



East Metropolitan Zone

Minutes

2 May 2019

East Metropolitan Zone

Hosted by the EMRC

1st Floor Ascot Place 226 Great Eastern Highway BELMONT – Phone 9424 2222

Thursday 2 May 2019. Commenced at 6:00 pm

Minutes

MEMBERS

3 Voting Delegates from each Member Council

Town of Bassendean	Cr John Gangell
City of Bayswater	Cr Catherine Ehrhardt Cr Chris Cornish Cr Giorgia Johnson Mr Andrew Brien, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
City of Belmont	Cr Steve Wolff
City of Kalamunda	Cr Cameron Blair Ms Rhonda Hardy, Chief Executive Officer (proxy for O'Donnell)
Shire of Mundaring	Cr Jason Russell Cr Lynn Fisher Ms Megan Griffiths, Director Strategic and Community Services (Observer)
City of Swan	Cr Adam Kovalevs
WALGA Secretariat	Mr Ian Duncan, Executive Manager, Infrastructure Ms Laura Simes, Environment Policy Advisor
DLGSC Representative	
Guest Speakers	Mr Gordon MacMile, Director Strategic Coordination and Delivery, DLGSC

APOLOGIES

Town of Bassendean	Mayor Renee McLennan Cr Sarah Quinton Ms Peta Mabbs, Chief Executive Officer
City of Belmont	Cr Lauren Cayoun
Shire of Mundaring	Cr Kate Driver Mr Jonathan Throssell Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
City of Swan	Cr Patty Jones Cr Mark Elliott Mr Mike Foley Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

City of Belmont

Mayor Phil Marks
Mr John Christie, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Cr Janet Powell

City of Kalamunda

Cr Brooke O'Donnell
Cr Sara Lohmeyer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Zone Delegates were requested to provide sufficient written notice, wherever possible, on amendments to recommendations within the State Council or Zone agenda prior to the Zone meeting to the Chair and Secretariat.

Agenda Papers were emailed 7 days prior to the meeting date to your Council for distribution to Zone Delegates.

Confirmation of Attendance An attendance sheet was circulated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

ATTACHMENTS WITHIN THE AGENDA

1. Draft Minutes of the previous meeting
2. Zone Status Report
3. President's Report (emailed prior to the meeting)
4. Standing Orders

1. DEPUTATIONS

1.1 Department of Local Government, Sports and Cultural Industries

Mr Gordon MacMile from Department of Local Government, Sports and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) presented to the Zone on Royal Commission into Child Abuse and Redress.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ehrhardt
Seconded: Cr Johnson

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the East Metropolitan Zone held 21 March 2019 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Pursuant to our Code of Conduct, Councillors must declare to the Chairman any potential conflict of interest they have in a matter before the Zone as soon as they become aware of it. Councillors and deputies may be directly or indirectly associated with some recommendations of the Zone and State Council. If you are affected by these recommendations, please excuse yourself from the meeting and do not participate in deliberations.

Nil

4. BUSINESS ARISING

A Status Report outlining the actions taken on the Zone's resolutions was enclosed as an attachment to the Agenda.

Noted

5. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR DECISION

Item 5.2 'Preferred Model' for Third Party Appeal Rights for Decisions Made by Development Assessment Panels

Moved: Cr Johnson
Seconded: Cr Ehrhardt

That there be an amendment to the Preferred Model, being that third parties other than Local Governments are able to make an appeal.

AMENDMENT

Moved: Cr Johnson
Seconded: Cr Ehrhardt

That there be an amendment to the Preferred Model, being that third parties are able to appeal decisions made by the Western Australian Planning Commission and the State Administrative Tribunal, in addition to Development Assessment Panels.

THE MOTION AS AMENDED WAS PUT AND CARRIED

Item 7.1.4 Report on Key Activities, People and Place

In regards to the consultation on 10-year Strategy on Homelessness, Cr Johnson requested an update on the status of the consultation. WALGA Secretariat as far as they were aware the consultation has not yet occurred, however WALGA will provide an update to the Zone on this issue.

Item 7.2 Policy Forum Reports

In regards to the Container Deposit Legislation Policy Forum, Cr Johnson asked whether the Scheme Administrator has been appointed yet. WALGA Secretariat took the question on notice and a response will be provided to the Zone.

RESOLVED

That the East Metropolitan Zone supports all other items in the May 2019 State Council Agenda en bloc.

6. BUSINESS

6.1 Regional Greenhouse Alliances – East Metropolitan Zone

By Cr Kate Driver, Shire of Mundaring

BACKGROUND

At its meeting of 13 March 2019, Shire of Mundaring Council endorsed the WALGA Climate Change Policy Statement and resolved to:

1. *Write to WALGA to request that they investigate options and Local Government support for establishing regional greenhouse alliances or climate change networks to co-ordinate climate change action; and*
2. *Request East Zone Representatives to take a motion to the Zone Meeting regarding the above.*

The WALGA Climate Change Policy Statement calls for strong climate change action, leadership and coordination at all levels of government. WALGA could potentially assist with coordination of action across Local Governments, beyond advocacy and information sharing. The development of regional structures focussed on climate action could help coordinate and deliver the strong climate change action called for in the Climate Change Policy Statement.

Climate change is already having significant impacts and more urgent mitigation and adaptation changes will be required not only from Local Governments but from almost all organisations. The Australian Local Government Climate Review 2018 Report (published by ICLEI Oceania Local Governments for Sustainability, Beyond Zero Emissions and Ironbark Sustainability) recommends that Local Governments ‘replicate the Victorian Regional Greenhouse Alliances model’ and ‘collaborate with regional alliances to leverage opportunities, efficiencies and economies of scale.’

The Victorian greenhouse alliances are formal partnerships of 5 – 13 Local Governments, representing 75 of the state’s 79 Councils. Some greenhouse alliances are based only on Local Government partners while others include state government agencies, corporations, universities and community groups. The primary focus of the alliances is collaborating to drive regional emissions reduction and action on climate change. The structures and functions are described in the 2018 discussion paper ‘Regional Victorian Greenhouse Alliances – Local Governments Working Together on Climate Change’.

Collaboration with other Local Governments, state agencies, research institutions and community groups could be enabled by building climate action networks or greenhouse alliances similar to those that have been established in Victoria. Regional organisations can reduce duplication of effort within individual Local Governments, provide a more efficient structure to deliver programs or projects and may be more likely to be successful in attracting Federal and State funding. Participation in larger networks may be more attractive to universities, utilities, corporations and State agencies than multiple smaller alliances based on existing regional councils.

COMMENT

Individual Local Governments and regional councils are unlikely to be able to maintain multiple ‘alliances’ or networks involving utilities, universities, banks and other corporations. Broader alliances could assist in delivering coordinated and effective regional action to reduce emissions and transition to renewable energy in line with the WALGA Policy Statement on Climate Change.

The structure of the Victorian greenhouse alliances varies, but the role includes accessing large grants and coordination for delivery of regional initiatives. Some only have Local Government members, while others also include universities, state agencies, community groups and corporations. WALGA could investigate options and consult Local Governments to determine support for establishing regional greenhouse alliances or climate change networks in WA.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

On December 5th 2018, the State Government announced the development of a State Climate Change Policy, to be developed over the next 12-18 months. WALGA welcomes this initiative.

WALGA staff have commenced working with DWER – as lead agency in the development of the State Policy – and the DLGSCI - to ensure that the policy outcomes sought through the WALGA climate change policy position formulate the direction of the Partnership Agreement on Climate Change, and are also incorporated into the State Climate Change Strategy, where appropriate.

There will be an opportunity to evaluate the options and Local Government support for establishing regional greenhouse alliances or climate change networks to co-ordinate climate change action in the development of both the State Climate Change Policy, and the State Local Government Partnership Agreement on Climate Change.

Cr Fisher spoke to the motion in in Cr Driver's absence.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Fisher

Seconded: Cr Ehrhardt

That WALGA investigate options and Local Government support for establishing regional greenhouse alliances or climate change networks to co-ordinate climate change action.

CARRIED

6.2 Bushfire Planning

Cr Lynne Fisher, Shire of Mundaring

BACKGROUND

The intent of SPP3.7 is to implement effective, risk-based land use planning and development to preserve life and reduce the impact of bushfire on property and infrastructure.

Combined, the SPP3.7 and *Guidelines for Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas* (the *Guidelines*) ensure that bushfire protection measures are considered during the planning process (from higher level rezoning, structure planning and subdivision through to individual developments) and through the construction and occupation phases.

While the SPP3.7 expects balanced outcomes, questions arise about whether the standards espoused by the *Guidelines* actually facilitate or contradict the intent of SPP3.7.

When Shire of Mundaring officers questioned DFES officers about a *Guidelines* requirement, DFES was unable to provide the relevant fire science and research underpinning the current *Guidelines* requirements. DFES simply noted that the *Guidelines* are based on eastern states research and interstate experience and agreed positions. Given the influence of the *Guidelines* on planning decisions, proposed modifications should go beyond targeted consultation and be subject to broader community input.

There is no visible State commitment or support to refine the eastern states work to reflect the Western Australian vegetation complexes, geology and conditions. This lack of WA specific research represents a critical barrier to informing a more nuanced approach to bushfire planning policy in WA. The outcome is regulations that do not acknowledge important local variations in vegetation and geology across this very large state.

It is recommended that a letter be sent to the relevant WA Government Ministers highlighting the need for greater and wider participation in reviews of the *Guidelines* and planning policies and the urgent need for the State to acknowledge and fund bushfire research specific to a Western Australian context. To achieve material change is beyond the capacity of one local government. It requires leadership from WALGA and collaboration across government agencies and research institutions.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

The secretariat has no comments on the proposed motion, however would like to raise the following information with the Zone for consideration as it makes its decision:

1. WALGA actively engages with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage's bushfire policy team on proposed policy changes, this engagement always reiterates the need for DPLH to consult widely with the Local Government sector;
2. WALGA has recently finalised an interim submission to the DPLH on the draft Element 3 of the Bushfire Guidelines, this focused heavily on the need for a risk based approach to planning for bushfire;
3. The submission also highlighted the deficiencies in the current way the DPLH consult on such changes, and noted that wider consultation should have been undertaken;
4. When commenting on bushfire related policy initiatives WALGA relies on commentary from its internal planning, environment and emergency management teams to ensure that the implications of any proposed changes are considered from a wide perspective; and
5. WALGA is currently preparing a letter, in collaboration with the development and housing industry associations, to the State Government questioning the delay in publishing the Buti Review into the bushfire planning framework.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Fisher

Seconded: Cr Ehrhardt

That Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA):

1. **Advocate for changes to the *Guidelines for Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas* to allow for flexibility in applying the guidelines to local conditions in order to achieve a balance in bushfire, biodiversity and other risk considerations; and**
2. **Write to the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Planning requesting the State Government:**
 - a. **undertake an independent review of the bushfire policy development process and State Planning Policy (SPP 3.7) with a view to provide for greater transparency and participation, and**
 - b. **assist in the funding of Western Australia specific research to better adapt eastern states bushfire standards into a Western Australian context**

CARRIED

6.3 Request to Present – Local Government Insurance Services WA

LGIS have requested an opportunity to present to Local Governments that may be interested in learning more about LGIS and your self-insurance scheme.

LGISWA developed a number of presentations which may be of interest to Zone delegates and Chief Executive Officers. If, however, there is interest on another topic please advise and LGISWA can tailor a presentation to the Zone's needs.

Presentations

- **Your LGIS, what ownership delivers**
What is a mutual and how is it different to traditional transactional insurance providers? This presentation will include the history of LGIS, organisation structure, relationship with WALGA and provide examples of service delivery – highlighting the benefits of membership.
- **Know your risks - identifying and managing local government risks**
The risks faced by Local Governments across WA continue to change. In this presentation LGIS risk experts will outline the strategies which can be used by Local Governments to strategically identify and manage risks. They'll also talk about the experiences of other WA Local Government members in identifying and managing their risks.
- **The human factor – emerging risks for 2019 and beyond**
People are a crucial success factor for Local Government organisations they're the human face of Local Government services. In this presentation LGIS human risk experts will discuss the emerging trends in managing people from the diverse needs of an aging workforce to increases in workplace stress. They'll use real examples from WA Local Governments to explore potential strategies in managing and reducing human risks.
- **Elected members – managing risks and protection**
Elected members are passionate about improving their community, going above and beyond in their service. However, as part of their role elected members also carry significant risks which they need to be aware of. In this presentation an LGIS Local Government risk expert will cover the risks which elected members must be aware of and manage, and the services and cover included in LGIS membership. They'll use real examples from WA Local Governments to explore strategies in managing and reducing elected member risks.
- **Local government first – a claims strategy that benefits LGIS members**
How does LGIS handle claims differently? When LGIS receives a claim we consider the best interest of the member and the broader Local Government sector. This presentation outlines the LGIS claims strategy which plans for long term, sustainable protection of the WA Local Government sector. We'll look at a variety of WA Local Government claims and explore the lessons learned.

RESOLVED

That the Zone invites a representative from the Local Government Insurance Services WA to provide a 30 minute presentation to the 27 June 2019 Zone meeting on the topic of: knowing your risks – identifying and managing Local Government risks, with a particular focus on emerging risks for 2019 and beyond.

CARRIED

7. OTHER BUSINESS

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Cornish
Seconded: Cr Kovalevs

That the East Metropolitan Zone meetings rotate the meeting location around the Local Governments, with the host Local Government to provide a 15 minute update on its current activities.

CARRIED

8. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

8.1 WALGA President's Report

Noted

8.2 State Councillor's report to the Zone

Noted

8.3 Department of Local Government and Communities Representative Update Report.

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Update Report is attached to these minutes (Attachment 1).

9. NOTICE OF MOTIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING MEETING

Nil

10. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

That the next ordinary meeting of the East Metropolitan Zone be held on 27 June 2019 at the EMRC commencing at 6:00pm.

11. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 7:12pm.