



Great Eastern Country Zone

Minutes

**Held at Cummins Theatre
Merredin**

**Commenced at 9:30am
Thursday 25 June 2020**

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Great Eastern Country Zone

Meeting was held at Cummins Theatre, Merredin

Commenced at 9.30am, Thursday 25 June 2020

Minutes

1. OPENING AND WELCOME
2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendance

Shire of Bruce Rock	President Cr Stephen Strange Cr Ramesh Rajagopalan Mr Darren Mollenoyux Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Cunderdin	Cr Dennis Whisson Mr Stuart Hobley Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Dowerin	Cr Darrel Hudson Ms Rebecca McCall Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Kellerberrin	President Cr Rodney Forsyth Mr Raymond Griffiths Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Koorda	President Cr Jannah Stratford Mr Darren Simmons Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Merredin	President Cr Julie Flockart Cr Mal Willis Mr Mark Dacombe Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Mount Marshall	President Cr Tony Sachse – Deputy Chair Mr John Nuttall Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Narembeen	President Cr Rhonda Cole - Chair Mr Chris Jackson Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Nungarin	President Pippa DeLacey Cr Eileen O'Connell
Shire of Tammin	Cr Glenice Batchelor

Shire of Trayning	President Cr Melanie Brown Cr Geoff Waters Mr Brian Jones Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Westonia	President Cr Karin Day Mr Jamie Criddle Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Wyalkatchem	President Cr Quentin Davies Cr Stephen Gamble
Shire of Yilgarn	President Wayne Della Bosca Mr Peter Clarke Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

WALGA Representatives

Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Services
Nebojsa Franich, Economics Policy Manager

Guests

Ms Jen Collins – Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries
Mr Craig Manton, Main Roads WA
Kathleen Brown, Electorate Officer, Mia Davies MLA Office

Apologies

Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt
Hon Laurie Graham MLC, Agricultural Region
Hon. Martin Aldridge MLC, Agricultural Region
Cr Alison Harris – Shire of Cunderdin
Cr Julie Chatfield – Shire of Dowerin
Cr Scott O'Neill – Shire of Dowerin
President Cr Sue Meeking – Shire of Kondinin
Ms Mia Maxfield, Chief Executive Officer – Shire of Kondinin
Cr Pamela McWha – Shire of Koorda
Cr Nick Gillett – Shire of Mt Marshall
President Cr Gary Shadbolt – Shire of Mukinbudin
Cr Sandie Ventris – Shire of Mukinbudin
Mr Dirk Sellenger – Shire of Mukinbudin
Cr Kellie Mortimore – Shire of Narembeen
Cr Gary Coumbe – Shire of Nungarin
Mr Adam Majid Chief Executive Officer – Shire of Nungarin
Cr Tania Daniels – Shire of Tammin
Mr Neville Hale Chief Executive Officer – Shire of Tammin
Cr Bill Huxtable – Shire of Westonia
Ms Taryn Dayman Chief Executive Officer – Shire of Wyalkatchem
Cr Bryan Close – Shire of Yilgarn
Rob Cossart, CEO Wheatbelt Development Commission
Ms Kristen Twine, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt

Attachments

The following were provided as attachments to the agenda:

1. Great Eastern Country Zone Minutes 30 April 2020.
2. Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee Minutes 11 June 2020.
3. Great Eastern Country Zone Budget 2020/21

4. DETECT Snapshot
5. DETECT poster
6. Commonwealth Minister for Communications letter re: telecommunication issues in the Wheatbelt
7. Wheatbelt Health MOU
8. President's Report

State Council Agenda – via link: <https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/9d6cd564-6fdd-486b-afb-80472db6b3d7/Agenda-State-Council-1-July-2020.pdf>

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Darren Mollenoyux Declared an Impartiality Interest in item 7.4

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nil

5. GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS

5.1 Economic Update – Nebojsa Franich, Manager Economics, WALGA

Nebojsa provided an economic update to the Zone to assist members in their strategic and operational planning for 2020-21 in the context of recovering from COVID-19.

A copy of the presentation is attached as Attachment A.

6. MINUTES

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held Thursday 30 April

The Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on Thursday 30 April 2020 were previously been circulated to Member Councils.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ramesh Rajagopalan

Seconded: Cr Karin Day

That the Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held Thursday 30 April 2020 are confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

6.2 Business Arising from the Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting Thursday 30 April 2020

6.2.1 Local Government Audits – Office of the Auditor General (OAG)

Discussion was held on the Auditor General not fully addressing the Local Government sectors concerns in respect to the cost and resources involved in financial audits since the OAG has taken responsibility for the audits.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Tony Sachse
Seconded: Cr Stephen Strange

1. That WALGA carry-out research with the sector to quantify the new and extra requirements that the OAG is requesting from Local Governments and determine whether there is consistency across audits. Research to include information on the extra Local Government staff time that is now required.
2. This information be used to advocate to the OAG to further consider the costing model and the consistency of audits across the sector.

CARRIED

6.3 Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee Meeting held Thursday 11 June 2020 (Attachment 2)

The recommendations from the Executive Committee Meeting have been extracted for the Zones consideration.

6.3.1 (Exec item 5.2) Budget 2020/21

Background:

At the April Great Eastern Country Zone meeting the following was resolved:

ZONE RESOLUTION

*Moved: President Cr Tony Sasche
Seconded: President Cr Dennis Whisson*

That the subscriptions be set at \$0.00 for the 20/21 financial year and each member Local Government pay for their own Elected Member training.

CARRIED

Subsequently the Budgeted Profit and Loss adopted by this Committee at its meeting on 16 April 2020 is amended to reflect this revision. The impact of the revision is as follows:

- General Subscription Income reduces from \$28,000 to nil
- The bottom line result changes from a Profit of \$11,170 to a loss of \$16,830.
- Cash reserves at 30 June 2020 are projected to reduce to approximately \$158,000.

The Revised Budget was provided with the Agenda.

Executive Committee Resolved

That the Revised Budgeted Profit and Loss Statement of the Great Eastern Country Zone of WALGA for 2020/21 be recommended for Zone endorsement.

ZONE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Stephen Strange

Seconded: Cr Karin Day

That the Revised Budgeted Profit and Loss Statement of the Great Eastern Country Zone of WALGA for 2020/21 be endorsed.

CARRIED

6.3.2 (Exec Item 5.4) Change of Date August Zone meeting

As the Dowerin Field day has been cancelled for 2020, the Executive Committee has recommended that the August Zone meeting be held on Thursday 27 August.

Moved: Cr Rod Forsyth

Seconded: Cr Tony Sachse

That the August 2020 Zone meeting be scheduled for Thursday 27 August 2020.

CARRIED

6.3.3 Minutes of the Executive Committee 11 June 2020

Moved: Cr Rod Forsyth

Seconded: Cr Tony Sachse

That the remaining items contained in the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the Great Eastern Country Zone held Thursday 11 June 2020 be endorsed.

CARRIED

7. ZONE BUSINESS

7.1 Engineering Review of Tier 3 Rail

Background

The State Government has announced that an engineering review of Tier 3 rail lines will be commissioned. The review will examine the costs and time required to return the lines to operation. Tier 3 rail lines were closed in 2013 and 2014. The engineering consultancy will be managed by the Public Transport Authority (PTA).

Access to Tier 3 rail lines was not included in the arbitrated agreement between CBH and Arc Infrastructure that was concluded in November 2019. At the time CBH indicated that a key commercial barrier was that it would take up to four years to refurbish the lines, which meant that the grain handler would only be guaranteed access for six years under the new agreement.

The State Government's draft Revitalising Agricultural Region Freight Strategy includes significant investment in Tier 1 and Tier 2 rail lines, but does not including re-opening Tier 3 lines. This strategy has not been formally launched by the Government.

WALGA State Council has considered freight on rail on many occasions. The current policy position may be summarised as WALGA supports the movement of freight on rail where it is economically viable to do so.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Rod Forsyth
Seconded: Cr Quentin Davies

1. That the Great Eastern Country Zone note the engineering review of Tier 3 rail lines that has been commissioned and acknowledge the State Government for this initiative.
2. That progress of the engineering review of the Tier 3 rail lines be monitored and reports of findings be brought to a future meeting.
3. That the Zone recommend to the State Government to the consultants to liaise with CBH on this issue.

CARRIED

7.2 Operation DETECT Snapshot - Wheatbelt Contact and Booking System

Background

Local Government will have employees who are eligible for testing under Operation DETECT Snapshot and you may also have contacts within your networks to reach others. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me.

WAPHA has used the following information and is contacting all non-WACHS health care providers, similarly WAPOL is communicating with their staff.

WACHS Wheatbelt has contacted all meat works and private residential aged care facilities in the Wheatbelt region to manage outreach testing to their facilities given numbers of staff.

The WA Department of Health's DETECT Snapshot program invites people from **identified groups in the community who show no symptoms of COVID-19** to be tested for the virus to get a better understanding of any COVID-19 that may be in the community. See attached fact sheet and poster for more details.

Eligible groups include people in the following categories who are over the age of 18:

- Healthcare workers, including WA Health staff, employees in private hospitals, residential aged care facilities, general practices, pharmacies, the disability sector, or any worker employed by an organisation delivering health services
- WA Police staff
- Meat workers employed in an abattoir, meat packing or in further processing such as small goods manufacture
- Retail workers such as employees in supermarkets, department stores and specialty stores
- Hospitality workers such as employees in cafes, restaurants, pubs or hotels.

Testing is available from today, Thursday 28 May 2020 to Wednesday 10 June 2020 (inclusive) for all eligible workers who do not have any symptoms of COVID-19.

WACHS Wheatbelt has a booking system that will allow all eligible participants to book a time for testing. To book a test, please call 9888 2288 to make a booking.

A copy of the DETECT Snapshot was attached with the Agenda.

Noted

7.3 Telecommunications – Minister Response

By John Nutall, CEO Shire of Mt Marshall

Background

Correspondence was sent to the Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts in March 2020 to seek a response in regards to the ongoing Telecommunication issues in the Wheatbelt region. Attached with the Agenda was the Minister's response.

The Zone is still concerned at the lack of progress on this matter.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Rod Forsyth
Seconded: Cr Glenice Batchelor

That WALGA again raise the issue of lack of communication when power outages occur with the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) and the Federal/State Government politicians advising of the lack of response from Telstra on this issue and the extreme concern in an emergency situation that this causes.

CARRIED

7.4 Cunderdin Agricultural College – Year 11 Student accommodation

By Kirstie Davis, Community Policy Manager, WALGA

Background

Discussion was held on the situation where year 11 students attending the Cunderdin Agriculture College are required to live at Muresk College in Northam as there is not sufficient accommodation at the Cunderdin College.

The Executive committee requested some information be researched on the number of year 11 students attending Cunderdin College and how many are affected by this situation and is the college oversubscribed. Consideration to be given for the Zone to request the State Government to provide funding assistance for infrastructure at the college.

Response to Zone questions

- The WA College of Agriculture - Cunderdin (the College) is a fully co-educational, residential complex catering for up to 136 students in residence in the Wheatbelt. The farm comprises 4,063 ha of land of which 2,516 ha are arable. Various stock and cropping enterprises are undertaken on the farm for the educational benefit of students. Buildings include residential dormitories, Design and Technology Centre, Farm Workshop, Butcher shop, Piggery, Shearing Shed, Poultry Unit, Recreation Centre, Classroom/Library complex and Administration.
- There are currently 40 students affected by the pandemic due to shared dorm arrangements at the College. These students are being accommodated and transported to and from Muresk Institute in Northam twice a day to attend the College.
- The College is consistently oversubscribed by 5-15 enrolments on the waitlist each year.

Secretariat Comment

The WA College of Agriculture – Cunderdin is a residential, day education and training facility for Year 11 and 12 students interested in agricultural, trades and related industries. The students experience a combination of academic teaching and relevant practical and trade experience in a 4,063 hectare working farm environment. College graduates go on to gain apprenticeships in industry such as agricultural science and veterinary nursing and employment in the agricultural sector, while some go

on to further their studies in tertiary education. There is significant data suggesting that students remain living and working in the region after leaving the College.

The College is a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) with established industry partnerships providing students with access to cutting edge technology and first class industry research to complement all areas of study.

The five residential Agricultural Colleges in Western Australia formed a consortium named the Western Australian College of Agriculture. The five WA agricultural colleges – Cunderdin, Denmark, Harvey, Morawa and Narrogin with all except Morawa at capacity to the number of enrolments they can accommodate.

The College has been working with State Government on a Business Case for a number of years to re-profile dorm accommodation from shared to single use. The need for this has been further highlighted through the pandemic experience. As the College is consistently oversubscribed in enrolments there is an established need to also increase accommodation provision to an additional maximum of 20 students. It is not in the best interest of the College at this stage to accommodate more than the additional 20 students as this would require a restructure of available trade spaces, class sizes and offerings.

The State public sector will be using Diversify WA as its Framework to guide their priorities for the coming years. The second focus point for reform and investment, as outlined on page five, is for Western Australian to be “known for our premium food, wine and agricultural commodities including innovative production methods”. With State Government strongly supporting a continued messaging for the creation of jobs and to build a strong and diverse economy together with the support of Regional Development Commissions

Primary Industries is one of six priority sectors for the State Governments and includes the development and implementation of:

- a Primary Industries Strategy
- Digital Connectivity
- Regional Growth Initiatives
- Cotton on the Ord
- Grains Research Rebuilding
- Sheep and Wool Industries

Furthermore the Government is committed to supporting regional communities by diversifying the economy and creating 30,000 new jobs in the regions by mid-2024.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Tony Sachse
Seconded: Cr Julie Flockart

That the Great Eastern Country request the State Government provide funding assistance through the Business Case for infrastructure upgrades to the accommodation at the Cunderdin Agricultural College to address the oversubscription of students that will continue to support the Government in achieving its targets or regional prosperity and regional job creation.

CARRIED

7.5 Local Government Legislation Amendment Act 2019 – Consequential Regulations

Background

Consequential amendments to regulations are now required to effect further change and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries has released the *Local Government*

Regulations Amendment (Consequential) Regulations 2020 for this purpose. The Department has also prepared Explanatory Notes as an aid to understanding the effect of the proposed regulations.

The Department advises that the regulations principally relate to:

- the harmonisation of the appointment of authorised persons across multiple pieces of legislation;
- local and statewide public notices; and
- improved access to information, including through publication on Local Government websites.

WALGA is conducting a consultation process and seeks feedback from Member Local Governments on the proposed regulations. Please provide any comments by **4pm Friday 3rd July 2020**.

Zone Local Governments are encouraged to provide WALGA with a response by the 3 July deadline.

Noted

7.6 Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program

Please see below advice regarding guidelines for the Federal **Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program**, which has been raised at a number of Zone meetings during the current round.

The advice WALGA received last week from Laurena McNeill (A/Director Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications) was:

1. Program Guidelines are waiting approval from the Deputy Prime Minister and are expected to be released week commencing 22 June (with no guarantees about the timing).
2. The Guidelines will be emailed directly to all Local Governments following release.
3. A Question and Answer series will be posted on the website.
4. A grant agreement will be sent to each Local Government. After this is signed, a work schedule will need to be submitted, in the same way as Roads to Recovery operates.
5. Will need to be clear that the project will be completed by 30 June 2021.
6. Local Governments will need to declare that the funded projects are additional. The Commonwealth is keen to ensure that the funds are not being used to substitute for projects that would have been funded internally. However, there is no specific process to demonstrate this.
7. Encourage specific questions be directed to ijp@infrastructure.gov.au

Noted

8. ZONE REPORTS

8.1 Zone President Report

By Cr Rhonda Cole

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Dennis Whisson
Seconded: Cr Pippa De Lacey

That the Zone President's Report be received.

CARRIED

8.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group

By Cr Julie Flockart

Cr Forsyth advised that there has not been a meeting since the last Zone meeting.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Julie Flockart
Seconded: Cr Quentin Davies

That the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Report be received.

CARRIED

8.3 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee

By Cr Tony Sachse

Reports on the progress of the Wheatbelt DEMC was circulated prior to the meeting.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Tony Sachse
Seconded: Cr Quentin Davies

That the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee Report and attachments be received.

CARRIED

8.4 Wheatbelt Health MOU Group

By Cr Glenice Batchelor

Please refer to Agenda attachment of the draft Health MOU.

Cr Batchelor provided a report on the Wheatbelt Health MOU at the meeting. Noting concerns with the MOU DOCUMENT. Cr Batchelor will submit concerns to WALGA via Tony Brown.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Glenice Batchelor
Seconded: Cr Ramesh Rajagopalan

That the Wheatbelt Health MOU Group Report be received.

CARRIED

**9. WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (WALGA)
BUSINESS**

9.1 State Councillor Report

Cr Stephen Strange

Cr Strange reported on WALGA's response to COVID-19 AND HAD PROVIDED GOOD LEADERSHIP. The weekly webinars have proved beneficial for members.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Stephen Strange

Seconded: Cr Tony Sachse

That the State Councillor Report be received and the WALGA [President and CEO be invited to the next Zone meeting.

CARRIED

9.2 WALGA Status Report

By Tony Brown, Executive Officer

BACKGROUND

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

GREAT EASTERN COUNTRY ZONE STATUS REPORT June 2020

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Great Eastern C	2020 February 26 Zone Agenda Item 7.1 Federal Government Drought Communities	That the Great Eastern Country Zone requests WALGA, in consultation with ALGA, to liaise with the WA State Government Ministers for Water, Agriculture and Environment to provide a coordinated holistic response in respect to the ongoing drying climate issues and access to the Drought Communities Funding Program.	State Council Resolution That State Council endorse the recommendation from the Great Eastern Country Zone relating to the Federal Government Drought Communities Program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the Great Eastern Country Zone requests WALGA, in consultation with ALGA, to liaise with the WA State Government Ministers for Water, Agriculture and Environment to provide a coordinated holistic response in respect to the ongoing drying climate issues and access to the Drought Communities Funding Program. RESOLUTION 37.1/2020 WALGA has met with the WA Minister for Water Chief of Staff and is lobbying through both the State and ALGA for a third round of funding, bespoke to Western Australia.	June 2020 Ongoing	Mark Batty Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning mbatty@walga.asn.au 9213 2078
Great Eastern C	2020 February 26 Zone Agenda Item 12.1 Landgate – Delays in receiving valuations	Request WALGA to inquire with Landgate in respect to the delays in receiving interim valuations.	WALGA has been carrying out a lot of work in the valuations area, with the priority being to seek deferment of the 20/21 valuations. The issue of timeliness of interim valuations will also be progressed.	June 2020	Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au
Great Eastern C	2019 June 27 Zone Agenda Item 12.1 Government Regional Officer Housing	That the Zone request WALGA to advocate on the impact of Government Regional Officer Housing on retaining public sector professionals (Doctors, nurses, teachers) in the Great Eastern Country Zone.	In May 2019, the McGowan Government deferred a planned increase to GROH rents in 2019-20. The next increase of \$30pw was due to come into effect 1 July 2019. https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2019/05/McGowan-Government-temporarily-defers-increase-to-GROH-rents.aspx WALGA notes and includes the Zones Recommendation in its advocacy for GROH and greater service support for regional and remote Western Australian Local Governments, acknowledging the importance of this topic in the coming months.	Ongoing	Mark Batty Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning mbatty@walga.asn.au 9213 2078

			<p>WALGA has been advised by WAPOL and the relevant State Government agency who confirm the rental freeze to GROH properties will remain until the completion of the review of the GROH Tenant Rent Setting Framework. Further work has been done in strengthening the partnerships between WAPOL officers and key Local Government officers in specified areas of concerns.</p> <p>Department of Communities modelling and draft ERC proposal has been elevated within the Department. The Director General has called for a working group to be established to include representatives from GROH, of which the TSRF review will be included. As further information is made available, WALGA will remain in contact with the Zones to provide timely feedback and advice.</p> <p>Department of Communities finalised their restructure on 20 May 2020. WALGA will now reengage with Dept. staff to discuss and progress GROH matters.</p>		
Great Eastern C	2019 June 27 Zone Agenda Item 7.1 WALGA Advocacy Regarding Greenfinch Mine Expansion	<p>That the Great Eastern Country Zone</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supports the Shire of Westonia's position to seek clearing and mining approval for the proposed Greenfinch mining operation. 2. Requests WALGA to raise the issue with relevant authorities to ensure that the Greenfinch Project has every chance of success. 	<p>Clearing permits have now been issued by DWER, and WALGA is working with the Shire to fast track the land declaration process for the road reserve through the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage.</p> <p>Ongoing.</p>	June 2020	Mark Batty Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning mbatty@walga.asn.au 9213 2078
Great Eastern C	2019 March Zone Agenda Item 12.3 Telstra – Power Outages Effecting Communications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Requests WALGA to advocate through the State Emergency Management Committee for action in respect to power outages effecting telecommunications and the eligibility for Local Governments to turn generators on. 	<p>WALGA have written to the SEMC to request action in respect to power outages effecting telecommunications.</p> <p>WALGA have advocated to the SEMC and the SEMC have included this item on their agenda at the meeting to be held 2 August 2019.</p> <p>WALGA tabled this issue at the August SEMC meeting requesting SEMC to formally write to the District Emergency management Committees and to provide WALGA with advice on this matter. SEMC have taken this as an action.</p> <p>The Zone will be provided with a copy of SEMC's response when received.</p> <p>This matter has been officially raised at SEMC, particularly the sector is still awaiting a response.</p> <p>WALGA tabled concerns of the sector at the State Emergency Management Committee on Friday 13th December 2019. Following this WALGA met with Telstra and discussed how we can better understand the Telstra notification systems and how Local Governments can access the information and key contacts should this happen.</p> <p>The key outcomes from the meeting were for Telstra to share a series of fact sheets on topics relevant to the issues being faced by your communities and provide key contact information in order for these matters to be escalated or referred should you need to.</p> <p>The first fact sheet provided by Telstra was on Power Outages and was disseminated to all regional councils.</p>	Ongoing	Mark Batty Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning mbatty@walga.asn.au 9213 2078

<p>Great Eastern C</p>	<p>2018 November 29 Zone Agenda Item 7.3 Container Deposit Scheme Locations</p>	<p>That the Great Eastern Country Zone requests that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All Local Governments be guaranteed, as a minimum, one flexible refund point in their area. 2. A flexible access point should be defined as a refund point which, as a minimum, is open 16 hours each two week period, including at least 8 hours at weekends <p>The State Government provide appropriate funding for the refund points.</p>	<p>Due to COVID-19, on 31 March, the State Government announced that the scheduled implementation date of 2 June 2020, had been postponed, and will relaunched in October 2020.</p>	<p>June 2020</p>	<p>Mark Batty Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning mbatty@walga.asn.au 9213 2078</p>
<p>Great Eastern C</p>	<p>2018 November 29 Zone Agenda Item 7.4 Water Corporation - New management and billing structure for standpipes</p>	<p>That the Great Eastern Country Zone request WALGA to advocate opposing the WA Water Corporation proposed fee structure in remote parts of the eastern Wheatbelt and;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Request the Water Corporation look to possible subsidised billing to remote user standpipes for users without any other possible means of potable water; <p>Write to the Department of Water suggesting that as a result of the increased Standpipe water costs that they re-introduce the Farm Water Grants to allow effected landholders the ability to create on-farm water storage and water connections</p>	<p>Considered by the Infrastructure Policy Team at its March meeting and further follow-up with Councils requested with feedback to the next meeting.</p>	<p>July 2020</p>	<p>Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031</p>

ZONE COMMENT

Cr Sachse raised the rural water scheme issues and put forward the following updated recommendation;

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Tony Sachse

Seconded: Cr Karin Day

1. That WALGA advocate to the Federal Government to request additional funding for the Rural Water Scheme as the fund has been fully subscribed 1 year into a 3 year program.
2. That WALGA advocate to the State Government to reinstate the Farm Water grants scheme.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Glenice Batchelor

Seconded: Cr Mal Willis

That the Great Eastern Country Zone WALGA June 2020 Status Report be noted.

CARRIED

9.3 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Matters for Decision

BACKGROUND

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

The full State Council Agenda can be found via link: <https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/9d6cd564-6fdd-486b-afbf-80472db6b3d7/Agenda-State-Council-1-July-2020.pdf>

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

Emerging Issues

4.1 COVID-19 Pandemic – WALGA Response

WALGA Recommendation

That the information contained in this report relating to WALGA's response to the COVID-19 pandemic be noted.

Matters for Decision

5.1 WA Public Libraries Agreement

WALGA Recommendation

That the draft State and Local Government Agreement for Public Libraries be endorsed.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Julie Flockart
Seconded: Cr Mal Willis

That the Great Eastern Country Zone supports all Matters for Decision as listed above in the July 2020 State Council Agenda.

CARRIED

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

- 6.1 Draft Aviation Strategy 2020
- 6.2 Regional Aviation Policy Issues Paper
- 6.3 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC)

9.5 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Organisational Reports

- 7.1 Key Activity Reports
 - 7.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Environment and Waste 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, People and Place

9.6 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Policy Forum Reports

- 7.2 Policy Forum Reports
 - 7.2.1 Mayors/Presidents Policy Forum
 - 7.2.2 Mining Community Policy Forum
 - 7.2.3 Container Deposit Legislation Policy Forum
 - 7.2.4 Economic Development Forum

9.7 WALGA President's Report

The WALGA President's was attached to the Agenda.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Quentin Davies
Seconded: Cr Glenice Batchelor

That the Great Eastern Country Zone notes the following reports contained in the WALGA July 2020 State Council Agenda.

- Matters for Noting/Information
- Organisational Reports

- Policy Forum Report; and
- WALGA President's Report

CARRIED

10. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

10.1 Mia Davies Office

Kath Brown advised that Mia Davies has recommended that Local Governments and the Zone write to the Minister for Emergency Services on the Power Outages issue and cc Mia's office.

11. AGENCY REPORTS

11.1 Wheatbelt Development Commission (WDC)

Cr Julie Flockart as a WDC Board Member presented the Development Commissions report noting the following;

- Regional Roundtable meetings with Minister MacTiernan and Minister Dawson
- RED Grants are available
- WDC – Strategic Plan Review
- CEO Rob Cossart is available to meet all Local Governments in the region.

Cr Flockart also acknowledged the passing of James McMillan Brown, former Shire President, Shire of Merredin and MLA/MLC for the District.

Noted

11.2 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

Please find below a link to an Update from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries. Featured in the update:

- Community Resilience Scorecard
- Local Government (COVID-19) Response Order 2020
- Financial Assistance Grants 2020-21 and Advance Payment
- Restrictions on Travel to remote Aboriginal communities
- National Reconciliation Week 2020
- CSRFF – Updated timeframes
- Sport and Recreation Recovery Framework

[DLGSC Update June 2020](#)

Jen Collins presented the Departments report.

Noted

11.3 Main Roads Western Australia

Mr Craig Manton provided an update to the Zone. Please find as Attachment B a copy of Craig's presentation.

11.4 Wheatbelt RDA

Mandy Walker, RDA Wheatbelt was an apology for this meeting.

12. EMERGING ISSUES

12.1 Workplace Health and Safety Legislation

Stuart Hobley raised the issue of the proposed Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) legislation, particularly the components relating to Industrial Manslaughter.

Tony Brown advised that WALGA is currently researching this issue and the matter will be considered by State Council as an Emerging Issue item at the July 1 meeting.

13. URGENT BUSINESS

14. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Great Eastern Country Zone will be held in Kellerberrin on Thursday 27 August 2020, commencing at 9.30am.

15. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 12:13pm.

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