



**WALGA**

**GREAT EASTERN  
COUNTRY ZONE EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE**

**Minutes**

**Thursday 11 April 2019**

**Teleconference**

# **Minutes**

## **Great Eastern Country Zone of WALGA**

### **Executive Committee**

**Thursday 11 April 2019**

**Commenced at 7.32am via Teleconference**

#### **1.0 OPENING AND WELCOME**

#### **2.0 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

##### **Attendance**

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

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

##### **WALGA Representative**

Mr Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services

##### **Apologies**

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

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

#### **3.0 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Nil

#### **4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

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

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

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

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

**CARRIED**

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

Nil

## 5.0 BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

### 5.1 Financial Report for 31 January 2019

From Executive Officer

#### Background:

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

#### COMMENT

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

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

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

**CARRIED**

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

From Executive Officer

#### Background:

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

The following topics were considered priorities for the Zone;

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

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

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

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

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

August 2018 Meeting:

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

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

November 2018 Meeting:

No speakers as short meeting or teleconference due to harvest.

March 2019 Meeting:

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

April 2019 Meeting

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

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

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

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

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

**CARRIED**

### 5.3 Doctor Availability – Merredin Hospital

From Executive Officer

#### **Background:**

At the March 2019 Zone meeting the following was resolved;

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

#### Action

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

#### **Comment:**

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

#### **RESOLVED**

#### **That:**

**Zone President – Cr Rhonda Cole**

**Shire President, Merredin – Cr Ken Hooper**

**Shire President, Mukinbudin – Cr Gary Shadbolt**

**Attend the deputation to the Minister of Health.**

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

### 5.4 Telstra - Power Outages Effecting Communications

From Executive Officer

#### **Background:**

The Zone resolved the following at the March 2019 meeting:

1. Requests WALGA to advocate through the State Emergency Management Committee for action in respect to power outages effecting telecommunications and the eligibility for Local Governments to turn generators on.
2. Write to Boyd Brown, Telstra to seek a written response in respect to power outage procedures in place, what is the Battery Back-up Program and what is a better procedure going forward using the latest technology. (Local member to be provided a copy of letter).

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

**Comment:**

An update on this item was provided as listed below:

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

**Noted**

## **5.5 Zone Executive Officer Services**

**Background:**

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

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

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

**Comment:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**CARRIED**

## **6.0 OTHER BUSINESS**

Discussion points for the Zone meeting

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

## **7.0 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

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

## **8.0 CLOSURE**

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



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## **8.0 CLOSURE**

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# May 2019 State Councillor Report



## Cr Stephen Strange

### March 2019 State Council Meeting – Minister for Local Government

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

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

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

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

### March 2019 State Council Meeting – Key Issues

#### Local Government Act Review

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

#### Economic Development Project

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Until next time.

Duncan Ord, OAM

Director General

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries



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

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



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

**REGIONAL ACHIEVEMENT  
& COMMUNITY AWARDS**



Department of  
**Primary Industries and  
Regional Development**



Enter now at [www.awardsaustralia.com/waraca](http://www.awardsaustralia.com/waraca)

### **Making a Difference Award 2019**

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

### **Local Government Legislation Amendment Bill 2019**

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

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

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

#### **Training**

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

## CEO Recruitment and Performance Review Best Practice Standards

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

## Code of Conduct

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

## New Local Government Act

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

## Local Government Circulars

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

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

The following circulars have been issued this year.

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

For access to archived information, please email your request to [circulars@dlgsc.wa.gov.a](mailto:circulars@dlgsc.wa.gov.a)



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

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

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



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

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

## The Arts Organisation Investment Program



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

## Arts Organisation Investment Program



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

More information on the Arts Organisation Investment Program, please visit

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

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

## **DLGSC Ministerial media statements**

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

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

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

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

### **Hon Mick Murray, Minister for Sport and Recreation**

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

### **Hon Ben Wyatt, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs**

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

## **WA Government News**

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