



Northern Country Zone

MINUTES

Monday 28 August 2023

Hosted by the Shire of Chapman Valley
Shire Council Administration Centre Nabawa
commencing at 10.01am



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ATTACHMENTS TO THE AGENDA

- Item 3.1: DFES Presentation – Australian Warning System
- Item 6: Minutes of 26 June 2023 Meeting
- Item 7, 8: WALGA State Council 13 September 2023 Meeting Agenda
- Item 9.3: WALGA President's Report September 2023
- Item 9.4: Zone Status Report August 2023
- Item 9.5: DLGSC Report August 2023
- Item 10.1.2: Correspondence In:
 - a. Flying Agenda - State Waste Strategy Directions paper
 - b. Shire of Chapman Valley – Waste Levy Submission
 - c. Flying Agenda - BAM Act Review Stage 3
 - d. Flying Agenda - Independent Strategic Review of Infrastructure Investment Program
 - e. Flying Agenda - Wired for Change
 - f. Flying Agenda - Pedestrian Crossings Facilities Guidelines
 - g. Flying Agenda - Objection to Proposed Boundaries
 - h. Flying Agenda - Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding
 - i. Flying Agenda - Draft Operational Policy 2.3 Planning for Public Open Space
 - j. Shire of Chapman Valley - Objection to Proposed Boundaries
- Item 10.2: Audit Report 2022-2023
- Item 10.3: July 2023 Bank Statement

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

1. OPENING, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1.1.1 Opening

The Meeting was declared open at 10:01 am.

1.1.2 Acknowledgment of Country

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

1.1.3 Welcome

The President welcomed members and guests, including the Hon. Melissa Price MP, Federal Member for Durack.

1.1.4 Announcements

Nil

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

MEMBERS

NB: One Voting Delegate from each Member Council

Shire of Carnamah

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

Shire of Chapman Valley	Cr Kirrilee Warr - President Mr Jamie Criddle - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Coorow	Ms Mia Maxfield – Chief Executive Officer (Proxy)
City of Greater Geraldton	Cr Jerry Clune - Deputy Mayor Mr Ross McKim - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Irwin	Cr Isabelle Scott - Deputy President Mr Shane Ivers - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Mingenew	Cr Gary Cosgrove - President Cr Hellene Mctaggart
Shire of Morawa	Cr Karen Chappel - President Cr Ken Stokes - Deputy President Mr Scott Wildgoose - Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Northampton	Cr Robert Horstman - Deputy President
Shire of Perenjori	Cr Chris King - President
Shire of Three Springs	Refer Apologies
EXECUTIVE	Ms Dianne Daniels – Executive Officer NCZ of WALGA Mr Tony Brown – Executive Director Member Services WALGA
INVITED GUESTS	
Federal Member for Durack	Hon. Melissa Price MP Ms Jackie Perry - Media Advisor
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon. Sandra Carr MLC
Dept of Fire and Emergency Services	Ms Tayissa Sweetlove - Media Manager (via TEAMS)
Dept of Local Gov. Sport & Cultural Ind.	Mr Craig Vinci - Acting Regional Manager Mid West Gascoyne Mr Jay O'Brien - Regional Officer Mid West
Main Roads WA	Ms Louise Adamson - Network Manager Mid West Gascoyne
Mid West Development Commission	Mr Peter Spalding - Director Regional Development Ms Bev Growden - Snr Regional Development Officer
Regional Development Midwest Gascoyne	Mr Mark Holdsworth - Director of Regional Development/Executive Officer
Yamatji Southern Regional Corporation	Ms Rebecca Girdwood - Chief Executive Officer

APOLOGIES

Member for Moore	Mr Shane Love MLA
Member for Geraldton	Ms Lara Dalton MLA
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon. Darren West MLC
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon. Shelley Payne MLC
Member for Agricultural Region	Hon. Steve Martin MLC
Shire of Chapman Valley	Cr Darrell Forth - Deputy President
Shire of Coorow	Cr Moira Girando - President Cr Bruce Jack - Deputy President
Shire of Mingenew	Mr Matt Fanning - Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Northampton	Cr Liz Sudlow - President
Shire of Perenjori	Mr Paul Anderson - Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Three Springs	Cr Chris Lane – President Cr Chris Connaughton - Deputy President Mr Keith Woodward - Chief Executive Officer
Department of Fire and Emergency Services	Mr Mark Bowen AFSM – Superintendent Midwest Gascoyne
Main Roads WA	Ms Janet Hartley-West - Regional Manager Mid West Gascoyne
Mid West Development Commission	Mr Nils Hay – Chief Executive Officer
National Emergency Management Agency	Ms Candy Hudson - Recovery Support Officer Pilbara, Gascoyne, Murchison and Mid West WA
Regional Development Midwest Gascoyne	Ms Yvonne Messina – Chair

3. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Department of Fire and Emergency Services (via Teams)

Attachment: Presentation – Australian Warning System

Ms Tayissa Sweetlove Media Manager

Ms Sweetlove gave a presentation on the new Australian Warning System – a new national approach to information and warnings during emergencies like bushfire, flood, cyclone and storm.

3.2 Yamatji Southern Regional Corporation

Ms Rebecca Girdwood

Chief Executive Officer

Ms Girdwood gave a presentation on changes to the ACH Act and what it means going forward (ie after the repeal); delivery of information about the Yamatji Land Estate and it's interaction with local governments; and information on YSRC focus and how it will work with future proponents and local government.

3.3 Shire of Chapman Valley

Cr Kirrilee Warr
Mr Jamie Criddle

Shire President
Chief Executive Officer

A presentation on projects recently completed, underway and planned.

4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil

5. ADJOURNED BUSINESS

Nil

6. MINUTES

Attachments: Minutes of the Meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA 26 June 2023

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 26 June 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Isbister

Seconded: Cr Cosgrove

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA held on 26 June 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Carried

6.2 Business Arising from Minutes

Nil

7. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR DECISION

The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 13 September 2023.

The Matters for Decision in the State Council agenda are numbered 7.1 and 7.2

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

7.1 (7.1) Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Advocacy Position

Prepared by: Simone Ruane, LEMA Review Project Lead

WALGA Recommendation:

That WALGA endorse the following position on Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA):

1. The State Government should fund the implementation of the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement Plan endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC).
2. A reformed LEMA system should:
 - a) Clearly articulate the roles and responsibilities of Local Governments in emergency management;
 - b) Simplify the reporting processes and reduce the administrative burden of maintaining compliance;
 - c) Provide a suite of scalable tools and guidance materials that are accessible through an online knowledge hub;
 - d) Build the emergency management capacity and capability of Local Governments through the provision of targeted training, exercising support, human resources and sustainable funding;
 - e) Assist Local Governments to continue to deliver their core business activities and provide public information during an emergency event;
 - f) Improve the connectivity of Local Governments' various risk management and hazard planning processes through an integrated approach; and
 - g) Enable resource sharing and collaboration across the Local Government sector.

Executive Summary:

- WALGA recommends that State Council endorse a new emergency management advocacy position requesting the State Government to fund the implementation of the LEMA Improvement Plan endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC).
- A LEMA advocacy position will enable WALGA to advocate for reforms to LEMA processes, obligations and resourcing that will better meet the needs of the sector and build the resilience of local communities.
- The proposed position is informed by extensive consultation with the Local Government sector in 2022 through WALGA's LEMA Review Project.
- 100 Western Australian Local Governments contributed to the LEMA Review consultation, representing 72% of the sector.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Warr

Seconded: Cr Clune

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 7.1.

Carried

7.2 (7.2) Advocacy Position on Road Works during Total Fire Ban

Prepared by: Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure

Recommendation:

That WALGA endorse the following principles in relation to the exemptions and conditions under which road works may be undertaken during a Total Fire Ban:

1. Road Activity Tiers: That there be a tiered risk approach for road work activities and associated controls, based on the proposed activities and fire danger forecast.
2. Local Government operations: That any controls specified in regulations to provide effective risk mitigation and response be able to be implemented within the works crew deployed for the task.
3. Reduce Red Tape: That the processes where repeated notification to DFES for the same task at the same location is required be streamlined.

Executive Summary:

The issue of restrictions on carrying out any grading or bitumen works during a Total Fire Ban has been raised by Local Governments.

A Total Fire Ban is declared on days when fires are most likely to threaten lives and property.

During a Total Fire Ban, road works can be undertaken only under certain conditions as set out in the [Bush Fires Regulations 1954](#).

With the frequency of TFBs being declared in Western Australia increasing in recent years, road maintenance and improvement projects have been delayed, increasing the risk to road users.

Based on consultation with Local Governments, three key principles are proposed to evaluate the effectiveness of the Regulations to manage risk of bushfire, and to enable low risk activities to proceed with appropriate controls.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr King

Seconded: Cr Scott

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA endorses the WALGA Officers' recommendation for State Council Agenda Item 7.2.

Carried

8. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

The following items have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for

The Matters for Noting/Information in the State Council agenda are numbered 9.1 to 9.8.

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

8.1 (9.1) Flying Minute – Consistent Local Planning Schemes

Prepared by: Coralie Claudio, Senior Policy Advisor Planning

WALGA Recommendation:

That State Council note the submission on Consistent Local Planning Schemes to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and updated advocacy position (6.2 Planning Reform), as endorsed via Flying Minute.

Executive Summary:

- The Consistent Local Planning Scheme reform project released by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) responds to the State Government's Action Plan for Planning Reform (Action Plan) aimed at making local planning schemes more consistent and legible and improving associated guidance.

- Proposals involve changes to land use terms (and associated definitions); zones and reserves (and associated objectives) for all local planning schemes; and land use permissibility and development requirements for commercial and industrial type zones in the Metropolitan and Peel region schemes.
- WALGA's submission generally supports greater consistency in local planning schemes as proposed but raises several concerns about the ongoing and incremental erosion of Local Government control over their own schemes that can be seen as imposing standardisation beyond what is reasonable.
- WALGA Advocacy Position 6.2 *Planning Reform* was revised to include specific reference to ensuring Local Government retains the ability to respond to local context and characteristics through Local Planning Frameworks.
- State Council endorsed the submission and amended Advocacy Position via Flying Minute on 8 June 2023.

8.2 (9.2) Flying Minute – Submission on the Draft State Waste Infrastructure Plan

Prepared by: Rebecca Brown, Manager, Waste and Environment

WALGA Recommendation:

That State Council note the Submission on the Draft Western Australian State Waste Infrastructure Plan, as endorsed via Flying Minute.

Executive Summary:

- The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation released the draft [Western Australia State Waste Infrastructure Plan](#) for comment by 23 June 2023.
- The draft Plan was developed to guide decision making for the planning and development of waste infrastructure in Western Australia and focuses on the built waste and recycling infrastructure needed to achieve 2030 State Waste Strategy targets.
- The draft Plan includes analysis of waste infrastructure in each region to identify unique needs, challenges and opportunities.
- Identified priorities include expansion of existing infrastructure, establishment of new processing and consolidation facilities and transfer of materials between regions to utilise existing capacity.
- A draft Submission was developed and distributed to Local Government for feedback.
- State Council endorsed the Submission via Flying Agenda on 23 June 2023.

8.3 (9.3) Flying Minute – Submission on Directions Paper: Review of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2023

Prepared by: Rebecca Brown, Manager, Waste and Environment

WALGA Recommendation:

That State Council note the Submission on the Directions Paper: *Review of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030*, as endorsed via Flying Minute.

Executive Summary:

- The State Government has released a *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 (Waste Strategy) Directions Paper*, as the first stage of consultation for the Strategy Review. Submissions were due 11 July 2023.
- Feedback on the Directions Paper will inform an updated Draft Waste Strategy, which will be released for consultation in late 2023 for a minimum of 12 weeks.
- A draft Submission was developed and distributed to Local Government for feedback.
- Focus areas for the updated Strategy identified in the Submission, include:
 - Increased focus on evidence-based waste avoidance programs for priority wastes;
 - Engagement with Commercial & Industrial sector;
 - Influencing effective national product stewardship schemes for electronic waste, packaging and tyres; and
 - Coordination and support for regional and remote areas.
- State Council considered and endorsed the Submission via Flying Agenda on 10 July 2023.

8.4 (9.4) Flying Minute – Submission on Discussion Paper: Stage 3 Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 Review

Prepared by: Rebecca Brown, Manager Waste and Environment

WALGA Recommendation:

That State Council note the Submission on the Discussion Paper: *Stage 3 Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act Review*, as endorsed via Flying Minute.

Executive Summary:

- The Independent Review Panel released a Discussion Paper on the third and final stage of consultation on the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act) for comment by due 30 June 2023. WALGA requested and received an extension until 12 July 2023.
- The Review Panel sought feedback on nine priority areas for reform, and 21 opportunities to 'clarify, strengthen and support a strengthened biosecurity system in WA'.
- WALGA's Stage 3 Submission builds on the recommendations in the WALGA BAM Act Review Discussion Paper and aligns with the Biosecurity Advocacy Position endorsed by State Council in December 2022.
- Feedback from Local Government identified the key reform areas as:
 - Clarifying the role of the BAM Act: ensure that the ecological impact of pests and diseases as well as the agricultural impacts are considered equally;
 - Planning and reporting: establishing a formal biosecurity body, including key stakeholders, to provide strategic leadership and consideration of local, regional and state-wide priorities; and
 - Community led pest management: establishing a broad-based Declared Pest Rate, applied across WA to all freehold, leasehold or rural land above a certain size, with Local Government as an eligible entity to receive funding from this Rate.
- The key concerns raised by the sector were in relation to:
 - Emergency Powers: Ensuring Local Government is consulted on the development of these powers, particularly where the emergency response will impact on Local Governments' operations and responsibilities;
 - Community led pest management: Although there may be additional funding available, this may not guarantee funding to deliver all programs expected by the community; and
 - Compliance with WA's biosecurity laws: Increased budget for State Government led compliance operations was considered critical by the sector, rather than relying on Local Laws.
- State Council endorsed the Submission via Flying Agenda on 12 July 2023.

8.5 (9.5) Flying Minute – Independent Strategic Review of the Infrastructure Investment Program Submission

Prepared by: Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure

WALGA Recommendation:

That State Council note the Independent Strategic Review of the Infrastructure Investment Program submission, as endorsed via Flying Minute.

Executive Summary:

- The Commonwealth is conducting a 90-day independent strategic review of the \$120 billion infrastructure investment program.
- The scope includes key Local Government infrastructure funding programs such as Roads to Recovery.
- The submission supports continuation and expansion of the Commonwealth Government investment in Local Government infrastructure through both non-competitive and specific purpose funding programs.
- The submission was endorsed by State Council on 14 July by way of Flying Minute.

8.6 (9.6) Flying Minute – Submission on Discussion Paper – Wired for Change: regulation for small electrical products and solar photovoltaic system waste

Prepared by: Rebecca Brown, Manager, Waste and Environment

WALGA Recommendation:

That State Council note the Submission on the Discussion Paper: Wired for Change: regulation for small electrical products and solar photovoltaic system waste, as endorsed via Flying Minute.

Executive Summary:

- The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water released a Discussion Paper outlining the proposed new regulated product stewardship scheme for two categories of electrical waste: small electrical and electronic equipment and solar photovoltaic (PV) systems for comment by 23 July 2023.
- The current national Product Stewardship Scheme for electronic waste does not meet the needs of Local Government as it does not cover all electronic waste, or the costs associated with recycling. Local Government has also expressed concern regarding the equity of the geographic coverage of the Scheme.
- The proposed new scheme meets most Local Government requirements, with:
 - a guarantee that all costs associated with the recycling of this e-waste is covered for sites which are part of the Scheme;
 - most electronic waste currently being disposed of at Local Government sites being included, as well as an opportunity for additional products to be added over time; and
 - an equitable access requirement.
- The design of the proposed scheme has been informed by consultation with WALGA, other Local Government Associations, and key stakeholders. WALGA has emphasised the need for these elements of the Scheme, as well as targets that do not limit collection amounts and align with infrastructure and markets for products collected.
- State Council considered and endorsed the Submission via Flying Agenda on 21 July.

8.7 (9.7) Flying Minute – Submission to the Review of the Main Roads Pedestrian Crossing Facilities Guidelines

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

WALGA Recommendation:

That State Council note the submission to Main Roads WA on the draft Pedestrian Crossing Facilities Guidelines, and the following principles regarding the design and implementation of pedestrian crossings, as endorsed via Flying Minute:

1. Planning at the local level
A detailed understanding of modal networks at the local level and/or local transport plans should inform where and which pedestrian crossing types are implemented.
2. Pedestrian Crossings are essential
High-speed, high-volume roads are the major barrier to active transport that must be resolved.
3. Pedestrian Priority
Pedestrian travel should be given equal weight to vehicular travel. High-quality, cost-effective, pedestrian-priority crossings should be implemented wherever possible. Pedestrian Crossings on roads with heavy vehicles should also be given higher priority toward the implementation of a safe, pedestrian- priority crossings in the Guidelines, based on the risk to the pedestrian.
4. Cost
Cost-effective pedestrian-priority crossings should be considered first, rather than high-cost facilities. The Guidelines should provide guidance on the cost of installing pedestrian crossing facilities and general information on which party may bear the costs.
5. Proactive Approach
Forecast pedestrian demand based on network planning, rather than existing pedestrian counts should be used to plan appropriate crossings.
6. Speed
Vehicle travel speed requirements for implementing pedestrian crossings must not be a barrier to selecting and installing pedestrian-priority crossings, but should be a consideration in selecting cost-effective designs.
7. Intersections
Intersection designs, including roundabouts, should accommodate pedestrian crossing priority.

Executive Summary:

- Main Roads provided the draft Pedestrian Crossing Facilities Guidelines to WALGA for review and comment.
- Seven overarching principles are proposed to inform revisions to the draft Guidelines document:
 - That planning at the Local Government level be considered in determining where and which crossing types are implemented;
 - That pedestrians must be accommodated with facilities, regardless of vehicle speeds and vehicle volume considerations;
 - That high-quality, pedestrian-priority crossings be considered first rather than last;
 - That lower cost high-quality, pedestrian-priority crossings be considered first, rather than higher cost crossings
 - That the guidelines incorporate a proactive approach, rather than react to pedestrian demand, which is often not present;
 - That the operating speed to implement high-quality, pedestrian-priority crossings be increased, so this is not a barrier to implementing pedestrian crossings;
 - That intersection designs, particularly roundabouts, be included that support pedestrian-priority crossings.
- These principles guide numerous proposed revisions to the text of the draft Guidelines.
- Revisions to the Pedestrian Crossing Facility Guidelines are important to Local Government, as Local Governments maintain most of the path network, have a nuanced understanding of transport in their jurisdiction, and often prepare active transport planning documents that include priority pedestrian networks.
- The submission was considered and endorsed by State Council by way of Flying Minute on 11 August.

8.8 (9.8) Concurrent Commonwealth Disaster Reviews

Prepared by: Rachel Armstrong, Senior Policy Advisor Emergency Management

WALGA Recommendation:

That State Council note that the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is undertaking three separate but complimentary reviews to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Commonwealth disaster funding and governance.

Executive Summary:

- The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is undertaking three separate but complimentary reviews to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Commonwealth disaster funding and governance:
 - [Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding](#)
 - [Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Review](#)
 - [Independent Review of National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements](#)
- These reviews will seek to identify areas of duplication, gaps, and opportunities to streamline processes and align with best practice and the recommendations of the *Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements* and National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework.
- WALGA is preparing a submission to the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding, due 18 August 2023.
- The submission will be provided to State Council for endorsement via Flying Agenda.
- The submission presents an opportunity to raise the sectors concerns about the Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Arrangements (DRFA) and other Commonwealth Disaster Funding grant processes.
- WALGA is seeking further information to ascertain if there is an opportunity to contribute to the Governance and DRFA reviews.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Warr

Seconded: Cr Isbister

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes State Council Agenda Items 9.1 to 9.8.

Carried

9. REPORTS

9.1 Zone President's Report

Zone President's Report
Cr Karen Chappel

Refer to WALGA President's Report at Item 9.3.

9.2 WALGA State Council Representative's Report

Delegates report to Northern Country Zone of WALGA
Cr Moira Girando

Firstly, please accept my apologies for being unable to attend this meeting due to medical appointments in Perth. I would like to advise you that as you have been made aware, a number of 'Flying Minutes' have been circulated for endorsement by State Council and I have voted in support of all, however I have included in my submission / vote any comments from member councils.

The July State Council meeting, which I attended, was held at the WALGA offices in West Leederville on Wednesday, 5 July. Three guest presenters spoke briefly and fielded questions from State Councillors at the Strategic Forum.

Strategic Forum

Auditor General Caroline Spencer:

Auditor General Caroline Spencer reiterated the independent role of the Office of the Auditor General in state affairs and the interaction with the Local Government sector, Councils and staff.

Deputy WA Police Commissioner Allan Adams:

Deputy Commissioner Allan Adams from WA Police (WAPOL) provided a comprehensive and statistical overview of the trends in crime, prosecutions and police recruitment in Western Australia, while confirming the importance of the relationships WAPOL has with Local Governments across the state.

The Minister for Local Government Hon. David Michael:

Newly appointed Minister for Local Government Hon. David Michael, a former State Councillor and City of Stirling Councillor, reflected on his understanding and commitment to Local Government, and his experience as a WALGA State Councillor. The Minister also advised that he will be continuing to progress the Local Government Act legislative reforms commenced by Minister Carey.

State Council Meeting

The key decisions from the State Council meeting were the endorsement of WALGA's 2023/24 budget and a resolution to put two items proposing Constitutional change to Members at the 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Advocacy Positions:

New and updated Advocacy Positions on Urban Forest, Landfill Bans and the Local Government Audit process were endorsed by State Council. The positions can be viewed in the Advocacy Positions Manual, here.

Audit Experience Survey Results Summary and Advocacy Position:

State Council resolved to note the Audit Experience Survey Results Summary, and advocate to the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) to reform the audit process for Local Governments particularly in relation to timeframe and delays, additional workload on Local Government staff, cost, inconsistent advice from contract Auditors and the OAG, and asset valuation requirements.

WALGA Best Practice Governance Review:

State Council resolved, by special majority, to put forward two options for Constitutional change to Members at the 2023 AGM to be held on Monday, 18 September. The first option is to adopt a new Constitution which would give effect to an alternate governance model (primarily, adding a Board above the existing State Council and Zone structure), and the second is to refine and update the existing Constitution but otherwise retain the current governance model.

I urge each of our member councils to have 2 voting delegates attend the AGM to vote on this vital matter which has the potential if option 1 is adopted to drastically reduce regional and rural representation on State Council. Please read the full body of the proposed changes and direct your delegates to vote in the best interests of this Zone and Local Governments as a whole.

WALGA's 2023/24 Budget:

State Council endorsed the 2023/24 WALGA budget. The highlights of the budget are as follows:

New Diploma in Local Government for officers

ICT Governance service supporting cyber security

A new Members Hub, podcast studio and WALGA boardroom on level three

Dedicated training facility on level one (existing board rooms repurposed)

Establishment of a new Economic Development Advisor position

Ongoing investment in growing technology transformation (website, CRM, IT resourcing)

Workforce retention and attraction

Other decisions as per the Full Minutes

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Cosgrove

Seconded: Cr Scott

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the WALGA State Council Representative's Report for August 2023.

Carried

9.3 WALGA President's Report

The WALGA President's Report is attached. The President spoke to her Report.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Isbister

Seconded: Cr Horstman

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

Carried

9.4 Zone Status Report

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

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Clune

Seconded: Cr Warr

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

Carried

9.5 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Update

The DLGSC Report for August 2023 is attached.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Scott

Seconded: Cr Cosgrove

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the August 2023 Report from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

Carried

10. ZONE MATTERS FOR NOTING/DECISION

10.1 Correspondence

10.1.1 Correspondence Out

Nil

10.1.2 Correspondence In

10.1.2 (a) 3/07/2023 WALGA

Attachment: Email from Chantelle O'Brien (emailed to members 03/07/2023)

Flying Agenda – State Waste Strategies Directions Paper

10.1.2 (b) 3/07/2023 Shire of Chapman Valley

Attachment: Email from Jamie Criddle

The Shire of Chapman Valley's Waste Levy Submission in response to Flying Agenda at 10.1.2 (a)

10.1.2 (c) 5/07/2023 WALGA

Attachment: Email from Chantelle O'Brien (emailed to members 05/07/2023)

Flying Agenda – BAM Act Review Stage 3

10.1.2 (d) 10/07/2023 WALGA

Attachment: Email from Chantelle O'Brien (emailed to members 10/07/2023)

Flying Agenda – Independent Strategic Review of Infrastructure Investment Program (IIP)

10.1.2 (e) 18/07/2023 WALGA

Attachment: Email from Kathy Brown (emailed to members 18/07/2023)

Flying Agenda – Wired for Change

10.1.2 (f) 04/08/2023 WALGA

Attachment: Email from Chantelle O'Brien (emailed to members 04/08/2023)

Flying Agenda – Pedestrian Crossings Facilities Guidelines

10.1.2 (g) 10/08/2023 WALGA

Attachment: Email from Chantelle O'Brien (emailed to members 11/08/2023)

Flying Agenda – Objection to Proposed Boundaries

10.1.2 (h) 11/08/2023 WALGA

Attachment: Email from Chantelle O'Brien (emailed to members 11/08/2023)

Flying Agenda – Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding

10.1.2 (i) 14/08/2023 WALGA

Attachment: Email from Chantelle O'Brien (emailed to members 14/08/2023)

Flying Agenda – Draft Operational Policy 2.3 Planning for Public Open Space

10.1.2 (j) 14/08/2023 Shire of Chapman Valley

Attachment: Email from Jamie Criddle

The Shire of Chapman Valley's Resolution to Object to Proposed Boundaries, in response to Flying Agenda at 10.1.2(g)

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Isbister

Seconded: Cr Cosgrove

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA receives Correspondence In at Items 10.1.2 (a) through to 10.1.2 (j).

Carried

10.2 Audit 2022-2023

Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer

Attachments: Audit Report 2022-2023

Recommendation:

That the 2022-2023 Audit Report for the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be received.

Comments:

In the opinion of the Auditor, Mr Dwayne Woollorton of North Midlands Accounting Services, the accounts present fairly the financial position of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA for the financial year ending 30 June 2023. There were no qualifications.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Cosgrove

Seconded: Cr Scott

That the 2022-2023 Audit Report for the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be received.

Carried

10.3 Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 31 July 2023

Prepared by: Dianne Daniels, Executive Officer
Attachments: Bank Statement July 2023

Recommendation:

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

Comments:

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

<i>For the period ending</i>				
<i>31-Jul-23</i>				
	<i>Date</i>	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Description</i>
Statement Balance B/F	01-07-23		7,945.49	
Deposits			7,200.00	2023-24 Membership Subscriptions x 4
			0.00	Interest received
TOTAL RECEIPTS			7,200.00	
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE			15,145.49	
Payments Made			-2,990.25	Internet Tsf - Dianne Daniels - Inv 232401 - EO Services 02/05/2023 - 05/07/2023; Travel; Stationery
TOTAL PAYMENTS MADE			-2,990.25	
Closing Cash Balance	31-07-23		12,155.24	
NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA				
BANK RECONCILIATION SUMMARY				
<i>For the period ending</i>				
<i>31-Jul-23</i>				
Statement Balance B/F	01-07-23		7,945.49	
Deposits and Credits			7,200.00	
Cheques and Payments			-2,990.25	
Total Cleared Transactions	31-07-23		12,155.24	
Add back o/s			0.00	
Reconciled Balance			12,155.24	
Bank Statement	31-07-23		12,155.24	
Difference I&E to Bank Statement			0.00	

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Isbister

Seconded: Cr Horstman

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

Carried

10.4 2023 Local Government Elections – Zone Office Bearer Elections

Prepared by: Chantelle O'Brien, Governance Support Officer

Recommendation:

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the process for election of Zone Representative and Deputy Representative to the WALGA State Council.

Background:

With the biennial Local Government elections being held on Saturday, 21 October 2023, Zones will also be required to hold an election process for State Council representatives.

A chronological overview of the process is detailed below:

- Local Government elections occur on Saturday, 21 October 2023.
- Member Councils to elect/appoint their Zone Delegates and to advise the Zone Executive Officer, as soon as possible but preferably by 3 November 2023.
- For the purpose of electing their representatives and deputy representatives to the WALGA State Council, the Zones are required to hold these elections at their November 2023 meeting.
- Zones to advise WALGA, in writing, of their elected State Council representative and deputy representative immediately following the 2023 November Zone meeting.
- A State Councillor Induction Session will be held for all State Council representatives and deputy representatives before the first meeting in December.
- The new State Council will take office at the Ordinary Meeting of State Council on **6 December 2023**.

In relation to the nominations and election process to be followed by each Zone in electing a representative and deputy representative to the WALGA State Council, the below process has been instituted by State Council:

1. *Zone Executive Officer to write to all Member Councils no later than 1 month prior to the Zone meeting at which the election is to be held calling for nominations from Delegates to the Zone for the positions of representative and deputy representative to State Council. The correspondence is to state that all nominations are to be made in writing to the Zone Executive Officer, and only Elected Members who are nominated Zone Delegates are eligible to nominate. The time period for the receipt of nominations is preferably to be **one week prior** to the Zone meeting at which the election will be held. However, nominations will be accepted from the floor at the Zone meeting.*
2. *Zone Executive Officer to receive written nominations from Zone Delegates for the positions of representative and deputy representative to State Council and then provide written confirmation to Member Councils of the nominations received.*
3. *Elections are to be held at the next Zone meeting as the first item of business. Nominations will be permitted from the floor at the Zone meeting. Where there is more than one nomination for each vacant position, an election will be conducted using a secret ballot, with the Zone Executive Officer to represent WALGA as the returning officer for the election. Prior to the ballot, nominees for each position are to be extended the opportunity to provide a 2 minute election bid to Delegates.*
4. *All voting Delegates to the Zone are entitled to cast one (1) vote in the ballot process. The candidate with the greater or greatest number of votes is elected to the office.*
5. **Tied vote** – *in the event of a tied vote, election will be determined by drawing names from a box. The Secretariat will put the names of the candidates concerned in a box and the first name drawn is the Elected Member.*
6. *Zone Executive Officer to advise WALGA in writing immediately following the Zone meeting of the outcome of their elections.*

If you have any questions or require further information in relation to the above mentioned process, please contact Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services on 9213 2051 or email tbrown@walga.asn.au.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr King

Seconded: Cr Isbister

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes the process for election of Zone Representative and Deputy Representative to the WALGA State Council.

Carried

10.5 Commonwealth Disaster Ready Fund – Round Two

Prepared by Rachel Armstrong, Senior Policy Advisor Emergency Management

Recommendation:

That zones note that Expressions of Interest for Round 2 of the Disaster Ready Fund are now open, and that the Department of Fire and Emergency Services is providing support to Local Governments to assist with the development of high-quality applications.

Executive Summary:

- The [Disaster Ready Fund](#) (DRF) is a \$200 million Commonwealth Government fund that provides grants to government and non-government organisations to help them reduce disaster risk.
- Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for DRF Round 2 are open now and applications for Round 2 will open in early 2024.
- Benefits to Local Governments in applying for the DRF include building partnerships with other organisations and receiving financial assistance for projects that reduce community vulnerability to disasters.
- The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) is actively engaging with organisations in preparation for Round 2 of the DRF, to identify projects that are most likely to be successful, as well as providing support and advice to develop strong applications.
- DFES is encouraging Local Governments interested in applying for DRF Round 2 to start planning now.
- DFES is holding a [grants webinar](#) on **Monday 4 September**, 10am to 12pm, which will provide more detail on how to submit a successful grant application, and the support available.

Background

The first round of the DRF opened on 10 January and closed 6 March 2023. 19 out of 23 successful Western Australian projects involved Local Governments. Although many WA Local Governments that applied to Round One of the DRF were successful, WA were only allocated just over \$8 million of the total \$200 million available. Successful projects from the first round are listed [here](#).

EOIs for DRF Round 2 are open now and applications for Round 2 will open in early 2024.

Comment

Examples of the types of projects that were successful across Australia, and may be of interest to Local Governments considering applying for a DRF grant in Round Two include:

- Evacuation centre upgrades
- Coastal erosion mitigation
- Flood resilience
- Community disaster risk reduction and resilience projects
- Green canopy initiatives
- Community engagement, education, and preparedness
- Improving natural environments to build resilience.

The extra support being provided by DFES through the early EOI process may help increase DRF funding to Local Governments in Round Two. A key factor in funding success is a well substantiated application, which can be resource intensive to develop.

DFES will hold a grants webinar 10am - 12pm, **Monday 4 September**, with information on how to submit a successful grant application, and what support is available. Register your interest [here](#).

Further information is available on the [SEMC website](#) or semc.grants@dfes.wa.gov.au.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Cosgrove

Seconded: Cr King

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA notes that Expressions of Interest for Round 2 of the Disaster Ready Fund are now open, and that the Department of Fire and Emergency Services is providing support to Local Governments to assist with the development of high-quality applications.

Carried

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

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

11.1 Call to Guests to Address the Meeting

The President called on guests to address the meeting. The Hon. Melissa Price MP, the Hon. Sandra Carr MLC, Mr Craig Vinci, Ms Louise Adamson, Mr Peter Spalding, Ms Bev Growden and Mr Mark Holdsworth updated members on issues of relevance.

11.2 Regional Issues

Background:

As per the resolution at Item 9.1 of the February 2018 minutes, Regional Issues are open for discussion.

11.2.1 Charitable Status of Yamatji Southern Regional Corporation

A concern was raised by members that the Yamatji Southern Regional Corporation intended to use its status as a Charitable Organisation to apply for rates exemption on some or all of the land parcels that were going to be transferred to it under the ILUA.

This was despite articulation during the negotiation phase that it would be liable for rates.

The following resolution was put and carried by members:

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr King

Seconded: Cr Clune

That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA send a delegation to Minister Buti and Minister Michael with regard to the Yamatji Southern Regional Corporation's charitable registration and the impact on local government rate income.

Carried

The Executive Officer was asked to request a meeting with both Ministers and to include a background paper in the request.

11.3 Regional Tourism Initiatives

Background:

As per the resolution at Item 10.1 of the April 2019 minutes, Regional Tourism Initiatives are open for discussion.

11.3.1 Wildflower Country

Cr McTaggart spoke of her disappointment that the Wildflower Country initiative had recently folded - it was a fantastic brand with a great following. The Shire of Mingenew would be approaching all Shires to regroup so that investment is not wasted and infrastructure not lost. It is a very small annual contribution to work together to have a broader impact.

11.4 Other General Business

President Chappel farewelled Cr Chris King and Cr Moira Girando, who will not be running at the local government elections in October and thanked them for their service.

12. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Recommendation:

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be held on Monday 27 November 2023, commencing at 10 am, hosted by the Shire of Coorow at Maley Park Recreation Centre on Bothe Street Coorow.

Northern Country Zone Resolution:

Moved: Cr Warr

Seconded: Cr Isbister

That the next ordinary meeting of the Northern Country Zone of WALGA be held on Monday 27 November 2023, commencing at 10:00 am, hosted by the Shire of Coorow.

Carried

13. MEETING CLOSURE

Meeting declared closed at 12:22.