

1 OPENING & WELCOME

The Zone President and Chair of the meeting, Cr Ken Seymour, welcomed delegates and observers and asked attendees to introduce themselves. Cr Seymour introduced Cr Denese Smythe, President, Shire of York. Cr Smythe welcomed delegates to York and highlighted aspects of York and the district.

2 ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

2.1 Attendance

Delegates -

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Cr Ken Seymour | Shire of Moora (President) |
| Cr Denese Smythe | Shire of York (Deputy President) |
| Cr Keith Carter | Shire of Dalwallinu (via video) |
| Cr Linda Balcombe | Shire of Gingin (via video) |
| Cr Barry Haywood | Shire of Goomalling |
| Cr Chris Antonio | Shire of Northam (via video) |
| Cr Rosemary Madacsi | Shire of Toodyay |
| Cr Pauline Bantock | Shire of Victoria Plains |
| Cr Dwight Coad | Shire of Wongan-Ballidu |

Observers –

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Ms Melinda Prinsloo | Shire of Chittering (via video) |
| Ms Jean Knight | Shire of Dalwallinu (via video) |
| Mr Aaron Cook | Shire of Gingin (via video) |
| Mr Peter Bentley | Shire of Goomalling (via video) |
| Mr Jason Whiteaker | Shire of Northam (via video) |
| Mr Sean Fletcher | Shire of Victoria Plains |
| Cr Kevin Trent | Shire of York |
| Ms Alina Behan | Shire of York |
| Ms Susie Moir | Policy Manager Resilient Communities, WALGA |
| Mr Chris Hossen | Policy Manager Planning & Building, WALGA |
| Mr Cliff Simpson | Regional Road Safety Advisor, WALGA |
| Ms Mandy Walker | Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt Inc |
| Ms Samantha Cornthwaite | Regional Manager Wheatbelt, Dept of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries |
| Mr Mohammad Siddiqui | Regional Manager, Wheatbelt Region, MRWA (from 11:21 am) |
| Robert Dew | Zone Executive Officer |

2.2 Apologies

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Cr Mary Angus | Shire of Chittering |
| Cr Tracy Lefroy | Shire of Moora |
| Cr Julie Williams | Shire of Northam |
| Cr Beth Ruthven | Shire of Toodyay |
| Ms Suzie Haslehurst | Shire of Toodyay |
| Ms Mia Davies MLA | Member for Central Wheatbelt |
| Hon Martin Aldridge MLC | Member for Agricultural Region |
| Hon Colin de Grussa MLC | Member for Agricultural Region |

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

5 MINUTES

5.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Zone Meeting held 25 November 2022 at Calingiri. Copies of these Minutes have been circulated to all member Councils.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held on 25 November 2022, as printed and circulated, be confirmed.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Smythe moved and Cr D Coad seconded –

That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held on 25 November 2022, as printed and circulated, be confirmed.

CARRIED

5.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

(a) Wheatbelt Health Services (Item 5.2(a))

Last meeting was scheduled to have a presentation and discussion on the provision of health services in the region and the increasing role local governments. Unfortunately, at very short notice the presenters were unable to attend and the presentation and discussion was deferred to this meeting (see Item 14).

Members and delegates have provided the following comments. Delegates may care to consider the issues to be raised prior to meeting with the health representatives later in the meeting.

Shire of Dandaragan

The following list was developed by their elected members as matters requiring further development in their region -

- 1) X-Ray, ultrasound and CT Scan availability. Most imaging requires travel to Perth or Geraldton. The Jurien Bay Health Centre has an X-Ray machine, but not always staff on roster to undertake the imaging.
- 2) Orthopaedic Services.
- 3) Cardiology.
- 4) Dementia Services.
- 5) Residential Aged Care Availability. Jurien Bay currently has short term respite services, but no options for aging in place for those with higher level medical needs.
- 6) Hospital – staffed with Doctors etc.
- 7) Readily available face to face mental health service.
- 8) Maternity services.
- 9) Increased cooperation and alignment between WACHS Service and local GP service.

Currently the Shire of Dandaragan supplies the local GP Medical Practice with their medical practice premises rent free and which is generally maintained by the Shire. We are fortunate to not currently provide any further financial incentives, however in the past have provided \$100k pa in subsidies to the last operator.

Shire of Gingin

The Shire currently provides the following:

Gingin – Leased to the GP to run his own business

- 1) Fully furnished and established medical centre, fully equipped
- 2) All outgoings the cost to the GP
- 3) All wages of staff at the Centre the cost to the GP
- 4) All disposables cost to the GP
- 5) A Cash Subsidy currently at \$80K for the year – reducing each year.
- 6) A subsidised house rental in Gingin
- 7) No Car

- 8) All records to remain the ownership of Council at all times

Lancelin

- 1) A housing subsidy of up to \$400 per week if residing in Lancelin and proof is provided.
- 2) Medical Centre is not our building and as such no expense to Council.

Discussions have been held with WACHS re the ability for appointed GP's to also be engaged by local hospitals to supplement their income. For example, for Gingin this would be Northam, Midland, Joondalup etc but they generally need to have the specific ED experience. This generates significant income for GPs as they earn \$2000 per shift and an allowance of \$50K if they work more than 46 weeks in the year. This then puts it into terms of like with those rural Councils that have hospitals etc and brings up a GPs income without Council footing the bill.

WACHS advised of your upcoming vacancy to see if we could work together to recruit? An whilst this sounds great as you know is more difficult than first impressions.

Shire of Moora

The Shire of Moora is well supported by a private practice however, the Shire does assist the practice in some ways -

- 1) Provides the practice with a vehicle – at the Shire's cost.
- 2) Provides a Shire house at a subsidised rate to accommodate one of the GPs.
- 3) Meets some annual practice costs because the practice is part of a remote GP training post however, these are not practitioner specific costs.

Cr R Madacsi, Shire of Toodyay

Expressed the view that it is critical that we use the meeting to convey what we as a Zone consider is an acceptable level of local government contribution to attracting and retaining GP services and that each delegate has a clear idea of their Council's position for the meeting.

Stating she believes that the provision of a rent-free suitable premise to house the services, inclusive of utilities and maintenance is sufficient given the responsibility is Federal and State. All other incentives need to be provided by the relevant Federal or State Departments. She is seeking feedback from elected members and will provide the Shire of Toodyay's position to the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

For Discussion

NOTED

(b) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advocacy Position (Item 6.1/5.5)

Last meeting expressed concerns that at the local level there was conflict between SWALSC Elders and the Local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services (LACHS) with each group expressing differing options on issues. It was noted that this made it difficult for both local government and the community. As the pathways for SWALSC and the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act are quite different the question was asked as to who has final approval.

The WA Local Government Association advised that Zone question is noted and commented –

- In relation to Cultural Heritage matters, and as defined in the Detailed Overview of the Cultural Heritage Bill the LACHS will -
 - talk to Native Title groups and knowledge holders in the area about Aboriginal cultural heritage issues;
 - talk to people who want to do work on their country about Aboriginal cultural heritage and how to look after it;
 - organise heritage surveys and meetings;
 - make Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plans;
 - help Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plans to be carried out;
 - give Aboriginal cultural heritage information to the ACH Council and talk about how important it is in an area; and
 - other things.
- The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Council is the State's peak strategic body on Aboriginal Cultural heritage matters and will provide advice to the Aboriginal Affairs Minister, designate local Aboriginal cultural heritage services and approve permits and management plans.

- With regards to the timeframes for implementation of the ACH Act DPLH have advised WALGA that the co-design process will be completed on 26 February 2023 with the gazettal of the regulations. Following this DPLH will conduct an intensive education program for stakeholders between March – June 2023. During this period the funding and capacity building models will also be finalised to support the successful delivery of the ACH Act. The ACH Act will commence 1 July 2023.

Dealt with in conjunction with Item 5.2(c)

(c) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act Co-Design Process (Item 6.1/6.5)

At the last meeting a question was asked if there was any avenue for the voices of local aboriginal populations which have a connection to the land being heard as discussions appear to be at a higher level. It was pointed that the local voices need to be captured.

The WA Local Government Association advised that the Zone question is noted and commented –

- The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (ACH) Co-Design process was delivered by the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage (DPLH) March 2022-February 2023 over three phases. WALGA made a comprehensive submission at each stage informed by extensive consultation with Local Governments across WA. WALGA's Phase Two submission raised the concern that the process of engaging through Local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services (LACHS) could result in the erosion of existing local relationships, duplication of engagement structures and increased bureaucracy. WALGA's phase 3 submission continued to raise this issue and recommended:
The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) to ensure that local Aboriginal community members are actively engaged in the formation and ongoing operation of LACHS.
- At the 7 December State Council Meeting the ACH Advocacy Position was amended to include the following items:
 5. *WALGA advocate for and support the recognition of regional local Aboriginal people to be actively engaged in the Local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services (LACHS) groups;*
 6. *the various Prescribed Body Corporates (PBCs) be required to actively seek out local regional members to be included in the consultation and decision-making process.*pp 47, Full Minutes, WALGA State Council 7 December 2022.

Ms S Moir commented –

- The LACHS are not yet established.
- The idea is that the LACHS will work at the local level.
- Will need to see how the LACHS go once they are set up.
- Everyone encouraged to engage with their local aboriginal communities.
- The State Government has endorsed the LACHS and local governments will go to the LACHS.

Mr S Fletcher pointed out that local governments are aware of conflicts between the different aboriginal groupings.

Cr R Madacsi asked what processes were built into the system when LACHS and local groupings differ in opinion. She pointed out that within the Shire of Toodyay there are three different groups. Ms S Moir referred to an upcoming webinar in March/April on Native Title and that presentations would be scheduled for Zones.

Cr B Haywood commented that he believed the wrong people have been selected from the aboriginal communities as in his experience it is frequently the women that have the local groups history rather than the Elders.

Ms S Moir commented –

- The system is pretty well set.
- The co-design process will be completed 26 February 2023 with the gazettal of the Regulations.
- The Act will commence 1 July 2023.
- The job of the LACHS is to engage with the local people; is in not a local government problem. The LACHS are responsible for managing the process with the local groups.
- WALGA is continuing to consult with local governments. An Aboriginal Heritage Reference Group has been established. Local government CEOs are welcome to participate.

RESOLUTION

Cr P Bantock moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –

That representatives of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage be invited to a future Zone meeting to present on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act.

CARRIED

6 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

6.1 WALGA State Council Agenda

Review of the Agenda for the meeting of State Council to be held Wednesday 1 March 2023. The Zone is able to provide comment or submit alternate recommendations to State Council for consideration.

Matters for Decision

7.1 Proposed Advocacy Position on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People (Page 5)

WALGA Recommendation

That the following Advocacy Position be endorsed:

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

WALGA Executive Summary

- The Australian Government will hold a referendum in the second half of 2023 on amending the Constitution to enshrine an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament (the Voice) as part of its commitment to implement the Uluru Statement from the Heart.
- At its December 2022 meeting State Council resolved that WALGA prepare an advocacy position in support of constitutional recognition to be circulated to WALGA Zones for their next meeting for consideration and feedback.
- WALGA has prepared the attached Information Paper for WALGA Zones and State Council to facilitate discussion on the proposed WALGA Advocacy Position.

In discussion, Delegates pointed out that a WA Local Government Advocacy position on the Voice to Parliament puts local governments in a difficult position with both the general community and the aboriginal communities divided on the proposal. It was also pointed out that voting in the referendum is by individuals and is not a responsibility of local government.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Smythe moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –

That the Zone ask the WA Local Government Association not to adopt an advocacy position on the amendment of the Australian Constitution to enshrine an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament at this point in time.

CARRIED

7.2 Community Disaster Resilience Strategy Submission (Page 35)

WALGA Recommendation

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

WALGA Executive Summary

- The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) has released the draft *Western Australian Community Disaster Resilience Strategy* (CDRS) for public consultation, until 3 March 2023.
- The Strategy intends to provide the guidance to support all Western Australians to increase their disaster resilience.
- The Strategy builds on a *CDRS Discussion Paper*. WALGA previously provided input on the discussion paper, and Local Government Consultation was also undertaken by SEMC
- WALGA has prepared a draft Submission that is supportive of the CDRS

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

7.3 Child Safeguarding Advocacy Position (Page 54)

WALGA Recommendation

That the Child Safeguarding Advocacy Position as follows be endorsed:

Child Safeguarding

1. *Local Government supports:*

- (a) the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse 2017, in particular Recommendation 6.12 which can be achieved by Local Government implementing and embedding child safeguarding across its functions with support from Governments at the national, state and territory levels; and*
- (b) the ten National Principles for Child Safe Organisations (Australian Humans Rights Commission).*

2. *The State Government through an Independent Oversight Body should provide financial, resourcing and capacity building support to Local Governments to implement and embed child safeguarding across its functions, through the provision of:*

- (a) supporting materials such as template policies, procedures and guidelines;*
- (b) consistent key messaging and resources to promote and share in venues and facilities and online;*
- (c) examples of best practice, including case studies;*
- (d) self-assessment tools to assist Local Government;*
- (e) ongoing training and skills development for Local Government staff, including online training options;*
- (f) funding for the delivery of the child safeguarding function within smaller, less well resourced (Band 3 and Band 4) Local Governments; and*
- (g) expert officers within each region to provide support and guidance to Local Government on child safeguarding.*

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

WALGA Executive Summary

- Since 2018 WALGA has consulted extensively with Local Government in relation to the response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (the Royal Commission) including the National Redress Scheme, Reportable Conduct and Child Safety Officers.
- WALGA has developed a Child Safeguarding Advocacy Position which will be used to guide policy development, advocacy, and capacity building activities for Local Government within the State framework.
- The new Advocacy Position has been developed based on submissions previously endorsed by State Council and extensive consultation with Local Government, and is supported by the Local Government Child Safety Communities of Practice network and the Community Industry Reference Group (CIRG).

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

7.4 Submission on Draft Guideline Minimising Noise Impact from Outdoor Community Basketball Facilities (Page 57)

WALGA Recommendation

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

WALGA Executive Summary

- The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation released the *Draft Guideline: Minimising noise impact from outdoor community basketball facilities* on 23 December 2022 for a 10 week consultation period.
- The Draft Guideline includes options for how noise, from new community basketball facilities can be mitigated. This includes separation distances between the facility and residents in different circumstances, engineering and facility management controls.
- A draft Submission was circulated to Local Government for feedback and the final Submission has been updated based on the information provided.

- The WALGA Submission provides feedback on the costs and practicality of the various interventions suggested.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

7.5 Main Roads Draft Roadside Advertising Policy and Application Guidelines (Page 63)

WALGA Recommendation

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

WALGA Executive Summary

- Main Roads is seeking feedback on their Draft Roadside Advertising Policy and Application Guidelines.
- This policy could be used to significantly curtail the deployment of roadside advertising devices, which are currently used by Local Governments as a source of public realm amenity, support funding bus shelter improvements and are a source of revenue for Local Government in some cases.
- As drafted, these guidelines would apply to most of the public road network, including Local Government roads, and signs on private property that are visible from the road. The draft guidelines would cover advertiser-funded bus shelters and information or decorative banners.
- There is no demonstrated road safety problem resulting from roadside advertising devices, as currently deployed in Western Australia. Road safety is the stated rationale for developing this policy.
- WALGA has prepared a submission to Main Roads on the guidelines, requesting:
- Greater delegation of authority in assessing small format static signs and small format digital signs.
- Guaranteed processing times for classes of signs for which Main Roads retains the assessment function. This includes requesting a schedule of approval time frames, and a “deemed approved” clause in the event of these timeframes not being met.

The meeting recommended that the Zone support the recommendation to State Council.

RECOMMENDATION

That the above recommendations and comments be endorsed.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Smythe moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –

That the above recommendation and comments be endorsed.

CARRIED

Policy Team Reports

- 8.1 Environment and Waste Policy Team Report (Page 68)
- 8.2 Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team Report (Page 69)
- 8.3 Infrastructure Policy Team Report (Page 70)
- 8.4 People and Place Policy Team Report (Page 71)

RECOMMENDATION

That the above Policy Team Reports be noted.

NOTED

Matters for Noting/Information

- 9.1 Animal Welfare in Emergencies Grant Program Overview (Page 72)

WALGA Recommendation

That the update on the Animal Welfare in Emergencies Grant Program be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

- The Animal Welfare in Emergencies Grant Program was established in 2020 between the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and WALGA to improve the capacity of Local Governments, and their communities, to manage the impacts of emergency situations on animal welfare.

- At the conclusion of the Program in June 2022, 40 Local Governments shared in a total of \$414,066.06 funding through project grants and reimbursement of costs to attend a tailored three-day training course at the Muresk Institute.

9.2 Emergency Management Update (Page 74)

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note this Emergency Management update.

WALGA Executive Summary

- The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) has revised the timing of the Consultation Exposure Draft Bill for the proposed Emergency Services Act, which is now expected to be released for a three-month consultation period in mid-2023.
- The Auditor General has released Report 13: 2022-23 Funding of Volunteer Emergency and Fire Services, which includes recommendations for DFES and for Local Government.
- The Minister for Emergency Services has written to the WALGA President in response to the WALGA 2023-24 State Budget Submission, including advice that DFES is considering a review of the Local Government Grants Scheme (LGGs).
- WALGA was recently contacted by DFES regarding the legality of Bush Fire Brigades established by Local Governments in the absence of an associated Bush Fire Brigades Local Law, and has sought its own legal advice and contacted impacted LGs.
- WALGA is maintaining a watching brief on the Kimberly Floods emergency, is in communication with the Shire of Broome and Shire of Derby – West Kimberley and will provide support as required to the response and recovery effort.

9.3 Local Development Plan Background Paper (Page 77)

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note the Local Development Plan Background Paper.

WALGA Executive Summary

- Local Development Plans (LDPs) are planning instruments used to facilitate and coordinate development and assist in achieving built form outcomes.
- WALGA established a Local Government LDP Working Group, including members of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) Planning Reform team, following multiple Local Governments raising concerns with LDPs.
- The LDP Background paper identifies four key challenges associated with LDPs and provides recommended solutions that will inform DPLH's formal review of LDPs.

9.4 2023-24 WALGA Federal Budget Submission (Page 79)

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA's letter in support of the Australian Local Government Association's 2023-24 Federal Budget Submission be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

- WALGA recently wrote to the Federal Treasurer in support of the Australian Local Government Association's (ALGA) 2023-24 Federal Budget Submission.
- WALGA's letter supports the priority areas identified in ALGA's submission.
- It also highlights several initiatives of particular importance to Western Australia, given the State's unique geographic and economic circumstances including addressing climate change (notably funding support to reduce emissions and for coastal hazard planning); continuation of key infrastructure programs including the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, Roads of Strategic Importance and Roads to Recovery; and addressing the shortage of building surveyors.
- In coming weeks WALGA will be writing to Western Australian members of Federal Parliament to draw their attention to the spending priorities for Western Australian Local Governments in the 2023-24 Budget.

9.5 WALGA Submission on Phase Three of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 Co-Design Process (Page 81)

WALGA Recommendation

That the submission on Phase Three of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 Co-design Process, endorsed via Flying Minute on 23 December 2022, be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

- The *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021* (ACH Act) is expected to commence in July 2023.
- During 2022, the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) facilitated a three-phase co-design process to develop the regulations, statutory guidelines and operational policies that will support the ACH Act.
- WALGA provided a submission at each stage including in response to Phase Three.
- WALGA's Phase Three submission was endorsed by State Council by way of Flying Minute on 23 December 2022.
- This completes the consultation process for the ACH Act, with DPLH now moving into a document finalisation and implementation phase.
- Since 2018, WALGA has undertaken the following advocacy and capacity building activities to in relation to the development of the new ACH Act:
 - filed five State Council endorsed submissions;
 - provided formal feedback twice via letter and survey;
 - co-delivered 10 place-based online workshops to contribute to the preliminary work in developing the activity categories in 2021;
 - convened the Local Government Aboriginal Heritage Reference Group which has included representation from 26 Local Governments; and
 - co-delivered 5 Infoessions and webinars with DPLH to facilitate consultation with, and provide information to, Local Governments; and
 - included a request for funding for the establishment and ongoing functioning of the new Aboriginal heritage system, with respect to the ACH Council, Local ACH Services (LACHS) and Local Governments in the 2023-24 WALGA Budget Submission.
- WALGA will continue to support the Local Government sector with ongoing implementation and capacity building support.

9.6 Child Care Premises Position Statement: Consultation Response (Page 84)

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note the consultation response to the Child Care Premises Position Statement.

WALGA Executive Summary

- The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) released a draft Position Statement: Child Care Premises in November 2022 which outlines the DPLH position and key considerations for proponents, decision-makers and the community in the development and assessment of child care premises.
- The WALGA consultation response provides comment on minor matters of a technical nature and supports the continued status of the Position Statement as providing guidance to Local Governments while retaining flexibility needed to develop local planning scheme and policy provisions that respond to local context.

9.7 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) (Page 86)

WALGA Recommendation

That the resolutions of the 14 December 2022 Municipal Waste Advisory Council meeting be noted.

WALGA Executive Summary

This item summaries the outcomes of the MWAC meeting held on Wednesday 14 December 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

That the above matters for noting/information be noted.

RESOLUTION

**Cr B Haywood moved and Cr R Madacsi seconded –
That the above matters for noting/information be noted.**

CARRIED

Key Activity Reports

- 10.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Advocacy Portfolio (Page 88)
- 10.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure Portfolio (Page 90)
- 10.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Member Services Portfolio (Page 92)
- 10.1.4 Report on Key Activities, Policy Portfolio (Page 94)

RECOMMENDATION

That the above Key Activity Reports be noted.

NOTED

6.2 WALGA President's Report

Presentation of the WALGA President's Report (attached to Agenda).

RECOMMENDATION

That the WALGA President's Report be received.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –
That the WALGA President's Report be received.**

CARRIED

6.3 State Councillor's Report

Report by Cr Ken Seymour.

Cr K Seymour reported –

I hope everyone has enjoyed a break over the festive season and has hit the ground running in the new year.

This time last year the Wickepin, Bruce Rock, Corrigin areas were hit by devastating fires. With this year's fuel loads across the Agricultural region similar to last years, local landowners and local governments must be extra cautious during the permit burning season. Burning a portion of crop stubbles on many farms is an important part of the sustainable cropping rotation similar to controlling fuel loads in bush land. I urge all local governments to use discretion with our burning permit system. The system has worked very well over a long period of time and needs to stay in control by Local Government and landholders who know the area and fuel loads better than anyone.

The West Australian grain belt has just completed another record harvest. Whilst healthy harvests bankroll many communities the strain it places on rural roads and rail is never ending. With recent widespread flooding in the Eastern States and the Kimberley region, local governments across the grain belt need to work together to secure and maintain funding for our road network. Maximising grain on rail must be a priority for all concerned.

I note in the WALGA President's report the Urban Forest Conference to be held next week at Curtin University. Regional and Pastoral shires across Australia need to constantly monitor and control the number of introduced species of rabbits, camels, donkeys, horses etc together with responsible grazing of cattle and sheep to help keep regional lands green and healthy. With attendance expected to be around two hundred for a City event, the rural regions are often forgotten let alone discussed. I will be contacting the WALGA President today on this issue.

May I congratulate Dr Bernard Chapman, Moora, on receiving an OAM in the Australia Day honours list. Dr Chapman has worked long and hard to establish a medical practice which may be a template for regional areas across regional Australia. I look forward to more discussions towards the end of today's meeting and may suggest Dr Chapman be a guest speaker at the August meeting in Moora.

RECOMMENDATION

That the State Councillor's Report be received.

RESOLUTION

**Cr B Haywood moved and Cr D Smythe seconded –
That the State Councillor’s Report be received.**

CARRIED

6.4 Zone Status Report

Report by WA Local Government Association on status of Zone resolutions for action by the Association – February 2023 (attached to Agenda).

RECOMMENDATION

That the February 2023 Status Report be received.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr R Madacsi seconded –
That the February 2023 Status Report be received.**

CARRIED

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| 7 ZONE REPORTS |
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7.1 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group

(a) Minutes

No meetings of the Group have been held since the last Zone meeting.

NOTED

(b) Next Meeting

No date has been set for the next meeting, however it is likely to be late March 2023.

NOTED

RECOMMENDATION

That the report of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group be received.

Mr Mohammad Siddiqui entered the meeting at 11:21 am.

Cr B Haywood reported that with the setting up of other Groups such as the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network there may be some justification in considering winding up the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group. However this would be subject to discussions with others such as CBH Group who in the past have expressed the view that the Agricultural Freight Group is a valuable advocacy group.

Delegates commented that if it is decided that the Agricultural Freight Group does not have an on-going role, then rather than winding up the Group it may be more appropriate for the Group to go into recess so that it could be reactivated when needed.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –
That the report of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group be received.**

CARRIED

7.2 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee

Report by Zone Delegate Cr C Antonio on activities of the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Report on the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management be received.

Cr Antonio presented a verbal report.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –
That the report on the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management be received.**

CARRIED

8 AGENCY REPORTS

8.1 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

- (a) Presentation of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries report.
- (b) Consideration of any topics or presentations the Zone would like the Department to give to the next Zone meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries report be received.

Ms S Cornthwaite commented on –

- Local Government Reform
 - The Minister has advised that he will be introducing the legislative reform proposals in two tranches –
 - The first tranche will be introduced in February/March 2023 covering:
 - electoral reforms such as number of council members, optional preferential voting, public vote to elect the Mayor/President for bands 1 and 2, removal of electoral wards for bands 3 and 4, filling of extraordinary vacancies without need for extraordinary elections.
 - standardised council meeting procedures
 - live streaming of meetings for bands 1 and 2
 - recording of meetings for bands 3 and 4
 - caretaker period
 - publication of information relating to CEO's performance
 - community engagement
 - council/CEO communications agreements
 - fees and expenses for committee members.
 - The second tranche will be introduced later in the year and will cover:
 - Audit, Risk and Improvements Committees
 - Office of the Local Government Inspector
 - Monitors
 - conduct panel
 - council member superannuation
 - WALGA's role in the Local Government Act
 - streamlining regional subsidiaries.
 - The DLGSC will provide further updates through LG Alerts to the sector and on the DLGSC's website.
- Arrangements for 2023 Elections
 - The first bill will introduce optional preferential voting (OPV) for all local government elections to allow electors to preference as many or as few candidates as they decide.
 - It will also include related new provisions to provide for the backfilling of vacancies in situations such as when a member of a council is directly elected as the Mayor or President, or if a vacancy arises within one year of a council member being elected.
 - In considering potential arrangements, councils must decide whether to declare the Electoral Commissioner to conduct the election or appoint the local government's Chief Executive Officer (or other appointee) as the Returning Officer.
 - Declaring the Electoral Commissioner and the WAEC to conduct the election will mean that they will be responsible for managing the election, including the conduct of the count and the introduction of the new OPV counting and backfilling provisions.
 - If local governments chose to appoint the local government's Chief Executive Officer (or other appointee) as the Returning Officer to conduct the election, they will be wholly responsible for managing the election.
 - If local governments chose to manage the election themselves, they will have the option to purchase a licence for access to the WAEC's CountWA software to facilitate the counting of votes. WAEC still determining costs and will advise in next few weeks.
 - The WAEC will only be able to provide general assistance on accessing and using the software if this option is chosen.
 - Local governments have received a letter from the Minister encouraging them to consider options for the conduct of the October 2023 elections no later than 31 March 2023.
- Sport and Recreation Grants.

In response to a question as to whether the cost to local governments managing their own elections had been determined, Ms Cornthwaite replied that she would follow up. **After the meeting the Department advised that the WAEC is still determining the costs which will be announced by the WAEC shortly; possibly during the next couple of weeks.**

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –
That the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries report be received.**
CARRIED

8.2 RDA Wheatbelt

Presentation of the RDA Wheatbelt report (attached to Agenda).

RECOMMENDATION

That the RDA Wheatbelt report be received.

Ms Mandy Walker presented her report and commented on -

- Lumen Wheatbelt Regional University Centre
- Office of Defence Industry Support roundtable to introduce defence industry stakeholders to Wheatbelt manufacturers – Dalwallinu 23 March 2023.
- RDA Wheatbelt work plan for 2023.
- Grant Guru.
- National Reconstruction Fund.

RECOMMENDATION

That the RDA Wheatbelt report be received.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr R Madacsi seconded –
That the RDA Wheatbelt report be received.**
CARRIED

8.3 Transport Portfolio (Main Roads, Department of Transport, Public Transport Authority)

Presentation of the Transport Portfolio report (copy circulated to delegates prior to the meeting).

RECOMMENDATION

That the Transport Portfolio report be received.

Mr Mohammad Siddiqui presented his report and commented on –

- Challengers with contractors and vacancies within Main Roads WA. However, will be able to deliver mandated program for 2022/2023.
- Funding for future works.

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Smythe moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –
That the Transport Portfolio report be received.**
CARRIED

8.4 RoadWise (Wheatbelt North)

Presentation of the RoadWise (Wheatbelt North) report (attached to Agenda).

RECOMMENDATION

That the RoadWise (Wheatbelt North) report be received.

Mr Cliff Simpson presented his report and commented on road safety management systems.

RESOLUTION

**Cr B Haywood moved and Cr D Smythe seconded –
That the RoadWise (Wheatbelt North) report be received.**
CARRIED

8.5 Other

There were no other reports.

9 FINANCE

9.1 Financial Reports

Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Report for the period ending 31 January 2023 are attached to the agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

That the financial reports for the period ending 31 January 2023, as attached, be received.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Smythe moved and Cr B Haywood seconded –

That the financial reports for the period ending 31 January 2023, as attached, be received.

CARRIED

9.2 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts are submitted for payment -

| <u>Payee</u> | <u>For</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------------------|
| R W & S Dew | Secretarial Services to Zone – March 2023 Quarter | 3,910.75 |
| | TOTAL (no GST) | <u><u>\$3,910.75</u></u> |

RECOMMENDATION

That the accounts as listed totalling \$3,910.75 be approved for payment.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Smythe moved and Cr R Madacsi seconded –

That the accounts as listed totalling \$3,910.75 be approved for payment.

CARRIED

10 ZONE BUSINESS

10.1 Western Power – Attendance at Zone Meeting

BACKGROUND

Western Power is exploring opportunities to engage with local governments to keep them informed and involved in key network decisions that affect their communities.

COMMENT

Last meeting invited Western Power to attend the February 2023 Zone meeting to provide information on what Western Power is doing in the region to manage power reliability, bushfire risk, transition to modular grid and regional capacity constraints. Western Power has also asked what Zone members would like to discuss with Western Power.

Unfortunately, due to the change in today's meeting date, Western Power is unable to attend. Western Power has advised that they are happy to attend the Zone's April 2023 meeting.

Last meeting also requested Zone members to nominate topics they wish to discuss with Western Power. Topics which have been put forward to date are –

- Pole top fires.
- Power output in regional areas.
- Provision of backup power for mobile telecommunication towers during emergencies.
- Western Power's liability in relation to bushfires originating from their infrastructure.

RECOMMENDATION

- (1) That Western Power be invited to attend the April 2023 meeting of the Zone; and
- (2) That Zone members be requested to nominate any further topics for discussion with Western Power.

RESOLUTION

Consensus Resolution

That the presentation by Western Power be deferred to a future meeting pending arrangements for a presentation by the Department of Planning, Land and Heritage on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act. **CARRIED**

10.2 Department of Fire & Emergency Services – Attendance at Zone Meeting

BACKGROUND

Mr Murray Carter, Executive Director, Rural Fire Division. Department of Fire & Emergency Services, was scheduled to attend the November meeting of the Zone. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, he was unable to attend. The meeting requested that his attendance be rescheduled to the Zone's April meeting.

COMMENT

Arrangements, subject to final confirmation, have been made with Mr Carter's office for him to attend the Zone's April meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

For Noting

RESOLUTION

Consensus Resolution

That the attendance by the Department of Fire & Emergency Services be deferred to a future meeting pending arrangements for a presentation by the Department of Planning, Land and Heritage on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act. **CARRIED**

10.3 Child Safe Awareness – Attendance at Zone Meeting

Tom Fleming, Principal Policy Officer, Child Safeguarding Implementation Unit, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

COMMENT

The Child Safeguarding Implementation Unit has asked whether they can give a presentation to the Zone's April 2023 meeting on the Child Safe Awareness Policy template for Local Government that the Unit is aiming to take to the WA Local Government Association State Council's May meeting for approval.

The purpose behind the presentation is to raise awareness of the Policy, its role in the broader suite of child safety reforms coming from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and to answer any questions that might be raised by your members.

RECOMMENDATION

That representatives of the Child Safeguarding Implementation Unit be invited to give a presentation to the April 2023 meeting.

Following the meeting a suggestion was made that the Child Safeguarding Implementation Unit attend the April meeting and give a shortened presentation in place of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries usual report.

10.4 CBH Group – Attendance at Meeting

BACKGROUND

The August 2022 meeting resolved to invite representatives of CBH Group to the Zone's February 2023 meeting give an update on their network plans and strategies.

Due to other presentations being scheduled for the February meeting, the November 2022 meeting resolved to deferred the meeting with CBH Group to the April 2023 meeting.

COMMENT

With a number of presentations now being scheduled or rescheduled to the April meeting (see Agenda Items 10.1, 10.2 and 10.3) does the meeting wish to consider when it wishes representatives from CBH Group attend?

RECOMMENDATION

For consideration

RESOLUTION

Consensus Resolution

That the presentation by CBH Group be deferred to a future meeting pending arrangements for a presentation by the Department of Planning, Land and Heritage on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act.
CARRIED

10.5 Heavy Haulage Cost Recovery – Charge for Road Maintenance for Extractive Industries

Cr R Madacsi, Shire of Toodyay

COMMENT

Cr R Madacsi had drawn attention to the resolution of the South West Country Zone at its 25 November 2022 meeting and has requested that the matter be listed for discussion -

That:

- 1. the South West Country Zone of WALGA supports and advocates that the WA Local Government Association (WALGA) update the suite of User Guides and Technical Tools for Recovering the Cost of Road Wear from Heavy Haulage.*
- 2. WALGA investigate an extractive industry royalty for Local Government*

BACKGROUND

The following background is an extract from the South West Country Zone meeting –

WA local governments, including those in the South West face significant challenges and costs from road deterioration as a consequence of heavy vehicle traffic triggered by infrastructure projects, typically in resources and extractive industries, as well as general heavy vehicle transport activities.

The impacts of additional heavy vehicle traffic on increasing maintenance requirements and shortening road life, are greater for roads that were not designed and constructed for this purpose or to that specification level, which is the case for most local government roads.

WALGA published the User Guide, Estimating the Incremental Cost Impact on Sealed Roads from Additional Freight Tasks (WALGA & ARRB 2015) in 2015.

Subsequently many local governments requested that WALGA develop a similar tool for unsealed roads. This guide provided local governments with a tool to quantify the cost of additional wear and damage to affected unsealed roads for a defined freight task.

The suite of tools now available include:

- User Guide: Estimating the Incremental Cost Impact on Unsealed Local Roads from Additional Freight Tasks (March 2019)*
- Technical Basis: Estimating the Cost of Road Wear on Unsealed Local Government Roads in Western Australia (February 2019)*
- User Guide: Estimating the Incremental Cost Impact on Sealed Roads from Additional Freight Tasks (May 2015)*
- Technical Basis: Estimating the Incremental Cost Impact on Sealed Roads from Additional Freight Tasks (October 2015)*
- Local Government Heavy Vehicle Cost Recovery Policy Guideline for Sealed Roads (July 2017)*

These tools are commonly used by WA regional local governments as the basis for negotiation of cost recovery from industry, to ensure that the local community does not bear the costs imposed by private businesses, and to adjust long term financial plans.

The Cost of Road Wear modelling contains unit costs / km of road, and also includes provisions for relative marginal cost increases (regional pricing etc.).

Current Situation

Although, the heavy haulage guides and technical tools are well founded, respected and used, the main challenge is that the costs included are now not reflective of the real and actual costs (contractor, plant and materials) being experienced by local government.

s

WALGA's own Economic Briefing (June 2022) detailed LG Cost Index (LGCI) increases and forecast increase since 2020-21 of:

| Component | 2020-21(a) | 2021-22(f) | 2022-23(f) | 2023-24(f) |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Materials and contracts | -0.9 | 5.3 | 3.0 | 2.7 |
| Machinery and Equipment | 0.5 | 8.4 | 2.5 | 1.9 |
| Road and bridge construction | 3.5 | 12.3 | 4.5 | 2.2 |

The net result is that baseline cost assumptions contained in the WALGA Heavy Haulage information is no longer reflective of road construction and maintenance costs.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Avon-Midland Country Zone support the South West Country Zone's resolution advocating that the WA Local Government Association (WALGA) update the suite of User Guides and Technical Tools for Recovering the Cost of Road Wear from Heavy Haulage and investigate an extractive industry royalty for Local government.

RESOLUTION

Cr R Madacsi moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –

That the Avon-Midland Country Zone support the South West Country Zone's resolution advocating that the WA Local Government Association (WALGA) update the suite of User Guides and Technical Tools for Recovering the Cost of Road Wear from Heavy Haulage and investigate an extractive industry royalty for Local government. CARRIED

10.6 Compulsory Superannuation for Elected Members

Cr C Antonio, Shire of Northam

COMMENT

At WALGA's Annual General Meeting a motion was passed requesting WALGA to advocate for compulsory superannuation for Elected Members in Band 1 and Band 2 Local Governments. Part of the debate on this motion was the notion that not paying superannuation was a barrier for members of the community to nominate for Council.

This motion is being put up to encourage a wider review of the reasons more people do not nominate for Council. I would think there are a range of reasons and further believe that if the barrier is financial, a more appropriate mechanism or incentive would be to remove the requirement to pay tax on elected members fees. While I realise removal of tax liability on fees is a Federal Government decision, it is nonetheless worth exploring, as is casting our views wider to understand why people are not nominating for Council.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Avon-Midland Country Zone request the WA Local Government Association to:

- Investigate and identify perceived barriers against members of the public nominating for Council.
- Identify potential opportunities and incentives to encourage more members of the public to nominate as elected members, both financial and non-financial and including the option of tax not being paid on elected member allowances.

RESOLUTION

Cr C Antonio moved and Cr P Bantock seconded –

That the Avon-Midland Country Zone request the WA Local Government Association to:

- **Investigate and identify perceived barriers against members of the public nominating for Council.**
- **Identify potential opportunities and incentives to encourage more members of the public to nominate as elected members, both financial and non-financial and including the option of tax not being paid on elected member allowances.**

CARRIED

10.7 Wheatbelt Conference

The November 2021 meeting noted that the proposal for a future Wheatbelt Conference had not progressed and requested that this item remain on the agenda until further notice. It was noted that any consideration of a future Wheatbelt Conference will need to take into account the prevailing COVID-19 situation and any restrictions that may be in place for gatherings.

RECOMMENDATION

For Noting

NOTED

11 URGENT BUSINESS (as permitted by the Presiding Member)

No business was brought forward.

12 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

No Members of Parliament were present.

13 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Future meetings of the Zone are scheduled for –

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| 21 April 2023 | Shire of Chittering |
| 23 June 2023 | Shire of Wongan-Ballidu |
| 25 August 2023 | Shire of Moora |
| 24 November 2023 | Shire of Goomalling |

The Zone's scheduled meeting day for its April meeting is Friday 21 April 2023. However, the Zone Executive Officer has commitments in Adelaide on that day. Following discussion with the Zone President, enquiry has been made with the Shire of Chittering if they have any objections to the Zone meeting being brought forward a week to Friday 14 April. This change will still allow our meeting to be within WALGA's preferred dates for Zone meetings. The Shire of Chittering has advised that they have no objection to the change.

RECOMMENDATION

That the next ordinary meeting of the Zone be held Friday 14 April 2023 and be hosted by the Shire of Chittering.

RESOLUTION

Cr B Haywood moved and Cr D Smythe seconded –

That the next ordinary meeting of the Zone be held Friday 14 April 2023 and be hosted by the Shire of Chittering.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 12 noon.

RESUMPTION: The meeting resumed at 12:11 pm. With the exception of Ms S Cornthwaite, Mr M Siddiqui and Cr C Antonio, all those present at the time of adjournment were present on resumption.

Ms Nancy Bineham, Ms Melissa Spark, Ms Kelli Porter and Mr Tim Shackleton entered the meeting at this time.

14 GUEST SPEAKERS

Wheatbelt Health Services (12 Noon)

Guest speakers from WA Country Health Service - Wheatbelt (Ms Nancy Bineham, Director Strategy, Change & Service Development), WA Primary Health Alliance (Ms Melissa Spark, Regional Integration Manager – Wheatbelt) and Rural Health West (Mr Tim Shackleton, CEO, and Ms Kelli Porter, Deputy CEO and General Manager Workforce) gave a presentation on the following and answered questions from delegates –

- Planning for large events – Request from WACHS Wheatbelt that as part of the Shire approval process for holding large events, event organisers be encouraged to register their event on the Department of Health’s Events WA Calendar or alternatively to advise local hospitals.
- Interagency Wheatbelt Health & Wellbeing Plan: Towards 2035 – presentation and discussion.
- Discussion re Health services in local communities in particular access to GPs and allied health and roles of government (all levels).

Cr P Bantock left the meeting at 1:04 pm.

In response to a question the presenters advised that their presentation could be circulated to delegates.

The Chair thanked the representatives from WA Country Health Service, WA Primary Health Alliance and Rural Health West.

15 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair thanked attendees and the Shire of York for hosting the meeting and declared the meeting closed at 1:37 pm.

CERTIFICATION

These Minutes were confirmed by the meeting held on

Signed:
(Chairman of meeting at which the Minutes were confirmed)