



# **Great Eastern Country Zone Minutes**

**Monday, 20 November 2023**  
**Commencing at 9:36am**

**Shire of Kellerberrin**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1. Opening and Welcome ..... 4
  - 1.1 Acknowledgement of Country..... 4
- The first item of the meeting was the conduct of elections. .... 4
- 2. ELECTIONS ..... 4
  - 2.1 Elections of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Great Eastern Country Zone..... 4
  - 2.2 Elections of State Council Representatives and Deputy State Council Representatives to the Great Eastern Country Zone..... 5
  - 2.3 Election of up to three (3) Zone Executive Committee Members of the Great Eastern Country Zone ..... 6
  - 2.4 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee/ Wheatbelt Operational Area Support Group Committee of the Great Eastern Country Zone – 1 Delegate and 1 Deputy Delegate..... 6
  - 2.5 Election of the Regional Health Advocacy Representative of the Great Eastern Country Zone – 1 Delegate and 1 Deputy Delegate..... 7
- 3. Attendance and Apologies ..... 7
- 4. Declarations of Interest..... 10
- 5. Announcements..... 10
- 6. Guest Speakers / Deputations ..... 10
  - 6.1 Speakers for the November Zone Meeting ..... 10
  - 2.1 Elections of the Deputy Chair of the Great Eastern Country Zone ..... 11
  - 2.3 Election of up to three (3) Zone Executive Committee Members of the Great Eastern Country Zone ..... 11
- 7. Members of Parliament..... 11
- 8. Agency Reports ..... 12
  - 8.1 Department of Local Government, Sport, and Cultural Industries ..... 12
  - 8.2 Wheatbelt Development Commission..... 12
  - 8.3 Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt..... 13
  - 8.4 Main Roads Western Australia ..... 13
  - 8.5 Water Corporation ..... 13
- 9. Minutes..... 13
  - 9.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on Monday 21 August 2023 ..... 13
  - 9.2 Business Arising from the Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting held on Monday 21 August 2023..... 13
- 10. Zone Business..... 14
  - 10.1 Wheatbelt Human Services Management Forum..... 14
  - 10.2 Wheatbelt Human Services Management Forum Representative of the Great Eastern Country Zone – 1 Delegate and 1 Deputy Delegate ..... 14
  - 10.3 Proposed 2024 meeting dates..... 15
  - 10.7 Audited Financial Statements to 30 June 2023..... 17
- 11. Zone Reports..... 18

- 11.1 Zone President Report ..... 18
- 11.2 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) ..... 18
- 11.3 Regional Health Advocacy Group..... 18
- 11.4 WALGA RoadWise..... 18
- 12. Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) Business ..... 18
  - 12.1 State Councillor Report ..... 18
  - 12.2 WALGA Status Report ..... 20
  - 12.3 State Council Agenda Items – 6 December 2023 ..... 21
  - 12.4 WALGA President’s Report – December 2023 ..... 25
- 13. Emerging Issues..... 25
- 14. Date, Time, and Place of Next Meetings..... 26
- 15. Closure..... 26

## 1. Opening and Welcome

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9.36am.

### 1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

We, the Great Eastern Country Zone of WALGA acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this land, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and future.

The first item of the meeting was the conduct of elections.

## 2. ELECTIONS

Pursuant to the WALGA Constitution, the Secretariat assumed the Chair for conducting the election of office bearers.

Guidelines for elections were distributed to Member Councils via email dated 19 October 2023.

Nominations were asked to be submitted preferably by Wednesday, 8 November. However, nominations can still be submitted prior to the commencement of the Zone meeting and from the floor.

### 2.1 Elections of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Great Eastern Country Zone

The election for the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson was conducted and the term set at two years expiring in November 2025, in line with the terms of State Council representatives and in sync with Local Government Elections.

#### Zone Chairperson:

The following nomination were received for the positions of Chair for 2 years, November 2023 to November 2025.

- Cr Tony Sachse Shire of Mt Marshall

No further nominations were received.

## DECLARATION

**That Cr Tony Sachse is declared elected as Chairperson of the of the Great Eastern Country Zone for the term of 2 years, November 2023 to November 2025.**

#### Deputy Zone Chairperson:

No written nominations were received for the position of Deputy Chairperson. Nominations were called from the floor.

The initial nominations were received from the floor:

- Cr Mark McKenzie Shire of Merredin

Cr McKenzie was not in attendance at the meeting. On contacting Cr McKenzie, he declined the nomination.

**The position was not filled.**

## **2.2 Elections of State Council Representatives and Deputy State Council Representatives to the Great Eastern Country Zone**

WALGA incorporates a 24 members State Council with its members derived from Metropolitan and Country Zones. The State Council is chaired by the Association President.

In accordance with sub-clause 9(3) of the WALGA Constitution representatives and deputy representatives to the State Council shall be elected by Zones of the Metropolitan and Country constituencies for two (2) year terms, commencing from the Ordinary Meeting of State Council in December 2021 and concluding at the Ordinary Meeting of State Council two years later.

For the Great Eastern Country Zone, there is one (1) representative position on State Council and one (1) deputy representative position. The term is from the Ordinary Meeting of State Council in December 2023 and concluding at the Ordinary Meeting of State Council in December 2025.

### State Councillor:

The following written nominations were received for the position of State Council Representative:

- Cr Stephen Strange                      Shire of Bruce Rock

No further nominations were received.

### **DECLARATION**

**That**

**Cr Stephen Strange is declared elected as State Council Representative of the Great Eastern Country Zone to the State Council for the term of 2 years, December 2023 to December 2025.**

### Deputy State Councillor:

The following written nominations were received for the position of Deputy State Council Representative.

- Cr Stephen Strange                      Shire of Bruce Rock
- Cr Tony Sachse                              Shire of Mt Marshall

As Cr Stephen Strange was elected State Councillor, his nomination for Deputy State Councillor lapsed .

No further nominations were received.

### **DECLARATION**

**That**

**Cr Tony Sachse is declared elected as Deputy State Council Representative of the Great Eastern Country Zone to the State Council for the term of 2 years, December 2023 to December 2025.**

### We asked the elected delegates to note the following details:

WALGA will host a 'State Councillor Induction Session' on 30 November, 2023.

Further information will be e-mailed shortly.

**2.3 Election of up to three (3) Zone Executive Committee Members of the Great Eastern Country Zone**

Automatic Executive Committee membership will include the Zone Chair , Deputy Zone Chair and the State Council Representative.

The election for the Zone Executive Committee representatives shall be conducted and the term set at two years expiring in November 2025, in line with the terms of Zone Delegates and in sync with Local Government Elections.

Nominations for up to three Zone Executive Committee Representatives will be taken from the floor.

Should a ballot be required, nominees will be afforded the opportunity to provide a two (2) minute election bid.

Each voting delegate will be entitled to cast one (1) vote in the ballot process. The candidates with the greater number of votes will be elected.

- Cr Mark Crees                                      Shire of Westonia
- Cr Pippa De Lacy                                      Shire of Nungarin
- Cr Melanie Brown                                      Shire of Trayning

**DECLARATION**

**That Cr Mark Creese and Cr Melanie Brown and Cr Pippa DeLacy, are declared elected as Zone Executive Committee representative for the term of 2 years, November 2023 to November 2025.**

**2.4 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee/ Wheatbelt Operational Area Support Group Committee of the Great Eastern Country Zone – 1 Delegate and 1 Deputy Delegate**

The election for the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee/ Wheatbelt Operational Area Support Group Committee delegates of the Great Eastern Country Zone shall be conducted.

Delegate

Nominations were taken from the floor.

- Cr Tony Sachshe                                      Shire of Mount Marshall

**DECLARATION**

**That Cr Tony Sachse is declared elected as Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee Delegate/Wheatbelt Operational Area Support Group Committee of the Great Eastern Country Zone**

Deputy Delegate

Nominations were taken from the floor.

- Cr Melanie Brown Shire of Trayning

**DECLARATION**

**That Cr Melanie Brown is declared elected as Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee/ Wheatbelt Operational Area Support Group Committee Deputy Delegate of the Great Eastern Country Zone**

<b>2.5 Election of the Regional Health Advocacy Representative of the Great Eastern Country Zone – 1 Delegate and 1 Deputy Delegate</b>
---

The election for the Regional Health Advocacy Representative of the Great Eastern Country Zone shall be conducted.

Delegate

Nominations were taken from the floor.

- Cr Alison Harris Shire of Cunderdin

**DECLARATION**

**That Cr Alison Harris is declared elected as the Regional Health Advocacy Representative Delegate of the Great Eastern Country Zone.**

Deputy Delegate

Nominations for the Regional Health Advocacy Representative Deputy Delegate were taken from the floor.

- Cr Ramesh (Ram) Rajagopalan Shire of Bruce Rock

**DECLARATION**

**That Cr Ramesh (Ram) Rajagopalan is declared elected as the Regional Health Advocacy Representative Deputy Delegate of the Great Eastern Country Zone.**

*At the conclusion of the election process, Cr Tony Sachse assumed the Chair.*

*Cr Sachse congratulated all those recently elected and thanked delegates for their contribution to the Zone.*

**3. Attendance and Apologies**

**Shire of Bruce Rock**

President Cr Ram Rajagopalan

Cr Stephen Strange

Mr Darren Mollenoyux, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

<b>Shire of Cunderdin</b>	President Cr Alison Harris Mr Stuart Hobley, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Dowerin</b>	President Cr Robert Trepp Deputy President Cr Nadine McMorran
<b>Shire of Kellerberrin</b>	Deputy President Cr Emily Ryan Mr Raymond Griffiths, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Kondinin</b>	Mr David Burton, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Koorda</b>	President Cr Jannah Stratford Ms Lana Foote, A/Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Merredin</b>	Deputy President Cr Renee Manning Ms Leah Boehme, Executive Manager Corporate Services, non-voting
<b>Shire of Mount Marshall</b>	Cr Tony Sachse Mr Ben Mckay, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Mukinbudin</b>	Mr Dirk Sellenger, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Narembeen</b>	President Cr Scott Stirrat Rebecca McCall, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Nungarin</b>	President Cr Pippa de Lacy Mr John Merrick, A/Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Tammin</b>	Deputy President Cr Tanya Nicholls Ms Joanne Soderlund, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Trayning</b>	President Cr Melanie Brown
<b>Shire of Westonia</b>	President Cr Mark Crees Deputy President Ross Della Bosca
<b>*Shire of Wyalkatchem</b>	President Cr Owen Garner Mr Peter Klein, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Yilgarn</b>	Mr Nic Warren, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Guests</b>	
Department of Fire and Emergency Services	Murray Carter, Executive Director – Rural Fire Division
Wheatbelt Development Commission	Susan Hall, A/Chief Executive Officer
Water Corporation	Rebecca Bowler, Manager Customer & Stakeholder – Goldfields & Agricultural Region



Regional Development Australia WA	Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development
<b>Members of Parliament</b>	Hon Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt
<b>WALGA</b>	Daniel Thompson, Economist Naoimh Donaghy, Governance & Organisational Services Officer
<b>Apologies</b>	
Shire of Dowerin	Mr David Singe, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Kellerberrin	President Cr Matt Steber
Shire of Kondinin	President Cr Kent Mouritz Deputy President Cr Bev Gangell
Shire of Koorda	Deputy President Cr Gary Greaves
Shire of Merredin	President Cr Mark McKenzie Ms Lisa Clack, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Mount Marshall	Deputy President Cr Nick Gillett
Shire of Mukinbudin	President Cr Gary Shadbolt
Shire of Narembeen	Deputy President Cr Holly Cusack
Shire of Nungarin	Deputy President Cr Gary Coumbe
Shire of Tammin	Cr Nick Caffell
Shire of Trayning	Cr Michelle McHugh Ms Leanne Parola, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Westonia	Mr Bill Price, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Yilgarn	President Cr Wayne Della Bosca Deputy President Cr Bryan Close
Members of Parliament	Hon Martin Aldridge MLC, Member for Agricultural Region Hon Colin de Grussa MLC, Member for Agricultural Region Hon Steve Martin, Member for the Agricultural Region Rick Wilson MP, Federal Member for O'Connor Hon Peter Rundle MLA, Member for Roe Hon Shelley Payne MLC, Member for Agricultural Region Hon Darren West MLC, Member for Agricultural Region Hon Sandra Carr MLC, Member for Agricultural Region
Wheatbelt Development Commission	Pip Gooding, Regional Development Officer Wheatbelt South
Main Roads WA	Mohammad Siddiqui, Regional Manager Wheatbelt
Department of Local Government, Sport, & Cultural Industries	Samantha Cornwathie, Regional Manager Wheatbelt
WALGA	James McGovern, Manager Governance & Procurement Cliff Simpson, Regional Road Safety Advisor

## Attachments

The following are provided as attachments to the Minutes:

1. Item 8.5 Water Corporation

### [State Council Agenda 6 December](#)

#### 4. Declarations of Interest

NIL

#### 5. Announcements

#### 6. Guest Speakers / Deputations

##### 6.1 Speakers for the November Zone Meeting

###### Department of Fire and Emergency Services

###### Murray Carter, Executive Director, Rural Fire Division

Murray Carter attended to provide a Department of Fire and emergency Services update, relevant to the Zone.

Attachment 1 to the agenda was received by WALGA from the Department of Fire and Emergency services on Friday 27 October. This presentation, 'Road works during Total Fire Bans, Proposed regulatory changes' takes into consideration concerns raised by the Zone and brought to DFES's attention. Slides 13 through 15 outlined the conditions and benefits of these proposed changes.

###### Murrays presentation included the below:

- Year to date 2,030 bush fires compared to 1,400 at this time last year.
- 30% were suspicious or deliberate.
- 5% of fires have been caused by lightening.
- 10% are escaped burns.
- Staffing – 29 permanent staff plus 32 temporary staff are currently employed.
- 600 bushfire courses have been facilitated in the last 12 months with a total of 8,000 participants.
- *The Bushfire Controls Officer Forum* was in July. There were 60 attendees, 8 of which were from the Great Eastern Country Zone.
- 60 Local Governments have participated in the '*Road works during Total Fire Bans*' workshops.
- 90 Local Governments are involved in creating bushfire risk management plans with DFES. Roughly a third of Great Eastern Country Zone members are involved, three are going through the process of grant approval.

If something is inflated or ratings don't look right on the ground, please notify DFES.

Murray also took questions from the floor.

**NOTED**

## 2.1 Elections of the Deputy Chair of the Great Eastern Country Zone

### Deputy Zone Chairperson:

WALGA assumed the Chair and revisited the position of Deputy Chair of the Great Eastern Country Zone

Nominations were called from the floor:

Cr Melanie Brown                      Shire of Trayning

### **DECLARATION**

**That Cr Melanie Brown is declared elected as Deputy Chairperson of the Great Eastern Country Zone for the term of 2 year, November 2023 to November 2025.**

## 2.3 Election of up to three (3) Zone Executive Committee Members of the Great Eastern Country Zone

As Cr Brown was elected to the position of Deputy Chair (which automatically assumes a position on the Executive Committee) this created a vacancy on the Executive Committee.

Nominations were called from the floor:

- Cr Alison Harris                      Shire of Cunderdin
- Cr Renee Manning                      Shire of Merredin

Each voting delegate was entitled to cast one (1) vote in the ballot process.  
The candidate with the greater number of votes was elected.

### **DECLARATION**

**That Cr Alison Harris is declared elected as Zone Executive Committee representative for the term of 2 years, November 2023 to November 2025.**

*Cr Tony Sachse assumed the role as Chair.*

## **7. Members of Parliament**

*Any Members of Federal and State Government in attendance are invited to provide a brief update on matters relevant to the Zone.*

- Hon Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt

**Presentation included:**

- Firearms Act Reform public consultation – more time than is being allowed to consider the Reform proposals.
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act has been replaced with the original Act with some amendments – advised Councillors to be aware of these changes.
- Live Exports
- Electoral amendment bill in terms of political donations, gifts etc

Hon Mia Davies MLA took questions from the floor.

- The Shire of Wyalkatchem enquired about nurse practitioners and aged care staffing/facilities. The Hon Mia Davies shared that Martin Aldridge MLA is currently enquiring about funds announced in 2019 for health upgrades in the region. These appear to have been redirected.
- The Shire of Bruce Rock raised concerns about the qualifications of truck drivers. The Hon Mia Davies MLA shared this is a topic of discussion within her party.

*Mia congratulations new and re-elected members.*

**RESOLUTION:**

**That the Executive Committee note the 2019 health upgrade monies as a priority.**

**CARRIED**

**8. Agency Reports**

**8.1 Department of Local Government, Sport, and Cultural Industries**

Samantha Cornthwaite, Regional Director Wheatbelt was an apology. The November 2023 report was attached.

*The Shire of Kellerberrin voiced ongoing frustrations that aspects of the Audit process. Auditors are insisting on reporting that is no longer legislatively required. That the regulations are not in line with the accounting standards.*

**RESOLUTION:**

**Moved: Cr Jannah Stratford**

**Seconded: Cr Mark Crees**

**That the Executive extend an invite to Grant Robertson, Assistant Auditor General to the February meeting of the Zone.**

**CARRIED**

**8.2 Wheatbelt Development Commission**

Renee Manning, Principal Regional Development Officer provided a report.

**NOTED**

### 8.3 Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt

Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development, provided a report.

*Mandy announced that this will be her last Zone meeting as she will be stepping back from her role at RDAW. State Councillor Stephen Strange thanked Mandy for her wonderful contribution and passion for what she does, and all she has done for the Great Eastern Country Zone.*

**NOTED**

### 8.4 Main Roads Western Australia

Mohammad Siddiqui, Regional Manager Wheatbelt, was an apology for this meeting.

**RESOLUTION:**

**That on behalf of the Zone, WALGA enquire about the requirements for overseas heavy vehicle drivers to drive in WA, and voice the Zone's concerns about dangerous driving causing accidents in the region.**

**CARRIED**

### 8.5 Water Corporation

Rebecca Bowler, Manager Customer & Stakeholder, provided a report which is now attached to the Minutes (**Attachment 1**)

**NOTED**

## 9. Minutes

### 9.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on Monday 21 August 2023

The Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on Monday 21 August 2023 have previously been circulated to Member Councils.

**RESOLUTION:**

**Moved: Cr Owen Garner**

**Seconded: Cr Mark Crees**

**That the minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on Monday 21 August 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.**

**CARRIED**

### 9.2 Business Arising from the Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting held on Monday 21 August 2023

**NIL**

## 10. Zone Business

### 10.1 Wheatbelt Human Services Management Forum

Through his association with the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee and the Wheatbelt Operational Area Support Group Committee, Cr Tony Sachse has sat on the committee of the Wheatbelt Human Services Management Forum as a Local Government representative.

This Forum covers areas such as Education (e.g truancy), housing, health and other areas that Local Government can have input into

The Zone is asked to consider if a Great Eastern Country Zone representative should sit on this committee.

Cr Tony Sasche gave an overview of the forum.

#### **RESOLUTION:**

**Moved: Cr Melanie Brown**

**Seconded: Cr Owen Garner**

**That the Great Eastern Country Zone appoint a representative for the Wheatbelt Human Services Management Forum.**

**CARRIED**

### 10.2 Wheatbelt Human Services Management Forum Representative of the Great Eastern Country Zone – 1 Delegate and 1 Deputy Delegate

The election for the Wheatbelt Human Services Management Forum delegates of the Great Eastern Country Zone shall be conducted.

Nominations were taken from the floor.

- Cr Alison Harris                      Shire of Cunderdin

#### **DECLARATION**

**That Cr Alison Harris is declared elected as Wheatbelt Human Services Management Forum Representative Delegate of the Great Eastern Country Zone**

#### Deputy Delegate

Nominations were taken from the floor.

- Cr Melanie Brown                      Shire of Trayning

#### **DECLARATION**

**That Cr Melanie Brown is declared elected as Wheatbelt Human Services Management Forum Representative Deputy Delegate of the Great Eastern Country Zone**

### 10.3 Proposed 2024 meeting dates

#### Background:

Meeting dates for the Great Eastern Country Zone's Executive Committee and Zone meetings are presented for the Zone's review and acceptance.

The Executive Committee dates are 1.5 weeks prior to the Zone meeting. Zone meetings are scheduled to align with State Council meetings.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS  
GREAT EASTERN COUNTRYZONE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2024

Exec Comm Meeting Dates Tuesday	Time	HOST COUNCIL
<b>6 February</b>	Tuesday 8am	MsTeams
<b>2 April</b>	Tuesday 8am	MsTeams
<b>4 June</b>	Tuesday 8am	MsTeams
<b>6 August</b>	Tuesday 8am	MsTeams
<b>5 November</b>	Tuesday 8am	MsTeams

NOTICE OF MEETINGS  
GREAT EASTERN COUNTRY ZONE 2024

Zone Meeting Dates Monday	Time	Host Council	Window for Zone meetings to occur	State Council meeting Dates 2024
<b>19 February</b>	Monday 9.30 am	Merredin	Thursday 15 – Monday 26 February	Wednesday 6 March
<b>15 April</b>	Tuesday 9.30 am	Kellerberrin	Thursday 11 – Monday 22 April	Wednesday 1 May
<b>17 June</b>	Monday 9.30 am	Merredin	Thursday 13 – Monday 24 June	Wednesday 3 July
<b>19 August</b>	Monday 9.30 am	Kellerberrin	Thursday 15 – Monday 26 August	Regional Meeting 5-6 September
<b>18 November</b>	Monday 9.30 am	Merredin	Thursday 14 – Monday 25 November	Wednesday 4 December

**RESOLUTION:**

**That the Executive assess the possibility of holding the Great Eastern Country Zone meetings on a day other than a Monday that will facilitate most Ordinary Council meetings of the Members.**

**CARRIED**

**10.4 Financial Report for the Period Ended 30 September 2023**

**Background:**

Presenting the Financial Report for the three months ended 30 September 2023.

Consistent with accrual accounting, this includes the Profit and Loss Statement reporting income and expenses for the year to date against budget. Also provided is the Zone's Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2023.

**Comments:**

Balance Sheet

Attachment 6 was the Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2023, this shows cash and investments at the bank with a total of \$215,690. This includes \$180,000 invested in a Term Deposit, the remainder of the funds are available for use at short notice if required.

The accrual of \$2,100 relates to the audit fee accrual for the 30 June 2023 audit. This will be paid in October.

Net assets are \$213,590, representing the Zone's equity.

Profit and Loss Statement

Attachment 7 was the Profit and Loss Statement for the 3 months to 30 September 2023. The result is a surplus of \$23,505, which compares favourably to the budgeted full-year deficit of \$13,140.

Membership subscriptions for the 2023-24 financial year were invoiced in September. As of 25<sup>th</sup> October, all 16 members have paid their invoices and therefore, no invoices remain outstanding.

Interest is accruing at a rate of 5.1% on the term deposit.

**Moved: Cr Alison Harris**

**Seconded: Cr Scott Stiratt**

**RESOLUTION**

**That the Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet at 30 September 2023 be received.**

**CARRIED**



### 10.5 List of Accounts Paid

Date	Payee	Purpose	Amount (Incl GST)
24/07/2023	Up2Date Accounting	bookkeeping service for June	\$231.00
14/08/2023	Committee members	Direct Credit 301500 - CommBiz GECZHonorarium2223	\$1,100.00
22/08/2023	Up2Date Accounting	fees for July23	\$594.00
23/08/2023	Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre	21/8 GECZ meeting - catering	\$1,679.76
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,604.76</b>

**Moved: Cr Melanie Brown**  
**Seconded: Cr Jannah Stratford**

#### RESOLUTION

That the Accounts Paid for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 September 2023 totalling \$3,604.76 be approved.

**CARRIED**

### 10.6 Closure of Westpac Bank accounts

The zone's two bank accounts with Westpac closed down as the balance was \$0. All funds have been transferred to WALGA bank accounts including preserving the term deposit as a separate deposit with CBA.

In order to close down the Westpac bank accounts, a letter requesting closure was provided to the bank. This letter needed to be signed by 2 existing authorised signatories – Tim Lane & Cr Stephen Strange.

This process was completed in October 2023.

#### NOTED

### 10.7 Audited Financial Statements to 30 June 2023

The audit of the financials for 2022-23 is complete & the audit report was signed off on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2023. A copy of the audited financial statements was attached as Attachment 8.

#### RESOLUTION

**Moved: Cr Robert Trepp**  
**Seconded: Cr Alison Harris**

**That the Zone endorse the audited annual financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023**

**CARRIED**

## **11. Zone Reports**

### **11.1 Zone President Report**

There was no report.

**NOTED**

### **11.2 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC)**

President Cr Tony Sachse shared the last meeting was on 19<sup>th</sup> October. A report will be prepared for the next meeting of the Zone.

**NOTED**

### **11.3 Regional Health Advocacy Group**

Cr Alison Harris provided a report.

**RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Cr Pippa De Lacy**  
**Seconded: Cr Emily Ryan**

**That the Regional Health Advocacy Report be received.**

**CARRIED**

### **11.4 WALGA RoadWise**

Cliff Simpson, Road Safety Advisor, was an apology for this meeting, however provided a written report with the Agenda.

**NOTED**

## **12. Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) Business**

### **12.1 State Councillor Report**

*State Councillor Stephen Strange*

- Cr Strange gave a brief overview of the regional State Council meeting held in September. This meeting including presentations from other Zones. Cr Strange stated he is very proud of the progress of the Great Eastern Country Zone.
- Cr Strange spoke to the recent Local Government elections and how WALGA are on the front foot for initiating change that will streamline the process for the next election.
- The WALGA Convention had a great number of registrations, however the number of people in the room for guest speakers was embarrassing. Respect should be shown to those people giving their time to us. He also congratulated all those who received accolades at the Convention and suggested these presentations should happen at a different time of the next Convention. Cr Strange suggested the Zones have input into the programming of the Convention.



*Zone discussion in relation to the venue led to the following resolution:*

**RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Cr Mark Crees**

**Seconded: Cr Stephen Strange**

**That the 2024 WALGA Convention be hosted by the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre.**

**CARRIED**

**RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Cr Jannah Stratford**

**Seconded: Cr Mark Crees**

**That the State Councillor Report be received.**

**CARRIED**

## 12.2 WALGA Status Report

## COMPLETE ZONE STATUS REPORT November 2023

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
<del>Grt Eastern C</del>	<del>20 June 2023 Zone Agenda Item 10.2 – Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 – Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act Update</del>	<p>That the Great Eastern Country Zone:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>1. request the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage (DPLH) to provide information on the cost to Local Governments and to fund implementation of the regulations.</del></li> <li><del>2. request WALGA to collate the information on the impacts/anticipated costs to Local Governments of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 and the implementation of the Regulations.</del></li> <li><del>3. writes urgently to DPLH to raise concerns the community feedback from the Wheatbelt Community Forum on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021, held in Morredin on 19 June 2023 needs to be addressed urgently. Key concerns include:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>a. Further details and guidance is needed to understand how decision-making criteria should be applied, and the consultation process with the LACHs (Local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services).</del></li> <li><del>b. Traditional Owners raised concerns about who can talk for County in the Eastern Wheatbelt, calling on communities and Shires for their support for an additional LACH to be endorsed for our area. As the Act will be in effect within weeks, this is something that urgently need consideration by the Government and Minister.</del></li> <li><del>c. Based on the above, WALGA State Council advocate for a delay in the implementation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 until such time as all affected stakeholders are satisfied.</del></li> </ol> </del></li> </ol>	<p>The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act (2021) is to be repealed and the amended Aboriginal Heritage Act (1972) is to be reintroduced.</p> <p>WALGA continues to advocate for Local Government exemption for costs associated with compliance with the Aboriginal Heritage legislation, in particular the fees payable for section 18 applications.</p>	<del>August 2023</del>	<del>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9243 2039</del>

## RESOLUTION:

That the November Status Report be deleted – no longer relevant.

CARRIED

### 12.3 State Council Agenda Items – 6 December 2023

#### 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 link: [State Council Agenda 6 December](#)

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 2023 Annual General Meeting Resolutions

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.*

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.

## 7.2 Advocacy Position – Crown Land and Management Order Administration – Land Administration Act 1997

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.

## 7.3 Review of Public Open Space Advocacy Positions

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.

#### **7.4 2024 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members**

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

#### **7.5 Household Hazardous Waste Policy Statement and Advocacy Position**

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.

#### **7.6 Waste Education Policy Statement and Advocacy Position**

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.

### **7.7 Submission E-Waste Landfill Ban Regulations**

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

### **7.8 Submission on Philanthropic Engagement Framework for Emergency Management**

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

### **7.9 Submission to the WA Action Plan for Young People Consultation Paper**

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

## **POLICY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- 8.1 Environment and Waste Policy Team Report
- 8.2 Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team Report
- 8.3 Infrastructure Policy Team Report
- 8.4 People and Place Policy Team Report
- 8.5 Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Report

## **MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION**

- 9.1 Planning and Development Amendment Bill 2023 and Associated Regulations and Guidelines
- 9.2 WALGA Emergency Management Survey 2023
- 9.3 WALGA Submission on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Legislation dated 26 September 2023 and Update
- 9.4 Legal Response to the Local Government Approaches to Tree Retention Issues Paper
- 9.5 Flying Minute: Submission to the Review of the Main Roads Pedestrian Crossing Facilities Guidelines
- 9.6 Flying Minute – Draft Operational Policy 2.3: Planning for Public Open Space
- 9.7 Flying Minute – Submission on Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding Arrangements
- 9.8 Flying Minute – Objection to the 2023 WA Electoral Distribution Commission Proposed Boundaries
- 9.9 Flying Minute: Submission on the Exposure Draft of the Recycling and Waste Reduction (Export – Paper and Cardboard) Rules 202396
- 9.10 Flying Minute: Submission on National Asbestos Strategic Plan



- 9.11 Flying Minute: Draft Code of Practice for On-Site Wastewater Disposal
- 9.12 Flying Minute – 2024-25 WALGA State Budget Submission

## RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Alison Harris  
Seconded: Cr Owen Garner

That the Great Eastern Country Zone:

1. Supports all Matters for Decision as listed above in the December 2023 State Council Agenda; and
2. Notes all Matters for Noting, Policy Team and Committee Reports and Organisational Reports as listed in the December 2023 State Council Agenda.

CARRIED

## 12.4 WALGA President's Report – December 2023

The WALGA President's Report WAS attached to the agenda.

## RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ram Rajagopalan  
Seconded: Cr Tanya Nicholls

That the Great Eastern Country Zone notes the WALGA President's Report.

CARRIED

## 13. Emerging Issues

- 13.1 Cr Alison Harris raising concerns in relation to lights on train carriages. It was agreed that this be a topic of interest for the Executive Committee, to advocate for the lighting of carriages on the rail network.

NOTED

- 13.2 The Shire of Mukinbudin referred to communications from Telstra stating that 3G coverage will be turned off on 30 June 2024 without reference to filling the gaps in coverage when that happens. Update to be provided to future Zone meeting.

NOTED

- 13.3 Cr Alison Harris brought a Medicare item forward, that Medicare are proposing that the rebate will not be offered for first consultations with speciality doctors. This item will be brought to the Executive Committee.

NOTED

- 13.4 WALGA were asked to remind Local Governments of the Zone Training Rebate allocated in the 2023/2024 Zone Budget. This matter was discussed at the June 2023 Executive Committee meeting and will be actioned by the Zone Executive.

**NOTED**

**14. Date, Time, and Place of Next Meetings**

As resolved in item 10.3;

*That the Executive assess the possibility of holding the Great Eastern Country Zone meetings on a day other than a Monday that will facilitate most Ordinary Council meetings of the Members.*

Once agreed, notification will be sent to all Zone Members.

**15. Closure**

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 1.pm.