

# Great Eastern Country Zone

## MINUTES

**Monday, 21 August 2023**  
**Commenced at 9:31am**

### **Shire of Merredin**

Merredin Regional Community & Leisure Centre  
Bates Street, Merredin Western Australia 6415

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## 1. Opening and Welcome

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9.31am.

### 1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

We, the Great Eastern Country Zone of WALGA acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this land, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and future.

## 2. Attendance and Apologies

<b>Shire of Bruce Rock</b>	President Cr Stephen Strange
<b>Shire of Cunderdin</b>	President Cr Alison Harris Mr Stuart Hobley, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Dowerin</b>	President Cr Robert Trepp
<b>Shire of Kellerberrin</b>	Mr Raymond Griffiths, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Koorda</b>	President Cr Jannah Stratford Ms Lana Foote, Acting Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Merredin</b>	President Cr Mark McKenzie Ms Lisa Clack, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Mount Marshall</b>	President Cr Tony Sachse (Chair) Deputy President Cr Nick Gillett Mr Ben McKay, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Mukinbudin</b>	President Cr Gary Shadbolt Mr Dirk Sellenger, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Narembeen</b>	President Cr Kellie Mortimore Deputy President Cr Scott Stirrat Mr Paul Sheedy, A/Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Nungarin</b>	Deputy President Cr Gary Coumbe Mr John Merrick, A/Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Tammin</b>	President Cr Glenice Batchelor
<b>Shire of Trayning</b>	President Cr Melanie Brown Ms Leanne Parola, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Westonia</b>	Cr Ross Della Bosca Mrs Jasmine Geier, D/Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Wyalkatchem</b>	President Cr Quentin Davies (Deputy Chair)

Mr Peter Klein, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

**Shire of Yilgarn**

President Cr Wayne Della Bosca

Mr Nic Warren, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

**Guests**

WA Country Health Service

Rachele Ferrari, Executive Director- Wheatbelt

Lesley Watson, Clinical Practise Improvement Officer,  
Aged Care - Wheatbelt

Jacinta Herbert, Operations Manager Eastern Wheatbelt

Nancy Bineham, Director Strategy, Change & Service  
Development - Wheatbelt

Peter Barratt, Director Medical Services - Wheatbelt

Rural Health West

Tim Shackleton, Chief Executive Officer

Kelli Porter, Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Department of Fire and Emergency Services  
Main Roads WA  
Water Corporation  
Regional Development Australia WA

Craig Smith, DFES Superintendent

Mohammad Siddiqui, Regional Manager Wheatbelt

Rebecca Bowler, Manager, Customer & Stakeholder

Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development

**Members of Parliament**

Rick Wilson MP, Federal Member for O'Connor

Hon Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt

Hon Steve Martin, Member for the Agricultural Region

**WALGA**

Cr Paul Kelly, WALGA Deputy President

James McGovern, Manager Governance & Procurement

Naoimh Donaghy, Governance & Organisational Services  
Officer

**Apologies**

Shire of Bruce Rock

Deputy President Cr Tony Crooks

Mr Darren Mollenoyux, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

Shire of Cunderdin

Deputy President Cr Tony Smith

Shire of Dowerin

Cr Darrel Hudson

Ms Rebecca McCall, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

Shire of Nungarin

President Cr Pippa de Lacy

Shire of Mukinbudin

Deputy President Romina Nicoletti

Shire of Trayning

Deputy President Cr Geoff Waters

Shire of Tammin

Deputy President Cr Tanya Nicholls

Ms Joanne Soderlund, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

Shire of Kondinin

President Kent Mouritz

Deputy President Cr Beverley Gangell

Mr David Burton, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

Shire of Kellerberrin	President Cr Matt Steber
Shire of Koorda	Deputy President Cr Emily Ryan
Shire of Merredin	Deputy President Cr Buster Cooper
Shire of Mukinbudin	Cr Donna Crook
Shire of Westonia	Deputy President Romina Nicoletti
	President Cr Mark Crees
	Mr Bill Price, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Wylkatchem	Deputy President Cr Owen Garner
Shire of Yilgarn	Deputy President Cr Bryan Close
Department of Local Government, Sport, & Cultural Industries	Samantha Cornwaithe, Regional Manager Wheatbelt
Wheatbelt Development Commission	Renee Manning, Principal Regional Development Officer
	Pip Gooding, Regional Development Officer Wheatbelt South
	Hon Colin de Grussa MLC, Member for Agricultural Region
	Hon Peter Rundle MLA, Member for Roe
	Hon Martin Aldridge MLC, Member for Agricultural Region
	Hon Shelley Payne MLC, Member for Agricultural Region
	Hon Darren West MLC, Member for Agricultural Region
	Hon Sandra Carr MLC, Member for Agricultural Region
<b>WALGA</b>	Cliff Simpson, Regional Road Safety Advisor

## Attachments

The following are provided as attachments to the Minutes:

1. Item 6.1.1 WA Country Health presentation
2. Item 8.4 Mainroads presentation

## 4. Declarations of Interest

NIL

## 5. Announcements

With the upcoming Local Government Elections, the Chair wishes to thank all Elected Members who are not running for re-election. Your time and efforts are appreciated by your peers and your communities.

Good luck is wished to those running for re-election.

**NOTED**

## 6. Guest Speakers / Deputations

Water Corporations Rebecca Bowler, Manager, Customer & Stakeholder gave a verbal report in advance of welcoming the guest speakers.

### 6.1 Speakers for the August Zone Meeting

#### 6.1.1 WA Country Health Services

The Zone welcomed a panel of representatives from WA Country Health Services and Rural Health West;

Rachele Ferrari, Executive Director, WA Country Health Service - Wheatbelt

Tim Shackleton, Chief Executive Officer, Rural Health West

Kelli Porter, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Rural Health West

Lesley Watson, Clinical Practise Improvement Officer, Aged Care, WA Country Health Service - Wheatbelt

Jacinta Herbert, Operations Manager Eastern Wheatbelt, WA Country Health Service

Nancy Bineham, Director Strategy, Change & Service Development, WA Country Health Service - Wheatbelt

Peter Barratt, Director Medical Services, WA Country Health Service - Wheatbelt

The presentation is now attached to the Minutes – **Attachment 1**.

The panel took the floor for 20 Minutes of well received question time.

Questions are welcomed for the panel, through the Executive Officer.

**The meeting took a break at 11.19am for morning tea and recommenced at 11.26am.**

#### 6.1.2 Department of Fire and Emergency Services

DFES Superintendent Craig Smith presented to the Zone, providing a verbal update on preparedness for the upcoming fire season and will take questions from the floor.

Zone Delegates are reminded that a presentation was provided by DFES in August 2022 in relation to road works being conducted during Total Fire Bans. Item 7.2 of the current State Council Agenda proposes that adoption of the following advocacy position:

*That WALGA endorse the following principles in relation to the exemptions and conditions under which road works may be undertaken during a Total Fire Ban:*

- 1. Road Activity Tiers: That there be a tiered risk approach for road work activities and associated controls, based on the proposed activities and fire danger forecast.*
- 2. Local Government operations: That any controls specified in regulations to provide effective risk mitigation and response be able to be implemented within the works crew deployed for the task.*

3. *Reduce Red Tape: That the processes where repeated notification to DFES for the same task at the same location is required be streamlined.*

Superintendent Smith advised that Fire Season Readiness and Preparedness Workshops are planned for Northam on 30 October and Kalgoorlie on 1 November. Information to be sent to Local Governments.

**NOTED**

## **7. Members of Parliament**

*Any Members of Federal and State Government in attendance are invited to provide a brief update on matters relevant to the Zone.*

- Hon Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt
- Hon Steve Martin, Member for the Agricultural Region
- Rick Wilson MP, Federal Member for O'Connor will be late joining the meeting

**NOTED**

## **8. Agency Reports**

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

Samantha Cornthwaite, Regional Director Wheatbelt was an apology. The August 2023 report was attached.

**NOTED**

### **8.2 Wheatbelt Development Commission**

Renee Manning, Principal Regional Development Officer was an apology.

**NOTED**

### **8.3 Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt**

Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development, provided a report.

Mandy highlighted the web links on her report as advantageous to review

**NOTED**

### **8.4 Main Roads Western Australia**

Mohammad Siddiqui, Regional Manager Wheatbelt tabled a report (**Attachment 2**) in advance of the meeting.

**NOTED**

### **8.5 Water Corporation**

Rebecca Bowler, Manager Customer & Stakeholder provided a verbal report at the beginning of the meeting.

**NOTED**

## 9. Minutes

### 9.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on Tuesday 20 June 2023

The Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on Tuesday, 20 June 2023 have previously been circulated to Member Councils.

#### RESOLUTION :

Moved: Shire of Yilgarn  
Seconded: Shire of Koorda

That the minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on Tuesday, 20 June 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

**CARRIED**

### 9.2 Business Arising from the Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting held on Tuesday, 20 June 2023

NIL

### 9.3 Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Executive Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 8 August 2023

The Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 8 August 2023 are attached.

#### RESOLUTION

Moved: Shire of Wyalkatchem  
Seconded: Shire of Narembeen

That the Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 8 August 2023 be endorsed.

**CARRIED**

### 9.4 Business arising from the Great Eastern Country Executive Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 8 August 2023

The recommendations from the Executive Committee meeting that require Zone consideration have been extracted for the Zones consideration.

#### 9.4.1 Speakers for the November 2023 Zone Meeting (Item 5.5)

**Item 5.5** – DFES will be represented at the August Zone meeting.

**Item 7.3.2** - The Executive Committee want to assess the Members appetite for inviting the Deputy Auditor General, Grant Richardson, to an upcoming meeting. The Audit process is a continual issue which needs further attention.



An alternative to inviting the Deputy to a meeting is for a delegation to be established and a meeting arranged in Perth.

## RESOLUTION

**Moved: Shire of Tammin**

**Seconded: Shire of Trayning**

**That the Great Eastern Country Zone invite the Deputy Auditor General to the November meeting. Should the Deputy be unavailable to attend, a Delegation will be established and a meeting requested with the Deputy Auditor General.**

**CARRIED**

## 10. Zone Business

### 10.1 Minutes on a Page

At the April meeting of the Zone, it was resolved that the Executive would establish a 'Minutes on a page' document to be distributed to all Elected Members and CEO's of the Great Eastern Country Zone. The purpose of the document is to brief all Elected Members on what happens at a Zone meeting. A draft was provided for the meeting to discuss.

## NOTED

### 10.2 Auditor Experience and Survey Results

At the State Council meeting of July 2023, the following advocacy position was adopted in relation to the survey of Local Government Audit Experience:

*That:*

1. *State Council note the Audit Experience Survey Results Summary; and*
2. *WALGA advocate to the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) to reform the audit process for Local Governments by seeking*
  - a. *Audits of Local Governments are completed and reported on in a timely manner and that the processes, procedures and scope of audits are consistently applied.*
  - b. *That the OAG review the requirements for preaudit information with a view to reducing the need for additional information where possible;*
  - c. *That the OAG review their costing formulae for Local Government audits and show constraint in audit cost increases;*
  - d. *That the OAG provide a breakdown on the cost of the audit and justification for any variance to the estimate to the Local Government as part of the final billing process;*
  - e. *That auditors be required to improve their communication and information management and avoid repeated requests for information that has already been provided or that is publicly available;*
  - f. *That Local Governments only be required to communicate with contract Auditors (unless the OAG is directly auditing the Local Government) and the onus be placed on the contract Auditors to confirm their advice with the OAG before instructing the Local Government;*
  - g. *In-conjunction with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, review the application of Fair Value principles in the context of the audit; and*
  - h. *Seek an opportunity for Local Government to make representations in relation to any adverse findings prior to the publication of the report.*

*RESOLUTION 464.3/2023*

A letter has been sent to the Auditor General outlining WALGA's advocacy positions and suggested reforms to the audit process for Local Governments.

In respect to item g, the Minister for Local Government, Hon David Michael has advised that he will make a regulation change to the Financial Management regulations to only require Local Governments to revalue assets once every five years. This will occur with the next instalment of regulatory reforms as part of the current legislative reform process.

This is very good news and an advocacy success for the Local Government sector and the Minister and Department of Local Government assistance on this matter has been appreciated.

The meeting discussed the Audit Readiness Guide released by OAG in July 2023, with WALGA inviting any comments arising from the content to be provided to assist with future communications and advocacy.

**NOTED**

**10.3 The Aboriginal Heritage Cultural Act**

On 8 August the State Government announced it will repeal the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2021* that came into effect on 1 July 2023 and restore the original *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*, with amendments, notably:

- The newly formed Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Council will take on the role of the Committee established under the 1972 Act to make recommendations on Section 18 Notices to the Minister.
- Proponents and Native Title parties will have the same right of review for Section 18 decisions via the State Administrative Tribunal, with clear timeframes and an ability for the Premier to calling a decision of 'State significance', to act in the interests of all Western Australians.
- When a Section 18 has been approved, a new requirement for the owner to notify the Minister of any new information about an Aboriginal site – an important reform to help prevent another Juukan Gorge.

The [Aboriginal Heritage Legislation Amendment and Repeal Bill 2023](#) was introduced to Parliament on 9 August 2023. WALGA was not consulted on this decision, but the Premier has indicated that the Implementation Group on which WALGA is a participant will continue and that the group will work on the transition to the renewed 1972 legislation.

From a Local Government perspective, the following additional points are relevant:

- Local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services (LACHS) will not continue. Support will be provided to existing relevant Native Title groups, including the relevant Prescribed Body Corporations, registered claimants or native title representative bodies.
- There will be no requirement for landowners to conduct their own heritage survey.
- The Section 18 process will be strengthened, with these changes mainly impacting miners and Government, whose work most impacts cultural heritage.
- The Government will commence a 10-year plan to undertake heritage surveys of unsurveyed areas in "high priority" areas of the State.

The sector will be kept informed of progress and engaged where appropriate in the coming months.

**NOTED**

## 10.4 Proposed Boundaries for the 2025 State General Election

Item 9.4 of the State Council Agenda summarises the Flying Minute that was distributed to the Zone on 10 August 2023.

WALGA advise Members that the close date for submissions was 21 August 2023 and encourage Local Governments to reply to meet the deadline. WALGA has submitted a submission.

### **Executive Officer Comment:**

The Commissioners' proposal to reduce the number of non-metropolitan districts by one is open for objections until Friday 21 August. Whilst WALGA is submitting an Objection Paper on behalf of the sector, a submission has been prepared on behalf of the Great Eastern Country Zone. This is in response to the widespread objection within the Zone to the boundaries proposal to reduce the number of non-metropolitan districts by one as the reduction in political representation will negatively impact rural and regional communities.

The Zone Submission is under development at the time of writing and will be distributed to Zone delegates prior to the meeting.

### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Shire of Yilgarn**

**Seconded: Shire of Merredin**

**That the Great Eastern Country Zone endorse the Objection to the Proposed Boundaries for the 2025 State General Election.**

**CARRIED**

## 10.5 2023 Local Government Elections – Zone Office Bearer Elections

*By Chantelle O'Brien, Governance Support Officer*

### **BACKGROUND**

With the bi annual Local Government elections being held on Saturday, 21 October 2023, 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, 21 October 2023.
- Member Councils to elect/appoint their Zone Delegates and to advise the Zone Executive Officer, as soon as possible but preferably by 3 November 2023.
- 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 2023 meeting.
- Zones to advise WALGA, in writing, of their elected State Council representative and deputy representative immediately following the 2023 November Zone meeting.
- A State Councillor Induction Session will be held for all State Council representatives and deputy representatives before the first meeting in December.
- The new State Council will take office at the Ordinary Meeting of State Council on **6 December 2023**.

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 preferably to be **one week prior** to the Zone meeting at which the election will be held. However, nominations will be accepted from the floor at the Zone meeting.
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. Nominations will be permitted from the floor at the Zone meeting. 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 Director Member Services on 9213 2051 or email [tbrown@walga.asn.au](mailto:tbrown@walga.asn.au).

## RESOLUTION

**Moved: Shire of Trayning**  
**Seconded: Shire of Koorda**

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

**CARRIED**

## 11. Zone Reports

### 11.1 Zone President Report

President Tony Sachse

Today's meeting mark's the last meeting in the current term of the WALGA GECZ Delegates, Office bearers and Executive given the upcoming Local Government elections in October 2023. Thank you everyone for your contribution over the last two years. The regular attendance and input by Delegates, CEO's, WALGA, Politicians, Agency Representatives and Guest Speakers have all combined in making for a very relevant and active Zone, with flow on benefits for all our communities and constituents. Thanks especially to the WALGA staff for their contribution, especially James McGovern, Tony Brown, Naoimh Donaghy and Janine Neugebauer.

Some of our Delegates and Executive members are not intending re-standing in October. We wish you all the best for the future. Your input and enthusiasm have been greatly appreciated. A job well done.

## RESOLUTION

**Moved: Shire of Trayning**  
**Seconded: Shire of Yilgarn**

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

**CARRIED**

### 11.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG)

President Tony Sachse

The LGAFG meeting last met on 13th July 2022. A meeting in 2023 has so far not been scheduled. There is nothing else to report.

## RESOLUTION

**Moved: Shire of Cunderdin**  
**Seconded: Shire of Nungarin**

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

**CARRIED**

### 11.3 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC)

President Tony Sachse

Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee (Wheatbelt DEMC) Report August, 2023.

The last Wheatbelt DEMC met on 17th May 2023. The next DEMC meeting isn't scheduled until October, the DEMC endorsement of the LEMC Handbook as required by the SEMC Policy Unit is being conducted out of session.

Attached are the following:

- The final draft of the LEMC Handbook
- The DEMC Agenda item with full recommendations and background for your information.
- The proposed communication and marketing plan for your information and noting.

If you have any comments on this final draft of the Handbook, could you please return to me no later than the 25 August 2023.

The Wheatbelt Operational Area Support Group (OASG)/ISG is now only meeting as needed. There have not been any meetings over recent months.

The Wheatbelt Human Services Managers Forum last met on Tuesday, 6th June 2023. The minutes of this meeting were attached.

## RESOLUTION

**Moved: Shire of Narambeen**  
**Seconded: Shire of Dowerin**

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

**CARRIED**

### 11.4 Regional Health Advocacy Group

Cr Alison Harris referred this update to Nancy Bineham, WACHS Chair for the Wheatbelt.

## RESOLUTION

**Moved: Shire of Wyalkatchem**  
**Seconded: Shire of Tammin**

**That the Regional Health Advocacy Report be received.**

**CARRIED**

### 11.5 WALGA RoadWise

Cliff Simpson, Road Safety Advisor, was an apology.

## NOTED

## 12. Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) Business

### 12.1 State Councillor Report

Cr Stephen Strange

Cr Strange referenced our guest speakers and encouraged Members to engage with and stay involved with these valuable services.

It is of utmost importance for Zone Local Government delegates to attend the AGM occurring on Monday 18 September 2023 in order to vote on WALGA's governance review. Cr Strange encouraged Members to consider the new model proposed which, in his opinion, will encourage more agility resulting in more being done for the Zones and a more modern WALGA.

Cr Strange also highlighted a trend of dangerous truck driver behaviour, potentially exacerbated by inadequate training and driver's on work visas being unfamiliar with rural road environments. More discussions are needed on common issues and what can be done, with this proposed as a future Executive Committee matter of business..

## RESOLUTION

**Moved: Shire of Mukinbudin**  
**Seconded: Shire of Cunderdin**

**That the State Councillor Report be received with the transport issues relating to poor driver behaviour be presented to the incoming Executive Committee as a priority area for advocacy.**

**CARRIED**

## 12.2.1 State Council Agenda Items – 13 September 2023

### 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 13 September 2023](#)

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

#### 7.1 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Advocacy Position

That WALGA endorse the following position on Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA):

1. *The State Government should fund the implementation of the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement Plan endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC).*
2. *A reformed LEMA system should:*
  - a) *Clearly articulate the roles and responsibilities of Local Governments in emergency management;*
  - b) *Simplify the reporting processes and reduce the administrative burden of maintaining compliance;*
  - c) *Provide a suite of scalable tools and guidance materials that are accessible through an online knowledge hub;*
  - d) *Build the emergency management capacity and capability of Local Governments through the provision of targeted training, exercising support, human resources and sustainable funding;*
  - e) *Assist Local Governments to continue to deliver their core business activities and provide public information during an emergency event;*
  - f) *Improve the connectivity of Local Governments' various risk management and hazard planning processes through an integrated approach; and*
  - g) *Enable resource sharing and collaboration across the Local Government sector.*

#### 7.2 Advocacy Position on Road Works during Total Fire Ban

That WALGA endorse the following principles in relation to the exemptions and conditions under which road works may be undertaken during a Total Fire Ban:

1. Road Activity Tiers: That there be a tiered risk approach for road work activities and associated controls, based on the proposed activities and fire danger forecast.
2. Local Government operations: That any controls specified in regulations to provide effective risk mitigation and response be able to be implemented within the works crew deployed for the task.
3. Reduce Red Tape: That the processes where repeated notification to DFES for the same task at the same location is required be streamlined.

### Policy Team And Committee Reports

- 8.1 Environment and Waste Policy Team Report
- 8.2 Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team Report
- 8.3 Infrastructure Policy Team Report
- 8.4 People and Place Policy Team Report
- 8.5 Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Report

**RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Shire of Tammin**  
**Seconded: Shire of Trayning**

**That the Great Eastern Country Zone:**

- 1. Supports all Matters for Decision as listed above in the September 2023 State Council Agenda; and**
- 2. Notes all Matters for Noting, Policy Team and Committee Reports and Organisational Reports as listed in the September 2023 State Council Agenda.**

**CARRIED**

<b>12.3 WALGA President’s Report – September 2023</b>
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The WALGA President’s Report was attached to the agenda.

WALGA Deputy President Cr Paul Kelly was in attendance took the report as read.

**RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Shire of Trayning**  
**Seconded: Shire of Merredin**

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

**CARRIED**

**13. Emerging Issues**

**13.1 Road Usage Agreement**

*Shire of Yilgarn*

Cr Della Bosca discussed the Shire’s frustration with completing negotiations with a heavy road user company for 113km of roads within the Shire. WALGA’s guidelines are not reflective of current economic status or considerate of smaller Local Governments with lower ratepayer income. The Shire have estimated a cost of \$84-90million over a 40 year period to ratepayers based in WALGA’s guide. This cost and risk cannot be imposed on ratepayers.

**ACTION:** The Great Eastern Country Zone agreed to receive information on road use agreements through the WALGA Executive for the November Agenda.

**13.2 NEWROC workshop**

NEWROC are hosting a workshop in Nungarin on Thursday 7 September on empowering producers to provide better land access. Registration can be completed through Caroline, [caroline@newroc.com.au](mailto:caroline@newroc.com.au)



### **13.3 Thanks for outgoing Councillors of the Zone**

Cr Davies, Cr Mortimore, Cr Forsyth and Cr Waters were thanked for their contribution to the Zone and Executive Committee.

Cr Davies took the opportunity to say a few words, highlighting how the Zone has added value to member communities. The Zone has a valuable voice assisted by the Executive Officer and WALGA. The collaboration between Local Governments has been great and is the best way to succeed. Cr Davies thanked State Councillor Stephen Strange for all he does for the Zone. Cr Davies mentioned Country Councillors are so valuable as they truly have their community in mind and encouraged new Councillors to come on board. A special thanks was given to Chair President Cr Tony Sachse for his leadership and his willingness to go above and beyond for the Great Eastern Country Zone.

### **NOTED**

### **14. Date, Time, and Place of Next Meetings**

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held following the November elections.

The next Great Eastern Country Zone meeting will be held on Monday, **20** November 2023 commencing at 9.30am. This meeting will be hosted by the Shire of Kellerberrin.

### **15. Closure**

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 1.18pm.