



# Shire of Lake Grace

27 April 2022 Ordinary Council Meeting

## INFORMATION BULLETIN

### ITEM 16.1 - ATTACHMENTS

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# INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORT

YTD MARCH 2022

## ROAD MAINTENANCE GRADING

ROAD MAINTENANCE GRADING FROM 1 DECEMBER 2021 - 31 MARCH 2022

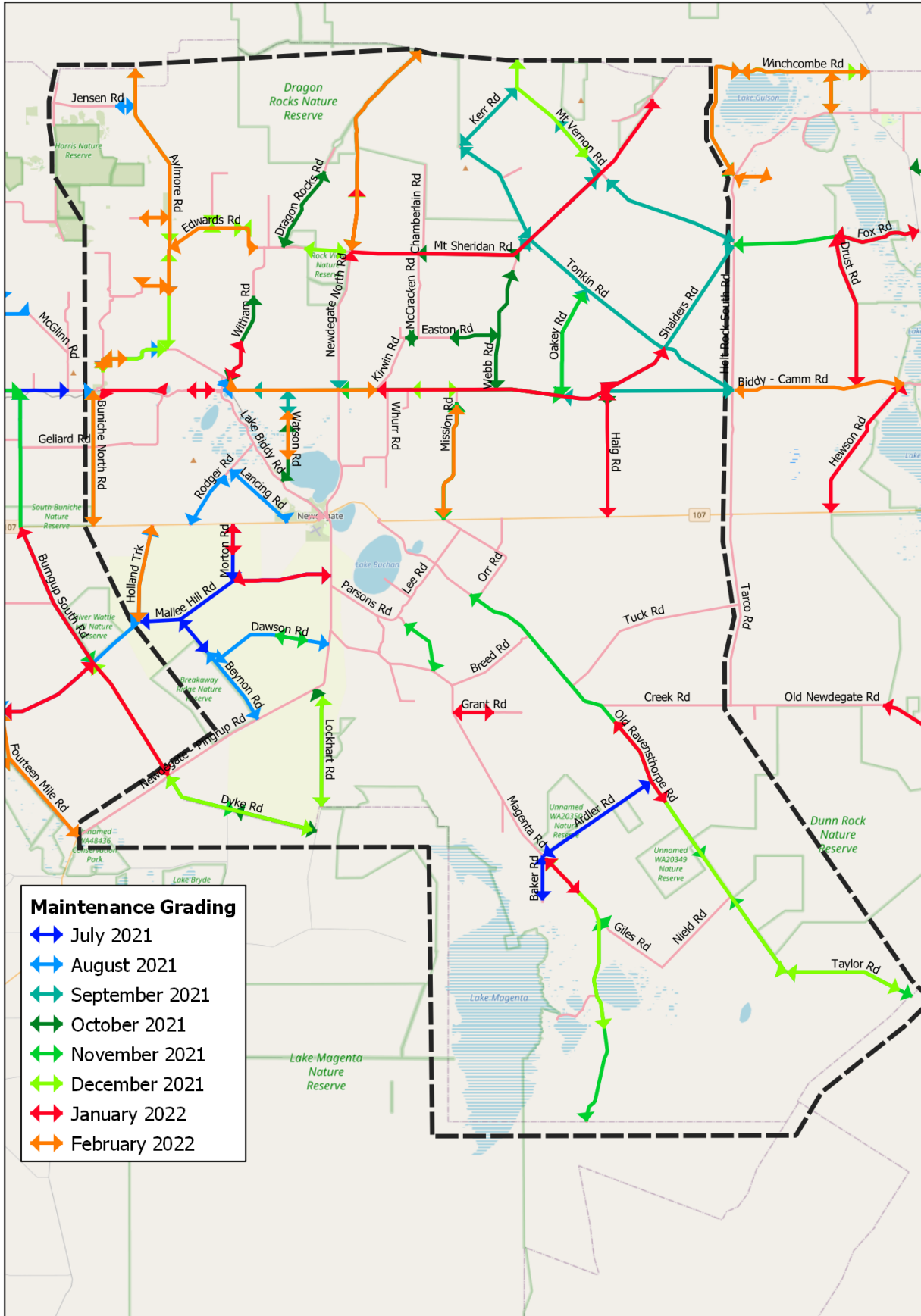
**Newdegate – March 2022**

Pending on contractor timesheets.

**Newdegate 2021/22 YTD**

Year	Month	Monthly Grading Total (km)
2021	July	55.2
	August	77.8
	September	112.7
	October	109.4
	November	124.4
	December	132.9
2022	January	109.4
	February	100.9
	March	
	April	
	May	
	June	
	<b>YTD Total</b>	<b>822.7</b>

# ROAD MAINTENANCE GRADING



Monthly maintenance grading history – Newdegate area

## ROAD MAINTENANCE GRADING

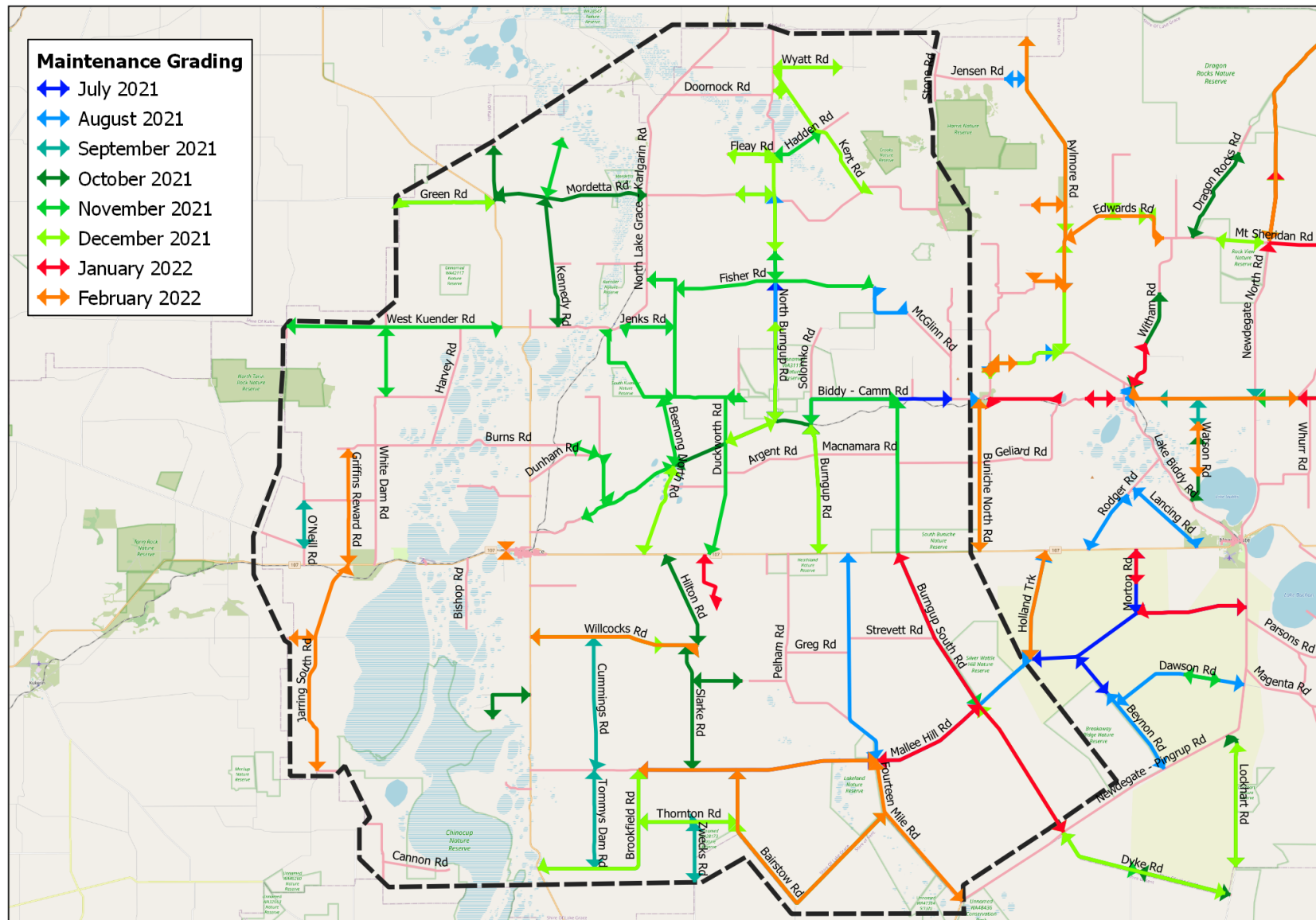
### Lake Grace – March 2022

Pending on grading information from LOGO Appointments contractor.

### Lake Grace 2021/22 YTD

Year	Month	Monthly Grading Total (km)
2021	July	67.9
	August	106.7
	September	83.2
	October	73.0
	November	151.1
	December	149.0
2022	January	36.9
	February	89.6
	March	
	April	
	May	
	June	
	<b>YTD Total</b>	<b>757.4</b>

# ROAD MAINTENANCE GRADING



Monthly maintenance grading history – Lake Grace area

## ROAD MAINTENANCE GRADING

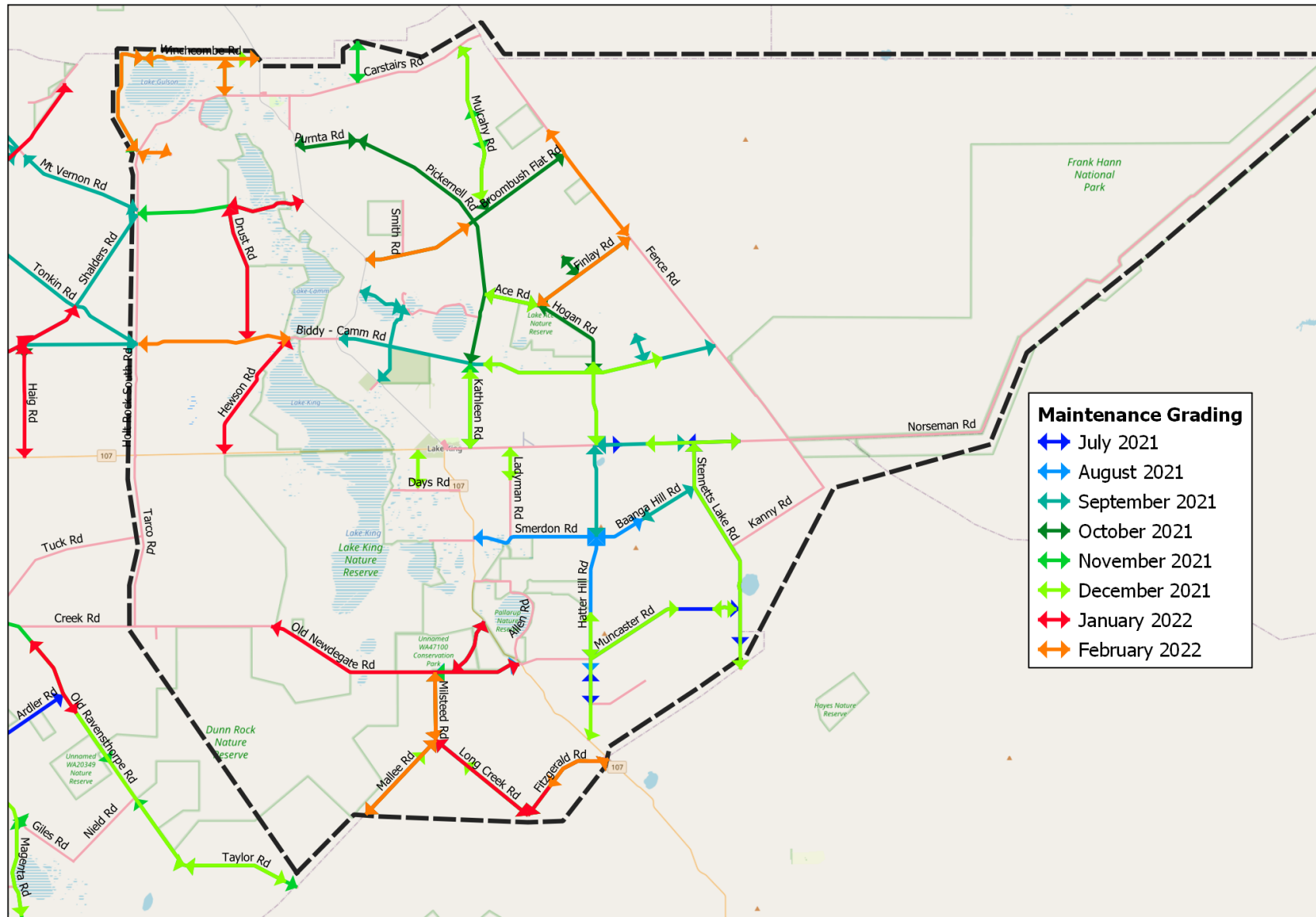
### Lake King & Varley – March 2022

Pending contractor timesheets.

### Lake King & Varley 2021/22 YTD

Year	Month	Monthly Grading Total (km)
2021	July	66.9
	August	71.4
	September	88.2
	October	98.2
	November	115.1
	December	153.2
2022	January	112.6
	February	92.6
	March	
	April	
	May	
	June	
	<b>YTD Total</b>	<b>798.2</b>

# ROAD MAINTENANCE GRADING



Monthly maintenance grading history – Lake King-Varley area

## ROAD MAINTENANCE GRADING

### Total 2021/22 YTD Lake Grace, Newdegate and Lake King/Varley

<b>Year</b>	<b>Month</b>	<i>Lake Grace</i>	<i>Newdegate</i>	<i>Lake King-Varley</i>	<b>Grading Total (km)</b>
2021	July	67.9	55.2	66.9	190.0
	August	106.7	77.8	71.4	255.9
	September	83.2	112.7	88.2	284.1
	October	73.0	109.4	98.2	280.6
	November	151.1	124.4	115.1	390.6
	December	149.0	132.9	153.2	435.1
2022	January	36.9	109.4	112.6	258.9
	February	89.6	100.9	92.6	283.1
	March				
	April				
	May				
	June				
	<b>YTD (km)</b>	<b>757.4</b>	<b>822.7</b>	<b>798.2</b>	<b>2378.3</b>



## PLANT MAINTENANCE

### PLANT MAINTENANCE – MARCH 2022

Plant #	Plant Description	Action
PCB02	2008 Mitsubishi Fuso Rosa Bus	Service.
PLOD05	2006 Volvo L60E Wheel Loader	Puncture repair.
PTCK16	2015 Isuzu Light Truck	Service.
PTCK20	2011 Western Star Truck	Service.
PLVU50	2020 Toyota Landcruiser	50,000 km service.
PLVU51	2021 Toyota Prado	40,000 km service.

## BUILDING CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE

### CONSTRUCTION:

- Works continuing on new Lake King RV Dump Point;
- Works continuing on new Lake King UAT;
- Works continuing on upgrading the Lake King Sports Pavilion's septic tank;
- Newdegate hockey toilet block has been demolished and a new UAT has been installed.

MAINTENANCE				
Lake Grace	Newdegate	Lake King	Varley	Other
Hall, RSL Pavilion, Sports Public Toilets Shire Depot	Medical Centre Pioneer Park Pavilion, sports	Public Toilets		

## TOWN MAINTENANCE

### LAKE GRACE:

- General maintenance, gardening/mowing & tidying of gardens and parks;
- Reticulation maintenance at sports ovals;
- Cleaning up lawns at vacant houses;
- Weeding around street;
- Caltrop checking around town.

### NEWDEGATE:

- General maintenance, gardening/mowing of the recreation grounds, parks and skate park;
- Solenoid maintenance and BBQ cleaning at Pioneer Park;
- Clearing area for new jumping pillow;
- Remove old sleepers and tree roots from lawn extents;
- Weed spraying.

### 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.

## CUSTOMER SERVICE REQUESTS

From period of 1 July 2021 to 31 March 2022.

	Complete	Non-complete	Total	% Complete
Works	20	5	25	80.0%
Building	14	2	16	87.5%
Parks & Gardens	20	3	23	87.0%
<i>Total</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>84.4%</i>

## BUILDING SURVEYOR

### **Permits Approved – March 2022**

No building permits issued in this month.



## January – March 2022 Tourism Statistics

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Prepared by Jo Morgan



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## Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

Visitor data measurements recorded include;

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

## Origin of visitors to the Shire of Lake Grace

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

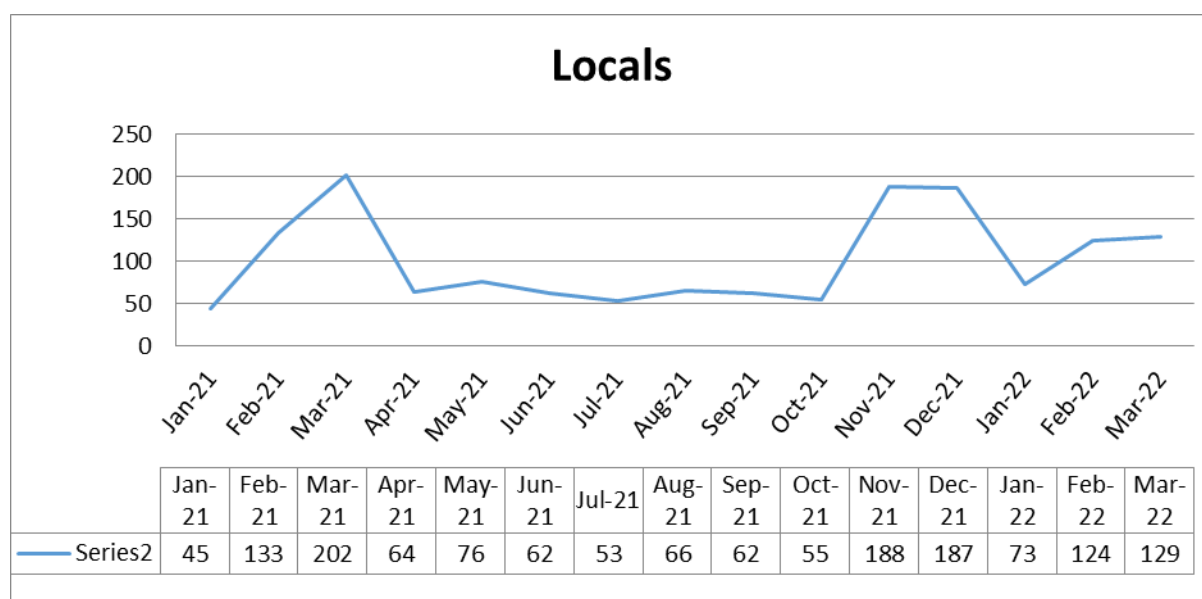
- Locals – indicating they are from the town of Lake Grace. No purposeful travelling was required to visit the Centre.
- Intrastate – this term is used to describe visitors from surrounding Shire of Lake Grace towns and the rest of WA, e.g. Newdegate, Kukerin, Wagin and Perth
- Interstate – this term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

### Locals

More locals chose to stay home throughout January. After a fantastic season, harvest continued into the new year for many. January was particularly hot creating a high fire risk hence many choosing to stay home.

Early February WA was promised its borders would be opened. However it was pushed back to March with COVID-19 cases rising each day in various communities throughout WA. Our Astrotourism event went ahead in Newdegate as it was an outdoor event, although the camping side of the event was cancelled. Despite the setback, it was a well-received event with over 40 people joining in on the star gazing fun.

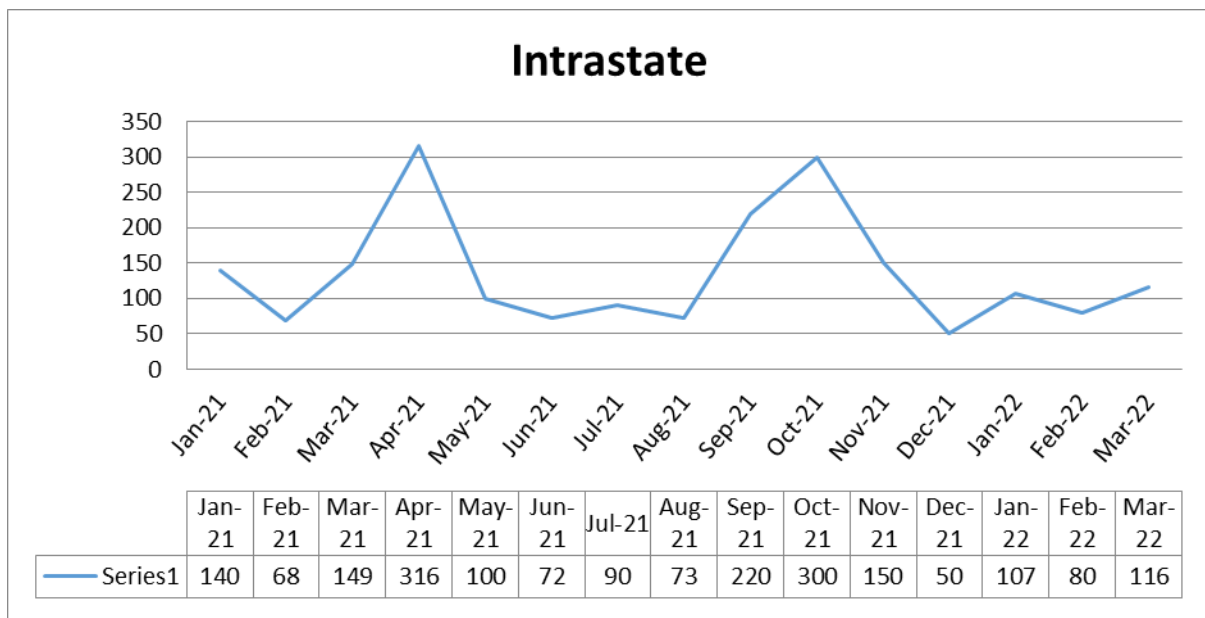
In March, we had our annual Outdoor Movie Night. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, we were unable to hold the event at the Visitor Centre lawn. Instead, we were able to hold the event outdoors on the sports oval keeping with the space requirements. It was the first time we used the Shire’s very own movie screen and projector and it was a great success. We had 70 people which is less than normal but considering the current COVID-19 climate we were happy with that.



### Intrastate Travellers

West Australians continue to holiday in WA with current restrictions and COVID-19 cases rising. Even with the borders opening, there is a lack of confidence travelling east or overseas. The pandemic is still very present and the threat of being stuck at a destination is still a possibility.

Esperance has continued to be popular destinations throughout the warmer months. However, food shortages with deliveries held up over east has affected most of WA. Catastrophic floods in Queensland and NSW and with COVID-19 cases rising in WA, it is almost a good reason to stay home and wait until it all passes. The tourism industry is definitely up for another challenging year.

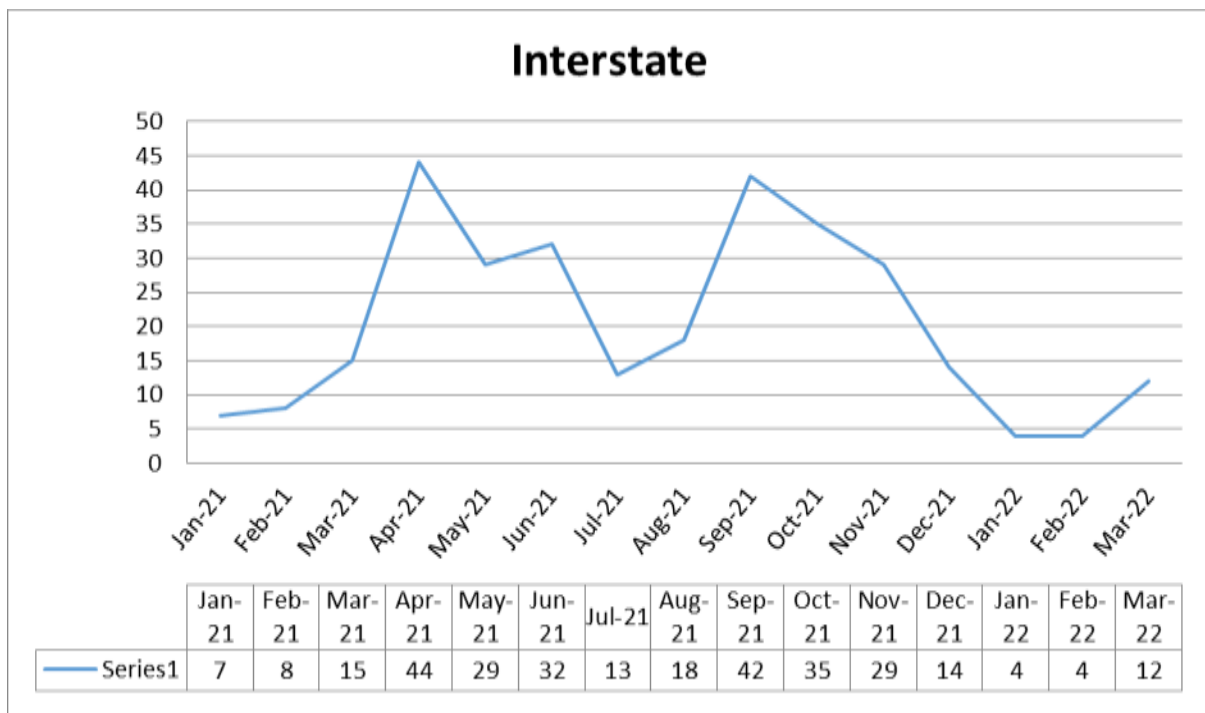




### Interstate Travellers

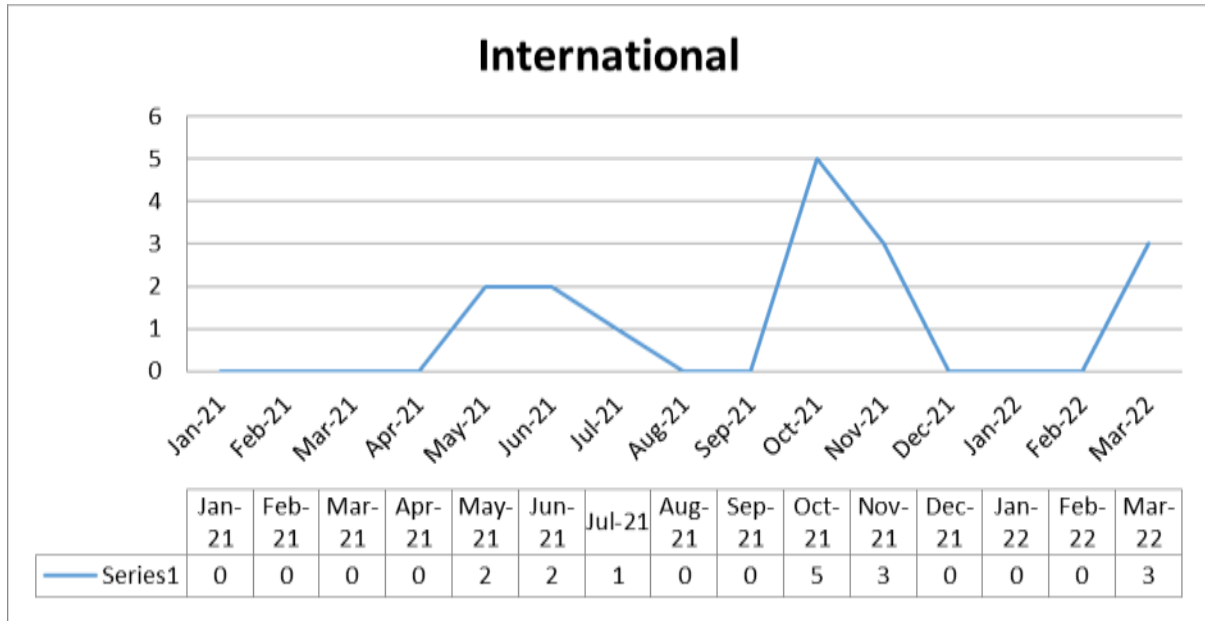
We miss our eastern state travelers but with strict boarder restrictions, wait lists for caravans, rising petrol prices - our *Grey Nomads* are surely taking a hit. Once the boarders opened on the of 3<sup>rd</sup> March, a rush was expected but alas, there was not. A handful of travelers with no time restraints are always the travelers we meet.

Many music and theatre events have been cancelled with current restrictions. The AFL has half crowd capacity. All these events bring more people to our state, but with all the cancellations it is out of our control. We can only sit and wait until it is safe to live life as we once did pre-COVID-19.



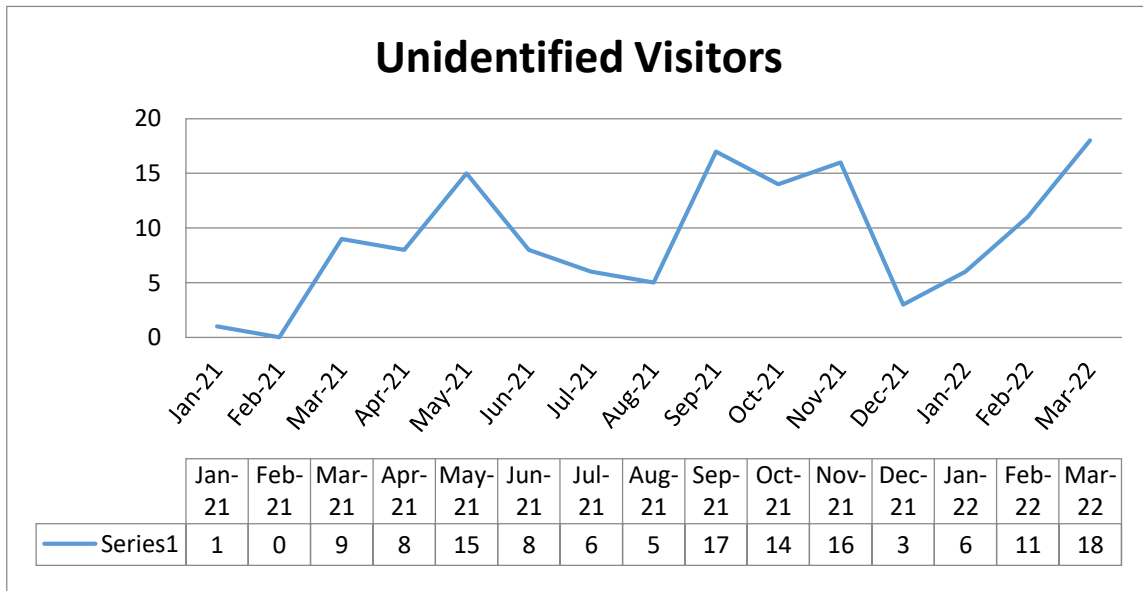
### International Travellers

We really do miss our International travelers. Confidence is at an all-time low even when the borders did open.



### Unidentified Travellers

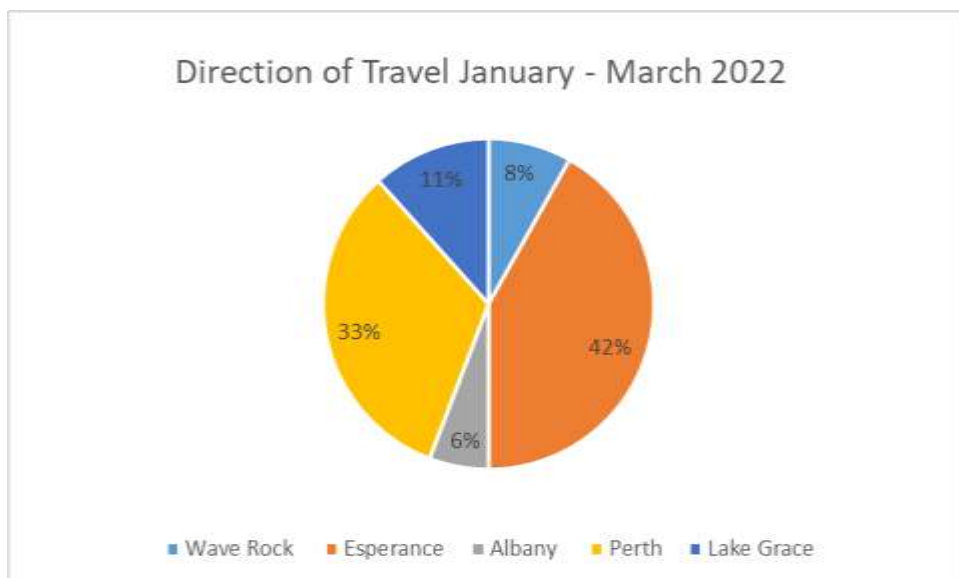
A group of travelers we try our very best to engage with but keeping in mind some people wish to simply browse and have a look around. As the visitor numbers picked up we often had many people in the Centre at once. We have noted some people prefer to keep in the background and not engage and others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



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

### Direction of Travel

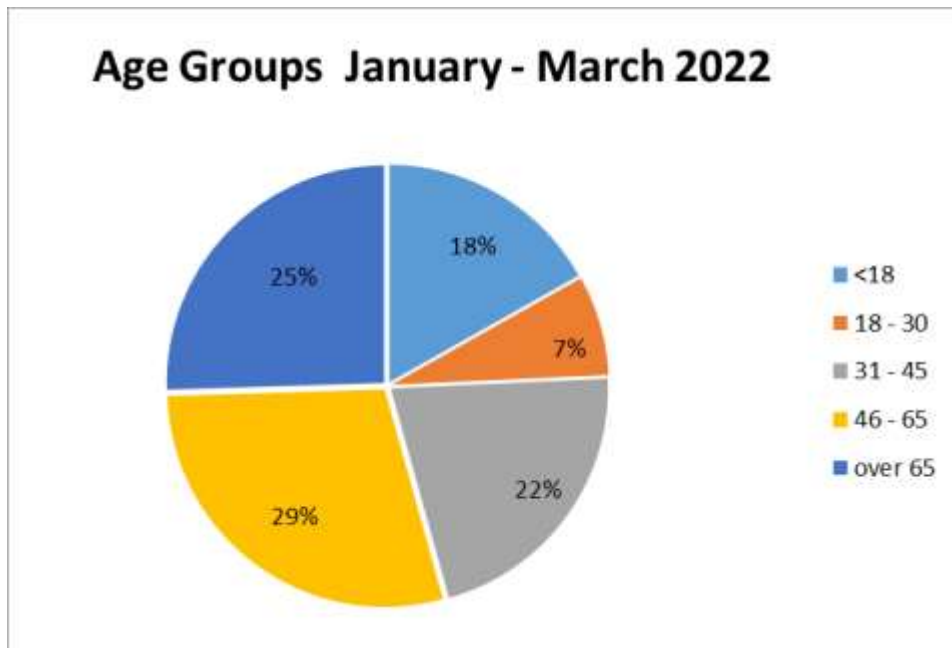
Known for our crossroads, our traffic consists off those heading to either Wave Rock/Hyden, Esperance, Albany or Perth. For years, Wave Rock has dominated the direction of travel, usually sitting at 50%. It is interesting to see the traffic are either going to Esperance or coming from Esperance to Perth. Great to see Lake Grace continues to be a travel destination too!



## Age Group

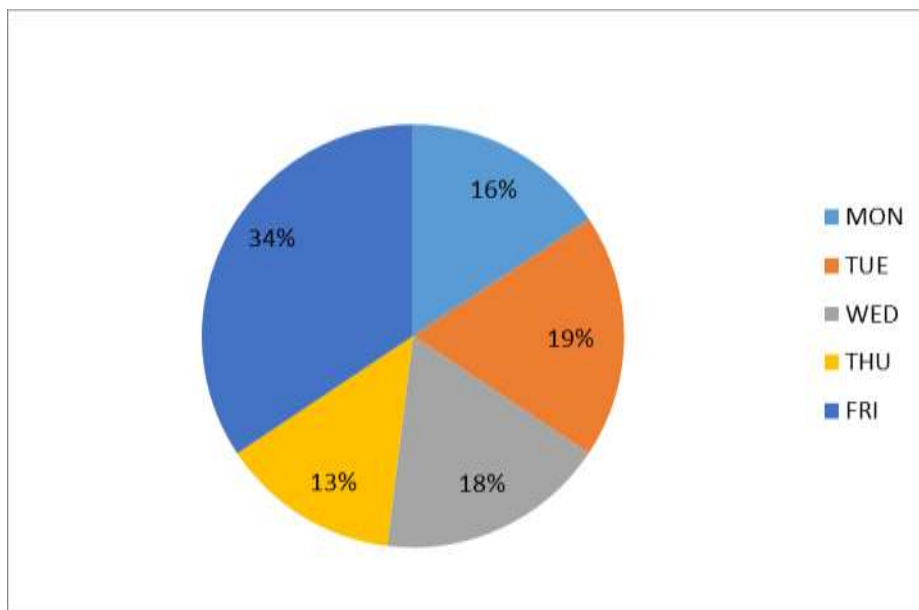
The information tracked in this graph is reliant on the recorder’s ability to judge ages of visitors, therefore probably not entirely accurate in all cases.

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



## Popular Visiting Days

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



## Mode of Transport

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



**53%**



**38%**



**6% + 2% Bus**



**0%**

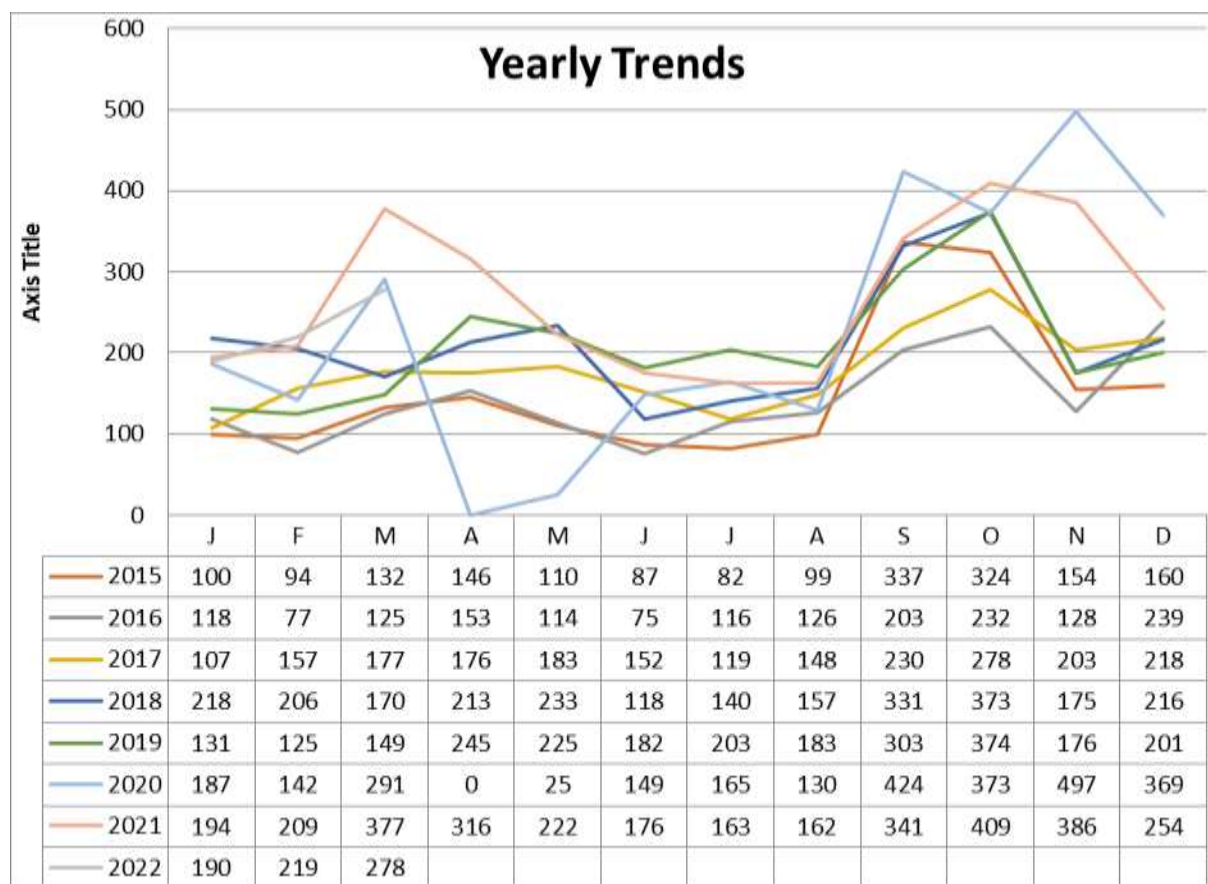


**Electric Car 1%**

## Yearly Trends

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

A record-breaking February which is fantastic considering COVID-19 is still very present and affecting the number of travelers we have visiting our Shire. These would be the travelers that avoid school holiday travel, choosing less crowds but the very best of weather.







# Central Country Zone

## Agenda

To be held at Wickepin Community Centre, Campbell Street, Wickepin

Commencing at 9:30am  
Friday 22 April, 2022

Morning Tea will be available from 9am



# Central Country Zone

Meeting to be held at Wickepin Community Centre, Campbell Street, Wickepin

Commencing at 9.30am on Friday, 22 April 2022

## Agenda

### 1. OPENING AND WELCOME

#### 1.1 Announcements

Covid-19 awareness:

- Ensure you have signed in using the SafeWA app or by written register at the door
- Maintain social distancing where possible
- Wear your mask
- Sanitise regularly

#### 1.2 Housekeeping – Zone Chair

1. Welcome:  
The Zone Chair will welcome Zone members and provide OSH/bathroom/exit information to those in attendance.
2. Share your name and Local Government:  
To all Delegates, please ensure you call your name and Local Government when taking the floor to allow for accurate Minutes to be recorded.

#### For Noting

#### 1.3 Host Welcome – Shire of Wickepin

A representative from the Shire of Wickepin will extend a welcome to Delegates and guests.

## **2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

### **Attendance**

#### **Central Country Zone Delegates and CEO's**

<b>Shire of Beverley</b>	President Cr David White Deputy President Cr Chris Lawlor Mr Steve Gollan, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Brookton</b>	President Cr Katrina Crute Deputy President Cr Neil Walker Mr Paul Sheedy, Acting Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Corrigin</b>	President Cr Des Hickey Deputy President Cr Mike Weguelin Ms Natalie Manton, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Cuballing</b>	Deputy President Cr Rob Harris Cr Julie Christensen Mr Stan Scott, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Dumbleyung</b>	President Cr Julie Ramm Deputy President Cr Amy Knight Mr Gavin Treasure, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Kulin</b>	President Cr Grant Robins Cr Barry West Mr Garrick Yandle, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Lake Grace</b>	President Cr Len Armstrong Deputy President Cr Ross Chappell Mr Alan George, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Narrogin</b>	President Leigh Ballard Cr Graham Broad Mr Dale Stewart, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Pingelly</b>	President Cr Bill Mulrone Deputy President Cr Jackie McBurney Mr Andrew Dover, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Quairading</b>	Cr Brett McGuinness Cr Jonathan Hippisley Ms Nicole Gibbs, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Wagin</b>	President Cr Phillip Blight Deputy President Cr Gregory Ball Mr Ian McCabe, Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate

<b>Shire of Wandering</b>	President Cr Ian Turton Deputy President Cr Paul Treasure Mr Ian Fitzgerald, Acting Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of West Arthur</b>	President Cr Neil Morrell Cr Karen Harrington Mr Vin Fordham-Lamont, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Wickepin</b>	Deputy President Cr Wes Astbury Mr Mark Hook, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Williams</b>	President Cr Jarrad Logie Cr Moya Carne Mr Geoff McKeown, Chief Executive Officer
<b><u>Guests</u></b>	Hon Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt (Leader of the Opposition) Hon Martin Aldridge MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region Hon Darren West MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region Rick Wilson MP, Federal Member for O'Connor Hon Shelley Payne MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region Hon Peter Rundle MLA, Member for Roe Kathleen Brown, Electorate Officer, Office of Hon Mia Davies MLA Rob Cossart, Wheatbelt Development Commission – Chief Executive Officer Brad Pearce, Operations Manager Narrogin, Main Roads Tom Axton, A/Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Main Roads
<b><u>WALGA</u></b>	Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Services Janine Neugebauer, Governance and Organisational Services Officer
<b><u>Apologies</u></b>	President Cr Julie Russell, Shire of Wickepin President Cr Eliza Dowling, Shire of Cubaling Hon Colin de Grussa MLC Hon Steve Martin MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt Clare Atkins, Wheatbelt Development Commission Mohammad Siddiqui, Regional Manager wheatbelt, Main Roads

## **Attachments**

The following are provided as attachments to the agenda:

1. 4.1, Community Builders Flyer
2. 6.1, Zone Minutes, 18 February 2022
3. 6.4, Executive Committee Minutes, 13 April 2022
4. 7.4, WALGA President's Report
5. 11.3, Main Roads, Media Release – WRB land purchases
6. 11.4, Wheatbelt RDA Report

State Council Agenda – via link: [State Council Agenda May 2022](#)

## **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

#### **4. GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS**

##### **4.1 Peter Kenyon OAM – Community Builder Program**

*Peter Kenyon OAM, Director, Bank of I.D.E.A.S. is presenting on the Community Builder Program.*

Peter has been asked by a national rural charity, Rural Aid, to determine the ‘cluster of communities’ sites for the first Community Builder Program in WA- the choice is between the Northern Midlands and Central South Wheatbelt. I need to make the recommendation by the end of April to Rural Aid based on community/local government interest. An attached Flyer, **(Attachment 1)** explains what this grassroots leadership program is all about - simply a 6 month leadership development initiative across a natural and connected set of local governments, involving community teams of 3-6 persons. My conversations yesterday with local government personnel strongly demonstrated the interest by councils for the Central South Wheatbelt being the location.

##### **4.2 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT**

- Hon Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt (Leader of the Opposition)
- Hon Martin Aldridge MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region
- Hon Darren West MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region
- Rick Wilson MP, Federal Member for O’Connor
- Hon Shelley Payne MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region
- Hon Peter Rundle MLA, Member for Roe

#### **5. MINUTES**

##### **5.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the Central Country Zone meeting held on Friday, 18 February 2022 (Attachment 2)**

The Minutes of the Central Country Zone meeting held on Thursday, 18 February 2022 have previously been circulated to Member Councils.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

**That the Minutes of the Central Country Zone meeting held on Friday, 18 February 2022 are confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.**

##### **5.2 Business Arising from the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Meeting on Friday, 18 February 2022**

### **5.2.1 Item 4.2.3: Local Government Agricultural Freight Group**

At the February 2022 Executive Committee Meeting the following was resolved and endorsed at the subsequent zone meeting:

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. This item was referred to WALGA's Infrastructure Policy Team, who have noted that a decision to disband the Agricultural Freight Group is a matter for the participating Zones.

To assist developing a recommendation, the Infrastructure Policy Team requested that the Terms of Reference for a possible Agricultural Freight Policy Forum be developed for consideration at their next meeting.

The Zone will be kept informed on progress on this matter.

#### **For Noting**

### **5.2.2 Item 9.1: CBH – Non-Grain Storage**

At the February Zone meeting the issue of CBH exemption from rates and the ex-gratia payment for the storage of Non Grain products by CBH was raised.

There was an understanding that CBH receive an exemption on the basis of Grain Storage but in the case of the Aldersyde Bin in Brookton, it has lime in it for sale to Growers at a significantly cheaper rate than local contractors can do it for.

It is confirmed that the portion of land that is used for anything other than grain storage, the GRV (gross rental value) or UV (unimproved land value) rate would apply on the portion of land concerned (not the agreed ex gratia rate).

#### **For Discussion**

### **5.3 Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee held Wednesday, 13 April 2022 (Attachment 3)**

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

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

**That the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held Wednesday 13 April 2022 be endorsed.**

**6. WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (WALGA) BUSINESS**

*Zone delegates to consider the Matters for Decision contained in the WA Local Government Association State Council Agenda and put forward resolutions to Zone Representatives on State Council.*

<b>6.1 State Councillor Report</b>
------------------------------------

*Cr Phillip Blight*

**RECOMMENDATION**

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

**That the State Councillor Report be received**



## 6.2 WALGA Status Report

By Tony Brown, Executive Officer

### BACKGROUND

Presenting the Status Report for April 2022 which contains WALGA's responses to the resolutions of previous Zone Meetings.

# CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE STATUS REPORT APRIL 2022

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>To assist developing a recommendation, the Infrastructure Policy Team requested that the Terms of Reference for a possible Agricultural Freight Policy Forum be developed for consideration at the next meeting.</p>	April 2022	<p>Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure <a href="mailto:iduncan@walga.asn.au">iduncan@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2031</p>
Central C	2022, 18 February Zone Agenda Item 11.1 Regional Telecommunications	That WALGA partner with Telstra and Western Power to scope, design and cost a solution to enable full mobile and internet connectivity through the Central Country Zone area, including suitable back up power generation to ensure continued mobile connectivity during emergency outage events.	<p>WALGA is a member of the recently formed Telecommunications Resilience Working Group, which comprises telecommunications carriers, power companies, the Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development and Department of Fire &amp; Emergency Services.</p> <p>The working group has embarked on an analysis of the State's mobile network towers to define the current state and the most cost-effective solution to improve power resilience. This analysis should be completed at the end of this year which will rank power treatment actions for each tower by community vulnerability, bushfire/cyclone risk, and power reliability to enable an improvement plan to be considered by both State and Federal Governments for their funding cycles.</p> <p>In parallel, as part of the Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters (STAND) program, NBN Co has been installing the emergency satellite Wi-Fi service into Local Government-approved facilities, with some services already</p>	April 2022	<p>Nicole Matthews A/Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning <a href="mailto:nmatthews@walga.asn.au">nmatthews@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2039</p>

			<p>providing sustained communication services during bushfire events and TC Anika. As of 28 March, there are 120 locations now fully operational with the remaining 17 sites to be installed by the end of the financial year.</p> <p>Further, as announced on 15 March, infrastructure upgrades are being funded as part of the second round of the Commonwealth Mobile Network Hardening Program, worth \$10.9 million. 141 mobile network sites across WA will be upgraded to improve mobile phone services for local communities during emergencies.</p>		
<b>Central C</b>	<b>2021 19 November Zone Agenda Item 12.1</b> Sector ICT solution	That the Zone request WALGA to research providers and the viability of an in-house IT system.	<p>The idea of an all-of-sector model ICT solution is not viable for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Different size Local Governments – no one size fits all.</li> <li>o Local Government’s being at different levels of need and maturity in the ICT requirements.</li> <li>o We are unlikely to get the requisite LG buy-in to warrant the investment; and</li> <li>o The inherent complexity of a custom-built system is time and cost prohibitive.</li> </ul> <p>A more workable suggestion is for a group of similar size/maturity level Local Governments to engage a consultant to define a model set that meets their needs. Any recommendations could be reviewed by a representative of the LG ICT Managers Network to ensure it is appropriate.</p> <p>It would be expected that the following range of recommendations are achievable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Suitable hardware requirements (including remote options where appropriate)</li> <li>o Suggested lightweight accounting software</li> <li>o Baseline model directory structure</li> <li>o Security options</li> <li>o Backup software and procedures</li> <li>o Suitable internet options</li> </ul> <p>WALGA would be prepared to assist in facilitating discussions on a shared service model to research this with a group of Local Governments further.</p>	<b>April 2022</b>	<b>Tony Brown</b> <b>Executive Manager</b> <b>Governance and</b> <b>Organisational Services</b> <b>9213 2051</b> <a href="mailto:tbrown@walga.asn.au">tbrown@walga.asn.au</a>



<p><b>Central C</b></p>	<p><b>2021 19 November Zone Agenda Item 10.3</b> Police Resources in the Region</p>	<p>That the CCZ call upon WALGA to advocate to State Government on the shortage of police and housing in regional and remote areas.</p>	<p>WALGA continues to undertake advocacy work in relation to Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH) including regular meetings with the Dept Communities, identification of critical areas of need, four- year forecasts and Commercial Team development of preferred supplier for Modular Housing.</p> <p>WALGA has communicated further with the Shire of Quairading CEO who confirms that no further action is required on the Police housing issue.</p> <p>COMPLETE</p>	<p><b>April 2022</b></p>	<p><b>Nicole Matthews</b> A/Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning <a href="mailto:nmatthews@walga.asn.au">nmatthews@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2039</p>
<p><b>Central C</b></p>	<p><b>2021 20 August Zone Agenda Item 8.4</b> Social Housing Economic Recovery Package Grant Funding</p>	<p>1. That the Zone notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Governments are eligible for grants to support the construction, refurbishment, and maintenance of community housing properties as part of the State Government's Social Housing Economic Recovery Package (SHERP) Program.</li> <li>• The next round of SHERP grants open on Wednesday 1 September 2021.</li> <li>• The Department of Communities will provide further information on the SHERP grants at a WALGA webinar to be held at 1:30pm on Wednesday 1 September.</li> </ul> <p>2. Request WALGA to advocate for more State funding for housing in the regions.</p>	<p>A total of \$57 million in SHERP refurbishment grants were announced on 25 January 2022. Three of the 8 Local Governments that applied for SHERP refurbishment grants were successful: Shires of Donnybrook-Balingup, Williams and Boyup Brook.</p> <p>An announcement of funding for new builds has been delayed until April 2022.</p> <p>WALGA is continuing its advocacy on this issue with the Department of Communities and Minister for Housing.</p>	<p><b>April 2022</b></p>	<p><b>Kelly McManus, Principal Policy and Advocacy</b> <a href="mailto:kmcmanus@walga.asn.au">kmcmanus@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2096</p>
<p><b>Central C</b></p>	<p><b>2020 February 21 Zone Agenda Item 12.1</b> 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>WALGA has included this item in the draft submission on Local Government legislative reform proposals.</p> <p>WALGA's policy position is as per below:</p> <p><i>WALGA advocates for the inclusion of a tender exemption for General Practitioner (GP) services under Part 4, Division 2 of the Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996, to support Local Governments retain necessary primary health care services for their communities; and</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undertake additional research in support of the Advocacy Position with the following aims: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Identify State and Federal Government policy settings and other factors contributing to gaps in</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p><b>April 2022</b></p>	<p><b>Tony Brown</b> Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services 9213 2051 <a href="mailto:tbrown@walga.asn.au">tbrown@walga.asn.au</a></p>

			<p>primary health care services in regional communities; and</p> <p>b. Quantify the number of regional Local Governments that have current contracts, or are proposing to enter into contracts, for General Practitioner services and the associated costs to Local Government incurred.</p> <p>The Office of the Minister for Local Government has advised that they are interested in establishing a Roundtable on the issue of GP services for Rural Local Governments.</p> <p>The Minister for Local Government hosted a roundtable on this issue with effected Local Governments. The Ministers office and the Department are now researching possible solutions.</p>		
<b>Central C</b>	<b>2019 Nov 29</b> <b>Zone Agenda Item 10.8</b> Western Australia's Share of Fuel Excise	That WALGA prepares and endorses a strategy to obtain transparency of the distribution of the fuel excise with the intent to maximise the return to Western Australia for road maintenance.	<p>The resolution has been referred to the Infrastructure Policy Team and based on direction provided further research to support an advocacy position is being carried out.</p> <p>The Association met with the RAC and received access to a 2020 revision of a report commissioned by the RAC quantifying motorist taxation and Federal Government investment in WA transport infrastructure.</p>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Ian Duncan</b> <b>Executive Manager</b> <b>Infrastructure</b> <a href="mailto:iduncan@walga.asn.au">iduncan@walga.asn.au</a> <b>9213 2031</b>

## **ZONE COMMENT**

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

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

**That the Central Country Zone WALGA April 2022 Status Report be noted.**

### **6.3 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda's – Matters for Decision**

#### **6.3.1 Ordinary State Council Meeting Agenda – 4 May 2022**

##### **Background**

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

The full State Council Agenda can be found via link: [State Council Agenda May 2022](#)

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**

#### **5.1 Submission to Statutory Review of the Food Act 2008**

That the submission to the Department of Health relating to the Statutory Review of the *Food Act 2008* be endorsed.

##### **Zone Comment:**

The Zone supports the WALGA recommendation.

#### **5.2 Local Government Grant Scheme Funding**

That WALGA advocates to the Minister for Emergency Services and the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner for:

1. An allocation of Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) funding to undertake an audit of existing facilities, appliances, vehicles, and major items of equipment for both Local Government Volunteer Bushfire Brigades (BFB) and State Emergency Services (SES).
2. Following the completion of the audit, an allocation of funding through the Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) to prepare a Comprehensive Asset Management Plan that:
  - a. Aligns with the principles in the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' (DLGSC) Asset Management National Framework and Guidelines, and the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.

- b. Forecasts the emergency response needs of communities across Western Australia over the next 10 years, to estimate the quantum of the facilities, appliances, vehicles, and major items of equipment that will be needed.
  - c. Outlines a 10 year forward plan of modifications, replacements and additions required.
  - d. Investigates the extent to which future BFB facilities can be co-located with other emergency services facilities.
3. The establishment of a Working Group involving WALGA, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and LGIS to oversee the preparation of the Comprehensive Asset Management Plan.
  4. Support for the Comprehensive Asset Management Plan to be reviewed every five years.
  5. Support for an increase in Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGGS) funding to support the unsuccessful capital grants funding applications by Local Governments to the 2020-21 LGGGS Capital Grants Committee.

**Zone Comment:**

The Zone supports the WALGA recommendation

**5.3 Draft Active Travel to School Roadmap**

That WALGA:

1. Endorses the Draft Active Travel to School Roadmap, subject to amending Urban Environment Initiative No 1 to “*Consult local governments to identify sub-regional school transport challenges and amend existing planning guidelines and develop new guidelines where gaps exist*”; and
2. Works with the Department of Transport to finalise the Roadmap and encourage Local Government participation in the initiatives identified where these offer solutions to the local issues encountered in each area.

**Zone Comment:**

The Zone supports the WALGA recommendation

**Matters for Noting**

- 6.1 Draft National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children (05-086-03-0004 VB)**
- 6.2 Feedback on Community Disaster Resilience Strategy Discussion Paper (05-024-02-0067 VJ)**
- 6.3 2021 CoastWA Local Government Survey (06-085-01-0002 LS)**
- 6.4 Update on draft WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026**
- 6.5 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review Project (05-024-03-0040 SR)**
- 6.6 Comment on Draft Health Promotion Strategic Framework 2022-2026 (05-031-03-0005 BW)**
- 6.7 Wooroloo Bushfire Independent Review Final Report (05-024-03-0011 CM)**
- 6.8 2022-23 Federal Budget Update (05-088-03-0002 DT)**
- 6.9 Local Government Emergency Management Survey Results (05-024-03-0042 CM)**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

**That the Central Country Zone**

- 1. Supports Matters for Decision, item 5.1 to 5.3 as listed above in the May 2022 State Council Agenda; and**
- 2. Notes all Matters for Noting and Organisational Reports as listed in the May 2022 State Council Agenda.**

**6.4 WALGA President’s Report**

The WALGA President’s Report is attached to the Agenda (**Attachment 4**).

**RECOMMENDATION**

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

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

**7. ZONE REPORTS**

**7.1 Zone President Report**

*By Cr Brett McGuinness*

Zone President Cr Brett McGuinness will provide his report to the Zone.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

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

**7.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG)**

*By Cr Katrina Crute*

Cr Katrina Crute will provide her report to the Zone.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

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

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

*By President Leigh Ballard*

President Leigh Ballard will provide his report to the Zone

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

**That the Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee Report be received.**

### **7.4 Regional Health Advocacy Representative**

*By Ms Natalie Manton*

Ms Natalie Manton will provide her report to the Zone

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

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

## **8. ZONE BUSINESS – MEMBER COUNCIL MATTERS**

## **9. ZONE BUSINESS – OTHER BUSINESS/URGENT BUSINESS**

## **10. ZONE BUSINESS – EMERGING ISSUES**

## **11. OTHER AGENCY REPORTS**

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

A representative from the Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries, will present to the Zone.

**For Noting**

### **11.2 Wheatbelt Development Commission**

Rob Cossart, Wheatbelt Development Commission – Chief Executive Officer, will provide an update to the Zone.

**For Noting**

### **11.3 Main Roads Western Australia**

Tom Axton, A/Stakeholder Engagement Manager - Wheatbelt Central and Northern Regions Directorate, has provided a recent media release which was sent to Australian Community Media and the Narrogin Observer regarding Main Roads Wheatbelt Revegetation Bank Program. **(Attachment 5)**

The Program was discussed by the Minister for Transport on her Facebook page last year and this release is targeting landowners who might be interested in selling disused land near road reserves that Main Roads can use to plant native vegetation.

**For Noting**

### **11.4 Wheatbelt RDA**

Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development RDA Wheatbelt has provided an update. **(Attachment 6)**

**For Noting**

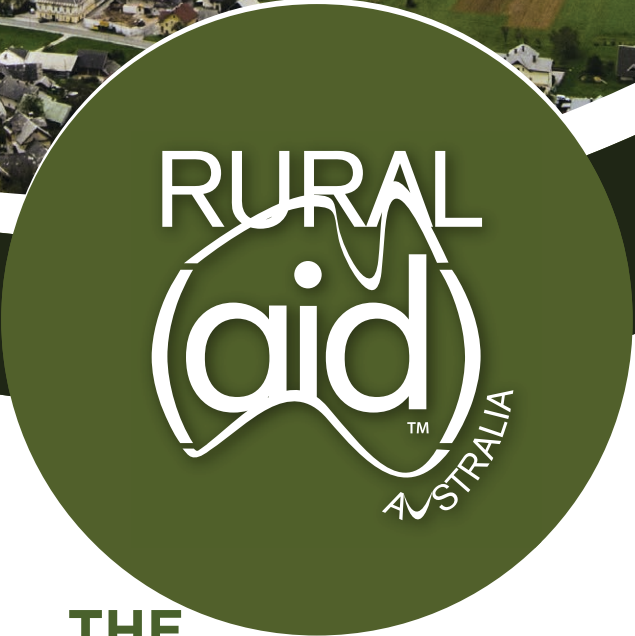
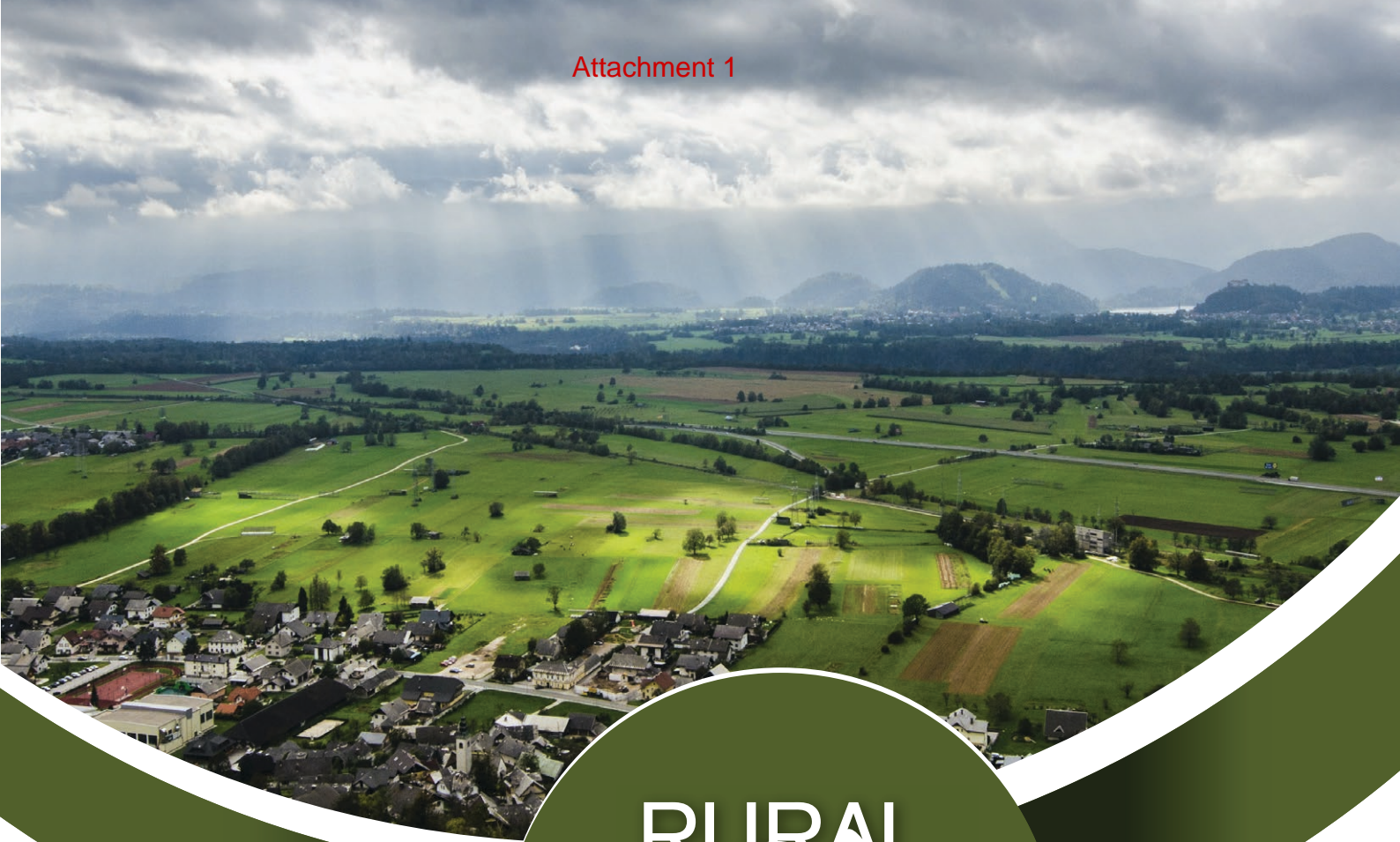
## **12. DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

The Executive Committee will next meet on 15 June 2022 via MS Teams.

The next meeting of the Central Country Zone will be held on Friday 24 June 2022, commencing at 9.30am. This meeting will be hosted by the Shire of Williams.

## **13. CLOSURE**

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



# THE COMMUNITY BUILDERS PROGRAM



*If you want a year of prosperity, grow grass.  
If you want ten years of prosperity, grow trees.  
If you want 100 years of prosperity, grow people.*

Scott's Bluff Leadership



# Overview

## The Community Builders

**Program** represents a grassroots leadership program that seeks to support local community builders within a defined cluster of communities to better understand and build their local and regional community and economy.

The earliest version originated in the early 1990's in the US state of Nebraska, based on five observations by a rural historian called Professor Robert Manley: namely-

- **The key to economic success in rural communities is tied directly to investment in community leadership;**
- **While agriculture is, and will remain an important part of most rural economies, it no longer holds life and death power over a community's future;**
- **There are two types of leadership exist in every community – formal identified leaders who usually represent a constituency and have position; and community 'mover and shakers' – community builders who usually work from passion rather than position;**
- **There is a need to bring together community residents who are excited about making things happen in their community; and**
- **The importance of community cooperation, of communities beginning to interact, discover each other and work together to achieve social and economic goals.**

The first **Australian Community Builder Program** occurred in Western Australia in 1997 as part of "Doing More with Agriculture" initiative following a 'Small Town Study Tour' to Nebraska, and by 2000 there were cluster programs happening in most WA regions. In 2000, a state-wide program was introduced in South Australia. Subsequently versions of **the Community Builder Program** have occurred in a diverse range of regions across Australia.

**Rural Aid** as a national charity is committed to supporting farmers affected by natural disasters. It also recognises the need to create more sustainable local rural communities and is keen to see the expansion of **the Community Builder Program** across Australia. In 2022,

*It isn't enough for a town to have good leadership. Communities also must have people – Community Builders – who vigorously encourage and support a wide range of activities which benefit the community. These builders aren't self-serving. They're interested in improving and perpetuating their communities. Find a community with both leaders and builders and you'll find a community that works'*

Prof Robert Manley

# Key Benefits

## Program Goals:

- Provide the necessary information, skills, tools, motivation, confidence and passion to positively manage community change.
- Encourage new thinking about ways to better support and nurture social and economic development at local and regional levels.
- Stimulate collaboration between communities and create peer support networks and friendship links across a region.

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned and committed citizens can change the world! For indeed it is the only thing that EVER has!*

Margaret Mead

## Typical Program Elements:

- Six month action learning experience, involving a monthly one day 'cluster muster'.
- A cluster of connected communities constitute the geographical regional basis.
- Between 6 – 10 communities create a cluster.
- Each community is represented by a 3 to 6-member team.
- Bank of I.D.E.A.S. is responsible for coordinating the learning experience including input of the necessary technical expertise.
- A local parttime Cluster Coordinator working 50 hours per month manages arrangements and connections in each cluster.

## Learning Program Components:

- Monthly 'cluster muster' workshops days with learning program priorities determined by participants at initial meeting.
- Resource handbook.
- Community asset mapping experiences.
- Individual community team meetings
- Community project.
- Access to additional skills development opportunities.
- Final celebration event.
- Formulation of community action plans following completion of six-month learning program.

## Typical Monthly Cluster Muster Workshop Day:

- 'First Impressions' tour of host community - feedback to hosts.
- Informal sharing over refreshment breaks.
- Resource information session.
- Interactive workshop experience focusing on participant identified learning priorities. Past Community Builder Program themes have included the following:
  - *Getting a community working together and excited about change.*
  - *Engaging young people.*
  - *Asset mapping a local community.*
  - *Working with local media.*
  - *Establishing a community 'Business Expansion and Retention Program'.*
  - *Developing a local tourism strategy.*
  - *Plugging spending leaks in the local community.*
  - *Fostering community pride and economic development through heritage.*
  - *Building a positive community mindset.*
  - *Understanding my strengths.*
  - *Developing public speaking skills.*

## Program Strengths:

- Action learning nature of program structure and processes.
- Program flexibility.
- Grassroots ethos - driven and designed by participants themselves to achieve their priority learning requirements.
- Strong Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) emphasis - focus on 'inside out' development.
- Peer networking and monitoring.
- Program expectation to learn about one's community and become involved in building its future.
- Focus on learning from stories of positive change from other small rural communities.
- Demonstration over a long period of participant and community positive change action following Community Builder involvement.
- Development of a local action plan.

## Personal Benefits of Participation:

- Gaining a better understanding of one's community and region, and what is needed to build a more positive rural future.
- Developing the knowledge base, skills and mindset to be more effective in community and economic development.
- Discovering the wide range of strategies, resources and stories which other communities are utilising to achieve healthy and vibrant futures.
- Learning how to identify, map, connect and mobilise the diverse range of community assets and capacities; access appropriate development resources; build collective partnerships; and involve other residents and groups in community and economic development initiatives.
- Working and networking collaboratively with neighbouring communities in regional development activities.
- Having fun in a wide range of team building experiences and activities.

*I'm involved with Community Builders because the fading history of our town is too great to be ignored and the future too exciting. The camaraderie and participation with other communities makes this program so vitally stimulating'*

Salli Vaughan  
Kendenup | WA

“

*I have met and made friends with an awesome group of people whom I know that I ordinarily would never have met. The six months that made up the Community Builders Program was a blast and it was a shame that it had to come to an end. Or did it?*

Heidi Hotka



## Contribution by Rural Aid:

Funding to enable the creation of clusters in 2022 -

- Program promotion, establishment, operation and coordination.
- Resource person involvement.
- Employment of Cluster Coordinator.
- 'Cluster Muster' catering costs.
- Development and provision of program Handbook.
- Linkage to other development resources and experiences.
- Production of copies of local action plans following completion of 6-month learning program.



## Role of Bank of I.D.E.A.S.:

- Promotion of the Program.
- Identification of the Cluster sites.
- Recruitment of participating communities and community teams.
- Facilitation and resourcing of the monthly 'Cluster Muster' learning experiences.
- Access to other relevant learning and development resources and experiences.

## Further Details:



**Peter Kenyon**  
Director | Bank of I.D.E.A.S.  
0417 183 719  
pk@bankofideas.com.au



**Jen.Curnow-Trotter**  
Community Programs Coordinator | Rural Aid  
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jen.ct@ruralaid.org.au



Attachment 2

# Central Country Zone

# Minutes

**Held at Darkan Sport and Community Centre, Memorial Drive Darkan (opposite the primary school)**

**Friday, 18 February 2022**

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# Central Country Zone

Meeting was held at Darkan Sport and Community Centre, Memorial Drive Darkan  
(opposite the primary school)

Commenced at 9:36am on Friday, 18 February 2022

## Minutes

### 1. OPENING AND WELCOME

#### 1.1 Announcements

Covid-19 awareness:

- Ensure you have signed in using the SafeWA app or by written register at the door
- Maintain social distancing where possible
- Wear your mask
- Sanitize regularly

#### 1.2 Housekeeping – Zone Chair

1. Welcome:

The Zone Chair, Cr Brett McGuinness welcomed Zone members to the meeting and provided OSH/bathroom/exit information to those in attendance.

2. Share your name and Local Government:

To all Delegates, please ensure you call your name and Local Government when taking the floor to allow for accurate Minutes to be recorded.

**Noted**

#### 1.3 Host Welcome – President Cr Neil Morrell, Shire of West Arthur

Shire of West Arthur President Cr Neil Morrell, extended a welcome to Delegates and guests.

## **2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

### **Attendance**

#### **Central Country Zone Delegates and CEO's**

<b>Shire of Beverley</b>	President Cr David White Deputy President Cr Chris Lawlor Mr Steve Gollan, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Brookton</b>	President Cr Katrina Crute Deputy President Cr Neil Walker
<b>Shire of Corrigin</b>	President Cr Des Hickey Ms Natalie Manton, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Cuballing</b>	President Cr Eliza Dowling Deputy President Cr Rob Harris Mr Stan Scott, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Dumbleyung</b>	President Cr Julie Ramm Deputy President Cr Amy Knight Mr Gavin Treasure, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Kulin</b>	Cr Brad Smoker Cr Robbie Bowey Mr Garrick Yandle, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Lake Grace</b>	Deputy President Cr Ross Chappell Mr Chris Paget, Acting Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Pingelly</b>	President Cr Bill Mulrone Mr Andrew Dover, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Quairading</b>	Cr Brett McGuinness ( <b>Chair</b> ) Cr Jonathan Hippisley Ms Nicole Gibbs, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Wandering</b>	Mr Ian Fitzgerald, Acting Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of West Arthur</b>	President Cr Neil Morrell Mr Vin Fordham-Lamont, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
<b>Shire of Williams</b>	Cr Moya Carne Mr Geoff McKeown, Chief Executive Officer
<b><u>Guests</u></b>	Hon Steve Martin MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt Inc Rob Cossart, Wheatbelt Development Commission – Chief Executive Officer Ammar Mohammed, A/Regional Manager Wheatbelt, Main Roads Brad Pearce, Operations Manager, Main Roads Wendy Newman, Deputy Board Chair, WACHS Melissa Vernon WACHS, Executive Director Service and Operations Hub Development and EOC

## **WALGA**

Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Services  
Kathy Robertson, Executive Officer Governance

## **Apologies**

Mr Gary Sherry, Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Brookton  
Deputy President Cr Mike Weguelin, Shire of Corrigin  
Cr Barry West, Shire of Kulin  
President Cr Grant Robins, Shire of Kulin  
President Cr Len Armstrong, Shire of Lake Grace  
Deputy President Cr Jackie McBurney, Shire of Pingelly  
President Leigh Ballard, Shire of Narrogin  
Cr Graham Broad, Shire of Narrogin  
Mr Dale Stewart, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate, Shire of Narrogin  
President Cr Phillip Blight, Shire of Wagin  
Deputy President Cr Gregory Ball, Shire of Wagin  
Mr Bill Atkinson, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate, Shire of Wagin  
President Cr Ian Turton, Shire of Wandering  
Deputy President Cr Paul Treasure, Shire of Wandering  
President Cr Julie Russell, Shire of Wickepin  
Deputy President Cr Wes Astbury, Shire of Wickepin  
Mr Mark Hook, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate, Shire of Wickepin  
Cr Karen Harrington, Shire of West Arthur  
President Cr Jarrad Logie, Shire of Williams  
Hon Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt (Leader of the Opposition)  
Hon Martin Aldridge MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region  
Hon Colin de Grussa MLC  
Hon Peter Rundle MLA, Member for Roe  
Kathleen Brown, Electorate Officer, Office of Hon Mia Davies MLA  
Hon Darren West MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region  
Hon Sandra Carr MLC, Member for Agricultural Region  
Rick Wilson MP, Federal Member for O'Connor  
Hon Shelley Payne MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region

## **Observers**

Cr Robyn Lubcke, Shire of West Arthur  
Cr Graeme Peirce, Shire of West Arthur

## **Attachments**

The following are provided as attachments to the Minutes:

1. WA Country Health Services presentation slides
2. State Councillor report
3. Local Government Agricultural Freight Group report

State Council special meeting Agenda – via link: [State Council special meeting Agenda February 2022](#)

State Council Agenda – via link: [State Council Agenda March 2022](#)

## **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Zone Chair, Cr Brett McGuinness, declared an impartiality interest to item 4.1 as an employee of WA Country Health Service.



#### **4. GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS**

##### **4.1 WA Country Health Service (WACHS)**

WACHS provided a presentation regarding COVID preparedness in the regions. The presentation slides are attached.

WACHS representatives providing the presentation were:

- Wendy Newman, Deputy Board Chair, WACHS
- Melissa Vernon WACHS, Executive Director Service and Operations Hub Development and EOC

#### **5. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT**

Hon Steve Martin MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region presented on issues effecting the region including acknowledging all the community effort with the recent bushfires.

#### **6. MINUTES**

##### **6.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the Central Country Zone meeting held Friday 19 November 2021 (Attachment 1)**

The Minutes of the Central Country Zone meeting held on Friday 19 November 2021 have previously been circulated to Member Councils.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Cr Des Hickey**  
**Seconded: President Cr Bill Mulroney**

**That the Minutes of the Central Country Zone meeting held Friday 19 November 2021 are confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.**

**CARRIED**

##### **6.2 Business Arising from the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Meeting Friday 19 November 2021**

###### **6.2.1 Sector ICT Solution (Item 12.1 19 November 2021)**

*Cr Jonathan Hippisley, Shire of Quairading*

Cr Hippisley enquired on the progress of this item.

The Zone Executive Officer advised that WALGA has looked at this matter further and advise of the following:

The idea of an all-of-sector model ICT solution is not viable for the following reasons:

- 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.

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.

Referring to Cr Hippisley's "Model local government office" paper, it would be expected that the following range of recommendations are achievable:

- 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

WALGA would be prepared to assist in facilitating discussions on a shared service model to research this with a group of Local Governments further.

**Noted**

### **6.3 Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee held Thursday 10 February 2021**

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

#### **6.3.1 Item 4.2.3, Local Government Agricultural Freight Group**

##### **Background:**

At the November Zone meeting, Cr Crute was nominated as the representative for the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group. At that time, Cr Crute intended to attend meetings to assess the validity of the Group.

##### Executive Comment:

Cr Crute has attended two meetings of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group. With only a small handful of Members, Cr Crute feels the group lacks direction and robustness in moving items forward. She suggested that if this group, in an expansive form, were to be established under another body it may be more beneficial to the Sector. Cr Crute feels future proofing should be a bigger consideration than what is currently in place, as well as expanding the group to encompass all Freight, not just Agricultural Freight. Membership needs to be reconsidered and expanded on. It was suggested that under the ownership of State Council, a group may be more beneficial. It was then suggested that perhaps a Policy Forum could be established to include the missing elements named above.

##### **RECOMMENDATION**

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.

##### **RESOLUTION**

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

**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.**

**CARRIED**

### 6.3.2 Item 5.3, Local Government Reform Proposal Submission

**Background:**

The Committee considered the Local Government Reform Proposal and have provided a recommendation for the Zones consideration.

Please refer to item 7.3.1 of this agenda.

### 6.3.3 Item 5.4, Zone Priorities

**Background:**

The Executive Committee debriefed on recent events in Local Government, specifically Natural Disasters and Housing. The following two items have been recommended to be added to the list of Zone Priorities for the coming 12 months.

1. *Telecommunications*
2. *Disaster Preparedness*

The following is the complete list of Zone priorities:

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

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Zone add the following subjects to the list of Zone priorities:

- Telecommunications
- Disaster Preparedness

**RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Cr Julie Ramm  
**Seconded:** Cr David White

That the Central Country Zone add the following subjects to the list of Zone priorities:

- Telecommunications
- Disaster Preparedness

**CARRIED**

### 6.3.4 Item 5.6, Acknowledgement of Country

**Background:**

The Committee were asked to be consider introducing an *Acknowledgment of Country* at the beginning of Zone meetings.

## RECOMMENDATION:

That the Host Local Government be encouraged to provide an Acknowledgement of Country however this is at the discretion of the hosting Local Government.

## RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Bill Mulroney

Seconded: Cr Julie Ramm

That the Host Local Government be encouraged to provide an Acknowledgement of Country however this is at the discretion of the hosting Local Government.

**CARRIED**

### 6.3.5 Item 7, Date, time and place of next meeting

#### Background:

The Committee discussed having this meeting online. As WA has not been directed into Lockdown, the meeting is going ahead in person. In preparation for moving online should that need to happen for a future meeting, the Committee have requested the Executive Officer to assess Members resources to successfully join a Zone meeting online. A survey will be sent to all CEO's shortly after the meeting.

Noted

### 6.4 Confirmation of Minutes from the Central Country Zone Meeting of the Executive Committee held Thursday 10 February 2022 (Attachment 2)

The remaining items from the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee Meeting held on Thursday 10 February 2022 are for endorsement.

## RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Katrina Crute

Seconded: Cr Des Hickey

That the remaining items from the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held Thursday 10 February 2022 be endorsed.

**CARRIED**

## 7. WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (WALGA) BUSINESS

*Zone delegates to consider the Matters for Decision contained in the WA Local Government Association State Council Agenda and put forward resolutions to Zone Representatives on State Council*

### 7.1 State Councillor Report

*Cr Phillip Blight was an apology for the meeting, however Cr Blight provided a report as attached.*

## RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Jonathan Hippisley

Seconded: President Cr Bill Mulroney

That the State Councillor Report be received.

**CARRIED**

## 7.2 WALGA Status Report

By Tony Brown, Executive Officer



### BACKGROUND

Presenting the Status Report for February 2022 which contains WALGA's responses to the resolutions of previous Zone Meetings.

## CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE STATUS REPORT FEBRUARY 2022

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Central C	<b>2019 Nov 29 Zone Agenda Item 10.8 Western Australia's Share of Fuel Excise</b>	That WALGA prepares and endorses a strategy to obtain transparency of the distribution of the fuel excise with the intent to maximise the return to Western Australia for road maintenance.	<p>The resolution was been referred to the Infrastructure Policy Team and based on direction provided further research to support an advocacy position is being carried out.</p> <p>The Association met with the RAC and received access to a 2020 revision of a report commissioned by the RAC quantifying motorist taxation and Federal Government investment in WA transport infrastructure.</p>	Ongoing	<b>Ian Duncan</b> Executive Manager Infrastructure <a href="mailto:iduncan@walga.asn.au">iduncan@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2031
Central C	<b>2021 19 November Zone Agenda Item 10.3 Police Resources in the Region</b>	That the CCZ call upon WALGA to advocate to State Government on the shortage of police and housing in regional and remote areas.	<p>WALGA continues to undertake advocacy work in relation to Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH) including regular meetings with the Dept Communities, identification of critical areas of need, four- year forecasts and Commercial Team development of preferred supplier for Modular Housing.</p> <p>WALGA will undertake further research to scope the extent of the policing issues in the district and provide further information to the Zone.</p>	February 2022	<b>Nicole Matthews</b> A/Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning <a href="mailto:nmatthews@walga.asn.au">nmatthews@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2039
Central C	<b>2021 20 August Zone Agenda Item 8.4 Social Housing Economic Recovery Package Grant Funding</b>	<p>1. That the Zone notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Local Governments are eligible for grants to support the construction, refurbishment and maintenance of community housing properties as part of the State Government's Social Housing Economic Recovery Package (SHERP) Program.</li></ul>	<p>A total of \$57 million in SHERP refurbishment grants were announced on 25 January 2022. Three of the 8 Local Governments that applied for SHERP refurbishment grants were successful: Shires of Donnybrook-Balingup, Williams and Boyup Brook.</p> <p>An announcement of funding for new builds has been delayed until April 2022.</p>	February 2022	<b>Nicole Matthews</b> A/Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning <a href="mailto:nmatthews@walga.asn.au">nmatthews@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2039

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The next round of SHERP grants open on Wednesday 1 September 2021.</li> <li>The Department of Communities will provide further information on the SHERP grants at a WALGA webinar to be held at 1:30pm on Wednesday 1 September.</li> </ul> <p>2. Request WALGA to advocate for more State funding for housing in the regions.</p>			
<b>Central C</b>	<b>2020 February 21 Zone Agenda Item 12.1 General Practitioner Services in Rural Areas - Shire of Corrigin</b>	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>WALGA has included this item in the draft submission on Local Government legislative reform proposals.</p> <p>WALGA's policy position is as per below;</p> <p><i>WALGA advocates for the inclusion of a tender exemption for General Practitioner (GP) services under Part 4, Division 2 of the Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996, to support Local Governments retain necessary primary health care services for their communities; and</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake additional research in support of the Advocacy Position with the following aims: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify State and Federal Government policy settings and other factors contributing to gaps in primary health care services in regional communities; and</li> <li>Quantify the number of regional Local Governments that have current contracts, or are proposing to enter into contracts, for General Practitioner services and the associated costs to Local Government incurred.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>The Office of the Minister for Local Government has advised that they are interested in establishing a Roundtable on the issue of GP services for Rural Local Governments. Further information will be provided when available.</p>	<b>February 2022</b>	<b>Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services 9213 2051 <a href="mailto:tbrown@walga.asn.au">tbrown@walga.asn.au</a></b>

<p><b>Central C</b></p>	<p><b>2021 19 November Zone Agenda Item 12.1 Sector ICT solution</b></p>	<p>That the Zone request WALGA to research providers and the viability of an in-house IT system.</p>	<p>The zone suggestion of a stand-alone IT system to meet the needs of Local Government is the ideal model for the sector. However, the complexity of such a system and the required development time and costs is prohibitive. Engaging a supplier-provided system, of which all development risk is retained by a third party, remains the most prudent use of public funds. If the sector was to seek to develop its own system, separate to existing suppliers, it is recommended that it should be undertaken on a national basis, with the pre-commitment from the overwhelming majority of Local Governments across all jurisdictions to switch to the system, so to provide the scale to warrant investment as would be required. To this end, WALGA could raise the issue at ALGA meeting of state associations to gauge wider sector interest.</p>	<p><b>February 2022</b></p>	<p><b>Craig Hansom A/Executive Manager, Commercial <a href="mailto:chansom@walga.asn.au">chansom@walga.asn.au</a> 9213 2061</b></p>
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## **ZONE COMMENT**

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

## **RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Cr Julie Ramm

**Seconded:** Cr Des Hickey

**That the Central Country Zone WALGA February 2022 Status Report be noted.**

**CARRIED**

### **7.3 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda's – Matters for Decision**

#### **7.3.1 Special State Council Meeting Agenda – 23 February 2022**

The full State Council Agenda can be found via link: [State Council Special Meeting Agenda 23 February 2022](#) and attached (Attachment 3).

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**

##### **3.1 Local Government Reform Proposal Submission**

WALGA Recommendation

1. That the recommendations contained in the '*Local Government Reform Proposal Submission*' be endorsed.
2. That WALGA:
  - a. seek assurance from the Minister for Local Government that further detail on the proposed reforms will be provided to the sector for comment prior to the formulation of a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill; and
  - b. seek a formal commitment from the Minister for Local Government that WALGA actively participates in the legislative drafting process necessary to formulate a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill.

#### **Executive Committee Consideration**

The Executive Committee considered this item in detail and have raised items that they would like amended to the WALGA recommendation for the Zones consideration as per below:

- **Item 1.6 Vexatious complaints**

Supports the proposed reforms and provides the following comments.

1. The Information Commissioner should also have the power to declare repeated FOI requests as vexatious.
2. Legislation to include the ability of a person to lodge an appeal with the Inspector.



- Item 1.7 Minor Other reforms

Supports the proposed reforms however do not support the Minister being the author/publisher of guidance notices.

Initial guidance notices should be published by the DG, Dept of Local Government, with subsequent corrective guidance notices coming from the Inspector.

Any guidance advice/notices provided should recognise its resourcing implications.

- Item 3.1 Recording and Live Streaming Council meetings

Not supported.

Believe it would curtail free discussion and that meetings would become stilted due to some participants feeling self-conscious. This may result in members having informal discussions before meetings to determine outcomes and may stifle free debate. At the other end of the spectrum, it may result in some members grandstanding (because they know they have a wider audience to play to) and to use the public exposure as a means to solicit support for re-election and to generally cultivate a public profile for whatever reason, rather than focussing on the most legitimate outcomes. Likely to create more problems for the sector and its image. Submission of recordings to DLGSC would be another “Red Tape” task and smacks of “Big Brother”. A further disincentive for people to run for Council.

- Item 3.2 Recording All votes

Proposed reforms not supported for following reasons.

1. As an Elected Member, they are required (under roles and responsibilities) to support the decisions of Council.
2. If someone feels strongly, they can request their vote/name to be recorded.
3. If the vote for/against is recorded, it may become difficult for a Councillor to defend the decision of Council, if they voted against the item.
4. May cause conflict with community members.

- Item 5.2.3 Elected Member role clarity

Overall supports the proposed reforms but notes that there is no reference to the requirement for Councillors to ‘support the decisions of the Council’ which will be important when communicating the decisions of the Council to the community (sub dot point 5).

- Item 5.2.4 CEO Role clarity

Overall supports the proposed reforms but notes that there is no reference that the CEO is responsible for the recruitment, and performance management of all staff as indicated in the current Act/Regulations.

- Item 6.2 Simplify Strategic and Financial Planning

Do not support these proposed reforms due to the following concerns.

1. The proposed reference to innovation and community input into the strategic plans of Council are proposed as a ‘one size fits all’ and will become a tick-box exercise and not be specifically relevant to the local community.
2. Long term financial plans need to be 15 years, not 10, as the current requirement for 10 years does not allow for compliance with the Debt Service Ratio’ reporting
3. Rates and Revenue Policy – Is another resource reporting requirement burden on smaller local governments for questionable benefits.

## RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Julie Ramm  
Seconded: President Cr Bill Mulroney

1. That the recommendations contained in the 'Local Government Reform Proposal *Submission*' be endorsed, subject to the following amendments:
  - a. Item 1.6 Vexatious complaints – Support, subject to;
    - i. The Information Commissioner should also have the power to declare repeated FOI requests as vexatious.
    - ii. Legislation to include the ability of a person to lodge an appeal with the Inspector.
  - b. Item 1.7 Minor Other reforms – Support, subject to;
    - i. Do not support the Minister being the author/publisher of guidance notices.
    - ii. Initial guidance notices should be published by the DG, Dept of Local Government, with subsequent corrective guidance notices coming from the Inspector.
    - iii. Any guidance advice/notices provided should recognise its resourcing implications.
  - c. Item 3.1 Recording and Live Streaming Council meetings – Not Supported
  - d. Item 3.2 Recording All votes – Not Supported
  - e. Item 5.2.3 Elected Member role clarity – Support subject to including reference to the requirement for Councillors to 'support the decisions of the Council' which will be important when communicating the decisions of the Council to the community (sub dot point 5).
  - f. Item 5.2.4 CEO Role clarity – Support subject to including reference that the CEO is responsible for the recruitment, and performance management of all staff as indicated in the current Act/Regulations.
  - g. Item 6.2 Simplify Strategic and Financial Planning – Not Supported
  - h. Item 6.6 Audit Committees – Support subject to the requirement for independent members being mandatory not applying to Band 3 and 4 Local Governments.
  - i. Item 3.5 Chief Executive Officer Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) be Published – Not Supported
2. That WALGA:
  - a. seek assurance from the Minister for Local Government that further detail on the proposed reforms will be provided to the sector for comment prior to the formulation of a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill; and
  - b. seek a formal commitment from the Minister for Local Government that WALGA actively participates in the legislative drafting process necessary to formulate a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill.

**CARRIED**

*Ten Local Government Reform Proposal submissions were received by WALGA from Members of the Central Country Zone.*

### **7.3.2 Ordinary State Council Meeting Agenda – 2 March 2022**

The full State Council Agenda can be found via link: [State Council Agenda 2 March 2022](#)

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**

##### **5.1 Short-Term Accommodation Regulatory Scheme**

That the draft Short-Term Accommodation Regulatory Reform submission be endorsed

#### **Matters for Noting**

- 6.1 COVID-19 – Update
- 6.2 2022-23 Federal Budget Submission
- 6.3 Detection of Polyphagous Shot-hole Borer and Implications for Local Government
- 6.4 State Planning Policy 2.9: Planning for Water - Submission
- 6.5 Submission to Salaries and Allowances Tribunal – Local Government Remuneration Inquiry

#### **RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Julie Ramm  
Seconded: Cr Katrina Crute

That the Central Country Zone

1. Supports Matters for Decision, item 5.1 as listed above in the March 2022 State Council Agenda; and
2. Notes all Matters for Noting and Organisational Reports as listed in the March 2022 State Council Agenda.

**CARRIED**

### **7.4 WALGA President's Report**

The WALGA President's Report is attached to the Agenda (Attachment 4).

#### **RESOLUTION**

Moved: President Cr Bill Mulroney  
Seconded: Cr Jonathan Hippisley

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

**CARRIED**

## **8. ZONE REPORTS**

### **8.1 Zone President Report**

*By Cr Brett McGuinness*

Cr Brett McGuinness advised the Zone that there was nothing to report.

**Noted**

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

*By Cr Katrina Crute*

Cr Katrina Crute provided her report to the Zone, as attached.

### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: President Cr Bill Mulroney**

**Seconded: Cr Des Hickey**

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

**CARRIED**

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

*By President Leigh Ballard*

President Leigh Ballard was an apology for the meeting.

**Noted**

## **8.4 Regional Health Advocacy Representative**

*By Ms Natalie Manton*

Ms Natalie Manton advised the Zone that there was nothing to report.

**Noted**

## **9. ZONE BUSINESS – MEMBER COUNCIL MATTERS**

### **9.1 CBH – Non Grain Storage**

*Cr Katrina Crute, Shire of Brookton*

Cr Crute enquired as to where does the CBH exemption from rates and the ex-gratia payment sit for the storage of Non Grain products by CBH.

Cr Crute's understanding is they get the exemption on the basis of Grain Storage but in the case of the Aldersyde Bin it has lime in it for sale to Growers at a significantly cheaper rate than local contractors can do it for.

**Action: WALGA to research this question and report back to the Zone.**

## **10. ZONE BUSINESS – OTHER BUSINESS/URGENT BUSINESS**

Nil

## **11. ZONE BUSINESS – EMERGING ISSUES**

### **11.1 Regional Telecommunications**

*Shire of Dumbleyung*

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Cr Julie Ramm**  
**Seconded: Cr Neil Morrell**

**That WALGA partner with Telstra and Western Power to scope, design and cost a solution to enable full mobile and internet connectivity through the Central Country Zone area, including suitable back up power generation to ensure continued mobile connectivity during emergency outage events.**

**CARRIED**

## **12. OTHER AGENCY REPORTS**

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

No representative from the Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries, was present at the meeting.

**Noted**

### **12.2 Wheatbelt Development Commission**

Rob Cossart, Wheatbelt Development Commission – Chief Executive Officer, provided an update to the Zone.

**Noted**

### **12.3 Main Roads Western Australia**

Ammar Mohammed, A/Regional Manager Wheatbelt and Brad Pearce, Operations Manager, from Main Roads provided an update to the Zone.

**Noted**

### **12.4 Wheatbelt RDA**

Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development RDA Wheatbelt presented to the Zone. (Attachment 5)

**Noted**

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

The Committee will next meet on 13 April 2022 via MS Teams.

The next meeting of the Central Country Zone will be held on Friday, 22 April 2022, commencing at 9:30am. This meeting will be hosted by the Shire of Wickepin.

## **14. CLOSURE**

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at **12:08pm**.



Attachment 3

# **Central Country Zone Executive Committee Minutes**

**Wednesday 13 April 2022**

**via MS Teams**

Meeting commenced at 7:53am

**Minutes**  
**Central Country Zone of WALGA**  
**Executive Committee**

**Monday 13 April 2022**

**Meeting commenced at 7.53am**

**1.0 OPENING AND WELCOME**

The Chair declared the meeting open at 7:53am

**2.0 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

**Attendance**

Cr Brett McGuinness, (Chair)	Councillor, Shire of Quairading
President Leigh Ballard (Deputy Chair)	President, Shire of Narrogin
Cr Phillip Blight	President, Shire of Wagin
Cr Katrina Crute	President, Shire of Brookton
Cr Des Hickey	President, Shire of Corrigin
Cr Julie Russell (arrived 8:15am)	President, Shire of Wickepin

**Zone Executive Officer**

Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services

**Apologies:**

Nil

**3.0 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

NIL

## **4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

### **4.1 Confirmation of Executive Committee Minutes – Thursday, 10 February 2022**

Presenting the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 10 February 2022.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 10 February 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

**RESOLUTION:**                      **Moved: Cr Philip Blight**                      **Seconded: Cr Des Hickey**

**That the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 10 February 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.**

**CARRIED**

### **4.2 Business Arising Executive Committee Minutes – Thursday 10 February 2022**

#### **4.2.1 Item 4.2.3: Local Government Agricultural Freight Group**

At the February 2022 Executive Committee Meeting the following was resolved and endorsed at the subsequent zone meeting:

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.

This item was referred to WALGA's Infrastructure Policy Team, who have noted that a decision to disband the Agricultural Freight Group is a matter for the participating Zones.

To assist developing a recommendation, the Infrastructure Policy Team requested that the Terms of Reference for a possible Agricultural Freight Policy Forum be developed for consideration at their next meeting.

The Zone will be kept informed on progress on this matter.

**NOTED**

## **5.0 BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

### **5.1 Financial Statement for the period ending 28 February 2022**



# Central Country Zone WALGA

ABN 12 975 113 390

## Statement of Income and Expenditure as at 28 February 2022

	Annual Budget	Actual Year To Date
<b>Receipts</b>		
501 General Subscriptions	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
521 Reimbursements	\$ -	\$ -
575 Interest Earned	\$ 30.00	\$ 1.85
GST		\$ 4,128.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 30,030.00</b>	<b>\$ 34,129.85</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
1511 Executive Officer - Other	\$ 100.00	\$ -
1512 Executive Officer - Office Expenses, Phone, Internet	\$ 200.00	\$ 93.00
1513 Executive Officer - Professional Services	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 5,972.00
1514 Executive Officer - Travel and Accommodation	\$ 750.00	\$ 311.46
1515 Executive Officer Review Process	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 77.64
1535 Zone Expenses - Audit Costs	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 950.00
1538 Zone Expenses - Bank Fees	\$ 100.00	\$ -
1546 Zone Expenses - In-Person Meetings	\$ 8,800.00	\$ 1,365.69
Zone Expenses - Teleconference and Video		
1549 Conference Meetings	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
1555 Zone Expenses - Agricultural Freight Group	\$ 800.00	\$ 329.95
1558 Zone Expenses - Financial Management	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 1,636.01
1572 Zone Expenses - Other	\$ 500.00	\$ -
1574 Zone Expenses - Advocacy	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -
1580 Zone Representative - Honoraria	\$ 2,600.00	\$ -
1605 Zone Representative - Meeting Fees	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -
1610 Zone Representative - Travel Costs	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -
GST		\$ 3,104.57
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>\$ 45,550.00</b>	<b>\$ 13,840.32</b>
Net Receipts (Payments)	-\$ 15,520.00	\$ 20,289.53
Opening Cash Balance 1 July	\$ 36,892.31	\$ 36,892.31
<b>Cash Balance at end of period</b>	<b>\$ 21,372.31</b>	<b>\$ 57,181.84</b>
<b>Actual Cash Balance</b>		
Westpac Solutions One		\$ 28,956.94
Westpac Cash Reserve		\$ 28,224.90
		<b>\$ 57,181.84</b>

Background:

Presenting the unaudited financial statement of income and expenditure for the period to 28 February 2022.

**Comment**

<b>Account No</b>	<b>Account Description</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
0501	General Subscriptions	All have paid their annual subscriptions
0575	Interest Earned	The amount of interest earned has been impacted by the significant reduction in interest rates.
1511 to 1514	Executive Officer Expenses	These amounts relate to payments associated with Professional Services to BHW Consulting for the period May 2021 to July 2021.
1546	In-person meetings	Cost of catering for Zone Meetings at in-person Zone Meetings.
1535	Audit Fees	Annual audit fee for the year ended 30 June 2021
1555	Agricultural Freight Group	Local Government Agriculture Grain Freight Coup share of costs May 20 to April 21
1558	Financial Management	Cost of managing the finances including the cost of Xero accounting.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period ending 28 February 2022 be received.

**RESOLUTION:**            **Moved: Cr Katrina Crute**            **Seconded: President Leigh Ballard**

**That the Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period ending 28 February 2022 be received.**

**CARRIED**

<b>5.2 List of Accounts Paid</b>
----------------------------------

**Executive Officer Comment:**

Accounts paid for the period 1 January 2022 to 31 March 2022.



#### 5.4.1 Community Builders Program

The Zone has been approached by Peter Kenyon AM, Director, Bank of I.D.E.A.S, who emailed as follows:

*On 7 April 2022, I had a series of conversations with Shire CEOS and a Shire President in Wagin, Narrogin and Cuballing about the possibility of an initiative called the Community Builders Program being run across a series of Central South Shires. They all mentioned your Zone Meeting on 22 April in Wickiepin, and it as a good opportunity to share with all possible Shire leaders. In fact, your colleague, Dianne Daniels has organised me to present at the Northern Country Zone on 26 April.*

*I have been asked by a national rural charity, Rural Aid, to determine the 'cluster of communities' sites for the first Community Builder Program in WA- the choice is between the Northern Midlands and Central South Wheatbelt. I need to make the recommendation by the end of April to Rural Aid based on community/local government interest. An attached Flyer, (Attachment 6) explains what this grassroots leadership program is all about - simply a 6 month leadership development initiative across a natural and connected set of local governments, involving community teams of 3-6 persons. My conversations yesterday with local government personnel strongly demonstrated the interest by councils for the Central South Wheatbelt being the location.*

*As with the Northern Country Zone meeting, I am hopeful you may have 15-30 minutes on your agenda for me to quickly share, respond to questions and gauge level of interest. I am aware of how crowded your agenda is likely to be and would be happy with anytime limit. Also understand if it is not possible.*

#### **RESOLVED**

**That Peter Kenyon be invited to the April Zone meeting to advise on the Community Builders Program.**

#### 5.4.2 Housing

The Committee discussed the Housing priority. Noting that a report is shortly to be released by the Wheatbelt Development Commission (WDC) which may be worth further discussion at a future meeting. This report will contain information gathered from the Shire of Pingelly, Shire of Narembeen, and the Shire of Narrogin.

**Action: The Zone Executive Officer to follow up with the Wheatbelt Development Commission in respect to the status of this housing project.**

#### 5.5 Speakers for the June Zone Meeting

### 5.5.1 Telecommunications

The Committee feels there needs to be better preparedness for key infrastructure in times of natural disaster, including the readiness and availability of emergency generators. A speaker will be invited to the June meeting to discuss this further (potentially Richard Burnell from DFES).

#### Committee Consideration

The Committee discussed that it would be more beneficial to invite a representative from Telstra to attend the meeting to provide information on this matter.

#### **RESOLVED**

**That Boyd Brown from Telstra be invited to the June Zone meeting to provide an update on the availability of access to emergency generators for telecommunications.**

### 5.5.2 Economic Regulation Authority

Steve Edwell, Chair, Economic Regulation Authority requested to talk about the ERA's process, but mostly to seek feedback from attendees about their experiences with energy supply and any issues that the attendees raise, the ERA may be able to address through this access arrangement.

#### **Background**

The Economic Regulation Authority are commencing their five-yearly review of Western Power's access arrangement — which sets the amount of revenue that Western Power can recover from its customers and establishes service standards that they must meet or be financially penalised.

A big focus for this review - in light of recent outages — is security and reliability of power supplies, particularly in the regions. With that in mind, The Chair Steve Edwell would like to attend the June zone meeting.

The Zone Chair has approved this request.

#### **NOTED**

### 5.5.3 Department of Training & Workforce Development — Northam-Wheatbelt Regional Coordinating Committee

The Zone was invited to attend a recent meeting of the Northam-Wheatbelt Regional Coordinating Committee, which is a group being coordinated by the Department of Training & Workforce Development.

#### **Background**

The Premier and Minister for Education and Training hosted the Perth Skills Summit on 30 July 2021. The aim of the Skill Summit was to meet with industry leaders to hear ideas on

what more can be done collaboratively, and immediately to address skill needs in industry sectors across Western Australia. To address the skill needs of the regions, the State Government held a series of ten Regional Skills Summits across Western Australia in 2021.

The Northam-Wheatbelt Skills Summit was held on 13 September 2021, hosted by Terry Healy, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education and Training, and attended by industry leaders, employers, and key stakeholders from across the region.

Following the Skills Summit, an Action Plan to specifically address skills needs in the Wheatbelt was developed, taking into account the issues and ideas raised by participants. A copy of the Action Plan is attached (not to be circulated).

A Regional Coordinating Committee (RCC) was established in each region to oversee the implementation of the five priority actions contained in the Action Plans. Each RCC includes representatives from the Regional TAFE College, Regional Development Commission and the Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The Department of Training and Workforce Development (DTWD) provides secretariat support to the RCCs. A copy of the RCC's Terms of Reference is attached.

The RCCs will meet four times. The Minister for Education and Training will receive quarterly status reports on the progress of the priority actions.

The Northam-Wheatbelt Regional Coordinating Committee held its first meeting on Tuesday 14 December 2021. At that meeting which was chaired by Jodie Wallace, Executive Director Policy, Planning, and Innovation, DTWD, it was agreed to invite representation from the Department of Education and the three WALGA Zones that cover the Wheatbelt.

As Central Country Zone representatives were unable to attend the March meeting, the Zone has approached the Department to speak at a future meeting of the Zone. A copy of the March Minutes is attached.

## **RESOLVED**

**The Committee discussed that the Central Country Zone representatives attend the next meeting of the coordinating committee and advise the Zone on future progress.**

**Cr Brett McGuinness, (Chair) and Tony Brown, (Executive Officer) will attend the next meeting of the committee.**

## **5.6 State Council Agenda Items (4 May 2022)**

The upcoming State Council agenda will include the following items:

### **Matters for Decision**

**5.6.1 Submission to Statutory Review of the *Food Act 2008* (05-031-01-0006 BW)**

**5.6.2 Local Government Grant Scheme Funding (05-024-03-0006 VJ)**

**5.6.3 Draft Active Travel to School Roadmap (05-001-03-0051 SDS)**

### **Matters for Noting**

- Draft National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children (05-086-03-0004 VB)

- Feedback on Community Disaster Resilience Strategy Discussion Paper (05-024-02-0067 VJ)
- 2021 CoastWA Local Government Survey (06-085-01-0002 LS)
- Update on draft WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026
- Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review Project (05-024-03-0040 SR)
- Comment on Draft Health Promotion Strategic Framework 2022-2026 (05-031-03-0005 BW)
- Wooroloo Bushfire Independent Review Final Report (05-024-03-0011 CM)
- 2022-23 Federal Budget Update (05-088-03-0002 DT)
- Local Government Emergency Management Survey Results (05-024-03-0042 CM)

## NOTED

### 5.7 CBH – Non-Grain Storage

At the February Zone meeting the issue of CBH exemption from rates and the ex gratia payment for the storage of Non Grain products by CBH was raised.

There was an understanding that CBH receive an exemption on the basis of Grain Storage but in the case of the Aldersyde Bin in Brookton, it has lime in it for sale to Growers at a significantly cheaper rate than local contractors can do it for.

#### Committee Consideration

The Committee were advised that it has been confirmed that the portion of land that is used for anything other than grain storage, the GRV (gross rental value) or UV (unimproved land value) rate would apply on the portion of land concerned (not the agreed ex gratia rate).

**Further information will be obtained from CBH Grain, and an item will be prepared for the Zone meeting on this issue.**

## 6.0 OTHER BUSINESS

NIL

## 7.0 DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Central Country Zone Meeting - Friday, 22 April 2022 in Wickepin.

Central Country Zone Executive Meeting - Wednesday, 15 June 2022 via MS Teams.

Central Country Zone Meeting - Friday, 24 June 2022 in Williams.

## 8.0 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8:46am.



# President's Report

## May 2022

This is my first report as your President, I consider it a privilege to undertake this leadership role and will endeavour to represent you and the Local Government sector with consideration and courage at all times. I welcome all contact and communication, to be fully informed is critical to effective leadership.

### COVID-19 – Update

Since the last State Council meeting, COVID-19 has taken hold across WA and there have been frequent changes to the level of restrictions in place. WALGA has sought to keep the sector across developments as they occur through frequent COVID-19 updates and a number of very well attended webinars.

### Special Electors Meetings

WALGA has received feedback from numerous Local Governments regarding Special Electors Meetings which are being requested by pro-choice vaccination groups in the community and we have provided responses to approximately 50 separate enquiries in the first quarter of 2022.

WALGA is aware of 14 Local Governments who have had or been requested to hold Special Electors Meetings. These meetings are being conducted with approximately 350 to 400 people attending (mostly outdoors) and some Local Governments have expressed concern for the safety of their staff and Elected Members attending these meetings.

In 2020, as part of the Government's response to COVID-19, the previous Minister for Local Government made a Ministerial Order under the *Local Government Amendment (COVID-19 Response) Act 2020* that Local Governments could not hold Special Electors Meetings under sections 5.27 and 5.28 of the *Local Government Act 1995* due to the public health risk they presented.

I wrote to Minister Carey requesting that he consider reinstating this order as a priority, or alternatively, allow for Electors Meetings to be held electronically. In making the request, I was clear that Local Governments are not seeking to stifle community debate or involvement on important issues.

The Minister has [responded](#) advising that he is considering the potential for Electors Meetings to be held electronically, as well as looking to make other changes relating to Electors Meetings as part of his legislative reform package.

### State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement

I have been focussing attention on options and strategies that WALGA has the opportunity to put before the State Government regarding an agreement to provide funding to Local Governments from vehicle licence fee revenue. The current five-year agreement expires in June 2023. I am actively supported by Cr Rich, Cr Pavlovich and Cr Sadler in this work.

The State Government has made it clear that it wants to see clearly demonstrable social outcomes from road investment, including use of recycled materials, Aboriginal employment and improved safety. I know that Local Governments are heavily dependent on State road funding and am very aware that as a whole, our sector's performance in committing to regionally significant projects and delivering them on time has been inconsistent.



I firmly believe that we will need to commit to doing things differently if we are to secure a new agreement with critical funding. Perhaps the most challenging conversations will be within our sector to agree what we are prepared to change to ensure the continuation of this agreement.

## **Local Government Legislative Reform**

At a meeting in early April, the Minister for Local Government confirmed that WALGA will be key members on the working group tasked with the detailed design of the new legislation.

A schedule of meetings for the working group has been developed and WALGA will be represented by our CEO Nick Sloan, Tony Brown and senior members of the Governance and Organisational Services team.

We will provide regular updates to State Council and the sector more broadly as the legislative reform process progresses.

## **2022 Local Government Honours Program**

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

Nominations for this year's Program are now open. Following a thorough review of the Program last year, two new awards have been added, alongside four existing awards:

1. Local Government Medal
2. Life Membership
3. Eminent Service Award
4. Merit Award (*new for 2022*)
5. Local Government Distinguished Officer Award
6. Young Achievers Award (*new for 2022*)

The new Merit Award has combined two previous awards (Merit and Long & Loyal Service) and is intended to recognise notable contributions to WALGA, Local Government and/or the Local Government sector. The Young Achievers Award is open only to Elected Members and employees aged 35 years or younger, recognising notable commitment and demonstrated potential for professional success.

Nomination forms and further information can be found on the WALGA website. Nominations will close at 5:00pm on Friday, 24 June.

## **Australian Local Government Association (ALGA)**

WALGA is working alongside ALGA and other state and territory Local Government Associations on a Federal Election campaign with the theme "*Don't leave local communities behind*". The campaign highlights five key areas and 17 opportunities for Federal Members and Candidates to work with Local Governments. Each week, WALGA is sending members and candidates letters, and producing social media posts and media statements to highlight the five areas in a Western Australian context. We have also invited Federal Members to host webinars for the sector.

Can I encourage you to consider attending the National General Assembly in Canberra this June. Western Australia generally has a strong contingent attend and this year we have quite a few motions coming from WA Councils. It has a great program, plus WALGA hosts a breakfast for our attendees with WA Federal members of Parliament. If you have never been take a peek at the [program](#).

Easter is just around the corner, may you and all your loved ones stay safe and take the opportunity to enjoy life. Remember to call me if you need, good or bad, on 0428 958 305.

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

## **CONTACTS**

## **President's Contacts**

The President's contacts since 2 March and scheduled before 4 May are as follows:

### **State Government Relations**

- Minister for Housing; Lands; Homelessness; Local Government, Hon John Carey MLA
- Minister for Emergency Services; Innovation and ICT; Medical Research; Volunteering, Hon Stephen Dawson MLC
- Minister for Disability Services; Fisheries; Seniors and Ageing; Small Business, Hon Don Punch MLA
- Minister for Police; Road Safety; Defence Industry; Veterans Issues, Hon Paul Papalia MLA
- State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee
  - Delegate Workshop
  - Meeting
- Roundtable on General Practitioner tendering for Regional/Rural Local Government areas – Hosted by the Minister for Local Government, Hon John Carey, MLA
- Public Accounts Committee - Hearing Student Transport Services submission
- Webinar - Development Assessment Panel Regulations reform - Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage

### **Zone Meetings**

- Murchison Country Zone Meeting
- Northern Country Zone Meeting
- South Metropolitan Zone Meeting

### **Local Government Relations**

- State Council Meeting
  - Special State Council Meeting
  - Strategic Forum
  - Finance and Services Committee Meeting
- LGIS
  - Board induction
  - Board Meeting
- ALGA
  - Board Meeting – Canberra
  - NGA Sub-Committee Meeting
- Department Local Government; Sport Cultural Industries Director General, Lanie Chopping, Deputy Director General, Erin Gauntlett, Executive Director Local Government, Tim Fraser and WALGA Deputy President, Cr Paul Kelly
- Regional Capitals Alliance WA Meeting
- Shire of Ashburton Chief Executive Officer, Kenn Donohoe and Director Infrastructure Services, Matthew Fanning
- Local Government Convention (LGC22) Committee meetings x 2
- WALGA Webinar - WA Federal Member Budget
- Webinar - National Reconciliation Week

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

- 2022 WA Women's Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
- Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia Gala Dinner
- Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA Business Breakfast
- Mining Communities Policy Forum



# Media Release

30 March 2022

## WHEATBELT REVEGETATION PROGRAM LAND PURCHASES

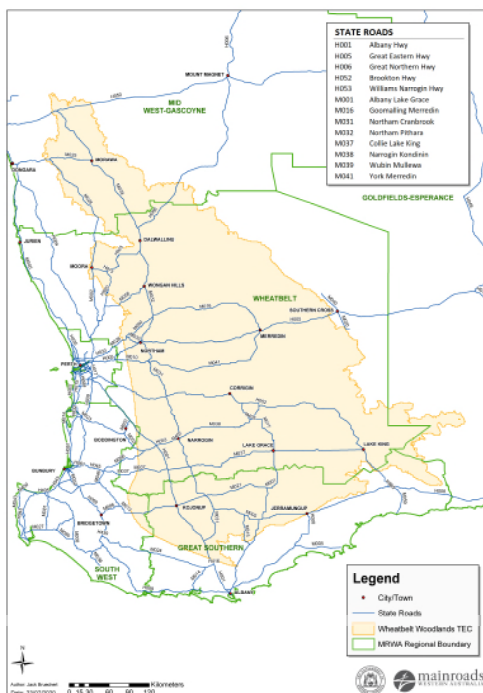
Main Roads is seeking to buy portions of land adjacent to State roads for revegetation purposes. There are a number of upgrades planned for roads, particularly within the Wheatbelt and to a lesser extent, Great Southern regions of WA, which will require the removal of native vegetation that, in some cases, is protected by both State and Commonwealth legislation. The purpose of the land acquisitions and revegetation is to “offset” the future residual loss of this vegetation.

Main Roads is ideally looking for cleared farming land immediately adjoining the road reserves of State roads. The land should be 50 to 100 metres wide and more than one kilometre long and (preferably) linking remnant vegetation. It is intended that any land acquired would be dedicated as road reserve.

Interested landowners are encouraged to contact Rod Cousins at Main Roads on (08) 9323 4811 or via [revegetationbank@mainroads.wa.gov.au](mailto:revegetationbank@mainroads.wa.gov.au)

Further information about the program can be found at:

<https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/globalassets/community-environment/environment/clearing-reveg/wheatbelt-revegetation-bank-factsheet.pdf>



## RDA Wheatbelt Update – Local Government Zone Meetings

Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development  
[mandy.walker@rdawheatbelt.com.au](mailto:mandy.walker@rdawheatbelt.com.au) ph. 0428 372 179  
April 2022

### Regional University Centre application

RDA Wheatbelt made a submission to the Federal Department of Education, Skills and Employment for Regional University Centre funds. The Wheatbelt region is unique in that we don't have a dedicated regional centre. This contributes to the region often being overlooked during times of consultation or for population-based funding programs. Further to this, the geographic spread of the region with over 200 communities and approximately 77,000 people presents some challenges for the traditional Regional University model.

Substantial data collection has been undertaken as to location and current student numbers, both external and internal students to quantify the need. This information has been translated into maps to assist in communicating the opportunity.

RDA Wheatbelt is designing a dispersed model initially with four hubs that will perform the administrative functions of an RUC including student enrolment, support, exams etc. with a network of Community Resource Centres (CRCs) and local organisations acting as satellites from which students can undertake their studies. Extensive discussions with the Geraldton and Great Southern RUCs have enabled the design of a model best suited to our region.

This model will enable students to remain in the region, undertake study and work without having to commute to a central location. I believe this will be a first for the RUC program to consider, although the Great Southern RUC are extending their program to include two satellite hubs in Denmark and Katanning. The aim is to use existing underutilised or unused facilities where there are benefits for the CRCs in that unused space can be activated and an income stream generated for the CRC.

A range of study areas can be accommodated across the region including horticulture and tourism in the coastal western parts; through to agriculture, engineering and mining in the north, east and southeast; aviation and aerospace across the entire region; education and nursing in the south, with a connection to the Great Southern Universities Centre which is building a satellite location in Katanning. Curtin and Murdoch Universities have been approached to partner for their traditional courses and in principle have given their support for our application. The University of South Australia have been approached in looking to the future for space industry programs.

The Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment recently released the 'Informing future locations for Regional University Centres' scoping report where four Wheatbelt locations are on the shortlist of thirty locations across Australia identified as ready for investment. These locations and rankings are Mukinbudin 3/30, Gingin / Dandaragan 11/30, York / Beverley 13/30 and Merredin 15/30. All four locations within the top fifteen rankings indicates the high priority for this program. The study also suggests utilising mini campuses across regions to increase accessibility, a key feature of our application to DESE for RUC funds.

## **Wheatbelt Designated Area Migration Agreement Discussions**

Interest in exploring the merits of a Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) has been expressed by NEWROC and WEROC members as well as CBH. The objective of a DAMA is to fill recognised labour shortages in a designated regional area that cannot be filled by Australian workers from the domestic labour market with overseas workers. A DAMA provides access to a broader range of experienced overseas workers for vacant skilled or semi-skilled occupations that are available through the standard skilled migration programs.

RDA Wheatbelt will be facilitating discussions between industry, local government and the Wheatbelt Business Network to explore the specific skilled occupations required in the region, the geographic scope of the DAMA, the Designated Area Representative (DAR) role for a Wheatbelt DAMA and business case development.

The DAR engages with employers and stakeholders in the designated region and works to understand the region's workforce needs, issues and broad community views. The DAR will:

- Conduct a regional employer survey to gather labour market data and determine the demand for a DAMA.
- Engage with regional stakeholders including local employers, industry groups, community representatives and settlement support providers.
- Create and submit a business case to request a DAMA for their region.
- Work with the Department of Home Affairs who assess and provide feedback on the business case.
- Review draft versions of the DAMA Deed of Agreement and sign the agreement once reviews and negotiations are finalised.
- Where required, host DAMA information sessions for regional employers and stakeholders.
- Cover the costs of the business case development and negotiation phase.

## **Town Teams Movement**

The Town Team Movement continues to grow across the Wheatbelt with around 12 towns now participating in the program. Alyce Ventris is the Town Team Builder for the Wheatbelt she is based in Mukinbudin and can be contacted on 0428 365 018 or email [alyce@townteammovement.com](mailto:alyce@townteammovement.com).

Town Teams is about creating a sense of place and connection within communities, a short video of the Dowerin Do-Over is available through this YouTube link [The Dowerin Do-Over Story - YouTube](#). The Town Team Movement Website [www.townteammovement.com](http://www.townteammovement.com).

## **Grant Guru**

Remember to register for free email alerts for when grants open or if they change according to your preferences and profile. Register here <https://rdawa.grantguru.com.au/register/>.

Grant Guru is an aggregation of all online grant portals, it is essentially a one stop shop for funding pathways.

**From:** [Alan George](#)  
**To:** [Racelis Rose](#)  
**Cc:** [Chris Paget](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Digital Farm Grants Program (DFGP) Update.  
**Date:** Thursday, 14 April 2022 12:54:38 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image345682.png](#)  
[image284677.png](#)  
[image377449.png](#)  
[image599615.png](#)  
[image418609.png](#)

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Racelis

Please put this information in the information bulletin.

Kind Regards,

**Alan George**

Chief Executive Officer



**Shire of Lake Grace**

Address: 1 Bishop Street, Lake Grace WA 6353  
Postal Address: PO Box 50, Lake Grace WA 6353  
Phone: (08) 9890 2500  
Fax: (08) 9890 2599  
Website: [www.lakegrace.wa.gov.au](http://www.lakegrace.wa.gov.au)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ShireofLakeGrace](https://www.facebook.com/ShireofLakeGrace)

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**From:** Steve Mason <[steve.mason@fieldsolutions-group.com](mailto:steve.mason@fieldsolutions-group.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 April 2022 10:24 AM  
**To:** Gavin Treasure <[ceo@dumbleyung.wa.gov.au](mailto:ceo@dumbleyung.wa.gov.au)>; Alan George <[ceo@lakegrace.wa.gov.au](mailto:ceo@lakegrace.wa.gov.au)>; ceo <[ceo@kent.wa.gov.au](mailto:ceo@kent.wa.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Digital Farm Grants Program (DFGP) Update.

Gentlemen

I thought it timely that I provide you all with an update on the progress of the DFGP in your area. Please note the following:

- **Backhaul solution:** Dumbleyung site (near where the FSG tower will be erected) using Telstra backhaul to provide the services we require to operate the network.
  - Telstra study (to complete the backhaul and fibre link to the FSG tower) has been completed – waiting on the timeline (from Telstra) for the fibre run to be completed.
- **Towers and their locations:**
  - All “Facility Access Agreements” with the landowners are in place.
  - DAs approved (thank you for your support).
  - Geotechnical studies and site surveys completed for each site.
  - The four towers are being built and are due for completion mid-May (our supplier has experienced significant delays in getting materials and a backlog in work).
  - FSG’s Deployment Team has reviewed each site and the contractor (to complete the foundations, stand up the towers and add the electronics) will be confirmed shortly.
  - It is expected that all sites will have towers on site in June (with the Dumbleyung tower to go live first to enable the backhaul) and, fingers crossed, the network will be turned on by the end of June/early July (subject to the backhaul link being put in place by Telstra and the power connection being turned on – we will have a permanent power supply to the Dumbleyung and Nyabing towers and solar and batteries for the Kukerin and Lake Grace sites).

Happy to answer any questions you might have and if we don’t talk beforehand, to you and your families, have a safe and happy Easter.

All the best

**Steve Mason | WA/SA Territory Manager**



m 0438 825 555 | [www.fieldsolutions-group.com](http://www.fieldsolutions-group.com)

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# WALGA Quarterly Overview Report

## 2022 Q1 (January - March)



### Shire of Lake Grace

During this quarter, WALGA continued to provide information and support to Members as the State transitioned to open borders and community transmission of COVID-19.

A number of webinars were held offering information on topics including COVID-19 preparedness in the regions, vaccination policies and access to Local Government premises, waste management and events considerations, and insights from other States.

WALGA negotiated a bulk purchase of Rapid Antigen Tests with more than 120,000 tests distributed to Members and has also developed a special eLearning subscription, offering training and development targeted to those members of the Local Government workforce that are unable to work from home but are required to isolate due to COVID-19, such as outdoor workers.

The WALGA ER and COVID-19 Response Teams continue to provide information and updates on COVID-19 sector-related information as it becomes available.

#### MEMBER SERVICES



1

One training session was undertaken by a participant from the Shire of Lake Grace



1

Governance advice was provided once to the Shire of Lake Grace



1

Employee Relations advice was provided once to the Shire of Lake Grace



1

Procurement advice was provided once to the Shire of Lake Grace



2

2 Roadwise activities were conducted in Shire of Lake Grace

#### SECTOR ADVOCACY

##### COMMUNITY DISASTER RESILIENCE STRATEGY

WALGA has provided feedback to the State Emergency Management Committee's Community Disaster Resilience Strategy. Discussion Paper which outlines initiatives to guide the

development of a State Strategy. WALGA's submission was formed from feedback from Local Governments at workshops conducted by SEMC and directly from Local Governments.

##### LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS REVIEW

WALGA has appointed a Project Lead to undertake a review of the Local Emergency Management Arrangements. This project, in partnership with the Departments of Fire and Emergency Services and Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, aims to identify opportunities to develop fit-for-purpose and effective arrangements to enhance community resilience and ensure effective community communications. The Project will run in 2022 with support from the Natural Disaster Resilience Program and All West Australians Reducing Emergencies Grant Programs.

##### MEETINGS AND EVENTS

##### WHS INFORMATION SESSION ON MANAGING BUSHFIRE BRIGADES

On Wednesday, 9 February, WALGA and LGIS hosted a webinar to update Local Governments about the new

Work Health and Safety legislation and the implications for the management of Bush Fire Brigade volunteers, and to introduce Local Governments to the functionality of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services' Volunteer Hub. Presentations covered the changes resulting from the new Work Health and Safety Act 2020, ways to reduce the level of risk and meet your legislative obligations, and the Volunteer Hub.

2 Local Government Officers from the Shire of Lake Grace attended.

##### INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT ACT 2021

On Tuesday, 8 February WALGA Employee Relations hosted a webinar in conjunction with the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety on the Industrial Relations *Legislation Amendment Act 2021 (WA)*. The webinar provided an overview of the State Government's amendments to the *Industrial Relations Act 1979 (WA)*, *Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993 (WA)* and the *Public and Bank Holidays Act 1972 (WA)*. The webinar also discussed the proposed transitional arrangements should Local Governments be

# WALGA Quarterly Overview Report

## 2022 Q1 (January - March)



declared to not be national system employers for the purpose of *the Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth)*, which would require those Local Governments operating in the Federal industrial relations (IR) system to transition to the State IR system.

2 Local Government Officers from the Shire of Lake Grace attended via webinar.

### **COVID-19 WEBINAR ON VACCINATION POLICY**

WALGA Employee Relations engaged Mills Oakley to provide legal advice to the sector on the implementation of mandatory vaccination policies for workers. This advice was circulated to CEOs and a webinar was held on Friday, 4 March to deliver the advice to the sector and to provide Local Governments with an opportunity to engage in a Q&A session with Mills Oakley.

2 Local Government Officers from the Shire of Lake Grace attended via webinar.

### **COVID-19 WEBINAR – MANAGING COVID-19 AND ACCESS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT PREMISES**

WALGA hosted a webinar on Friday, 25 February for Local Government officers on managing COVID-19 and access to Local Government premises.

Presentations were provided by representatives of Moray & Agnew Lawyers.

2 Local Government Officers from the Shire of Lake Grace attended via webinar.

### **RESOURCES**

#### **ECONOMIC BRIEFING**

Economic Briefing and Local Government Cost Index was provided to all members.

### **CONTACTS**

#### **Chief Executive Officer**

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9213 2025

#### **Acting Executive Manager Strategic Policy and Planning**

Nicole Mathews  
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# SHICC PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN #17

**Tuesday, 22 March 2022 16:00 Hours**

This bulletin has been authorised by the Deputy Incident Controller – Public Health,  
Dr Revle Bangor-Jones

## COVID-19 case and vaccination numbers

- **Summary:** as of **Tuesday, 22 March**, in Western Australia (WA), there have been:
  - **99,467** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
  - **60,703** people recovered from COVID-19
  - **2,855,840** COVID-19 PCR tests conducted
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#) and [Vaccination dashboard](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status & Australia's vaccine roll-out](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports](#) and [WHO Dashboard](#)

## Living with COVID

### Chief Health Officer advice

The latest advice from the Chief Health Officer is available [here](#).

### Safe isolation and quarantine

Updated advice about how to isolate and quarantine effectively is available on the HealthyWA website, including how to protect others, care for others, and what to do when living with those at greater risk of serious illness. The advice is also available as a printable factsheet. Refer to the 'What is isolation and quarantine and how do I do so safely?' [accordion](#).

Refer to the 'Looking after yourself in quarantine and isolation' [accordion](#) for advice about food and medication access during isolation and quarantine, what to do in an emergency and how to access medical assistance.

### COVID-19 Care Plans

It's important that plans are in place in case you or someone in your household needs to isolate. Care Plans include information about you, your health and details of your plans for the care of adults, children and animals in your care, should you need to go to the hospital. Care Plans for all adults and children should be completed and placed somewhere easy to find (e.g. on the fridge or beside the bed). They can also be shared with your GP, hospital staff, and family or support person.

Refer to the 'COVID-19 Care Plans' accordion on the 'Staying Safe' page of [HealthyWA](#).

### Taxi and rideshare safety

Updated advice for rideshare and taxi drivers and passengers is [available](#) at the Department of Health website. Refer to the 'Travel, State quarantine facilities, accommodation and shared living' accordion.

## Elective surgery

Private hospitals will resume short-stay surgeries from Wednesday, 23 March 2022, after a [review](#) of the pause on performing certain surgeries. Day and single night stay Category 3 and non-urgent Category 2 surgeries will restart. There is no change to booking at public hospitals.

## COVID-19 case resources

Resources are available for people who return a positive COVID-19 test result. HealthyWA contains information about [looking after yourself](#), a 'what to do' [checklist](#), [quarantine and isolation](#) information, COVID-19 positive [children](#) advice, and a [symptom diary](#). The testing and isolation [protocols](#), among other resources, are available on [WA.gov.au](#).

COVID-19 cases and their family / caregivers are encouraged to refer to the resources on [HealthyWA](#) and [WA.gov.au](#) regularly to access the most up to date information.

## State-run clinic testing guide

A [guide](#) to getting a COVID-19 test **at a State-run clinic** for different cohorts of people (e.g. close contacts, school close contacts or symptomatic people) is available on HealthyWA. This allows staff and the community to easily identify whether a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or a rapid antigen test (RAT) will be offered at a State-run testing clinic, **when** testing is not required, **and what may occur when wait times for a PCR test exceed two hours**.

## Face mask exceptions

People who are unable to fulfil the requirement to wear a face covering (mask) under the [Directions](#) **must** have a supporting medical certificate issued by a medical practitioner currently registered by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). This is referred to as an 'approved medical certificate' in the Directions.

The medical certificate does not need to state the condition that makes mask wearing unsuitable. Use the AHPRA [website](#) to search for a medical practitioner. Refer to [WA.gov.au](#) for mask wearing requirements and [HealthyWA](#) for mask advice.

## Mask use guidance

Updated [guidance](#) on the use of face masks in the community, and healthcare and high-risk, client-facing workplaces has been provided by the Department of Health.

Face mask advice, including advice on mask wearing for children, is available on [HealthyWA](#).

## Workplace RAT use

The *Guidance for the use of RATs in workplaces* [recommends](#) that workplaces **do not** use RATs for widespread screening of asymptomatic staff.

RATs are most effective when they are used to test people with symptoms of COVID-19.

The guidance provides further advice for higher risk workplaces and asymptomatic critical worker close contacts.

## Resources for the immunocompromised

Printable patient [information sheets](#) for the immunocompromised have been developed by South Metropolitan Health Services to provide advice on how to stay safe, including during social gatherings.

## COVID-19 ICU capacity

A 24-bed intensive care unit (ICU) at Royal Perth Hospital [opened](#) to increase the State's ICU capacity. The redevelopment is optimised for COVID-19 conditions, including frequent air changes throughout the unit, separate rooms fitted with switch glass windows and a ventilation system that enables

the safe accommodation of both COVID and non-COVID patients. The facility includes 24 single rooms, including one positive pressure room, four negative pressure rooms and two rooms equipped to accommodate bariatric patients.

## Community

### TGA advice for RAT purchasing

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) released [advice](#) urging the public to only use COVID-19 RATs that are approved for use in Australia to avoid poor test performance. Consumers should refer to the [TGA website](#) before RAT purchase / use and refer to the *Obtaining approved COVID-19 rapid antigen tests* [factsheet](#) for advice.

### Public library ServiceWA grants

WA public libraries can apply for ServiceWA app assistance grants to help the community understand and use the app. ServiceWA is a convenient, secure and important tool in WA's COVID-19 response and all Western Australian's are encouraged to use it. The grant [guidelines](#) are available at the State Library of Western Australia website.

### Resources for industry and business

A 'COVID-19 in the workplace: Information for employers and employees' hub is now available on the Department of Health [website](#). Resources include tailored advice for certain sectors (including congregate living, industrial, mining and offshore, secure facilities, education and early learning, **and residential care facilities including aged care, disability and mental health**) and a checklist to identify close contacts in the workplace. This advice accompanies existing guidance, including the [TTIQ](#) (*Test, Trace, Isolate and Quarantine*) Plan.

Businesses are encouraged to refer to the [Department of Health](#) and [HealthyWA](#) websites regularly for the most up to date advice.

### WA free RAT program

Every household in WA can register online to receive 15 (10 in addition to the original 5) free COVID-19 rapid antigen tests (RAT) and have them delivered to their home address. [Register online](#). People who cannot register online or who need assistance can phone 13 COVID (13 26843). Households in remote communities in the [Kimberley](#) will be distributed 20 RATs.

Free RATs will be [provided](#) at some train stations, major events, universities and shopping centres. **Refer to [WA.gov.au](#) for community pop-up distribution point [locations](#) in the Perth metropolitan area.**

## COVID-19 vaccination program

### Upcoming ATAGI considerations

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) is currently finalising advice to the Australian Government Minister for Health on the need for a winter dose of COVID-19 vaccine, particularly for older people, who are at a high risk of severe disease.

The development of this advice is based on a thorough review of all current and emerging evidence on COVID-19 booster doses, including data on effectiveness, waning of immunity, international program settings and national vaccination coverage.

### Getting vaccinated after testing positive for COVID-19

People who have tested positive for COVID-19 can be vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine. ATAGI recommends people have their next dose of the vaccine once they have fully recovered from the acute illness.

People can choose to defer the dose by up to 4 months after COVID-19 infection and should seek advice from their health care provider about what is best for them.

Learn more about vaccination after testing positive for COVID-19 at the Australian Government Department of Health [website](#).

## In-home vaccinations available

Every effort is being made to vaccinate as many Western Australians as possible to protect against COVID-19, including the delivery of in-home vaccination to people who need assistance or who may not easily be able to get to a clinic, pharmacy or GP location.

Teams of vaccinators are going into residential areas to deliver vaccines to people, based on feedback from the community, local health service providers and requests registered through callers to 13 COVID (13 268 43).

Learn more on the Roll up for WA 'Vaccine information for people with a disability or require additional support' [webpage](#), fill out the 'Further Assistance Required' [online form](#) or call 13 COVID (13 268 43).

The vaccination team can provide the COVID-19 vaccine to anyone at the household aged 5 years and older if they are eligible for a first, second or booster dose.

People do not need to have a Medicare card or photo identification to receive the vaccine.

## Book Novavax booster through VaccinateWA

The Novavax vaccine **can be used** as a booster for individuals aged 18 years and over, where an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (either Moderna or Pfizer) is not suitable.

Selected State-run clinics **provide** the Novavax vaccine. **VaccinateWA has been upgraded and bookings can now be made** for Novavax (first and second doses) and booster doses.

Novavax is available on the following days and locations: Kwinana (Monday), Mirrabooka (Wednesday) and Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre (Sunday). Bookings through [VaccinateWA](#) are preferred for Novavax (first and second doses) and offered on the following days and locations: Kwinana (Monday), Mirrabooka (Wednesday) and Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre (Sunday). Novavax is also available in the Goldfields-Esperance region at all State-run clinics and selected clinics in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions.

## Commonwealth vaccination hub **this week**

The Australian Government pop-up vaccination hub for individuals working in disability, aged care, childcare, food, freight and pharmaceutical distribution industries will operate at the location detailed below. People with disability, their families and carers are also eligible to attend. The hub has wheelchair access, walk-in appointments, dedicated time slots for people with disabilities and in-car vaccination availability.

Address	Hours	Bookings
Dianella Plaza 366 Grand Promenade, Dianella	Monday, 21 March to Friday, 25 March – 9am to 5pm  Saturday, 26 March – 9am to 4.30pm  Sunday, 27 March – 11am to 4.30pm	<a href="mailto:bookings.support@vitalityworks.com.au">bookings.support@vitalityworks.com.au</a>  Ph: 1300 662 328

Disability drop-in sessions are available from 11am to 12pm
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## COVID-19 vaccination clinic locations

Find the nearest metropolitan or regional COVID-19 vaccination location by visiting the [Roll up for WA](#) website.

The Comirnaty (Pfizer), Spikevax (Moderna), Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) and Nuvaxovid (Novavax) COVID-19 vaccines are being administered at participating GPs and pharmacies for eligible populations. Participating GPs and pharmacies can be found by using the COVID-19 [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#).

## Vaccine information and resources

Please visit the sources below for more information and resources related to vaccines:

- HealthyWA – [COVID-19 vaccine](#) (for WA community), including [FAQs](#)
- WA Health – [COVID-19 vaccination program](#) (for WA health providers)
- Australian Government – [Children’s COVID- 19 vaccination program](#) community kit
- Australian Government – [COVID-19 vaccines hub](#)
- [Roll up for WA](#) and [Roll up for WA posters](#)
- Keeping Culture Safe and Strong Aboriginal - COVID-19 [vaccination resources](#)
- Australian Government – COVID-19 vaccination [Easy Read](#) resources

## Directions updates

COVID-19 State of Emergency [Declarations](#) and community [advice](#) webpages summarise the latest COVID-19 Directions in place in WA. Further information can be found on WA Government [website](#).

## New Directions

- [COVID Transition \(Testing and Isolation\) Directions \(No 6\)](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Level 2 Public Health and Social Measures\) Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [Authorisation by the State Emergency Coordinator](#)
- [Designation by the State Emergency Coordinator](#)
- [Designation of East Perth child health clinic and COVID-Ready Clinics at Duncraig and Willetton as a medical facility a person may seek urgent medical treatment, under paragraph 2\(d\) Schedule 4 COVID Transition \(Testing and Isolation\) Directions \(No 5\)](#)
- [Visitors to Residential Aged Care Facilities \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 11\)](#)

## Updated factsheets

- [Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines for Western Australian Residential Care Facilities Version 2](#)
- [Managing COVID-19 in a Mental Health Hostel – Guide for Clinicians \(new\)](#)
- [Managing COVID-19 in a Residential Disability Facility – Guide for Clinicians \(new\)](#)
- [Managing COVID-19 in a Residential Aged Care Facility – Guide for Clinicians \(new\)](#)
- [Donning and Doffing in Community Settings](#) — updated March 2022
- [Donning and Doffing in Industry Settings](#) — updated March 2022
- [Donning and Doffing in Healthcare Settings](#) — updated March 2022
- [Donning and Doffing for Healthcare Teams in State Quarantine Facilities](#) — updated March 2022
- [What to do when your COVID-19 test is Confirmed as Positive Checklist Version 2](#) — updated 23 March 2022

- [How do I Quarantine/Isolate Safely? \(new\)](#)
- [What to do if you are a COVID-19 Close Contact Version 3](#) — updated 18 March 2022
- [What to do when you test positive for COVID-19 Version 3](#) — updated 18 March 2022
- [Guide to Getting a COVID-19 Test at a State-Run Clinic](#) — updated 18 March 2022
- [Infection Prevention and Control Advice for WA Police During the COVID-19 Pandemic Version 5](#)

## Testing

### General population testing criteria

Any person may be tested if they have any one of the following clinical criteria: fever ( $\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) **OR** history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills), without a known source **OR** acute respiratory symptoms (e.g. shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, runny nose) **OR** acute loss of smell or taste **OR** a positive or inconclusive rapid antigen test result.

### Testing locations

Testing locations are listed on [HealthyWA](#).

### Reporting

Notify suspected COVID-19 cases by completing the notification form [online](#) or by printing the notification form (standard notifiable infectious diseases process should be followed).

COVID-19 positive rapid antigen test (RAT) results must be registered on the HealthyWA [website](#) or by phoning 13 COVID (13 268 43).

## Series of National Guidelines (SoNG)

The [latest](#) iteration was released on **22 March 2022**.

## Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)

The AHPPC recently [released](#) the following statements:

- [Mandating booster vaccination for disability support workers](#) — 16 **March** 2022
- [Mandating booster vaccinations in residential aged care workers](#) — 15 February 2022

## Business and industry

### Resources for more information

- [WA Department of Health](#) and [HealthyWA](#)
- WA [Department of Health Media releases](#)
- [Australian Department of Health](#)
- [Advice for the public \(WHO\)](#)
- [Advice in other languages](#) and [Translated Resources](#)
- [Advice and resources for Aboriginal people](#)
- [Covid Clinic walkthrough](#) – in multiple languages
- [Contact registers](#) information
- SafeWA [user guide](#)
- ServiceWA [user guide](#)
- [Mandatory vaccination](#) Directions and supporting documents
- Mandatory vaccination general and industry-specific [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- Proof of vaccination [Directions](#), [information](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [COVID-19 in the workplace](#) – Information for employers and employees

- [Posters, signage and resources](#) for businesses

## More information

- COVID-19 Clinic ONLY Test Results Enquiry Line: 1800 313 223 (Note: NOT for GP referred testing or private pathology clinic tests)
- COVID-19 WA Public Information Line: 13 268 43 (13 COVID)
- COVID-19 Travel Restrictions Exemption Application: Visit the [G2G PASS](#) website
- COVID-19 WA Police Line: 131 444 to report breaches of self-quarantine, business activities, border controls and other State of Emergency Directions

**Next advice** The Bulletin is issued weekly. Next issue: **29 March 2022**.

**Last updated 22 March 2022**

**This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.**

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# SHICC PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN #18

**Tuesday, 29 March 2022 16:00 Hours**

This bulletin has been authorised by the Deputy Incident Controller – Public Health,  
Dr Revle Bangor-Jones

## COVID-19 case and vaccination numbers

- **Summary:** as of Tuesday, **29 March**, in Western Australia (WA), there have been:
  - **154,901** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
  - **105,061** people recovered from COVID-19
  - **2,980,357** COVID-19 PCR tests conducted
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#), [Vaccination dashboard](#) and [WA COVID-19 data update](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status & Australia's vaccine roll-out](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports](#) and [WHO Dashboard](#)

## Living with COVID

### Chief Health Officer advice

The latest advice from the Chief Health Officer is available [here](#).

- [Changes to Public Health and Social Measures](#) — 24 March 2022

### Public health and social measures

The current Level 2 public health and social measures (PHSMs) will be eased as of 12:01am Thursday, 31 March 2022. The revised PHSMs will affect gatherings, density and capacity limits, contact registration requirements, access to hospital, residential aged and disability care facilities, events, community sport and higher education requirements.

Masks will continue to be required for people aged 8 years and above (and Year 3 and higher in school), other than in the home. Mask [advice](#) can be found on HealthyWA.

Refer to the [announcement](#) and [WA.gov.au](#) for further information. Once published, the Directions will be available via the [WA.gov.au Publications](#) page.

### School-specific advice

Restrictions in Western Australian schools will be eased for the start of [Term 2](#). Parents and carers will be permitted to attend school sites in certain situations if requirements are followed.

School camps remain postponed due to the COVID-19 transmission and disruption to learning risks.

Schools' contact tracing and reporting requirements have now changed; schools are only required to identify close contacts of cases within their school. Parents/guardians are required to identify all other close contacts (e.g. community sport, social gatherings).

Information for COVID-19 positive cases, including how to identify close contacts, is available on the 'Looking after yourself' [page](#) of HealthyWA.



## Recently recovered ('recent') cases

People who have recovered from COVID-19 do not need to be tested for COVID-19 within the **12 weeks** following the completion of their required isolation, including if they have symptoms that are consistent with COVID-19, are told they are a close contact, or are tested for workplace screening.

A recent case who develops symptoms associated with COVID-19 within 12 weeks should remain at home until symptoms resolve and seek advice from their healthcare provider, if required.

A recent case is not considered a close contact and does not require testing or quarantine.

Further information is available in the [Directions](#) and on the HealthyWA [Close contact](#) and [Quarantine and isolation](#) pages.

## Waste management

Waste that is contaminated with blood or body fluids is classified as clinical waste. Most waste generated in healthcare facilities and other workplaces, including all personal protective equipment (such as gowns, gloves, face shields and masks), can be classified as general waste.

Used rapid antigen tests can also be disposed of into general waste.

Face masks should not be altered before they are disposed of into general waste, and ear loop should not be removed. Refer to HealthyWA for face mask [advice](#).

All waste should be bagged and securely sealed before transporting for disposal.

Adhere to the [Code of Practice for Clinical and Related Waste](#) management for classification and disposal of general, clinical and sharps waste. The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) have provided [information](#) on the management of waste during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Actual vs scenario modelled case data

Bi-weekly data updates are available at the Department of Health [website](#). The updates compare WA Health scenario data and actual data, including cumulative cases, COVID-19 ward and ICU admissions, and COVID-19 vaccination status of hospital admissions.

## Safe isolation and quarantine

Updated advice about how to isolate and quarantine effectively is available on the HealthyWA website, including how to protect others, care for others, and what to do when living with those at greater risk of serious illness. The advice is also available as a printable factsheet. Refer to the 'What is isolation and quarantine and how do I do so safely?' [accordion](#).

Refer to the 'Looking after yourself in quarantine and isolation' [accordion](#) for advice about food and medication access during isolation and quarantine, what to do in an emergency and how to access medical assistance.

Asymptomatic close contacts can now leave isolation to get a COVID-19 vaccination if they can produce evidence of receiving a negative COVID-19 rapid antigen test within four hours before entering the vaccination site. This does **not** apply to symptomatic close contacts and confirmed cases of COVID-19. Refer to the [Directions](#) for all the requirements.

## COVID-19 Care Plans

It's important that plans are in place in case you or someone in your household needs to isolate. Care Plans include information about you, your health and details of your plans for the care of adults, children and animals in your care, should you need to go to the hospital. Care Plans for all adults and children should be completed and placed somewhere easy to find (e.g. on the fridge or beside the bed). They can also be shared with your GP, hospital staff, and family or support person.

Refer to the 'COVID-19 Care Plans' accordion on the 'Staying Safe' page of [HealthyWA](#).

## Taxi and rideshare safety

Updated advice for rideshare and taxi drivers and passengers is [available](#) at the Department of Health website. Refer to the 'Travel, State quarantine facilities, accommodation and shared living' accordion.

## Elective surgery

Private hospitals **resumed** short-stay surgeries from Wednesday, 23 March 2022, after a [review](#) of the pause on performing certain surgeries. Day and single night stay Category 3 and non-urgent Category 2 surgeries **recommenced**. There is no change to booking at public hospitals.

## COVID-19 case resources

Resources are available for people who return a positive COVID-19 test result. HealthyWA contains information about [looking after yourself](#), a 'what to do' [checklist](#), [quarantine and isolation](#) information, COVID-19 positive [children](#) advice, and a [symptom diary](#). The testing and isolation [protocols](#), among other resources, are available on [WA.gov.au](#).

COVID-19 cases and their family / caregivers are encouraged to refer to the resources on [HealthyWA](#) and [WA.gov.au](#) regularly to access the most up to date information.

## Community

### Resources for industry and business

A 'COVID-19 in the workplace: Information for employers and employees' hub is now available on the Department of Health [website](#). Resources include tailored advice for certain sectors and a checklist to identify close contacts in the workplace. **Guidance for safe isolation in congregate living and large households has recently been published**. This advice accompanies existing guidance, including the [TTIQ \(Test, Trace, Isolate and Quarantine\) Plan](#).

Businesses are encouraged to refer to the [Department of Health](#) and [HealthyWA](#) websites regularly for the most up to date advice.

## COVID-19 vaccination program

### ATAGI infographic on COVID-19 vaccines and doses

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has created a table which outlines the COVID-19 vaccines and doses that are recommended for each age and population group.

This one page reference can be downloaded from the Australian Government [website](#).

### Winter booster dose recommendations

ATAGI recommends an additional winter booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccination for selected population groups who are at greatest risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and who have received their primary vaccination course and first booster dose. This is to increase protection for people in these groups before winter starts.

These groups are:

- Adults aged 65 years and older
- Residents of aged care or disability care facilities
- People aged 16 years and older with severe immunocompromise (as defined in the [ATAGI statement](#))
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 years and older.

ATAGI does not currently recommend an additional booster dose for healthy people who are not in one of the above groups.

The additional winter booster dose can be given:

- from 4 months or longer after the person has received their first booster dose, or
- from 4 months after a confirmed COVID-19 infection, if infection occurred since the person's first COVID-19 booster dose.

See the ATAGI [statement](#) about recommendations for a winter booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

## Summary – vaccines recommended for boosters

No booster vaccine is recommended for people aged 5–15 years.

Comirnaty (Pfizer) is the only recommended vaccine for use as a booster for people aged 16–17 years.

For individuals aged 18 years and older, Comirnaty (Pfizer) or Spikevax (Moderna) COVID-19 vaccine are preferred for use as booster doses, however, Nuvaxovid (Novavax) can be used if no other COVID-19 vaccine is considered suitable for that [individual](#).

The AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine is no longer recommended by [ATAGI](#) for use as the booster dose for people who received a primary vaccination course of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, although it can still be used for this purpose if these individuals decline receiving an mRNA vaccine as a booster dose.

AstraZeneca is now only recommended when there are medical contraindications to the mRNA vaccines.

## Vaccine information and resources

Please visit the sources below for more information and resources related to vaccines:

- HealthyWA – [COVID-19 vaccine](#) (for WA community), including [FAQs](#)
- WA Health – [COVID-19 vaccination program](#) (for WA health providers)
- Australian Government – [COVID-19 vaccines hub](#)
- [Australian Government – COVID-19 vaccine fact sheets and guides](#)
- [Roll up for WA](#) and [Roll up for WA stakeholder toolkit](#)
- Keeping Culture Safe and Strong Aboriginal - COVID-19 [vaccination resources](#)
- Australian Government – COVID-19 vaccination [Easy Read](#) resources

## Directions updates

COVID-19 State of Emergency [Declarations](#) and community [advice](#) webpages summarise the latest COVID-19 Directions in place in WA. Further information can be found on WA Government [website](#).

## New Directions

- [COVID Transition \(Public Health and Social Measures\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Testing and Isolation\) Directions \(No 8\)](#)
- [Critical Infrastructure Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [WA Correctional Facility Entrant \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)

- [COVID Transition \(Face Covering\) Directions \(No 5\)](#)
- [Rapid Antigen Test \(Restrictions on Sale and Supply\) Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [Visitors to Residential Aged Care Facilities Directions \(No 12\)](#)

## Updated factsheets

- [What to do when you test positive for COVID-19 Version 4](#)
- [What to do when your COVID-19 test is Confirmed as Positive Checklist Version 4](#)
- [Congregate Living and Large Households — Safe Isolation for Cases and Close Contacts](#)
- [COVID-19 TTIQ Workplace Checklist — Congregate Living Facilities Version 2](#)
- [Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia #37](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines for Western Australian Residential Care Facilities Version 2.1](#)

## Testing

### General population testing criteria

The *Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia #37* is available on the Department of Health [website](#) under the 'Testing' accordion.

Any person may be tested if they have any one of the following clinical criteria: fever ( $\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) **OR** history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills), without a known source **OR** acute respiratory symptoms (e.g. shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, runny nose) **OR** acute loss of smell or taste **OR** a positive or inconclusive rapid antigen test result.

### Testing locations

Testing locations are listed on [HealthyWA](#).

### Reporting

Notify suspected COVID-19 cases by completing the notification form [online](#) or by printing the notification form (standard notifiable infectious diseases process should be followed).

COVID-19 positive rapid antigen test (RAT) results must be registered on the HealthyWA [website](#) or by phoning 13 COVID (13 268 43).

## Series of National Guidelines (SoNG)

The [latest](#) iteration was released on 22 March 2022.

## Business and industry

### Resources for more information

- [WA Department of Health](#) and [HealthyWA](#)
- [WA Department of Health Media releases](#)
- [Australian Department of Health](#)
- [Advice for the public \(WHO\)](#)
- [Advice in other languages](#) and [Translated Resources](#)
- [Advice and resources for Aboriginal people](#)
- [Covid Clinic walkthrough](#) – in multiple languages
- [Contact registers](#) information
- [SafeWA user guide](#)
- [ServiceWA user guide](#)
- [Mandatory vaccination](#) Directions and supporting documents
- [Mandatory vaccination general and industry-specific](#) [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

- Proof of vaccination [Directions, information](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [COVID-19 in the workplace](#) – Information for employers and employees
- [Posters, signage and resources](#) for businesses

## More information

- COVID-19 Clinic ONLY Test Results Enquiry Line: 1800 313 223 (Note: NOT for GP referred testing or private pathology clinic tests)
- COVID-19 WA Public Information Line: 13 268 43 (13 COVID)
- COVID-19 Travel Restrictions Exemption Application: Visit the [G2G PASS](#) website
- COVID-19 WA Police Line: 131 444 to report breaches of self-quarantine, business activities, border controls and other State of Emergency Directions

**Next advice** The Bulletin is issued weekly. Next issue: **5 April 2022**.

**Last updated 29 March 2022**

**This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.**

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# SHICC PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN #19

**Tuesday, 5 April 2022 16:00 Hours**

This bulletin has been authorised by the Deputy Incident Controller – Public Health,  
Dr Revle Bangor-Jones

## COVID-19 case and vaccination numbers

- **Summary:** as of Tuesday, **5 April**, in Western Australia (WA), there have been:
  - **210,729** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
  - **162,613** people recovered from COVID-19
  - **3,095,583** COVID-19 PCR tests conducted
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#), [Vaccination dashboard](#) and [WA COVID-19 data update](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status & Australia's vaccine roll-out](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports](#) and [WHO Dashboard](#)

## Living with COVID

### Chief Health Officer advice

The latest advice from the Chief Health Officer is available [here](#).

- [Changes to Public Health and Social Measures](#) — 24 March 2022

### Exposure sites and contact registers

Exposure sites in Western Australia (WA) will no longer be [published](#). The Department of Health will only notify of major outbreak venues or super-spreader events. The decision to remove exposure sites has been made due to widespread transmission of COVID-19 throughout metropolitan and regional WA and is aligned with other Australian jurisdictions.

[Contact registers](#) (including via ServiceWA, SafeWA or manual registration) are still a requirement in some venues in WA to ensure attendees of events and higher-risk venues can be effectively traced. Contact registration requirements broadly align to those events and venues at which proof of vaccination is required (other than those venues where contact registration is currently not required).

Refer to [WA.gov.au](#) and the [Directions](#) for all contact register requirements.

### Child COVID-19 health clinic

Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS) have opened a specialised COVID-19 safe child health clinic in East Perth to accommodate children with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 who need face-to-face appointments. This will ensure the most at-risk children and/or their parents or guardians who have tested COVID-19 positive will continue to have access to face-to-face appointments, when needed.

Read more in the [announcement](#).

## Cruise ships

Starting Sunday, 17 April 2022, small interstate [cruise ships](#) with a maximum of 350 passengers and crew will be permitted in Western Australia (WA). This aligns with the Commonwealth Government's decision to lift the ban on cruise shipping in Australia.

Stringent measures and protocols have been established to appropriately manage the return of cruise ships in WA. All cruise ships operating in WA are required to have a COVID-19 management plan in place, and crew and passengers will be required to meet vaccination requirements.

Larger cruise vessels will be permitted to return to Fremantle and other regional port destinations from 1 October 2022.

Existing COVID-19 guidance for the maritime industry is available at the Department of Health [website](#). Additional information will be made available in due course.

## Public health and social measures

**Level 1** public health and social measures (PHSMs) **came into effect** as of 12:01am Thursday, 31 March 2022. The revised [PHSMs](#) affect gatherings, density and capacity limits, contact registration requirements, access to hospital, residential aged and disability care facilities, events, community sport and higher education requirements.

Masks **requirements are in place** for people aged 8 years and above (and Year 3 and higher in school). Mask [advice](#) can be found on HealthyWA.

### School-specific advice

Restrictions in Western Australian schools will be eased for the start of [Term 2](#). Parents and carers will be permitted to attend school sites in certain situations if requirements are followed.

School camps remain postponed due to the COVID-19 transmission and disruption to learning risks.

Schools' contact tracing and reporting requirements have now changed; schools are only required to identify close contacts of cases within their school. Parents/guardians are required to identify all other close contacts (e.g. community sport, social gatherings).

Information for COVID-19 positive cases, including how to identify close contacts, is available on the 'Looking after yourself' [page](#) of HealthyWA.

### Recently recovered ('recent') cases

People who have recovered from COVID-19 do not need to be tested for COVID-19 within the **12 weeks** following the completion of their required isolation, including if they have symptoms that are consistent with COVID-19, are told they are a close contact, or are tested for workplace screening.

A recent case who develops symptoms associated with COVID-19 within 12 weeks should remain at home until symptoms resolve and seek advice from their healthcare provider, if required.

A recent case is not considered a close contact and does not require testing or quarantine.

Further information is available in the [Directions](#) and on the HealthyWA [Close contact](#) and [Quarantine and isolation](#) pages.

### Waste management

Waste that is contaminated with blood or body fluids is classified as clinical waste. Most waste generated in healthcare facilities and other workplaces, including all personal protective equipment (such as gowns, gloves, face shields and masks), can be classified as general waste.

Used rapid antigen tests can also be disposed of in general waste.

Face masks should not be altered before they are disposed of into general waste, and ear loops should not be removed. Refer to HealthyWA for face mask [advice](#).

All waste should be bagged and securely sealed before transporting for disposal.

Adhere to the [Code of Practice for Clinical and Related Waste](#) management for classification and disposal of general, clinical and sharps waste. The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) provided [information](#) on the management of waste during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Actual vs scenario modelled case data**

Bi-weekly data updates are available at the Department of Health [website](#). The updates compare WA Health scenario data and actual data, including cumulative cases, COVID-19 ward and ICU admissions, and COVID-19 vaccination status of hospital admissions.

### **Safe isolation and quarantine**

Updated advice about how to isolate and quarantine effectively is available on the HealthyWA website, including how to protect others, care for others, and what to do when living with those at greater risk of serious illness. The advice is also available as a printable factsheet. Refer to the 'What is isolation and quarantine and how do I do so safely?' [accordion](#).

Refer to the 'Looking after yourself in quarantine and isolation' [accordion](#) for advice about food and medication access during isolation and quarantine, what to do in an emergency and how to access medical assistance.

Asymptomatic close contacts can now leave isolation to get a COVID-19 vaccination if they can produce evidence of receiving a negative COVID-19 rapid antigen test within four hours before entering the vaccination site. This does **not** apply to symptomatic close contacts and confirmed cases of COVID-19. Refer to the [Directions](#) for all the requirements.

## **Community**

### **Resources for industry and business**

A 'COVID-19 in the workplace: Information for employers and employees' hub is now available on the Department of Health [website](#). Resources include tailored advice for certain sectors and a checklist to identify close contacts in the workplace.

**Guidance for abattoirs and meat processing facilities has recently been [published](#).** This advice accompanies existing guidance, including the [TTIQ \(Test, Trace, Isolate and Quarantine\) Plan](#).

Businesses are encouraged to refer to the [Department of Health](#) and [HealthyWA](#) websites regularly for the most up to date advice.

## **COVID-19 vaccination program**

### **ATAGI infographic on COVID-19 vaccines and doses**

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has created a table which outlines the COVID-19 vaccines and doses that are recommended for each age and population group.

This one page reference can be downloaded from the Australian Government [website](#).

### **Winter booster dose recommendations**

ATAGI recommends an additional winter booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccination for selected population groups who are at greatest risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and who have received



their primary vaccination course and first booster dose. This is to increase protection for people in these groups before winter starts.

These groups are:

- Adults aged 65 years and older
- Residents of aged care or disability care facilities
- People aged 16 years and older with who are severely immunocompromised (as defined in the [ATAGI statement](#))
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 years and older.

ATAGI does not currently recommend an additional booster dose for healthy people who are not in one of the above groups.

The additional winter booster dose can be given:

- 4 months or longer after the person has received their first booster dose, *or*
- 4 months after a confirmed COVID-19 infection, if infection occurred since the person's first COVID-19 booster dose.

See the ATAGI [statement](#) about recommendations for a winter booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

## Summary – vaccines recommended for boosters

No booster vaccine is recommended for people aged 5–15 years.

Comirnaty (Pfizer) is the only recommended vaccine for use as a booster for people aged 16–17 years.

For individuals aged 18 years and older, Comirnaty (Pfizer) or Spikevax (Moderna) COVID-19 vaccines are preferred for use as booster doses, however, Nuvaxovid (Novavax) can be used if no other COVID-19 vaccine is considered suitable for that [individual](#).

The AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine is no longer recommended by [ATAGI](#) for use as the booster dose for people who received a primary vaccination course of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, although it can still be used for this purpose if these individuals decline receiving an mRNA vaccine as a booster dose.

AstraZeneca is now only recommended when there are medical contraindications to the mRNA vaccines.

Eligible individuals can receive their winter booster dose from GPs, pharmacies and State-run vaccination clinics. Bookings for appointments in State-run clinics via VaccinateWA will open in mid-April however eligible individuals can attend any State-run clinic in the meantime without an appointment.

## Vaccine information and resources

Please visit the sources below for more information and resources related to vaccines:

- HealthyWA – [COVID-19 vaccine](#) (for WA community), including [FAQs](#)
- WA Health – [COVID-19 vaccination program](#) (for WA health providers)
- Australian Government – [COVID-19 vaccines hub](#)
- Australian Government – COVID-19 vaccine [fact sheets and guides](#)
- [Roll up for WA](#) and Roll up for WA [stakeholder toolkit](#)
- Keeping Culture Safe and Strong Aboriginal - COVID-19 [vaccination resources](#)
- Australian Government – COVID-19 vaccination [Easy Read](#) resources

## Directions updates

COVID-19 State of Emergency [Declarations](#) and community [advice](#) webpages summarise the latest COVID-19 Directions in place in WA. Further information can be found on the WA Government [website](#).

### New Directions

- [Quarantine Centre Workers \(Secondary Employment\) Revocation Directions](#)
- [Contact Register Directions \(No 4\)](#)
- [Flight Crew Testing Regime and Vaccination Requirements Directions](#)
- [Designation of Excluded Venue – COVID Vaccination Sites](#)
- [Designation of Excluded Gatherings – Relevant Ascot Gatherings](#)
- [Approval to Designate Exempt Gathering](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Interstate and International Border\) Amendment Directions](#)

## Updated factsheets

- [COVID-19 Response Checklist Abattoirs and Meat Processing Facilities](#)
- [Management of COVID-19 Outbreaks on International Commercial Vessels in Western Australia \(Industry Factsheet\) Version 2](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Disembarking or Embarking Vessels with COVID-19 Onboard](#)
- [Release of Cases from Isolation: Information for Clinicians – Updated 1 April 2022](#)
- [What to do when you test positive for COVID-19 Checklist Version 5](#)
- [What to do when you test positive for COVID-19 Version 5](#)
- [What to do if you are a COVID-19 close contact Version 6](#)
- [Managing the risk of COVID-19 using the Hierarchy of Controls](#)
- [PPE - Don & Doff in Healthcare Setting Competency Checklist](#)

## Testing

### General population [testing criteria](#)

The *Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia #37* is available on the Department of Health [website](#) under the 'Testing' accordion.

Any person may be tested if they have any one of the following clinical criteria: fever ( $\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) **OR** history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills), without a known source **OR** acute respiratory symptoms (e.g. shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, runny nose) **OR** acute loss of smell or taste **OR** a positive or inconclusive rapid antigen test result.

### Testing locations

Testing locations are listed on [HealthyWA](#).

### Reporting

Notify suspected COVID-19 cases by completing the notification form [online](#) or by printing the notification form (standard notifiable infectious diseases process should be followed).

COVID-19 positive rapid antigen test (RAT) results **must** be registered on the HealthyWA [website](#) or by phoning 13 COVID (13 268 43).

## Series of National Guidelines (SoNG)

The [latest](#) iteration was released on 22 March 2022.

# Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)

The AHPPC recently released the following statement:

- [Statement on Winter Season Preparedness – 31 March 2022](#)

## Business and industry

### Resources for more information

- [WA Department of Health and HealthyWA](#)
- [WA Department of Health Media releases](#)
- [Australian Department of Health](#)
- [Advice for the public \(WHO\)](#)
- [Advice in other languages and Translated Resources](#)
- [Advice and resources for Aboriginal people](#)
- [Covid Clinic walkthrough](#) – in multiple languages
- [Contact registers](#) information
- [SafeWA user guide](#)
- [ServiceWA user guide](#)
- [Mandatory vaccination](#) Directions and supporting documents
- [Mandatory vaccination general and industry-specific](#) [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Proof of vaccination](#) [Directions](#), [information](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [COVID-19 in the workplace](#) – Information for employers and employees
- [Posters, signage and resources](#) for businesses

## More information

- COVID-19 Clinic ONLY Test Results Enquiry Line: 1800 313 223 (Note: NOT for GP referred testing or private pathology clinic tests)
- COVID-19 WA Public Information Line: 13 268 43 (13 COVID)
- COVID-19 Travel Restrictions Exemption Application: Visit the [G2G PASS](#) website
- COVID-19 WA Police Line: 131 444 to report breaches of self-quarantine, business activities, border controls and other State of Emergency Directions

**Next advice** The Bulletin is issued weekly. Next issue: **12 April 2022**.

**Last updated 5 April 2022**

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# SHICC PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN #20

**Thursday, 14 April 2022 11:30 Hours**

This bulletin has been authorised by the Deputy Incident Controller – Public Health,  
Dr Revle Bangor-Jones

## COVID-19 case and vaccination numbers

- **Summary:** as of **Thursday, 14 April**, in Western Australia (WA), there have been:
  - **273,449** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
  - **225,698** people recovered from COVID-19
  - **3,201,112** COVID-19 PCR tests conducted
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#), [Vaccination dashboard](#) and [WA COVID-19 data update](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status & Australia's vaccine roll-out](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports](#) and [WHO Dashboard](#)

## Living with COVID

### Chief Health Officer advice

The latest advice from the Chief Health Officer is available [here](#).

- [Updated Close Contact Definitions and Public Health and Social Measures](#) — 13 April 2022

### Change in close contact definition

The close contact [definition](#) has been refined in line with the latest health advice. As of 12.01am Thursday, 14 April 2022, a close contact is

- a household member or intimate partner of a person with COVID-19 who has had contact with them during their infectious period
- someone who has had close personal interaction with a person with COVID-19 during their infectious period, where they spent 4 hours of cumulative contact with them in a residential setting (including a home, residential care facility, boarding school, maritime vessel, or other accommodation facility) in any 24-hour period where masks have been removed by both people during the period of contact
- someone who is informed by WA Health that they are a close contact.

The refined close contact definition means schools will no longer need to contact trace classroom or equivalent contacts when school resumes for Term 2. People in isolation who **are not a household close contact or someone who has had a personal interaction with COVID-19 case** (or a COVID-19 case) can leave isolation at 12.01am Thursday, 14 April 2022.

The relevant Directions are available on [WA.gov.au](#).

## Easing of PHSMs

Based on the latest health advice, the public health and social measures (PHSMs) will be eased. As of 12.01am Thursday, 14 April 2022 the following PHSMs will be affected:

- Capacity limits to home and private gatherings (indoor or outdoor) will no longer apply
- The 500-patron capacity limit for certain venues (such as hospitality venues, nightclubs, convention or function centres) will be removed
- Contract registration (including SafeWA / ServiceWA) will only be required for people visiting a hospital.

International and domestic travellers will no longer be required to complete a rapid antigen test (RAT) on arrival.

Refer to [WA.gov.au](http://WA.gov.au) for more [information](#) and the [Directions](#).

## 7-day isolation requirement

The calculation of the 7-day isolation requirements for COVID-19 cases and close contacts has been updated. For both close contacts and cases, the 7-day isolation period means 7 complete days after the day and time you became a close contact or a case. This means 7 x 24 hours.

For example, if you became a close contact or a case at 11.45pm on 14 April 2022, your isolation period will not finish until 11.45 pm on 21 April 2022.

Information for confirmed cases and close contacts is available on [HealthyWA](#).

## Registering a patient's positive RAT

The WA Health [Framework for System Alert and Response](#) (SAR) outlines when hospital staff are to administer a rapid antigen test (RAT) or a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test.

All positive RAT results must be:

- registered via the HealthyWA [website](#) or, if unable to access the online register, by phoning 13 COVID (13 26843)
- recorded in the hospital patient administration system.

## COVID-19 and travel

COVID-safe travel advice has been [published](#) on the HealthyWA [website](#).

The information available includes planning and preparing for your trip, what to do if you become unwell or a COVID-19 confirmed case or close contact while travelling (including accommodation and transportation advice) and testing information.

## Patient information sheets

Patient COVID-19 [information sheets](#) includes guidelines for [breastfeeding](#), [pregnancy](#), women in [labour](#), [diabetes](#) and other endocrine conditions, FAQs for [mental health services](#).

Printable patient [information sheets](#) for the immunocompromised have been developed by South Metropolitan Health Services to provide advice on how to stay safe, including during social gatherings.

## People at greater risk of serious illness

Information for people who are at greater risk of serious illness from COVID-19 is available on the HealthyWA [website](#).

The risk of serious COVID-19 illness increases if you're pregnant (and meet certain criteria), obese, living with multiple health conditions, have a disability, are 70 years of age or older or are Aboriginal.

Information is available about how to reduce your risk of serious illness, treatment options and what to do if you become a COVID-19 case.

## Child COVID-19 health clinic

Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS) have opened a specialised COVID-19 safe child health clinic in East Perth to accommodate children with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 who need face-to-face appointments. This will ensure the most at-risk children and/or their parents or guardians who have tested COVID-19 positive will continue to have access to face-to-face appointments, when needed.

Read more in the [announcement](#).

## Cruise ships

Starting Sunday, 17 April 2022, small interstate [cruise ships](#) with a maximum of 350 passengers and crew will be permitted in Western Australia (WA). This aligns with the Commonwealth Government's decision to lift the ban on cruise shipping in Australia.

Stringent measures and protocols have been established to appropriately manage the return of cruise ships in WA. All cruise ships operating in WA are required to have a COVID-19 management plan in place, and crew and passengers will be required to meet vaccination requirements.

The [Cruise Vessel Directions](#) and [Guidelines for Cruising in Western Australia](#) [resource](#) define the requirements for relevant small cruise vessels operating in WA.

Refer to the Directions at [WA.gov.au](#) and the COVID-19 guidance for the maritime industry at the Department of Health [website](#) for more information.

Larger cruise vessels will be permitted to return to Fremantle and other regional port destinations from 1 October 2022.

## COVID-19 vaccination program

### 'Taking it to the streets' school holidays vaccination campaign

WA Health has initiated a range of school holiday events focusing on COVID-19 vaccinations for children aged 5 to 11 years. Perth Zoo, Kings Park, Whiteman Park and other local attractions will have pop-up clinics during these school holidays.

Vaccine Commander Gary Dreiberger said that by 'taking it to the streets' and going to places where parents and children will be these holidays, he was hoping people would take advantage of the convenient access to vaccinations for their children.

"Our regional community clinics will be providing more opportunities and greater access for children with extended opening times and days, as well as mobile clinics travelling to the districts," he said.

Visit the Roll up for WA [website](#) for details.

### EVA – Easy Vaccination Access service established

The Australian Government Department of Health have launched the Easy Vaccination Access ([EVA](#)) service to help people book a COVID-19 vaccination. People need to send a text saying 'Hey EVA' to 0481 611 382 to receive a call back from a trained call agent and arrange a time for their vaccination appointment.

## Winter booster at state-run clinics

People eligible for the COVID-19 winter booster dose are currently able to walk into state-run clinics to receive the vaccine or book at participating GPs, pharmacies and Aboriginal Medical Services. In the next few weeks, people will be able to book winter booster appointments in state-run clinics via VaccinateWA.

Read the ATAGI [statement](#) about recommendations for a winter booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

## Vaccine information and resources

Please visit the sources below for more information and resources related to vaccines:

- HealthyWA – [COVID-19 vaccine](#) (for WA community), including [FAQs](#)
- WA Health – [COVID-19 vaccination program](#) (for WA health providers)
- Australian Government – [COVID-19 vaccines hub](#)
- Australian Government – COVID-19 vaccine [fact sheets and guides](#)
- Keeping Culture Safe and Strong Aboriginal - COVID-19 [vaccination resources](#)
- Australian Government – COVID-19 vaccination [Easy Read](#) resources
- ATAGI [infographic](#) on COVID-19 vaccines and doses recommended for each age and population group

## Directions updates

COVID-19 State of Emergency [Declarations](#) and community [advice](#) webpages summarise the latest COVID-19 Directions in place in WA. Further information can be found on the WA Government [website](#).

### New Directions

- [COVID Transition \(Interstate and International Border\) Amendment Directions No 2](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Testing and Isolation\) Directions \(No 10\)](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Public Health and Social Measures\) Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Testing and Isolation Modification\) Directions](#)
- [Contact Register \(Revocation\) Directions](#)
- [Cruise Vessels Directions](#)
- [Flight Crew Vaccination Requirements Directions](#)
- [Designation under Proof of Vaccination Directions for ANZAC day Gunfire Breakfast](#)
- [Designation under paragraph 54 COVID Transition \(Public Health and Social Measures\) Directions \(No 2\) for TABTouch Geraldton Gold Cup Day](#)

## Updated factsheets

- [Rapid Antigen Tests FAQs – Version 6](#)
- [Guidelines for Cruising in Western Australia](#) (new)
- [Communication Pathway for Vessels with Concern of COVID-19 – Updated 4 April 2022](#)
- [After your COVID-19 Test](#)

## Testing

### General population [testing criteria](#)

Any person may be tested if they have any one of the following clinical criteria: fever ( $\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) **OR** history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills), without a known source **OR** acute respiratory symptoms (e.g. shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, runny nose) **OR** acute loss of smell or taste **OR** a positive or inconclusive rapid antigen test result.

## Testing locations

Testing locations are listed on [HealthyWA](#).

## Reporting

Notify suspected COVID-19 cases by completing the notification form [online](#) or by printing the notification form (standard notifiable infectious diseases process should be followed).

COVID-19 positive rapid antigen test (RAT) results **must** be registered on the HealthyWA [website](#) or by phoning 13 COVID (13 268 43).

## Series of National Guidelines (SoNG)

The [latest](#) iteration was released on 22 March 2022.

## Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)

The [AHPPC](#) recently released the following statement:

- [Statement on Winter Season Preparedness](#) – 31 March 2022

## Business and industry

### Resources for more information

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- [Australian Department of Health](#)
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- COVID-19 WA Police Line: 131 444 to report breaches of self-quarantine, business activities, border controls and other State of Emergency Directions

**Next advice** The Bulletin is issued weekly. Next issue: **27 April 2022**.

Last updated **14 April 2022**

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