



# Shire of Lake Grace

26 April 2023

## Ordinary Council Meeting

### INFORMATION BULLETIN

### ITEM 16.1 - ATTACHMENTS

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#### **CIRCULARS, MEDIA RELEASES & NEWSLETTERS:**

Nil



Information Bulletin  
**Infrastructure Services Report**

Shire of Lake Grace

Prepared for the April 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting  
presenting information to the end of March 2023

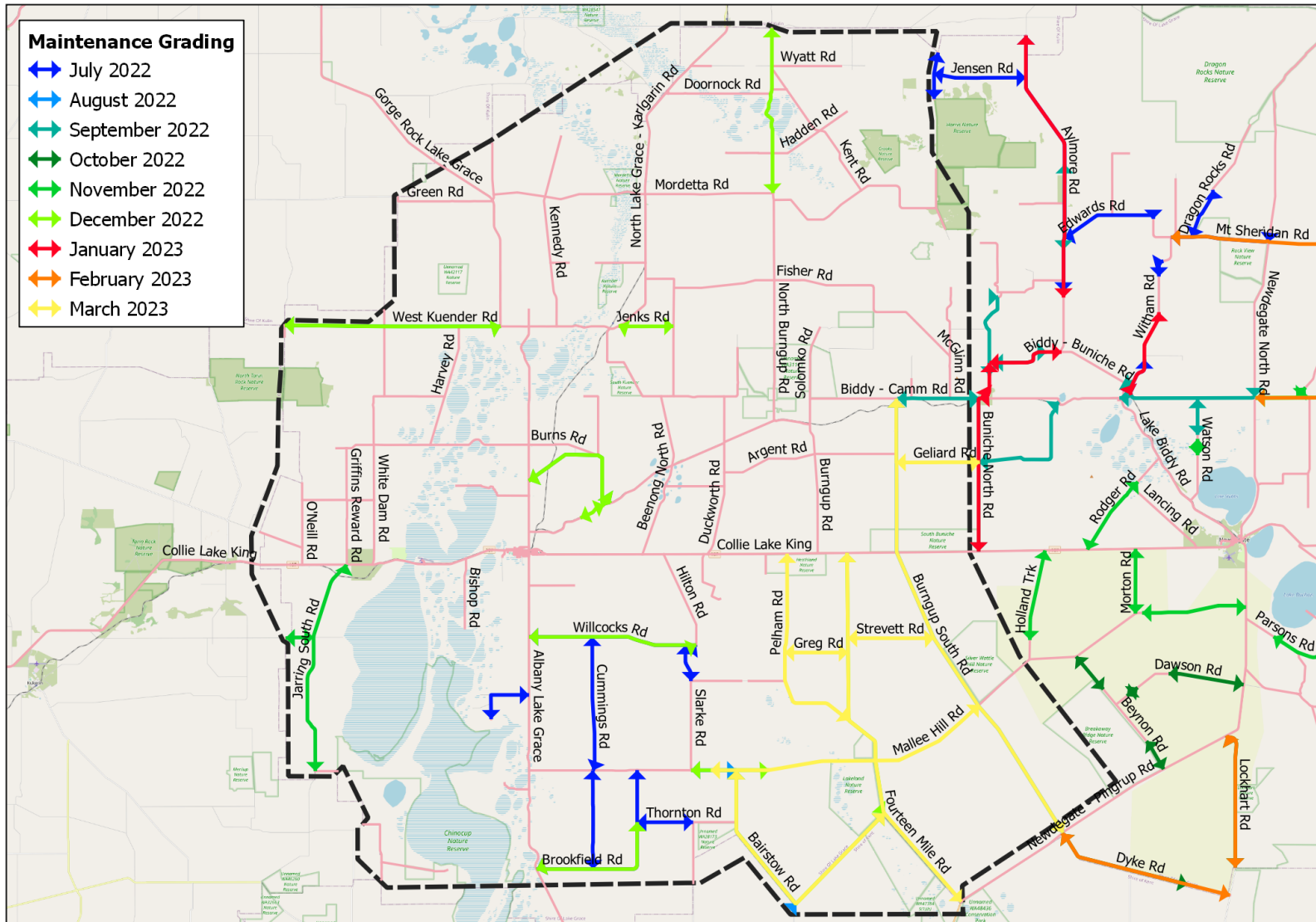
## Road Maintenance Grading

For the month of March 2023

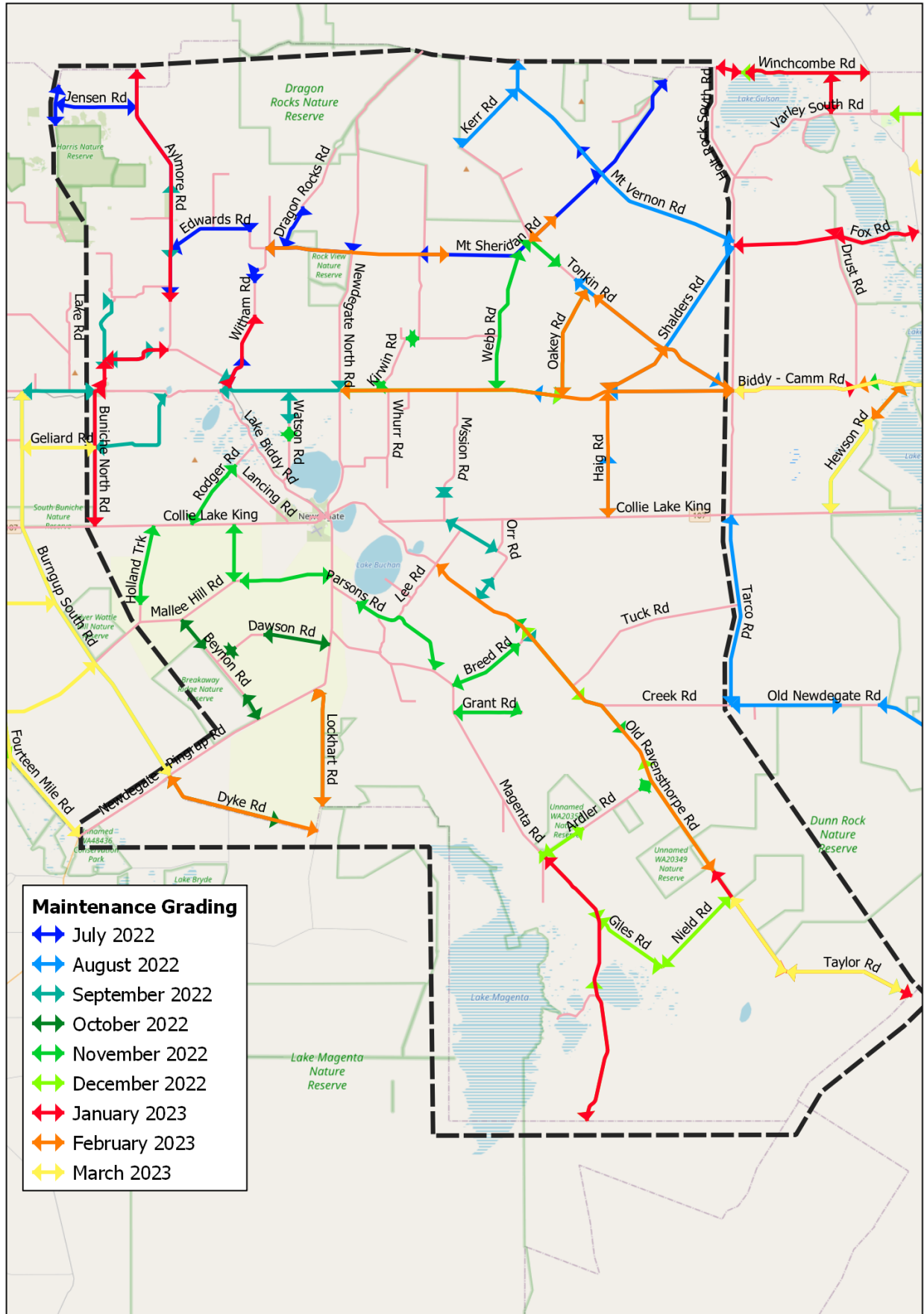
<i>Lake Grace Area</i>		<i>Newdegate Area</i>		<i>Lake King-Varley Area</i>	
<i>Road Name</i>	<i>Graded (km)</i>	<i>Road Name</i>	<i>Graded (km)</i>	<i>Road Name</i>	<i>Graded (km)</i>
Bairstow Rd	20.48	Reports not received yet		Ace Rd	4.99
Burngup South Rd	35.00			Biddy Camm Rd	15.24
Fourteen Mile Rd	28.39			Broombush Flat Rd	3.17
Geliard Rd	6.01			Finlay Rd	4.67
Greg Rd	4.61			Henderson Rd	3.88
Mallee Hill Rd	20.95			Hewsons Rd	8.85
Pelham Rd	15.37			Hogan Rd	6.70
Strevett Rd	6.28			Lake Newton Rd	8.34
				Mallee Tree Rd	9.33
				Mulcahy Rd	15.76
				Norseman Rd	23.91
				Old Ravensthorpe Rd	7.56
				Pickernell Rd	26.55
				Purnta Rd	5.94
				Taylor Rd	9.98
<b><u>Subtotal</u></b>	<b><u>137.09</u></b>	<b><u>Subtotal</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>	<b><u>Subtotal</u></b>	<b><u>154.87</u></b>

## 2022/23 Year-To-Date Grading by Month

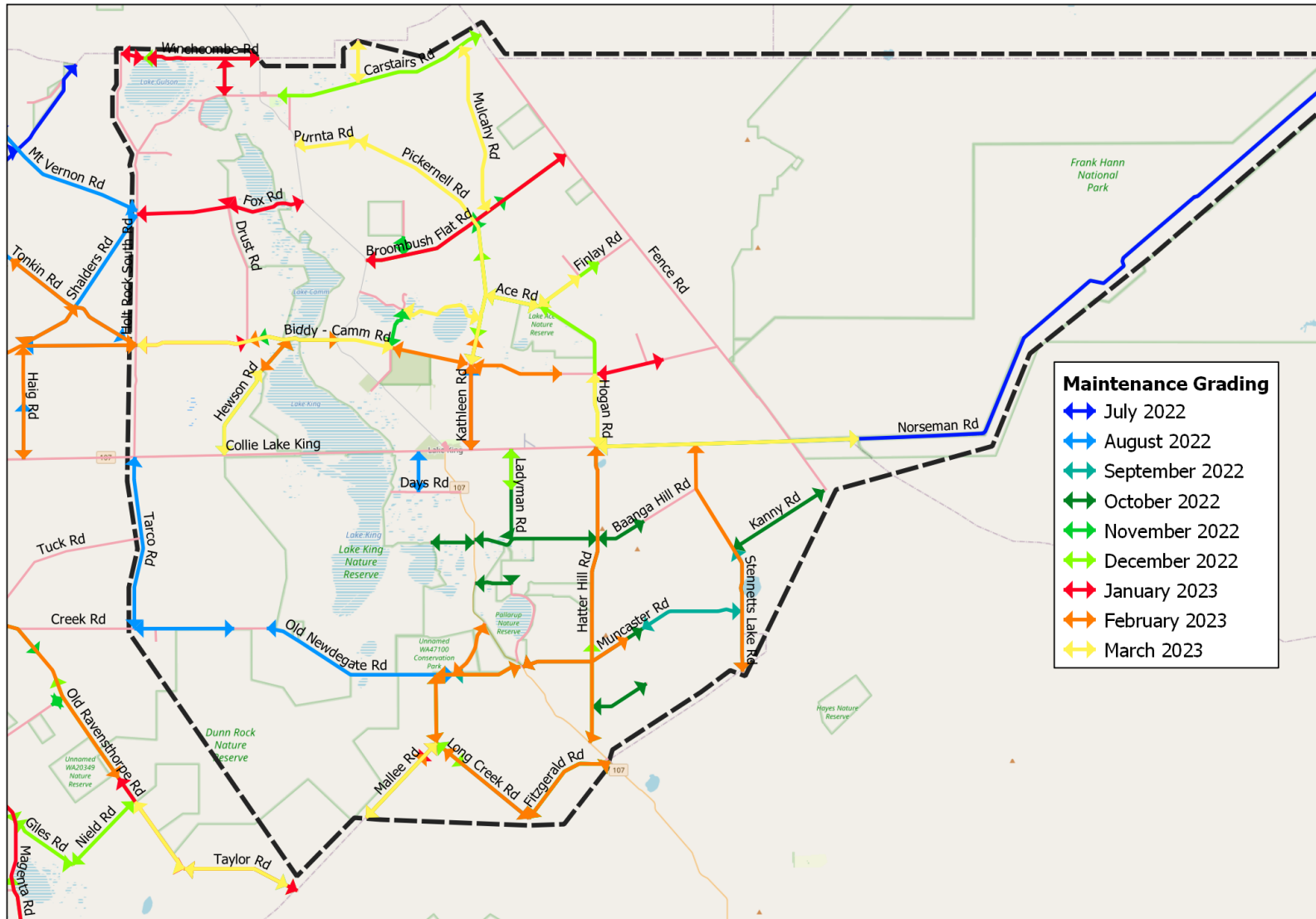
<b>Year</b>	<b>Month</b>	<i>Lake Grace Area (km)</i>	<i>Newdegate Area (km)</i>	<i>Lake King-Varley Area (km)</i>	<b>Monthly Subtotal</b>
2022	July	54.94	83.19	93.13	231.26
	August	49.65	80.41	54.70	184.76
	September	6.02	77.52	63.46	147.00
	October	0.00	32.43	90.57	123.00
	November	43.89	107.97	137.06	288.92
	December	113.19	100.51	161.76	375.46
2023	January		96.89	85.76	
	February		155.77	144.34	
	March	137.09		154.87	
	April				
	May				
	June				
	<u>To-Date</u>	<u>404.78</u>	<u>734.69</u>	<u>985.65</u>	<u>1350.40</u>



Monthly maintenance grading – Lake Grace area



Monthly maintenance grading – Newdegate area



Monthly maintenance grading – Lake King-Varley area

## Plant Maintenance

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### Plant Repairs

Plant	Plant Description	Action
PGRA07	2015 John Deere Grader	Replace hydraulic hose.
PLVU52	2021 Ford Ranger Dual Cab	Fit 2 x new tyre and wheel rotation.
PTRA13	2000 Roadwest Tri-axle Sidetipper	Fit 2 x hydraulic cylinders.

## Building Construction & Maintenance

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### Construction

- Install new fenceline on western boundary of the Varley Hall.
- Install pump and panels at Dempster Rock Dam.
- Finish installing adult gym at All-Abilities Playground and Gumtree Park.

### Maintenance

#### Lake Grace

- Patch holes in the Lake Grace Pavilion.
- Paint fixtures in Old Doctor's Surgery.

#### Newdegate

- Nil.

#### Lake King

- Nil.

#### Varley

- Nil.

## Parks & Gardens Maintenance

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### 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

- Mowing, and whippersnipper of oval.

## Customer Service Requests

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For the period of 1 July 2022 to 31 March 2023:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Complete</b>	<b>Incomplete</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Works	12	11	23	52.2%
Building	12	9	21	57.1%
Parks & Gardens	22	7	29	75.9%
<i><u>Total</u></i>	<i><u>46</u></i>	<i><u>27</u></i>	<i><u>73</u></i>	<i><u>63.0%</u></i>



## INFORMATION BULLETIN

# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT

*January – March 2023*

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## HEALTH

*This report is to highlight issues and activities ongoing within the environmental health area for the period January – March 2023*

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### **Events**

- Newdegate Machinery Field Days Event 2023 Application received

### **Food Businesses**

Inspected the following premises for Food Act compliance-

- Rosies Café
- Lake Grace Meats
- Lake Grace Hotel
- Lake Grace Roadhouse
- Newdegate IGA
- Newdegate Hotel
- Newdegate Motel and Caravan Park

Food Recall Notices circulated to all food businesses

- Calbee Harvest Snaps Vegemite
- JS Health x Inside Out Almond Milk and Oat Milk 1 L
- Chicken Bacon Pasta Salad
- Farmland Alfalfa Sprouts, 125g
- Nakula Plant Based Probiotic Coconut Yoghurt Natural 500g
- Woolworths Market Value 24 Thin Beef Sausages
- Ceres Organics Organic Tahini products
- OzEmite Yeast Spread Gluten Free (175g)

New Food Standard 3.2.2A notification circulated to all Food Premises, this requires some food premises to now have:

- Food safety supervisors: Food Premises will need to appoint a food safety supervisor for their business.

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

### ***Lodging Houses & Caravan Parks***

Inspected the following for compliance -

- Newdegate Motel and Caravan Park
- Newdegate Hotel
- Spenser's Shearing Service
- Lake King Caravan Park unapproved structures (ongoing)

### ***Onsite Effluent Disposal Systems***

- Lot 595 Biddy-Buniche Road, Buniche

### ***Pool Water Sampling***

- Lake Grace Pool water samples compliant
- Newdegate Pool water samples compliant
- All pools now closed, end of season
- Newdegate Pool upgrade works to pool and building required

### ***Public Buildings***

Inspected the following for Health Public Buildings compliance-

- Newdegate Hotel
- Lake Grace Hotel
- Lake Grace Sportsman Club

### ***Recycled Water Scheme***

- All recycled water samples compliant
- Recycled water scheme currently offline

### ***Stallholder / Street Trading Permits***

- Mrs G's Food Van
- Spud Van

### ***Waste Management***

- Ongoing inspections of waste facilities
- Enquiries regarding asbestos disposal
- 2023 Annual Audit Compliance Report and Annual Environmental Report submitted to Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
- Annual Tip fees processed

### ***Other***

- Noise complaints – Bennett Street, Lake Grace
- Department of Health survey mosquito surveillance for Japanese encephalitis (detected in Kimberley, also Murray Valley encephalitis virus spreads to Pilbara)
- Completed Diploma in Local Government
- Advanced Diploma in Building Surveying

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brendon Gerrard', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brendon Gerrard

***Principal Environmental Health Officer***

# LAKE GRACE VISITOR CENTRE



January – March 2023  
Tourism Statistics

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Prepared by Jo Morgan



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## Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

Visitor data measurements recorded include;

- Number of people
- Age
- Origin
- Route
- Mode of transport
- Accommodation
- Yearly tracking from 2014

## Origin of visitors to the Shire of Lake Grace

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

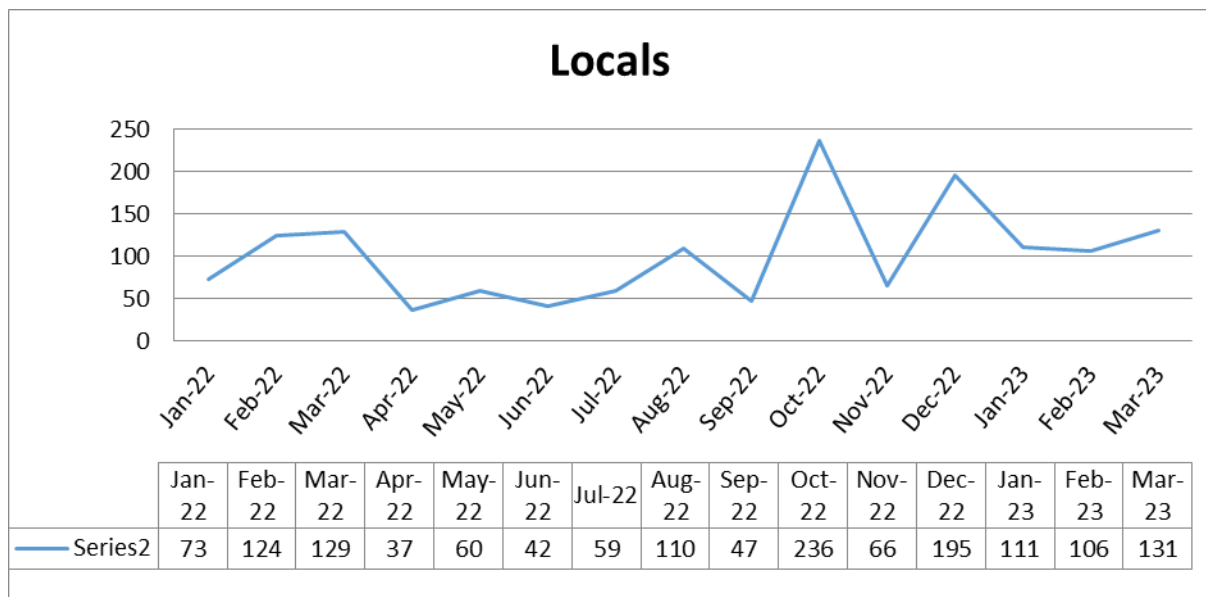
- Locals – indicating they are from the town of Lake Grace. No purposeful travelling was required to visit the centre.
- Intrastate – this term is used to describe visitors from surrounding Shire of Lake Grace towns and the rest of WA, e.g. Newdegate, Kukerin, Wagin and Perth
- Interstate – this term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

### Locals

We improved with local numbers this January. That would be due to longer than expected harvest. Another successful year that kept usual holiday makers home. We also introduced two more Family Outdoor Movie nights instead of just one just to test community interest.

January was a real tester as traditionally many locals do leave town for holidays. Rosies Café was open for meals on the night and we had a great little crowd. In February we tried a more grown sort of movie, still PG, but for an older crowd. Roma & Kay café catered for many with delicious grazing boxes. March we had Mrs G's van catering and a classic children's movie. All 3 nights we gathered 45 – 60 people.

Next year we may do less movies, stick with children's movies, change venues to a less traffic area, encourage picnics, advertise in accommodation venues etc. Ideally we would love to get numbers over 100 like we use to and encourage more visitors to join in on the fun too.

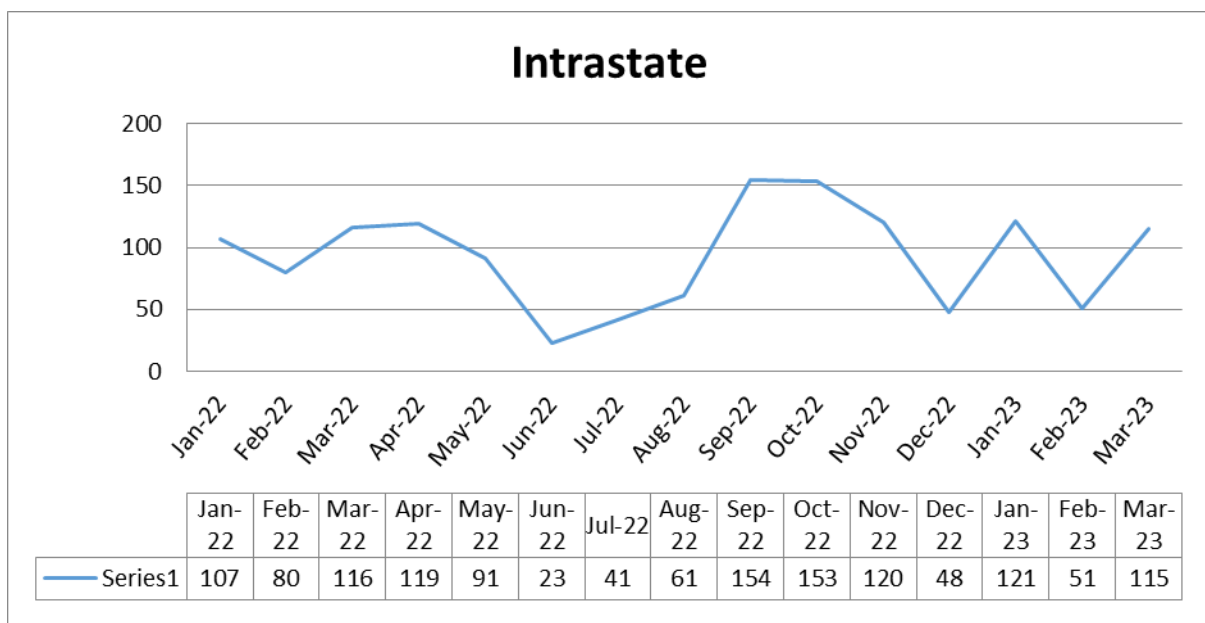




### Intrastate Travellers

Once Summer holidays hit, the crowds flow through to Bremer Bay, Hopetoun and mostly Esperance. Lots of families heading away for school holidays. February’s dip would be school returning and March increase would be the Grey Nomad age group and orca season in Bremer Bay picking up. The feedback we are getting from many travellers to these areas are the lack of accommodation. If its not booked months in advance there are little to no options. Gone are the days of walk in bookings it would seem.

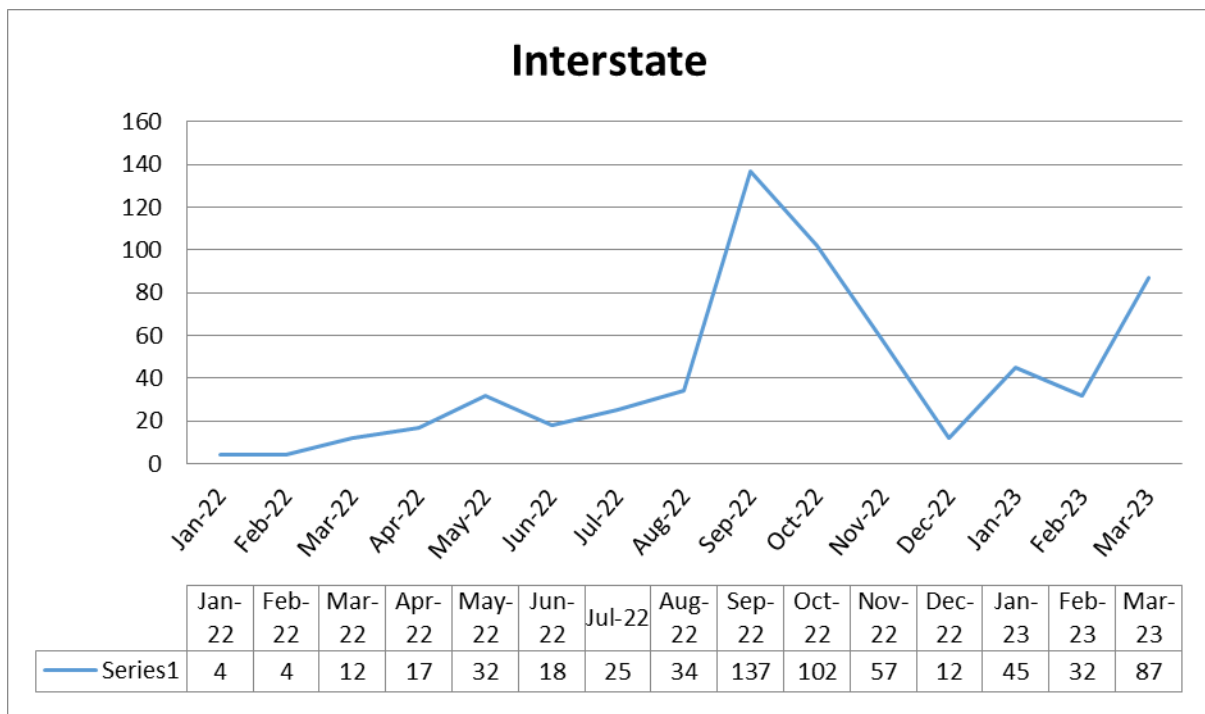
Our region generally picks up coffee break travellers during this time, but there is potential for night stop overs if we had more short stay accommodation and in-town free camping areas available. It’s something the Shire is aware of and are working towards improving where we can.



### Interstate Travellers

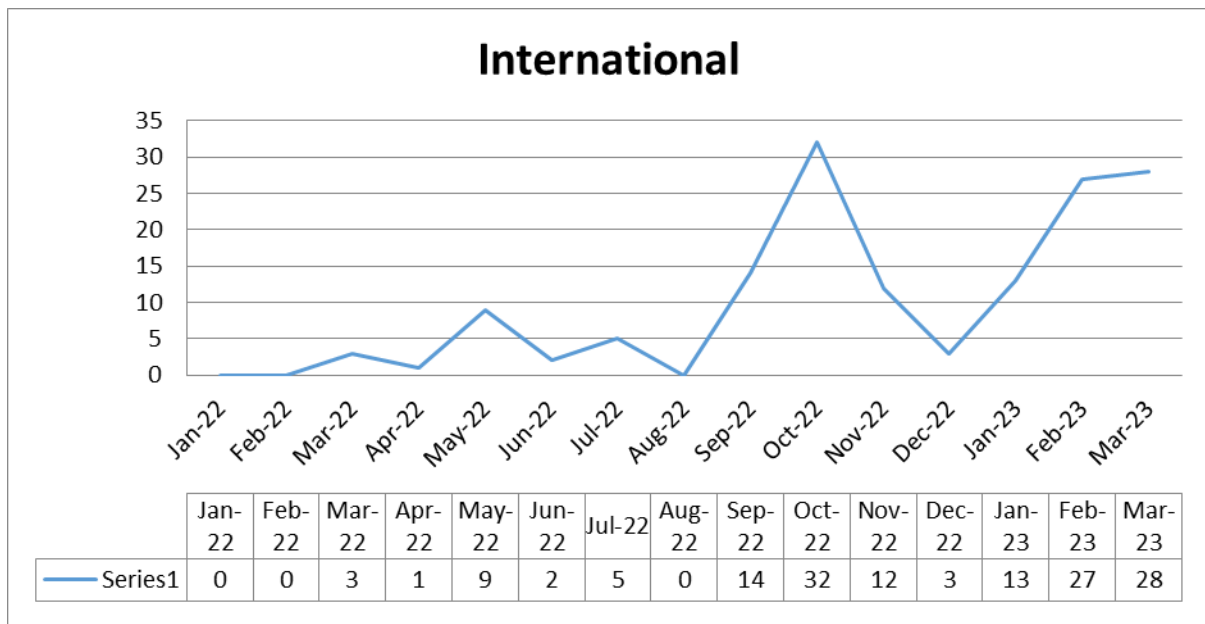
Eastern state travellers have confidently returned to the west and loving it. Not only are we meeting many a Grey Nomad but young couples in their 20s, young families travelling for 12 months and even solo travellers. Caravans are back to lining the streets and people happy to look around or even stay an extra night once they learn what our shire has to offer.

We recently held an Astrotourism event in line with Exmouth’s Solar Eclipse event on 20<sup>th</sup> April. Usually these events attract just the locals but for the first time we had a couple from the eastern states join us who are booked in for the Exmouth. We had 8 others join us from Wagin, Northam and Perth so great events like this are bringing tourism to our region, even if it did pour with rain!



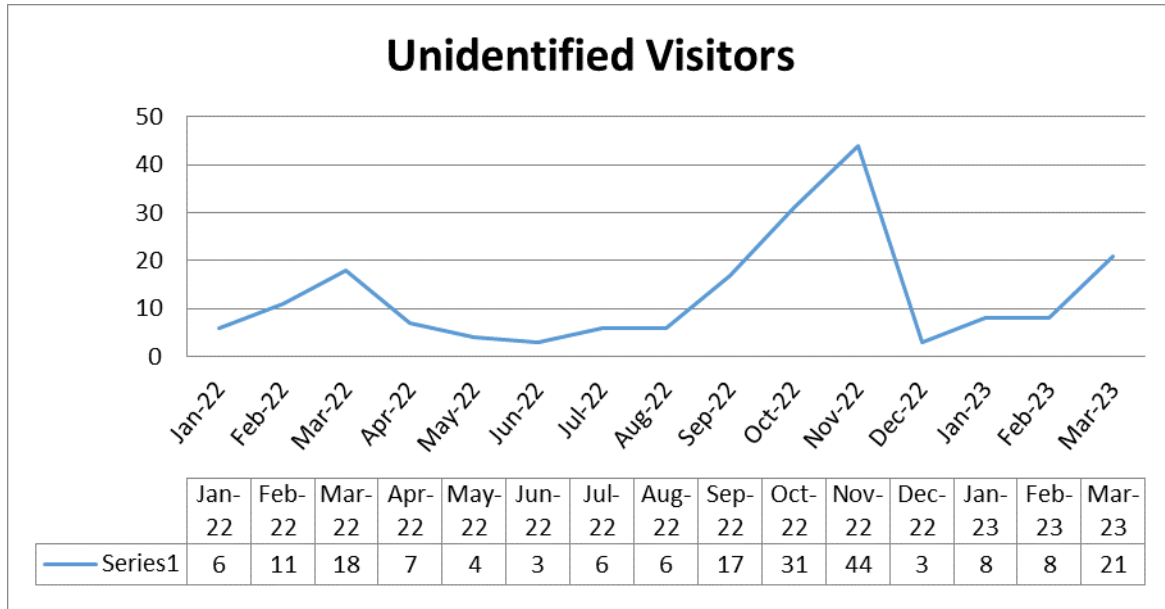
### International Travellers

Our international visitors are back and so very WELCOMED! It’s been far too long between visits. Holidays that were cancelled are now back on track and the adventurous travellers are exploring the wheatbelt once again. We’ve had visitors from UK, Scotland, Netherlands, Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, Austria, Switzerland, Hong Kong and New Zealand. Backpackers are making a comeback visiting the area and sometimes even stopping for employment. It feels like we are finding the usual “norm” once again.



### Unidentified Travellers

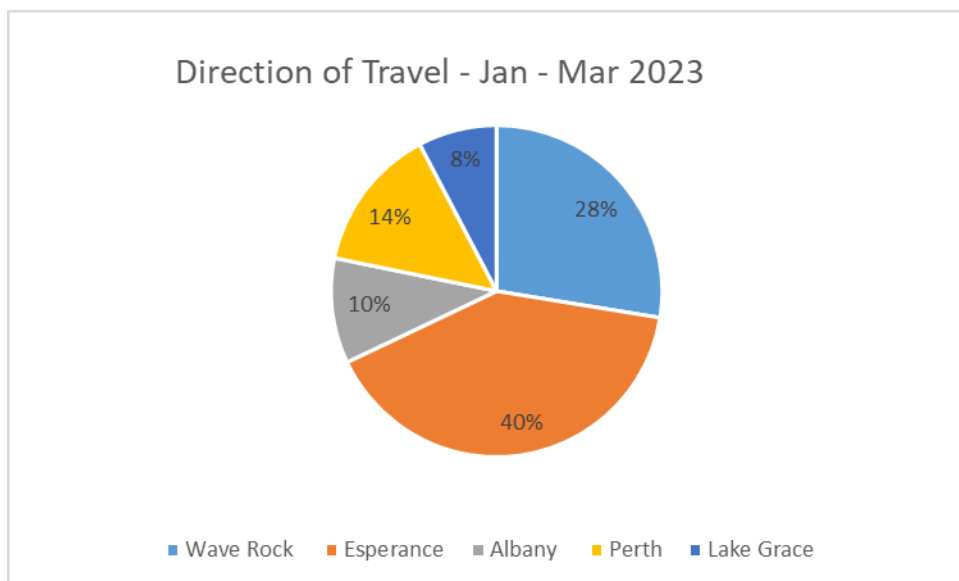
A group of travelers we try our very best to engage with but keeping in mind some people wish to simply browse and have a look around. As the visitor numbers picked up we often had many people in the centre at once. We've noted some people prefer to keep in the background and not engage and others could talk for days.



The majority of these mystery people popped in for a quick browse or a quick query.

### Direction of Travel

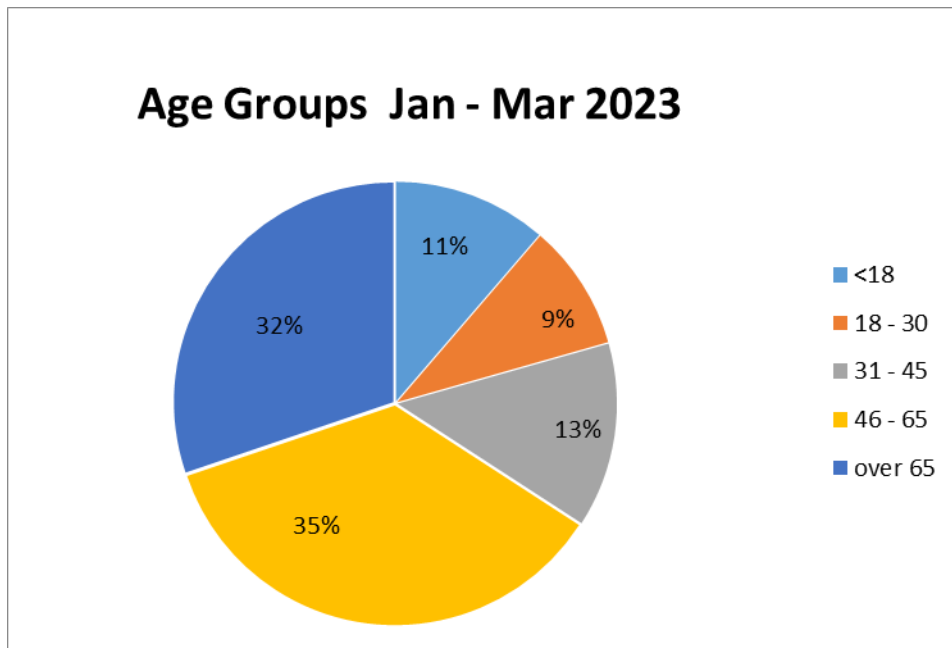
Known for our crossroads, our traffic consists off those heading to either Wave Rock/Hyden, Esperance, Albany or Perth. Once again Esperance has become the favourite destination as travellers flock to the beautiful beaches in the warmer weather.



## Age Group

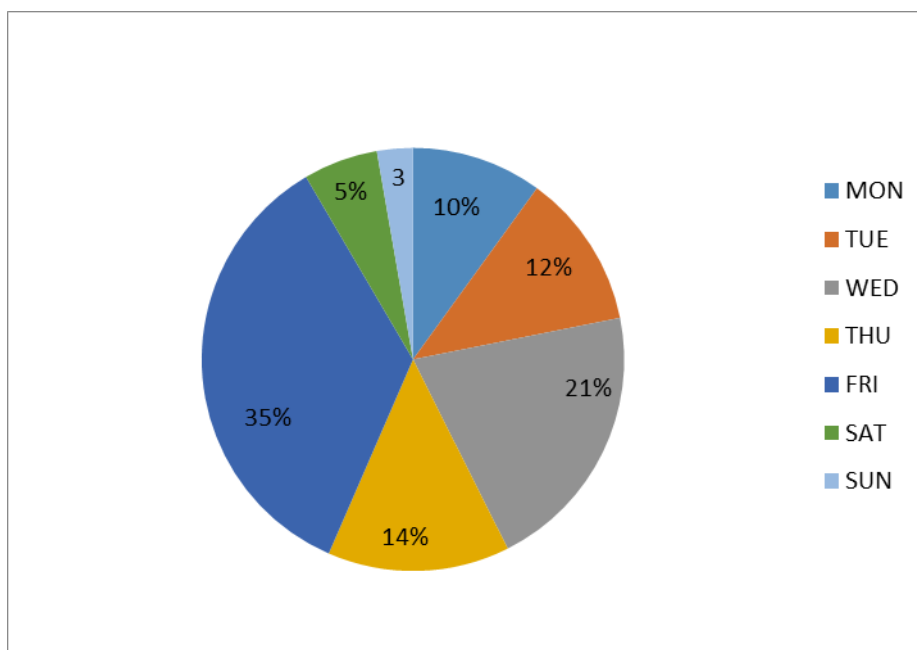
The information tracked in this graph is reliant on the recorders ability to judge ages of visitors, therefore probably not entirely accurate in all cases.

The over 65's are back to being the most popular age of travellers to our region. A great number of children and parents was due to school holidays and community events in February and March.



## Popular Visiting Days

There is no particular day we can say is ALWAYS our busiest as it changes all the time, but a worthwhile measure all the same.



## Mode of Transport

People travel to and through our Shire in various forms of transport. We have recorded the transport used by those who called into the Visitor Centre. It's a great indication as to how people are moving through our region and how travellers are using our region. This data measures January to March 2021. The introduction of the Electric Car charger last year proves it's gaining popularity, more so than motorhomes!



59%



28%



10% + 2% Bus



0%

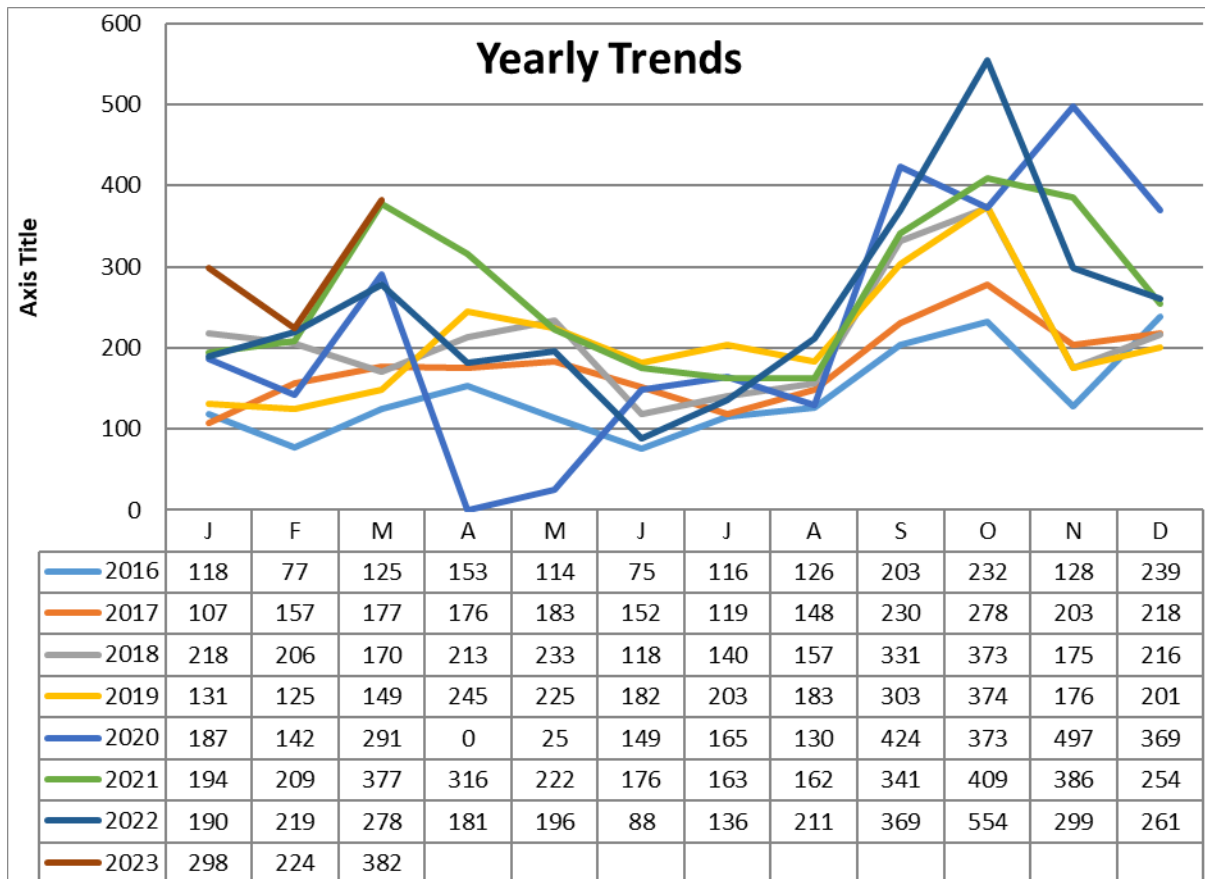


Electric Car 1%

## Yearly Trends

Studying yearly trends is a great tool in measuring our patterns for the future and areas where we can improve on. Predicting better opening times, staff and volunteer rosters, information needs for those seeking accommodation, things to do or places to eat and drink. Having this knowledge ahead of time allows us to offer the best service and welcome party for those who choose to drop by.

The first 3 months of 2023 we broke all records in visitors. We started opening 7 days a week in the last weekend of February and just with those extra days open we have assisted 77 extra visitors we have normally missed. Being open on the weekends has been very well received indeed. We predict we shall be busy with the Easter and school holidays next month. It will be interesting to see if we continue with crowds as the weather begins to cool.



# Lake Grace Community Library



## LIBRARY REPORT

Accessioning and VDX are all up to date.

The State Library's book exchange system has been down all year making getting the books out on the shelf difficult. When the books arrive from an independent supplier, I have to scan them so I can send the list to the state library who then sends the list back so I can scan them again and enter them individually onto the Oliverv5 system.

I'm in the process of weeding the junior picture books. These books are ten years or older. I'm hoping to find someone who will take them. Principal Teresa suggested that we ask the Men's Shed to design and build "Little Libraries" to be put around town. Little Libraries are boxes with clear door/s that hold second handbooks for the taking.

This year teacher Shelley Stowers brings the year two to eight students to the library on a Tuesday. We have had a move around of furniture to accommodate story time, quiet reading, group activities while still providing a shared public space.

I have purchased and received 35 new release books from Booktopia. These were bought out of the Shire budget money.

Statistics since the last report:

October 22	Issues & Renewals	383
November 22	Issues & Renewals	447
December 22	Issues & Renewals	113
January 23	Issues & Renewals	168
February 23	Issues & Renewals	526
March 23	Issues & Renewals	433

Library Co-ordinator Lois Dickins  
Lake Grace Community Library



Newdegate Library Report to 20/04/23

13 New releases Adult Fiction books have been purchased for the Library with Shire funding. These have been put on display and will be promoted in the Gate Post.

The Library area has been used for Healthy living workshops, Photography Workshop, Community group meetings, First Aid Course, Cuppa with Copper and Newdegate Primary School Assembly.

Interlibrary Loans

Sent	0
Requested	7

Regards  
Claire Ness



## Lake King Library Report for March 2023

Taking the opportunity to see family in the UK it was great to be able to call on Asa to hold the fort and keep the library running. A busy month of sorting old books out and receiving four boxes of exchange books from the State Library. Our new display boxes are ready for collection, kindly purchased by LK Primary School and the Shire so photos to follow next month when installed.

The library was used to host the first meeting of the “Lake King 100 Years” planning committee. Although five years away keen community members have started discussion and plan to meet the last Friday of the month going forward.

We always try to create topical displays to showcase different books. Although falling during the school holidays ANZAC Day books are on display today for the last day of school.



The State Library’s Borrow box had a total of 36 audios and 8 eBooks borrowed by Lake King library members in March. The Libby (Overdrive) platform had 2 audio books, 4 eBooks and 4 magazines downloaded by patrons in March.

### Statistics Interlibrary Loans

March	VDX Lake King Requests received from other libraries	1
	VDX Responded to other Library requests to borrow	0



# Central Country Zone

## AGENDA

Friday, 14 April 2023

Commencing at 9.30am

*Morning tea will be served from 9.00am*

### Venue:

McDougall Hall

Lions Dryandra Woodland Village

Tomingley Rd, Dryandra 6311

Hosted by Shire of Cuballing

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## 1. Opening and Welcome

Chair President Leigh Ballard is an apology for the meeting.

Deputy Chair Des Hickey will Chair today's meeting.

The Chair declared the meeting open at \_\_\_\_.

### 1.1 Housekeeping – Zone Chair

#### 1. Welcome:

The Zone Chair will welcome Zone members and provide OSH/bathroom/exit information to those in attendance.

#### 2. Share your name and Local Government:

Delegates are reminded to ensure that they call their name and Local Government when taking the floor to allow for accurate Minutes to be recorded.

Please project your voice to ensure everyone can hear you.

### 1.2 Host Council Presentation

Cr Elizabeth Dowling, President from the Shire of Cuballing will extend a welcome to delegates and guests.

## 2. Attendance

#### Shire of Beverley

President Cr David White  
Deputy President Cr Chris Lawlor  
Mr Steve Gollan Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

#### Shire of Brookton

President Cr Katrina Crute  
Deputy President Cr Neil Walker  
Cr Tamara Lilly, non voting  
Mr Gary Sherry Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

#### Shire of Corrigin

President Cr Des Hickey (Acting Chair)  
Deputy President Cr Mike Weguelin  
Ms Natalie Manton Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

#### Shire of Cuballing

President Cr Eliza Dowling  
Deputy President Cr Rob Harris  
Mr Stan Scott Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

#### Shire of Dumbleyung

President Cr Julie Ramm  
Deputy President Cr Amy Knight  
Mr Gavin Treasure Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

#### Shire of Kulin

President Cr Grant Robins  
Deputy President Cr Brad Smoker  
Mr Garrick Yandle Chief Executive Officer, non-voting



<b>Shire of Lake Grace</b>	President Cr Len Armstrong Deputy President Cr Ross Chappell Mr Alan George Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Narrogin</b>	Cr Graham Broad Mr Dale Stewart Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Pingelly</b>	Deputy President Cr Jackie McBurney Mr Andrew Dover Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Quairading</b>	President Cr Peter Smith Cr Jonathan Hippisley Ms Nicole Gibbs Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Wagin</b>	President Cr Phillip Blight Deputy President Cr Gregory Ball Mr Bill Atkinson Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Wandering</b>	President Cr Ian Turton
<b>Shire of West Arthur</b>	President Cr Neil Morrell Cr Karen Harrington Mr Rajinder S Sunner Acting Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Wickepin</b>	President Cr Julie Russell Deputy President Cr Wes Astbury Mr Nathan Cain Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Williams</b>	President Cr Jarrad Logie Cr Moya Carne Mr Geoff McKeown Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Guests</b>	
CBH	Kellie Todman, Manager Government and Industry Relations
	Kaila Eva, Senior Analyst, Network Planning
Western Power	Kristina Primus, Principal, Network Planning
	Brett Dew, Field Operations Team Leader, Narrogin Depot
Main Roads WA	Mohammad Siddiqui, Director Wheatbelt Region
	Brad Pearce, Operations Manager Narrogin
Water Corporation	Michael Roberts, Regional Manager Goldfields & Agricultural Region
Regional Development Australia WA	Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development
<b>Members of Parliament</b>	
	Hon Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt
	Hon Steve Martin MLC, Liberal Member for the Agricultural Region
	Hon Shelley Payne MLC, Member for Agricultural Region

**WALGA**

Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services  
 Kathy Robertson, Executive Officer Governance  
 Rodney Thornton, Regional Road Safety Advisor

**Apologies**

Shire of Dumbleyung  
 Shire of Lake Grace  
 Shire of Narrogin  
 Shire of Pingelly

Deputy President Cr Amy Knight  
 President Cr Len Armstrong  
 President Leigh Ballard  
 President Cr Bill Mulrone

Shire of West Arthur  
 Shire of Wandering

Mr Vin Fordham Lamont, Chief Executive Officer  
 Deputy President Cr Paul Treasure  
 Mr Alan Hart Chief Executive Officer, non-voting  
 Mr Dale Stewart Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

Members of Parliament

Hon Sandra Carr MLC, Member for Agricultural Region  
 Hon Peter Rundle MLA, Member for Roe  
 Hon Colin de Grussa MLC, Member for Agricultural Region  
 Rick Wilson MP, Federal Member for O'Connor  
 Hon Martin Aldridge MLC, Member for Agricultural Region  
 Hon Darren West MLC, Member for Agricultural Region  
 Hon Darren West MLC, Member for Agricultural Region

Wheatbelt Development Commission

Susan Hall, Acting Chief Executive Officer  
 Pip Gooding, Regional Development Officer – Wheatbelt South

Department of Local Government, Sport, & Cultural Industries

Samantha Cornthwaite, Regional Manager Wheatbelt

**Attachments**

The following are provided as attachments to the agenda:

1. Item 8.1 Department of Local Government, Sport, and Cultural Industries Report
2. Item 8.3 RDAW Zone Report – April 2023
3. Item 9.3.1 Correspondence from WA Country Health Service-Wheatbelt
4. Item 9.3.2 Central Country Zone Emergency Management MOU
5. Item 9.4 Executive Committee meeting Minutes – 5 April 2023
6. Item 10.1 Memorandum - Arrangements for the Upcoming 2023 Ordinary Elections
7. Item 12.5 WALGA President's Report – May 2023
8. Item 7.4 Main Roads April Report

**3. Declarations of Interest**

**4. Announcements**

**5. Guest Speakers / Deputations**

**5.1 Kellie Todman, Manager Government and Industry Relations, CBH**

Kellie Todman along with Kaila Eva and Kristina Primus will present on the Agricultural Supply Chain Initiative as well as forecasting and capital investment over the next ten years.

## 5.2 Brett Dew, Field Operations Team Leader, Narrogin Depot, Western Power

Brett Dew from Western Power will present on Pole Top Fires with specific reference to the types of insulators used on power poles and the effect this may have on pole top fires.

## 6. Members of Parliament

*Members of Federal and State Government, representing the Zone Member Local Government Districts, are invited to provide a brief update on matters relevant to Zone Members.*

State Members:

- Hon Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt
- Hon Steve Martin MLC, Liberal Member for the Agricultural Region
- Hon Shelley Payne MLC, Member for Agricultural Region

## 7. Agency Reports

### 7.1 Department of Local Government, Sport, and Cultural Industries (DLGSC)

The Department of Local Government, Sport, and Cultural Industries are an apology for this meeting however have provided the attached report (**Attachment 1**).

The Department ask that if you have any questions, WALGA will note and send to DLGSC, the response will come back to you through WALGA. For individual queries from members, a list of DLGSC contacts have been provided within the report.

**For Noting**

### 7.2 Wheatbelt Development Commission (WDC)

Pip Gooding, Regional Development Officer – Wheatbelt South will provide an update to the Zone.

**For Noting**

### 7.3 Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt (RDAW)

Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development, is an apology. The RDAW report for February 2023 is attached (**Attachment 2**).

**For Noting**

### 7.4 Main Roads Western Australia

Mohammad Siddiqui, Director Wheatbelt Region and Brad Pearce, Operations Manager Narrogin, will provide a report to the Zone. (**Attachment 8**)

**For Noting**

## 8. Minutes

### 8.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the Central Country Zone meeting held on Friday, 10 February 2023

The Minutes of the Central Country Zone meeting held on Friday, 10 February 2023 have previously been circulated to Member Councils.

#### RECOMMENDATION

**That the minutes of the Central Country Zone meeting held on Friday, 10 February 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.**

### 8.2 Business Arising from the Minutes from the Central Country Zone Meeting held on Friday, 10 February 2023

### 8.3 Minutes of the Central Country Executive Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 5 April 2023

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

#### 8.3.1 (Item 5.6.1) Wheatbelt Interagency Health & Wellbeing Plan

##### Background

WA Country Health Service-Wheatbelt contacted the Zone Executive Officer in March of 2023 (**Attachment 3**).

In summary, a working group is being formalised to develop the *Wheatbelt Interagency Health & Wellbeing Plan: Towards 2035 Working Group WAPHA membership*. WA Country Health Service are taking expressions of interest for one Local Government representative from each Zone in the Wheatbelt to sit on the working group.

The Chair seeks feedback from the Members; is there an interest from a Zone perspective and would anyone like to nominate themselves to be on the working group.

##### For Discussion

#### 8.3.2 (Item 5.6.3) Central Country Zone Emergency Management MOU

##### Background

At the February 2023 Zone meeting, the Zone recommended a new draft MoU be circulated to Members in order to determine if the Local Government is interested in extending the MoU for a further two years from three to five years. The attached draft (**Attachment 4**) was circulated with the following responses:

The Shires of Beverley, Brookton, Corrigin, Cuballing, Dumbleyung, Lake Grace, Narrogin, Pingelly, Quairading, Wagin, Wandering, Wickepin and West Arthur are in support of extending the MoU. We await a response from the Shire's of Kulin and Williams

#### ZONE RECOMMENDATION

**That the Central Country Zone endorse the Emergency Management MOU for a 5 year period.**

### 8.3.3 (Item 5.6.4) June Zone meeting – change of date request

#### Background

The Central Country Zone meeting is scheduled for Friday 16 June 2023. This is the same date as the Australian Council of Local Government forum to be held in Canberra following the 2023 ALGA National General Assembly.

The Executive Committee resolved to change the June meeting date from Friday 16 June 2023 to Friday 23 June 2023.

#### For Noting

### 8.3.4 (Item 7.1) Bushfire Permits

#### Background

The Executive Committee discussed the new bushfire permits, where the new system has added a restriction on burning with a high fire hazard, whereas previously it was only banned with extreme or catastrophic rating.

The Committee Chair advised that the way around this is for the Local Government to appoint fire weather officers and these officers can provide approval for burning in a high, extreme or catastrophic situation.

Please note the following sections of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* (WA):

Section 38(8)

*“...fire weather officer”*

Section 38(9)

*“Where more than one fire weather officer is appointed by a local government the local government shall define a part of its district in which each fire weather officer shall have the exclusive right to exercise the power conferred by subsection (17).”*

Section 38(13)

*“The local government shall give notice of an appointment made under subsection (8) or (10) to the FES Commissioner and cause notice of the appointment to be published at least once in a newspaper circulating in its district and the FES Commissioner shall cause notice of the appointment to be published once in the Government Gazette.”*

Section 38(14)

*“...appoint a committee”*

Section 38(17)

*“A fire weather officer of an approved local government, or a deputy of that fire weather officer while acting in the place of that officer, may authorise a person who has received a permit*

*under section 18(6)(a), to burn the bush in the district of the local government notwithstanding that for any day, or any period of a day, specified in the notice the fire danger forecast issued by the Bureau of Meteorology in Perth, in respect to the locality where the bush proposed to be burnt is situated, is “catastrophic”, “extreme”, “severe” or “very high”, and upon the authority being given the person, if he has otherwise complied with the conditions prescribed for the purposes of section 18, may burn the bush.”*

Section 38(18)

*“...prohibited burning times”*

## For Noting

### 8.4 Minutes of the Central Country Executive Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 5 April 2023

The Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 5 April 2023 are attached (**Attachment 5**).

The remainder of the items are for the Zones consideration.

## RECOMMENDATION

**That the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 5 April 2023 be noted, and the items not considered above be endorsed.**

## 9. Zone Business

### 9.1 Financial Burden to Local Governments of Optional Preferential Voting

*By Andrew Dover, Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Pingelly*

Attachments: Memorandum to Chief Executive Officers - Arrangements for the Upcoming October 2023 Ordinary Elections (**Attachment 6**).

#### Summary

For the Zone to consider the financial implications of the recently introduced Optional Preferential Voting and form an advocacy position that the additional cost of this imposed change should not be borne by ratepayers.

#### Background

The most recent Local Government Act reforms passed by parliament in March 2023 related primarily to electoral reform. These reforms include:

- optional preferential voting;
- directly-elected Mayors and Presidents for Bands 1 and 2;
- the abolition of wards for Bands 3 and 4;
- reducing the number of councillors in most Local Governments; and
- backfilling of vacancies rather than extraordinary elections.

The Memorandum to Chief Executive Officers - Arrangements for the Upcoming October 2023 Ordinary Elections (the Memorandum) asserts that the last two dot points above will ‘save costs for ratepayers and administrative burden for local governments in the longer term.’ However, not all Local Governments are reducing the number of Councillors and extraordinary elections are rare so the cost savings from these reforms are limited.

A greater quantity of work is required to hold a preferential voting election, which will result in significant cost increases regardless of if the elections are held internally or by the Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC). WAEC is currently charging up to 25% more to hold an election when compared the rate two years ago while internally hold elections have to contend with additional hours for staff at penalty rates and the purchase of the licence for the CountWA software to facilitate the counting of votes from WAEC.

### **Policy Implications**

This report is intended to commence the process for WALGA to form a policy position on this matter.

### **Statutory Implications**

The Local Government Act 1995 requires each Local Government is required to hold elections every two years (unless the seats are filled uncontested) and to bear the cost of these elections.

### **Financial Implications**

These electoral reforms impose an additional financial burden on Local Governments. This report is an attempt to offset this impost.

### **Comment**

The State Government have imposed these reforms on Local Governments with the stated aim of aligning the Local Government elections with those of the State and Federal Governments against majority feedback from the Local Government sector. The cost of this decision should therefore be borne by the State Government.

There would naturally be an increase in costs for WAEC to provide election services. However, this would not exceed 10%, considering that the all sector Wage Price Index increased by only 2.4% in 2021 and 3.3% in 2022. This percentage is anticipated to increase in 2023. Any increase over and above 10% must therefore arise from the introduction of preferential voting. Consequently, it would be reasonable to request the State Government cap any increase to a maximum of 10%.

There also is the increase in costs for Local Governments to staff the elections if operated internally due to the increased length of time anticipated for counting. On top of this is the recommended purchase of the licence for the CountWA software. This software currently is used for State elections and therefore the development costs have already been met. Other costs would be minimal. Consequently, it would be reasonable to request the State Government to provide this software to Local Governments free of charge.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**That WALGA forms a policy position and advocates that:**

- 1. Any Western Australian Electoral Commission fee increases for the 2023 Local Government elections are capped at 10% when compared with the 2021 rates; and**
- 2. That the CountWA software from Western Australian Electoral Commission is provided to Local Governments free of charge for the 2023 and subsequent Local Government elections.**



## **10. Zone Reports**

### **10.1 Zone President Report**

Zone Chair President Leigh Ballard is an apology, Deputy Chair Cr Des Hickey will provide a verbal report to the Zone.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

### **10.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG)**

Cr Katrina Crute will provide a report to the Zone on the Local Government Agricultural Freight Groups activities.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

### **10.3 Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC)**

President Leigh Ballard is an apology for this meeting.

### **10.4 Regional Health Advocacy Group**

Ms. Natalie Manton will provide an update to the Zone.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

### **10.5 WALGA RoadWise**

Rodney Thornton, Regional Road Safety Advisor will provide a report to the Zone.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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



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

### 11.1 2023 Local Government Honours Program

The annual Local Government Honours Program affords significant public recognition and celebration of the outstanding achievements and lasting contributions made by Elected Members and Local Government officers to their respective Councils, the WA Local Government sector, and the wider community.

Nominations for the 2023 Honours Program are open now.

There are six awards in the 2023 Program:

1. Local Government Medal
2. Life Membership
3. Eminent Service Award
4. Merit Award
5. Local Government Distinguished Officer Award
6. Young Achievers Award

Nominations will close at **5:00pm on Friday, 9 June** and the awards will be presented as part of the WALGA Annual General Meeting held on Monday, 18 September.

For more information or to submit a nomination, visit the WALGA website or contact Kathy Robertson, Executive Officer Governance, on 9213 2036 or via email at [honours@walga.asn.au](mailto:honours@walga.asn.au).

#### For Noting

### 11.2 State Councillor Report

Cr Phillip Blight

There were a number of items on the Agenda which were of significance to the Zones and the membership at large, in particular items relating to the '*Proposed Advocacy Position on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People*' and WALGA's '*Best Practice Governance Review Final Report*'.

The following information is a little long winded, but I thought you needed to know the detail.

1. '*Proposed Advocacy Position on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People*'. (Item 7.1)

This item has been the subject of much discussion and division amongst State Councillors, with Zones generally providing a strong response on the direction that should be taken regards WALGA's advocacy position on the Referendum. You may recall State Council passed the following composite recommendation at its meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

1. *Supports a robust and respectful national debate on constitutional recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and requests the Commonwealth Government provide further ....details on the proposed Voice to Parliament.*
2. *Requests that the Commonwealth Government ensure that Local Governments and local communities across WA are meaningfully engaged with on this issue.*

3. Requests WALGA prepare an advocacy position in support of constitutional recognition to be circulated to WALGA Zones for their next meeting for consideration and feedback.

As you are aware, WALGA produced the attached 'Constitutional Recognition Information Paper 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023' for consideration by Zones and the membership in general. State Council did resolve that the Administration provide an advocacy position on that element of the referendum relating to 'Constitutional Recognition' and not the referendum question relating to 'The Voice'. As can be seen from the Information Paper the advocacy position morphed into support for both. In any event, Zones were asked to consider the paper and provide a response. This matter was then to be put to State Council for decision at the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

Of the 17 Zones, 13 Zones provided a response to WALGA following the February 2023 round of Zone meetings. Murchison Country Zone did not formerly respond as it does not hold its meeting until April 2023. Of the 13 Zones which did respond only 1 (South East Metropolitan Zone) fully supported WALGA's advocacy position while 9 (if you include the Murchison Country Zone) recommended that WALGA not advocate a position on the referendum and that it not be involved in this space. Responses from a further 2 Zones (Peel and Pilbara) recommended that the matter lay on the table for further deliberation while the Central Metropolitan Zone did not support WALGA's advocacy position but did provide an alternate motion based on the content noted at point 1 above (highlighted in red). Finally, the North Metropolitan Zone supported point 1. above along with a recommendation for *'the funding of representative bodies and inclusion of changes led by such bodies in legislation'* (?).

Based on responses from the Zones the Administration put forward the following composite recommendation for decision at the State Council Meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023:-

#### **That WALGA:**

1. **Supports a robust and respectful national debate on constitutional recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and requests the Commonwealth Government provide further details on the proposed Voice to Parliament.**
2. **Requests that the Commonwealth Government ensure that Local Government and local communities across WA are meaningfully engaged with on this issue.**
3. **Does not take a position on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People through the enhancing of a Voice to Parliament at this time.**

This motion was not debated as an alternate motion was put up by the Central Metropolitan Zone. It followed that Zone's recommendation in the Agenda which reads:-

**'That the Central Metropolitan Zone supports a robust and respectful national debate on constitutional recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and requests the Commonwealth Government provide further details on the proposed Voice to Parliament'.**

**The Alternate Recommendation finally proposed by Cr. Helen Sadler from the Central Metropolitan Zone was as follows:-**

1. **Supports respectful conversations about constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and the Voice to Parliament.**
2. **Requests that the Commonwealth Government ensure that Local Governments and communities are kept informed on the proposal.**

The alternate motion was carried.

Some around the table could not see the purpose of this alternate motion as it pretty much followed points 1 & 2 of the original recommendations already passed at the State Council meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022 (see above highlighted in red). The Administration determined that the advocacy position was unlikely to be carried and therefore, the recommendation in point 3 above was not to take a position on Constitutional Recognition. The alternate recommendation was accepted.

Although divided, the mood at State Council was pretty definite in that the majority of Zones recommended WALGA was not to advocate for Constitutional Recognition and that accepting the alternate resolution was simply a reinforcement of the resolution of 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022 without WALGA adopting a position on either of the referendum questions.

## 2. WALGA's 'Best Practice Governance Review Final Report'. (Item 7.6)

As we are all aware, 5 options were put to the membership around a potential change to WALGA's governance model. All member councils were given an opportunity to comment and, of the 139 Local Government members, 99 responded. Of these, 90 provided a preference and 9 responded but did not recommend a preference (?). A number of other submissions were received, and a survey was conducted by IPSOS on behalf of WALGA to which 13 of 24 State Councillors undertook the survey and approximately 8% of 1,338 other invitations sent out responded. The Steering Committee meet on 8 or 9 occasions to review the makeup of the various options and produce a recommendation for State Council to consider at the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 based on the feedback from the membership and the survey responses from the IPSOS report.

It was recommended that Option 1 be put to State Council to endorse to then be voted on at the 2023 AGM.

For your information, for there to be a change to the Constitution 75% of the State Council must pass the recommendation following which at least 75% of the membership must also pass the recommendation at the 2023 AGM. Please see the Stage 3 Final Report for further detail. A report by IPSOS confirmed that Option 5 was the preferred model on a 'first past the post' system of voting however, Option 1 was preferred based on a distribution of preferences as there appeared to be a mood for change amongst some members. Change was a focus with all but one of the metropolitan Zones.

An issue was raised by a number of State Councillors that the preference system was essentially flawed. Of the 90 Council members that made a recommendation not all 5 options were selected in order of preference. Therefore, it was difficult to apply preferences that reflected the whole of the sector. The first round of preferences was evenly divided between Option 1 and Option 5. In light of the lack of completion of all 5 preferences by the membership a definitive outcome could not be clearly identified. It was suggested from the responses that many members were supportive of a change, but whether that support translated into support for Option 1 over Option 5...that would be up to the membership to decide at the 2023 AGM.

Another issue was raised in that there were a further 40 Member Councils which did not respond to the survey and 9 which did respond but did not provide a recommendation. This is a significant percentage of the total 139 membership whose opinion has not been recorded. These councils need to be engaged with so as to get a whole of membership preference before a final recommendation can be put to the State Council and then the members at the 2023 AGM. A number of State Councillors commented that the figures provided by IPSOS were confusing, incomplete and did not provide a true reflection of the membership's position on a preferred model.

The Agenda recommendation to State Council was quite narrow in that..... ***'The proposed changes to WALGA's governance structure as per the revised Model 1 as detailed in the Stage 3 Final Report be endorsed'***. The recommendation was devoid of any reference to Option 5 as the current model. Some suggested that a lack of reference to Option 5 in the recommendation

to change the governance model could lead the membership to thinking that only Option 1 was a consideration. Others considered that Option 5 need not be referred to in any recommendation as it is the default model should Option 1 fail to be endorsed by the membership. Some clarity was needed so that the members were clearly aware that Option 5 is still the current Model while Option 1 is proposed as an alternative.

Therefore, an amendment to the recommendation was proposed to read .... ***‘any recommendation to the 2023 AGM include Option 5 as the current model and Option 1 as an alternative to the current model’***. This recommendation was carried.

A further recommendation was that ***‘Members be engaged on the detail of the model and a Final Report be presented to the May 2023 State Council meeting for consideration’*** This motion was carried. Therefore, WALGA will seek further feedback from all member councils as to what changes the membership might consider in relation to Option 1.

To sum up, there was little separation between Option 1 and Option 5 (current model) as the most favoured model. The survey results were inconclusive of a clear favourite. The membership is asked to **review Option 1 to develop the model further**. Of importance is representation at the regional level and that any change must consider this impact. Members were clear that representation has to be an essential part of the governance model going forward. I have been in favour of change for some time however we must be clear that any change will improve Walga. I am yet to be convinced that model 1 will attract quality candidates to nominate for State Council. In my 16 years at CC Zone I have only seen two elections. It is not the desired position now that it should be. We must be confident that any change will encourage enthusiasm to represent, bearing in mind that in model 1, the peak body will have only four representatives for all of regional WA.

The current communique is not asking for a final vote , **that will be at the 2023 Walga AGM** however any tweaks to model 1 will come before State Council at its May 2023 meeting.

**Contrary to some publication, there has been no decision made to support either model ,they are both on the table for further discussion.**

This matter was divisive and hotly debated. The amended recommendation was passed. The details will be provided in the Minutes of the Meeting in due course.

If you prefer any further information, I would be happy to discuss with any of the members.

### 3. Child Safeguarding Advocacy Position. (Item 7.3)

State Council supported the WALGA Recommendation which identified the recommendations from the Royal Commission into institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse 2017. Recommendation 6.12 of the report was supported which recommended Local Government implement and embed child safeguarding across its functions. The recommendation went further to request State Government provide the funding, resources and capacity building to Local Governments to achieve child safeguarding.

### 4. Submission on Draft Guideline Minimising Noise Impact from Outdoor Community Basketball Facilities. (Item 7.4)

Minister Reece Whitby, Minister for Environment, has removed the need to comment on the Draft Guidelines. As the Draft Guidelines have been rescinded, WALGA’s submission is no longer valid.

Noise levels on outdoor basketball courts has been a continuing problem for residents in built up areas and where there is medium to heavy density residential living.

5. Other Matters.

- The BAM Act Review is ongoing with Stage 3 expected in Mid April. WALGA continues to engage with stakeholders on this issue, including an upcoming meeting with Hon. Jackie Jarvis, Minister for Agriculture and Food; Forestry; Small Business; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests.
- WALGA is collaborating with Government on a transition to electric vehicles. In this regard WALGA has commissioned a consultant to develop a template 'Fleet Transition Plan'.
- 20 Local Governments have agreed to be part of the ARENA (Australian Renewable Energy Agency) funding bid with positive funding opportunities from the State Government if the WALGA ARENA bid is successful. The bid will go into the full project proposal phase in April 2023 for consideration in May 2023.

That's about it for the moment. It has been a busy time on all levels of Local Government, and I will keep you posted as further detail is discussed and in need of a Zone or membership response.

If anyone wants further clarification, please don't hesitate to contact me and please feel free to share this with your fellow councillors.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That the State Councillor Report be received.**



**11.3 WALGA Status Report**

By Tony Brown, Executive Officer

**BACKGROUND**

Presenting the Status Report for April 2023 which contains WALGA’s responses to the resolutions of previous Zone Meetings.

## CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE STATUS REPORT April 2023

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Central C	2022, 18 February Zone Agenda Item 11.1	That the Central Country Zone recommend that the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group be disbanded and request WALGA to consider establishing a policy forum to encompass all Freight issues.	<p>The Infrastructure Policy Team noted that a decision to disband the Agricultural Freight Group is a matter for the participating Zones.</p> <p>The Infrastructure Policy Team considered potential terms of reference for an Agricultural Freight Policy Forum at their December meeting and ultimately determined to ask WALGA staff to identify deficiencies in the current State Government freight strategy in the Agricultural region to inform their consideration. The strategy is covered in five documents:</p> <p>Revitalising Agricultural Region Freight Strategy (2018)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft South West Supply Chain Strategy (2020)</li> <li>• Regional Freight Plan (2013)</li> <li>• Agricultural Supply Chain Improvement Program (ASCI) – Phase 1 (2021)</li> <li>• Infrastructure Australia – Western Australia Agricultural Supply Chain Improvements Proposal</li> </ul>	Ongoing	<p>Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure <a href="mailto:iduncan@walga.asn.au">iduncan@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2031</p>





			<p>The December Policy Team meeting did not have time to further discuss deficiencies in the strategy that may support the case for a Policy Forum.</p> <p>In the immediate term, funding that has been provided by the Federal Government, specifically in the Secondary Freight network programs (Wheatbelt, Mid West and Great Southern) and rail siding investments exceed the capacity of the construction industry to deliver.</p> <p>However, there is likely to be the need for strategic planning for medium term investments.</p>		
<b>Central C</b>	<p><b>2019 Nov 29 Zone Agenda Item 10.8</b> Western Australia's Share of Fuel Excise</p>	<p>That WALGA prepares and endorses a strategy to obtain transparency of the distribution of the fuel excise with the intent to maximise the return to Western Australia for road maintenance.</p>	<p>The resolution has been referred to the Infrastructure Policy Team and based on direction provided further research to support an advocacy position is being carried out.</p> <p>The Association met with the RAC and received access to a 2020 revision of a report commissioned by the RAC quantifying motorist taxation and Federal Government investment in WA transport infrastructure.</p>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<p><b>Ian Duncan</b> Executive Manager Infrastructure <a href="mailto:iduncan@walga.asn.au">iduncan@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2031</p>
<b>Central C</b>	<p>1 March 2023 State Council Agenda Item <b>7.1 Proposed Advocacy Position on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People</b></p>	<p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Central Country Zone acknowledge the importance of the recognition of all Australians in the Australian Constitution; and</li> <li>the Central Country Zone does not believe WALGA should actively participate in the national referendum on the Voice to Parliament.</li> </ol>	<p>State Council Resolution</p> <p>That WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supports respectful conversations about constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and the Voice to Parliament.</li> <li>Requests that the Commonwealth Government ensure that Local Governments and communities are kept informed on the proposal.</li> </ol> <p>COMPLETE</p>	<b>April 2023</b>	<p><b>Nicole Matthews</b> Executive Manager Policy <a href="mailto:nmatthews@walga.asn.au">nmatthews@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2039</p>
<b>Central C</b>	<p>1 March 2023 State Council Agenda Item <b>7.3 Child Safeguarding Advocacy Position</b></p>	<p>That the Central Country Zone acknowledges the work carried out by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries through the Child Safety feedback and consultation process, and reaffirms that Local Governments should not be listed as a Reporting Agency.</p>	<p>That the Child Safeguarding Advocacy Position as follows be endorsed:</p> <p>Child Safeguarding</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Government supports:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse 2017, in particular Recommendation 6.12 which can be achieved by Local Government implementing and embedding child safeguarding across its functions with</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<b>April 2023</b>	<p><b>Nicole Matthews</b> Executive Manager Policy <a href="mailto:nmatthews@walga.asn.au">nmatthews@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2039</p>



			<p>support from Governments at the national, state and territory levels; and</p> <p>b. the ten National Principles for Child Safe Organisations (Australian Humans Rights Commission).</p> <p>2. The State Government through an Independent Oversight Body should provide financial, resourcing and capacity building support to Local Governments to implement and embed child safeguarding across its functions, through the provision of:</p> <p>a. supporting materials such as template policies, procedures and guidelines;</p> <p>b. consistent key messaging and resources to promote and share in venues and facilities and online;</p> <p>c. examples of best practice, including case studies;</p> <p>d. self-assessment tools to assist Local Government;</p> <p>e. ongoing training and skills development for Local Government staff, including online training options;</p> <p>f. funding for the delivery of the child safeguarding function within smaller, less well resourced (Band 3 and Band 4) Local Governments; and</p> <p>g. expert officers within each region to provide support and guidance to Local Government on child safeguarding.</p> <p>3. The Local Government sector supports Local Government participation in the State's National Redress Scheme, with full financial coverage by the State.</p> <p>COMPLETE</p>		
<b>Central C</b>	25 November 2022 Zone Agenda Item <b>10.1 Aged Care Services</b>	That the Zone request WALGA to research the impact of this issue on local communities in WA and look to engage the Commonwealth and State Minister of Health and Health Departments to consider solutions.	<p>WALGA has followed up with ALGA to determine if there is a state-wide Local Government response to the 24/7 initiative in the regions. LGNSW have undertaken advocacy in the space around workforce issues and funding for Council run aged care services in regional areas.</p> <p>Research has been undertaken which indicates that residential aged care facilities with 30 or less approved beds in Modified Monash Model 5-7 locations will be eligible for a one-off 12 month</p>	<b>April 2023</b>	<b>Nicole Matthews</b> <b>Executive</b> <b>Manager Policy</b> <a href="mailto:nmatthews@walga.asn.au">nmatthews@walga.asn.au</a> <b>9213 2039</b>





			<p>exemption from the 24/7 RN responsibility. Additionally, residential aged care facilities with, on average, 60 residents or less per day will be eligible for a funding supplement to employ extra RNs to deliver 24/7 RN care.</p> <p>The Federal Government has advised that they are undertaking work to further develop and refine the 24/7 RN responsibility, including modelling aged care RN workforce shortages by region to better inform future exemption arrangements.</p> <p>Ongoing</p>		
<b>Central C</b>	<p><b>2020 February 21 Zone Agenda Item</b>  <b>12.1 General Practitioner Services in Rural Areas - Shire of Corrigin</b></p>	<p>That WALGA be requested to investigate tendering issues around General Practitioner Services in Rural Areas with consideration given to including an exemption from tendering for such services under the Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996.</p>	<p>The Minister for Local Government has held 2 roundtable meetings with some of the effected Local Governments and has listened to the argument. The Minister has advised of the following position he will look to implement.</p> <p><i>“Recognising the importance of obtaining value for money in a competitive way in the initial procurement of medical services, an exemption is proposed from the requirement to seek public tenders where a local government is extending, varying or renewing a contract. This will make it easier for local governments to vary and extend contracts relating to the provision of medical services; however, they will still need to go through a public tender process when first engaging a GP.</i></p> <p><i>This will require a council report to be prepared and presented, setting out the basis for making the decision. This is consistent with other decision-making and reporting processes currently undertaken by local governments.”</i></p> <p>Between 35 and 40 Local Governments in regional Western Australia currently subsidise a local GP service in their community. This is an advocacy success for the Local Government sector.</p> <p>The Minister for Local Government has had draft regulations prepared and they should be introduced in the coming weeks.</p>	<b>April 2023</b>	<p><b>Tony Brown</b>  <b>Executive Director, Member Services</b>  <b>9213 2051</b>  <a href="mailto:tbrown@walga.asn.au">tbrown@walga.asn.au</a></p>



<p><b>Central C</b></p>	<p><b>2021 19 November Zone Agenda Item 12.1 Sector ICT solution</b></p>	<p>That the Zone request WALGA to research providers and the viability of an in-house IT system.</p>	<p>The idea of an all-of-sector model ICT solution is not viable for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different size Local Governments – no one size fits all;</li> <li>• Local Government's being at different levels of need and maturity in the ICT requirements;</li> <li>• We are unlikely to get the requisite LG buy-in to warrant the investment; and</li> <li>• The inherent complexity of a custom-built system is time and cost-prohibitive.</li> </ul> <p>A more workable suggestion is for a group of similar size/maturity level Local Governments to engage a consultant to define a model set that meets their needs. Any recommendations could be reviewed by a representative of the LG ICT Managers Network to ensure it is appropriate.</p> <p>It would be expected that the following range of recommendations are achievable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suitable hardware requirements (including remote options where appropriate)</li> <li>• Suggested lightweight accounting software</li> <li>• Baseline model directory structure</li> <li>• Security options</li> <li>• Backup software and procedures</li> <li>• Suitable internet options</li> </ul> <p>WALGA is looking to assist in facilitating discussions on a shared service model to research this with a group of Local Governments further. Due to work priorities this work was not carried out in 2022, however work is scheduled this year.</p>	<p><b>April 2023</b></p>	<p><b>Tony Brown Executive Director, Member Services 9213 2051 <a href="mailto:tbrown@walga.a&lt;br/&gt;sn.au">tbrown@walga.a sn.au</a></b></p>
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## Zone Comment

This is an opportunity for Member Councils to consider the response from WALGA in respect to the matters that were submitted at the previous Zone Meeting.

## RECOMMENDATION

**That the Central Country Zone, WALGA Status Report for April 2023 be noted.**

### 11.4 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – 3 May 2023

#### Background

WALGA State Council meets five times each year and as part of the consultation process with Member Councils circulates the State Council Agenda for input through the Zone structure.

The full State Council Agenda can be found [here](#).

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

#### Matters for Decision

##### 7.1 Best Practice Governance Review – Feedback on Governance Model

#### Executive Summary

- State Council commissioned the Best Practice Governance Review with the appointment of a Steering Committee in March 2022.
- The Steering Committee, which met nine times over the course of the project to date and reported back to State Council several times, finalised its [Final Report](#) in February 2023.
- On the basis of member feedback, the Steering Committee recommended Model 1 as the alternate governance model, which would result in the retention of State Council and Zones and the creation of a Board, with the majority of members elected from and by State Council.
- At their March 2023 meeting, State Council resolved to seek feedback from Members on the proposed model.
- To facilitate feedback from Members, the Final Report was distributed and a webinar was held, which was attended by 48 Local Government leaders;
- Feedback was received from 17 Member Local Governments, with nine Member Local Governments expressing support for the proposed Model 1, and eight Member Local Government outlining concerns with the proposed Model 1 or expressing support for the Current Governance Model.
- Concerns with the proposed Model 1 mostly related to concerns around representation at Board level, including the potential for representational imbalances, and the appointment of independent members, including a suggestion that independent members would be more likely to be metropolitan based.
- Next steps for the project are for two sets of constitutional amendments to be presented to State Council at the July 2023 meeting with the view that these amendments would be presented to Members at the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

## **WALGA Recommendation**

**That:**

- 1. This report summarising feedback from Members on the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report be received; and**
- 2. Two sets of constitutional changes be developed for consideration by State Council at the July 2023 meeting to be put to the 2023 Annual General Meeting, that:**
  - a. Give effect to the revised Model 1, as per the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report; and**
  - b. Refine the constitution to address inconsistencies and other issues while maintaining the current governance model.**

## **7.2 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' Child Safe Awareness Policy Template**

### **Executive Summary**

- Since 2020, the State Government has consulted with the Local Government sector in relation to Recommendation 6.12 from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (Royal Commission), which recommended that Local Governments should designate Child Safety Officers, with support from governments at the National and State level.
- In 2022, the Department of Communities (DoC) facilitated a series of co-design sessions which involved 35 representatives from Local Government, the Commissioner for Children and Young People (CCYP), WALGA, and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) to develop the Child Safe Awareness Policy Template for Local Government (the Policy) to support implementation of Recommendation 6.12.
- The Policy supports initial action by Local Governments in addressing Recommendation 6.12, and forms part of the broader environment of child safe reforms developed out of the findings of the Royal Commission that will impact Local Government.
- DLGSC is seeking WALGA support for the Policy.
- WALGA considers support for the Policy is appropriate but notes that Local Governments will require ongoing support and resourcing assistance consistent with WALGA's *Advocacy Position 3.10.2 Child Safeguarding*.
- WALGA will continue to advocate to the State Government for the Policy to be considered in the context of a broader implementation plan for all the Royal Commission's recommendations relevant to Local Government.

## **WALGA Recommendation**

**That State Council:**

- 1. Supports the draft Child Safe Awareness Policy Template being provided to Local Governments to assist with their implementation of Recommendation 6.12 of the Royal Commission (Child Safety Officers in Local Government); and**
- 2. Notes the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' commitment to providing ongoing support and resourcing assistance to Local Governments to assist with implementation of the draft Child Safe Awareness Policy Template and other relevant actions relating to child safeguarding, through the Child Safeguarding Implementation Unit.**

### 7.3 Abandoned Shopping Trolleys Advocacy Position

#### Executive Summary

- Abandoned trolleys in the public domain, create safety hazards for pedestrian and vehicular traffic and negatively impact public amenity and the natural environment.
- Some retailers prioritise their civic and social responsibilities, however the cost of physically retrieving illegally dumped trolleys is now substantially more than the cost of replacing trolleys.
- The absence of economic or legally enforceable imperative means retailers are increasingly not responding to this issue within reasonable timeframes, if at all.
- In response to community expectations, Local Governments bear the increasing cost burden to remove, impound and eventually dispose of abandoned trolleys.
- The *Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021* (NSW), presents an example of how legislation can be used to address issues arising from shopping trolleys.

#### WALGA Recommendation

That State Council endorse the following position on Abandoned Shopping Trolleys:

***The Local Government Sector advocates for State Government to consult with the Sector and prioritise legislative reforms that require retailers to contain shopping trolleys within shopping centre property boundaries, inclusive of enforcement and modified penalty mechanisms that are a realistic economic imperative for retailers to comply with containment requirements.***

### 7.4 Speed Management Reform Advocacy Position

#### Executive Summary

- WALGA's existing policy on speed management is narrow in scope and is inadequate for advocating the varying needs of the Local Government sector.
- Speed management is an important tool for Local Governments, for managing the safety performance of local roads and to help create healthy, vibrant, and connected communities.
- Changing speed limits is an important element of speed management but the application process can be difficult and Local Governments currently have limited influence in the determination of speed limit changes on local roads.
- A contemporary advocacy position on speed management will enable WALGA to advocate for reforms that are needed to better reflect the diverse needs of Local Governments and enable effective and responsible management of travel speeds on local roads.

#### WALGA Recommendation

That the Speed Management Advocacy Position as follows, be endorsed:

1. ***That WALGA supports Local Governments wishing to manage travel speeds, including speed limit changes, as a means of achieving the many health, social and environmental benefits for communities.***
2. ***That Main Roads WA (MRWA) retain the overarching authority for speed limit setting/zoning.***
3. ***That Main Roads WA speed zoning policies and processes be reformed so that Local Governments are more influential in the determination of speed limit decreases or increases for local roads.***
  - a. ***This will include applications that are deemed to be approved when the application:***

- i. is based on assessments by competent Local Government practitioners,*
    - ii. contains evidence-based identification of the benefits,*
    - iii. contains preliminary designs for infrastructure safety upgrades associated with applications to increase speed limits, and*
    - iv. includes an engagement strategy for managing community and stakeholder expectations.*
  - b. Allows for Main Roads WA to decline an application, within a mutually agreed timeframe, on the basis that it:*
    - i. does not meet the above criteria, and*
    - ii. provides specific evidence for declining the application.*
- 4. The WALGA seeks to work with Main Roads WA and other stakeholders, to develop a speed management guide for Local Governments.**

## **7.5 State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement 2023/24 to 2027/28**

### **Executive Summary**

- The State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement (Agreement) provides funding for Local Governments to improve and maintain the local road network.
- The new Agreement continues to provide 20% of vehicle license fee revenue collected by the State Government to be applied to Local Government roads and paths.
- The proposed Agreement is for a five-year term from 2023/24 to 2027/28.
- The overall structure and intent of the Agreement remains largely unchanged from the previous Agreement.
- Commitments to road safety, aboriginal employment and recycled materials have been expanded.
- The Agreement was developed through consultation with Local Government members of the State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee (SAC), Main Roads WA and Regional Road Group representatives.

### **WALGA Recommendation**

**That the State Roads Funds to Local Government Agreement 2023/24 – 2027/28 be endorsed.**

### **Policy Team Reports**

#### **8.1 Environment and Waste Policy Team Report**

*The Environment and Waste Policy Team includes the following subject areas:*

- *Climate change*
- *Native vegetation and biodiversity*
- *Biosecurity*
- *Water resources*
- *Sustainability*
- *Waste management*

### **WALGA Recommendation**

**That the matters considered by the Environment and Waste Policy Team be noted.**

## 8.2 Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team Report

*The Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team includes the following subject areas:*

- *Employee Relations*
- *Governance*
- *Strategy and Association Governance*
- *Training*
- *Regional Capacity Building / Local Government Reform*

### **WALGA Recommendation**

**That State Council:**

- 1. Retain, without amendment, Advocacy Positions:**
  - (a) 2.1.14 Financial Assistance Grants**
  - (b) 2.4.4 Remote Area Tax**
  - (c) 2.5.21 Conduct of Postal Elections**
  - (d) 2.5.39 Exemption from ASSB124**
- 2. Delete Advocacy Positions:**
  - (a) 2.5.14 Tender Threshold**
  - (b) 2.5.26 Simple and Absolute Majority**
- 3. Notes the GOS Policy Team's consideration of WALGA AGM 2022 Item 3.12.1 Abandoned Shopping Trolleys.**

## 8.3 Infrastructure Policy Team Report

*The Infrastructure Policy Team includes the following subject areas:*

- *Roads and paths*
- *Road safety*
- *Transport*
- *Freight*
- *Utilities (including telecommunications and underground power)*

### **WALGA Recommendation**

**That the matters considered by the Infrastructure Policy Team be noted.**

## 8.4 People and Place Policy Team Report

*The People and Place Policy Team includes the following subject areas:*

- *Community*
- *Emergency Management*
- *Planning and Building*

### **WALGA Recommendation**

**That the matters considered by the People and Place Policy Team be noted.**



### **Matters for Noting/Information**

- 9.1 2023 Policy Priorities
- 9.2 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review Project
- 9.3 Submission to the Independent Review of WA's COVID-19 Management and Response
- 9.4 Submission to the DWER E-waste to Landfill Ban Consultation Paper
- 9.5 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC)
- 9.6 March 2023 Economic Briefing

### **RECOMMENDATION**

#### **That the Central Country Zone**

- 1. **Supports all Matters for Decision as listed above in the May 2023 State Council Agenda.**
- 2. **Notes all Matters for Noting and Organisational Reports as listed in the May 2023 State Council Agenda.**

<b>11.5 WALGA President's Report</b>
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The WALGA President's Report is attached to the Agenda (**Attachment 7**).

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Central Country Zone notes the WALGA President's Report.**

### **12. Emerging Issues**

### **13. Date, Time, and Place of Next Meeting**

The next Central Country Zone meeting will be held on Friday, 23 June 2023 commencing at 9:30am. This meeting will be hosted by the Shire of Dumbleyung.

### **14. Closure**

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at \_\_\_\_.



# President's Report

## May 2023

As always it hardly seems like yesterday that the last round of Zone meetings took place. Local Government continues to be adaptable to change, some of which we welcome, others of course we are finding challenging.

State Council continues to consider Zone responses to our Agenda and other current matters affecting Local Government and WALGA. Our Policy Teams are working effectively; the updates from these Teams are comprehensive and it is evident that WALGA policy positions are reviewed regularly to ensure they are current.

### **Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples**

At its [March 2023](#) meeting, State Council resolved:

*That WALGA:*

- 1. Supports respectful conversations about constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and the Voice to Parliament.*
- 2. Requests that the Commonwealth Government ensure that Local Governments and communities are kept informed on the proposal.*

WALGA will continue to keep the Local Government sector informed of progress towards the Referendum on an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

### **Local Government Act Reforms**

Finally, the much-anticipated reforms have been tabled. It's been a very long journey to get to this point and it is important that we continue to be part of the conversation around the regulations that underpin these legislative changes.

The Local Government Amendment Bill 2023 (bill No.103) was introduced to the Legislative Assembly on 23 February 2023 and received its Third Reading on 23 March 2023.

The Bill is listed for the Legislative Council to resume debate when it next sits on Tuesday, 9 May 2023.

Work on the second tranche of additional legislation to deliver further reforms is continuing in consultation with the Local Government sector. The second tranche of reforms is expected towards the end of the 2023 calendar year and will include:

- Office of the Local Government Inspector including Monitors and a Conduct Panel replacing the current Standards Panel.
- Elected Member Superannuation
- Audit Committees – Requirement for an Independent Chair
- Streamlining Regional Subsidiaries
- WALGA's role in the Local Government Act

## **Active Travel to School**

It was my pleasure to attend the formal launch of the Active Travel to School Roadmap by Hon Rita Saffioti MLA, Minister for Transport, Planning and Ports.

WALGA and Councils will have the opportunity through the Strategy to address challenges of traffic congestion around schools faced by many urban Local Governments. This issue was placed on the agenda at the 2022 WALGA Annual General meeting and we are looking to the interagency and stakeholder working group to contribute positive change. In Perth, around 20% of students walk or ride to school. A significant increase in this proportion would reduce car traffic and demand for parking around school sites.

## **Transport and Roads Forum**

This forum was such a great success. I valued the opportunity to meet with Members from most parts of the State. Conscious of the ongoing impacts of flooding in the Kimberley and ever-present threat of floods and fires across the State, keynote speaker Brendan Moon AM, Coordinator-General for Emergency Management offered delegates an encouraging and pragmatic approach by the National Emergency Management Agency to strengthen and support Local Governments to prepare for and respond to natural disasters.

Many Local Governments find the current disaster recovery funding arrangements ineffective, and the Association will increase our efforts to achieve better outcomes in this area. Concurrent sessions provided delegates the opportunity to interact with some contentious issues including speed limit setting, permits to clear native vegetation to upgrade roads, heavy vehicle access to the road network and incorporating recycled materials in road construction.

## **LGIS – Board Planning**

Earlier this month I participated in an LGIS board workshop that we hold twice a year. This was the first workshop for the new LGIS CEO James Sheridan, and we covered important ground reviewing the key risks that you rely on LGIS to support you in addressing. I enjoyed, and was challenged by, the ESG workshop session and look forward to progressing the work we have started in developing an appropriate sustainability and ESG framework for LGIS. With a Tropical Cyclone close to making landfall as I prepare this report, the importance of LGIS to you our Members has never been more acute.

## **ICT/ Cyber Security Project**

A couple of OAG Reports and constant publicly advised threats and breaches is keeping this subject as a grave concern for many Local Governments.

The sector is conscious of information systems security and integrity following Office of the Auditor General performance audits in June 2020, November 2021, June 2022 and March 2023.

In response to the findings, WALGA has been in communication with Office of Digital Government (DGov) as a potential future stakeholder, to explore the potential for WALGA to facilitate Local Government access to the WA Cyber Security Unit, operated by DGov. WALGA will collaborate with DGov to prepare a Cyber Security Business Case for consideration by the State Government, inclusive of the costs and benefits of providing Cyber Security Operations Centre resources for WALGA and its Members.



To facilitate the Business Case development necessary to make the Ministerial submission, WALGA has engaged a consultant who is currently surveying the sector. An important aspect of the consultancy will be obtaining valuable quantifiable information on systems and process perspective and experiences of our member Local Governments.

A survey released to the sector in March 2023 resulted in 70 responses, with additional focus group meetings being held with representatives of metropolitan and regional Local Governments.

**Cr Karen Chappel JP**  
**WALGA President**

## **President's Contacts**

The President's contacts since 1 March 2023 and scheduled before 3 May 2023 are as follows:

### **State Government Relations**

- Shadow Minister for Local Government and Territories, Hon. Darren Chester MP
- Minister for Training; Water; Youth, Hon. Simone McGurk MLA
- Minister for Regional Development; Disability Services; Fisheries; Seniors and Ageing, Hon. Don Punch MLA
- Minister for Emergency Services; Innovation and the Digital Economy; Medical Research; Volunteering, Hon. Stephen Dawson MLC
- Hon. Melissa Price MP, Member for Durack
- Minister for Early Childhood Education; Child Protection; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services, Hon. Sabine Winton MLA
- Minister for Culture and the Arts; Sport and Recreation; International Education; Heritage, Hon. David Templeman MLA

### **Zone Meetings**

- Kimberley Country Zone meeting
- Murchison Country Zone meeting
- Great Eastern Country Zone meeting
- Great Southern Country Zone meeting
- Pilbara Country Zone meeting
- South East Metropolitan Zone meeting

### **Local Government Relations**

- State Council meetings:
  - State Council meeting, 1 March
  - Strategic Forum, 1 March
  - Finance and Services Committee meeting
- WALGA events
  - Transport and Roads Forum / Field Day
  - WALGA Best Practice Governance Review webinar
  - Medium Density Code webinar
  - National Reconciliation Week 2023 briefing to Members webinar
- LGIS
  - Board meeting
  - Board workshop
- ALGA
  - Governance policy discussion
  - Board meeting
  - Executive meeting
- Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund Board meeting
- State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee meeting

### **Conferences, Workshops, Public Relations**

- International Women's Day Celebration
- Growing Regions Program virtual roundtable
- The Future of Cyber Security conference
- Wagin Woolorama



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# **Central Country Zone Meeting Main Roads Report**

April 2023

### Current Works

ROAD	LOCATION	SLK RANGE	ACTIVITY	COMMENTS
Brookton Hwy	Kondinin and Hyden	261.5 – 277.5	Widening and rehabilitation	Due for completion end of April 2023.
Brookton Hwy	Metro border and Brookton	37.66 – 109.83	Overhead and lateral pruning	Due for completion end of April 2023.
Collie Lake King Rd	Bowelling to Lake Grace	84.08, 127.35, 159.43, 195.42, 197.12, 218.82, 219.05, 219.45, 219.77, 220.06, 220.27, 220.36	Pavement repairs	Due for completion end of April 2023.
Coalfields Rd	Bowelling and Darkan	80.42 104.59	Bridge No 437A Bridge 0440	Due for completion June 2023
Kondinin Hyden Road	Between Kondinin and Hyden	261.5 – 277.5	16km sealing of shoulders on the existing formation and rehabilitation.	4 km of the section will also be rehabilitated (overlaid) for the full width. Due for completion end of April 2022
Williams Kondinin Rd	Between Wickepin and Heffernan Rd (23.7km)	70.18 – 93.7	Sealing of shoulders and installation of audible edge lines	Works due to commence April 2023 and due for completion mid June 2023.
York Merredin Rd	East of Quairading	68.36 – 87.2	Sealing of shoulders and installation of audible edge lines	Works commenced in February 2023 and due for completion end of April 2023.
York Merredin Rd	East of Quairading	70 - 73	Pavement rehabilitation	Works commenced in February 2023 and due for completion end of April 2023.

**Future 2022 / 2023 Works**

ROAD	LOCATION	SLK RANGE	ACTIVITY	COMMENTS
Wagin Dumbleyung Rd	21km east of Wagin	176.93 – 181.73	Widening and overlay	Holding repairs continuing. Date to be confirmed for pavement repair and resurfacing.
Lake Grace and Lake King	Intersections: - Stubbs and South St in Lake Grace - Newdegate – Lake Grace Road and Brookton Highway in Lake King		Asphalt resurfacing	Works anticipated May 2023

**Annual Works Program 2023/24 Bid**

Treatment Group	\$ FY 22-23	\$ FY 23-24
10 Network Management	3,211,347.14	4,876,126.91
11 Network Operations	750,033.08	471,666.54
12 Routine Maintenance	3,210,873.62	5,721,876.00
20 Pavement Rehabilitation	5,020,300.70	19,075,509.80
21 Pavement Repair	6,595,100.00	8,307,144.47
22 Shoulders	521,557.92	491,508.00
30 Resurfacing - Asphalt	2,265,443.00	1,822,903.50
31 Resurfacing - Spray Seal	8,199,776.01	8,069,724.00
32 Surface Repair	160,304.34	1,293,207.78
40 Drainage	1,922,041.32	2,210,552.36
41 Vegetation Control	3,414,291.87	3,899,168.13
42 Roadside and Misc	211,557.00	300,000.40
43 Miscellaneous Structures		205,700.00
50 Traffic Devices	3,232,594.07	3,466,923.48
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,715,220.07</b>	<b>60,212,011.37</b>

### **Regional Panel Contracts**

- Wheatbelt Plant and Equipment Panel Contract — awarded
- Wheatbelt Vegetation Control Panel Contract — awarded



# Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Report

April 2023

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## Local Government Act Reform

- On 23 February 2023, the Local Government Amendment Bill 2023 was introduced.
- The Bill passed in the Legislative Assembly on 23 March 2023 and is currently before the Legislative Council.
- Subject to Parliamentary processes, the anticipated passage of the Bill will be May 2023.
- As you are aware, the Minister has advised that he will be introducing the legislative reform proposals in two tranches.
- The first tranche was introduced in March 2023 covering:
  - electoral reforms such as:
    - number of council members
    - optional preferential voting
    - public vote to elect the Mayor/President for bands 1 and 2
    - removal of electoral wards for bands 3 and 4
    - filling of extraordinary vacancies without need for extraordinary elections.
  - standardised council meeting procedures
  - live streaming of meetings for bands 1 and 2
  - recording of meetings for bands 3 and 4
  - State-wide caretaker period
  - publication of CEO performance indicators and results
  - community engagement charters and surveys
  - council/CEO communications agreements
  - payment of fees and expenses for independent committee members.
- The second tranche will cover all other matters and will be introduced to Parliament later in the year.
- On 9 March 2023, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) hosted a webinar discussing the Local Government Amendment Bill 2023 in further detail. If you would like a link to the webinar recording, this is available on the [DLGSC website under local government reforms](#).
- DLGSC is running a series of monthly webinars and deep dives into specific topics regarding the reforms in the upcoming months. The topic for April's webinar will be optional preferential voting. Please ensure you are signed up to LG alerts for these announcements.

## October 2023 Local Government Elections

- The first Bill introduces optional preferential voting (OPV) for all local government elections to allow electors to preference as many or as few candidates as they decide.
- It is important to note that preferential voting is only form of voting for local government elections however the elector has the option to vote for:
  - one candidate; or
  - more than one candidate in their order of their preference.



- It also includes related new provisions to provide for the backfilling of vacancies in situations such as when a member of a council is directly elected as the Mayor or President, or if a vacancy arises within one year of a council member being elected.
- OPV and related new provisions will come into operation for the October 2023 local government elections.
- In considering potential arrangements, councils must decide whether to declare the Western Australian Electoral Commissioner to conduct the election or appoint the local government's Chief Executive Officer (or other appointee) as the Returning Officer.
- Declaring the Electoral Commissioner to conduct the election will mean that they will be responsible for managing the election, including the conduct of the count and the introduction of the new OPV counting and backfilling provisions.
- If local governments chose to appoint the local government's Chief Executive Officer (or other appointee) as the Returning Officer to conduct the election, they will be wholly responsible for managing the election.
- If local governments chose to manage the election themselves, they will have the option to purchase a licence for access to the WAEC's CountWA software to facilitate the counting of votes.
- The WAEC will only be able to provide general assistance on accessing and using the software if this option is chosen.
- Local governments have received a letter from the Minister encouraging them to consider options for the conduct of the October 2023 elections no later than 31 March 2023.

## **Regulatory approach and framework for local government**

- The DLGSC has reviewed its regulatory framework for local government.
- The previous local government Compliance Framework was out of date, and it was identified by the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) to not be meeting the needs of the sector.
- The updated regulatory framework addresses recommendations of the OAG Performance Audit Report – DLGSC Regulation and Support of Local Government, which was tabled in Parliament on 30 April 2021.
- The DLGSC is currently working to finalise an assessment and triage tool to guide consistent decision-making in responding to instances of regulatory non-compliance. It is anticipated that this tool will be completed in the coming months.
- To complement and support DLGSC's approach to regulating the sector, a compliance and risk assessment framework is currently being developed by DLGSC which will set out how it deals with non-compliance and rates LGs risk levels.
- It is expected that the compliance framework will be completed and implemented by end of June 2023.
- A new information and data collection system to streamline and replace previous platforms, SmartHub and CRM is being developed to ensure that DLGSC has appropriate and current information to inform its regulatory framework and risk assessment tools.

## **Local government early intervention strategies**

- There has been an increased emphasis on early intervention where local governments are experiencing a level of dysfunction, that if persists, could have consequences on the local government's provision of good governance to their community and district.
- Currently, the DLGSC is engaging with a small number of local governments in the early intervention space.



## Complaints handling

- To assist the local government sector with handling council member behavioural issues and resulting complaints, DLGSC is developing a preferred model that can be adopted by local governments.
- The preferred model involves a local government establishing a dedicated council member behavioural complaint committee that will determine complaints and refer to Council in relation to penalty and/or action plans.
- The council member behavioural complaint committee may have jurisdiction to deal with council member non-compliance with policy and code of conduct requirements.

## Stop Puppy Farming

- *The Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act 2021* (SPF Act) requires the design and development of a centralised registration system (CRS) for dogs. The CRS will also assist with the registration of cats under the *Cat Act 2011*, and the development of regulations in consultation with stakeholders.
- A Request for Tender (RFT) for the implementation of the CRS was released to the market on 24 January 2023 and closed on 8 March 2023.
- DLGSC is currently evaluating the tenders received.
- Pending the result of the tender, DLGSC are working towards the indicative operational date for the CRS in late 2023.
- A consultation paper is being drafted, to seek feedback from stakeholders and interested members of the community, to assist in developing workable regulations.

## DLGSC Contacts

LG Support and Engagement	<a href="mailto:lghotline@dlgsc.wa.gov.au">lghotline@dlgsc.wa.gov.au</a>
LG Policy and Legislation	<a href="mailto:legislation@dlgsc.wa.gov.au">legislation@dlgsc.wa.gov.au</a>
CRS – Stop Puppy Farming	<a href="mailto:puppyfarming@dlgsc.wa.gov.au">puppyfarming@dlgsc.wa.gov.au</a>
Grants Commission - Financial Assistance Grants	<a href="mailto:grants.commission@dlgsc.wa.gov.au">grants.commission@dlgsc.wa.gov.au</a>
LG accounting enquiries	<a href="mailto:LG.accounting@dlgsc.wa.gov.au">LG.accounting@dlgsc.wa.gov.au</a>
LG Act reform	<a href="mailto:actreview@dlgsc.wa.gov.au">actreview@dlgsc.wa.gov.au</a>

## **RDA Wheatbelt Update – Local Government Zone Meetings**

Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development  
[mandy.walker@rdawheatbelt.com.au](mailto:mandy.walker@rdawheatbelt.com.au) ph. 0428 372 179  
April 2023

### **LUMEN WHEATBELT REGIONAL UNIVERSITY CENTRE (LWRUC)**

An official opening function for Lumen will be held at our Narrogin hub on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. We now have 18 registered students and are working on rolling out a strategy to attract more students and communicate our availability across the region. We are still looking for Student Support Officers at the Narrogin and Merredin sites. These are flexible part time roles at 20 hours per week with training provided. The SSO coordinates the operations of the LWRUC providing local study skills support to students studying with the LWRUC's university partners. Fosters strong student connectivity and develops initiatives to support students located in Wheatbelt communities. Maintains relationships with key regional and university stakeholders. Develops and maintains student record systems, manages the Study Hubs media presence and assists the LWRUC Director to build and grow a successful program. Please forward us the contact details for anyone you have in mind who could be a good fit for us.

Elise's contact details are telephone 0488 025 446 email [director@lumenwruc.edu.au](mailto:director@lumenwruc.edu.au) and the website is live and ready for registrations [www.lumenwruc.edu.au](http://www.lumenwruc.edu.au) .

### **RDAW and ODIS DEFENCE INDUSTRY ROUNDTABLE**

RDAW is working with the Office of Defence Industry Support (ODIS) to facilitate a defence industries supply chain roundtable on the 27<sup>th</sup> April in Dalwallinu with site visits to Merredin, Kellerberrin, Dowerin, Wongan and Dalwallinu. The purpose of the roundtable is to demystify the defence industry supply chain, introduce stakeholders to Wheatbelt manufacturers, discuss supply options and opportunities potentially available in the WA Defence establishment and ship sustainment areas.

We have also met with businesses in Henderson who contract directly to Defence and we are working on making introductions across the region to fulfil parts of contracts that have been outsourced to eastern states businesses. We're also working on an engagement plan to collaborate with industry associations and Government Departments to boost the number of Wheatbelt businesses in the Defence supply chain. One possibility is the formation of a collective of businesses that are approached by Defence contractors and invited to respond to requests for quote for small work packages, sharing labour and apprentices.

### **GRANTS**

Currently we have 18 subscribers to GrantGuru for the new subscription period. We have negotiated a half price subscription for Local Government, \$500 per year for two years to join the exclusive Local Government portal which collates grant information only available to Local Governments. Please respond to Pippa's invitation as soon as possible so that we can finalise access.

Grant Guru is an aggregation of all online grant portals, it is essentially a one stop shop for funding pathways. Remember to register for free email alerts for when grants open or if they change according to your preferences and profile. Register here <https://rdawa.grantguru.com.au/register/> The free community portal can be embedded on your shire websites to boost support of businesses and community groups access to grant information.

## **REGIONAL BANKING SUBMISSION**

RDAW conducted a short survey to collect data to report back to the Federal Government's inquiry into the closures of regional banks. The following text is an extract from our submission.

There has been 11 closures of banks or bank agencies in the Wheatbelt Region over the past 10 years. This represents 22% of the overall banking services in the region over that period. Additionally, RDA Wheatbelt has become aware that Bankwest branches in the region are being or going to be brought under the CBA brand. This will potentially see 10 Bankwest branches cease operation which in turn may reduce the number of banking services in the region from 38 to 28 if CBA does not replace the Bankwest branches.

While it is possible to see the rationale from the banks point of view behind their branch closures the reality is somewhat different. Digital connectivity and mobile phone coverage along with reliable supply of power in various areas in the Wheatbelt can be or is consistently problematic. Any issues with these sources impact on the digital banking medium. Power blackouts or brownouts are not an infrequent occurrence in many towns across the Wheatbelt which means that purchase transactions must be made in cash and cash may only be accessed across the counter in a bank as the power outage will shut down the ATM. Therefore, no power, no bank, no cash.

Conjointly, there is the issue of older residents being less able to use computers and mobile phones for online banking. This is particularly relevant in the Wheatbelt Region where according to the 2021 Census, 23% of the population were 65 and over with four LGs recorded as having one third of their population in that age category and 18 LGs with a quarter or more of their residents aged 65 and over.

In the RDA Wheatbelt survey, respondents were asked how far they would need to travel if their bank in town closed. Responses to this question illustrate the level of inconvenience and additional costs that residents in the region face if they simply wish to access face to face banking services. Of those who responded to the question, 26% indicated that they would have to travel less than 50 kms, 48% would have to travel between 51 and 100 kms, while 23% would have to travel between 101 and 200 kms with 3% having to travel more than 200 kms.

Having to leave their local town to access face to face banking services would also have a direct adverse effect on the town's economy as 94% of respondents in the survey indicated that in travelling to a (bigger) town with a bank they would take the opportunity to do shopping. Although, the money they spend remains in the region it is shifted away from the local businesses in the respondents town.

The impact of this redirection of revenue out of towns without a bank is demonstrated in the responses to the question '...while in another town for banking, on average how much would you spend?' Over a third (36%) of respondents indicated that they would spend between \$101 and \$200 per week with 33% nominating between \$201 and \$300 per week along with 12% who thought they would spend over \$500 per week. These levels of spending out of town would or does seriously challenge the economic sustainability of some small and medium businesses in these towns without a bank.

The potential for this to impact on local businesses was shown in responses to the question 'Has the lack of bank services impacted your business cash flow?' Of the businesses owners or managers that responded to the survey, 29% agreed that a lack of banking services in their town had a negative effect

on their businesses cash flow. This 29% represented most of the respondents from towns without a bank.

At the same time, the lack of a bank in a town has resulted in more costs to customers or business transactions as demonstrated by the 59% of respondents in the survey who indicated that local businesses were charging a fee on card transactions. Then there is the added inconvenience of accessing a cash float for a business or event which 65% of survey respondents cited as an issue. In a supporting interview to the RDA Wheatbelt survey, a resident who is the treasurer of the local football club and whose bank had withdrawn from the town, said that for a home game the club needed a cash float of \$5,000. They said that there was no way the local post office or the ATM could provide such a sum. As a result, they had to take time off from work on a Friday to undertake a round trip of almost 140 kms to pick up the float.

RDAW continues to advocate for improved digital technologies to enable banking services to be delivered in the region.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSIONS**

We have welcomed the opportunity to facilitate discussions across local governments specific to identifying economic development opportunities. Using the WALGA Economic Development Framework we've been able to encourage creative thinking around ideas to investigate which have the potential to increase jobs and wealth within a shire. The process involves understanding the current economic drivers, a shire wide SWOT analysis, looking outside the region at economic activators, considering the impact CSIRO's seven global megatrends and how they may impact what we do in the Wheatbelt, and making a list of questions to follow up so that specific projects can be built into a local economic development plan. We're happy to take more requests to do this across the region.

### **GROWING REGIONS AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

<https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/territories-regions-cities/regional-australia/growing-regions-program>

<https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/territories-regions-cities/regional-australia/regional-and-community-programs/regional-precincts-and-partnerships-program>

What is a precinct?

- Regional precincts or 'places with a purpose' are user defined geographic areas with a specific shared need or theme.
- Precincts support better integration of land use and ensure the infrastructure investment complements the broader region and its surrounding communities, spaces, transport and activities by considering the urban ecosystem around the precinct.
- A precinct enables redevelopment of a community space that can be used long into the future and contributes to a new identity and activity to that regional area.

What is a partnership?

- Unlike traditional grants programs, the rPPP requires partnerships comprised of key local stakeholders to be involved in the planning and delivery stages of a precinct proposal.
- The success of a precinct requires a strong partnership so that all interested bodies are working together towards a common goal.
- Partnerships are intended to include all stakeholders who have an interest in the precinct, such as land owners, developers, designers, end-users, neighbours, First Nations people and community groups so that consultation is embedded during the evolution of the project.



Attachment 3

**From:** Bineham, Nancy <[Nancy.Bineham@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:Nancy.Bineham@health.wa.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 16 March 2023 1:34 PM  
**To:** Robert Dew <[tambin@westnet.com.au](mailto:tambin@westnet.com.au)>; Tony Brown <[tbrown@walga.asn.au](mailto:tbrown@walga.asn.au)>  
**Cc:** Jeffery, Chantelle <[Chantelle.Jeffery@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:Chantelle.Jeffery@health.wa.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: Wheatbelt interagency Health & Wellbeing Plan: Towards 2035 Working Group WAPHA membership

Hello Robert and Tony

As you know Melissa Spark and I have presented to the Central Country, Avon-Midland and Great Eastern zones on the interagency *Wheatbelt Health & Wellbeing Plan: Towards 2035*.

The plan will consider health and wellbeing priorities to improve access to care and health outcomes of the Wheatbelt population and will inform and be informed by local LGA Public Health/ Health & Wellbeing plans under the Public Health Act – see [Public health planning for local government](#).

We've had a small informal working group (WG) that has met fortnightly for around 6 months but we are now formalising the WG and would really value 1-3 LGA representatives (possibly one LGA rep from each of the 3 zones that cover the Wheatbelt region or 1 LGA rep that can report back to the 3 zones/all Wheatbelt Shires?).

Happy to discuss further

*Kind Regards*  
*Nancy*

**Nancy Bineham** | Director Strategy, Change & Service Development  
**WA Country Health Service-Wheatbelt**  
Mob: 0407 011 504

E: [nancy.bineham@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:nancy.bineham@health.wa.gov.au) [www.wacountry.health.wa.gov.au](http://www.wacountry.health.wa.gov.au)

*I respectfully acknowledge the past and present traditional owners of the Noongar Lands that I am working on*

PS: If your matter requires my urgent attention please contact me directly on my mobile.

Our Values: Community | Compassion | Quality | Integrity | Equity | Curiosity



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# Local Government MoU

This Memorandum of Understanding is made on the (insert date)

## Parties to the Agreement

**Shire of Beverley**  
**Shire of Brookton**  
**Shire of Corrigin**  
**Shire of Cuballing**  
**Shire of Dumbleyung**  
**Shire of Kulin**  
**Shire of Lake Grace**  
**Shire of Narrogin**  
**Shire of Pingelly**  
**Shire of Quairading**  
**Shire of Wagin**  
**Shire of Wandering**  
**Shire of West Arthur**  
**Shire of Wickepin**  
**Shire of Williams**

Hereinafter called the 'partnering LGs' parties' or 'partners'.

## Aim

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) sets out a basic framework for cooperation between the Local Governments (LGs) named, to promote cooperation in a disaster event which affects one or more of the partnering LGs.

The guiding principle of this MoU is that any support given to a partnering LG in a particular emergency event shall be voluntary and of a level that will not unduly compromise the operability of the partnering LG providing the support.

## Purpose

To facilitate the provision of mutual aid between partnering LGs during emergencies and post incident recovery.

To enhance the capacity of our communities to cope in times of difficulty.

To demonstrate the capacity and willingness of participating LGs to work co-operatively and share resources within the region.

## Partnering Objectives

Partners to this MoU, in times of community distress due to an emergency incident, agree where possible to:

1. Provide whatever resources may reasonably be available within the capacity of that LG to respond to the emergency incident if requested.
2. Provide at its absolute discretion, whatever resources may be available within the means of that LG to assist with post incident recovery in the community.

## Allocation of Resources



1. This MoU acknowledges that the allocation of a partnering LG's personnel and plant resources is an operational issue, and as such is the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the LG seeking to offer aid.
2. This MoU seeks to demonstrate that the CEO's commitment to supporting other LGs in need is supported by the Elected Members of each participating Council.
3. Acknowledges and accepts that each participating Local Government commits to make available at a minimum and if required the following resources (if not otherwise committed or needed) at no cost for up to thirty (30) days during and immediately following an event. There after CEO discretion on allocation of these resources and cost recovery may apply:
  - Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM)
  - Local Recovery Coordinator (LRC)
  - Administration Officer
  - Plant Operator
  - Evacuation Centre Building
  - Animal Welfare Equipment
  - Community Bus (excludes fuel)
  - Emergency Generator (excludes fuel)

### **Cost Recovery**

The Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, Western Australia (DRFAWA) guidelines provide for the reimbursement of expenditure incurred by partnering LGs during a disaster event. Each partnering LG is responsible for maintaining an accurate record of its expenditure during an event.

In the event the emergency is declared a Disaster, State and Commonwealth funding assistance will be sought in compliance with relevant State and Commonwealth Policies. The affected partnering LG area will claim these costs accordingly under the DRFAWA guidelines.

In the event a partnering LG's resources and/or equipment are required to assist another partnering LG, these costs may not be claimable via DRFAWA. Therefore, any intended claim for reimbursement is a matter between partnering LGs.

### **Responsibilities**

The partners to this MoU recognise their responsibilities to have adequate arrangements in place in order to be in a position to respond to non-natural and natural disasters.

This MoU recognises that each LG will have its own LEMPs in place in accordance with the *Emergency Management Act 2005*. However, the intention of this MoU is to improve the efficiency of joint response to a disaster, share experiences, enhance cooperation between partnering LGs and improve regional resilience to disaster events.

The parties acknowledge that the provisions of this document are not intended to create binding legal obligations between them.

The parties acknowledge that:

1. nothing in this document authorises a party to incur costs or expenses on behalf of the other party; and
2. a party has no authority to act for, or to create or assume any responsibility obligation or liability on behalf of, the other party.

## **Partnering Expectations**

1. To provide where possible both physical and human resources to assist with the immediate response and recovery. Ongoing protracted assistance may be needed, this may be subject to further negotiation and agreement in writing between the partners concerned.
2. Where possible, and if appropriate, the affected LG must utilise internal resources and local contractors before requesting assistance from another LG. This will ensure LGs are not seen to be competing with local businesses or offers of assistance.
3. All requests for support will be made through the Incident Controller (IC) of the designated Hazard Management Agency (HMA) for the incident, in consultation with the designated Local Recovery Coordinator (LRC) and the Local Emergency Coordinator (LEC).
4. All equipment provided must be covered by the partners own insurance, each LG is responsible for ensuring insurance policies allow for the provision of mutual aid.
5. Each individual Council will be responsible for continued salary and any workers compensation insurance for their own staff regardless of where they are operating during the disaster event.
6. Each LG will be responsible for any loss, damage or cost associated with the provision of support unless otherwise agreed in writing.
7. The LG requesting support will be responsible for all incidental costs associated with the provider's personnel and equipment such as catering, accommodation, OHS issues, transport, fuel, and storage.

## **Duration and Amendment**

The MoU will come into effect at the date which all parties have signed the agreement.

This MoU can be reviewed at any time but cannot be amended except with the written consent of all partners.

## **Term**

Unless mutually extended, terminated or parties withdraw, this MoU will expire on 30 June 2028.

## **Withdrawal**

Any partner may withdraw from this MoU by giving 90 days written notice to the partnering LG's and the State Emergency Management Committee.

## **Notices**

Communications in relation to this MoU should be addressed to:  
The Executive Officer, Central Country Zone of WALGA.

**Execution**

---

EXECUTED by the parties:

SHIRE OF BEVERLEY  
in the presence of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Executive Officer

SHIRE OF PINGELLY  
in the presence of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Executive Officer

SHIRE OF BROOKTON  
in the presence of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Executive Officer

SHIRE OF QUAIRADING  
in the presence of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Executive Officer

SHIRE OF CORRIGIN  
in the presence of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Executive Officer

SHIRE OF WAGIN  
in the presence of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Executive Officer

SHIRE OF CUBALLING  
in the presence of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Executive Officer

SHIRE OF WANDERING  
in the presence of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Executive Officer

SHIRE OF DUMBLEYUNG  
in the presence of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Executive Officer

SHIRE OF WEST ARTHUR  
in the presence of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Executive Officer

SHIRE OF KULIN  
in the presence of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Executive Officer

SHIRE OF WICKEPIN  
in the presence of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Executive Officer

SHIRE OF LAKE GRACE  
in the presence of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Executive Officer

SHIRE OF WILLIAMS  
in the presence of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Executive Officer

SHIRE OF NARROGIN  
in the presence of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Executive Officer

Attachment 5

# **Central Country Zone Executive Committee Minutes**

**Wednesday, 5 April 2023**

**Commenced at 8:05am**

**via MS Teams**

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# Minutes

## Central Country Zone of WALGA Executive Committee

Wednesday, 5 April 2023  
Meeting commenced at 8:05am

### 1. OPENING AND WELCOME

The Chair declared the meeting open at 8.05.

### 2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

#### Attendance

President Leigh Ballard (Zone President)	President, Shire of Narrogin
Cr Des Hickey (Zone Deputy President)	President, Shire of Corrigin
Cr Katrina Crute	President, Shire of Brookton
Cr Phillip Blight	President, Shire of Wagin (joined at 08.12am)

#### Zone Executive Officer

Tony Brown, Executive Director, Member Services  
Naomh Donaghy, Governance and Organisational Services Officer

#### Apologies

Cr Len Armstrong	President, Shire of Lake Grace
Cr Julie Russell	President, Shire of Wickepin
Rick Murray, Chief Financial Officer	WALGA

### 3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

NIL

#### 4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

##### 4.1 Confirmation of Executive Committee Minutes – Wednesday, 1 February 2023

Presenting the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 1 February 2023. **(Attachment 1)**

#### RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Katrina Crute  
 Seconded: Des Hickey

That the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 1 February 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceeding.

**CARRIED**

##### 4.2 Business Arising Executive Committee Minutes – Wednesday, 1 February 2023

#### 5. BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

##### 5.1 Financial Statement for the period end 28 February 2023

#### Background

Presenting the financial statement of income and expenditure for the period to 28 February 2023.

#### Central Country Zone WALGA

ABN 12 975 113 390

#### Statement of Income and Expenditure as at 28 February 2023

	Annual Budget	Actual Year To Date
<b>Income</b>		
501 General Subscriptions	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
575 Interest Earned	\$ 30.00	\$ 101.50
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 30,030.00</b>	<b>\$ 30,101.50</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
1535 Zone Expenses - Audit Costs	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 975.00
1546 Zone Expenses - In-Person Meetings	\$ 8,800.00	\$ -
1555 Zone Expenses - Agricultural Freight Group	\$ 800.00	\$ -
1558 Zone Expenses - Financial Management	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 1,584.01
1572 Zone Expenses - Other	\$ 500.00	\$ -
1580 Zone Representative - Honoraria	\$ 2,600.00	\$ -
1605 Zone Representative - Meeting Fees	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
1610 Zone Representative - Travel Costs	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$ 21,600.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,059.01</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 8,430.00</b>	<b>\$ 26,042.49</b>

**Comment**

<b>Com Account No</b>	<b>Account Description</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
501	General Subscriptions	Annual subscriptions for -2022-23 invoiced and paid.
575	Interest Earned	Budget achieved.
1535	Audit Fees	Audit fee for 21/22
1546	In-person meetings	Timing
1555	Agricultural Freight Group	Local Government Agriculture Grain Freight Coup share of costs.
1558	Financial Management	Cost of managing the finances including the cost of Xero accounting.
1572	Zone Expenses - Other	Not required yet.
1580	Zone Representative - Honoraria	Timing - end of year.
1605	Zone Representative - Meeting Fees	Catering expense for meetings held on the 25 November 2022 and February 2023
1610	Zone Representative - Travel Costs	Timing - end of year.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**Moved: Des Hickey**  
**Seconded: Katrina Crute**

**That the Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period ended 28 February 2023 be received.**

**CARRIED**

## 5.2 List of Accounts Paid

### Executive Officer Comment

Accounts paid for the period 1 January to 28 February 2023.

Payment Method	Date	Payee Details	Description	Amount (Incl. GST)
EFT	9/01/2023	AMW	AUDIT -Inv I005189	\$1072.50
Direct Debit	13/01/2023	Brookton	Meeting Expense Inv 002	\$1500
Direct Debit	27/01/2023	Xero	Monthly charge Accounting Software	\$59.00
Direct Debit	8/02/2023	Uptodate	Book keeping Inv 7919	\$105.6
EFT	21/02/2023	Uptodate	Book keeping Inv 7967	224.40
EFT	27/2/2023	Zero	Monthly charge Accounting Software	\$59.00

### RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Katrina Crute  
 Seconded: Des Hickey

That the Accounts Paid for the period 1 January to 28 February 2023 totalling \$3,020.50 be endorsed.

**CARRIED**

## 5.3 Zone Strategic Priorities

The Zone endorsed the following items at the April Zone meeting:

1. Local Government Act — New Act or Amendments
2. Red Tape Reduction
3. Regional Collaboration and resource sharing
4. Local Government staff shortages
5. Housing
6. Work Health & Safety
7. Telecommunications
8. Disaster Preparedness

Speakers will be invited to address the priority issues at Zone meetings over the course of the year.

**Noted**



## 5.4 Speakers for the April Zone Meeting

5.4.1 CBH's David Paton and Rob Dickie have been invited to attend the April Zone meeting to present on the Agricultural Supply Chain Initiative as well as forecasting and capital investment over the next 10 years. Both David Paton and Rob Dickie are on annual leave for the April meeting however Kelly Todman, Manager Government and Industry Relations, is available to attend and present.

5.4.2 NBN, Walter Gomes, Stakeholder Engagement Management WA, has been invited to the April Zone meeting to present on the 2022 Emergency Management Preparedness Campaign. We are awaiting a response.

5.4.3 In relation to pole top fires (Item 5.6.2 below), Western Power have been invited to present at the April Zone meeting. Brett Dew, Field Operations Team Leader from the Narrogin Depot will present.

### **Comment:**

The Executive Committee suggested inviting NBN to a later meeting to present on the 2023 Emergency Management Preparedness Campaign.

**Noted**

## 5.5 Speakers for the June Zone Meeting

5.5.1 Suggestions based on current, arising or emerging Zone topics are welcomed through discussion of the Committee.

Keeping the Zone Strategic Priorities in mind, below are the priorities which have not yet been spoken to:

3. Regional Collaboration and resource sharing
4. Local Government staff shortages
5. Housing

### **Comment:**

In relation to Mental Health Checks for Gun Owner Licensing, the Executive Officer will invite the Minister for Police or similar to the June meeting of the Zone.

As per item 5.6.5, a representative from the Department of Health and Aged Care (Service Delivery Division, Ageing Care and Care Group) will be invited to present to the Zone with particular emphasis on:

- Research has been undertaken which indicates that residential aged care facilities with 30 or less approved beds in Modified Monash Model 5-7 locations will be eligible for a one-off 12 month exemption from the 24/7 RN responsibility. Additionally, residential aged care facilities with, on average, 60 residents or less per day will be eligible for a funding supplement to employ extra RNs to deliver 24/7 RN care.

And;

- The mandatory reporting to Police of all contact (accidental and intentional) between patients and/or patients and staff.

**Noted**

#### 5.4 Mental Health Check for Gun Owner Licensing

*February Zone Agenda, Item 13.1.*

Mental Health Checks for Gun Owner Licensing was raised as an Emerging Issue at the February meeting of the Zone, extract from the Minutes as follows:

*The Zone requests more clarity on the Premier's comments about requiring a mental health check for all gun owners – in particular, who will be targeted by the new policy? Would farmers be exempt? How will it be funded?*

**Action:** *Invite a representative from WA Police to the next Central Country Zone meeting to provide detail, and clarity as to what the consultation process with farmers and medical professionals involved has been.*

The Executive Officer reached out to WA Police to invite a speaker to the April Zone meeting, however they declined as the matter is before Parliament and is a legislative matter.

It may be more appropriate to write to or invite the Minister for Police to discuss this matter.

**Noted**

#### 5.6 ZONE AGENDA ITEMS

##### 5.6.1 Wheatbelt Interagency Health & Wellbeing Plan

WA Country Health Service-Wheatbelt contacted the Zone Executive Officer in March of 2023 (Attachment 2). In summary, a working group is being formalised to develop the *Wheatbelt Interagency Health & Wellbeing Plan: Towards 2035 Working Group WAPHA membership*. WA Country Health Service are taking expressions of interest for one Local Government representative from each Zone in the Wheatbelt to sit on the working group.

**Comment:**

An item will be drawn up for the Zones consideration.

**Noted**

##### 5.6.2 Pole Top Fires

**Background**

*Saj Abdoolakhan Executive Director Building and Energy, DMIRS presented to the Zone [in February] on the matters of the network safety and pole top fires.*

**Action:** *Saj advised that he will organise a meeting with Western Power around the type of insulators used on power poles and the effect this may be having on pole top fires and advise the Zone accordingly.*

Since the February meeting of the Zone, a number of pole top fires have occurred throughout the Zone. Saj Adboolakhan has been in correspondence with Western Power in regards to zone-specific

trends and clarification about Western Power's strategy to manage pole top fires in the regions. He also asked Western Power to reach out directly to Local Governments and has been given assurance that Local Governments will be contacted by a dedicated contact in due course.

In relation to the types of insulators used on power poles and the effect this may have on pole top fires, the Zone Executive Officer has requested a written response from Western Power to be included in the Zone Agenda on Monday 17 April 2023. In addition, Western Power has advised that they can attend the April Zone meeting.

**Comment:**

As per item 5.4.3, Brett Dew, Field Operations Team Leader from the Narrogin Depot will present on this topic as well as field questions from Members.

**Noted**

**5.6.3 Central Country Zone Emergency Management MOU**

At the November 2022 Zone meeting it was resolved that the Zone Executive Officer circulate a new draft MoU and request Local Governments to extend the MoU review date to five years.

The MoU has been updated (as attached) and circulated to all Local Governments. At the time of writing this report, Local Governments listed below are in support of extending the MoU review date from three to five years:

- Shire of Beverley
- Shire of Brookton
- Shire of Corrigin
- Shire of Cuballing
- Shire of Dumbleyung
- Shire of Kulin
- Shire of Lake Grace
- Shire of Narrogin
- Shire of Pingelly
- Shire of Quairading
- Shire of Wagin
- Shire of Wandering
- Shire of West Arthur
- Shire of Wickepin
- Shire of Williams

We await a response from the Shires of Kulin and Williams.

An item will be prepared for the April meeting advising on the Zone and Local Government response.

**Noted**

#### 5.6.4 June Zone meeting – change of date request

The Central Country Zone meeting is scheduled for Friday 16 June 2023. This is the same date as the Australian Council of Local Government forum to be held in Canberra following the 2023 ALGA National General Assembly. Information below.

*The Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG), will also meet in Canberra for the first time in more than a decade immediately following the NGA on 16 June, which will provide a valuable opportunity for Mayors, Presidents and Councillors to hear directly from the Prime Minister and engage with Federal Ministers. The link is here [Australian Council of Local Government | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts](#)*

All Local Governments are invited to the ACLG and the ALGA National General Assembly.

Some Zone delegates may attend, as well as WALGA representatives.

The Zone Executive Officer requests consideration to change the date of the next Zone meeting to Friday 23 June to facilitate all those who wish to attend the ACLG and the ALGA National General Assembly.

**Comment:**

**The Executive Committee resolved to change the June meeting date from Friday 16 June 2023 to Friday 23 June 2023.**

**RESOLVED**

#### 5.6.5 Aged Care Services

**Background:**

That the Central Country Zone has requested WALGA to research the impact of the Commonwealth Government requirement for all Aged Care Services to have an on-duty registered nurse 24/7 from June 2023.

Zone members are concerned at the ability to attract registered nurses to regional areas.

This will affect the 18 Wheatbelt hospitals that have Aged Care Services, plus any private or Local Government Aged Care Services.

The Zone resolved as follows in November 2022:

*That the Zone request WALGA to research the impact of this issue on local communities in WA and look to engage the Commonwealth and State Minister of Health and Health Departments to consider solutions.*

**Comment:**

WALGA has followed up with ALGA to determine if there is a state-wide Local Government response to the 24/7 initiative in the regions. LGNSW have undertaken advocacy in the space around workforce issues and funding for Council run aged care services in regional areas.

Research has been undertaken which indicates that residential aged care facilities with 30 or less approved beds in Modified Monash Model 5-7 locations will be eligible for a one-off 12 month

exemption from the 24/7 RN responsibility. Additionally, residential aged care facilities with, on average, 60 residents or less per day will be eligible for a funding supplement to employ extra RNs to deliver 24/7 RN care.

The Federal Government has advised that they are undertaking work to further develop and refine the 24/7 RN responsibility, including modelling aged care RN workforce shortages by region to better inform future exemption arrangements.

A representative from the Department of Health and Aged Care (Service Delivery Division, Ageing Care and Care Group) has offered to present to the Zone – dates have not yet been discussed.

**Executive Committee Comment:**

Cr Katrina Crute raised concerns, in addition to the requirements for Registered Nurses, in regards to The mandatory reporting to Police of all contact (accidental and intentional) between patients and/or patients and staff. This reporting takes up a significant amount of time by senior staff with reports not being particularly welcomed by Police who, by assumption, also feel their time could be used more effectively.

**Action:** a representative from the Department of Health and Aged Care (Service Delivery Division, Ageing Care and Care Group) will be invited to the June Zone meeting to present, with particular emphasis on:

- Research has been undertaken which indicates that residential aged care facilities with 30 or less approved beds in Modified Monash Model 5-7 locations will be eligible for a one-off 12 month exemption from the 24/7 RN responsibility. Additionally, residential aged care facilities with, on average, 60 residents or less per day will be eligible for a funding supplement to employ extra RNs to deliver 24/7 RN care.

And;

- The mandatory reporting to Police of all contact (accidental and intentional) between patients and/or patients and staff.

**Noted**

**6. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS (1 March 2023)**

The following items, will appear the State Council agenda for the next meeting:

**Matters for Decision**

1. Best Practice Governance Review
2. Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' Child Safe Awareness Policy Template
3. Abandoned Property in Public Places Advocacy Position
4. Speed Management Reform Advocacy Position
5. State Road Funds to Local Government

**Matters For Noting**

- a) 2023 Policy Priorities
- b) Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review Project
- c) Submission to the Independent Review of WA's COVID-19 Management and Response
- d) Submission to the DWER E-waste to Landfill Ban Consultation Paper

- e) Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC)
- f) Local Government Economic Briefing

**Noted**

## **7. OTHER BUSINESS**

**7.1** Cr Des Hickey voiced concerns around the new Bushfire permits. Cr Hickey highlighted that the new permits state that burning cannot be carried out on High temperature days whereas the old permits allowed burning on High temperature days. Both permits exclude burning on Extreme and Catastrophic temperature days.

Cr Hickey highlighted that even though temperatures fluctuate during the day, the permit is issued based on the highest temperature of the day as opposed to being granted a permit and timing your burn to coincide with cooler temperatures.

Cr Leigh Ballard shared information as received by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. In summary, the appointment of a Fire Weather Officer can assist Local Governments in being granted approved burning permits if they follow due process as outlined in Attachment 3.

**Action:** The Executive Officer will seek further information from WALGA's Emergency Management staff. A full item will be prepared for the Zone agenda.

**Noted**

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

- The next Central Country Zone Meeting – Friday, 14 April 2023 in Cuballing.
- The next Executive Committee meeting – Wednesday, 7 June 2023 via MS Teams.
- The next Central Country Zone Meeting – June 23 confirmed 2023 in Dumbleyung

## **9. CLOSURE**

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.54am



**Hon John Carey MLA**  
**Minister for Housing; Lands; Homelessness; Local Government**

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Our ref: 78-11008

3 February 2023

Dear Local Government Chief Executive Officers

**MEMORANDUM TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**  
**ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE UPCOMING OCTOBER 2023 ORDINARY ELECTIONS**

As you know, the State Government is continuing to work with the local government sector to deliver the most significant package of local government reforms in more than 25 years. These reforms include several measures to strengthen local democracy and increase community engagement, including new requirements for:

- the introduction of optional preferential voting for all local government elections;
- directly-elected Mayors and Presidents for all Band 1 and 2 local governments;
- the abolition of wards for all Band 3 and 4 local governments; and
- aligning the size of councils with the size of the population of each district.

In September 2022, I wrote to all local governments to outline the implications of the reforms for each council, and pathways for implementing required changes. Since then, the majority of impacted councils have been working to consider how best to transition in changes. Many councils have since completed Ward and Representation Reviews, while others will have more substantial changes implemented through reform elections, or minor changes made to apply by default.

I would like to acknowledge and thank local governments for the constructive and proactive way they have approached this forward planning.

Further to my previous letter, the State Government is continuing to work to implement election reforms ahead of the October 2023 Ordinary Elections. The reforms will introduce Optional Preferential Voting (OPV) for all local government elections. OPV is similar to preferential voting used in State and Federal Elections, and for local government elections in every other Australian state. OPV provides that electors can preference as many or as few candidates as they decide, and there will be no transfer of preferences other than the preferences electors mark on their ballot paper.

The reforms will also include related new changes for the backfilling of vacancies, including:

- in the event that a member of the council is directly elected as the Mayor or President, the consequent vacancy can be filled by the next highest-polling candidate through the relevant district or ward council election held on the same day;
- if a vacancy arises within one year of a council member being elected at an ordinary election, that vacancy may be filled by the next highest-polling candidate; and
- the timeframes for which certain vacancies can remain unfilled ahead of an upcoming ordinary election will also be extended.

Together, these reforms will greatly reduce the need for extraordinary elections, saving costs for ratepayers and administrative burden for local governments in the longer term.



However, these changes will require specific attention on election night, and returning officers will need to identify the candidates who are next in line to fill further vacancies for inclusion on the declaration of results. Accordingly, I am writing to encourage all local governments to commence early planning for the practical arrangements for the conduct of the October 2023 Ordinary Elections.

As you would know, the council may declare the Electoral Commissioner as responsible to conduct postal elections under sections 4.20 and 4.61 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act). Section 4.28 of the Act further provides that the local government is to meet the costs incurred by the Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC) in conducting such elections.

Alternatively, if council decides that the CEO (or other appointee) is to be the returning officer, local governments will have the option to purchase a licence for access to the WAEC's CountWA software to facilitate the counting of votes. CountWA software is used to count votes in State Elections, and involves data entry of preferences indicated on ballot papers. This provides for preferences to be counted and re-counted using the software.

If a local government decides to license the software instead of appointing the Electoral Commissioner to conduct the election, the CEO (or other appointee) will remain wholly responsible for the conduct of the count, the use of the software, the introduction of the new OPV counting and backfilling provisions, and dealing with any disputes or complaints. The WAEC will only be able to provide general assistance on accessing and using the software.

The WAEC will shortly be writing to all local governments to provide information for each council. The WAEC can also provide further information on each of these options. Please contact Phil Richards, Manager Election Events on 9214 0443 or at [Phillip.Richards@waec.wa.gov.au](mailto:Phillip.Richards@waec.wa.gov.au) if you have any queries.

It is strongly recommended that the decision for whether to declare the Electoral Commissioner as responsible for your Ordinary Elections is put to Council at its March meeting. This will allow sufficient time for the WAEC to work with you to deliver the election, or provide you with a software licence, if preferred.

In considering potential arrangements, local governments should be mindful that the WAEC will require sufficient lead time to plan ahead. Accordingly, I strongly urge all local governments to make arrangements as early as possible, and consider the appointment of the WAEC to conduct the elections.

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) is working closely with the WAEC to prepare further materials to assist local governments with the implementation of reforms. The DLGSC will provide further updates through LG Alerts to the sector and on the DLGSC's website. The DLGSC is also available to assist with any queries, including by email at [lghotline@dlgsc.wa.gov.au](mailto:lghotline@dlgsc.wa.gov.au) or by phone on 1300 762 511.

I have also written a letter to the Mayor or President of your local government, which contains the same information as this memorandum. That letter should be received shortly.

Yours sincerely



HON JOHN CAREY MLA  
MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT