



# Great Eastern Country Zone

## Minutes

**Held at Merredin Regional Community & Leisure Centre**

Commenced at 9:35am  
Monday 23 August 2021

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# Great Eastern Country Zone

Meeting held at Merredin Regional Community & Leisure Centre

Commencing at 9.35am, Monday 23 August 2021

## Minutes

1. OPENING AND WELCOME
2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

### Attendance

#### Great Eastern Country Zone Delegates and CEO's

<b>Shire of Bruce Rock</b>	President Cr Stephen Strange Mr Darren Mollenoyux Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Cunderdin</b>	Mr Stuart Hopley Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Kellerberrin</b>	President Cr Rodney Forsyth Mr Raymond Griffiths Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Kondinin</b>	President Cr Sue Meeking Mr David Burton Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Koorda</b>	President Cr Jannah Stratford Mr Darren Simmons Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Merredin</b>	President Cr Julie Flockart Cr Mal Willis Cr Roy Butler Mr Mark Dacombe 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 Mukinbudin</b>	President Cr Gary Shadbolt Mr Dirk Sellenger Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Narembeen</b>	President Cr Rhonda Cole - <b>Chair</b> Cr Alan Wright Mr David Blurton Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Nungarin</b>	Cr Eileen O'Connell Mr Leonard Long Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate

<b>Shire of Tammin</b>	Cr Glenice Batchelor
<b>Shire of Trayning</b>	President Cr Melanie Brown Cr Geoff Waters Ms Leanne Parola Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Westonia</b>	President Cr Karin Day
<b>Shire of Wyalkatchem</b>	President Cr Quentin Davies Mr Peter Klein Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Yilgarn</b>	President Cr Wayne Della Bosca Mr Nic Warren, Executive Manager Recreational Services

## **GUESTS**

Hon John Carey, MLA – Minister for Housing; Local Government  
Joslin Colli, Hon John Carey staff member.  
Mr Grant Robinson, Assistant Auditor General – Financial Audit  
Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt Inc  
Craig Manton, outgoing Regional Manager Wheatbelt, Main Roads  
Ammar Mohammed, Regional Manager Wheatbelt, Main Roads  
Jennifer Collins, Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries – Regional Manger Wheatbelt  
Kathleen Brown, Electorate Officer, Office of Hon Mia Davies MLA  
Renee Manning, Wheatbelt Development Commission - Principal Regional Development Officer

## **WALGA Representatives**

Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Services  
Naoimh Donaghy, Governance and Organisational Services Officer  
Kelly McManus, Principal, Policy and Advocacy, Strategy, Policy and Planning  
Cliff Simpson, Regional Road Safety Advisor

## **Apologies**

Cr Ramesh Rajagopalan, Shire of Bruce Rock  
Cr Dennis Whisson, Shire of Cunderdin  
Cr Alison Harris, Shire of Cunderdin  
President Cr Darrel Hudson, Shire of Dowerin  
Cr Adam Metcalf, Shire of Dowerin  
Ms Rebecca McCall Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Dowerin  
Cr Scott O'Neill, Shire of Kellerberrin  
Cr Bev Gangell, Shire of Kondinin

Cr Pamela McWha, Shire of Koorda  
Cr Nick Gillett, Shire of Mt Marshall  
Cr Rod Comerford, Shire of Mukinbudin  
Cr Gary Coumbe, Shire of Nungarin  
Cr Tania Daniels, Shire of Tammin  
Mr Gary Martin A/Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Tammin  
Cr Bill Huxtable, Shire of Westonia  
Mr Jamie Criddle Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Westonia  
Cr Owen Garner, Shire of Wyalkatchem  
Cr Bryan Close, Shire of Yilgarn  
Mr Peter Clarke Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Yilgarn

Hon Colin de Grussa MLC

Hon Mia Davies MLA

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC

Mike Roberts, Regional Manager, Goldfields & Agricultural Region,  
Water Corporation

Rob Cossart, Wheatbelt Development Commission – Chief Executive  
Officer

## **Attachments**

The following were provided as attachments to the agenda:

1. 6.1 Minutes – Great Eastern Country Zone 28 June 2021
2. 6.2.1 Letter to Minister Carey
3. 6.2.1 Letter from Minister Carey
4. 6.2.2 Letter from Minister Kelly
5. 6.4 Minutes – Executive Committee Meeting 12 August 2021
6. 7.4 State Planning Policy
7. 8.5 WALGA Roadwise Report
8. 9.4 WALGA Presidents Report

The following are attachments which were provided at the meeting:

9. 5.2 Assistant Auditor General presentation
10. 8.1 Zone President's Report
11. 8.3 Wheatbelt Suicide Prevention Coordinator Holyoake WCADS
12. 9.1 State Councillor Report
13. 9.1 The Local Government Access Arrangement
14. 11.2 Wheatbelt Development Commission
15. 11.3 Main Roads Report
16. 11.4 Wheatbelt RDA Report
17. 12.1 Electoral Reform Campaign

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

NIL

### **4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 4.1 Kelly McManus, Principal, Policy and Advocacy, Strategy, Policy and Planning attended the Zone meeting for the first time and provided a short outline of her role.

NOTED

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

#### **5.1 Hon John Carey MLA – Minister for Housing; Local Government**

Hon John Carey MLA – Minister for Housing; Local Government

The Zone extended an invite to the Minister to speak on his outlook on Government Regional Officer Housing, Local Government Act amendments and Regional Cooperative Groups such as Regional Subsidiaries and Elected Member training.

The Hon John Carey MLA, presented to the Zone, the following being some of the key talking points:

- GROH Housing suitability, transitioning aged GROH Housing into the public housing sector and building new GROH facilities, options for forecasting and managing GROH Housing moving forward.
- Skills shortages are being looked at – encouraging apprentices and retirees back into the system in order to move ahead with new building works.
- Regional cooperation and how we can better share resources.
- Local Government Reform:
  - Red Tape reduction to create better standardisation
  - Better Finance Reporting and a commitment to working with WALGA to establish ratios that better reflect individual Local Governments.
  - Greater Transparency
  - Creating better mechanisms and better oversight to encourage early intervention as opposed to the enquiry culture we have at the moment.

NOTED

#### **5.2 Grant Robinson, Office of the Auditor General – Financial Audit**

Assistant Auditor Grant Robinson addressed concerns previously raised by the Zone, namely;

- Concerns regarding rising audit costs, increased audit responsibilities and reduced audit outcomes.

- Audit costs have increased at some Local Governments by over 200% over the last 3 years and audit costs now represent an approximate 1.5% increase in rates.
- The appointment of each Council's audit service is made without discussion or consultation with Council, or its staff and each Council is advised of how much they can expect to pay. In prior years, Councils were required to tender for audit services thereby ensuring good value for money and a competitive process ensued.
- The Zone acknowledges that improvement was needed with regard to audit quality and management of finances generally across the sector, however the experience of many Local Governments with the Auditor General is significant delays in finalising audit processes and a substantial increase in workload for Council staff.

Grants presentation is attached (Attachment 9)

**NOTED**

## **6. MINUTES**

### **6.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held Monday 28 June 2021 (Attachment 1)**

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

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**Moved: Cr Rod Forsyth**

**Seconded: Cr Julie Flockart**

**That the Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held Monday 28 June 2021 are confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.**

**CARRIED**

### **6.2 Business Arising from the Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting Monday 28 June 2021**

**NIL**

#### **6.2.1 Item 6.2.4, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries**

At the June meeting of the Zone, it was Resolved:

**Resolved:**

***That the Great Eastern Country Zone write to the Minister for Local Government and advise that the Zone;***

1. *Does not support the inclusion of local level complaints about alleged behavioural breaches and Local Governments dealing with complaints provisions in Division 3, Clauses 10 and 11; and*
2. *Supports an external oversight body to manage local level complaints involving council members*

The Attached letter (Attachment 2) was sent to the Minister for Local Government, we received the attached reply (Attachment 3) on Tuesday 10 August 2021.

**NOTED**



### **6.2.2 Item 7.1, Invite to Minister David Kelly, Minister for Water, Forestry; Youth**

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

Due to continuous conflicts of Cabinet and the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting dates, he has been unable to attend a meeting of the Zone. However, he has replied to our letter asking for him to address the above concerns – Attachment 4

**NOTED**

### **6.2.3 Item 7.3, Fire Bans and Public Holidays**

#### **Background:**

Following the April meeting of the Zone, the Zone Executive Officer wrote to all member CEO's requesting an item be raised with their Bushfire Advisory Committees to consider uniformity of fire bans on public holidays throughout the Zone. Having received a number of responses, at the June meeting of the Zone it was resolved:

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

**NOTED**

### **6.2.4 Item 8.4, Wheatbelt Health MOU Group**

#### **Background:**

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

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

#### **Comment:**

Susie has advised that the vacancy of Senior Policy Advisor, Community has been contracted by Vikki Barlow. Vikki and Cr Bachelor are in communication on Wheatbelt health issues moving forward.

**NOTED**

### **6.2.5 Item 9.2, WALGA Status Report**

#### **Background:**

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

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

**Comment:**

A further meeting with the Valuer General has been had and they have advised of resource shortages in the Rural Valuation area which has caused these delays. The Valuer General's office are currently recruiting and will address the issue.

**NOTED**

**6.2.6 Item 12.1, Delivery of Ambulance Services in WA****Background:**

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

At that time, there was a Parliamentary Inquiry into the delivery of ambulance services in Western Australia with submissions welcomed until close on 23 July 2021.

The terms of reference are as follows;

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

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

**Update:**

WALGA has prepared a submission as per Item 6.5 of the State Council Agenda.

**NOTED**

**6.4 Confirmation of Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting of the Executive Committee held Thursday 12 August 2021 (Attachment 5)**

The Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee Meeting held on Thursday 12 August 2021 are for endorsement.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Moved: Cr Rod Forsyth**

**Seconded: Cr Quentin Davies**

**That the Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held Thursday 12 August 2021 be endorsed.**

**CARRIED**

## 7. ZONE BUSINESS

### 7.1 Regional Telecommunications Review

*By Jo Burges, Senior Advisor Intergovernmental Relations and Risk, WALGA*

#### **Background:**

A Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee (the Committee) is established every three years under Part 9B of the Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Act 1999 to conduct a review into telecommunications services in regional, rural and remote parts of Australia.

The Committee for the 2021 Regional Telecommunications Review (the Review) was appointed on 1 June 2021.

The 2021 Committee is comprised of the Hon Luke Hartsuyker (Chair); Ms Kristy Sparrow; Professor Hugh Bradlow; Mr Michael Cosgrave; and Ms Sue Middleton.

The Committee is also conducting consultation sessions and as the dates for these are announced via their website Local Governments within the area being consulted are being advised via email of the upcoming process and encouraged to participate.

As part of the Review, the Committee will consider:

- the impact of Government policies and programs to improve regional connectivity and digital inclusion;
- insights from COVID-19 on the changing digital needs of regional, rural and remote areas;
- service reliability issues which impact regional communities and options for mitigating them;
- the role of emerging technologies in delivering telecommunications services in regional Australia;
- ways of encouraging further investment in regional telecommunications;
- the role of telecommunications in supporting broader regional development goals;
- ways to improve co-ordination between government and industry in telecommunications investment; and
- consumer awareness and education regarding telecommunications options in regional areas.

The full Terms of Reference for the Review are at Appendix B of the Issues Paper.

The Consultation Period runs from 6 July, 2021 09:00 to September 30, 2021 with WALGA receiving submissions until COB Thursday 16 September 2021.

#### **WALGA Engagement Process**

Local Governments were advised in mid-July, via Councillor Direct, of the appointment of the Committee and the release of the Issues Paper, and that WALGA would be developing a sector wide submission.

WALGA, in developing a submission to this important review is seeking the views of members to address the wide range of telecommunications issues outlined by the Committee in the [Regional Telecommunications Review 2021 – Issues Paper \(the Issues Paper\)](#)

Local Governments have been requested to provide their submissions or information to inform the sector wide submission to the Association to ensure all matters are addressed.

This agenda item provides a Zone level opportunity to provide feedback to the WALGA submission to assist in ensuring all Local Governments have had a chance for input.

### **Comment**

Zones are requested, however not limited to, consider the items outlined at the dot points and /or the individual questions outlined at the end of each section or at Appendix A of the Issues Paper or provide input on any related matter for inclusion in the submission.

By way of example the WALGA Submission will include, in part, commentary on Question 12 that asks:

'How can different levels of Government, the telecommunications industry and regional communities better co-ordinate their efforts to improve telecommunications in regional Australia?'

The Association response will include an example of the Regional Telecommunications Resilience Working Group established in May comprising key planning/technical staff from Telstra, Optus, Western Power, Horizon Power, WALGA, DFES and DPIRD. This working group will share data more openly to allow robust and coordinated planning which results in better overall service delivery and value for money for all concerned. The working group began its work in June 2021 and have scheduled monthly meetings that increase as Funding programs or issues emerge.

WALGA advocates on specific issues identified by its members at the Working Group, in particular to explore opportunities for sustainable solutions e.g. Stand Alone Power provision, utilising a combination of solar, batteries and generators.

The Association is keen to provide a comprehensive submission on this important matter and welcomes Zone input.

### **Zone Recommendation:**

**Moved: Cr Glenice Bachelor**

**Seconded: Cr Geoff Watters**

### **That the Great Eastern Country Zone:**

**1. Note the Regional Telecommunication Review 2021; and**

**2. Provides the following input to the WALGA submission:**

- **the Zone would like to establish a better policy with the providers on the use of backup generators for better service reliability and delivery.**
- **More engagement with Local Governments for input, particularly in regards to local blackspots and optimum tower locations.**

**CARRIED**

### **Zone Comment:**

It was encouraged that each Local Government put forward a submission to support the work that WALGA is doing.

## 7.2 2021 Local Government Elections – Zone Office Bearer Elections

By Chantelle O'Brien, Zone Executive Officer

### Background

With the bi annual Local Government elections being held Saturday, 16 October 2021, Zones will also be required to hold an election process for State Council representatives.

A chronological overview of the process is detailed below:

- Local Government elections occur on Saturday, 16 October 2021.
- Member Councils to elect/appoint their Zone Delegates and to advise the Zone Executive Officer, as soon as possible but preferably by 5 November 2021.
- For the purpose of electing their representatives and deputy representatives to the WALGA State Council, the zones are required to hold these elections at their November 2021 meeting.
- Zones to advise WALGA, in writing, of their elected State Council representative and deputy representative immediately following the 2021 November Zone meeting.
- State Councillor Induction Session – morning of **1 December 2021**.
- New State Council will take office at the Ordinary Meeting of State Council on **1 December 2021**.
- The position of President and Deputy President of WALGA, will be elected at the March 2022 State Council Meeting.

In relation to the nominations and election process to be followed by each Zone in electing a representative and deputy representative to the WALGA State Council, the below process has been instituted by State Council:

1. *Zone Executive Officer to write to all Member Councils no later than 1 month prior to the Zone meeting at which the election is to be held calling for nominations from delegates to the Zone for the positions of representative and deputy representative to State Council. The correspondence is to state that all nominations are to be made in writing to the Zone Executive Officer, and only Elected Members who are a nominated Zone delegates are eligible to nominate. The time period for the receipt of nominations is to be **one week prior** to the Zone meeting at which the election will be held.*
2. *Zone Executive Officer to receive written nominations from Zone delegates for the positions of representative and deputy representative to State Council and then provide written confirmation to Member Councils of the nominations received.*
3. *Elections are to be held at the next Zone meeting as the first item of business. Where there is more than one nomination for each vacant position, an election will be conducted using a secret ballot, with the Zone Executive Officer to represent WALGA as the returning officer for the election. Prior to the ballot, nominees for each position are to be extended the opportunity to provide a 2 minute election bid to delegates.*
4. *All voting delegates to the Zone are entitled to cast one (1) vote in the ballot process. The candidate with the greater or greatest number of votes is elected to the office.*
5. **Tied vote** – *in the event of a tied vote, election will be determined by drawing names from a box. The Secretariat will put the names of the candidates concerned in a box and the first name drawn is the Elected Member.*
6. *Zone Executive Officer to advise WALGA in writing immediately following the Zone meeting of the outcome of their elections.*

If you have any questions or require further information in relation to the above mentioned process, please contact Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services on 9213 2051 or email [tbrown@walga.asn.au](mailto:tbrown@walga.asn.au).

## RESLOVED

**That the Great Eastern Country Zone note the process for election of Zone Representative and Deputy Representative to the WALGA State Council.**

## NOTED

### 7.3 Social Housing Economic Recovery Package Grant Funding

*By Kelly McManus, Principal Policy and Advocacy WALGA*

#### **Background**

The \$319 million [Social Housing Economic Recovery Package \(SHERP\)](#) is part of the State Government's COVID-19 Recovery Plan announced in June 2021.

The Program aims to provide safe and secure housing outcomes for vulnerable Western Australians by supporting the construction of new community housing properties and the refurbishment of existing properties to extend their useful life or increase their capacity. Grants are also available to fund maintenance works within remote Aboriginal communities.

Local Governments are eligible to apply for SHERP grants and partner with existing social housing providers and community groups within their communities.

The next round of SHERP funding opens on Monday 1 September 2021.

#### **Comment**

Further information on the eligibility requirements and application process for the SHERP grants will be provided by the Department of Communities at a webinar to be hosted by WALGA on **Wednesday 1 September** from 1.30pm – 2.30pm.

Local Government officers wishing to attend the register for the Webinar [here](#) or through the [WALGA events page](#).

The Livestream presentation from the 11<sup>th</sup> August is available to view on the Department of Communities website and provides valuable information about the grant process.

In preparation for the session, we encourage local governments to:

Visit the Department of Communities website on the 1<sup>st</sup> September to familiarise yourself with the grant guidelines, application process and frequently asked questions.

Submit any questions you have in advance through the registration form. There will also be the opportunity to ask additional questions on the day.

Further information on the SHERP program is available on the [Department of Communities website](#) or by contacting Kelly McManus, Principal Policy and Advocacy, WALGA on 0429 483 273 or [kmcmanus@walga.asn.au](mailto:kmcmanus@walga.asn.au).

## RESOLVED

- **That the Zone notes:**
- **Local Governments are eligible for grants to support the construction, refurbishment and maintenance of community housing properties as part of the State Government's Social Housing Economic Recovery Package (SHERP) Program.**

- The next round of SHERP grants open on Wednesday 1 September 2021.
- The Department of Communities will provide further information on the SHERP grants at a WALGA webinar to be held at 1:30pm on Wednesday 1 September.

#### 7.4 State Planning Policy 2.4 Basic Raw Materials

It has been suggested that a presentation on any implications with the extraction and carting of Morrel Lime in the Eastern Wheatbelt would be on value to the Zone.

Please find attached correspondence from the Western Australian Planning Commission together with the State Planning Policy 2.4 (Attachment 6)

#### RESOLVED

**To defer this item to the next meeting of the Executive committee.**

#### 7.5 Information Items

The Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC, Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Hydrogen Industry, released this press release on ["Road safety, tourism priority for regional mobile funding"](#). The release outlines the location of 14 new telecommunication towers as a result of a \$3.37million government investment toward new telecommunication towers along major road networks and tourism spots.

#### NOTED

#### 7.6 Drought advocacy update

*Nicole Mathews, Acting Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning*

The following is an update on drought and WALGA's advocacy;

WALGA has made representations on this issue including to the Hon David Littleproud MP, Minister for Agriculture, and Northern Australia; the Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC, Minister for Regional Development and Food, Hydrogen Industry; and WA Federal Government members, including meetings between the WALGA Deputy President and Senators Dean Smith and Slade Brockman. WALGA has also met with Minister MacTiernan's Chief of Staff and WA Government officials.

Correspondence from Minister Littleproud received in October 2020 indicated that details of the Commonwealth's Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program were still being worked through with the WA Government, which was yet to commit to co-funding the program. WALGA subsequently sought an assurance that Minister MacTiernan remained committed to 'working with the Minister for Water to ensure WA local government optimally benefit from the Future Drought Fund'.

On 4 July 2021 it was announced that the WA Government had secured \$1.33 million of the \$9.85 million available under the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program for 2021-22 to undertake planning for the Northern Midwest, Southern Wheatbelt and Great Southern Inland regions. This work will be led by Regional Development Commissions working with Local Governments and is due for completion by 30 June 2022. The WA Government has not provided a cash contribution towards this program.

On 3 February 2021 the WA Government announced a \$7.3 million infrastructure plan to upgrade and refurbish 70 community dams in the State's Wheatbelt and Great Southern regions with half to be funded from the National Water Grid Fund, however the State's application for funding was unsuccessful.

The WA Government has also made a request for funding as part of the National Water Grid Connections funding round, which will provide \$20 million for each state and territory to deliver projects with a Commonwealth contribution of up to \$5 million per project. A decision on this funding is expected by end August.

On 15 April 2021, the Commonwealth announced that an additional \$2.8 million would be provided to pay rebates for eligible water infrastructure installed on-farm to all WA farmers who submitted their application prior to 20 January 2021.

In addition, WALGA was advised on 11 August 2021 that the State Government has been successful in securing National Water Grid Connections funding for 9 projects (spanning Water Corporation, DPIRD and DWER):

- **Cave Springs Road Tail Water Return System**  
Two water recycling systems will be constructed in the Ord River Irrigation Area resulting in 2400 megalitres per annum of water savings.
- **Agricultural Area Dams and Strategic Community Water Supplies**  
Infrastructure facilities will be constructed including pipework, tanks, solar pumps and standpipes at 70 dam sites. This will increase resilience and water security in farming communities in the region.
- **Katanning to Kojonup Pipeline Enhancement**  
A number of sections of the existing pipeline between Katanning and Kojonup will be replaced, increasing water reliability and supply to all farmland customers.
- **Jerramungup Dam Catchment Improvement**  
Degraded bitumen will be replaced with plastic liner enabling increased runoff and water storage, and improving reliability to almost 100 per cent of water users in the Jerramungup catchment.
- **Gascoyne Irrigation Scheme Augmentation and Modernisation**  
Essential infrastructure in the Gascoyne region will be upgraded, including additional production bores and modernisation of irrigation systems. This will increase horticultural production capability in the region.
- **Community Water Supplies Partnership Program with Local Government**  
Up to 40 new and improved non-potable water supplies will be developed in priority areas for farming communities to access.
- **Ravensthorpe Dam Catchment Extension**  
The catchment area of the Ravensthorpe dam will be increased by 5 hectares, increasing the volume of water in the dam by approximately 7 megalitres per annum.
- **Cranbrook Dam Catchment Improvement**  
Degraded bitumen will be replaced in Cranbrook Dam 1 catchment, increasing the volume of water in the dam by 15 megalitres per annum, for agricultural and primary industry use.



- Wongutha Independent Water Security Pilot

A small-scale, solar powered water reverse osmosis desalination system pilot will be installed, producing an additional 7.3 megalitres per annum of fresh water.

Total funding for these projects is \$43.8 million, \$23.8 million State Government and other partners, \$20 million Commonwealth.

- In addition with assistance from ALGA, WALGA has secured a seat on the Commonwealth Agriculture Minister's Meeting Working Group on Drought which has representatives from the Commonwealth, all State/Territory Jurisdictions, National Farmers Federation and ALGA.
- Finally, on the Drought Resilience Planning Program, given Minister MacTiernan's decision to direct this funding to Regional Development Commissions rather than Local Governments, I've had initial discussions with DPIRD regarding the need for Local Governments to be involved in the process. I understand that DPIRD was meeting with the Regional Development Commissions last week and I expect to have further information in the next week or so.

## NOTED

## 8. ZONE REPORTS

### 8.1 Zone President Report

*By Cr Rhonda Cole*

President Cole's final presidents report is attached (Attachment 10)

#### RECOMMENDATION

**Moved: Cr Alan Wright**

**Seconded: Cr Eileen O'Connell**

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

**CARRIED**

### 8.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group

*By Cr Julie Flockart*

Cr Julie Flockart provided her report to the Zone.

Cr Flockart firstly thanked Rhonda for her support at Narembeen and the Zone. Rhonda has created a team that is contemporary and progressive, she has appreciated Rhonda's guidance during her four years.

Report: Cr Flockart informed the Zone that the July meeting was cancelled due to Covid and there has been no meeting since the last zone meeting.

#### RECOMMENDATION

**Moved: Cr Sue Meeking**

**Seconded: Cr Wayne Della Bosca**

**That the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Report be received.**

**CARRIED**

### **8.3 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee**

*By Cr Tony Sachse (Delegate)*

Cr Tony Sachse provided his report to the Zone.

There has not been a Wheatbelt DEMC meeting recently with the next meeting scheduled for 13th October, 2021.

The Wheatbelt Operational Area Support Group (OASG) has only been meeting on a “as needed” basis over past months. With WA currently not requiring a hard lockdown due the COVID-19 State of Emergency, there have not been any meetings over recent months. However a COVID =19 update for the Wheatbelt OASG was sent out and distributed to GECZ members on the 23rd July 2021.

The Wheatbelt Human Services Managers Forum met on Thursday, 19th August 2021. The minutes are not yet available for distribution. There were two presentations. The first was “Suicide Postvention and its Intersect with Suicide Prevention – how we collaboratively support communities in the Wheatbelt” by Tendai Makanyanga (Wheatbelt Postvention Coordinator and Clinical Nurse Specialist – WA Country Health Service) and Jo Drayton (Wheatbelt Suicide Prevention Coordinator Holyoake WCADS). The presentation is available for distribution and is attached (Attachment 11). There was also a presentation from LotteryWest but as of the time of writing it is not currently available. Others matters discussed during the meeting involved homelessness, cultural matters, disengaged young people and the Wheatbelt Education Plan.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**Moved: Cr Sue Meeking**

**Seconded: Cr Wayne Della Bosca**

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

**CARRIED**

### **8.4 Wheatbelt Health MOU Group**

*By Cr Glenice Batchelor*

Cr Batchelor reported on the Wheatbelt Health MOU at the meeting.

Cr Batchelor also shared her personal thanks to Rhonda for support and for her service.

#### **RESOLVED:**

**That the Wheatbelt Health MOU Group Report be received.**

## 8.5 WALGA Roadwise

Cliff Simpson, Road Safety Advisor (Wheatbelt North), Infrastructure, provided an update to the Zone (Attachment 7)

### RECOMMENDATION

**Moved: Cr Julie Flockart**

**Seconded: Cr Alan Wright**

**That the WALGA Roadwise Report be received.**

**CARRIED**

### Zone Comment:

The Zone Chair encouraged attendees to look at Narembeens SOCK video about road safety – the video can be found [here](#).

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

### 9.1 State Councillor Report

*Cr Stephen Strange*

The State Councillor Report is attached (Attachment 12)

During his address, Cr Strange mentioned the upcoming harvest is going to give us all some challenges. The Local Government Access Arrangement was issued in late August (Attachment 13)

Cr Strange also highlighted that WALGA President Tracey Roberts is endorsed as the Labor candidate for the Federal seat of Pearce.

Cr Cole thanked Stephen for giving the regions a huge voice in his role as State Councillor.

### RECOMMENDATION

**Moved: Cr Rod Forsyth**

**Seconded: Cr Karin Day**

**That the State Councillor Report be received**

**CARRIED**

## 9.2 WALGA Status Report

By Tony Brown, Executive Officer

### BACKGROUND

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

# COMPLETE ZONE STATUS REPORT AUGUST 2021

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Great Eastern C	<b>2018 November 29</b> <b>Zone Agenda Item 7.3</b> Container Deposit Scheme Locations	That the Great Eastern Country Zone requests that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Local Governments be guaranteed, as a minimum, one flexible refund point in their area.</li> <li>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</li> </ol> <p>The State Government provide appropriate funding for the refund points.</p>	<p>The Container Deposit Scheme was launched in October 2020. To date the Scheme has delivered over 200 refund points across WA. This will increase to the required 229 by 1 October 2021.</p> <p>WALGA will continue to advocate for, as a minimum, one flexible refund point per Local Government area. WALGA has also raised with Government the definitions of flexible refund points and how this is applied. The former Environment Minister indicated the definitions would be reviewed in May 2021 and WALGA and other stakeholders would be consulted as part of the process.</p>	Ongoing	<p><b>Nicole Matthews</b> A/Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning <a href="mailto:nmatthews@walga.asn.au">nmatthews@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2039</p>
Great Eastern C	<b>2020 February 26</b> <b>Zone Agenda Item 7.1</b> Federal Government Drought Communities	That the Great Eastern Country Zone requests WALGA, in consultation with ALGA, to liaise with the WA State Government Ministers for Water, Agriculture and Environment to provide a coordinated holistic response in respect to the ongoing drying climate issues and access to the Drought Communities Funding Program.	<p>State Council Resolution</p> <p>That State Council endorse the recommendation from the Great Eastern Country Zone relating to the Federal Government Drought Communities Program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	<p><b>Nicole Matthews</b> A/Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning <a href="mailto:nmatthews@walga.asn.au">nmatthews@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2039</p>

			<p>RESOLUTION 37.1/2020</p> <p>WALGA has continued its advocacy on drought assistance for Western Australia with representations to the Hon David Littleproud MP, Minister for Agriculture, and Northern Australia; the Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC, Minister for Regional Development and Food; Hydrogen Industry; and WA Federal Government members, including meetings between the WALGA Deputy President and Senators Dean Smith and Slade Brockman. WALGA also met with Minister MacTiernan's Chief of Staff on this issue.</p> <p>Correspondence from Minister Littleproud received in October 2020 indicated that details of the Commonwealth's Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program were still being worked through with the WA Government, which was yet to commit to co-funding the program. WALGA subsequently sought an assurance that Minister MacTiernan remained committed to 'working with the Minister for Water to ensure WA local government optimally benefit from the Future Drought Fund'.</p> <p>On 4 July 2021 it was announced that the WA Government had been allocated \$1.3m of the \$9.85m available under the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program for 2021-22 to undertake planning for the Northern Midwest, Southern Wheatbelt and Great Southern Inland regions. This work will be led by Regional Development Commissions working with Local Governments and is due for completion by 30 June 2022. The WA Government not provided a matching cash contribution for this program.</p> <p>The WA Government's application to the National Water Grid Fund seeking \$3.65 million in Federal funding to support the State's \$3.65 million investment to refurbish 70 agricultural area dams in dryland communities was unsuccessful. The Minister for Water has indicated that he is working closely with the Minister MacTiernan, to secure Federal funding for priority WA water projects in WA.</p>		
<b>Grt Eastern C</b>	<b>2020 25 June Zone Agenda Item Zone Comment</b>	1. That WALGA advocate to the Federal Government to request additional funding for the National On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme as the fund has been fully subscribed one year into a three year program.	On August 7 2020 the WALGA Deputy President met with Senator Dean Smith, and the WALGA President wrote to all Western Australian Federal Government members on 26 August 2020 requesting additional funding for the National On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme.	<b>August 2021</b>	<b>Nicole Matthews A/Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning <a href="mailto:nmatthews@walga.asn.au">nmatthews@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2039</b>

		<p>2. That WALGA advocate to the State Government to reinstate the Farm Water Rebate Scheme.</p>	<p>On October 8 2020 the Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management, the Hon David Littleproud responded, highlighting the announcement a further \$50m for the National On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme.</p> <p>On 15 April 2021, the Commonwealth announced that an additional \$2.8 million would be provided to pay rebates for eligible water infrastructure installed on-farm to all farmers who submitted their application prior to 20 January 2021. Commonwealth funding for rebates available to Western Australian farmers through the scheme has now been fully allocated.</p>		
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## **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.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**Moved: Cr Eileen O'Connell**

**Seconded: Cr Geoff Watters**

**That the Great Eastern Country Zone WALGA August 2021 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 [State Council Agenda September 2021](#)

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

#### **Matters for Decision**

##### **5.1 External Oversight of Local Level Complaints**

That WALGA advocate for an external oversight model for local level behavioural complaints made under Council Member, Committee Member and Candidate Codes of Conduct, that is closely aligned to the Victorian Councillor Complaints Framework.

##### **5.2 Tender Exemption Provisions – General Practitioner Services**

That WALGA:

1. Adopt a new Advocacy Position Statement under 'Local Government Legislation - Tender Exemption General Practitioner Services':

*WALGA advocates for the inclusion of a tender exemption for General Practitioner (GP) services under Part 4, Division 2 of the Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996, to support Local Governments to secure and retain necessary primary health care services for their communities; and*

2. Undertake additional research in support of the Advocacy Position with the following aims:
  - a. Identify State and Federal Government policy settings and other factors contributing to gaps in primary health care services in regional communities; and
  - b. Quantify the number of regional Local Governments that have current contracts, or are proposing to enter into contracts, for General Practitioner services and the associated costs to Local Government incurred.

### **5.3 Phase 2 Planning Reform Submission**

That the submission to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage on Phase 2 Planning Reform be endorsed.

#### **Matters for Noting**

- 6.1 Stop Puppy Farming Legislation**
- 6.2 Regional Telecommunications Resilience**
- 6.3 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC)**
- 6.4 2021-22 State Budget Submission**
- 6.5 WALGA Submission: Inquiry into the Delivery of Ambulance Services in Western Australia**

#### **Key Activity Reports**

- 7.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Commercial and Communications 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, Strategy, Policy and Planning**
- 7.2 Policy Forum Report**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**Moved: Cr Julie Flockart**  
**Seconded: Cr Sue Meeking**

**That the Great Eastern Country Zone:**

- 1. Supports Items 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3, as listed above in the 3 September 2021 State Council Agenda.**
- 2. Notes the matters for noting contained in the 3 September 2021 State Council Agenda.**

**CARRIED**



#### **9.4 WALGA President's Report**

The WALGA President's Report is attached to the Agenda. (Attachment 8)

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**Moved: Cr Geoff Watters**

**Seconded: Cr Julie Flockart**

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

**CARRIED**

#### **10. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT**

Kath Brown, Electorate Officer for Mia Davies, informed the Zone that Mia will be in Dowerin on Wednesday and Thursday at the Dowerin Field Days event..

**NOTED**

#### **11. AGENCY REPORTS**

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

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

Jennifer informed the Zone that the CRFF small grants submissions window closes on 31 August 2021. The Large Grants submissions window closes in 30 September 2021

**NOTED**

##### **11.2 Wheatbelt Development Commission**

Renee Manning, Wheatbelt Development Commission - Principal Regional Development Officer, provided an update to the Zone.

Renee tabled a report prior to the meeting, as attached (Attachment 14)

**NOTED**

##### **11.3 Main Roads Western Australia**

Mr Craig Manton, Regional Manager Wheatbelt, Main Roads provided an update to the Zone. A report was tabled (Attachment 15) prior to the meeting.

During his address, Craig introduced the new Regional Manager, Ammar Mohammed. Ammar will be the Zone's contact moving forward.

**NOTED**

#### **11.4 Wheatbelt RDA**

Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development RDA Wheatbelt presented to the Zone.  
A report was tabled prior to the meeting (Attachment 15)

**NOTED**

#### **11.5 Water Corporation**

Mike Roberts, Regional Manager, Goldfields and Agricultural Regions was an apology for this meeting.

**NOTED**

### **12. EMERGING ISSUES**

#### **12.1 Electoral Reform Campaign.**

The Electoral Reform Campaign was given to all attendees. The campaign is attached (Attachment 16) and all Local Governments are encouraged to adapt this to suit the needs of each Local Government.

**RESOLVED**

**That the Great Eastern Country Zone write to all MLC's in support of WALGA's campaign.**

### **13. URGENT BUSINESS**

#### **13.1 Census**

Members of the Zone raised concerns that areas of their towns were not issued the Census paperwork, or the paperwork was delivered very late. This is concerning as the Census is used to assess grant funding suitability.

Mandy Walker, Wheatbelt RDA, has offered to raise this feedback with the Federal Government.

### **14. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

The next meeting of the Great Eastern Country Zone will be held in Kellerberrin on Monday 22 November 2021, commencing at 9.30am.

### **15. CLOSURE**

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 12.33pm.