

Great Eastern Country Zone

Minutes

Monday, 17 April 2023

Commenced at 9.41am

Shire of Merredin

Merredin Regional Community & Leisure Centre
Bates Street, Merredin Western Australia 6415

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1. Opening and Welcome

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9.41am

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

The Great Eastern Country Zone of WALGA acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of this land, and pays our respects to their Elders past, present and future.

Noted

1.3 Announcements

2. Attendance

Shire of Bruce Rock	President Cr Stephen Strange Deputy President Cr Anthony Cook
Shire of Cunderdin	Mr Stuart Hobley, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Dowerin	Ms Rebecca McCall, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Kondinin	Mr David Burton, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Koorda	Mr Darren Simmons, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Merredin	President Cr Mark McKenzie Ms Lisa Clack, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Mount Marshall	President Cr Tony Sachse (Chair) Mr Ben McKay, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Narembeen	President Cr Kellie Mortimore Mr Paul Sheedy, Acting Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Nungarin	Deputy President Cr Gary Coumbe Cr Eileen O'Connell, non-voting
Shire of Tammin	President Cr Glenice Batchelor
Shire of Trayning	President Cr Melanie Brown Ms Leanne Parola, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Westonia	President Cr Mark Crees Deputy President Cr Ross Della Bosca Cr Karin Day
Shire of Wyalkatchem	President Cr Quentin Davies (Deputy Chair) Mr Peter Klein, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting



Shire of Yilgarn

President Cr Wayne Della Bosca
Mr Nic Warren, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

Guests

Main Roads WA

Rich Bain, Manager Heavy vehicle Road Network Access
Mohammad Siddiqui, Regional Manager Wheatbelt

Wheatbelt Development Commission

Susan Hall Acting Chief Executive Officer
Renee Manning, Principal Regional Development Officer

Water Corporation

Rebecca Bowler, Manager, Customer & Stakeholder

Regional Development Australia WA

Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development

Members of Parliament

Hon Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt

WALGA

President Cr Karen Chappel JP, WALGA President
James McGovern, Manager Governance & Procurement
Naoimh Donaghy, Governance & Organisational Services Officer

Apologies

Shire of Cunderdin,

President Cr Alison Harris

Shire of Bruce Rock,

Mr Darren Mollenoyux, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

Shire of Cunderdin

Deputy President Cr Tony Smith

Shire of Dowerin

President Cr Robert Trepp

Cr Darrel Hudson

Shire of Kellerberrin

President Cr Scott O' Neill

Deputy President Cr Emily Ryan

Mr Raymond Griffiths, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

Shire of Kondinin

President Kent Mouritz

Deputy President Cr Beverley Gangell

Shire of Koorda

President Cr Jannah Stratford

Deputy President Cr Buster Cooper

Shire of Merredin

Cr Donna Crook

Shire of Mount Marshall

Deputy President Cr Nick Gillett

Shire of Mukinbudin

President Cr Gary Shadbolt

Deputy President Romina Nicoletti

Mr Dirk Sellenger, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

Shire of Narembeen

Deputy President Cr Scott Stirrat

Shire of Nungarin

President Cr Pippa de Lacy

Mr Leonard Long, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

Shire of Tammin

Deputy President Cr Tanya Nicholls

Ms Joanne Soderlund, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

Shire of Trayning

Deputy President Cr Geoff Waters

Shire of Westonia

Mr Bill Price, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

Shire of Wyalkatchem

Deputy President Cr Owen Garner

Shire of Yilgarn

Deputy President Cr Bryan Close

Hon Rick Wilson MP, Federal Member for O'Connor

Hon Steve Martin MLC, Liberal Member for the Agricultural Region

Hon Peter Rundle MLA, Member for Roe

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC, Member for Agricultural Region

Hon Shelley Payne MLC, Member for Agricultural Region

Hon Darren West MLC, Member for Agricultural Region
Hon Sandra Carr MLC, Member for Agricultural Region
Hon Colin de Grussa MLC, Member for Agricultural Region

Department of Local Government, Sport, & Cultural Industries,
Samantha Cornthwaite, Regional Manager Wheatbelt
Cliff Simpson, Regional Road Safety Advisor

3 Attachments

Attachments to the Minutes:

1. Item 5.1 Main Roads presentation
2. Item 11.5 WALGA President's Report
3. Item 7.5 Water Corporation presentation

4. Declarations of Interest

Nil

5. Guest Speakers / Deputations

5.1 Rich Bain, Manager Heavy Vehicle Road Network Access, Main Roads

Rich Bain, Manager Heavy Vehicle Road Network Access, Main Roads, presented on Heavy Vehicles Services – **Attachment 1**.

Noted

5.2 James McGovern, WALGA Manager Governance and Procurement

James McGovern, Zone Executive Officer, presented on the Local Government Legislation Amendment Bill tabled in Parliament in February 2023.

Noted

6. Members of Parliament

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

- Hon Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt
 - Mia provided an update and responded to questions on her portfolios: Aboriginal affairs, electoral affairs, and mines/petroleum
 - The guidelines for the new *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act (2021)* were released last week
 - The new Act and Regulations will take effect from 1 July 2023
 - Aboriginal Affairs Minister Dr Tony Buti has made assurances about the consultation process requirements under the Act
 - The WAEC has just released calls for suggestions to boundary changes for the next election in 2025

- Local Government and community groups encouraged to consider submitting suggestions
- There will likely be a significant redistribution with this election, in both the Upper and Lower House, including a risk of reduction of regional seats in the Lower House
 - Suggestions close 1 May
- State budget upcoming in May
- Live export
 - See Item 12.1
- Ports
 - There is an internal review of ports underway by the State Government

11.5 WALGA President's Report

President Cr Karen Chappel was in attendance for this meeting and spoke to her report (**Attachment 2**)

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

Resolved

The meeting broke for morning tea at 11.10am

The meeting reconvened at 11.23am

7. Agency Reports

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

The Department of Local Government, Sport, and Cultural Industries were an apology for this meeting, however the attached report has been provided to the Zone.

The Department ask that if you have any questions, WALGA will note and send to DLGSC, the response will come back to you through WALGA. For individual queries from members, a list of DLGSC contacts have been provided within the report.

Noted

7.2 Wheatbelt Development Commission (WDC)

Wheatbelt Development Commission was an apology for this meeting.

Noted

7.3 Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt (RDAB)

Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development, provided an update to the Zone.

Noted

7.4 Main Roads Western Australia

Mohammad Siddiqui, Regional Manager Wheatbelt, provided an update to the Zone. **Attachment 3.**

Mohammad addressed queries from Members in regards to inadequate intersections. Mohammad welcomed suggested areas that warrant analysis to be carried out to bring worrisome sections up to spec. He invited Members to contact him directly with concerns.

Noted

7.5 Water Corporation

Rebecca Bowler, Manager, Customer & Stakeholder, provided an update to the Zone (**Attachment 3**)

Noted

8. Minutes

8.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on Monday, 13 February 2023

The Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on Monday, 13 February 2023 were previously circulated to Member Councils.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: President Cr Glenice Batchelor
Seconded: President Cr Wayne Della Bosca

That the minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on Monday, 13 February 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

8.2 Business Arising from the Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting held on Monday, 13 February 2023

8.2.1 (Item 13.1) Review of Audit Process by the Office of Auditor General

Background:

The conduct of the 2021/2022 audit was raised by the Shire of Yilgarn at the February 2023 meeting and reflected similar commentary and recommendation by the Shire of Tammin in November 2022. The Zone Status Report at Item 11.3 provides an update on actions taken.

Comment:

The Shire's of Yilgarn, Westonia, Nungarin and Narembeen reiterated frustrations at the process, changing staff within the Auditors office, short periods of time by Auditor staff on site which then was followed by Shire staff spending an enormous amount of time sending missed information to the Auditor. Auditors were noted to be unfamiliar with Local Government processes and displayed an unfamiliarity with what was needed on site again resulting in Shire staff filling the gap of missed information. Members are also frustrated at the timing of the audits to align with Elected Member availability outside of harvesting etc.

Cr Day addressed the word 'comply' used to describe 40 Local Governments who have not complied with auditing guidelines when she believes the number of Local Governments who have not completed their audits is heavily influenced by lack of available Auditors as opposed to a delay on the Local Governments behalf.

ACTION:

That Members who wish to make a report, supply a timeline of correspondences and events with the Office of Auditor General to WALGA's Zone Executive Officer James McGovern, and consider responding to the joint Local Government Professionals/WALGA survey.

8.2.2 Mental Health checks for firearm owners

Cr Glenice Batchelor requested clarity around the requirements for all firearm owners to undergo a mental Health check. Hon Mia Davis advised she will seek further information from the Hon Colin de Grussa who is shadowing the Agriculture portfolio at present.

Noted

8.3 Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Executive Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 7 April 2023

The Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on Thursday, 2 February 2023 were attached.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Stephen Strange

Seconded: Cr Kellie Mortimore

That the Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on Thursday 7 April 2023 be endorsed.

CARRIED

8.4 Business Arising from the Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Meeting held on Thursday 7 April 2023

Items 8.4.1, 8.4.2 and 8.4.3 relate to proposals and opportunities arising from the Great Eastern Country Conference held on 28 February 2023.

8.4.1 Zone Meeting – Local Government Presentations

A number of WALGA Zones operate on the basis of rotating meetings through all member Local Government locations, with the host Local Government providing attendees with a 5-to-10-minute summary of current activities and strategic initiatives. This approach helps all Zone members gain a greater understanding of what is happening throughout the region. The Great Eastern Country Zone members have a standing agreement to share in-person meetings between Kellerberrin and Merredin and do not have an arrangement for a 'host' Local Government presentation.

The Executive Committee identified that it may take some time to cycle through all 16 Zone Local Governments and proposed an alternative initiative to invite a representative of Voluntary Regional Organisation of Council (VROCs) to provide an update presentation, also on a rotational basis.

ACTION:

That Great Eastern Country Zone Members are given the opportunity to present as well as inviting ROCs on a rotational basis to present from a collaborative front.

8.4.2 Post-meeting Zone Updates

The Zone Conference set out as one of its intentions to provide opportunity for Council Members that do not currently attend regular Zone meetings to hear about regional collaboration and meet with contemporaries from across the region. Keeping non-attending Council Members informed of Zone meeting outcomes and presentations was raised a potential opportunity.

The Executive Committee supported the proposal for the Zone Secretariat to prepare a summary of the outcomes of Zone meetings ('Minutes on a Page') to ensure that those Council Members not in attendance continue to receive information relating to Zone meeting outcomes. WALGA has capacity to directly email individual Council Members for this purpose.

ACTION:

That the Zone Executive Officer prepare a 'Minutes on a Page' summary of the outcomes of each Great Eastern Country Zone meeting, for distribution to all Council Members of the 16 Zone Local Governments.

8.4.3 Great Eastern Country Zone Conference Survey

The Executive Officer developed a Conference survey in consultation with the Zone Executive Committee and issued the finalised survey to all Local Government attendees of the Great Eastern Country Zone Conference held on 23 February. Survey analysis has yet to be concluded at the issue of Agenda, and a summary report will be presented at the meeting.

Noted

8.4.4 WALGA Annual Convention – Opportunity to Influence Program Content

The Executive Committee discussed the apparent difficulty that WALGA Zones experience having direct influence in establishing the theme and speakers invited to present at the annual WALGA Local Government Convention. Whilst it is acknowledged that attendees have opportunity to provide feedback via a post-Convention survey, there is no opportunity to provide input at the Convention planning stage. The Executive Committee also discussed the venue of Crown Burswood has limited room availability for additionally speaker opportunities and break out session, compared to the Perth Exhibition and Convention Centre.

The Executive Committee agreed to the action that a future Zone agenda item be developed to raise this issue and to provide State Council with comment in time for the planning of the 2024 WALGA Local Government Convention.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: President Cr Stephen Strange
Seconded: President Cr Glenice Batchelor

That a future Zone agenda item be developed to raise this issue and to provide State Council with comment in time for the planning of the 2024 WALGA Local Government Convention.

CARRIED

8.4.5 Memorandum of Understanding - Emergency Management Resource Sharing

The Great Eastern Country Zone resolved in August 2022 to endorse a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for emergency management purposes:

That the Zone endorse the Memorandum of Understanding for the provision of mutual aid during emergencies and post incident recovery.

The Zone Executive Officer will arrange to distribute the MoU to each Zone Local Government for signature, and arrange for the collation of a comprehensive schedule of machinery and equipment relevant to this agreement.

Comment:

The Zone Executive requested the administration to compile a list of all machinery owned by their Local Government.

ACTION:

That the Zone Executive Officer arrange to distribute the MoU to each Zone Local Government for signature, and arrange for the collation of a comprehensive schedule of machinery and equipment relevant to this agreement

8.4.6 Disposal of e-Cigarettes (Vapes)

A Zone Local Government was recently approached buy a state agency to request the disposal of vaping implements, on the mistaken belief that Local Government has responsibility for the disposal of toxic waste items.

The following information is provided by WALGA's Waste and Environment team to inform all Zone Local Governments on this matter:

This is the information in our Consistent Communications Collective agenda (which any Local Government can join) – it includes the general advice DOE has provided Schools.

- *There has been a significant increase in the number of queries Local Government, and consequently WALGA, are receiving regarding appropriate disposal for e-cigarettes ('vapes'). This includes recent [media coverage](#).*
- *The WALGA President has put forward a clear message, through the media, that effective product stewardship is needed for these products.*
- *Government agencies involved include:*
 - *Department of Education (DoE). WALGA met with DoE to discuss vape disposal messaging provided to schools. DoE advised they have provided general advice to schools regarding vape disposal. The advice includes:*
 - * **Using caution when handling the devices as they can combust and cause burns.**
 - * **Storing devices in a cool place (for battery safety).**
 - * **Contacting a suitable waste disposal company that is capable of disposing of lithium batteries and liquid nicotine.**
 - * **Not placing vapes in General Waste bins.**
 - * **That it is the responsibility of the individual school to find a suitable waste contractor.**
 - * *That DoE is continuing to engage with key stakeholders, including WALGA, to investigate options for schools to dispose of vapes.*
 - *Department of Health is the regulatory agency for vapes but seems to have limited resources.*
 - *Department of Water and Environmental Regulation is also receiving queries regarding disposal.*
 - *Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, which is investigating product stewardship options.*
- *WALGA has met with the federal Environment Department to determine what national approach is being taken (noting regulation on vapes may vary between jurisdictions).*
- *There appears to be one company in WA, Perth Chemical Specialists (PCS), who have the relevant licences to recycle/dispose of vapes safely. PCS is a subcontractor of Cleanaway and undertakes the unknown chemical testing for the Household Hazardous Waste Program. WALGA staff met with PCS to discuss options for recycling/recovery of vapes and associated costs.*

Vapes are another example of a product which has been placed on the market without any consideration regarding the end of life. Embedded lithium batteries that can be found in disposable vapes are likely to present a significant fire risk, as even if the vape has been fully utilised the batteries have been found to retain significant charge.

Noted

9. Zone Business

9.1 Wheatbelt Interagency Health & Wellbeing Plan

Background

WA Country Health Service-Wheatbelt contacted the Zone Executive Officer in March of 2023 (**Attachment 5**).

In summary, a working group is being formalised to develop the *Wheatbelt Interagency Health & Wellbeing Plan: Towards 2035 Working Group WAPHA membership*. WA Country Health Service are taking expressions of interest for one Local Government representative from each Zone in the Wheatbelt to sit on the working group.

The Chair seeks feedback from the Members; is there an interest from a Zone perspective and would anyone like to nominate themselves to be on the working group.

Comment:

Cr Tony Sachs corresponded with Ms Nancy Bineham, Director Strategy, Change & Service Development prior to the meeting. Ms Bineham confirmed should a representative come forward from the Great Eastern Country Zone, the group intends to meet for an hour via MSTEams, once every six weeks.

Cr Bachelor nominated Cr Alison Harris to be the Zone's representative. Cr Harris was not in attendance at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: President Cr Glenice Batchelor

Seconded: President Cr Kellie Mortimore

That Cr Alison Harris be the Great Eastern Country Zone has representation, pending her acceptance.

CARRIED

10. Zone Reports

10.1 Zone President Report

Zone Chair Cr Tony Sachse

The GECZ Wheatbelt Conference held in Merredin on 28th February 2023 was very attended with a quality line up of speakers on the theme of regional collaboration. Thank you to all the GECZ Local Governments for supporting the conference in such a positive way. Thanks also to WALGA staff for their expertise, guidance and work in assisting us to run the conference in such a professional way. Special thanks to James McGovern and Janine Neugebauer for their help and participation. For those attendees you should have received a short evaluation questionnaire on the conference. Your feedback would be greatly appreciated.

Janine Neugebauer's contract with WALGA has come to an end. We have thanked Janine very much for her excellent contribution to the WALGA GECZ. We all really enjoyed working with her and wish her all the best in the future. We welcome back Naoimh Donaghy to the GECZ as she has recently returned to work with WALGA.

The Executive has been working through the GECZ Strategic Priorities. At the last meeting a discussion took place on adding waste management to the priorities in the future.

It is hoped that the Hon. John Carey MLA, Minister for Housing; Local Government will be able to attend the GECZ during 2023 with particular reference to the Government Regional Officer Housing (GROW) strategies. Also invited is the Hon. Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA, Minister for Health; Mental Health Government regarding Hospitals, Aged Care and the future of the Nurse Practitioner Services. Rich Bain, Manager Heavy Vehicle Road Network Access, Main Roads, presented to the WALGA Transport and Roads Forum in March 2023. Rich has accepted an informal invitation to present on Heavy Vehicles Services to the GECZ in 2023.

Other discussions have taken place on ROC and/or Council presentations at Zone meetings. Also, for the Zone to provide a summary of the meeting outcomes to help Council Members who were unable to attend receive information.

Finally, there have been some very significant rainfall events over recent weeks and although patchy, these events have been well received by the agricultural community.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Quentin Davies

Seconded: President Cr Wayne Della Bosca

That the Zone President's Report be received.

CARRIED

10.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG)

Zone Chair Cr Tony Sachse

The LGAFG meeting last met on 13th July 2022. A meeting in 2023 has so far not been scheduled. There is nothing else to report.

Noted

10.3 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC)

Zone Chair Cr Tony Sachse

The last Wheatbelt DEMC met in Northam on 20th October, 2022. The unconfirmed minutes of this meeting have already been distributed. The next meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday, 17th May 2023. In alignment with the Wheatbelt DEMC strategy, to encourage partnerships and engagement across Local Government boundaries and between agencies, the Wheatbelt DEMC are holding a number of EM Days in the Wheatbelt in 2023.

The Wheatbelt Operational Area Support Group (OASG)/ISG is now only meeting as needed. There have not been any meetings over recent months.

The Wheatbelt Human Services Managers Forum last met on 4th April, 2023. The minutes are not yet available. The meeting included an Introduction by Sue Chapman (Senior Project Officer –

Wheatbelt District Leadership Group). This was an opportunity to outline the provision of support to the Wheatbelt DLG and Priority Area Working Groups (PAWG's)

There was also a Collective Impact Presentation by Jo Drayton on the Country Football Wellbeing Program (CFWP) partnership between Holyoake, WA Country Football Commission, Healthways, and the Mental Health Commission. The project is conducting a pilot over three leagues, and is quite visionary using sport as a medium to build wellbeing in this area.

Other areas of discussion included Family & Domestic Violence, Employment Transition & Pathways and Education Engagement and Retention. There was also the Identification of key project/s that demonstrate that organisations/agencies are working within the Collective Impact Framework and potential supports/resources for consideration of approval by the Wheatbelt DLG. Working parties on Mental Health and Aging were also updated. Local Government Representation has been requested on the Aging Well Priority Area Working Group. As I am the current Wheatbelt HSMF LG representative, this working group now becomes part of that representation/responsibility. An attachment of the Priority Area/Working Group/Aging Well In The Wheatbelt Summary is attached to this report (**Attachment 6**). It is suggested that a separate delegate from the GECZ be considered for the Wheatbelt HSMF as it is separate from the Wheatbelt DEMC delegation. The representation really grew out of the OASG during the COVID-19 State of Emergency.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: President Cr Quentin Davies

Seconded: Deputy President Cr Gary Coumbe

That the Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee Report be received.

CARRIED

10.4 Regional Health Advocacy Group

Cr Alison Harris was an apology for the meeting.

Noted

10.5 WALGA RoadWise

Cliff Simpson, Regional Road Safety Advisor was an apology for this meeting.

Noted

11. Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) Business

11.1 2023 Local Government Honours Program

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.

Noted

11.2 State Councillor Report

Cr Stephen Strange

Cr Stephen Strange gave a verbal report.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: President Cr Stephen Strange

Seconded: President Cr Quentin Davies

That the State Councillor Report be received.

CARRIED

11.3 WALGA Status Report

By James McGovern, Executive Officer

COMPLETE ZONE STATUS REPORT April 2023

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Great Eastern C	1 March 2023 State Council Agenda Item 7.1 Proposed Advocacy Position on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People	That the Great Eastern Country Zone does not believe that WALGA should actively participate in the National Referendum on a Voice to Parliament.	State Council Resolution That WALGA: 1. Supports respectful conversations about constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and the Voice to Parliament. 2. Requests that the Commonwealth Government ensure that Local Governments and communities are kept informed on the proposal. COMPLETE	April 2023	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039
Great Eastern C	13 February 2023 Zone Agenda Item 13.1 Review of Audit Process by the Office of Auditor General	That the Great Eastern Country Zone supports a comprehensive review, prioritised, and led by WALGA, of the audit process managed by the Office of the Auditor General.	A number of Local Governments have raised concerns with the OAG audit performance for 2021/22 either formally through Zones or directly to WALGA. As a consequence, WALGA in conjunction with LG Professionals is carrying out a survey of the Local Government sector on their experiences with the Audit process. Results will be analysed and reported to WALGA's Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team for action consideration.	April 2023	James McGovern, Zone Executive Officer
Great Eastern C	November 2022 Zone Minutes Item 13.1 Firearms Use on State Barrier Fence Reserve	That WALGA correspond with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and inform the Zone on feedback on concerns raised including: - The use of firearms is an important and necessary and efficient control measure in the management of wild dogs; - That firearm use in some circumstances is a warranted for reasons personal protection of Licensed Pest Management Technicians; and	WALGA corresponded with DPIRD on the terms of the Zone resolution but have yet to receive a satisfactory response. DPIRD has advised that firearms can be used on occasion where an animal welfare issue arises. WALGA will continue to seek clarity on the use of firearms on the State Barrier Fence Reserve.	April 2023	James McGovern, Zone Executive Officer



		<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Clarity be sought on the DPIRD policies associated with issuing permits for access to the State Barrier Fence Reserve.			
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Noted

11.4 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – 3 May 2023

Background

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

The full State Council Agenda can be found [here](#).

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 Best Practice Governance Review – Feedback on Governance Model

Executive Summary

- State Council commissioned the Best Practice Governance Review with the appointment of a Steering Committee in March 2022.
- The Steering Committee, which met nine times over the course of the project to date and reported back to State Council several times, finalised its [Final Report](#) in February 2023.
- On the basis of member feedback, the Steering Committee recommended Model 1 as the alternate governance model, which would result in the retention of State Council and Zones and the creation of a Board, with the majority of members elected from and by State Council.
- At their March 2023 meeting, State Council resolved to seek feedback from Members on the proposed model.
- To facilitate feedback from Members, the Final Report was distributed and a webinar was held, which was attended by 48 Local Government leaders;
- Feedback was received from 17 Member Local Governments, with nine Member Local Governments expressing support for the proposed Model 1, and eight Member Local Government outlining concerns with the proposed Model 1 or expressing support for the Current Governance Model.
- Concerns with the proposed Model 1 mostly related to concerns around representation at Board level, including the potential for representational imbalances, and the appointment of independent members, including a suggestion that independent members would be more likely to be metropolitan based.
- Next steps for the project are for two sets of constitutional amendments to be presented to State Council at the July 2023 meeting with the view that these amendments would be presented to Members at the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

WALGA Recommendation

That:

1. **This report summarising feedback from Members on the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report be received; and**
2. **Two sets of constitutional changes be developed for consideration by State Council at the July 2023 meeting to be put to the 2023 Annual General Meeting, that:**
 - a. **Give effect to the revised Model 1, as per the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report; and**
 - b. **Refine the constitution to address inconsistencies and other issues while maintaining the current governance model.**

7.2 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' Child Safe Awareness Policy Template

Executive Summary

- Since 2020, the State Government has consulted with the Local Government sector in relation to Recommendation 6.12 from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (Royal Commission), which recommended that Local Governments should designate Child Safety Officers, with support from governments at the National and State level.
- In 2022, the Department of Communities (DoC) facilitated a series of co-design sessions which involved 35 representatives from Local Government, the Commissioner for Children and Young People (CCYP), WALGA, and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) to develop the Child Safe Awareness Policy Template for Local Government (the Policy) to support implementation of Recommendation 6.12.
- The Policy supports initial action by Local Governments in addressing Recommendation 6.12, and forms part of the broader environment of child safe reforms developed out of the findings of the Royal Commission that will impact Local Government.
- DLGSC is seeking WALGA support for the Policy.
- WALGA considers support for the Policy is appropriate but notes that Local Governments will require ongoing support and resourcing assistance consistent with WALGA's *Advocacy Position 3.10.2 Child Safeguarding*.
- WALGA will continue to advocate to the State Government for the Policy to be considered in the context of a broader implementation plan for all the Royal Commission's recommendations relevant to Local Government.

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council:

1. **Supports the draft Child Safe Awareness Policy Template being provided to Local Governments to assist with their implementation of Recommendation 6.12 of the Royal Commission (Child Safety Officers in Local Government); and**
2. **Notes the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' commitment to providing ongoing support and resourcing assistance to Local Governments to assist with implementation of the draft Child Safe Awareness Policy Template and other relevant actions relating to child safeguarding, through the Child Safeguarding Implementation Unit.**

7.3 Abandoned Shopping Trolleys Advocacy Position

Executive Summary

- Abandoned trolleys in the public domain, create safety hazards for pedestrian and vehicular traffic and negatively impact public amenity and the natural environment.
- Some retailers prioritise their civic and social responsibilities, however the cost of physically retrieving illegally dumped trolleys is now substantially more than the cost of replacing trolleys.
- The absence of economic or legally enforceable imperative means retailers are increasingly not responding to this issue within reasonable timeframes, if at all.
- In response to community expectations, Local Governments bear the increasing cost burden to remove, impound and eventually dispose of abandoned trolleys.
- The *Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021* (NSW), presents an example of how legislation can be used to address issues arising from shopping trolleys.

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council endorse the following position on Abandoned Shopping Trolleys:

The Local Government Sector advocates for State Government to consult with the Sector and prioritise legislative reforms that require retailers to contain shopping trolleys within shopping centre property boundaries, inclusive of enforcement and modified penalty mechanisms that are a realistic economic imperative for retailers to comply with containment requirements.

7.4 Speed Management Reform Advocacy Position

Executive Summary

- WALGA's existing policy on speed management is narrow in scope and is inadequate for advocating the varying needs of the Local Government sector.
- Speed management is an important tool for Local Governments, for managing the safety performance of local roads and to help create healthy, vibrant, and connected communities.
- Changing speed limits is an important element of speed management but the application process can be difficult and Local Governments currently have limited influence in the determination of speed limit changes on local roads.
- A contemporary advocacy position on speed management will enable WALGA to advocate for reforms that are needed to better reflect the diverse needs of Local Governments and enable effective and responsible management of travel speeds on local roads.

WALGA Recommendation

That the Speed Management Advocacy Position as follows, be endorsed:

- 1. That WALGA supports Local Governments wishing to manage travel speeds, including speed limit changes, as a means of achieving the many health, social and environmental benefits for communities.***
- 2. That Main Roads WA (MRWA) retain the overarching authority for speed limit setting/zoning.***
- 3. That Main Roads WA speed zoning policies and processes be reformed so that Local Governments are more influential in the determination of speed limit decreases or increases for local roads.***
 - a. This will include applications that are deemed to be approved when the application:***
 - i. is based on assessments by competent Local Government practitioners,***
 - ii. contains evidence-based identification of the benefits,***
 - iii. contains preliminary designs for infrastructure safety upgrades associated with applications to increase speed limits, and***
 - iv. includes an engagement strategy for managing community and stakeholder expectations.***
 - b. Allows for Main Roads WA to decline an application, within a mutually agreed timeframe, on the basis that it:***
 - i. does not meet the above criteria, and***
 - ii. provides specific evidence for declining the application.***
- 4. The WALGA seeks to work with Main Roads WA and other stakeholders, to develop a speed management guide for Local Governments.***

7.5 State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement 2023/24 to 2027/28

Executive Summary

- The State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement (Agreement) provides funding for Local Governments to improve and maintain the local road network.
- The new Agreement continues to provide 20% of vehicle license fee revenue collected by the State Government to be applied to Local Government roads and paths.
- The proposed Agreement is for a five-year term from 2023/24 to 2027/28.
- The overall structure and intent of the Agreement remains largely unchanged from the previous Agreement.
- Commitments to road safety, aboriginal employment and recycled materials have been expanded.
- The Agreement was developed through consultation with Local Government members of the State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee (SAC), Main Roads WA and Regional Road Group representatives.

WALGA Recommendation

That the State Roads Funds to Local Government Agreement 2023/24 – 2027/28 be endorsed.

Policy Team Reports

8.1 Environment and Waste Policy Team Report

The Environment and Waste Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

- *Climate change*
- *Native vegetation and biodiversity*
- *Biosecurity*
- *Water resources*
- *Sustainability*
- *Waste management*

WALGA Recommendation

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

8.2 Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team Report

The Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

- *Employee Relations*
- *Governance*
- *Strategy and Association Governance*
- *Training*
- *Regional Capacity Building / Local Government Reform*

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council:

- 1. Retain, without amendment, Advocacy Positions:**
 - (a) 2.1.14 Financial Assistance Grants**
 - (b) 2.4.4 Remote Area Tax**
 - (c) 2.5.21 Conduct of Postal Elections**
 - (d) 2.5.39 Exemption from ASSB124**
- 2. Delete Advocacy Positions:**
 - (a) 2.5.14 Tender Threshold**
 - (b) 2.5.26 Simple and Absolute Majority**
- 3. Notes the GOS Policy Team's consideration of WALGA AGM 2022 Item 3.12.1 Abandoned Shopping Trolleys.**

8.3 Infrastructure Policy Team Report

The Infrastructure Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

- *Roads and paths*
- *Road safety*
- *Transport*
- *Freight*
- *Utilities (including telecommunications and underground power)*

WALGA Recommendation

That the matters considered by the Infrastructure Policy Team be noted.

8.4 People and Place Policy Team Report

The People and Place Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

- *Community*
- *Emergency Management*
- *Planning and Building*

WALGA Recommendation

That the matters considered by the People and Place Policy Team be noted.

Matters for Noting/Information

- 9.1 2023 Policy Priorities
- 9.2 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review Project
- 9.3 Submission to the Independent Review of WA's COVID-19 Management and Response
- 9.4 Submission to the DWER E-waste to Landfill Ban Consultation Paper
- 9.5 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC)
- 9.6 March 2023 Economic Briefing

RECOMMENDATION

That the Great Eastern Country Zone

1. Supports all Matters for Decision as listed above in the May 2023 State Council Agenda.
2. Notes all Matters for Noting and Organisational Reports as listed in the May 2023 State Council Agenda.

Moved: President Cr Kellie Mortimore

Seconded: President Cr Glenice Batchelor

CARRIED

12. Emerging Issues

12.1 Live Export

President Cr Quentin Davies, Shire of Wyalkatchem

RECOMMENDATION

That the Great Eastern Country Zone:

1. Consult with other affected Zones to assess their status on this issue
2. Write to the Premier and Minister for Agriculture and request their strong public advocacy to retain live sheep export.

Moved: President Cr Glenice Batchelor

Seconded: President Cr Mark McKenzie

CARRIED

13. Date, Time, and Place of Next Meetings

The next Great Eastern Country Zone meeting will be held on Monday, 19 June 2023 commencing at 9.30am. This meeting will be hosted by the Shire of Kellerberrin.

14. Closure

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 1.17pm.