



South West Country Zone Minutes

23 April 2021

Shire of Augusta Margaret River

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South West Country Zone

Held at

Shire of Augusta Margaret River Council Chambers, 41 Wallcliffe Rd, Margaret River WA
6285

Commenced at 9.08am, Friday 23 April 2021

Minutes

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

We, the South West Country Zone of WALGA acknowledge the Wardandi Nyoongar people, the Traditional Custodians of this land, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and future.

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendance

Shire of Augusta Margaret River	President Cr Ian Earl Ms Stephanie Addison-Brown, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Boyup Brook	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	Mr Rob Stewart, Acting Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Collie	President Cr Sarah Stanley Mr Stuart Devenish, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Dardanup	President Cr Michael Bennett Mr Andre Schonfeldt, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup	President Cr Brian Piesse Mr Ben Rose, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate Mr Paul Breman, Executive Manager Corporate and Community 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	Tim Lane, Manager, Strategy and Association Governance Toby Costanzo, Commercial Development Contract Manager Katherine Celenza, Road Safety Advisor, Metro and South West
South West Development Commission	Mellisa Teede, Chief Executive Officer
Guests	Mr Murray Carter, Executive Director, Rural Fire Division, Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Apologies

President Cr Richard Walker, Shire of Boyup Brook
President Cr Michael Southwell, Shire of Capel
Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

4.1 Attachments

The following are provided as attachments to the agenda:

1. South West Country Zone Minutes 19 February 2021
2. Letter to Zone – Local Government contribution to Regional Road Group projects
3. Draft Sponsorship Agreement – South West Future Jobs and Skills Forum
4. WALGA President's Report
5. State Council Agenda – via link only: <https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/0adcf01e-c30e-4b5e-b825-7ed95645295c/State-Council-Agenda-5-May-2021.pdf>

5. GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS

5.1 Presentation by Host Local Government – Shire of Augusta Margaret River

President Cr Ian Earl and Ms Stephanie Addison-Brown provided an update to the Zone.

5.2 Department of Fire and Emergency Services – Update on Key DFES Rural Fire Reforms

Mr Murray Carter, Executive Director, Rural Fire Division, Department of Fire and Emergency Services presented to the Zone on Cyclone Seroja and Key Rural Fire Reforms.

6. MINUTES

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the South West Country Zone meeting held Friday 19 February 2021 (Attachment 1)

The Minutes of the South West Country Zone meeting held on Friday 19 February 2021 have previously been circulated to Member Councils and were provided as an attachment.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Michael Bennett

Seconded: Cr Brian Piesse

That the minutes of the South West Country Zone meeting held Friday 19 February 2021 are confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

6.1.1 Business Arising

Letter attached from Ian Duncan, Executive Manager, Infrastructure to President Cr Tony Dean regarding Local Government funding contributions for Regional Road Group Projects.

7. ZONE BUSINESS

7.1 Weather Station Upgrade Request

Shire of Augusta Margaret River

An officer from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) attended a Volunteer Fire Brigade meeting held in Margaret River in February 2021. The officer shared a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Seasonal Outlook – Summer 2020-21". The presentation detailed long-term weather trends, seasonal drivers, antecedent conditions as well as a seasonal outlook for December through to March: rainfall and temperature. Overall, the data shows the SW can expect to experience drier winters and warmer than average minimum temperatures into the future which impacts the fire danger level.

Following the BOM presentation, a Kudardup Bushfire Brigade member raised concerns at the following Shire of Augusta Margaret River Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC) meeting about the level and accuracy of weather forecasting in the Lower South West region, in particular the South West corner. Discussions focused on issues relating to the distance between the Perth located radar and the Albany located radar, with the lack of detail that results due to Margaret River's positioning. The Brigade advised that this prevents certainty when predicting local onsite weather conditions and what is happening on the ground, creating issues when emergency services are plotting and managing fires. As a result, the BFAC made a recommendation to the Augusta Margaret River Council which was endorsed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held 24 March 2021. Extract from the full Council Decision OM2021/46 shown below:

"That the Shire, at the WALGA South West Country Zone meeting in April, request that the Bureau of Meteorology upgrades the weather stations in the South West corner to include a weather radar, along with anything else required to improve weather forecasting in the Lower South West region, including the Shire of Augusta Margaret River."

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ian Earl
Seconded: Cr Paul Gillett

That the South West Country Zone of WALGA:

- 1. Notes the concerns of the Shire of Augusta Margaret River's Bush Fire Advisory Committee in relation the need for accurate weather forecasting.**
- 2. Requests that WALGA write to the Bureau of Meteorology requesting upgrades to the weather stations in the South West Corner to include a weather radar to improve weather forecasting in the Lower South West region.**

CARRIED

7.2 South West Infrastructure Coordination Committee

Shire of Dardanup

The Bunbury Geographe Group of Council's (BGGC) met on 8 March 2021 with the Chairman of the Planning Commission Mr. David Caddy to discuss the draft Bunbury Geographe Sub Regional Planning Strategy. One of the key themes discussed at the meeting was the lack of Infrastructure Coordination and the fact that this was not included in the Sub-regional Planning Strategy, noting that the Perth and Peel @ 3.5 Framework for that region, does include detailed infrastructure planning and commitments across State Government.

The Chairman explained that the Infrastructure Coordination Committee, which was previously a subcommittee of the WAPC, was disbanded with the establishment of Infrastructure WA (IWA). As a result IWA will in future be responsible for these elements.

IWA's role as listed on its website is as follows:

Infrastructure WA's role is to provide advice and assistance to the WA Government on infrastructure matters. Looking at the medium to long term, our advice informs infrastructure investment decision-making and supports better outcomes for the people and economy of Western Australia.

The Infrastructure Western Australia Act 2019, which commenced in July 2019, sets out the functions and responsibilities of Infrastructure WA, some of which include:

- *delivery of a State Infrastructure Strategy addressing infrastructure needs and priorities for the next 20 years*
- *assessing major public infrastructure proposals*
- *coordinating the provision of information and submissions to Infrastructure Australia (under the direction of the Premier).*

This raises concern that some infrastructure and facilities that are not considered of State significance, but may be regionally or sub-regionally significant, would not have a coordinated process for planning and delivery through a whole of Government approach.

The BGGC accordingly seeks the establishment of a South West Infrastructure Committee which would consist of relevant State Government Departments and Servicing Authorities. A heads of Department meeting which will allow LGAs to interact directly with the regional heads of the relevant agencies and discuss infrastructure requirements, commitments and wish lists in a more productive forum.

The Department of Sport and Recreation has recently developed a 10 year plan (2019) for the South West region. This is document provides the potential for a coordinated approach of regional priorities for future funding of such facilities. The idea would be for the SWICC to consider a broader range of infrastructure and facilities including: Transport, Utilities, Housing, Cultural and Community.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Michael Bennett
Seconded: Cr Sarah Stanley

That:

- 1. That the South West Country Zone of WALGA support the establishment of a South West Infrastructure Planning Committee that includes representation from each of the South West Local Governments along with the Heads of Departments of relevant Government agencies.**
- 2. That Directors General of infrastructure and utility focused State Government Agencies be requested to mandate the attendance of regional Heads of Agencies at the South West Infrastructure Planning Committee to maximise the input and outcomes of the Committee's agenda.**
- 3. That Infrastructure WA be invited to brief SWALGA on infrastructure and economic development plans and proposals for the South West.**

CARRIED

7.3 South West Future Jobs and Skills Forum 2021

Shire of Donnybrook Balingup

The South West Future Jobs & Skills Forum 2021, will showcase how changes in the regional jobs market, and how technology, automation and artificial intelligence play a part in the changing employment landscape in the south west. The event is designed to stimulate a conversation that encourages organisations and the community to think and act differently in how they undertake recruitment, training, skills shortages and business growth and expansion.

The event is proposed for Thursday, 12 August 2021 to be held at the South West Sports Centre, 1 Rotary Drive, Withers. Sponsorship opportunities are available for the event as per the attached draft sponsorship agreement: Premium Partner - \$10,000 and Supporting Partner - \$5,000. The Zone has cash assets of \$14,585.40.

Cr Brian Piesse declared an interest.

Moved: Mayor Grant Henley
Seconded: Cr Paul Omodei

1. That the South West Zone give in principle support to become a supporting partner of the event with a contribution of \$5,000.
2. That this be done in conjunction with the South West Development Commission with a report to be delivered and the aim of suitable outcomes being achieved.

CARRIED

8. WALGA BUSINESS

8.1 WALGA Status Report

By Tim Lane, Zone Executive Officer

BACKGROUND

Status Report for April 2021 which contains WALGA's responses to the resolutions of previous Zone Meetings.

Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
2020 28 August Zone Agenda Item 12.1 Waste Management Levy Charges	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.	WALGA's legal advice on waste charges does include the same reference (at 3.4 below) 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. WALGA would appreciate receiving any recommendations from the Zone that would result in a simplified and consistent method for raising a waste services levy.	April 2021	Narelle Cant Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning ncant@walga.asn.au 9213 2078
2020 26 June Zone Agenda Item 9.2 WALGA Status Report	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.	WALGA sought input from the Local Government Emergency Management Advisory Group (WALGA officer group), which provided responses to a range of motions on eligible and ineligible items in the LGGS Manual. WALGA brought these responses to the Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group on November 2, 2020.	Ongoing	Narelle Cant Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning ncant@walga.asn.au 9213 2078

		<p>Since commencement of the LGGS Working Group in 2019, WALGA staff have represented Local Governments at Working Group meetings. The Working Group includes two members from each of the following organisations: WALGA, DFES, State Emergency Service and Association of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades.</p> <p>In December 2020, WALGA was requested by the People and Place Policy Team to address the eligibility of Slip on Units in the LGGS Manual, and consider more appropriate representation for Local Governments on the LGGS Working Group. A State Council Item for Decision for the March meeting addresses these matters. Once representation on the Working Group is finalized at the May State Council meeting, these members will continue to advocate on behalf of Local Governments for equity of expenditure across emergency services for operating costs associated with their activities.</p>		
<p>2021 19 February Zone Agenda Item 7.3 Asset Preservation Model</p>	<p>That the South West Country Zone of WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supports option one of the options presented 2. Requests that discussion on this issue be referred to Regional Road Groups 3. Request Chris Berry, or an appropriate officer from the WA Local Government Grants Commission, to present to the Zone on the Asset Preservation Model methodology 	<p>Advice from all WALGA Zones has been analyzed and a recommendation regarding the next steps for a review of the Road Asset Preservation Model included in the May 2021 State Council Agenda.</p>	<p>April 2021</p>	<p>Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031</p>
<p>2021 19 February Zone Agenda Item 7.1 Lobbying For State Government Policy Alignment With Respect to Development</p>	<p>That WALGA writes to relevant Ministers and Directors General to request the current lack of policy alignment be addressed with respect to planning and development matters.</p>	<p>The State Government's <i>Action Plan for Planning Reform</i> has identified the need for a "new framework for the referral of planning applications to provide greater certainty regarding the timing, process and scope of referral agency input". This would include a conflict resolution arrangement where agencies hold differing views.</p> <p>This is referred to as action 'C5'. This reform was not included in the recently completed first tranche of reforms but is slated to be included in the upcoming planning reforms being developed by DPLH. WALGA has acted as a conduit between the Local Government sector and DPLH throughout these reforms and will continue to take this role as the reform agenda is rolled out by Government.</p> <p>WALGA will provide the SW Zone resolution to the DPLH's Reform Team as an example of the need for reform to the agency referral system. (23/03/2021)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Narelle Cant Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning ncant@walga.asn.au 9213 2078</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 "Government is considering a broader review of the regulatory system regarding lifestyle villages; however,</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Narelle Cant Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning ncant@walga.asn.au 9213 2078</p>

		<i>its legislative priority will not be considered until after the 2021 election.”</i>		
27 November 2020 Zone Agenda Item 7.4 Slip-on Eligibility for ESL Grant Support	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.	State Council resolution That WALGA: 1. Supports the inclusion of capital costs of Trailer Fire Fighting Units and Slip On Fire Fighting Units including for Farmer Response Brigades (for use on private motor vehicles) on the Eligible List of the Local Governments Grants Scheme (LGGS). 2. Requests the Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group to include this matter on the Agenda of their next Meeting (expected March 2021). 3. Requests WALGA to work with the Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group to develop appropriate operational guidelines and procedures for the safe use of Slip On Fire Fighting Units funded in accordance with the LGGS. 4. Supports the update of the WALGA membership of the Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group to include one Local Government Elected Member and one Local Government Officer, with these appointments determined through the WALGA Selection Committee process. RESOLUTION 180.1/2021 CARRIED COMPLETE	Ongoing	Narelle Cant Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning ncant@walga.asn.au 9213 2078
2020 April 24 Zone Agenda Item 7.1 Payments to Volunteers Impacted by Emergency Events	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.	On 29 December 2019, the Prime Minister announced a Commonwealth Volunteer Compensation Scheme. On 15 January 2020, the Minister for Emergency Services convened a Ministerial Volunteer Advisory Forum to consider feedback on the compensation proposal on behalf of emergency services volunteers as well as explore any other concepts to support volunteers. Discussions took places around; 1.feedback and suggestions about the challenges volunteers are experiencing at a local level; 2.volunteer recruitment and retention, training processes, resourcing requirements and the impact of a changing climate; and 3.the forum also provided volunteers with the opportunity to share local learnings in an open and safe environment. The Minister for Emergency Services then wrote to Minister Littleproud to recognise and acknowledge the value of volunteers and to share the matters that volunteers raised on financial disincentives surrounding emergency services volunteering in Western Australia. DFES acknowledges the valuable contribution played by volunteers who support their local communities and has progressed a working group to review and advise on necessary changes to expenditure to ensure brigades are supported financially. DFES has embedded volunteer engagement in appliance design, testing and evaluation through Project Advisory Teams which will ensure that replacement appliances deliver improved operational and safety outcomes for volunteers. DFES has invested significantly in delivering the improved Volunteer Hub to make access to information easier and faster.	February 2021	Narelle Cant Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning ncant@walga.asn.au 9213 2078
2019 June 28 Zone Agenda Item 7.2 Community Newspaper Awards	The Zone requests WALGA support a regional annual award program to recognize the significant contribution of community news publications.	The proposal by the Zone will be forwarded to the 2021 Local Government Convention executive organizing committee to consider the establishment of such awards as part of the 2021 program.	April 2021	Zac Donovan Executive Manager, Finance and Marketing zdonovan@walga.asn.au 9213 2038

<p>2019 March 22 Zone Agenda Item 7.7 Funding Commitment Towards Strategic Transport Network Infrastructure In South West Western Australia</p>	<p>1. That the South West Zone of WALGA adopts an advocacy position of seeking a commitment to funding from:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Western Australian State Government; and/or Australian Federal Government; and/or 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>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031</p>
<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"> 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. 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>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Narelle Cant Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning ncant@walga.asn.au 9213 2078</p>

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Omodei
Seconded: Cr Michael Bennett

That the South West Country Zone WALGA February 2021 Status Report be noted.

CARRIED

8.2 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda

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/0adcf01e-c30e-4b5e-b825-7ed95645295c/State-Council-Agenda-5-May-2021.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 Financial Ratios

That WALGA:

1. Advocate to the Minister for Local Government to amend the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* to prescribe the following ratios:
 - a. Operating Surplus Ratio,
 - b. Net Financial Liabilities Ratio,
 - c. Debt Service Coverage Ratio, and
 - d. Current Ratio.
2. Recommend that Local Governments consider including Asset Management ratios in their Annual Report.
3. Request the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries to review the Asset Management ratios in consultation with the Local Government sector.
4. Continue the Local Government Financial Ratios Working Group as a reference group for the development of a Model set of Financial Statements and Budget Statements, and to establish new financial indicators.

5.2 Roads Asset Preservation Model Review

That WALGA:

1. Seek support from the WA Local Government Grants Commission to provide presentations on the inputs, operation of and outputs of the Road Asset Preservation Model at Zone or Regional Road Group meetings where requested.
2. Advocate to the WA Local Government Grants Commission to improve the formatting and labelling of the model and make it available via the Commission's website.

5.3 Western Australian Development Index

That the development and implementation of the Western Australian Development Index, led by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, be supported.

5.4 Review of the Industrial Relations System

That WALGA:

1. Seek confirmation from the State Government on whether it intends to re-introduce legislation for Local Governments to operate solely in the State Industrial Relations System.
2. If the State Government reintroduces legislation to require all Local Governments to operate within the State Industrial Relations System, continue to advocate for the State Government to:
 - a. Amend the *Industrial Relations Act 1979 (WA)* to include additional provisions to modernise the State IR system; and
 - b. Provide adequate funding and resourcing to ensure Local Governments are equipped with the appropriate tools and training to enable a smooth transition.

Matters for Noting

- 6.1 New Regulations Update – Model Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates; and CEO Standards for Recruitment, Performance Review and Termination
- 6.2 State Election Campaign
- 6.3 Draft Position Statement: Dark Sky and Astrotourism
- 6.4 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC)

Key Activity Reports

- 7.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Commercial and Communications Unit
- 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

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Michael Bennett

Seconded: Cr Paul Omodei

That the South West Country Zone:

1. **Supports Items 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, and 5.4 Matters for Decision as listed above in the 5 May 2021 State Council Agenda.**
2. **Notes the matters for noting and key activity reports contained in the 5 May 2021 State Council Agenda.**

CARRIED

8.3 WALGA President's Report

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

Noted

9. AGENCY REPORTS / PRESENTATIONS

9.1 South West Development Commission – SWDC Strategic Plan and Economic Analysis

Chief Executive Officer, Mellisa Teede, presented to the meeting.

9.2 WALGA Energy Sustainability and Renewables Contract

Commercial Development Contract Manager, Toby Costanzo, presented to the Zone on the WALGA Energy Sustainability and Renewables Contract.

9.3 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries were an apology to this meeting.

9.4 Regional Development Australia – South West

Executive Officer, Charles Jenkinson, addressed the meeting.

10. FINANCIAL REPORTS – South West Country Zone

As of 12 April 2021, the South West Country Zone has currently has cash invested as follows:

Commonwealth Bank Term Deposit	\$12,190.40
Commonwealth Current Account	\$2,395.00
Total:	\$14,585.40

WALGA finance staff have transferred the Current Account onto WALGA's online banking platform so that it is easily accessible and can be utilised as required using electronic banking.

Previously there was a \$5 per month banking fee with an additional fee per transaction. This has been reviewed as part of WALGA's banking arrangements, and going forward the banking fees should be reduced.

Noted

11. EMERGING ISSUES / GENERAL BUSINESS

11.1 Invitations to Future Meetings

Invitations have been sent to the Premier, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Planning, and Leader of the Opposition as per the decision at the last meeting. The executive officer will send follow up invitations regarding upcoming Zone meetings.

The Leader of the Opposition, Mia Davies, responded suggesting that James Hayward, recently elected to the Legislative Council could be invited to the next meeting.

The Zone may wish to invite Members of both houses of Parliament relevant to the region to every Zone meeting.

The following will be invited to attend future Zone meetings:

- **Mr Duncan Ord, Director General, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries**
- **Mr Stan Scott, Census Engagement Manager, Australian Bureau of Statistics**

11.2 LED Street Lighting

Shire of Collie

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Sarah Stanley

Seconded: Cr Brian Piesse

That the South West Country Zone of WALGA requests the Minister for Energy to explain why the allocation of approximately \$95 million from budget surplus to implement a program to replace all mercury vapour street lights with LED luminaires across Western Australia is not supported, given it would provide such broad-based community, environmental, financial and road safety benefits.

CARRIED

11.3 Housing Issues

The Zone noted the Minister for Local Government, Hon John Carey MLA, also has responsibility for the Housing portfolio. The Zone agreed that it would be useful to collate material relating to the contribution of South West Local Governments to the Housing portfolio.

Local Governments have been asked so send their short, medium and long term Housing Strategies being implemented, detailing current and projected housing strategies. In addition, advice as to how the State can assist is also being sought.

Material can be sent to André Schönfeldt, Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Dardanup, for collation, which will then be forwarded to the Minister's office.

11.4 Transit Parks – Maximum Stays

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Brian Piesse
Seconded: Cr Ian Earl

That the South West Country Zone write to the Minister to request that the maximum stay in transit parks be increased to seven days at the discretion of each Local Government under the COVID 19 state of emergency declaration.

CARRIED

11.5 Cyclone Seroja

An update was provided in relation to the situation on the ground in the Mid-West following Cyclone Seroja.

Moved: Cr Ian Earl
Seconded: Cr Paul Gillett

That the South West Country Zone offers support to Local Governments and communities affected by Cyclone Seroja, with Local Governments to offer support as able through WALGA.

CARRIED

12. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS

12.1 2021 Meeting Dates

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

12.2 Next Meeting

MEETING DATE	HOST LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Friday, 25 June 2021	Shire of Capel

13. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 12:29pm.