



# Great Eastern Country Zone

## Minutes

**Kellerberrin Recreation & Leisure Centre**

**Wednesday 26 February 2020**

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# Great Eastern Country Zone

Meeting held at the Kellerberrin Leisure Centre  
Commenced at 9.30am, Wednesday 26 February 2020

## Minutes

### 1. OPENING AND WELCOME

### 2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

<b>Shire of Bruce Rock</b>	President Cr Stephen Strange Deputy President Cr Ramesh Rajagopalan
<b>Shire of Cunderdin</b>	Cr Dennis Whisson Cr Alison Harris Mr Stuart Hoble, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Dowerin</b>	Ms Rebecca McCall, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Kellerberrin</b>	Kate Dudley, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
<b>Shire of Kondinin</b>	Ms Mia Maxfield, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Merredin</b>	President Cr Julie Flockart Deputy President Cr Mal Willis Mr Mark Dacombe, (Temp) Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Mount Marshall</b>	President Cr Tony Sachse – <b>Deputy Chair</b> Mr John Nuttall, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Narembeen</b>	President Cr Rhonda Cole – <b>Chair</b> Cr Alan Wright Mr Scott Wildgoose, Acting Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Nungarin</b>	President Pippa DeLacey Cr Eileen O'Connell Mr Adam Majid Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Tammin</b>	President Cr Michael Greenwood Deputy President Cr Glenice Batchelor Mr Neville Hale, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Trayning</b>	Deputy President Cr Geoff Waters
<b>Shire of Westonia</b>	President Cr Karin Day Jasmine Geier, Manager Corporate Services
<b>Shire of Wyalkatchem</b>	Deputy President Cr Owen Garner
<b>Shire of Yilgarn</b>	President Bryan Close Cr Wayne Della Bosca Mr Peter Clarke Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

**WALGA Executive** Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Development  
Mark Batty, Executive Manager, Environment and Waste  
Lyn Fogg, Governance Advisor, Sector Support and Advice

**GUESTS** Hon Dave Kelly, Minister for Water; Forestry; Innovations and ICT; Science; Youth  
Hon Laurie Graham MLC, Agricultural Region  
Emma Collyer, Policy Advisor, Minister for Water Office  
Kathleen Brown, Electorate Officer, Mia Davies MLA Office  
Patricia Pedlety, Water Corporation

**DLGSC** Ms Jennifer Collins, Regional Manager, Wheatbelt  
Mr Gordon MacMile, Director Strategic Coordination and Delivery Planning and Service Delivery

**Main Roads WA** Ms Janet Hartley-West, Network Manager

**RDA Wheatbelt** Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development

**REED - Regional Early Education & Develop.** Ms Helen Creed, Chairperson

## **APOLOGIES**

**Shire of Bruce Rock** Mr Darren Mollenoyux Chief Executive Officer, Non-voting Delegate

**Shire of Dowerin** Cr Julie Chatfield  
Cr Darrel Hudson

**Shire of Kellerberrin** President Cr Rodney Forsyth  
Cr Scott O'Neill  
Mr Raymond Griffiths, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

**Shire of Kondinin** President Cr Sue Meeking  
Cr Bev Gangell

**Shire of Koorda** President Cr Ricky Storer  
Cr Pamela McWha  
Mr Darren Simmons Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

**Shire of Mount Marshall** Cr Nick Gillett

**Shire of Mukinbudin** President Gary Shadbolt  
Cr Sandie Ventris  
Mr Dirk Sellenger Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

**Shire of Nungarin** Deputy President Cr Gary Coumbe

**Shire of Tammin** Cr Tania Daniels

**Shire of Trayning** Cr Melanie Brown  
Mr Brian Jones, Chief Executive Officer, Non-voting Delegate

**Shire of Westonia** Cr Bill Huxtable  
Mr Jamie Criddle Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

**Shire of Wyalkatchem** President Cr Quentin Davies  
Ms Taryn Dayman Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

**GUESTS** Hon. Martin Aldridge MLC, Agricultural Region  
Mr Craig Manton, Main Roads WA  
Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt

## **ATTACHMENTS**

The following were provided as attachments to the agenda:

1. Great Eastern Country Zone Minutes 28 November 2019.
2. Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee Minutes 13 February 2019.
3. State Emergency Management Committee Agenda
4. Telstra Fact Sheet
5. President's Report
6. RDA Wheatbelt Update
  - Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Attachments - State Council Agenda – via link: <https://walqa.asn.au/getattachment/23e6a5d1-55b5-4244-a8c7-2cf682088bac/Agenda-State-Council-4-March-2020.pdf>

The following documents are attached to the minutes;

7. REED – Regional Early Education and Development presentation
8. Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Update and National Redress Scheme presentations.
9. Hon. Mia Davies – copy of correspondence to Federal Minister for Water

### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cr Eileen O'Connell, Shire of Nungarin disclosed an interest in Item 7.1 - Federal Government Drought Communities Program.

### **4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair, President Cr Rhonda Cole, introduced the Hon. Dave Kelly, Minister for Water; Forestry; Innovations and ICT; Science; Youth and the Hon Laurie Graham MLC, Agricultural Region, who is attending this meeting to hear and address the Zone's concerns - refer Item 7.1 - Federal Government Drought Communities Program.

The Minister addressed the meeting regarding the following matters:

- COAG Minister's Forum in Tasmania (week of 17-21 Feb 2020) received a climate outlook update from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) – key take away points included:
  - Australia is facing a drier climate with the south west of WA continuing in a long term drying pattern;
  - Australia will get hotter, with consequential impacts on weather generally and therefore agriculture;
  - Australia will experience less cyclonic events, however cyclonic events will become more intense.
- Usually only 2 districts with declarations of water deficiency, however 9 such declarations are currently in place.
- State Government now carting water for animal welfare and to supplement scheme water for 8 town sites. End of financial year costs to State Government estimated at \$11m.
- State Government has spent \$1.5m on community water supply improvement projects.

- Water Department has identified a further 90 Strategic Community Water Supply Projects.
- Minister is seeking to resolve lack of coordination between Water Corporation, Department of Water, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and Local Governments. Minister has implemented regular meetings with these agencies to better coordinate State Government responses.
- Federal Government drought expenditure of \$14 billion – 95% spent on east coast, approx. 2% in WA.
- Federal Government Drought Communities Program round one included 100 Local Governments in WA – nil qualified. Second round resulted in 52 local governments funded nationally of which 48 were in WA. State Government has met with Federal Minister, David Littleproud and is advocating for a third round of funding, so that WA drought areas may be better funded. Expressed 'surprise' that the Federal Government had not sought to consult with the State Government nor WALGA when determining funding.
- Noted commentary from the Ernst Young review of the Federal program, that data that informed Federal Government funding decisions was primarily based on rainfall data from the Murray/Darling basin – no WA data used.
- Minister would like to speak with WA Local Governments that were funded / not funded to better understand the issues.
- Noted that Federal "Future Drought Fund" has potential to provide \$100m per annum in funding – State Government therefore advocating for Federal funding for:
  - The identified 90 strategic community water supply projects;
  - Investigating on farm small scale desalination plants (currently on trial at Muresk);
  - Urban horticulture projects.
- Goldfields water pipeline replacement / undergrounding project – is the continuance of the ongoing maintenance program however now packaged as a 50 year plan to facilitate Federal funding approvals.
  - Confirmed that parts of the pipeline relevant to tourism / heritage will remain above ground.

The Minister then took questions and comments from Zone Members:

- Mount Marshall – Government drought responses lack understanding of the importance of rainfall patterns in WA (rather than focus only on total volume of rainfall) i.e. rain at wrong time of year can have greater detrimental impact.
- Narembeen – This lack of understanding increases potential for wrong projects to be funded, value lost in the rush to spend money.
- Kondinin – No BOM data collected within the Kondinin District, contributing to difficulties for the Shire to successfully apply for drought funding. Currently carting water into the District and consider that there is a massive water supply problem ahead with stock feed lots substantially jeopardised.
- Yilgarn – Raised concerns with the Water Corp change in policy for access to and fees charged for water supplies from standpipes and particularly the agreements Water Corp requires Local Governments to enter into. Noted that similar concerns arise for the Shires of Kellerberrin and Westonia. Have written to Minister on 27 November 2019, however no response yet received. Minister advised that the delay in response was attributable to him seeking clarification on the advice provided by Water Corp. Minister advised a response will be provided.
- Bruce Rock – Raised concerns that the Federal Government was responding to individual Local Governments, suggested WALGA to coordinate a sector response / advocacy. Minister advised that he was supportive of working with the sector to coordinate a WA response.
- Bruce Rock – Aging infrastructure is contributing to substantial water wastage. Minister advised that the State has prioritised continued funding of the program to address this issue.
- Narembeen – Noted concerns with standpipe access / equity and cost issues, particularly how changes to Water Corp protocols now require Local Governments to pick up costs for maintaining standpipes whilst Water Corp collects the fees.

- Yilgarn – Additional dams required in strategic locations to contribute to drought proofing the area. Minister advised that some dams in disrepair have been identified for inclusion in the '90 Strategic Community Water Supply Projects'.
- Narembeen – Noted that dams don't just fall into disrepair and that the State Government's withdrawal of resources in regional areas has contributed to the failure of infrastructure to be appropriately maintained.
- WALGA – Mark Batty advised the Zone that the WALGA Secretariat required political direction from the sector to direct future advocacy. Noted that the Ernst Young Report identified poor methodology and Federal Government funding of some Local Governments that did not meet the selection criteria. Commented on the absence of 'joined up' advocacy – State Government / Local Government, and the need for the National Resource Steering Committee to be reconvened including Ministerial representation from all relevant portfolios – water, environment, infrastructure.
- Tammin – Expressed support for the re-establishment of the National Resource Steering Committee. Minister advised that he was open to suggestions for how to formalise the reconvening of the National Resource Steering Committee.

**10.25am The Great Eastern Country Zone agreed that for the convenience of the Minister for Water and for Zone Members that Item 7.1 would be brought forward for discussion.**

## **7.1 Federal Government Drought Communities program (Brought Forward)**

*By WALGA Executive Manager Environment & Waste, Mark Batty*

### **Background**

#### Drought Funding Update

There are a number of funding streams relevant to Local Government under the Commonwealth Drought Response, Resilience and Preparedness Plan 2019.

[https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/aust-govt-drought-response-plan\\_0.pdf](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/aust-govt-drought-response-plan_0.pdf)

#### Future Drought Fund

The Drought Response, Resilience and Preparedness Plan 2019 identifies the establishment and operating of a Future Drought Fund (still in preparation and due to be presented to the Australian Parliament in February 2020).

The Australian Government's initial \$3.9 billion upfront contribution will be invested by the Future Fund with earnings to be reinvested until the balance reaches \$5 billion. It will provide a sustainable and ongoing source of funding to make agriculture more productive and profitable and enhance the wellbeing of our farming communities and the sustainability of our farming landscapes.

The Fund will provide support to assist primary producers and regional communities to prepare for the impact of drought, as well as to encourage them to adopt self-reliant approaches to manage exposure to drought. The Fund will support initiatives that enhance the public good (that is benefits that are not solely for individual farm entities), including:

- invest in research, innovation, extension and adoption
- assist in the adoption of new and existing technology
- improved environmental and natural resource management
- infrastructure and community initiatives.

From 2020–21, \$100 million will be available for drought-resilience initiatives. A Consultative Committee has been established to advise on the Drought Resilience Funding Plan, which will be developed in consultation with farmers and regional communities. The Funding Plan will guide the selection and prioritisation of drought-resilience projects. There was only limited public consultation in the



development of the draft plan by the Consultative Committee (Merredin, Perth - state agencies only – and Geraldton).

### Drought Communities Programme Extension

This programme has been designed as a rapid economic stimulus package to the current drought conditions being experienced nationally. 128 Local Governments were initially identified (all eastern states Local Governments), plus the recent addition of 35 Local Governments in Western Australia. Up to \$1 million per announcement for local community infrastructure and other drought relief projects.

This is the program that is causing the consternation across the sector with regard to eligibility criteria. Significant portions of the SWLD and pastoral regions are ineligible due to the narrow scope and interpretation of the three primary selection criteria - based on rainfall deficiency data from the Bureau of Meteorology and population and industry data from the 2016 census.

WALGA has been working with ALGA in order to gain some greater clarity on the rationale for selection criteria, which is by default creating a sense of 'winners and losers', with over twenty additional Local Governments in WA now seeking inclusion into the Drought Communities Programme Extension. WALGA will be seeking a review of the eligibility criteria, as both the criteria used, and the interpretation of it in determining Local Government eligibility is entirely unsatisfactory in the WA context of ongoing drought conditions.

President Craigie gave public voice to the emerging concerns across the sector in her column in the West Australian on Tuesday 11 February.

State Government assistance across the south west land division is largely focussed on the Water Deficient Declared Areas (e.g. parts of Shires of Esperance, Lake Grace, Jerramungup, Ravensthorpe), and is also focussed on carting water to Denmark, Cranbrook, Grass Patch, Hyden, Lake King, Rocky Gully, Wellsted, Salmon Gums, Ravensthorpe and Walpole. At this stage there is little apparent coordination between the State and Commonwealth drought assistance processes.

### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** President Cr Tony Sachse  
**Seconded:** President Cr Stephen Strange

**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.**

**CARRIED**

The GECZ Chair, President Cr Rhonda Cole, extended the Zone's thanks to the Hon. Dave Kelly, Minister for Water; Forestry; Innovations and ICT; Science; Youth and the Hon Laurie Graham MLC, Agricultural Region, for attending the Zone meeting.

**10.35am** Hon. Dave Kelly, Minister for Water; Forestry; Innovations and ICT; Science; Youth, Emma Collyer, Policy Advisor, Minister for Water Office, Kathleen Brown, Electorate Officer, Mia Davies MLA Office, Patricia Pedlety, Water Corporation and Mark Batty, WALGA – left the meeting.

## **5. GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS**

### **5.1 Helen Creed - Regional Early Education and Development**

Helen Creed, Chairperson, Regional Early Education and Development provided a presentation to the Zone. The presentation is provided as Attachment 7.

**11.00am** Helen Creed left the meeting.

## **5.2 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries**

As resolved at the November Zone meeting, a representative from the Department presented to the Zone on relevant key projects for this first Zone meeting of 2020. The Department will continue to provide an update to each future Zone meeting based on the topics of interest that are provided from the Zone.

Ms Jennifer Collins, Regional Manager, Wheatbelt spoke to matters related to DLGSC services and activities and Mr Gordon MacMile, Director Strategic Coordination and Delivery spoke regarding National Redress Scheme. The presentation is provided in Attachment 8.

**11.40am** The Chair, President Cr Rhonda Cole, adjourned the meeting.

**11.52am** The meeting was reconvened.

**11.53am** Ms Jennifer Collins, Regional Manager, Wheatbelt spoke to matters related to DLGSC services and activities and Mr Gordon MacMile, Director Strategic Coordination and Delivery – left the meeting.

## **6. MINUTES**

### **6.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held Thursday 28 November 2019**

The Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on Thursday 28 November 2019 have previously been circulated to Member Councils.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Cr Ramesh Rajagopalan  
**Seconded:** President Cr Karin Day

**That the minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held Thursday 28 November 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 Thursday 28 November 2019**

**NIL.**

### **6.3 Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee Meeting held Thursday 13 February 2019**

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

### 6.3.1 (Executive committee item 5.3) Budget 2020/21

#### Background:

Preparation of the draft budget for the 2020/21 reporting year will soon commence. This will then be tabled at the April of the Executive committee.

To support the preparation of the budget, the committee was invited to discuss and provide guidance on the following:

- Whether it wishes to provide any budget allocation for a Convention or similar events,
- Other new items of activity, like regional Elected Member training
- Subscription options.

The Committee needs to be aware that total cash currently held is \$184,599 and that this year's subscription was reduced by 50 percent. In determining the subscription, the committee may wish to consider potential activities beyond next year.

#### Executive Committee Resolved

That the Subscriptions be retained at \$1750 for the 20/21 financial year.

#### Resolved

**The GECZ requested WALGA to provide advice detailing the potential costs if the Zone funded the Council Member Essentials Training for Zone Members, including if the Zone refunds in-person and / or eLearning training costs already incurred by Zone member Local Governments for the April Zone meeting.**

#### ZONE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Alan Wright  
Seconded: Cr Wayne Della Bosca

That the Subscriptions be retained at \$1750 for the 20/21 financial year.

**CARRIED**

### 6.3.2 Minutes of the Executive Committee 13 February 2020

#### RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Julie Flockart  
Seconded: President Cr Pippa DeLacey

**That the remaining items contained in the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the Great Eastern Country Zone held Thursday 13 February 2020 be endorsed.**

**CARRIED**

## 7. ZONE BUSINESS

### 7.1 Federal Government Drought Communities program (Refer page 8 above)

Item 7.1 was, by agreement, discussed earlier in the meeting.

## 7.2 Wheatbelt Conference 2020

*By Executive Officer, Tony Brown*

### Background

At the August 2019 Great Eastern Country Zone meeting, it was resolved as follows:

*That the Great Eastern Country Zone consider the future of the Wheatbelt Conference after the October 2019 Local Government Elections.*

The Executive Committee then resolved at the November meeting,

#### 4.2.1 Wheatbelt Conference

*The status on the Wheatbelt conference is that the other 2 Zones were not supportive of a 2020 Wheatbelt Conference.*

*Great Eastern Country Zone resolved to review after the 2019 Local Government elections. This item will come up at the March 2020 Zone Meeting for further consideration.*

**Noted: GECZ suggested that a proposal for a 2021 or 2022 Wheatbelt Conference be discussed with other Wheatbelt Zones at the 2020 WALGA Convention.**

## 7.3 Sports Infrastructure Forum

*By Executive Officer, Tony Brown*

### Background

At the November 2019 Zone meeting, the Zone requested the secretariat to obtain feedback and report back to the Zone on the outcomes of the Sports Infrastructure Forum.

The information below has been previously emailed to Zone members and is provided for discussion and noting.

Local Government have requested that WALGA continues to advocate for funding, support and resources from the State Government to assist with meeting the needs of communities and support for improved health outcomes of which sporting facilities and programs play an integral role. In acknowledging that sporting clubs and facilities can be the backbone to social cohesion in any community, extensive work has been undertaken by Local Governments to identify opportunities to address strategic planning and resourcing of community and regional scale sporting facilities.

At the WALGA Convention in August 2019, a concurrent session was held to assist Local Governments to better understand the strategic and funding environment that will assist Councils in continuing to provide low or no cost facilities and support the ongoing development of programs for recreation organisations. The session was well received and called to action stronger advocacy in this space. As a result, a Sports Infrastructure Roundtable was held on 4 November 2019 as an integral step in hearing the perspectives of a number of stakeholders and collectively designing potential opportunities that anticipate meeting the needs of the community.

It was a great opportunity to bring together key representatives for a discussion around the future of sports infrastructure whilst opening the prospect of strengthened relationships and aligned advocacy for effective statewide decision making. Participants on the day were representatives from Local Government Growth Alliance Perth And Perth (GAPP), Chaired by the City of Swan, and the Local Government Metropolitan Recreational Advisory Group (MARAG) currently Chaired by the City of Bayswater. Also participating on the day were representatives from Infrastructure WA, State Government agencies Department Planning, Lands and Heritage and the Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries, the peak State Sport Association (SSA), SportWest who

was accompanied by a few state sporting associations and Local Government Elected Members and Officers.

Participants in the Roundtable are collectively supportive of State Government in establishing a separate funding allocation for Regional level sports facilities and the allocation of an appropriate level of funding for the CSRFF program, together with ongoing advocacy across all tiers of Government.

WALGA, has been working with its members to address strategic planning and resourcing of community and regional scale sporting facilities. The Roundtable was an integral step in hearing the perspectives of all key stakeholders and collectively designing potential opportunities that anticipate meeting the needs of the community whilst contributing to the achievement of the State's priorities.

It was confirmed at the Roundtable, that the Minister is aware of the shortcomings of CSRFF but a commitment from State Government was still to be made on the best way to address the gaps.

A key component to addressing funding for sports facilities is to clearly demonstrate social and economic benefit for investment into infrastructure which is an area in need of improvement across all Western Australian Local and State Government sporting facilities. Of which Local Governments together with SSAs can provide through statistical data, such as usage statistics, as fundamental mechanisms to drive funding. This is currently being done well by the WA Cricket Association who have adopted a significant value for participation perspective.

One of the options discussed at the Roundtable, was to increase CSRFF significantly, as mentioned in the email below. This option would address more of the immediate need and include advice to State Government to develop a framework for the regional business case (and hold off funding business case development for future facility funding). The risk of choosing this option is that the CSRFF funding pool will still be susceptible to funding for regional facilities and the amount available to Local Governments for local facilities would be much the same as the current situation.

To counter this risk it was discussed and collectively agreed that the development of a regional business case, developed synergistically with a significant increase to CSRFF in the immediate State Government budget 2020-21, was the preferred measure. This option would address immediate concerns for Local Governments at the same time presenting an opportunity for longer term sustainability through the development of an investment strategy.

Therefore, a key outcome from the meeting was the aligned advocacy and collective action for the future of sports infrastructure in WA as was outlined in the WALGA Pre Budget Submission and stated:

- an increase in the annual amount of grant funding available in the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF) to \$25 million (recurrent), and
- an additional \$2.3 million over four years (2020-21 to-2023-24) for the development of a Regional Sports Facilities Investment Strategy that reviews the current and future need for regional sporting facilities across WA, identifies and prioritises future regional level sport infrastructure projects, and provides a framework for how these projects will be funded.

It is important to note that where we can get an aligned message we have seen greater successful outcomes. WALGA is working with key partners to ensure aligned messaging for this State Budget ask on CSRFF and an additional Regional Sports Facilities Investment Strategy across Western Australia and seeks your support with this messaging. We are also conscious that this is the last State budget before the elections in 2021 and in that light are also building an election campaign to promote a collective voice to leverage outcomes for Local Government in conducting one of their functions of facility provision through to community.

If anyone would like to discuss this in further detail, please don't hesitate to contact Kirstie Davis, Policy Manager Community [kdavis@walga.asn.au](mailto:kdavis@walga.asn.au) or contact on mobile 0438 231 710.

## **Noted**

## 7.4 Local Government Telecommunications Case Studies

### Background

WALGA appreciates the Zone Local Governments forwarding through all the valuable information regarding your challenges with telecommunications and your interactions with Telstra. As per previous commitments, WALGA took these concerns to the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) meeting on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December and I wanted to communicate our advocacy and key outcomes from the discussions.

WALGA received information from fourteen members and consolidated that into a single document which is attached. This was tabled with all members of the SEMC, along with the Telstra representatives, the day prior to the meeting. This was to ensure your concerns were formally on the table and provided Telstra with an opportunity to frame their presentation to cover off on the issues raised.

Telstra brought four representatives to the meeting including Mr Malcolm De Silva – State Manager Enterprise and Government, Mr Paul Harrison – National Emergency Manager, Mr Shane Kinnear – WA Emergency Service Liaison, Mr Brian Young – WA Deputy Emergency Services And Mr Mark Thompson - Corporate Affairs Manager.

The National Manager led a presentation which focused primarily on their capacity to deal with large scale emergencies and did not go into much detail with respect to the key areas of interest of our members. The SEMC Chair gave WALGA the opportunity to speak to your concerns and in doing so WALGA relayed the following:

- WALGA have circulated concerns raised by our members so that all SEMC members were aware of the ongoing challenges in telecommunications particularly in regional communities. Some of these concerns date back to 2016.
- We recognise that Telstra is but one service provider and that they will not be able to speak to each of these issues.
- There are common themes throughout the examples tabled, which include:
  - Blackspots
  - Battery backup failures
    - unreliability/lack of consistency and duration of the battery back-up for the Telstra Exchange in the event of a sustained power outage, and the time it takes for Western Power to deliver and install a generator.
    - The Telstra Exchange is powered by Western Power, and this supply is supplemented by battery back-up which automatically starts in the event of a power outage.
    - The battery back-up is intended to provide support to the Exchange for three hours but this is often not the case.
  - Outages – which have led to loss of landlines and mobiles
    - This has significant impact on LG capability to communicate before, during and after an emergency.
    - LGs rely on mobile networks to notify stakeholders of Harvest vehicle movement bans, communication with and deployment of volunteers, impacts day to day operations and community services.
  - Telstra Notification Systems
    - LGs report that often when they contact Telstra they are advised that Telstra were unaware of the outages. Correspondence has indicated that Telstra explain that it is intended to be an automated notification of outages but this seems to be failing.
- LGs are not only concerned about their ability to fulfil their obligations during emergencies, it clearly has consequences for residents living in these communities who are unable to ring 000, access data (in some instances) and lose communications themselves.

- We are tabling these with the SEMC as Local Governments have identified risks to their communities and to date, have not been able to resolve these issues through the various channels available to them.

Telstra acknowledged that communication with Local Governments and other stakeholders is an area to work on. State agency heads also raised this as a major concern. Telstra acknowledged that in order to resolve these issues they would look into how they could better engage with Local and District emergency management committees on a consistent basis to provide more timely advice and information on the matters as they are raised. They were also cognisant of the interdependencies with the power companies but did not offer tangible solutions to the issues raised.

Noting WALGAs concerns, Telstra have agreed to a separate meeting to discuss the matters we have raised on your behalf. My office is currently working on the timing of this meeting as a matter of urgency and WALGA will communicate with you all again once this is known. State Councillor Stephen Strange, will also attend to provide leadership from our members at this meeting.

Attached with the Agenda (Attachment 3) was the Agenda from the State Emergency Management Meeting from 13 December 2019.

Following the State Emergency Management Meeting, Telstra reached out for a follow up meeting. WALGA is pleased to say we met with Telstra, where we discussed how we can better understand the Telstra notification systems and how Local Governments can access the information and key contacts should this happen.

State Councillor Stephen Strange, WALGAs Policy Manager for Emergency Management, Mel Pexton and WALGA CEO, Nick Sloan hosted a meeting with WA Telstra representatives on Wednesday 18 December. The Reps included:

- Malcolm De Silva, State Manager Enterprise and Government
- Shane Kinnear, WA Emergency Service Liaison
- Mark Thompson, Corporate Affairs Manager
- Naomi Evans, Regional team

The key outcomes from the meeting were for Telstra to share a series of fact sheets on topics relevant to the issues being faced by your communities and provide key contact information in order for these matters to be escalated or referred should you need to.

The first fact sheet to be provided by Telstra is on Power Outages and was attached (Attachment 4) for your information. Please make note of the key contacts and make use of these as required.

Further to this information, WALGA has requested Telstra to review their local contractor arrangements to see if there are opportunities for more local content which may have an impact on expediting service reinstatement in regional areas.

WALGA recognise the interdependent nature of power supply and telecommunications, and we will be meeting with the sector in 2020. We have agreed to host a telecommunications and power info session in early 2020.

**Discussion** President Cr Stephen Strange provided an update on the 18 December 2019 meeting held with Telstra Representatives (noted above).

**Noted.**

## **7.5 Government Regional Housing (GROH)**

*By Policy Manager, Community, Kirstie Davis*

### **Background**

WALGA's Community Policy area has been dealing with this matter through recommendations made by Great Eastern Country Zone.

The response has been centralised around housing options of quality and quantity of stock, and other cost and workforce associated challenges for Police, however the GROH Framework considers all teachers also. The formal communication trail includes:

- After consultation and advocacy between WALGA, Local Government and relevant State Government agencies and key industry bodies, the McGowan Government deferred a planned increase to GROH rents in 2019-20 in a media statement released in May 2019. <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2019/05/McGowan-Government-temporarily-defers-increase-to-GROH-rents.aspx>
- WALGA has been advised by WAPOL and the relevant State Government agency who confirm the rental freeze to GROH properties will remain until the completion of the review of the GROH Tenant Rent Setting Framework. Further work has been done in strengthening the partnerships between WAPOL officers and key Local Government officers in specified areas of concerns through one on one meetings to discuss challenges and develop opportunities for change.
- Department of Communities modelling and draft ERC proposal has been elevated within the Department. The Director General has called for a working group to be established to include representatives from GROH, of which the Tenant Rent Setting Framework review will be included.
- Since the very public Department of Communities corruption disruption in the weeks leading up to Christmas, the area responsible for GROH has confirmed the GROH profile is undergoing a restructure with no further advice currently available.

WALGA notes and includes all Zones Recommendations and advice received from Local Governments in its advocacy for GROH and greater service support for regional and remote Western Australian Local Governments, acknowledging the importance of this topic.

As further information is made available, WALGA will remain in contact with the Zones to provide timely feedback and advice.

**Noted.**

## **7.6 Wheatbelt Health MOU**

### **Background:**

The Zone has received correspondence from WALGA CEO Nick Sloan, seeking each of the WALGA Wheatbelt Zones support, to re-establish the Wheatbelt Health MOU and invite the nomination of a representative to participate in a working group that will commence in February 2020.

By way of background, earlier this year the North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils (NEWROC) approached WALGA to deliver a regional health forum in the Wheatbelt. All Wheatbelt Local Governments were invited to attend this Forum held in Trayning on 20 September 2019. The forum was held with key service providers and stakeholders; WA Country Health Service (WACHS), St John Ambulance, WA Primary Health Alliance, Royal Flying Doctor Service, Regional Development Australia and the Hon Mia Davies MLA.

After the presentations from the key service providers and stakeholders, WALGA coordinated a workshop with the participants where key recommendations were captured. A report titled 'Wheatbelt Regional Health Services Summary Report' was then prepared.

The Wheatbelt Regional Health Services Summary Report along with its recommendations from the workshop were presented to WALGA State Council for endorsement on 4 December 2019. The following recommendations were endorsed:



That WALGA:

1. Re-establishes a working group to progress a Memorandum of Understanding with Local Governments in the Wheatbelt region and the WA Country Health Service, based on the previous work by the former Wheatbelt Health MOU Group, which outlines communication, responsibilities and strategic priorities unique to the region; and
2. Work with key service providers and stakeholders to engage with Local Government to further discuss the issues and develop solutions in the aged care services sector.

RESOLUTION 154.7/2019 CARRIED

The Wheatbelt Health MOU Group was previously established in December 2006 to be an advocacy group and to provide an avenue for Local Governments and stakeholders to work together to improve the delivery and availability of health services in the Wheatbelt. It was a partnership between the Avon Midland Country Zone, Central Country Zone and Great Eastern Country Zone; Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt; WACHS; and the Wheatbelt Development Commission. The group ceased operating in 2015. WALGA was not previously involved with the former MOU.

WALGA has written to the Chief Executive Officer, WACHS, Mr Jeffrey Moffet, Chief Executive Officer, WA Primary Health Alliance, Ms Learne Durrington and the Acting Chief Executive Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission, Mr Gavin Robins to also seek their support.

## ZONE RESOLUTION

**Moved:** President Cr Julie Flockart  
**Seconded:** Cr Ramesh Rajagopalan

- That Cr Glenice Batchelor (Shire of Tammin) be put forward to represent the Zone on the Wheatbelt Health MOU Group.
- That Cr Alison Harris (Shire of Cunderdin) be the Proxy representative.

CARRIED

### 7.7 Review of State Council and Zone Structure Process - Update

*By Executive Officer, Tony Brown*

An overview of the recent changes to WALGA's State Council and Zone processes will be provided at the meeting.

**Noted**

## 8. ZONE REPORTS

### 8.1 Zone President Report

*By Cr Rhonda Cole*

The Chair, President Cr Rhonda Cole advised the meeting that it would be good for the Zone to write as follows;

- **Outgoing WALGA President, Cr Lynne Craigie** – expressing the Zone's appreciation for Cr Craigie's leadership and service to the Local Government sector.
- **Newly elected WALGA President (once elected)** – congratulating them on their election and inviting them to attend a GECZ meet and greet, that could include all Council Members and CEO's from Zone Members.

The Chair also asked if the WALGA Secretariat could again coordinate / extend an invitation for WALGA CEO, Nick Sloan to also attend a GECZ meeting.

## RESOLUTION

**Moved:** Cr Wayne Della Bosca  
**Seconded:** Cr Alan Wright

**That the Zone President's Report be received.**

**CARRIED**

### 8.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group

*By Cr Rod Forsyth*

Cr Forsyth is an apology for this meeting.

### 8.3 Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Group

The Chair, President Cr Rhonda Cole, tabled a report on behalf of President Cr Ricky Storer as WBS delegate to WSNF steering committee.

*"Firstly like to thank Cr Rhonda Cole for stepping into the position, at least for the interim, as WBS delegate to the WSNF Steering committee. I would also like to thank and congratulate the Shire of Bruce Rock for taking on the role as host council for the Project Manager, and thank Darren for his assistance in conducting the interviews for this position.*

*We are pleased to welcome Mr Stephen Thompson, currently with the Shire of Brookton into the position of Project Manager. Stephen comes highly credentialed and recommended and will be, I'm sure, a valuable asset to the project. Stephen begins his role on the 3rd of March when he will firstly monitor work on the 2 pilot projects and also begin working with Local Governments to develop and ensure compliance of the 20/21 projects.*

*We are still waiting for the data from the TSD machine (expected in the next week or so), to finalise the prioritisation of the projects.*

*After quite a delay, the first instalment of \$4 million of the Federal ROSI funds were approved and the Shires of Victoria Plains and Quairading were able to proceed in the tendering process. Works in Vic Plains has begun with clearing the 2.75 km section of the Mogumber/Yarawindah Road. Quairading will begin widening and drainage works later this month. \$2 million is allocated to the pilot projects with the balance of a further \$2 million will be used for project development.*

*The construction phase of the Project was very successfully launched in Mogumber last Wednesday. The Deputy Prime Minister Hon Michael McCormack and State Transport Minister Hon Rita Saffioti jointly participated in the proceedings. Over 40 people attended including Melissa Price, Mia Davies, Laurie Graham, Shane Love, and Martin Aldridge, several Shire Presidents, councillors CEO's and staff as well various media representatives.*

*I would like to thank all who attended and apologise for the change in time which prevented many from attending due to other commitments."*

## RESOLUTION

**Moved:** Deputy President Cr Geoff Waters  
**Seconded:** President Cr Julie Flockart

**That the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Group Report be received.**

**CARRIED**

## 8.4 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee

By Cr Tony Sachse

### Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee Report – GECZ February 2020

The Wheatbelt DEMC last met on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 at the St John WA District office in Northam. At this point the minutes are not yet available but for information and reference the Agenda and attachments were included in this report. The meeting was attended by Cr Julie Flockart and Cr Tony Sachse as delegates for the GECZ. There was a good attendance of agencies at the meeting.

Item 3: Guest Presentation “Global and Local Developments – Coronavirus” by Merridy Hoffman (Clinical Nurse Specialist – Disease Control – Wheatbelt Public Health Unit):

- Respiration Infections Disease Emergency Response (RIDER) Plan “How to Prepare and Respond” was already set up and has held Australia in good standing for Coronavirus.
- Up to 17/02/2020 there were around 73,000 confirmed cases.
- At present “Pandemic Potential” [Not called a Pandemic yet].
- There were around 1,200 deaths from Influenza strains in Australia in 2019.
- Wuhan Province in China has 10 – 11 million people and the infection rate has been 0.01%. Most people have mild illness but those over 60 years old or with secondary health problems are more at risk.
- Surgical masks can be worn but should be changed every hour. Hand hygiene is important. It was probably not the best management to quarantine the “Diamond Princess”.
- Coronavirus Incubation is 5 – 14 days. Headache, runny nose, may start to cough are symptoms. The common cold is a coronavirus. So was SARS.

Strategies: Some medication works but is only effective if taken in first 48 hours. Indonesia is not currently testing. Some of the staff on the cruise ship were Indonesian. Australia will run out of medication if it becomes a pandemic. Put off overseas travel, especially if have underlying medical condition. At this point authorities don’t believe it travels through vents on aircraft.

Discussion: Vaccine availability especially for those involved in Emergency Management is really important. Agencies should provide Influenza vaccine for their employees. The influenza vaccine only lasts for 4 months so timing is really important. Attempting to produce vaccines which will last up to 5 years.

Item 5: Shire of Dowerin and Shire of Wyalkatchem have completed the 5-year review of their LEMA’s.

State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) request for the DEMC debrief. This is currently underway.

SEMC Communique and Update – Telstra Power Outages. This communique really only confirms the current position of Telstra with mobile and landline communication during power outages. As the Wheatbelt DEMC and the GECZ have identified, the current position of Telstra Towers being affected with power outages is of great concern as residents cannot call for assistance in an emergency. The Wheatbelt DEMC will continue to monitor and advocate for a better outcome. The Wheatbelt DEMC encourages all LGA’s to continue to lobby Government in this regard.

Item 6.3.1: The Shire of Kellerberrin’s LEMA has been considered compliant.

Item 6.3.2: Please see appendix 2 for LEMA currency, LEMC functionality and LEMC and exercise schedules.

Item 7: General discussion on closing/opening roads and communication with Main Roads. These could be better explained in the Incident Management Plan (IMP). The Incident Management Team (IMT) and Incident Support Group (ISG) could have more local advice through LGA's (Mayor's, Presidents etc.).

Item 8: DPIRD have completed their Animal Welfare in Emergencies Document.

Most Agencies reported business as usual.

DFES reported that mitigation works are continuing with LGA's.

Parks and Wildlife reported that over half a million hectares had been burnt in the Southern region, mostly in the multiple Forrestonia fires. The Large Aerial Tanker (LAT) has been in use and helped at the fire front in the recent Katanning fire. It can take a while to load and with retardant but has been effective. Currently based in Pearce airbase. DPAW also reported their chopper/roller has been working well with mitigation.

WA Police have said that a Special Methylamphetamine Truck is now deployed in Northam. This will also be used with RBT's, traffic operations and emergency management.

The GECZ report thanked all the agencies for their support of LGA's. Thanks also for the training and support of our volunteers', especially St John Ambulance and Department of Fire and Emergency Services. The workload on volunteers is always a concern for Local Government, but the continued support from the different Agencies is very much appreciated.

Northern Wheatbelt Emergency Management and Recovery Training Workshop and exercise for Local Governments and LEMC members: This will be held in Dowerin on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 from 10.15am until 2.30pm (lunch included). Please see attached flyer with more details. RSVP to yvette.grigg@dfes.wa.gov.au by 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2020.

## RESOLUTION

**Moved:** President Cr Tony Sachse  
**Seconded:** President Cr Julie Flockart

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

**CARRIED**

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

### 9.1 State Councillor Report

*Cr Stephen Strange*

Cr Strange provided the following State Councillor report:

The December meeting of State Council was the first meeting of the new State Council: State Councillors were elected from Zones in November 2019 following the Local Government elections in October. Six new State Councillors were elected to join 18 continuing State Councillors.

The following key issues were considered:

- Emerging Issue – Bushfire Fighting Vehicles  
State Council considered and endorsed an emerging issue brought forward by the Goldfields-Esperance Country Zone relating to issues with the current fleet of bushfire fighting vehicles.
- State Budget Submission

State Council considered WALGA's submission to the State Government in advance of their 2020/21 budget deliberations. The submission aims to align with the State's priorities, demonstrate value for money, and be specific, clear and succinct.

- Mandatory Code of Conduct and Guidelines for CEO Recruitment and Selection  
Two draft outputs from phase one of the Local Government Act 1995 review were considered by State Council:
  1. Mandatory Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates; and,
  2. Standards and Guidelines for CEO Recruitment and Selection, Performance and Termination.

In both cases, State Council identified a number of issues and concerns that require further clarification. State Council resolved to request the Government to reconvene the working groups to work through the issues identified by the sector in the consultation process.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Moved:**                      **President Cr Stephen Strange**  
**Seconded:**                **Cr Alan Wright**

**That the State Councillor Report be received**

**CARRIED**

## 9.2 WALGA Status Report to be updated

By Tony Brown, Executive Officer

### BACKGROUND

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

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Great Eastern C	2019 June 27 Zone Agenda Item 12.1 Government Regional Officer Housing	That the Zone request WALGA to advocate on the impact of Government Regional Officer Housing on retaining public sector professionals (Doctors, nurses, teachers) in the Great Eastern Country Zone.	<p>In May 2019, the McGowan Government deferred a planned increase to GROH rents in 2019-20. The next increase of \$30pw was due to come into effect 1 July 2019.</p> <p><a href="https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2019/05/McGowan-Government-temporarily-defers-increase-to-GROH-rents.aspx">https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2019/05/McGowan-Government-temporarily-defers-increase-to-GROH-rents.aspx</a></p> <p>WALGA notes and includes the Zones Recommendation in its advocacy for GROH and greater service support for regional and remote Western Australian Local Governments, acknowledging the importance of this topic in the coming months.</p> <p>WALGA has been advised by WAPOL and the relevant State Government agency who confirm the rental freeze to GROH properties will remain until the completion of the review of the GROH Tenant Rent Setting Framework. Further work has been done in strengthening the partnerships between WAPOL officers and key Local Government officers in specified areas of concerns.</p> <p>Department of Communities modelling and draft ERC proposal has been elevated within the Department. The Director General has called for a working group to be established to include representatives from GROH, of which the TSRF review will be included. As further information is made available, WALGA will remain in contact with the Zones to provide timely feedback and advice.</p>	Ongoing	Joanne Burges Executive Manager, People and Place <a href="mailto:jburges@walga.asn.au">jburges@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2018
Great Eastern C	2019 June 27 Zone Agenda Item 7.1 WALGA Advocacy Regarding Greenfinch Mine Expansion	That the Great Eastern Country Zone 1. Supports the Shire of Westonia's position to seek clearing and mining approval for the proposed Greenfinch mining operation.	Clearing permits have now been issued by DWER, and WALGA is working with the Shire to fast track the lad declaration process for the road reserve through the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage.	February 2020	Mark Batty Executive Manager Environment and Waste <a href="mailto:Mbatty@walga.asn.au">Mbatty@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2078

		2. Requests WALGA to raise the issue with relevant authorities to ensure that the Greenfinch Project has every chance of success.	Ongoing.		
<b>Grt Eastern C</b>	<b>2018 November 29 Zone Agenda Item 7.4</b> 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;  Write to the Department of Water suggesting that as a result of the increased Standpipe water costs that they re-introduce the Farm Water Grants to allow effected landholders the ability to create on-farm water storage and water connections	Considered by the Infrastructure Policy Team at its March meeting and further follow-up with Councils requested with feedback to the next meeting.	<b>February 2020</b>	<b>Ian Duncan</b> <b>Executive Manager Infrastructure</b> <a href="mailto:jduncan@walga.asn.au">jduncan@walga.asn.au</a> <b>9213 2031</b>
<b>Grt Eastern C</b>	<b>2019 March Zone Agenda Item 12.3</b> Telstra – Power Outages Effecting Communications	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.	WALGA have written to the SEMC to request action in respect to power outages effecting telecommunications.  WALGA have advocated to the SEMC and the SEMC have included this item on their agenda at the meeting to be held 2 August 2019.  WALGA tabled this issue at the August SEMC meeting requesting SEMC to formally write to the District Emergency management Committees and to provide WALGA with advice on this matter. SEMC have taken this as an action.  The Zone will be provided with a copy of SEMC's response when received.  This matter has been officially raised at SEMC, particularly the sector is still awaiting a response.  WALGA tabled concerns of the sector at the State Emergency Management Committee on Friday 13th December 2019. Following this WALGA met with Telstra and discussed how we can better understand the Telstra notification systems and how Local Governments can access the information and key contacts should this happen.  The key outcomes from the meeting were for Telstra to share a series of fact sheets on topics relevant to the issues being faced	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Joanne Burges</b> <b>Executive Manager, People and Place</b> <a href="mailto:jburges@walga.asn.au">jburges@walga.asn.au</a> <b>9213 2018</b>

			by your communities and provide key contact information in order for these matters to be escalated or referred should you need to. The first fact sheet provided by Telstra was on Power Outages and was disseminated to all regional councils.		
<b>Grt Eastern C</b>	<b>2018 November 29 Zone Agenda Item 7.3 Container Deposit Scheme Locations</b>	That the Great Eastern Country Zone requests that:  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  The State Government provide appropriate funding for the refund points.	170 refund points will be operational on June 2 2020 – the commencement date for the CDS - with over 220 refund points to be operational by June 2021.  The minimum refund points for the Wheatbelt region will be 1 full time point and twenty six flexible refund points.  The hours of operation are covered under the DWER Minimum network standards, which stipulates is to be open 16 hours each two week period, including at least 8 hours at weekends.  The CDS is funded by drink manufacturers, distributors and importers who first supply eligible beverage containers into Western Australia fund the scheme. Business which first supply an eligible beverage container into Western Australia will fund the scheme on a cost-per-container returned basis.	<b>February 2020</b>  <b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Mark Batty</b> <b>Executive Manager</b> <b>Environment and Waste</b> <a href="mailto:Mbatty@walga.asn.au">Mbatty@walga.asn.au</a> <b>9213 2078</b>
<b>Grt Eastern C</b>	<b>State Council Agenda 4 Dec 2019 Item 5.5 Local Government Financial Ratios</b>	That the item be deferred and that WALGA form a sector reference group to further review the ratios and provide recommendations to the March 2020 State Council meeting.	This item was put forward due to concerns from the sector with the current ratios and indicators.  The feedback from the sector through the Zone process has been very useful and it is appropriate to defer this item and form a Sector Reference Group to fully review the ratios. Due to Christmas/New Year period, it is suggested that a report come back to the April/May 2020 Zone/State Council meeting cycle.  State Council resolved as per below;  That the item on Financial Ratios be deferred and that WALGA form a Sector Reference Group to further review the ratios including all Zone feedback and provide recommendations to the May 2020 State Council meeting.  RESOLUTION 146.7/2019      CARRIED	<b>February 2020</b>	<b>Tony Brown</b> <b>Executive Manager</b> <b>Governance and</b> <b>Organisational Services</b> <b>9213 2051</b> <a href="mailto:tbrown@walga.asn.au">tbrown@walga.asn.au</a>



## 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.

*Noted that the Shire of Westonia Item (27 June 2019 Zone Item 7.1) can be removed.*

## RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ramesh Rajagopalan  
Seconded: Cr Wayne Della Bosca

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

CARRIED

### 9.3 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Matters for Decision

#### Background

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

The full State Council Agenda can be found via link: <https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/23e6a5d1-55b5-4244-a8c7-2cf682088bac/Agenda-State-Council-4-March-2020.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 National Redress Scheme – Future Participation of WA Local Governments

##### WALGA Recommendation

That State Council:

1. Acknowledge the State Government's decision to include the participation of Local Governments in the National Redress Scheme as part of the State's declaration;
2. Endorse the negotiation of a Memorandum of Understanding and Template Service Agreement with the State Government, and
3. Endorse by Flying Minute the Memorandum of Understanding prior to execution, in order to uphold requirements to respond within legislative timeframes.

*The Shire of Westonia raised concerns in respect to costs associated with Local Government staff attending training and costs associated with how the program will operate.*

#### 5.2 Submission on Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy

##### WALGA Recommendation

That the submission to the Department of Premier and Cabinet in response to the Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy be endorsed.

#### 5.3 WALGA Submission on Independent Review of the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

## **WALGA Recommendation**

That the submission on the Independent Review of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC) be endorsed.

*The Shire of Tammin advised that this item will require a watching brief.*

## **RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** President Cr Karin Day  
**Seconded:** Deputy President Cr Glenice Batchelor

**That the Great Eastern Country Zone supports all Matters for Decision as listed above in the March 2020 State Council Agenda, subject to Item 5.1:**

- **State Council noting that the Great Eastern Country Zone has reservations about the National Redress Scheme and potential costs to Local Government for attending training and other potential operating costs.**

**CARRIED**

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

- 6.1 **Draft Position Statement: Residential Aged Care – Submission**
- 6.2 **That the submission to the Department of Health in response to the Managing Housing Health Risks in WA discussion paper be noted.**
- 6.3 **Submission on Modernising the Environmental Protection Act**
- 6.4 **Submission to the Productivity Commission on the National Transport Regulatory Reform**
- 6.5 **Submission to Joint Select Committee on Road Safety**
- 6.6 **WALGA Submission on Native Vegetation in Western Australia Issues Paper**
- 6.7 **Proposed Amendments to the Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015 for Container Deposit Scheme Infrastructure**
- 6.8 **Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC)**
- 6.9 **2019 Annual General Meeting Status Update**

**Noted.**

### **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

Noted.

## 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

Noted.

## 9.7 WALGA President's Report

The WALGA President's was attached to the Agenda.

### RESOLUTION

Moved: Deputy President Cr Glenice Batchelor  
Seconded: Deputy President Cr Geoff Waters

That the Great Eastern Country Zone notes the following reports contained in the WALGA March 2020 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

As per the presentation at the commencement of the meeting, a Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries representative will update the Zone at all future meetings on topics of interest to the Zone that have been provided prior.

Please see link below for the full update:

[DLGSC Zone Update February – March 2020](#)

Noted.

### 10.2 Topics for next meeting

The Zone would like an update and/or information on the following topics at the next Zone meeting.

- **Office of the Auditor General** – status of audit services (noted OAG took 4 months to complete a Zone Member's annual audit)

- **Federal Court decision to uphold South West Native Title Claim** (noted this presentation will likely be provided by another relevant State agency, rather than DLGSC).

**Noted.**

## **10.2 Main Roads Western Australia**

Mr Craig Manton was an apology for this meeting. Ms Janet Hartley-West, Network Manager provided an update to the Zone.

**Noted.**

## **10.3 Wheatbelt RDA**

Mandy Walker, RDA Wheatbelt presented to the Zone. The report was attached with the Agenda.

**Noted.**

## **10.4 Wheatbelt Development Commission**

President Cr Julie Flockart. **TBA**

## **11. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT**

### **11.1 Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt**

Hon. Mia Davies MLA, was an apology however, on her behalf, Kath Brown tabled on her behalf a copy of a letter to the Federal Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance, Natural Disaster and Emergency Management, be tabled – refer Attachment 9.

## **12. EMERGING ISSUES**

12.1 Landgate – Delays in receiving valuations (Shire of Mt Marshall)

The Shire of Mt Marshall raised concerns at the delays in receiving valuation updates. They have examples of interim valuations taking up to 10 Months to receive.

**Action:**

**Request WALGA to inquire with Landgate in respect to the delays in receiving interim valuations.**

## **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 30 April, commencing at 9.30am.

## **15. CLOSURE**

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 1.04pm.

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# Regional Early Education and Development Inc: supporting regional prosperity

PRESENTED BY HELEN CREED – BOARD CHAIR



Regional Early Education and Development Inc

2


## Who are REED?

A not-for-profit organisation

-  building a sustainable early childhood education and care system in the Wheatbelt region
-  governed and managed by a skilled Board and Management Team
-  providing quality education and care that enable children to develop and flourish
-  contributing to the sustainability of rural and regional communities.



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## Why is REED's Work Important?

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- Managing an Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) service is a complex business.
- Urgent need for a service delivery model to address the sustainability of ECEC services in the Wheatbelt region which has been a challenge for more than a decade.
- Despite financial support from Commonwealth, State and Local Governments, many services did not have the income to cover staff salaries.
- Volunteer management committees and Shires do not always have the expertise to identify problems and take the actions necessary to resolve the situation.

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*“ REED is something that I believe very strongly in and think it is such an essential service for many small communities. From the few communities I am aware of, their volunteer committees are struggling with the increase in regulation and lack of appropriate staff, and I really hope REED's future acquisitions are as problem free as possible and enable these centres to keep offering childcare (ECEC). It's integral to small towns that parents are able to return to the workforce” Emma (a parent)*



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## Benefits of Early Childhood Education and Care

### For Regional Communities:

- ▶ Attracting and keeping essential workers and their families in communities
- ▶ Keeping services and businesses in regional communities
- ▶ REED's commitment to purchasing locally
- ▶ Maintaining the population in a livable community

### For Parents:

- ▶ Enabling parents to work, study and volunteer
- ▶ Influencing decisions to relocate or stay in a community or relocate for work
- ▶ Access to community resources that support wellbeing and mental health

### For Children in the Critical Early Years (0-5):

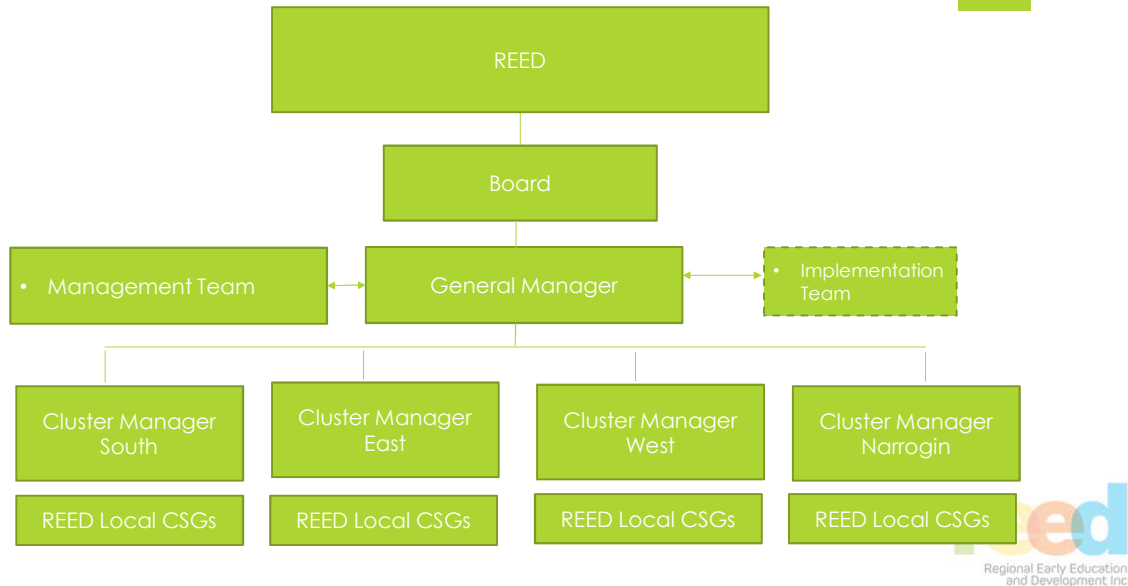
- ▶ Promoting social development
- ▶ Developing numeracy and literacy skills and building problem-solving skills through play





## The REED Cluster Model

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## REED provides

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- Long Day Care in centres leased from Shires, the WA State Government and one centre owned by REED
- Family Day Care – in a Family Day Care Educator's home or in a community venue such as community hall
- Outside School Hours Care in schools and in Long Day Care Centres and Family Day Care, and
- works in partnership with organisations such as Indigenous organisations to increase participation of Aboriginal children in ECEC.

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## REED services

### CURRENT (from Great Eastern Country Zone):

- REED – Merredin
- REED – Yilgarn
- REED – Bruce Rock
- REED – Cunderdin
- REED – Narambeen

### OTHER SERVICE TYPES:

- Narrogin Outside School Hours Care
- Great Beginnings Family Day Care, including in:
  - Beacon
  - Bencubbin

### MERGER PROCESS UNDERWAY

- REED- Mukinbudin
- REED – Hyden
- WITH MORE TO COME
- Preliminary discussions with NEWROC



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## If Childcare Centres Close...

*"Our options are either to move out of town, get an au pair — which we've looked at it in the past and it is hard to do here — or one of us has to quit our jobs which isn't really a great option either. It's a huge change to our financial situation."*

*~ Nicki, a parent impacted by threat of a centre closing ~*

- ▶ Loss of valuable community members – including those who are essential (e.g. teachers, police, GPs)
- ▶ Loss of regional jobs in the care economy
- ▶ Decline in mental health of parents/ guardians who don't have any other support systems



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## Assistance from Local Government

### Includes:

- **Long term leases** on premises used for early childhood education and care.
- **Provision of accommodation for existing and prospective staff** where availability of affordable accommodation is a barrier to attracting or maintaining staff.



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## Issues specific to local Shire services merging with REED

### include:

- **Different awards** for local government and education & care sectors;
- **Transfer of entitlements;**
- Ongoing **local community involvement.**



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## Summary

- ▶ Without change, services are at risk. REED has been established to address those risks.
- ▶ Regional collaboration and support for REED is critical for the sustainability of ECEC services which are essential for regional economic and social wellbeing and will ensure economic growth is distributed more fairly across the community.
- ▶ Children's development in the early years provides the critical foundation for life long learning and builds the future capacity in local communities.

**Positive outcomes for children, families, communities and regional prosperity!**



Regional Early Education  
and Development Inc

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## Contact REED Inc

- ▶ Postal : PO Box 390 Narrogin WA 6312
  - ▶ Phone : 08 6382 3825
  - ▶ Email : [admin@reedwa.org.au](mailto:admin@reedwa.org.au)
  - ▶ Web : [www.reedwa.org.au](http://www.reedwa.org.au)
- ▶ Facebook : [www.facebook.com.au/reedwa](http://www.facebook.com.au/reedwa)



Regional Early Education  
and Development Inc



Department of  
Local Government, Sport  
and Cultural Industries

# WALGA Zone Presentation

February 2020



Swan festival of lights 2019

## Our Department

- The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries was established 1 July 2017.
- Our new department combines:
  - Department of Local Government
  - Department of Sport and Recreation
  - Department of Culture and the Arts
  - Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor
  - Office of Multicultural Interests
  - Aboriginal History Research Unit (which was part of Department of Aboriginal Affairs).



Culture Festival 2019

## Responsible Ministers

- **The department is responsible to the following Ministers:**

- **Hon David Templeman Dip Tchg Bed MLA**  
Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Culture and the Arts
- **Hon Michael (Mick) Murray MLA**  
Minister for Seniors and Ageing; Volunteering; Sport and Recreation
- **Hon Paul Papalia CSC MLA**  
Minister for Tourism; Racing and Gaming; Small Business; Defence Issues; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests
- **Hon Benjamin (Ben) Wyatt MLA LLB, MSc**  
Treasurer; Minister for Finance; Energy; Aboriginal Affairs

## Strategic Intent 2019-21

### Government goals

**Sustainable Finances:** Responsible financial management and better service delivery

**Future Jobs and Skills:** Grow and diversify the economy, create jobs and support skills development

**Strong Communities:** Safe communities and supported families

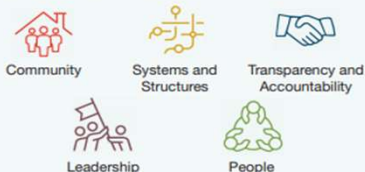
**Better Places:** A quality environment with liveable and affordable communities and vibrant regions.

### Drivers

#### Our Priorities: Sharing Prosperity



#### Government Reform Goals



### Vision

Creating a vibrant, inclusive and connected WA community

### Mission

To enable dynamic and inclusive communities and support the WA economy through effective regulation and the facilitation of outstanding sporting and cultural experiences and opportunities.

### What we do

**The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries is responsible for the delivery of the following services to government and the community:**

- Improve capability and outcomes across the local government, sport and recreation and culture and arts sectors
- Improve participation of CALD communities within Government and promote, support and celebrate the State's cultural diversity
- Contribute to the wellbeing of the community through effective regulation
- Encourage and enable understanding and acknowledgement of Aboriginal history and contemporary society
- Facilitate public engagement with highly valued sporting, cultural and recreational spaces and places.

### Our approach

#### We will:

- Work collaboratively with the community, all tiers of government and key stakeholders to implement a shared approach to improve community engagement and experience
- Be efficient, effective and responsive through an agile and flexible workforce
- Respond proactively to State Government imperatives such as election commitments and stated strategic priorities
- Contribute to the achievement of whole-of-State Government targets
- Use evidence-based information to develop community focused engagement and partnerships.

### Values



## Support for Local Government



- Department has five main roles in respect to local governments:

1. Education, advice and support
2. Monitoring and compliance
3. Investigation and intervention
4. Legislative review and reform
5. Working across government to support local government

## Legislation



- Local Government Act 1995
- Caravan and Camping Ground Act 1995
- Dog Act 1976
- Cat Act 2011
- Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1960
- Local Government Grants Act 1978
- Off Road Vehicles Act 2005
- Cemeteries Act 1978
- City of Perth Act 2016
- Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act 1978
- Local Government Amendment (Auditing) Act 2017.
- *GLAM ( Gallery.Libraries.Arts. Museums) Acts*

## State Local Government Partnership Agreement

The Partnership Agreement which was signed by the Premier on 2 August 2017.

### **OBJECTIVES**

- Ensure appropriate consultation and communication
- Better community engagement
- Improved legislation and compliance
- better service delivery outcomes
- Provide good governance for, and on behalf of, WA Communities

See more at <https://www.dlgc.wa.gov.au/Publications/Documents>

### State and Local Government Partnership Agreement

AUGUST 2017



## Local Government Act 1995 Review

- Objective is for Western Australia to have a new, modern Act that empowers local governments to better deliver for the community.
- Priority reforms were passed by Parliament in 2019, including:
  - Training for council members and candidates (in place)
  - New gift framework (in place)
  - Council member code of conduct (to come into effect in 2020)
  - Improvements to CEO recruitment and performance review (to come into effect in 2020)
- A Local Government Act Review Panel has been appointed to progress the development of a new Local Government Act.





## Regulation- Racing Gaming and Liquor

- This business area provides licensing service for the liquor and gambling industries, applications are considered and determined on their merits in accordance with the relevant legislative requirements.
- Performs audits and inspections to verify that the provision of gambling and liquor is conducted in a responsible and lawful manner.
- Undertakes regular audits and inspections to regulate the sale, supply and consumption of liquor and to minimise harm and ill-health to the public, in accordance with the legislative framework provided in the Liquor Control Act 1988.
- Undertakes inspections to ensure licensed premises are operating and being maintained to a standard that meets consumer expectations.
- <https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/racing-gaming-and-liquor/liquor/liquor-legislation>
- <https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/racing-gaming-and-liquor>



## Infrastructure

- This business area provides leadership to promote and guide infrastructure planning and develop sound policy based on the key principles of facility provision.
- Manages and maintains key civic infrastructure across the sport and recreation and culture and the arts portfolios.
- Provides client agency services for the planning and delivery of major State sport and culture infrastructure projects in line with the Department of Treasury's Strategic Asset Management Framework.
- Delivers the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund, State Sporting Infrastructure Fund and a range of infrastructure election commitments.
- Provides strategic policy, leadership and funding support on civic infrastructure planning and delivery across local government.
- <https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/funding/sport-and-recreation-funding/community-sporting-and-recreation-facilities-fund>

## Infrastructure – Key Projects

### WA Cultural Infrastructure Strategy

- In a Western Australian first, the Department is working on a WA Cultural Infrastructure Strategy.
- Local governments are critical stakeholders in WA’s cultural infrastructure
- In 2018/19 in WA, local governments invested a combined total of \$15.5 million in capital expenditure towards arts and cultural facilities.



Bilya Koort Boodja  
The Centre for Nyoongar Culture and Environmental Knowledge, Northam

## Regional services

- There are 9 regionals office across Western Australia focused on community-based outcomes in partnership with DLGSC networks and stakeholders.
- Key outcomes are stakeholder engagement, places and spaces, events and sports tourism, participation, capacity building and communication and advocacy.


### Regional Services Core business

**Key Principles:** Community based outcomes – Place based servicing – Innovation


Stakeholder Engagement	Places and Spaces	Events and Sports Tourism	Participation	Capacity Building	Communication and Advocacy	Business Systems
Local Government District Leadership Groups State Sporting Associations Clubs Community Organisations Human Services Managers forums Culture and Arts Organisations	Community Sport Recreation Facility Fund Trails Outdoor Recreation Recreation Centre Activation Public Open Space planning Community-based Facilities	Event Funding Regional Events Regional Economic Outcomes	KidSport Targeted Participation Program Active Regional Community Grants Athlete Travel Subsidy Scheme Regional Athlete Support Program	Every Club Learning and Development Regional Grants	True Sport social media campaigns	Local Government Networks Forums SSA/NGO support

**Regional Services:** The Regional Services team is a conduit of information and will implement key projects, programs and services with a focus on community-based outcomes in partnership with our networks and stakeholders. The team will support and facilitate broader DLGSC objectives through partnerships, collaboration and funding opportunities to Whole of Government Targets.





**Department of  
Local Government, Sport  
and Cultural Industries**



## Regional Services Performance 2018-19

### Wheatbelt

**Vision:** Enlivened and successful communities and economies,  
**Mission:** To facilitate lively communities and economies and the provision of outstanding and inclusive sporting and cultural experiences.

#### Regional Funding

**\$2,405,826**  
Total investment

<b>\$21,000</b>	<b>\$57,500</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
Active regional Communities Grants	Regional Organisational / servicing grants	Country Sport Enrichment Scheme

#### Stakeholder engagement

**132**  
Total engagements

Local Governments	42
Agencies	18
Community Organisations	5
State Sporting Associations	47
Clubs	20
Seminars	2
Workshops	3
Athleclubs	50

#### Places and spaces

15 CSRFF applications  
**\$2,136,434** funded

Trails  
**\$56,237** from LotteryWest

#### 8 Events

**\$33,000**  
Total investment

#### Participation

**\$110,642**  
Total investment

**KIDSPORT** **1137**  
**\$110,642** vouchers

Targeted Participation Program  
**\$0**

Community Connect  
**N/A**

#### Capacity building

**\$20,000**  
Total investment

**EveryClub**  
1 communities

#### Regional Athlete Support Program

**\$35,250** **25**  
Total investment Athletes

Athlete Travel Subsidy Scheme **\$10,250** RTD Network **\$25,000**



## Culture and the Arts

- Supports the delivery of arts and culture activities through strong evidence-based policy, research and funding across WA.
- Undertakes the development and implementation of research and industry projects to strengthen the policy basis of its programs and services.
- Work with stakeholders and partners to support the sector.
- Funds non-government arts organisations as a base from which they can generate additional income.
- Provides project funding to provide artists and creatives.
- Investment in arts and culture is essential to ensure Western Australians have ongoing access to arts and culture activities.
- <https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/culture-and-the-arts>



Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries  
 Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

## Regional Arts and Cultural Investment Program 2019-2023

Creating jobs, economic development, tourism and improving social cohesion by supporting the creative and cultural industries in regional Western Australia.

Through strategic investments, the program will build capacity in the regions and contribute to liveability and vibrancy of regional communities. This program has been re-designed to deliver on 'Our Priorities: Sharing Prosperity' to strengthen economies, create jobs and nurture prosperity in the regions.

### Stream 1: A State of Creativity \$11.3m

Contributing to an innovative and robust local economy by:

**\$2 million Business Development and Capacity Building**  
 Supporting the state's regional performing arts and entertainment centres.

**\$9.3 million Venue Activation Fund**

**Playing WA** – Supporting performing arts touring into professionally managed venues in WA.

**In the House** – Presenting expanded programs of activity in regional performing arts venues.

**Made in WA** – Commissioning new performing arts work which is relevant to regional audiences and will be premiered in regional venues.

### Stream 2: Strengthening Aboriginal Arts \$2.64m

The State Government is committed to supporting sustainable and ethical Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts industries in regional and remote Western Australia. In doing so it will support:

**\$1.8 million Aboriginal Arts Commissioning Fund**  
 Providing opportunities for Aboriginal artists to share their stories through the development of new, large scale work.

**\$840,000 Aboriginal Business Development and Capacity Building**

Supporting Aboriginal arts and cultural organisations in business development and capacity building.

### Stream 3: Empowered and Employed Communities \$5.0m

Delivering upon the State's policy driver of supporting vibrant, liveable, sustainable communities that are empowered in their decision making and better connected their communities by:

**\$1.04m Leveraged Creative and Cultural Planning**

Incentivising regional local governments to work in partnership with PDCs and DLGSC to develop creative and cultural plans and activities.

**\$1.2 million Regional Arts Empowerment and Employment Grants**

Support for regional artists and organisations.

**\$1.28m Community Participation and Inclusion Program**

Improving social inclusion and access to arts and culture in regional WA.

**\$1.28m Regional and Remote Festivals Fund**

Supporting regional festivals and contributing to cultural tourism.

**\$200,000 Y-Culture Regional Program**

Increasing participation, capacity and leadership in young people.

## Tourism Action Plan

- The aim of this two year action plan is simple: to highlight Western Australia as a unique, unmissable destination for arts, cultural, sport and Aboriginal experiences—and make the most of our opportunities.
- Alignment with Government priorities and investment.





## Aboriginal History Unit

- Assists Aboriginal people and organisations to access historical family records and genealogical information.
- Develops and implements significant projects that promote reconciliation in schools, businesses and the wider community.
- Provides a specialist research service for Native Title claimants and general researchers.
- Processes requests for records in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.
- <https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/aboriginal-history>

## Aboriginal History Unit- Key Projects

- **Wadjemup History Project**
  - **Sister Kate's Children's Home records indexing project**
- **Future projects:**
  - Indexing of mission's records from across WA**
- <https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/aboriginal-history>

## NO LESS WORTHY

ACKNOWLEDGING WESTERN AUSTRALIAN  
ABORIGINAL MEN IN WORLD WAR I



## WA Public Libraries Strategy

- **Long standing partnership between State and local government.**
- **Working together to:**
  - **Develop a new tiered model to support public library service delivery**
  - **New model to support regional and remote libraries**
  - **Business case for a single access library card system**



## Our Priorities: Sharing Prosperity

### A bright future

.....  
Improve the health and wellbeing  
of children in the early years  
.....  
Increase student reading and  
numeracy  
.....  
Increase participation in STEM  
.....

### A liveable environment

.....  
Build Metronet and increase homes  
close to public transport  
.....  
Increase conservation for future  
generations  
.....  
Make a cleaner, more sustainable  
environment  
.....

### Regional prosperity

.....  
Deliver stronger regional  
economies  
.....



### A strong economy

.....  
Create jobs  
.....  
Repair the State's finances  
.....

### A safer community

.....  
Reduce youth reoffending  
.....  
Reduce illicit drug use  
.....

### Aboriginal wellbeing

.....  
Reduce the overrepresentation of  
Aboriginal people in custody  
.....

## Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

### Contacts:

Website: [www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au](http://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au)

Main Telephone: 61 8 6552 7300 ( Perth ) 61 8 9492 9700 ( Leederville)

Free call (regional callers only): 1800 634 541

Email: [info@dlgsc.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@dlgsc.wa.gov.au)



## Wheatbelt office contacts:

- Northam office: 298 Fitzgerald Street Northam
- Narrogin office: Narrogin Regional Leisure Centre
  
- Jenifer Collins (Manager) 9690 2400 0419 905 953
- Samantha Cornthwaite (Regional Officer) 9690 2400 0429 881 369
- Emma Draper (Project Officer) 9690 2400
- Dianne Groves (Support Officer) 9690 2400
  
- [wheatbelt@dlgsc.wa.gov.au](mailto:wheatbelt@dlgsc.wa.gov.au)

## ROYAL COMMISSION INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE / NATIONAL REDRESS SCHEME

A Safer  
WA for  
Children

This initiative is part of the WA Government's action to create a Safer WA for Children by implementing the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

# RC – Background and Overview

The Royal Commission established in 2013 to investigate failures of public and private institutions to protect children from sexual abuse.

The Royal Commission released three reports throughout the inquiry:

- o **Working with Children Checks (August 2015);**
- o **Redress and Civil Litigation (September 2015); and**
- o **Criminal Justice (August 2017) – including (future) responsibilities of organisations.**

The Royal Commission Final Report was released on 15 December 2017 and contained a total of 409 main and sub-recommendations:

- o **310 recommendations applicable to the WA Government**
- o **99 recommendations outside the jurisdiction of the WA Government**

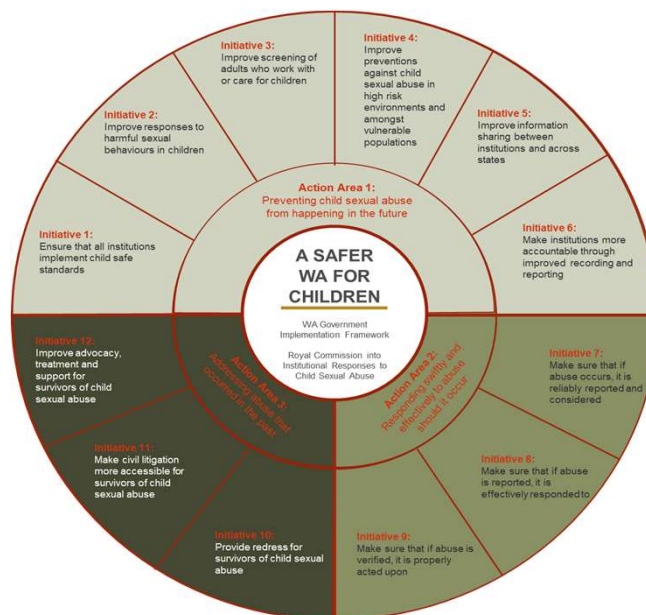
Main recommendations:

- o **Local Government - With support from governments at the national, state and territory levels, local governments should designate child safety officer positions from existing staff profiles to carry out a range of functions (as the close 'government' touch point to the community that provides information / education, club development and service delivery – recreation and community services);**
- o **Community groups including sport, recreation, exercise groups, dance, martial arts, cadets / other defence force activity for children, outdoor adventure groups, Scouts / Girl Guides, hobby groups, arts and crafts groups, cultural and musical pursuits, tuition groups implement the child safe standards;**
- o **Other recommendations:**
  - Legal responsibilities (Organisational Duty) and Redress
  - Reporting - Improving responses to and reporting child sexual abuse
  - Recordkeeping and information sharing
  - Mandatory Reporting, Reportable Conduct and Prescribed Bodies

This initiative is part of the WA Government's action to create a Safer WA for Children by implementing the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

The State Government's overall approach to implementation of reforms is focused on:

- **Stronger Prevention** (including Safer Institutions and Supportive Legislation)
  - o Create an environment where children's safety and wellbeing are the centre of thought, values and actions;
  - o Places emphasis on genuine engagement with and valuing of children;
  - o Creates conditions that reduce the likelihood of harm to children and young people.
- **Reliable Responses** (including Effective Reporting)
  - o Creates conditions that increase the likelihood of identifying any harm;
  - o Responds to any concerns, disclosures, allegations or suspicions of harm.
- **Supported Survivors** (including Redress)



## Redress - Background and Overview

- The Royal Commission's *Redress and Civil Litigation (September 2015)* Report recommended the establishment of a single national redress scheme to recognise the harm suffered by survivors of institutional child sexual abuse. The National Redress Scheme (the Scheme):
  - **Acknowledges that children were sexually abused;**
  - **Recognises the suffering people endured;**
  - **Holds institutions accountable for; and**
  - **Helps people who have been abused, access counselling and psychological services, an apology and a redress-payment.**
- **The National Redress Scheme formally commenced operation on 1 July 2018, will run for 10 years and offers eligible applicants three elements of redress:**
  - **A direct personal response (apology) from the responsible institution, if requested;**
  - **Funds to access counselling and psychological care; and**
  - **A monetary payment of up to \$150,000 (average payment expected to be approximately \$76,000).**
- Scheme also provides survivors with community based supports, including:
  - **Application assistance, financial support services; and independent legal advice.**
- Scheme run by the Commonwealth Government on behalf of all participating governments and non-government organisations on a 'responsible entity pays' basis.
- **For clarity 'institution', 'entity' or 'organisation' means any public or private body, agency, association, club, institution, organisation or other entity or group of entities of any kind (whether incorporated or unincorporated), however described, and includes local governments.**
- All State and Territory Governments and many major non-government organisations and Church groups have joined the Scheme, including Western Australia on 1 January 2019. Decision made at the time to exclude WA Local Governments to conduct consultation.
- **Institutions have until 30 June 2020 to join the Scheme.**

This initiative is part of the WA Government's action to create a Safer WA for Children by implementing the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

## Redress – State Govt decision on WA Local Govt on Redress Participation

### Decision

- State Govt notes the:
  - **consultation undertaken with the WA local government sector throughout 2019 and the options for participation;**
  - **WALGA State Council resolution of 3 July 2019.**
- Agree to local governments participating in the Scheme as State Government institutions, with the State Government covering payments to the survivor.

### State Government (covering and responsible for)

- Redress monetary payment provided to the survivor;
- Costs in relation to counselling, legal and administration (including the coordination of requests for information and record keeping); and
- Trained staff to facilitate and coordinate a Direct Personal Response DPR (Apology) to the survivor if requested (on a fee for service basis with costs covered by the individual local government – see below).

### Individual Local Government (covering and responsible for)

- Costs associated with the State delivering a DPR (Apology) - based on a standard service fee, plus travel and accommodation depending on the survivor's request (written or in person), location and circumstances.
- Own costs of sourcing and providing information if, and when requested.

This initiative is part of the WA Government's action to create a Safer WA for Children by implementing the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

## Redress and WA Local Govt – Next Steps

**State Government agencies will work with WALGA and all WA local governments over the next six (6) months to ensure that the necessary agreements, decisions, delegations, actions and preparations are in place to commence participation in the Scheme from 1 July 2020** including:

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - The MOU will be executed with WALGA and capture the overall principles of WA local governments participating in the Scheme as State Government institutions and being part of the State's declaration; and
- Template Council Report – Covering background to the NRS, the State's decision, endorsing participation with the State Govt, noting the necessary administrative arrangements and delegating authority to an officer to execute Service Agreement (if needed).
- Template Service Agreement – that will be executed on an 'as needed' basis between the State and an individual local government, if a redress application is received.

This initiative is part of the WA Government's action to create a Safer WA for Children by implementing the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

## Redress – Considerations / actions for all Local Govts

DLGSC and Justice will work with WALGA / LGPro and all local governments to prepare for participation in the Scheme including:

1. **Providing facilities and services information** to the State that allows each individual local governments to prepare for participation in the Scheme (March / April 2020);
2. Ensuring each individual local government has **delegated authority to an officer** to execute a service agreement with the State if needed (April / May 2020)
3. **Identifying appropriate staff** (including EAP support) to process and fulfil **Requests for Information (place in time information - registers, membership, payments)** within NRS timelines (if an application is received) (May / June 2020); and
4. Ensuring local government have established appropriate processes and **can fulfil Scheme obligations** (particularly in terms of confidentiality, record keeping etc) (May / June 2020).

This initiative is part of the WA Government's action to create a Safer WA for Children by implementing the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

For queries:

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Director Strategic Coordination and Delivery  
Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries  
Email: [Gordon.macmille@dlgsc.wa.gov.au](mailto:Gordon.macmille@dlgsc.wa.gov.au)  
Telephone: (08) 9492 9700

For more information:

National Office of Child Safety - <https://pmc.gov.au/domestic-policy/national-office-child-safety>

Commissioner for Children and Young People WA - <https://www.ccyp.wa.gov.au/>

DGLSC - <https://dlgsc.wa.gov.au/department/child-safeguarding>

Royal Commission - <https://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/>

National Redress Scheme - <https://www.nationalredress.gov.au/>

Support services:

If you or anyone you know needs help you can contact one of the services below:

[Lifeline](#) on 13 11 14

[Kids Helpline](#) on 1800 551 800

Emergency Services on 000 (triple zero) if you are in immediate danger