



South West Country Zone Minutes

27 November 2020

City of Busselton, Council Chambers

Table of Contents

1.	OPENING AND WELCOME	3
2.	ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES.....	3
3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	4
4.	ANNOUNCEMENTS	5
5.	GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS.....	6
	5.1 Presentation by Host Local Government – City of Busselton	6
	5.2 Presentation by Professor Simon McKirdy, Chair, Biosecurity Council.....	6
	5.3 Main Roads – Bunbury Outer Ring Road.....	7
6.	MINUTES	7
	6.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the South West Country Zone meeting held Friday 28 August 2020 (Attachment 1)	7
7.	ZONE BUSINESS.....	8
	7.1 Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA).....	8
	7.2 Lobbying For State Government Policy Alignment With Respect To Development ...	11
	7.3 Request for WALGA to advocate for a reduction in Local Government expenditure for Regional Road Group projects.....	12
	7.4 Slip-on Eligibility for ESL Grant Support.....	14
	7.5 SWAMS HealthHUB	15
8.	ZONE REPORTS	16
	8.1 Zone President Report.....	16
9.	WALGA BUSINESS	16
	9.1 State Councillor Report.....	16
	9.2 WALGA Status Report.....	17
	9.3 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Matters for Decision.....	22
	9.4 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Matters for Noting / Information	24
	9.5 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Organisational Reports.....	24
	9.6 WALGA President’s Report	25
10.	AGENCY REPORTS.....	25
	10.1 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries	25
	10.2 South West Development Commission.....	25
11.	FINANCIAL REPORTS – South West Country Zone.....	25
12.	EMERGING ISSUES / GENERAL BUSINESS.....	26
13.	DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS	26
14.	CLOSURE.....	26

South West Country Zone

Meeting to be held at City of Busselton, Council Chambers

2 Southern Drive, Busselton

9.00am, Friday 27 November 2020

Minutes

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:10am and welcomed delegates and special guests.

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendance

Shire August Margaret River	President Cr Ian Earl Ms Stephanie Addison-Brown, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Boyup Brook	President Cr Richard Walker Mr Dale Putland, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Bridgetown- Greenbushes	President Cr John Nicholas JP Mr Tim Clynych, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
City of Bunbury	Cr Tresslyn Smith Mr Mal Osborne, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
City of Busselton	Mayor Grant Henley Mr Tony Nottle, Director Finance and Corporate Services non-voting delegate
Shire of Capel	President Cr Michael Southwell Mr Mark Chester, Acting Chief Executive Officer non- voting delegate
Shire of Collie	President Cr Sarah Stanley Ms Allison Fergie, Acting Chief Executive Officer, non- voting delegate
Shire of Dardanup	President Cr Michael Bennett Mr Andrew Schonfeldt, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Donnybrook- Balingup	President Cr Brian Piesse Mr Ben Rose, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

Shire of Harvey	President Cr Paul Gillett Ms Annie Riordan, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Manjimup	President Cr Paul Omodei Mr Andrew Campbell, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Nannup	President Cr Tony Dean (SC) CHAIR Mr David Taylor, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
WA Local Government Association Secretariat	Nick Sloan, Chief Executive Officer Tim Lane, Manager, Strategy and Association Governance
DLGC Representatives	Gordon MacMile, Acting Executive Director Local Government
Guests	Professor Simon McKirdy, Chair, Biosecurity Council Rebecca Heath, Senior Development Officer, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Mark Hazebroek, Main Roads WA Bruce Walker, Main Roads WA Noelene Murray, Perdaman Rob Skipsey, President South West Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Apologies

Mr Mark Chester, A/Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Capel

Ms Mellisa Teede, Chief Executive Officer, South West Development Commission

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

4.1 Acknowledgement of Country

The South West Country Zone of WALGA acknowledges the Wardandi Nyoongar people who are the Traditional Custodians of this land we meet on today and pays respects to their Elders past, present and future.

4.1 Attachments

The following were provided as attachments to the agenda:

1. South West Country Zone Minutes 28 August 2020.
2. DAMA Company Specific October 2020 (Item 7.1)
3. DAMA Benefits (Item 7.1)
4. Media Release – Seasonal Labour Solutions (Item 7.1)
5. Letter to Darren Klemm (Item 7.4)
6. Response from Darren Klemm (Item 7.4)
7. Business Case – SWAMS HealthHUB (Item 7.5)
8. Letter to Minister Templeman, Caravan Parks (Status Report)
9. Response from Minister Templeman, Caravan Parks (Status Report)
10. WALGA President's Report
11. State Council Agenda – via link only: <https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/dec003a5-2cca-4836-80a8-8868e06e4a08/Updated-Agenda-State-Council-2-December-2020.pdf>

5. GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS

5.1 Presentation by Host Local Government – City of Busselton

Mayor Grant Henley and Mr Tony Nottled, City of Busselton provided an update to the Zone.

5.2 Presentation by Professor Simon McKirdy, Chair, Biosecurity Council

Professor Simon McKirdy, Chairperson of the Bio Security Council presented to the Zone, and sought feedback from Zone members, on declared pests and biosecurity groups.

Please also see further information below:



Biosecurity Funding Mechanisms

Meeting with South West Zone of WALGA 27
November 2020

Background

The Biosecurity Council of Western Australia, established under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*, is a specialist advisory group to the Minister for Agriculture and Food and the Director General of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. The principal role of the Biosecurity Council is to provide advice on any biosecurity matter.

The Biosecurity Council is exploring the use of biosecurity funding mechanisms in Western Australia (WA), including the operation and biosecurity benefits of the Declared Pest Rate/Recognised Biosecurity Group approach. The objectives of this work are to:

1. Assess the current biosecurity funding mechanisms being implemented in WA
2. Identify gaps in WA's biosecurity funding mechanisms and why these gaps occur
3. Consider if new/alternative sustainable biosecurity funding mechanisms are required to fill gaps
4. Review the principles used in WA to underpin biosecurity cost-sharing and how these principles are applied.

Stakeholder consultation

To help the Biosecurity Council assess the biosecurity funding mechanisms being implemented in WA, it is consulting with stakeholders directly involved in WA's biosecurity funding mechanisms. The purpose of the stakeholder consultation is to gain a thorough understanding of how each funding mechanism is being used to deliver biosecurity benefits, including the strengths and challenges.

The information provided will be kept confidential (i.e. no names will be linked to specific comments). At the conclusion of its work, the Council will provide stakeholders with a summary of its findings.

Meeting with South West Zone of WALGA

Local Government has been identified as a stakeholder for the Biosecurity Council to engage with on the Declared Pest Rate / Recognised Biosecurity Group (DPR/RBG) approach to funding biosecurity activities.

Below are some key areas in which the Biosecurity Council are keen to get your views:

- Strengths and challenges of the DPR/RBG approach
- Extent to which local governments have been engaged in the DPR/RBG approach
- Feedback that local governments have had from the community on the DPR/RBG approach
- Potential improvements or changes to the DPR/RBG approach
- Other/alternative funding mechanisms that might be considered to facilitate community financial contributions to WA's biosecurity
- The role of local government in biosecurity
- Any other areas that you would like to raise regarding the DPR/RBG approach and biosecurity in general.

Contact details

The Biosecurity Council can be contacted via its Executive Officer, Rebecca Heath Email: rebecca.heath@dpird.wa.gov.au
Telephone: 9690 2171 or 0472 845 410

The WALGA Secretariat will prepare a summary paper to provide to the Biosecurity Council.

5.3 Main Roads – Bunbury Outer Ring Road

Mark Hazelbroek, Principal Project Director, Main Roads and Bruce Walker, Project Manager, presented to the Zone in relation to the Bunbury Outer Ring Road project.

President Cr Ian Earl departed the meeting at 11:00am.

6. MINUTES

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the South West Country Zone meeting held Friday 28 August 2020 (Attachment 1)

The Minutes of the South West Country Zone meeting held on Friday 28 August 2020 have previously been circulated to Member Councils and are provided as an attachment to this agenda.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Mayor Grant Henley
Seconded: Cr Richard Walker

That the minutes of the South West Country Zone meeting held Friday 28 August 2020 are confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

6.1.1 Business Arising

Nil.

7. ZONE BUSINESS

7.1 Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA)

Shire of Dardanup

In Brief

DAMAs provide flexibility for states, territories and/or regions to respond to their specific economic and labour market needs within a formal agreement with the Commonwealth that is authorised by the Minister.

DAMAs are designed to provide solutions to Australian businesses where there are skills gaps and shortages that cannot be met by the Australian market by allowing 'endorsed' employers to sponsor a broader range of overseas workers than is available under the standard temporary and permanent visa program.

A regional overview would investigate background information about the region, outlining characteristics specific to the area including;

- Economic information, skill gaps and shortages, demographics, employer information, labour market overview;
- Community information including infrastructure and housing, health and education services; and
- Details of any future industry and labour market trends that are relevant

Currently a number of local businesses within the Bunbury Geopraphe region funded the background study to be undertaken in which to identify the skill shortages and likely trends across the region. The project will be auspiced by the Bunbury Geopraphe Chamber of Commerce and Industry on behalf of the private sector. It is understood that BGCCI has appointed Noelene Murray from Perdaman as per the quote and scope of works included in Attachment 1.

It is understood that the Private sector is not able to be the Designated Area Representative and enter into the DAMA agreement directly with the Federal Government. The DAR should be a relevant local or regional government agency. The Private sector is therefore seeking support from local governments to, once the study is complete, auspice and undertake the DAR role.

It is expected that the DAR role would include 0.5 FTE to service the entire South West during the course of the 5 year agreement. It is intended that the person employed would actively engage with the private sector to understand skill shortages within individual businesses during the period of time and also actively engage with the labour market, locally, interstate and internationally to attract employees to the region as per the DAMA.

The benefits of a DAMA is set out in Attachment 1. It should be noted however that this will not provide relief in the short term, but are likely to provide some assistance to employers over the next 5 years. This will coincide with a number of major projects including the delivery and expansion of local projects such as:

1. The Bunbury Outer Ring Road;
2. Greenbushes; and
3. Albermarle

The Federal Government has launched an initiative outlined in Attachment 2 to support particularly support to farmers seeking seasonal workers in the short term.

The costs associated with the DAR would primarily be the employee costs associated. It is expected that this position would attract a base salary in the order of \$40,000 as 0.5 FTE and additionally would also likely require a vehicle. Total employee costs is therefore expected to be in the order of \$50,000 per annum plus a vehicle or running costs. It is further expected that some of these costs would be offset by a fee for service whereby local employers would pay a fee to the DAR for placements and specific services.

Local governments within the SWALGA zone are requested to consider providing support towards this initiative with total annual costs estimated at \$60,000 this would require \$5,000 per local government if each of the 12 contributed. Feedback from the CEO’s group indicated that the Cities of Busselton and Bunbury were both willing to seek contributions from their Councils to the value of \$7,500 each to allow smaller local governments – Nannup and Boyup Brook to have reduced contributions of \$2,500 each. It is understood that each Local governments will consider their respective contributions in due course.

Attachment (if applicable)

1. Quotation and Scope of Works (Perdaman)
2. Benefits of Designated Area Migration Agreements (DAMA)
3. Media Release – Seasonal Labour Solutions for Farmers 15.10.2020

BACKGROUND

At a meeting on Wednesday 14 October with Nola Marino and a number of industry representatives, the industry representatives had sought a quote from Noelene Murray from Perdaman, a migration specialist who was also present at the meeting.

After the meeting Nola Marino confirmed with Rob Skipsey the chairman of the Bunbury Geographe Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BGCCI) that BGCCI will coordinate the funds and appoint Perdaman to undertake the following work:

<p>Stage One Strategy session to determine DAMA parameter and outcomes</p>	<p>Strategy session with all Shires to determine key objectives and components of the key agreement. Submission and final report from session.</p>
<p>Stage Two Preliminary consultations with the Department of Home Affairs</p>	<p>Initial meetings with the DAMA section of the Department of Home Affairs and appropriate Ministers and political operatives to ensure enough political support and a strong business case to progress negotiations for the agreement.</p>
<p>Stage Three Preparation of submissions for Labour Agreement</p>	<p>Collation of documents, stakeholder consultations and lodgement of submissions to the Department of Home Affairs. This will be a detailed and significant undertaking involving multiples agencies and bodies. This will need to happen for each Shire in order for them to access the agreement.</p>
<p>Stage Four Further lobbying, consultations and negotiations for Labour Agreements</p>	<p>Further negotiations to finalise the Labour Agreement with the Department of Home Affairs and other relevant Stakeholders.</p>

So it does not appear that we as local governments will need to fund the initial study and establishment, but are requested to participate and coordinate the process.

COMMENT

After the work is complete a local government or regional body will need to become the Designated Area Representative (DAR). The DAR's role is to provide ongoing administrative support for the visa applications from employers for the five year term of the DAMA. This will require according to Perdaman Global Services a 0.5 FTE in the first instance and should be a local person that understands the area and can support the local governments and industry.

Further consultations with regional Local Governments was surveyed as below:

Further consultations with regional Local Governments was surveyed as below: Council	Have any concerns with Private sector undertaking the body of work outlined above, with local governments only providing support?	Will be able to meet with Noelene from Perdaman to put forward your local government's perspective or areas of interest?	Are willing and able to organise Business Forums / Stakeholder Consultations for your local government area and businesses?	Would be willing to contribute to the DAR?	Want to be the DAR?	Comments
Augusta-Margaret River	No	Yes	Yes	Council decision	No	SW focus
Boyup Brook						
Bridgetown	No	Yes	Yes		No	Whole of region focus
Bunbury	No	Yes	CCI or Similar	Yes, Council decision	No	Assure that the work is done where we want is to actually fund the work, or contribute to it.
Busselton	No	Yes	Yes, CCI	Council decision	No	In principle we have no concerns however would like to ensure that the City (other LG) have input during the process to ensure that the project is focussed equally on all LG requirements and does not become centric to the private sector undertaking the work.
Capel	No	Yes	Yes	No, Council Decision	No	work out interest areas
Collie	No	Yes	Yes	Council decision	No	
Donnybrook-Balingup	No	Yes	CCI	Council decision	No	
Harvey	No	Yes	Yes	Council decision	Maybe	Funding committed to position/possible backup
Manjimup	No	Yes	CCI or Similar	Yes, Council decision	No	Must be value for SW

Nannup						
Dardanup	No	Yes	Yes	Yes Council decision	Yes if required	Aim to ensure the study, DAMA and DAR is regional and across all relevant sectors

Cr Michael Southwell departed the meeting at 11:30am.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Bennett
Seconded: Cr Piesse

That the South West Country Zone of WALGA support the establishment of a DAMA across the South West region and requests individual local government to consider contributing towards a 5 year MOU to support the implementation of the DAMA through a Designated Area Representative body (DAR), which is still to be determined.

CARRIED

7.2 Lobbying For State Government Policy Alignment With Respect To Development

Shire of Augusta Margaret River

Background

As part of the normal development application process, Local Governments routinely refer applications to State Government agencies. Increasingly, this referral process is yielding widely divergent feedback from Government agencies leading to longer approval times and in some circumstances, proposals which cannot progress. The issues are most prevalent for tourism development and particularly where road access is taken from roads under the control of the State Government.

Comment

The State's high order road network, which includes Caves Road and Bussell Highway, is under the care and control of Main Roads. These roads are natural attractors for development due to their natural and rural amenity (Caves Road) and the significant volumes of traffic they carry.

Development proposals dealt with by the Shire of Augusta Margaret River which are on or near these roads have been met with divergent input from State Government agencies to the effect that conflicting advice from agencies is being received. For example: -

1. Development should not result in removal of vegetation / significant vegetation should be removed for fire safety.
2. No access to Caves Road/Bussell Highway is permitted / two access/egress routes are required.

The advice of State Government agencies is informed by their respective policy positions. In order to provide certainty to investors, proponents, Local Government and the wider community, transparent policies need to be developed which unify the State Government's approach to development and provide consistent advice with respect to bushfire, road access and environmental elements.

Item deferred to be considered at the February 2021 meeting.

7.3 Request for WALGA to advocate for a reduction in Local Government expenditure for Regional Road Group projects

Shire of Manjimup

In Brief

- The Shire of Manjimup is requesting WALGA advocate with Main Roads Western Australia to reduce the Local Government contribution to Regional Road Group projects from 33% to 15% to make road funding obligations more affordable particularly for Local Governments who have significant local road networks.

Background

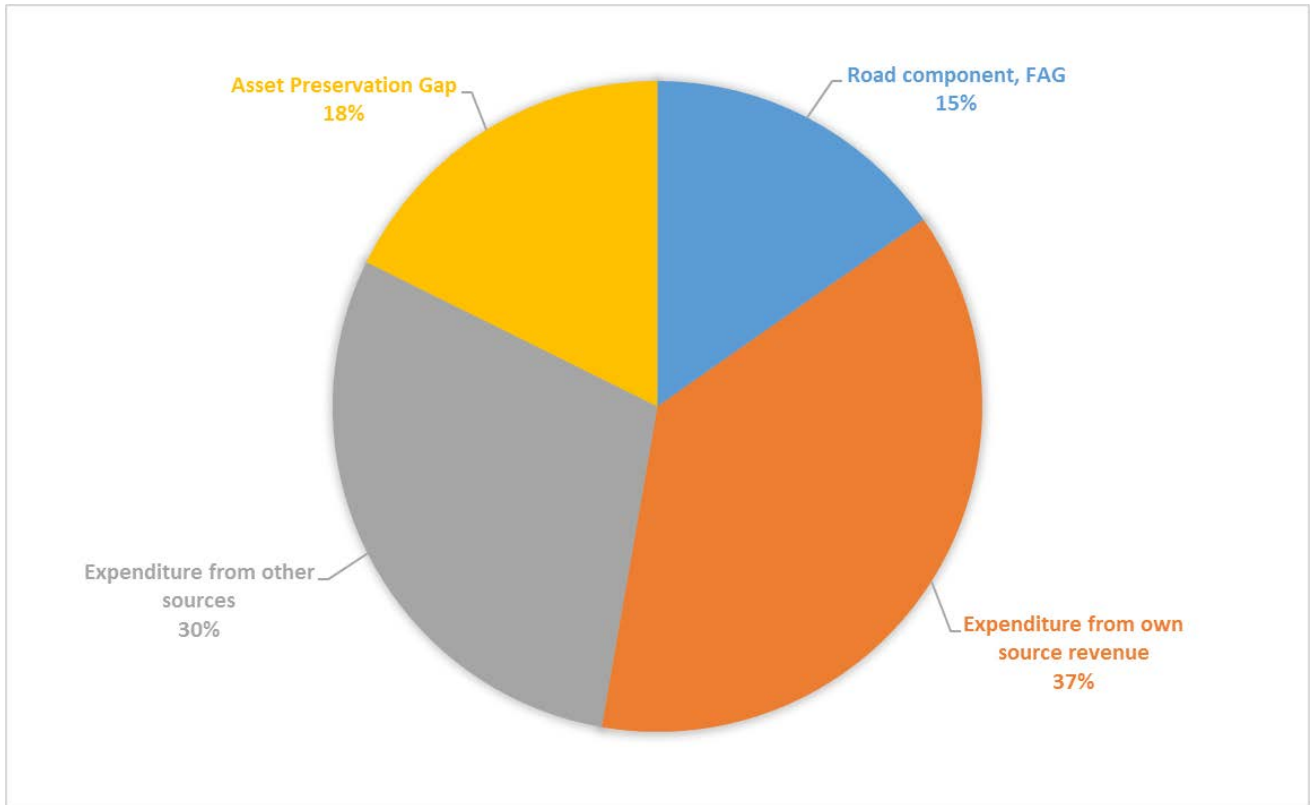
The State Government, through Main Roads Western Australia (MRWA) Regional Road Group (RRG) provides funds to local government to assist with road preservation and/or road improvement projects on the basis that the local government is able to match 33% of the funding.

This often places a significant financial burden on local governments like the Shire of Manjimup with large road networks who have to maintain or improve local distributor and freight link roads. Recently, MRWA has been exacerbating the issue of deterioration of roads by increasing the ability for larger and heavier vehicles to use local roads, creating greater impacts on the road network.

The purpose of this report is to initiate an action through the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) to advocate on behalf of Western Australian local government for a better deal that reduces the financial burden and ensures State road funding is fully utilised each year.

Comment

Data from the Local Governments Grant Commission identifies a breakdown of expenditure by Western Australian local governments used towards maintaining their road infrastructure assets. The funding sources include local governments own source funding, Financial Assistance Grants and other available funding sources. The graph below shows the 18% gap in funds available for expenditure on maintaining these critical assets, identified as the "Asset Preservation Gap". It should also be noted that currently the State's Asset Preservation Model has a surplus of \$133M along with the RRG budgets often showing surplus at the end of each year.



The State and local governments need to have appropriate strategies to maximise funds to ensure the local government road assets are preserved or improved to create safe road networks for mixed classes of vehicles. Unspent State funding in road programs from year to year has significant potential to jeopardise the size of future road funding pools and this would not be a satisfactory outcome given the rate of road deterioration across the State.

Precedence has been set with discussion at RRG Elected Members meetings regarding this issue and how local governments with small rate bases and large road networks are at a significant disadvantage by having to provide 33% of contributing funds. By allowing a reduced local government contribution, it is more likely the RRG's will fully expend their budgets and local government will provide greater outcomes leading to safer road networks.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Paul Omodei
Seconded: Cr Michael Bennett

That WALGA advocate to Main Roads Western Australia to reduce the 33 percent Local Government contribution to 15 percent for all approved Regional Road Group projects.

CARRIED

7.4 Slip-on Eligibility for ESL Grant Support

Shire of Boyup Brook

In Brief

- The Shire of Boyup Brook seeks South West Country Zone of WALGA support for the reinstatement of slip-on units as an eligible item under the Local Government Grants Scheme administered by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.
- Prior to 2010 Slip-on units were an eligible item under the Local Government Grants Scheme. In 2011/12 the Local Government Grants Scheme (LGGS) Manual stated: “Slip-on units are not an eligible item as they are subject to an alternative grants program” In 2014/15 this same item was simply listed as an – “Ineligible expenditure item.

Attachments

- Copy of letter to Commissioner D Klemm AFSM dated 27 August 2020 from Mr Peter Dittrich Acting Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Boyup Brook.
- Copy of response received from Commissioner D Klemm AFSM dated 9 November 2020.

Background

Slip-on units exist throughout the state and they provide the majority of the firefighting capacity across most if not the majority of rural regions. With a secure locking mechanism for these units and for the reasons stated below, the Shire of Boyup Brook would like to see these slip-on units reinstated as an eligible item under the Local Government Grants Scheme administered by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

At the Shire of Boyup Brook Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC) meeting dated the 23rd of June 2020, the committee recommended to Council that a formal request be made to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services to permit the LGGS to again fund slip-on units for all Local Governments. This request from the committee was subsequently supported by our Council at a Special Meeting dated 30 July 2020.

A letter was sent to the DFES Commissioner dated 27 August 2020 (See attached) seeking support for the reinstatement of these units as an eligible item under the Local Government Grants Scheme. In the Commissioner's response to our request he said “there is a review underway that includes local government and volunteer input. I expect that the issues of slip-on eligibility for ESL grant support will be considered.”

To continue the Shire of Boyup Brook's endeavours to see the issues of slip-on eligibility achieved, we now seek member councils' support to have these important items of firefighting equipment reinstated onto the eligibility list.

Comment

Slip-on units (Usual configuration - tank, motor/pump, hose and reel on rigid frame) designed for quick loading onto the load space of flat back utilities are a fraction of the cost of fully equipped appliances and provide additional firefighting capability/capacity for our local Bush Fire Brigades.

Without this type of unit, our local brigades would be severely disadvantaged. They give our brigades a quick response capability, usually being able to get multiple units to the fire scene in a short space of time which contains the spread of the fire before it becomes unmanageable.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Richard Walker
Seconded: Cr Paul Omodei

That the South West Country Zone of WALGA supports the recommendation that slip-on fire units be reinstated onto the eligibility list for ESL grant funding.

CARRIED

7.5 SWAMS HealthHUB

Shire of Harvey

In Brief

- The South West Aboriginal Medical Service (SWAMS) delivers services throughout the South West Region of Western Australia and currently meets the needs of 4,350 patients of which 81% are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
- With significant growth and demands, there is a requirement for a permanent location for the SWAMS clinic, administrative services and storage.
- Land has been identified at Jaycee Park in Bunbury, with the City of Bunbury entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with SWAMS to acquire the site.
- The total project investment is \$39,540,600 inclusive of build, establishment and other project costs with a requested contribution from State Government of \$10,079,000.

Attachment

Business Case for SWAMS HealthHUB August 2020

Background

The South West Aboriginal Medical Services (SWAMS) is an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (ACCHO) incorporated under the Corporations Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (CATSI) Act 2006 and registered charity founded on the principles of self-determination, empowerment and freedom of choice.

SWAMS deliver services throughout the South West Region of WA with a footprint of 24,800km². According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2016 Census data, there are 4,129 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the region. The SWAMS Business Case identifies the significant growth and increasing demand for services substantiating the need for a HealthHUB.

A permanent HealthHUB located in Bunbury will aim to improve the quality of life, create job opportunities for people and industry, address complex health issues, deliver ongoing training and high education opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the South West.

A Business Case has been developed to attract funding for the project, with SWAMS already committing more than \$500,000 to develop the project to shovel ready status. State Government investment in this project is critical to enable the project to proceed and deliver real outcomes for people in the South West.

Comment

There is an imminent and critical need to address the complex health concerns of people living in the South West in a culturally appropriate way. There is an evident lack of existing services South of the Perth

metropolitan area. SWAMS through the provision of primary health care services to people of the South West can enhance the quality, scope and cultural competence of health provision through a SWAMS HealthHUB.

There is a high level of confidence in the sustainability of the Business Case as presented to the Zone and SWAMS has acted with initiative to develop the Business Case which provides for immediate and ongoing financial viability of the HealthHUB.

The support of the State Government in the provision of funding is vital for the project to proceed and it is requested that WALGA advocate on behalf of the South West local governments for the proposal for a SWAMS HealthHUB to be constructed in Bunbury.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Paul Gillett
Seconded: Cr Tresslyn Smith

That the WALGA South West Country Zone

- 1. Supports the South West Aboriginal Medical Service's (SWAMS) proposal for a SWAMS HealthHUB to be located in Bunbury, and**
- 2. Requests that WALGA write to State Government on behalf of local governments to advocate for funding for the project.**

CARRIED

8. ZONE REPORTS

8.1 Zone President Report

By President Cr Tony Dean

Zone President and WALGA State Councillor, Cr Tony Dean, and WALGA Chief Executive, Nick Sloan, provided an update on key strategic Zone and WALGA matters.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Richard Walker
Seconded: Cr Michael Bennett

That the Zone President's Report be received.

9. WALGA BUSINESS

9.1 State Councillor Report

By President Cr Tony Dean

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Richard Walker
Seconded: Cr Michael Bennett

That the State Councillor Report be received.

9.2 WALGA Status Report

By Tim Lane, Zone Executive Officer

BACKGROUND

Presenting the Status Report for November 2020 which contains WALGA's responses to the resolutions of previous Zone Meetings.

Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
2019 March 22 Zone Agenda Item 7.7 Funding Commitment Towards Strategic Transport Network Infrastructure In South West Western Australia	<p>1. That the South West Zone of WALGA adopts an advocacy position of seeking a commitment to funding from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Western Australian State Government; and/or b. Australian Federal Government; and/or c. Private industry to better manage the ever increasing numbers of heavy vehicle haulage and light vehicle users within the south-west (particularly including South Western Highway), including the possibility of re-instating and re-opening the disused South West Railway, as well as the future expansion and improvements of our road networks for the south-west region as part of the investment of our future infrastructure and road networks. <p>2. That the South West Zone of WALGA requests the WALGA State Council to consider adopting the advocacy position outlined in Recommendation 1, above.</p>	<p>The Infrastructure Policy Team requested that the Association investigate the need for and feasibility of developing a road project advocacy tool to support Local Governments and Zones in their advocacy for specific road developments given the large number of potential projects across the State.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure jduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031</p>
2019 June 28 Zone Agenda Item 7.5 Reactivation of South West Rail Line	<p>THAT WALGA advocate for the State Government to make a clear decision on the reactivation of the South West rail line.</p>	<p>The draft South West Supply Chain Strategy is currently being considered by Government. This draft acknowledges the potential impact that reinstatement of the Picton – Greenbushes rail line, which has not operated for 20 years, would have on road and rail freight in the region. The strategy refers to feasibility studies being undertaken by Talison (lithium producer) and Arc, the rail infrastructure operator but does not make a finding or recommendation in relation to the rail line.</p> <p>The Association has and will continue to advocate for a transparent decision regarding the future use of the South West rail line and encourage members to contribute directly to freight strategy consultation.</p>	November 2020	<p>Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure jduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031</p>

<p>2020 28 August Zone Agenda Item 7.2 Family and Domestic Violence discussion paper</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That WA Local Governments recognise the prevalence, seriousness and preventable nature of family and domestic violence and the roles that Local Governments which have capacity can voluntarily play in addressing gender equity and promoting respectful relationships in their local community. 2. That WALGA advocates to the State Government: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. to define and communicate the role, responsibilities and expectations of Local Governments in family and domestic violence. b. for adequate funding for family and domestic violence programs and services, particularly in regional areas. c. for appropriate resources and funding be allocated to Local Governments to implement any particular roles and actions addressing family and domestic violence as defined in the State Strategy. d. to provide support to Local Government in the broader rollout of the Prevention Toolkit for Local Government. e. to continue advocacy to the Commonwealth Government for additional funding and support. 3. That WALGA organises presentations for Local Governments that address family and domestic violence, as part of relevant events or webinars. 	<p>In 2019 WALGA received requests from two Zones – South West Country Zone and East Metropolitan Zone – to investigate the role of Local Government in addressing family and domestic violence.</p> <p>In August 2020 a discussion paper was presented back to the Zones for consideration. In September 2020 the People and Place Policy Team endorsed the progression of the recommendations to WALGA State Council. The discussion paper and recommendations are being presented at the December 2020 WALGA State Council meeting to adopt a new policy position.</p>	<p>November 2020</p>	<p>Joanne Burges A/Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning jborges@walga.asn.au 9213 2018</p>
<p>2020 28 August Zone Agenda Item 12.1 Waste Management Levy Charges</p>	<p>That the South West Zone of WALGA seek the support of the State Council of WALGA to advocate with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries to resolve discrepancies in interpretation of the provision of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007 relating to the application of minimum payment levels for waste management rates.</p>	<p>WALGA's legal advice on waste charges does include the same reference to the provisions contained in s. 66(2) that were pointed out by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries in their letter of 15 June.</p> <p>WALGA would appreciate receiving any recommendations from the Zone that would result in a simplified and consistent method for raising a waste services levy.</p>	<p>November 2020</p>	<p>Joanne Burges A/Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning jborges@walga.asn.au 9213 2018</p>
<p>2020 26 June Zone Agenda Item 9.2 WALGA Status Report</p>	<p>2. In relation to ESL eligible expenditure, slip line water tanks be considered by DFES as eligible for funding as part of the Local Government Grant Scheme.</p>	<p>The issue will be raised at the next meeting of the Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group, scheduled for November 2nd 2020</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Joanne Burges A/Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning jborges@walga.asn.au 9213 2018</p>
<p>2019 March 22 Zone Agenda Item 7.3 Domestic Violence Communities</p>	<p>That</p> <p>The SWZ request WALGA to begin to develop an advocacy position on family and domestic violence.</p> <p>A sector working group is formed to guide the consultation process and a state wide forum be held to raise awareness of the issue within the sector</p> <p>A formal request be made that Our Watch and other key stakeholders are invited to present to the sector.</p>	<p>In 2019 WALGA received requests from two Zones – South West Country Zone and East Metropolitan Zone – to investigate the role of Local Government in addressing family and domestic violence. A survey of Local Governments was undertaken between September 2019 and January 2020 to explore the role of Local Governments in addressing family and domestic violence.</p> <p>State Government released their FDV Strategy in July 2020.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Joanne Burges A/Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning jborges@walga.asn.au 9213 2018</p>

		In August 2020 a discussion paper was presented back to the Zones for consideration. In September 2020 the People and Place Policy Team endorsed the progression of the recommendations to WALGA State Council. The discussion paper and recommendations are being presented at the December 2020 WALGA State Council meeting to adopt a new policy position		
<p>2018 August 24 Zone Agenda Item 7.1 Restrictions on taking gravel from DBCA Reserves</p>	<p>THAT: The South West Zone of WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Request WALGA to seek reconsideration of present DBCA (Parks and Wildlife Service) policy/position of refusing approval and/or prohibiting access by local governments to extract gravel on DBCA reserves and forest areas. 2. Propose a policy to DBCA that protects forests from the spread of dieback while allowing access to gravel for road building by local government authorities 	<p>Cost effective and timely access to gravel is a problem faced by many Local Governments. WALGA is preparing new <i>Guidelines for Gravel Supplies for Public Road Construction</i> to assist Local Governments in this matter. This will cover access to gravel on land under a range of tenures. Association staff have met with representatives from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) in the process of developing this guideline. This guideline addresses extraction of gravel from reserves that fall under the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 (including nature reserves and state forests) and the process for applying for a license to clear native vegetation. The guideline will be circulated shortly to the Gravel Supply Interagency Working Group for review. DBCA's strong preference is for land under Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 to <u>be considered a last resort for gravel supply</u>, and that Local Governments should plan well in advance if they do require gravel from these lands. In addition receiving a permit from Department of Water and Environmental Regulation for native vegetation clearing to extract gravel, other statutory considerations that need to be addressed when accessing gravel from these reserves include: aboriginal heritage and native title and dieback management. These all become potentially more difficult without the support of the land manager.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Joanne Burges A/Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning jborges@walga.asn.au 9213 2018</p>
<p>2017 November 24 Zone Agenda Item 9.2 Shire of Capel Submission Local Government Grant Scheme (ESL) Eligible Expenditure</p>	<p>That WALGA be requested to lobby the State Government for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A comprehensive review of items of eligible expenditure under the Local Government Grant Scheme to enable the full costs of operating Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades to be met; and 2. The establishment of the general principle of equality of eligible expenditure across all emergency services for operating costs associated with their activities. 	<p>The State Government has advised that the recommendations from the Economic Regulation Authority review of the Emergency Services Levy is being considered as part of the Machinery of Government process currently reviewing the structure of DFES. This process includes a review of the ESL governance and operational arrangements. WALGA will continue to lobby for a review of the items of eligible expenditure under the Local Government Grant Scheme to enable the full costs of operating Volunteer</p>	Ongoing	<p>Joanne Burges A/Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning jborges@walga.asn.au 9213 2018</p>

		<p>Bush Fire Brigades to be met; and the general principle of equality of eligible expenditure across all emergency services for operating costs associated with their activities.</p> <p>WALGA are in discussions with DFES regarding a comprehensive review of the eligible and ineligible item lists contained within the Local Government Grant Scheme Manual.</p> <p>It is an ongoing discussion in the Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group, which will meet on November 2nd.</p>		
<p>2020 April 24 Zone Agenda Item 7.1 Payments to Volunteers Impacted by Emergency Events</p>	<p>That the South West Country Zone request WALGA to advocate for the State and Commonwealth Governments to introduce a payment system for emergency services volunteers to partially offset their income lost when volunteering in emergency events.</p>	<p>WALGA has written to the Commonwealth Minister for Agriculture, Drought, and Emergency Management on the matter.</p>	<p>November 2020</p>	<p>Joanne Burges A/Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning jburges@walga.asn.au 9213 2018</p>
<p>2019 August 30 Zone Agenda Item 7.6 Amendments to CALM Act</p>	<p>That the SW Zone request WALGA lobby;</p> <p>A. For policy change of the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 to ensure impacted landholders are adequately supported and recompensed in the instance where State Government activities and/or incidents resulting in damage to property; and</p> <p>B. Seek clarification on the status of the Department of Conservation and Attractions Good Neighbor Policy and when (or if) it applies; and</p> <p>C. That the State Government widely communicate the amendments made in 2016 to Section 132 of the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 and the implications of these amendments on landholders; and</p> <p>D. That the State Government recompense impacted landholders from the Lewana and Blackwood Complex bushfires.</p>	<p>WALGA has followed up with the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, and is still awaiting a response.</p>	<p>November 2020</p>	<p>Joanne Burges A/Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning jburges@walga.asn.au 9213 2018</p>
<p>2020 25 June Zone Agenda Item 7.1 Regulation of Park Homes / Manufactured Homes / Lifestyle Villages</p>	<p>That the South West Zone seek WALGA's support to request that the State Government urgently amend the Caravan Parks Legislation to allow the continued lawful placement of new manufactured homes on caravan park sites, until approximately 2030, providing regulatory certainty in the short term to the industry, its customers and local governments, and providing time in which more comprehensive regulatory reform can be undertaken.</p>	<p>State Council Resolution at the September meeting.</p> <p>That WALGA urgently requests the State Government to undertake a full review of the Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995 and associated legislation and regulations, to address manufactured homes on caravan park sites.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 116.4/2020</p> <p>Correspondence and the background information has been sent to the Minister for Local Government for consideration of an urgent review of the <i>Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995</i>.</p> <p>A letter has been received from the Minister (as attached), stating that</p>	<p>November 2020</p>	<p>Joanne Burges A/Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning jburges@walga.asn.au 9213 2018</p>

		<i>"Government is considering a broader review of the regulatory system regarding lifestyle villages; however, its legislative priority will not be considered until after the 2021 election."</i>		
2020 2 September State Council Agenda Item 5.5 Local Government Review Panel Final Report	That the WALGA recommendation relating to Item 5.5 be supported with the following amendments: 1. Panel recommendation 11 be subject to further consultation (i.e. moved from Part 1 of the recommendation to Part 4). 2. Panel recommendation 55 (h) be opposed. 3. In relation to Panel recommendation 26 (a), the number of Elected Members applicable to Local Governments with populations between 5,000 and 75,000 be amended to read: • "Populations between 5,000 and 75,000 – 5 to 11 Councillors (incl. Mayor/President)" 4. That Panel recommendation 22 be opposed.	WALGA State Council considered all Zones positions on the Panel's report and resolved as follows; That WALGA: 1. Acknowledges the panel report and the recommendations received from Zones and continue to work with the Government to undertake further consultation on the recommendations contained therein; 2. Requests a formal commitment from the Minister for Local Government that the Local Government Sector be consulted on the Draft Local Government Bill in line with the State / Local Government Partnership Agreement and that WALGA actively participates in the legislative drafting process to develop the new Local Government Act; and 3. Strongly encourages individual Local Governments to consider responding to the recommendations of the panel report and advise WALGA of their submissions by 31 October 2020. RESOLUTION 119.4/2020 WALGA is preparing an advocacy document bringing together the outcomes of the 3 recent reports being: • Panel report • Select Committee report • City of Perth report The paper will look at considering advocacy positions on 13 key issues. This paper will be considered as part of the December State Council agenda.	November 2020	Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Richard Walker
Seconded: Cr Paul Omodei

That the South West Country Zone WALGA November 2020 Status Report be noted.

CARRIED

9.3 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Matters for Decision

BACKGROUND

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

The full State Council Agenda can be found via link: <https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/dec003a5-2cca-4836-80a8-8868e06e4a08/Updated-Agenda-State-Council-2-December-2020.pdf>

The Zone is able to provide comment or submit an alternative recommendation that is then presented to the State Council for consideration.

Matters for Decision

5.1 Local Government Act Review Advocacy Paper – Key Issues From Recent Inquiries into Local Government

That:

1. Ongoing advocacy relating to the Review of the Local Government Act 1995 be noted; and,
2. The Advocacy Positions for a New Local Government Act: Key issues from recent Inquiries into Local Government – be endorsed.

5.2 Submission – Registration of Building Engineers in WA

That WALGA:

1. Advise the Department of Mines Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) that the registration of Building Engineers in WA is supported.
2. Request that DMIRS also consider the registration of Electrical Engineers, Façade Engineers, Energy Assessors, Bush Fire Consultants, Access consultants, Swimming pool, Patio installers and Demolition contractors.
3. Request that DMIRS clarify that dilapidation reports may only be undertaken by Registered Engineers.
4. Provide this report to Department of Mines Industry Regulation and Safety as feedback on the Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement.

5.3 Family and Domestic Violence and the Role of Local Governments

That:

1. WA Local Governments recognise the prevalence, seriousness and preventable nature of family and domestic violence and the roles that Local Governments can play in addressing gender equity and promoting respectful relationships in their local community.
2. WALGA advocates to the State Government:
 - a. to define and communicate the role, responsibilities and expectations of Local Governments in family and domestic violence.
 - b. for adequate funding for family and domestic violence programs and services, particularly in regional areas.
 - c. for appropriate resources and funding be allocated to Local Governments to implement any particular roles and actions addressing family and domestic violence as defined in the State Strategy.
 - d. to provide support to Local Government in the broader rollout of the Prevention Toolkit for Local Government.
 - e. to continue advocacy to the Commonwealth Government for additional funding and support.

3. WALGA organises presentations for Local Governments that address family and domestic violence, as part of relevant events or webinars.

5.4 Underground Power

That Local Government supports the:

1. continuation of cooperative arrangements between the State Government, Western Power and Local Government to progressively replace the overhead electricity distribution network in residential areas with underground power.
2. development of a new approach to identifying and prioritizing areas for investment in underground power, initiated by the need to invest in the overhead network to meet safety, reliability and capability requirements.
3. development of a new approach to allocating State Government resources to facilitate projects proceeding in areas with a high electricity network need and lower economic capacity of ratepayers while retaining a commitment to funding an average of 25% of program costs.
4. opportunity for Local Governments to initiate projects to convert areas to underground power be retained with Western Power to continue to contribute the amount recoverable as an efficient investment as calculated by the New Facilities Investment Test (NFIT).

5.5 CEO Recruitment and Selection, Performance Review and Termination Standards Regulations

1. That WALGA support the establishment of CEO Recruitment, Selection and Performance Review Standards subject to:
 - a) removal from the Regulations the requirement to re-advertise CEO positions after 10 year's continual service;
 - b) Encouraging, rather than mandating, the involvement of an independent person in the CEO Recruitment and Selection Process;
 - c) The retention of Regulation 18C of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations*;
 - d) Deletion of the requirement under Regulation 18FB(4) to provide a copy of a council resolution certifying compliance with the CEO standards to the Departmental CEO;
 - e) The conduct of an independent assessment of potential industrial and employment law consequences arising from the proposed regulations under Schedule 2, Division 4 'Standards for termination of employment of CEOs'; and
 - f) Deferral of Regulation 18FC pending an independent assessment of the Schedule 2, Division 4 'Standards for termination of employment of CEOs'.
2. Seek that the CEO Recruitment and Selection, Performance Review and Termination Working Group be reconvened to oversee the development of CEO Standards Regulations.

5.6 Model Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates Regulations

That WALGA generally supports the *Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2020* with the following recommendations:

- a) Amend Division 2, Clause 4(d) to read *'identify and appropriately manage any conflict of interest'*;
- b) Does not support the inclusion of local level complaints about alleged behavioural breaches and Local Governments dealing with complaints provisions in Division 3, Clauses 10 and 11; and Supports an external oversight body to manage local level complaints involving council members as prefaced in the *Local Government Review Panel Report, City of Perth Inquiry Report* and *Select Committee into Local Government Report*, to be considered in a future Local Government Act.

5.1

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Brian Piesse
Seconded: Cr Michael Bennett

That the South West Country Zone supports Matters for Decision 5.2-5.6 as listed above in the 2 December 2020 State Council Agenda.

CARRIED

State Council Item 5.1

Moved: Cr Brian Piesse
Seconded: Cr Paul Gillett

That:

1. Ongoing advocacy relating to the Review of the Local Government Act 1995 be noted; and,
2. The Advocacy Positions for a New Local Government Act: Key issues from recent Inquiries into Local Government – be endorsed, subject to the paper being amended so that recommendation 3 relating to External Oversight be amended to read:

“That an early intervention framework of monitoring to support Local Governments be provided with any associated costs to be the responsibility of the State Government”

CARRIED

9.4 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Matters for Noting / Information

- 6.1 Submission to the Infrastructure WA State Infrastructure Strategy Discussion Paper
- 6.2 Draft Amendments to the Planning and Development (Local Planning Scheme) Regulations 201
- 6.3 Interim Review – State Planning Policy 3.1 Residential Design Codes
- 6.4 State and Federal Budgets
- 6.5 Noongar Heritage Agreement for Local Government
- 6.6 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill Consultation
- 6.7 Local Government Animal Welfare in Emergencies Grant Program
- 6.8 2020 Annual General Meeting
- 6.9 COVID-19 - Update

9.5 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Organisational Reports

7.1 Key Activity Reports

- 7.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Commercial and Communications
- 7.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Governance and Organisational Services

- 7.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure
- 7.1.4 Report on Key Activities, Strategy, Policy and Planning

7.2 Policy Forum Reports

9.6 WALGA President's Report

The WALGA President's Report is attached to the agenda.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Paul Gillett
Seconded: Cr Sarah Stanley

That the South West Country Zone notes the following reports contained in the WALGA 2 December 2020 State Council Agenda.

- **Matters for Noting/Information**
- **Organisational Reports**
- **Policy Forum Reports; and**
- **WALGA President's Report**

CARRIED

10. AGENCY REPORTS

10.1 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

DLGSC UPDATE

Gordon MacMile provided an update to the Zone on DLGSC matters.

NOTED

10.2 South West Development Commission

The Chair, Cr Tony Dean, provided a report on behalf of Ms Mellisa Teede, Chief Executive Officer of the South West Development Commission.

NOTED

11. FINANCIAL REPORTS – South West Country Zone

Transfer of the Zone's finances is underway. Bank account signatories are in the process of being changed.

A full financial update will be provided in the agenda for the next meeting.

NOTED.

12. EMERGING ISSUES / GENERAL BUSINESS

12.1 Small Scale Road Safety Projects

Moved: Mayor Grant Henley

Seconded: Cr Paul Omodei

That the South West Country Zone writes to endorse the letter from the City of Busselton to MRWA advocating for funding to Local Governments for narrow country sealed road upgrades through the small scale road safety projects funding program.

CARRIED

13. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS

13.1 2021 Zone Meetings

Please note that Zone meetings for 2021 have been shifted back by one week to what was proposed at the last meeting.

This change has been made to allow the WALGA secretariat to collate feedback from Zones to provide to State Council members, with an appropriate time to consider input from Zones prior to the State Council meeting.

Meetings for 2021 are proposed to be amended as follows:

MEETING DATE	HOST LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Friday 19 February 2021	Bunbury
Friday 23 April 2021	Augusta Margaret River
Friday 25 June 2021	Capel
Friday 20 August 2021	Collie
Friday 19 November 2021	Dardanup

13.2 Next Meeting

MEETING DATE	PROPOSED VENUE
Friday, 19 February 2021	Bunbury

14. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 12:46pm

