishment and ongoing functioning of the new Aboriginal heritage system, with respect to the ACH Council, Local ACH Services (LACHS) and Local Governments in the [2023-24 WALGA Budget Submission](#) and meetings with the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

A clear message from sector consultations is that the ACH Act must balance the need to protect ACH with the requirements on Local Government to deliver essential infrastructure works and emergency activities efficiently and effectively to maintain public safety and comply with other legislative responsibilities. Conversations around the activity categories dominated the consultation sessions due to the lack of consideration given to the works undertaken by Local Government early in the co-design process.

As a result of WALGA's advocacy, significant improvement to the activity categories was made with consideration now given to many every day and emergency works that Local Governments undertake. This includes the exemption of activities such as:

1. Maintaining existing infrastructure that does not involve disturbance to ground beyond that which was disturbed during the construction;
2. Maintenance of waterways and coastlines to rectify accretion and erosion of natural material; and
3. An emergency management activity intended to prevent imminent loss of life, prejudice to the safety, or harm to the health, of persons or animals.

WALGA's submissions also highlighted the need for the ACH Council and Local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services (and Local Governments) to be adequately resourced to enable them to respond to applications for permits and management plans pursuant to the new legislation. The [State Government has announced its \\$77million investment](#) into the ACH system which will further support the successful implementation of the ACH Act.

Upcoming Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 Education Workshops

DPLH is facilitating education workshops across the State from 24 May – 28 June to support the implementation of the new legislation. Workshops will be held online and in the Kimberley, Pilbara, Goldfields, Great Southern, Midwest, Southwest, and metropolitan regions. You can register for these workshops [here](#).

WALGA is continuing to advocate for support from DPLH to enhance Local Government knowledge and capability with respect to ACH and the new legislation.

The WALGA President has written to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs advising that Local Governments across the State require support. Seeking support for the following proposals, which are based on discussions and WALGA's consultation with Local Governments during the co-design process:

- **Local Government ACH Facilitator**

- A Local Government ACH Facilitator would provide advice and support to Local Government with respect to their obligations under the Act and build capability, including through facilitating a community of practice, the development of templates and case studies. A similar arrangement already exists through the CoastWA Facilitator role which is funded by DPLH and located at WALGA to provide support and build capacity within Local Government to undertake coastal adaptation planning and management. This arrangement has been very beneficial for DPLH and Local Government and was recently extended by DPLH for a further 3 years.
- **Training**
 - WALGA understands that DPLH and South Metropolitan TAFE are developing ACH training for LACHS. This training could be adapted and made available for Local Government. WALGA is a Registered Training Organisation and may be able to assist in the delivery and/or development of this tailored Local Government training.
- **Guidance Materials**
 - Given the lack of understanding of ACH in the general community, it is anticipated that Local Governments will receive many enquiries from community members, landowners, small-scale property developers and local businesses about the application of the new legislation. It is proposed that DPLH develops guidance material that Local Governments could share and use to respond to queries and an Advice Note that could be included on development and subdivision approvals.
 - Local Governments and other proponents are required to comply with various legislative and regulatory requirements in addition to the Act, including environmental, planning, and building requirements. There is uncertainty regarding how these legislative requirements interact with one another, when and in what order approvals are required. This would be assisted through the provision of information that articulates step-by-step the processes required to comply with ACH, environmental and other relevant legislative requirements.
- **Additional DPLH regional officers**
 - WALGA welcomes the additional DPLH staff to be located in Broome, Karratha, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, and Albany to support implementation of the Act. Western Australia has a very large geographic area, with 137 Local Governments, and WALGA would support additional DPLH staff being located in the Wheatbelt, Mid-West and Murchison regions, so that all regional Local Governments have access to regionally based DPLH staff.
- **Extend grant funded project timeframes and include ACH costs**
 - ACH processes are likely to increase the costs and delivery timeframes for Local Governments' road and other infrastructure projects. As noted in WALGA's submissions during the co-design process, many State and Commonwealth grant funded infrastructure and road projects must be completed within 12 months and do not include ACH costs. This is a major concern for the delivery of Commonwealth or State Government grant funded projects such as those funded under the State and Federal BlackSpot programs, State Road Project Grants, the Commonwealth Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, the Mitigation Activity Fund and CoastWA. Delivery of these projects is already challenging given the skilled labour and supply chain constraints in the current economic environment. It is requested that the timeframes for relevant State Government grant programs be extended where required to accommodate ACH approvals and that provision be made to include these costs as part of the grant. Similarly, I would ask for the State Government to support the Local Government sector in dealing with the Commonwealth in relation to impacts on the delivery of Commonwealth Government funded projects.

Please also refer to State Council agenda item 9.6 on this issue.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Julie Ramm

Seconded: Cr Tamara Lilly

That the Central Country Zone request:

1. the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage to provide information on the cost to Local Governments of implementing the regulations;
2. the State Government to underwrite any potential costs of Local Government complying with the requirements of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act*: and
3. WALGA to collate the information from the Local Governments feedback on the *Aboriginal Heritage Act* and the implementation of the Regulations.

CARRIED

9.2 Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007: Stage 3 Review

By Rebecca Brown, WALGA Manager Environment and Waste

WALGA draft Submission (**Attachment 4.**)

Executive Summary

- Consultation for Stage 3 of the review of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act) has commenced, with feedback sought on potential biosecurity reform opportunities.
- WALGA has developed a draft Submission for sector feedback by 26 June.
- Zones are asked to consider and provide feedback on the proposals in the discussion paper and WALGA's draft Submission.
- Local Governments are also strongly encouraged to provide feedback directly to the Review Panel via the online portal by 30 June 2023.
- Local Governments are invited to attend a WALGA webinar on the proposed reforms, which will include a presentation from the Chair of the Independent BAM Act Review Panel, Kaylene Gulich, at 10.30am, Wednesday 14 June.

Background

The first 10-year [statutory review](#) of the [Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007](#) (BAM Act) is currently underway; this is a key opportunity for Local Government to influence how post-border biosecurity is managed in Western Australia. The [Independent Panel](#) undertaking the review, is using a three-stage engagement process.

Stage 1 (closed) – Used open submissions and a survey to identify major themes and issues. To inform comment on this stage of the review WALGA prepared a [Discussion Paper](#) which includes 11 key biosecurity themes and related recommendations reflecting issues raised by Local Government, and those identified in the [Auditor General's 2013 and 2020 Reports](#).

Stage 2 (closed) – Stage 1 identified the key themes and stage 2 provided an opportunity to focus on these issues, which included:

- principles to underpin WA's biosecurity, including biosecurity in all contexts and shared responsibility.
- legal foundations of WA's biosecurity, including prioritising pests, weeds, and diseases, and enabling industry and community action.
- planning, coordinating, and resourcing WA's biosecurity system, including responsibilities and timing.
- community-led pest and weed management, including the Declared Pest Rate and Recognised Biosecurity Groups.

Stage 3 – (now open) A [Discussion Paper](#) sets out nine priority reform areas, and identifies 21 opportunities to clarify, strengthen and support a strengthened biosecurity system in WA. The nine priority reform areas are:

1. Clarifying the role of the BAM Act
2. Working together to protect WA
3. Planning and reporting – vital to a better biosecurity system
4. Prioritising pests and diseases
5. Emergency powers – a necessary precaution

6. Compensation can boost biosecurity efforts
7. Enabling industries to act
8. Community-led pest management
9. Compliance with WA's biosecurity laws.

Policy Implications

4.5 Post Border Biosecurity

Western Australia's economy, environment and the community are facing increasing challenges posed by already established and new pests, weeds, and diseases. Local Government has a significant role in biosecurity management, as land managers and regulators, and therefore has an interest in ensuring that Western Australia's biosecurity system, including control of declared pests, is effective and appropriately resourced. WALGA considers significant changes to the operation of the State's biosecurity system, including the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007, are required to ensure these risks can be managed now and into the future.

To be effective the Western Australian biosecurity system must:

1. Take a transparent approach to the notion of 'shared responsibility' by ensuring that:
 - a. The respective roles and responsibilities of Commonwealth, State and Local Government, industry, landholders, community groups and individuals are agreed and clearly articulated; and
 - b. There is improved pest management on State Government managed land and a formalised structure for State Government agencies with responsibilities for biosecurity management to work together and coordinate their activities.
2. Be underpinned by a strategic framework, developed in collaboration with stakeholders, that:
 - a. Establishes priorities for biosecurity threats in geographically defined regions, sets measurable targets and guides investment in biosecurity activities; and
 - b. Is regularly evaluated and reported on.
3. Have a greater focus on environmental biosecurity, through the increased recognition and management of pest species that have significant ecological impacts.
4. Be adequately, sustainably, and equitably funded:
 - a. The appropriateness and effectiveness of the Declared Pest Rate (DPR) and Recognised Biosecurity Group (RBG) model as key mechanisms for the management of widespread and established declared pests should be reviewed and alternate mechanisms considered;
 - b. Increased and more equitable distribution of funding for every step in the biosecurity continuum and adequate resourcing for all stakeholders, including Local Government; and
 - c. The provision of funding for declared pest management in metropolitan areas.
5. Ensure that the criteria and process for listing of declared pests is evidence-based, timely and transparent.
6. Have an increased emphasis on compliance through education and enforcement activity, to ensure land managers are aware of their legislative responsibilities and are supported to implement biosecurity actions.
7. Facilitate the use of new technologies, strategic monitoring, and the establishment of data management systems to inform biosecurity investment decisions and support adaptive management.
8. Improve the community's understanding, awareness and action in relation to biosecurity to assist with threat surveillance and timely response to incursions.

Comment

WALGA has developed a Draft Submission (attached) for consideration by the sector and is requesting feedback by **COB Monday 26 June** (via environment@walga.asn.au). WALGA is hosting a webinar regarding Stage 3 of the Review, at 10.30am, Wednesday 14 June, with a presentation from the Chair of the Independent Review Panel, Kaylene Gulich. Register [here](#).

WALGA requests that the Zone consider the Draft Submission and provide feedback to WALGA on:

- The top priority reform areas (from the nine listed) for the Zone
- Any key reform areas which have been missed
- Feedback on WALGA's comments regarding the 21 Opportunities identified.

Local Governments are strongly encouraged to provide feedback directly to the Review Panel by Friday, 30 June 2023 through the online survey portal [here](#).

Noted

9.3 Waste Management Funding

Shire of Narrogin

The Shire of Narrogin has requested an item be discussed at the Zone meeting on the Media Statement from the Minister for the Environment, that the State Government will consult later this year with businesses and the community on a proposal to expand the levy boundary into regional areas.

The Shire of Narrogin have provided the following information:

We write to you on behalf of Shire of Narrogin to express our deep concerns regarding the proposed extension of the State Government's Waste Levy to regional Western Australia beyond the Perth Metropolitan area. We strongly urge WALGA to take immediate and resolute action by lobbying the Government and its Department of Water and Environmental Regulation WA to object to this measure.

While we understand the government's intentions to promote effective waste management and environmental sustainability, it is crucial to recognize the significant differences and unique challenges faced by rural, remote, and regional areas in managing waste. The extension of the Waste Levy without considering the lack of economies of scale and the additional burdens of transport cost and logistics in regional areas is a cause for serious concern.

One size does not fit all when it comes to waste management in Western Australia. Perth Metropolitan-centric views and solutions cannot be ascribed to regional Western Australia. The distinct characteristics of regional areas, such as lower population density, limited infrastructure, and geographical challenges, necessitate a tailored approach to waste management that aligns with the specific needs and capabilities of these communities.

The introduction of the Waste Levy to regional areas without sufficient consideration of these factors would place an undue burden on local governments, businesses, and communities. The financial implications, particularly for smaller councils with limited resources, would be substantial and could hinder their ability to effectively manage waste, invest in essential infrastructure, and meet the diverse needs of their communities.

Additionally, the transportation costs associated with waste disposal over long distances can be exorbitant and would further strain regional budgets. The remote location of many regional areas presents logistical challenges in terms of transportation and access to suitable waste management facilities. Imposing a blanket Waste Levy without addressing these fundamental issues would be unjust and inequitable to regional Western Australia.

Therefore, we respectfully request WALGA to urgently and stridently lobby the Government and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation WA on this matter. We urge WALGA to advocate against the extension of the Waste Levy to regional areas, emphasizing the need for a differentiated approach that considers the unique circumstances and challenges faced by these communities. Collaboration with regional stakeholders, local governments, and industry representatives is crucial to develop a comprehensive and sustainable waste management strategy that respects the diversity of Western Australia.

We appreciate your attention to this critical issue and trust that WALGA will champion the interests and concerns of regional Western Australia in this matter. If you require any further information or support, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Comment

WALGA's current advocacy position is as follows:

Waste Management Funding

Position Statement

Local Government considers that:

- 1. Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy funds should be hypothecated to strategic waste management activities in line with the State Waste Strategy and strongly opposes the*

- application of the Levy to non-waste management related activities, such as funding State Government core activities; and*
2. *The Levy should not be applied to licensed landfills outside the metropolitan area.*

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Leigh Ballard

Seconded: President Cr Phil Blight

That the Central Country Zone:

1. **further endorse that the Levy should not be applied to licensed landfills which receive waste from the metropolitan area; and**
2. **organise a deputation to the Minister for Environment on this matter.**

CARRIED

ACTION: the deputation to the Minister will include Cr Leigh Ballard, Cr Des Hickey, Cr Phil Blight, and Rebecca Brown

9.4 Line Marking and Road Safety

Shire of Kulin

Background

Local Governments oversee a significant portion of the road network in Western Australia, and they place a high importance on road user safety when planning maintenance, construction, and road design.

Line marking has long been recognised as a cost effective, quick solution that has immediate impact on the safety of the road user. A major recent improvement has been the introduction of the centreline separation on high-risk roads. Shoulder widening and upgrade programs have increased the distance between the traffic and the edge of seal, this is happening all over the state.

Rapid changes and adoption of vehicular technology with lane control, that does not work without an edge line, heavy vehicles that can carry a concessional payload at high speed, all mean that the road line marking standard is falling behind, especially, on rural roads.

Local Governments have always had a challenge meeting the requirements to enable new lines to be installed on construction works if there were previously no lines installed on the section of road.

Traffic volumes are the primary determining factor if full length Line Marking is to be installed.

These are:

- Rural Roads 300 Vehicles Per Day (VPD)
- Urban Roads 2500 Vehicles Per Day (VPD)

The VPD requirement is very hard to meet in country areas with a small to medium population or where the population is concentrated in agriculture, within Local Government Road networks.

The existing roads that have line marking on them:

- Meet the 300 VPD
- Layout is approved by Main Roads
- Commissioner for Main Roads responsibility
- Maintained by Main Roads as part of their maintenance programs.

There is a big impost on Main Roads WA to maintain the existing network each year and it is understood that it would be nice to line mark everything, so a guideline is required that is up to date and relevant for the current traffic conditions and road user expectations.

For the Zones consideration, an amendment to the existing and future reviewed guideline that would allow Local Governments to have line marking installed on any of their road network providing that they meet the following criteria,

1. The Local Government is to advise Main Roads WA on which roads they wish to install line marking on. Point of contact would be the current position in Main Roads that looks after line marking in each region.
2. Council resolution, confirming commitment to line marking and its ongoing maintenance.
3. Incur any cost associated with the survey and spotting.
4. Main Roads is to approve the final layout prior to line marking occurring.
5. Incur any cost to install new lines at Main Roads WA standard.
6. Incur any cost in the future to maintain the lines to the standard as per the Main Roads WA intervention parameters.
7. Seal widths of,

Centreline Markings

- Minimum 6.0m seal width – 6m is Main Roads minimum width for detours etc and would include a greater portion of existing roads.

Edge Line Markings

- Minimum 7.2m seal width.

Main Roads WA would still need to do the inspection after the survey and spotting has been completed (as is the case now) determine the start, finish points for the double barrier and record what sections of roads being line marked that would be maintained by each Local Government, which could be captured in the database Main Roads WA currently use.

It is a firm belief of the LGWA, WALGA and Safety Commission that this would be a major step forward in road safety for local roads that may not meet the VPD but are seen as part of the major road network with your local Government area. This would also not put any significant cost to Main Roads WA except the initial inspection.

It is also understood that not all Local Governments may want to add line marking to their road network due to the ongoing costs but this is to allow the ones that would like to make safety improvements to their network, the ability to do so.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Grant Robins

Seconded: Cr Robbie Bowey

That WALGA be requested to engage with Main Roads WA with a view to providing Local Government with greater flexibility and autonomy in relation to line marking thresholds and approval guidelines for rural and regional roads, consistent with the body of the report presented to the Central Country Zone meeting on 23 June 2023.

CARRIED

9.5 Regional Bank Closures

Shire of Lake Grace

The Shire of Lake Grace withdrew this item.

10. Zone Reports

10.1 Zone President Report

Zone Chair, President Leigh Ballard provided a report to the Zone.

Noted

10.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG)

Cr Katrina Crute was an apology for this meeting.

Noted

10.3 Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC)

President Leigh Ballard provided a report to the Zone.

Noted

10.4 Regional Health Advocacy Group

Ms Natalie Manton provided an update to the Zone.

Noted

10.5 WALGA RoadWise

Rodney Thornton, Regional Road Safety Advisor, was an apology for the meeting.

Noted

11. Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) Business

11.1 State Councillor Report

President Cr Phillip Blight

The following comments/notes are provided on the WALGA State Council Meeting held on Wednesday 3 May 2023

Strategic Forum

Economist at WALGA Dan Thompson gave a well well-received presentation. I suggest that he be invited to a future CC Zone meeting.

There was discussion on the planned increase in street lighting tariff however many were unaware of this at the time. It has since been addressed by the ERA and the increase limited.

There was a survey done re LG Audits which it had been thought to it appeared as if many were yet to be finalised, however as the survey came in many were closing.

It was suggested that LG's keep notes of their interactions with Auditors.

7.1 Best Practice Governance Review – Feedback on Governance Model

It was noted that:

Except as provided in this Constitution, all matters considered at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting of the Association shall be passed by a simple majority of the Ordinary Members' delegates or by a duly authorised proxy vote exercised on their behalf.

The motion from the CC Zone and other zones that:

“Any decision by the Members to alter the governance structure of WALGA be put as a standalone item prior to consideration of constitutional amendments”.

This had the potential to create a constitutional impasse if it was passed by 51% but then constitutional amendments lost because 75% majority is required.

The motion

That:

1. *This report summarising feedback from Members on the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report be received.*
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 current constitution to address inconsistencies and other issues while maintaining the current governance model.*

Carried

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Karen Harrington
Seconded: President Cr Des Hickey

That the State Councillor Report be received.

CARRIED

11.2 WALGA Status Report

By Tony Brown, Zone Executive Officer

BACKGROUND

Presenting the Status Report for June 2023 which contains WALGA’s responses to the resolutions of previous Zone Meetings.

CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE STATUS REPORT June 2023

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Central C	2022, 18 February Zone Agenda Item 11.1	That the Central Country Zone recommend that the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group be disbanded and request WALGA to consider establishing a policy forum to encompass all Freight issues.	<p>The Infrastructure Policy Team noted that a decision to disband the Agricultural Freight Group is a matter for the participating Zones.</p> <p>The Infrastructure Policy Team considered potential terms of reference for an Agricultural Freight Policy Forum at their December meeting and ultimately determined to ask WALGA staff to identify deficiencies in the current State Government freight strategy in the Agricultural region to inform their consideration. The strategy is covered in five documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revitalising Agricultural Region Freight Strategy (2018) • Draft South West Supply Chain Strategy (2020) • Regional Freight Plan (2013) • Agricultural Supply Chain Improvement Program (ASCI) – Phase 1 (2021) • Infrastructure Australia – Western Australia Agricultural Supply Chain Improvements Proposal <p>The December Policy Team meeting did not have time to further discuss deficiencies in the strategy that may support the case for a Policy Forum.</p> <p>In the immediate term, funding that has been provided by the Federal Government, specifically in the Secondary Freight network programs (Wheatbelt, Mid West and Great Southern)</p>	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031

			and rail siding investments exceed the capacity of the construction industry to deliver. However, there is likely to be the need for strategic planning for medium term investments.		
Central C	25 November 2022 Zone Agenda Item 10.1 Aged Care Services	That the Zone request WALGA to research the impact of this issue on local communities in WA and look to engage the Commonwealth and State Minister of Health and Health Departments to consider solutions.	<p>WALGA has followed up with ALGA to determine if there is a state-wide Local Government response to the 24/7 initiative in the regions. LGNSW have undertaken advocacy in the space around workforce issues and funding for Council run aged care services in regional areas.</p> <p>Research has been undertaken which indicates that residential aged care facilities with 30 or less approved beds in Modified Monash Model 5-7 locations will be eligible for a one-off 12-month exemption from the 24/7 RN responsibility. Additionally, residential aged care facilities with, on average, 60 residents or less per day will be eligible for a funding supplement to employ extra RNs to deliver 24/7 RN care.</p> <p>The Federal Government has advised that they are undertaking work to further develop and refine the 24/7 RN responsibility, including modelling aged care RN workforce shortages by region to better inform future exemption arrangements.</p> <p>WALGA has made enquiries with the Department of Health and Aged Care and Roslyn Smith, Assistant Director WA Regional Office is available to attend a Zone meeting to discuss the issue further. Contact details have been provided to Secretariat.</p> <p>COMPLETE</p>	June 2023	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039

<p>Central C</p>	<p>3 May 2023 State Council Agenda Item 7.1 Best Practice Governance Review – Feedback on Governance Model</p>	<p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This report summarising feedback from Members on the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report be received; 2. Any decision by the Members to alter the governance structure of WALGA be put as a standalone item prior to consideration of constitutional amendments; and 3. 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>State Council resolved that an item be prepared for the July State Council meeting proposing amendments to the current model and the alternative model.</p> <p>State Council Resolution</p> <p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This report summarising feedback from Members on the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report be received; 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Give effect to the revised Model 1, as per the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report; and b. Refine the current constitution to address inconsistencies and other issues while maintaining the current governance model. 	<p>June 2023</p>	<p>Tony Brown Executive Director, Member Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au</p>
<p>Central C</p>	<p>14 April 2023 Zone Agenda Item 9.1 Financial Burden to Local Governments of Optional Preferential Voting</p>	<p>That WALGA forms a policy position and advocates that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. any Western Australian Electoral Commission fee increases for the 2023 Local Government elections are capped at 10% when compared with the 2021 rates; and 2. the CountWA software from Western Australian Electoral Commission is provided to Local Governments free of charge for the 2023 and subsequent Local Government elections. 	<p>This item has been referred to the Governance & Organisational Services Policy Team who will recommend an item to State Council. The Zone will be kept informed as this item progresses.</p>	<p>June 2023</p>	<p>Tony Brown Executive Director, Member Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au</p>
<p>Central C</p>	<p>2020 February 21 Zone Agenda Item 12.1 General Practitioner Services in Rural Areas - Shire of Corrigin</p>	<p>That WALGA be requested to investigate tendering issues around General Practitioner Services in Rural Areas with consideration given to including an exemption from tendering for such services under the Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996.</p>	<p>The Minister for Local Government has introduced regulatory amendments to provide a tender exemption when renewing a GP contract.</p> <p>This matter is an advocacy success for the Zone and WALGA.</p>	<p>June 2023</p>	<p>Tony Brown Executive Director, Member Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au</p>

<p>Central C</p>	<p>2021 19 November Zone Agenda Item 12.1 Sector ICT solution</p>	<p>That the Zone request WALGA to research providers and the viability of an in-house IT system.</p>	<p>The idea of an all-of-sector model ICT solution is not viable for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different size Local Governments – no one size fits all; • Local Government’s being at different levels of need and maturity in the ICT requirements; • We are unlikely to get the requisite LG buy-in to warrant the investment; and • The inherent complexity of a custom-built system is time and cost prohibitive. <p>A more workable suggestion is for a group of similar size/maturity level Local Governments to engage a consultant to define a model set that meets their needs. Any recommendations could be reviewed by a representative of the LG ICT Managers Network to ensure it is appropriate.</p> <p>It would be expected that the following range of recommendations are achievable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable hardware requirements (including remote options where appropriate) • Suggested lightweight accounting software • Baseline model directory structure • Security options • Backup software and procedures • Suitable internet options <p>WALGA is looking to assist in facilitating discussions on a shared service model to research this with a group of Local Governments further. Due to work priorities this work was not carried out in 2022, however work is scheduled this year.</p>	<p>June 2023</p>	<p>Tony Brown Executive Director, Member Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au</p>
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Zone Comment

This is an opportunity for Member Councils to consider the response from WALGA in respect to the matters that were submitted at the previous Zone Meeting.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Julie Ramm

Seconded: Cr Jackie McBurney

That the Central Country Zone, WALGA Status Report for June 2023 be noted.

CARRIED

11.3 WALGA President's Report

WALGA President Cr Karen Chappel presented the President' Report.

The WALGA President's Report was attached to the Agenda. **(Attachment 5.)**

Noted

11.4 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Matters for Decision

11.4.1 State Council Agenda Items – 5 July 2023
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Background

WALGA State Council meets five times each year and as part of the consultation process with Member Councils circulates the State Council Agenda for input through the Zone structure.

The full State Council Agenda can be found via this link: [State Council Agenda 5 July 2023](#)

The Zone is able to provide comment or submit an alternative recommendation that is then presented to the State Council for consideration.

Matters for Decision**7.1 Review of Urban Forest Advocacy Position****Executive Summary**

- It is proposed that the 2017 Advocacy Position 4.6 Urban Forestry be replaced with a new position that reflects Local Governments' urban forest advocacy priorities.
- The new position has been prepared in collaboration with the officers of the Local Government Urban Forest Working Group and has been endorsed by both the People and Place Policy Team and Environment and Waste Policy Team at a special joint meeting on 31 May 2023.

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA endorse a new Advocacy Position 4.6 Urban Forest as follows:

To promote the growth of Western Australia's urban forest the State Government should:

1. Identify a lead agency with responsibility for setting the strategic direction and oversight of urban forest initiatives.
2. In consultation with Local Government:
 - a. Develop an Urban Forest Strategy, based on the overarching principles of a resilient, connected, expanded and equitable urban forest including:

- i. an overall tree canopy target for the Perth and Peel regions,
 - ii. robust and contemporary data to inform decision making,
 - iii. funding mechanisms to support growth in urban canopy.
- b. Develop contemporary legislative and policy mechanisms to enable the protection and growth of urban forest, including:
 - i. an effective and efficient regulatory mechanism that allows Local Government to consider the removal or alteration of a significant tree as a form of development.
 - ii. prioritisation of trees and vegetation as a key structural element in the design of new neighbourhoods to facilitate climate resilient and liveable communities.
 - iii. consideration of public realm design to maximise opportunities for tree retention and new planting consistent with any tree canopy targets.
3. Work with Local Government and other stakeholders to increase community awareness and promote behaviour change in relation to urban forest growth and retention to support State and Local Government targets and action.
4. Provide recurrent funding for a comprehensive and accessible Urban Greening Grant program to support Local Government investment in public realm planting, focusing on high urban heat areas and enhancing biodiversity outcomes.

7.2 State Planning Policy 3.7 – Bushfire

Executive Summary

- *State Planning Policy 3.7 Bushfire* (SPP3.7) directs how land use and planning proposals should address bushfire risk in Western Australia. It applies to all land designated as bushfire prone, which is approximately 93% of the state.
- The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage has released a revised version of SPP3.7 and *Planning for Bushfire Guidelines* for public comment.
- Future changes to the *Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas* are planned that will create a revised mapping standard for lower risk areas, such as significantly built-up urban areas.
- The revised SPP 3.7 and Guidelines propose a nuanced response compared to the existing policy framework, with the intent of better reflecting the type of planning or development proposal and the level of bushfire risk.
- WALGA's submission generally supports the revised SPP3.7 and Guidelines. The more nuanced policy response better reflects the level of bushfire risk across the State and is a positive evolution of policy design. Several matters of concern and technical comments are raised in the submission.
- The public comment period closes on Monday, 17 July 2023.

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA endorse the submission on State Planning Policy 3.7 Bushfire and the Planning for Bushfire Guidelines.

7.3 Reforming WA Disability Legislation Submission

Executive Summary

- In March 2023, the Department of Communities (DoC) released the consultation paper 'Reforming WA Disability Legislation'.
- DoC is developing new disability legislation for Western Australia, largely driven by the State Disability Strategy 2020-2030 and the recommendations of the *Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability*.
- Under the current *Disability Services Act 1993* (DSA), Local Governments are legislated to implement Disability Access and Inclusion Plans (DAIPs).
- WALGA has consulted with the sector and developed a submission with 11 key recommendations.

- The recommendations make the case for additional measures to support Local Governments implement DAIPs to deliver enhanced access and inclusion outcomes within local communities through standardized governance, training, support, and funding.

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA endorse the submission to the Department of Communities relating to the Consultation Paper – Reforming WA Disability Legislation.

7.4 Landfill Bans Advocacy Position

Executive Summary

- The State Government has committed to delivering a state-wide E-waste ban to landfill by 2024, with the aim of improving management and recycling of e-waste produced by households and businesses across the State.
- Consultation has occurred on the proposed ban and a WALGA Submission on this matter was endorsed by State Council in March 2023.
- A key recommendation of this and previous WALGA Submissions is that any material subject to landfill bans must be covered by a fully effective product stewardship scheme prior to ban implementation.
- Without effective product stewardship arrangements in place for items covered under landfill bans, the burden of managing the product at end of life falls disproportionately to Local Governments.
- A new advocacy position is proposed that makes it clear that landfill bans are not supported in the absence of effective product stewardship schemes, or other funding mechanisms, for products which would be subject to the ban.
- A contemporary and clear advocacy position on landfill bans will enable WALGA to strongly discourage this policy approach and advocate to the Government for the range of conditions necessary to increase resource recovery and reduce disposal of material to landfill.

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA endorse the following Landfill Ban Advocacy Position:

Landfill bans are not supported in the absence of effective product stewardship schemes, or other funding mechanisms, for products which would be subject to the ban.

7.5 Audit Experience Survey Results and Advocacy Position

Executive Summary

- In April, WALGA in partnership with LG Professionals WA conducted a survey of the Local Government sector to seek feedback on the annual audit process.
- A range of views were captured in the feedback, both positive and negative.
- The responses highlighted five key emerging issues in the audit process:
 - timeframe and delays;
 - additional workload on Local Government staff;
 - cost;
 - inconsistent advice from contract Auditors and the OAG; and
 - asset valuation requirements.
- WALGA and LG Professionals will continue to work with the OAG to reform the audit process in line with sector feedback, with a particular focus on those issues above.

WALGA Recommendation

That:

1. State Council note the Audit Experience Survey Results Summary; and
2. WALGA advocate to the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) to reform the audit process for Local Governments by seeking:
 - a. Audits of Local Governments are completed and reported on in a timely manner and that the processes, procedures, and scope of audits are consistently applied.
 - b. That the OAG review the requirements for pre-audit information with a view to reducing the need for additional information where possible;
 - c. That the OAG review their costing formulae for Local Government audits and show constraint in audit cost increases;
 - d. That the OAG provide a breakdown on the cost of the audit and justification for any variance to the estimate to the Local Government as part of the final billing process;
 - e. That auditors be required to improve their communication and information management and avoid repeated requests for information that has already been provided;
 - f. That Local Governments only be required to communicate with contract Auditors (*unless the OAG is directly auditing the Local Government*) and the onus be placed on the contract Auditors to confirm their advice with the OAG before instructing the Local Government; and
 - g. In-conjunction with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, review the application of Fair Value principles in the context of the audit.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Robbie Bowey
 Seconded: President Cr Julie Ramm

That:

1. State Council note the Audit Experience Survey Results Summary; and
2. WALGA advocate to the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) to reform the audit process for Local Governments by seeking:
 - a. Audits of Local Governments are completed and reported on in a timely manner and that the processes, procedures, and scope of audits are consistently applied.
 - b. That the OAG review the requirements for pre-audit information with a view to reducing the need for additional information where possible;
 - c. That the OAG review their costing formulae for Local Government audits and show constraint in audit cost increases;
 - d. That the OAG provide a breakdown on the cost of the audit and justification for any variance to the estimate to the Local Government as part of the final billing process;
 - e. That auditors be required to improve their communication and information management and avoid repeated requests for information that has already been provided;
 - f. That Local Governments only be required to communicate with contract Auditors (*unless the OAG is directly auditing the Local Government*) and the onus be placed on the contract Auditors to confirm their advice with the OAG before instructing the Local Government; and
 - g. In-conjunction with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, review the application of Fair Value principles in the context of the audit, including considering removing the impost of revaluing non-financial assets (roads and footpaths) from financial reporting requirements for Local Governments.

CARRIED

7.6 Amendments to WALGA's Constitution

Executive Summary

- At its last meeting, State Council resolved for two sets of constitutional changes to be developed for consideration by State Council, with the intention that Members would consider both sets of amendments at the 2023 Annual General Meeting:
 - One set to give effect to the alternate model, as per the [Best Practice Governance Review Final Report](#); and
 - A second set to refine the current Constitution to address inconsistencies and other issues while maintaining the current governance model.
- The constitutional changes have been prepared by legal firm, Jackson McDonald.
- Amendments to the [Association Constitution](#) require both a special (75 percent) majority at State Council and a special (75 percent) majority at a General Meeting of Members.
- Consequently, if the proposed sets of amendments are endorsed by State Council, they will be put to the 2023 Annual General Meeting on Monday, 18 September.

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council endorse putting two items to the 2023 Annual General Meeting that:

1. propose a new Constitution to give effect to the alternate governance model as per the attached; and
2. amend the Constitution to retain the current governance model with necessary changes, as per the attached mark-up.

VOTING REQUIREMENT: 75% SPECIAL MAJORITY

Policy Team Reports

8.1 Environment and Waste Policy Team Report

Landfill Bans

The Policy Team considered and recommended State Councils endorsement of the proposed Policy Position on Landfill Bans (see [Agenda Item 7.4](#)).

Matters Referred by Zones

Avon-Midland Country Zone referred comments regarding clearing permits and recommending a fee to lodge an appeal against the grant, conditions or amendment of a clearing permit. The Policy Team noted the recommendation from the Zone but decided that WALGA should not advocate for the introduction of a fee in relation to clearing permit appeals. The Policy Team noted WALGA's policy priority to support Local Governments to deliver on their statutory obligations related to native vegetation clearing, including development of a strategic biodiversity offset framework as part of the implementation of the State Native Vegetation Policy. WALGA provided additional feedback to the Zone which is included in the Zone Status report.

The North Metropolitan Zone requested a report on the progress of community batteries from WALGA. WALGA has provided the Zone with information on Round 1 of the [ARENA Community Battery Funding](#). The Zone has been encouraged to invite Western Power and Synergy, who are undertaking community battery installation across WA, to attend the next Zone meeting to directly address the issues raised.

Updates provided

The following updates were noted:

- **Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) EV charging infrastructure funding application:** WALGA is finalising the Expression of Interest to submit to ARENA for consideration at its 7 June Panel meeting (Note: this has now been lodged). This project:
 - Has the commitment of 22 Local Governments, representing 58% of the Western Australian population, to accelerate the transition to BEVs.
 - Will require 112 AC and 35 DC dual outlet chargers.

- Will see the purchase of 121 light BEVs, and software for charging infrastructure, at a cost of \$7.11 million, by the 22 participating Local Governments.
- Will accelerate these Local Governments transition to BEV's by an average of 2 years and provide the infrastructure to assist Local Governments into the medium and long term phases of their transition plans. The participating Local Governments have a fleet of over 900 vehicles.
- Has secured a \$1 million State Government funding commitment to this project, which has been used to reduce the funding requested from ARENA.
- Is seeking ARENA funding of \$4.22 million, to contribute towards the purchase and installation of the charging infrastructure.
- Has a total project budget of \$12.128 million and if funded, will be implemented from January 2024 to June 2025.
- **Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act (BAM Act) Review** has developed a draft submission on the proposed reforms for sector feedback **by 26 June 2023**. The draft submission provides analysis against the [WALGA Biosecurity advocacy position](#), endorsed by State Council in December 2023 and on anticipated benefits or issues of the proposed reforms. The draft submission will be provided as an item for Zones' consideration in the June round of meetings. As well as providing comments to WALGA, Local Governments are being strongly encouraged to [respond directly](#) to DPIRD by 30 June.
- **Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB)**: The quarantine zone for the PSHB has expanded and now covers the majority of the metropolitan area. To ensure Local Governments are informed regarding the potential implications of the PSHB and their legislative requirements, WALGA is hosted an online information session on Tuesday 9 May. WALGA is also engaging with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to ensure the sector is informed, and engaged, ahead of any further changes to the quarantine zone.
- **Draft State Waste Infrastructure Plan**: The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation has released the draft [Western Australia State Waste Infrastructure Plan](#) for comment, with consultation open until 23 June 2023. WALGA hosted an online information session on Wednesday 31 May for Local Governments to provide feedback on a draft Submission.
- **Urban Forest**: In 2022 WALGA, through the Urban Forest Working Group, developed an Issues Paper: *Local Government Approaches to Tree Retention*.
 - The Issues Paper identified the key challenges faced by Local Government using existing measures for tree retention and explored opportunities for further measures. In July 2022, a briefing was provided to the Environment and Waste Policy Team on the key legal issues identified. WALGA has recently completed a procurement process for the legal advice on these issues, appointing McLeod's, and anticipates provision of the advice within 3 months.
 - Local Governments will be able to 'buy-in' to the legal advice for a nominal fee. Based on the success of the coastal planning legal advice project, WALGA anticipates at least 50 Local Governments will purchase the advice, representing a \$1m saving for the sector compared to each Local Government seeking the advice individually.
 - The findings of the advice will be used to inform WALGA's ongoing advocacy around urban forest, assist Local Governments in updating their planning frameworks to improve protections for existing significant trees.

At the meeting on 31 May 2023, the Environment and Waste Policy Team considered an item on updating the Urban Forest Policy advocacy position in conjunction with the People and Place Policy Team (see [Agenda Item 7.1](#)).

WALGA Recommendation

That the matters considered by the Environment and Waste Policy Team be noted.

8.2 Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team Report

The GOS Policy Team provides recommendations regarding three [Advocacy Positions](#) for State Council's decision.

Advocacy Position 2.1.10 Recovery of Rates and Service Charges

Policy Team Comment: Amendment of s.6.56 of the *Local Government Act 1995* has not been addressed in the current Local Government Amendment Bill 2023 and the matter is therefore unresolved. **Recommend State Council retain Advocacy Position 2.1.10 Recovery of Rates and Service Charges**

Advocacy Position 2.5.25 Attendance at Council Meetings by Technology

Policy Team Comment: This advocacy position has been achieved through the *Local Government (Administration) Amendment Regulations 2022*, implemented in November 2022, which included provisions that enable Council Members to individually attend by electronic means up to half the council or committee meetings held within any 12-month period. **Recommend State Council delete Advocacy Position 2.5.25 Attendance at Council Meetings by Technology**

Advocacy Position 2.5.31 Annual Electors' General Meetings

Policy Team Comment: The Minister for Local Government has not included or proposed a provision in the current Local Government Act Reform proposals that would give effect to this advocacy position. **Recommend State Council retain Advocacy Position 2.5.31 Annual Elector's General Meetings**

The GOS Policy Team endorsed the WALGA 2023 State Wage Case submission at its meeting held on 3 May, subject to the submission including an example of the street lighting costs.

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council:

1. **retain, without amendment, Advocacy Positions:**
 - (a) **2.1.10 Recovery of Rates and Service Charges; and**
 - (b) **2.5.31 Annual Electors' General Meetings;**
2. **delete Advocacy Position 2.5.25 Attendance at Council Meetings by Technology; and**
3. **notes that the Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team endorsed the WALGA 2023 State Wage Case submission.**

8.3 Infrastructure Policy Team Report

The Infrastructure Policy Team noted the expanding number of activities and prioritised:

- Developing effective responses to barriers and challenges to achieving timely and on-budget deliver of funded road projects in conjunction with Regional Road Groups;
- Revising and providing updated tools, model policies and advice to Local Governments concerning heavy vehicle cost recovery, including options available to Councils considering extending access to concessional mass vehicles;
- Improving the implementation and effectiveness of Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, noting that there are currently three on-going inquiries or reviews initiated by the Commonwealth, and a need to resolve implementation issues with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services;
- Addressing management of road works during Total Fire Bans.

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note the matters considered by the Infrastructure Policy Team.

8.4 People and Place Policy Team Report

At the meeting on 31 May, the People and Place Policy Team:

- In conjunction with the Environment and Waste Policy Team, endorsed a new Urban Forest advocacy position for consideration by State Council (see [Agenda Item 7.1](#));
- Endorsed the WALGA submission on Consistent Local Planning Schemes and an updated Planning Reform advocacy position for consideration by State Council via the Flying Minute process;

- Noted a matter referred from Peel Country Zone on the establishment of a Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan (CHRMAP) Taskforce and endorsed actions to be undertaken by WALGA Secretariat, including the preparation of a discussion paper on the matter; and
- Endorsed the WALGA submission to the Department of Communities on Reforming WA Disability Legislation (see [Agenda Item 7.3](#)).

At the meeting on 3 May, the People and Place Policy Team:

- Received a presentation from the Planning and Building Team on Non-Residential Car Parking Requirements – Draft Interim Guidance;
- Received a presentation from the Planning and Building Team on Local Government Planning and Building Performance for the 2022-23 reporting year (see [Agenda Item 9.3](#));
- Received an update from the Planning and Building Team on WALGA’s work on planning fees and charges; and
- Received an update from the Planning and Building Team on Urban Forest.

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note the matters considered by the People and Place Policy Team.

8.5 Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Report

Submission on WA Container Deposit Scheme Expansion

A [Discussion Paper](#) has been released on expanding the scope of the eligible containers covered by the WA Container Deposit Scheme. The scope of the proposed expansion includes glass wine and spirit bottles, and beverage containers up to 3L.

The draft Submission supports the expansion of the Scheme and proposes that plain and milk alternatives also be included. The Draft Submission was circulated for Local Government consultation during March, with general support received. WALGA has also been appointed to a Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Working Group focusing on the expansion of the Scheme.

MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MOTION

That the Municipal Waste Advisory Council endorse the Submission on Discussion Paper: Container Deposit Scheme – Expanding the Scope of Eligible Beverage Containers.

Policy Position Landfill Bans

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation released a [Consultation Paper](#) on the proposed e-waste 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.

A Submission on DWER’s Consultation Paper was circulated for State Council and MWAC endorsement out of session following Local Government engagement. A key recommendation of the Submission is that any material subject to landfill bans be covered by a fully effective product stewardship scheme prior to ban implementation. This item is included in the State Council [Agenda item 7.4](#).

MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MOTION

That the Municipal Waste Advisory Council endorse the Policy Position:

Landfill bans are not supported in the absence of effective product stewardship schemes, or other funding mechanisms, for products which would be subject to the ban.

MWAC discussed the following matters:

- Release of the draft [State Waste Infrastructure Plan](#): The draft Plan is open for consultation until 23 June 2023. The draft Plan has been developed to guide decision making for the planning

and development of waste infrastructure in Western Australia and focuses on the built waste and recycling infrastructure needed to achieve 2030 State Waste Strategy targets. MWAC provided initial feedback on the Draft to inform the development of the WALGA Submission.

- *Review of Waste Policy Statements:* WALGA has 8 Waste Management related [Policy Statements](#) in place with publication dates ranging from 2003 to 2018. While much of the content is still relevant, the statements need to be reviewed to ensure currency of references and information as well as consistency of approach. The proposed scheduled for review was agreed:
 - In progress: Household Hazardous Waste and Waste Management Education (consider revisions June Officer Advisory Group (OAG)/MWAC)
 - Initial Review June OAG/MWAC: Waste management data and information management (consider revisions August OAG/MWAC)
 - Initial Review August OAG/MWAC: Standards for Recycled Organics Applied to Land (consider revisions October OAG/MWAC)
 - Initial Review October OAG/MWAC: Waste Levy Policy statement (consider revisions December OAG/MWAC).
 - Reviewed in 2024: Container Deposit Systems, Extended Producer Responsibility and Waste management legislation.
- Packaging Product Stewardship and national advocacy on flexible plastic recycling.
- WALGA's investigations into e-cigarette disposal options and the regulatory framework for used and disposal of these products and advocacy underway.
- Contingency Planning for waste management, including the development of a Mutual Assistance Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Local Governments and WALGA Preferred Suppliers of waste fleet.
- Waste management and biosecurity, including:
 - working with Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) on undertaking preparedness activities for any disposal requirements resulting from Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), such as landfill capacity and resourcing, logistics and communications as part of a coordinated emergency response.
 - the expansion of the Quarantine Area, for the invasive Polyphagous Shot-hole Borer, impacts 25 Local Government FOGO, GO and verge collections.

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note the resolutions of the 19 April 2023 Municipal Waste Advisory Council.

Matters for Noting/Information

- 9.1 Flying Minute – Submission to 2023 State Wage Case
- 9.2 Environmental Protection Amendment Regulations 2022: Consultation Response
- 9.3 Local Government Performance Monitoring Project
- 9.4 Street Lighting Tariffs
- 9.5 2023-24 Federal and State Budgets
- 9.6 Update on the Commencement of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021
- 9.7 State Award Variations Impacting on Local Governments

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Julie Ramm
Seconded: Cr Jackie McBurney

That the Central Country Zone

1. **Supports Matters for Decision, items 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4 and 7.6 and items 8.1 to 8.5 as listed above in the July 2023 State Council Agenda.**

2. **Notes all Matters for Noting and Organisational Reports as listed in the July 2023 State Council Agenda.**

CARRIED

12. Emerging Issues

12.1 Strategic Planning workdhop

The Zone agreed to hold a Strategic Planning session immediately before the next meeting on Friday, 18 August 2023.

13. Date, Time, and Place of Next Meetings

The next Central Country Zone meeting will be held on Friday, 18 August 2023 commencing at 9:30am. This meeting will be hosted by the Shire of Kulin.

14. Closure

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 12:40pm.