



Great Eastern Country Zone

Minutes

Held via MS Teams

Commenced at 9:30am
Monday 28 June 2021

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Great Eastern Country Zone

Held via MS Teams

Commenced at 9.30am, Tuesday 28 June 2021

Agenda

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

The Chair President Cr Rhonda Cole welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting due to COVID-19 restrictions.

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

ATTENDEES

Shire of Bruce Rock	President Cr Stephen Strange Cr Ramesh Rajagopalan Mr Darren Mollenoyux Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Cunderdin	Mr Stuart Hobley Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Dowerin	President 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 Kondinin	President Cr Sue Meeking Mr David Burton 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 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	President Cr Gary Shadbolt Mr Dirk Sellenger Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Narembeen	President Cr Rhonda Cole - Chair Cr Kellie Mortimore Mr David Blurton Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Nungarin	President Cr Pippa DeLacey Cr Eileen O'Connell

	Mr Leonard Long Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Tammin	Cr Glenice Batchelor
	Mr Fabian Houbrechts Acting Chief Executive Officer non-voting
Shire of Trayning	Cr Geoff Waters
	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
	Mr Peter Klein Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Yilgarn	President Cr Wayne Della Bosca
	Mr Peter Clarke Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

GUESTS

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC

Karl O’Callaghan, Chair of Wheatbelt NRM

Richard Burnell, Executive Director Corporate Services – Department of Fire and Emergency Management

Rob Dickie - Principal – Government & Industry Relations, CBH Group

Jennifer Collins, Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries – Regional Manger Wheatbelt

Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt Inc

Mike Roberts, Regional Manager, Goldfields & Agricultural Region,
Craig Manton, Regional Manager Wheatbelt, Main Roads

WALGA

Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Services

Naoimh Donaghy, Governance and Organisational Services Officer

Susie Moir, Policy Manager, Resilient Communities

Cliff Simpson - Road Safety Advisor (Wheatbelt North), Infrastructure

APOLOGIES

Shire of Cunderdin	Cr Dennis Whisson
	Cr Alison Harris
Shire of Dowerin	Cr Adam Metcalf
Shire of Kellerberrin	Cr Scott O’Neill
Shire of Kondinin	Cr Bev Gangell
Shire of Koorda	Cr Pamela McWha
Shire of Merredin	Cr Mal Willis

Shire of Mount Marshall	Cr Nick Gillett
Shire of Mukinbudin	Cr Rod Comerford
Shire of Nungarin	Cr Gary Coumbe
Shire of Tammin	Cr Tania Daniels
Shire of Trayning	President Cr Melanie Brown
Shire of Westonia	Cr Bill Huxtable
Shire of Wyalkatchem	Cr Owen Garner
Shire of Yilgarn	Cr Bryan Close

Rob Cossart, Wheatbelt Development Commission – Chief Executive Officer

Hon Mia Davies MLA

Hon Colin de Grussa MLC

Attachments

The following were provided as attachments to the agenda:

1. 6.1. Minutes - Great Eastern Country Zone 27 April 2021
2. 6.2.1. Goldfields Rescue Helicopter support letter
3. 6.2.4. Letter to Minister Carey – Model Code of Conduct
4. 6.3.2. 2021/2022 budget
5. 6.3.3. Electoral Reform Submission
6. 6.4. Minutes - GECZ Executive Committee Meeting 17 June 2021
7. 7.1. Letter to Minister Kelly
8. 7.2. Telecommunications Issues in Regional WA
9. 7.4. Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program
10. 7.6. Bushfire Operations Communique
11. 8.3. Minutes - The Wheatbelt Human Services Managers Forum
12. 8.3. Wheatbelt Health Relationships Framework
13. 8.3. Community Online Resource Exchange
14. 8.5. WALGA Roadwise Report
15. 9.4. WALGA President's Report
16. 11.3. Main Roads Report
17. 11.4 RDA Wheatbelt report

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

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

NIL

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Susie Moir, WALGA's Policy Manager, Resilient Communities, attended the Zone meeting for the first time and provided a short outline of her role.

NOTED

5. GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS

5.1 Karl O’Callaghan, Chair, Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management

Karl O’Callaghan provided the Zone with an overview of his role, the organisation and how Wheatbelt NRM can assist Zone members.

NOTED

5.2 Richard Burnell, Executive Director Corporate Services – Department of Fire and Emergency Management

Richard Burnell, Executive Director Corporate Services – Department of Fire and Emergency Management, attended the Zone meeting to update on the ESL. He also gave an update on the STAND – Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters.

Richard, presented to the Zone (Presentation attached)

NOTED

5.3 Rebecca McCall, Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Dowerin

Rebecca McCall, Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Dowerin

Following the November 2020 Executive Committee meeting wherein Strategic Priorities (Item 5.3,3) for the Zone were highlighted, the Zone invited Rebecca McCall, CEO Shire of Dowerin, to present on, “Dowerin Home Care”.

Rebecca, presented to the Zone (Presentation attached)

NOTED

5.4 Rob Dickie, Principal – Government & Industry Relations, CBH Group

Rob Dickie, Principal – Governance & Industrial Relations, CBH Group, provided an update to the Zone on two key matters;

- CBH’s site retirement strategy and process that will be followed for sites within the WALGA Zone that will be either leased to a third party (for non-grain related activities) or permanently removed from the CBH network; and
- CHB’s emergency storage planning strategy for this harvest given the rainfall received so far and potential for a large grain receipts into our network this harvest.

Rob, presented to the Zone.

NOTED

6. MINUTES

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held Monday 27 April 2021 (Attachment 1)

The Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on Monday 28 June 2021 have previously been circulated to Member Councils.

RESOLUTION:

Minutes Great Eastern Country Zone – 28 June 2021

Moved: Cr Stephen Strange
Seconded: Ms Leanne Parola

That the Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held Monday 27 April 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 27 April 2021

6.2.1 Item 5.1, Goldfields Rescue Helicopter Proposal

Resolved:

That the Zone write to DFES in support of the Goldfields /rescue Helicopoter Proposal.

The attached letter (Attachment 2) was sent to DFES.

NOTED

6.2.2 Item 5.4.1, Covid-19 – Regional Areas

Resolved:

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.

This item has been deferred as WALGA CEO Nick Sloan and the Zones State Councillor Cr Stephen Strange have had a meeting with the Assistant Police Commissioner on this matter.

Cr Strange provided an update on the meeting with the Assitant Police Commissioner and advised that the Police had acknowledged that in respect to the previous lockdown of Perth and Peel that tyhere were some mistakes made in respect to communication for regional residents. It was acknowledged that information and communication was better this time around.

NOTED

6.2.3 Item 9.1, Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH).

The Minister for Housing, the Hon John Carey, has established the Senior Working Group for GROH chaired by Jane Deane, Program Group Manager, Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH). WALGA is looking to have representation on the working group. WALGA staff have met with Department of Housing staff and they have advised that they are happy for WALGA to be involved. The GROH team want to work with Local Governments on this.

Further information will be provided to the Zone as this working group progresses.

NOTED

6.2.4 Item 11.1, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

Resolved:

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

The Attached letter (Attachment 3) was sent to the Minister for Local Government. We are awaiting a response.

NOTED

6.3 Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee held Thursday 17 June 2021

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

6.3.1 (Item 5.3) Elected Member Training

Background:

The below report was presented at the April meeting of the Zone following the Executive Committee discussion on potentially utilising Zone funds to carry out Elected Member Universal Training following the October 2021 elections.

CME Training Proposal for Great Eastern Country Zone

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.

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.

Option 4: eLearning only

Courses undertaken via a eLearning subscription service allows for flexibility and reduced travel time for individual learners. In comparison to classroom learning, eLearning is not interactive with other councillors and lacks discussion of real life examples. Councils must ensure that learners have sufficient computer skills, access to reliable broadband internet connectivity, with upload and download capacity of at least a 1.5 Mbps Internet speed as a minimum requirement.

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

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Quick Overview	2 x workshops x 3 Location of your choice Up to 21 participants in one workshop	1 x Virtual Class plus 2 x workshops x 3 Location of your choice Up to 21 participants in one workshop Total Cost	3 x workshops x 3 Location of your choice Up to 21 participants in one workshop	5 modules undertaken as eLearning courses
Training cost	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 66,000.00
Estimated Travel/ Accom and Meal Allowance	\$ 8478.00	\$ 7546.00	\$ 10,385.00	Nil
Total	\$ 68,478.00	62,546.00	\$ 70,385.00	\$ 66,000.00

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

The Committee needs to be aware that total cash currently held is \$163,618.

Executive Committee Recommendation:

1. That the Zone provide a Training rebate of \$1,000, payable per head through their Local Government for Elected Members to complete their Universal Training.
2. Zone Local Governments can still consider carrying out the training regionally if requiring in-person training.

ZONE RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Glenice Batchelor

Seconded: Cr Geoff Waters

That the Great Eastern Country Zone endorse the Committee's recommendation of providing a Training rebate of \$1,000, to Zone members Councils payable per head through their Local Government for Elected Members to complete their Universal Training.

CARRIED

It was noted that Zone Local Governments can still consider carrying out the training regionally if requiring in-person training.

6.3.2 (Item 5.4) Budget 2021/2022

Background:

The draft budget for the 2021/2022 year has been prepared and is tabled for consideration and adoption (Attachment 4).

Income has been budgeted at \$56,420 which consists of subscription income of \$56,000 and a small amount of interest received on the Term Deposit. Interest rates are significantly lower in the 2021/2022 financial year and the amount invested is also lower than in the previous financial year. The subscriptions will be charged at \$3,500 each.

Budgeted expenditure is \$71,110 which is \$53,000 more than the previous year. The expenditure is based upon actual previous results with a new line item for a Training rebate of \$55,000. The net result is a budgeted deficit of \$15,690 for the 2021/2022 financial year.

Executive Committee Resolved:

That the Draft Budget for 21/22 financial be endorsed.

Comment:

Following the meeting of the Executive Committee, the budget was reviewed (Attachment 4) and amended to incorporate the endorsement of the Training item above.

ZONE RECOMMENDATION:

Moved: Cr Tony Sachse

Seconded: Cr Geoff Waters

That the Great Eastern Country Zone endorse the 2021/22 budget.

CARRIED

6.3.3 (Item 5.4) Electoral Reform Submission

The Minister for Electoral Affairs, Hon John Quigley MLA, established a Ministerial Expert Committee on Electoral Reform to advise the Government on reform of the Legislative Council's electoral system.

The attached submission (Attachment 5) was sent on behalf of the Great Eastern Country Zone on Tuesday 8 June, 2021. This submission recommends that:

1. That Group Ticket Voting be removed from the Legislative Council electoral system, and reforms be adopted modelled on the Senate reforms of 2016.
2. That a regional system be retained, and the whole state electorate option be rejected.
3. That the Ministerial Expert Committee on Electoral Reform be required to consider the importance of political representation for rural and regional Western Australia.

NOTED

6.4 Confirmation of Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting of the Executive Committee held Thursday 17 June 2021 (Attachment 6)

The Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee Meeting held on Thursday 17 June are for endorsement.

RECOMMENDATION:

**Moved: Cr Rodney Forsyth
Seconded: Cr Geoff Waters**

That the Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held Thursday 17 June 2021 be endorsed.

7. ZONE BUSINESS

7.1 Invite to Minister David Kelly, Minister for Water, Forestry; Youth

The Zone previously invited Minister Kelly to speak on the Federal Government National On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme as well as the State Government announcement of \$7.3million infrastructure plan to upgrade and refurbish 70 community dams in the State's Wheatbelt and Great Southern regions, and securing 511 water efficiency rebates for WA.

Due to continuous conflicts of Cabinet and the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting dates, he is unable to attend. The Zone has written to the Minister as attached (Attachment 7)

NOTED

7.2 Telecommunications Issues in Regional WA

There is a considerable amount going on in the Telecommunication Resilience space at the moment, with significant drive and commitment from Richard Burnell at DFES.

The attached Update (Attachment 8) went out to the 13 Local Governments who provided information on their issues and to Senator Dean Smith given his ongoing support.

Further to the paragraph relating to the stakeholders involved in the Working Group, there is commitment from the following to provide relevant resources to inform the work of the group:-

- Telstra
- Vodafone
- Horizon Power
- DFES
- Optus
- Western Power
- WALGA
- DPIRD

NOTED

7.3 Fire Bans and Public Holidays

The Zone Executive wrote to all Zone CEO's as resolved in Item 7.2, April Zone Meeting, requesting an item be raised with their Bushfire Advisory Committees to consider uniformity of fire bans on public holidays throughout the Zone. Below are the responses received:

Local Government:	Response:
Mukinbudin – A/CEO, Paul Sheedy	Don't believe there is a planned Bushfire Advisory meeting planned for this Shire but will seek feedback from the Chief Bushfire Fire Control Officer
Kellerberrin – CEO, Raymond Griffiths	I think everyone would like to have some sort of uniformity for it all For us we have Prohibited burning on Good Friday, Easter Sunday and Anzac Day.
Narembeen – CEO, David Blurton	This issue was discussed at BFAC meeting late last year and our Council moved to allow burning on public holidays in future where historically it was not supported. I'm happy to have the discussion on uniformity between shires and advise the outcome.
Trayning – CEO Leanne Parola	We don't have a BAC meeting planned, but our CBFCO has advised: To make a decision on this I/we would need more information as this will create a lot of disadvantages. Eg this would mean having a campfire or bon fire in winter wouldn't be permitted on long weekends? How would it be policed? I think it if this was in place people would still burn, but if it got out of control it would take longer for the person burning to call for help. With the information that's in the email, I disagree with it and it is not something I'll be pushing for. Having a look at our restricted burning periods, we would only have two public holidays that fall within those periods, ie Labour Day in March and the Queen's Birthday in September. There are four public holidays in the unrestricted burning periods, including Easter and Anzac Day. A bigger issue for us is consistency with harvest bans on public holidays (eg Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years Day). It's a time of much higher fire risks at the same time as many volunteers going away or consuming alcohol, particularly when a public holiday falls on a Friday or Monday.
Yilgarn – EM Regulatory Services, Nic Warren	The Shire of Yilgarn BFAC has just been held, and we generally don't meet again until around October. I would also suggest that it be raised at the District Officers Advisory Committee meeting, generally held in March and September. The major risk public holidays, 25th and 26th December and 1st and 26th January, fall within the Shires restricted burning period. The Shire has also just resolved to ban camp/cooking fires during the prohibited burning period and the burning of garden refuse during the prohibited and restricted burning periods. Regarding the remaining public holidays that fall within the restricted period, the conditions are monitored by the permit issuer. I can't speak

	<p>for the BFAC on whether they would be open to potential further restrictions on these dates or dates outside of the restricted periods.</p> <p>Can I also suggest, looking into fire break requirements, generally each local government will have differing requirements, if at all, and this can often be a point of confusion for land owners with lots across multiple districts. I'm not sure whether it would be possible to convince some BFAC's to implement, alter or remove fire break requirements, as they are generally set in their ways, but it might be worth looking into.</p>
Koorda – CEO, Darren Simmons	<p>Under a delegation of authority held be me, and following consultation with Shire of Koorda Councillors (which included Cr George Storer who is our Chief Bushfire Control Officer), I wish to advise that the Shire of Koorda generally prefers retention of local decision making in respect to the issue of burning permits and thus does not support the notion of uniformity across all local governments in respect to public holiday burning.</p> <p>Thanks for the opportunity to comment.</p>
Mt Marshall – CEO, John Nuttall	<p>The Shire is in favour of creating uniformity across Local Governments in regards to public holiday burning.</p>
Bruce Rock – CEO, Darren Mollenoyux	<p>Below is the Shire's Policy on "Burning on Sundays and Public Holidays":</p> <p>There will be no burning within the Shire of Bruce Rock on a Sunday or gazetted Public Holiday during the restricted burning period, and at other times depending on the fire risk, to be determined by the Chief Bushfire Control Officer and Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer.</p> <p>The Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, may also, at their discretion place a ban on burning on other days if they deem sufficient emergency fire services may not be available within the Shire for any reason.</p> <p>Examples of the above include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easter Saturday - while not Public Holiday it is common for volunteer services to be away over Easter; • Anzac Day • Other times when volunteers have been called to assist at a fire ground in another Shire or district, leaving limited local services remaining.
Dowerin – Executive & Governance Officer, Linley Dreghorn	<p>The Shire's Policy is as follows:</p> <p>Notice is given to all owners and/or occupiers of land with-in the Shire of Dowerin under the requirements of Section 33 of the <i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i>, that firebreaks must be installed by 31 October 2021 and maintained clear of inflammable material up to and including 30 April 2022.</p> <p>No burning is permitted over the EASTER HOLIDAY PERIOD (Good Friday and the 3 days immediately following Good Friday)</p> <p>No lighting of chaff piles is permitted on Wednesday or Thursday before Good Friday.</p> <p>No open fires are permitted between 1 November 2021 – 14 February 2022 (including for the purpose of cooling and camping)</p> <p>Firebreaks must be installed by 31 October 2021</p>

<p>Wyalkatchem – CEO, Peter Klein</p>	<p>Feedback from our bushfire volunteers is they could support a regional response to public holidays providing the decision to impose a burning ban was made on a case by case basis. This means if conditions for burning were acceptable on a public holiday then the regional response should be to allow burning to occur. Their concern is that if a ban is imposed unilaterally on a public holiday and that day happens to be a good day for burning, it will pressure farmers to burn on other days that are less favourable.</p> <p>This said, fewer farmers are burning their header rows/stubble and the emerging consensus is that this practice may well phase out over the next decade. Maybe this will be the time to revisit a unilateral burning ban on public holidays.</p>
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Zone Discussion:

This is an important issue for each Local Government. Each member Council is encouraged to raise this issue with DOAC and provide an update at the next meeting of the Great Eastern Country Zone.

Resolved

That Zone Local Governments raise the issue of uniformity of fire bans on public holidays with their District Officers Advisory Committees (DOAC).

7.4 Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program

To date there is not a publicly available list of actual funding by Local Government for Phase 3, although every Local Government has received advice regarding the funding that has been allocated. It would be helpful for Local Governments to acknowledge this funding, how it is being applied and the impact it is having in the short and longer term – including employment outcomes. Some Local Governments are doing this via their websites (eg [Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program - City of Wanneroo](#)) and newsletters. It is suggested that individual Local Governments provide supportive feedback to local Federal members. This is something ALGA are always promoting for Councils to consider showing their appreciation.

Please find attached (Attachment 9) information on the program.

Zone Discussion:

Cr Tony Sachse encourages all Zone members to write to their Federal Members to provide thanks for the Federal Government funding for this program.

NOTED

7.5 Office of Auditor General costs

By David Blurton, CEO Shire of Narembeen

Audit Costs

The Shire of Narembeen would like to express its concerns regarding rising audit costs, increased audit responsibilities and reduced audit outcomes since the Office of Auditor General assumed the responsibility of auditing Western Australian local governments in 2017.

The Shire of Narembeen's annual audit costs have increased by 251% from \$18,539 in 2019/20 to \$46,500 in 2020-21, which, for the Shire of Narembeen represents an approximate 1.5% increase in rates.

The appointment of each Council's audit service is made without discussion or consultation with Council, or its staff and each Council is advised of how much they can expect to pay. In prior years, Councils were required to tender for audit services thereby ensuring good value for money and a competitive process ensued.

The Council acknowledges that improvement was needed with regard to audit quality and management of finances generally across the sector, however the experience of many Local governments with the Auditor General is significant delays in finalising audit processes and a substantial increase in workload for Council staff.

There is an expectation by stakeholders that Council funds will be spent on a value for money basis for all goods and services obtained, however from a ratepayer perspective, the increase in audit costs, growing demands on Council staff and slower turn around in finalising Audit reports does not represent good value for money. For most Councils, there are no outcomes or improvements which can be demonstrated to ratepayers to justify the additional expense.

This matter was discussed briefly at the February 2021 zone meeting and again at the State Council meeting in May 2021 - refer extract of minutes below.

Local Government Audits

During the February 2021 round of Zone meetings a number of Zones raised the issue of some Local Governments experiencing delays with the finalisation of the 2019/20 financial audits.

WALGA carried out a survey of the sector seeking information on the status of audits and concerns with the audit process. 90 Local Governments responded to the survey. The following is a summary of the information obtained;

- *60 Local Governments had their audit completed (of the 60, 10 Local Governments had concerns with the audit process)*
- *11 Local Governments audits had not been scheduled, however issues were at the Local Governments end.*
- *19 Local Governments audits were not complete or scheduled and were concerned with the audit process.*

The above information's shows that 30% of Local Governments had concerns with the audit process. The key issues identified as causing delays in the audit process were as follows;

Financial Management Regulations Amendment

1. *The delay by the Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries in not finalising the amendments to the Financial Management Regulations that were required due to the changes to the National Accounting Standards. The regulations were not amended until early November 2021. This delay was raised as an issue by most Local Governments including those who had their audits completed. Retrospective amendments to regulations should be avoided. This placed the audit process 4 months behind to start with and caused a domino effect on delays to the audits across the State.*
2. *Private Auditor/ OAG confusion.*
3. *There was feedback advising that Local Governments who are audited by a private contracted auditor by the OAG, that sometimes the private auditor provides an interpretation or a request for information and then at the end of the process the OAG has a different interpretation or a different request for information. This causes confusion for the Local Government*

4. OAG – Resourcing and project management. There were concerns that audits are longer and more drawn out than they need to be. A number of Local Governments advised that they had been sent invoices for additional costs due to COVID, that the Local Governments thought were unreasonable. There were also instances of OAG staff requesting information at unreasonable times.

The above information will be collated and provided to the OAG and the Department of local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.

Shire of Narembeen – Recommendation:

That the Auditor General be invited to attend a future Zone meeting to discuss concerns regarding rising audit costs, increased staff workloads and substantial delays in finalising LG audits.

ZONE RESOLUTION:

That the Auditor General be invited to attend a future Zone meeting to discuss concerns regarding rising audit costs, increased staff workloads and substantial delays in finalising Local Government audits.

Resolved

7.6 Information Items

1. The [recent press release](#) on 28th May 2021 from the Minister for Water Dave Kelly on nine Water Deficiency Declarations across six Shire's being revoked is welcome. This has been possible due to the recent rainfall in the South West of WA.
2. For your information, please see the Bushfire Operations Committee Communique attached (Attachment 10)

NOTED

8. ZONE REPORTS

8.1 Zone President Report

By Cr Rhonda Cole

President Cole thanked members for attending the second meeting of the Zone, hosted via Zoom. She acknowledged online meetings can be difficult to get through and as such, was impressed with the number of attendees who had logged in for the meeting.

President Cole also shared that SOCK Week (Save Our Country Kids) commenced on 28 June and will run through to 4 July 2021. This is a program initiated by the Shire of Narembeen with other Local Governments also running similar programs.

Finally President Cole thanked Departmental representatives and Members of Parliament for making time to attend Zone meetings and update us on important matters. She also thanked them for their time in preparing reports and answering questions when needed.

That the Zone President's Report be received.

Resolved

8.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group

By Cr Julie Flockart

Cr 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.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Rodney Forsyth

Seconded: Cr Wayne Della Bosca

That the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Report be received.

8.3 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee

By Cr Tony Sachse (Delegate)

The last meeting of the Wheatbelt DEMC took place on the 10th March 2021 and this was reported on previously at the 27th April 2021 GECZ meeting. There was a LEMC Exercise held in Northam on the 16th June 2021 that the Wheatbelt DEMC were invited to, but I was unable to attend. No correspondence relating to this exercise has been distributed at this time.

The only other Wheatbelt DEMC correspondence relates to information that the State EM Policy Branch has recently initiated the five-year cyclic review of the suite of the State EM documents, with the assistance of an independent consultant. As part of the review project, the State EM Policy Branch is engaging with the EM sector to gauge and prioritise the review of relevant sections with the State EM Policy and State EM Plan.

The review is staged into several phases, this includes:

- **Stakeholder Engagement and Analysis**

- Engaging the EM sector via a survey to identify key issues within the current State EM Policy and State Plan EM documents. The survey is available to all Emergency Management Agencies (EMAs), public authorities, and entities with agreed roles and responsibilities within the State EM Framework.
- A half day workshop facilitated by the independent consultant is organised for **Wednesday 30 June at the venue of Beaumonde On The Point East Perth**. The workshop will further analyse common key issues as identified by the EM sector via the survey. Please note **spaces are limited**.

The Wheatbelt Operational Area Support Group (OASG) has only been meeting on a “as needed” basis over past months. Since the aftermath of TC Seroja (which has already been reported to the GECZ), there have not been any meetings.

The Wheatbelt Human Services Managers Forum met on Thursday, 17th June 2021 and the minutes and other attachments are attached (Attachment 11). There is one attachment from the WA Primary Health Alliance on the Wheatbelt Relationships Framework (Attachment 12). The other attachment is the WA Council of Social Service relating to the Community Online Resource Exchange (CORE – Attachment 13). There was a Guest presentation from Nicole Cutler and Felicity Sivewright from Relationships Australia on the Relationships WA National Redress Scheme Privilege. The National Redress Scheme (NRS) has come about by the Royal Commission into Childhood Sexual Abuse.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Rodney Forsyth

Seconded: Cr Wayne Della Bosca

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

8.4 Wheatbelt Health MOU Group

By Cr Glenice Batchelor

Cr Batchelor advised that there has been no progress with the Wheatbelt Health MOU Group and raised concern on the need and direction of the group.

Susie Moir, WALGA's Manager Resilient Communities advised that there had been a staffing vacancy in this area and advised that she will be reviewing the structure and requirements for the Health MOU group and will provide an update to the Zone at a future meeting.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Rodney Forsyth

Seconded: Cr Wayne Della Bosca

That the Wheatbelt Health MOU Group Report be received.

8.5 WALGA Roadwise

Cliff Simpson, Road Safety Advisor (Wheatbelt North), Infrastructure, provided an update to the zone (Attachment 14)

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Rodney Forsyth

Seconded: Cr Wayne Della Bosca

That the WALGA Roadwise Report be received.

9. WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (WALGA) BUSINESS

9.1 State Councillor Report

Cr Stephen Strange

Cr Strange advised that at the May State Council meeting, originally scheduled to be held as a regional meeting hosted by the City of Cockburn, was held as a video-conference meeting. The following presentations were provided;

- Minister for Local Government – Hon John Carey MLA

The Minister for Local Government, Hon John Carey MLA, addressed the State Council Strategic Forum and outlined his vision and priorities for the Local Government sector. The Minister spoke about the need for reduced red tape, increased standardisation and the synergies between his Local Government Housing portfolios.

- Auditor General – Ms Caroline Spencer

Auditor General, Ms Caroline Spencer, also addressed the State Council Strategic Forum. Ms Spencer acknowledged a range of issues associated with the transition of responsibility of Local Government audits to the Auditor General.

In addition Cr Strange advised that GROH Housing is an issue the Minister for Local Government and Housing is concerned about and will look to address.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Glenice Batchelor

Seconded: Cr Sue Meeking

That the State Councillor Report be received

9.2 WALGA Status Report

By Tony Brown, Executive Officer



BACKGROUND

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

COMPLETE ZONE STATUS REPORT JUNE 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	Narelle Cant Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning ncant@walga.asn.au 9213 2078
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>	June 2021	Narelle Cant Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning ncant@walga.asn.au 9213 2078

			<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> <p>On 31 May 2021 the Department of Communities advised that an interim structure has been put in place for the GROH housing portfolio, including streams with an asset and operations focus. Minister Carey has endorsed a Senior Officers Working Group for GROH which is focused on demand forecasting over the coming years and the GROH program is developing a 4 year supply and demand plan. The tenant rent setting framework is also under review. WALGA and the GROH team will continue to meet on a quarterly basis.</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</p>	Ongoing	Narelle Cant Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning ncant@walga.asn.au 9213 2078

			<p>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, 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.	<p>At the May 2021 meeting WALGA State Council resolved to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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; and • 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. <p>A formal letter has been sent to the WA Local Government Grants Commission accordingly.</p>	June 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 	June 2021	Narelle Cant Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning ncant@walga.asn.au 9213 2078

			<p>3. \$10m for the expansion of mobile satellite communications capability</p> <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 <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>Updates will continue to be provided via Items for Noting in the State Council Agenda.</p> <p>COMPLETE</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 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>

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.

Zone discussion:

John Nuttall, Shire of Mt Marshall raised this issue on the timeliness of interim valuations being provided.

Tony Brown advised that he and Nick Sloan had raised this with the Valuer General and thought the issue was going to be addressed. As it has not been address the matter will be followed up with the Valuer General.

The Zone will be provided with an update on the process for the next meeting of the Great Eastern Country Zone.

That the Great Eastern Country Zone WALGA June 2021 Status Report be noted.

Resolved

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 - July 2021](#)

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

5.1 Reviews of the *Cat Act 2011* and *Dog Act 1976*

That WALGA seek a commitment from the State Government:

1. for the conduct of comprehensive reviews of the *Cat Act 2011* and *Dog Act 1976*; and
2. that the reviews incorporate Local Government-specific consultation processes, coordinated in discussion with WALGA and Local Government stakeholders.

5.2 Amendments to WALGA's Constitution

That the WALGA Constitution be amended as follows:

1. INSERT Definition – “Present” means attendance in person or by electronic means deemed suitable by the Chief Executive Officer.
2. Clause 5 (10) – DELETE “and Associate Members”.
3. Clause 5 (11) – DELETE “Ordinary Member or”, REPLACE “State Council” with “Chief Executive Officer” in the first sentence, INSERT “or its delegate” after State Council in the second sentence.
4. Clause 6 (3) – REPLACE “31 May” with “30 June”.
5. Clause 7 (2) – REPLACE “30 June” with “31 July”.
6. Clause 11 (1) – after Chief Executive Officer, INSERT “in accordance with the Corporate Governance Charter”.
7. Clause 11 (2) – after Chief Executive Officer INSERT “by providing notice to State Councillors of the date, time, place and purpose of the meeting”
8. DELETE Clause 11 (3)

9. Clause 12 (1) – DELETE “as, being entitled to do so, vote in person”
10. DELETE Clause 12 (2)
11. Clause 12 (3) – DELETE “as, being entitled to do so, vote in person”
12. Clause 12 (4) – DELETE “as, being entitled to do so, vote in person”
13. Clause 16 (1) & (2) – After Any election INSERT “other than to elect the President or Deputy President”, REPLACE “generally in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1995 as amended (2) For the purposes of the election referred to in sub-section (1)” with “as follows”.
14. Clause 16 (2) (f) – REPLACE two instances of “2” with “1”.
15. INSERT Clause 16A – Election Procedure – President and Deputy President
 - (1) An election to elect the President or Deputy President shall be conducted as follows:
 - (a) the Chief Executive Officer or his/her delegate shall act as returning officer;
 - (b) representatives are to vote on the matter by secret ballot;
 - (c) votes are to be counted on the basis of “first-past-the-post”;
 - (d) the candidate who receives the greatest number of votes is elected;
 - (e) if there is an equality of votes between two or more candidates who are the only candidates in, or remaining in, the count, the count is to be discontinued, and the meeting adjourned for not more than 30 minutes;
 - (f) any nomination for the office may be withdrawn, and further nominations may be made, before or when the meeting resumes;
 - (g) when the meeting resumes, an election will be held in accordance with sub-sections 1(a), 1(b), 1(c) and 1 (d);
 - (h) if two or more candidates receive the same number of votes so that sub-section 1(d) cannot be applied, the Chief Executive Officer is to draw lots in the presence of any scrutineers who may be present to determine which candidate is elected.
16. Clause 21 (4) – REPLACE “Chairman” with “Chair”.
17. Clause 22 (1) – REPLACE “in August or September of” with “prior to 31 October”.
18. Clause 22 (3) – DELETE “in person”
19. DELETE Clause 22 (4) (b).
20. Clause 23 (3) – DELETE “in person”
21. Clause 24 (2) – DELETE “and of which vote is to be exercised in person”
22. Clause 24 (4) – DELETE “as, being entitled to do so, vote in person”
23. Clause 28 (1) – DELETE “The common seal shall be held in the custody of the Chief Executive Officer at all times.”
24. Clause 29 (1) – DELETE “as, being entitled to do so, vote in person”
25. Clause 29 (2) – DELETE “as, being entitled to do so, vote in person”
26. Clause 31 (4) (c) – DELETE “and Regional Development”.

Matters for Noting

- 6.1 Submission to Ministerial Expert Committee on Electoral Reform
- 6.2 Legal Response to the Coastal Hazard Planning Issues Paper
- 6.3 WALGA Submission: Child Safety Officer
- 6.4 State Planning Policy 3.1 Residential Design Codes Volume 1 – Medium Density Code
- 6.5 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC)
- 6.6 Local Government Performance Monitoring Project
- 6.7 Review of Fire Weather Districts
- 6.8 2021-22 State Budget Submission Approach
- 6.9 Managing Public Health Risks from Wastewater Conveyance, Treatment and Disposal in WA

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Glenice Batchelor

Seconded: Cr Geoff Waters

That the Great Eastern Country Zone:

1. Supports Items 5.1 and 5.2, as listed above in the 7 July 2021 State Council Agenda.
2. Notes the matters for noting contained in the 7 July 2021 State Council Agenda.

9.4 WALGA President's Report

The WALGA President's Report is attached to the Agenda. (Attachment 15)

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

Resolved

10. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC attended the meeting via MS Teams. He welcomed commentary from members around important regional issues and encouraged members to contact his office.

NOTED

11. AGENCY REPORTS

11.1 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

Jennifer Collins, Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries – Regional Manger Wheatbelt, presented to the Zone.

[DLGSC Zone Update June 2021](#)

NOTED

11.2 Wheatbelt Development Commission

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

NOTED

11.3 Main Roads Western Australia

Mr Craig Manton, Regional Manager Wheatbelt, Main Roads presented to the Zone.

A report was circulated before the meeting, (Attachment 16)

NOTED

11.4 Wheatbelt RDA

Mandy Walker, RDA Wheatbelt presented to the Zone.

A report was circulated before the meeting, (Attachment 17)

NOTED

11.5 Water Corporation

Mike Roberts, Regional Manager, Goldfields and Agricultural Region, presented to the Zone.

NOTED

12. EMERGING ISSUES

12.1 Delivery of Ambulance Services in WA

The Zone discussed the potential loss in volunteers should St Johns Ambulance service be taken over by the State Government. Concerns were raised around a history of the State opting to centralize services which leaves the greater region without direct access should they require.

There is currently a Parliamentary Inquiry into the delivery of ambulance services in Western Australia. Submissions are open and close on 23 July 2021.

The terms of reference are as follows;

- a) how 000 ambulance calls are received, assessed, prioritised and despatched in the metropolitan area and in the regions
- b) the efficiency and adequacy of the service delivery model of ambulance services in metropolitan and regional areas of Western Australia
- c) whether alternative service delivery models in other jurisdictions would better meet the needs of the community
- d) any other matters considered relevant by the Committee.

All Zone Local Governments are encouraged to provide a submission to the inquiry.

12.2 Closure of National Bank

The Shire of Wyalkatchem advised that the National Bank in Wyalkatchem is closing soon. It was again discussed how services are being centralized leaving less populated towns with fewer services.

12.3 Promotion to attract more candidates to run for Council

Cr Batchelor, Shire of Tammin, noted that the need for a promotion rolled out to encourage more candidate nominations for Council seats. WALGA representative, Tony Brown, advised that WALGA together with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries are running a promotion in the near future.

12.4 Transport and Roads Forum

The Zone queried if the scheduled Transport and Roads Forum will be going ahead as scheduled on 1 July.

Tony Brown advised that advice will be provided following this meeting as to whether the Forum would be postponed.

13. URGENT BUSINESS

14. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Great Eastern Country Zone will be held in Merredin on Monday 23 August 2021, commencing at 9.30am.

15. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 12.41pm.