



Great Eastern Country Zone

Minutes

Kellerberrin Recreation and Leisure Centre

**Commenced at 9:30am
Wednesday 24 April 2019**

Table of Contents

1.	OPENING AND WELCOME	3
2.	ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES.....	3
3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	5
4.	ANNOUNCEMENTS	5
5.	GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS.....	5
5.1	Local Government Insurance Services WA.....	5
6.	MINUTES	5
6.1	Confirmation of Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held Monday 18 March 2019 (Attachment 1).....	5
6.2	Business Arising from the Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting Monday 18 March 2019	6
6.2.1	(12.3)Telstra - Power Outages Effecting Communications	6
6.2.2	(7.2) Doctor Availability – Merredin Hospital.....	7
6.3	Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee Meeting held Thursday 11 April 2019 (Attachment 2).....	7
7.	ZONE BUSINESS	7
7.1	WALGA Health Forum Update	7
7.2	Local Government Act Review.....	8
8.	ZONE REPORTS	9
8.1	Zone President Report.....	9
8.2	Local Government Agricultural Freight Group	9
8.3	Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee	10
9.	WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (WALGA) BUSINESS.....	11
9.1	State Councillor Report.....	11
9.2	WALGA Status Report	10
9.3	Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Matters for Decision	12
9.4	Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Matters for Noting / Information.....	13
9.5	Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Organisational Reports	13
9.6	Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Policy Forum Reports.....	13
9.7	WALGA President’s Report	14
10.	AGENCY REPORTS.....	14
10.1	Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries	14
10.2	Mainroads Western Australia.....	14
10.3	Wheatbelt RDA.....	14
11.	MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.....	14
12.	EMERGING ISSUES.....	14
13.	URGENT BUSINESS.....	14
14.	DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS	15
15.	CLOSURE.....	15

Great Eastern Country Zone

Meeting was held at the Kellerberrin Recreation and Leisure Centre

Commenced at 9.30am, Wednesday 24 April 2019

Minutes

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendance

Shire of Bruce Rock	Mr Darren Mollenoyux
Shire of Cunderdin	Mr Neville Hale Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Dowerin	Cr Darrel Hudson Cr Julie Chatfield Ms Rebecca McCall Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Kellerberrin	Cr Rodney Forsyth Mr Raymond Griffiths Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Kondinin	Mr Alan George Acting Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Merredin	Cr Ken Hooper Cr Julie Flockart
Shire of Mount Marshall	Cr Tony Sachse Mr John Nuttall Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Mukinbudin	President Gary Shadbolt Mr Dirk Sellenger Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Narembeen	President Rhonda Cole Chair Cr Alan Wright Mr Chris Jackson Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Nungarin	President Cr Eileen O'Connell Cr Gary Combe Mr Adam Majid Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Tammin	Mr Neville Hale Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Trayning	President Melanie Brown Cr Geoff Waters Mr Paul Sheedy Acting Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

Shire of Westonia	President Karin Day Mr Jamie Criddle Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Wyalkatchem	Cr Quentin Davies Ms Taryn Dayman Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Yilgarn	President Onida Truran

WALGA Representatives

Mr Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Development
Ms Chantelle O'Brien, Governance Support Officer

Guests

Andrew Greig, Manager Member Services, LGIS

Apologies

Shire of Bruce Rock	President Stephen Strange
Shire of Cunderdin	Cr Dennis Whisson Cr Alison Harris
Shire of Dowerin	Ms Rebecca McCall Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Kondinin	President Sue Meeking Ms Mia Dohnt Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Koorda	President Ricky Storer Cr Pamela McWha Mr Gary Martin Acting Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Merredin	Mr Greg Powell Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
Shire of Tammin	Cr Glenice Batchelor
Shire of Westonia	Cr Bill Huxtable
Shire of Yilgarn	Cr Wayne Della Bosca Mr Peter Clarke, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

Mr Craig Manton, Regional Manager, Wheatbelt, Main Roads Department of WA
Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt
Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt
Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries Representative

Attachments

The following were provided as attachments to the agenda:

1. Great Eastern Country Zone Minutes 18 March 2019.
2. Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee Minutes 11 April 2019.
3. GECZ Local Government Act review submission
4. Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee Meeting Minutes 21 February 2019
5. Wheatbelt District Emergency Management District Map
6. Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee Business Plan

7. Wheatbelt District Emergency Management – New Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Presentation
8. Wheatbelt District Emergency Management – State Recovery Presentation
9. State Council Agenda – via link:
<https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/2b9f150e-cedb-40f2-86ab-71c844ca9efc/State-Council-Agenda-8-May-2019.pdf>

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil

4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

WALGA representatives and LGIS guest speaker were requested to leave the meeting while the members of the Great Eastern Country Zone discussed the outcome of the Executive Committee meeting item 5.5 relating to the Zone Executive Officer position.

Mr Tony Brown, Ms Chantelle O'Brien and Mr Andrew Greig left the meeting at 9.32am and returned to the meeting at 9.37am.

5. **GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS**

5.1 **Local Government Insurance Services WA**

- Andrew Greig, Manager Member Services presented to the Zone on “**Your LGIS, what ownership delivers**”

What is a mutual and how is it different to traditional transactional insurance providers? This presentation included the history of LGIS, organisation structure, relationship with WALGA and provided examples of service delivery – highlighting the benefits of membership.

6. **MINUTES**

6.1 **Confirmation of Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held Monday 18 March 2019**

The Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on Monday 18 March 2019 have previously been circulated to Member Councils.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Eileen O'Connell
Seconded: Cr Rodney Forsyth

That the minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held Monday 18 March 2019 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 18 March 2019

Nil

6.2.1 (12.3) Telstra - Power Outages Effecting Communications

The Zone resolved:

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.
2. Write to Boyd Brown, Telstra to seek a written response in respect to power outage procedures in place, what is the Battery Back-up Program and what is a better procedure going forward using the latest technology. (Local member to be provided a copy of letter).
3. Executive Officer to support a Zone Local Government in providing an Agenda Item to the Australian Local Government Association's National General Assembly in regards to the failing of telecommunications in regional Australia.

Please find below the emailed response from Boyd Brown, Telstra.

As discussed at the zone meeting, Telstra has a number of back-up systems for power outages, some large exchange sites have battery banks, generators and in ground diesel tanks, smaller exchange and mobile sites mostly have back-up batteries. All our network sites are monitored centrally via a 24/7 monitored command office located in Melbourne. This facility monitors our sites around performance and capacity, and there are alarms which relate to various functions, including power outages.

Exchanges and mobile phone towers rely on a regular power supply and a maintained feed. While Telstra have contingencies to cover short power outages, these facilities are not designed to operate for long periods without power. If there is going to be a long outage Telstra can, in certain circumstances, deploy portable backup generators, especially during emergencies or natural disasters. Priority at these times is determined by the Emergency Services Organisations in consultation with the Telstra ESO liaison officer.

While loss of communications between Emergency Services is a disruption, no mobile phone service should ever be relied upon as a sole source of communications during emergencies. For this reason Emergency Services organisations should use radio networks as a primary source of communications with other services such as mobile phones, landlines and satellite phones used as an adjunct.

- *We have around 40,000 network sites that require power, including data centres, exchanges and mobile base stations. Our sites typically have battery backup or generators in case of a disruption to energy supplies. This backup power is designed to provide some cover for blackouts but not the loss of power for extended periods.*
- *We check the generators and batteries at our sites regularly to make sure they're in good condition. This include servicing our generators and ensuring we have enough fuel.*
- *Telstra also has a large, geographically dispersed technical field workforce who can respond quickly in case of outages or emergencies.*
- *We continue to roll out energy improvements across our network sites, such as installing new efficient lighting and air-conditioning controls, retiring inefficient cooling systems, developing improved fault detection and investing in solar PV and combined energy storage.*

Executive Officer advised the Great Eastern Country Zone members that another Telstra representative's contact details have been provided and may be beneficial to liaise with them on this matter.

State Emergency management Committee are also being consulted and further information will come back to the Zone when available.

6.2.2 (7.2) Doctor Availability – Merredin Hospital

A letter has been sent to the Minister of Health requesting a deputation on the issue of doctor availability at Merredin Hospital. A response will be provided to the Zone once received.

The Executive Committee has requested the following attend the deputation:

- Zone President – Cr Rhonda Cole
- Shire President, Merredin – Cr Ken Hooper
- Shire President, Mukinbudin – Cr Gary Shadbolt

RESOLVED

Cr Rhonda Cole declared a conflict of interest with her current employment on this matter and the Great Eastern Country Zone agreed that President Stephen Strange will go in her place.

6.3 Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee Meeting held Thursday 11 April 2019 (Attachment 1)

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Tony Sachse
Seconded: Cr Geoff Waters

That the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the Great Eastern Country Zone held Thursday 11 April 2019 be endorsed.

CARRIED

7. ZONE BUSINESS

7.1 WALGA Health Forum Update

BACKGROUND

On February 19, WALGA hosted an event which brought together WA primary health agencies with Local Government Elected Members, CEOs and Officers from over twenty-five regional areas in Western Australia. The event was precipitated by Local Governments' request for WALGA's support and assistance with the challenges faced by regional areas in primary health care. The event provided a starting point to address these concerns. The WA Country Health Service (WACHS), WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA), the Aboriginal Health Council of WA, Rural Health West, and St John WA were represented at the event, which was also broadcast through webinar and has been recorded to share on the WALGA website. State Council will receive an Item for Noting of outcomes that arose from this event at their May meeting.

COMMENT

Feedback from the event has highlighted the challenges surrounding communication with service providers, primarily WACHS, diminishing funding, volunteer burnout and access to mental health treatment. Participants have provided clear guidance to WALGA on what they would like actioned in the coming 12 months which includes local regional forums for face to face engagement and greater engagement and collaboration with Western Australian Country Health Service (WACHS). WALGA officers will also work with WACHS for the potential to provide an updated contact list of who to contact and what services they provide.

Noted

7.2 Local Government Act Review

As the Zone is aware, the Minister for Local Government announced a 2 phase Local Government Act review process.

The first phase has been dealing with issues the Local Government sector listed as urgent issues, such as simplifying the gift provisions, providing Local Governments with the ability to advertise electronically rather than placing advertisements in newspapers, reviewing codes of conduct and providing for standards and policies around the CEO recruitment and performance review process.

The second phase of the Act review process is a complete review of the Act that will provide for a Green Bill to be considered and ultimately a New Local Government Act. The Zone submission on phase 2 of the Act review was submitted on 29 March 2019 as per attachment 3.

The phase 1 changes have been included in the Local Government Amendment Bill 2019 which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly by the Minister for Local Government on 14 March 2019 and was subsequently endorsed by the Assembly on 11 April 2019. The Bill will now be debated in the Legislative Council from 7 May 2019.

This Bill includes amendments to the Local Government Act that align with WALGA's advocacy which was endorsed by the sector in September 2018 and includes the following matters:

- Gifts
- Universal Training
- Standards of Behaviour
- CEO Recruitment and Performance Review
- Public Notices and Access to Information
- Administrative Efficiencies

The proposal around Universal Training was proposed by the Minister and includes the requirement for all candidates at Local Government elections to attend a candidate's information session as part of their nomination requirement. This will be an on-line information session that the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries will run and will not include any assessment. In addition all new and re-elected Elected Members will need to carry out training on five (5) core units in 12 months following being elected.

Those elected members not up for election until 2021 will not need to do the training until after October 2021. In respect to funding for training, it is the Associations position that the training is the States idea, so the State should pay. We will continue to advocate for funding to be provided.

In the absence of a funding commitment for the training, for Local Government budgeting purposes, the following are indicative costing that can be considered;

Face to Face Cost + eLearning

3 face to face courses and 2 eLearning will be approximately = \$2,400 per Elected Member

Individual eLearning Cost

All 5 courses by eLearning will be approximately \$1,000 per Elected Member

However a council could subscribe to a licence where all Elected Members and Officers from that Local Government can purchase a licence for a course or all courses. This reduces the cost considerably.

The Amendment Bill will need to pass through the Parliament by 30 June 2019 to allow for the provisions around Universal Training to apply for the 2019 elections.

Noted

8. ZONE REPORTS

8.1 Zone President Report

By Cr Rhonda Cole

Cr Rhonda Cole commented on matters of interest such as training and that the quality of trainers is important. Also Local Government Insurance Service's contribution to the Sector is valued.

RESOLVED

That the Zone President's Report be received.

8.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group

By Cr Rod Forsyth

Information was provided by Cr Ricky Storer on the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network (WSFN) progress.

The BBRF application for the pre-construction work of roads prioritised in the project was unsuccessful, a follow up meeting has been arranged so we can get information as why the application was ineligible.

An application for commodity Route funding was not considered. There has not been any additional information provided.

27th March, an announcement by DPM Minister McCormack of a \$70 million grant from the ROSI fund to the WSFN for capitol works.

This money comes from a \$3.5 Billion budget allocation and is not an election commitment. Additional information from the Federal department of Regional Development, Infrastructure and Cities, suggest that this is 80% of the funding amount, with a further 20% required from other sources.

The WSFN working group have scheduled meetings with Minister Saffioti's office and Nicole Lockwood from Infrastructure Australia, on the 6th May to discuss the progress and other possible funding sources for the project.

An announcement by Minister MacTiernan of \$100,000 through the RED's fund, to the Shire of Koorda, as lead agency in the application, to assist with the project management of the WSFN project for both the pre-construction and actual on ground work.

It is estimated that it will be a 3 to 4 year timeframe, depending on the capacity of LG's and contractors, for the delivery of the works.

The WSFN working group met on the 15th April to discuss both progressing the ROSI and RED's funding announcement. Due the Federal election, we have not been able to get clear guidelines as to the criteria for ROSI money. Work is now beginning on building a business case and establishing a project management team to ensure that we are able to meet expected milestones once these guidelines have been made clear.

A request will be made to all 42 local governments for a consideration of a rebranding of the \$6,000 commitment for the Unsuccessful BBRF application to a co-contribution towards the RED's funding announcement.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Onida Truran
Seconded: Cr Gary Shadbolt

That the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Report be received.

CARRIED

8.3 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee

By Cr Tony Sachse

The Wheatbelt DEMC last met at the St John Ambulance facility in Northam on Thursday 21st February 2019, and some information relating to this meeting was reported to the GECZ for the meeting held on 18th March, 2019. The attachments relating to the Wheatbelt DEMC meeting were not available at that time of writing for the GECZ March Report, and that being the case they are now attached.

The first attachment (attachment 4) is the unconfirmed minutes of meeting.

The second attachment (attachment 5) is a map of the Local Governments within the Wheatbelt DEMC. Comment regarding this is that the area in question does not match other agencies. For example Police, DFES, LG Zones and others can cover different geographical areas. While this is not unworkable, it does need to be taken into account in specific, statistical and general reporting.

The third attachment (attachment 6) is the Wheatbelt DEMC Business Plan for 2019 – 2020. The fourth and fifth attachments relate to a Guest Presentation from Suellen Flint and David Budd from the State Recovery Team. This includes information on the New Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements February 2019, and State Recovery.

The last Wheatbelt DEMC report indicated that there was to be a Wheatbelt DEMC in Merredin for June, 2020. This is incorrect. In fact the next Wheatbelt DEMC meeting is scheduled for Thursday 20th June 2019 in Merredin, subject to the Executive Officer liaising with the Shire of Merredin.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Geoff Waters
Seconded: Cr Rod Forsyth

That the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee Report be received.

CARRIED

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

9.1 State Councillor Report

Cr Stephen Strange

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: President Cr Eileen O'Connell

Seconded: Mr Darren Mollenoyux

That the State Councillor Report be received.

CARRIED

Cr Stephen Strange was an apology for this meeting, however a report was provided and is attached to the minutes (Attachment 2)

9.2 WALGA Status Report

By Tony Brown, Executive Officer

BACKGROUND

Presenting the Status Report for May 2019 which contains WALGA's responses to the resolutions of previous Zone Meetings.

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Up-date	WALGA Contact
Grt Eastern C	2019 March Zone Agenda Item 12.2 Office of the Auditor General (OAG) Audit Fee Increase	The Zone request WALGA to undertake research into the audit costs including why the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) fees have increased significantly and what is the criteria for the fee increases.	WALGA staff are currently researching the Office of Auditor General audit costs for Local Governments. Once information is a collated a response will be provided to the Zone	May 2019	Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au
Grt Eastern C	2019 March Zone Agenda Item 12.3 Telstra – Power Outages Effecting Communications	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.	WALGA have written to the SEMC to request action in respect to power outages effecting telecommunications. A response will be provided to the Zone when received.	May 2019	Joanne Burges Executive Manager, People and Place jborges@walga.asn.au 9213 2018
Grt Eastern C	2018 November 29 Zone Agenda Item 7.4 Water Corporation - New management and billing structure for standpipes	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; 1. Request the Water Corporation look to possible subsidised billing to remote user standpipes for users without any other possible means of potable water; 2. 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	The Water Corporation has agreed to engage directly with every Local Government affected by the proposed changes to management and billing arrangements for standpipes across WA. WALGA has been regularly monitoring this process, ensuring that the issues identified by each Council are addressed. The Water Corporation has made a commercial decision to apply commercial rates to water supplied through high flow standpipes when used for commercial purposes. As Local Governments are the customer billed for these services there is likely to need to be changes to the arrangements for metering and security. The requirements will differ in each situation. The intent is that domestic and stock water can continue to be accessed at the community rate – which is the rate charged to those who access water through the scheme. Frequent use of high flow standpipes has the potential to comprise town water supplies.	May 2019	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031

		allow effected landholders the ability to create on-farm water storage and water connections			
Grt 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>WALGA provided an extensive Submission to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) Draft Customer Service Standard for the Container Deposit Scheme. In relation to the Zone's recommendation, WALGAs Submission supported the approach of ensuring that all Local Governments be guaranteed a flexible refund point and the operating hours for a flexible refund point be clearly defined.</p> <p>WALGA will continue to advocate for State Government funding for infrastructure to assist the sector in implementing the CDS. It is anticipated the final Customer Service Standard will be released in March/April 2019.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Mark Batty Executive Manager Environment and Waste Mbatty@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.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Onida Truran
Seconded: Cr Quentin Davies

That the Great Eastern Country Zone WALGA May 2019 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/2b9f150e-cedb-40f2-86ab-71c844ca9efc/State-Council-Agenda-8-May-2019.pdf>

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

5.1 Road Safety Audit Local Government Policy Template

WALGA Recommendation

That the Road Safety Audit Local Government policy template be endorsed.

5.2 ‘Preferred Model’ for Third Party Appeal Rights for Decisions Made by Development Assessment Panels

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA:

1. Continues to advocate for the State Government to introduce Third Party Appeal Rights for decisions made by Development Assessment Panels; and
2. Endorses the ‘Preferred Model’ as the third party appeals process for decisions made by Development Assessment Panels.

5.3 Interim Submission – Draft Position Statement: Tourism Land Uses within Bushfire Prone Areas

WALGA Recommendation

That the interim submission to the Western Australian Planning Commission on Draft Position Statement: Tourism land uses within bushfire prone areas, be endorsed.

5.4 Public Library Tiered Service Framework

WALGA Recommendation

That the new tiered model to support public library service delivery in WA be endorsed.

5.5 Community Technical Reference Group

WALGA Recommendation

That the establishment of a Community Technical Reference Group be endorsed.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Quentin Davies

Seconded: Cr Karin Day

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

CARRIED

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

6.1 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 Report was distributed prior to the meeting.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Rod Forsyth
Seconded: Cr Gary Shadbolt

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

- **Matters for Noting/Information**
- **Organisational Reports**
- **Policy Forum Reports; and**
- **WALGA President's Report**

CARRIED

10. AGENCY REPORTS

10.1 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

The representative from the Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries was an apology for this meeting, an update report has been provided and is attached to the minutes. (Attachment 3)

10.2 Mainroads Western Australia

Mr Craig Manton is an apology for this meeting and an update will be provided at the June Zone meeting.

10.3 Wheatbelt RDA

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

11. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Nil

12. EMERGING ISSUES

Nil

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 Thursday 27 June, commencing at 9.30am.

15. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 10.30am.

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WALGA

**GREAT EASTERN
COUNTRY ZONE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

Minutes

Thursday 11 April 2019

Teleconference

Minutes
Great Eastern Country Zone of WALGA
Executive Committee

Thursday 11 April 2019

Commenced at 7.32am via Teleconference

1.0 OPENING AND WELCOME

2.0 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendance

Cr Stephen Strange (Acting Chair)
Cr Tony Sachse
Cr Geoff Waters

President Shire of Bruce Rock
President, Shire of Mt Marshall
Deputy President, Shire of Trayning

WALGA Representative

Mr Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services

Apologies

Cr Rhonda Cole (Zone President),
Cr Ken Hooper (Deputy Zone President)
Cr Onida Truran,

President Shire of Narembeen
President, Shire of Merredin
President Shire of Yilgarn

3.0 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 Confirmation of Minutes – Thursday 7 March 2019 (Attachment)

Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee Meeting held 7 March 2019 have previously been circulated and attached for confirmation.

RESOLUTION: Moved: Cr Geoff Waters Seconded: Cr Tony Sachse

That the Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee Meeting held 7 March 2019 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

4.2 Business Arising from the Executive Committee Meeting held 7 March 2019

Nil

5.0 BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

5.1 Financial Report for 31 January 2019

From Executive Officer

Background:

There was no activity for the month of March. No financial report is necessary.

COMMENT

It was noted that the Zone Budget will be presented to the June Executive Committee meeting, however the Committee should provide advice to Zone Local Government's on the proposed subscription fee.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Stony Sachse Seconded: Cr Geoff Waters**

That the Zone subscription for 2019/20 be retained at \$3500.00

CARRIED

5.2 Strategic Priorities and Guest Speakers for the 2018/19 Year - Update

From Executive Officer

Background:

At the 2 August 2018 Executive Committee meeting, the committee discussed that the Zone needed to focus on four (4) key issues for the next 12 months.

The following topics were considered priorities for the Zone;

- 1) Local Government Act Review
- 2) Economic Development
It was noted that most issues for the Zone revolve around economic development in form or another.
- 3) Telecommunication
Better coverage required
- 4) Education
Advocate to promote and retain what we have in the of education facilities at Cunderdin, Merredin and Narrogin

The following was recommended by the Executive and then endorsed by the Zone at the 23 August meeting.

That the Great Eastern Country Zone schedule the following topics as Zone priorities for the next 12 months:

- i. *Local Government Act Review*
- ii. *Economic Development*
- iii. *Telecommunication*
- iv. *Education*

The Executive Committee also resolved that guest speakers for the Zone meetings would follow the strategic priorities.

August 2018 Meeting:

- Economic Development
Anne Banks McAllister, Regional Capacity Building Manager from WALGA provided an outline of the Local Government Economic Development project and discuss the zones economic development opportunities.
- Local Government Act Review
WALGA and Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries spoke on the review process and the upcoming consultation process.

A separate Zone forum was held on 24 October 2018, where the Act review issues were workshopped.

November 2018 Meeting:

No speakers as short meeting or teleconference due to harvest.

March 2019 Meeting:

- Telecommunications – Telstra, NBN – Boyd Brown from Telstra, presented to the Zone.
- Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and Redress – Gordon MacMile from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries presented to the Zone.

April 2019 Meeting

- Education - a guest speaker be invited to the April 2019 meeting and discuss School of Isolated and Distance Education (SIDE) Program.
- Transport – Heavy Vehicle issue

RESOLUTION: Moved: Cr Geoff Waters Seconded: Cr Tony Sachse

That the focus for the April Zone meeting be on Education and that the following organisations be requested to present to the Zone:

- **School of Isolated and Distance Education (SIDE)**
- **Cunderdin Agriculture**
- **Merredin College**

The Transport – Heavy Vehicles issue be scheduled for the June meeting.

CARRIED

5.3 Doctor Availability – Merredin Hospital

From Executive Officer

Background:

At the March 2019 Zone meeting the following was resolved;

That the Zone request a deputation to the Minister for Health on the availability of doctors at the Merredin Hospital.

Action

The Zone Executive Officer will provide researched information to assist with the deputation.

Comment:

Executive Committee consideration to who attends the deputation and information to be provided.

RESOLVED

That:

Zone President – Cr Rhonda Cole

Shire President, Merredin – Cr Ken Hooper

Shire President, Mukinbudin – Cr Gary Shadbolt

Attend the deputation to the Minister of Health.

Executive Officer to liaise with Mia Davies Office on comparison of situation between Northam and Merredin hospitals.

5.4 Telstra - Power Outages Effecting Communications

From Executive Officer

Background:

The Zone resolved the following at the March 2019 meeting:

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.
2. Write to Boyd Brown, Telstra to seek a written response in respect to power outage procedures in place, what is the Battery Back-up Program and what is a better procedure going forward using the latest technology. (Local member to be provided a copy of letter).

3. Executive Officer to support a Zone Local Government in providing an Agenda Item to the Australian Local Government Association's National General Assembly in regards to the failing of telecommunications in regional Australia.

Comment:

An update on this item was provided as listed below:

1. The Executive Officer advised that WALGA's Emergency Management Manager is working with State Emergency Management Committee on the issue of power outages effecting telecommunications and the eligibility for Local Governments to turn generators on.
2. A letter to My Boyd Brown, Telstra has been sent and Mr Brown's response will be included in the Zone Agenda.

Noted

5.5 Zone Executive Officer Services
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Background:

At the April 2018 Zone meeting, the following was resolved;

That GECZ engage WALGA to provide executive support for 12 months (1-7-18 to 30-6-19) provided:

1. *A senior officer from WALGA provide that service.*
2. *That KPI's be developed by the Executive Committee by August.*

Comment:

The current arrangements with WALGA carrying out the Executive Officer services were until 30 June 2019.

The Zone needs to consider if it is happy with this arrangement and wishes to continue or not.

WALGA is pleased with the arrangement and is keen to continue.

The Zone Executive Officer left the teleconference for this item at 8.00am.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Tony Sachse Seconded: Cr Geoff Waters**

That the Zone endorse WALGA to continue the executive support for the Great Eastern Country Zone for the next 2 years (19/20 and 20/21) and that suitable Key Performance Indicator's be put in place.

CARRIED

6.0 OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion points for the Zone meeting

- Cr Waters raised concerns about funding cuts for Regional Road Groups
- An update from Cr Storer on the recent announcements regarding the Secondary Freight Routes project be requested for the next Zone meeting.

7.0 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee will be 13 June via teleconference.

8.0 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.15am

May 2019 State Councillor Report



Cr Stephen Strange

March 2019 State Council Meeting – Minister for Local Government

The Minister for Local Government, Hon David Templeman MLA, addressed State Council at the commencement of the meeting.

The Minister spoke about Stages one and two of the Review of the Local Government Act including the submissions received in relation to Stage two. The submissions received by the Department have addressed a range of topics and themes including:

- Communication;
- Roles and responsibilities;
- Relationships between Elected Members and the Chief Executive Officer and staff; and,
- The Department and its role.

The Minister also spoke about the importance of the relationship between the State and Local Government sector and continuing to work together.

March 2019 State Council Meeting – Key Issues

Local Government Act Review

State Council endorsed WALGA's submission to the Local Government Act Review, which included a number of policy positions and incorporated significant input from forums with Local Governments and Zones, written Local Government submissions, and Zone decisions prior to the State Council meeting.

Economic Development Project

Two key pieces of work relating to the Economic Development Project were endorsed by State Council:

1. Local Government Economic Development: Research Findings and Future Directions Discussion Paper; and,
2. Local Government Economic Development Framework.

The Discussion Paper and the Framework will be launched on 7 May 2019.

Hello, and welcome to the May edition of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) Update for 2019.

It's been a busy start to the year. A morning tea of a different kind was held on 22 March when the Department farewelled Nick Sloan and thanked him for his significant contribution. We look forward to working with him in his new role as CEO of the West Australian Local Government Association.

It was a great opportunity to be part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Forum hosted by Local Government Integrated Planners Network and Local Government Professionals WA on Friday 12 April at Crown, Burswood. It was a highly interactive and informative forum that highlighted the benefits that IPR can deliver and simple and effective ideas to assist local governments in meeting their IPR obligations. It was a terrific event and we are pleased to be supporting the roll out of the Peer Support program.

A significant milestone came to fruition this month with the introduction of the Local Government Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 to Parliament on 14 March. The Bill passed the Legislative Assembly on 10 April and is currently awaiting debate in the Legislative Council.

The Bill introduced a number of reforms aimed at the governance level of local governments to ensure that council members have the skills and tools to be able to competently and appropriately perform their role. It also includes the require for all candidates nominating for council to complete an online induction. This is expected to be in place for this October's local government elections.

The public submission period for the new Local Government Act closed on 31 March 2019. During the public submission period more than 100 workshops, forums and meetings were held across Western Australia with local governments, key stakeholders, and community members. The Department received over 3000 responses and an analysis of the responses received is underway.

The State Local Government Partnership Agreement Leadership Group met on 16 April. It was a productive meeting covering a range of issues from planning reform, waste management, climate change and governance issues. It was also an opportunity to celebrate the progression of the McGowan Government's Local Government Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 and highlight the importance of training. A meeting communique will be released shortly.

The Department is sponsoring a regional Local Government Award as part of the 2019 Regional Achievement and Community Awards. More information is contained in this edition, along with information about National Reconciliation Week (NRW) that takes place from 27 May to 3 June and the activities that have been planned.

Until next time.

Duncan Ord, OAM

Director General

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries **Making a Difference**

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' Making a Difference Award will recognise collaborative efforts by Local Governments to ensure positive outcomes for WA's regional communities. This award recognises and celebrates the importance of Local Government working for the benefit of our regional communities and the valuable contribution that Local Government makes every day.



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Making a Difference Award 2019

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' Making a Difference Award will recognise collaborative efforts by Local Governments to ensure positive outcomes for WA's regional communities. This award recognises and celebrates the importance of Local Government working for the benefit of our regional communities and the valuable contribution that Local Government makes every day. For more information and to nominate visit www.awardsaustralia.com/waraca.

Local Government Legislation Amendment Bill 2019

The *Local Government Legislation Amendment Bill 2019* was introduced into Parliament on 14 March and passed the Legislative Assembly on 10 April. The focus of the first tranche of reforms is on better equipping council members to undertake their complex and important role. It also provides for greater transparency and accountability to the community.

More information is available on the Parliament House website www.parliament.wa.gov.au and in [Ministers Circular 01-2019](#) and Department Circular 03-2019.

The Department will continue to work with the sector and peak bodies on the development and implementation of the first tranche of reforms:

Training

- An online induction package for candidates is currently being prepared by the Department. It is expected to be available on a voluntary basis in July 2019.
- An expression of interest has been sent to potential providers for the elected member training.

CEO Recruitment and Performance Review Best Practice Standards

- The Department is working with an expert panel to develop the standards and proposed guidelines. It is expected this will be released for consultation in May.

Code of Conduct

- The Department is working with an expert panel to develop the Code of Conduct. It is expected that consultation will occur on the Code in June.

New Local Government Act

The public submission period for the new Local Government Act closed on 31 March 2019. During the public submission period more than 100 workshops, forums and meetings were held across Western Australia to promote the opportunity to be involved. Over 3000 submissions have been received and are being reviewed. For more information please visit www.dlgc.wa.gov.au/lgareview or Email actreview@dlgsc.wa.gov.au

Local Government Circulars

Local government circulars are one of the tools the Department uses to communicate with councils. They may contain information about:

- changes to legislation
- policy positions
- consultations
- a need to take specific action

The following circulars have been issued this year.

- [Ministerial Circular 01-2019 Local Government Legislation Amendment Bill 2019](#)
- [Departmental Circular 01-2019 Impact of SAT decision on park homes and park home park licences](#)
- [Departmental Circular 02-2019 Safe work places in local government](#)
- [Departmental Circular 03-2019 Local Government Legislation Amendment Bill 2019](#)

For access to archived information, please email your request to circulars@dlgsc.wa.gov.a



National Reconciliation Week (NRW) will take place from 27 May to 3 June and is a chance for us to come together and celebrate the significant role of Aboriginal people within the WA community.

This year's theme, *grounded in truth, walk together with courage*, calls for a

comprehensive process of truth-telling about Australia's colonial history, based on the awareness that our nation's past is reflected in the present, and will continue to play out in future unless we heal historical wounds. You can [learn more about National Reconciliation Week](#).



To celebrate and recognise the importance of Reconciliation Week, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) is coordinating the 2019 Street Banner Project across Western Australia. Private, public and community sector organisations were invited to get involved by sponsoring a reconciliation banner that will feature their corporate logo, this year's reconciliation message and the artwork *Karrkurinkinja* by

WA artist Valmayi Nampitjinpa. Ms Nampitjinpa's artwork was selected at the Revealed Art Exhibition last year. Special thanks to all the Local Governments who are participating this year. If you have any questions about this project, please contact Ms Abigail Lamont, Project Officer, Aboriginal History WA, DLGSC, on (08) 9427 3470, or email banners@dlgsc.wa.gov.au.

The Arts Organisation Investment Program



Arts Organisation Investment Program



The Arts Organisation Investment Program is an open and competitive multiyear funding program to support Western Australia's arts, cultural and creative sector organisations.

More information on the Arts Organisation Investment Program, please visit

<https://www.dca.wa.gov.au/funding/arts-organisation-investment-program/>

Applications close AWST 4:00pm, 9 May 2019.

DLGSC Ministerial media statements

Hon David Templeman, Minister for Local Government; Culture and the Arts

- 10 April 2019: [Consultation open on dog standards and guidelines](#)
- 10 April 2019: [Perth's southern suburbs lead the way in recycling](#)
- 3 April 2019: [WA regions become the backdrop once again](#)

Hon Paul Papalia, Minister for Racing and Gaming; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests

- 29 March 2019: [Life's better with horses](#)

Hon Mick Murray, Minister for Sport and Recreation

- 15 April 2019: [Women's sport the big winner as facilities fund enjoys remarkable first year](#)
- 9 April 2019: [100 days until Leeds United take on rivals Manchester United in Perth](#)
- 1 April 2019: [Manchester United open training session to raise money for charity](#)

Hon Ben Wyatt, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

- 28 March 2019: [McGowan Government to retain Crown land in Alfred Cove](#)
- 20 March 2019: [State Government welcomes indigenous ranger pledge](#)

WA Government News

For the latest updates, visit the official Facebook for WA Government News.
<https://www.facebook.com/wagovnews/>