



WALGA

**Great Southern Zone
of WALGA**

MINUTES

of an Ordinary Meeting
(2 voting delegates per council)

held on

Friday 19 February 2021

Venue:
Civic Rooms
City of Albany Administration Centre
North Road
ALBANY

1. OPEN: 10.02am Acknowledgement of the Traditional Owners of the land.
Welcome by Cr Paul Terry, City of Albany.

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Cr Chris Pavlovich	Zone Deputy President and Chairman of the meeting
Annabel Paulley	Zone Executive Officer
City of Albany	Cr Paul Terry and Cr Matt Benson-Lidholm
Broomehill / Tambellup	Cr Mark Paganoni, Cr Michael White and CEO Keith Williams
Cranbrook	Nil
Denmark	Nil
Gnowangerup	Cr Fiona Gaze and Cr Keith House and CEO Bob Jarvis
Jerramungup	Cr Andrew Price
Katanning	Cr Liz Guidera, Cr John Goodheart and CEO Julian Murphy
Kent	Cr Scott Crosby and Cr Kate Johnston
Kojonup	Cr John Benn and Deputy CEO Anthony Middleton
Plantagenet	Cr Jon Oldfield and Acting CEO Paul Sheedy
Woodanilling	Cr Russel Thomson and Cr Dale Douglas

Total of 16 out of a possible 22 voting delegates were in attendance at the start of the meeting.

Guests

Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services, WALGA
Bruce Manning, Great Southern Development Commission
Cr Chris Thomson, City of Albany (observer)
Duncan Olde, Paul Camins and Nathan Watson, Executive Directors, City of Albany

Apologies

Alannah MacTiernan, Minister for Agriculture and Regional Development
Peter Tinley, Minister for Housing
Cr Ronnie Fleay and CEO Rick Mitchell-Collins, Shire of Kojonup
Mayor Dennis Wellington and CEO Andrew Sharpe, City of Albany
CEO Rick Miller, Shire of Kent
Cr Janine Phillips and Cr Ian Osborne, Shire of Denmark
Cr Phil Horrocks and CEO Greg Blycha, Shire of Cranbrook
Deputy CEO Charmaine Solomon, Shire of Jerramungup
CEO Stephen Gash, Shire of Woodanilling
WALGA RoadWise
Rick Wilson, Member for O'Connor
Peter Rundle, MLA, Member for Roe

3. GUEST SPEAKERS

3.1 Minister for Water David Kelly on behalf of Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Alannah MacTiernan

Presentation on what the Labor has planned for regional development if the party is returned to government after the March State Election. Then Q&A session including answers to Zone questions.

Some key points made by Minister Kelly:

- Fortunately in WA during the pandemic we have good public governance and a government which adheres to the Advice of the Chief Medical Officer.
- This has resulted in keeping the economy going.
- The vaccine will not solve all the problems and we will be dealing with this pandemic for months if not years to come.
- Reminder about National Resource Management Grants which have just been announced. Grants ranging from \$1,000 - \$450,000 are available.

- Water Smart Farms Project.
- \$16.7 million over 4 years for Food and Beverage Fund.
- Support for regional events.
- Round 3 of Regional Economic Development (RED) Grants.
- Aquaculture development zones such as Albany.
- Affordable student housing in Albany.
- Minister MacTiernan will be making some significant announcements around agriculture soon.

3.2 Discussion about Great Southern water infrastructure and supply issues

David Kelly, Minister for Water

Adrian Stewart, Great Southern Regional Manager, Water Corporation

Dr Richard George, Senior Principal Research Scientist (Water), Dept of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Bunbury

Some key points made by Minister Kelly:-

- Can't have a discussion about water without acknowledging climate change.
- Decline in rainfall in certain areas around the globe including the south west of WA in the last 20-30 years.
- Reduce carbon emissions - wish the Federal Government would acknowledge this more.
- It is possible to arrest the rainfall decline but we need to start now.
- Need to be smart about the way we manage water and deal with climate change.
- In the past 18 months, there were 12 community Water Deficiency Declarations (WDD) which is unprecedented. Most of them are still in place.
- Cost \$3.5 million to cart water to WDD areas.
- State Government has funded 37 projects in the south of the state costing \$1.5 million.
- Seeking funding assistance from the Federal Government.
- National On-Farm Emergency Rebate Scheme - 511 farms submitted applications. Federal Government has put in money so that all 511 farms will get a grant.
- \$7.3 million plan to upgrade community water infrastructure such as old dams. DWER has a list of priority sites. Proposal for \$3.8m from State Government and \$3.5m from Federal Government from National Water Grid. Submitted to Federal Government at end of January. Even if no funding from Federal Government, the project will go ahead but State Government will only be able to fund half the number of sites.
- Ministers MacTiernan and Kelly that Dept of Water, DPIRD and Water Corporation all communicating with each other about water issues.
- \$145 million over next 4 years for water infrastructure in the Great Southern. Sometimes it is more economic to cart water from elsewhere and sometimes it is better to connect to the scheme, eg. Denmark to Albany water pipeline (\$25 million).

Question from Cr Mark Paganoni, Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup

Farm Rebate Scheme. New infrastructure for landowners for on-farm water storage is better way to spend money.

Response from Minister Kelly

There was a former scheme where State Government gave water rebate to farmers. Labor ended these programmes. They were put in place at the time because there was a drying climate and a new idea at the time. Gave rebates to get the message out to farmers to prepare for climate change. Now farmers have heard this message. Labor will still pay for farm audit but farmers, as business people, should pay for inputs on their own farms. State Government would rather put money into community water supplies which deliver more water to more farmers more efficiently. Farmers need to be resilient on their own farms. Individual farmers need to focus on their own business. State Government needs to focus on community water supplies. Better bang for your buck to provide community water infrastructure and supplies. Water carting is the absolute last resort.

Question from Cr Scott Crosby, Shire of Kent

Subsequent Governments and Water Corporation have chosen to turn off town dams which were put in to drought proof towns. Designed to fill up on half the average rainfall. Can tap into pipeline supplies and this puts extra pressure on that supply. Should increase the capacity of town dams to fill up on one third of the average rainfall. Lack of water is hamstringing communities for growth in the future. Struggling for any development in places such as Pingrup. Agriculture is significant for the viability of rural communities. Need to fast track. Need desalination plants in salty areas.

Response from Minister Kelly

Agree that State Government has to take responsibility. Always looking at ways to do things better and that is why we want Dept of Water to talk with Water Corp and DPIRD. Need to keep Water Corporation under government control and not privatise it. Happy to work with communities to find solutions to local problems.

Regional Manager Adrian Stewart explained that the Water Corporation operates under licence directed by Dept of Health to deliver drinking water. Requirements have become stricter over time to meet health regulations. Most of the town dams would not meet health requirements for potable water. Looking to hold onto old town dams as long term strategic assets for future options.

Question from Cr Keith House, Shire of Gnowangerup

Community rebate scheme is there for individuals and communities. Because we're building new industries, the traditional methods are not going to work. Do hope that governments will look at innovation going into the future and look at different ways of harvesting water such as desalination. Need to support farmers because agriculture is a significant industry in WA and there will be spin offs. Governments need to support farmers to become more resilient. Roaded catchments will not work. It's not just about desalination. Need to educate people and give financial relief. Initially, new technologies are expensive so farmers need support. Solar was expensive to begin with but now it is more affordable.

Response from Minister Kelly

Need to look at different ways to harvest water. Federal Govt is happy to set into rebate space. From State Govt, will be focussing on research and whether or not the State funds rebate as a result of research finding will be a decision for the future. MacTiernan and Kelly keen to talk about water issues in the future.

Adrian Stewart, Great Southern Regional Manager, Water Corporation

Refer to presentation emailed to Zone councils under separate cover.

Question from Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup

Does the Water Corporation have any plans to replace water pipes because Tambellup gets frequent bursts. Pressure has dropped and farmers are queueing for hours to get water.

Response from Adrian Stewart

No current plan to invest a large amount of money to replace the pipes. Only maintenance. Water Corporation carting water has had the greatest impact on water in Tambellup. Have installed addition assets such as standpipe to try to improve access to scheme water.

Question from Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup

Lack of water pressure in Broomehill is a significant issue because we cannot put new services into this town, such as fire services.

Response from Adrian Stewart

Question taken on notice and will respond out-of-session.

Dr Richard George, Senior Principal Research Scientist (Water), DPIRD

Some key points:-

- Dr George has worked for 35 years in Dept of Agriculture, particularly in salinity.
- 200,000 private dams in the Wheatbelt.
- The gap in water is between climate change reality and the R&D invested.
- Dams and roaded catchments are reaching the end of their useful life.

- Pipelines have now become the life blood of communities. Very few dams around pipelines.
- Not so sure that every farmer has heard the climate change message - need to improve roaded catchments on farms.
- Looking at groundwater and desalination options for the future.
- In most bores in most locations, groundwater levels are still rising.
- The other big change has been desalination. The first desalination unit was funded in the Wheatbelt in 1983. If the technology gets to the point of maturity, farmers will have multiple desalination units.
- \$1.5 million Water Smart Farms project by State Government has 3 parts:-
 1. Inventory - farmers who already have desalination plants. 6 companies in Perth are now supplying desalination units.
 2. Follow farm water assessor and look at what can learned.
 3. Exploration to try to find water of stock-water quality which does not need to be desalinated. Will not spend a large amount of time in desalination area because business are already doing this. Working with Curtin University on exploration and with mining companies. This is high-risk R&D work but there are indicators to say this is a reasonable option. Wheatbelt Development Commission has had input.
- 16 - 18,000 parts per million (half sea water) is the upper limit of viability of desalination units. Highly saline areas such as Pingrup would require huge amount of power to desalinate the water there.
- Look at doing water plan for industry hub in the Beaufort area of Woodanilling.
- Currently 50% byproduct but if better power, can reduce to 10% byproduct. This is a solvable problem.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- There were no declarations of interest.

REMINDER: All delegates present at a Zone meeting shall vote, as per Zone Standing Order 28.1

5. MINUTES

5.1 Confirmation of Minutes

5.1.1 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY ZONE MEETING – 23 November 2020

MOVED Cr John Benn

SECONDED Cr Scott Crosby

That the minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Great Southern Zone of the WALGA held on Friday 23 November 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

CARRIED 16-0

5.1.2 MINUTES OF THE WALGA STATE COUNCIL MEETING – 2 December 2020

MOVED Cr Keith House

SECONDED Cr Jon Oldfield

That the Minutes of meeting of the State Council of WALGA held on 2 December 2020 be received.

CARRIED 16-0

6. STATUS REPORT FROM WALGA TO THE ZONE

6.1 Status Report from WALGA to the Zone dated February 2021.

ACTION:

WALGA to advise the Great Southern Zone with what specific criteria the CEO of DWER would determine that a proposed clearing could be considered trivial, and what is considered to be a low risk clearing proposal.

7. ACTION REGISTER

7.1 Updated Action Register - attached.

8. KEY STRATEGIC ZONE ISSUES FOR 2020

8.1 Updated Key Strategic Zone Issues Register - attached.

MINISTERIAL AND / OR DIRECTOR GENERAL ATTENDANCE AT 2021 ZONE MEETINGS - LINKED TO KEY STRATEGIC ZONE ISSUES

Councils to decide which Ministers, Politicians, Directors General and other speakers they wish to attend Zone meetings in 2021.

Zone meeting dates	Guest Speakers
Friday 23 April 2021 (joint meeting with Great Southern Regional Road Group)	Minister for Transport – invite pending outcome of State Election on 13 March 2021.
Friday 25 June 2021	TBA
Friday 20 August 2021	TBA
Monday 25 October 2021 (Joint meeting with Great Southern Regional Road Group)	TBA

Outstanding or suggested speakers

- Invite people in State Government with influence before the next State Election.
- Simon Lyas, RDA Great Southern – Regional University Centre
- Ben Headlam, Palmerston Services Great Southern – drug and alcohol issues in the region and COVID-19 impact. Also, lack of rehabilitation centre in the region.
- Presentation by Office of the Auditor General.
Subject: Update on local government auditing so far and look at a few of OAG's recent Local Government financial and performance audits. Include issues raised by CEO Julian Murphy and Cr Rob Lester.
- Housing Minister Peter Tinley to talk about extension of First Home Owners Grant and parity home lending requirements between regional areas and the metropolitan area, as raised by the Shire of Plantagenet.
- Tennis West – presentation on new Strategic Plan and the Thriving Tennis Community pillars to demonstrate how closely Tennis West wants to work with LGAs.
- Forest Industries Federation WA - briefing on the timber industry in WA and particularly regarding the South West Timber Hub, noting that forestry is a significant industry in the Great Southern.

Cr Liz Guidera left the meeting at 12.10pm, leaving 15 voting delegates.

9. REVIEW OF WALGA STATE COUNCIL AGENDA – 3 March 2021

9.1 **WALGA State Council President’s Report** - Mayor Tracey Roberts JP
WALGA President Mayor Tracey Roberts’ report for March 2021 was received.

9.2 **State Council Representative’s Report** - Cr Ronnie Fleay
Not present to report.

9.3 **Matters for Decision – Zone consideration required**
Consideration of the March 2021 WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Decision.

MOVED Cr Keith House **SECONDED Jon Oldfield**
That the Great Southern Zone supports the recommendations for Matters for Decision Items 5.1 to 5.3 in the March 2021 WALGA State Council Agenda.

CARRIED 15-0

9.4 **Matters for Noting – Zone information**
No issues raised.

9.5 **State Council Status Report**
No issues raised.

10. ZONE BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 **Dog Attacks on Stock** - Shire of Gnowangerup

Background

The Shire of Gnowangerup has had several attacks on sheep on farms by roaming domestic dogs. The farmers are unable to provide photographs of the offending dogs or even definitive descriptions of the dogs. This makes it incredibly hard for Rangers to investigate and prosecute under the Dog Act.

Comment

It is suggested that if such attacks were able to be investigated by the police, they would have considerably more power to investigate and gather evidence than what is currently available to Rangers.

Affected farmers are frustrated that local government is unable to act without compelling evidence or investigate based on hearsay. Local government is frustrated that inevitably the offending dogs don’t roam after such attacks but if they do there is no evidence that they are the offending dogs, or in some cases they are dogs which are almost impossible to catch.

Increasing the penalty for dogs roaming on farms, adding an additional penalty for owners of dogs which are proven to have attacked stock, and having some avenue for police to be involved in the investigation could all be explored to look at some way of reducing the occurrence of such attacks which are costly, cruel and confronting for farmers and the source of great frustration for local governments.

Financial Implications - Nil

MOVED Cr Fiona Gaze **SECONDED Cr John Benn**
That the Great Southern Zone of WALGA requests that WALGA raise the issue of dog attacks on stock with the State Government to look at ways and means of reducing such attacks through such measures as substantially increasing the penalty to owners for dogs found roaming on farms, adding an additional penalty for owners of dogs which are proven to have attacked stock, and having some avenue for Police to be involved in the investigation.

CARRIED 9-6

10.2 Royal Commission Recommendation - Child Safety Officers

Ben Armstrong, Acting Director Strategic Coordination and Delivery, Dept of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries

Royal Commission Recommendation that Local Governments should designate Child Safety Officers from within existing staff profiles.

Some key points of the presentation via video link from Perth:-

Recommendation states: With support from Local, State and National Governments, LGAs should designate Child Safety Officers from within existing staff profiles .

- National Principles around creating a culture of child safety.
- LGAs need to look at any area where children are being engaged.
- How staff and volunteers are supported and trained - eg. Working With Children checks.
- Acknowledged that organisations in regional areas don't receive the same level of support as those in metro areas. Meaning regional LGAs are well placed to support local organisations to improve child safe practices.
- The State Government recognises that implementing this recommendation will likely come as at a real cost to LGAs whom may require support.
- Discussion paper has been drafted and shared with LGAs.
- WALGA will host webinars with LGAs over the coming weeks.
- **Friday 2 April 2021** - discussion paper consultation period closes.
- Having Child Safety Officers is optional but LGAs can get support from the State Government.

10.3 Great Southern Arts, Culture & Heritage Strategy

Presentation by INK Strategy Directors Carla Chatzopoulos and Lisa Montgomery

Refer to attached presentation.

Cr Benson-Lidholm left the meeting at 12.45pm leaving 14 voting delegates.

Some key points:-

- Working with LGAs, GSDC and steering group.
- Looking for arts and cultural opportunities in communities.
- Having authentic conversations with stakeholders.
- Making it relevant and interesting for people who don't know they have an interest in arts and culture.
- Phase 1 - Regional audit, analysis and benchmarking
- Phase 2 - Engagement - mid-April to mid-June 2021.
- Phase 3 - Strategic Framework development - July 2021
- Phase 4 - Stakeholder and community checkpoint - July 2021.
- Phase 5 - Stakeholder and community consultation - August to September 2021.
- Phase 6 - Regional Strategy Final - October 2021.

Cr Liz Guidera re-entered the meeting at 12.53pm, making 15 voting delegates.

10.4 Water Supply and Infrastructure issues in the Great Southern

Letter sent to Ministers for Water and Regional Development – Dave Kelly & Alannah MacTiernan dated 27 October 2020.

Refer to attached response letter from Minister for Water David Kelly dated 19 January 2021.

Also refer to above notes from discussion with Minister for Water, David Kelly.

10.5 Local Government Act Review Panel Recommendations

Letter sent to Minister for Local Government David Templeman dated 16 October 2020.

Reply received on 17 November 2020.

Also refer to the December 2020 WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Decision Item 5.1 and Status Report from WALGA to the Zone dated November 2020.

Update:

Local Government Legislation Amendment Act 2019 – final regulations

His Excellency the Governor, in Executive Council, approved regulations that bring into effect the remaining parts of the Local Government Legislation Amendment Act 2019 (Amendment Act).

On Tuesday 2 February 2021, the following regulations were gazetted to take effect on Wednesday 3 February 2021:

- Local Government (Administration) Amendment Regulations 2021
- Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021
- Local Government Regulations Amendment (Employee Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021.
- Further information on the new regulations, including explanatory notes and guidelines, are on the Dept of Local Government's website.

Cr Andrew Price left the meeting at 1.02pm, leaving 14 voting delegates.

10.6 Asset Preservation Model - WALGA

Recommendation

That the Zone:

- **Provides feedback to the WALGA Infrastructure Policy Team regarding a preferred advocacy approach to any review of the Road Asset Preservation Model (APM).**

Executive Summary

- A Zone Council recommendation to review the Road Asset Preservation Model (APM) was referred to the Infrastructure Policy Team in December 2020. The Policy Team resolved to seek views from Zones before recommending the development of a formal State Council agenda paper.
- This paper sets out options to guide the development of a Zone resolution.
- The Asset Preservation Model was developed as a Commonwealth requirement for the distribution of Commonwealth Government road grants among Local Governments in an efficient and equitable manner, taking account of local asset preservation needs and costs. It is currently used to distribute a range of Federal and State Government grant funding allocations.
- Despite being used to allocate large sums of public funding, operation of the APM is not well understood within the Local Government sector.
- The APM is not readily accessible to Local Governments. Limited documentation and complexity means that more open access alone would not be helpful in achieving strong understanding of the processes that underpin the output.
- Complexity of the APM makes it difficult to predict the effects on funding allocations of changes to the model or input parameters.
- This paper proposes five options that could be considered to address this issue, for WALGA to advocate to the Grants Commission.
- The options are not mutually exclusive, and some could be combined as a staged approach.
- The five options are:

1. Re-format and re-label the model, to improve its legibility for all users and make it available to the Local Government sector in a form that would enable stakeholders to understand it.
2. Review the parameters within the model, in order to increase the accuracy of road maintenance costs within the model.
3. Advocate to the Grants Commission to undertake a review of the cost regions and minimum standards to ensure that these appropriately reflect the costs faced by Local Government and the current development of the road network
4. Advocate to the Grants Commission to undertake an appropriately-resourced process to review and rebuild the road Asset Preservation Model. This new model should be as simple as possible while still delivering an equitable distribution of funding among Local Governments. Its variables and assumptions should be easily indefinable to model users, being clearly labelled and documented.
5. Accept the status quo with no further action.

Background

A Zone Council recommendation to review the APM was referred to the Infrastructure Policy Team in December 2020. The Team resolved to seek feedback from the Zones as the matter had not been widely identified as an issue of concern.

The Asset Preservation Model was developed by Main Roads WA and Local Government representatives, to distribute the untied roads component of the Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants between Local Governments.

The WA Local Government Grants Commission took over responsibility for distributing the identified Commonwealth road funds and undertook a comprehensive review of the Asset Preservation Model and modified and refined it. Application of the APM has since been broadened and it is now used to determine the distribution between Local Governments of a range of state and federal funding.

To assist Local Governments make decisions regarding preferred approaches to the use and development of the Asset Preservation Model a manual has been developed by WALGA describing the APM and how it functions. The manual can be viewed [here](#).

Problem Statement

The Road Asset Preservation Model is used to allocate large sums of funding. Despite the importance of the model, it is not widely understood, due to its complexity and limited documentation. This results in a lack of transparency, risk of corporate memory loss, the risk of unfair or otherwise inappropriate allocations of funding, and the reputational risk due to funds distribution not being fully explainable and region allocations being subject to question.

Options

There are five options identified in the text below, and the table on the final page of this paper.

Note that the options are not mutually exclusive and all or some of them could be recommended to be implemented in phased approach.

- Advocate to the Grants Commission to re-format and re-label the APM, to improve its legibility for all users. A detailed record should also be made of the model's parameters, and the process that was used for determining their values.
- Advocate to the Grants Commission for a review of the various parameters contained within the APM, such as the array of annual maintenance costs for different asset types, road reconstruction frequencies and the components of reconstruction costs. This option would increase the accuracy of road maintenance costs within the model, although would not address the underlying problems of excessive complexity and a lack of transparency and predictability.

- Advocate to the Grants Commission to undertake a review of the cost regions and minimum standards to ensure that these appropriately reflect the costs faced by Local Government and the current development of the road network.
- Advocate to the Grants Commission to undertake an appropriately-resourced process to review and rebuild the APM. This new model should be as simple as possible while still delivering an equitable distribution of funding among Local Governments. Its variables and assumptions should be easily indefinable to model users, being clearly labelled and documented.
- Retain Status quo.

It should be noted that these are all advocacy positions. The Road Asset Preservation Model is controlled by the WA Local Government Grants Commission and any decisions regarding development of the model or use of a different approach would be made by the Commission. It must be noted that if Options 2, 3 or 4 are implemented, there is a risk of some Local Governments receiving a lower grant allocation. This risk may be mitigated by advocating for increased funding from the State or Federal Governments, although there is no guarantee that such funding would be forthcoming.

The current membership of the WA Local Government Grants Commission is:

- Chairperson — Hon Cr Fred Riebeling AM JP
- Deputy Chairperson — Mr Luke Stevens, Legal Counsel, DLGSC
- Metropolitan Member — Cr Deb Hamblin, Deputy Mayor, City of Rockingham
- Country Urban Member — Dr Wendy Giles, Councillor, City of Bunbury
- Country Rural Member — Cr Ian West, Shire of Irwin
- Deputy to the Deputy Chairperson — Ms Darrelle Merritt, A/Director - Strategic Initiatives, DLGSC
- Deputy Metropolitan Member — Vacant
- Deputy Country Urban Member — Cr Deborah Botica, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
- Deputy Country Rural Member — Cr Moira Girando, President, Shire of Coorow

Analysis of the Options

The options have varying levels of cost, effort and risk attached to them.

Changes to the APM would affect the funding allocation between Local Governments in ways that are difficult to predict, due to the complexity of the model. The total available funding is fixed, so an increase in one Local Government's funding would necessarily reduce the level of funding available to others, unless additional funding can be secured.

There are also risks associated with no change being made to the APM. The model's complexity and incomplete documentation and labelling creates a risk of corporate memory loss. There is also a reputational risk associated with large sums of money being allocated based on a model that is not well understood by the Local Government sector.

Comparatively simple and lower-cost changes can be made to the APM, under Options 1, 2 and 3. These options would address some of the concerns raised here, but do not address the underlying problems noted above.

Next Steps

Resolutions made by the Zones will guide the development of an agenda item for the next meeting of State Council, to provide WALGA with direction on the sector's preference for its advocacy position regarding the Road Asset Preservation Model.

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5
	Reformat and label	Review model cost parameters	Review cost regions/ min. standards	Full model review and rebuild	Status quo
Advantages	Improves operation of existing model. Helps retain corporate memory. Improves transparency. Low risk and cost, in the short term.	Improves link between funding allocation and road maintenance costs.	Addresses concerns about inappropriate groupings of Local Governments.	Opportunity to review the model objectives. Improvement in transparency. Opportunity to incorporate contemporary modelling and user functionality.	Avoids conflict between Local Governments over funds distribution. Lowest short-term risk. No direct cost.
Disadvantages	Does not address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> questionable parameter values. complexity and transparency 	May require some additional resourcing. Does not address complexity and transparency. Possible reduction in funding for some LGs.	May require some additional resourcing. Does not address complexity and transparency. Likely reduction in funding for some LGs.	If no material impact on funds distribution, the rationale for the exercise may be questionable. Would require additional resourcing.	Does not address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> questionable parameter values. complexity and transparency corporate memory issues.
Risks / Dependencies	Reputational risk, due to funds distribution not being fully explainable.	Reputational risk, due to funds distribution not being fully explainable.	Reputational risk, due to funds distribution not being fully explainable. Continued risk of corporate memory loss.	Difficult to predict the distribution of funds. A review may trigger disagreement between Local Governments over the distribution of funds. The Grants Commission may not agree to implement.	Reputational risk, due to funds distribution not being fully explainable and regional allocations being subject to question. Continued risk of corporate memory loss.
Effort / Cost	Low-medium	High	Medium	Very high	None
Notes		Assumes Option 1 also undertaken: reformat and labelling.		Mutually exclusive of the other options or as an aspirational addition.	Mutually exclusive of the other five options.

Discussion

Cr Keith House suggested deferring a decision until after the Zone / Regional Road Group roads workshop on 5 March 2021. Need to be very cautious about this issue.

CEO Keith Williams agreed. Need to have more discussion and talk further with Shire of Upper Gascoyne.

Cr Andrew Price re-entered the meeting at 1.06pm, making 15 voting delegates..

Moved Cr Keith House **SECONDED Cr Mark Paganoni**
That WALGA defers the matter of the preferred advocacy approach to any review of the Road Asset Preservation Model (APM) until further information is provided and the issue becomes clearer, as this matter has significant implications.

CARRIED 15-0

10.7 Mobile Phone Communication Problems during Emergencies

Further response from Emergency Services Minister Francis Logan dated 28 January 2021 attached. No further discussion.

10.8 Great Southern Roads Statement

Joint Zone / Regional Road Group workshop on will be held in Tambellup on Friday 5 March 2021 from 10am - 1pm. Supporting information will be emailed out 1 week prior to the workshop.

WALGA staff will be in attendance. Councillors, CEOs, Works Managers and other staff who deal with roads are invited to attend.

Noted.

10.9 Grass Roots Grants Programme – Cooperative Bulk Handling

- Closes 28 February 2021. Next round opens 1 August 2021.
- Grants available for community-related events up (funding limit up to \$5,000) and small scale infrastructure projects (funding limit up to \$20,000)
- One application per round per organisation
- Applications take approx. 6 weeks to assess from closing date and are assessed by a committee made up of growers (Growers' Advisory Council (GAC) members), regional and HO employees.
- We have a total of \$150,000 this round to allocate to events/projects.
- Direct link to the page <https://www.cbh.com.au/cbh-community/grass-roots-community-grants-program>
- Any questions from community groups can be directed to: corporateaffairs@cbh.com.au
- Full details were emailed to Zone councils on 4 February 2021.

11. EMERGING ISSUES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Due to time constraints, no emerging issues were raised apart from the Shire of Katanning advised that it was meeting with the Director General of Education and asked Zone councils to advise if they wanted any education issues raised.

12. FINANCIAL REPORT

12.1 Financial Report for the period 1 November 2020 to 31 January 2021 is attached.

Opening balance as at 1 November 2020	\$10,984.20
Total debits	(\$2,730.16)
Total credits	\$713.50
Closing balance as at 31 January 2021	\$8,967.54

MOVED Cr Scott Crosby

SECONDED Cr Jon Oldfield

That the financial statements for the periods 1 November 2020 to 31 January 2021 be accepted as true and accurate records of the Zone finances.

CARRIED 15-0

13. REPORTS

No	Organisation / Delegates	Updates / Info
13.1	Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG) Delegate: Cr Russel Thomson (Shire of Woodanilling) Proxy: Cr Scott Crosby (Shire of Kent)	First meeting of 2021 will be held on 9 April 2021. <i>Movement of Agricultural Machinery.</i> <i>February update:</i> Getting no traction.
13.2	Great Southern District Leadership Group (formerly Great Southern Human Services Forum) – Cr Ronnie Fleay	No further comment. ACTION: Executive Officer to ask the GSDLG to find another delegate to represent Local Government.
13.3	Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) – CEO Keith Williams	<i>February update:</i> Regular meetings. Thanks to GSDC for organising COVID meetings with some councils.
13.4	South Coast Natural Resource Management (SCNRM) Delegate: CEO Keith Williams Proxy: Cr Jon Oldfield (Plantagenet)	SCNRM is having community meetings but no formal meetings.
13.5	Great Southern Development Commission	New CEO is Natasha Moncks.
13.6	Great Southern RoadWise	Report dated January 2021 is attached.
13.7	Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries	Refer to presentation by Ben Armstrong above.
13.8	Executive Officer	Nothing further to report.

14.0 Remaining Zone meetings for 2021

Friday 23 April

Friday 25 June

Friday 20 August

Monday 25 October

Shire of Kojonup (Joint meeting with Regional Road Group)

Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup (1-day mini conference)

Shire of Cranbrook

Shire of Plantagenet (Mt Barker)

(Joint meeting with Regional Road Group)

(AGM and ordinary meeting)

Close: 1.15pm.