



THE
**KIMBERLEY
ZONE**

Meeting Minutes

19 April 2024
1 pm – 2:30pm

Table of Content

1. KIMBERLEY COUNTRY ZONE MEETING OPEN: 1:04PM.....	3
2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES.....	3
3. DISCLOSURES, CONFLICTS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:.....	4
4. KIMBERLEY COUNTRY ZONE STATE COUNCIL AGENDA:	5
5. CONCLUSION OF ZONE MATTERS:	45
6. ADOPTION OF POLICY AND ADVOCACY PRIORITISATION FRAMEWORK.....	46
7. IMPORTANCE OF WALGA BECOMING A REGISTERED EMPLOYER ORGANISATION	49
8. ENHANCED AND ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR REGIONAL WA	52

1. Kimberley Country Zone Meeting Open: 1:04pm

Chair acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the different lands on which people are meeting today, and paid respect to all the Elders past, present and emerging.

2. Attendance and Apologies

Name	Shire / Council / Organisation	Method
Members		
Cr David Menzel	Zone Chair, and President, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	Zoom
Cr Peter McCumstie	President, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Zoom
Cr Trish McKay	Deputy Shire President, Shire of Halls Creek	Zoom
Observers		
James Watt	Director of Corporate Services, Shire of Broome	Zoom
Geoff Haerewa	Zone Deputy & Deputy President, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Zoom
Amanda Dexter	CEO, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Zoom
Musa Mono	Director Health & Regulatory Services, Shire of Halls Creek	Zoom
Vernon Lawrence	CEO, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	Zoom
Executive Support Team		
Paul Rosair	Principal NAJA Business Consulting	Zoom
Michelle Mackenzie	Principal Mira Consulting	Zoom
Jane Lewis	Principal Redit Research	Zoom
Rebecca Billing	Administrative Assistant, NAJA Business Consulting	Zoom
Apologies		
Gordon Thomson	President, Shire of Christmas Island	
David Price	CEO, Shire of Christmas Island	
Aindil Minkom	President, Cocos (Keeling) Islands	

Name	Shire / Council / Organisation	Method
Frank Mills	CEO, Cocos (Keeling) Islands	
Tony Lacy	Cocos (Keeling) Islands	
Cr Azah Badlu	Cocos (Keeling) Islands	
Cr Chris Mitchell	President, Shire of Broome	
Sam Mastrolembo	CEO, Shire of Broome	
Cr Desiree Male	Deputy Shire President, Shire of Broome	
Cr Karen Chappel	President WALGA	
Cr Malcolm Edwards	President, Shire of Halls Creek	
Cr Tony Chafer	Deputy Shire President, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	
Guests		
Nick Sloan	CEO WALGA	Zoom
Emma Heys	Governance Specialist WALGA	Zoom
Renee Gioffre	Kimberley Executive Director, Department of Communities	Zoom
Janine Hatch	Director, Regional Development Australia - Kimberley	Zoom
Bill Tatchell	CEO Australia's Northwest	Zoom
Tom Chapman	Regional Manager, DLGSCI	Zoom
Chuck Berger	CEO Kimberley Development Commission	Zoom

3. Disclosures, Conflicts and Declarations of Interest:

Financial Interest / Impartiality			
Member	Item Number	Item	Nature of Interest
Nil			

4. Kimberley Country Zone State Council Agenda:

Attachments:


1 President's Report

2 WALGA State Council Agenda and Report on State Council Actions (Separately Attached)

1.1 Presidents Report – Attachment 1

President's Report

May 2024



Introduction

It has been another busy couple of months in Local Government since the last round of Zone and State Council meetings. There has been the Aboriginal Engagement Forum, the launch of the WA Tree Festival (Tree Fest) for 2024, lots of discussion on planning matters, the State Government has opened a WA Hub in Canberra and much more. I will outline some of this activity in this report.

WA Canberra Hub

On 26 March, I was invited by the State Government to attend the official opening of the WA Canberra Hub.

The hub aims to facilitate collaboration with Commonwealth and other State and Territory Governments. Providing a space for in-person meetings, the hub is available for Member Councils, peak bodies, WA industry, Not-for-profits and advocacy organisations.

The hub will support a new way of working with the Federal Government, help to champion WALGA and the State's priorities, enhance relationships and improve outcomes for Local Governments and all Western Australians.

The opening was attended by WA Premier Roger Cook, Hon Hannah Beazley BA MLA, Hon David Michael MLA and Hon Reece Whitby MLA, and was an opportunity to celebrate the launch and new home for WA. I also took the opportunity to discuss Local Government issues with the State's leaders.

Planning

There has been a great deal of activity on trees in recent weeks. In early March, WALGA's model Local Planning Policy (LPP) was released, which enables Local Governments to regulate the removal of significant trees on private land. While planting trees is important, we know it is not enough to stem the loss in canopy cover. The model LPP will enable greater protection for our most significant of our canopy trees without the need for State Government approval.

Round One of the Urban Greening Grants has also been announced, with 12 Local Governments sharing in almost \$600,000 to plant 9,400 trees and 29,000 understorey species this winter. And amongst all of this there continues to be a growing awareness and concern about the impact of the Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer on our tree canopy across the metropolitan area.

I was very pleased that that the Minister for Planning; Lands; Housing; Homelessness has listened to our request for a comprehensive review of Local Government planning fees and charges. These fees have not changed in over a decade, despite State planning charges rising significantly over this time. The review is a significant first step to ensuring fees are set at cost recovery and appropriately indexed going forward.

National Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport will inquire into and report on Local Government sustainability. Local Governments are encouraged to make a submission by the due date of Friday, 3 May 2024 and provide recommendations relating to any or all of the inquiry's terms of reference.

The Committee has prioritised a deeper understanding of Local Government financial sustainability and funding frameworks, alongside the changing infrastructure requirements and service delivery obligations for Local Governments. The Committee are seeking to understand the challenges faced by Local Governments in servicing infrastructure requirements across Australia's regional, rural, and remote locations.



They will also examine labour hire and retention trends, including the impacts of labour hire practices, to identify barriers and opportunities to support our local workforce and Local Government sustainability and service delivery obligations.

WALGA is seeking an extension for this deadline for Local Governments until Friday, 31 May 2024. Further communications will be provided if this deadline extension is approved.

I would encourage Local Governments to provide a submission where possible.

Standardise Meeting Procedures

Meeting Procedures (Standing Orders) Local Laws have been the foundation for facilitating efficient and effective Council and Committee meetings. The State Government's Local Government Reform includes the proposal for replacing local laws with Standard Meeting Procedures Regulation. The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries is consulting on proposals, with feedback required to the Department by 29 May 2024.

WALGA has prepared a Discussion Paper that combines the Department's Consultation Paper with comment and is seeking feedback from Local Governments. This feedback will be utilised to develop a sector-wide advocacy position for submission to the Department. Responses to WALGA are requested by Monday, 29 April 2024.

Again, I would encourage all Councils to provide a submission to the Department and to WALGA.

2024 Aboriginal Engagement Forum

I was delighted to provide an opening address at the seventh WALGA Aboriginal Engagement Forum at the State Reception Centre in King's Park. It was important for me professionally and personally to acknowledge how difficult the last 12 months have been for First Nations people in my speech to the 160 plus delegates. I'm proud that WALGA and Local Government continues to learn and progress in this space.

WA 2024 Tree Festival launch

On Wednesday 27 March, WALGA collaborated with the Kings Park and Botanic Garden to launch the WA Tree Festival (Tree Fest) for 2024. The launch featured celebrity horticultural experts Trevor Cochrane and Sue McDougall in the beautiful Botanical Pavilion and Terraces in King's Park (Kaarta Gar-up).

In Western Australia, we are losing trees at a rate faster than we can replace them with the overall tree canopy in Perth at 16%; the lowest of any Australian City. Tree Fest aligns with [WALGA's State Budget Submission](#) ask for cooler cities and shadier suburbs through the creation of a State-Wide Urban Forest Strategy (\$1million) and the expansion of the Urban Greening Grant program (\$20m over 4 years).

Starting Saturday, 6 April and hosted during nature's natural planting window, the WA Tree Festival brings around 50 Local Governments and community groups together to help share the value of trees through events, activities and initiatives.

Media Activity

WALGA's Policy and Communications teams briefed me on a range of proactive and reactive media activity throughout February and March. As President, I held multiple interviews, including discussing planning reforms to R-codes, our request on more State budget money for Local Government libraries, the urban greening grants, the ARENA electric vehicle funding and emergency management funding.

Planning reforms around granny flats was the issue that sparked the most media interest.

President Cr Karen Chappel AM JP
WALGA President



President's Contacts

The President's contacts since 6 March 2024 and scheduled before 1 May 2024 are as follows:

State and Commonwealth Government Relations

- Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety – PoweringWA
- Western Australia Canberra Hub Opening
- National Emergency Management Ministers Meeting

Zone Meetings

- Central Country Zone Meeting
- Murchison Country Zone Meeting

Local Government Relations

- State Council Meetings:
 - State Council Meeting – March 6, 2024
 - WALGA Election Priorities Workshop
 - Local Government House Trust – Special Meeting x 2
 - Information Forum
 - Finance & Services Committee Meeting
 - Zone Chair Induction
- LGIS
 - JLT Management Committee
 - Offsite Board Workshop
- ALGA
 - Board Meeting
- Lord Mayors Distress Relief Fund
 - Board meeting, 11 April
- State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee
- State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee – Delegates Briefing and Workshop
- WALGA Aboriginal Engagement Forum
- CEO Performance Review Committee Meeting
- Inner City Group Meeting of the Mayors and CEOs
- Pre-SAC Meeting

Conferences, Workshops, Public Relations

- Streets Alive Program Launch
- Regional Telecommunications Review Breakfast
- Pathway to Politics for Women Advisory Committee

1.2 Reports from Representatives

WALGA –

- Karen Chappel, President,
- Nick Sloan, CEO
- Emma Heys, Governance Specialist

Department of Communities, Renee Gioffre, Kimberley Executive Director

RDA Kimberley – Janine Hatch, Director

Australia's North West Tourism – Bill Tatchell, CEO

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries – Tom Chapman, Regional Manager

Kimberley. (Written report attached)

Kimberley Development Commission - Chuck Berger, CEO

5.2.1 Reports from Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Report



Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Report

April 2024

Local Government Act Reform

- In May 2023, the Local Government Amendment Bill 2023 was passed and the *Local Government Amendment Act 2023* was assented.
- The *Local Government Amendment Act 2023* introduced key reforms related to elections and other priority matters based on 6 key themes:
 - Earlier intervention, effective regulation and stronger penalties
 - Reducing red tape, increasing consistency and simplicity
 - Greater transparency and accountability
 - Stronger local democracy and community engagement
 - Clearer roles and responsibilities
 - Improved financial management and reporting.
- The local government reforms were divided into two tranches to ensure that the election related reforms were in place in time for the October 2023 elections.
- Regulations have been made relating to the broadcasting and recording of council meetings, owners and occupiers' enrolment eligibility, and payments for the training and professional development of elected members.
- Regulations to support the implementation of other tranche one reforms continue to be developed by the Regulatory Reform team.
- On 3 November 2023, the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal (SAT) made a variation to the *Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members Determination*, issued on 6 April 2023.
- As a result, the reform to enable the payment of fees to independent committee members commenced on 1 January 2024.
- The variation by the SAT sets the thresholds for the payment of meeting fees to independent committee members.
- The enrolment changes to the owner occupiers roll took effect on 1 January 2024 and a training workshop was conducted by the DLGSC to explain these changes on Friday, 15 December 2023.

- The DLGSC continues to provide ongoing updates to the sector on the reforms as part of LG Alerts and monthly reform webinars.
- The DLGSC conducted Reform Webinar 8 on 29 February 2024, topics covered included –
 - changes to long service leave regulations
 - payments to independent committee members
 - owners and occupiers' enrolment changes
 - consultation for standardised meetings procedures
 - tranche 2 reforms – superannuation for elected members
- A consultation paper and online survey for standardised meetings procedures are available on the DLGSC's website.
 - <https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/local-government/strengthening-local-government/local-government-act-reform/standardised-meeting-procedures-consultation>
- Feedback received through the process for consultation will inform the drafting of regulations for standardised meetings procedures.
- The consultation period ends Wednesday 29 May 2024, feedback is encouraged.
- Other regulations reforms are continuing to be progressed in 2024, including integrated planning and reporting, online registers and local government CEO KPIs and reporting.
- Further information in relation to the reforms are on the DLGSC website:
 - <https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/local-government/strengthening-local-government/local-government-act-reform>
- The DLGSC monthly webinars take a deep dive into specific topics regarding the reforms – look out for LG Alerts for more details. If you would like a link to recordings of previous webinars, this is available on the DLGSC website:
 - <https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/local-government/strengthening-local-government/local-government-act-reform/local-government-reform-webinars>
- The DLGSC has also teamed up with LG Pro to deliver a series of monthly capacity-building webinars.

Model Financial Statements (MFS) and Financial

- Model Financial Statements (MFS) guidelines and templates for Class 1 and 2, plus a reduced version for smaller local governments (Class 3 and 4) were published on the DLGSC website on 16 May 2023 and applied to 2022-23 annual financial statements.
- A first tranche of regulatory amendments for the MFS commenced on 1 July 2022.
- A second tranche of regulatory amendments for the MFS commenced on 1 July 2023.

- The 1 September 2023 version of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 includes the new credit card regulation 13A.
- On 19 October 2023, an LG Alert was issued, which also provided guidance on reporting credit card and purchasing card transactions.
- An LG Alert was issued on 9 January 2024 seeking feedback on the MFS used for 2022-23 annual financial statements report.
- Feedback closed on 9 February 2024. Feedback is currently being reviewed and the guidelines and templates are being revised to take into account some of the considerations and also the amendments made to the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 since publishing.
- The updated MFS for 2023-24 annual financial statements report will be published at the end of April 2024.
- Non-financial asset valuation guidelines are currently being prepared and a draft has been issued to sector bodies for feedback by 20 March 2024.
- A sector body workshop is being held on 22 March 2024, to identify relevant changes and confirm support for finalisation of the guidelines, which is to be published at the end of April 2024.

Contact LG Accounting for queries – Lg.accounting@dlqsc.wa.gov.au

Local Government (Functions and General) Amendment Regulations 1996

- The *Local Government (Functions and General) Amendment Regulations 1996* were gazetted on Friday 19 May 2023. These amendments do the following:

Rural GP and Dentists tender exemption

- Recognising the importance of maintaining medical and dental services in our regions, a tender exemption for renewing or extending a contract with a medical or dental service is being provided to regional local governments.
- This exemption means those local governments will be able to maintain the services of an existing doctor or dentist without needing to call for public tenders.
- This exemption is only available to local governments outside the Perth Metropolitan Area and City of Mandurah.

Novation of Contracts

- An additional tender exemption is provided for where a local government novates a contract.

- As an example in the context of a dental service, this means where the dental practice is sold to another dentist, the local government can novate the existing contract with the old dentist to the new dentist.
- This improves local government contract management, allowing novation of contracts to occur, local governments should however make sure it is in their interest to novate the contract.
- This exemption is available to all local government.

Dental leasing exemption

- An exemption from the property disposal requirements has been provided for the leasing of land for dental services.
- This is to align with the new exemption provided for regional medical and dental services.
- This exemption is however available to all local governments, like the existing medical services exemption is.

Further queries can be directed – actreview@dlqsc.wa.gov.au

Local Government Grants Commission

- The WA Local Government Grants Commission (the Commission) has a full composition of members; however, as five member and deputy positions have terms that end on 31 August 2024, work has commenced for nominations. Only the deputy position of Deputy to the Deputy Chairperson remains vacant and will be filled in 2024.
- The total amount of 2023-24 Financial Assistance Grants (FA Grants) was \$393,675,581 (\$366,684,564 paid in advance). This was made up of two components:
 - \$241,099,199 for General Purpose Grants (\$230,921,687 paid in advance), and
 - \$152,576,382 for Local Roads Grants (\$135,762,877 paid in advance).
- An advance payment of the 2023-24 FFA Grants, based on a funding pool equivalent to approximately 100% of the total 2023-24 funding pool, was made to local governments on the 30 June 2023.
- Local Governments were advised that the advance payment meant remaining payments during 2023-24 would be limited and that they needed to ensure they have sufficient funds for 2023-24 to complete their planned programs.
- Due to the 100% advance, all WA local governments were either over or under paid, with the difference to be recouped from their future 2024-25 funding. All local governments with a variance of \$50,000, or greater than 2% of rates revenue, have been advised of the implications to next year's allocations.
- The Commission completed a visiting program to the Pilbara in order to conduct public hearings in October 2023, and is finalising plans to visit; the Upper Great

Southern, the Eastern Goldfields-South and the Kimberley regions in April and May 2024.

Stop Puppy Farming

- The State Government is delivering on its commitment to stop and prevent puppy farming. These reforms have overwhelming community support.
- The Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act 2021 requires the design and development of a centralised registration system (CRS) for dogs.
- The CRS will also assist with the registration of cats under the *Cat Act 2011*, and the development of regulations, in consultation with stakeholders.
- A Request for Tender for the implementation of the CRS was released to the market on 24 January 2023 and closed on 8 March 2023. Responses to the Request for Tender have been evaluated and the evaluation report was endorsed by the State Tender Review Committee on 13 July 2023.
- The Discovery and Design phase for the CRS is currently underway and was completed on 18 March 2024.
- DLGSC is continuing to engage local governments and other key stakeholders across the State to prepare for CRS implementation.
- A consultation paper sought further feedback from stakeholders and interested members of the community to assist in developing workable regulations. A second consultation paper on new and existing fees and charges was released to targeted stakeholders on 1 February 2024 and closed 15 March 2024. Responses are currently being analysed.
- DLGSC is working to progress the implementation stage of the CRS and associated regulations in the second half of 2024.

Off Road Vehicles

- The ORV Committee is currently exploring opportunities to identify potential new ORV areas.
- On 13 December 2023, the Cook Government announced the end of harvesting Pine in the Gnangara State Forest due to roosting of the threatened Black Cockatoo.
- Therefore, DLGSC are in discussions with DBCA about potential investment opportunities, in Pinjar as an ORV area.
- A private proponent is currently investigating the potential of an ORV area in the south of Perth.

Local Government Election Commitments

- The Riverside Gardens Urban Forest development is expected to meet tree planting milestones by Winter 2024.
- The Contract Award for the Greenwood Scout and Guide Hall Refurbishment is expected in March 2024.
- Construction of the Sutherlands Park Youth Plaza development, planned for April 2024.
- The Ellenbrook Community Hub Development is at Request for Tender stage.
- The commitment to the Yellowwood Park – Skate and Parkour Facilities is on track and will provide a family friendly recreational space for the local community.
- The City of Stirling is overseeing the project for the upgrades to the Mirrabooka Village Neighbourhood Centre.
- The Birdwood Square Public Toilets and Changing Facilities project is on track, a commitment towards new facilities at Birdwood Square.
- The WA Loves Nature (Group) is managing the commitment towards the improvement of the West Perth Local Hay Street Native Bee-Scene Trail project.

DLGSC Contacts

LG Support and Engagement	lghotline@dlqsc.wa.gov.au
LG Policy and Legislation	legislation@dlqsc.wa.gov.au
CRS – Stop Puppy Farming	puppyfarming@dlqsc.wa.gov.au
Grants Commission – Financial Assistance Grants	Grants.commission@dlqsc.wa.gov.au
LG accounting enquiries	LG.accounting@dlqsc.wa.gov.au
LG Act Reform	actreview@dlqsc.wa.gov.au
LG Advisory Board	advisoryboard@dlqsc.wa.gov.au

5.3 Reports from Kimberley Country Zone

The following table provides a summary of Matters for Decision that will be considered at the WALGA State Meeting on 1 May 2024, and provides an update on Matters for Noting. For full details of items, including background material and discussions, please see separately attached WALGA State Council Agenda (Attachment 2).

5.3.1 Item/Matters for Decision

Item / Matters for Decision As per State Council Agenda	WALGA Recommendations
<p>7.1 Waste Levy Advocacy Position</p>	<p>That State Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Replace the existing WALGA Waste Levy Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 7.4 Waste Management Funding: <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Local Government considers that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy funds should be hypothecated to strategic waste management activities in line with the State Waste Strategy and strongly opposes the application of the Levy to non-waste management related activities, such as funding State Government core activities; and 2. The Levy should not be applied to licensed landfills outside the metropolitan area. 2. Endorse a new Waste Levy Advocacy Position as follows: <p style="margin-left: 40px;">The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy (the Levy) was established in WA to fund programs relating to the management, reduction, reuse, recycling, monitoring or measurement of waste and administering the fund. The current Levy is applied to waste generated, or landfilled, in the Perth metropolitan area.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Currently, only 25% of the collected funds are retained for strategic waste management activities, 75% are allocated to the ongoing operations of the Department responsible for administration of the Levy.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Local Government considers that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy funds must be fully hypothecated to strategic waste management activities in line with the State Waste Strategy and not be used for non-waste management related activities, such as funding State Government core activities. 2. Strategic waste management activities funded by the State Government should:

Item / Matters for Decision As per State Council Agenda	WALGA Recommendations
	<p>a. Provide adequate funding and support for Regional Councils, non-metropolitan and metropolitan Local Governments;</p> <p>b. Reflect the targets and priorities within the Waste Strategy;</p> <p>c. Fully fund and acknowledge the life cycle costs of infrastructure and services; and</p> <p>d. Facilitate the development, implementation and ongoing operation of Product Stewardship Schemes.</p> <p>3. The Levy should not be applied to waste generated in the non-metropolitan area as it is not feasible, or appropriate, to implement the Levy in areas with a limited rate base, access to markets for recycled materials, economic growth and resources to manage such a change.</p> <p>4. The Levy should not be applied to waste received at premises undertaking licensed activities whose primary purpose is resource recovery.</p> <p>5. The Levy must be supported by a clear, evidence-based rationale to demonstrate the suitability of how charges are set, how and where funds are allocated, and the extent to which it is delivering on its objectives.</p> <p>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Waste Levy and Strategic Waste Funding Policy Statement was first endorsed in 2008 and was amended in 2018. • The Statement outlines the Local Government position on levies charged on the weight or volume of waste received at licensed premises and the application of those funds to waste management activities. • In 2023, the WA Government published the findings of a Review of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Levy. The consultation summary report and supporting consultant report can be accessed on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) website. • Key outcomes of the Levy Review included a five-year schedule of increases and a commitment to investigate extending the levy boundary to regional areas. • The new Waste Levy Advocacy Position uses contemporary language emphasises: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Full hypothecation of the Levy; ◦ The key areas of expenditure for the Levy; ◦ Opposition to the expansion of the Levy’s geographic application; ◦ Opposition to the application of the Levy to resource recovery activities; and ◦ The need for a clear evidence-based rationale for setting and expending the Levy. • The Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) endorsed the new Advocacy Position in February 2024. <p>ATTACHMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Levy Policy Statement

4.3.2 Policy Team and Committee Reports and Matters for Noting

Item / Matters for Noting / Information	WALGA Recommendations
8.1 Environment Policy Team Report	<p>That State Council note the matters considered by the Environment Policy Team at its meeting on 6 March 2024.</p> <p>1. PORTFOLIO UPDATES The Policy Team was provided with updates on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Forests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The release of WALGA’s model Tree Retention Local Planning Policy (LPP); ○ Round One of the Local Government Urban Greening Grant Program; and ○ The State Government’s announcement of the development of a Perth and Peel Urban Forest Strategy. • Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer; • The State Government’s consideration of the Report of the Independent Panel’s Review of the <i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i> ; • Local Government planning fees and charges – the Minister for Planning; Lands; Housing; Homelessness has agreed to a comprehensive review; and • Native vegetation clearing permit assessment timeframes.
8.2 Governance Policy Team Report	<p>That State Council note the report on the Governance Policy Team.</p> <p>The Governance Policy Team have not held a meeting since the last State Council meeting in March.</p> <p>A meeting of the Governance Policy Team will be scheduled to occur in May, where the following key items of business will be presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardised Meeting Procedures Submission • Elections Review Report
8.3 Infrastructure Policy Team Report	<p>That State Council note the matters considered by the Infrastructure Policy Team at its meeting on 6 March 2024.</p> <p>1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION Nil</p> <p>2. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING The Policy Team noted the Zone Resolutions and Composite resolution for the item on the 6 March 2024 State Council agenda for decision – Separation and Edge Line Markings by Local Government on Low Volume Rural Roads.</p> <p>The Policy Team progressed actions and advocacy in relation to:</p>

Item / Matters for Noting / Information	WALGA Recommendations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulating heavy vehicle road access conditions; Extended lead time for quotes from Western Power for headworks and changes to infrastructure; • Royalty payments for mine site materials used in road construction and maintenance; • Regional Telecommunication Independent Review; • Review of Main Road Cross over Policy; • Required changes to the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements; and • Local Government Active Transport Working Group <p>The team noted that ALGA has accepted the invitation to hold the National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress in Western Australia in December 2024.</p> <p>3. PORTFOLIO UPDATES The Policy Team was provided with a presentation on the areas of focus for the Infrastructure portfolio.</p>
<p>8.4 People and Place Policy Team Report</p>	<p>That State Council note the matters considered by the People and Place Policy Team at its meeting on 6 March 2024.</p> <p>1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION Nil</p> <p>2. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING The Policy Team discussed the following items for noting on the 6 March 2024 State Council agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024-25 Federal Budget Submission; and • Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan (EM-SAP) Local Government Consultation Project. <p>3. MATTERS REFERRED BY ZONES Murchison Country Zone: Improving the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS) At the People and Place Policy Team Meeting on 7 February 2024, the Policy Team considered the following resolution of the Murchison Country Zone:</p> <p><i>That WALGA advocate for improvements to the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS) for regional Western Australia particularly around fuel and accommodation subsidies.</i></p> <p>The People and Place Policy Team resolved to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the request from the Murchison Country Zone. 2. Request that WALGA write to the Minister for Health to seek a review of the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme. <p>At the People and Place Policy Team Meeting on 6 March 2024, the Policy Team amended the recommendation to:</p>

Item / Matters for Noting / Information	WALGA Recommendations
	<p>1. Note the request from the Murchison Country Zone.</p> <p>2. Request that WALGA write to the Minister for Health to seek a review of the current level of the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme <i>with the intention to increase it to reflect current costs, including an annual CPI increase.</i></p> <p>South East Metropolitan Zone: Mitigating public health implications of increasing temperatures, frequent heatwaves coupled with accelerated depletion of tree canopy.</p> <p>East Metropolitan Zone: Public health planning for climate change (heat) risks</p> <p>The People and Place Policy team considered the following resolutions of the East and South East Metropolitan Zones:</p> <p><i>The South East Metropolitan Zone is seeking WALGA:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Model Text Provisions for the sector to address increasing risks to community public health generated by escalating heat wave conditions and Urban Heat Island effects coupled with accelerated loss of tree canopy; and • As a matter of urgency, advocates to the state government to establish additional funding to enable local governments to implement intensive, widespread measures to mitigate the major public health implications of increasing temperatures, frequent heatwaves coupled with accelerated depletion of tree canopy, particularly in urban areas. <p><i>The East Metropolitan Zone is seeking WALGA:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop draft model actions to guide Public Health Plans to address increasing risks to community public health generated by escalating heat wave conditions and Urban Heat Island effects coupled with accelerated loss of tree canopy; and • As a matter of urgency, advocates to the state government to establish additional funding to enable local governments to implement intensive, widespread measures to mitigate the major public health implications of increasing temperatures, frequent heatwaves coupled with accelerated depletion of tree canopy, particularly in urban areas. <p>The People and Place Policy Team resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To note the resolutions of the South East and the East Metropolitan Zones. 2. The ongoing WALGA advocacy regarding the implementation of Stage 5 of the Public Health Act 2016, as stated in Advocacy Position 3.2.1. 3. That WALGA will continue to advocate for sector support, advice and funding for Public Health Plan drafting and implementation. <p>Gascoyne Zone: Challenges with Aboriginal Heritage Matters</p> <p>The People and Place Policy Team was provided with an update on action arising from the resolution of the Gascoyne Country Zone:</p> <p><i>That the Gascoyne Country Zone requests that WALGA schedules a Teams meeting between the Gascoyne Zone delegates and the relevant Policy Team to discuss the issues the Zone faces in complying with Aboriginal Heritage Legislation and establishing indigenous Land Use Agreements.</i></p>

Item / Matters for Noting / Information	WALGA Recommendations
	<p>On 22 February 2024, WALGA convened an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Roundtable for the Gascoyne Zone in Carnarvon. The aim of the roundtable was to gain a shared understanding of the requirements under the amended <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972</i> and its interaction with heritage surveys, Standard Heritage Agreements, and Indigenous Land Use Agreements; and to share Local Government feedback and progress implementation solutions applicable across the Local Government Sector in partnership with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH). The discussion provided some practical solutions and proposals which WALGA is seeking to progress with DPLH, aligned to the State Government's commitment to guidance and support for the sector.</p> <p>President Eddie Smith hosted the Roundtable in Carnarvon and informed the Policy Team that it was very informative and worthwhile. The People and Place Policy Team resolved to encourage zones that are inclined to host a roundtable on the Aboriginal Heritage Act with involvement from DWER and DPLH.</p> <p>4. PORTFOLIO UPDATE</p> <p>The Policy Team was provided with updates on the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WALGA Emergency Management Survey; • Power and Telecommunications Roundtable held on 20 February; and • LEMA Improvement Project.
<p>8.5 Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Report</p>	<p>That State Council note the resolutions of the 21 February 2024 Municipal Waste Advisory Council Meeting.</p> <p>1. MATTERS FOR DECISION</p> <p>Waste Levy Advocacy Position</p> <p>MWAC resolved to rescind the existing Waste Levy Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 7.4 Waste Management Funding and endorse a new Waste Levy Advocacy Position (State Council Item 7.1 for Decision refers).</p> <p>Waste Levy Advocacy Position</p> <p>MWAC, through WALGA, resolved to write to the Minister for Energy; Environment and Climate Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressing Local Governments' concern about the impacts of the e-waste to landfill ban regarding the e-waste to Landfill Band the need for further funding and effective product stewardship in line with WALGA's advocacy position on Landfill Bans; and • Seeking an update on the outcomes of the consultation on the Container Deposit Scheme expansion, timeframe for the expansion and reiterating Local Governments' strong support for the expansion of the Scheme to include wine and spirit bottles as a minimum.

Item / Matters for Noting / Information	WALGA Recommendations
	<p>2. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION</p> <p>MWAC considered <i>Waste Advocacy Priorities for 2024</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the proportion of the Waste Levy being provided to Local Government to assist the sector in meeting the State Waste Strategy targets and provide investment certainty; • Achieve regulatory certainty through provision of the Waste Derived Materials Framework, new DWER Regulatory Framework in place providing a risk-based approach to regulation, and the completion of the WARR Strategy Review and revised State Waste Strategy; • Ensure the State Waste Infrastructure Plan is fit for purpose across WA, with a specific focus on ensuring sufficient regional infrastructure; • The implementation of effective product stewardship schemes for electrical and electronic waste, packaging, tyres and mattresses which address WALGA's 10 Principles for Product Stewardship. • Development of a WALGA Circular Economy Policy Position; and • Research and engagement with Local Government on key issues with asbestos, including illegal dumping, Local Government infrastructure, emergency management and community need to identify priority action areas and funding required. <p>MWAC also discussed the importance of ensuring high quality services were in place and ensuring different community needs were met, particularly for CALD communities and different types of development (e.g. multi-residential vs single unit dwellings).</p>
<p>9.1 WALGA 2023 Emergency Management Survey</p>	<p>That State Council note the results of the 2023 Local Government Emergency Management Survey.</p> <p>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 102 (75%) of the 137 mainland WA Local Governments responded to WALGA's 2023 Emergency Management Survey. • Key issues raised by Local Governments included: community preparedness and resilience; capacity to respond to and manage recovery; management of Bush Fire Brigades; inadequate LGGs funding; lack of emergency management resources; and challenges accessing grant funding. • The survey demonstrates the importance of Community Emergency Services Managers (CESMs) to Local Governments that have one and that many regional Local Governments without a CESM would like one. • The survey identified several issues with the <i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i> that Local Governments would like to see resolved in the proposed Consolidated Emergency Services Legislation. • The survey results will inform WALGA's policy development and advocacy on behalf of the sector, including the WALGA 2024-25 State Budget Submission, and in the lead up to the next State and Federal elections. • A summary of the survey results was presented at the State Council Information Forum on 3 April, and in a Sector webinar was held on 11 April 2024.

Item / Matters for Noting / Information	WALGA Recommendations
	<p>ATTACHMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Summary – WALGA 2023 Emergency Management Survey
<p>9.2 Tree Retention Model Local Planning Policy</p>	<p>That State Council note the Tree Retention Model Local Planning Policy.</p> <p>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WALGA’s model Tree Retention Local Planning Policy (LPP) was released in March 2024. • The LPP aims to create a consistent regulatory framework for tree protection across WA. • The LPP stipulates the circumstances in which a development approval is required to remove a tree and guides the assessment of these applications and other planning proposals. <p>ATTACHMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model Local Planning Policy: Tree Retention • Letter from the WALGA President to the Minister for Minister for Planning; Lands; Housing; Homelessness
<p>9.3 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement Plan Implementation</p>	<p>That State Council note the Local Emergency Management Arrangement Improvement Project update.</p> <p>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In December 2023, the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) endorsed a Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement Plan, including funding to deliver the first phase of the Plan. • The LEMA Improvement Plan aims to progress the local emergency management reforms recommended by Local Governments in the LEMA Review and will be delivered as a partnership between WALGA and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES). • WALGA has been allocated \$356,000 to employ a LEMA Project Lead to work directly with Local Governments to develop and pilot new LEMA approaches over an 18-month period.
<p>9.4 Planning and Building Performance Monitoring Project</p>	<p>That State Council note the results of the 2022-23 Local Government Performance Monitoring Project.</p> <p>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WALGA’s Local Government Performance Monitoring Project has been undertaken annually since 2017. • WALGA uses the findings of the project to support advocacy and policy development, particularly around planning and building regulation reform.

Item / Matters for Noting / Information	WALGA Recommendations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 42 Local Governments participated in the 2022-23 Project, representing approximately 90% of Western Australia's population and 94% of the State's total population growth between 2021 and 2022. The 2022-23 data shows that Local Governments have maintained high levels of performance in undertaking their strategic and statutory planning and building functions. The findings of the Project are incorporated into an online interactive dashboard publicly available through the WALGA website. <p>ATTACHMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Indicator Snapshot Performance Monitoring Dashboard
<p>9.5 2024 WALGA Aboriginal Engagement Forum</p>	<p>That State Council note the report on the 2024 Aboriginal Engagement Forum.</p> <p>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</p> <p>The WALGA Aboriginal Engagement Forum was held on 20 March 2024 at the State Reception Centre in Kaarta Gar-up (Kings Park).</p> <p>The Forum provides an opportunity for the WA Local Government sector and partners to embrace the principles of reconciliation, through respectful Aboriginal and community engagement.</p> <p>Feedback from speakers, attendees, WALGA Executive and State Councillors has been overwhelmingly positive, with 93 per cent of survey respondents saying they would attend future Forums.</p>
<p>10.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Advocacy Portfolio</p>	<p>That State Council note the Key Activity Report from the Advocacy Portfolio to the 1 May 2024 State Council meeting.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>Marketing Communications and Media – tv, print, radio, LinkedIn, social media Government Relations Events – WALGA Aboriginal Engagement Forum, Launch of 2024 WA Tree Festival</p>
<p>10.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure Portfolio</p>	<p>That State Council note the Key Activity Report from the Infrastructure Portfolio for May 2024.</p> <p>Activities:</p>

Item / Matters for Noting / Information	WALGA Recommendations
	<p>Roads:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Government Transport and Roads Research and Innovation Program (LGTRRIP) Condition Assessment of Roads of Regional Significance Road Rail Interface Agreements Update of User Guides for calculating the cost of road wear for defined freight tasks <p>Funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement 2023/24 – 2027/28 Multi-Criteria Assessment (MCA) Model Revisions <p>Transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Freight Strategy Bus Stop Infrastructure <p>Utilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Underground Power Streetlighting <p>Road Safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road Safety Council Update RoadWise Councils RoadWise Recognised <p>Asset Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2022/23 Road Assets and Expenditure Report
<p>10.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Member Services Portfolio</p>	<p>That State Council note the Key Activity Report from the Member Services Portfolio to the 1 May 2024 State Council meeting.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>Governance and Procurement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standardised Meeting Procedures Discussion Paper <p>Commercial:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preferred Supplier Program (PSP) Development Sustainable Energy Project <p>Employee Relations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WA Industrial Relations Commission applications WALGA Salary and Workforce Survey 2023 People and Culture Seminar

Item / Matters for Noting / Information	WALGA Recommendations
	<p>Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGA30120 Certificate III in Local Government <p>Course offerings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report Writing for Informed Decision Making • Delegation and Authorisation – Essentials • Prevent Sexual Harassment & Psychosocial Hazards in the Workplace (Senior Leaders' Workshop) • Active Bystanders (Train the Trainer)
<p>10.1.4 Report on Key Activities, Policy Portfolio</p>	<p>That State Council note the Key Activity Report from the Policy Portfolio to the May 2024 State Council meeting.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>Economics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March Economic Briefing • Updated Economic Development Framework and New Templates Released • WALGA Presentation at the Regional Development Australia WA Conference <p>Environment and Waste:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Climate Change Declarations • Regional Local Government Environmental Regulation Roundtable <p>Planning and Building:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Fees and Charges • Planning Information Sessions; State Planning Policy 7.3 Residential Design Codes (SPP7.3); Environmental Protection Amendment Regulations • Urban Forests; Tree Retention model Local Planning Policy Released; Urban Greening Grants; Urban Forest Working Group Meeting <p>Emergency Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency management Roundtable • State Emergency Management Committee • Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan <p>Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal Affairs; Local Government Reconciliation Resource Hub; Aboriginal Cultural Heritage; National Reconciliation Week Webinar <p>Commencement of Part 5 of the Public Health Act 2016</p> <p>In March, the State Government announced that Part 5 of the Public Health Act 2016 will be phased in from 4 June 2024. Under Part 5 the Department of Health must finalise and publish</p>

Item / Matters for Noting / Information	WALGA Recommendations
	<p>a new State Public Health Plan by 4 June 2025 and Local governments are required to create local public health plans that are consistent with the State Public Health Plan by 4 June 2026. In addition, some low-risk public health regulations will be replaced with guidelines and improvement notices and enforcement orders will be introduced.</p> <p>The Department of Health has committed to provide updates and engage with Local Governments to ensure a collaborative and informed approach to implementation. WALGA is working with the State Government to secure support and guidance for the sector.</p> <p>Town Team Training</p> <p>WALGA is delivering a free workshop for Local Governments to learn about the establishment and facilitation of resilient places through the Town Team Movement on Monday, 20 May at WALGA. Attendees will learn how to find innovative opportunities in a Local Government context, reduce risks in place improvement and community development projects, and better engage local businesses and residents.</p>

5.4 Status Report on State Council Resolutions

Meeting	Zone Resolution	Comment	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
6 March 2024 Item 7.1 Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer (PSHB) Biosecurity Response and Implications for Local Government	That State Council note: 1. The significant threat PSHB represents to growth and retention of urban forests. 2. WALGA and Local Government's engagement in the PSHB biosecurity response. 3. The importance of shared surveillance by government, industry and community to assist with eradication efforts. 4. The need for funding for trees lost due to PSHB and ameliorate the long term urban canopy impact. RESOLUTION 003.1/2024	For noting.	Complete	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy
6 March 2024 Item 8.1 Separation (Centre) And Edge Line Markings by Local Government on Low Volume Rural Roads	That WALGA endorse the below Advocacy Position: 1. Main Roads Western Australia allow Local Governments to install edge line and separation (centre) line markings on roads that meet all relevant criteria, but do not meet the criterion on traffic volume. 2. Main Roads Western Australia to consider reducing the traffic volume threshold in the Main Roads warrant for installing separation (centre) lines to recognise the proven safety benefits. 3. For this exemption, Local Governments must adhere to the following conditions: a) The Local Government contact Main Roads via the Regional Network Manager with their intent to undertake line marking on specific roads that do not meet the traffic volume criterion, but meet all the other criteria. b) The Local Government obtain a Council resolution, committing to fund all installation and maintenance costs. c) Local Government undertake spotting/surveying. d) Main Roads to undertake an inspection following the survey/spotting work, confirm the start and finish points for the longitudinal line markings, and record the sections of road with line markings to be maintained by Local Government in the relevant database. e) Main Roads approve the final layout prior to line marking occurring. f) Local Government undertake the works. g) Local Government maintain the works in accordance with Main Roads WA standards. h) Local Government remove the lines if maintenance works are not performed to the standard.	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.	March 2024	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure

Kimberley Country Zone: Minutes April 2024

Meeting	Zone Resolution	Comment	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
	RESOLUTION 004.1/2024			
<p>6 March 2024 Item 8.2 Recovered Materials Framework Advocacy Position</p>	<p>That WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rescind the existing WALGA <i>Standards for Recycled Organics Applied to Land Policy Statement 2007</i> and Advocacy Position 7.9: <p>Local Government:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acknowledges the benefits of applying recycled organics to land, especially as a means of diverting organic material from landfill; and, 2. Supports the development of standards for applying recycled organics to land, to ensure a fit for purpose product is developed. 2. Endorse a new <i>Recovered Materials Framework</i> Advocacy Position as follows: <p>The use of recovered materials, across a range of applications, is essential in reducing the use of basic raw materials, meeting State Waste Strategy Targets and increasing diversion of waste from landfill. To ensure end users have high confidence in the quality and safety of products derived from recovered materials, consistent, outcomes-based standards and investment certainty are required.</p> <p>The State Government, in consultation with Local Government and the waste management industry, should take a leadership role in facilitating the use of recovered material by:</p> 	<p>The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.</p>	<p>March 2024</p>	<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p>

Kimberley Country Zone: Minutes April 2024

Meeting	Zone Resolution	Comment	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developing a regulatory framework which: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Outlines clear, outcomes-based specifications for individual products which take into consideration the receiving environment and allow for site-specific assessment. b. Minimises risk to human health and the environment from the use of recovered material. c. Establishes robust systems to provide quality assurance and ongoing surveillance throughout the supply chain. 2. Providing guidance and support mechanisms for the successful implementation of the framework. 3. Supporting the development of, and access to, sustainable end markets and long-term offtake agreements through initiatives such as active engagement with potential end users and the inclusion of recovered material content targets in Government procurement and large infrastructure projects. <p>RESOLUTION 005.1/2024</p>			

Kimberley Country Zone: Minutes April 2024

Meeting	Zone Resolution	Comment	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
<p>6 March 2024 Item 8.3 Review of Cemeteries Act 1986 and Cremation Act 1929 Discussion Paper</p>	<p>That WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supports the intent of the Review of Cemeteries Act 1986 and Cremation Act 1929 Discussion Paper to reduce red tape, modernise legislation and standardise administrative practices; 2. Supports the intent of providing accessibility for alternative types of burials and disposal of human remains; and 3. Advocates that Local Government cemetery managers retain the capacity to impose cemetery fees and charges under Part 6 of the Local Government Act. <p>RESOLUTION 006.1/2024</p>	<p>Correspondence sent to Minister for Local Government.</p> <p>The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.</p>	<p>March 2024</p>	<p>Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services</p>
<p>6 March 2024 Item 8.4 Selection Committee Guidelines Review</p>	<p>That State Council endorse the Selection Committee Guidelines – <i>Selection Process for Appointments to State Government, Federal Government, WALGA and other Boards and Committees</i>, subject to the removal of the last dot point in Part D(i) i.e. whether the nominee has been sanctioned by the Local Government Standards Panel.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 008.1/2024</p>	<p>Guidelines have been updated.</p>	<p>March 2024</p>	<p>Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services</p>

Kimberley Country Zone: Minutes April 2024

Meeting	Zone Resolution	Comment	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
<p>6 March 2024 Item 8.5 Selection Committee Minutes – 19 December 2023 and 20 February 2024</p>	<p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the resolutions contained in the 19 December 2023 Special Selection Committee Meeting Minutes be noted; and 2. the recommendations contained in the 20 February 2024 Selection Committee Meeting Minutes be endorsed. <p>RESOLUTION 009.1/2024</p>	<p>Selection Committee resolutions have been actioned.</p>	<p>March 2024</p>	<p>Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services</p>
<p>6 March 2024 Item 8.6 Finance and Services Committee Minutes – 21 February 2024</p>	<p>That the Minutes of the Finance and Services Committee meeting held on 21 February 2024 be endorsed.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 010.1/2024</p>	<p>The WALGA Budget Plan 2024—25 is currently being implemented.</p> <p>The WALGA Investment Project will be referred to the 24/25 WALGA budget for funding for a full business plan.</p>		<p>Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services</p>

Kimberley Country Zone: Minutes April 2024

Meeting	Zone Resolution	Comment	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
<p>6 March 2024 Item 8.9 LGIS Board Remuneration</p>	<p>That State Council approve the remuneration for LGIS Board Members be increased by 6% for the 2024-25 financial year as per the LGIS Corporate Governance Charter guidance.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 013.1/2024</p>	<p>The remuneration increase will be implemented for the 24/25 financial year.</p>	<p>March 2024</p>	<p>Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services</p>
<p>6 March 2024 Item 8.11 Use of the Association's Common Seal</p>	<p>That State Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the use of the Common Seal for the \$65.9M LGIS Bank Guarantee for 2024. 2. Note the use of the Association's common seal for the following purposes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Funding Agreement between Department of Water and Energy and WA Local Government Association, and b. Fifth Deed of Amendment to Facility Agreement. <p>RESOLUTION 015.1/2024</p>	<p>Noted</p>	<p>March 2024</p>	<p>Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services</p>

Kimberley Country Zone: Minutes April 2024

Meeting	Zone Resolution	Comment	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
<p>6 March 2024 Item 9.2 Governance Policy Team Report</p>	<p>That State Council:</p> <p>3. Determine to:</p> <p>a. retain the following Advocacy Positions unchanged:</p> <p>i. 2.1.8 Differential Rates</p> <p>ii. 2.1.16 Recovery of Mining Tenement Rates</p> <p>b. retire the following WALGA Advocacy Position:</p> <p>i. 2.5.1 Public Notices</p> <p>ii. 2.5.21 Recordings and Live Streaming of Council Meetings</p> <p>RESOLUTION 017.1/2024</p>	<p>The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.</p>	<p>March 2024</p>	<p>Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services</p>
<p>6 December 2023 Item 7.1 2023 Annual General Meeting Resolutions</p>	<p>That the following resolutions from the 2023 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the appropriate Policy Team for further work to be undertaken</p> <p>5.1 Local Governments' representation at the State Administrative Tribunal relating to planning matters within its district</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 501.5/2023</p>	<p>That the Environment Policy Team met on 16 February 2024 and determined:</p> <p>That the Environment Policy Team:</p> <p>1. Note the 2023 AGM resolution, 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.</p> <p>2. Note that the AGM resolution is consistent with the intent of WALGA Advocacy Position 6.3 Third Party Appeal Rights, and 6.4 Development Assessment Panels.</p>		<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p>

Kimberley Country Zone: Minutes April 2024

Meeting	Zone Resolution	Comment	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
		<p>3. Requests that WALGA continue to pursue advocacy consistent with these positions as part of the Planning reform process.</p> <p>The WALGA Secretariat supports in principle the motion and notes that the DAP Advocacy Position is scheduled for review later in 2024. Proposals such as those raised by the Shire of Toodyay will be considered during this review.</p>		
<p>6 December 2023 Item 7.1 2023 Annual General Meeting Resolutions</p>	<p>That the following resolutions from the 2023 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the appropriate Policy Team for further work to be undertaken</p> <p>5.2 Land Use Policy <i>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.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 501.5/2023</p>	<p>This matter was considered by the Environment Policy Team at its meeting on 16 February.</p> <p>That the Environment Policy Team:</p> <p>1. Note the Research Paper: Protection of Productive Agricultural Land and the next steps outlined in the paper.</p> <p>In response, WALGA has prepared a Research Paper: Protection of Productive Agricultural Land that provides the policy context, history of WALGA's advocacy and analysis of State and Local Government approaches to agricultural land use protections.</p>		<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p>

Kimberley Country Zone: Minutes April 2024

Meeting	Zone Resolution	Comment	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
		<p>The Research Paper outlines how the Western Australian planning framework guides planning for rural land uses and assets and the current tools available to Local Governments to adapt their local planning frameworks to respond to the concerns raised at the WALGA AGM.</p> <p>WALGA will meet with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) to discuss their progress with the various initiatives being undertaken on a State level to protect priority agricultural land.</p> <p>Following this, WALGA will report back to the Policy Team on potential further actions, and WALGA should pursue taking an advocacy position on this matter, and the scope and extent to any potential advocacy position.</p>		

Kimberley Country Zone: Minutes April 2024

Meeting	Zone Resolution	Comment	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
<p>6 December 2023 Item 7.1 2023 Annual General Meeting Resolutions</p>	<p>That the following resolutions from the 2023 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the appropriate Policy Team for further work to be undertaken</p> <p>5.4 Regional and Remote Housing <i>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.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 501.5/2023</p>	<p>WALGA housing advocacy ongoing.</p>		<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p>
<p>1 March 2023 Item 7.4 Submission on Draft Guideline Minimising Noise Impact from Outdoor Community Basketball Facilities</p>	<p>That WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Note that the Environment Minister has withdrawn the Draft Guideline: Minimising noise impact from outdoor community basketball. Write to the Ministers for Environment, Local Government, Sport and Planning requesting the formation of a cross Government working group, including relevant representative bodies, to consider and develop solutions to balance urban density and infill, public recreation and noise management. <p>RESOLUTION 422.1/2023</p>	<p>Correspondence sent and issue raised with the Minister's office on multiple occasions. WALGA will continue to pursue a response.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p>

Kimberley Country Zone: Minutes April 2024

Meeting	Zone Resolution	Comment	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
7 December 2022 Item 5.1 2022 Annual General Meeting Resolutions	<p>The following resolutions from the 2022 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the relevant Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:</p> <p>3.1 Road Traffic Issues <i>That WALGA advocate on behalf of the local government sector to the State Government and in particular, Main Roads, to increase importance and weight given to local knowledge and input regarding road traffic issues including requests for speed reduction, intersection treatments and overall preventative and traffic safety measures.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 394.8/2022</p>	<p>The Infrastructure Policy Team resolved: <i>That efforts to increase the importance given to Local Government knowledge regarding traffic issues be deferred for consideration in mid-2023 after a clear Local Government advocacy position on speed management is developed and endorsed.</i></p> <p>This matter is central to the new Speed Management Policy adopted by State Council in May 2023. Implementation strategy being considered.</p>	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
7 December 2022 Item 5.1 2022 Annual General Meeting Resolutions	<p>The following resolutions from the 2022 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the relevant Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:</p> <p>...</p> <p>3.2 Car Parking and Traffic Congestion Around Schools <i>That WALGA engages with the State Government on behalf of Local Government to review issues associated with car parking and traffic congestion around school sites including but not limited to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Reviewing car parking standards for schools;</i> 2. <i>Ensuring sufficient land is set aside for the provision of parking on school sites;</i> 3. <i>Reviewing the co-location of schools to avoid issues being exacerbated;</i> 4. <i>Restricting school access from major roads;</i> 5. <i>Developing plans to enable schools to manage school traffic;</i> 6. <i>Develop programs to educate drivers; and</i> 	<p>The Infrastructure Policy Team resolved: <i>That WALGA uses its role at the Safe Active Travel to School Working Group to advocate for these outcomes and provide advice back to the Local Government sector.</i></p>	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031

Kimberley Country Zone: Minutes April 2024

Meeting	Zone Resolution	Comment	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
	<p><i>7. Develop options and implement initiatives to encourage alternative modes of transport to school.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 394.8/2022</p>			
<p>7 December 2022 Item 5.1 2022 Annual General Meeting Resolutions</p>	<p>The following resolutions from the 2022 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the relevant Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:</p> <p>3.3 Proposal for Regional Road Maintenance Contracts with Main Roads WA <i>That WALGA assist Local Governments and work with the Hon Minister Rita Saffioti to introduce a similar program that is currently in play in Queensland and introduce a sole invitee Program for Local Governments to engage in a Road Maintenance Performance Contract with Main Roads WA.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 394.8/2022</p>	<p>The Infrastructure Policy Team resolved: <i>That the opportunities and interest in contracting Local Governments to undertake maintenance and minor works on the State road network be explored in discussion with Main Roads WA.</i></p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031</p>

Kimberley Country Zone: Minutes April 2024

Meeting	Zone Resolution	Comment	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
<p>7 December 2022 Item 5.1 2022 Annual General Meeting Resolutions</p>	<p>The following resolutions from the 2022 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the relevant Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:</p> <p>3.4 Northern Australia Beef Roads Program <i>That WALGA work with the Hon Madeleine King MP Minister for Resources and Minister for Northern Australia to make Beef Road Funding available to all Australian Local Governments north and south, or establish a Southern Australia Beef Road Funding Program to allow for equitable support across Australia's beef and agriculture industries.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 394.8/2022</p>		Ongoing	<p>Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031</p>
<p>1 December 2021 Item 5.3 2021 Annual General Meeting</p>	<p>That the following resolutions from the 2021 WALGA Annual General Meeting be endorsed for action:</p> <p>Cost of Regional Development <i>That WALGA makes urgent representation to the State Government to address the high cost of development in regional areas for both residential and industrial land, including the prohibitive cost of utilities headworks, which has led to market failure in many regional towns.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 294.7/2021</p>	<p>In March the State Government announced the establishment of a new Infrastructure Development Fund that includes a stream to support the delivery of regional worker accommodation with applications open until September 2024. This is an infrastructure investment program to address infrastructure constraints in the water, wastewater and electricity network at a precinct or strategic site scale impacting the delivery of regional worker accommodation. Full details can be found here.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031</p>

Kimberley Country Zone: Minutes April 2024

Meeting	Zone Resolution	Comment	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
<p>3 September 2021 Item 6.1 Stop Puppy Farming Legislation</p>	<p>1. That the update on the Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill 2021 be noted. 2. That: a. any additional costs incurred by a Local Government in administering the Dog Act be paid by the State Government; and b. the Fees and Charges set in Regulations are reviewed bi-annually and at minimum, be adjusted by the Local Government Cost Index.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 275.5/2021</p>	<p>The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries released a Consultation Paper prepared by consultants Marsden Jacob Associates on the new and existing fees and charges under the <i>Dog Act 1976</i> and <i>Cat Act 2011</i> relating to the Stop Puppy Farming initiative.</p> <p>Local Governments were encouraged to consider the various fees and charges proposed to be introduced for the following approvals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog and cat registration by owners and contributions to the Centralised Registration System; • Dog supply approvals; • Approvals to breed for dogs; • Pet shop approvals (only applicable to dogs). <p>The consultation period closed on 15 March 2024 and WALGA provided a submission in line with State Councils advocacy position as follows;</p> <p><i>That WALGA:</i></p> <p>1. <i>Welcomes a cost modelling review of the financial impact on Local Governments to ensure that Local Government is able to fully recover costs</i></p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services</p>

Kimberley Country Zone: Minutes April 2024

Meeting	Zone Resolution	Comment	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
		<p><i>and not be disadvantaged in ensuring compliance of any new legislation to Stop Puppy Farming;</i></p> <p>2. <i>Supports a centralised dog registration system that is developed, operated and maintained by State Government;</i></p> <p>3. <i>Any additional costs incurred by a Local Government in administering the Dog Act be paid by the State Government; and</i></p> <p>4. <i>The Fees and Charges set in Regulations are reviewed biennially and at minimum, be adjusted by the Local Government Cost Index1.</i></p>		

5.5 COMPLETE ZONE STATUS REPORT –

Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
<p>2021 20 April Zone Agenda Item 11.1 Disaster Relief and Recovery Funding Arrangements</p>	<p>That the Kimberley Zone:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Express dissatisfaction with current disaster relief and recovery funding arrangements and call for urgent action from the State Government to investigate and address these shortcomings. Seek WALGA advocacy to support the motion. 	<p>In response to requests from WALGA, DFES staff undertook a series of consultation meetings with Regional Road Groups and on-line webinars to hear issues being experienced by Local Governments dealing with the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.</p> <p>WALGA has continued to highlight that there are more than 30 claims in process, some dating back to 2021 that need to be resolved and progressed. During February DFES officers met with officers from many of the impacted Local Governments to progress the claims. Finding acceptable evidence of previous condition, maintenance and impact of the event is challenging.</p> <p>There is a commitment from DFES to finalise the legacy claims by the end of the current financial year.</p> <p>Further discussions with DFES are scheduled for April to monitor progress against this commitment.</p>	<p>July 2024</p>	<p>Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031</p>

Kimberley Country Zone: Minutes April 2024

<p>19 April 2022 Zone Agenda Item 9.7 Underground Power</p>	<p>That the Kimberley Regional Group requests that WALGA enter into discussions with Horizon Power in relation to programs and funding to transition overhead wires to underground power.</p>	<p>WALGA staff met with Juliane Bush (Community Engagement Manager) and Robin John (Government Relations and Stakeholder Engagement Manager) from Horizon Power during October and raised the opportunities from underground power in Pilbara and Kimberley towns. This is now listed for discussion at the next meeting.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031</p>
---	---	---	-----------------------	--

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> People Place Prosperity Performance </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Advocate Partner Promote Facilitate Fund Monitor </div>	Nil	
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
<p>That the Kimberley Regional Group:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notes the report from the WALGA President 2. Notes the State Council Agenda Items as circulated 3. Supports the recommendations in the Matters for Decision contained within the State Council Agenda 4. Acknowledges the Items for noting 5. Acknowledges the Status Report on State Council Resolutions 6. Notes the Kimberley Zone Status Report 		Executive Officer to keep WALGA Executive up-to-date on the status of KRG’s Financial Assistant Grant review and submission and the Community Safety and Crime Prevention strategy development.	
Moved:	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Responsible:	Executive Officer
Seconded:	Shire of Halls Creek	Due date:	TBD
Carried:	3/0		

5. Conclusion of Zone Matters: 2:49pm

6. Adoption of Policy and Advocacy Prioritisation Framework

Item For Decision

Submitted by: Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance

BACKGROUND

State Council uses a Policy and Advocacy Prioritisation Framework to guide discussion and decision-making on policy and advocacy issues. The Framework was developed in 2020 on the request of State Council to assist State Councillors in determining the priority of a particular issue relative to existing (and competing) policy and advocacy priorities.

The Framework (included below) utilises 11 criteria to sharpen thinking (e.g. the impact on the Local Government sector, the number of Member Local Governments affected, the level of support amongst the public or other stakeholders, etc.), and encourage decision-makers to consider the wider context and impacts of the issue before settling on a pathway forward.

The Great Southern Country Zone also adopted the Prioritisation Framework not long after it was developed in 2020.

COMMENT

It is proposed that all Zones consider adopting the Policy and Advocacy Prioritisation Framework as included below.

If the Zone were to adopt the Prioritisation Framework, Zone Delegates could use it to guide their decision-making when determining whether or not to request action or advocacy from WALGA on a particular issue (that is, sector-wide issues). Issues that are not sufficiently prioritised (that is, regional issues) could instead be dealt with at the Zone level (e.g. through direct advocacy efforts on behalf of the Zone).

The Prioritisation Framework could also be used by Zone Delegates when drafting Agenda items and motions on policy or advocacy issues, using the criteria as prompts for what kind of information to include.

The Prioritisation Framework does not remove the need for judgements to be made and is intended to *guide*, not replace, decision-making.

How to use the Framework:

- If the majority of the factors are towards the left column, the issue is a high priority.
- If the majority of the factors are towards the middle, the issue requires action, but is not a high priority.
- If the majority of the factors are towards the right column, the issue is a low priority.

Following prioritisation, an appropriate and proportionate policy and advocacy approach can be determined.

Impact on Local Government Sector Impact on Local Government sector without intervention	High	Medium	Low
Reach Number of member Local Governments affected	Sector-wide	Significant (multiple regions, Zones, or bands)	Few
Influence Capacity to influence decision makers	High	Medium	Low
Principles Alignment to core principles such as autonomy, funding, general competence	Strong	Partial	Peripheral
Clarity Policy change needed is clear and well-defined	Clear	Partial	Unclear
Decision-maker support Level of support among decision-makers (political and administrative)	High	Medium	Low
Public support Level of support among the public or other stakeholders	High	Medium	Low
Positive consequences for WALGA Prospect of positive consequences for WALGA. E.g. enhanced standing among members or leverage for other issues.	High	Medium	Low
Negative consequences for WALGA Prospect of negative consequences for WALGA for not undertaking the advocacy effort. E.g. diminished standing among members or other stakeholders.	High	Medium	Low
Partnerships Potential for partnerships with other stakeholders	Yes (3+)	Possibly (1-2)	No (0)

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
People Place Prosperity Performance	Advocate Partner Promote	Facilitate Fund Monitor	
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
<p>That the Kimberley Country Zone adopt the Policy and Advocacy Prioritisation Framework to determine the priority of a particular policy or advocacy issue, and guide future decision-making.</p>		Any papers submitted by the Kimberley Zones to state council will reflect this Policy and Advocacy Prioritisation Framework.	
Moved:	Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	Responsible:	Executive Teram
Seconded:	Shire Derby West Kimberley	Due date:	As required
Carried:	3/0		

7. Importance of WALGA becoming a Registered Employer Organisation

Item For Noting

Submitted by: Tony Brown, Executive Director, Member Services,

Background

Currently, WALGA is a registered industrial agent under the [Industrial Relations Act 1979 \(WA\) \(IR Act\)](#) which allows us to:

Since the mandate for Local Governments¹ to operate in the State industrial relations (IR) system

- appear as an agent for a WA Local Government or Regional Council (**Local Government**) in the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission (WAIRC), Industrial Magistrate's Court or Industrial Appeal Court (**State Courts**); and
- provide advice or other services to Local Governments in relation to 'industrial matters' as defined in s.7 of the IR Act.

January 2023, unions² have commenced various Local Government State awards³ (**LG State Awards**) variation claims in the WAIRC to amend industry employment conditions including to:

In addition the WASU, LGRCEU and other unions (such as the **Construction, Forestry, and**

- increase minimum wages for outside workers;
- introduce Fair Work standards in the State system (increase casual loading from 20 to 25%; insert casual conversion; and insert flexible working arrangements) and other conditions (insert employment equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons; insert cultural and ceremonial leave; and amend severance pay for regional redundancies); and
- increase industry allowance for compensation for disabilities on construction and maintenance work.

Maritime Employees Union (CFMEU) as 'employee organisations' can make industrial agreements with Local Government employers under the IR Act.

¹ with the exception of the Shires of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands

² The Western Australian Municipal, Administrative, Clerical and Services Union of Employees (**WASU**) and the Local Government, Racing and Cemeteries Employees Union (WA) (**LGRCEU**)

³ The [Local Government Officers' \(Western Australia\) Award 2021](#) and the [Municipal Employees \(Western Australia\) Award 2021](#). These awards have not been updated significantly since prior to the introduction of the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Cth). They were old 1999 Federal awards which were registered without amendment as interim awards in 2011 in the State system. They then became State awards in 2021. No significant amendments have been made to these awards over 23 years.

A [recent decision of the WAIRC](#) has outlined although WALGA may intervene in award matters we are unable to represent named LG State Award employers and the broader Local Government sector in our own right.

Despite WALGA's advocacy since December 2022, the State Government has not agreed a pathway for WALGA to be provided with standing as an employer organisation under the IR Act.

For WALGA to represent Local Governments' views and have the same standing as the unions under the IR Act it has become vital for WALGA to seek to amend its constitution to apply to become an employer organisation.

If WALGA was to become an employer organisation it would provide more opportunity for WALGA to modernise the LG State Awards and intervene in industrial matters concerning the Local Government sector. In addition, the WAIRC is more likely to notify WALGA of award applications or variations and industrial agreement changes reducing the risk of unions being able to change the terms and conditions of the sector, with limited to no input from Local Governments or WALGA.

Comment

WALGA will be looking to amend its constitution to enable WALGA to become a registered employer organisation at the 2024 AGM in October 2024.

An agenda item will be prepared for the June/July round of Zone/State Council meetings detailing the proposed amendments.

This item is for the Zones awareness of the need for WALGA to become an employer organisation and to note that constitutional amendments will be required.

For any questions about the constitutional amendment process, please contact Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services, tbrown@walga.asn.au or (08) 9213 2051.

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
People Place Prosperity Performance	Advocate Partner Promote	Facilitate Fund Monitor	Nil
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
That the Kimberley Country Zone note the importance of WALGA becoming a registered employer organisation		Nil	
Moved:	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Responsible:	-
Seconded:	Shire of Halls Creek	Due date:	-
Carried:	3/0		

8. Enhanced and Alternative Education Opportunities for Regional WA

Item For Decision

Submitted by: Great Southern Country Zone

Attachment 3: Letter from Cr Scott Crosby, Chair, Great Southern Country Zone

BACKGROUND

The Great Southern Country Zone has written to the Minister for Education, Hon. Tony Buti MLA Zone seeking support to prioritise increased State Government investment to improve regional education, including:

The Great Southern Country Zone's call to action from State Government, seeks to reduce

- Increased access to alternative programs for students disaffected by main-stream education, those at risk or who have specific learning needs, who may be disruptive, falling behind and at risk of failing to learn; providing these students with intensive support, active, empathic, and practical instruction, combined with health and other services to enable their success.
- Increased secondary education distance ATAR, VET and other WACE subject courses, if necessary supplemented by private providers, with qualified teacher mentoring and support provided in schools closest to students, supplemented with online access to subject specialist teachers to enable student success.
- Implement strategies to attract and retain quality teachers and subject specialists in remote communities, including:
 - Subsidised high standard GROH housing.
 - Increased financial bonuses, for remote locations and to encourage longer term retention.
- Providing sufficient GROH housing for State Government employees to reduce pressure on regional private rental availability and improve housing security for teachers and all Government service staff when transferring to regional locations.

disadvantage for students living in regional Western Australia, so they can access the same quality educational opportunities available in metropolitan and regional centres, without need to attend boarding schools. In addition, these strategies will also deliver substantial economic and social benefit for regional communities.

COMMENT

If your region also experiences disadvantage in educational opportunities, the Great Southern Country Zone now seeks your consideration of the below recommendations and if the Kimberley Country Zone accepts the recommendations below, then your Zone may use the above content to assist in developing your submissions.

Attachment 3 Letter from Cr Scott Crosby, Chair, Great Southern Country Zone

GREAT SOUTHERN COUNTRY ZONE

PO Box 1544
WEST PERTH 6872

Ph: (08) 9213 2042
email: lfogg@walga.asn.au



21 March 2024

Hon. Dr Tony Buti BPE DipEd MIR LLB DPhil MLA
Minister for Education
5th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Representing the Local
Governments of:
Albany
Broomehill-Tambellup
Cranbrook
Denmark
Gnowangerup
Jerramungup
Katanning
Kent
Kojonup
Plantagenet
Woodanilling

Dear Minister

Enhanced and Alternative Education Opportunities for Regional WA

Thank you for attending and speaking at WALGA's Great Southern Country Zone August 2023 meeting in Albany. The information presented by yourself, and Department of Education representative Nikolai Emery, was valuable and assisted our Zone to shape our advocacy.

The Great Southern Country Zone seeks your support to prioritise increased State Government investment to improve regional education, including:

- Increased access to alternative programs for students disaffected by main-stream education, those at risk or who have specific learning needs, who may be disruptive, falling behind and at risk of failing to learn; providing these students with intensive support, active, empathic, and practical instruction, combined with health and other services to enable their success.
- Increased secondary education distance ATAR, VET and other WACE subject courses, if necessary supplemented by private providers, with qualified teacher mentoring and support provided in schools closest to students, supplemented with online access to subject specialist teachers to enable student success.
- Implement strategies to attract and retain quality teachers and subject specialists in remote communities, including:
 - o Subsidised high standard GROH housing.
 - o Increased financial bonuses, for remote locations and to encourage longer term retention.
- Providing sufficient GROH housing for State Government employees to reduce pressure on regional private rental availability and improve housing security for teachers and all Government service staff when transferring to regional locations.

Our call to action from State Government, seeks to reduce disadvantage for students living in regional Western Australia, so they can access the same quality educational opportunities available in metropolitan and regional centres, without need to attend boarding schools. In addition, these strategies will also deliver substantial economic and social benefit for regional communities.

I welcome your enquiries should you need further insights, and we look forward to your Ministerial support to achieve improved outcomes for our communities.

Yours sincerely



Cr Scott Crosby
Chair, Great Southern County Zone

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
People Place Prosperity Performance	Advocate Partner Promote	Facilitate Fund Monitor	Nil
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
That the Kimberley Country Zone: 1. Support the call to action to reduce regional disadvantage in educational opportunities. 2. Request the WALGA Secretariat to advocate to State Government on this matter.		Nil	
Moved:	Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	Responsible:	-
Seconded:	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Due date:	-
Carried:	3/0		