



# Northern Country Zone

# MINUTES

Monday 27 November 2023

Hosted by the Shire of Coorow  
Coorow Town Hall  
commencing at 10am



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## ATTACHMENTS TO THE AGENDA

- Item 2.0: Elected Member Prospectus
- Item 2.1: Nomination for Zone President – Cr Karen Chappel (rcvd 16/11/2023)
- Item 2.3: Nomination for State Council Representative – Cr Kirrilee Warr (rcvd 19/11/2023)  
Nomination for State Council Representative – Cr Isabella Scott (rcvd 19/11/2023; withdrawn 21/11/2023)
- Item 5.1: RAI Regional Profile – Northern
- Item 5.2: Telstra Presentation  
Introduction to Connectivity Planning for Successful Regions
- Item 8.0: Northern Country Zone Minutes 28 August 2023
- Item 9.0/10.0: State Council Agenda 6 December 2023
- Item 11.3: WALGA President's Report December 2023
- Item 11.4: Zone Status Report November 2023
- Item 11.5: DLGSC Report November 2023
- Item 12.1.2: Correspondence In:
  - a. WALGA - Flying Agenda Export Bans Paper and Cardboard
  - b. Hon Melissa Price – Trade Subcommittee Inquiry
  - c. WALGA – Flying Agenda Draft Code of Practice for On-site Wastewater Disposal
  - d. WALGA – Flying Agenda Submission on National Asbestos Strategic Plan
  - e. WALGA – Flying Agenda 2024-25 Budget Submission
  - f. Paul Beattie – Western Power Bush Fire Preparedness in the Mid West
  - g. Western Power – Vegetation Management near Western Power Infrastructure  
Western Power – Guidelines for the Management of Vegetation near Power Poles
- Item 12.2: NCZ Bank Statements August, September, October 2023
- Item 12.4: Northern Country Zone Constitution  
Northern Country Zone Standing Orders
- Item 12.5: DFES Letter - Road Work Review Update - Stakeholder Consultation 2023  
DFES Presentation - LG Session One Road Work TFB proposed regulatory changes

**As per Item 16 (2) and 16 (3) of the Northern Country Zone Constitution, the election for Zone President, Zone Deputy President, Representative to State Council and Deputy Representative to State Council shall be held at the first meeting following Western Australian local government elections and shall be the first item of business on the Zone meeting agenda.**

**The Executive Officer chaired the meeting for the duration of the election and acted as Returning Officer.**

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## **1. OPENING, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

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### **1.1 Opening**

The Meeting was declared open at 9:59 am.

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## **2. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

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*Attachment: Elected Member Prospectus*

**Election Process for all positions – Northern Country Zone President and Deputy President, WALGA State Council Representative and Deputy Representative:**

*Guidelines for the elections, the Call for Nominations and Nomination Forms were distributed to Member Councils by email dated 18 October 2023. The closing date for nominations was Sunday 19 November 2023.*

*Only Elected Members who are also a Zone Delegate for their Council are eligible to nominate for a position.*

*If no nominations are received, nominations may be accepted from the floor immediately prior to the ballot and not otherwise.*

*Where there is more than one nomination for a position, an election will be conducted using a secret ballot and the person with the most votes will fill the position. In the event of a tied vote, the election will be determined by drawing names from a box. The Executive Officer will put the names of the candidates concerned in a box and the first name drawn will fill the position.*

*If there is only one nominee for a position, then that nominee will fill the position unopposed.*

### **2.1 Election of President of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA**

*Attachment: Nomination Form Cr Karen Chappel (rcvd 16/11/2023)*

#### **Matter for Consideration:**

A Northern Country Zone President is to be elected for a term of two years, commencing immediately after the election of Office Bearers and continuing up to and including the day prior to the November 2025 Northern Country Zone meeting.

#### **Nominations Received:**

Cr Karen Chappel                      Shire of Morawa                      Delegate appointed by Council 23/10/2023

As Cr Chappel was the only nominee, she was elected unopposed

### **Declaration of Election Result:**

That Cr Karen Chappel, of the Shire of Morawa, be elected as President of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA for the term of 2 years, from 27 November 2023 up to and including the day prior to the November 2025 Northern Country Zone meeting.

## **2.2 Election of Deputy President of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA**

### **Matter for Consideration:**

A Northern Country Zone Deputy President is to be elected for a term of two years, commencing immediately after the election of Office Bearers and continuing up to and including the day prior to the November 2025 Northern Country Zone meeting.

### **Nominations Received:**

As no nominations were received by the closing date, nominations were called from the floor (refer Section 16 (5) of the Northern Country Zone Constitution).

Cr Gary Cosgrove nominated Cr Kirrilee Warr, who initially declined. As no further nominations were forthcoming, she accepted the nomination and as the only nominee, was elected unopposed.

### **Declaration of Election Result:**

That Cr Kirrilee Warr, of the Shire of Chapman Valley, be elected as Deputy President of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA for the term of 2 years, from 27 November 2023 up to and including the day prior to the November 2025 Northern Country Zone meeting.

## **2.3 Election of WALGA State Council Representative**

*Attachment: Nomination Form Cr Kirra Warr (rcvd 19/11/2023)*

*Nomination Form Cr Isabella Scott (rcvd 19/11/2023 withdrawn 21/11/2023)*

### **Matter for Consideration:**

A WALGA State Council Representative is to be elected for a term of two years, commencing 6 December 2023 at the first Ordinary Meeting of the new State Council until and including the day prior to the December 2025 Ordinary Meeting of State Council.

### **Nominations Received:**

Cr Kirrilee Warr	Shire of Chapman Valley	Zone Delegate appointed by Council 16/11/2023
Cr Isabella Scott	Shire of Irwin	Zone Delegate appointed by Council 24/10/2023

Cr Scott withdrew her nomination on 21/11/2023, stating she was happy to support Cr Warr.

As Cr Warr was then the only nominee, she was elected unopposed.

### **Declaration of Election Result:**

That Cr Kirrilee Warr, of the Shire of Chapman Valley, be elected as the WALGA State Council Representative for the Northern Country Zone of WALGA for the term of 2 years, commencing 6 December 2023 at the first Ordinary Meeting of the new State Council until and including the day prior to the December 2025 State Council.

## **2.4 Election of WALGA State Council Deputy Representative**

### **Matter for Consideration:**

A WALGA State Council Deputy Representative is to be elected for a term of two years, commencing 6 December 2023 at the first Ordinary Meeting of the new State Council until and including the day prior to the December 2025 meeting of State Council.

### **Nominations Received:**

As no nominations were received by the closing date, nominations were called from the floor (refer Section 16 (5) of the Northern Country Zone Constitution).

Cr Elizabeth (Liz) Sudlow nominated for the position and as the only nominee, was elected unopposed.

### **Declaration of Election Result:**

That Cr Elizabeth (Liz) Sudlow, of the Shire of Northampton, be elected as the WALGA State Council Deputy Representative for the Northern Country Zone of WALGA for the term of 2 years, commencing 6 December 2023 at the first Ordinary Meeting of the new State Council until and including the day prior to the December 2025 meeting of State Council.

*The Executive Officer handed the chair to Cr Chappel, the newly appointed Zone President.*

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## **3. WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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### **3.1 Acknowledgment of Country**

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA acknowledges the Yued People, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today and pays its respects to their Elders past and present.

### **3.2 Welcome**

The President welcomed Members and Guests. Voting members were asked to introduce themselves.

### **3.3 Announcements**

Nil

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## **4. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

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### **MEMBERS**

### **NB: One Voting Delegate from each Member Council**

#### **Shire of Carnamah**

Cr Merle Isbister - President  
Mr Rob Paull - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

#### **Shire of Chapman Valley**

Cr Kirrilee Warr - President  
Mr Jamie Criddle - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

#### **Shire of Coorow**

Cr Guy Sims - President  
Ms Mia Maxfield - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

#### **City of Greater Geraldton**

Mayor Jerry Clune  
Cr Jennifer Critch  
Mr Ross McKim - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

#### **Shire of Irwin**

Cr Isabelle Scott  
Mr Shane Ivers - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

<b>Shire of Mingenew</b>	Cr Gary Cosgrove - President Mr Matt Fanning - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
<b>Shire of Morawa</b>	Cr Karen Chappel - President Cr Ken Stokes - Deputy President Mr Scott Wildgoose - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
<b>Shire of Northampton</b>	Cr Elizabeth (Liz) Sudlow - President Mr Andrew Campbell - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
<b>Shire of Perenjori</b>	Cr Jude Sutherland - President Cr Leslie Hepworth - Deputy President Mr Paul Anderson - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
<b>Shire of Three Springs</b>	Cr Chris Lane - President Cr Nadine Eva Mr Keith Woodward - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
<b>EXECUTIVE</b>	Ms Dianne Daniels – Executive Officer Mr Ian Duncan – WALGA Executive Manager Infrastructure Ms Negar Nili – Policy Officer Transport and Roads

## INVITED GUESTS

Member for Moore	Mr Shane Love MLA (via Teams)
Member For Agricultural Region	Hon. Steve Martin MLC
Dept of Local Government	Mr Craig Vinci – Acting Regional Manager Mid West Gascoyne Sport & Cultural Ind
Main Roads WA	Ms Janet Hartley-West – Regional Manager Mid West-Gascoyne
Mid West Development Commission	Mr Peter Spalding – Director Regional Development Mr Jose Silva – Regional Development Officer
National Emergency Management Agency	Ms Candy Hudson - Recovery Support Officer   Pilbara, Gascoyne, Murchison and Mid West WA
Regional Development Midwest Gascoyne	Mr Mark Holdsworth - Director of Regional Development/Executive Officer

## PRESENTERS

Regional Australia Institute	Mr Kim Houghton – Chief Economist (via Teams) Katherine Bassett – Consulting Lead (via Teams)
Telstra Retail and Regional	Mr Boyd Brown – Regional General Manager
Town Team Movement	Mr Jimmy Murphy – Director Mr Rory Murray – Operation Lead

## **APOLOGIES**

Shire of Coorow	Cr Bruce Jack – Deputy President
Shire of Irwin	Cr Mark Leonard – President
Shire of Northampton	Cr Robert Horstman – Deputy President
Federal Member for Durack	Hon. Melissa Price MP
Member for Geraldton	Ms Lara Dalton MLA
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon. Colin de Grussa MLC
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon. Martin Aldridge MLC
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon. Shelley Payne MLC
Department of Fire and Emergency Services	Mr Mark Bowen – Superintendent Midwest Gascoyne Region
Mid West Development Commission	Mr Nils Hay – Chief Executive Officer
Regional Development Midwest Gascoyne	Ms Yvonne Messina - Chair

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## **5. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

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### **5.1 Regional Australia Institute**

*Attachment: RAI Regional Profile - Northern*

Mr Kim Houghton                      Chief Economist

Mr Houghton outlined some of the regional population trends occurring within the Mid West region and what this might mean for services and opportunities.

### **5.2 Telstra Retail and Regional**

*Attachment: Telstra Presentation  
Introduction to Connectivity Planning for Successful Regions*

Mr Boyd Brown                      Regional General Manager WA

Mr Brown presented information relevant to members including the impending 3G network closure, emergence of low earth orbit satellites, mobile network resilience and connectivity planning.



### **5.3 Town Team Movement**

Mr Jimmy Murphy  
Mr Rory Murray

Co-Founder  
Operation Lead

The Town Team Movement inspires and supports governments to collaborate with communities to improve a place or area. A Town Team is inclusive and open to all – by the Community for the Community. Mr Murphy and Mr Murray presented on this concept and distributed information to members.

### **5.4 Shire of Coorow**

Ms Mia Maxfield

Chief Executive Officer

Ms Maxfield's presentation included information about the history and coverage of the Coorow Shire, places of interest around the Shire and recently completed projects including the recently opened Aquatic Centre.

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## **6. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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Councillors must declare to the Zone President any potential conflict of interest they have in a matter before the Zone as soon as they become aware of it. Councillors and deputies may be directly or indirectly associated with some recommendations of the Zone and State Council. If you are affected by these recommendations, please excuse yourself from the meeting and do not participate in deliberations.

Nil

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## **7. ADJOURNED BUSINESS**

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Nil

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## **8. MINUTES**

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*Attachments: Minutes of the Meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA 28 August 2023*

### **8.1 Confirmation of Minutes**

#### **Recommendation:**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 28 August 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

#### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Isbister

**Seconded:** Cr Warr

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 28 August 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

**Carried**

## **8.2 Business Arising from Minutes**

### **8.2.1 Yamatji Southern Regional Corporation (YSRC) – Rates Exemption**

*Prepared By: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer*

#### **Recommendation:**

That, due to lack of detail forthcoming from most members, the Northern Country Zone of WALGA rescinds the Resolution at Item 11.2.1 of the 28 August 2023 meeting, which reads as follows: *'That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA send a delegation to Minister Buti and Minister Michael with regard to the Yamatji Southern Regional Corporation's charitable registration and the impact on local government rate income.'*

#### **Background:**

At the 28 August 2023 presentation by Rebecca Girdwood, CEO of Yamatji Southern Regional Corporation, Ms Girdwood mentioned that the Corporation may use its status as a Charitable Organisation to claim rates exemption on some or all of the land parcels that were going to be transferred to them under the ILUA. The Executive Officer was asked to request a meeting with Ministers Buti and Michael, including in the request a background paper arguing against any rates exemptions.

#### **Comments:**

An email dated 29 August 2023 to NCZ CEOs requesting a list of land in each local government area that has been nominated for transfer to YSRC and the rates received on it currently (even if that is zero), saw only one response from the Shire of Northampton. There wasn't enough information to calculate the cost of possible rates exemptions to members and therefore we could not go to the Ministers with a strong argument against rates exemptions.

In a second email sent to members on 20 September 2023, the Executive Officer noted that without further evidence to support the cost of rate exemption to member Councils, that the Zone was not in a position to request a meeting with Ministers Buti and Michael regarding this matter. Then on 21 September 2023 the Zone President requested members to ask their teams to collate the required information.

By 4 October 2023, I had received four responses regarding potential rate losses:

Shire of Northampton	\$792.72
Shire of Mingenew	\$7,560.00
Shire of Carnamah	No land associated with YSRC
Shire of Perenjori	Unable to identify any land that would be taken up by YSRC

Once again, as there was a dearth of information, a case against the proposal could not be prepared to be presented to the Ministers.

Please note, that Information received from CEO Rob Paull of Carnamah on 22 September is very useful and can be read below (with his permission). It includes a link to advice on the payment of LG rates within the Yamati Nation Agreement:

*Hi Dianne.*

*At this stage, the Shire of Carnamah has no record of land owned or associated with Yamatji Southern Regional Corporation; nor any land associated with the Yamatji Nation. Based on the following map provided by the WA Government, land associated with the Yamatji Nation Agreement within the Shire of Carnamah are reserves both without and without the power to lease (the land is outside townsites):*

<https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2021-06/PRJ-Yamatji-Nation-Agreement-Webpage-Eligible-Land-map-DPLH-GIS.pdf>

*I also note advice from the WA Government Website in relation to the Yamatji Nation Agreement and payment of rates:*

***"Payment of rates - Local Government Act 1995***

*The Yamatji landholding bodies will be required to meet the standard costs, including rates and service charges, associated with owning and managing land. Land may be exempt from rates under section 6.26(2)(g) of the Local Government Act 1995, where that land is used exclusively for charitable purposes.*

*However, if land is used for a commercial purpose or leased for a commercial enterprise, it may be rateable.”*

<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/yamatji-nation-agreement-land-component#local-government>

*For information and consideration of ‘might’ in relation to “...commercial purpose or leased for a commercial enterprise..., the decision of the Supreme Court of Western Australia in Shire of Derby West Kimberley -v- Yungngora Association Inc [2007] WASCA 233 is of interest where the Court found:*

*84. In my view, however, those benefits to the community and its members are not sufficient for a finding that the Land is used exclusively for charitable purposes. It is not sufficient that the pastoral enterprise provides funds or other resources which the Association uses for charitable purposes or that any profits which are ultimately derived from the business will be used by the Association for charitable purposes through other measures aimed at improving the lot in life of the members of the community. Nor is it sufficient, either alone or in combination with the other benefits, that the existence of the pastoral enterprise offers employment and training to some members of the community or facilitates the pursuit of other objectives of benefit to the members of the community.*

<https://jade.io/article/16905>

*As an observation, I would suggest that there is a reasonable argument that the corporate operator should pay an allocated share of rates. There is no reason why this shouldn’t apply to any Aboriginal Corporation that has a commercial profit-making intent. For an exemption to apply, the commercial arm of the Aboriginal Corporation would benefit from local government facilities and works without contributing to them. It would also establish a financial advantage over a competitor.*

*I also note that the Shire President on behalf of the Shire of Carnamah has already indicated that such an exemption would not be supported by Council.*

*Cheers*

*Rob*

Cr Cosgrove supported this Resolution but wanted to be able to reintroduce the subject at a later date.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Cosgrove

**Seconded:** Cr Scott

That, due to lack of detail forthcoming from most members, the Northern Country Zone of WALGA rescinds the Resolution at Item 11.2.1 of the 28 August 2023 meeting, which reads as follows: *‘That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA send a delegation to Minister Buti and Minister Michael with regard to the Yamatji Southern Regional Corporation’s charitable registration and the impact on local government rate income.’*

**Carried**

**Zone Delegates were requested to provide written notice on amendments to recommendations within the State Council agenda ASAP to the Zone President and Secretariat, to allow Zone Members time to consider the alternative recommendation.** None were received.

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## **9. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR DECISION**

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**The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 6 December 2023.**

**The Matters for Decision in the State Council agenda are numbered 7.1 to 7.9.**

**The Recommendation and Brief only have been included. Please refer to the attached PDF version of the State Council Agenda for more detail.**

The President asked if any Delegates wanted to discuss a particular item, which they did not and so State Council Agenda Items 7.1 to 7.9 were moved en bloc.

### **9.1 (7.1) 2023 Annual General Meeting Resolutions**

*Prepared by: Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance*

#### **WALGA Recommendation:**

That:

1. the following resolutions from the 2023 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the People and Place Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:

- 5.1 Local Governments' representation at the State Administrative Tribunal relating to planning matters within its district

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

- 5.2 Land Use Policy

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

- 5.4 Regional and Remote Housing

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

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

- 5.3 Transparency – Management Order Determinations

*That WALGA:*

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

**Executive Summary:**

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

**9.2 (7.2) Advocacy Position – Crown Land and Management Order Administration – Land Administration Act 1997**

*Prepared by: Lyn Fogg, Governance Specialist*

**WALGA Recommendation:**

That WALGA endorse the below Advocacy Position:

Crown Land and Management Order Administration - Land Administration Act 1997

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

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

**Executive Summary:**

- Issues have been raised by the Gascoyne Country Zone and Growth Alliance Perth and Peel and are subject of a resolution from the 2023 WALGA Annual General Meeting (see [Agenda Item 7.1](#)).
- Issues are further evidenced by a sample survey of Local Governments in the: Pilbara, Gascoyne, Northern Country, Peel Country, South-West Country and South-East Metropolitan Zones.

- Transparency of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) decision making policy and procedures will help to:
  - Streamline application and decision-making processes, reduce backlog and delays.
  - Avoid wasted time, effort, resources and costs and enable consistent, transparent, and accountable decisions.
- This report seeks adoption of a new WALGA Advocacy position: 'Crown Land and Management Order Administration - Land Administration Act 1997'.

### **9.3 (7.3) Review of Public Open Space Advocacy Positions**

*Prepared by: Coralie Claudio, Senior Policy Advisor, Planning*

#### **WALGA Recommendation:**

That WALGA endorse:

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

#### 6.11 Public Open Space

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

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

1. *Reviewing the requirement for a minimum 10 per cent of all new residential land to be provided as POS to determine if this metric is still appropriate.*
2. *Developing a 10+ year regional level sporting facilities plan to identify and prioritise gaps in regional sporting facilities and acquire and fund regional open spaces, specifically sporting facilities, in a timely manner to align with population growth.*
3. *Developing contemporary legislative and policy mechanisms to ensure that:*
  - a. *POS design and delivery:*
    - i. *appropriately allocates different POS uses and purposes, balancing environmental, recreational, sporting and community needs.*
    - ii. *does not have its use impeded by drainage and utilities facilities.*
    - iii. *is accessible and appropriately distributed.*
    - iv. *is cost effective to enable sustainable maintenance and replacement by Local Government.*
    - v. *is responsive to urban ecology, regional climatic conditions, and climate change.*
    - vi. *considers water requirements and availability as a priority, includes water sensitive urban design principles, and prioritises water allocations for the irrigation and maintenance of functional active recreational and sport facilities.*
  - b. *POS cash in lieu contributions are equitable, transparent, and simplified by:*
    - i. *streamlining the process to collect and expend cash in lieu contributions by delegating functions to Local Government.*
    - ii. *broadening how cash in lieu funds can be spent to include works beyond the current scope.*
    - iii. *allowing for the collection of cash in lieu contributions at development application stage and for all forms of subdivision, including two lot subdivisions or developments.*
    - iv. *investigating the option of a standard fixed rate contribution fee per lot or dwelling when contributions are intended for public open space upgrades.*
4. *Providing guidance documents and support to assist Local Governments with their strategic POS planning.*

### **Executive Summary:**

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

## **9.4 (7.4) 2024 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members**

*Prepared by: Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance*

### **WALGA Recommendation:**

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

### **Executive Summary:**

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

## **9.5 (7.5) Household Hazardous Waste Policy Statement and Advocacy Position**

*Prepared by: Rebecca Brown, Manager Waste and Environment*

### **WALGA Recommendation:**

That WALGA:

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

#### **7.10 Household Hazardous Waste**

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



### **Executive Summary:**

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

## **9.6 (7.6) Waste Education Policy Statement and Advocacy Position**

*Prepared by: Rebecca Brown, Manager Waste and Environment*

### **WALGA Recommendation:**

That WALGA:

1. Rescind the existing WALGA *Waste Management Education Policy Statement 2008* and Advocacy Position 7.8 Waste Management Education; and
2. Endorse a revised WALGA Waste Education Policy Statement 2023 and Advocacy Position as follows:
  1. *Waste education is essential part of waste management that empowers the community to engage in waste avoidance, reuse and recovery, and to use services correctly.*
  2. *Effective waste education requires:*
    - a. *Consistent communications by all stakeholders to ensure messages are clear and the community has confidence in the information provided.*
    - b. *A strategic and long-term investment from the State Government, with funding mechanisms in place to support and enable collaboration between Local Governments and Regional Councils.*
    - c. *Recognition of waste education in the definition of 'waste service' in the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007, in order to allow a charge for waste education as part of the waste service charge.*
    - d. *Identification of priority problematic materials within the waste stream and ongoing advocacy for evidence based alternative approaches.*

### **Executive Summary:**

- The WALGA Waste Management Education Policy Statement was endorsed in 2008, prior to any significant State or Federal Government involvement or investment in waste education.
- The Policy Statement has been updated to incorporate feedback from MWAC to define the role of Regional Councils and highlighting the need for a long-term strategic approach to waste education.
- The Advocacy Position on Waste Education has been updated to reflect the essential nature of waste education in the management of waste, roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders, the importance of sustained and strategic investment and the challenges certain materials pose at point of disposal.
- The Advocacy Position and Policy Statement were considered and endorsed by the Municipal Waste Advisory Council in October 2023.

## **9.7 (7.7) Submission E-Waste Landfill Ban Regulations**

*Prepared by: Rebecca Brown, Manager Waste and Environment*

### **WALGA Recommendation:**

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

### **Executive Summary:**

- The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) has released a [consultation draft of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery \(e-waste\) Regulations 2023](#) (draft Regulations) for comment.



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

## **9.8 (7.8) Submission on Philanthropic Engagement Framework for Emergency Management**

*Prepared by: Susie Moir, Policy Manager Resilient Communities*

### **WALGA Recommendation:**

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

### **Executive Summary:**

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

## **9.9 (7.9) Submission to the WA Action Plan for Young People Consultation Paper**

*Prepared by: Rebecca Hicks, Policy Officer Community*

### **WALGA Recommendation:**

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

### **Executive Summary:**

- On 25 August 2023, the Department of Communities (DoC) released the consultation paper 'WA Action Plan for Young People Consultation Paper'. WALGA obtained an extension to enable this draft submission to be considered by State Council and zones.

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

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Warr

**Seconded:** Cr Cosgrove

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Items 7.1 through to 7.9.

**Carried**

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## **10. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION**

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*The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 6 December 2023.*

*The Matters for Noting/Information in the State Council agenda are numbered 9.1 to 9.11.*

*The Recommendation and Brief only have been included. Please refer to the attached PDF version of the State Council Agenda for more detail.*

### **10.1 (9.1) Planning and Development Amendment Bill 2023 and Associated Regulations and Guidelines**

*Prepared by: Coralie Claudio, Senior Policy Advisor, Planning*

**WALGA Recommendation:**

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

**Executive Summary:**

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

## **10.2 (9.2) WALGA Emergency Management Survey 2023**

*Prepared by: Rachel Armstrong, Senior Policy Advisor, Emergency Management*

### **WALGA Recommendation:**

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

### **Executive Summary:**

- WALGA's 2023 Emergency Management Survey was provided to all Local Government CEOs on Monday, 6 November, and will be open until Friday, 1 December 2023.
- Focus areas for the 2023 survey include: resources for emergency management, the Local Government Grants Scheme (LGGs), Community Emergency Services Managers (CESMs), the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA-WA), and the Consolidated Emergency Services legislation, which is currently under development by the State Government.
- The results from the 2023 Survey will support WALGA's emergency management advocacy on 2024-25 State Budget Submission priorities and in the lead up to the 2025 State Government elections.
- A report on the survey results will be provided to State Council in March 2024.

## **10.3 (9.3) WALGA Submission on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Legislation dated 26 September 2023 and Update**

*Prepared by: Hannah Godsave, Senior Policy Advisor Community*

### **WALGA Recommendation:**

That State Council note:

1. The submission to the Department of Lands, Planning and Heritage on the Aboriginal Heritage Legislation Amendment and Repeal Bill Regulations, Consultation Policy and Section 18 Guideline, as endorsed via Flying Minute; and
2. The update on the commencement of the amended *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.

### **Executive Summary:**

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

## **10.4 (9.4) Legal Response to the Local Government Approaches to Tree Retention Issues Paper**

*Prepared by: Coralie Claudio, Senior Policy Advisor, Planning*

### **WALGA Recommendation:**

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

### **Executive Summary:**

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

## **10.5 (9.5) Flying Minute: Submission to the Review of the Main Roads Pedestrian Crossing Facilities Guidelines**

*Prepared by: Max Bushell, Policy Officer Road Safety and Infrastructure*

### **WALGA Recommendation:**

That State Council note:

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

### **Executive Summary:**

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

- State Council endorsed the new Advocacy Position and submission via Flying Minute on 11 August. The Advocacy Positions Manual has subsequently been updated and the submission provided to Main Roads.

## **10.6 (9.6) Flying Minute – Draft Operational Policy 2.3: Planning for Public Open Space**

*Prepared by: Coralie Claudio, Senior Policy Advisor, Planning*

### **WALGA Recommendation:**

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

### **Executive Summary:**

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

## **10.7 (9.7) Flying Minute – Submission on Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding Arrangements**

*Prepared by: Rachel Armstrong Senior Policy Advisor Emergency Management*

### **WALGA Recommendation:**

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

### **Executive Summary:**

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

## **10.8 (9.8) Flying Minute – Objection to the 2023 WA Electoral Distribution Commission Proposed Boundaries**

*Prepared by: Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance*

**WALGA Recommendation:**

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

**Executive Summary:**

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

**10.9 (9.9) Flying Minute: Submission on the Exposure Draft of the Recycling and Waste Reduction (Export – Paper and Cardboard) Rules 2023**

*Prepared by: Rebecca Brown, Manager Waste and Environment*

**WALGA Recommendation:**

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

**Executive Summary:**

- Western Australia currently relies heavily on export of paper and cardboard for recycling due to the lack of processing infrastructure within the State.
- The draft Rules provide conditions for export including being recyclers being licenced, providing export declarations and meeting strict contamination limits.
- Material Recovery Facility (MRF) operators have expressed concern over meeting the new requirements with their existing infrastructure and resources.
- If paper and cardboard, which represent just over 50% of the material in the kerbside bin, cannot be exported, or requires significantly more processing prior to export, the impact on the cost of kerbside recycling will be significant.
- On the basis of these risks and the lack of processing infrastructure in the State, WALGA strongly recommends an exemption be granted for WA exports of paper and cardboard a minimum of six months before the bans come into effect and will continue advocating for effective product stewardship for the materials covered by the Export Bans.
- State Council endorsed the Submission via Flying Minute on 21 September.

**10.10 (9.10) Flying Minute: Submission on National Asbestos Strategic Plan**

*Prepared by: Rebecca Brown, Manager Waste and Environment*

**WALGA Recommendation:**

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

**Executive Summary:**

- The Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (ASEA) has released the Draft Asbestos National Strategic Plan (2024-2030) for comment by 13 October. WALGA's request for an extension to this deadline was refused.

- The Plan documents the national priorities for action in relation to asbestos management and identifies the roles and responsibilities of Government and Regulators, including Local Government, in implementing the Plan.
- WALGA's Submission was developed in consultation with other Local Government Associations and national discussions with Local Governments across Australia.
- WALGA's submission generally supports the draft Plan, but recommends further clarification be provided on resourcing, responsibilities, performance measures and targets for the plan to be effectively implemented.
- The Submission was endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute on 12 October 2023 and was provided to ASEA on 13 October 2023.

### **10.11 (9.11) Flying Minute: Draft Code of Practice for On-Site Wastewater Disposal**

*By Rebecca Brown, Manager Waste and Environment*

#### **WALGA Recommendation:**

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

#### **Executive Summary:**

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

#### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Lane

**Seconded:** Cr Sudlow

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes State Council Agenda Items 9.1 to 9.11.

**Carried**

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## **11. REPORTS**

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### **11.1 Zone President's Report**

Zone President's Report to 26 November 2023  
Cr Karen Chappel

Refer to WALGA President's Report at Item 11.3.

## **11.2 WALGA State Council Representative's Report**

As the WALGA State Council Representative, Cr Moira Girando, retired from Local Government in October 2023, there is no report for this meeting.

Cr Chappel thanked Cr Girando for her service and contribution and asked that the Executive Officer write a letter of thanks to her on behalf of the Zone.

## **11.3 WALGA President's Report**

The WALGA President's Report for December 2023 is attached.

*11:24am Mayor Jerry Clune left the meeting.*

### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Scott

**Seconded:** Cr Sims

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the WALGA President's Report for December 2023.

**Carried**

## **11.4 Zone Status Report**

A Status Report outlining the actions taken on the Zone's resolutions is attached.

### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Sutherland

**Seconded:** Cr Sudlow

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the November 2023 Status Report outlining actions taken on the Zone's resolutions.

**Carried**

## **11.5 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Update**

An update from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries for November 2023 is attached.

Mr Craig Vinci spoke to the report, also mentioning sport and recreation grant opportunities.

### **Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Isbister

**Seconded:** Cr Cosgrove

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the Update from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries for November 2023.

**Carried**



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## **12. ZONE MATTERS FOR NOTING/DECISION**

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### **12.1 Correspondence**

#### **12.1.1 Correspondence Out**

Nil

#### **12.1.2 Correspondence In**

##### **12.1.2 (a) 14/09/2023 WALGA**

*Attachment: Flying Agenda – Export Bans Paper and Cardboard (ID 665600) (emailed to members 14/09/2023)*

##### **12.1.2 (b) 05/10/2023 Hon. Melissa Price MP**

*Attachment: Email re Trade Subcommittee Inquiry into Australia’s Tourism and International Education Sectors (emailed to members 05/10/2023)*

Ms Price recommended that stakeholders provide a submission to the Trade Subcommittee Inquiry into “Australia’s Tourism and international education sectors”. The submission should outline the challenges and opportunities presented to the tourism sector since the reopening of Australia’s borders.

##### **12.1.2 (c) 06/10/2023 WALGA**

*Attachment: Flying Agenda – Draft Code of Practice for On-site Wastewater Disposal (ID 672391) (emailed to members 06/10/2023)*

##### **12.1.2 (d) 06/10/2023 WALGA**

*Attachment: Flying Agenda – Submission on National Asbestos Strategic Plan (ID 672385) (emailed to members 06/10/2023)*

##### **12.1.2 (e) 10/10/2023 WALGA**

*Attachment: Flying Agenda – 2024-25 State Budget Submission (ID 672727) (emailed to members 11/10/2023)*

##### **12.1.2 (f) 31/10/23 Western Power**

*Attachment: Email from Paul Beattie (emailed to members 31/10/2023)*

A media release highlighting Western Power’s preparedness for the upcoming bush fire season.

[Bushfire preparedness in the Mid West - Western Power](#)

##### **12.1.2 (g) 02/11/2023 Western Power**

*Attachment: Email (emailed to members 02/11/2023)*

[Guidelines for the management of vegetation near powerlines](#)

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:****Moved:** Cr Isbister**Seconded:** Cr Sudlow

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives Correspondence In at Items 12.1.2 (a) through to 12.1.2 (g).

**Carried****12.2 Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 31 October 2023***Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer**Attachments: Bank Statements Aug; Sep; Oct 2023***Recommendation:**

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31 October 2023.

**Comments:**

The Detailed Income Statement shown below represents the cash position of NCZ at 31 October 2023, as reconciled to the Bank Statement.

<b>NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA</b>				
<b>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT</b>				
<i>For the period ending</i>				
<b>31-Oct-23</b>				
	<i>Date</i>	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Description</i>
Statement Balance B/F	01-07-23		7,945.49	
Deposits			10,800.00	2023-24 Membership Subscriptions x 6
			0.32	Interest received
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>			<b>10,800.32</b>	
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</b>			<b>18,745.81</b>	
Payments Made	14-07-23		-2,990.25	Internet Tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 232401 - EO Services 02/05/2023 - 05/07/2023; Travel; Stationery
	15-08-23		-275.00	Internet Tsf - North Midlands Accounting Service - Inv 2024-000123 - Audit Report 2022-23
	18-10-23		-340.00	Internet BPay - Shire of Chapman Valley - Inv 9444 - Catering for 28 August meeting
	18-10-23		-2,670.98	Internet Tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 232402 - EO Services 06/07/2023 - 08/09/2023; Travel
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS MADE</b>			<b>-6,276.23</b>	
<b>Closing Cash Balance</b>	<b>31-10-23</b>		<b>12,469.58</b>	
<b>NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA</b>				
<b>BANK RECONCILIATION SUMMARY</b>				
<i>For the period ending</i>				
<b>31-Oct-23</b>				
Statement Balance B/F	01-07-23		7,945.49	
Deposits and Credits			10,800.32	
Cheques and Payments			-6,276.23	
<b>Total Cleared Transactions</b>	<b>31-10-23</b>		<b>12,469.58</b>	
Add back o/s			0.00	
<b>Reconciled Balance</b>			<b>12,469.58</b>	
<b>Bank Statement</b>	<b>31-10-23</b>		<b>12,469.58</b>	
<b>Difference I&amp;E to Bank Statement</b>			<b>0.00</b>	

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:****Moved:** Cr Lane**Seconded:** Cr Sudlow

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives the Detailed Income Statement and Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31 October 2023.

**Carried****12.3 Meeting Dates 2024**

*Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer*

**Recommendation:**

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA meets on the following dates in 2024: Monday 26 February 2024; Monday 22 April 2024; Monday 24 June 2024; Monday 26 August 2024; Monday 25 November 2024.

**Background:**

As has been the case in the past, State Council Ordinary meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of March, May, July and December in 2024. The September Regional meeting will be held on Thursday 5 and Friday 6 2024.

**Comment:**

Northern Country Zone meetings are scheduled to fall on the Monday of the week prior to State Council meetings, to ensure that NCZ meeting minutes can be delivered to WALGA in a timely manner.

Cr Chappel noted that the National General Assembly of Local Governments (NGA) would probably be held in early July 2024 and the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2024. If that is the case, the July meeting date for State Council may need to be changed, which could impact on the June meeting date.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:****Moved:** Cr Sutherland**Seconded:** Cr Sims

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA meets on the following dates in 2024: Monday 26 February 2024; Monday 22 April 2024; Monday 24 June 2024; Monday 26 August 2024; Monday 25 November 2024.

**Carried****12.4 Northern Country Zone Constitution and Standing Orders**

*Attachments: Northern Country Zone Constitution  
Northern Country Zone Standing Orders*

**Recommendation:**

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes, for the information of new Delegates, the current Constitution (amended 24 August 2020) and Standing Orders (amended 22 June 2020).

**Background:**

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA adopted a Constitution and Standing Orders in March 2003, both of which have been amended over the ensuing years.

**Comment:**

Both documents are attached for the information of new Delegates.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:****Moved:** Cr Isbister**Seconded:** Cr Lane

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes, for the information of new Delegates, the current Constitution (amended 24 August 2020) and Standing Orders (amended 22 June 2020).

**Carried****12.5 DFES Roadwork Review Update**

*Prepared by: Dianne Daniels Executive Officer*

*Attachment: DFES Letter – Road Work Review Update – Stakeholder Consultation 2023*

*DFES Presentation – LG Session One Road Work during a TFB - proposed regulatory changes*

**Recommendation:**

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the proposed changes to the regulations on performing road works during a Total Fire Ban.

**Background:**

This issue was brought to the table at Item 10.3 of the 20 February 2023 Northern Country Zone meeting.

Members resolved '*That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA request the WA Local Government Association to advocate to the State Government for a review of exemption conditions relevant to Road Work activities in relation to section 22C of the Bushfires Act 1954 and Bush Fires Regulations 1954 – Reg. 24Y to 24ZG.*'

This motion came from an item presented to the meeting by the Shire of Morawa, voicing concern that the road work exemption conditions in the Bush Fires Act 1954 and Regulations do not align well with country local government roads and unless the exemption conditions are reviewed, work stoppages during the summer months will result in a critically underserviced road network, simultaneously reducing driver safety, and increasing cost of maintenance and repair.

**Comment:**

Since that time, DFES have announced that they are proposing changes to the regulations on performing road works during a Total Fire Ban:

*Recent changes to the Australian Fire Danger Rating System and Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) internal policies have resulted in an increase in the declaration of Total Fire Bans (TFB) across Western Australia. This increase has resulted in frequent and substantive impacts to road works on Local Government roads with a consequent loss of productivity and increased risk for road users, as road repair issues are not able to be addressed in a timely fashion. DFES have identified some changes to the current regulations and have held information sessions outlining the proposed changes, as indicated in the attached presentation. These changes acknowledge that a uniform approach to regulating road work during a TFB is not effective or applicable across the diverse spectrum of Local Government activities and landscapes in WA and greatly simplify the requirements placed on Local Governments with regard to performing road works during a TFB. Notwithstanding this change, the onus will remain on Local Governments to ensure that fire safety provisions, based on type of work, prevailing conditions, and work area, etc. are sufficient and that a risk assessment has been undertaken.*

This subject has also been reviewed in the November Zone Status Report, with Ian Duncan noting that it is likely that the existing regulations will remain in place for the 2023-24 fire season.

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Warr

**Seconded:** Cr Sudlow

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the proposed changes to the regulations on performing road works during a Total Fire Ban.

**Carried**

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

*Prepared by: Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance*

**Recommendation:**

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the information presented in regard to individual Local Governments making submissions to the 2024 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry.

**Background:**

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

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

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

**Comment:**

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

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

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

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Sims

**Seconded:** Cr Isbister

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the information presented in regard to individual Local Governments making submissions to the 2024 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry.

**Carried**

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**13. GENERAL BUSINESS**

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As per Item 35 of the Zone Standing Orders, a Delegate may under General Business introduce a motion relating to any item of interest to Local Government, but not otherwise.

### **13.1 Call to Guests to Address the Meeting**

The President invited Guests to address the meeting. Mr Shane Love MLA, the Hon. Steve Martin MLC, Mr Peter Spalding, Ms Janet Hartley-West, Mr Mark Holdsworth and Ms Candy Hudson all took the opportunity to update members on topics of relevance to them.

### **13.2 Regional Issues**

#### **Background:**

As per the resolution at Item 9.1 of the February 2018 meeting, Regional Issues were opened for discussion.

CEO Ross McKim, City of Greater Geraldton, asked that, if any Shires were interested in participating in either of the initiatives below, they contact him in the first instance.

#### **13.2.1 Interest in Local Essential Councillor Training:**

The recent elections have seen some new Councillors elected in the Councils of the Northern Country Zone. New Councillors now must undertake five mandatory training courses as part of the State's reforms of the Local Government Act.

The City of Greater Geraldton wanted to see if any of the NCZ Shires were interested in the City talking to WALGA about the option of them running some or all of these courses locally (does not have to be held in Geraldton). Holding the courses locally potentially means less time away due to the travel requirements and less cost to the Councils.

If any Shires are interested, please contact Ross McKim (rossm@cgg.wa.gov.au). If there is sufficient interest, CGG will discuss this option with WALGA and determine required numbers, costs, etc.

#### **13.2.2 On-line and local training of Planners/ Building Surveyors.**

Currently, for residents in regions in Western Australia, to study involves attending courses on campus, which means significant travel or relocation out of the regions to Perth.

CGG has been working with the Geraldton University Centre and want to facilitate the digital on-line delivery of tertiary study and training courses for hard to secure positions such as planners and building inspectors. The benefit of working with Geraldton University Centre is that digital courses can be supported, ensuring that students are retained and succeed through to graduation.

The City of Greater Geraldton is seeking an indication from NCZ councillors to see if there is any interest to get involved or to support a motion seeking the State to provide funding for the development of on-line courses.

Ensuring sufficient professional pathways for local residents in the regions supports the liveability and sustainability of regional WA and supports continued service delivery by local governments

### **13.3 Regional Tourism Initiatives**

#### **Background:**

As per the resolution at Item 10.1 of the April 2019 meeting, Regional Tourism Initiatives were opened for discussion.

Nil

#### **13.4 Other General Business**

The President called for any Other General Business.

Nil

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

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**Recommendation:**

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be held on Monday 26 February 2024, commencing at 10 am, at the City of Greater Geraldton (venue to be advised).

**Northern Country Zone Resolution:**

**Moved:** Cr Scott

**Seconded:** Cr Sudlow

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be held on Monday 26 February 2024, commencing at 10:00 am, at the City of Greater Geraldton (venue to be advised).

**Carried**

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#### **15. MEETING CLOSURE**

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Meeting declared closed at 11:51am.