

# Pilbara Country Zone

## Minutes

16 February 2023

# Pilbara Country Zone

Hosted by WALGA, Wattle Meeting Room  
Level 1, 170 Railway Parade, West Leederville  
Thursday 16 February 2023

The Chair opened the meeting at 11.30am

## Acknowledgement of Country

We, the delegates of the Pilbara Country Zone acknowledge the traditional owners of this land that we are meeting on today and pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

## Minutes

### MEMBERS

### 2 Voting Delegates from each Member Council

City of Karratha	Mayor Peter Long - <b>Chair</b> Cr Daiva Gillam Ms Virginia Miltrup, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Town of Port Hedland	Mayor Peter Carter Mr Carl Askew, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of East Pilbara	President Cr Anthony Middleton Cr Wendy McWhirter-Brooks Mr Steven Harding, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Ashburton	Cr Linton Rumble Mr Kenn Donohoe, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
WALGA Secretariat	Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager, Policy Chantelle O'Brien, Governance Support Officer
Regional Development Australia – Pilbara	Mr Tony Simpson, Chief Executive Officer
Guest Speaker	Naomi Evans, Head of Regional Community Affairs (WA), nbn Local

### APOLOGIES

Shire of Ashburton	President Cr Kerry White
Town of Port Hedland	Cr Tim Turner
Roadwise	Mr Greg Hayes, Regional Road Safety Advisor, Roadwise
DLGSC Representative	Regional Manager

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Zone Delegates were requested to provide sufficient written notice, wherever possible, on amendments to recommendations within the State Council or Zone agenda prior to the Zone meeting to the Chair and Secretariat.

Agenda Papers were emailed 7 days prior to the meeting date to your Council for distribution to Zone Delegates.

Confirmation of Attendance an attendance sheet was circulated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

## **ATTACHMENTS WITH THE AGENDA**

1. President's Report
2. Status Report

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### **1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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Elected Members must declare to the Chairman 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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### **2. DEPUTATIONS**

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Chair, Mayor Peter Long brought forward the Deputation prior to the commencement of the Zone meeting.

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#### **2.1 Emergency Preparedness - nbn**

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Naomi Evans, Head of Regional Community Affairs (WA), nbn Local, provided a presentation on Emergency Preparedness.

The nbn has a range of mobile and critically located satellite communication devices that transmit a local wifi signal and enable mobile phone usage when fixed line and mobile services are down. There has been substantial investment in these to help during disasters like Kalbarri's loss of power and comms after TC Seroja. Nbn supplied satellite and broadcast local wi-fi services (known as STAND) have now been provided to emergency evacuation centres in the Pilbara.

The nbn has high-speed wireless serviced business zones in Port Hedland and other locations. It has also developed a Digital Planning Framework for the region.

Presentation is **attached** to the Minutes.

As requested by the Zone, Naomi's contact details are:

**Naomi Evans**

**Head of Regional Community Affairs (WA), nbn Local**

**M** +61 0409 886 821 | **E** [naomievans@nbnc.com.au](mailto:naomievans@nbnc.com.au)

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## 2.2 Pilbara Strategy Planning Session

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Zone members took the opportunity to discuss priority topics for their communities and to look at strategies to address similar issues.

Topics raised and discussed were:

- Digital Connectivity Plan  
Following the presentation by NBN, THE Zone considered that it should look to prepare a regional Digital Connectivity Plan.
- Economic Development issues
  - Housing  
Issues raised:
    - the lack of investment by the State in providing both social and service worker (ie low paid) accommodation
    - problems with land availability in some of the inland towns
    - push-back by the resources companies on land release in the inland towns
    - closing of Aboriginal communities and resultant town residence overcrowding
    - the State renting off the open market and refusing to build new State-owned properties
    - State-owned unliveable housing etc.

The possibility of councils joining together to make their own housing authority, much as has been discussed at RCAWA, was considered. The idea is that a number of councils joining together can combine their resources and use these to leverage substantial third party moneys from government and private sources. With the very substantial funds obtained, large builders could be contracted to construct many houses in each jurisdiction: it is recognised that it is far cheaper per unit when many houses are built by the same company. This was considered and thought worthy of further investigation.

- A) **Action – Stephen Harding, CEO East Pilbara to coordinate a meeting between Pilbara Local Government CEO's, RDA and PDC to put together a scope of work to progress a housing strategy for the region.**
- B) **Action: Tony Simpson, RDA Pilbara to organise a meeting between Zone Local Government representatives and Northern Australia Infrastructure Fund representatives. Also, the potential to invite David O'Loughlin (former ALGA President) who is on the "National Housing Supply and Affordability Council" to speak to the zone.**

- Justice System

Across the Pilbara, we know too well the child safety issues caused by parental alcohol and drug consumption leading to poor parenting, physical, mental and sexual abuse, street children and the policing and justice issues that result. We also see locally, how much of the money poured into these issues by the State is not effective – the collapse of the Roebourne 6718 Advantage Plan being one example. Children of 10-15 years roaming the streets at night and breaking into property are a major concern but are either let off with no charge or are sent to Perth for detention – both are unsuitable responses to an endemic problem.

The issues of insufficient and inadequate housing, overcrowding and child safety are linked and the meeting decided to task the PCZ Housing working party to gather information and propose a way forward.

- Transport Corridor

Transport within and across the Pilbara is a major limitation on economic development and liveability across the region. Issues identified include:

- A lack of direct routes across the region
- Insufficient maintenance of roads (and bridges) which are subject to ever-increasing traffic numbers and axle loads as new mines are opened up.
- Insufficient system resilience: quite small rain events cut off roads and at times destroy bridges
- Transport in and out of the region would be improved by a shipping service to Perth

**Noted**

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### **3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

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#### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Cr Anthony Middleton  
**Seconded:** Cr Linton Rumble

**That the Minutes of the meeting of the Pilbara Country Zone held on 29 November 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.**

**CARRIED**

## 4. BUSINESS ARISING

### 4.1 Status Report

By Chantelle O'Brien, Zone Executive Officer

### BACKGROUND

Presenting the Status Report for **February 2023** which contains WALGA's responses to the resolutions of previous Zone Meetings.

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Pilbara C	21 April 2022 Zone Agenda Item 6.1 More Than Mining Campaign	That the Pilbara Country Zone seeks that WALGA supports the More than Mining Campaign and to work with the NSW counterpart to lobby for reform to include FBT benefit to regionally based employees of participating councils of the Pilbara Country Zone.	Cost and availability of housing is a matter for Local Governments across the State, particularly in regional areas. WALGA will consider this issue as part of its broader advocacy on housing.	November 2022	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039
Pilbara C	2022, 17 February Zone Agenda Item 7.1 Anti-Social Behaviour	That the Pilbara Country Zone requests the WALGA Secretariat to prepare a report for State Council's consideration on advocacy to State Government to extend the Kimberly Justice Strategy into the Pilbara Region.	<p>WALGA will undertake further investigation with Dept. Justice and Dept. Communities contacts in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions to ascertain the current youth justice approaches. Correspondence received from the Department of Communities dated 4 August 2022 has been circulated to the Zone. Further information has been sought from Pilbara LGA's in relation to the youth crime issues. It is recommended that the Zone invite representatives from the Department of Communities and WA Police to discuss the issue at a Zone meeting.</p> <p>This issue will be considered by the People and Place Policy Team as part of a larger strategic piece of work focused on youth justice in the regions.</p>	Ongoing	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039

<b>Pilbara C</b>	<b>23 June 2022 Zone Agenda Item 7.2</b> Local Government Act Review	That the Zone requests guidance from WALGA on how it may be possible to propose an amendment to the Local Government Act that will allow Elected Members to attend their Ordinary Council Meetings virtually when not in the State.	WALGA has received advice from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries who have confirmed that Elected Members can attend meetings electronically outside of WA in-accordance with Regulation 14A of the <i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996</i> .  The reference to "a townsite" can be anywhere.	<b>February 2023</b>	<b>Tony Brown</b> <b>Executive Director, Member Services</b> <b>9213 2051</b> <b>tbrown@walga.asn.au</b>

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

## RESOLUTION

**Moved:** Cr Linton Rumble  
**Seconded:** Cr Davia Gillam

**That the Pilbara Zone notes the Status Report.**

**CARRIED**



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## 5. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR DECISION

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**(Zone delegates to consider the Matters for Decision contained in the WA Local Government Association State Council Agenda and put forward resolutions to Zone Representatives on State Council)**

The full State Council Agenda can be found via link: [1 March 2023 State Council Agenda](#)

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 Proposed Advocacy Position on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People**

That the following Advocacy Position be endorsed:

WALGA supports constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People through the enshrining of a Voice to Parliament.

#### **7.2 Community Disaster Resilience Strategy Submission**

That the submission on the draft Western Australian Community Disaster Resilience Strategy be endorsed.

#### **7.3 Child Safeguarding Advocacy Position**

That the Child Safeguarding Advocacy Position as follows be endorsed:

Child Safeguarding

1. *Local Government supports:*
  - a. *the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse 2017, in particular Recommendation 6.12 which can be achieved by Local Government implementing and embedding child safeguarding across its functions with support from Governments at the national, state and territory levels; and*
  - b. *the ten National Principles for Child Safe Organisations (Australian Humans Rights Commission).*
2. *The State Government through an Independent Oversight Body should provide financial, resourcing and capacity building support to Local Governments to implement and embed child safeguarding across its functions, through the provision of:*
  - a. *supporting materials such as template policies, procedures and guidelines;*
  - b. *consistent key messaging and resources to promote and share in venues and facilities and online;*
  - c. *examples of best practice, including case studies;*
  - d. *self-assessment tools to assist Local Government;*
  - e. *ongoing training and skills development for Local Government staff, including online training options;*
  - f. *funding for the delivery of the child safeguarding function within smaller, less well resourced (Band 3 and Band 4) Local Governments; and*
  - g. *expert officers within each region to provide support and guidance to Local Government on child safeguarding.*

3. *The Local Government sector supports Local Government participation in the State's National Redress Scheme, with full financial coverage by the State.*

#### **7.4 Submission on Draft Guideline Minimising Noise Impact from Outdoor Community Basketball Facilities**

That the submission on the Draft Guideline: Minimising noise impact from outdoor community basketball facilities be endorsed.

#### **7.5 Main Roads Draft Roadside Advertising Policy and Application Guidelines**

That the submission to Main Roads on its Draft Roadside Advertising Policy and Application Guidelines be endorsed.

#### **Matters for Noting**

- 9.1 **Animal Welfare in Emergencies Grant Program Overview**
- 9.2 **Emergency Management Update**
- 9.3 **Local Development Plan Background Paper**
- 9.4 **2023-24 WALGA Federal Budget Submission**
- 9.5 **WALGA Submission on Phase Three of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 Co-Design Process**
- 9.6 **Child Care Premises Position Statement: Consultation Response**
- 9.7 **Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC)**

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Mayor Peter Carter  
**Seconded:** Cr Anthony Middleton

**That the Pilbara Country Zone:**

1. **Postpones a decision on State Council item 7.1 pending member Council consideration.**
2. **Supports Matters for Decision 7.2, 7.3, 7.4 and 7.5 as listed above in the March 2023 State Council Agenda; and**
3. **Notes all Policy Team Reports, Matters for Noting and Organisational Reports as listed in the March 2023 State Council Agenda.**

**CARRIED**

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#### **6. BUSINESS**

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##### **6.1 2023 Local Government Honours Program**

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The annual Local Government Honours Program affords significant public recognition and celebration of the outstanding achievements and lasting contributions made by Elected Members and Local Government officers to their respective Councils, the WA Local Government sector and the wider community.

Nominations for the 2023 Honours Program are open now.

There are six awards in the 2023 Program:

1. Local Government Medal
2. Life Membership

3. Eminent Service Award
4. Merit Award
5. Local Government Distinguished Officer Award
6. Young Achievers Award

Nominations will close at **5:00pm on Friday, 9 June** and the awards will be presented as part of the WALGA Annual General Meeting held on Monday, 18 September.

For more information or to submit a nomination, visit the WALGA website or contact Kathy Robertson, Executive Officer Governance, on 9213 2036 or via email at [honours@walga.asn.au](mailto:honours@walga.asn.au).

**Noted**

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## **7. OTHER BUSINESS**

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### **7.1 Consideration to change the date of the June Zone Meeting**

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*By Shire of East Pilbara*

The OECD Mining Regions and Cities Conference is scheduled to be held in Karratha from 20 June to 23 June. The Pilbara Country Zone meeting is scheduled for 22 June to be hosted by Shire of East Pilbara in Newman.

### **RESOLVED**

**That the June Pilbara Country Zone meeting will be amended to be held via Teams, 16 June 2023, commencing at 11.30am. Calander invites with a Teams link will be sent out by the Secretariat in due course.**

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## **8. EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

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### **8.1 President's Report to the Zone**

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The WALGA State Councillor, Mayor Peter Long presented the President's Report.

**Noted**

### **8.2 State Councillor's report to the Zone**

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WALGA State Councillor, Mayor Peter Long presented on the previous State Council meeting.

**Noted**

### **8.3 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Representative Update Report.**

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The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries representative was an apology for this meeting.

**Noted**

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**8.4 Regional Development Australia – Pilbara Region.**

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The Regional Development Australia – Pilbara Region Chief Executive Officer, Tony Simpson provided an update the Zone.

Tony advised the Zone that the Showcase WA is on 8 August 2023, and that RDA Pilbara have paid a deposit of \$1000 for the event. RDA will reach out to the Pilbara Councils to work on what will be showcased closer to the date.

Tony also advised that he will invite Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility CEO to the April Zone meeting.

Please see **attachment** regarding the Showcase info as mentioned at the meeting.

**Noted**

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**8.5 Roadwise Update**

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Greg Hayes, Regional Road Safety Advisor, was an apology for this meeting.

**Noted**

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**9. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

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**That the next ordinary meeting of the Pilbara Country Zone be held on 27 April 2023, via MS Teams, commencing at 11.30am.**

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**10. CLOSURE**

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There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at **1.25pm.**