



Shire of Lake Grace

22 JULY 2026

Ordinary Council Meeting

INFORMATION BULLETIN

ITEM 16.0 - ATTACHMENTS

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Information Bulletin
Infrastructure Services Report

Shire of Lake Grace

Prepared for the June 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting
presenting information to the end of May 2026

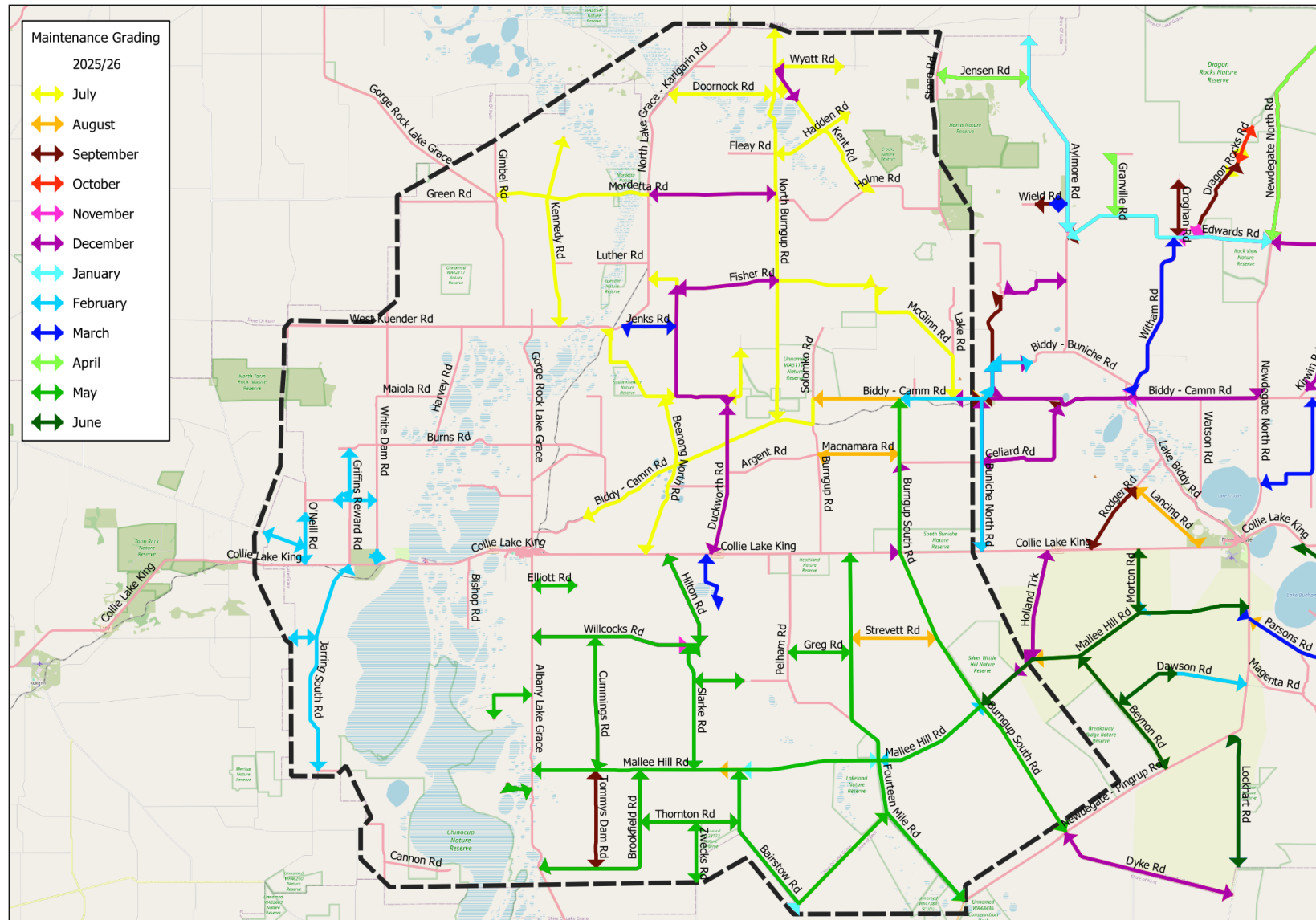
Road Maintenance Grading

For the month of May 2026

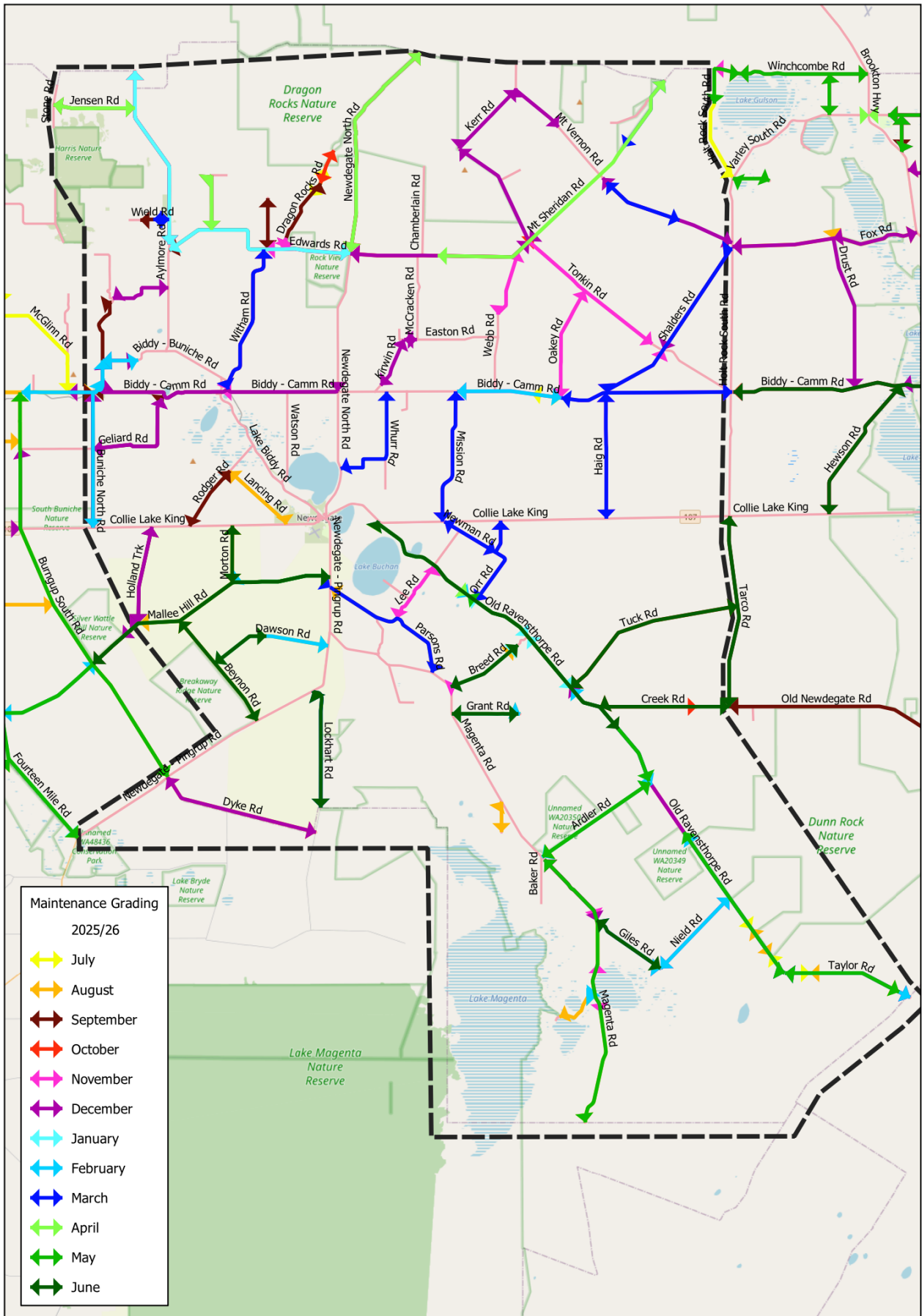
<i>Lake Grace Area</i>		<i>Newdegate Area</i>		<i>Lake King-Varley Area</i>	
<i>Road Name</i>	<i>Graded (km)</i>	<i>Road Name</i>	<i>Graded (km)</i>	<i>Road Name</i>	<i>Graded (km)</i>
		Beynon Rd	10.42	Biddy Camm Rd	36.17
		Breed Rd	6.60	Creek Rd	10.67
		Dawson Rd	5.00	Hewsons Rd	12.67
		Giles Rd	6.60	Kathleen Rd	7.78
		Grant Rd	5.49	Kathleen Rd (Drains)	7.78
		Lockhart Rd	10.03	Norseman Rd	6.90
		Mallee Hill Rd	15.83	Old Newdegate Rd	12.44
		Morton Rd	4.73	Pickernell Rd	6.53
				Tarco Rd	15.87
				Tuck Rd	16.08
<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>64.70</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>132.89</u>

2025/26 Year-To-Date Grading by Month

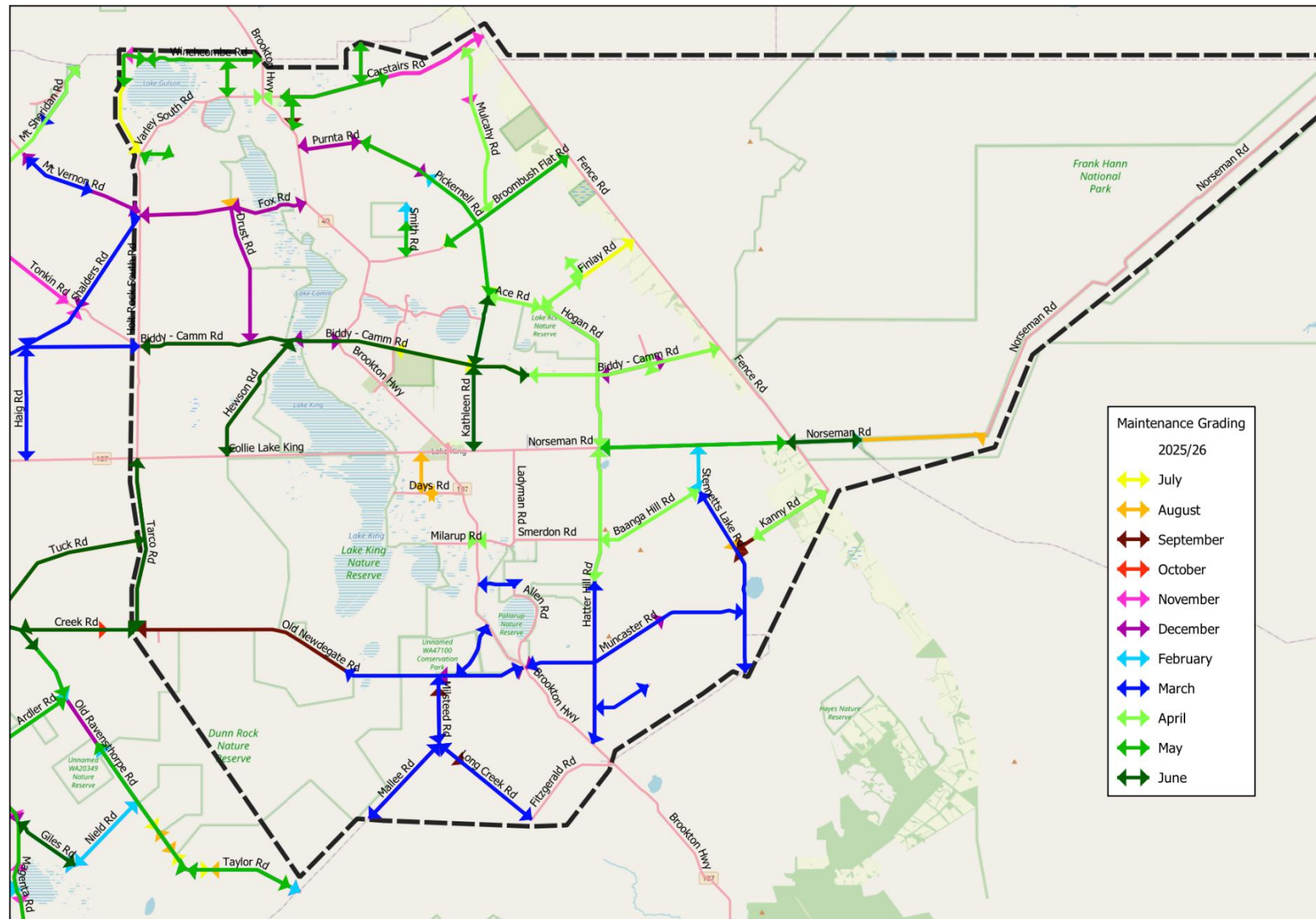
Year	Month	Lake Grace Area (km)	Newdegate Area (km)	Lake King-Varley Area (km)	Monthly Subtotal
2025	July	210.21	72.08	114.49	396.78
	August	134.11	148.09	91.60	373.80
	September	66.15	142.67	115.81	324.63
	October	0.0	64.37	0.0	64.37
	November	29.33	218.64	79.89	327.86
	December	77.34	220.51	143.76	441.61
2026	January	58.83	50.26	59.11	168.20
	February	42.28	162.18	92.49	296.95
	March	8.35	130.46	108.36	247.17
	April	0.00	76.39	116.15	192.54
	May	223.56	80.54	99.72	403.82
	June	0.0	64.70	132.89	197.59
	<u>To-Date</u>	<u>850.16</u>	<u>1,366.19</u>	<u>1,021.38</u>	<u>3,237.73</u>



Monthly maintenance grading – Lake Grace area



Monthly maintenance grading – Newdegate area



Monthly maintenance grading – Lake King-Varley area

Plant Management

Plant Acquisitions

- Nil.

Plant Repairs

Plant	Plant Description	Action
LG393	2020 Caterpillar 140 Grader	500hr Service
FSS550	2010 Isuzu Fire Truck	Varley Fire Truck Service
LG970	2021 Prime Mover	Fault Find & Repair
LG10163	2015 Side-tipping Trailer	Remove & Replace Brakes
LG200	2022 Volvo Prime Mover	Fault Find & Repair
LG246	2023 CAT Loader	500hr Service
LG984	2021 Isuzu Cab	General Service
LG970	2021 Prime Mover	Service & Airbag Valve
LG001	2025 NISSAN Patrol	20,000km Service
LG004	2024 Isuzu MU-X	60,000km Service

Building Construction & Maintenance

Capital

- Old Ravensthorpe Road SLK 32.00 – 37.00
- Mallee Hill Road SLK 0.00 – 5.00
- Haig Road SLK 0.00 – 5.00
- Mt Sheridan Road SLK 27.00 - 32.

Maintenance

Lake Grace

- Visitor Centre

Newdegate

- Swimming Pool

Lake King

- Nil.

Varley

- Nil.

Other

- Nil.

Parks & Gardens Maintenance

Lake Grace

- General maintenance, gardening/mowing & tidying of gardens and parks.

Newdegate

- General maintenance, gardening/mowing of the recreation grounds, parks and skate park.

Lake King

- Carried out general gardening, mowing and spraying to all parks and gardens.

Varley

- Carried out gardening maintenance and general maintenance, including spraying, mowing, raking of the town site, sports complex and cemetery for weeds.

Pingaring

- Nil.

Customer Service Requests

For the period of 1 July 2025 to 31 May 2026:

Category	Complete	Incomplete	Total	% Complete
Works	66	14	80	82.5%
Building	41	17	58	70.7%
Parks & Gardens	19	3	22	86.4%
<u>Total</u>	<u>126</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>78.8%</u>

As compared to the month previous to May 2026's to-date figures:

Category	Complete	Incomplete	Total	% Complete
Works	62	12	74	83.8%
Building	37	19	56	66.1%
Parks & Gardens	18	2	20	90.0%
<u>Total</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>78.0%</u>



INFORMATION BULLETIN

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT

April to June 2026

HEALTH

During the April–June 2026 quarter the Environmental Health Service continued to deliver regulatory compliance, statutory assessment and public health functions across the Shire. Key activities included enforcement under the Health Act, food safety inspections, development referrals, onsite wastewater approvals, waste management compliance and planning for major community events.

Community Engagement

- EH Newsletter Articles

Events

- Received Newdegate Machinery Field Days Event Application

Food Businesses

Inspected the following premises for Food Act compliance-

- Grace Café
- Lake Grace Sportsmans Club
- Lake Grace Town Hall
- Lakes Village
- Lake Grace Sports Pavillion
- Lake Grace Meat Supplies
- Rosies Café and Bakery
- Lake Grace Roadhouse
- Saltbush Inn
- Walkers Hill Vineyard
- Mrs G's Catering (Mobile Food Vehicle)
- Newdegate Roadhouse
- Newdegate Recreation Centre
- Newdegate Motel and Caravan Park
- Newdegate Town Hall
- Newdegate Country Club (bowls) & Golf Club

Food Recall Notices circulated to all food businesses

- Ministry of Chocolate Pty Ltd – NEW YORK INSPIRED - 195g
- Greenstorm Foods t/a Austral Herbs- Certified Organic Garlic Powder- 250g, 500g, 1kg, 5kg, 10kg
- Planet Organic Garlic Powder 50g – Certified Organic
- Han Yang Import & Export Pty Ltd T/A ByAsia Food - The Han Kitchen Topokki Cup Original - 140g
- Global Seafood Distributors (Australia) Pty Ltd - Seafood Marinara Mix - 500g.
- Nestle Australia Ltd. - Allen's iNSiDE OUTS - 130g
- Mama NATURE Pty Ltd - Drink Purple 60ml and 350ml
- UPDATED 07.07.2026 | Bellevue Orchard Pty Ltd - Summer Snow - Pink Lady Apple Juice 1 litre & Summer Snow - Granny Smith Apple Juice 2 Litres

Food Standard 3.2.2A notification circulated to all Food Premises, this requires some food premises to have the following from December 2023:

- Food safety supervisors: Food Premises will need to appoint a food safety supervisor for their business.
- Food safety training: All food handlers will need to show they have had food safety training.
- Key food safety controls: Food Premises will need to keep records of important food safety controls or be able to demonstrate safe food handling practices.

Lodging Houses & Caravan Parks

Inspected the following for compliance -

- Lake Grace Roadhouse & Accommodation
- Saltbush Inn
- Lake Grace Caravan Park (inc. Lodging Accom)

Orders and Requisitions

- A3721 - 59 Bennett Street, Lake Grace
- A3610 - 3 Griffiths Street, Lake Grace
- A3730 - 32 Stubbs Street, Lake Grace (Post Office)

Onsite Effluent Disposal Systems

- Lot 595, 1033 Biddy-Buniche Road, Buniche – Pending Final Approval
- 2756 Newdegate-Pingrup Road Newdegate WA 6355 – Pending Final Approval
- Lot 1 Stennetts Lake Road Mount Madden – Pending Final Approval
- Jam Patch toilets – Pending Final Approval
- Lot 300 Newdegate-Ravensthorpe Road Newdegate – Pending Final Approval

- Lot 607, 500 Newman Road, Newdegate – Pending Final Approval
- Lake King Public Toilets (Tavern) – upgrade proposed
- Lot 4487 Pingrup-Lake King Rd, Lake Grace - Pending Final Approval
- Lot 9 Sugg Road, Lake King - Pending Final Approval

Pool Water Sampling

All pools closed

Professional Development

- H5 Bird Flu Webinar
- Public Health Planning Webinar
- Tobacco and Vape Enforcement Webinar
- Local Government Health and Wellbeing Group Meeting
- Principal EHO Group Meeting
- AIBS Building Surveyors Conference

Public Buildings

Inspected the following for Health Public Buildings compliance -

- Lake Grace Sports Pavillion
- Lake Grace Hall
- Lakes Village
- Newdegate Recreation Centre
- Newdegate Hall
- Walker's Hill Vineyard
- Newdegate Hotel
- Lake Grace Sportsman Club

Public Health Plan

- Various meetings with management to discuss review of Public Health Plan
- Communication to Department of Health seeking extension for review of Public Health Plan with DCEO

Recycled Water Scheme

- Recycled water scheme ready to be used when required but currently offline

Stallholder / Street Trading Permits

- Mrs G
- Murphy's Spuds
- Doughboy donuts

Strategic Planning

- EHO Upcoming Work Programme July – September
- PEHO Annual Performance Review

Waste Management

- Ongoing inspections of waste facilities
- Various enquiries for disposal of asbestos

Other

- Local Government Rodent Control Assistance Program
- LHAAC Sampling Scheme and Food Manufacturers - Survey 2026
- LHAAC Local Government User Survey 2026
- Lake Grace Swimming Pool Fence Repairs
- Follow up unpaid Food Premises Fees
- Food complaint and investigation – Lake Grace Roadhouse
- Public Health Plan Review
- Letter of support to Newdegate School for upgrade of Swimming Pool canteen/kiosk
- Request from Infrastructure Services to undertake private swimming pool fence inspections referred to Shire of Narrogin Building Surveyor services contract
- Central Wheatbelt Regional Health and Building Forum Convenor – mentoring of Shire of Narrogin EHO Trainee



Brendon Gerrard

Principal Environmental Health Officer

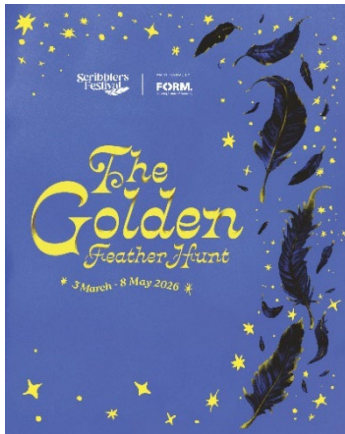
Mobile: 0409 770 824

Email: roeeho@corrigin.wa.gov.au



Registered Building Surveyor BSP2797

Lake King Library Report for April - June 2026



The 'Golden Feather Hunt' concluded in April before the school holidays with our lucky winner Ayla finding the special emerald feather! She won a book provided by the Scribblers Festival. Colouring and origami books were awarded to winners of the decorated feather competition, Judd, Morgan and Lila.

--*--

Scholastic Book Fair returned to the library in May. Supported by local families the library earnt over \$300 in commission to spend on new books. Excitement was built with 'Guess the number' competitions and the lucky winners of books were Raphael, Kody, Juane, Izzy and Dylan.



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OFFICIAL

The “Lake King 100 Years” planning committee meets in the library on the first Friday of the month. Steady progress is being made towards a website and collection of historical pictures, documents and photos.

--*--

Audio book downloads remain strong, especially over the seeding months.

	April		May		June	
	Libby	Borrowbox	Libby	Borrowbox	Libby	Borrowbox
Audio Book	4	49	2	31	6	56
E book	6	10	5	13	6	13
magazines	9	5	7	9	5	9

--*--

OFFICIAL

Lake King Library
Statistics[illegible]

OFFICIAL

Newdegate Library Report April - June 2026

Our loan statistics were low in April but have jumped up in the last two months. The library space has been used for first aid cpr refresher, pilates, school assemblies & Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, spare parts puppet theatre, family movie night. We've also had our volunteer community lunch, after school crafts and scrapbook club. This year the primary school did their national simultaneous story time in the library.

We are still receiving our monthly box of books from the state library and sending them our old books back. For the gate post we do use our library books for our 'This week we are reading' section.

Our monthly loan statistics are:

April: 4

May: 12

June: 13

Regards

Jade Parker

Newdegate Library Statistics

Issued
and
Renewals

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2005	12	45	37	21	46	33	4	16	6	15	15	14
2006	21	21	27	7	21	22	14	34	27	6	20	15
2007	17	16	24	3	24	32	15	39	25	19	19	4
2008	9	30	15	14	33	14	6	16	9	20	17	8
2009	2	23	20	15	25	28	12	15	10	17	15	8
2010	3	13	16	14	13	23	28	26	27	26	35	27
2011	5	37	52	27	77	54	22	42	35	76	72	38
2012	10	69	33	27	50	20	49	18	26	54	59	31
2013	8	34	30	20	30	21	36	28	18	27	36	29
2014	39	50	35	33	53	36	61	29	24	61	32	47
2015	23	50	52	58	62	53	42	59	45	38	88	38
2016	17	77	29	45	42	15	53	39	43	43	65	42
2017	26	55	40	43	29	29	40	13	29	39	29	28
2018	9	37	15	30	19	36	33	18	51	30	66	48
2019	31	26	54	34	33	39	29	34	7	43	35	33
2020	6	33	42	2	12	23	27	24	39	54	21	16
2021	17	36	51	53	22	32	25	31	38	33	20	27
2022	5	23	27	8	31	13	19	32	8	42	8	17
2023	13	9	14	10	26	29	9	28	21	37	14	10
2024	6	12	18	13	26	16	6	15	12	31	16	4
2025	1	15	9	8	39	19	2	11	9	10	8	7
2026	2	18	12	4	12	13						

Lake Grace

File Notes Steven Ball

Attendance 6 July 2026.

- Mount Maden
 - No issues to report
- Lake King
 - No issues to report
 - Lane ways
 - Town Site Patrols
- Varley
 - No issues to report
 - Lane ways
 - Town Site Patrols
- Newdegate
 - Patrols of roads and laneways
 - No issues to report
- Lake Grace
 - No issues to report.
 - Lane ways
 - Town Site Patrols
- Jam Patch.
 - No issues
 - No campers.



April – June 2026 Tourism Statistics

Prepared by Jo Morgan



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Introduction

This document is prepared for the Lake Grace Shire Council to illustrate visiting statistics to the Lake Grace Visitor Centre.

It is a snapshot of visitor profiles that visit our Shire and is not all inclusive. The Lake Grace Visitor Centre (LGVC) only records visitors that physically enter the centre. The use of signage, open flags and being positioned in the main street of town we feel we are getting the majority of genuine visitors calling into the centre.

One of the goals of the LGVC is to provide accurate information for visitors. We also want to provide an enjoyable experience for the visitor by sharing our history with them, i.e. through telling them about the Station Masters House. While in the LGVC we dispense brochures and maps highlighting places to see and things to do in our Shire foremost.

Equipped with additional information about the Shire of Lake Grace and its attractions, the tourist is more inclined to spend more time seeing and doing things in the Shire of Lake Grace. If they have the time visitors often add additional time in Lake Grace after visiting the Centre.

The graphs presented in this document are tracking several different measurements of tourism data. It must be remembered that not all visitors are comfortable with revealing information of their travels so it is based only on the information that has been offered and is not conclusive.

Visitor data measurements recorded include;

- Number of people
- Age
- Origin
- Route
- Mode of transport
- Accommodation
- Yearly tracking from 2017

The graphs provided in this document are mainly based on the visitor numbers and profiles and exclude route, transport, accommodation and sales although data for these has been recorded also.

Origin of visitors to the Shire of Lake Grace

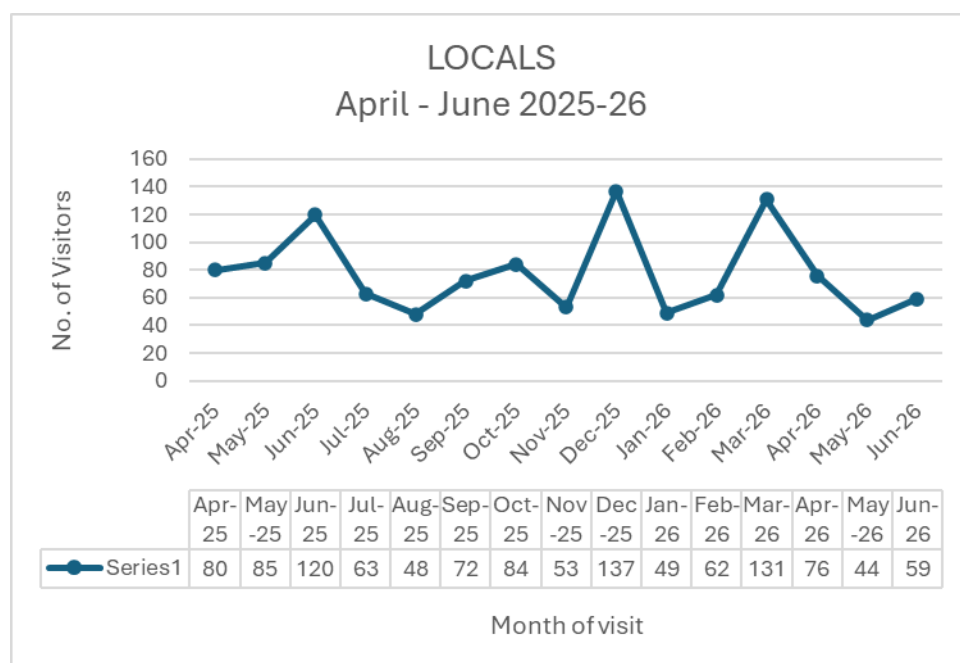
For the purpose of recording data visitors are classed into five groups;

- Locals – indicating they are from the town of Lake Grace. No purposeful travelling was required to visit the centre.
- Intrastate – this term is used to describe visitors from surrounding Shire of Lake Grace towns and the rest of WA, e.g. Newdegate, Kukerin, Wagin and Perth
- Interstate – this term is used to describe visitors from within Australia, including Tasmania who travel through the Shire
- International – this term is used to identify visitors from outside Australia including New Zealand
- Unidentified – Travelers who don't disclose where their place of origin.

Locals

Local visitation has been quieter this quarter compared to same time last year, but consistent with the slower pace with cooler weather. Seeding keeps many locals busy and as expected, fewer local events to attend when it is so cold.

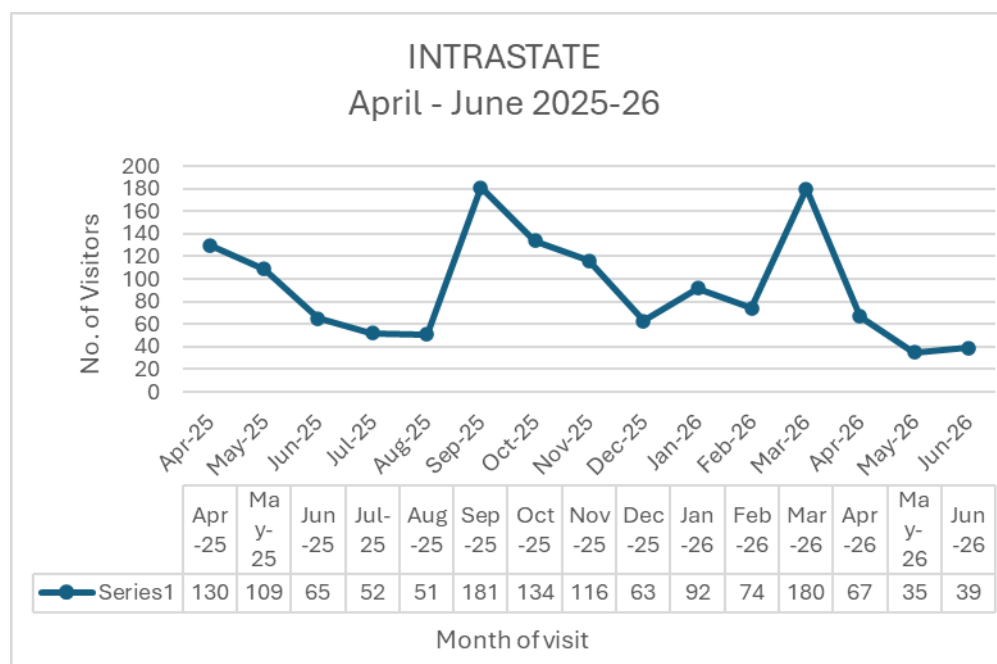
Despite the decrease in visitor numbers, the Visitor Centre has continued to experience a steady stream of giftware sales and enquiries from locals. This ongoing support is encouraging and reflects the continued value of the centre to local residents.



Intrastate Travellers

We've seen a noticeable drop in intrastate visitor numbers this quarter. With the cost of living (especially fuel) continuing to impact travel budgets, and the cold weather setting in, fewer people are taking road trips through the Wheatbelt. We continue to meet Perth travellers to Esperance but it's less than usual. Reaching out to northern (warmer destination) WA Visitor Centres, they are busy but they too have noticed a drop in numbers.

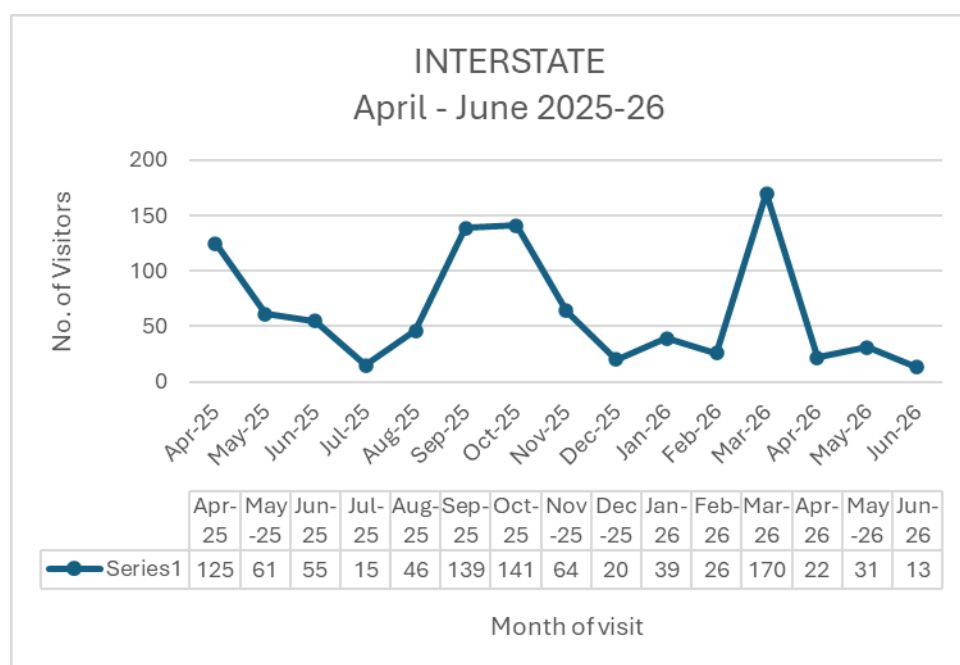
On a positive note, local accommodation providers continue to report strong occupancy, largely due to contract workers staying in our region. While tourism visitation has softened, accommodation demand remains healthy, highlighting the ongoing need for additional short term accommodation across our region.



Interstate Travellers

Interstate visitor numbers experienced a significant drop this quarter compared to the same time last year. The Easter break still attracted travellers throughout the region; however, numbers fell away with the cooler weather and shocking fuel price increase. Combined with the increase in cost of living, a noticeable drop in caravans has been noted indeed.

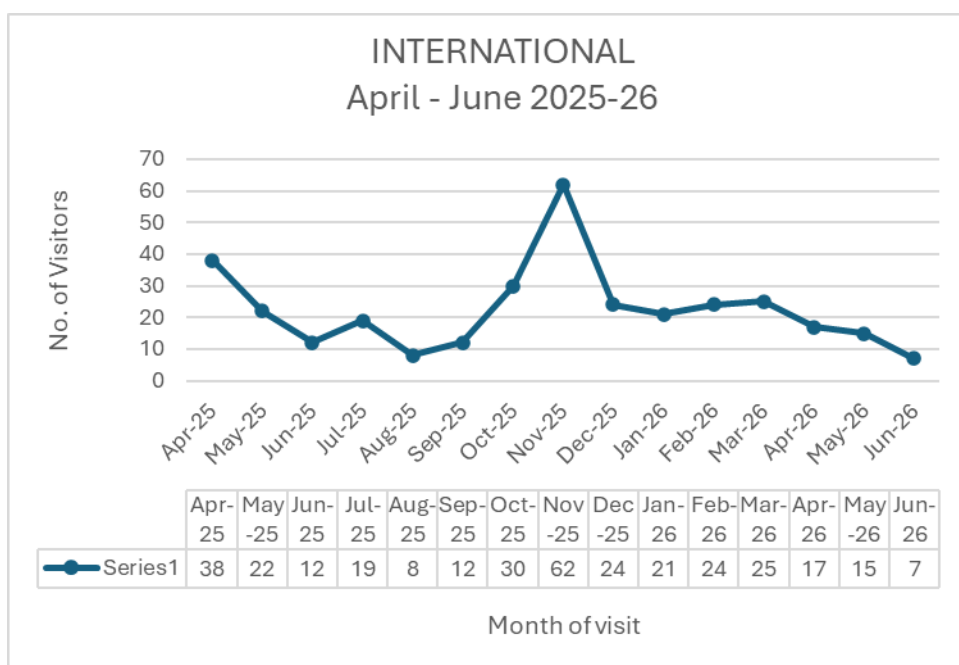
While this quarter has been quieter, we remain positive that the crowds will return for the warmer weather and wildflower season. Speaking with travellers, many have commented that while fuel prices have affected their travel plans, they still feel “it’s a case of ‘now or never’”. They see the additional fuel costs as an expense they’ll simply have to bear in order to keep travelling.



International Travellers

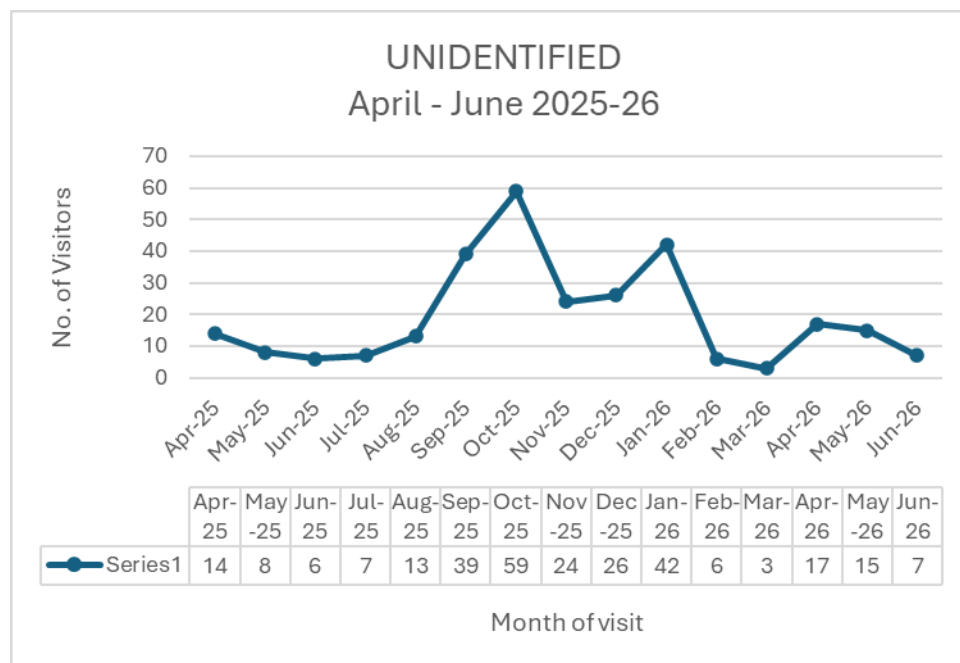
International visitor numbers eased throughout the quarter compared to the same time last year. Even so. It's always a delight to welcome travellers from across the globe who have come all the way to our region. We also continue to see overseas family and friends visiting the region more frequently which is always lovely to see.

Visitors this quarter came from New Zealand, Denmark, France, UK, Netherlands, Germany and USA. While recent global uncertainty and rising travel costs may have influenced some travel plans, we remain optimistic that Lake Grace will continue to attract overseas visitors looking to experience regional Western Australia.



Unidentified Travellers

A group of travellers we try our very best to engage with but keeping in mind some people wish to simply browse and have a look around. We've noted some people prefer to keep in the background and not engage and others could talk for days!



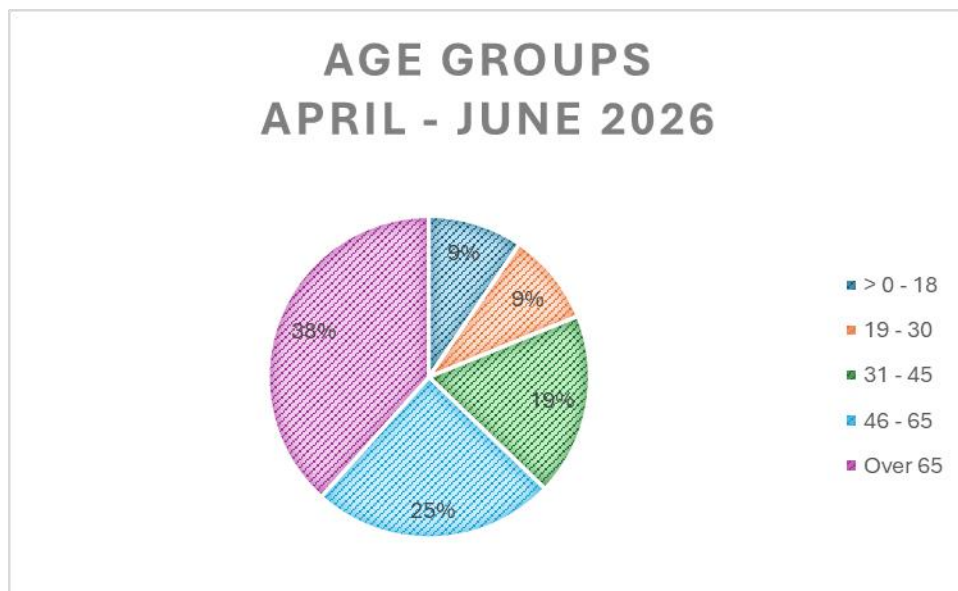
Direction of Travel

It's interesting to note where our visitors are traveling to as the Visitor Centre is positioned near a vital crossroad. Our traffic consists off those heading to either Wave Rock/Hyden, Esperance, Albany and Perth. Wave Rock continues to be the most popular destination over the Easter period and into the cooler months, attracting travellers across Australia and overseas who have this iconic attraction on their bucket list.



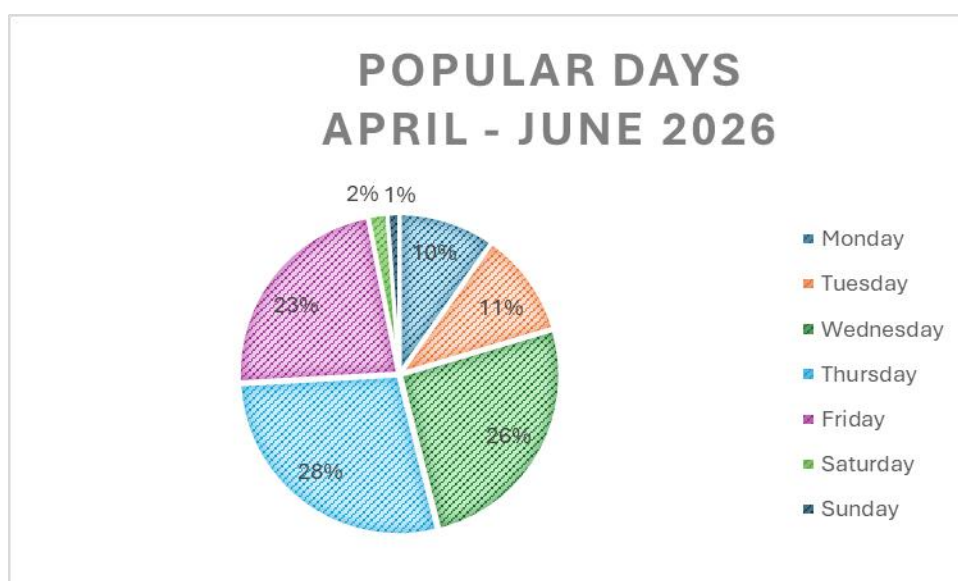
Age Group

Although visitor ages are estimated by staff and cannot always be exact, the data provides a useful snapshot of our visitors. As in previous quarters, the largest group are those aged between 46 -65, highlighting the continued popularity of regional travel among retirees and grey nomads.



Popular Visiting Days

Daily visitor statistics help identify travel trends and ensure staffing levels fit visitor demand. Closing weekends has run smoothly, even though our busiest days are end of the week. We shall wait and see if demand to open longer returns and staffing depends also.



Mode of Transport

People travel to and through our Shire in various forms of transport. We have recorded the transport used by those who called into the Visitor Centre. It's a great indication as to how people are moving through our region and how travelers are using our region. This data measures April – June 2026. Compared with previous quarters, this represents a shift away from caravanning, which may reflect the impact of rising fuel of higher fuel prices and change in travel plans. We're hopeful with more stable fuel prices and the wildflower season approaching, we will see our usual increase in travellers in the next quarter.



70%



29%



1%



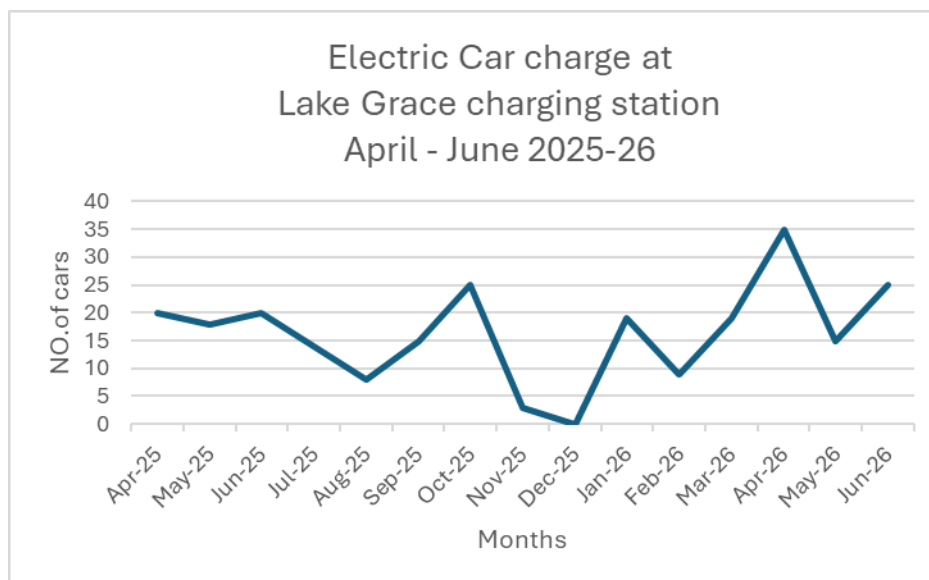
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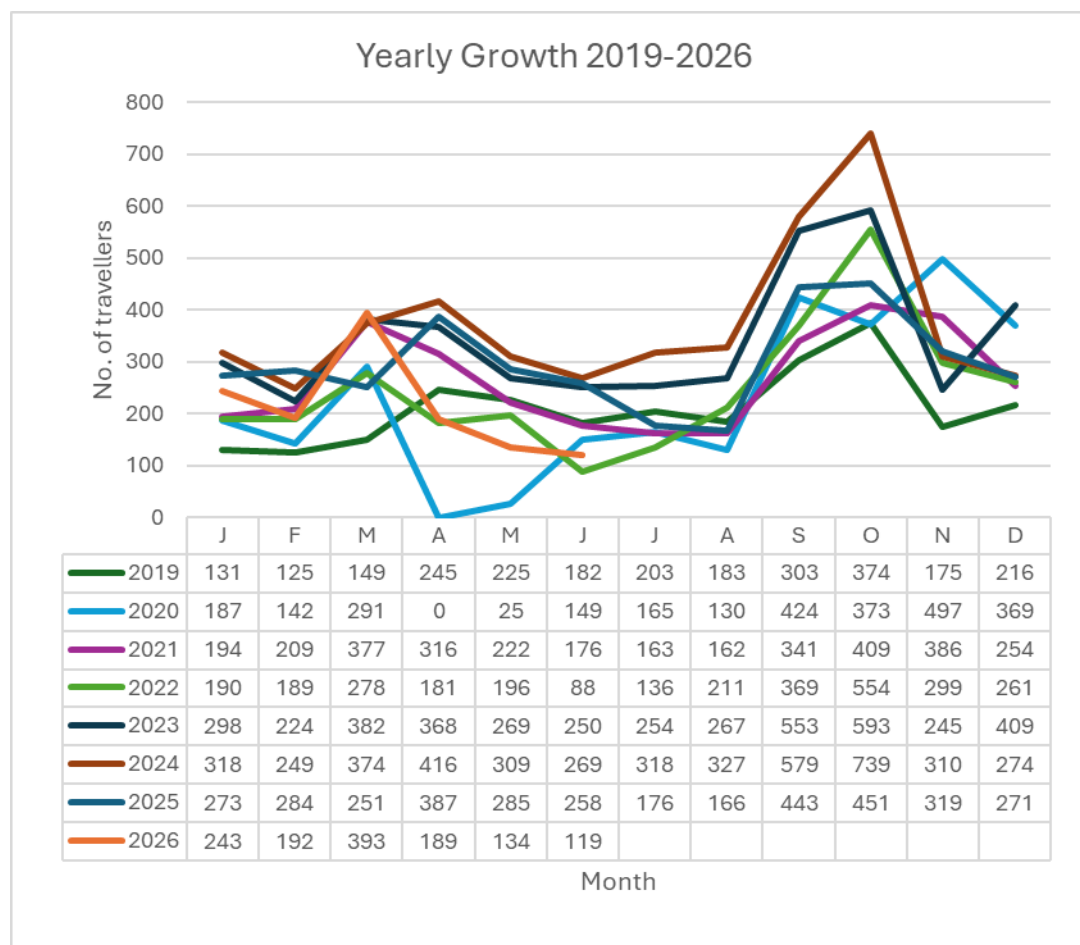
Electric Car charges

It's fantastic to see the charging station continuing to be well utilised. With electronic vehicles becoming increasingly popular and fuel prices encouraging people to consider alternative options, we were thrilled to be able to offer this service and continue to grow with demand.



Yearly Trends

Our year to date visitor numbers are down 27% compared to the same period last year. This drop has been felt across many Visitor Centres throughout WA. A softer start to the first half of the year, but with steady fuel prices we hope our busy wildflower season can bring back our usual crowds and interest back to the region. Esperance travellers will begin again once the weather warms up and we will be ready!





LIBRARY REPORT – July 2026

Library Exchanges, and Accessioning are all up to date and displays done.

Pier Johnston, Junior Science teacher, has done two new displays in the library.

The Pre-Primary students family portraits, “Me, Myself and I”. The Year 7/8 project is “Bisa Butler – Inspired Self-Portrait Quilts”.



Junior classes Kitchen Chemistry display.



The State Library Rapido (Book requests) is up and running but still proving to be quite difficult.

Statistics since the last meeting:

Apr 2026	Issues & Renewals	316
May 2026	Issues & Renewals	459
Jun 2026	Issues & Renewals	369

Library Co-ordinator Lois Dickins
Lake Grace Community Library

Shire of Lake Grace

TOURISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

DATE

Meeting Commencing at 9.30am on Tuesday 7th July 2026.

Disclaimer

No responsibility whatsoever is implied or accepted by the Shire of Lake Grace for any act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council or Committee meetings or during formal or informal conversations with staff. The Shire of Lake Grace disclaims any liability for any loss whatsoever caused arising out of reliance by any person or legal entity on any such act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council or Committee meetings or discussions. Any person or legal entity who acts or fails to act in reliance upon any statement does so at that person's and or legal entity's own risk.

In particular and without derogating in any way from the broad disclaimer above, in any discussion regarding any planning application or application for license, any statement or limitation or approval made by a member or officer of the Shire of Lake Grace during the course of any meeting is not intended to be and is not taken as notice of approval from the Shire of Lake Grace. The Shire of Lake Grace warns that anyone who has an application lodged with the Shire of Lake Grace must obtain and only should rely on WRITTEN CONFIRMATION of the outcome of the application and any conditions attaching to the decision made by the Shire of Lake Grace in respect of the application.

Acknowledgement of Country

I wish to acknowledge the traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today and pay my respects.

I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today.



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7.4	AUSTRALIA'S GOLDEN OUTBACK	3
8.0	GENERAL BUSINESS	4
9.0	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	5
10.0	CLOSURE	5

SHIRE OF LAKE GRACE

Minutes of the Tourism Advisory Committee Meeting held at the Shire of Lake Grace Council Chambers on Tuesday 7th July 2026 commencing at 9.30am.

Objectives of the Shire of Lake Grace Tourism Advisory Council are to advise the Council on:

1. The identification, inclusion and implementation of tourism matters in Council's Strategic Community Plan (and other operational plans/annual budget) in order to increase tourism income in partnership with the Community, Commonwealth, State and Local government and other industry stakeholders
2. The coordination of and collaboration between Lake Grace Shire's tourist attractions, heritage museums (AIM Hospital etc.), events, tourism promotion/marketing and services to visitors
3. Developing community understanding of the value of tourism
4. Industry development, employment and training to benefit tourism, heritage and events
5. Seeking funding to support and promote tourism and develop new and existing tourist attractions
6. Assisting in the development of current, quality information to visitors and stakeholders
7. Recognising and promoting excellence within the local tourism industry
8. To represent the Shire at Roe Tourism meetings and events

1.0 DECLARATION OF OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

Chairperson Cathie Kelly opened the meeting at 9.29am on Tuesday 7th July 2026.

We welcome guests this morning to help discuss the upcoming AIM Hospital Art Exhibition on Sunday, 18th October 2026 and the SOLGTAC interest in hosting a plaque unveiling in conjunction with the Art Space event.

Shire Representative	Ms Mikaela Counsel	Community Economic Dev Officer
Shire Representative	Miss Evelyn Oatridge	Community Events & Engagement Officer
Community Member	Mrs Kerrie Argent	Community Guest

2.0 PRESENT

Chairperson	Ms Catherine Kelly	Community Representative Newdegate
Committee Member	Cr Debrah Clarke	Shire of Lake Grace Councillor
Committee Member	Mr Kevin Penny	Community Representative Lake King
Committee Member	Mr Norm O'Neill	Community Representative Pingaring
Shire Representative	Mr Aaron Wooldridge	Lake Grace DCEO
Shire Representative	Mrs Jo Morgan	Lake Grace Visitor Centre Manager

3.0 APOLOGIES

Committee Member

Cr Roz Lloyd

Community Representative Newdegate

Resignation – Community Representative Varley – Ms Carla Hyde

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION

Moved: Norm O'Neill

Seconded: Cr Debrah Clarke

That the Minutes of the Shire of Lake Grace Tourism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 5th May 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting, subject to the following amendment:

Under the item 7.2 AIM Hospital Report, Cr Debrah Clarke suggested the projector or screen to be used to display photographs and historical images.

CARRIED 4/0

For: Mrs C Kelly, Cr D Clarke, Mr K Penny, Mr N O'Neill

Against: Nil

5.0 MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

nil

6.0 URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE CHAIRPERSON

nil

7.0 MEMBERS REPORTS

See attached from:

Kevin Penny – Lake King

Norm O'Neill – Pingaring

7.1 VISITOR CENTRE MANAGER REPORT

- Tourism Strategic Plan – A shared document has been created for committee members to collaborate on. Several committee members advised they had not received the shared document. The plan will align with the Shire's current Business, Community & Strategic Plans. Key focus areas (pillars) will include events, history and technology. Aaron confirmed he received the document successfully. Jo to resend the shared document to all committee members as soon as possible.
- Recruitment is underway for a new Part Time Visitor Centre Coordinator following the recent advertisement. This is a quieter time of year for the Visitor Centre and it's hoped the position will be filled in time for the busy spring season.
- New stock photography from Rolling Stills will be used for future promotional material.
- Peter Stoffberg resigned from the committee at the previous meeting. Carla Hyde has since also resigned from the committee. As discussed under General Business, new members have expressed interest in joining the group.

7.2 AIM HOSPITAL REPORT

- Discussion regarding the AIM event will occur under General Business.
- Aaron provided an update on the AIM Hospital Building Centenary Building Restoration Project. Aaron is working alongside Norm, a Heritage Building Construction Consultant to investigate restoration options and prepare cost estimates for the building upgrades, ranging from approximately \$40,000 to \$1.4 million.
- Once the full report is complete, it will be presented to
 - The AIM Museum team
 - The SOLGTAC
 - Shire Council
- Following consultation with all parties, work can commence on the project.

7.3 ROE TOURISM ASSOCIATION

- Roe Tourism is engaging travel influencers to visit each town and create promotional content. This is a new advertising initiative currently being trialled.

7.4 AUSTRALIA'S GOLDEN OUTBACK

- The annual 2026/27 membership renewal is due in the next few weeks. As Gold members, we can take advantage of some upcoming social media campaigns at 50% off usual pricing.

8.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

- Letter of thanks to be sent to Peter Stoffberg and Carla Hyde for recognition of their invaluable contribution and service to the SOLGTAC.

RECOMMENDATION / RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Debrah Clarke

Seconded: Norm O'Neill

Motion that Kerrie Argent (Lake Grace) and Lyn Ellard (Newdegate) be recommended for appointment to the SOLG Tourism Advisory Committee. A welcome email is to be sent to both new members.

CARRIED 4/0

- Kerrie provided an update on the AIM Hospital Art Exhibition to be hosted by the Lake Grace Art Space on Sunday 18th October 2026. The exhibition will be open for a month.
- The Chairperson expressed the importance of promoting the exhibition as a public event to encourage broad community participation and maximise attendance.
- Catering for approximately 100 people, will be provided on the opening day by Walkers Hill Winery, with support from the Lake Grace Visitor Centre.
- SOLGTAC supported the inclusion of a plaque unveiling as part of the day's program for those with a connection to the AIM Hospital.
- Proposed event schedule
 - o Hospital museum open - 11am
 - o Plaque unveiling - 12pm (outside the hospital)
 - o Art Exhibition opens - 2pm
- As Jo will be on annual leave in October, Norm suggested preparing a task list with the Museum team to assist with coordinating the event.
 - o Consider livestreaming the event (and future events) for those unable to attend.
 - o Consider locating the plaque on a rock outside the hospital rather than attaching it to the heritage listed building. Museum team to determine the preferred option.
 - o Consider encouraging attendees to bring their own lunch if the plaque unveiling is scheduled for lunchtime.
 - o Museum team to formally invite Sylvia Brandenburg to unveil the plaque.
 - o Shire to arrange outdoor seating prior to the event
 - o An MC will be required. The Shire can provide a microphone and speaker.
 - o The Museum team to determine the location of the rock/stone, if adopted.
- Mikaela offered to assist with event advertising and coordinating the plaque order. The wording of the plaque will be determined by the Museum team. Deb requested confirmation of the required lead time to ensure the plaque is available for the event.

- Evelyn offered to obtain quotes, investigate suitable materials and provide supplier timeframes. The Shire will cover the cost of the plaque.

RECOMMENDATION / RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Deb Clarke

Seconded: Mr Kevin Penny

Motion That the AIM Museum team, with the support of the SOLGTAC, coordinate the plaque unveiling ceremony to be held on Sunday, 18th October 2026.

CARRIED 4/0

- Norm suggested a task list to be prepared outlining the work required leading up to the ceremony so committee members could assist where possible. Jo to prepare the list following discussion with the Museum team.
- Kerrie confirmed an event flyer would be produced. The Shire will assist with printing and promotion.
- Cathie Kelly highlighted the importance of promoting the event on the ABC Radio to reach a broader audience.
- Mikaela noted the previous AIM event received coverage in the Narrogin Observer. .
- Mikeala, Evelyn & Kerrie left the meeting at 10.31AM
- Kevin suggested advertising in the *West Australian's* "Can you help?" section. He also noted Malcolm Quekett's *Untold History of WA* column as another potential avenue for promotion.
- Aaron commented on the Shire of Ravensthorpe interpretive technology, noting it's appeal to a younger audience and suggesting it may provide useful direction for future projects.
- Kevin left the meeting at 10.39AM
- Advertise in the *Varley Voice* for a new Varley representative for the SOLTAC.
- Norm left the meeting at 10.45AM
- Deb requested the Status Report be circulated at the same time as the meeting agenda.
- Aaron left at 10.50AM
- The Jam Patch toilets is nearing completion.
- Cathie, Deb and Jo discussed the timing of future SOLGTAC meetings. It was agreed February, May, August and November. To improve attendance, the November meeting will be scheduled earlier in the month where possible.

9.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is on Tuesday 8th September 2026 commencing at 9.30am at the Shire of Lake Grace Council Chambers. 1 Bishop Street, Lake Grace.

10.0 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Chairperson closed the meeting at 11.19am.



Member Reports

Shire of Lake Grace

Prepared for the 7th July 2026 Tourism Advisory Committee Meeting

SOLGTAC Meeting 7th July 2026

Kevin Penny Lake King Rep. Reporting.

Since the last meeting of SOLGTAC, only two months have passed, and most of my work has been in organising the Hatter Hill Battery Display.

Thanks to my wife Trish, LKPA were able to complete and put forward a proposal for this year's Lake Grace Community Funding Program (the application went in with only hours to spare before the deadline). \$5,000. Fingers crossed for a positive outcome.

This money is earmarked for lighting on the battery. The idea being to have two uplights to show off the Battery at night. These lights would be on a day/night switch, and a timer for only a couple of hours after sunset. We are hoping to piggyback this system off the Bush Engineers shed. The Tractor shed was fitted with low-voltage LED strip lighting, run by batteries and charged by solar panels. However, this is not working atm, and I have an electrician from Hopetoun going to pop in for a look and appraisal. So the grant will go towards both displays.

The LG shire has asked me, the LKPA Battery Project manager to complete a Development Application.

See parts below:

All plans must be suitably scaled with the site development plan based on a recent contour and feature survey by a land surveyor to ensure this plan is highly accurate for planning assessment purposes. Suitably scaled floorplans and elevation drawings for the proposed display and all associated structures will also be required along with plans for all interpretive signage.

It was advised that it may pay for you to engage with Main Roads WA as soon as possible to confirm whether they are supportive of the proposed development and on what terms. The relevant email address is wheatbelt@mainroads.wa.gov.au. Any development application received by the Shire must be referred to Main Roads WA for review and comment, so it would be wise for you to address any key issues or concerns with Main Roads that may have now rather than after all the plans have been prepared.

The process is expected to take up to 90 days following lodgement of the development application and payment of the relevant application fee.

Answer from Main Roads:

Thanks for your contact and advice regarding the proposal for the Laike King site. Both the location and the Tractor Museum are understood.

Presuming that the proposal has Shire endorsement, the significant Main Roads requirement will be to remain outside of the State Road Reserve. From the cadastres, this should be achievable. When you can demonstrate Shire approval, the next step will be to make a formal submission showing the land boundaries and the intended positioning of the stamp.

Landgate Title:

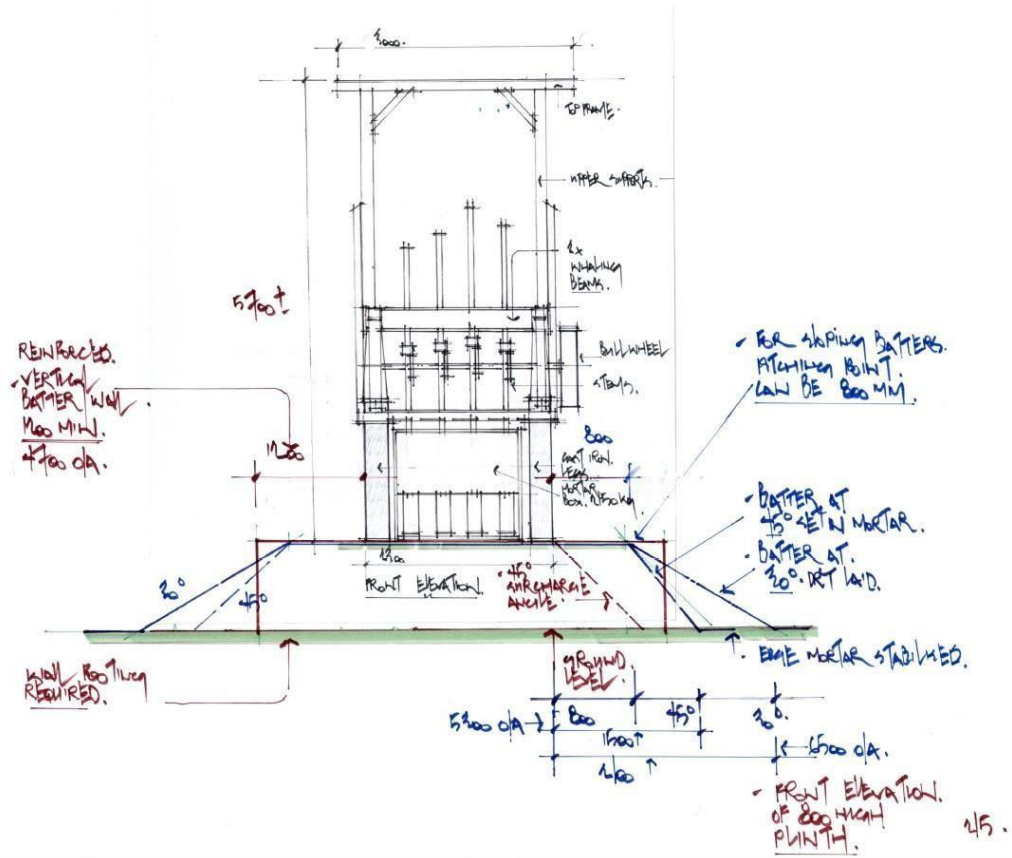
Landgate search for a certificate of title, has been completed.

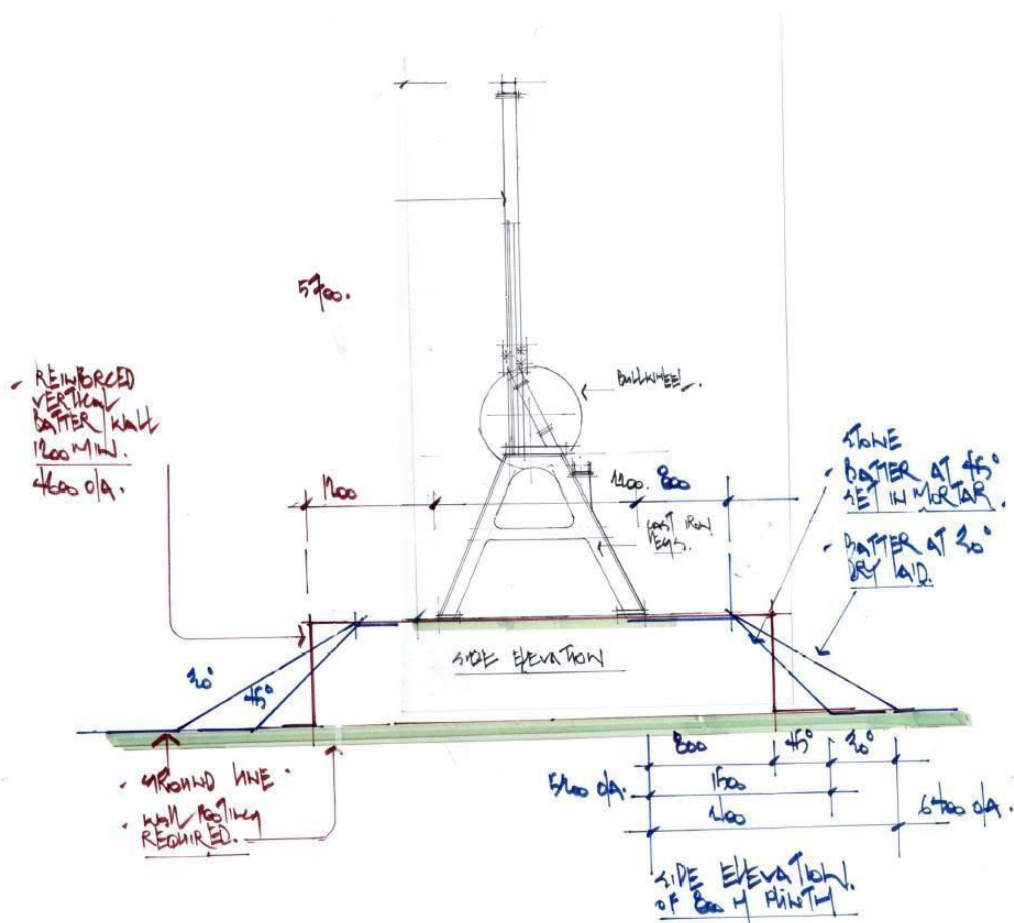
Our volunteer Structural Engineer, Dan Turner of Narrogin, has signed off his approval for the Concrete foundations and steel structure supports etc. As per drawings submitted.

A nephew of mine > Land Surveyor has indicated that he will do the required contour survey around 11th July 2026.

Our volunteer architect has been busy drawing some plans for our display.

(These are not finished).





And a proposed layout at the site.



Morgan at Hopetoun Concrete Services has been consulted in regards to concrete footings etc.

Also to supply brickies sand and cracker dust etc for the requirements of the stonemason.

The stonemason has listed his requirements for the perimeter face wall.

A local earthmoving contractor has been approached to work in conjunction with Hopetoun Concrete regarding footing excavations.

I'm hoping that in the next couple of weeks, all the final drawings etc will come together and the Building Application is submitted.

I would ask the Lake Grace Shire to also 'have some skin in the game' by supplying us with temporary (safety) fencing for the duration of building this display. Can this be arranged?

Thank you,

Kevin Penny



PINGARING PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

RE: SOLGTAC MEETING JULY 2026 - REPORT

Presenting to SolGTAC committee on the 7th of July 2026

- 1) Pingaring Sports Precinct / Community Centre / Wikicamp
 - a) SolG have completed the tidy up of these areas.
- 2) Pingaring Dump Point
 - a) PPA Secretary, Karen Baker, submitted an update request to the Shire of Kulin Executive Manager Community Services, Taryn Scadding has had no response as yet.
 - b) I will advise Karyn of when the next SolGTAC meeting is so she can hopefully get a response in time for that meeting.
- 3) Roe Tourism Sculpture initiative
 - a) As Jo Morgan represents SolG on the Roe Tourism can she please advise how we go about getting Pingaring placed on the Pathways To Wave Rock self-drive map.



- b) This issue continues to occur on all tourism initiatives where all Pingaring's surrounding towns are included & Pingaring is left off,
 - i) This includes signage maps at tourist attractions, brochures etc.



PINGARING PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

4) Additional Points – Meeting 3rd May 2026

Norm submitted the following meeting points to Aaron Wooldridge via email on the 15th of May 2026 and Aaron replied that he would investigate

& report back to the SoLGTAC

- a) SoLGTAC meeting interval proposal - Seasonal
- b) Agenda's & Minutes - Delivery to SoLGTAC members via Website
- c) Storage of towns & sidings historical information
- d) Geotagging of Tourism Assets in the Shire of Lake Grace
- e) Norm's Pingaring Tourism Vision –
 - a. Norm submitted a plan to Kulin Shire Strategic Community
Plan 2025 – 2035 this meeting was held at the Pingaring Golf Club on the 12th March 2025 and no post meeting response was issued to him re this submission.

Pingaring Progress Association

SoLGTAC - Representative

M: 0406 383 278

E: bomen.1987@outlook.com



UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

LAKES COMBINED LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**Nyabing Community Hub
18 Richmond Street Nyabing**

Thursday 25 June 2026

Commencement: 11:00am

MINUTES**25 June 2026**

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Chairperson, **Cr Darren Gray** (Shire of Kent), opened the meeting at 11:01am.

2. ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES

Attendance and apologies are as per the below Attendance Register:

Attendance

Name	Role	Agency
Cr Darren Gray	Councillor (Proxy) / Chairperson	Shire of Kent
David Bentley	A/Executive Officer Lakes Combined LEMC / Deputy CEO / Local Recovery Coordinator	Shire of Kent
Gary Mathewson	Manager Infrastructure	Shire of Kent
David Costello	OIC Katanning / Local Emergency Coordinator Kent	WA Police
Cheryl Bell	OIC Dumbleyung / Local Emergency Coordinator Dumbleyung	WA Police
Dan Mattewson	Constable – Dumbleyung	WA Police
Conor Murray	A/OIC Lake Grace / Local Emergency Coordinator Lake Grace	WA Police
Vivienne Gardiner	Regional Coordinator	Department of Communities
Michael Phillips	Regional Coordinator	Department of Communities
Stacey Sinclair	District Officer	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Blake Halford	Area Officer East	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Aaron Wooldridge (MS Teams)	Deputy CEO / Local Recovery Coordinator	Shire of Lake Grace
Tony Parlow (MS Teams)		Water Corporation
Chris Poot (MS Teams)		CBH
Lisa Pearce (MS Teams)		Lake Grace Hospital
Derek Jones (MS Teams)	Emergency Management Consultant	

Apologies

Name	Role	Agency
Cr Kate Johnston	Shire President	Shire of Kent
Christie Smith	Chief Executive Officer	Shire of Kent
Jess Browne	Administration Officer	Shire of Kent
Gavin Treasure	Chief Executive Officer / Local Recovery Coordinator	Shire of Dumbleyung
Kristina Pearce	Economic Development Officer	Shire of Dumbleyung
Alan George	Chief Executive Officer	Shire of Lake Grace
Brett Dew		Western Power
Kerianne Mills		Lake Grace Senior High School
Anna Erickson	Principal Field Veterinary Officer – Animal Biosecurity and Welfare	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
Sarah-Jane Dabarera		ARC Infrastructure
Bethany Findlay		NBN Co
Fred Steer		Main Roads
Michelle Bamess		St John WA

3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**COMMITTEE DECISION**

Moved Cr Darren Gray (Shire of Kent) / **Seconded** A/OIC Lake Grace (WAPOL)
That the minutes of the Lakes Combined Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held on 26 March 2026 be confirmed as a true record of proceedings, subject to the below changes:

- 1. Change the name “Kate Johnston” to “Christie Smith” as Christie Smith is the Chief Executive Officer of the Shire of Kent; and**
- 2. Remove “Cr Darren Gray” from the apologies and insert “Cr Darren Gray” into the attendees via Microsoft Teams.**

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. REVIEW OF ACTIONS LIST AND BUSINESS ARISING

	Action	Responsibility	Status
Local Emergency Management Arrangements	Review draft and endorsement	Local governments CESM	Complete (all local governments have adopted)
Local Recovery Plan	Review draft and endorsement	Local governments Local Recovery Coordinators CESM	Complete (all local governments have adopted)
Risk Register	Review draft and endorsement	Local governments CESM	Complete (all local governments have adopted)
LEMA – Sub Plans	Draft LEMA sub-plans	Derek Jones, Emergency Management Consultant CESM	Ongoing.

In relation to the Local Emergency Management Arrangements, Stacey Sinclair added that the District Emergency Management Committee will meet on 8 July 2026. Communication will be made to local governments in relation to any outcomes from the meeting.

6. GUEST PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

7. CORRESPONDENCE**7.1 Correspondence In**

- 1) Derek Jones, Emergency Management Consultant – LEMA Sub-Plans
- 2) District Emergency Management Committee – Adoption of the Local Emergency Management Arrangements

7.2 Correspondence Out

- 1) Derek Jones, Emergency Management Consultant – LEMA Sub-Plans
- 2) District Emergency Management Committee – Adoption of the Local Emergency Management Arrangements
- 3) Office of Bush Fire Risk Management – Bushfire Risk Management Plans for the local governments
- 4) Michael Phillips – Department of Communities – LEMC Exercise

7.3 Information Tabled

Nil.

8. LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (STANDING ITEMS)

8.1 Post Incident Reports

- 1) Fire – Dunn Rock January 2026 (update since last LEMC meeting)

No updates.

- 2) Tropical Cyclone Narelle – March 2026

No updates.

- 3) Liquid Fuel Energy Supply Disruption – March 2026 to present

No updates.

- 4) Storm – Severe Weather Event 30 May to 1 June 2026

No updates.

8.2 Post Exercise Reports

Nil.

9. EXERCISES

Michael Phillips from the Department of Communities undertook a desktop exercise, simulating a fire in the Dumbleyung townsite.

10. AGENCY / MEMBER REPORTS

A/Executive Officer – Lakes Combined Local Emergency Management Committee

Ryan Sutherland has departed as the Community Emergency Services Manager. Until a new CESM has been appointed and commenced, David Bentley has been appointed the Acting Executive Officer of the Committee by the Local Government CEOs of Kent, Dumbleyung and Lake Grace.

DFES Upper Great Southern

Report to come in the minutes. We had the grain harvest water bombers based in the region during the latest high threat season. We have done a lot of review internally of statistics. There was 152 activations with 992 hours use of grain harvest water bombers. They should also be available again for the next high threat season.

There was an action at the last DEMC to develop a template for a very basic discussion exercise on roles and responsibilities. The template will be emailed to the Executive Officer for distribution. There is also interest for DPIRD to attend LEMC meetings in the region given the detection of H5N1 Avian Influenza.

Derek Jones – Emergency Management Consultant

In relation to H5N1 Avian Influenza, DPIRD is HMA for animal and plant biosecurity hazards and will be working with DBCA. DPIRD will be focussed on commercial poultry and livestock. DBCA focused on Wildlife.

Local vet services will get involved in testing etc. associated with the virus.

Currently, H5N1 Avian Influenza is rated as “active”. Two cases were detected in Esperance with a suspected case in Dunsborough.

For Local Governments, there is no action just yet except for communication to local communities to DPIRD resources and any other updates. Any suspected cases are reportable and an expectation that any deaths are reported rather than disposed of.

In the sub-plans LEMA, there are four sub-plans where local governments take a low level role. HAZMAT, severe weather, crash and animal and plant biosecurity. There may be requests for other resources to assist HMAs rather than take an active role. There will be a recommendation for LG to direct community to relevant HMA resources and websites or EmergencyWA.

In relation to Communication Plans – there will be work to do from each LG to ensure there is relevant information. This work may not necessarily be appropriate to be done by the CESM, particularly if there is an ongoing incident.

The support plans for the LEMA should be completed by the October meeting

Department of Communities

Viv Gardner is back at the Department of Communities (Kent contact) working with Michael (Dumbleyung and Lake Grace).

Evacuation centre training is planned soon. We had 19 evacuation centres open over the last high threat season. Training dates will be discussed in due course.

Lake Grace Police

Lake Grace Acting OIC attended the LEMC meeting and advised that he will be there until a permanent replacement is found.

Shire of Lake Grace

Thanks to Department of Communities for letters of support for DRF funding submissions.

CBH

CBH had a generator that was supplied to Lake Grace Hospital when their generator went down. Keep in mind CBH does have equipment to use during an emergency.

Lake Grace Hospital

Thanks to CBH for the generator.

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business raised.

12. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday 29 October 2026 at the Shire of Dumbelyung. A Local Recovery Committee Meeting with Shire of Dumbelyung personnel will follow.

13. CLOSURE

The Chairperson, **Cr Darren Gray** (Shire of Kent), closed the meeting at 12:26pm.

14. SHIRE OF KENT LOCAL RECOVERY COMMITTEE MEETING

Following the Local Emergency Management Committee, **David Bentley** (Shire of Kent Local Recovery Coordinator) chaired a Local Recovery Committee meeting. The meeting commenced at 1:04pm, attended by:

- David Bentley – A/Executive Officer Lakes Combined LEMC, Deputy CEO, Local Recovery Coordinator Shire of Kent
- Cr Darren Gray – Councillor (proxy) Shire of Kent
- Gary Mathewson – Manager Infrastructure Shire of Kent.

The following topics were discussed:

- Incident Support Group meetings in an emergency and how the transition to recovery incorporates many members who sit on those ISG meetings.
- Tropical Cyclone Narelle and how the Local Recovery Coordinator took the beginning steps to stand up the Local Recovery Coordination Group prior to the weather event in preparation for a need for recovery.
- Key community contacts that could assist in recovery operations in Nyabing and Pingrup for various types of emergencies
- Different agencies that would be involved in Local Recovery Coordination Group meetings on to assist in recovery
- Contingency plans where Shire of Kent staff are unavailable to assist in different stages of the emergency management lifecycle (response and recovery).

The Local Recovery Committee meeting concluded at 1:42pm.

Central Country Zone Minutes

Friday, 12 June 2026

**Hosted by the Shire of Dumbleyung
32 Harvey St, Dumbleyung
Commencing at 9:30am**

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ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

The full State Council Agenda can be found on the [WALGA website](#).

1. OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

1.1. OPENING

The Chair, Cr Des Hickey opened the meeting at 9:31am.

1.2. ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS	2 Voting Delegates from each Member Local Government
Shire of Brookton	President Cr Rod Wallis Cr Gary Crouch Mr Stuart Billingham, Manager of Corporate & Community, non-voting
Shire of Corrigin	President Cr Sharon Jacobs Cr Des Hickey (Chair) Ms Natalie Manton, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Cuballing	President Cr Adrian Kowald Deputy President Cr Rob Harris
Shire of Dumbleyung	President Cr Amy Knight Cr Emily Edwards, non-voting Mr Gavin Treasure, Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Kulin	Cr Robbie Bowey Mr Alan Leeson, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Lake Grace	President Cr Len Armstrong Mr Alan George, Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Narrogin	Mr Michael Cole, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Pingelly	Mr Andrew Dover, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Quairading	President Cr Trevor Stacey Deputy President Cr Jo Hayes Mr Nic Warren, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Wagin	President Cr Phillip Blight Dr Kenneth Parker, Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Wandering	President Cr Sheryl Little

Cr Peter Latham
Dr Alistair Pinto, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

Shire of West Arthur President Cr Karen Harrington
Deputy President Cr Duncan South
Mr Vin Fordham Lamont, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

Shire of Wickepin President Cr Julie Russell
Mr David Burton, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

GUESTS

Local Government Inspector Department of Fire and Emergency Services Main Roads WA	Mr Tony Brown OAM Mr Murray Carter, Executive Director, Rural Fire Division Mr Mohammad Siddiqui, Director Wheatbelt Region Ms Vicky Eckersley, Customer Service Manager
Regional Development Australia WA	Mr Josh Pomykala, Director Regional Development
Wheatbelt Development Commission	Mr Grant Arthur, Director Regional Development
WALGA RoadWise	Mr Rodney Thornton, Regional Road Safety Advisor

WALGA

Mayor Mark Irwin AM Ms Kathy Robertson Ms Rebecca Brown Ms Sammy Bevan	WALGA President Manager Association and Corporate Governance Policy Manager Environment and Waste Member Services Executive Administrator
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1.3. APOLOGIES

MEMBERS

Shire of Beverley	President Cr Dee Ridgway Deputy President Cr Alan Sattler Mr Stephen Gollan, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Brookton	Cr Lachlan McCabe, McCabe Mr Gary Sherry, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Cuballing	Mr Chris Paget, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Dumbleyung	Deputy President Cr David Head
Shire of Narrogin	President Leigh Ballard Cr Clive Bartron
Shire of Lake Grace	Deputy President Cr Stephen Hunt

Shire of Pingelly	Deputy President Cr Peter Wood
Shire of Wagin	Deputy President Cr Bryan Kilpatrick
Shire of Wandering	Deputy President Cr Alan Price
Shire of Wickepin	Cr Tyron Miller
Shire of Williams	Cr Heidi Cowcher President Cr Jarrad Logie Peter Stubbs, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

GUESTS

CBH Group	Ms Kellie Todman, Manager Governance and Industry Relations
Wheatbelt Development Commission	Ms Renee Manning, Acting Chief Executive Officer Ms Emma Everett, Local Content Adviser

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Mr Peter Rundle, MLA, Deputy Leader of the Nationals WA
Mr Lachlan Hunter, Member for the Central Wheatbelt
Hon Parwinder Kaur
Hon Amanda Dorn
Hon Anthony Spagnolo
Hon Jackie Jarvis
Hon Sophie McNeill
Hon Nick Goiran
Hon Rob Horstman
Hon Sandra Carr, MLC
Hon Phil Twiss
Hon Steve Martin

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

3. HOST COUNCIL PRESENTATION

Shire of Dumbleyung President, Cr Amy Knight, welcomed Delegates and guests and delivered a presentation on the Shire, highlighting the current delivery of \$15 million in projects, the Strategic Community Plan 2022–2032, and the 50-Year Roads Strategy. The Shire also acknowledged and thanked outgoing Chief Executive Officer, Mr Gavin Treasure, for his service to Dumbleyung.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cr Des Hickey acknowledged the Shire of Pingelly for hosting the May Regional State Council meeting and commended the considerable effort made in hosting State Councillors and WALGA staff, as well as representing the Zone to a high standard.

5. GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS

All Deputations have a time limit of 20 minutes, which includes time for questions.

5.1. SPEAKERS FOR THE JUNE ZONE MEETING

5.1.1. MR TONY BROWN, LOCAL GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR

The inaugural Local Government Inspector, Mr Tony Brown, provided a brief presentation on the Local Government Inspector, his priorities and expectations. The update also included details of the current Monitors in place around the state. A copy of the slides were circulated with the Minutes.

Noted

5.1.2. DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (DFES)

Mr Murray Carter, DFES Executive Director Rural Fire Services, provided a presentation summarising the 2025/26 Fire Season and an update on bushfire mitigation support to Zone Members. Murray also acknowledged the recent Central Country Zone item relating to bushfire mitigation along the rail corridor, noting that this is an issue on the DFES Priority Plan.

Noted

5.2. SPEAKERS FOR THE AUGUST ZONE MEETING

5.2.1. WATER CORPORATION

Due to the Zone Strategic Priorities Workshop scheduled for the August Zone meeting, the Executive Committee requested that the speaker from Water Corporation be rescheduled to a later meeting. The November meeting at the Shire of Lake Grace, was identified as the preferred alternative (depending on the availability of Water Corporation).

The Executive Officer has contacted Water Corporation to confirm their availability for the November meeting. Should they be unavailable, the 2027 meeting dates will be provided to identify a suitable alternative scheduling opportunity.

Noted

5.2.2. LUMEN WHEATBELT REGIONAL UNIVERSITY STUDY HUB

The Executive Officer has received a request from Hannah Crute, Project and Communications Officer at the Lumen Wheatbelt Regional University Study Hubs to speak at the November Zone meeting. Lumen Wheatbelt Study Hubs is a federally funded, place-based program operating under the auspices of RDA Wheatbelt, focused on supporting university and TAFE students who reside in regional communities to successfully commence and complete their studies. Lumen are eager to attend a Zone meeting to

provide an update on the Wheatbelt Study Hubs and the work that they have been doing within the region. Further information about the project can be found [here](#).

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Karen Harrington

Seconded: President Cr Amy Knight

That the Central Country Zone SUPPORTS the proposal from Lumen Wheatbelt Regional University Study Hubs to speak at the November Zone meeting.

CARRIED

6. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Nil.

7. AGENCY REPORTS

7.1. DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY REGULATIONS AND SAFETY (LGIRS)

The LGIRS Local Government Division report was attached to the Agenda.

Noted

7.2. WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Mr Grant Arthur, Director Regional Development

Mr Arthur provided a verbal report to the Zone.

Noted

7.3. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA WHEATBELT

Mr Josh Pomykala, Director Regional Development

The Regional Development Report was attached to the Agenda.

Noted

7.4. MAIN ROADS WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Mr Mohammad Siddiqui, Director Wheatbelt Region

Mr Siddiqui provided a verbal report to the Zone.

Noted

8. MINUTES

8.1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM THE CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE MEETING HELD ON 17 APRIL 2026

The Minutes of the Central Country Zone meeting held on 17 April 2026 have previously been circulated to Delegates.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Phil Blight

Seconded: President Cr Adrian Kowald

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Central Country Zone held on 17 April 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

8.2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE MEETING HELD ON 17 APRIL 2026

Item Number and Title	Resolution	Action/s
8.4.1 - Standing Invites for Members of Parliament	That the Central Country Zone: requests the Executive Officer to write to each MP listed above, providing the remaining meeting dates for 2026; and supports, in principle, the proposal to host a future Zone meeting in Metropolitan Perth to encourage greater attendance from MPs.	The Executive Officer sent letters to all relevant MPs inviting them to the remaining Zone meetings for 2026. A copy of an invite was attached to the Agenda. Apologies for all remaining 2026 Zone meetings have been received from the following MPs: - Hon Parwinder Kaur - Hon Amanda Dorn - Hon Anthony Spagnolo - Hon Jackie Jarvis - Hon Sophie McNeill - Hon Nick Goiran - Hon Rob Horstman Additionally, Mr Lachlan Hunter has provided his apologies for the June and August meetings. Mr Hunter will confirm his attendance for the November meeting closer to the date.
8.4.2 - Zone Strategic Priorities	That the Central Country Zone: Supports the holding of a Strategic Planning Workshop immediately prior to the August Zone meeting in the Shire of Kulin; and Endorses the engagement of an external consultant to facilitate the workshop.	Caroline Robinson from 150 Square has provided a quote for facilitating the proposed workshop, this quote was attached to the agenda. The Executive Committee endorsed the quote at its June meeting. An item has been included within this Agenda to discuss the format of the workshop.
9.2 - Bush Fire Risk Mitigation along the rail corridors	That the Central Country Zone write to the Minister for Transport, PTA and ARC Infrastructure requesting them to urgently address the matter of bushfire mitigation along the rail corridors, both used and unused, in regional Western Australia.	The Executive Officer wrote to the PTA and ARC Infrastructure; copies of these letters were attached to the Agenda. Additionally, a letter was written to Hon Rita Saffioti, Minister for Transport in the same letter provided in relation to item 13.1 Heavier Load. A copy of this letter was attached to the Agenda. A response was received from ARC Infrastructure on 22 May, a copy of which was

		attached to the Agenda. No response from PTA or Hon Rita Saffioti has been received to date. A response from Minister Papalia was received, a copy of this letter was attached the Agenda.
9.3 - Replacement Delegates - WALGA Central Country Zone and District Leadership Group	That the Central Country Zone: 1. Notes that Dale Stewart, CEO of the Shire of Narrogin, will cease as the Zone's representative on the Wheatbelt District Leadership Group at the end of April 2026 due to relocation. 2. Requests nominations from member Local Governments for a replacement Elected Member or officer delegate to represent the Zone on the Wheatbelt District Leadership Group. 3. Appoints a new delegate (and, if considered appropriate, an alternate delegate) to ensure continued representation of the Zone on the District Leadership Group.	During discussion of this item at the April Zone meeting, Mr Nic Warren from the Shire of Quairading volunteered for this position. The Executive Officer wrote to Mr Dale Stewart to advise of this replacement and to make arrangements. A copy of this correspondence was attached to the Agenda.
13.1 - Ministerial Decision to Allow Heavier Loads on Local Government Rodas	That the Central Country Zone: 1. Writes to the Minister for Transport to express concern about this decision. 2. Notes the Ministerial decision to temporarily upgrade RAV networks to AMMS permit on local government roads. 3. Expresses concern that the decision was made without consultation with local governments or WALGA. 4. Requests WALGA advocate to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads Western Australia seeking clarification on: a. risk assessments without route-specific road safety or asset capacity assessment for local government roads, b. compliance and enforcement arrangements, c. duration and process for revocation of the upgrade, d. opt-out options for local government roads, and e. additional funding support for impacted local government road assets.	The Executive Officer wrote to the Hon Rita Saffioti, Minister for Transport on this matter, as well as bushfire mitigation along the rail corridor (as per item 9.2 above). A copy of this letter was attached to the Agenda. No response has been received to date.

Noted

8.3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CENTRAL COUNTRY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 2 JUNE 2026

8.3.1. ZONE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES WORKSHOP

Ms Caroline Robinson from 150 Square attended the June Executive Committee meeting to discuss the proposed format and structure of the upcoming Zone Strategic Priorities Workshop. The workshop will be held immediately prior to the August Zone meeting in Kulin.

Discussions with the Executive committee considered delivery options, with a preference for small group table formats supported by an Executive Committee member at each table to facilitate discussion, encourage participation, and assist in identifying key priorities.

Caroline will explore circulating pre-workshop questions or a survey to gather insights on delegate challenges and priorities prior to the workshop. Proposed survey questions include identifying whether key issues are regional (Zone level), statewide (WALGA level), or the responsibility of other advocacy bodies, as well as how efforts can be coordinated and how the Zone can work collaboratively to progress priority actions.

The workshop is proposed to run for approximately 1.5 hours, from 9:30am to 11:00am, followed by a short break prior to the commencement of the formal Zone meeting.

Outcomes from the workshop will be compiled by Caroline and presented to the Executive Committee at the November meeting. These findings will subsequently be tabled as a formal item at the November Zone meeting to consider next steps for implementation and action.

Noted

9. ZONE BUSINESS

9.1. WATER CORPORATION – VEGETATION MAINTENANCE OF SCHEME PIPELINES AND REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE ADVOCACY

By Shire of Kulin

BACKGROUND

The Shire of Kulin raises concern regarding the apparent lack of, or deterioration in, vegetation management and practices and corridor management surrounding sections of exposed Water Corporation scheme pipeline infrastructure throughout rural and regional Western Australia. Vegetation encroachment affects the integrity, accessibility and preservation of important regional infrastructure assets servicing rural and regional communities.

Photographs taken on 18 May 2026 along Williams Kondinin Road within the Shire of Kulin (copies attached) demonstrate vegetation growth occurring directly adjacent to, underneath and through sections of exposed pipeline infrastructure.

It is noted that the examples identified are not isolated occurrences and similar conditions can reportedly be observed across many sections of the broader regional pipeline network.

The Shire of Kulin Council acknowledges the importance of Water Corporation infrastructure servicing rural and regional communities and recognises the challenges associated with maintaining extensive infrastructure networks across regional Western Australia.

Notwithstanding this, concerns have been raised regarding:

- vegetation encroachment impacting pipeline infrastructure;
- restricted access for inspection and maintenance purposes;
- increasing fuel loading surrounding critical infrastructure;
- reduced visibility and accessibility of assets; and
- potential long-term impacts on the integrity and preservation of regional infrastructure.

The Shire of Kulin Council considers the matter to be broader than routine vegetation clearing and instead one concerning the long-term maintenance, resilience and protection of essential infrastructure servicing rural and regional communities.

The matter is considered significant from an infrastructure preservation, emergency management and regional community safety perspective.

The Shire of Kulin Council resolved on 20 May 2026 to submit a motion to the forthcoming WALGA Central Country Zone Meeting in Dumbleyung seeking broader regional advocacy on the matter and to request that WALGA engage with and advocate to both Water Corporation and the State Government regarding improved maintenance and vegetation management practices associated with regional scheme pipeline infrastructure.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

The matter raised in this item pertains to any Local Governments with above-ground Water Corporation pipeline infrastructure and may affect Shires across the Wheatbelt, Great Southern, and South West regions.

Water Corporation pipeline infrastructure maintenance is not the subject of any current WALGA advocacy positions, though the WALGA Infrastructure team is currently in discussion with the Water Corporation on other issues relevant to Local Governments. The team will raise this issue in future engagements with the Water Corporation, including as an item at the Utility Providers Services Committee meeting. Pending the Zone's approval, the Team will draft a letter on this issue to the Water Corporation requesting urgent action.

It is noted that native vegetation clearing permits may be required when vegetation to be cleared is 10 years or older, which may add additional urgency and/or complexity to any maintenance around critical water infrastructure.

Images provided:







RECOMMENDATION

That the Central Country Zone requests WALGA to:

1. Note concerns relating to vegetation encroachment and apparent lack of maintenance surrounding sections of Water Corporation regional scheme pipeline infrastructure; and
2. Advocate to the Water Corporation, State Government, Minister for Water and Shadow Minister for Water for improved vegetation management, corridor maintenance and preservation of regional scheme pipeline infrastructure assets servicing rural and regional communities.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Robbie Bowey

Seconded: President Cr Phil Blight

That the Central Country Zone requests WALGA to:

1. **Note concerns relating to vegetation encroachment and apparent lack of maintenance surrounding sections of Water Corporation regional scheme pipeline infrastructure; and**
2. **Advocate to the Water Corporation, State Government, Minister for Water and Shadow Minister for Water for improved vegetation management, corridor maintenance and preservation of regional scheme pipeline infrastructure assets servicing rural and regional communities, as a matter of urgency.**

CARRIED

9.2. ADVOCACY FOR RURAL AND REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

By the Shire of Pingelly

BACKGROUND

Rural and regional communities across Western Australia face significant and growing challenges in accessing essential healthcare services. Residents in the Wheatbelt and other regional areas experience poorer health outcomes, reduced life expectancy, and substantial barriers to primary care, specialist services, mental health support, aged care, and maternity services compared to their metropolitan counterparts.

WALGA has already undertaken foundational work to quantify this issue. Its 2023 Local Government Healthcare Services Survey (covering 2021-22 expenditure) and its 2025 General Practice Support Survey (covering 2024-25 expenditure) provide comprehensive data on the financial burden being borne by WA councils. The 2025 Survey – conducted across 108 mainland non-metropolitan Local Governments with a 69% response rate – found that 41 Local Governments (55% of respondents) provided support to GP services in 2024-25, up from 47% in 2021-22. Total gross expenditure rose from \$7.8 million to \$9.5 million over the same period. Of that, 91% (\$8.6 million) was contributed by 38 Local Governments with populations under 5,000 – demonstrating that it is the smallest, most resource-constrained councils that are bearing the greatest burden. A further 58% of respondents anticipated continuing to provide GP support over the next two years. WALGA's

revised rural and remote healthcare advocacy position, endorsed by State Council in September 2025, calls for reforms to remove this financial impost from Local Governments.

WALGA's survey work and revised advocacy position provide a strong foundation for the next step. The local government sector now has robust, current data on the scale of the problem, a clear policy mandate from State Council, and strong member appetite for action – with 65% of 2025 Survey respondents indicating they wished to be involved in further advocacy work. The logical progression is to translate this evidence base into a coordinated, high-profile campaign that matches the ambition of the problem: one with clear asks directed at the State and Federal Governments, visible public messaging, and practical tools that enable member councils to advocate in their own communities.

Local Government NSW (LGNSW) provides a compelling model for what this next step could look like. In 2026, LGNSW launched "Caring for Our Regions" – a Six Point Action Plan on Rural and Regional Health that translates survey evidence and sector experience into a clear, publicly visible advocacy platform. The plan sets out six costed priority actions directed at the NSW Government, detailing the following six actions:

1. Strengthen the regional health workforce through sustained and targeted investment.
2. Establish a GP guarantee to ensure reliable access to primary care in rural and regional communities.
3. Reimburse councils for filling health service gaps, where councils are forced to intervene to maintain local access to care.
4. Fund patient transport as core health infrastructure, recognising its essential role in accessing health services.
5. Restore safe, local maternity care in rural and regional communities.
6. Invest in community-based aged care and ageing-in-place supports to reduce pressure on hospitals and enable people to remain in their communities.

Critically, LGNSW has backed the plan with a full suite of member resources – including template council motions, letters to the State and Federal Governments, and media materials – enabling individual councils to add their voice to a coordinated statewide campaign. The result is an advocacy effort that is greater than the sum of its parts, creating political visibility and sector momentum that internal policy positions alone cannot achieve.

The issues driving the LGNSW campaign are directly mirrored across WA's regions, and the survey data makes this vivid. The Wheatbelt WACHS region accounts for 61% of all statewide GP support expenditure, with 25 of 33 Wheatbelt respondents (76%) providing support totalling \$5.76 million in 2024-25 – a 14% increase on 2021-22. The Central Country Zone, recorded \$1.70 million in gross expenditure on GP services in 2024-25 (a 5% increase on 2021-22), with 8 of 12 respondents (67%) providing support. Great Southern expenditure increased 175% over the same period, and Goldfields Esperance expenditure more than doubled (103% increase). In total, 65% of 2025 Survey respondents indicated they wished to be involved in further work with WALGA on rural and remote healthcare – a clear signal of sector appetite for stronger, coordinated advocacy. WALGA is well-placed to build on its research base and September 2025 advocacy position to deliver a campaign that achieves the visibility and momentum needed to compel government action.

It is requested that WALGA escalate its existing rural and regional health advocacy into a coordinated, high-profile campaign comparable to the LGNSW “Caring for Our Regions” model, tailored to WA’s legislative, funding, and service delivery context.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

Rural and remote primary healthcare remains a key advocacy priority for WALGA. Since publishing the 2025 General Practice Support Survey Report, WALGA has actively progressed advocacy through:

- WALGA [2026-27 Federal Budget Submission](#)
- WALGA [2026-27 State Budget Submission](#)
- Lodging a submission to the [Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability](#)
- Providing a submission and presenting evidence at a public hearing to the [Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee Inquiry into rural, regional and remote Medicare access and funding](#)
- Meeting with the State Health Minister and the Shadow Ministers for Communities and Regional Development
- Meeting with the Federal Minister for Local Government and Regional Development and Shadow Federal Minister for Regional Health
- Providing briefings to State Ministers with portfolios that intersect with health and regional matters

Building on this advocacy, WALGA is now leading collaborative work to identify and promote healthcare reform solutions that remove the need for Local Government to financially support GP services in rural and remote communities. This work will underpin clear, solution-focused advocacy.

WALGA is progressing this work in partnership with key health sector stakeholders, including Rural Health West, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners WA, Australian Medical Association WA Rural Doctors Group, Health Consumers' Council WA, and Curtin University Medical School. The group is also incorporating input from the WA Country Health Service and the Office of the Chief Medical Officer.

WALGA has briefed the State Health Minister on this initiative, who has requested further updates as the group develops its Options Paper.

To support the next phase of this work, WALGA is developing a targeted advocacy plan. This will include practical materials and tools to enable and strengthen Local Government involvement.

WALGA is aware of the Caring for our Regions Action Plan and has proactively engaged with ALGA and other state Local Government Associations, including LGNSW, to explore opportunities for aligned national advocacy to the Federal Government.

Members are encouraged to reach out to Hannah Godsave, Community Policy Manager, on hgodsave@WALGA.asn.au for further information.

MOTION

Moved: President Cr Sheryl Little

Seconded: Mr Michael Cole

That the Central Country Zone requests that WALGA:

1. Develops a suite of advocacy documents similar to “Caring for Our Regions” Six Point Action Plan on Rural and Regional Health developed by Local Government NSW that articulates a clear set of priority actions and investment asks directed at the State and Federal Governments;
2. Engage with Local Government NSW and ALGA to share intelligence, align messaging, and coordinate joint advocacy directed at the Federal Government on rural and regional health;
3. Provides member Local Governments with coordinated advocacy tools including template motions, letters to government, and media resources; and
4. Actively engages allied organisations and other state Local Government Associations to amplify the campaign’s reach and impact.

LOST

10. ZONE REPORTS

10.1. CHAIR REPORT

Zone Chair, Cr Des Hickey

The Chair provided a verbal update to the Zone.

Noted

10.2. WALGA ROADWISE

Mr Rodney Thornton, Regional Road Safety Advisor

Mr Thornton provided a verbal update to the Zone.

Noted

11. WALGA STATE COUNCIL EXECUTIVE REPORTS

11.1. WALGA PRESIDENT’S REPORT

WALGA President, Mayor Mark Irwin AM, presented the President’s Report.

Noted

11.2. STATE COUNCILLOR REPORT

Dr Alistair Pinto, Shire of Wandering Chief Executive Officer

Dr Pinto provided a verbal report to the Zone on the May State Council Regional meeting held at the Shire of Pingelly and hosted by the Central Country Zone.

Noted

11.3. STATUS REPORT

Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update Last Provided	WALGA Contact
17 April 2026 Zone Agenda Item 13.1 Ministerial Decision to Allow Heavier Loads on Local Government Roads	That the Central Country Zone: 5. Writes to the Minister for Transport to express concern about this decision. 6. Notes the Ministerial decision to temporarily upgrade RAV networks to AMMS permit on Local Government roads. 7. Expresses concern that the decision was made without consultation with Local Governments or WALGA. 8. Requests WALGA advocate to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads Western Australia seeking clarification on: a. risk assessments without route-specific road safety or asset capacity assessment for Local Government roads, b. compliance and enforcement arrangements, c. duration and process for revocation of the upgrade, d. opt-out options for Local Government roads, and e. additional funding support for impacted Local Government road assets.	Local Government delegates to the State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee (SAC) communicated the concerns raised regarding short and medium term risks arising from the decision to allow more heavier vehicles to access the local road network, without the controls purported to be in place with accredited vehicle operators. Main Roads confirmed that this was a Ministerial decision and to date there is no process in place to review the benefits and the impacts. Delegates were advised that compliance and enforcement activities continue to be undertaken.	June 2026	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
17 April 2026 Zone Agenda Item 9.1 Urgent Advocacy: Forest Products Commission (FPC) "Rates-Equivalent" Payments Diverted to State Treasury – Immediate Local Government Budget Impacts (2025/26)	That the Central Country Zone request WALGA to advocate as a matter of urgency, prior to the Local Government Budget cycle, to the State Government (including the Treasurer, Minister for Local Government, and Minister for Forestry) to: 1. Establish a formal cross-portfolio arrangement (Treasury/Local Government/ Forestry, with WALGA and affected Local Governments) to: a. confirm a transparent method for calculating and timing the rates-equivalent amounts under the current legislative settings; and b. implement an agreed mechanism to allocate and remit the rates-equivalent payments to	This item will be referred to the Governance Policy Team for consideration. The Zone will be informed of the outcome.	June 2026	Kirsty Martin, Executive Manager, Member Services 9213 2051 kmartin@walga.asn.au

	the impacted Local Governments from 2026/27 onward. 2. Provide impacted Local Governments with certainty and forward estimates regarding: a. the FPC's land acquisition / plantation expansion trajectory; and b. modelling of the projected financial impact on affected rating bases, so Councils can undertake responsible long-term financial planning. 3. (If required) Progress options for policy and/or legislative amendment to ensure ongoing equity and financial sustainability for communities hosting FPC freehold landholdings, including ensuring outcomes that do not unfairly transfer costs to remaining ratepayers.			
13 February 2026 Zone Agenda Item 9.3 Main Roads WA Speed Zoning Policy	That the Central Country Zone supports the Shire of Kulin and resolves to request WALGA to formally approach Main Roads Western Australia seeking a review of the policy-based removal of speed transition buffers across rural and regional Western Australia.	Main Roads Western Australia (MRWA) is gradually removing intermediate "Speed Buffer Zones" (e.g., 80 km/h) on the approach to towns, replacing them with "Speed Limit AHEAD" signs to warn drivers of a sudden transition to lower speeds such as 60 km/h or 50 km/h through townsites. This policy shift, which began in mid-2020, aims to align with the latest Australian Standards and enhance consistency in speed zoning across WA and Australia. Previously, a 300-400 metre intermediate speed zone was used when dropping speeds by more than 30 km/h. This intermediate speed zone is being progressively replaced by two sets of "Speed Limit AHEAD" signs to warn drivers, allowing a direct reduction from high-speed zones to lower town speeds. This is a gradual, state-wide process. The changes harmonize WA speed zones with other Australian states.	April 2026	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
13 February 2026 Zone Agenda Item 9.10 Western Power Pole Top Fires and Network Response	That the Central Country Zone: 1. Recognises the recent spate of pole top fires during the ex-Tropical Cyclone Mitchell weather event as a serious regional and State-wide rural safety concern. 2. Notes that while this matter has been raised by the Central Country Zone, the issues identified are not confined to Zone Local Governments and are likely to	The frequency and impacts of pole top fires is noted. Safe and reliable power supply, particularly in regional WA is a key theme in WALGA's submission to the Economic Regulation Authority in context of the next regulated Access Agreement covering Western Power.	April 2026	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031

	affect rural and regional communities across Western Australia. 3. Requests WALGA to assume a State-wide advocacy role on behalf of rural and regional local governments in relation to: a. Pole top mitigation effectiveness in high-risk agricultural environments; b. Network performance; c. Timely isolation of downed or compromised power lines during emergency incidents; d. Protection of volunteer bush fire brigade members operating near live electrical infrastructure; and e. Improved transparency, reporting and communication protocols between Western Power and local governments. 4. Requests WALGA to formally engage with Western Power and the Minister for Energy seeking systemic review, strengthened operational response protocols and enhanced safety protections for volunteer emergency responders across rural and regional Western Australia. 5. Requests that WALGA report back to Member Local Governments on advocacy actions undertaken and outcomes achieved.	Further operational engagement with Western Power is required and an update will be provided at a future Zone meeting.		
21 November 2025 Zone Agenda Item 9.6.1 Cost Shift Compliance Project Update	That the Central Country Zone refer Position 1 in the Zone's Cost Shifting and Compliance Report to State Council for consideration as a WALGA Advocacy Position. That is, to "reinstate the requirement for a Regulatory Impact Assessment for all amendments to legislation and regulation".	This item will be referred to the Governance Policy Team for consideration. The Zone will be informed of the outcome.	April 2026	Kirsty Martin, Executive Manager, Member Services 9213 2051 kmartin@walga.asn.au
22 August 2025 Zone Agenda Item 9.3 To Rationalise the Audit Function for Local Government in WA	That the Zone request WALGA to advocate for the choice of an auditor of Local Governments in Western Australia be opened to individuals who are Registered Company Auditors with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) as well as the Office of Auditor General OAG).	This item has been referred to the Governance Policy Team for consideration. For the last 3 years WALGA has partnered with Local Government Professionals (LG Pro) to survey the Local Government sector on experiences during the annual financial audit process. LG Pro has decided not to participate further. WALGA has sent the survey on the most recent financial audit cycle to Local Government CEOs. This motion will be addressed in the	June 2026	Kirsty Martin, Executive Manager, Member Services 9213 2051 kmartin@walga.asn.au

		context of feedback received through this survey, which will be reported to the September State Council meeting. COMPLETE		
22 August 2025 Zone Agenda Item 9.2 To Address Anomalies Arising from Changes to the Audit Function of Local Government in WA	That the Central Country Zone request WALGA to support a representation to the State Government to remove the Office of Auditor General (OAG) as the sole auditor of Local Government in Western Australia.	This item has been referred to the Governance Policy Team for consideration. For the last 3 years WALGA has partnered with Local Government Professionals (LG Pro) to survey the Local Government sector on experiences during the annual financial audit process. LG Pro has decided not to participate further. WALGA has sent the survey on the most recent financial audit cycle to Local Government CEOs. This motion will be addressed in the context of feedback received through this survey, which will be reported to the September State Council meeting. COMPLETE	June 2026	Kirsty Martin, Executive Manager, Member Services 9213 2051 kmartin@walga.asn.au
14 February 2025 Zone Agenda Item 9.1.3 Support for Public Ownership of WA Freight Rail Network	That the Central Country Zone request WALGA to: 1. Supports State Government efforts to ensure the on-going sustainability and growth of freight rail in Western Australia; 2. Seeks a commitment from the in-coming State Government to: a. focus on ensuring a competitive freight rail network and services reduce freight on roads; providing road safety, environmental benefits; and b. work with Local Governments and other stakeholders to maximise the local economic growth opportunities provided through effective management of the rail network and corridors.	The Infrastructure Policy Team supported including the proposed advocacy position in a new or consolidated policy statement in relation to freight rail following consultation with Local Governments and other stakeholders to better define the social, economic and environmental benefits sought from a publicly controlled freight rail network. Any proposed new or consolidated advocacy position will be put through the Zone process for consideration and feedback prior to State Council endorsement. COMPLETE	June 2026	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031

Noted

12. WALGA STATE COUNCIL AGENDA

Zone Delegates are invited to read and consider the WALGA State Council Agenda, which can be found via the link [here](#).

The Zone can provide comment or submit an alternative recommendation on any of the items, including the items for noting. The Zone comment will then be presented to the State Council for consideration at their meeting.

The State Council Agenda items requiring a decision of State Council are extracted for Zone consideration below.

12.1. MATTERS FOR DECISION

12.1.1. CLIMATE CHANGE ADVOCACY POSITION

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A new climate change Advocacy Position is proposed to replace the position endorsed by State Council in 2018.
- WALGA released a Consultation Paper and draft Climate Change Advocacy Position in January 2026 for Council endorsed feedback by 1 May 2026.
- 39 Council endorsed submissions and two officer level comments were received:
 - 18 (44%) supported the draft Position.
 - 18 (44%) supported the draft Position with comments and/or proposed changes.
 - four (10%) did not support the draft Position and proposed an alternative.
 - one (2%) did not support the Advocacy Position.
- The draft Advocacy Position has been refined in response to the feedback received, noting that the majority of submissions either supported the draft position in its entirety or supported with comment and/or amendment:
 - *"to meet the needs of their communities"* has been added to Point 1 to better reflect Local Government context.
 - Point 2b has been revised to:
 - Include explicit reference to increasing risk and expanded legislative requirements and align with language in the *Local Government Act* (mitigation, rather than emissions reduction).
 - Be clear that Local Government must be provided with the funding, guidance and practical support required to meet increasing risk and legislative requirements.
- At its meeting on 25 May 2026, the Environment Policy Team considered this item and recommended that State Council replace the current Climate Change Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 4.1 with the new Advocacy Position.

ATTACHMENT

- [Climate Change Advocacy Position Consultation Report](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item aligns with WALGA's Strategic Pillars:

- **Influence:** Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government and lead policy development for the Local Government sector.
- **Support:** Anticipate, understand and respond to Member needs.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

It is proposed that the [Climate Change Policy Statement](#) and **current** Advocacy Position 4.1 Climate Change as follows:

Local Government acknowledges:

1. *The science is clear: Climate change is occurring and greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are the dominant cause.*
2. *Climate change threatens human societies and the Earth's ecosystems.*
3. *Urgent action is required to reduce emissions, and to adapt to the impacts from climate change that are now unavoidable.*
4. *A failure to adequately address this climate change emergency places an unacceptable burden on future generations.*

Local Government is committed to addressing climate change.

Local Government is calling for:

1. *Strong climate change action, leadership and coordination at all levels of government.*
2. *Effective and adequately funded Commonwealth and State Government climate change policies and programs.*

be **replaced** with (changes following consultation underlined):

1. *Local Government acknowledges the risks associated with, and is committed to addressing, climate change to meet the needs of their communities.*
2. *WALGA calls on the Australian and Western Australian Governments to:*
 - a. *provide the necessary climate leadership, coordination and action to ensure an orderly transition to achieve emission reduction targets and address the impacts of climate change.*
 - b. *ensure that Local Government has the funding, guidance and practical support required to meet increasing risk and expanded legislative requirements to plan for, mitigate and adapt to climate impacts.*

BACKGROUND

In 2018, State Council endorsed a [Climate Change Policy Statement](#) and Advocacy Position, following extensive sector consultation. Since this position was adopted there have been significant legislative, policy, technological and scientific changes, including:

- The national *Climate Change Act 2022* and the Western Australian Climate Change Bill 2023.
- Increased legislative responsibilities, including the *Local Government Amendment Act 2023*, which expanded Western Australian Local Governments' general function under Part 3 s3.1(1A) of the *Local Government Act 1995*:
 - a. To promote the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the district;
 - b. To plan for, and to plan for mitigating, risks associated with climate change; and
 - c. In making decisions, to consider potential long-term consequences and impacts on future generations

- The release of the Australian Government's [National Climate Risk Assessment](#) and [National Adaptation Plan](#) in 2025.
- Escalation of the transition to renewable energy, uptake of electric vehicles and energy efficiency standards under the National Construction Code.
- Climate science and projections ([international](#), [national](#) and [WA specific](#)) have also become clearer regarding the risks posed by climate change and the need for action to address the consequential impacts.

Work commenced on the review of the current position in 2024. An updated draft position was considered at the March 2025 State Council meeting, with the position referred back to the Environment Policy Team for further development. In January 2026, WALGA released a Consultation Paper and draft Advocacy Position, with Council endorsed feedback requested by 1 May 2026.

COMMENT

Responses were received from 41 Local Governments, 39 Council endorsed submissions and two officer level comments (Karratha and Melville):

- 18 (44%) supported the draft Advocacy Position:
 - Metropolitan: Joondalup, Stirling, Bayswater, Kalamunda, Bassendean, Canning, Cockburn, Melville, Rockingham, Cambridge, Subiaco and Serpentine Jarrahdale.
 - Regional: Harvey, Victoria Plains, Gnowangerup, Kalgoorlie Boulder, Ngaanyatjaraku and Karratha.
- 18 (44%) were supported with comment and/or proposed changes:
 - 7 sought minor wording refinements or small additions:
 - Metropolitan: Belmont, Gosnells and Kwinana.
 - Regional: Dumbleyung, West Arthur, York and Mingenew.
 - 11 proposed more substantial amendments:
 - Metropolitan: Mundaring, Armadale, Victoria Park, East Fremantle, Fremantle, Perth and Vincent.
 - Regional: Augusta Margaret River, Busselton, Kent and Cocos (Keeling) Islands.
- Four (10%) did not support the draft Advocacy Position and proposed an alternative position:
 - Regional: Waroona (alternative position). Quairading, Wagin and Cue provided the Central Country Zone position.
- One (2%) did not support the draft Advocacy Position and did not provide an alternative:
 - Regional: Collie.

Responses were received from Local Governments across all Metropolitan Zones and from all but two Country Zones.

Across both metropolitan and regional submissions, Local Governments emphasised that the roles and responsibilities of each level of government in climate change mitigation and adaptation remain unclear, while legislative obligations placed on Local Governments have expanded without a sustainable funding model to support implementation. Small, rural and remote Local Governments raised concerns about their communities' heightened exposure to heat, extreme weather and infrastructure failure, combined with limited local capacity and resources to respond effectively.

The draft Advocacy Position has been refined in response to the feedback received, noting that the majority of submissions either supported the draft position in its entirety or supported with comment and/or amendment:

- *"to meet the needs of their communities"* has been added to Point 1 to better reflect Local Government context.
- Point 2b has been revised to:
 - Include explicit reference to increasing risk and expanded legislative requirements and align with language in the Local Government Act (mitigation, rather than emissions reduction).
 - Be clear that Local Government must be provided with the funding, guidance and practical support required to meet increasing risk and legislative requirements.

The Position has been kept high level, noting that many of the specific matters raised in the feedback are included in other WALGA Advocacy Positions (or will be incorporated when these positions are reviewed) and/or will inform WALGA's more detailed climate advocacy.

A [Climate Change Advocacy Position Consultation Report](#) providing a summary of feedback received and rationale for the changes to the position is attached.

At its meeting on 25 May 2026, the Environment Policy Team considered this item and recommended that State Council replace the existing Climate Change Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 4.1 with the new Climate Change Advocacy Position.

RECOMMENDATION

That State Council replace the Climate Change Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 4.1 with a new Climate Change Advocacy Position as follows:

1. *Local Government acknowledges the risks associated with, and is committed to addressing, climate change to meet the needs of their communities.*
2. *WALGA calls on the Australian and Western Australian Governments to:*
 - a. *Provide the necessary climate leadership, coordination and action to ensure an orderly transition to achieve emission reduction targets and address the impacts of climate change.*
 - b. *Ensure that Local Government has the funding, guidance and practical support required to meet increasing risk and expanded legislative requirements to plan for, mitigate and adapt to climate impacts.*

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Len Armstrong
Seconded: President Cr Adrian Kowuld

That the Central Country Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.2 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED

12.1.2. TRAIN STATION PRECINCTS ADVOCACY POSITION

By Coralie Claudio, A/Manager Planning and Building

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- In November 2025, the State Government [announced](#) it would commence the preparation of Improvement Plans and Improvement Schemes for ten train station precincts across the Perth metropolitan region.
- A new Train Station Precinct Advocacy Position is proposed, which identifies the need for collaborative, place-based, and infrastructure-led precinct planning that enables housing delivery while respecting local planning frameworks and maintaining community confidence, supported by strong State Government coordination and funding.
- The position is intended to support timely and direct engagement with the State Government on sector priorities for current and future State-led train station precincts.
- The draft position has been informed by a review of Council resolutions and feedback from Local Governments, including those associated with the initial ten identified train station precincts.
- The Environment Policy Team endorsed the position at its meeting on 18 May 2026.

ATTACHMENT

- [Rationale New Advocacy Position: Train Station Precincts](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item aligns with WALGA's Strategic Pillars:

- **Influence** – Lead advocacy on issues that are important to Local Government, including coordinated precinct planning and housing delivery.
- **Support** – Anticipate, understand, and respond to Member needs, ensuring Local Governments are effectively engaged in State-led precinct planning processes.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

It is proposed that the **new** Train Station Precincts Advocacy Position be **endorsed**.

This draft position is consistent with, and builds upon, Advocacy Position 6.1 Planning Principles and Reform:

1. *The Local Government sector supports an efficient and effective planning system guided by legislation, policy, and processes that:*
 - a. *facilitates the creation of sustainable and liveable communities and places;*
 - b. *has a focus on strategic planning that delivers on long-term objectives and outcomes that balance social, environmental, cultural, and economic interests;*
 - c. *is easy to understand, accessible and transparent;*
 - d. *recognises the diversity of Western Australia and ensures that local environment, context, communities and character are appropriately reflected in planning frameworks and decision making;*
 - e. *ensures decisions are made by the level of government closest to and most impacted by a planning proposal; and*
 - f. *establishes consistent planning frameworks and streamlines planning processes where there is a demonstrated benefit in doing so.*
2. *Reforms to the planning system should:*
 - a. *be guided by the above principles;*

- b. deliver community benefit;*
- c. promote system efficiency, including through the use of technology;*
- d. be evidence-based and informed by robust, transparent data;*
- e. proceed at an appropriate pace to enable effective implementation;*
- f. be informed by engagement with the community; and be amended only with WALGA involvement and consultation with Local Government.*

BACKGROUND

Planning around train stations, including the establishment of local planning frameworks and the determination of development applications, has historically been the responsibility of Local Governments.

In November 2025, the State Government announced it was commencing the establishment of Improvement Plans and Schemes around ten train station precincts across the Perth metropolitan region to streamline planning and development and facilitate housing development. Through this process, the State would become responsible for setting planning frameworks, including elements such as height and zoning, and determining development applications.

The ten station precincts, involving 14 directly affected Local Governments, are listed below:

- Ballajura (City of Swan);
- Bassendean (Town of Bassendean);
- Carlisle/Oats Street (Town of Victoria Park);
- Claisebrook (City of Perth and City of Vincent);
- Cottesloe (Town of Cottesloe and Shire of Peppermint Grove);
- Glendalough (City of Vincent and City of Stirling);
- Morley (City of Bayswater);
- Mosman Park (Town of Mosman Park and Shire of Peppermint Grove);
- Redcliffe (City of Belmont); and
- Swanbourne (Town of Claremont, City of Nedlands and Town of Cottesloe).

Improvement Plans and Schemes for the Ballajura and Redcliffe stations were already underway prior to this announcement. Importantly, the announcement noted these were only the first stations, indicating additional state-led station precincts may be identified in the future.

At its December 2025 meeting, State Council resolved that:

- 1. State Council request WALGA to prepare an Advocacy Position in consultation with Members, regarding the transport and planning principles required to ensure quality outcomes in the newly announced "Station Precinct Improvement Plans and Schemes" in Metropolitan Perth and regional stations if included.*
- 2. The Advocacy Position will include transport and place-making outcomes on both government controlled and private land that maximise liveability and use of the public transport network.*

RESOLUTION 069.5/2025

To inform the development of the Advocacy Position, WALGA sought feedback from Local Governments associated with the initial ten station precincts, including collecting and reviewing relevant Council reports and resolutions from ten Local Governments.

The draft position supports a coordinated approach to station precinct planning and makes the following key recommendations to support effective development and implementation of Improvement Plans and Schemes:

- Promote housing density, diversity and delivery while ensuring place-responsive and transit-oriented development outcomes.
- Recognise the State Government's critical role in coordination and investment, including redevelopment of underutilised State land.
- Call for recognition of existing and progressing local planning frameworks and meaningful engagement with Local Governments and communities.
- Support a strategic, evidence-based and transparent approach to identifying and delivering future State-led station precincts.

The draft advocacy position was circulated to the sector for feedback over a two-week period until 7 May. WALGA received 22 responses, all from metropolitan Local Governments, including nine of the 14 Local Governments directly affected by the initial ten identified train station precincts.

COMMENT

This Advocacy Position is intended to enable WALGA to make timely and direct representations to the State Government on the sector's priorities for State-led train station precincts.

The proposed new Advocacy Position will complement WALGA's planning Advocacy Position, 6.1 Planning Principles and Reform, which notes that planning frameworks and decision-making should reflect local environment, context, communities and character, and that decisions should be made by the level of government closest to and most impacted by a planning proposal.

The draft position has been informed by a review of relevant Council resolutions and Local Government officer input, including feedback from WALGA's Planning Advisory Group.

The draft advocacy position was refined following sector consultation to emphasise that a planning framework alone will not deliver on-the-ground outcomes. Instead, it highlights the substantial scale of State Government collaboration, coordination and funding required to enable and accelerate precinct delivery, including a stronger focus on the redevelopment of underutilised State Government land.

The position was also refined to avoid blanket support for all State Improvement Plans and Schemes, instead clarifying the circumstances in which State-led planning may be appropriate for future station precincts.

The Environment Policy Team recommended that State Council endorse the position at its meeting on 18 May 2026.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse the following new Advocacy Position:

Train Station Precincts

1. *Local Government supports a coordinated approach to the planning and development of train station precincts that is transport-orientated, place responsive and provides for increased housing density and diversity.*
2. *In developing Train Station Precinct Improvement Plans and Schemes the State Government should:*
 - a. *Respect, acknowledge and build on existing and progressing local planning frameworks.*
 - b. *Ensure effective collaboration, partnerships and coordination across Government agencies and with Local Government.*
 - c. *Prioritise redevelopment of State-owned land to deliver optimal housing and mixed-use outcomes.*
 - d. *Undertake meaningful and ongoing community engagement.*
 - e. *Directly fund and/or implement funding mechanisms to deliver public realm and infrastructure requirements.*
3. *Decisions on any future State-led train station precincts must be evidence-based, transparent and made in consultation with Local Government.*

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Phil Blight
Seconded: President Cr Adrian Kowald

That the Central Country Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.2 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED

12.1.3. SUBMISSION ON THE CAT ACT REVIEW

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager Environment and Waste and Felicity Morris, Manager Governance and Procurement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- On 13 February 2026 the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS) opened consultation on the second statutory review of the *Cat Act 2011* (the Cat Act).
- All elements of the Cat Act are under review, including registration, enforcement/compliance, sterilisation, microchipping, breeding and limits on the number of cats.
- WALGA used current Advocacy Positions, previous submissions, a webinar with the sector and opportunity to comment on a draft submission to gather feedback.
- The submission identifies that reform to the legislation is required, in relation to:
 - Consolidation of the Cat Act and *Dog Act 1976*;
 - Stronger provisions for consistent non-compliance;
 - Clear definitions for owned and unowned cats;
 - Development of a Model Cat Local Law;
 - A limit on the number of cats; and
 - Lowering the age of sterilisation.
- Consultation by LGIRS closes at 5:00pm on Monday, 31 August 2026.
- A joint meeting of the Governance and Environment Policy Teams on 25 May 2026 recommended that State Council endorse the submission.

ATTACHMENT

- [Submission on the Review of the Cat Act 2011](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item aligns with WALGA's Strategic Pillars:

- **Influence:** Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government and lead policy development for the Local Government sector.
- **Support:** Anticipate, understand and respond to Member needs.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This submission has been developed based on current WALGA [Advocacy Positions](#):

- 2.12.1 Review of the *Cat Act 2011* and *Dog Act 1976*; and
- 2.12.2 Dog and Cat Management.

And previous submissions and positions on the legislation.

BACKGROUND

On 13 February 2026, the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS) opened [consultation](#) on the review of the *Cat Act 2011* (the Cat Act), the second statutory review of the legislation. The previous review was undertaken in 2019. The Cat Act provides for the control and management of cats and aims to promote and encourage the responsible ownership of cats, and for related matters.

As articulated in the Second Reading Speech, the Cat Act was introduced with the aim to reduce the number of stray cats being euthanised each year, encourage responsible cat ownership and provide for better management of the unwanted impacts of cats on the community and environment.

The submission provides recommendations on provisions in the Cat Act and identifies some of the issues Local Governments experience with implementing the legislation. WALGA used current Advocacy Positions, previous submissions, a webinar with the sector and opportunity to comment on a draft submission to gather feedback.

The webinar, held on 26 March 2026, had 61 registrations from Local Government. Feedback was received, and incorporated, on the draft submission.

The submission was considered, and is recommended to State Council for endorsement, by a joint meeting of the Governance and Environment Policy Teams on 25 May 2026.

COMMENT

In this submission WALGA has identified several areas where reform to the legislation is required, including:

- Consolidation of the Cat Act and *Dog Act 1976*;
- Stronger provisions for consistent non-compliance;
- Clear definitions for owned and unowned cats;
- Development of a Model Cat Local Law;
- A limit on the number of cats; and
- Lowering the age of sterilisation.

In drafting the submission, WALGA has also identified implementation challenges for the sector in particular low registration rates for cats, the lack of a centralised database for registration and limited resourcing.

Cat containment is out of scope of this submission, as the State Government is progressing the [Cat Amendment \(Local Laws\) Bill](#) 2026 to enable Local Governments to make cat containment Local Laws. WALGA is engaging separately with the sector on this matter.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse the submission on the Review of *Cat Act 2011*.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Karen Harrington

Seconded: President Cr Len Armstrong

That the Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.3 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED

12.2. OTHER STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

Zone Delegates are invited to raise for discussion, questions or decision any of the items in the State Council Agenda, including the items for noting, Policy Team and Committee Reports or the Key Activity Reports.

12.2.1. WALGA 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SURVEY FINDINGS – STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 10.1

The 2025 WALGA Local Government Emergency Management Survey, undertaken in partnership with Edith Cowan University (ECU), highlights ongoing resource, workforce and funding pressures across the Local Government sector, including rising emergency management expectations, structural funding challenges, grant access difficulties, and increasing staffing and capacity constraints.

An additional confidential attachment is available for Zone Delegates, available at the link below.

- [Local Government Emergency Management Survey Report](#)

Noted

13. EMERGING ISSUES

13.1. LATE ITEM - MAJOR LAND TRANSACTION PROVISIONS – REGIONAL WORKFORCE HOUSING PROJECTS

By the Shire of Kulin

PURPOSE

To seek WALGA Central Country Zone support for advocacy to the State Government regarding amendment of the *Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996* to provide greater flexibility for local government-led workforce housing projects undertaken for a public purpose.

BACKGROUND

Rural and regional local governments across Western Australia are increasingly being required to take a direct role in facilitating housing delivery due to ongoing housing shortages, workforce attraction challenges and limited private sector development in smaller communities.

Many local governments are now investing significant capital into workforce housing projects to support the attraction and retention of essential personnel including teachers, police officers, health professionals, emergency service personnel and local government employees.

Under the current legislative framework, workforce housing projects may become subject to the Major Land Transaction provisions contained within section 3.59 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Whilst the policy intent of the Major Land Transaction provisions is understood and supported, the provisions can unintentionally capture relatively modest workforce housing projects in regional communities.

The Major Land Transaction threshold is currently the lesser of \$2,000,000 or 10% of a local government's annual operating expenditure. For many rural and regional local governments, the applicable threshold is therefore significantly less than \$2,000,000.

For example, a local government with annual operating expenditure of approximately \$9.5 million would be captured at a threshold of approximately \$950,000. In today's construction market, this may equate to as few as two or three workforce dwellings.

As a consequence, local governments seeking to deliver housing for teachers, police officers, health professionals, local government employees and other essential workers can quickly become subject to Major Land Transaction requirements despite the project being undertaken for a clear public purpose and without any commercial profit motive.

A practical challenge is that workforce housing projects are often captured because a long-term lease is considered a form of land transaction or disposal under the legislation, notwithstanding the local government retains ownership of both the land and dwellings.

In many cases, the local government is not selling land, divesting assets or undertaking a commercial venture. Rather, it is investing significant capital and assuming financial risk to deliver housing outcomes that support essential government services and broader community wellbeing.

DISCUSSION

The current housing shortage across regional Western Australia has resulted in local governments increasingly partnering with State Government agencies and other stakeholders to deliver workforce housing solutions.

Recent examples include Government Regional Officers Housing (GROH), key worker housing initiatives and regional workforce accommodation projects being pursued by individual local governments and regional groupings such as ROEROC & 4WDL.

There may be merit in reviewing the exemption provisions contained within the *Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996* to determine whether local government workforce housing projects delivered for a public purpose should be afforded separate consideration (be exempt) from Major Land Transaction Provisions).

Any such amendment could be limited to projects where:

- The primary purpose is workforce attraction and retention;
- The housing supports essential government services or identified workforce shortages;
- The local government retains ownership of the land and housing assets;
- The project is not being undertaken for commercial profit; and
- The project demonstrably addresses housing market failure within regional communities.

Such an approach would continue to preserve transparency and accountability whilst reducing unnecessary administrative burden and supporting the delivery of regional housing outcomes.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

Due to the late receipt of this item, WALGA was unable to provide comment.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Robbie Bowey

Seconded: President Cr Karen Harrington

That the WALGA Central Country Zone:

1. Supports advocacy to the Minister for Local Government and to the Minister for Planning and Lands; Housing and Works seeking a review of the Major Land Transaction exemption provisions contained within the *Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996* as they relate to local government-led workforce housing projects undertaken for a public purpose.
2. Requests WALGA State Council investigate and advocate for regulatory amendments which recognise workforce housing projects delivered by local governments to support essential services, workforce attraction and workforce retention in regional Western Australia.
3. Requests WALGA engage with the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulations and Safety and relevant State Government agencies to identify opportunities to reduce unnecessary regulatory barriers impacting delivery of local government workforce housing projects.

CARRIED

14. NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, 4 August 2026 commencing at 7:30am, via MSTeams.

The next Central Country Zone meeting will be held on Friday, 14 August 2026 commencing at 9:30am. This meeting will be hosted by the Shire of Kulin.

15. CLOSURE

The Chair thanked outgoing Shire of Dumbleyung Chief Executive Officer, Mr Gavin Treasure for his service to the Shire and the Central Country Zone.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 12:35pm.