



Shire of Lake Grace

23 SEPTEMBER 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 September 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting
presenting information to the end of August 2026

Road Maintenance Grading

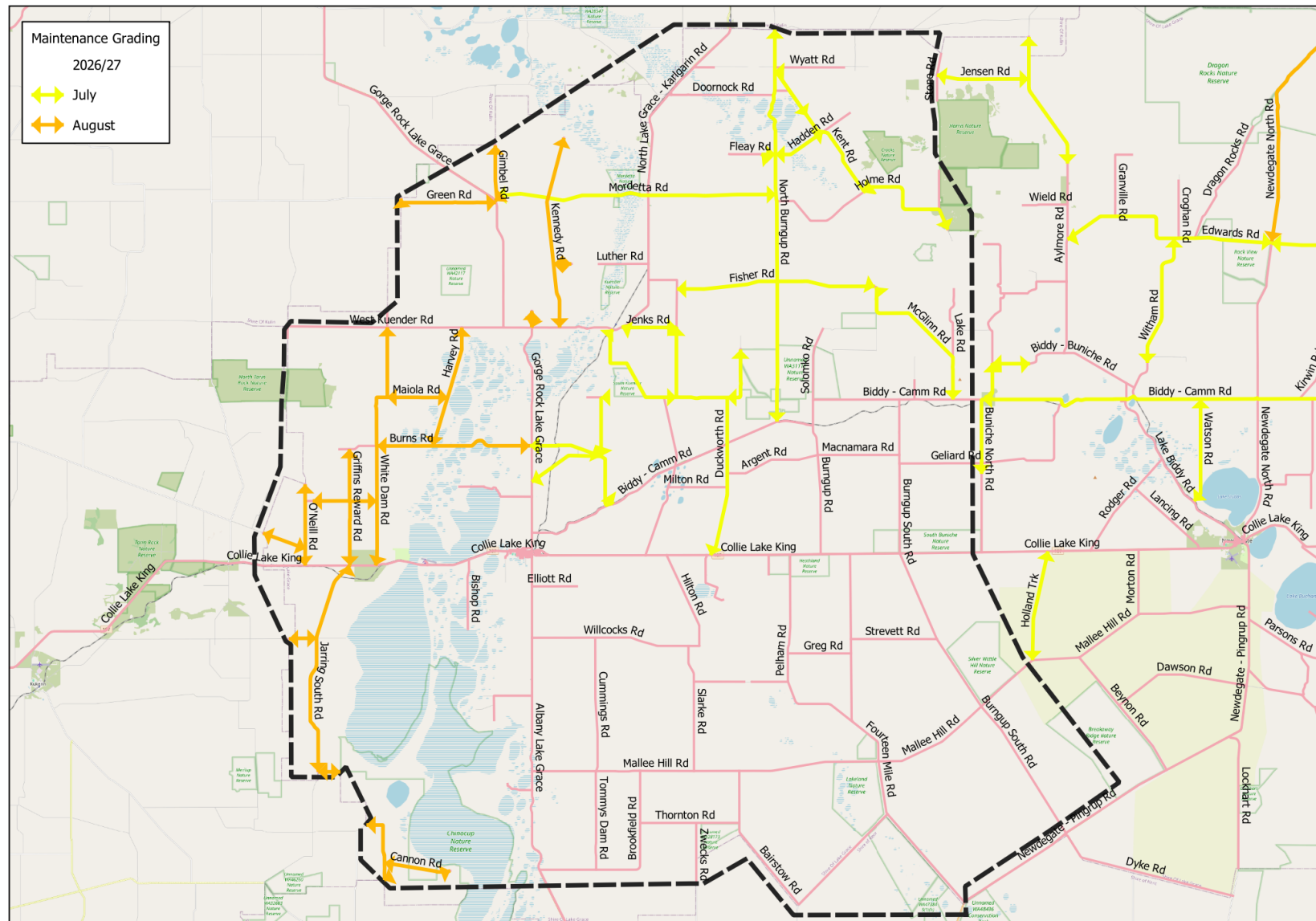
For the month of August 2026

<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>
Big Lake Rd	5.24	Ardler Rd	10.78	Carstairs Rd	19.95
Burns Rd	14.27	<i>Biddy Camm Rd</i>	9.13	Dempster Rd	3.38
Cannon Rd	4.90	Easton Rd	5.71	Drust Rd	16.80
Clarke Rd	1.63	Magenta Rd	45.61	Henderson Rd	3.87
Eggers Rd	1.30	Mission Rd	11.13	Holt Rock South Rd	11.62
Gimbel Rd	4.10	Newdegate North Rd	18.76	Kathleen	7.78
Green Rd	7.40	Newman Rd	4.90	Pickernell Rd	26.55
Griffin Reward Rd	8.48	Oakey Rd	9.32	Purnta Rd	5.94
Harvey Rd	8.93	Old Ravensthorpe Rd	4.75	Winchcombe Rd	7.60
Jarring South Rd	16.01	Orr Rd	5.19		
Kennedy Rd	14.10	Shalders Rd	16.22		
Maiola Rd	4.41	Taylor Rd	4.50		
Naisbitt Rd	3.29	Tonkin Rd	23.36		
Old Lake Grace Rd	2.02	Webb Rd	14.08		
O'Neill Rd	6.15				
Treloar Rd	4.72				
Wallace Rd	1.30				
White Dam Rd	18.15				

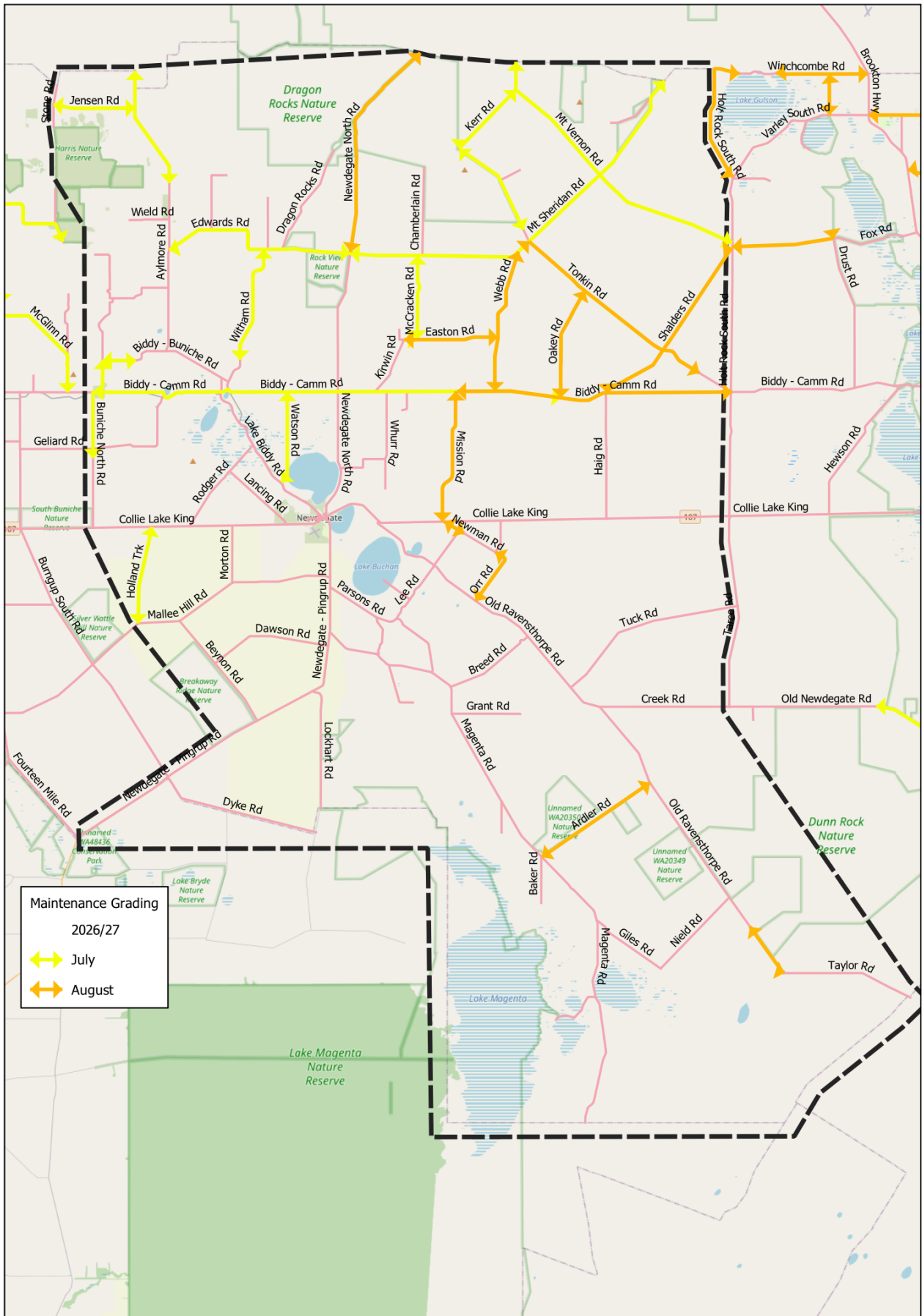
<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>126.40</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>183.44</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>63.94</u>
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2026/27 Year-To-Date Grading by Month

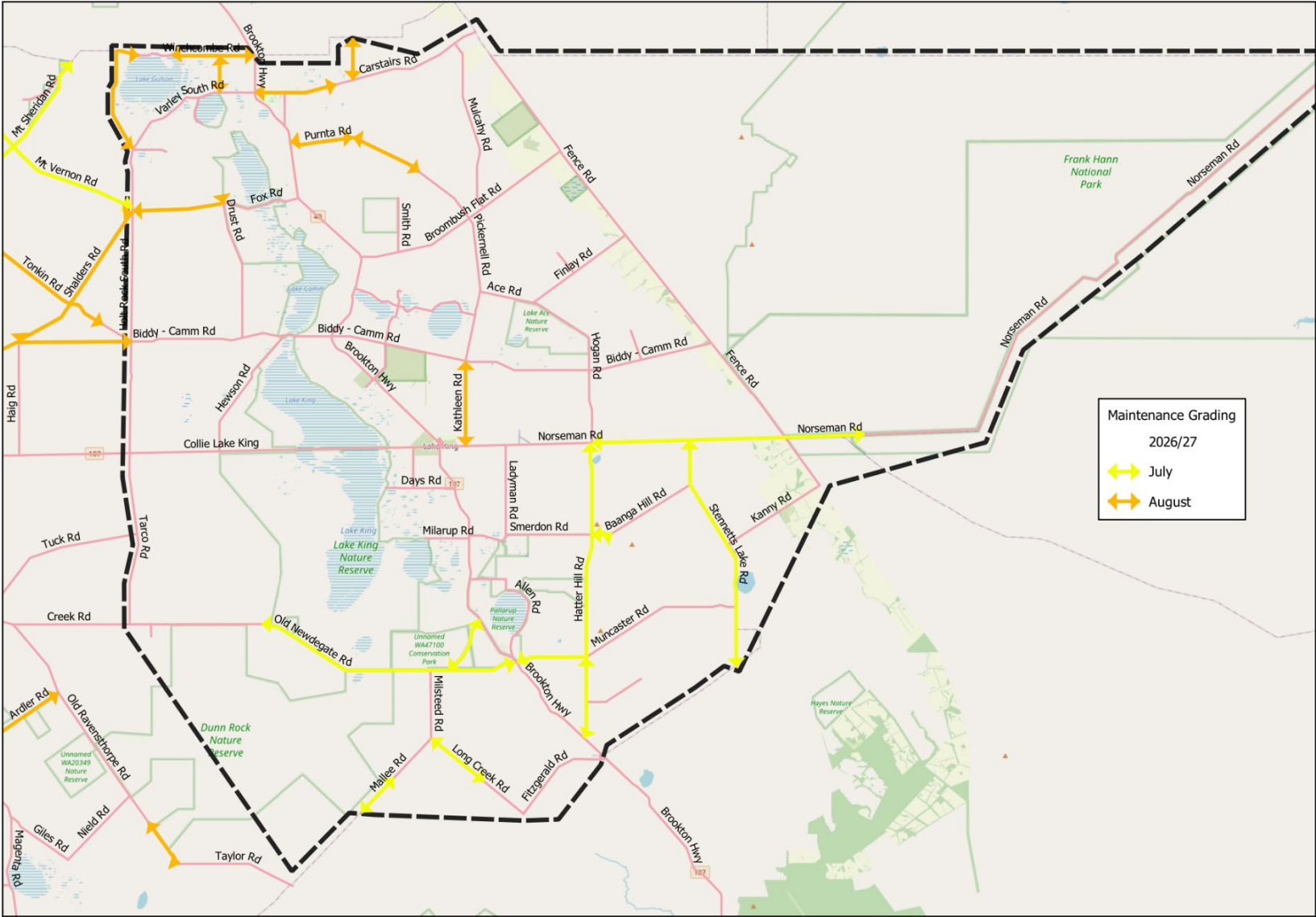
Year	Month	Lake Grace Area (km)	Newdegate Area (km)	Lake King-Varley Area (km)	Monthly Subtotal
2026	July	186.93	220.59	142.38	549.90
	August	126.40	183.44	63.94	373.78
	September				
	October				
	November				
	December				
2027	January				
	February				
	March				
	April				
	May				
	June				
	To-Date	<u>313.33</u>	<u>404.03</u>	<u>206.32</u>	<u>923.68</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
LG10040	2009 Dolly Trailer	Repairs
LG029	2021 Hino Tip Truck	General Service
LG3498	2022 CAT Road Roller	Fault find & repair
LG255	2022 Volvo Prime Mover	Parts & repairs
LG255	2022 Volvo Prime Mover	New Tyres
LG094	2021 Volvo Loader	Service
LG3498	2022 CAT Loader Roller	Service & investigate fuel rail pressure issues.
LG041	2024 John Deere Grader	Service

Building Construction & Maintenance

Capital

- Nil.

Maintenance

Lake Grace

- Playgroup & Toy Library

Newdegate

- Depot

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 2026 to 31 August 2026:

Category	Complete	Incomplete	Total	% Complete
Works	2	3	5	40.0%
Building	3	1	4	75.0%
Parks & Gardens	0	0	0	N/A
<u>Total</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>55.6%</u>

Because July is the first month of the financial year there is no previous month to compare it to:

Category	Complete	Incomplete	Total	% Complete
Works	2	2	4	50.0%
Building	2	0	2	100.0%
Parks & Gardens	0	0	0	N/A
<u>Total</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>66.7%</u>

Previous financial year's (2025/26) statistics. To be updated every month:

Category	Complete	Incomplete	Total	% Complete
Works	64	13	77	83.1%
Building	41	14	55	74.5%
Parks & Gardens	19	1	20	95.0%
<u>Total</u>	<u>124</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>152</u>	<u>81.6%</u>

MINUTES

General Meeting

Monday 10 August 2026, Shire of Corrigin, commencing at 10.30 am.
(Corrigin Community Resource Centre, 55 Larke Crescent)

1. **MEETING OPENED:** 10.25 am

2. **ATTENDANCE RECORD:**

2.1. **Attendees:**

President		Bevan Thomas
Vice President		Jen Green
Executive Officer		Alyssa Szekeres (Via Teams Call)
Shire Representatives	Bruce Rock	Kalani Rice-Fazey, Jen Verhoogt
	Corrigin	Kelli Hawkins, Natalie Manton, Sharon Jacobs, Darian Smith
	Kondinin	Amanda Kemp
	Kulin	Taryn Scadding, Kirra Pederick
	Lake Grace	Len Armstrong, Alan George
	Naremben	Hannah Bald, Georgia Atkins
	Quairading	Jen Green, Becky Cowcill
	Beverley	Jacinta Murray

Apologies: Toni Smeed, Jo Morgan, John Maxwell, Caris Negri, Megan Leach

2.2. **Guest:** Norm O'Neill (Pingaring Progress Association)

3. **PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

3.1. **Confirmation – GENERAL MEETING**

MOTION

Moved: Jen Verhoogt

Seconded: Len Armstrong

That the Minutes of the Roe Tourism Association General Meeting held on 11 May 2026 at the Shire of Naremben.

CARRIED

4. **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

4.1 **RTA Financial Report for period 01 May 2026 – 31 July 2026**

Further information on the financial position is in the financial report attachment.

MOTION

Moved: Alyssa Szekeres

Seconded: Jen Verhoogt

That the Committee accepts the Financial Report for the period 01 May 2026 – 31 July 2026 as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

5.1 **RTA Correspondence Report for period 01 May 2026 – 31 July 2026**

Further information on the correspondence in and out is in the correspondence report attachment.

6. **REPORTS:**

6.1 **Marketing Coordinator Report:** Full report attached

10.55 am: Natalie Manton and Sharon Jacobs departed the meeting.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS:

7.1 Budget 2026-2027

- The proposed Roe Tourism Association (RTA) Budget for the 2026–2027 financial year was presented and discussed.
- Alyssa to add section in budget for reserve funds to better balance the budget proposed.
- The letter received from the Beverley Community Resource Centre regarding an update to the Executive Officer wage was presented and discussed.
- The Committee acknowledged the need to increase the Executive Officer contribution to reflect the updated wage arrangement and associated costs. It was agreed that RTA would absorb the additional cost from existing reserves rather than seek additional funding from the Shires. The Committee also acknowledged that the Beverley Community Resource Centre should not be expected to absorb these additional costs.

Action: Alyssa to include a reserve funds allocation within the proposed budget to ensure the budget is appropriately balanced.

Action: Alyssa to update and resend the Budget Considerations to all Shires with the updated Executive Officer contributions.

Action: The Executive Committee to respond to the Beverley Community Resource Centre confirming acceptance of the proposed wage update and commence arrangements to update the Executive Officer contract, effective from the November AGM.

11.33 am: Nat Manton returned to the meeting.

7.2 Pingaring Presentation

- Norm O’Niel presented to the Roe Tourism Association on the activities and progress of the Pingaring Progress Association.
- Discussion was held regarding opportunities to include Pingaring in RTA marketing and promotional activities, including the RTA website and future promotional campaigns.

Action: Alyssa to contact Norm O’Niel to discuss updates to the RTA website and opportunities for Pingaring to be incorporated into relevant promotional activities.

8 MEMBER SHIRE REPORTS:

11.50 am: Sharon Jacobs returned to the meeting.

Beverley

- The Beverley Market Collaborative open Thursday – Sunday weekly. Separately also open to community Markets stalls once a month

Upcoming Events:

- Beverley Ag Show | 22 August
- BSA Show FIFO | 28 August
- Tractor Pulls | 15 August
- Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge | 16 September
- Choir Muster | 19 September
- Awesome Festival | 5 to 9 October (School Holidays)

Bruce Rock

Upcoming Events:

- Back to the Bush Veterans Reunion | 28 October to 04 November (25th reunion)
- Back to the Bush Music Festival | 31 October (3 artist, starts at 2:30pm, bar and food vans)

Corrigin

- Freo Biennale came out to look at locations

Upcoming Events:

- Corrigin AG Society Show | 12 September
- Yuck Circus | 21 October
- Smart Phone Photography | 04 September

Kondinin

Previous Events:

- SOCK Week (Kondinin & Hyden) – Well attended at both towns
- Naidoc week events (Kondinin & Hyden) – lower numbers then planned at Kondinin events
- Brendan Cullen Author and Inspirational Speaker | 04 August – Very well attended

Upcoming Events:

- Science Week Kondinin – Ranger Red’s Zoo | 23 August
- Brain Break Morning Tea | 26 August
- Hyden Spring Markets | 26 September
- Wave Rock Weekender | 25 to 28 September

- Hyden CWA – Stich for Frocktober | 17 October
- Kondinin Twilight Markets | 29 November
- Seniors Week (Elvis)

Kulin

- Wildflowers starting to come out around town

Upcoming Events:

- Kulin Bush Races | 02 to 04 October (Sold out in 48 hours)
- Kulin Christmas Carnival | 12 December (Looking for more vendors for the day)

Lake Grace

- The Jam Patch toilet has been upgraded
- Wildflower season is underway
- New Visitor Centre staff member – busy training period

Upcoming Events:

- Newdegate Machinery Field Day | 02-03 September
- ZAP Circus | 28 August (Newdegate Hall)
- Lake Grace Harvest Festival | December

Narembreen.

- New Telescope for Hire – received with some Astrotourism funding.
- New signage for Museums in progress
- In progress with town entry sign refresh
- Survey QR Codes in all motel rooms and caravan park

Previous Events:

- SOCK Week 2026 | 29 June to 3 July
- My Aged Care Info Session | 23 July

Upcoming Events:

- Sticky Beak Express Senior Bus Tours | 26 August & 14 September (Farm & Town Tours)
- Art Workshops Series | 11 August, 18 August, 25 August (Macrame, Resin & Textured Art)
- Youth First Aid | 11 August
- Mental Health Week – Blue Tree Project | 8 October
- Mind your Step Month | October (OT, Fitness, Podiatry (Weekly sessions))

Quairading

Previous Events:

- NAIDOC event | 1 July (Over 150 people including whole school attended. Flag raising ceremony, community lunch, stalls, traditional arts, craft and games.)

Upcoming Events:

- Quairading Car Rally | 20 September
- Children's Week | TBA October (Animal petting zoo and community barbecue)
- Quairading Arts Showcase | 16-18 October
- Australia Day | 26 January 2027 (Community lunch and awards ceremony)

- 9 NEXT MEETING:** AGM: 09 November 2026 at the Shire of Kondinin commencing at 10.30 am.
General Meeting: 09 November 2026 at the Shire of Kondinin commencing at 11.00am.

- 10 CLOSE OF MEETING:** 11.52 pm

Thank you to the Shire of Corrigin for hosting this meeting.

Central Country Zone Minutes Friday, 14 August

**Hosted by the Shire of Kulin
Freebairn Recreation Centre,
Kulin-Lake Grace Road, Kulin**

**Strategic Priorities Workshop commencing
at 9:30am**

Zone meeting commencing at 11:30am

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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 11:25am.

1.2. ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS	2 Voting Delegates from each Member Council
Shire of Beverley	President Cr Dee Ridgway Mr Simon Marshall, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Brookton	Cr Gary Crouch Cr Lachlan McCabbe Mr Gary Sherry, Chief Executive Officer, 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 Ms Anika Serer, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting Cr Ben Stangoni (observer)
Shire of Kulin	Cr Robbie Bowey President Cr Grant Robbins, non-voting Mr Alan Leeson, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Lake Grace	President Cr Len Armstrong Mr Alan George, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Narrogin	President Leigh Ballard Cr Clive Bartron Mr Andrew Campbell, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Pingelly	Mr Andrew Dover, Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Quairading	President Cr Trevor Stacey Deputy President Cr Jo Hayes Mr Nic Warren, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

Shire of Wagin	Deputy President Cr Bryan Kilpatrick Dr Kenneth Parker, Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Wandering	Deputy President Cr Alan Price 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 Mark Hook, Acting Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Wickepin	Cr Lindsey Corke, non-voting Mr David Burton, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Williams	Cr Heidi Cowcher

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Hon Jackie Jarvis MLC	Minister for Agriculture and Food; Fisheries; Forestry; Small Business; Mid West <i>(attended electronically from 12:00pm – 12:20pm)</i>
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GUESTS

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development	Dr Mia Carbon, Incident Controller – Avian Flu <i>(attended electronically from 12:00pm – 12:20pm)</i>
Main Roads WA	Ms Vicky Eckersley, Customer Service Manager
Wheatbelt Development Commission	Ms Renee Manning, Acting Chief Executive Officer Ms Emma Everett, Local Content Adviser
WALGA RoadWise	Mr Rodney Thornton, Regional Road Safety Advisor Ms Essie Ware, Senior Coordinator Road Safety

WALGA

Ms Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance
Ms Sammy Bevan, Member Services Executive Administrator
Ms Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager Environment and Waste *(attended electronically from 12:00pm – 12:20pm)*

1.3. APOLOGIES

MEMBERS

Shire of Beverley	Deputy President Cr Alan Sattler Mr Stephen Gollan, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Brookton	President Cr Rod Wallis
Shire of Cuballing	Mr Chris Paget, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Dumbleyung	Deputy President Cr David Head
Shire of Kulin	Deputy President Cr Brad Smoker Mr Alan Leeson, Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Lake Grace	Deputy President Cr Stephen Hunt
Shire of Pingelly	President Cr Jackie McBurney Deputy President Cr Peter Wood
Shire of Wagin	President Cr Phillip Blight Cr Jason Reed
Shire of Wandering	President Cr Sheryl Little
Shire of Wickepin	President Cr Julie Russell Deputy President Cr Tyron Miller
Shire of Williams	President Cr Jarrad Logie Mr Peter Stubbs, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

GUESTS

Main Roads	Mohammad Siddiqui, Director Wheatbelt Region
Regional Development Australia WA	Mr Josh Pomykala, Director Regional Development
CBH Group	Ms Kellie Todman, Manager – Government & Industry Relations

Apologies were received from the following Members of Parliament:

Mr Lachlan Hunter, MP
Hon Parwinder Kaur
Hon Amanda Dorn
Hon Anthony Spagnolo
Hon Jackie Jarvis
Hon Sophie McNeill
Hon Nick Goiran
Hon Rob Horstman
Hon Steve Martin

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

3. HOST COUNCIL PRESENTATION

Shire of Kulin President, Cr Grant Robbins, welcomed Delegates and guests and provided a presentation on the Shire.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nil.

5. GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS

Minister Jarvis will join the meeting from 12:00pm to present on the H5 Bird Flu outbreak.

5.1. SPEAKERS FOR THE NOVEMBER ZONE MEETING

5.1.1. LUMEN WHEATBELT REGIONAL UNIVERSITY STUDY HUB

At the June meeting, it was resolved to support a presentation to the Zone from the Lumen Wheatbelt Regional University Hub. Hannah Crute, Project and Communications Officer will attend from Lumen to provide an update on the [Lumen Wheatbelt Regional University Study Hubs](#) and the work they are doing with the region.

Noted

5.1.2. WESTERN POWER

Ms Lidia Rea, Senior Stakeholder and Major Customer Relationship Specialist from Western Power recently contacted the Shire of Kulin to request to present at the November Zone meeting. The presentation will focus on Pole Top Fires, the reason these occur, how they impact the network and community and the current and emerging mitigation strategies.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Robbie Bowey

Seconded: Cr Bryan Kilpatrick

That the Central Country Zone SUPPORTS the proposal from Western Power to speak at the November Zone meeting.

CARRIED

5.2. SPEAKERS FOR 2027 ZONE MEETINGS

5.2.1. DEPARTMENT OF CREATIVE INDUSTRIES, TOURISM AND SPORT (CITS)

The Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport (CITS) is responsible for supporting and growing Western Australia's creative industries, tourism, sport and active recreation sectors. The Department works in partnership with government, industry and community stakeholders to deliver social, cultural and economic benefits across the State. CITS is interested in engaging further with Local Governments through the Zones.

For those Zones that are interested, the presentation will provide an overview of CITS, including its responsibilities, strategic priorities and key areas of focus. The session will explore the Department's role in supporting communities across Western Australia and highlight opportunities for engagement and collaboration between CITS and Local Governments. The presentation will conclude with a question-and-answer session, providing Zone members with the opportunity to discuss matters of interest relevant to their communities and regions.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Central Country Zone SUPPORTS a presentation from the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport (CITS) at a future Zone meeting

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Dee Ridgway

Seconded: President Cr Karen Harrington

That the Central Country Zone SUPPORTS a presentation from the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport (CITS) at a future Zone meeting, with the Zone providing questions prior to the meeting.

CARRIED

6. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Nil.

7. AGENCY REPORTS

7.1. DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY REGULATIONS AND SAFETY

An update report from the Local Government Division of the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulations and Safety was attached to the Agenda.

Noted

7.2. WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Ms Renee Manning, Chief Executive Officer and Ms Emma Everett, Local Content Adviser

Ms Manning and Ms Everett provided a verbal update to the Zone on current projects and advocacy that the Wheatbelt Development Commission have been undertaking.

Noted

7.3. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA WHEATBELT

Mr Josh Pomykala, Director Regional Development

Mr Pomykala was an apology for this meeting. A written report was attached to the Agenda.

Noted

7.4. MAIN ROADS WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Ms Vicky Eckersley, Customer Service Manager

Ms Vicky Eckersley provided a verbal update to the Zone and took questions on notice.

Noted

7.5. HON JACKIE JARVIS MLC

Hon Jackie Jarvis MLC, Minister for Agriculture and Food, presented to the Zone electronically from 12:00pm – 12:20pm, providing an update on the current H5 Bird Flu outbreak. The Minister advised next steps and how to report suspected Bird Flu as well as grants currently open for Local Governments.

Noted

8. MINUTES

8.1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM THE CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE MEETING HELD ON 12 JUNE 2026

The Minutes of the Central Country Zone meeting held on 12 June 2026 have previously been circulated to Member Councils.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Gary Crouch

Seconded: President Cr Adrian Kowald

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Central Country Zone held on 12 June 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 12 JUNE 2026

Item Number and Title	Resolution	Action/s
9.1 – Water Corporation – Vegetation Maintenance of Scheme Pipelines and Regional Infrastructure Advocacy	<i>That the Central Country Zone requests WALGA to:</i> <i>Note concerns relating to vegetation encroachment and apparent lack of maintenance surrounding sections of Water Corporation regional scheme pipeline infrastructure; and</i> <i>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.</i>	This resolution was referred by State Council to the relevant Advisory Group for further work. An update is provided in the Zone Status Report.
13.1 – Late Item – Major Land Transaction Provisions – Regional Workforce Housing Projects	<i>That the WALGA Central Country Zone:</i> <i>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.</i> <i>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.</i> <i>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.</i>	A letter was sent to the Minister of Local Government on behalf of the Zone. No response has been received to date. A copy of the correspondence was attached to the agenda. Points 2 and 3 of the resolution requesting WALGA to act were referred by State Council to the relevant Advisory Group for further work. An update on these items is provided in the Zone Status Report.

Noted

9. ZONE BUSINESS

9.1. WANDERING LIVESTOCK

By Shire of Wagin

BACKGROUND

From time to time wandering livestock is an issue that can occur in every rural local government. In March 2026, the problem in multiple local governments across the region was raised in the media with concerns raised by the State Member for Roe. The Minister in response stated that the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's stock identification and traceability legislation did not require amendment.

Stock identification and traceability is a related issue but does not deal with the core issue.

Local governments are not looking for greater compliance responsibilities but at the same time the powers provided to local governments are antiquated.

Local governments powers are taken from the *Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1960*.

This Act is a hold-over of the *Local Government Act 1960* and has received scant attention during the local government reform process being last reprinted in 2012.

While the entire Act is outdated, certain sections stand out for their obsolescence to the point of ridiculousness. Section 459 of the Act for example provides a role for the local police constable in the receipt and assessment of animal hides of livestock that have been killed following an impoundment period:

"[A] justice may order the destruction of the cattle in such manner as he thinks fit, and may, if the animal is a horse, mare, filly, foal, gelding, colt, camel, bull, bullock, cow, heifer, steer, calf, ass, or mule, order the production and delivery to a police constable of the hide of the animal and by the order give such direction as to the disposal of the hide as he thinks fit, and an order so made has effect according to its tenor and is not subject to appeal."

The specific fines and penalties that a local government can impose are set in the Act. This means that it requires an Act of Parliament to amend and have not been updated in two decades.

Section 454 of the Act provides that a person who milks an impounded cow or goat is liable for a minimum penalty of \$4. While a pound keeper can be fined a maximum of \$40 for not supplying cattle with food.

Leaving aside the peculiarities of the legislation, the issue for local governments is in the disproportionately small penalties associated with wandering livestock.

Under section 484 of the Act the penalty for straying livestock is \$200.

This is same penalty as the minimum penalty for not having a dog on a leash (the maximum penalty under the *Dog Act 1976* is \$5,000) and is the vicinity of some parking infringements for metropolitan Councils.

The *Victorian Impounding of Livestock Act 1994* provides an example of a more modern regulatory approach. Under the legislation, authorised officers are provided with a structured and escalating enforcement framework. The Act enables councils to issue a notice objecting to trespass where livestock have entered land unlawfully, followed by a formal notice to confine livestock, requiring the owner to take corrective action such as improving fencing or containment. If an owner fails to comply, livestock can be impounded and further enforcement action taken.

Importantly, the Victorian framework also provides for substantially higher and indexed penalties, expressed in penalty units rather than fixed dollar amounts. This ensures that penalties maintain their deterrent value over time and better reflect the seriousness of the risk posed by wandering livestock. For example, offences such as failing to confine livestock or allowing repeated trespass can attract penalties of up to 60 penalty units (currently over \$12,000), supported by the ability to issue infringement notices for less serious breaches.

This modern model represents a shift from a purely reactive “impound and recover costs” system to a proactive compliance-based approach, focused on preventing incidents before they occur, improving public safety (particularly on roads), and ensuring that livestock owners take responsibility for adequate containment.

It is proposed that the Zone advocate for a contemporary legislative framework that reflects modern community expectations around safety, accountability and risk management. The current system, grounded in a reactive impounding model, does not provide a proportionate or effective regulatory response to the risks posed by wandering livestock, particularly in relation to road safety and public liability.

A revised framework should adopt graduated and proportionate compliance tools, similar to those found in contemporary regimes such as public health legislation, including the use of improvement notices, compliance orders, infringement notices and scalable penalties.

This approach would allow local governments to intervene early to prevent harm, escalate enforcement where non-compliance persists, and align penalties with the level of risk and impact. Importantly, such a model would move beyond punishment alone and instead support behavioural change, risk mitigation and shared responsibility, ensuring regulation is both effective and fair while meeting modern community standards.

It is also worth noting that successive Western Australian Governments have not been shy about looking to Victoria when local government legislation has needed updating (the Local Government Inspector being a prime example).

The Victorian model for dealing with wandering livestock is well established, practical and already doing the job in a comparable jurisdiction.

Rural local governments know that from time-to-time stock will get out. We're not asking for heavy-handed rules or more State interference, and we certainly don't want to make things harder for responsible landholders. But the reality is, when someone repeatedly lets their stock roam and doesn't fix the problem, Councils lack the tools to deal with it properly.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

The *Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1960* residual provisions are severely outdated and not fit for purpose. WALGA has previously recommended the Department of Local Government consider transferring these provisions either into the *Local Government Act 1995* or other relevant legislation. As the principal function is dealing with wandering livestock, this could be addressed through new legislation that is contemporary and flexible, consistent with the Zone's proposed advocacy.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Bryan Kilpatrick

Seconded: Cr Clive Bartron

That the Central Country Zone writes to the Minister for Local Government and Minister for the Wheatbelt calling for a modernisation of the wandering livestock provisions in the *Local Government Act 1960* and points to the *Victorian Impounding of Livestock Act 1994* as potential framework to emulate.

CARRIED

9.2. RATE EXEMPTION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND AND PROTECTION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S PRODUCTIVE FARMING LAND

By the Shire of West Arthur

BACKGROUND

Local Governments across regional Western Australia are experiencing a gradual erosion of their rate base resulting from the acquisition of privately owned agricultural land by State Government agencies, Government Trading Enterprises (GTEs), and other public authorities.

In many cases, land that was previously subject to local government rates becomes exempt from rates following acquisition due to its ownership by a government entity. In other cases, freehold agricultural land is converted to Crown land status, resulting in the cessation of local government rating income.

The loss of rateable land directly impacts a local government's ability to maintain infrastructure, provide services and support local communities. This issue is particularly significant for rural local governments where rates are the principal source of own-source revenue and where even relatively small reductions in the rate base can have a disproportionate financial impact. As an example, this year alone the Shire of West Arthur will lose at least \$45,633 worth of rates as a result of land purchased by Forest Products Commission, DBCA and Western Power which equates to approximately 2% of Shire rates revenue. Furthermore, there are three properties that are currently rated by the Shire, however, are pending transfer to DBCA.

The issue is becoming increasingly relevant due to the growing acquisition of agricultural land for a range of purposes, including:

- Conservation reserves and environmental protection;
- Carbon farming and tree plantations;
- Environmental offsets;
- Renewable energy projects and associated infrastructure;
- Mining and resources developments;
- Expansion of public infrastructure corridors;
- Urban expansion and industrial development.

Beyond the direct financial impact on local governments, there is growing concern regarding the cumulative loss of productive agricultural land across Western Australia.

Agricultural land is a finite and strategic resource. Western Australia already faces significant challenges associated with:

- A drying climate and reduced rainfall in many agricultural regions;
- Salinity and land degradation;
- Growing domestic and international food security concerns;
- Population growth and increasing demand for food production;
- Geopolitical instability affecting global food supply chains.

The continued conversion of productive agricultural land to alternative uses has potential long-term implications for food production capacity, regional economies and community sustainability.

The Central Country Zone has previously identified the importance of preserving the economic viability of regional communities and advocating for equitable treatment of Local Governments affected by external policy decisions. This issue aligns closely with those objectives.

COMMENT

The Central Country Zone is requested to consider advocating through WALGA for a comprehensive investigation into:

1. The extent of local government rate revenue losses resulting from:
 - Government acquisition of privately owned agricultural land;
 - Conversion of freehold agricultural land to Crown land;
 - Expansion of rate-exempt government-owned land holdings.
2. Mechanisms to compensate local governments for ongoing revenue losses where land is removed from the rate base due to State Government policy or government agency acquisitions.
3. The development of a State Government policy framework to better protect strategically important agricultural land from irreversible conversion to non-agricultural purposes.
4. The cumulative impacts of competing land uses on Western Australia's productive agricultural land base, including:
 - Tree plantations;
 - Renewable energy developments;
 - Environmental offsets;
 - Conservation estates;
 - Mining operations;
 - Industrial development;

- Urban expansion.
5. Options to ensure that Western Australia's future land-use planning framework appropriately balances:
- Food production;
 - Economic development;
 - Environmental objectives;
 - Energy transition requirements;
 - Regional community sustainability.

The issue affects many rural and regional local governments and has implications for local government financial sustainability, agricultural productivity, food security and regional development.

Policy and Advocacy Prioritisation Framework

Factor	Assessment
Impact on Local Government Sector	High
Reach	Significant - affects many regional and agricultural local governments
Influence	Medium to High
Principles	Strong alignment with financial sustainability, local autonomy and equitable treatment
Clarity	Clear - investigation and policy response sought
Decision-maker Support	Medium
Public Support	Likely High in agricultural communities
Positive Consequences for WALGA	High
Negative Consequences for WALGA if no action	Medium to High
Partnerships	Yes - agricultural, regional development and planning stakeholders

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

This matter aligns with longstanding [WALGA Advocacy Positions](#) regarding rating, including the following:

2.1.1 Rating Exemptions Review

A broad review be conducted into the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under Section 6.26 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

2.1.4 Rating Exemptions – Rate Equivalency Payment

Legislation should be amended so rate equivalency payments made by LandCorp and other Government Trading Entities are made to the relevant Local Governments instead of the State Government.

Additionally, [WALGA's 2026-27 State Budget Submission](#) calls for an independent organisation to undertake a broad review of rating exemptions.

WALGA acknowledges the significant impact that rating exemptions have on Local Government revenue, and their ability to provide essential community services. Changes in land acquisition practices by State agencies may have significant impacts on the financial position of affected Local Governments.

Heightened concerns regarding rating and rating exemptions have emerged across the sector over the past 6–12 months. This includes motions from this Zone, and others, regarding the cessation of Forest Products Commission rates equivalency payments and increased land acquisitions.

WALGA is undertaking scoping work to consider the most effective way to address these matters through a coordinated, overarching and sector wide advocacy approach.

Regarding recommendations 3 and 4, *WALGA Advocacy Position 6.18 Priority Agriculture* recognises the importance of protecting priority agricultural land from the cumulative impacts of competing and potentially incompatible land uses. WALGA has previously advocated for a review or "health check" of the State planning framework to assess its effectiveness in identifying and protecting priority agricultural land and supporting the long-term viability of the agricultural sector.

The recommendations are also consistent with the objectives of *State Planning Policy 2.5 – Rural Planning*, which recognises the strategic importance of agricultural land to Western Australia's economy, food production capacity and regional communities. WALGA acknowledges increasing pressure on productive agricultural land from a range of uses including renewable energy developments, conservation estates, environmental offsets, mining activities and industrial development. Consideration of the cumulative impacts of these land uses, and whether existing State planning policies and frameworks are adequately managing emerging land use pressures, would be consistent with existing WALGA advocacy and assist in informing future land use planning decisions.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Central Country Zone requests WALGA State Council to advocate to the State Government for:

1. An investigation into the financial impact on Western Australian Local Governments resulting from the acquisition of rateable agricultural land by State Government agencies, Government Trading Enterprises and other public authorities where that land subsequently becomes rates-exempt or is converted to Crown land.
2. The development of appropriate mechanisms to compensate Local Governments for the loss of rating revenue arising from such acquisitions.

3. A review of the cumulative impact of competing land uses on Western Australia's productive agricultural land base, including renewable energy developments, conservation estates, environmental offsets, tree plantations, mining activities, industrial development and urban expansion.
4. The establishment of a State planning and land-use framework that recognises the strategic importance of productive agricultural land to Western Australia's economic prosperity, food security, climate resilience and regional communities, and provides greater protection for such land from unnecessary conversion to non-agricultural uses.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Karen Harrington

Seconded: Cr Heidi Croucher

That the Central Country Zone:

1. **requests WALGA State Council to advocate to the State Government for:**
 - a. **An investigation into the financial impact on Western Australian Local Governments resulting from the acquisition of rateable agricultural land by State Government agencies, Government Trading Enterprises and other public authorities where that land subsequently becomes rates-exempt or is converted to Crown land.**
 - b. **The development of appropriate mechanisms to compensate Local Governments for the loss of rating revenue arising from such acquisitions.**
 - c. **A review of the cumulative impact of competing land uses on Western Australia's productive agricultural land base, including renewable energy developments, conservation estates, environmental offsets, tree plantations, mining activities, industrial development and urban expansion.**
 - d. **The establishment of a State planning and land-use framework that recognises the strategic importance of productive agricultural land to Western Australia's economic prosperity, food security, climate resilience and regional communities, and provides greater protection for such land from unnecessary conversion to non-agricultural uses.**
2. **organise a delegation of representatives to Perth, preferably during the week of the Local Government Convention, to meet with the relevant Ministers regarding this issue. Further, that the Zone compile data from member Local Governments on the impacts of the acquisition of rateable land to inform and support the delegation's advocacy.**

CARRIED

9.3. UNREGISTERED VOLUNTEERS AND REGISTERED VOLUNTEERS – RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROTECTIONS UNDER WHS AND FES ACT

By the Shire of Wagin

BACKGROUND

Consider the following scenario:

A fire occurs on a farm during harvest. The farm operator who is not a brigade member goes to extinguish the fire with some farmhands. Some of the farmhands are members of a volunteer brigade.

One of the farmhands who is a brigade member takes charge and directs some of the people responding that can hear him. As it becomes clear that the fire will not be easily extinguished help is called. Around this time three people are injured:

- 1. one is registered volunteer*
- 2. one is a farmhand who was with a registered volunteer, and*
- 3. one is a person who happened to be driving past and stopped and helped when asked by the farm operator.*

Now, consider the following questions:

- Who has an obligation to report the incident under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020*?
- Who is afforded protection under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020*?
- Who is the PCBU? Are there multiple PCBU? Does that change?
- Who is insured and from whom can they claim?
- Does this change depending on whether the volunteers were operating a registered or unregistered vehicle?
- Who enjoys protection from civil liability under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998* and does that protection change during the scenario?
- Who can be investigated and prosecuted?

For members of the Zone to whom fire is a known quantity and to whom many are either themselves brigade members and/or operate agricultural businesses, or indeed Local Government CEOs, these questions are pertinent and should be simple.

The introduction of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* and its intersections with the *Bush Fire Act 1954* and *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998* was intended to provide greater protection for volunteers. However, as demonstrated in the above scenario, it has also introduced complexity that detracts from the capacity of rural communities to protect themselves from fire.

The attached issues paper was attached to the agenda and describes these complexities and presents the potential consequences for those living, working, volunteering and running businesses in rural communities.

COMMENT

The attached issues paper highlights a growing misalignment between the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* (WHS Act), the *Bush Fire Act 1954*, the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998* (FES Act), and the realities of rural fire response. While these legislative

frameworks were intended to improve protections for volunteers, their interaction has instead created complexity, uncertainty, and unintended legal exposure for those most actively involved in protecting their communities.

This is particularly evident in agricultural settings, where fires are often first attacked by landholders, workers, and nearby community members before formal resources arrive.

A central concern is the treatment of unregistered volunteers, who are critical to early fire suppression in rural areas. The paper identifies that these individuals may only receive protection under the FES Act when operating under the direction of a registered volunteer; however, in fast-moving and informal fireground conditions, such direction is often unclear or cannot be substantiated.

At the same time, the WHS Act may deem those same individuals to be “workers” if they are directed or controlled, thereby triggering safety obligations for whoever is perceived to be in control. This creates a fundamental tension where providing direction can both extend protection and generate liability, leaving responders uncertain about their legal position.

Under the FES Act, an unregistered volunteer becomes a volunteer if they are acting under the direction of any registered volunteer. This means that responsibility for volunteer safety can daisy-chain quickly on the fireground in a haphazard manner – but one that is essential to fighting fire in the real world.

The paper further emphasises the “multiple PCBU” problem, particularly on farms, where overlapping duties may rest with the landholder, Local Government, DFES, and others present at an incident. These duties are concurrent and cannot be transferred, meaning that several parties may simultaneously bear responsibility depending on their level of control or influence.

For farm operators—many of whom are also volunteers—this creates a heightened and often unrecognised risk. Actions taken in good faith, such as directing neighbours or workers to assist, may later be interpreted as the exercise of control, exposing them to WHS obligations and potential liability.

Compounding this issue is the lack of clarity in operational control on the fireground, where roles can shift rapidly between landholders, brigade members, Fire Control Officers, Local Government personnel, and DFES. The paper demonstrates that, in practice, responsibility is often only assessed after the event, based on technical interpretations of control, direction, and status. This uncertainty is reinforced by inconsistent regulatory and insurance outcomes, where entitlement to protection or compensation can depend on fine distinctions that are neither visible nor practical to determine in real time.

Importantly, the paper argues that the current framework does not reflect the operational reality of rural fire response, which depends on immediate, community-led action and the willingness of individuals to assist without hesitation. The risk is that increasing legal complexity and uncertainty will discourage participation, undermine early intervention, and ultimately diminish community safety. Those with the greatest capacity to respond—farmers, workers, and experienced locals—are placed in the most precarious position under the current system.

In summary, the issues paper presents a case that the existing legislative settings are not fit for purpose in rural emergency contexts. It calls for reform to provide clear, consistent, and practical protections for all responders, particularly unregistered volunteers, and to better align WHS obligations with the realities of emergency response.

This paper has been presented for consideration at both the Central Country Zone and the Shire of Wagin has discussed the matter with the Shire of Kent with the view that it be presented also to the Great Southern Country Zone. It is suggested that advocacy of the 27-member Local Governments of the respective Zones is required to sufficiently raise the profile of this issue.

In this instance it is argued that the collective advocacy by the member Local Governments is a more appropriate response than calling on WALGA to advocate on our behalf.

It is the communities of these 27 Local Governments that are most impacted by the muddled legislation and who understand the importance of the first few minutes in responding to a fire that cannot be delayed by indecision and second-guessing.

WALGA's position on this matter cannot enjoy this lived experience and must reflect the sensibilities of urban fringe Local Government and communities that have a different experience with fire and fire response.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

WALGA acknowledges the important issues raised in this discussion paper regarding the interaction between the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020*, the *Bush Fires Act 1954* and the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998*. The paper highlights the significant uncertainty that can arise in relation to volunteer, spontaneous volunteer and PCBU responsibilities during bushfire response.

Western Australia's bushfire management arrangements are unique nationally, with Local Governments retaining statutory responsibility for managing Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades and undertaking initial bushfire response across most of the State. This creates a distinct operational and legal environment that was not adequately contemplated when the current WHS framework was developed and has resulted in ongoing uncertainty regarding responsibilities, liability and the practical application of WHS duties during emergency operations

WALGA has previously raised these issues in its submission to the Statutory Review of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* in December 2025. Greater legislative clarity and practical guidance are required to ensure volunteers remain protected, Local Governments can confidently meet their obligations, and community-based bushfire response remains sustainable. WALGA also continues to advocate for a contemporary and integrated legislative framework for emergency services in Western Australia, including through the proposed Consolidated Emergency Services Legislation.

WALGA further notes that findings from the recent [Local Government Emergency Management Survey](#) demonstrate that spontaneous volunteer management remains an area of significant variability and uncertainty across the sector. In bushfire response, regional Local Governments continue to rely heavily on informal local support: 60% of

metro Local Governments do not accept spontaneous volunteers; while regional Local Governments report greater integration into low risk roles (42%) and bushfire response (39%). These findings reinforce the need for legislative clarity and practical guidance regarding the management of spontaneous volunteers, recognising both the risks involved and the critical role these individuals often play in early bushfire suppression and community resilience.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Central Country Zone writes to the Minister for Emergency Services, the Minister for Commerce and Minister for the Wheatbelt providing the Issues Paper and calling for a review of the intersections of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020*, *Bush Fire Act 1954* and *Fire Emergency Services Act 1998* to ensure the sustainability of volunteer fire response and protect volunteers and emergency services personnel from prosecution.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Bryan Kilpatrick

Seconded: President Leigh Ballard

That the Central Country Zone:

- 1. writes to the Minister for Emergency Services, the Minister for Commerce and Minister for the Wheatbelt providing the Issues Paper and calling for a review of the intersections of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020*, *Bush Fire Act 1954* and *Fire Emergency Services Act 1998* to ensure the sustainability of volunteer fire response and protect volunteers and emergency services personnel from prosecution.**
- 2. invites LGIS Chief Executive Officer, James Sheridan, to the November Zone meeting to speak on this topic.**

CARRIED

9.4. REVIEW OF REGIONAL MIGRATION SETTINGS

By the Shire of Quairading

BACKGROUND

The Australian Government's Working Holiday Maker (WHM) visa program (Subclass 417 and Subclass 462) enables eligible visa holders to apply for a second and third year visa where they complete a prescribed period of "specified work" in eligible industries and locations.

Currently, hospitality and tourism employment qualifies as "specified work" only when undertaken in locations classified by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) as Northern, Remote or Very Remote Australia.

A number of local governments within the WALGA Central Country Zone are classified as Outer Regional Australia. These communities continue to experience significant workforce shortages across the hospitality and tourism sectors but are unable to access the same labour market incentives available to neighbouring "remote" local governments.

Within the Central Country Zone, the following classifications apply:

<i>Beverley</i>	<i>Outer Regional Australia</i>
Brookton	Outer Regional Australia
Corrigin	Remote Australia
Cuballing	Outer Regional Australia
Dumbleyung	Remote Australia
Kulin	Remote Australia
Lake Grace	Remote Australia
Narrogin	Outer Regional Australia
Pingelly	Outer Regional Australia
Quairading	Outer Regional Australia
Wagin	Outer Regional Australia
Wandering	Outer Regional Australia
West Arthur	Outer Regional Australia
Wickepin	Outer Regional Australia
<i>Williams</i>	<i>Outer Regional Australia</i>

In June 2024, the Australian Government commenced a Review of Regional Migration Settings, releasing a discussion paper and inviting public submissions. The review sought feedback on whether Australia's migration settings appropriately reflect the needs of regional communities and whether existing classifications and visa settings continue to meet workforce demands. While submissions closed in July 2024, the outcomes of the review have not yet been publicly released.

COMMENT

Workforce shortages continue to present a significant challenge for regional Western Australian businesses, particularly within the hospitality and tourism sector. Cafés, pubs, clubs and hotels are regularly reporting difficulty attracting and retaining staff, limiting business operations and constraining economic growth.

In Quairading, several local hospitality and tourism businesses have written to the Shire seeking support to advocate for a review of the regional migration settings, citing difficulties in attracting staff or alternatively losing staff due to the 88 day "specified work" requirements not applying in the district.

The current specified work framework creates an inequity between communities that may experience similar labour market challenges but are treated differently solely because of their ABS remoteness classification. A location-based eligibility model does not necessarily reflect contemporary labour market conditions. A more flexible approach that considers demonstrated workforce needs could better support regional communities while maintaining the integrity of the Working Holiday Maker program.

In correspondence provided by Rick Wilson MP, Federal Member for O'Connor sent by the Hon Tony Burke MP, the Federal Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, it states that "*The primary focus of the WHM program remains cultural exchange*". Citing the Federal Members statement, if the programs primary focus is cultural exchange, then widening the application of "specified work" for hospitality and tourism to include a needs-based assessment process for districts classified as Outer Regional Australia, would continue to provide cultural opportunities already seen within the remote and very remote areas, whilst also assisting local businesses within an area of proven need to attract and retain workers within the hospitality and tourism industries.

The Australian Government's Review of Regional Migration Settings provides an appropriate opportunity to reconsider the Working Holiday Maker arrangements. Releasing the findings of the review would provide clarity to regional communities and inform future advocacy if required.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

Regional WA continue to seek solutions to workforce challenges, with remoteness, lack of housing, and limited services all inhibiting the attraction of workers. The incentives tying second and third Working Holiday visas to employment in regional and remote areas has been an effective way to meet these labour needs while offering valuable cultural exchange.

Some regional workforce challenges were previously ameliorated through regional DAMA schemes, but these are being wound up in favour of a state-wide DAMA. Furthermore, seasonal roles such as those in tourism may be better met through a Working Holiday visa pathway.

The suggested approach would help broaden the program to be responsive to place-based needs in regional WA, whose communities rely on a broader economic base than just agriculture, mining and construction. Noting Diversify WA's goal of economic diversification, many parts of regional WA have worked to build a tourism market, which includes direct tourism product as well as hospitality. Ensuring the Regional Migration Settings are updated to meet the realities of regional WA would assist these communities. The Review of Regional Migration Settings may have incorporated a broader suite of eligible industries for regional areas, but at this point in time the findings of the review have not been released.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Trevor Stacey

Seconded: President Cr Sharon Jacobs

That the Central Country Zone:

- 1. Requests WALGA to advocate to the Australian Government seeking the completion and public release of the Review of Regional Migration Settings; and**
- 2. If not adequately addressed via the Federal Government's Review of Regional Migration Settings, requests WALGA advocate to the Australian Government for the introduction of a needs-based assessment pathway within the Working Holiday Maker program that would enable local governments or districts classified as Outer Regional Australia and experiencing verified labour shortages to apply for hospitality and tourism to be deemed eligible for "Specified Work".**

CARRIED

President Cr Amy Knight requested to add the classification for the two Zone Shires that were not listed in the report. The Executive Officer has added the classifications for the Shires of Beverley and Williams within the body of the report.

9.5. RURAL HEALTH ADVOCACY UPDATE

By Hannah Godsave, Manager Community Policy

WALGA continues to advocate for measures to address the cost impost borne by Local Governments supporting GP services. The [WALGA 2025 General Practice Support Survey Report](#) (the Report) identified that in 2024-25, West Australian Local Governments incurred over \$9.5 million in costs associated with supporting GP services.

WALGA is progressing advocacy efforts to advance the priorities and strategic objectives of the revised [Rural and Remote Healthcare Services Advocacy Position](#) endorsed by State Council in September 2025 across three related streams:

- raising awareness of the scale of support Local Governments are providing and that this is not a Local Government responsibility, including in:
 - meetings with State and Federal Ministers, Members of Parliament and the National Rural Health Commissioner;
 - discussions with key health stakeholders including key State Government agencies;
 - a submission and evidence provided to the [Commonwealth Inquiry into rural, regional and remote Medicare access and funding](#);
 - presenting at the Local Government Rural Health Funding Alliance Canberra Session in June 2026; and
 - sharing insights and progress with ALGA and Local Government Associations, including sharing the WALGA survey methodology to support the collection of nationally comparable data.
- calling for sector reimbursement, including the \$9.5 million per annum reimbursement fund ask within the WALGA 2026-27 [Federal](#) and [State](#) Budget Submissions.
- facilitating cross-sector collaboration with health organisations to develop and advocate for sustainable service and funding model reforms that would reduce or remove the need for Local Government support and identifying opportunities to engage with the Commonwealth and State Governments' strategic reform direction.

Building on the existing partnership with Rural Health West, WALGA has brought together key health organisations to investigate practical, WA focussed alternative service and funding models. This approach also provides joint advocacy opportunities to increase the reach and impact of WALGA advocacy. The group provides a strong foundation for the development of sustainable, system-wide policy solutions responsive to the needs of communities, service providers and government stakeholders. The group includes:

- 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 work has also been informed by input from WA Country Health Service, the WA Primary Health Alliance and the Office of the Chief Medical Officer, and discussions with the National Rural Health Commissioner in late July.

The group's findings and recommendations will be shared and tested with Members ahead of finalisation. WALGA is also considering mechanisms to support ongoing Member engagement and collaboration on this issue, including opportunities for participation in advocacy activities.

WALGA welcomes ongoing Member engagement and collaboration on this important issue. Local Governments are uniquely placed to demonstrate the real community and human impacts of this issue, which is critical to ensuring advocacy is credible, meaningful and effective.

Noted

10. ZONE REPORTS

10.1. WALGA ROADWISE

Mr Rodney Thornton, WALGA RoadWise

Mr Thornton provided a verbal update to the Zone and reminded Delegates of the upcoming Road Vegetation Field Day being held at the Shire of Dumbleyung on Wednesday, 3 September.

Mr Thornton announced that he is leaving WALGA RoadWise as of Friday, 21 August and introduced Ms Essie Ware to the Zone as the primary contact.

Rodney thanked the Zone for their support during his time with RoadWise.

Noted

11. WALGA STATE COUNCIL EXECUTIVE REPORTS

11.1. WALGA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The WALGA President's Report was attached to the agenda.

Noted

11.2. STATE COUNCILLOR REPORT

State Councillor, President Cr Phil Blight

Presentations at the July Strategic Forum included:

- Commissioner Darren Klemm AFSM, DFES.
- Ms Mairead Connolly, Executive Director, Nudge.
- Discussion of proposed amendments to the Corporate Governance Charter and State Council Standing Orders.
- State Council Chair Mark Irwin gave a extensive report on his interactions with Government on various issues. This was a very refreshing report that is welcomed by Council.

State Council meeting

At the July meeting, State Council endorsed:

- an update to the Climate Change Advocacy Position;

It was disappointing to note that less than a third of Councils responded to the request for Council sanctioned responses. It does make it difficult to represent the sector if the sector does not avail themselves of the opportunity. It should also be noted that this Advocacy position is a result of the Central Country Zone resisting the initial proposal of February 2025. 15 months later we have a policy that is largely aligned with the Central Country Zone position. It should be noted of the large amount of effort taken by the Environment Policy Forum chair Cr Les Price to achieve this outcome.

- the creation of a new Train Stations Advocacy Position;
- a submission on the Cat Act Review;
- updates to the Corporate Governance Charter and State Council Standing Orders; and
- the 2026-27 WALGA Budget.

Information Forum

Information Forums are informal briefing sessions for State Council, held bimonthly between State Council meetings. Discussions at the August 5 Information Forum included:

- Mr Rob Cossart, Fuel Security State Controller provided an update on fuel supply challenges;
- an update on the Community Sporting and Recreational Facilities Fun (CSRFF) and Club Night Lights Program (CLNP);
- an update on the H5 Bird Flu;
- State Council Performance Evaluation timeline and process;
- State Council sitting fee review; and
- 2027-28 State Budget Submission.

Noted

11.3. STATUS REPORT

Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update Last Provided	WALGA Contact
12 June 2026 Zone Agenda Item 9.1 Water Corporation – Vegetation Maintenance of Scheme Pipelines and Regional Infrastructure Advocacy	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.	This item will be considered at the State Council Infrastructure Advisory Group meeting in August. WALGA recognizes that this is a problem impacting any Local Governments with above-ground Water Corporation pipeline infrastructure, with Shire across the Wheatbelt, Great Southern and South West regional potentially affected. Water Corporate pipeline infrastructure maintenance is not the subject of any current WALGA advocacy positions. The images provided by the Shire of Kulin supported the reasonable assumption that the vegetation may be close to or older than 10 years, which would trigger the need for a Native Vegetation Clearing Permit. This may add additional urgency/complexity to the request for maintenance.	August 2026	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
12 June 2026 Zone Agenda Item 13.1 Major Land Transaction Provisions – Regional Workforce Housing Projects	That the Central Country Zone: 4. 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 <i>Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996</i> as they relate to Local Government-led workforce housing projects undertaken for a public purpose. 5. 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. 6. Requests WALGA engage with the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety and relevant State Government agencies to identify opportunities to reduce unnecessary regulatory	WALGA recognises that lack of available housing is a significant constraint for regional Local Governments. As a result, a growing number of Local Governments are increasingly compelled to provide housing to attract and retain key workers. Further investigation may identify opportunities to reduce red tape for Local Governments. This may be suitable in circumstances where key projects meet pre-determined public purpose criteria. In addition, it would be reasonable to review the value thresholds prescribed for Major Land Transactions to consider whether they reflect current property and construction values, and future market growth. While the tender threshold prescribed in the <i>Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996</i> was increased in 2020, values prescribed for Major Land Transactions and Major Trading Undertakings have not been adjusted since 2011. Some values prescribed for exempt disposals of property have not been increased since the regulations were introduced in 1996. This matter has been referred to the State Council Governance Advisory Group. The Zone will be updated on the outcome.	August 2026	Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services kmartin@walga.asn.au 9213 2051

	barriers impacting delivery of Local Government workforce housing projects.			
17 April 2026 Zone Agenda Item 13.1 Ministerial Decision to Allow Heavier Loads on Local Government Roads	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.	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 the impacted Local Governments from 2026/27 onward. 2. Provide impacted Local Governments with certainty and forward estimates regarding:	WALGA recognises the impact that the Forest Products Commission's (FPC) change to the payment of rates-equivalent amounts has on Local Governments. These issues will be included in the rating and exemptions project WALGA is undertaking. An RFQ will be developed for an external consultant to undertake this work.	August 2026	Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services kmartin@walga.asn.au 9213 2051

	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 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;	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. Further operational engagement with Western Power is required and an update will be provided at a future Zone meeting.	April 2026	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031

	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.			
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".	Cost shifting has been a longstanding advocacy priority for WALGA on behalf of the Local Government sector. WALGA's submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Financial Sustainability highlighted the impacts of cost shifting, regulatory burden, and increasing service delivery expectations on the sector's long term financial sustainability. These impacts were reinforced through WALGA's appearance before the Inquiry, advocating for greater recognition of the financial pressures being placed on Local Governments and the need for responsibilities to be matched with appropriate funding. WALGA will seek clarification from the Government on the status of the Better Regulation Program, which establishes the framework for Regulatory Impact Statements.	August 2026	Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services kmartin@walga.asn.au 9213 2051

Noted

12. WALGA STATE COUNCIL AGENDA

Zone Delegates are invited to read and consider the WALGA State Council Agenda, this Agenda and 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. RETIREMENT OF ADVOCACY POSITIONS ACHIEVED BY REFORM

(State Council Agenda Item 8.1)

By Felicity Morris, Manager Governance and Procurement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA has been undertaking a process of reviewing and updating Advocacy Positions.
- Five Advocacy Positions within Section 2 (Governance and Organisational Services) of the [Advocacy Position Manual](#) have been reviewed, with a recommendation to retire these Positions as their intended outcomes have been achieved through legislative changes.
- The Governance Advisory Group considered these positions at their meeting held on 22 July 2026 and recommends the retirement of these positions to State Council.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report recommends that the below items be retired from the existing WALGA Advocacy Positions Manual.

2.5.17 – Clear Lease Requirements for Candidate and Vote Eligibility

The Local Government sector supports reforms to prevent the use of 'sham leases' in Council elections, including:

1. *Requiring a minimum lease period of 12 months for anyone to register a person to vote or run for Council;*
2. *Making home-based businesses ineligible to register a person to vote or run for Council because any residents are already eligible voter(s) for that address;*
3. *Clarifying the minimum criteria for leases eligible to register a person to vote or run for Council; and*
4. *Publishing the basis of eligibility for each candidate (e.g. type of property and suburb of property), including in the candidate pack for electors.*

2.5.19 Re-Counts

The Local Government sector supports the introduction of standard processes for vote re-counts if there is a very small margin (e.g. 10 or fewer votes) between candidates, inclusive of Regulations that specify the circumstances in which the Returning Officer must arrange for some or all of the votes to be re-counted.

2.5.27 – Annual Review of Certain Employee's Performance

Section 5.38 of the Local Government Act 1995 should be deleted, or amended so there is only a specific requirement for Council to conduct the Chief Executive Officer's annual performance review.

2.5.33 – Vexatious and Frivolous Complainants

A statutory provision should be developed, permitting a Local Government to:

- 1. Enable discretion to refuse to further respond to a complainant where the CEO of the Local Government is of the opinion that the complaint is trivial, frivolous or vexatious or is not made in good faith, or has been determined to have been previously properly investigated and concluded, similar to the terms of section 18 of the Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1971.*
- 2. Provide for a complainant, who receives a Local Government discretion to refuse to deal with that complainant, to refer the Local Government's decision for third party review.*
- 3. Enable Local Government discretion to declare a member of the public a vexatious or frivolous complainant for reasons, including abuse of process; harassing or intimidating an individual, Elected Member or employee of the Local Government; or unreasonably interfering with the operations of the Local Government.*

2.6 Group Ticket Voting

The Local Government sector supports the removal of group ticket voting from the Legislative Council electoral system, and supports reforms modelled on the Senate reforms of 2016.

BACKGROUND

The Governance Advisory Group currently oversees approximately 100 Advocacy Positions on a wide range of issues. As part of a comprehensive review program, the WALGA Governance team is assessing these positions to identify opportunities to streamline and strengthen existing Advocacy Positions, while also updating or retiring those that have become outdated or superseded. At the meeting held on 22 July 2026, the Governance Advisory Group agreed to recommend to State Council the retirement of the positions outlined in this report.

COMMENT

Following recent legislative changes, particularly the ongoing reforms to the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act), several positions have been identified for retirement as their objectives have been achieved.

2.5.17 – Clear Lease Requirements for Candidate and Vote Eligibility

This Position was adopted at the February 2022 Special State Council meeting.

Amendments to the Act and *Local Government (Elections) Regulations 1997* have achieved the following:

- Requirement of a right of occupation for a period of 12 months prior to an enrolment eligibility claim (Section 4.32(3)).
- Occupation of a residence does not constitute occupation for the basis of enrolment, with the effect that home based businesses are ineligible, while residents are enrolled on the residents' roll (Elections r10A(2)(a)).
- Detailed minimum requirements for leases to constitute a basis for enrolment (Section 4.23, Elections r10A, 12B, 12C).

- The basis of enrolment eligibility (resident, owner or occupier) must be identified by the Returning Officer and included in the information that must be published about each candidate for election (Elections r.29A).

Given that all elements of Position Statement 2.5.17 have been addressed through legislative reform, it is recommended that this Advocacy Position be retired.

2.5.19 Re-Counts

This Position was adopted at the December 2023 State Council meeting.

Amendments to the *Local Government (Elections) Regulations 1997* in 2025 introduced a new Part 12D, establishing requirements for mandatory recounts if the margin is less than a defined re-count threshold.

Given that the objective of the Position has now been achieved, it is recommended that this policy position be retired.

2.5.27 – Annual Review of Certain Employee's Performance

Section 5.38 of the Act has been amended to specify that the Local Government (Council) is responsible for the Chief Executive Officer's performance review, while the CEO is responsible for ensuring that the performance of each other employee for more than 1 year is reviewed.

When the *Local Government Amendment Act 2023* takes full effect, Section 5.38 will be further amended to expand on the process required for a CEO performance review and remove all references to employees other than the CEO.

As the required change has been achieved it is recommended that Position 2.5.27 be retired.

2.5.33 – Vexatious and Frivolous Complainants

This Position was adopted at the March 2019 State Council meeting.

On 1 January 2026, amendments to the Act took effect inserting a new Part 5, Division 11 – Restricting communication about complaints.

The new provisions:

- Provide CEOs with the authority to restrict communication with complainants in certain circumstances, including where the complaint has been responded to, would divert substantial resources, is vexatious, misconceived, frivolous or without substance.
- Provide a mechanism for review and oversight by the Local Government Inspector.

Considering these legislative changes, it is proposed that that Position 2.5.33 be retired, as the intent of the Advocacy Position has been substantially addressed through the Act.

2.6 Group Ticket Voting

This Position was adopted at the June 2021 State Council meeting.

Amendments to the *Electoral Act 1907* have implemented reforms that abolish group ticket voting and introduce optional preferential voting for the Legislative Council. These changes were affected through legislative amendments, including the removal of Part IV (ss. 104–133) by the *Electoral Amendment (Finance and Other Matters) Act 2023*.

Given that the objective of Position 2.6 has now been achieved, it is recommended that this Advocacy Position be retired.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council retire the following Advocacy Positions:

1. 2.5.17 – Clear Lease Requirements for Candidate and Vote Eligibility
2. 2.5.19 – Re-Counts
3. 2.5.27 – Annual Review of Certain Employee's Performance
4. 2.5.33 – Vexatious and Frivolous Complainants
5. 2.6 – Group Ticket Voting

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Robbie Bowey

Seconded: Cr Clive Barton

That the Central Country Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.1 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED

12.1.2. CIRCULAR ECONOMY ADVOCACY POSITION

(State Council Agenda Item 8.2)

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A new Advocacy Position on circular economy is proposed.
- To focus future advocacy, a draft Advocacy Position was developed for sector feedback, supported by a [Background Paper](#).
- The paper identified the potential that transitioning to a circular economy has to reduce cost of living pressures, maximise use of resources and reduce a range of environmental impacts associated with the manufacture, distribution and post consumption management of products.
- The Advocacy Position was endorsed by the Municipal Waste Advisory Council at its final meeting on 18 June 2026 and noted by the Environment, Planning and Waste Advisory Group at its 13 July 2026 meeting.

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

A new policy position on circular economy is proposed:

1. *Local Government supports the principle of a circular economy and recognises its potential to:*
 - a. *maximise the value and use of resources through a products life cycle*
 - b. *minimise environmental and financial impacts associated with the manufacture, distribution and post consumption management of products.*
2. *Local Government calls on the:*
 - a. *State Government to undertake a detailed study to determine how Western Australia can move toward a circular economy.*
 - b. *Australian Government to:*
 - i. *establish and maintain a regulated product stewardship framework for products entering the Australian market*
 - ii. *set standards to ensure products are designed to be durable, reused, repaired and recycled at their highest value*
 - iii. *implement Right to Repair Legislation, including incentives, training and cost-effective insurance options.*
 - c. *Australian and State Governments to take a collaborative approach to:*
 - i. *identify and remove legislative barriers to enable more circular approaches*
 - ii. *streamline Government approvals processes and facilitate innovation*
 - iii. *embed circular procurement practices across Government*
 - iv. *support and provide incentives for recovered materials infrastructure and market development for priority materials across Western Australia.*

BACKGROUND

Circular economy is defined as 'an economic strategy that maintains the value of materials for as long as possible and ensures materials are used efficiently across all phases of their life cycle'. WALGA [submissions](#) on the review of the State Waste Strategy identified that an overall State Government position on a circular economy for Western Australia is needed, recommending that State Government, in consultation with Local Governments, develop a position and plan for a circular economy in Western Australia which includes consideration of costs, benefits and options.

WALGA's [submission to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Opportunities in the Circular Economy](#) further highlighted priority action areas to promote circularity. This included the important role of procurement, the need for quality assurance and market development for recovered materials, specific programs and incentives to shift consumer behaviours, the Right to Repair and a mandated product stewardship framework.

A defined circular economy position and plan is required to back up the vision and identify the role of each sector in achieving a circular economy, both nationally and in Western Australia. There has been only limited discussion outside of the waste management context on what a circular economy is and its potential.

COMMENT

In April 2026, WALGA released the [Circular Economy Advocacy Position Background Paper](#). The Paper outlines that transitioning to a circular economy has the potential to reduce cost of living pressures, maximise use of resources and reduce a range of environmental impacts associated with the manufacture, distribution and post consumption management of products.

In drafting the draft Circular Economy Advocacy Position, WALGA drew on international, national and local circular economy policies and activities to identify the barriers and opportunities to move toward a circular economy in WA. The Advocacy Position outlines the actions needed from all levels of Government to change legislation and policies where required, put in place relevant incentives and lead by example.

Consultation on the Paper and draft Advocacy Position was carried out from 20 April to 15 May 2026. Responses were received from 10 Local Governments, five Metropolitan and five Regional. Of the submissions received, eight supported the Advocacy Position without amendments and two supported the Advocacy Position with minor suggested changes, which have been incorporated.

WALGA updated the Advocacy Position following feedback from the Municipal Waste Advisory Council at its 18 June 2026 meeting. The Advocacy Position was noted by the Environment, Planning and Waste Advisory Group at its 13 July 2026 meeting.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse the following new Circular Economy Advocacy Position:

1. *Local Government supports the principle of a circular economy and recognises its potential to:*
 - a. *maximise the value and use of resources through a products life cycle; and*
 - b. *minimise environmental and financial impacts associated with the manufacture, distribution and post consumption management of products.*
2. *Local Government calls on the:*
 - a. *State Government to undertake a detailed study to determine how Western Australia can move toward a circular economy.*
 - b. *Australian Government to:*
 - i. *establish and maintain a regulated product stewardship framework for products entering the Australian market;*
 - ii. *set standards to ensure products are designed to be durable, reused, repaired and recycled at their highest value; and*
 - iii. *implement Right to Repair Legislation, including incentives, training and cost-effective insurance options.*
 - c. *Australian and State Governments to take a collaborative approach to:*
 - i. *identify and remove legislative barriers to enable more circular approaches;*
 - ii. *streamline Government approvals processes and facilitate innovation;*
 - iii. *embed circular procurement practices across Government; and*

- iv. support and provide incentives for recovered materials infrastructure and market development for priority materials across Western Australia.*

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Clive Barton

Seconded: Cr Bryan Kilpatrick

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

12.2. 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, Advisory Group and Committee Reports or the Key Activity Reports.

13. EMERGING ISSUES

13.1. UPCOMING SPEAKERS

President Leigh Ballard requested to confirm the speakers for the upcoming November Zone meeting and requested all Delegates to think of questions to provide to the speakers prior to the November meeting.

The meeting AGREED that in future, the email distribution of Zone Minutes will include reference to the speakers for the next meeting, and request questions to be submitted to the secretariat.

13.2. HOUSING HEADWORKS

President Leigh Ballard raised for discussion the issue of delays with housing headworks being completed.

The meeting AGREED that the Shire of Narrogin should submit an item inclusion on the November Zone Agenda on this topic.

13.3. ZONE MEETING IN PERTH

Mr Andrew Dover raised for discussion the possibility of conducting a Zone meeting in Perth next year.

The Secretariat will prepare an item on this for consideration at the November meeting, as part of the broader 2027 Zone meeting calendar.

13.4. ZONE DELEGATION

In recognition of the Zone's decision in item 9.2 (Rate Exemption of Agricultural Land and Protection of Western Australia's Productive Farming Land) to send a delegation of Zone representatives to Perth, **the Zone AGREED on the following delegation members:**

- 1. President Cr Karen Harrington, Shire of West Arthur**
- 2. President Leigh Ballard, Shire of Narrogin**
- 3. Dr Kenneth Parker, Shire of Wagin**

The Secretariat will liaise directly with the members to progress item 9.2.

13.5. CSRFF AND CLUB NIGHT LIGHTS FUNDING REVIEW

Cr Robbie Bowey raised for noting the current review underway in relation to funding for the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF) and Club Night Lights Program.

WALGA has provided an update on this review to Members in the [September State Council Agenda](#) (item 10.4).

14. NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, 3 November commencing at 7:30am, via MSTeams.

The next Central Country Zone meeting will be held on Friday, 13 November commencing at 9:30am. This meeting will be hosted by the Shire of Lake Grace.

15. CLOSURE

The Chair thanked the Shire of Kulin for their hospitality.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 1:04pm.



Lake Varley & Districts Progress Association General Meeting Minutes 15th September 2026

Meeting Opened: 6:32pm

Present: Sarah Mudge, Renae Bunbury, Nicola Slabbert, Naomi Cornwall, Sue-Anne Naughton, Colin Tapper, Cameron Mudge, Graeme Atkins, Bennie Slabbert, Cr Grant Robins, Judd Hodson, Alan Leeson.

Apologies: Carla Hyde, Benjamin Hyde, Jim Sullivan, Margaret Sullivan, Cr Roz Lloyd, Cr Steve Hunt, Cr Len Armstrong, CEO Alan George, John Cornwall

Presentation & Endorsement of Previous Minutes:

Emailed to affiliated clubs and community members. A copy is tabled.

Moved by: Naomi Cornwall

Seconded by: Graeme Atkins

Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

- No update on Shire maintenance work around town yet. Sarah Mudge will follow up.
- Tip- See Lake Grace Shire report
- Blinds for Pavilion- Sarah Mudge sent a quote to Lake Grace Shire via email on 17/06/2026, still waiting to hear back.
- Medallion Metals- no work being done yet so no money at the moment for our community. Meeting to be held in the future in Hyden. We encourage everyone to attend.

Presentation & Endorsement Finance Report:

Moved by: Nicola Slabbert

Seconded by: Graeme Atkins

Discussion: Nicola to find out from Bendigo Bank if the maturing term deposit can be rolled into an existing term deposit.

Nicola Slabbert moves that we reinvest the term deposit that matures on 20/09/2026 at the best interest rate. Seconded Bennie Slabbert. **Carried**

Presentation & Endorsement Correspondence:

Emailed to community members prior to the meeting.

Incoming letters/email to be read.

Sarah Mudge read an email from Lake Grace Shire about Community Citizen of the Year Awards 2027, advising nominations are now open.

Moved by: Renae Bunbury

Seconded by: Cameron Mudge

Business Arising from Correspondence:

- Carla Hyde advised via email that the Varley Signs have been ordered.

Reports:

- *Lake Grace Shire* –
Report sent via email, by *CEO Alan George* as no representatives could make it to the meeting. Sarah Mudge read out.
 - A meeting was held with representatives of the Shires of Lake Grace and Kondinin and Medallion Metals on 3rd September to discuss the future of Carstairs Rd. A Draft Road User Agreement was discussed for the use of the road including maintenance requirements. It was agreed by all parties that we would seek funding through a federal government grant to commence sealing of the road. In the meantime the road must be brought up to a condition to allow the heavier traffic. Medallion Metals will be providing a dozer to push up material in existing pits in the Shire of Kondinin and one on our section of Carstairs Rd. Any roadworks affecting our section of the road will not commence until after harvest. Carstairs Road SLK 1.60 – 6.60 will be gravel sheeted this financial year. The Request for quote for the Contracted Road Works for the Shire of Lake Grace will be out early next week.
 - Work is ongoing the water tanks to be plumbed up together, a new lining to replace the damaged tank and preparing an agreement for Alan Sutherland for continued use of the tanks and tidying up of the catchment for the dam.
 - Phil Burgess has photos of the fridge (Varley Pavilion Kitchen) from his visit there a couple of weeks ago and will get back to Claire on that one ASAP.
 - The Shire has finally received a reply from the Department of Water, Environment & Regulation on the tip proposal. It really said very little other than they advised the Shire to use a specialist consultant for further the request for a new tip
- *Kulin Shire* –
 - *Alan Leeson*- looking at federal money for central road. *2027 Application*
 - *Judd Hobson*- They have a few gravel jobs ongoing around the Shire. They will have a couple of graders coming out sometime in December.
 - 5 people turned up for the 2026 Crossroads Breakfast
 - With the Fire Season about to start, they are starting a campaign to encouraging people not to crop to the fence line and to keep on top of their fire breaks.
 - Fire training in Pingarup, still places available.
 - They encourage people to slow down on the roads. To help with the condition of the roads, and safety.
 - Looking into better community communication ie: Whatsapp
 - Council Elections are next year, candidates from this area are encouraged to nominate.
- *Cropping Committee* –
Cameron Mudge- Broadleaf spraying was done. Recent rain will help. Will be looking for volunteers at harvest time.
- *Townscaping Committee* –
Carla Hyde via email- Nil to report
- *Social Committee*-
Carla Hyde via email- Nil to report
- *Centenary Committee*-
Carla Hyde via email- Things are moving along slowly in the background.

General Business:

- Nicola Slabbert moves a motion to open a new bank account with Bendigo Bank, called Sandhurst account, to replace the current Easysaver account, as it has a better interest rate.
Moved by: Nicola Slabbert *Seconded by:* Naomi Cornwall
- *Pavilion Hire and Charging-* It has recently come to light that the Lake Grace Shire do not hire out the pavilion, only the hall.
General discussion: What do we charge for commercial businesses? Cover cleaning cost, up to \$500? Depending on what it is used for as to how much we charge. Find out what other shires charge. Kulin Shire to find out what they charge and let us know.
- *Emailing of progress documents-* Agenda and Minutes to be put in the Varley Voice, and all documents to be emailed to the Varley Progress email list. Email list to include Shire contacts and local community members.
People to be removed from contact list once they have left the district.

Informal Discussion:

- *Graeme Atkins* advised that CBH will match any donation made to RFDS if done on a certain date. It was suggested we could look into this before our yearly donation is paid.
- *Cameron Mudge* advised we just need a publisher for the Humble Beginnings book and wasn't sure if we had put any money aside in previous years to get the book published.
- *Sarah Mudge* was wondering if we should relook at the community survey that was previously done, to see if there is anything else that can be done for the future of Varley. The survey highlighted- fuel, housing and businesses. The purchase of a building is now on hold due to another possible buyer. This will be an agenda item at the next meeting, so come with any ideas.

Meeting Closed: 7.19pm