

Great Eastern Country Zone

MINUTES

Monday, 13 February 2023

Shire of Kellerberrin

Recreation & Leisure Centre
110 Massingham Street
Kellerberrin

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Opening and Welcome	3
2.	Attendance	3
3.	Apologies.....	4
4.	Declarations of Interest.....	5
6.	Guest Speakers / Deputations	5
6.1	Jennifer Thomas Country Engagement Manager NBN.....	5
7.	Members of Parliament.....	6
8.	Agency Reports	6
8.1	Department of Local Government, Sport, and Cultural Industries (DLGSC).....	6
8.2	Wheatbelt Development Commission (WDC)	6
8.3	Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt (RDAW)	6
8.4	Main Roads Western Australia	6
8.5	Water Corporation	6
9.	Minutes.....	6
9.1	Confirmation of Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on Monday, 28 November 2022.....	6
9.2	Business Arising from the Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting held on Monday, 28 November 2022	7
9.3	Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Executive Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 2 February 2023.....	7
10.	Zone Business.....	7
10.1	Zone Conference – 28 February 2023	7
11.	Zone Reports.....	8
11.1	Zone President Report	8
11.2	Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG)	8
11.3	Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC)	9
11.4	Regional Health Advocacy Group.....	9
11.5	WALGA RoadWise.....	9
12.	Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) Business	9
12.1	2023 Local Government Honours Program.....	9
12.2	State Councillor Report	10
12.3	WALGA Status Report.....	10
12.4	Review of WALGA State Council Agenda's – Matters for Decision.....	10
12.4.1	State Council Agenda Items – (1 March 2023).....	10
12.5	WALGA President's Report.....	15
13.	Emerging Issues.....	16
13.1	Review of Audit Process by the Office of Auditor General	16
14.	Date, Time, and Place of Next Meetings.....	16
15.	Closure	16

1. Opening and Welcome

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9:30am.

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

The Great Eastern Country Zone of WALGA acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of this land, and pays our respects to their Elders past, present and future.

1.3 Announcements

Nil.

2. Attendance

Shire of Bruce Rock	President Cr Stephen Strange Deputy President Cr Anthony Crooks
Shire of Cunderdin	Deputy President Cr Tony Smith
Shire of Dowerin	President Cr Robert Trepp Cr Darrel Hudson Ms Rebecca McCall, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Kellerberrin	Deputy President Cr Emily Ryan Mr Raymond Griffiths, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Kondinin	Mr David Burton, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Mount Marshall	President Cr Tony Sachse (Chair) Mr Ben Mckay, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Narembeen	President Cr Kellie Mortimore Mr Paul Sheedy, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Nungarin	Deputy President Cr Gary Coumbe Mr Leonard Long, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Tammin	President Cr Glenice Batchelor Ms Joanne Soderlund, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Trayning	President Cr Melanie Brown Deputy President Cr Geoff Waters Ms Leanne Parola, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Wyalkatchem	President Cr Quentin Davies (Deputy Chair) Mr Peter Klein, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Yilgarn	Deputy President Cr Bryan Close Mr Nic Warren, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

Guests

Department of Local Government, Sport, & Cultural Industries Tom Fleming, Principal Policy Officer, Child Safeguarding Implementation Unit
Kait McNamara, Director, Child Safeguarding Implementation Unit

NBN Jennifer Thomas, Country Engagement Manager

Main Roads WA Suvrat Patel, A/Network Manager

Water Corporation Rebecca Bowler, Manager, Customer & Stakeholder

Regional Development Australia WA Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development

Members of Parliament Hon Steve Martin MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region

WALGA James McGovern, Manager Governance & Procurement
Vikki Barlow, Senior Policy Advisor Community

3. Apologies

Shire of Bruce Rock Mr Darren Mollenoyux, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

Shire of Cunderdin President Cr Alison Harris
Mr Stuart Hoblely, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

Shire of Kellerberrin President Cr Scott O' Neill

Shire of Kondinin President Cr Kent Mouritz
Deputy President Cr Beverley Gangell

Shire of Koorda President Cr Jannah Stratford
Deputy President Cr Buster Cooper
Mr Darren Simmons, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

Shire of Merredin President Cr Mark McKenzie
Cr Donna Crook
Ms Lisa Clack, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

Shire of Mount Marshall Deputy President Cr Nick Gillett

Shire of Mukinbudin President Cr Gary Shadbolt
Deputy President Cr Romina Nicoletti
Mr Dirk Sellenger, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

Shire of Narembeen Deputy President Cr Scott Stirrat

Shire of Nungarin President Cr Pippa de Lacy

Shire of Tammin Deputy President Cr Tanya Nicholls

Shire of Westonia	President Cr Mark Crees Deputy President Cr Ross Della Bosca Mr Bill Price, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Wyalkatchem	Deputy President Cr Owen Garner
Shire of Yilgarn	President Cr Wayne Della Bosca
Department of Local Government, Sport, & Cultural Industries	Samantha Cornthwaite, Regional Manager Wheatbelt
Wheatbelt Development Commission	Susan Hall, A/Chief Executive Officer Renee Manning, A/Director Regional Development
Main Roads	Mohammed Siddiqui, Regional Manager, Wheatbelt
Water Corporation	Michael Roberts, Regional Manager, Goldfields & Agricultural Region
National Emergency Management Agency	Annette Balmer, Recovery Support Officer
Members of Parliament	Hon Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt Hon Martin Aldridge MLC, Member for Agricultural Region Hon Colin de Grussa MLC, Member for Agricultural Region Hon Shelley Payne MLC, Member for Agricultural Region Rick Wilson MP, Federal Member for O'Connor Hon Peter Rundle MLA, Member for Roe Hon Darren West MLC, Member for Agricultural Region Hon Sandra Carr MLC, Member for Agricultural Region
WALGA	Janine Neugebauer, Governance & Organisational Services Officer Cliff Simpson, Regional Road Safety Advisor

4. **Declarations of Interest**

Nil.

6. **Guest Speakers / Deputations**

6.1 **Jennifer Thomas Country Engagement Manager NBN**

NBN, Country Engagement Manager, Jennifer Thomas presented to the Zone on the 2022/23 Emergency Management Preparedness Campaign.

Noted.

7. Members of Parliament

Any Members of State and Federal Government, in attendance will be invited to provide a brief update on matters relevant to the Zone.

Hon Steve Martin MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region provided an update.

Noted.

8. Agency Reports

8.1 Department of Local Government, Sport, and Cultural Industries (DLGSC)

Tom Fleming, Policy Officer, and Kait McNamara, Director, Child Safeguarding Implementation Unit presented to the Zone on the status of the Child Safe Awareness Policy template for local government.

The presentation outlined the Unit's role in supporting local government to implement the child safe reforms. This item will be listed for the May State Council Agenda.

Noted.

8.2 Wheatbelt Development Commission (WDC)

Susan Hall, A/Chief Executive Officer, is an apology. The WDC, February 2023 report was attached to the agenda.

Noted.

8.3 Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt (RDAW)

Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development, provided an update to the Zone.

Noted.

8.4 Main Roads Western Australia

Suvrat Patel, A/Network Manager, provided an update to the Zone.

Noted.

8.5 Water Corporation

Rebecca Bowler, Customer & Stakeholder Manager, provided an update to the Zone.

Noted.

9. Minutes

9.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on Monday, 28 November 2022

The Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on Monday, 28 November 2022 have previously been circulated to Member Councils.

RESOLVED

Moved: Shire of Tammin
Seconded: Shire of Wyalkatchem

That the minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on Monday, 28 November 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

9.2 Business Arising from the Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting held on Monday, 28 November 2022

9.3 Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Executive Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 2 February 2023

The Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on Thursday, 2 February 2023 were attached to the agenda.

RESOLVED

Moved: Shire of Bruce Rock
Seconded: Shire of Narembeen

That the Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on Thursday, 2 February 2023 be endorsed.

CARRIED

10. Zone Business

10.1 Zone Conference – 28 February 2023

Planning for the Great Eastern Country Zone Conference to be held in Merredin on Tuesday 28 February 2023 is now complete with the list of presenters detailed in the Programme below. We are fortunate to secure a presentation by the Hon Jackie Jarvis, Minister for Agriculture and Food; Forestry; Small Business, and by DFES Commissioner Darren Klemm, who committed to attend the Conference at a time of significant emergency activity responding to the Kimberley floods.

WALGA has communicated directly with Zone Elected Members, CEOs, and senior executives with a placeholder invitation in January. This is a free event and early registration advice would be greatly appreciated.

The Zone Executive looks forward to a strong commitment to this Conference, in support of the many presenters who are committing their time to attend and present on the theme of Regional Collaboration.

PROGRAMME

8.45 – 9.15am	Registration and Welcome
9.15am	Conference Opening - Cr Tony Sachse, Great Eastern Country Zone Chair - Cr Karen Chappel, WALGA President
9.35am	Welcome to Country
9.45am	Hon Jackie Jarvis MLC, Minister for Agriculture and Food; Forestry; Small Business
10.30 - 11am	<i>Morning Tea</i>
11.00am	Commissioner Darren Klemm, Department of Fire and Emergency Services
11.45am	Keynote Speaker Danielle Green, General Manager, Dowerin Machinery Field Days
12.30 – 1.30pm	<i>Lunch</i>
1.30pm	Susan Hall, A/CEO, Wheatbelt Development Commission
2.00pm	Mandy Walker, RDA Wheatbelt
2.30pm	Terry Waldron, Chair, Central East Aged Care Alliance Inc

3.00pm	John Nuttall, Technical Officer, Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network
3.30 – 3.45pm	<i>Afternoon Break</i>
3.45pm	Afternoon Presenters Panel Session and Q and A 'Strategic Opportunities for Future Regional Collaboration'
4.15pm	Conference Close - Cr Tony Sachse
4.30pm	<i>Networking Sundowner</i>

Noted.

11. Zone Reports

11.1 Zone President Report

Zone President Tony Sachse

Hopefully everyone has been able to have some sort of break as we head through 2023. Our calendars are filling up with meetings, workshops, training, and community functions. The executive has met prior to today's meeting to plan things going forward.

WALGA staff have been integral in helping bring together the upcoming Wheatbelt Conference in Merredin on Tuesday 28th February 2023. Thanks very much to everyone involved. The Hon Jackie Jarvis MLC, Minister for Agriculture and Food, Forestry, and Small Business is attending which is great news. Also attending is WALGA President Karen Chappel plus a great line up of speakers. The theme is regional collaboration so it's all about working together to get the best result for all our communities and the region generally. Hopefully councilors' that may not ordinarily attend conferences in the city will also attend. Being local content, it be very relevant and informative, not to mention all the networking opportunities.

There are lots of issues that we need to address and work through. No doubt the October 2023 Local Government Elections will be here before we know it. In the meantime, we will continue to work together with WALGA and all the Agencies for all our Local Governments and their constituents.

Finally, can I say thanks very much to James McGovern and Janine Neugebauer for their continued help and support.

RESOLVED

Moved: Shire of Trayning
Seconded: Shire of Mt Marshall

That the Zone President's Report be received.

CARRIED

11.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG)

President Tony Sachse

The LGAFG meeting last met on 13th July 2022. The next meeting is scheduled for early 2023. There is nothing else to report.

Noted.

11.3 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC)

President Tony Sachse will provide a report to the Zone.

The last Wheatbelt DEMC met in Northam on 20th October 2022. The unconfirmed minutes of this meeting have already been distributed. The next meeting is on 29th March 2023.

The Wheatbelt Operational Area Support Group (OASG)/ISG is now only meeting as needed. A meeting occurred on 12th, 13th and 14th December 2022 relating to the Cervantes fire in the Shire of Dandaragan. Another meeting was held on 31st January 2023 relating to the Avon Valley bushfire.

The Wheatbelt Human Services Managers Forum met on 6th December 2022. The minutes of the meeting and supporting documentation including the WHSMF FDV Working Party Community Awareness Program and the Wheatbelt Men's Respite Centre were attached. To the agenda.

Another meeting was held on 7th February 2023 the minutes of which are not yet available.

RESOLVED

Moved: Shire of Mt Marshall
Seconded: Shire of Wyalkatchem

That the Great Eastern District Emergency Management Committee Report be received.

CARRIED

11.4 Regional Health Advocacy Group

This item and a report will be prepared for the April 2023 meeting.

Noted.

11.5 WALGA RoadWise

Cliff Simpson, Regional Road Safety Advisor was an apology.

Noted.

12. Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) Business

12.1 2023 Local Government Honours Program

The annual Local Government Honours Program affords significant public recognition and celebration of the outstanding achievements and lasting contributions made by Elected Members and Local Government officers to their respective Councils, the WA Local Government sector, and the wider community.

Nominations for the 2023 Honours Program are open now.

There are six awards in the 2023 Program:

1. Local Government Medal
2. Life Membership
3. Eminent Service Award
4. Merit Award
5. Local Government Distinguished Officer Award
6. Young Achievers Award

Nominations will close at **5:00pm on Friday, 9 June** and the awards will be presented as part of the WALGA Annual General Meeting held on Monday, 18 September. For more information or to submit a nomination, visit the WALGA website or contact Kathy Robertson, Executive Officer Governance, on 9213 2036 or via email at honours@walga.asn.au.

Noted.

12.2 State Councillor Report

Cr Stephen Strange

RESOLVED

Moved: Shire of Bruce Rock
Seconded: Shire of Nungarin

That the State Councillor Report be received.

CARRIED

12.3 WALGA Status Report

By James McGovern, Executive Officer

There were no matters to present in the Status Report for February 2023.

Noted.

12.4 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda's – Matters for Decision

12.4.1 State Council Agenda Items – (1 March 2023)

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: [State Council Agenda 1 March 2023](#)

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

7.1 Proposed Advocacy Position on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

Executive Summary

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

WALGA Recommendation

That the following Advocacy Position be endorsed: WALGA supports constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People through the enshrining of a Voice to Parliament.

Great Eastern Country Zone Recommendation

RESOLVED

Moved: Shire of Bruce Rock
 Seconded: Shire of Tammin

That the Great Eastern Country Zone does not believe that WALGA should be actively participating in the National Referendum on a Voice to Parliament.

CARRIED

7.2 Community Disaster Resilience Strategy Submission

Executive Summary

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

WALGA Recommendation

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

7.3 Child Safeguarding Advocacy Position

Executive Summary

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

WALGA Recommendation

That the Child Safeguarding Advocacy Position as follows be endorsed:

Child Safeguarding

1. *Local Government supports:*
 - a. *the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse 2017, in particular Recommendation 6.12 which can be achieved by Local Government implementing and embedding child safeguarding across its functions with support from Governments at the national, state and territory levels; and*

- b. *the ten National Principles for Child Safe Organisations (Australian Humans Rights Commission).*
 2. *The State Government through an Independent Oversight Body should provide financial, resourcing and capacity building support to Local Governments to implement and embed child safeguarding across its functions, through the provision of:*
 - a. *supporting materials such as template policies, procedures, and guidelines;*
 - b. *consistent key messaging and resources to promote and share in venues and facilities and online;*
 - c. *examples of best practice, including case studies;*
 - d. *self-assessment tools to assist Local Government;*
 - e. *ongoing training and skills development for Local Government staff, including online training options;*
 - f. *funding for the delivery of the child safeguarding function within smaller, less well resourced (Band 3 and Band 4) Local Governments; and*
 - g. *expert officers within each region to provide support and guidance to Local Government on child safeguarding.*
 3. *The Local Government sector supports Local Government participation in the State's National Redress Scheme, with full financial coverage by the State.*

7.4 Submission on Draft Guideline Minimising Noise Impact from Outdoor Community Basketball Facilities

Executive Summary

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

WALGA Recommendation

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

7.5 Main Roads Draft Roadside Advertising Policy and Application Guidelines

Executive Summary

- Main Roads is seeking feedback on their Draft Roadside Advertising Policy and Application Guidelines.
- This policy could be used to significantly curtail the deployment of roadside advertising devices, which are currently used by Local Governments as a source of public realm amenity, support funding bus shelter improvements and are a source of revenue for Local Government in some cases.
- As drafted, these guidelines would apply to most of the public road network, including Local Government roads, and signs on private property that are visible from the road. The draft guidelines would cover advertiser-funded bus shelters and information or decorative banners.
- There is no demonstrated road safety problem resulting from roadside advertising devices, as currently deployed in Western Australia. Road safety is the stated rationale for developing this policy.
- WALGA has prepared a submission to Main Roads on the guidelines, requesting:

- Greater delegation of authority in assessing small format static signs and small format digital signs.
- Guaranteed processing times for classes of signs for which Main Roads retains the assessment function. This includes requesting a schedule of approval time frames, and a “deemed approved” clause in the event of these timeframes not being met.

WALGA Recommendation

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

Policy Team Reports

8.1 Environment and Waste Policy Team Report

1. Matters for State Council Decision

The Submission on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation draft Guideline *Minimising noise impact from outdoor community basketball facilities* was considered and endorsed for State Council decision at the March 2023 meeting (see [Agenda item 7.4](#)).

2. Matters for State Council Noting

The following updates were noted by the Policy Team:

New Urban Forest promotional videos – available on the WALGA website [here](#).

Varroa mite and backyard beekeepers – WALGA continues to engage with DPIRD on this issue.

In relation to Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD):

- Release of a [National LSD Action Plan](#);
- A Northern Australian Coordination Network has been [established](#) and funded to assist in managing the threat of LSD and FMD;
- The Western Australian taskforce continues to meet, this group includes DPIRD, industry groups, livestock agents and processors; and
- The National FMD Biosecurity Response Zone extended to 30 June 2023 to ensure Australia’s strong protections against FMD remain in place.

WALGA Recommendation

That the matters considered by the Environment and Waste Policy Team be noted.

8.2 Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team Report

The Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

- *Employee Relations*
- *Governance*
- *Strategy and Association Governance*
- *Training*
- *Regional Capacity Building / Local Government Reform*

The Governance and Organisational Services (GOS) Policy Team have not had a meeting since the last State Council meeting in December 2022.

A meeting of the GOS Policy Team is scheduled for Friday, 3 February.

A Report providing an update on matters considered at that meeting will be included in the next State Council Agenda.

WALGA Recommendation

That the Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team Report be noted.

8.3 Infrastructure Policy Team Report

The Infrastructure Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

- Roads and paths
- Road safety
- Transport
- Freight
- Utilities (including telecommunications and underground power)

This Report provides an update on matters considered, since the last State Council meeting, by the Infrastructure Policy Team at its meetings held on 7 December 2022 and 11 January 2023.

1. Matters for State Council Decision

Nil.

2. Matters for State Council Noting

2.1 Policy Team meeting on 7 December 2022

At the meeting on 7 December, the Infrastructure Policy Team considered matters related to:

Road Traffic Issues

This matter was deferred for consideration after the development and endorsement of a clear Local Government advocacy position on speed management.

Car Parking and Traffic Congestion Around Schools

The Policy Team requested WALGA use its role at the Safe Active Travel to School Working Group to advocate for desired outcomes and to provide advice back to the Local Government sector.

Proposal for Regional Road Maintenance Contracts with Main Roads

The Policy Team requested WALGA explore, in discussion with Main Roads WA, opportunities and interest in contracting Local Governments to undertake maintenance and minor works on the State road network.

Northern Australian Beef Roads Program

The Policy Team requested that WALGA engage with the Goldfields-Esperance Regional Road Group regarding the matter of Northern Australian Beef Roads Program.

2.2 Policy Team meeting on 11 January 2023

Western Power Access Arrangement 5

At the meeting on 11 January, the Infrastructure Policy Team endorsed the draft submission, consistent with the policy positions endorsed by State Council in April 2022, concerning Western Power Access Arrangement 5 (2022 – 2027) for lodgement with the Economic Regulation Authority.

WALGA Recommendation

That the matters considered by the Infrastructure Policy Team be noted.

8.4 People and Place Policy Team Report

1. Matters for State Council Decision

The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act Stage 3 Co-Design Submission was considered and endorsed for State Council decision by Flying Minute (see [Agenda item 9.5](#)).

The following items were considered and endorsed for State Council decision at the March 2023 meeting:



A submission on the draft Western Australian Disaster Resilience Strategy (see [Agenda item 7.2](#)); and
An updated Child Safeguarding Advocacy Position (see [Agenda item 7.3](#)).

2. Matters for State Council Noting

The following noting items were considered:

The consultation response to the Draft Position Statement: Child Care Premises prior to submission to the DPLH (see [Agenda item 9.6](#)); and
The Local Development Plan Background Paper (see [Agenda item 9.3](#)).

WALGA Recommendation

That the matters considered by the People and Place Policy Team be noted.

Matters for Noting/Information

- 9.1 Animal welfare in Emergencies Grant Program Overview
- 9.2 Emergency Management Update
- 9.3 Local Development Plan Background Paper
- 9.4 2023-24 WALGA Federal Budget Submission
- 9.5 WALGA Submission on Phase Three of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 Co-Design Process
- 9.6 Child Care Premises Position Statement: Consultation Response
- 9.7 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC)

RESOLVED

Moved: Shire of Tammin
Seconded: Shire of Dowerin

That the Great Eastern Country Zone

- 1. Supports Matters for Decision, items 7.2 to 7.5 and 8.1 to 8.4 as listed above in the March 2023 State Council Agenda.
- 2. Notes all Matters for Noting and Organisational Reports as listed in the March 2023 State Council Agenda.

CARRIED

12.5 WALGA President's Report

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

RESOLVED

Moved: Shire of Bruce Rock
Seconded: Shire of Trayning

That the Great Eastern Country Zone notes the WALGA President's Report.

CARRIED

13. Emerging Issues

13.1 Review of Audit Process by the Office of Auditor General
--

Shire of Yilgarn

The Zone raised the issue of a lack of confidence in the auditing process managed by the Office of the Auditor General and request that WALGA lead a comprehensive review of the auditing process.

RESOLVED

Moved: Shire of Tammin
Seconded: Shire of Cunderdin

That the Great Eastern Country Zone supports a comprehensive review, prioritised and led by WALGA, of the audit process managed by the Office of the Auditor General.

CARRIED

14. Date, Time, and Place of Next Meetings

The next Great Eastern Country Zone meeting will be held on Monday, 17 April 2023 commencing at 9.30am. This meeting will be hosted by the Shire of Merredin.

15. Closure

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 12:37pm.