



Great Eastern Country Zone

Minutes

Held via MS Teams

Commenced at 9:30am
Tuesday 27 April 2021

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Great Eastern Country Zone

Meeting held via MS Teams

Commenced at 9.30am, Tuesday 27 April 2021

Minutes

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

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	President Cr Darrel Hudson Cr Adam Metcalf 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 Kondinin	Mr David Burton, A/Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Koorda	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 Mukinbudin	Mr Paul Sheedy A/Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Narembeen	President Cr Rhonda Cole - Chair Cr Kellie Mortimore
Shire of Nungarin	Cr Gary Coumbe Mr Leonard Long Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Tammin	Cr Glenice Batchelor
Shire of Trayning	Ms Leanne Parola 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
Shire of Yilgarn	President Cr Wayne Della Bosca Cr Bryan Close Mr Peter Clarke Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
GUESTS	Paul Tzaikos, Manager Agricultural Technologies, Regional Business Development (DPIRD) Antony Sadler, Superintendent Goldfields Midlands Darrelle Merritt, Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries – A/Director Strategic Initiatives Jennifer Collins, Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries – Regional Manger Wheatbelt Craig Manton, Regional Manager Wheatbelt, Main Roads Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt Inc
WALGA	Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Services Naomih Donaghy, Governance and Organisational Services Officer
Apologies	
Shire of Cunderdin	Cr Alison Harris
Shire of Kellerberrin	Cr Scott O’Neill
Shire of Kondinin	President Cr Sue Meeking Cr Bev Gangell
Shire of Koorda	President Cr Jannah Stratford Cr Pamela McWha
Shire of Mount Marshall	Cr Nick Gillett
Shire of Mukinbudin	President Cr Gary Shadbolt Cr Rod Comerford
Shire of Narembeen	Mr David Blurton Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Nungarin	President Cr Pippa DeLacey

Shire of Tammin	Cr Tania Daniels Mr Neville Hale Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Trayning	President Cr Melanie Brown Cr Geoff Waters
Shire of Westonia	Cr Bill Huxtable
Shire of Wyalkatchem	Cr Owen Garner Mr Peter Klein Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
WALGA	Cliff Simpson - Road Safety Advisor (Wheatbelt North), Infrastructure Hon Martin Aldridge MLC, Agricultural Region Rob Cossart, Wheatbelt Development Commission – Chief Executive Officer

Attachments

The following were provided as attachments to the agenda:

1. Minutes - Great Eastern Country Zone 22 February 2021
2. Minutes - GECZ Executive Committee Meeting 15 April 2021
3. Minutes - Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee
4. WALGA President's Report
5. Wheatbelt RDA Report
6. Main Roads Report
7. WALGA Roadwise Report
8. WA Country Health Services letter
- 8.1 Rural Health West Profile

State Council Agenda – via link: [State Council Agenda, May 2021](#)

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

NIL

4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

NIL

5. GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS

5.1 Antony Sadler, Superintendent Goldfields Midlands

The Zone invited Antony Sadler to speak on the following:

- How DFES deployments are coordinated and the expectations of brigades that go on deployment.
- How the regional operations centre fits into the Bushfire Brigade System
- Briefly discuss the Goldfields District Emergency Management Committees push for a rescue helicopter.

Antony, presented to the Zone and his presentation is attached.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Tony Sachse

Seconded: Stephen Strange

That the Zone write to DFES in support of the Goldfields Rescue Helicopter Proposal.

CARRIED

5.2 Paul Tzaikos, Manager Agricultural Technologies, Regional Business Development

The Zone invited Paul Tzaikos to present, "Bridging the Regional Digital Divide – the WA Way!" which included State Government initiatives which may benefit the member Councils of the Great Eastern Country Zone.

Paul, presented to the Zone and his presentation is attached.

NOTED

6. MINUTES

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held Monday 22 February 2021 (Attachment 1)

The Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on Monday 22 February 2021 have previously been circulated to Member Councils.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Wayne Della Bosca

Seconded: Cr Darrel Hudson

That the Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held Monday 22 February 2021 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 Monday 22 February 2021

6.2.1 Item 5.4.1 - Covid-19 – Regional areas

Zone Discussion:

Cr Davies reiterated his concerns as stated at the February meeting of the Zone, communication to the regional areas in regards to the most recent Covid-19 lockdown was lacking. Travel guidelines to and from the regions was confusing and directions were inconsistent.

Moved: Quentin Davies

Seconded: Stephen Strange

That the Zone write to the Premier, relevant Ministers and the Leader of the Opposition, requesting clearer guidelines to the regions for possible lockdowns in the future.

CARRIED

6.3 Confirmation of Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting of the Executive Committee held Thursday 15 April 2021 (Attachment 2)an

The Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee Meeting held on Thursday 15 April are for endorsement.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Quentin Davies

Seconded: Cr Stephen Strange

That the Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held Thursday 15 April 2021 be endorsed.

CARRIED

6.4 Business Arising from the Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting Tuesday 11 April 2021

NIL

7. ZONE BUSINESS

7.1 Elected Member Training

The Executive Committee discussed potentially utilising Zone funds to carry out Elected Member Universal Training following the October 2021 elections.

The below report was circulated in advance of the meeting:



CME Training Proposal for Great Eastern Country Zone

“WALGA will bring Training to you”

Mandatory Council Member Essential Training - Overview

Total of Councillors up for election: 55

Module No	Course Name	Duration	Assessment
1	Understanding Local Government	½ Day	Yes
2	Conflict of Interest	½ Day	Yes
3	Serving on Council	2 Days	Yes
4	Understanding Financial Reports and Budgets	1 Day	Yes
5	Meeting Procedures	1 Day	Yes

Option 1: 2 x combined workshops delivered in 3 different locations over 9 months

Workshop 1 (3 Day):

Combine Module No 1-3 into a 3 Day Face to Face Course/ workshop for up to 21 participants at one time.

Workshop 2 (2 Day):

Combine Module No 4 & 5 over 2 Days Face to Face Course/ workshop for up to 21 participants at one time.

Assessments to be complete on site at the end of each individual module.

Option 2: 1 x Virtual class and 2 x combined workshops delivered in 3 different locations over 9 months

Virtual Class (1 Day or 2x1/2 Days):

Deliver Module 1 & 2 via ZOOM - this can be recorded for the Great Eastern Country Zone and will be accessible at any time via our eLearning Hub (MOODLE).

Assessments to be complete on eLearning Hub (MOODLE) at the end of each individual module.

Workshop 1 (2 Day):

Deliver Module 3 in a 2 Day Face to Face Course/ workshop for up to 21 participants at one time.

Workshop 2 (2 Day):

Combine Module No 4 & 5 over 2 Days Face to Face Course/ workshop for up to 21 participants at one time.

Assessments to be complete on site at the end of each individual module.

ONE70, LV1, 170 Railway Parade, West Leederville, WA 6007
PO Box 1544, West Perth, WA 6872
T: (08) 9213 2000 F: (08) 9213 2077
info@walga.asn.au
www.walga.asn.au

Option 3: 3 x combined workshops delivered in 3 different locations over 9 months

Workshop 1: (1 Day):

Deliver Module 1 & 2 in a 2 Day Face to Face Course/ workshop for up to 21 participants at one time.

Workshop 2 (2 Day):

Deliver Module 3 in a 2 Day Face to Face Course/ workshop for up to 21 participants at one time.

Workshop 3 (2 Day):

Combine Module No 4 & 5 over 2 Days Face to Face Course/ workshop for up to 21 participants at one time.

Assessments to be complete on site at the end of each individual module.

- | |
|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Understanding Local Government & Conflict of Interest & Serving on Council2. Understanding Financial Reports and Budgets& Meeting Procedures |
|--|



<p>Option 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 2 x workshops x 3 Location of your choice- Up to 21 participants in one workshop <p>Total Cost: \$ 60,000.00</p> <p>Divided by 55 participants \$ 1090.00</p>
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<p>Option 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 1 x Virtual Class plus- 2 x workshops x 3 Location of your choice- Up to 21 participants in one workshop <p>Total Cost: \$ 55,000.00</p> <p>Divided by 55 participants \$ 1000.00</p>

<p>Option 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 3 x workshops x 3 Location of your choice- Up to 21 participants in one workshop <p>Total Cost: \$ 60,000.00</p> <p>Divided by 55 participants \$ 1090.00</p>
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Please Note: Travel and Accommodation costs are not included

Great Eastern Zone (16)	Elected Members
Shire of Bruce Rock	4
Shire of Cunderdin	4
Shire of Dowerin	4
Shire of Kellerberrin	3
Shire of Kondinin	5
Shire of Koorda	2
Shire of Merredin	4
Shire of Mount Marshall	4
Shire of Mukinbudin	5
Shire of Narembeen	1
Shire of Nungarin	3
Shire of Tammin	3
Shire of Trayning	2
Shire of Westonia	3
Shire of Wyalkatchem	3
Shire of Yilgarn	3

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Stephen Strange
Seconded: Cr Rod Forsyth

That this item be considered at the next meeting of the Zone Executive Committee for a recommendation to the June 2021 Zone Meeting.

CARRIED

7.2 Fire bans and Public Holidays

Zone discussion requested on burning times on Public Holidays and potential uniformity between Local Governments.

Zone Discussion:

The Zone discussed the possibilities and methods of uniforming fire bans throughout the Zone and with neighbouring Local Governments to members of the Great Eastern Country Zone.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Stephen Strange
Seconded: Cr Rod Forsyth

That the Zone Executive Officer write to all Zone member Local Government CEO's requesting they raise an Item with their Bushfire Advisory Committee to consider uniformity of fire bans on public holidays throughout the Zone and with neighbouring Local Governments

CARRIED

7.3 Cyclone Seroja

The Executive Committee discussed having an item on the April Zone meeting Agenda for Local Governments to advise on damage and their experience following the recent cyclone Seroja with a view to discussing any common themes or issues.

Comment:

Cr Tony Sachse shared with the Zone, that Mount Marshall experienced power outages and down communications for 50 hours as a result of the Cyclone. It is noted that Telstra's efforts to rectify the outage was slow and unreliable.

NOTED

8. ZONE REPORTS

8.1 Zone President Report

By Cr Rhonda Cole

President thanked Cr Tony Sachse for his continuous communications throughout Cyclone Seroja, recent bushfires and COVID-19.

President Cole echoed earlier concerns around the lack of communication from the Premier to the regions in regards to Covid-19 lockdowns. She voiced concerns that the lesser seats of the opposition reaffirms that WALGA and Local Governments as a whole, need to come forward as a stronger voice to raise concerns important to Local Government.

Resolved

That the Presidents report be received

8.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group

By Cr Julie Flockart

Cr Julie Flockart advised that there has not been a meeting since the last meeting of the Zone. The next meeting for the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group is scheduled for 9 July 2021

Resolved

That the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group be received

8.3 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee

By Cr Tony Sachse (Delegate)

GECZ Wheatbelt DEMC April 2021 Report

The last meeting of the Wheatbelt DEMC took place on the 10th March 2021 and the unconfirmed minutes of that meeting are attached (Attachment 3) to this report. The Operational Area Support

Group Wheatbelt have been meeting regularly on COVID-19/Vaccination roll outs, and more recently on possible pre-emptive impacts, the impacts themselves and associated recovery with TC Seroja. Updates relating to these meetings have been circulated to GECZ Councils along the way.

The pre-emptive information on TC Seroja from BOM, DFES and Emergency WA were invaluable in helping with preparation for such a major event, which it most certainly was. The support from all Agencies has been excellent, and the very timely deployment of the SES to aid with impacted infrastructure was of a high order. Of particular concern was that not many Wheatbelt residents are used to Tropical Cyclones and the need to stay indoors in a safe place with a survival kit. The timing of the cyclone at its most intense through the Wheatbelt was very early on Monday morning, and its rapid movement, probably also helped with people staying indoors.

At the time of writing there is still a major recovery operation underway with major infrastructure damage, vegetation and road damage with some roads still closed, power and telecommunication outages and Local Government, business and agriculture impacts including livestock management. There are also a number of people still dealing with significant losses of a personal nature. This can also have an impact on mental well-being with built frustration and anger. However it must also be said that many of those affected are very thankful for all the recovery efforts by the different agencies, and appreciate the long hours of all the working crews including those involved with the restoration of power. The full recovery will take some time but it has been pleasing to see the good support from both Federal and State Governments being announced.

The loss of communication was of concern in the days following the event. This of course has been an ongoing issue for some time with the deployment of generators for communication towers. Continued advocacy in this field is recommended to try and minimise this impact as much as possible.

The Human Services Managers Forum met on Thursday, 15th April but the minutes of the meeting have not yet been distributed.

Resolved

That the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee report be received

8.4 Wheatbelt Health MOU Group

By Cr Glenice Batchelor

Prior to the meeting, Attachment 8 and 8.1 – were circulated.

The Last meeting of the Wheatbelt Health MOU Group was 20 November 2020. A few key notes from this meeting and Cr Bachelors report below:

- WA Country Health Services responded to questions sent in September 2020 – attachment 8.
- The Federal Government is committed to maintaining telehealth services until the end of 2021, however Health Minister Greg Hunt indicated this may be ongoing.
- Rural Health West CEO, Tim Shackleton, noted WA has the lowest GP population and relies on New Zealand and the Eastern States for locums – this is no longer an option due to Covid-19.
- St John Ambulance and Volunteers within the region is a key issue for the Zone. Prior to the State election, Labours pitch included increasing PATS to \$100 per night, an investment in hospitals across regional WA and an expansion of the Community Paramedic Model across the state to support local ambulances in the regions.

Cr. Bachelor invited ideas and/or input on how to progress the above.

Also thanked Cr Harris for being her proxy for the last 12 months.

Resolved

That the Wheatbelt Health MOU Group be received

8.5 WALGA Roadwise

Cliff Simpson, Road Safety Advisor (Wheatbelt North), Infrastructure, tabled a report prior to the meeting, now Attachment 7.

9. WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (WALGA) BUSINESS

9.1 State Councillor Report

Cr Stephen Strange

Comment:

Cr Strange briefed the Zone on a recent visit to Bruce Rock by the new Minister for Local Government & Housing, John Carey MLA. He noted that Minister Carey is not interested in rate capping or amalgamations.

Minister Carey advised that he hopes to instate a new Act, however if not will look for Act amendments around compliance and reporting within Local Government, as well as a desire to shortcut dispute processes in Local Government.

In regards to Housing, Minister Carey acknowledges there are downfalls with the compliance and unrealistic expectations for Local Governments to build housing for their staff. He hopes to receive information from the sector and start a working group.

WALGA are to write to all CEO's requesting their experience working with GROW (Government Regional Officer Housing). Responses to be collated by Narelle Cant, WALGA Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning,

9.2 WALGA Status Report

By Tony Brown, Executive Officer

BACKGROUND

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

GREAT EASTERN COUNTRY ZONE STATUS REPORT APRIL 2021



Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Great Eastern C	2018 November 29 Zone Agenda Item 7.3 Container Deposit Scheme Locations	<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>The Container Deposit Scheme was launched in October 2020. To date the Scheme has delivered over 200 refund points across WA. This will increase to the required 229 by 1 October 2021.</p> <p>WALGA will continue to advocate for, as a minimum, one flexible refund point per Local Government area. WALGA has also raised with Government the definitions of flexible refund points and how this is applied. The former Environment Minister indicated the definitions would be reviewed in May 2021 and WALGA and other stakeholders would be consulted as part of the process.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Narelle Cant Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning ncant@walga.asn.au 9213 2078</p>
Great Eastern C	2019 June 27 Zone Agenda Item 12.1 Government Regional Officer Housing	<p>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.</p>	<p>In May 2019, the planned increase to GROH rents was deferred (the next increase of up to \$30pw was due to come into effect 1 July 2019).</p> <p>In July 2020, WALGA State Council requested WALGA advocate to the Department of Communities to acknowledge the challenges with attracting and retaining staff in regional areas, and to seek a solution for the current short supply of GROH housing in all regions. WALGA wrote to the Department of Communities to request action on this matter. The Department of Communities confirmed that action on this matter was delayed due to the COVID-19 response.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Narelle Cant Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning ncant@walga.asn.au 9213 2078</p>

			<p>The Department of Communities have confirmed that a review of the GROH Tenant Rent Setting Framework was undertaken, however the changes were not accepted by all parties. The existing GROH Tenant Rent Setting Framework is therefore still in place.</p> <p>WALGA and the Department of Communities hosted a webinar on 30 March 2021 to update Local Governments on GROH and the opportunities for Local Government investment. The Shires of Koorda and Broomehill-Tambellup provided case studies to demonstrate the value of being involved with the GROH program which included securing the continuation of essential services and guaranteeing a rental income for the duration of the lease.</p>		
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.	<p>State Council Resolution</p> <p>That State Council endorse the recommendation from the Great Eastern Country Zone relating to the Federal Government Drought Communities Program.</p> <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. <p>RESOLUTION 37.1/2020</p> <p>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.</p> <p>WALGA has written to the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Water and the Minister for Local Government on the issue, seeking their support to review the drought funding mechanisms for Western Australia. At the WALGA webinar on May 8th, the Minister for Agriculture committed to advocating to the Commonwealth in conjunction with WALGA.</p> <p>On August 7 the WALGA Deputy President met with Senator Dean Smith as part of the advocacy approach,</p>	Ongoing	<p>Narelle Cant Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning ncant@walga.asn.au 9213 2078</p>

			<p>and WALGA is now writing to all Western Australian Federal Government members to also request additional funding for the National On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme.</p> <p>WALGA has also met with Senator Brockman, and is also in discussion with Minister MacTiernan's Chief of Staff on the issue.</p> <p>Correspondance from Minister Littleproud received in October highlighted that the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program details are still being worked through with the State Government, who are yet to commit to co-funding the program. WALGA is currently seeking an assurance from Minister MacTiernan that it will.</p>		
Grt Eastern C	2021 22 February Zone Agenda Item 6.4 Asset Preservation Model	That the Great Eastern Country Zone retain Status Quo (Option 5) and request further information to explain the current model at a future meeting.	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.	April 2021	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Grt Eastern C	2020 25 June Zone Agenda Item 7.3 Telecommunications – Minister Response	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.	<p>WALGA has met with the Executive Manager of Corporate Services DFES to discuss a funding application to the Commonwealth for application to the Commonwealth resilience improvement funding package.</p> <p>It has several key pillars, namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. \$7m for installing 2000 satellite dishes onto fire stations 2. \$18m for hardening the mobile phone network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - stage 1 of \$10m will be providing battery back-up for towers and extending battery life – for those towers delivered in rounds 1 and 2 of the Mobile Black Spot Program. Also includes generators in some cases. - stage 2 will be a grants program for further hardening work 3. \$10m for the expansion of mobile satellite communications capability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$1.7m for NBN Co to expand its fleet of Sky Muster trucks and 12 portable satellite FlyAway kits - \$8.3m for competitive grants 	Ongoing	Narelle Cant Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning ncant@walga.asn.au 9213 2078

			<p>WALGA is in discussion with DFES as to the priority elements that would constitute a WA funding bid to assist in resolving the telecommunications issue.</p> <p>This Item is the subject of an Item for Noting in the March 2021 State Council Agenda.</p>		
Grt Eastern C	2020 25 June Zone Agenda Item Zone Comment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That WALGA advocate to the Federal Government to request additional funding for the National On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme as the fund has been fully subscribed one year into a three year program. 2. That WALGA advocate to the State Government to reinstate the Farm Water Rebate Scheme. 	<p>On August 7 the WALGA Deputy President met with Senator Dean Smith as part of the advocacy approach, and WALGA is wrote to all Western Australian Federal Government members requesting additional funding for the National On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme.</p> <p>Correspondance received from Minister Littleproud on October 20 highlighted his announcement with Minister Pitt on October 2 that a further \$50m would be made available for the this financial year for the Scheme.</p> <p>WALGA is continuing discussions with the State Government for the reinstating of the Farm Water Rebate Scheme.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Narelle Cant Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning ncant@walga.asn.au 9213 2078</p>
Grt Eastern C	2021 19 February Zone Agenda Item	That WALGA note the Zone comments that some Local Governments have experienced delays with the finalization of the 19/20 financial year audits and enquire from the sector on their satisfaction or otherwise to the audit process.	This item is reported on in the Governance Key for the May State 2021 State Council Meeting.	April 2021	<p>Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au</p>

ZONE COMMENT

This is an opportunity for Member Councils to consider the response from WALGA in respect to the matters that were submitted at the previous Zone Meeting.

Resolved

That the Zone status report be received

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: [State Council Agenda - May 2021](#)

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

Resolved

That the Zone endorse all items within the State Council agenda

9.4 WALGA President's Report

The WALGA President's Report is attached to the Agenda. (Attachment 4)

Resolved

That the WALGA Presidents report be received

10. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

NIL

11. AGENCY REPORTS

11.1 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

A representative has been invited to the meeting to present on the recent regulations introduced:

- Elected Member Code of Conduct
- Standards for CEO Recruitment, Performance Review and Termination
- Employee Code of Conduct

Darrelle Merrill, A/Director – Strategic Initiatives, provided a report for the meeting.

Department April update - [Local Matters April 2021](#)

Comment:

The Zone thanked Ms Merrill for her time and information, however strongly stated that the Zone do not support the Governments Elected Member Code of Conduct policy.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Glenice Batchelor

Seconded: Cr Rod Forsyth

That the Great Eastern Country Zone write to the Minister for Local Government and advise that the Zone;

- 1. Does not support the inclusion of local level complaints about alleged behavioural breaches and Local Governments dealing with complaints provisions in Division 3, Clauses 10 and 11; and***
- 2. Supports an external oversight body to manage local level complaints involving council members***

CARRIED

11.2 Wheatbelt Development Commission

Mr Rob Cossart, Wheatbelt Development Commission CEO, was an apology for this meeting.

Noted

11.2 Main Roads Western Australia

Mr Craig Manton tabled a report, now Attachment 6, prior to the meeting.

Noted

11.3 Wheatbelt RDA

Mandy Walker, RDA Wheatbelt presented to the Zone. Report is attached with the Agenda (Attachment 5)

Noted

12. EMERGING ISSUES

1. Cr. Davies raised concerns around the attractiveness of becoming a Councillor for perspective/incoming Councillors. He encourages Local Governments to be proactive in advertising the role of Councillor and all its benefits.
2. Cr Davies thanked the Zone for acknowledging the passing of Cr Rachel Nightingale, and thanked all who had been in touch with the community to offer support.

13. URGENT BUSINESS

NIL

14. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Great Eastern Country Zone will be held in Merredin on Monday 28 June 2021, commencing at 9.30am.

15. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 11.46am.