



WEROC Inc. Board Meeting MINUTES

Monday 5 September 2022

Tammin Shire Council Chambers
1 Donnan Street, Tammin
Meeting commenced at 9.39am

WEROC Inc. | Incorporating the Shires of Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin, Merredin, Tammin, Westonia and Yilgarn

A PO Box 5, MECKERING WA 6405

E rebekah@150square.com.au

M 0428 871 202

W www.weroc.com.au

CONTENTS

1.	OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....	3
2.	RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES.....	3
2.1	Attendance.....	3
2.2	Apologies.....	3
2.3	Guests.....	3
3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	4
4.	PRESENTATIONS	4
4.1	Dr. Karl O’Callaghan, Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management, 9.30am	4
4.2	Ms. Kylie Whitehead & Mr. Robert McCafferty, WA Tourism & Regional Development Consultancy, 10.15am	4
4.3	Mr. Michael Hayden, Maarli Services, 10.45am – Late Apology	5
4.4	Mr. Rik Soderlund, Wheatbelt Business Network, 11.00am.....	5
4.5	Shire of Tammin.....	5
5.	MINUTES OF MEETINGS	6
5.1	Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on Monday 27 June 2022	6
5.2	Business Arising – Status Report as of 1 August 2022	6
6.	WEROC INC. FINANCE	7
6.1	WEROC Inc. Financial Report as of 30 June 2022	7
6.2	WEROC Inc. Financial Report as of 31 July 2022.....	9
6.3	Income & Expenditure.....	10
7.	MATTERS FOR DECISION	11
7.1	Draft Financial Report and Representation Letter	11
7.2	Designated Area Migration Agreement.....	12
7.3	WEROC Inc. Strategic Waste Management Plan	14
7.4	WEROC Inc. Strategic Projects Status Report & Next Steps.....	15
7.5	Discussion and Decisions Arising from the Presentation by Dr. Karl O’Callaghan	17
7.6	Discussion and Decisions Arising from the Presentation by Ms. Kylie Whitehead & Mr. Robert McCafferty.....	18
7.7	Discussion and Decisions Arising from the Presentation by Mr. Michael Hayden	19
8.	EMERGING ISSUES.....	19
9.	OTHER MATTERS (FOR NOTING)	19
9.1	AGO Board Member Position	19
9.2	Future Drought Fund’s Community Impact Program	20
10.	FUTURE MEETINGS	20
11.	CLOSURE	21

WEROC Inc.

Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils Inc.

Shires of Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin, Merredin, Tammin, Westonia, Yilgarn

Minutes of the Board Meeting held in the Tammin Shire Council Chambers on Monday 5 September 2022.

MINUTES

1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Emily Ryan as Chair of WEROC Inc. welcomed Members of the Board and opened the meeting at 9.39am.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

2.1 Attendance

Ms. Emily Ryan (Chair)

Ms. Glenice Batchelor

Ms. Karin Day

Mr. Raymond Griffiths

Mr. Mark McKenzie (Deputy Chair)

Mr. Darren Mollenoyux

Ms. Joanne Soderlund

Mr. Lindon Mellor, proxy and voting delegate for Ms. Lisa Clack

Mr. John Merrick, proxy and voting delegate for Mr. Bill Price

Mr. Brendan Waight, proxy and voting delegate for Mr. Tony Crooks

Mr. Nic Warren, proxy and voting delegate for Mr. Wayne Della Bosca

Ms. Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

2.2 Apologies

Mr. Tony Crooks

Ms. Lisa Clack

Mr. Bryan Close

Mr. Wayne Della Bosca

Mr. Bill Price

2.3 Guests

Dr. Karl O'Callaghan, Chief Executive Officer, Wheatbelt NRM

Ms. Kylie Whitehead, WA Tourism & Regional Development Consultancy

Mr. Robert McCaffrey, Artist

Mr. Giles Perryman, Director, ASK Waste Management (joined via videoconference at 11.25am and left the meeting at 11.40am)

Mr. Rik Soderlund, Chief Executive Officer, Wheatbelt Business Network

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

As per Clause 42 of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015, “a member of the management committee of an incorporated association who has a material personal interest in a matter being considered at a management committee meeting must, as soon as the member becomes aware of the interest, disclose the nature and extent of the interest to the management committee”.

Name	Agenda Item / Initiative	Disclosure
Ms. Glenice Batchelor	Items 4.1 and 7.5	Ms. Batchelor declared a possible conflict of interest in relation to discussions regarding Wheatbelt NRM given her position as a Director on the Board of Perth NRM.

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Dr. Karl O’Callaghan, Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management, 9.30am

Dr. Karl O’Callaghan, Chief Executive Officer of Wheatbelt NRM has requested to present to the Board on the Corella Management Project for the Wheatbelt.

Comments from the meeting:

- Dr. O’Callaghan advised that approximately 12 months ago the Shire of Northam on behalf of AROC approached Wheatbelt NRM to ask if they could assist with a corella management strategy. Wheatbelt NRM engaged Edith Cowan University to complete a research report to better understand the extent of the issue.
- The key recommendation of the report was to create a coordinator position for the Wheatbelt, that would be responsible for identifying and trialling local solutions to the corella issue. The primary customers for the coordinator position will be Local Government and CBH.
- The cost per annum for the coordinator position is approximately \$200,000. Wheatbelt NRM are proposing that the position be co-funded by Wheatbelt Local Governments and CBH.
- Wheatbelt NRM have met with CBH, who have indicated that they need time to deliberate on the amount of funding they can commit but are, in general, supportive of the proposal.
- Wheatbelt NRM requested that individual Local Governments or ROCs signal their intent to support the proposal now and once they receive a response from CBH regarding their contribution, they will advise the cost to participate.
- Dr. O’Callaghan advised that the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development have engaged a consultant (Strickland Park Economics) to develop a “Pest, Parrot and Cockatoo Management Strategy”. A consultation workshop will be held in Northam in late September. Dr. O’Callaghan recommended that at least one representative from WEROC attend.

Dr. O’Callaghan left the meeting at 10.00am and did not return.

4.2 Ms. Kylie Whitehead, WA Tourism & Regional Development Consultancy & Mr. Robert McCafferty, Artist, 10.15am

Attachment 1: Kellerberrin Festival of Men’s Sheds Project Description

At the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held in Merredin on 27 June 2022, the Executive Officer advised that Ms. Kylie Whitehead had contacted WEROC to request funding for a Men’s Shed exhibition being hosted by the Kellerberrin Men’s Shed. The event will take place from 21 April to 19 May 2023.

Comments from the meeting:

- Mr. McCafferty presented an overview of the proposed event and advised that they are currently in negotiations with a major sponsor to secure a significant portion of the required funding.
- Ms. Whitehead emphasised that this is an entirely unique concept, and the organisers are confident that it will draw a large audience. It is their long-term view that this will become a national event.
- Ms. Glenice Batchelor queried how they intend to engage communities and Shires in the organisation of the event. Ms. Whitehead indicated that the approach to WEROC was the first step in engaging with the community.
- WEROC Members questioned what, if any, grants were being applied for to secure the necessary funding for the event. Ms. Whitehead advised that they were considering several grant opportunities (e.g., Lotterywest, FRRR, CBH, etc.) but were awaiting the outcome of their approach to a major sponsor and WEROC before proceeding.
- Mr. McCafferty and Ms. Whitehead requested that Shire's provide a "menu" of things to do in the area, to encourage visitors to stay longer in the region. It was also requested that Shire's provide letters of support to assist with applications for funding and sponsorship.

Ms. Whitehead and Mr. McCafferty left the meeting at 10.49am and did not return.

4.3 Mr. Michael Hayden, Maarli Services, 10.45am – Late Apology

Mr. Michael Hayden, Managing Director, Maarli Services will provide an overview of the proposed Eastern Wheatbelt Aboriginal Ranger Service and discuss opportunities to work collectively with WEROC Shires.

4.4 Mr. Rik Soderlund, Wheatbelt Business Network, 11.00am

Mr. Rik Soderlund, CEO, Wheatbelt Business Network requested to present a procurement proposal to the WEROC Inc. Board.

Comments from the meeting:

- Mr. Soderlund presented a proposal involving the following key aspects:
 - Creation of a WEROC preferred supplier panel
 - Standardised induction process for WEROC Shires
 - Better support for local businesses in the WEROC area
- Mr. Darren Mollenoyux advised that contractors working across any of the WEROC Shires are already covered by the same induction because they have a common Regional Risk Coordinator.
- Members expressed an interest in the creation of a preferred supplier panel but queried how this would be achieved.
- Mr. Soderlund advised that WEROC can determine the parameters for the preferred supplier panel and WBN will assist in discussions around thresholds and key industries to be included. The main role of the Wheatbelt Business Network would be to support local businesses to meet the requirements to become a preferred provider.
- Members determined that further discussion was warranted, and the matter will be referred to the WEROC Inc. CEO Committee for further consideration. Mr. Soderlund will be invited to the next meeting of the WEROC Inc. Board to discuss the outcome of the CEO Committee deliberations.

Mr. Soderlund left the meeting at 11.26am and did not return.

4.5 Shire of Tammin

Ms. Joanne Soderlund will provide a brief update on current projects and initiatives of the Shire of Tammin.

Comments from the meeting:

- Major projects for the Shire of Tammin at present include:
 - The Southern Link Bypass, which is a \$2 million dollar project due for completion in December 2022.
 - A revamp of the Golf Club and updating of facilities at Donnan Oval.
- The Shire of Tammin partnered with RDA Wheatbelt and Astrotourism WA to deliver the Ballardong Astrotourism Project in May 2022.

5. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

5.1 Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on Monday 27 June 2022

Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held in Merredin on Monday 27 June 2022 have previously been circulated.

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Meeting held in Merredin on Monday 27 June 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Ms. Glenice Batchelor

Seconded: Ms. Karin Day

That the Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held in Merredin on Monday 27 June 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

5.2 Business Arising – Status Report as of 1 August 2022

Actions Arising from the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on 27 June 2022.

Agenda Item	Action(s)	Status
7.1 Designated Area Migration Agreement	1) Seek clarification from RDA Wheatbelt on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Their position on the possible expansion of the geographical scope for the DAMA; and b) What capacity they have to support the DAMA process from initiation to implementation. 2) Contact the Department of Training and Workforce Development and Wheatbelt Development Commission, requesting information on their current focus for skills and workforce development	Please refer to Agenda item 7.2.
7.2 WEROC Strategic Waste Management Plan	1) Provide consolidated feedback to ASK Waste Management to complete the final reports 2) Once the final reports have been produced organize a meeting to discuss next steps	Feedback on both the Strategic Waste Management Plan and Landfill Consolidation Plan was provided to ASK Waste Management on 30 June 2022. Please refer to Agenda item 7.3 for further information.

7.4 Discussion arising from presentation by Ms. Alyce Ventris	Advise Ms. Ventris that WEROC will revisit a potential partnership with the Town Teams Movement in early 2023	The Executive Officer advised Ms. Ventris of the Board's decision to revisit the partnership proposal from Town Teams in early 2023 and extended an invitation to attend the first meeting of 2023.
8.1 Curtin University Medical Student Program 2023	Advise Rural Health West that WEROC are happy to support the proposed day trip in September but would like to return to the normal program in 2023.	The Executive Officer advised Rural Health West of the Board's support of the short program for 2022 and preference for the 2023 program to return to a week-long immersion. The Executive Officer has also participated in several planning meetings for the Curtin University Medical Student visit planned for 19 and 20 September 2022.
9.2 Men's Shed Exhibition	Request that Ms. Kylie Whitehead prepare a proposal to present at the September meeting of the WEROC Board	Ms. Whitehead will present a proposal for funding for the Men's Shed Exhibition to be held in Kellerberrin from 14 to 22 April 2022, at the September meeting.

Recommendation:

That the status report as of 1 August 2022 be received.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Mark McKenzie

Seconded: Ms. Glenice Batchelor

That the status report as of 1 August 2022 be received.

CARRIED

6. WEROC INC. FINANCE

6.1 WEROC Inc. Financial Report as of 30 June 2022

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose

Date: 1 August 2022

Attachments: Nil

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

At the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on 27 April 2021 the budget for the financial year commencing 1 July 2021 and ending 30 June 2022 was adopted. At the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on 11 August 2021 it was resolved to increase the consultant expenses budget for the 2021-22 financial year to \$70,000.

The revised WEROC Inc. Budget 2021-22 is used as the basis for the financial report.

An explanation for each of the notations on the financial report is provided below.

Note 1	Annual Financial contributions paid by Member Local Governments.
Note 2	GST received.

Note 3	GST Refund for Q4 BAS 2020-21 and Q2 and Q3 BAS 2021-22
Note 4	Executive Officer services for the months of July 2021 to April 2022.
Note 5	Executive Officer travel to Board and other meetings.
Note 6	Monthly subscription fee for Xero accounting software.
Note 7	Payment to Audit Partners Australia for completing the audit of WEROC finances for the 2020-21 financial year.
Note 8	Payments to ASK Waste Management for the WEROC Strategic Waste Management Plan, 150 Square Strategic Solutions for the WEROC Tourism Audit, NEWTRAVEL for the Agri-tourism workshop, Shire of Merredin for the Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre mail out service, the Customer Service Institute of Australia for the customer service excellence workshops and Premium Publishers for a half page advertisement in the AGO Holiday Planner.
Note 9	Payments to Code Research Australia for the annual website hosting fee and a mandatory safety upgrade. Payment to PWD for website domain name renewal.
Note 10	Payments to Local Community Insurance Services for insurances for WEROC Inc. including workers compensation, Cyber insurance, Public and Products Liability, Associations and Officials Liability and Personal Accident – Volunteer Workers.
Note 11	Payment to the Australian Tax Office for Q1 BAS 2021-22

WEROC Inc.
ABN 28 416 957 824
1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022

		Budget 2021/2022	Actual to 30/06/2022	Notes
INCOME				
0501	General Subscriptions	\$72,000.00	\$72,000.00	1
504.01	Consultancy & Project Reserve	\$0.00	\$0.00	
0575	Interest received	\$0.00	\$0.00	
584	Other Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	GST Output Tax	\$7,200.00	\$7,200.00	2
	GST Refunds	\$5,209.05	\$5,242.00	3
	Total Receipts	\$84,409.05	\$84,442.00	
EXPENSES				
1545	Bank Fees & Charges	\$0.00	\$0.00	
1661.01	WEROC Inc. Executive Services	\$30,450.00	\$30,477.33	4
1661.02	Executive Officer Travel and Accommodation	\$2,162.40	\$925.91	5
1661.03	WEROC Executive Officer Recruitment	\$780.00	\$0.00	
1687	WEROC Financial Services Accounting	\$795.40	\$618.14	6
1687.03	WEROC Financial Services Audit	\$1,000.00	\$879.95	7
1585	WEROC Consultant Expenses	\$70,000.00	\$57,496.19	8
1850	WEROC Management of WEROC App & Website	\$360.00	\$775.00	9

WEROC Inc. Board Meeting Monday 5 September 2022 - Agenda

1801	WEROC Meeting Expenses	\$500.00	\$0.00	
1851	WEROC Insurance	\$6,000.00	\$5,583.38	10
1852	WEROC Legal Expenses	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	
1853	WEROC Incorporation Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	
1930	WEROC Sundry	\$300.00	\$0.00	
3384	GST Input Tax	\$11,434.78	\$9,304.71	
	ATO Payments	\$3,654.28	\$4,743.00	11
Total Payments		\$129,436.86	\$110,803.61	
Net Position		-\$45,027.81	-\$26,361.61	
OPENING CASH 1 July		\$193,194.46	\$190,684.49	
CASH BALANCE		\$148,166.65	\$164,322.88	

Recommendation:

That the WEROC Inc. financial report for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, be received.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Darren Mollenoyux

Seconded: Ms. Karin Day

That the WEROC Inc. financial report for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, be received.

CARRIED

6.2 WEROC Inc. Financial Report as of 31 July 2022

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose

Date: 1 August 2022

Attachments: Nil

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

At the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on 2 May 2022 the budget for the financial year commencing 1 July 2022 and ending 30 June 2023 was adopted. The approved Budget for 2022-23 is used as the basis for the financial report.

An explanation for each of the notations on the financial report is provided below.

Note 1	Payment to the Customer Service Institute of Australia for the delivery of their customer service excellence workshops.
---------------	---

**WEROC Inc.
ABN 28 416 957 824
1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023**

		Budget 2022/2023	Actual to 31/07/2022	Notes
INCOME				
0501	General Subscriptions	\$72,000.00	\$0.00	

WEROC Inc. Board Meeting Monday 5 September 2022 - Agenda

504.01	Consultancy & Project Reserve	\$0.00	\$0.00	
0575	Interest received	\$0.00	\$0.00	
584	Other Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	GST Output Tax	\$7,200.00	\$0.00	
	GST Refunds	\$7,927.78	\$0.00	
Total Receipts		\$87,127.78	\$0.00	
EXPENSES				
1545	Bank Fees & Charges	\$0.00	\$0.00	
1661.01	WEROC Inc. Executive Services	\$30,450.00	\$0.00	
1661.02	Executive Officer Travel and Accommodation	\$2,162.40	\$0.00	
1661.03	WEROC Executive Officer Recruitment	\$780.00	\$0.00	
1687	WEROC Financial Services Accounting	\$795.40	\$0.00	
1687.03	WEROC Financial Services Audit	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	
1585	WEROC Consultant Expenses	\$70,000.00	\$2,698.29	1
1850	WEROC Management of WEROC App & Website	\$360.00	\$0.00	
1801	WEROC Meeting Expenses	\$500.00	\$0.00	
1851	WEROC Insurance	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	
1852	WEROC Legal Expenses	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	
1853	WEROC Incorporation Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	
1930	WEROC Sundry	\$300.00	\$0.00	
3384	GST Input Tax	\$11,434.78	\$0.00	
	ATO Payments	\$3,654.28	\$0.00	
Total Payments		\$129,436.86	\$2,698.29	
Net Position		-\$45,027.81	-\$2,698.29	
OPENING CASH 1 July		\$193,194.46	\$164,322.88	
CASH BALANCE		\$148,166.65	\$161,624.59	

Recommendation:

That the WEROC Inc. financial report for the period 1 July to 31 July 2022, be received.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Mark McKenzie

Seconded: Ms. Glenice Batchelor

That the WEROC Inc. financial report for the period 1 July to 31 July 2022, be received.

CARRIED

6.3 Income & Expenditure

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose

Date: 1 August 2022

Attachments: Nil

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

A summary of income and expenditure for the period 1 June to 31 July 2022 is provided below.

Date	Description	Debit	Credit
Opening Balance			\$181,066.03
20 Jun 2022	Payment: 150 Square Pty Ltd	\$3,336.90	
29 Jun 2022	Payment: Customer Service Institute of Australia	\$10,000.00	
30 Jun 2022	Payment: Customer Service Institute of Australia	\$3,406.25	
20 Jul 2022	Payment: Customer Service Institute of Australia	\$2,698.29	
TOTAL		\$19,441.44	
Closing Balance			\$ 161,624.59

Recommendation:

That the WEROC Inc. summary of income and expenditure for the period 1 June to 31 July 2022 be received.
That the Accounts Paid by WEROC Inc. for the period 1 June to 31 July 2022 totalling \$19,441.44 be approved.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Ms. Karin Day

Seconded: Ms. Glenice Batchelor

That the WEROC Inc. summary of income and expenditure for the period 1 June to 31 July 2022 be received.

That the Accounts Paid by WEROC Inc. for the period 1 June to 31 July 2022 totalling \$19,441.44 be approved.

CARRIED

7. MATTERS FOR DECISION

7.1 Draft Financial Report and Representation Letter

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose

Date: 1 August 2022

Attachments: *Attachment 2: 2022 Representation Letter*
Attachment 3: Financial Statement for Signing

Consultation: Audit Partners Australia

Financial Implications: NA

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Background:

On Friday 5 August 2022, the Executive Officer received the draft financial report and representation letter from Audit Partners Australia for the audit of WEROC Inc.'s finances for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. These documents are provided as an attachment and are presented for endorsement in order that the final report can be prepared prior to the Annual General Meeting in November 2022.

Recommendation:

That the WEROC Inc. Board approve the Draft Financial Report and Representation Letter and authorise the WEROC Inc. Chair and Executive Officer to sign the documents.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Ms. Karin Day

Seconded: Ms. Glenice Batchelor

That the WEROC Inc. Board approve the Draft Financial Report and Representation Letter and authorise the WEROC Inc. Chair and Executive Officer to sign the documents.

CARRIED

7.2 Designated Area Migration Agreement

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose

Date: 1 August 2022

Attachments: Attachment 4: DAMA Jobs by Sub-Region

Attachment 5: Preliminary analysis of Wheatbelt DAMA survey

Consultation: DAMA Working Group

Ms. Kathy Hoare, Director, State Workforce Planning, Department of Training and Workforce Development

Financial Implications: NA

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Background:

At the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on 27 June 2022 the Executive Officer provided an update on the ongoing discussions around a DAMA for the Wheatbelt. The Board were made aware that there had been a suggestion of the DAMA extending beyond the Wheatbelt to incorporate the Great Southern and Mid-West regions. Concerns were raised that the geographical coverage of a cross-regional DAMA would be difficult to implement and manage and would potentially limit access to concessions for businesses in the WEROC area. It was suggested that contact be made with agencies not currently involved in the DAMA working group to determine what their current focus is for skills and workforce development in the Wheatbelt.

The Executive Officer contacted the Department of Training and Workforce Development to enquire as to their current priorities for skills and workforce development. The following response was received from Ms. Kathy Hoare, Director, State Workforce Planning:

The Department continues to focus on the training and workforce needs in regional Western Australia. In 2021, the State Government hosted 10 regional skill summits to hear from local stakeholders about the skill and workforce development needs in the region. The Northam Skills Summit was held in September 2021. From the Regional Skill Summit a Regional Skills Summit Action Plan (Action Plan) was developed, resulting in the establishment of the Northam Wheatbelt Regional Coordinating Committee (RCC).

The purpose of the RCC is to oversee the implementation of the five priority actions contained in the Action Plan. The RCC initially included the Department of Training and Workforce Development, Wheatbelt Development Commission, Central Region TAFE and the Wheatbelt Business Network, and has since expanded to include the Department of Education and the Western Australian Local Government Association.

The RCC has met on three occasions and is due to hold its final meeting for the year in October 2022. Subject to the approval of the Minister for Education and Training, the RCC is expected to continue in 2023.

Regional stakeholders will also be invited to participate in the WA Jobs, Education and Training Survey 2023 which will be launched in early 2023 and remain open until the end of March 2023. The survey is designed to hear from stakeholders on industry developments that are likely to impact the supply/demand for skilled workers in specific occupations. If you are interested in participating in the WAJET Survey 2023, please contact Giulia Ranelli on 6551 5555 or email giulia.ranelli@dtwd.wa.gov.au to be placed on the list of stakeholders for the survey link.

Executive Officer Comment:

The Executive Officer participated in a meeting of the DAMA working group on Wednesday 20 July 2022. The group discussed at length the scope of the DAMA and it was determined that there was no appetite for it to be cross-regional and even Wheatbelt wide might be difficult to manage from a logistical viewpoint and due to competition for the 200 capped positions across so many Local Government areas. It was decided that an expression of interest process would be undertaken to determine which Local Governments were interested and willing to provide financial support. The outcome of this process would then determine the geographical coverage of the DAMA.

RDA Wheatbelt sent an expression of interest letter to all Wheatbelt Local Government's on Thursday 21 July 2022 asking that they indicate whether they were interested in participating in the DAMA and willing to make a monetary contribution toward the business case and annual operating costs of the Designated Area Representative (DAR). On 27 July, Ms. Mandy Walker advised that "initial comments coming back from Local Governments regarding the EOI that was sent to them had been non-committal because of no indication of scale of funding and resources that might be required of them if they participate in the DAMA".

On 22 August 2022 the Executive Officer participated in a videoconference with RDA Wheatbelt, NEWROC and the Wheatbelt Business Network to discuss next steps. Mr. Rik Soderlund, CEO of the Wheatbelt Business Network advised that he had contacted the East Kimberley and Goldfields DAR to get a better understanding of the requirements if WBN were to take on this role. Based on these conversations it was apparent that the response to the DAMA in these areas was not as positive as expected, with only very minimal labour agreements having been established in the years since the DAMA's commenced. The reasons cited for this are the cost to the individual businesses and the lengthy process to establish the agreements. Discussion was also held around the recently announced changes to the State Nominated Migration Program, which effectively introduce many of the concessions that would be sought through the Wheatbelt DAMA. An overview of these changes is provided below for reference. As a result of this new information, the group propose that a DAMA not be pursued at this time and rather, the barriers to workforce participation, attraction and retention (e.g., housing, childcare, etc.) and facilitating access to information on the existing migration pathways be the focus for action.

State Nominated Migration Program:

The Government of Western Australia nominates eligible migrants for the Skilled Nominated (190) and Regional (Provisional) Skilled Nominated (491) visa categories. WA Migration Services processes nominations on behalf of the State Government. If you are nominated by WA Migration Services, you are given an automatic invitation to apply for the intended visa from the Department of Home Affairs.

On 21 August 2022, the Western Australian (WA) Government announced changes to its migration program to support skilled workers looking to migrate to WA. These changes included:

- 100 occupations added to WA's skilled occupation list bringing the total list to 276
- Removal of the \$200 application fee
- Reducing the requirements to demonstrate sufficient funds for WA State nomination
- Reduction in the English requirements for applicants at the Manager and Professional occupation level to a "competent" level of English

- Reducing work experience requirements for the 2022-23 program year to attract more skilled workers to WA
- Halving the requirement to have an employment contract from 12 to six months

In addition to the changes to its migration program, the State Government have implemented a new Skilled Migrant Employment Register, which is intended to support employers and skilled migrants to connect. Through this register skilled migrants seeking employment can indicate their interest to connect with the Western Australian workforce by completing the registration form. Once registered, de-identified details are published on the Skilled Migrant Employment Register, indicating to employers the interest to gain employment in Western Australia. Employers have the opportunity to review the Skilled Migrant Employment Register to identify talent that may align with their business needs and connect with a skilled migrant.

Recommendation:

That the information be noted, and next steps discussed.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Darren Mollenoyux

Seconded: Ms. Glenice Batchelor

That the recommendation of the DAMA working group to not proceed with a Designated Area Migration Agreement for the Wheatbelt at this time, be endorsed.

CARRIED

7.3 WEROC Inc. Strategic Waste Management Plan

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose

Date: 1 August 2022

Attachments: *Attachment 6:* WEROC Strategic Waste Management Plan Revised Draft
Attachment 7: WEROC SWMP Points for Further Discussion

Consultation: Mr. Giles Perryman, Director, ASK Waste Management
Mr. Sam Green, Senior Consultant, ASK Waste Management

Financial Implications: NA

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Background:

At the WEROC Inc. Board meeting held in Merredin on 27 June 2022, the draft Strategic Waste Management Plan (SWMP) and Landfill Consolidation report were presented for discussion. Feedback on both documents had been submitted prior to the meeting and was provided as an attachment to the agenda. The Board resolved to accept the feedback from individual Local Governments and request ASK Waste Management to complete the final reports.

Executive Officer Comment:

Feedback on the Draft SWMP and Landfill Consolidation Report was provided to ASK Waste Management on 30 June 2022. Mr. Sam Green, Senior Consultant, ASK Waste Management has reviewed the feedback and integrated it into a revised draft. Mr. Green has prepared a list of points for further consideration and will join the meeting via videoconference to enable direct discussion with the Board.

Recommendation:

That the revised draft be considered, and next steps discussed.

Comments from the meeting:

- Mr. Giles Perryman, Director ASK Waste Management, joined the meeting via videoconference in place of Mr. Sam Green. Mr. Perryman emphasised the importance of waste data collection and recommended that this should be a high priority for WEROC Shires.
- Mr. Darren Mollenoyux identified that resourcing is the major barrier to data collection, particularly at unmanned sites. Mr. Perryman conceded that this is a challenge particularly because waste facility reporting systems such as Cooee only work at staffed facilities.
- Mr. Perryman strongly recommended that the Shire's consider co-funding a regional waste coordinator. Once the position is established it could then be made a requirement of the incumbent to pursue grant funding to support the role going forward.

RESOLUTION: **Moved:** Mr. Darren Mollenoyux **Seconded:** Ms. Karin Day

That:

- 1) A meeting be held with the WEROC CEO's and relevant staff from each Local Government to discuss the recommendations arising from the Strategic Waste Management Plan; and
- 2) Following this meeting, identify waste funding opportunities to progress priority actions.

CARRIED

7.4 WEROC Inc. Strategic Projects Status Report & Next Steps

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose

Date: 1 August 2022

Attachments: Nil

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Background:

The revised WEROC Inc. Strategic Plan adopted on 1 March 2022, identifies five priorities and associated actions. An update on progress against the five strategic priorities is provided below and the next steps will be discussed.

Priority	Actions	Progress	Next Steps (For Discussion)
Sustainability	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Complete the WEROC Strategic Waste Management Plan and Landfill Rationalization Study2) Identify opportunities to support local sustainability initiatives including the 'Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub' in Merredin3) Monitor the Regional Climate Alliance Program pilot and apply for future	An initial and revised draft of the Strategic Waste Management Plan have been completed.	Add the Wheatbelt Medical Student Immersion Program as an action.

	funding opportunities as they arise		
Tourism Product Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Implement priority actions arising from the 2021 WEROC Tourism Product Audit. 2) Continue to work with the Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre and other regional tourism groups on cooperative marketing initiatives. 3) Investigate the potential to establish a destination development officer as a dedicated tourism resource across the WEROC Local Government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Shire of Merredin are investigating options to expand the service delivered by the Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre to enable a focus on product development. • WEROC have confirmed a contribution of \$3,000 +GST toward cooperative marketing in 2022-23. • The Executive Officer has spoken with AGO CEO about the potential for a destination development resource one day per week from 1 July 2023, similar to what has been offered to NEWROC. AGO do are interested in being involved in the discussions being had with the Shire of Merredin. 	
Strengthening our economy through local Business development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Facilitate the delivery of the Customer Service Institute of Australia's, Customer Service Excellence Program 2) Lend support to initiatives of regional chambers of commerce and the Wheatbelt Business Network 	The Customer Service Institute of Australia delivered their customer service excellence program during the week of 20 to 24 June 2022. Across the five workshops there were 52 registered participants.	WBN procurement proposal (i.e., formation of a preferred supplier panel) to be added as an action.
Digital Connectivity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Establish partnerships to collaboratively address deficiencies in digital connectivity and capacity 2) Liaise with key stakeholders including the Wheatbelt Development Commission, NEWROC and ROEROC 3) Work with telcos to target improvements in fixed and mobile connectivity 4) Support existing initiatives that aim to improve digital connectivity across the WEROC region 	WEROC have previously provided letters of support for CRISP wireless applications to the Regional Connectivity Program and Digital Farms Grants Program. Both applications were successful.	
Inter-council cooperation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Develop a suite of record keeping policies aligned to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On Wednesday 8 June 2022 the Executive Officer contacted the 	Explore avenues to formalise inter-

	<p>the new Standard for Records Management.</p> <p>2) Develop a Regional Public Health Plan that links to local Public Health Plans</p> <p>3) Investigate the feasibility of establishing a workplace health and safety advisor position to support WEROC Local Governments in meeting compliance with the Work Health and Safety Act 2020</p> <p>4) Investigate a designated area migration agreement (DAMA) for the Eastern Wheatbelt.</p>	<p>State Records Office for an update on the new Standard for Records Management and was advised that “unfortunately, the Standard is still held up with the State Solicitor’s Office. We hope to have it released later in the year”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage 5 of the implementation of the Public Health Act 2016 is expected to commence in mid-to-late 2022. It was previously agreed that the trigger to commence the Regional Public Health Plan would be the commencement of Stage 5. • WEROC have investigated the feasibility of a shared WHS resource and interested Shire’s have met to discuss next steps. • WEROC are participating in a working group pursuing a region wide DAMA. 	<p>council resource sharing.</p>
--	--	---	----------------------------------

Comments from the meeting:

- Ms. Glenice Batchelor suggested that in the current environment where labour shortages are impacting on every industry, including Local Government, we need to better utilise the resources we have within our Shires. Ms. Batchelor suggested that formalising inter-council resource sharing through an MoU might be worthwhile investigating. This will be added as an action under “Inter-council cooperation”.
- Ms. Joanne Soderlund suggested that if WEROC are to pursue the proposal from the Wheatbelt Business Network to establish a preferred supplier panel, this should be included as an action under “strengthening our economy through local business development”.
- Ms. Batchelor recommended that the Wheatbelt Medical Student Immersion Program (WMSIP) be added as an action under “sustainability”. WMSIP is already something WEROC support, but this needs to be documented in the Strategic Plan and remain a focus.

Recommendation:

That the Strategic Projects status report be received, and next steps discussed.

RESOLUTION: **Moved:** Ms. Karin Day **Seconded:** Mr. Darren Mollenoyux

That the Strategic Projects status report be received, and amendments made to the Strategic Plan as per the Board’s directive.

CARRIED

7.5 Discussion and Decisions Arising from the Presentation by Dr. Karl O’Callaghan

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose

Date: 1 August 2022

Attachments: Nil

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Executive Officer Comment:

Following the presentation from Dr. Karl O’Callaghan it may be appropriate for the WEROC Inc. Board to consider what, if any, further action is required on this matter.

Recommendation:

That the information as presented by Dr. O’Callaghan be considered, and the matter discussed.

Comments from the meeting:

- Members concur that Corella Management is a priority and are supportive of the proposal for a coordinator position.
- WEROC will wait on advice regarding the CBH contribution toward the coordinator position before considering any financial support.
- A representative from WEROC will attend the Pest, Parrot, and Cockatoo Management Strategy consultation workshop in Northam in late September.
- Ms. Glenice Batchelor recommended contacting WALGA to seek additional information on the Corella Management initiatives in the South-West.

RESOLUTION: **Moved:** Ms. Glenice Batchelor **Seconded:** Mr. Raymond Griffiths

That WEROC Inc. are supportive of the proposal for a Corella Coordinator and will decide on any financial contribution toward the coordinator position upon further advice from Wheatbelt NRM.

CARRIED

7.6 Discussion and Decisions Arising from the Presentation by Ms. Kylie Whitehead & Mr. Robert McCafferty

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose

Date: 1 August 2022

Attachments: Nil

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Executive Officer Comment:

Following the presentation from Ms. Kylie Whitehead and Mr. Robert McCafferty it may be appropriate for the WEROC Inc. Board to consider what, if any, further action is required on this matter.

Recommendation:

That the information as presented by Ms. Whitehead and Mr. McCafferty be considered, and the matter discussed.

Comments from the meeting:

- The general consensus from Members is that the event has merit but there are still aspects that need to be worked through.

- Members would like to see the event organisers pursue grant funding before approaching WEROC for a financial contribution. Upon advice that grant funding applications have been unsuccessful the Board will reconsider the funding proposal.
- If WEROC do provide any funding, it is an expectation that there would be an opportunity for input into how the event is delivered.
- Members are supportive of the request for WEROC to provide letters of support for grant funding applications. Letters of support will be conditional upon first receiving a copy of the grant application to ensure there is a clear understanding of what is being applied for and what commitment is needed from WEROC and/or the individual Shires.

RESOLUTION: **Moved:** Mr. Raymond Griffiths **Seconded:** Ms. Glenice Batchelor

That WEROC Inc. provide in-principal letters of support for grant funding upon receipt of information from the Kellerberrin Men's Shed for each application.

CARRIED

7.7 Discussion and Decisions Arising from the Presentation by Mr. Michael Hayden

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose

Date: 1 August 2022

Attachments: Nil

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Executive Officer Comment:

Following the presentation from Mr. Michael Hayden it may be appropriate for the WEROC Inc. Board to consider what, if any, further action is required on this matter.

Recommendation:

That the information as presented by Mr. Hayden be considered, and the matter discussed.

Comments from the meeting:

Mr. Hayden was a late apology and will be invited to present at the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting in November 2022.

8. EMERGING ISSUES

NIL

9. OTHER MATTERS (FOR NOTING)

9.1 AGO Board Member Position

Attachment 8: Expression of Interest for AGO Board Member Position

Expressions of Interest (EOI's) are being sought for a Co-opted Board Member to join the Board of Australia's Golden Outback for a 2-year term. AGO is seeking suitable candidates with a strong strategic planning background to support the current Board expertise and fill the available co-opt position. Board commitments include attending quarterly General Meetings, the Annual General Meeting, interim Special General Meetings (as required), and quarterly Sub-Committee Meetings held between General Meetings.

EOI's close 4.00pm (WST) Tuesday 20th September 2022.

9.2 Future Drought Fund’s Community Impact Program

The Future Drought Fund’s Community Impact Program is being delivered as part of the new \$29.6 million *Helping Regional Communities Prepare for Drought Initiative*.

It includes grants of \$200,000 to \$500,000 for projects to help prepare communities in 35 target regions for drought. Successful applicants will also get access to leadership development support for their communities.

The program will provide one grant per region. Region 17 – Wheatbelt Central – includes the Shires of Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin, Merredin and Yilgarn. Only not-for-profits can apply. Expressions of interest for Community Partner Lead Organisations are due by 26 September.

Eligible activities must contribute to the outcomes of the Community Impact Program and may include, but are not limited to:

- Community-focused activities that support priorities in a Future Drought Fund Regional Drought Resilience Plan.
- Networking events such as field days, conferences, forums, summits and seminars relating to drought preparedness that build depth of social connection, a shared sense of purpose and longer-term community belonging that can be drawn upon in future drought.
- Initiatives that improve capability, coordination, and collaboration between professional, social or community networks, or other community organisations and sectors in local communities that can be drawn upon in future drought.
- Projects, initiatives or events that increase skills, knowledge and understanding of the risks posed by drought and climate change.
- Leadership or other capacity building activities where local people and communities have opportunities to develop the skills and knowledge to face the unique challenges caused by drought in remote, rural and regional Australia.
- Capability development support for local community organisations so that they can better serve the interests of their community.
- Initiatives that support, encourage, or extend the participation in current or future Regional Drought Resilience Planning, particularly in remote or very remote locations.
- Minor infrastructure improvements, or equipment upgrades to new and existing meeting places to support community wellbeing, improve connectivity and increase knowledge sharing that specifically relates to drought preparedness. This should constitute no more than 10% of the overall project budget; and
- Staffing, and reasonable program delivery costs to support the coordination and delivery of planned activities.

10. FUTURE MEETINGS

The approved schedule of meeting dates and locations for 2022 is provided below. The next General Meeting and Annual General Meeting will be held in Bruce Rock on Monday 21 November 2022.

Date	Time	Host Council
Tuesday 1 March	9.30am	Videoconference
Monday 2 May 2022	9.30am	Westonia
Monday 27 June	1.00pm (following the Zone meeting)	Merredin
Monday 5 September	9.30am	Tammin

Monday 21 November	9.30am	Bruce Rock
--------------------	--------	------------

Comments from the meeting:

- Mr. Mark McKenzie advised that Mondays are not ideal for meetings and requested that the day be changed in future.
- Members recommended that the schedule be realigned with the WALGA Zone meetings to limit time out of the office and that no more than two guest speakers be invited to each meeting.

11. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 12.43pm.

DECLARATION

These minutes were confirmed by the WEROC Inc. Board at the meeting held _____

Signed _____

Person presiding at the meeting at which these minutes were confirmed