



Shire of Lake Grace

26 JULY 2023

Ordinary Council Meeting

INFORMATION BULLETIN

ITEM 16.0 - ATTACHMENTS

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Information Bulletin
Infrastructure Services Report

Shire of Lake Grace

Prepared for the July 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting
presenting information to the end of June 2023

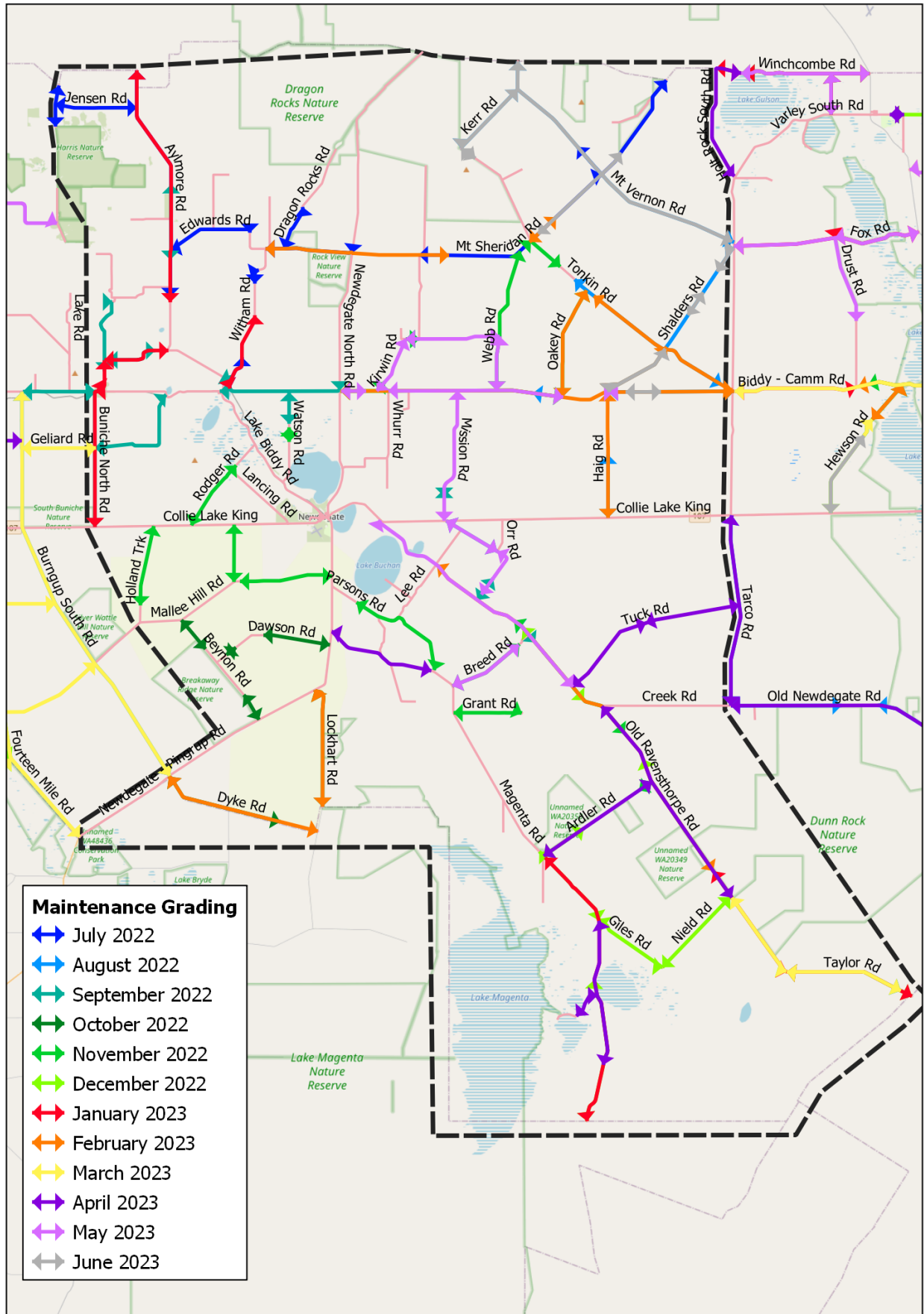
Road Maintenance Grading

For the month of June 2023

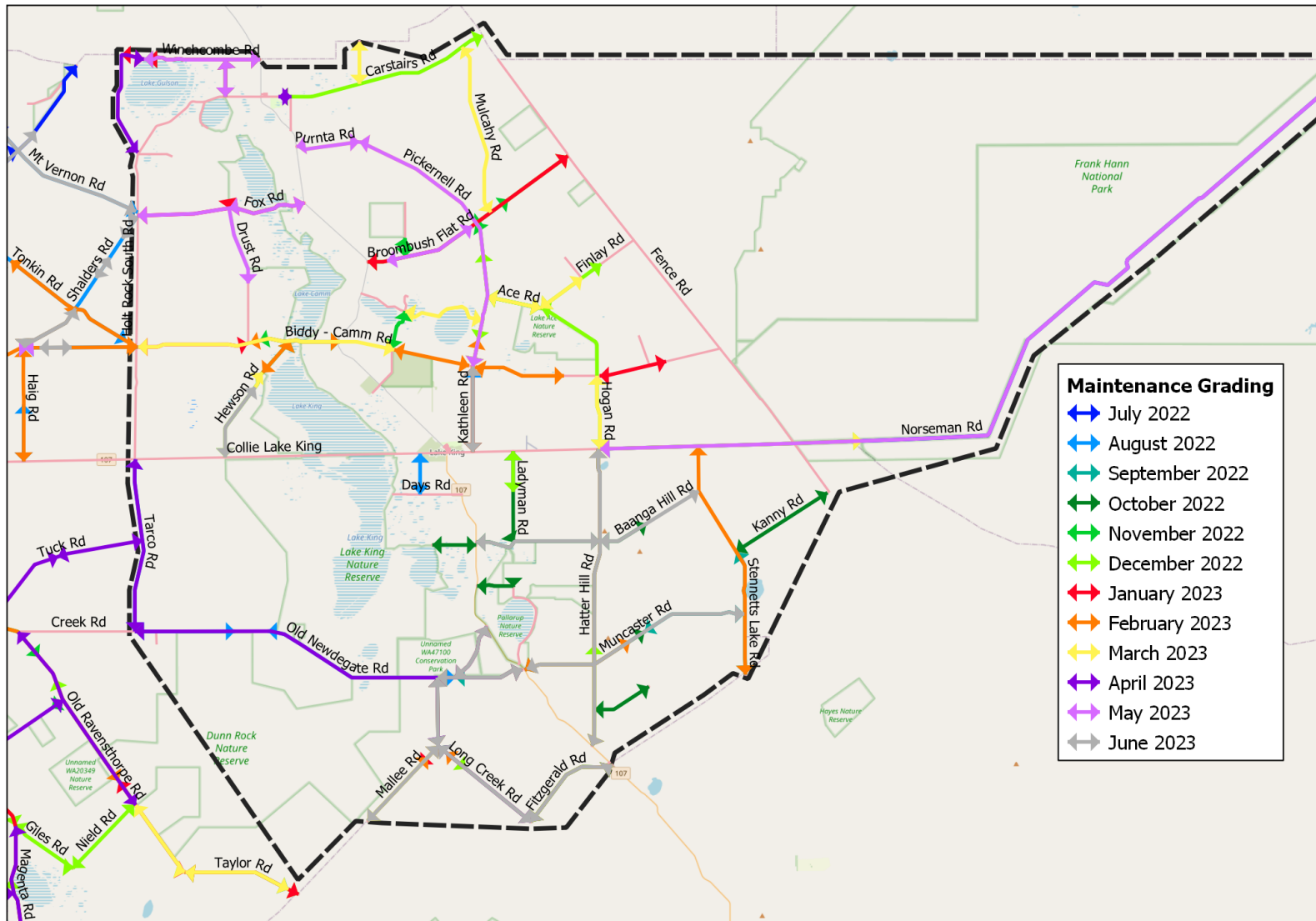
<i>Lake Grace Area</i>		<i>Newdegate Area</i>		<i>Lake King-Varley Area</i>	
<i>Road Name</i>	<i>Graded (km)</i>	<i>Road Name</i>	<i>Graded (km)</i>	<i>Road Name</i>	<i>Graded (km)</i>
Beenong North Rd	12.08	Biddy Camm Rd	2.93	Baanga Hill Rd	10.31
Biddy Camm Rd	18.76	Haig Rd	5.01	Fitzgerald Rd	9.76
Burngup Rd	9.45	Kerr Rd	6.72	Hatters Hill Rd	27.10
Burns Rd	5.50	Mount Sheridan Rd	9.60	Hewsons Rd	7.28
Duckworth Rd	23.30	Mount Vernon Rd	24.63	Kathleen Rd	7.79
Dunham Rd	10.00	Shalders Rd	10.75	Long Creek Rd	10.88
Fisher Rd	7.42	Tonkin Rd	1.43	Magdhaba Tr	5.59
Griffin Reward Rd	8.48			Mallee Tree Rd	9.33
Jarring South Rd	16.01			Milstead Rd	6.23
Kuender South Rd	12.06			Muncasters Rd	21.28
Naisbitt Rd	1.61			Old Newdegate Rd	7.86
North Burngup Rd	28.92			Smerdon Rd	11.62
Old Lake Grace Rd	2.05				
O'Neill Rd	6.15				
Robertson Rd	4.32				
Treloar Rd	5.26				
White Dam Rd	8.68				
<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>180.05</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>61.07</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>135.03</u>

2022/23 Year-To-Date Grading by Month

Year	Month	<i>Lake Grace Area (km)</i>	<i>Newdegate Area (km)</i>	<i>Lake King-Varley Area (km)</i>	Monthly Subtotal
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	0.00	96.89	85.76	182.65
	February	0.00	155.77	144.34	300.11
	March	137.09	36.91	154.87	328.87
	April	22.08	77.21	89.29	188.58
	May	123.55	82.94	171.34	377.69
	June	180.05	61.07	135.03	376.15
	To-Date	730.46	992.82	1,381.31	3,104.45



Monthly maintenance grading – Newdegate area



Monthly maintenance grading – Lake King-Varley area

Plant Maintenance

Plant Repairs

Plant	Plant Description	Action
PGRA08	2020 Cat 140 Motor Grader	2,000 hour service.
PLVU48	2020 Ford Ranger Single Cab	60,000 km service.
PLVU52	2021 Ford Ranger Dual Cab	60,000 km service. Replaced 2 x tyres.
PTCK16	2015 Isuzu Light Truck	Replaced 4 x tyres.
PTCK22	2021 Hino 3 Ton Tip Truck	Replace shock absorber.

Plant Acquisitions

- 600 L spray unit with boom and hose reel + spray gun

Building Construction & Maintenance

Construction

- Installation of shade shelters to Visitors Centre park.
- Preparation work for replacement of the Newdegate Hockey Shed.

Maintenance

Lake Grace

- 8 Wattle Drive.
- Lakes Village Hall.
- Medical Centre.
- Old Sports Pavilion.
- Uniting Church.

Newdegate

- Newdegate Indoor Recreation Centre.

Lake King

- Nil.

Varley

- Nil.

Pingaring

- Community Centre.

Parks & Gardens Maintenance

Lake Grace

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

Newdegate

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

Lake King

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

Varley

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

Pingaring

- Nil.

Customer Service Requests

For the period of 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023:

Category	Complete	Incomplete	Total	% Complete
Works	18	12	30	60.0%
Building	15	9	24	62.5%
Parks & Gardens	29	8	37	78.4%
<i>Total</i>	<u>62</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>68.1%</u>



INFORMATION BULLETIN

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT

April - June 2023

HEALTH

This report is to highlight issues and activities ongoing within the environmental health area for the period April – June 2023

Events

- Newdegate Machinery Field Days Event 2023 Application received

Food Businesses

Inspected the following premises for Food Act compliance-

- Lake Grace Hotel
- Spenser's Shearing Service
- Newdegate Roadhouse
- Newdegate IGA
- Newdegate Hotel
- Newdegate Motel and Caravan Park
- Newdegate Rec Centre
- Newdegate Town Hall
- Newdegate Country Club
- Lake King Agencies
- Lake King Sports Pavillion
- Lake King Memorial Hall
- Lake King Golf Club
- Varley Ag Services
- Varley Town Hall
- Varley Sports Pavillion

Food Recall Notices circulated to all food businesses

- Coca-Cola Europacific Partners- Barista Bros products
- Korea Connections Enoki Mushrooms
- Smith's Original and Cheese and Onion Chips
- Big Shed Brewing Concern Pty Ltd - Mango Sour
- The Spice Merchants - Jabsons products

- Hershey's Syrup Indulgent Caramel Flavor
- Aldi Recall-Anchovy Fillets
- That's Amore Cheese Burrata
- Coffee Table Delights Meringues
- Jalna Dairy Foods Pty Ltd Yoghurt 1Kg
- Mondelez Cote D'Bouchee 200g
- Coffee Table Delights Bakery Products

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 -

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

Onsite Effluent Disposal Systems

- Lot 595 Biddy-Buniche Road, Buniche

Pool Water Sampling

- All pools now closed, end of season
- Newdegate Pool upgrade works to pool and building – follow up with Department of Education

Public Buildings

Inspected the following for Health Public Buildings compliance -

- Lake Grace Hotel
- Newdegate Hotel
- Newdegate Rec Centre
- Newdegate Town Hall

- Newdegate Country Club
- Lake King Sports Pavillion
- Lake King Memorial Hall
- Lake King Golf Club
- Varley Town Hall
- Varley Sports Pavillion
- Lake Grace Sportsman Club

Recycled Water Scheme

- Recycled water scheme currently offline

Stallholder / Street Trading Permits

- Wheatbelt NRM Native Plants stall

Waste Management

- Ongoing inspections of waste facilities
- Various enquiries for disposal of asbestos
- Annual Audit Compliance Reports submitted to DWER
- 2022-23 Annual waste reporting under r.18C - Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Regulations 2008 due 1st October 2023

Other

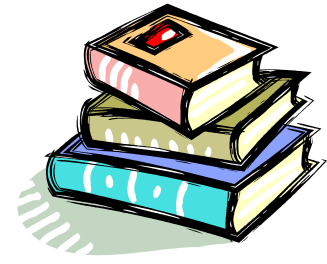
- Water samples from Padley Park collected and sent to laboratory
- Noise complaint – Bennett Street, Lake Grace
- Draft Code of Practice for On-site Waste Water Disposal
- Mosquito Surveillance Webinar
- Food Act and Public Health Reporting due 31st August 2023
- Local Government Health and Wellbeing Network meeting
- Advanced Diploma in Building Surveying study



Brendon Gerrard

Principal Environmental Health Officer

Lake Grace Community Library



LIBRARY REPORT – July 2023

Accessioning and book exchanges are all up to date.

I had an hour training session with Softlink (Oliver v5) on Friday, 2 June. This was very helpful and informative. I will have another hour session next term. I had my list of questions, one being on the import of the SLWA exchange books and how it takes many steps to enter each individual book. Softlink were unaware of this, as they don't have a lot to do with public libraries. They have now contacted their Tech Support team to see if it can be sorted.

From 1 July, the State Library have changed the guidelines for requesting library books making it near impossible to request books. Freight costs being the biggest problem.

We have another new Principal in Kerriane Mills. Due to Principal Teresa Wigg leaving and other commitments, the June, Lake Grace Library/CRC Management Committee meeting was cancelled with a new date to be set.

Students are still using the library at recess and lunch times. The school has put some extra card/board games in the library for children to use at lunch time.

Statistics since the last meeting:

April 2023	Issues & Renewals	158
May 2023	Issues & Renewals	581
June 2023	Issues & Renewals	472

Library Co-ordinator Lois Dickins
Lake Grace Community Library

Newdegate Library Report April- June 2023

The new releases purchased for the Library have been popular. They were displayed in the Library and advertised available for loan in the Gate Post.

We have been helping readers setup their online accounts so that they can access Borrow Box and Libby online for using the State Libraries E resources. This will also help to cover the change in services with interlibrary loans.

The Library area continues to be used by the Newdegate Community for meetings, craft, yoga and workshops.

We will complete the annual statistical return by the end of July.

Regards

Claire Ness

Newdegate Library Statistics

Issued
and
Renewals

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

Lake King Library Report for June 2023

At the beginning of the month I attended training at Williams Primary School to further my knowledge of our “Oliver” computer system. This library program is used to catalogue, track and loan out all our books. There in my capacity as a department of education librarian, the topics covered were all relevant to my work in the library on a day-to-day basis. It proved a great opportunity to meet others from our area in similar positions.

The “Lake King 100 Years” planning committee met again this month in the library. This month’s focus was a brainstorming session to outline a framework for all the projects we hope to achieve/put in place and have up and running on the day. Although five years away keen community members have started discussion and plan to meet the last Friday of the month going forward.

The State Library’s Borrow box remained popular this month with a total of 26 audios and 21 eBooks borrowed by Lake King library members in June. The Libby (Overdrive) platform had 2 audio books, 3 eBook and 2 magazines downloaded by patrons in June.

LAKE GRACE VISITOR CENTRE



April – June 2023
Tourism Statistics

Prepared by Jo Morgan



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Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

Visitor data measurements recorded include;

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

Origin of visitors to the Shire of Lake Grace

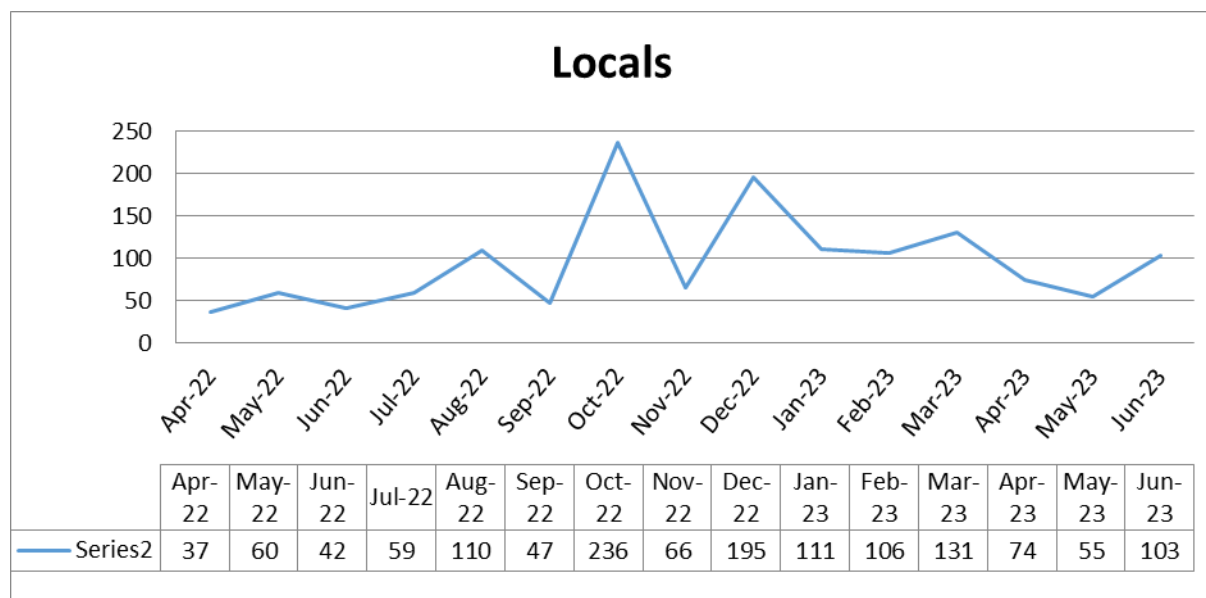
For the purpose of recording data visitors are classed into five groups;

- 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 – Travellers who don't disclose where their place of origin.

Locals

Rather quiet with locals during this quarter. Cooler weather, winter sports and seeding keeps everyone busy so there are less community events to draw the crowds in.

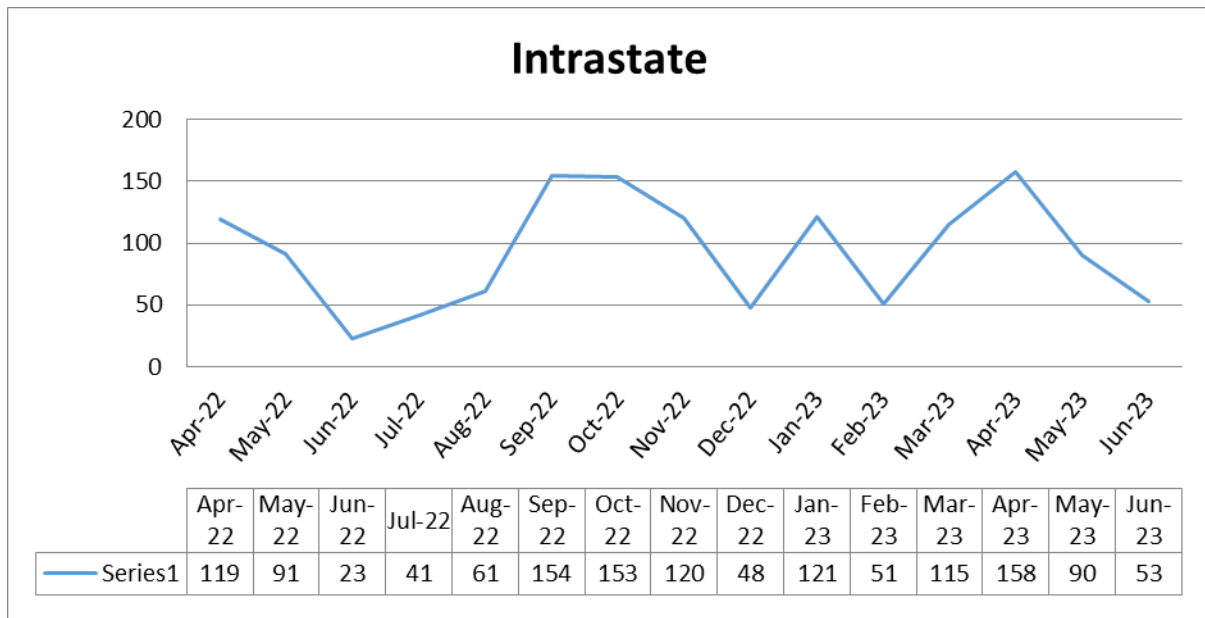
We had a few home games for Winter Sports and a few school groups visit the AIM Hospital. It shall be interesting to see if the AIM Hospital tour numbers increase or decrease once the new charges are adopted in the new financial year. After engaging with other Visitor Centres at the WA Tourism Conference, it was agreed, fees for tours offered was essential.



Intrastate Travellers

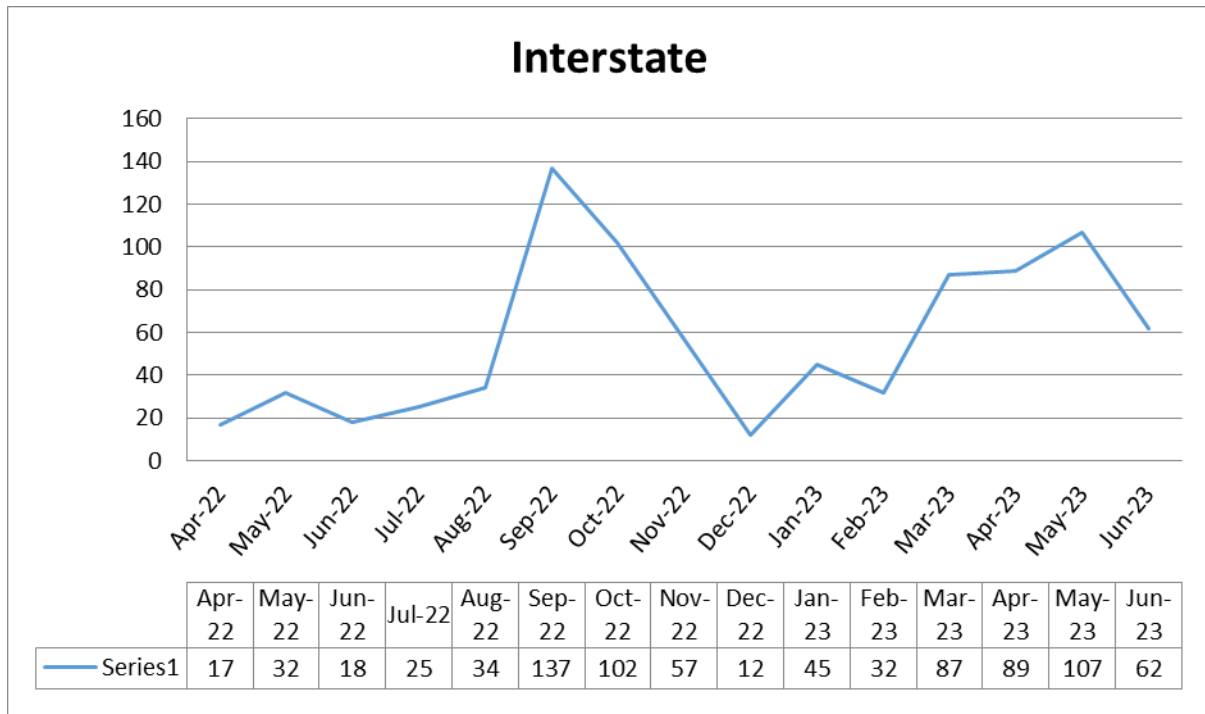
A similar result to last year, the trend for intrastate travellers remains the same. Many are choosing flights interstate and overseas because we can. Holiday packages and visiting loved ones are popular reasons for travelling and will be for some time. The most popular destinations within WA during this period is always north. We shall no doubt see a return once the wildflowers begin to bloom.

While many may choose not to travel at all due to the cost of living and interest rates forever increasing, Our region is in great need of more accommodation options as often current offerings are often taken by contract workers in the area, leaving little available to travellers. It’s a common problem happening throughout WA.



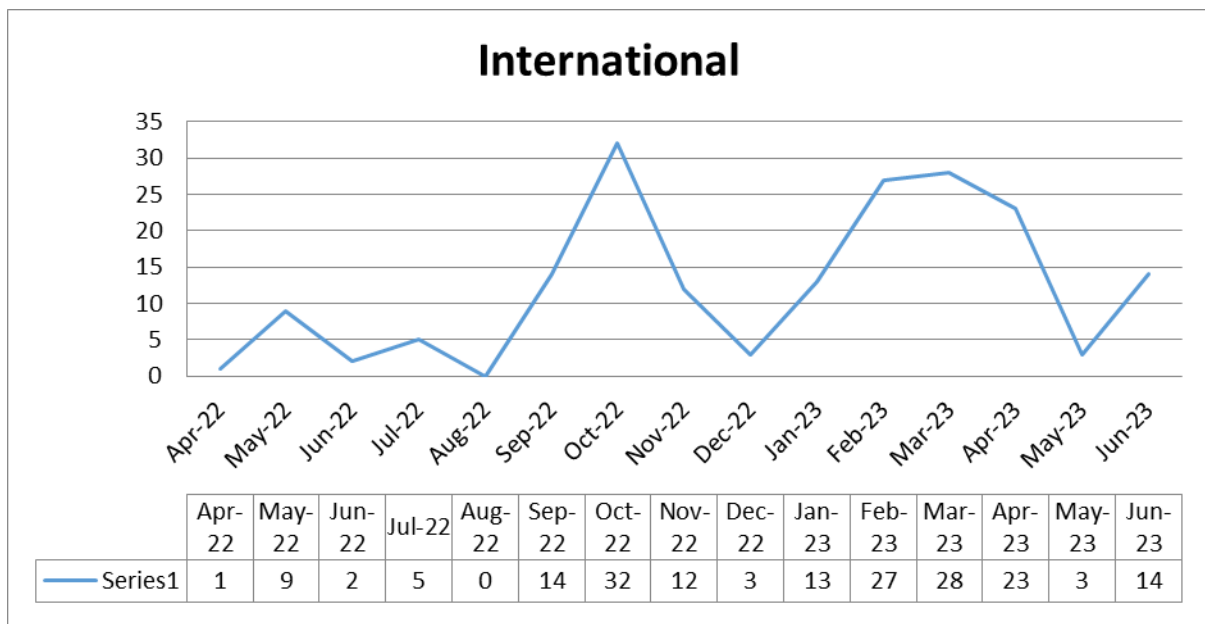
Interstate Travellers

This is the group of travellers keeping us busy in a normally quiet time! So may caravans and motorhomes buzzing through our region. Even on the coldest day we have plenty of people popping into the Visitor Centre for chats, a shop, directions or recommendations. We have tripled from last year’s results. Opening on the weekends has been so well received, travellers love it!



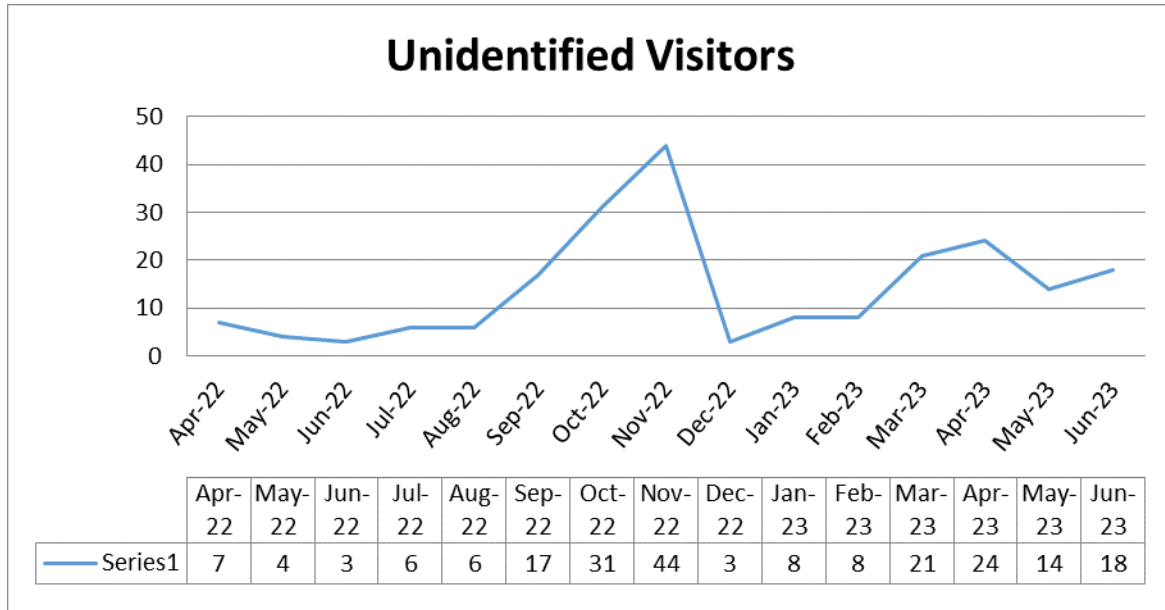
International Travellers

Improvements all round, even in this cold weather!



Unidentified Travellers

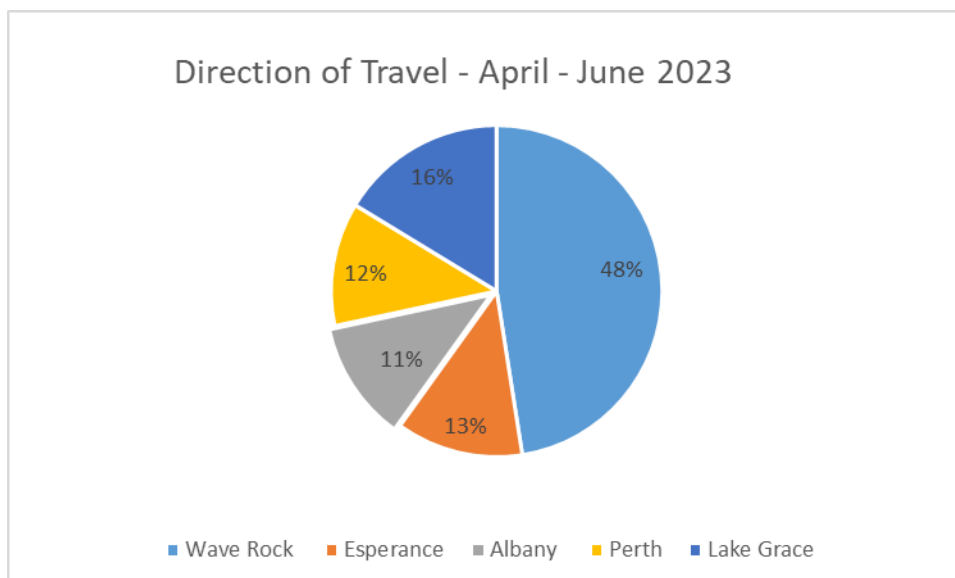
A group of travelers we try our very best to engage with but keeping in mind some people wish to simply browse and have a look around. As the visitor numbers picked up we often had many people in the centre at once. We've noted some people prefer to keep in the background and not engage and others could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



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

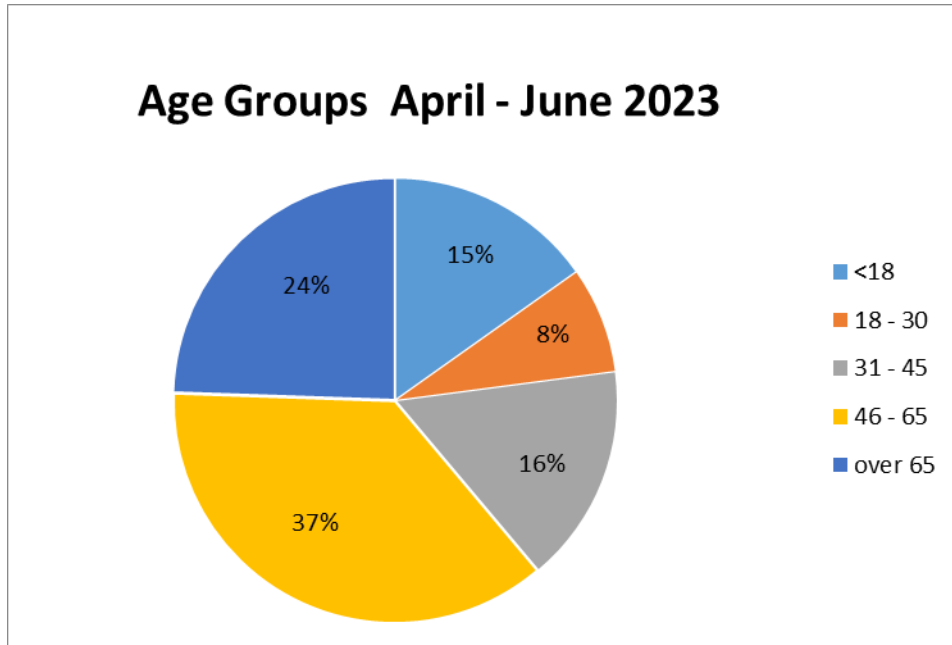
Direction of Travel

Known for our crossroads, our traffic consists off those heading to either Wave Rock/Hyden, Esperance, Albany or Perth. Wave Rock is popular once again! Lake Grace is doing well as it's own destination, excellent news!



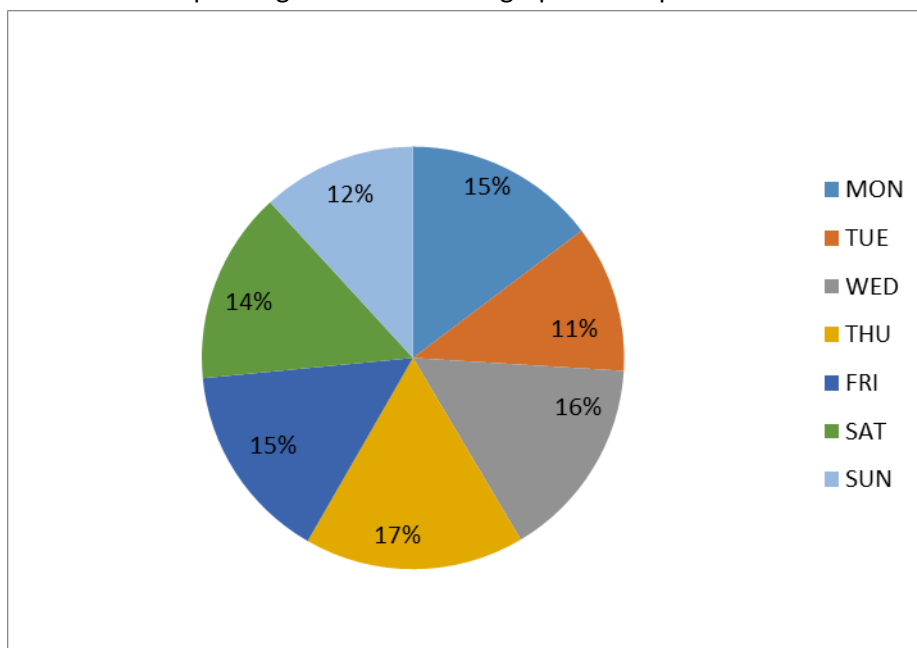
Age Group

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 Grey Nomads and Empty Nesters dominate yet again.



Popular Visiting Days

As we record our daily statistics it was interesting to note which days were popular amongst our visitors. This information over time can be used for staffing needs of the Visitor Centre along with tourism dollar spending in our shire. This graph is for April – June 2023.



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.



49% + 1% electric car



42%



8%



0%

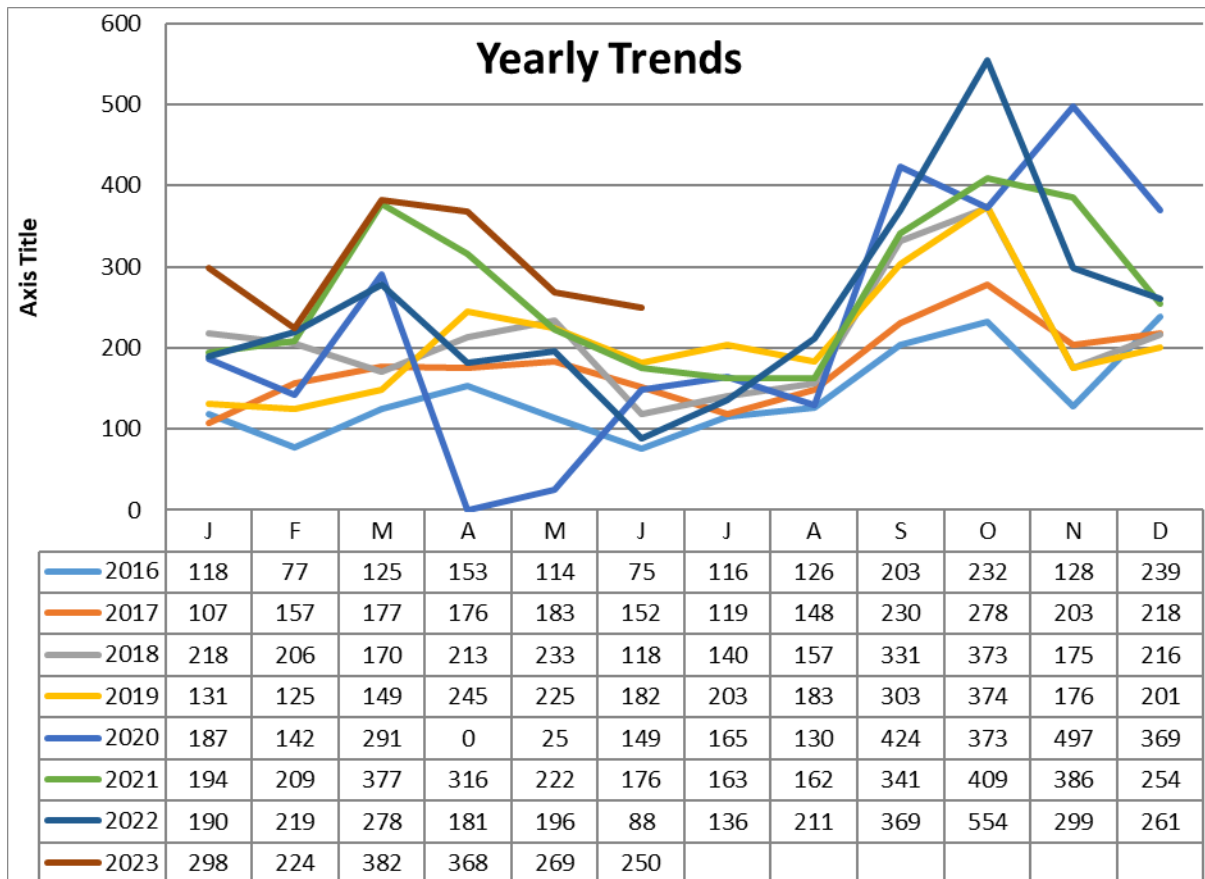


1%

Yearly Trends

The chart below shows the LGVC recorded visitor trends over the past eight years. There has been steady growth in visitor numbers to the Shire of Lake Grace annually. This year we have topped every record since opening. This is FANTASTIC! Opening weekends and adding a casual staff member to our team is proving to be so beneficial. The compliments and enthusiasm we get for opening 7 days is very positive.

Travellers often say driving through small towns on the weekend is often like a ghost town but our centre, IGA, a café and the pub open it makes our town very welcoming. We shall reassess extending opening hours according to demand on the weekends when the wildflower season begins.



Central Country Zone

MINUTES

Friday, 23 June 2023 at 9.30am

Morning tea from 9.00am

Venue

Shire of Dumbleyung
Stubbs Park, Bahr Road
Dumbleyung 6530

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1. Opening and Welcome

The Chair declared the meeting open at **9:30am**.

1.1 Housekeeping – Zone Chair

1. **Welcome:**
The Zone Chair welcomed Zone members and provided OSH/bathroom/exit information to those in attendance.
2. **Share your name and Local Government:**
Delegates were reminded to ensure that they call their name and Local Government when taking the floor to allow for accurate Minutes to be recorded.

1.2 Host Council Presentation

Cr Julie Ramm, President from the Shire of Dumbleyung, extended a welcome to delegates and guests and provided a presentation on Local Government issues.

2. Attendance and Apologies

Attendance

Shire of Beverley	President Cr David White Mr Steve Gollan Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Brookton	Cr Tamara Lilly Mr Gary Sherry Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Corrigin	President Cr Des Hickey (Deputy Chair) Ms Natalie Manton Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Cuballing	Deputy President Cr Rob Harris
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 Cr Robbie Bowey Mr Judd Hobson, Executive Works Manager, non-voting
Shire of Lake Grace	President Cr Len Armstrong Deputy President Cr Ross Chappell Mr Alan George Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Narrogin	President Leigh Ballard (Chair)
Shire of Pingelly	Deputy President Cr Jackie McBurney Mr Andrew Dover Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

Shire of Quairading	Cr Jonathan Hippisley Cr Trevor Stacey
Shire of Wagin	President Cr Phillip Blight Cr Brian Kilpatrick Mr Ian McCabe Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Wandering	Cr Sheryl Little Mr Alan Hart Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of West Arthur	President Cr Neil Morrell Cr Karen Harrington Mr Vin Fordham Lamont, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Wickepin	President Cr Julie Russell Mr Nathan Cain, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Williams	Cr Moya Carne Mr Geoff McKeown Chief Executive Officer, non- voting
Guests	
Main Roads WA Water Corporation	Brad Pearce, Operations Manager Narrogin Michael Roberts, Regional Manager Goldfields & Agricultural Region
Members of Parliament	Hon Steve Martin MLC, Member for Central Wheatbelt Hon Shelley Payne MLC, Member for Agricultural Region
WALGA	Karen Chappel, WALGA President Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services Kathy Robertson, Executive Officer Governance

Apologies

Shire of Beverley	Deputy President Cr Chris Lawlor
Shire of Brookton	President Cr Katrina Crute Deputy President Cr Neil Walker
Shire of Corrigin	Deputy President Cr Mike Weguelin
Shire of Cuballing	President Cr Eliza Dowling Mr Stan Scott Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Kulin	Deputy President Cr Brad Smoker Mr Alan Leeson Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Narrogin	Deputy President Cr Graham Broad Mr Dale Stewart Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Pingelly	President Cr Bill Mulrone
Shire of Quairading	President Cr Peter Smith Ms Nicole Gibbs Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Wagin	Deputy President Cr Gregory Ball
Shire of Wandering	President Cr Ian Turton
Shire of Wandering	Deputy President Cr Paul Treasure
Shire of Wickiepin	Deputy President Cr Wes Astbury
Shire of Williams	President Cr Jarrad Logie
Guests	
WALGA	Rodney Thornton, Regional Road Safety Advisor
Wheatbelt Development Commission	Pip Gooding, Regional Development Officer Wheatbelt South
Regional Development Commission	Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development
Department of Local Government, Sport, & Cultural Industries	Samantha Cornthwaite, Regional Manager Wheatbelt
Wheatbelt Development Commission	Susan Hall A/Chief Executive Officer
Members of Parliament	Hon Colin de Grussa MLC, Member for Agricultural Region Hon Peter Rundle MLA, Member for Agricultural Region Hon Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt Hon Martin Aldridge MLC, Member for Agricultural Region

Hon Darren West MLC, Member for Agricultural Region
Rick Wilson MP, Federal Member for O'Connor

Attachments to Agenda

The following were provided as attachments to the Agenda:

1. Item No. 7.1 DLGSC Zone Report – May 2023
2. Item No. 7.3 RDAW Zone Report – June 2023
3. Item No. 8.3 Minutes of Executive Committee meeting – 7 June 2023
4. Item No. 9.3 WALGA draft Submission: Review Biosecurity & Agriculture Management Act 2007
5. Item No. 11.4 WALGA President's Report – June 2023

3. Declarations of Interest

Nil

4. Announcements

Nil

5. Guest Speakers / Deputations

5.1 Murray Carter, Executive Director, DFES

Murray Carter provided an update on Fire and Emergency Service matters.

Noted

5.2 Ben Harvey, Executive Director, Department of Planning Lands & Heritage

Ben Harvey presented to the Zone on the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act*.

A copy of the presentation is attached.

Noted

6. Members of Parliament

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

Hon Steve Martin MLC, Member for Central Wheatbelt provided a brief update to the Zone.

Hon Shelley Payne MLC, Member for Agricultural Region provided a brief update to the Zone.

7. Agency Reports

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

Samantha Cornthwaite, Regional Manager Wheatbelt was an apology. Please see attached report. (Attachment 1.)

Noted

7.2 Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt (RDAW)

Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development, was an apology. Please see attached report. (Attachment 2.)

Noted

7.3 Wheatbelt Development Commission (WDC)

Pip Gooding, Regional Development Officer Wheatbelt South was an apology.

Noted

7.4 Main Roads Western Australia

Brad Pearce, Operations Manager Narrogin, provided an update to the Zone.

Noted

8. Minutes

8.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the Central Country Zone meeting held on Friday, 14 April 2023

The Minutes of the Central Country Zone meeting held on Friday, 14 April 2023 have previously been circulated to Member Councils.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: President Cr Len Armstrong

Seconded: President Cr Julie Ramm

That the Minutes of the Central Country Zone meeting held on Friday, 14 April 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

8.2 Business Arising from the Minutes from the Central Country Zone Meeting held on Friday, 14 April 2023

Nil

8.3 Minutes of the Central Country Executive Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 7 June 2023

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

8.3.1 (Item 5.3) Budget 2023/2024**Executive Committee Comment**

The following Budget for 2023-24 is submitted for consideration.

Central Country Zone WALGA**ABN 12 975 113 390****Budget Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ending 30 June 2024**

	Budget 2022-23	Actual YTD 31/5/2023	Budget 2023-24	
Members			15	
Subscription Rate		\$	1,000	
Income				
501 General Subscriptions	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 15,000	Reduction 50%. 15 Zones @ \$1,000 (2023-24 rate)
575 Interest Earned	\$ 30	\$ 216	\$ 1,000	Surplus funds invest in higher rates with CBA
Total Income	\$ 30,030	\$ 30,216	\$ 16,000	
Expenditure				
1535 Zone Expenses - Audit Costs	\$ 1,200	\$ 975	\$ 1,200	
1546 Zone Expenses - In-Person Meetings	\$ 8,800	\$ 4,679	\$ 8,800	
1555 Zone Expenses - Agricultural Freight Group	\$ 800	\$ 528	\$ 800	Retain pending confirmation of future need.
1558 Zone Expenses - Financial Management	\$ 2,700	\$ 1,778	\$ 2,781	
1572 Zone Expenses - Other	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500	
1580 Zone Representative - Honoraria	\$ 2,600	\$ -	\$ 2,600	
1605 Zone Representative - Meeting Fees	\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ 2,500	
1610 Zone Representative - Travel Costs	\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ 2,000	
Total Expenditure	\$ 21,600	\$ 7,960	\$ 21,181	
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 8,430	\$ 22,256	-\$ 5,181	

Estimated brought forward Balance 1 July 2023 \$ 62,000

Surplus \$ 9,069

Estimated Balance 30 June 2024 \$ 71,069

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: President Cr Des Hickey

Seconded: President Cr Phil Blight

That:

1. the Budget Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ending 30 June 2024 be received;
2. the General Subscriptions be reduced from \$2000.00 to \$1000.00 per subscriber; and
3. the estimated surplus balance be moved from Westpac Bank to WALGA's Commonwealth Bank account to obtain a better interest rate.

CARRIED

8.4 Minutes of the Central Country Executive Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 7 June 2023

The Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 7 June 2023 are attached. (**Attachment 3.**)

The remainder of the items are for the Zones consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: President Cr Des Hickey

Seconded: Cr Karen Harrington

That the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 7 June 2023 be noted, and the items not considered above be endorsed.

CARRIED

9. Zone Business

9.1 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act update

With the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021* (ACH Act) coming into effect on 1 July 2023 I wanted to take the opportunity to provide you with some information on the legislation's operation and WALGA's advocacy.

The ACH Act replaces the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*. It is intended to provide a contemporary legislative framework for the identification, protection, and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage across WA. Key features of the ACH Act include:

1. An updated definition of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (ACH);
2. New structures for the management of ACH, including Local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services (LACHS) as a central point of contact for proponents, and the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Council (ACH Council) to oversee the system;
3. A tiered land use assessment and approvals system that focuses on consultation and agreement making between Traditional Owners and land users;
 - a. This is based around the classification of [activities into tiers](#), depending on the level of ground disturbance;
 - b. Each tier has a corresponding process, and activities are classified as tier 1, tier 2, tier 3, or exempt activity;
 - c. Land users will be required to negotiate agreements with Traditional Owners for any activities considered medium to high ground disturbance that may harm ACH;
 - d. Activities involving minimal or low ground disturbance will benefit from a streamlined approval pathway, encouraging proponents to avoid or minimise impacts;
4. The establishment an online ACH directory of information and documents relevant to Aboriginal cultural heritage;
5. Provisions for the establishment of Protected Areas; and
6. The establishment of new penalties and offences for breaches of the ACH Act.

It is important to bear in mind that all ACH is also protected under the current legislation – the approvals process for disturbing ACH and the system is changing, however all ACH is protected under the current legislation and in fact the exemptions under the new ACH Act do not exist under the current legislation.

WALGA facilitated an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Education Session delivered by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) and WALGA on Wednesday, 10 May which was attended by 80 Local Government representatives from across the State. I encourage those who were unable to attend this session to view the [presentation](#) and [recording](#) from the workshop (including a Q&A session) which provide detailed information on the development and operation of the ACH Act.

Since 2018, WALGA has undertaken the following advocacy and capacity building activities in relation to the development of the ACH Act:

1. Developed five State Council endorsed submissions – most recently WALGA's Phase Three submission which was endorsed by State Council on 23 December 2022. WALGA's submissions to the 2022 co-design process can be viewed [here](#).
2. DPLH Director General Anthony Kannis and staff presenting to State Council in September 2022.
3. Provision of formal feedback to DPLH twice via correspondence and a survey.
4. Co-delivered 10 place-based online workshops to contribute to the preliminary work in developing the activity categories in 2021.
5. Convened the Local Government Aboriginal Heritage Reference Group, which has included representation from 26 Local Governments.
6. Co-delivered five information sessions and webinars with DPLH to facilitate consultation with, and provide information to, Local Governments.
7. Advocated for funding for the establishment and ongoing functioning of the new Aboriginal heritage system, with respect to the ACH Council, Local ACH Services (LACHS) and Local Governments in the [2023-24 WALGA Budget Submission](#) and meetings with the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

A clear message from sector consultations is that the ACH Act must balance the need to protect ACH with the requirements on Local Government to deliver essential infrastructure works and emergency activities efficiently and effectively to maintain public safety and comply with other legislative responsibilities. Conversations around the activity categories dominated the consultation sessions due to the lack of consideration given to the works undertaken by Local Government early in the co-design process.

As a result of WALGA's advocacy, significant improvement to the activity categories was made with consideration now given to many every day and emergency works that Local Governments undertake. This includes the exemption of activities such as:

1. Maintaining existing infrastructure that does not involve disturbance to ground beyond that which was disturbed during the construction;
2. Maintenance of waterways and coastlines to rectify accretion and erosion of natural material; and
3. An emergency management activity intended to prevent imminent loss of life, prejudice to the safety, or harm to the health, of persons or animals.

WALGA's submissions also highlighted the need for the ACH Council and Local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services (and Local Governments) to be adequately resourced to enable them to respond to applications for permits and management plans pursuant to the new legislation. The [State Government has announced its \\$77million investment](#) into the ACH system which will further support the successful implementation of the ACH Act.

Upcoming Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 Education Workshops

DPLH is facilitating education workshops across the State from 24 May – 28 June to support the implementation of the new legislation. Workshops will be held online and in the Kimberley, Pilbara, Goldfields, Great Southern, Midwest, Southwest, and metropolitan regions. You can register for these workshops [here](#).

WALGA is continuing to advocate for support from DPLH to enhance Local Government knowledge and capability with respect to ACH and the new legislation.

The WALGA President has written to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs advising that Local Governments across the State require support. Seeking support for the following proposals, which are based on discussions and WALGA's consultation with Local Governments during the co-design process:

- **Local Government ACH Facilitator**

- A Local Government ACH Facilitator would provide advice and support to Local Government with respect to their obligations under the Act and build capability, including through facilitating a community of practice, the development of templates and case studies. A similar arrangement already exists through the CoastWA Facilitator role which is funded by DPLH and located at WALGA to provide support and build capacity within Local Government to undertake coastal adaptation planning and management. This arrangement has been very beneficial for DPLH and Local Government and was recently extended by DPLH for a further 3 years.
- **Training**
 - WALGA understands that DPLH and South Metropolitan TAFE are developing ACH training for LACHS. This training could be adapted and made available for Local Government. WALGA is a Registered Training Organisation and may be able to assist in the delivery and/or development of this tailored Local Government training.
- **Guidance Materials**
 - Given the lack of understanding of ACH in the general community, it is anticipated that Local Governments will receive many enquiries from community members, landowners, small-scale property developers and local businesses about the application of the new legislation. It is proposed that DPLH develops guidance material that Local Governments could share and use to respond to queries and an Advice Note that could be included on development and subdivision approvals.
 - Local Governments and other proponents are required to comply with various legislative and regulatory requirements in addition to the Act, including environmental, planning, and building requirements. There is uncertainty regarding how these legislative requirements interact with one another, when and in what order approvals are required. This would be assisted through the provision of information that articulates step-by-step the processes required to comply with ACH, environmental and other relevant legislative requirements.
- **Additional DPLH regional officers**
 - WALGA welcomes the additional DPLH staff to be located in Broome, Karratha, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, and Albany to support implementation of the Act. Western Australia has a very large geographic area, with 137 Local Governments, and WALGA would support additional DPLH staff being located in the Wheatbelt, Mid-West and Murchison regions, so that all regional Local Governments have access to regionally based DPLH staff.
- **Extend grant funded project timeframes and include ACH costs**
 - ACH processes are likely to increase the costs and delivery timeframes for Local Governments' road and other infrastructure projects. As noted in WALGA's submissions during the co-design process, many State and Commonwealth grant funded infrastructure and road projects must be completed within 12 months and do not include ACH costs. This is a major concern for the delivery of Commonwealth or State Government grant funded projects such as those funded under the State and Federal BlackSpot programs, State Road Project Grants, the Commonwealth Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, the Mitigation Activity Fund and CoastWA. Delivery of these projects is already challenging given the skilled labour and supply chain constraints in the current economic environment. It is requested that the timeframes for relevant State Government grant programs be extended where required to accommodate ACH approvals and that provision be made to include these costs as part of the grant. Similarly, I would ask for the State Government to support the Local Government sector in dealing with the Commonwealth in relation to impacts on the delivery of Commonwealth Government funded projects.

Please also refer to State Council agenda item 9.6 on this issue.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Julie Ramm

Seconded: Cr Tamara Lilly

That the Central Country Zone request:

1. the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage to provide information on the cost to Local Governments of implementing the regulations;
2. the State Government to underwrite any potential costs of Local Government complying with the requirements of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act*: and
3. WALGA to collate the information from the Local Governments feedback on the *Aboriginal Heritage Act* and the implementation of the Regulations.

CARRIED

9.2 Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007: Stage 3 Review

By Rebecca Brown, WALGA Manager Environment and Waste

WALGA draft Submission (**Attachment 4.**)

Executive Summary

- Consultation for Stage 3 of the review of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act) has commenced, with feedback sought on potential biosecurity reform opportunities.
- WALGA has developed a draft Submission for sector feedback by 26 June.
- Zones are asked to consider and provide feedback on the proposals in the discussion paper and WALGA's draft Submission.
- Local Governments are also strongly encouraged to provide feedback directly to the Review Panel via the online portal by 30 June 2023.
- Local Governments are invited to attend a WALGA webinar on the proposed reforms, which will include a presentation from the Chair of the Independent BAM Act Review Panel, Kaylene Gulich, at 10.30am, Wednesday 14 June.

Background

The first 10-year [statutory review](#) of the [Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007](#) (BAM Act) is currently underway; this is a key opportunity for Local Government to influence how post-border biosecurity is managed in Western Australia. The [Independent Panel](#) undertaking the review, is using a three-stage engagement process.

Stage 1 (closed) – Used open submissions and a survey to identify major themes and issues. To inform comment on this stage of the review WALGA prepared a [Discussion Paper](#) which includes 11 key biosecurity themes and related recommendations reflecting issues raised by Local Government, and those identified in the [Auditor General's 2013 and 2020 Reports](#).

Stage 2 (closed) – Stage 1 identified the key themes and stage 2 provided an opportunity to focus on these issues, which included:

- principles to underpin WA's biosecurity, including biosecurity in all contexts and shared responsibility.
- legal foundations of WA's biosecurity, including prioritising pests, weeds, and diseases, and enabling industry and community action.
- planning, coordinating, and resourcing WA's biosecurity system, including responsibilities and timing.
- community-led pest and weed management, including the Declared Pest Rate and Recognised Biosecurity Groups.

Stage 3 – (now open) A [Discussion Paper](#) sets out nine priority reform areas, and identifies 21 opportunities to clarify, strengthen and support a strengthened biosecurity system in WA. The nine priority reform areas are:

1. Clarifying the role of the BAM Act
2. Working together to protect WA
3. Planning and reporting – vital to a better biosecurity system
4. Prioritising pests and diseases
5. Emergency powers – a necessary precaution

6. Compensation can boost biosecurity efforts
7. Enabling industries to act
8. Community-led pest management
9. Compliance with WA's biosecurity laws.

Policy Implications

4.5 Post Border Biosecurity

Western Australia's economy, environment and the community are facing increasing challenges posed by already established and new pests, weeds, and diseases. Local Government has a significant role in biosecurity management, as land managers and regulators, and therefore has an interest in ensuring that Western Australia's biosecurity system, including control of declared pests, is effective and appropriately resourced. WALGA considers significant changes to the operation of the State's biosecurity system, including the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007, are required to ensure these risks can be managed now and into the future.

To be effective the Western Australian biosecurity system must:

1. Take a transparent approach to the notion of 'shared responsibility' by ensuring that:
 - a. The respective roles and responsibilities of Commonwealth, State and Local Government, industry, landholders, community groups and individuals are agreed and clearly articulated; and
 - b. There is improved pest management on State Government managed land and a formalised structure for State Government agencies with responsibilities for biosecurity management to work together and coordinate their activities.
2. Be underpinned by a strategic framework, developed in collaboration with stakeholders, that:
 - a. Establishes priorities for biosecurity threats in geographically defined regions, sets measurable targets and guides investment in biosecurity activities; and
 - b. Is regularly evaluated and reported on.
3. Have a greater focus on environmental biosecurity, through the increased recognition and management of pest species that have significant ecological impacts.
4. Be adequately, sustainably, and equitably funded:
 - a. The appropriateness and effectiveness of the Declared Pest Rate (DPR) and Recognised Biosecurity Group (RBG) model as key mechanisms for the management of widespread and established declared pests should be reviewed and alternate mechanisms considered;
 - b. Increased and more equitable distribution of funding for every step in the biosecurity continuum and adequate resourcing for all stakeholders, including Local Government; and
 - c. The provision of funding for declared pest management in metropolitan areas.
5. Ensure that the criteria and process for listing of declared pests is evidence-based, timely and transparent.
6. Have an increased emphasis on compliance through education and enforcement activity, to ensure land managers are aware of their legislative responsibilities and are supported to implement biosecurity actions.
7. Facilitate the use of new technologies, strategic monitoring, and the establishment of data management systems to inform biosecurity investment decisions and support adaptive management.
8. Improve the community's understanding, awareness and action in relation to biosecurity to assist with threat surveillance and timely response to incursions.

Comment

WALGA has developed a Draft Submission (attached) for consideration by the sector and is requesting feedback by **COB Monday 26 June** (via environment@walga.asn.au). WALGA is hosting a webinar regarding Stage 3 of the Review, at 10.30am, Wednesday 14 June, with a presentation from the Chair of the Independent Review Panel, Kaylene Gulich. Register [here](#).

WALGA requests that the Zone consider the Draft Submission and provide feedback to WALGA on:

- The top priority reform areas (from the nine listed) for the Zone
- Any key reform areas which have been missed
- Feedback on WALGA's comments regarding the 21 Opportunities identified.

Local Governments are strongly encouraged to provide feedback directly to the Review Panel by Friday, 30 June 2023 through the online survey portal [here](#).

Noted

9.3 Waste Management Funding

Shire of Narrogin

The Shire of Narrogin has requested an item be discussed at the Zone meeting on the Media Statement from the Minister for the Environment, that the State Government will consult later this year with businesses and the community on a proposal to expand the levy boundary into regional areas.

The Shire of Narrogin have provided the following information:

We write to you on behalf of Shire of Narrogin to express our deep concerns regarding the proposed extension of the State Government's Waste Levy to regional Western Australia beyond the Perth Metropolitan area. We strongly urge WALGA to take immediate and resolute action by lobbying the Government and its Department of Water and Environmental Regulation WA to object to this measure.

While we understand the government's intentions to promote effective waste management and environmental sustainability, it is crucial to recognize the significant differences and unique challenges faced by rural, remote, and regional areas in managing waste. The extension of the Waste Levy without considering the lack of economies of scale and the additional burdens of transport cost and logistics in regional areas is a cause for serious concern.

One size does not fit all when it comes to waste management in Western Australia. Perth Metropolitan-centric views and solutions cannot be ascribed to regional Western Australia. The distinct characteristics of regional areas, such as lower population density, limited infrastructure, and geographical challenges, necessitate a tailored approach to waste management that aligns with the specific needs and capabilities of these communities.

The introduction of the Waste Levy to regional areas without sufficient consideration of these factors would place an undue burden on local governments, businesses, and communities. The financial implications, particularly for smaller councils with limited resources, would be substantial and could hinder their ability to effectively manage waste, invest in essential infrastructure, and meet the diverse needs of their communities.

Additionally, the transportation costs associated with waste disposal over long distances can be exorbitant and would further strain regional budgets. The remote location of many regional areas presents logistical challenges in terms of transportation and access to suitable waste management facilities. Imposing a blanket Waste Levy without addressing these fundamental issues would be unjust and inequitable to regional Western Australia.

Therefore, we respectfully request WALGA to urgently and stridently lobby the Government and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation WA on this matter. We urge WALGA to advocate against the extension of the Waste Levy to regional areas, emphasizing the need for a differentiated approach that considers the unique circumstances and challenges faced by these communities. Collaboration with regional stakeholders, local governments, and industry representatives is crucial to develop a comprehensive and sustainable waste management strategy that respects the diversity of Western Australia.

We appreciate your attention to this critical issue and trust that WALGA will champion the interests and concerns of regional Western Australia in this matter. If you require any further information or support, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Comment

WALGA's current advocacy position is as follows:

Waste Management Funding

Position Statement

Local Government considers that:

- 1. Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy funds should be hypothecated to strategic waste management activities in line with the State Waste Strategy and strongly opposes the*

- application of the Levy to non-waste management related activities, such as funding State Government core activities; and*
2. *The Levy should not be applied to licensed landfills outside the metropolitan area.*

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Leigh Ballard

Seconded: President Cr Phil Blight

That the Central Country Zone:

1. **further endorse that the Levy should not be applied to licensed landfills which receive waste from the metropolitan area; and**
2. **organise a deputation to the Minister for Environment on this matter.**

CARRIED

ACTION: the deputation to the Minister will include Cr Leigh Ballard, Cr Des Hickey, Cr Phil Blight, and Rebecca Brown

9.4 Line Marking and Road Safety

Shire of Kulin

Background

Local Governments oversee a significant portion of the road network in Western Australia, and they place a high importance on road user safety when planning maintenance, construction, and road design.

Line marking has long been recognised as a cost effective, quick solution that has immediate impact on the safety of the road user. A major recent improvement has been the introduction of the centreline separation on high-risk roads. Shoulder widening and upgrade programs have increased the distance between the traffic and the edge of seal, this is happening all over the state.

Rapid changes and adoption of vehicular technology with lane control, that does not work without an edge line, heavy vehicles that can carry a concessional payload at high speed, all mean that the road line marking standard is falling behind, especially, on rural roads.

Local Governments have always had a challenge meeting the requirements to enable new lines to be installed on construction works if there were previously no lines installed on the section of road.

Traffic volumes are the primary determining factor if full length Line Marking is to be installed.

These are:

- Rural Roads 300 Vehicles Per Day (VPD)
- Urban Roads 2500 Vehicles Per Day (VPD)

The VPD requirement is very hard to meet in country areas with a small to medium population or where the population is concentrated in agriculture, within Local Government Road networks.

The existing roads that have line marking on them:

- Meet the 300 VPD
- Layout is approved by Main Roads
- Commissioner for Main Roads responsibility
- Maintained by Main Roads as part of their maintenance programs.

There is a big impost on Main Roads WA to maintain the existing network each year and it is understood that it would be nice to line mark everything, so a guideline is required that is up to date and relevant for the current traffic conditions and road user expectations.

For the Zones consideration, an amendment to the existing and future reviewed guideline that would allow Local Governments to have line marking installed on any of their road network providing that they meet the following criteria,

1. The Local Government is to advise Main Roads WA on which roads they wish to install line marking on. Point of contact would be the current position in Main Roads that looks after line marking in each region.
2. Council resolution, confirming commitment to line marking and its ongoing maintenance.
3. Incur any cost associated with the survey and spotting.
4. Main Roads is to approve the final layout prior to line marking occurring.
5. Incur any cost to install new lines at Main Roads WA standard.
6. Incur any cost in the future to maintain the lines to the standard as per the Main Roads WA intervention parameters.
7. Seal widths of,

Centreline Markings

- Minimum 6.0m seal width – 6m is Main Roads minimum width for detours etc and would include a greater portion of existing roads.

Edge Line Markings

- Minimum 7.2m seal width.

Main Roads WA would still need to do the inspection after the survey and spotting has been completed (as is the case now) determine the start, finish points for the double barrier and record what sections of roads being line marked that would be maintained by each Local Government, which could be captured in the database Main Roads WA currently use.

It is a firm belief of the LGWA, WALGA and Safety Commission that this would be a major step forward in road safety for local roads that may not meet the VPD but are seen as part of the major road network with your local Government area. This would also not put any significant cost to Main Roads WA except the initial inspection.

It is also understood that not all Local Governments may want to add line marking to their road network due to the ongoing costs but this is to allow the ones that would like to make safety improvements to their network, the ability to do so.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Grant Robins

Seconded: Cr Robbie Bowey

That WALGA be requested to engage with Main Roads WA with a view to providing Local Government with greater flexibility and autonomy in relation to line marking thresholds and approval guidelines for rural and regional roads, consistent with the body of the report presented to the Central Country Zone meeting on 23 June 2023.

CARRIED

9.5 Regional Bank Closures

Shire of Lake Grace

The Shire of Lake Grace withdrew this item.

10. Zone Reports

10.1 Zone President Report

Zone Chair, President Leigh Ballard provided a report to the Zone.

Noted

10.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG)

Cr Katrina Crute was an apology for this meeting.

Noted

10.3 Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC)

President Leigh Ballard provided a report to the Zone.

Noted

10.4 Regional Health Advocacy Group

Ms Natalie Manton provided an update to the Zone.

Noted

10.5 WALGA RoadWise

Rodney Thornton, Regional Road Safety Advisor, was an apology for the meeting.

Noted

11. Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) Business

11.1 State Councillor Report

President Cr Phillip Blight

The following comments/notes are provided on the WALGA State Council Meeting held on Wednesday 3 May 2023

Strategic Forum

Economist at WALGA Dan Thompson gave a well well-received presentation. I suggest that he be invited to a future CC Zone meeting.

There was discussion on the planned increase in street lighting tariff however many were unaware of this at the time. It has since been addressed by the ERA and the increase limited.

There was a survey done re LG Audits which it had been thought to it appeared as if many were yet to be finalised, however as the survey came in many were closing.

It was suggested that LG's keep notes of their interactions with Auditors.

7.1 Best Practice Governance Review – Feedback on Governance Model

It was noted that:

Except as provided in this Constitution, all matters considered at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting of the Association shall be passed by a simple majority of the Ordinary Members' delegates or by a duly authorised proxy vote exercised on their behalf.

The motion from the CC Zone and other zones that:

“Any decision by the Members to alter the governance structure of WALGA be put as a standalone item prior to consideration of constitutional amendments”.

This had the potential to create a constitutional impasse if it was passed by 51% but then constitutional amendments lost because 75% majority is required.

The motion

That:

1. *This report summarising feedback from Members on the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report be received.*
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 current constitution to address inconsistencies and other issues while maintaining the current governance model.*

Carried

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Karen Harrington
Seconded: President Cr Des Hickey

That the State Councillor Report be received.

CARRIED

11.2 WALGA Status Report

By Tony Brown, Zone Executive Officer

BACKGROUND

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

CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE STATUS REPORT June 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revitalising Agricultural Region Freight Strategy (2018) • Draft South West Supply Chain Strategy (2020) • Regional Freight Plan (2013) • Agricultural Supply Chain Improvement Program (ASCI) – Phase 1 (2021) • Infrastructure Australia – Western Australia Agricultural Supply Chain Improvements Proposal <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)</p>	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031

			and rail siding investments exceed the capacity of the construction industry to deliver. However, there is likely to be the need for strategic planning for medium term investments.		
Central C	25 November 2022 Zone Agenda Item 10.1 Aged Care Services	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 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>WALGA has made enquiries with the Department of Health and Aged Care and Roslyn Smith, Assistant Director WA Regional Office is available to attend a Zone meeting to discuss the issue further. Contact details have been provided to Secretariat.</p> <p>COMPLETE</p>	June 2023	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039

<p>Central C</p>	<p>3 May 2023 State Council Agenda Item 7.1 Best Practice Governance Review – Feedback on Governance Model</p>	<p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This report summarising feedback from Members on the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report be received; 2. Any decision by the Members to alter the governance structure of WALGA be put as a standalone item prior to consideration of constitutional amendments; and 3. 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>State Council resolved that an item be prepared for the July State Council meeting proposing amendments to the current model and the alternative model.</p> <p>State Council Resolution</p> <p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This report summarising feedback from Members on the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report be received; 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Give effect to the revised Model 1, as per the Best Practice Governance Review Final Report; and b. Refine the current constitution to address inconsistencies and other issues while maintaining the current governance model. 	<p>June 2023</p>	<p>Tony Brown Executive Director, Member Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au</p>
<p>Central C</p>	<p>14 April 2023 Zone Agenda Item 9.1 Financial Burden to Local Governments of Optional Preferential Voting</p>	<p>That WALGA forms a policy position and advocates that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. the CountWA software from Western Australian Electoral Commission is provided to Local Governments free of charge for the 2023 and subsequent Local Government elections. 	<p>This item has been referred to the Governance & Organisational Services Policy Team who will recommend an item to State Council. The Zone will be kept informed as this item progresses.</p>	<p>June 2023</p>	<p>Tony Brown Executive Director, Member Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au</p>
<p>Central C</p>	<p>2020 February 21 Zone Agenda Item 12.1 General Practitioner Services in Rural Areas - Shire of Corrigin</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 introduced regulatory amendments to provide a tender exemption when renewing a GP contract.</p> <p>This matter is an advocacy success for the Zone and WALGA.</p>	<p>June 2023</p>	<p>Tony Brown Executive Director, Member Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au</p>

<p>Central C</p>	<p>2021 19 November Zone Agenda Item 12.1 Sector ICT solution</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"> • Different size Local Governments – no one size fits all; • Local Government’s being at different levels of need and maturity in the ICT requirements; • We are unlikely to get the requisite LG buy-in to warrant the investment; and • The inherent complexity of a custom-built system is time and cost prohibitive. <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"> • Suitable hardware requirements (including remote options where appropriate) • Suggested lightweight accounting software • Baseline model directory structure • Security options • Backup software and procedures • Suitable internet options <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>June 2023</p>	<p>Tony Brown Executive Director, Member Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au</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.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Julie Ramm
Seconded: Cr Jackie McBurney

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

CARRIED

11.3 WALGA President's Report

WALGA President Cr Karen Chappel presented the President' Report.

The WALGA President's Report was attached to the Agenda. **(Attachment 5.)**

Noted

11.4 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – Matters for Decision

11.4.1 State Council Agenda Items – 5 July 2023

Background

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

The full State Council Agenda can be found via this link: [State Council Agenda 5 July 2023](#)

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

Matters for Decision

7.1 Review of Urban Forest Advocacy Position

Executive Summary

- It is proposed that the 2017 Advocacy Position 4.6 Urban Forestry be replaced with a new position that reflects Local Governments' urban forest advocacy priorities.
- The new position has been prepared in collaboration with the officers of the Local Government Urban Forest Working Group and has been endorsed by both the People and Place Policy Team and Environment and Waste Policy Team at a special joint meeting on 31 May 2023.

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA endorse a new Advocacy Position 4.6 Urban Forest as follows:

To promote the growth of Western Australia's urban forest the State Government should:

1. Identify a lead agency with responsibility for setting the strategic direction and oversight of urban forest initiatives.
2. In consultation with Local Government:
 - a. Develop an Urban Forest Strategy, based on the overarching principles of a resilient, connected, expanded and equitable urban forest including:

- i. an overall tree canopy target for the Perth and Peel regions,
 - ii. robust and contemporary data to inform decision making,
 - iii. funding mechanisms to support growth in urban canopy.
- b. Develop contemporary legislative and policy mechanisms to enable the protection and growth of urban forest, including:
 - i. an effective and efficient regulatory mechanism that allows Local Government to consider the removal or alteration of a significant tree as a form of development.
 - ii. prioritisation of trees and vegetation as a key structural element in the design of new neighbourhoods to facilitate climate resilient and liveable communities.
 - iii. consideration of public realm design to maximise opportunities for tree retention and new planting consistent with any tree canopy targets.
3. Work with Local Government and other stakeholders to increase community awareness and promote behaviour change in relation to urban forest growth and retention to support State and Local Government targets and action.
4. Provide recurrent funding for a comprehensive and accessible Urban Greening Grant program to support Local Government investment in public realm planting, focusing on high urban heat areas and enhancing biodiversity outcomes.

7.2 State Planning Policy 3.7 – Bushfire

Executive Summary

- *State Planning Policy 3.7 Bushfire* (SPP3.7) directs how land use and planning proposals should address bushfire risk in Western Australia. It applies to all land designated as bushfire prone, which is approximately 93% of the state.
- The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage has released a revised version of SPP3.7 and *Planning for Bushfire Guidelines* for public comment.
- Future changes to the *Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas* are planned that will create a revised mapping standard for lower risk areas, such as significantly built-up urban areas.
- The revised SPP 3.7 and Guidelines propose a nuanced response compared to the existing policy framework, with the intent of better reflecting the type of planning or development proposal and the level of bushfire risk.
- WALGA's submission generally supports the revised SPP3.7 and Guidelines. The more nuanced policy response better reflects the level of bushfire risk across the State and is a positive evolution of policy design. Several matters of concern and technical comments are raised in the submission.
- The public comment period closes on Monday, 17 July 2023.

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA endorse the submission on State Planning Policy 3.7 Bushfire and the Planning for Bushfire Guidelines.

7.3 Reforming WA Disability Legislation Submission

Executive Summary

- In March 2023, the Department of Communities (DoC) released the consultation paper 'Reforming WA Disability Legislation'.
- DoC is developing new disability legislation for Western Australia, largely driven by the State Disability Strategy 2020-2030 and the recommendations of the *Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability*.
- Under the current *Disability Services Act 1993* (DSA), Local Governments are legislated to implement Disability Access and Inclusion Plans (DAIPs).
- WALGA has consulted with the sector and developed a submission with 11 key recommendations.

- The recommendations make the case for additional measures to support Local Governments implement DAIPs to deliver enhanced access and inclusion outcomes within local communities through standardized governance, training, support, and funding.

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA endorse the submission to the Department of Communities relating to the Consultation Paper – Reforming WA Disability Legislation.

7.4 Landfill Bans Advocacy Position

Executive Summary

- The State Government has committed to delivering a state-wide E-waste ban to landfill by 2024, with the aim of improving management and recycling of e-waste produced by households and businesses across the State.
- Consultation has occurred on the proposed ban and a WALGA Submission on this matter was endorsed by State Council in March 2023.
- A key recommendation of this and previous WALGA Submissions is that any material subject to landfill bans must be covered by a fully effective product stewardship scheme prior to ban implementation.
- Without effective product stewardship arrangements in place for items covered under landfill bans, the burden of managing the product at end of life falls disproportionately to Local Governments.
- A new advocacy position is proposed that makes it clear that landfill bans are not supported in the absence of effective product stewardship schemes, or other funding mechanisms, for products which would be subject to the ban.
- A contemporary and clear advocacy position on landfill bans will enable WALGA to strongly discourage this policy approach and advocate to the Government for the range of conditions necessary to increase resource recovery and reduce disposal of material to landfill.

WALGA Recommendation

That WALGA endorse the following Landfill Ban Advocacy Position:

Landfill bans are not supported in the absence of effective product stewardship schemes, or other funding mechanisms, for products which would be subject to the ban.

7.5 Audit Experience Survey Results and Advocacy Position

Executive Summary

- In April, WALGA in partnership with LG Professionals WA conducted a survey of the Local Government sector to seek feedback on the annual audit process.
- A range of views were captured in the feedback, both positive and negative.
- The responses highlighted five key emerging issues in the audit process:
 - timeframe and delays;
 - additional workload on Local Government staff;
 - cost;
 - inconsistent advice from contract Auditors and the OAG; and
 - asset valuation requirements.
- WALGA and LG Professionals will continue to work with the OAG to reform the audit process in line with sector feedback, with a particular focus on those issues above.

WALGA Recommendation

That:

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

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Robbie Bowey
 Seconded: President Cr Julie Ramm

That:

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

CARRIED

7.6 Amendments to WALGA's Constitution

Executive Summary

- At its last meeting, State Council resolved for two sets of constitutional changes to be developed for consideration by State Council, with the intention that Members would consider both sets of amendments at the 2023 Annual General Meeting:
 - One set to give effect to the alternate model, as per the [Best Practice Governance Review Final Report](#); and
 - A second set to refine the current Constitution to address inconsistencies and other issues while maintaining the current governance model.
- The constitutional changes have been prepared by legal firm, Jackson McDonald.
- Amendments to the [Association Constitution](#) require both a special (75 percent) majority at State Council and a special (75 percent) majority at a General Meeting of Members.
- Consequently, if the proposed sets of amendments are endorsed by State Council, they will be put to the 2023 Annual General Meeting on Monday, 18 September.

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council endorse putting two items to the 2023 Annual General Meeting that:

1. propose a new Constitution to give effect to the alternate governance model as per the attached; and
2. amend the Constitution to retain the current governance model with necessary changes, as per the attached mark-up.

VOTING REQUIREMENT: 75% SPECIAL MAJORITY

Policy Team Reports

8.1 Environment and Waste Policy Team Report

Landfill Bans

The Policy Team considered and recommended State Councils endorsement of the proposed Policy Position on Landfill Bans (see [Agenda Item 7.4](#)).

Matters Referred by Zones

Avon-Midland Country Zone referred comments regarding clearing permits and recommending a fee to lodge an appeal against the grant, conditions or amendment of a clearing permit. The Policy Team noted the recommendation from the Zone but decided that WALGA should not advocate for the introduction of a fee in relation to clearing permit appeals. The Policy Team noted WALGA's policy priority to support Local Governments to deliver on their statutory obligations related to native vegetation clearing, including development of a strategic biodiversity offset framework as part of the implementation of the State Native Vegetation Policy. WALGA provided additional feedback to the Zone which is included in the Zone Status report.

The North Metropolitan Zone requested a report on the progress of community batteries from WALGA. WALGA has provided the Zone with information on Round 1 of the [ARENA Community Battery Funding](#). The Zone has been encouraged to invite Western Power and Synergy, who are undertaking community battery installation across WA, to attend the next Zone meeting to directly address the issues raised.

Updates provided

The following updates were noted:

- **Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) EV charging infrastructure funding application:** WALGA is finalising the Expression of Interest to submit to ARENA for consideration at its 7 June Panel meeting (Note: this has now been lodged). This project:
 - Has the commitment of 22 Local Governments, representing 58% of the Western Australian population, to accelerate the transition to BEVs.
 - Will require 112 AC and 35 DC dual outlet chargers.

- Will see the purchase of 121 light BEVs, and software for charging infrastructure, at a cost of \$7.11 million, by the 22 participating Local Governments.
- Will accelerate these Local Governments transition to BEV's by an average of 2 years and provide the infrastructure to assist Local Governments into the medium and long term phases of their transition plans. The participating Local Governments have a fleet of over 900 vehicles.
- Has secured a \$1 million State Government funding commitment to this project, which has been used to reduce the funding requested from ARENA.
- Is seeking ARENA funding of \$4.22 million, to contribute towards the purchase and installation of the charging infrastructure.
- Has a total project budget of \$12.128 million and if funded, will be implemented from January 2024 to June 2025.
- **Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act (BAM Act) Review** has developed a draft submission on the proposed reforms for sector feedback **by 26 June 2023**. The draft submission provides analysis against the [WALGA Biosecurity advocacy position](#), endorsed by State Council in December 2023 and on anticipated benefits or issues of the proposed reforms. The draft submission will be provided as an item for Zones' consideration in the June round of meetings. As well as providing comments to WALGA, Local Governments are being strongly encouraged to [respond directly](#) to DPIRD by 30 June.
- **Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB)**: The quarantine zone for the PSHB has expanded and now covers the majority of the metropolitan area. To ensure Local Governments are informed regarding the potential implications of the PSHB and their legislative requirements, WALGA is hosted an online information session on Tuesday 9 May. WALGA is also engaging with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to ensure the sector is informed, and engaged, ahead of any further changes to the quarantine zone.
- **Draft State Waste Infrastructure Plan**: The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation has released the draft [Western Australia State Waste Infrastructure Plan](#) for comment, with consultation open until 23 June 2023. WALGA hosted an online information session on Wednesday 31 May for Local Governments to provide feedback on a draft Submission.
- **Urban Forest**: In 2022 WALGA, through the Urban Forest Working Group, developed an Issues Paper: *Local Government Approaches to Tree Retention*.
 - The Issues Paper identified the key challenges faced by Local Government using existing measures for tree retention and explored opportunities for further measures. In July 2022, a briefing was provided to the Environment and Waste Policy Team on the key legal issues identified. WALGA has recently completed a procurement process for the legal advice on these issues, appointing McLeod's, and anticipates provision of the advice within 3 months.
 - Local Governments will be able to 'buy-in' to the legal advice for a nominal fee. Based on the success of the coastal planning legal advice project, WALGA anticipates at least 50 Local Governments will purchase the advice, representing a \$1m saving for the sector compared to each Local Government seeking the advice individually.
 - The findings of the advice will be used to inform WALGA's ongoing advocacy around urban forest, assist Local Governments in updating their planning frameworks to improve protections for existing significant trees.

At the meeting on 31 May 2023, the Environment and Waste Policy Team considered an item on updating the Urban Forest Policy advocacy position in conjunction with the People and Place Policy Team (see [Agenda Item 7.1](#)).

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 GOS Policy Team provides recommendations regarding three [Advocacy Positions](#) for State Council's decision.

Advocacy Position 2.1.10 Recovery of Rates and Service Charges

Policy Team Comment: Amendment of s.6.56 of the *Local Government Act 1995* has not been addressed in the current Local Government Amendment Bill 2023 and the matter is therefore unresolved. **Recommend State Council retain Advocacy Position 2.1.10 Recovery of Rates and Service Charges**

Advocacy Position 2.5.25 Attendance at Council Meetings by Technology

Policy Team Comment: This advocacy position has been achieved through the *Local Government (Administration) Amendment Regulations 2022*, implemented in November 2022, which included provisions that enable Council Members to individually attend by electronic means up to half the council or committee meetings held within any 12-month period. **Recommend State Council delete Advocacy Position 2.5.25 Attendance at Council Meetings by Technology**

Advocacy Position 2.5.31 Annual Electors' General Meetings

Policy Team Comment: The Minister for Local Government has not included or proposed a provision in the current Local Government Act Reform proposals that would give effect to this advocacy position. **Recommend State Council retain Advocacy Position 2.5.31 Annual Elector's General Meetings**

The GOS Policy Team endorsed the WALGA 2023 State Wage Case submission at its meeting held on 3 May, subject to the submission including an example of the street lighting costs.

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council:

- 1. retain, without amendment, Advocacy Positions:**
 - (a) 2.1.10 Recovery of Rates and Service Charges; and**
 - (b) 2.5.31 Annual Electors' General Meetings;**
- 2. delete Advocacy Position 2.5.25 Attendance at Council Meetings by Technology; and**
- 3. notes that the Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team endorsed the WALGA 2023 State Wage Case submission.**

8.3 Infrastructure Policy Team Report

The Infrastructure Policy Team noted the expanding number of activities and prioritised:

- Developing effective responses to barriers and challenges to achieving timely and on-budget deliver of funded road projects in conjunction with Regional Road Groups;
- Revising and providing updated tools, model policies and advice to Local Governments concerning heavy vehicle cost recovery, including options available to Councils considering extending access to concessional mass vehicles;
- Improving the implementation and effectiveness of Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, noting that there are currently three on-going inquiries or reviews initiated by the Commonwealth, and a need to resolve implementation issues with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services;
- Addressing management of road works during Total Fire Bans.

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note the matters considered by the Infrastructure Policy Team.

8.4 People and Place Policy Team Report

At the meeting on 31 May, the People and Place Policy Team:

- In conjunction with the Environment and Waste Policy Team, endorsed a new Urban Forest advocacy position for consideration by State Council (see [Agenda Item 7.1](#));
- Endorsed the WALGA submission on Consistent Local Planning Schemes and an updated Planning Reform advocacy position for consideration by State Council via the Flying Minute process;

- Noted a matter referred from Peel Country Zone on the establishment of a Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan (CHRMAP) Taskforce and endorsed actions to be undertaken by WALGA Secretariat, including the preparation of a discussion paper on the matter; and
- Endorsed the WALGA submission to the Department of Communities on Reforming WA Disability Legislation (see [Agenda Item 7.3](#)).

At the meeting on 3 May, the People and Place Policy Team:

- Received a presentation from the Planning and Building Team on Non-Residential Car Parking Requirements – Draft Interim Guidance;
- Received a presentation from the Planning and Building Team on Local Government Planning and Building Performance for the 2022-23 reporting year (see [Agenda Item 9.3](#));
- Received an update from the Planning and Building Team on WALGA’s work on planning fees and charges; and
- Received an update from the Planning and Building Team on Urban Forest.

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note the matters considered by the People and Place Policy Team.

8.5 Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Report

Submission on WA Container Deposit Scheme Expansion

A [Discussion Paper](#) has been released on expanding the scope of the eligible containers covered by the WA Container Deposit Scheme. The scope of the proposed expansion includes glass wine and spirit bottles, and beverage containers up to 3L.

The draft Submission supports the expansion of the Scheme and proposes that plain and milk alternatives also be included. The Draft Submission was circulated for Local Government consultation during March, with general support received. WALGA has also been appointed to a Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Working Group focusing on the expansion of the Scheme.

MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MOTION

That the Municipal Waste Advisory Council endorse the Submission on Discussion Paper: Container Deposit Scheme – Expanding the Scope of Eligible Beverage Containers.

Policy Position Landfill Bans

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation released a [Consultation Paper](#) on the proposed e-waste landfill ban. The State Government made an election commitment to deliver a state-wide ban by 2024, with the aim of improving management and recycling of e-waste produced by households and businesses across the State.

A Submission on DWER’s Consultation Paper was circulated for State Council and MWAC endorsement out of session following Local Government engagement. A key recommendation of the Submission is that any material subject to landfill bans be covered by a fully effective product stewardship scheme prior to ban implementation. This item is included in the State Council [Agenda item 7.4](#).

MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MOTION

That the Municipal Waste Advisory Council endorse the Policy Position:

Landfill bans are not supported in the absence of effective product stewardship schemes, or other funding mechanisms, for products which would be subject to the ban.

MWAC discussed the following matters:

- Release of the draft [State Waste Infrastructure Plan](#): The draft Plan is open for consultation until 23 June 2023. The draft Plan has been developed to guide decision making for the planning

and development of waste infrastructure in Western Australia and focuses on the built waste and recycling infrastructure needed to achieve 2030 State Waste Strategy targets. MWAC provided initial feedback on the Draft to inform the development of the WALGA Submission.

- *Review of Waste Policy Statements:* WALGA has 8 Waste Management related [Policy Statements](#) in place with publication dates ranging from 2003 to 2018. While much of the content is still relevant, the statements need to be reviewed to ensure currency of references and information as well as consistency of approach. The proposed scheduled for review was agreed:
 - In progress: Household Hazardous Waste and Waste Management Education (consider revisions June Officer Advisory Group (OAG)/MWAC)
 - Initial Review June OAG/MWAC: Waste management data and information management (consider revisions August OAG/MWAC)
 - Initial Review August OAG/MWAC: Standards for Recycled Organics Applied to Land (consider revisions October OAG/MWAC)
 - Initial Review October OAG/MWAC: Waste Levy Policy statement (consider revisions December OAG/MWAC).
 - Reviewed in 2024: Container Deposit Systems, Extended Producer Responsibility and Waste management legislation.
- Packaging Product Stewardship and national advocacy on flexible plastic recycling.
- WALGA's investigations into e-cigarette disposal options and the regulatory framework for used and disposal of these products and advocacy underway.
- Contingency Planning for waste management, including the development of a Mutual Assistance Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Local Governments and WALGA Preferred Suppliers of waste fleet.
- Waste management and biosecurity, including:
 - working with Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) on undertaking preparedness activities for any disposal requirements resulting from Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), such as landfill capacity and resourcing, logistics and communications as part of a coordinated emergency response.
 - the expansion of the Quarantine Area, for the invasive Polyphagous Shot-hole Borer, impacts 25 Local Government FOGO, GO and verge collections.

WALGA Recommendation

That State Council note the resolutions of the 19 April 2023 Municipal Waste Advisory Council.

Matters for Noting/Information

- 9.1 Flying Minute – Submission to 2023 State Wage Case
- 9.2 Environmental Protection Amendment Regulations 2022: Consultation Response
- 9.3 Local Government Performance Monitoring Project
- 9.4 Street Lighting Tariffs
- 9.5 2023-24 Federal and State Budgets
- 9.6 Update on the Commencement of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021
- 9.7 State Award Variations Impacting on Local Governments

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Julie Ramm
Seconded: Cr Jackie McBurney

That the Central Country Zone

1. **Supports Matters for Decision, items 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4 and 7.6 and items 8.1 to 8.5 as listed above in the July 2023 State Council Agenda.**

2. **Notes all Matters for Noting and Organisational Reports as listed in the July 2023 State Council Agenda.**

CARRIED

12. Emerging Issues

12.1 Strategic Planning workdhop

The Zone agreed to hold a Strategic Planning session immediately before the next meeting on Friday, 18 August 2023.

13. Date, Time, and Place of Next Meetings

The next Central Country Zone meeting will be held on Friday, 18 August 2023 commencing at 9:30am. This meeting will be hosted by the Shire of Kulin.

14. Closure

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 12:40pm.



Varley Progress Association General Meeting Minutes 27th June 2023

Meeting Opened: 6.33pm

Present: CEO Alan George, MIS Craig Elefsen, Cr Len Armstrong, Cr Roz Lloyd, Cr Ross Chappell, Cr Ben Hyde, Colin Tapper, Melissa Atkins, Tristan Cornwall, Graeme Atkins, Bennie Slabbert, John Zurnamer, Jim Sullivan, Carla Hyde, John and Naomi Cornwall, Cameron Mudge

Apologies: Cr Deb Clarke, Cr Anton Kuchling, CEO Alan Leeson, Cr Lucia Varone, Nicola Slabbert, Wietske Lambrechts, Danny Atkins, Sarah Mudge, Brent and Clare Hyde, Sheena Zurnamer, Margaret Sullivan

Presentation & Endorsement of Previous Minutes:

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

Moved by Colin Tapper

Seconded by Cameron Mudge

Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

- *Doctor roster-*
Colin made an executive decision about whether the Varley medical service would continue. He encourages everyone to use the service where possible and when needed. Morning tea and lunch is to be provided for three Livingston Medical staff members. The clinic is for chronic care and regular GP care. The doctor is unable to do commercial medicals or school medicals. Livingston Medical have spare appointments available for walk in appointments on the day.
- *Hall Fence-*
Shire came out to have a look and the fence has been put up in town at the busy bee.
- *A Fortunate Life event-*
It was a fantastic event and enjoyed by everyone who attended.
- *ANZAC Service-*
The ANZAC service is a valued community event. Thanks once again to Jim and Margaret Sullivan for organising.
- *Humble Beginnings Book-*
Cameron Mudge has contacted the Lake Grace CRC about reprinting the book. He estimates the total cost would be around \$2100. 250 copies could go to the printer. We could get around 30 copies. The books are to be printed larger than A4 size. Cameron will touch base with Judy. He could get another quote from Scotts Printing. Trying to find photos has been difficult. An expression of interest for the book will be put out. Copies of Humble Beginnings can be sold before the Varley Centenary.

Presentation & Endorsement Finance Report:

Moved by Tristan Cornwall

Seconded by Benjamin Hyde

Presentation & Endorsement Correspondence:

Incoming letters/email to be read.

Business Arising from Correspondence:

Nil

Reports:

- *Lake Grace Shire* –
Cr Len Armstrong- Attended a workshop which gave an insight into Aboriginal land rights.

CEO Alan George- Cheryl Chappell is due to retire on Friday. She has enjoyed working for the Lake Grace Shire over the last eleven years. Cheryl's future plans include travelling with her husband Ross.

- *Kulin Shire* –
Cr Lucia Varone- Work continues on the 25km section of the Kulin-Holt Rock Rd that is to be sealed. The first 10kms is expected to be completed in October this year.

On 18th May 2023 a letter was received to advise that the Minister for Local Government has approved the recommendation of the Local Government Advisory Board to abolish wards in the Shire Of Kulin and reduce the number of offices of councillor from nine to seven, including a council elected president, over two elections.

- *Cropping Committee* –
Cameron Mudge- Seeding started in April. The roller was free of charge this year. Kurt has been spraying the community crop.
- *Townscaping Committee* –
Carla Hyde- Found a paver to do the paving at the Chicken Ranch. Carla spoke to the Shire and it should be done soon.
- *Social Committee*-
Carla Hyde- Wants to form a Centenary committee. An expression of interest to join the committee will be advertised in the Varley Voice. The centenary will be on the same weekend as Lake King. Need to liase with the Lake King 100 Years group.

General Business:

- *Change of banks*-
Tristan Cornwall- On the 31st December Bankwest will close all business bank accounts. For simplicity Varley Progress and all affiliated clubs could all use the same bank. Will need to look at fees and charges for all banks considered. Will also need to look at whether the bank is easy to access. A discussion with other clubs about changing banks needs to happen. The President, Secretary and Treasurer are to be signatories of the bank. Bendigo Bank, Kulin has been selected.
- Withdraw term deposit. *Seconded by John Zurnamer. All in agreeance.*

- *Window at Varley Pavillion-*
Bennie Slabbert- Window at the pavillion needs fixing. Shire to look into repairing it.
- *ANZAC Service-*
Jim Sullivan- Margaret Sullivan wanted to express thank you to all those that helped with this year's ANZAC Service. A special thank you to Anna and everyone that helped clean up including the old flowers. Margaret is looking for younger community members to take on the organisation of the ANZAC Service in Varley.
- *Centenary Committee-*
Carla Hyde- Carla to put an expression of interest to join the Centenary committee in the Varley Voice. Initially there will need to be a couple of meetings a year and then the committee will meet more regularly. Carla to talk to the Hyden and Newdegate Centenary committees. The committee will need to liase with the Lake King 100 Years group.
- *Zebra sign-*
Jim Sullivan- Progress or the Shire need to consider putting a zebra sign between the Varley tennis and golf club. The sign is needed to avoid any future accidents.

Meeting Closed: 7.30pm

Treasurer Report @ 21/2/2023 - 27/06/2023

Business Zero Transaction Account

Starting Net position \$227,485.93

	21/02/2023		27/06/2023	2023 Total
Opening Balance @ Bank	103,597.64		63,296.24	
Credit				
Term Deposit's Interest			806.58	806.58
Subs			4.00	4.00
Varley Number Plates - Cr	675.00		1,350.00	2,025.00
AB Facey			2,567.53	2,567.53
Varley Voice Ads x 3			450.00	450.00
Cash Payment Vly Ag Bill			2,000.05	
FM Tower Re-Imbursement	1,674.16		837.08	2,511.24
Total Credit	2,349.16	0.00	8,015.24	10,364.40
Debit				
Cropping Costs	24,881.00			49,967.60
Fert, seed etc			20,806.50	20,806.50
Varley AgSolutions (Chemicals)	24,881.00		4,280.10	29,161.10
Running Costs (10k)	18,252.06			36,780.90
Cleaning	1,075.00		762.50	1,837.50
Water	276.62		282.74	559.36
Insurance			739.41	739.41
Newsletter Editor	6,300.00			6,300.00
Tractor License	94.05			94.05
Varley Number Plates - Db	800.00		1,400.00	2,200.00
FM Tower (Synergy, Repairs, Ins.)	1,273.91		1,082.14	2,356.05
AB Facey			3,060.40	3,060.40
Varley Ag Misc			700.65	700.65
Social Committee - Sophie Jane, Xmas Tree, Books, Circuit West, Fortunate L	3,933.48			3,933.48
Hall fence			3,100.40	
Solar Pump	4,499.00			0.00
Defib Servicing			823.58	
Donations- RFDS, P&C, St John			15,000.00	15,000.00
Total Debit	43,133.06	0.00	52,038.42	86,748.50
Closing Balance - Bank	\$63,296.24		\$19,273.06	
Cash on Hand - Subs			\$90.50	
Gold Term Deposit Exp 5/6/2024 4.25% 12 months	\$80,000.00		\$80,000.00	
Pending				
Nutrien Agsolution Cr		\$131.69	CR	
Synergy Power - Museum		\$957.52	CR	
TOTAL NET POSITION 2023			\$99,363.56	CR
TOTAL NET POSITION 2022			\$227,485.93	CR
				\$128,122.37 DR



RURAL WATER COUNCIL OF WA (INC)

Annual General Meeting held by Video Conference
Tuesday 11 April 2023 commencing at 9:04 am

Minutes

1 OPENING & WELCOME

The President and Chair of the meeting, Cr Tony Sachse, welcomed delegates and declared the meeting open.

2 ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

2.1 Attendance

Cr Tony Sachse	Shire of Mount Marshall (President & Chair of Meeting)
Cr David Dewar	Shire of Chittering
Cr Mark Campbell	Shire of Chittering
Mr Darren Simmonds	Shire of Koorda
Cr Ross Chappell	Shire of Lake Grace
Cr Len Armstrong	Shire of Lake Grace
Cr Julie Flokart	Shire of Merredin
Cr Tanya Gibson	Shire of Mount Marshall
Cr Eileen O'Connell	Shire of Nungarin
Ms Sarah Caporn	Shire of Quairading (from 10:05 am)
Cr Rosemary Madacsi	Shire of Toodyay
Cr Mark Crees	Shire of Westonia
Cr Ross Della Bosca	Shire of Westonia
Cr Gary O'Brien	Shire of Victoria Plains
Cr Denese Smythe	Shire of York
Ms Sophie Fielder	Shire of York
Mr Lawrie Short	
Ms Renae Thorpe	Department of Water & Environmental Regulation
Ms Rebecca Bowler	Water Corporation
Hon Colin de Grussa MLC	Member for Agricultural Region
Hon Steve Martin MLC	Member for Agricultural Region
Robert Dew	Executive Officer

2.2 Apologies

Cr Alison Harris	Shire of Cunderdin
Cr Frank Johnson	Shire of Gingin
Cr Gary Coumbe	Shire of Nungarin
Cr Pauline Bantock	Shire of Victoria Plains
Mr Norman Smith	
Ms Mandy Walker	Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt Inc
Hon Shane Love MLA	Leader of the Opposition, Member for Moore
Ms Mia Davies	Member for Central Wheatbelt
Hon Martin Aldridge MLC	Member for Agricultural Region

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

5 MINUTES

5.1 **Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes of the Meeting held at Toodyay on 21 October 2022 are submitted for confirmation. Copies of these Minutes have been circulated to all members and delegates.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the General Meeting held 21 October 2022, as printed and circulated, be confirmed.

RESOLUTION

Ross Chappell moved and Lawrie Short seconded –

That the Minutes of the General Meeting held 21 October 2022, as printed and circulated, be confirmed. **CARRIED**

5.2 **Business Arising from the Minutes**

(a) Expanding Stakeholder Base (Item 6.2(a))

The last meeting reminded delegates to advise the Executive Officer of any active Catchment Groups within their districts.

RECOMMENDATION

Delegates to be follow up.

NOTED

(b) Meeting with Minister for Water (Item 6.2(c))

The last meeting resolved that the date for the Group's next meeting, scheduled for March 2023, would be determined by the Executive Committee taking into account the proposed meeting with the Minister for Water. Unfortunately, due to the change of the Minister for Water the meeting with the Minister did not go ahead.

Discussions have now recommenced with the Minister's Office. The Minister's Office has requested details of upcoming meeting dates and times so that the Minister can consider if there is a possible suitable date for her to attend. Following discussions with the Executive Committee the following dates have been put forward –

- Friday 21 July 2023 or Friday 28 July 2023.
- Friday 13 October 2023.

The Minister's Office has also been advised that these dates can be varied to a date that is suitable to the Minister.

RECOMMENDATION

For noting

NOTED

RESOLUTION

By Consensus

That Mr Richard George, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, be invited to give an update on the WaterSmart Farms project including Smart Dams and other groundwater initiatives to the meeting with the Minister for Water. **CARRIED**

(c) Invitation to Bureau of Meteorology (Item 9.3)

The last meeting adopted the Executive Committee's recommendation that representatives from the Bureau of Meteorology be invited to the July 2023 meeting to present on climate change and the expectation that dry seasons will become more frequent and future predictions.

With the uncertainty around the attendance by the Minister for Water does the meeting wish to proceed with the invitation to the July 2023 meeting, or wait until arrangements with the Minister have been finalised?

RECOMMENDATION

For consideration

RESOLUTION

By Consensus

That the invitation to representatives of the Bureau of Meteorology to give a presentation to the July 2023 meeting proceed. CARRIED

(d) Other

No other matters were brought forward.

6 ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration of the Annual Report on the Group's activities during the preceding financial year. Presented by the President (attached).

RECOMMENDATION

That the Annual Report, as attached, be received.

The President read and then tabled the Annual Report.

RESOLUTION

Tony Sachse moved and Lawrie Short seconded –

That the Annual Report of the Group's activities, as presented by the President (attached), be received. CARRIED

Mr Lawrie Short commented that the Minyulo Brook/Dandaraga Spring were within a mining exploration lease and were also an aboriginal heritage site.

7 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Consideration of the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 (attached).

An examination of the financial statements was undertaken by Ms Natalie Bird, Deputy CEO/Finance Manager, Shire of Goomalling.

RECOMMENDATION

That the financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2022, as attached, be adopted.

RESOLUTION

Rosemary Madacsi moved and Denese Smythe seconded –

That the financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2022, as attached, be adopted. CARRIED

8 ELECTIONS

Our Rules provide that Executive Committee members (office holders plus three other members) are elected at the Annual General Meeting held following the biennial Western Australian local government elections. The next local government elections are scheduled for 21 October 2023. As such there are no elections due this year.

NOTED

9 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES & BUDGET

9.1 Membership Fees 2023

Consideration of membership fees for 2023. Last year membership fees were –

Associations	\$300.00
Individuals	\$150.00

RECOMMENDATION

That membership fees for 2023 be –

Associations	\$300.00
Individuals	\$150.00.

RESOLUTION

Rosemary Madacsi moved and Denese Smythe seconded –

That membership fees for 2023 be –

Associations	\$300.00
Individuals	\$150.00.

CARRIED

9.2 Budget 2023

Consideration of the Group's Budget for 2023. Draft Budget for the year ending 31 December 2023 is attached.

Notes on the draft budget –

Receipts

- It is proposed that there be no increase in membership fees.

Payments

- The allocation for Secretarial Service is based on three meetings for the year plus additional allowance to accommodate the proposed meeting with the Minister for Water.
-

RECOMMENDATION

That the Budget for the year ending 31 December 2023, as attached, be adopted.

RESOLUTION

Denese Smythe moved and Rosemary Madacsi seconded –

That the Budget for the year ending 31 December 2023, as attached, be adopted.

CARRIED

10 MATTERS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

There are no motions of which notice has been given.

11 OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Applications for Membership

There are no applications for membership.

11.2 Department of Water and Environmental Regulation - Representative

Ms Tracy Calvert has advised that she will be going on leave for a while and will be handing over her role to provide Rural Water Planning project updates to Ms Renae Thorpe. She advised that Renae will be acting in her position until a new manager is appointed.

RECOMMENDATION

For noting

The President welcomed Ms Thorpe.

Ms Thorpe commented –

- She had no written report for presentation to the meeting but would endeavour to provide a report for circulation following the meeting.
- On 10 March 2023 the Minister for Water announced funding under the fourth round of the Community Water Supplies Partnership Program. The funding included projects for the Shires of Dandaragan, Dowerin, Perenjori, Toodyay, Victoria Plains, Brookton, Kondinin, Merredin, Gnowangerup and Williams.

11.3 Water Corporation Report

Presentation of the Water Corporation report.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Water Corporation Report be received.

Ms Rebecca Bowler commented on –

- Golden Pipeline Anniversary - 24 January 2023 marked the 120th anniversary of the official opening of the Goldfield Water Supply Scheme. Some 39% of the main conduit locking bars are still in place.
- Golden Pipeline Tourism and Heritage – 8 pump stations of which 6 require some restoration. Working with the National Trust of Australia. A roadshow presentation scheduled in the near future.
- Farmlands Project – State 8 Completed; Stage 9 underway; Stage 10 announced.
- Merredin and Kellerberrin sewer relining.
- Community Water Supplies Partnership Program –
 - Merredin Water Resource Recovery Facilities - \$100,000 to increase treated waste water.
 - Kellerberrin Water Resource Recovery Facilities – commissioning September.
 - Wyalkatchem Water Resource Recovery Facilities – Power to site around May, commissioning September.
- City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder community stormwater/recycled water shortage.
- AA Dams –
 - Water Corporation still interested in transfer of land and dams to local governments. Delays due to Native Title.
 - Likely that most settlements will result in joint ventures with traditional owners.
 - Will consult with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and provide information back to the Rural Water Council.

Ms R Thorpe commented –

- The Department of Water and Environmental Regulations can assist under the Community Water Supplies Partnership Program which provides grants of up to \$100,000 to local governments and incorporated community groups. Applicants need to contribute a minimum of 30% of the total project cost.
- The Department is looking at AA dams and surrounding bushland and joint ventures.
- Not aware of any funding under Native settlement.

Hon S Marting asked if any local governments managed their own sewerage schemes other than the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder. Ms Bowler replied that she was not aware of any other local governments with their own sewerage schemes on-selling the recycled water.

Cr R Della Bosca asked if a list of AA dams was available. Ms Bowler replied that she would follow up.

Mr L Short commented that he understood that the Moora sewerage scheme was a local government scheme but believed it was now under Water Corporation control. Ms Bowler replied that she believed this was the case but would check. (See Item 11.5 for response)

11.4 District Reports

Dandaragan and North Miling (Lawrie Short)

Given the last two good seasons there is apprehension as to what the coming season will bring. For example what do you do with your 40 tonne capacity truck and trailer, when traffic at Bins created hold ups in harvesting, with field and chaser bins at capacity needing harvester to stop. Hard to predict future when need to upgrade in light of strange financial clouds on the horizon. I know more field bins cause more grief for good flowing Harvest, plus expenditure you may not need if season no good.

Other clouds are created in mineral exploration in our area (Perth Basin) with a large gas find down 4.5 km 30 or so km south of Geraldton, could be largest on Australian Mainland. A second one exists west of Carnamah known as West Erragulla or now Warrarga, a fight for control existed between Kerry Stokes, Chis Olison (Mineral Resources) and Gina Hancock; so far Gina has won. These moves are creating angst amongst many landholders.

These explorations, subject to exceptional high technological seismic surveys (I am yet to see how they read the results of vibrations that identify proper stratas of interest at the depths that have established the correct Stratum) are well below any contained aquifers and are aimed at natural gases contained in the upper sections of folded stratas, or so I am led to believe, no fracking is apparently involved.

Best rainfall for areas indicates 12 mm for Dandaragan, a week or so ago with one storm last week that dropped 55 mm on North Miling in 30 minutes.

Lake Grace (Ross Chappell)

Rainfall 2022

October	40 mm
November	14 mm
December	
Total for 2022	379 mm

Rainfall 2023

January	5 mm
February	
March	17 mm

So basically, from the end of November to nearly the end of March no rain, January was recorded on the last day. All so the run off wasn't as great as last year so dams are not as full as this time 12 months ago.

Rainfall on 25/26 March varied quite a bit: 17 mm in Lake Grace, 25 km North-East of Lake Grace 25 mm, Pingaring to the North 40+ mm, Varley 15 to 22 mm.

The beginning of harvest was a slow start with moisture issues. Couldn't get full days in down South near Pingrup with 2 or 3 days in a row where they did not turn a wheel. Then the weather warmed up and it was full on. A lot of comment was it was a better year than 2021 but some have said it was just under 2021. A lot of pressure on CBH as bins filled to capacity, Lake Grace had trains coming in continuously removing grain and it is still going on now as they are transferring grain from 4 directions into Lake Grace.

The biggest issue we have had through February and March has been pole top fires with over 12 on one day and a week or so later another 18 reported, both those times Newdegate town and surrounds where without power for over 48 hours. In the last 10 days or so we have only just started issuing burning permits.

Shire

The normal things road works, re-sheeting, bituminising. Over all the roads stood up to harvesting reasonably well you always get places that don't. Slowly getting projects finished, like everywhere still waiting on materials or trades people.

Mount Marshall (Tony Sachse)

There were no water deficiency arrangements needed in the Shire over summer. Patchy rain occurred in January with some gauges recording in excess of 20 mm while in others there was virtually nil. February and early March were dry but late March and early April have seen quite good falls exceeding 50 mm in parts. However, it has again been quite patchy given they were thunderstorms associated with rain bands over about 10 days. These falls will help reduce demand for Water Corporation water, allow pastures to germinate with some seeding to commence.

The supply of Water Corporation water has again been very reliable over the summer.

There have been multiple bushfires since October 2022. Water for firefighting has been used from multiple sources including Water Corporation standpipes and hydrants, plus on farm tanks and dams. Major fires requiring aerial support (helicopters) were able to fill from dams close to the fireground enabling good efficiency.

The handover of Water Corporation AA tanks to the Shire continues to be delayed due to native title. This means that any planning or works for maintenance and improvements for the catchments, tanks, outlets and roof structures continue to remain in limbo.

Toodyay (Rosemary Madacsi)

Rainfall the Shire of Toodyay was below average for the 3 month period from January to March but within the 4-7 decile. No rain was recorded during January and February. Heavy rains in the last two weeks delivered between 33-38 mm, 10 mm more at Wattening and was relatively evenly distributed across the Shire, contrary to the normal gradient to the southeast. Spring output is constant due to two previous wet winters but surface dams are generally low.

The Keetch-Byeam Drought Index reading for this period, used to determine bushfire potential by soil and duff layer moisture levels is not available for this report.

A strong focus on water sustainability is continuing with a successful Community Water Supplies Partnership Program grant of \$73,897 to install two 247 kL tanks, to utilise stormwater harvest of the recreation centre precinct roof and basketball courts for irrigation and firefighting. A new water tank was installed at the Morangup Community Hall and fully funded to the value of \$15,000. A review of water use is currently being undertaken including usage patterns and infrastructure condition. As part of this, additional water meters are being installed at the new recreation centre which currently has a single meter to isolate and better determine water use patterns and management.

Victoria Plains (Sean Fletcher)

Piawaning Reverse Osmosis Plant

Further to earlier advice last year, the Minister for Water announced on 10 March that the Shire will receive \$89,667 from the Community Water Supply Program to refurbish the reverse osmosis plant in the town of Piawaning, which has been designed to provide emergency farm and firefighting water to the local community.

The Piawaning emergency water supply was upgraded in 2014 with a reverse osmosis system (RO). The current production bore is located off site and has a reduced level of quality primary being the presence of high levels of iron oxide. The reduced quality of water as it stands today does not allow the osmosis process to work efficiently. This project will endeavour to address the current issues being the production bore's proximity to the treatment plant and the installation of a pre filtration unit that will be suitable for the

lower quality of water prior to entering treatment in the RO unit. Previous Hydrological reports received by Shire in 1988 detailed a high-water table and a low-quality supply of water in the superficial aquifer. Quotations were sought from relevant suppliers for a filtration unit and construction of a new production bore. The RO unit is dedicated to delivering a higher quality water supply to the town of Piawaning.

Gillingarra Water Supply (Sensitive)

As reported previously, DPLH is in the process of establishing a crown reserve over the Gillingarra bore for the Shire to manage in future. This will ensure consistent controls in the administration and delivery of a supply of water to the local community, for emergency purposes. The proposed reserve is on private property and supplies water to tanks on land managed by a community group.

Parker Road Bore (Calingiri)

This bore continues to exceed expectations with its performance regarding the supply of water to the Calingiri oval.

Water Supply Improvement Works – Calingiri

The Water Corporation has undertaken works in March regarding the following:

- Installation of isolation valves to minimise the disruption of water works. The town can be isolated at different points in future so that any work undertaken will mean the whole town will no longer be cut off when future improvement works or repairs are undertaken;
- Preparation for the installation of a chlorine injector plant to improve the water quality in Calingiri. This will alleviate what happens regarding water pumped to the main tank where chlorine tends to dissipate when left too long and in the pipelines.

Water Supply Improvements Works – Bolgart

The Water Corporation will undertake similar work to that undertaken in Calingiri in late March/early April.

Water Strategic Framework

The Shire's EHO will now undertake during the June quarter the development of a scope of works regarding the professional assessment of the Shire's water supply and sources across the district.

RECOMMENDATION

That District Reports be received.

RESOLUTION

By Consensus

That District Reports be received.

CARRIED

11.5 Members of Parliament

Brief comments by Members of Parliament.

Hon Colin deGrussa commented that the process for the planned reform of water legislation is under way; 6 Acts being rewritten. Anticipate that the Bill will come before Parliament this year, probably late in the year. He is seeking the views of local governments and industry on the Government's proposals.

Mr L Short commented that water legislation reform was very important as the original legislation is a 1914 Act. He believed that contained aquifers are tied up with licensing controls. He was concerned that gas extraction (down to 4.5 km) and mining (Iluka 70 m below surface by open cut with inclines) will come within the water areas.

Cr T Sachse commented that it will be important for the Rural Water Council to be active in the consultation period for the redrafted water legislation.

Hon Steve Martin commented –

- Good start to the season.
- The Government has announced a 15 year water supply contract for a hydrogen project near Waroona.
- The water course situation in Toodyay is now in court. He emphasised that it is important to be aware of aboriginal heritage when under taking works. Believed that local governments and

landholders are not aware of their responsibilities around water courses under the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act. Needs education and resources.

Cr R Madacsi commented that the main issue with the work on the water course at Toodyay was not the crossing but the excavation by 2-3 metres of the adjacent pool. The original culverts are still in place but are too high.

Ms Sarah Caporn entered the meeting at 10:05 am.

Cr T Sachse asked if it would be useful in understanding the issues, for the Rural Water Council to invite a speaker to give a presentation on aboriginal heritage around water courses and the associated responsibilities. Hon S Martin replied that he thought this was a matter for the WA Local Government Association to progress. He commented that the understanding of the new Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act and its changes were still very slim.

RESOLUTION

By Consensus

That the matter of aboriginal heritage around water courses be referred to the Executive Committee for background and recommendation. CARRIED

Hon Steve Martin left the meeting at 10:10 am.

Ms Bowler referred to the query from Mr L Short regarding the management of the Moora sewerage system (see Item 11.3). She advised that the Water Corporation does not manage the system, it is operated and managed by the Shire of Moora. Ms R Thorpe advised that the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation was assisting the Shire of Moora with upgrades to the system.

Mr Darren Simmonds advised that the Shire of Koorda operates the Koorda sewerage system but has no plans to on-sell the waste water. The Shire does not use the water for any other purpose.

11.6 Finance Report

There has been no activity in the Groups accounts for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023. The Group's current cash balance is \$6,250.43.

RECOMMENDATION

For Noting

NOTED

11.7 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts are presented for payment –

<u>Pavee</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<u>Accounts to be Paid</u>		
R W & S Dew	Secretarial Service October 2022 to April 2023	1,063.41
	TOTAL (including GST)	<u>\$1,063.41</u>

RECOMMENDATION

That the accounts as listed above, totalling \$1,063.41 be passed for payment.

RESOLUTION

Ross Chappell moved and Lawrie Short seconded -

That the accounts as listed above, totalling \$1,063.41 be passed for payment. CARRIED

12 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Future meetings are scheduled for –

- Friday 21 July 2023
- Friday 13 October 2023.

Notes -

- 1) In advising the Minister for Water of upcoming meeting dates the option of either 21 July or 28 July has been provided.
- 2) To avoid a clash with the 2023 local government elections, the date for the October meeting has been brought forward a week from the previously scheduled date.

RECOMMENDATION

That, subject to arrangements to meet with the Minister for Water, the next ordinary meeting of the Rural Water Council be held Friday 21 July 2023 and, subject to confirmation, be held at the Water Corporation's Depot at Cunderdin.

RESOLUTION

Len Armstrong moved and Mark Crees seconded -

That, subject to arrangements to meet with the Minister for Water, the next ordinary meeting of the Rural Water Council be held Friday 21 July 2023 and, subject to confirmation, be held at the Water Corporation's Depot at Cunderdin.

CARRIED

13 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair thanked delegates and observers for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 10:15 am.

CERTIFICATION

These Minutes were confirmed by the meeting held on

Signed:
(Chairman of meeting at which the Minutes were confirmed)

ANNUAL REPORT

Since the Annual General Meeting held by video conference on 18 March 2022, we have been able to hold hybrid in person/electronic meetings at the Water Corporation Cunderdin Offices in July 2022 and be hosted by the Shire of Toodyay at the Toodyay Recreation Centre in October 2022. Both meetings were very well attended, with excellent information and discussions on a range of topics. Today's meeting has been delayed due to the hope of the Minister for Water being able to attend. Given today's Agenda is not overly large, and out of convenience and the short time frame this time round, it was determined to hold the meeting by video conference.

Thank you everyone for your attendance, contribution and input over the last twelve months. Special thanks to our hosts being the Water Corporation and the Shire of Toodyay. Thanks to the Executive Committee for their input. Special thanks to our Executive Officer Robert Dew who has continued on with his excellent executive work for the Rural Water Council.

Some of the items and reports for the year include:

- Minyulo Brook/Dandaraga Spring information
- Recognition of Water Issues Specific to the Western Wheatbelt
- Energy, power outages and water supply
- Review of Water Legislation including Water Resource Management Acts
- Reroofing strategies for AA tanks
- Presentation from John Ruprecht (Centre Director, Water, Energy, Waste Research Centre, Murdoch University) on WaterSmart Farms and the Regional Groundwater Desalination Project.
- Impact of Mining on Water Availability.
- Water Corporation Reports
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Reports
- Region Reports
- Multiple Members of Parliament attendance at meetings
 - Ministers visit during 2023.
- Large overview from Mr Richard George, Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development, of the WaterSmart Farms project including smart dams and groundwater.

The financial statement shows the Rural Water Council to be in a sound financial state. While the closing balance is not overly large, budget estimates are balanced for the next year if our membership is maintained at current levels.

Cr Tony Sachse
President

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
 FOR PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2022 TO 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	<u>Actual For Year</u>	<u>Estimate For Year</u>
RECEIPTS		
Membership		
Associations (16 @ \$300)	4,800.00	4,800
Individuals (3 @ \$150)	450.00	300
Interest Earned	0.00	0
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>\$5,250.00</u>	<u>5,100</u>
PAYMENTS		
Meeting Expenses	0.00	200
Secretarial Service	4,965.20	5,000
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>\$4,965.20</u>	<u>5,200</u>
CASH SUMMARY		
Opening Balance	5,965.63	5,966
Plus Receipts	5,250.00	5,100
	11,215.63	11,066
Less Payments	4,965.20	5,200
Closing Balance	<u>\$6,250.43</u>	<u>5,866</u>
BANK RECONCILIATION		
Cheque Account Balance (as at 30/12/2022) (Westpac)	6,250.43	
Plus Deposits made but not shown on Statement	0.00	
	6,250.43	
Less Cheques issued but not shown on Statement	0.00	
Balance as per Cash Book	<u>\$6,250.43</u>	



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 Robert Dew
 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**ESTIMATED RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS (DRAFT)
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

RECEIPTS	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Actual Last Year</u>
Membership:		
Associations 16 @ \$300	4,800	4,800
Individuals 3 @ \$150	<u>450</u>	<u>450</u>
Interest Earned	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u><u>\$5,250</u></u>	<u><u>\$5,250</u></u>
PAYMENTS		
Meeting Expenses	200	0
Secretarial Service	<u>5,500</u>	<u>4,965</u>
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u><u>\$5,700</u></u>	<u><u>\$4,965</u></u>
CASH SUMMARY		
Opening Balance	6,250	5,966
Plus Receipts	<u>5,250</u>	<u>5,250</u>
	11,500	11,216
Less Payments	<u>5,700</u>	<u>4,965</u>
Closing Balance	<u><u>\$5,800</u></u>	<u><u>\$6,250</u></u>

Robert Dew
EXECUTIVE OFFICER