



Shire of Lake Grace

27 July 2022 Ordinary Council Meeting

INFORMATION BULLETIN

ITEM 16.1 - ATTACHMENTS

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Information Bulletin

Infrastructure Services Report

Shire of Lake Grace

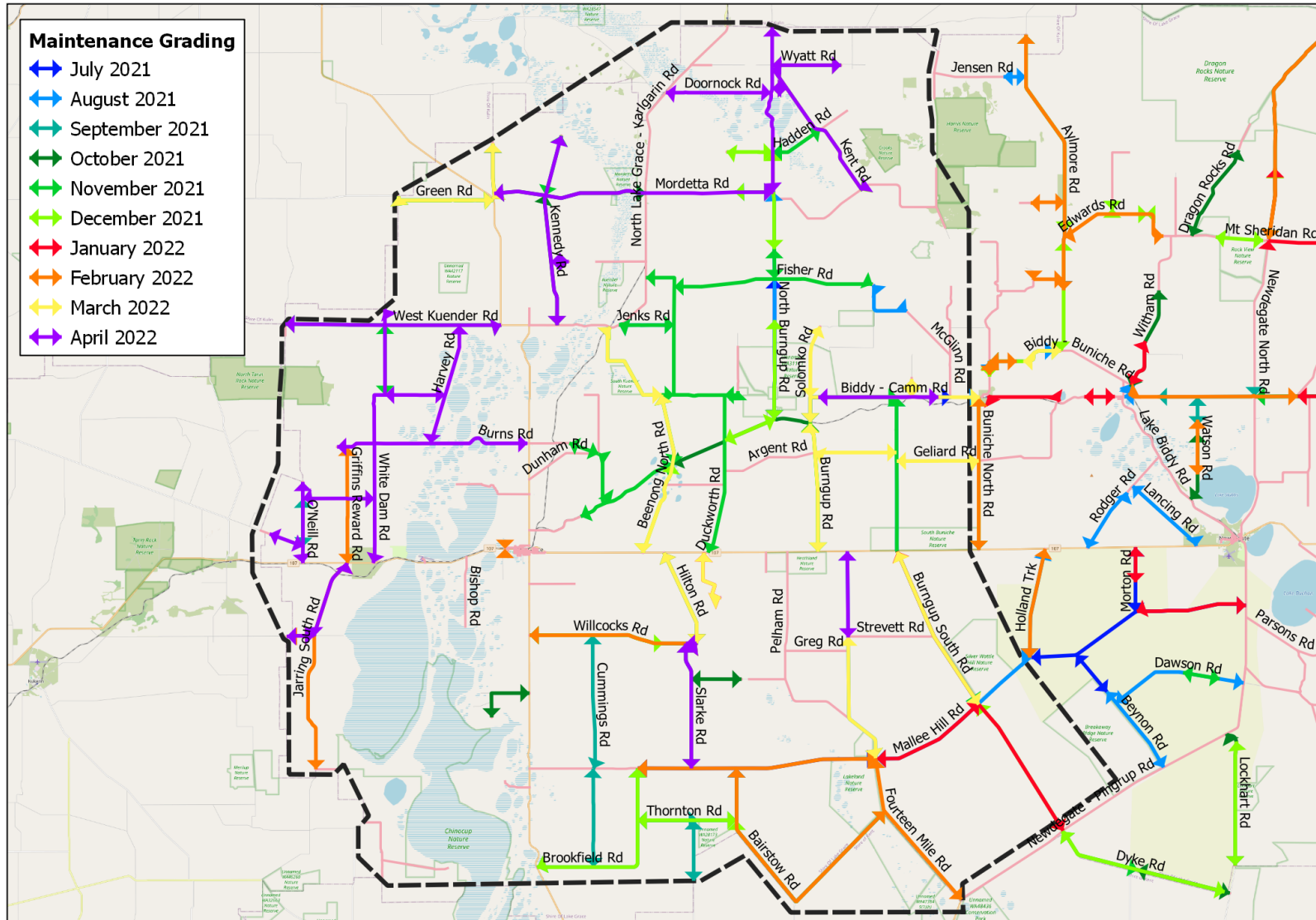
Prepared for the July 2022 Ordinary Council Meeting
presenting information up to the end of June 2022

Road Maintenance Grading

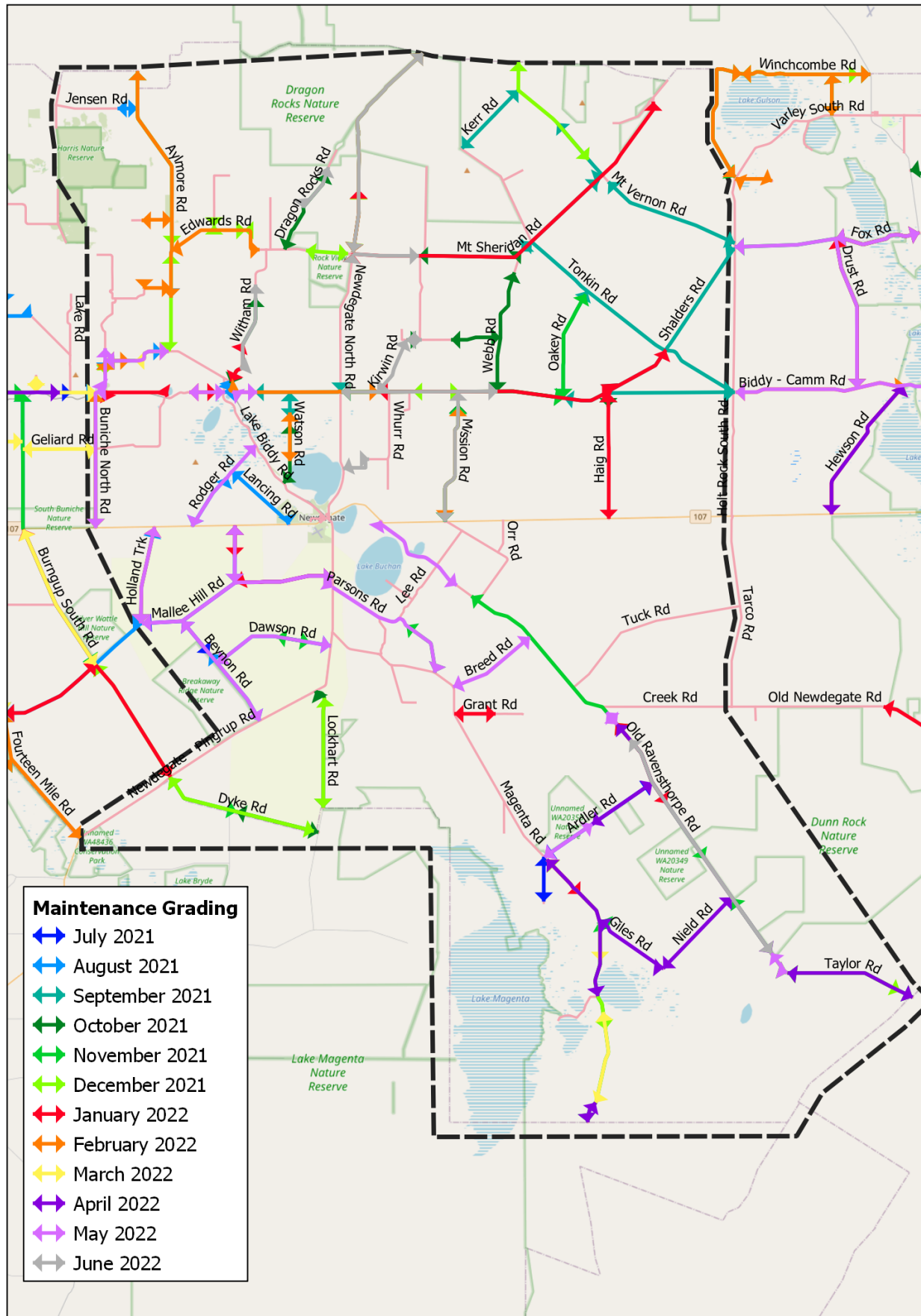
For the month of June 2022:

<i>Lake Grace Area</i>		<i>Newdegate Area</i>		<i>Lake King-Varley Area</i>	
<i>Road Name</i>	<i>Graded (km)</i>	<i>Road Name</i>	<i>Graded (km)</i>	<i>Road Name</i>	<i>Graded (km)</i>
*Unable to be retrieved		Biddy Camm Rd	12.9	Ace Rd	5.0
		Dragon Rock Rd	4.0	Biddy Camm Rd	32.8
		Easton Rd	1.3	Broombush Flat Rd	12.5
		Kirwan Rd	5.0	Finlay Rd	9.9
		McCracken Rd	7.0	Hogan Rd	15.8
		Mission Rd	11.1	Kathleen Rd	7.8
		Mount Sheridan Rd	5.5	Ladyman Rd	8.3
		Newdegate North Rd	18.8	Mulcahy Rd	3.8
		Old Ravensthorpe Rd	21.1	Norseman Rd	2.4
		Whurr Rd	2.8	Rose Rd	2.3
		Witham Rd	7.3		
Subtotal		Subtotal	96.8	Subtotal	100.6

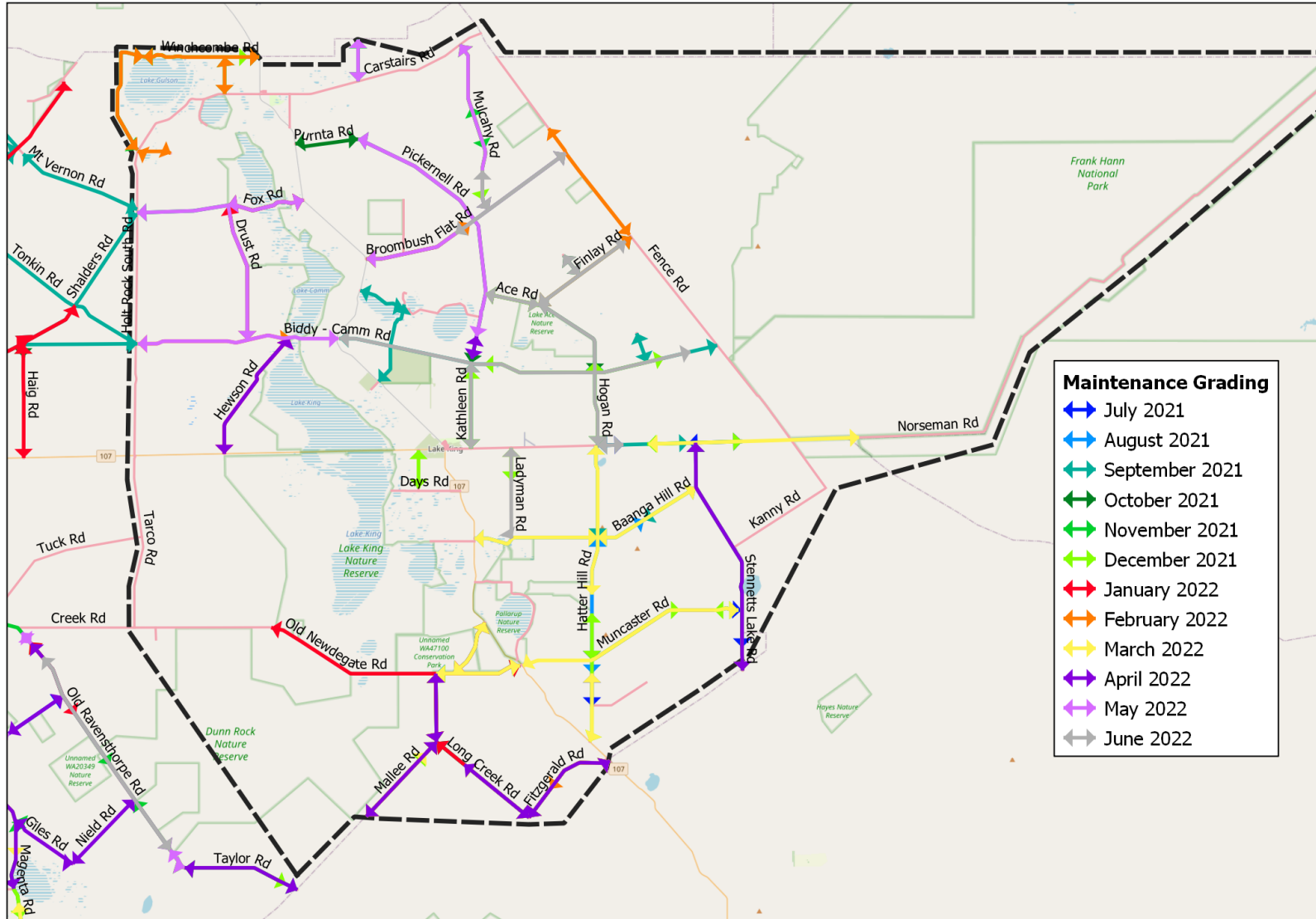
*Due to changes in payroll systems the old method of retrieving data no longer works.



Monthly maintenance grading – Lake Grace area



Monthly maintenance grading – Lake Grace area



Monthly maintenance grading – Lake Grace area

2021/22 Year-To-Date Grading by Month

Year	Month	<i>Lake Grace Area (km)</i>	<i>Newdegate Area (km)</i>	<i>Lake King-Varley Area (km)</i>	Monthly Subtotal
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	119.7	20.9	128.5	269.1
	April	156.3	71.6	69.7	297.6
	May	N/A	123.0	111.7	234.7
	June	N/A	96.8	100.6	197.4
	<u>To-Date</u>	<u>1033.4</u>	<u>1135.0</u>	<u>1208.7</u>	<u>3377.1</u>

Plant Maintenance

Plant Repairs

Plant	Plant Description	Action
PFT01	2010 Isuzu Fire Truck	Replacement brake valve.
PGRA07	2015 John Deere 770 Grader	Replacement filters.
PGRA08	2020 Caterpillar 140 Grader	Replacement filters.
PLOD07	2019 Volvo L90F Wheel Loader	Replacement rear lamp assembly.
PLVU49	2020 Ford Everest SUV	Replace 4 x tyres.
PROL10	2020 Multipac 114H-2 Steel Roller	Replacement filters.

Minor Acquisitions

- Earth auger

Building Construction & Maintenance

Construction

- Installation of a new fire pit at the Jam Patch;
- Upgrade of the Lake King Pavilion septic system completed;
- Installation of a new RV dump point at Lake King near the Goods Shed/truck parking area;
- Installation of a new universal access toilet at the Newdegate Sports Precinct, close to the hockey oval;
- Continuing works on refurbishing the Newdegate hall, with painting of the external surfaces complete and painting starting on the internal surfaces;

Maintenance

Lake Grace

- Shire Administration Office;
- Hall;
- Sports Pavilion;
- Old Sports Pavilion

Newdegate

- Indoor Recreation Centre;
- Public Toilets;

- Shire Depot

Lake King

- Public Toilets, Varley;
- Public Toilets;
- Library;
- Sports Pavilion;

Varley

- Public Toilets;

Parks & Gardens Maintenance

Lake Grace

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

Newdegate

- General maintenance, gardening/mowing of the recreation grounds, parks and skate park;
- Clean up of Pioneer Park;
- Spraying of ovals.

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

For the period of 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022:

Category	Complete	Incomplete	Total	% Complete
Works	25	3	28	89.3%
Building	16	0	16	100.0%
Parks & Gardens	23	2	25	92.0%
<i>Total</i>	<u>64</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>92.8%</u>



INFORMATION BULLETIN

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT

April - June 2022

HEALTH

This report is to highlight issues and activities ongoing within the environmental health area for the period April – June 2022

Covid-19

- Transition to evolving covid recovery phase, various Directions being revoked
- Easing of covid restrictions
- Covid Event Plans now strongly recommended no longer mandatory
- Weekly reports to WAPOL on contact register compliance checks no longer required
- Mandatory vaccination requirements for food premises revoked
- Webinar with Chief Health Officer - Mandatory Vaccinations

Events

- Newdegate Machinery Field Days event application pending submission

Food Businesses

Inspected the following premises for Food Act compliance-

- Lake Grace Hotel – registration application
- IGA Lake Grace
- Rosies Café
- Saltbush Inn
- Newdegate Hotel
- Newdegate IGA
- Newdegate Rec Centre

Food Recall Notices circulated to all food businesses

- Saputo Dairy Australia Pty Ltd Butter and Spreadable Butter Blend Products
- Bondi Protein - Vegan Protein Bar Peanut Butter
- EleCare, Similac and Alimentum infant formula products
- Bestow Powdered Drink Products - various weights
- Kinder chocolate products

- Garden Fortune Cookies
- Kahlua Espresso Martini
- Elite confectionery products
- INC Shred Max Raspberry Coconut Flavour 60G
- Deep Coriander Chutney
- Margaret River Gluten Free Muesli 500G
- Hanami Prawn Crackers
- Chris' Homestyle Plant Based Dips 200g
- Dineamic Creamy Pesto Pumpkin Gnocchi With Broccoli

Lodging Houses & Caravan Parks

Inspected the following for compliance -

- Saltbush Inn
- Lake Grace Caravan Park
- Myriadena Motel and Caravan Park (new owner enquiry)
- Lake King Caravan Park unapproved structures (ongoing)

Onsite Effluent Disposal Systems

- Lake King Tavern Public toilet
- Lake King RV dump point
- Lake King Pavillion

Pool Water Sampling

- End of public pool season

Public Buildings

Inspected the following for Health Public Buildings compliance-

- Newdegate Hotel
- Lake Grace Hall

Recycled Water Scheme

- Received Department of Health Approval (in principle)
- Infrastructure to be installed (pending)

Stallholder / Street Trading Permits

- Mrs G's Food Van

Waste Management

- Ongoing inspections of waste facilities
- Enquiries regarding asbestos disposal
- Enquiry about disposing of contaminated soil
- Newdegate Tip Annual Audit Compliance Report and Annual Environmental Report submitted to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Other

- Public Health Plan in final stage of completion
- Enquiry about alfresco funding for Sportsmans Club
- Survey from Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development regarding local egg producers
- Department of Health survey regarding mosquito surveillance for Japanese encephalitis
- Swimming pool fence barrier inspection – 2 Clarke Ave Lake Grace
- Update to CEO on new Work Health and Safety Regulations 2022 and asbestos removal work

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

Brendon Gerrard

Principal Environmental Health Officer



April – June 2022 Tourism Statistics

Prepared by Jo Morgan



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Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

Visitor data measurements recorded include;

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

Origin of visitors to the Shire of Lake Grace

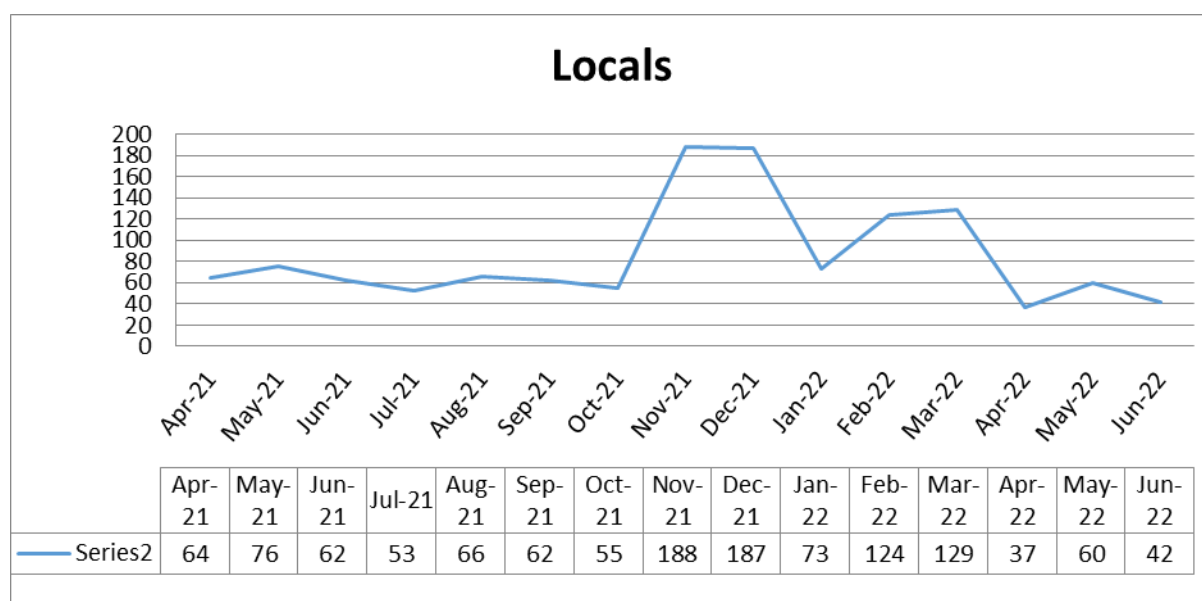
For the purpose of recording data visitors are classed into five groups;

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

Locals

A drop-in temperature, winter sports, seeding and COVID-19 cases have kept locals busy these last few months. With COVID-19 cases strong in our community, events have been put on hold.

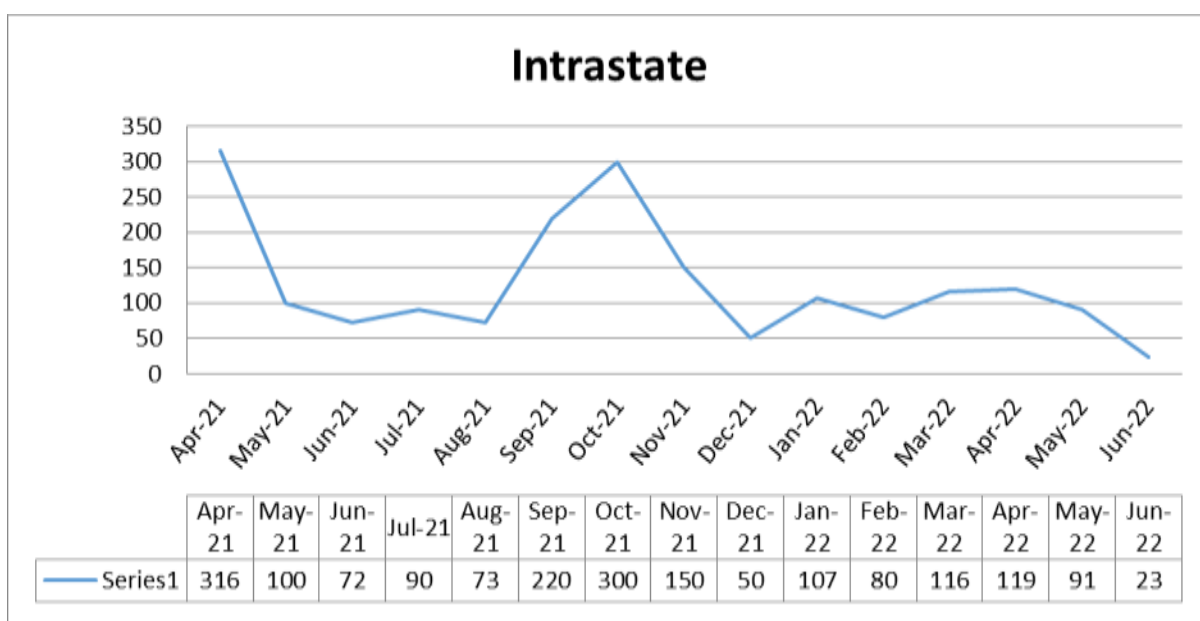
We usually like to host AIM Hospital Tours with local surrounding schools but flu season and COVID-19 has prevented us from going ahead. We predict this will continue over the cooler months. We have brought back the Growers Cart to the Visitor Centre verandah. Early days at the moment but interest is growing each day.



Intrastate Travellers

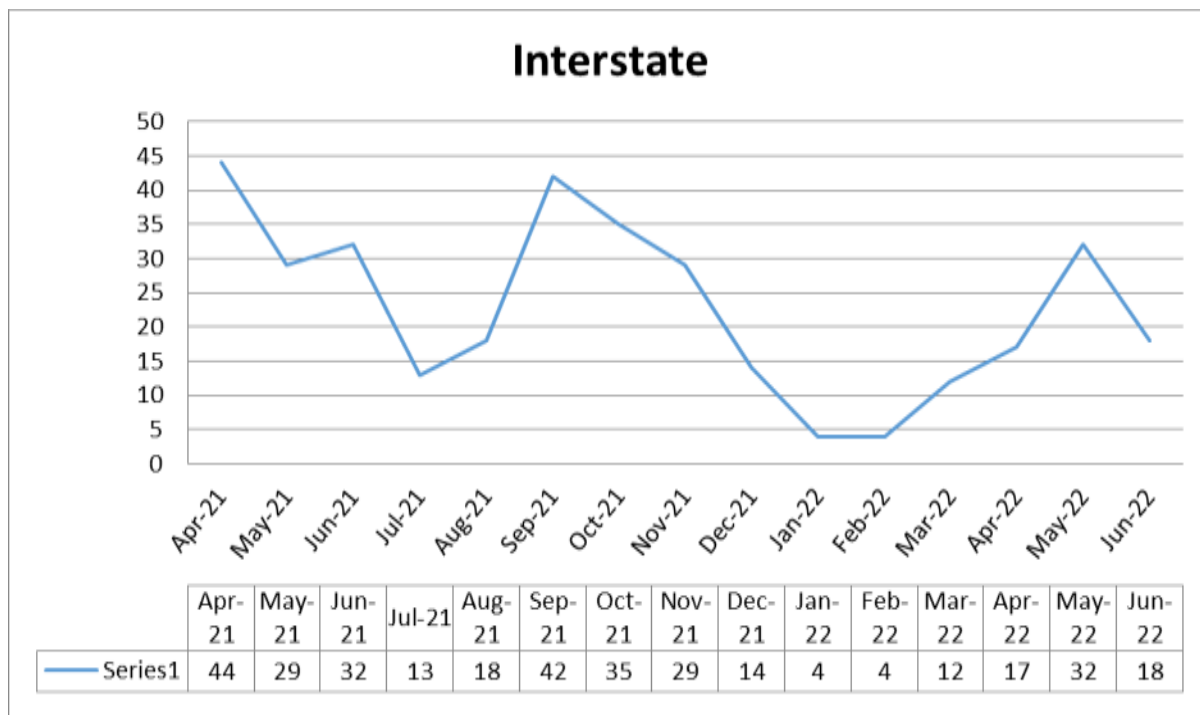
What a difference a year can make! Now there are no boarder restrictions in WA we are seeing a shift in tourism. The majority of travellers are visiting friends and family they've not seen for the last three years. There is less exploring of WA when we can now travel interstate and overseas.

Another factor that is keeping the crowds away is inflation. Petrol prices, interest rates and living expenses are at an all-time record high. With less caravans on the road it would appear the leisure traveller market is in hibernation. Our recent numbers are inline to pre-COVID-19 times in 2018 and 2019. Here's hoping the wildflower season will bring the crowds back our way.



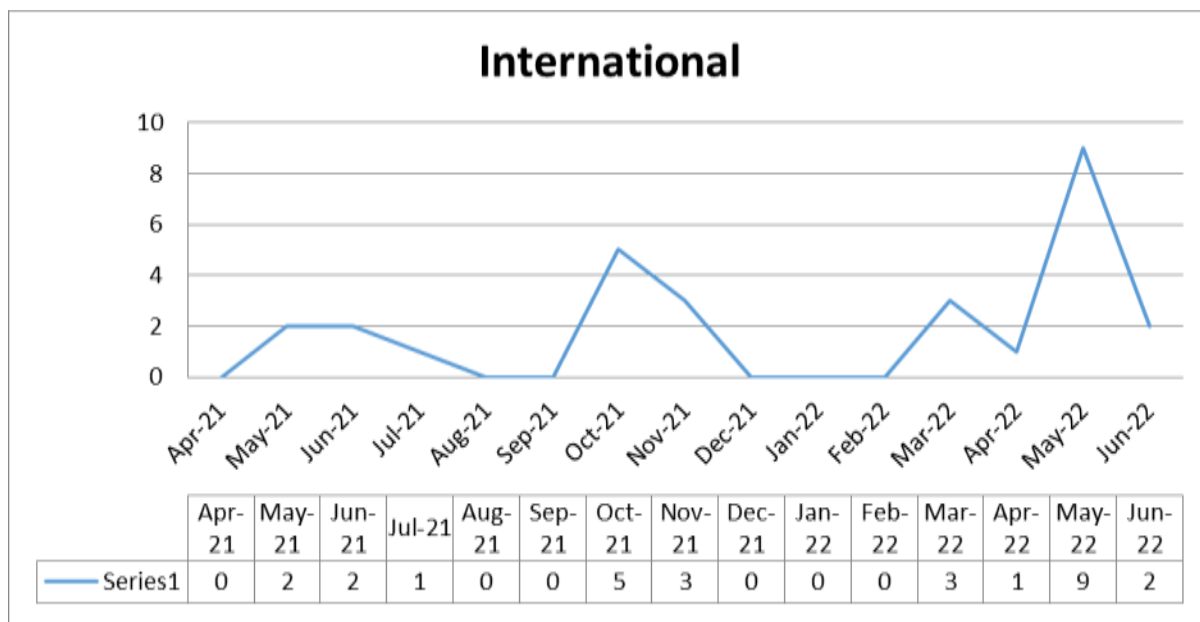
Interstate Travellers

We honestly thought we would be swamped with interstate travellers once the borders opened but it's a gradual process. Grey Nomads with no time restraints are most common traveller. It will take some time before travel confidence is restored.



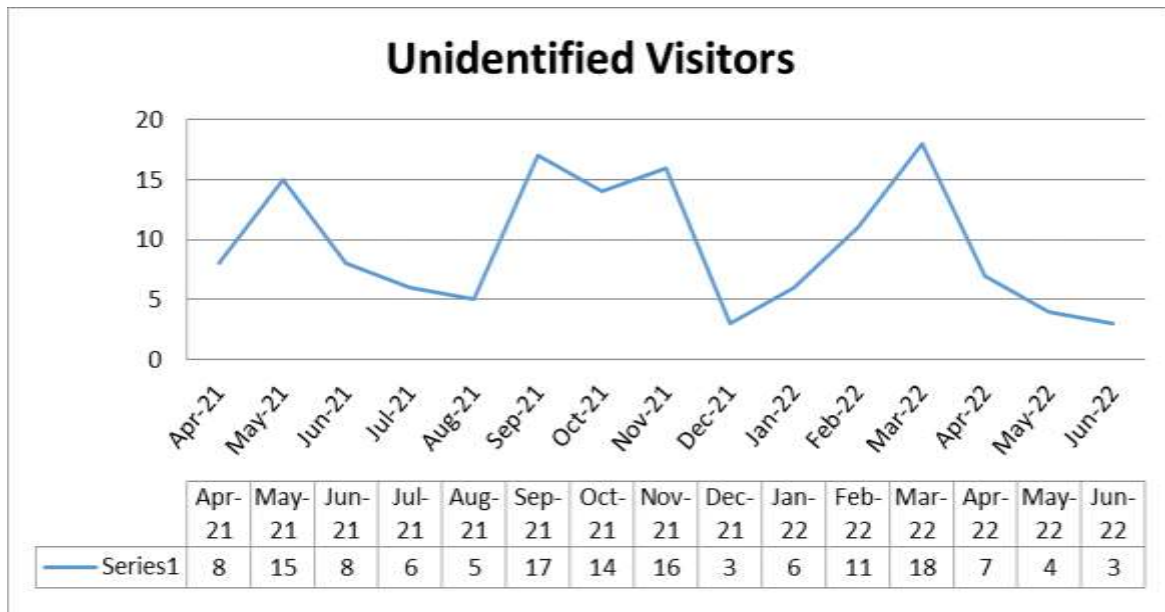
International Travellers

Although few, we finally can say we have international travellers back. Best results in the last 3 years!



Unidentified Travellers

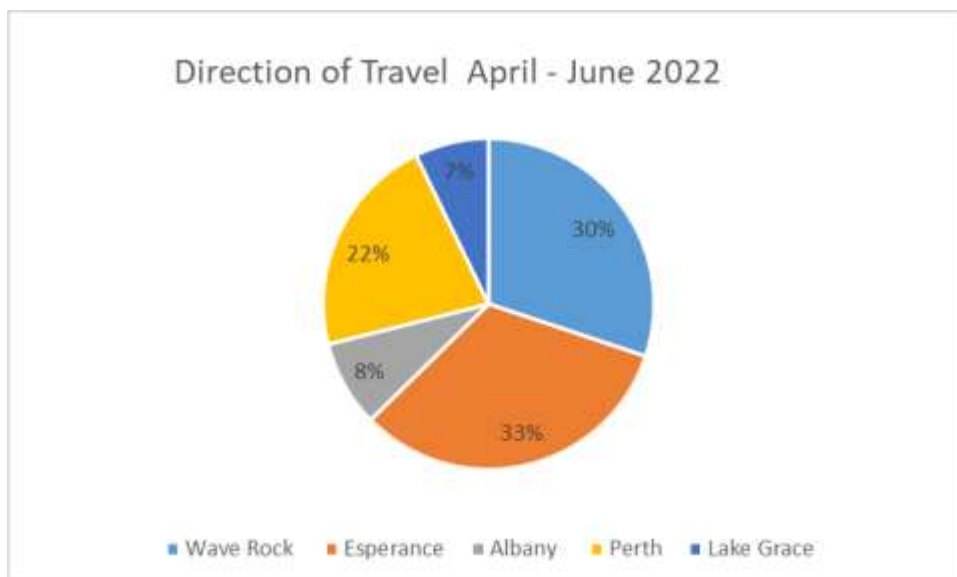
A group of travelers we try our very best to engage with but keeping in mind some people wish to simply browse and have a look around. As the visitor numbers picked up we often had many people in the centre at once. We've noted some people prefer to keep in the background and not engage and others could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



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

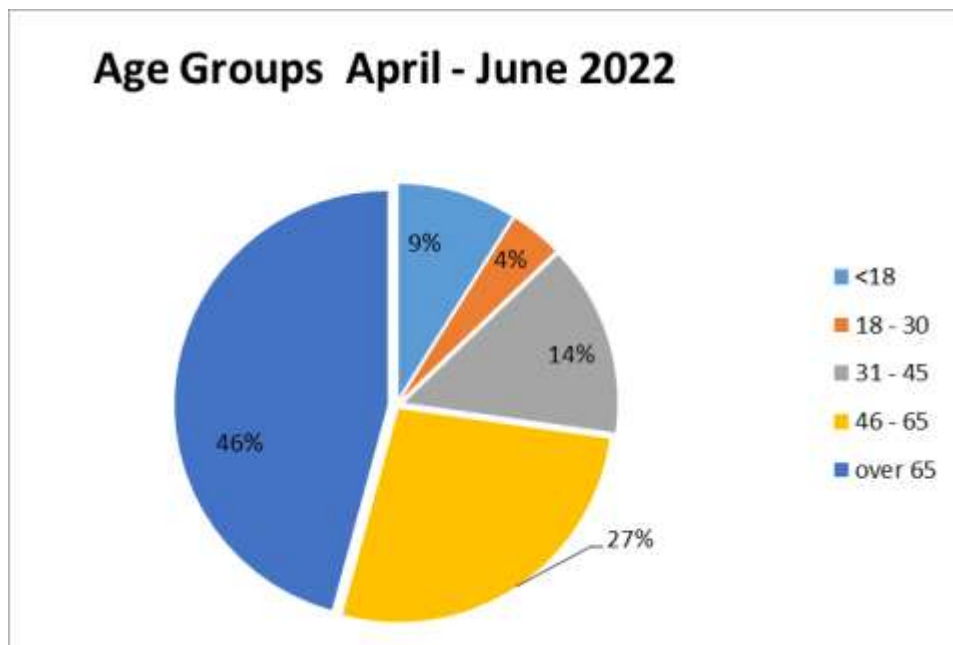
Direction of Travel

Known for our crossroads, our traffic consists off those heading to either Wave Rock/Hyden, Esperance, Albany or Perth. For years Wave Rock has dominated the direction of travel, Esperance is proving just as popular!



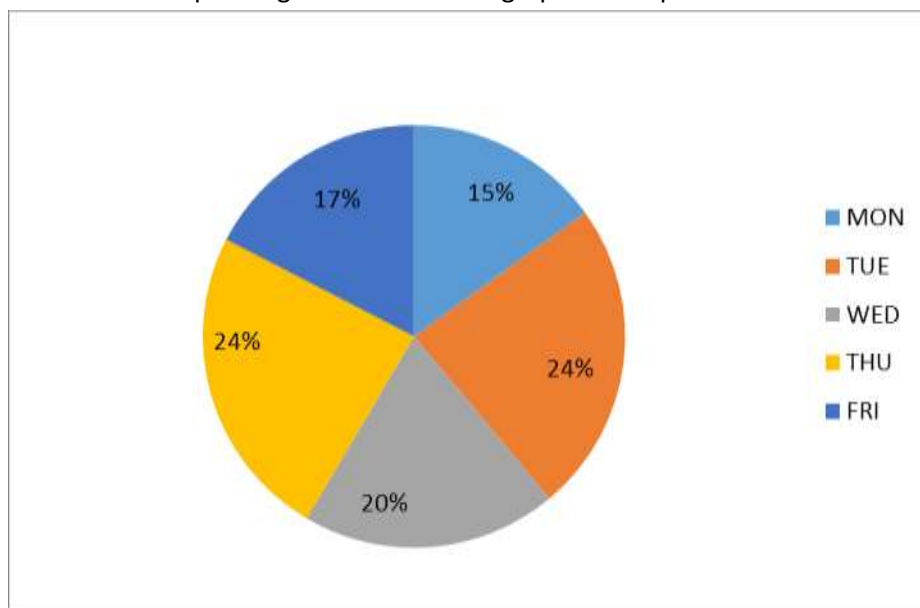
Age Group

The information tracked in this graph is reliant on the recorders ability to judge ages of visitors, therefore probably not entirely accurate in all cases. The Grey Nomads and Empty Nesters dominate yet again.



Popular Visiting Days

As we record our daily statistics it was interesting to note which days were popular amongst our visitors. This information over time can be used for staffing needs of the Visitor Centre along with tourism dollar spending in our shire. This graph is for April – June 2022.



Mode of Transport

People travel to and through our Shire in various forms of transport. We have recorded the transport used by those who called into the Visitor Centre. It's a great indication as to how people are moving through our region and how travellers are using our region.



55% + 2% electric car



36%



6%



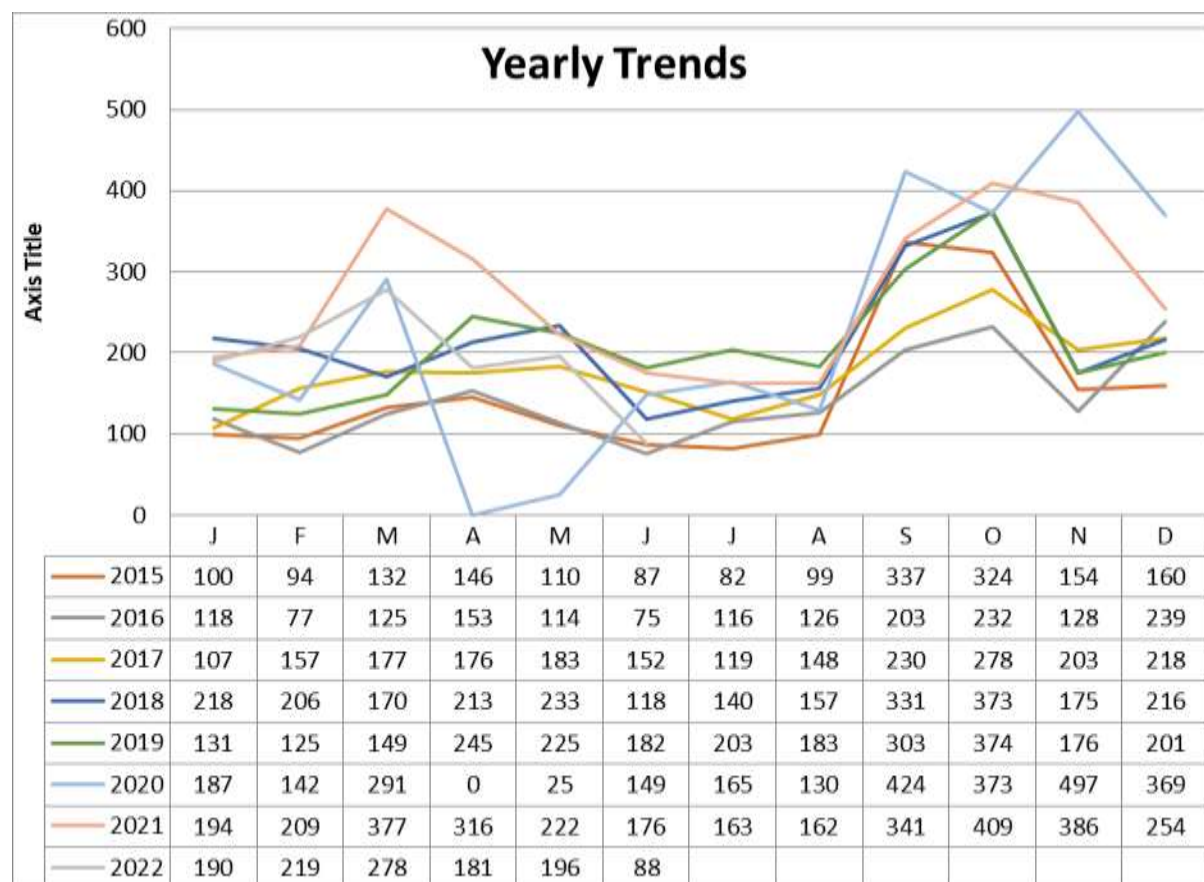
1% (Motorbike)



0%

Yearly Trends

The chart below shows the LGVC recorded visitor trends over the past eight years. There has been steady growth in visitor numbers to the Shire of Lake Grace annually. Since 2020 COVID-19-19 sure has given us some our highest and lowest amount of travellers. Even though there are currently no restrictions on travel, inflation and traveler confidence is taking effect. Our stats are similar to those four years ago.



Lake Grace Community Library



LIBRARY REPORT – 19/07/2022

Book exchange, accessioning and VDX are all up to date.

The library is now connected to the new library system, Oliverv5. Thank you to Rachael, Lake King Library officer, for answering my phone calls and helping me out. I am having a lot of trouble getting the CRC connected to the second computer. Now they are writing down any books issued that are taken out after my hours.

The year 7/8/9 and 10's are still enjoying their weekly visits to the library.

The school have put in a new computer for me, in the library. 😊

Statistics since the last meeting:

May 1 2022 – June 30 2022

Issues & Renewals 1209

Library Co-ordinator Lois Dickins
Lake Grace Community Library

Newdegate Library Report to 30/06/22

Newdegate Library will be participating again in the Scribblers Festival – Golden Feather Hunt. We have received our Library kit and will commence the Hunt on Tuesday 12th July. This will be advertised in the next issue of the Gate Post and the CRC Facebook page. We have one Amethyst Feather to be found which will receive the book prize.

Jade, our Trainee at the CRC has been doing a “theme of the month” and producing a display in the Library area. For the Month of June the theme was Naidoc to coincide with Naidoc week.

We advertised the Libby app in the Gate Post on 14/06/22 to promote the online resources available through the state library.

Interlibrary Loans 0 items sent to other Libraries 1 item requested.

Library Exchange: for the month of June we received 20 used items and 32 new items.

Regards

Claire Ness

Newdegate Library Statistics

Issued
and
Renewals

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



**Varley Progress Association
General Meeting Minutes
28th June 2022**

Meeting Opened: 18:30

Present: Colin Tapper, Gavin Hill, Sue-Anne Naughton, Cr Lucia Varone, CEO Alan George, Cr Ben Hyde, Cr Ross Chapell, MIS Craig Elefsen, Tristan Cornwall, John Cornwall, Carla Hyde, Sarah & Cameron Mudge, Nicola & Benny Slabbert, Graeme Atkins

Apologies: Clare & Brent Hyde, Cr Roz Lloyd, Anna Tons, John & Sheena Zurnamer, Margaret & Jim Sullivan, CEO Garrick Yandle, Naomi Cornwall, Cr Len Armstrong, Cr Debrah Clarke

Presentation & Endorsement of Previous Minutes:

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

Moved by Carla Hyde *Seconded by* Cr Ben Hyde

Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

- *Hall trees-* Tree planting at the hall is completed and reticulation in situ.
- *Anzac Day-* Another great service, thank you to Jim & Margaret for their hard work.
- *Telstra outages-* Colin sent an email to Boyd Brown of Telstra about constant outages. Boyd suggests customers have several forms of connectivity.
- *Solar pump (progress crop)-* Cameron got quote of \$7400 plus gst for the whole set-up. Current motor is broken. Tristan suggested we get a bigger tank (20 000L) as well, and to get quoted on a smaller solar pump. Cameron to do more research, and if required, submit a finance application.
- *Kulin-Holt Rock Rd-* Funding obtained to seal a further 27km over next 4 years.
- *Number plate auction-* A successful evening, with considerable funds raised for Ukraine and eastern state flood appeals.
- *Strategic Planning-* Sarah advised Varley survey emailed out to past & present community members. Paper copies also available at Varley Ag, and it will also be posted on Facebook. Survey closing date is 24th July 2022.
- *Varley Museum-* Cameron advised 3 people attended the meeting, everyone happy for museum to become a sub-committee of progress to manage the running of it. Cameron to follow up.

Presentation & Endorsement Finance Report:

Moved by Gavin Hill *Seconded by* Cameron Mudge

Presentation of Correspondence:

Incoming & outgoing letters/email read.

Reports:

- *Lake Grace Shire-*
CEO Alan Gorge- Community grants now closed, council verifying which ones to support, however only one from Varley for the tennis club, so likely to be approved. Funding has been obtained for 2x 250 000L tanks at Purnta Rock. Dempster Rock water source is now under the control of the Shire, and water department will fund cleaning out of the dam, and convert larger dam to a smaller dam, so there will be 2x 4000m³ dams when finished. A councillor resigned a couple of months ago, and they will be looking for another one, election will be held in August.

Cr Ross Chappell- First budget workshop held a few weeks ago, everything on track.

Nicola Slabbert- Queried if school bus signs where people don't live can be taken down. MIS Craig Elefson advised that school bus services don't advise the Shire of bus routes anymore, so if anyone wants some taken down then notify the Shire.

MIS Craig Elefson- Hall roof fixed.

- *Kulin Shire-*
27km of Kulin-Holt Rock Road being sealed over 4 years, as well as gravel re-sheet of 4km of Henderson Road. Shire's Corporate Business Plan has just been approved, to go with the Strategic Community Plan.
- *Cropping Committee-* Paddock currently in fallow. Thank you to Mudges, Hills, Hydes (Brent) & Sutherlands for spraying it so far this year.
- *Townscape Committee-* Chicken ranch and public toilets are to undergo a large overhaul, funding to be allocated in next shire budget.
- *Social Committee-* Auction/Sophie Jane was a big success & several movie nights have also been held so far this year. Cabaret in October potentially happening, however is yet to be confirmed.

General Business:

- *Hall fence (Carla)-* Would like a colourbond fence erected between hall and private property (western boundary). Yet to source a quote, will approach Shire for funding or put in progress finance application.
- *Town entrance solar lights (Carla)-* Lights keep getting stolen, idea is to purchase more and then weld them on to top of the structures. Cost approx. \$250 each, one on each upright signs, and two behind the entrance walls (8 in total). Graeme suggested trying two first and see if anyone takes them. Finance application required.
- *Walk trail/Geo Cash (Carla)-* Sheena and Carla are both on shire tourism committee, and there is an existing walk trail that goes from town up to rock. Idea is to improve that with signage & info, to then start the ball rolling on creating other walk trails around town. Would also like to include Geocash, which are rocks hidden around the community with a bar code, which people can then find using an app. CEO Alan George advised he can't find who owns the land where the rock is, may be Andy Mcphee, Carla & John to approach him.

Meeting Closed: 19:19



State Council

Full Minutes

6 July 2022

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

OPEN and WELCOME

The Chair declared the meeting open at **4:15pm**.

PAPERS

State Councillors were distributed the following papers under separate cover:

- Item 5.4 Finance and Services Committee Minutes incorporating the 2022-23 Budget;
- Item 5.5 Selection Committee Minutes
- Item 5.6 Selection Committee Guidelines
- Item 5.7 Use of the Association's Common Seal
- Item 5.8 LGIS Board Minutes
- Item 5.9 Honours Panel – Appointment of Non-executive Member
- CEO's Report to State Council for July 2022;
- President's Report for July 2022 (previously emailed to your Zone meeting).

1. ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1.1 Attendance

Members	President of WALGA - Chair Deputy President of WALGA, Central Metropolitan Zone Avon-Midland Country Zone Central Country Zone Central Metropolitan Zone East Metropolitan Zone East Metropolitan Zone Goldfields Esperance Country Zone Great Eastern Country Zone Great Southern Country Zone Kimberley Country Zone Murchison Country Zone Northern Country Zone North Metropolitan Zone North Metropolitan Zone North Metropolitan Zone Peel Country Zone South East Metropolitan Zone South East Metropolitan Zone South Metropolitan Zone South Metropolitan Zone South Metropolitan Zone South West Country Zone	President Cr Karen Chappel JP Cr Paul Kelly Cr Ken Seymour President Cr Phillip Blight Cr Helen Sadler Cr Catherine Ehrhardt Cr John Daw President Cr Laurene Bonza President Cr Stephen Strange President Cr Chris Pavlovich Cr Chris Mitchell JP Cr Les Price President Cr Moira Girando JP Cr Frank Cvitan JP Mayor Mark Irwin Cr Russ Fishwick JP President Cr Michelle Rich Cr Carl Celedin Mayor Ruth Butterfield Cr Cliff Collinson (Deputy) Mayor Carol Adams OAM Mayor Logan Howlett JP President Cr Tony Dean
Ex Officio	Lord Mayor, City of Perth President, LG Professionals WA	The Rt. Hon Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas Ms Annie Riordan
Secretariat	Chief Executive Officer EM Governance & Organisational Services EM Infrastructure	Mr Nick Sloan Mr Tony Brown Mr Ian Duncan

Acting EM Strategy, Policy & Planning	Ms Nicole Matthews
Acting EM Commercial	Mr Andrew Blitz
Acting EM Communications and Principal Special Projects	Ms Narelle Cant
Chief Financial Officer	Mr Rick Murray
Manager Strategy & Association Governance	Mr Tim Lane
Manager, Governance and Procurement	Mr James McGovern
Principal, Policy and Advocacy	Ms Kelly McManus
Governance Support Officer	Ms Chantelle O'Brien

The Chair welcomed:

- State Councillors and Deputy State Councillor Cr Cliff Collinson, South Metropolitan Zone
- The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas
- LG Professionals WA President, Ms Annie Riordan
- Deputy State Councillor Cr Melissa Northcott, South East Metropolitan Zone (observer)
- WALGA secretariat

1.2 Apologies

- State Councillor Mayor Peter Long, Pilbara Country Zone
- State Councillor President Cr Cheryl Cowell, Gascoyne Country Zone
- State Councillor Cr Doug Thompson, South Metropolitan Zone
- Deputy State Councillor Mayor Peter Carter, Pilbara Country Zone
- Deputy State Councillor President Cr Eddie Smith, Gascoyne Country Zone

1.3 Announcements

- 1.3.1** WALGA acknowledged the Whadjuk Nyoongar People who are the Traditional Custodians of this land we meet on today and pays respects to their Elders past and present.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

2.1 Minutes of meeting held 4 May 2022

Moved: Mayor Carol Adams OAM
Seconded: Cr Catherine Ehrhardt

That the Minutes of the WALGA State Council meeting held on [Wednesday, 4 May 2022](#) be confirmed as a true and correct records of proceedings.

RESOLUTION 353.5/2022

CARRIED

2.1.1 Business arising from the Minutes of meeting held 4 May 2022

Nil.

2.2 Flying Minute – WALGA Submission Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 Co-Design Process, Phase 1

Moved: Mayor Carol Adams OAM
Seconded: Cr Catherine Ehrhardt

That the [Flying Minute – WALGA Submission Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 Co-Design Process, Phase 1](#), be confirmed as a true and correct records of proceedings.

RESOLUTION 353.5/2022

CARRIED

2.2.1 Business arising from the Flying Minute – WALGA Submission Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 Co-Design Process, Phase 1

Nil.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil.

4. EMERGING ISSUES

Nil.

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5. MATTERS FOR DECISION

5.1 Review of advocacy positions relating to Emergency Management (05-024-02-0059 SM)

By Susie Moir, Policy Manager, Resilient Communities

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council:

1. Endorse the removal of the following Emergency Management Advocacy Positions
 - 8.1 Community Resilience
 - 8.2 Disaster Mitigation
 - 8.3 Emergency Services Levy
2. Endorse the following Emergency Management Advocacy Positions:
 - 8.1 Emergency Management Principles
 - 8.2 State Emergency Management Framework
 - 8.3 Sustainable Grant Funding Model for Emergency Management
 - 8.4 Consolidated Emergency Services Act
 - 8.5 Resource Sharing
 - 8.6 Lessons Learnt Management
 - 8.7 Emergency Services Levy
 - 8.8 Local Government Grants Scheme (LGGS)

Executive Summary

- It is proposed to remove the three existing Emergency Management Advocacy Policy Positions and replace them with a series of more comprehensive policy positions (Appendix 1).
- The new [Advocacy Positions](#) are based on previous State Council endorsed submissions, recommendations from significant reviews and inquiries, and information and priorities captured in sector-wide consultations.

Attachments

- Appendix 1 – Proposed Emergency Management Positions
- Appendix 2 – All State Council resolutions relating to Emergency Management

Policy Implications

Current Emergency Management Policy Positions reviewed:

8.1 Community Resilience

The Association advocates that the Commonwealth Government should commit to continued funding of the Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) as a fund to assist Local Governments to undertake community resilience building projects to reduce the impacts of identified natural disaster risks on communities.

8.2 Disaster Mitigation

The Association advocates that the Commonwealth and State Governments should commit to specific funding programs to enable Local Governments to undertake essential physical mitigation programs to further reduce the exposure of communities to the impacts of natural disasters and to ensure the protection of essential community infrastructure.

8.3 Emergency Services Levy

The Association advocates for full review of the Emergency Services Levy, its administration, fee structure and distribution mechanism to facilitate funding back to Local Government to support their Emergency Management responsibilities as legislated in the Emergency Management Act 2005.

Background

In 2012, WALGA undertook a comprehensive consultation process with the sector including delivering 11 workshops across WA to identify Local Government priorities in emergency management. More recently, WALGA has conducted sector-wide surveys in 2019 (*Before, During and After*) and 2021 (*Local Government Emergency Management Survey*) to gather relevant data and to help inform advocacy in emergency management issues.

WALGA has made numerous sector submissions to reviews and inquiries, including more recently:

- Tropical Cyclone Seroja After-Actions Review (2021)
- Independent Review of the 2021 Wooroloo Bushfire (2021)
- Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements (2020)
- ERA Emergency Services Levy Review (2017)
- Special Inquiry into the January 2016 Waroona Fire (the Ferguson Report)
- Perth Hills Bushfire, February 2011 Review (the Keelty Report)

These reviews and inquiries identified opportunities for improvement and WALGA's submissions made recommendations in relation to changes to emergency management processes and systems in preparedness, prevention, response and recovery.

Comment

WALGA Advocacy Positions guide WALGA's policy, advocacy and capacity building activities and support a consistent and whole-of-sector approach. There are currently three State Council endorsed Advocacy Position Statements relating to Emergency Management in the Emergency Management section of the [Manual](#).

The existing Emergency Management Advocacy Policy positions, 8.1 Community Resilience; 8.2 Disaster Mitigation; and 8.3 Emergency Services Levy have not been updated or reviewed since 2016.

The Office of the Auditor General is currently undertaking a performance audit of the administration of funding for volunteer fire and emergency services.

The proposed Emergency Management Advocacy Positions outlined in Appendix 1, are high-level principles derived from previous State Council endorsed submissions, recommendations from significant reviews and inquiries, and information and priorities captured in sector-wide consultations.

Consultation on the proposed Emergency Management Advocacy Positions was undertaken with the People and Place Policy Team on 6 April 2022 which was supportive of the new positions.

Consultation on the proposed advocacy positions was also undertaken with the Local Government Emergency Management Advisory Group on 7 April 2022. The members of this advisory group provided their support with the following changes suggested (now incorporated in Appendix 1):

- 8.3 Include that all funding guidelines should be comprehensive.
- 8.4 Include that Local Government must be involved in the co-design of the *Consolidated Emergency Services Act*.
- 8.8 Add in a comment that funding should support Work Health and Safety obligations.

Zone Consideration	
Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Gascoyne Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Goldfields Esperance Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported

Great Eastern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Great Southern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Kimberley Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Murchison Country Zone	No meeting held
North Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Northern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Peel Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Pilbara Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South West Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported

SOUTH EAST METROPOLITAN ZONE

That State Council:

1. Endorse the removal of the following Emergency Management Advocacy Positions
 - 8.1 Community Resilience
 - 8.2 Disaster Mitigation
 - 8.3 Emergency Services Levy

2. Endorse the following Emergency Management Advocacy Positions subject to Advocacy Position 8.7 being amended to include an introductory statement indicating that the State Government should establish a mechanism to collect the ESL itself:
 - 8.1 Emergency Management Principles
 - 8.2 State Emergency Management Framework
 - 8.3 Sustainable Grant Funding Model for Emergency Management
 - 8.4 Consolidated Emergency Services Act
 - 8.5 Resource Sharing
 - 8.6 Lessons Learnt Management
 - 8.7 Emergency Services Levy
 - 8.8 Local Government Grants Scheme (LGGS)

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

WALGA consulted with Local Governments in 2017 in order to ascertain their position in relation to the Emergency Services Levy and provided a submission to the Economic Regulation Authority ESL Review. In relation to the collection of the ESL by Local Governments WALGA supported the Draft Report's Recommendation 15:

Draft Report Recommendation 15 – The Office of Emergency Management should compensate local government for the cost of collecting ESL revenue (including the costs of recovering unpaid debts and any ESL revenue that cannot be recovered).

WALGA's comment in its submission stated:

COMMENT: Local Government's preference is not to collect the ESL on behalf of the State Government, due to the issues with community perceptions (many think it is a Local Government tax) and the considerable administrative costs that this imposes. It is however recognised that there are significant efficiency gains from including the ESL on Local Governments rates notices, and that this minimises the overall costs to the taxpayer as a result. If Local Governments are to continue to collect ESL revenue, WALGA supports the recommendation that the sector should be fully compensated for these costs, including the costs associated with collection of unpaid debts. This compensation should be regularly reviewed and indexed to an appropriate level to ensure the real value of compensation to the sector for this function is maintained.

COMPOSITE RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Mayor Ruth Butterfield
Seconded: Cr Frank Cvitan

That State Council:

1. Endorse the removal of the following Emergency Management Advocacy Positions
 - 8.1 Community Resilience
 - 8.2 Disaster Mitigation
 - 8.3 Emergency Services Levy
2. Endorse the following Emergency Management Advocacy Positions:
 - 8.1 Emergency Management Principles
 - 8.2 State Emergency Management Framework
 - 8.3 Sustainable Grant Funding Model for Emergency Management
 - 8.4 Consolidated Emergency Services Act
 - 8.5 Resource Sharing
 - 8.6 Lessons Learnt Management
 - 8.7 Emergency Services Levy, with point 3 of the position amended, so it states: The ESL should be collected by the State Government, but failing that, the administration fee should recompense Local Governments for the complete cost of administering the ESL;
 - 8.8 Local Government Grants Scheme (LGGS)

RESOLUTION 354.5/2022

CARRIED

Appendix 1 – Proposed Emergency Management Advocacy Positions

8 Emergency Management

Local Governments in Western Australia play a significant role in emergency management. Both Commonwealth and State Government policy identify Local Government as a key player in community disaster resilience, preparedness and response. Local Governments however face a number of challenges in addressing their emergency management responsibilities, and these challenges differ greatly across the State.

8.1 Emergency Management Principles

1. The State Government bears fundamental responsibility for emergency management and has the role of providing strategic guidance, support and services for emergency management activities in Western Australia.
2. The State Government should provide financial and resourcing support as necessary to enable Local Governments to adequately deliver their extensive emergency management roles and responsibilities under the State Emergency Management Framework.
3. The Local Government Sector should be engaged as a partner in policy and legislative reviews that impact Local Government emergency management roles and responsibilities.

8.2 State Emergency Management Framework

Local Governments are supported to undertake their emergency management responsibilities by a simple and streamlined State Emergency Management Framework with the primary objectives of:

1. Protecting people, the economy, and the natural environment from disasters;
2. Supporting communities in preventing, preparing for, responding to and recovering from emergencies;
3. Clearly outlining roles, responsibilities and accountabilities for Local Government and other emergency management stakeholders;
4. Scalability and adaptability that supports Local Governments of varied capacity and capability; and
5. Supporting agency interoperability through common systems and approaches to key activities including data management, communications, and hazard management.

8.3 Sustainable Grant Funding Model for Emergency Management

Local Government should be empowered to discharge its emergency management responsibilities through sustainable grant funding models that support a shared responsibility and all hazards approach to prevention, preparedness, response and recovery from natural disasters. A sustainable grant funding model for Local Government emergency management:

1. empowers Local Governments to undertake proactive approaches to preparedness, prevention, response and recovery;
2. supports the resilience of local communities through capacity-building activities and programs;
3. is responsive to the variations in Local Government resourcing and context;
4. develops the skills, capacity and capability of the emergency management workforce; and
5. is consistent, flexible, timely, accessible, scalable, strategic and the guidance provided is comprehensive.

8.4 Consolidated Emergency Services Act

1. The Association advocates for the development of a *Consolidated Emergency Services Act* to provide a comprehensive and contemporary legislative framework to support the effective delivery of emergency services in Western Australia. The Legislation should clearly define the roles and responsibilities of all emergency management stakeholders including Local Government.
2. The Local Government sector seeks ongoing engagement in the scoping and co-design of the Act and associated Regulations and supporting materials such as Guidelines and fact sheets.
3. The Association advocates for DFES to undertake a full costing analysis of the new Act and to provide to Local Government details of the cost implications prior to the release of any Exposure Draft Bill.
4. Any new or increased responsibilities placed on Local Government by the *Consolidated Emergency Services Act* must be accompanied by funding and resource support to enable Local Governments to adequately discharge those responsibilities.
5. The Association recognises that in addition to the *Consolidated Emergency Services Act*, the Regulations and other supporting materials that are developed to support it provide a key resource for Local Governments in understanding and discharging their legislative obligations.

8.5 Resource Sharing

Local Governments and the Association support resource sharing across the Local Government Sector for the purpose of emergency management, to support Local Governments to undertake effective and timely response and recovery to emergencies as well as conduct business as usual. The Association will endeavour to facilitate support to the sector in undertaking resource sharing arrangements.

8.6 Lessons Learnt Management

The Association advocates for the implementation of a transparent and contemporary assurance framework for emergency management lessons management overseen by the State Emergency Management Committee. Findings from inquiries and reviews, and progress on implementation of recommendations, should be publicly reported regularly and consistently.

8.7 Emergency Services Levy

1. Local Government request the implementation of the recommendations from the 2017 Economic Regulation Authority (ERA) Review of the Emergency Services Levy, which supported increased transparency and accountability in the administration and distribution of the ESL through:
 - a) Expansion of the ESL to fund Local Government emergency management activities across prevention, preparedness and response;
 - b) Administration of the ESL by an independent organisation that is funded through consolidated revenue, with regular independent reviews of expenditure and assessment of the effectiveness of ESL funding expenditure to support prevention, preparedness and response activities;
 - c) The ESL administration fee should recompense Local Governments for the complete cost of administering the ESL;
 - d) Public disclosure of the allocation and expenditure of the ESL;
 - e) Public disclosure by the State Government on the progress of implementation of each of the ERA Review recommendations; and
 - f) A review of the role, responsibilities and reporting arrangements of the Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) Program.
2. Local Government advocates that the ESL should be collected by the State Government, but failing that, the administration fee should recompense Local Governments for the complete cost of administering the ESL.

8.8 Local Government Grants Scheme (LGGS)

Local Government supports:

1. A full, independent review of the LGGS to investigate and analyse how ESL funds are allocated to Local Government via the LGGS;
2. A redesign of the LGGS to remove the ineligible and eligible list and create a sustainable, modern, equitable grants program that funds Local Government emergency management activities across prevention, preparedness and response;
3. An audit of existing buildings, facilities, appliances, vehicles, and major items of equipment for both Local Government Volunteer Bushfire Brigades (BFB) and State Emergency Services (SES) to inform the preparation of a Comprehensive Asset Management Plan and to guide future funding requests; and
4. in the interim, an immediately increase in the quantum of State Government funding to enable the provision of funding of operating and capital grant applications in full, to provide all resources necessary for the safe and efficient operation of Local Government Bushfire Brigades, in accordance with obligations of the Work Health and Safety 2020 legislation.

5.1 Attachment 2

Appendix 2 – All State Council resolutions relating to Emergency Management

June 2005 – 0058.COM.3/2005 March 2006 – 015.COM.1/2006 October 2006 – 115.COM.5/2006 October 2006 – 113.COM.5/2006 February 2007 – 168.1/2007 February 2007 – 180.1/2007 August 2007 – 250.4/2007 February 2008 – 332.1/2008 February 2008 – 341.1/2008 August 2009 – 550.4/2009 October 2010 – 122.5/2010 February 2011 – 12.1/2011 October 2011 – 119.5/2011 December 2011 – 156.7/2011 December 2011 – 155.7/2011 December 2011 – 154.7/2011 July 2012 – 88.4/2012 September 2012 – 112.5/2012 September 2012 – 111.5/2012 December 2012 – 129.6/2012 March 2013 – 169.1/2013 March 2013 – 168.1/2013 July 2013 – 227.3/2013 July 2013 – 219.3/2013 July 2013 – 226.3/2013 September 2013 – 250.4/2013	September 2013 – 253.4/2013 July 2014 – 59.3/2014 July 2014 – 62.3/2014 December 2014 – 115.5/2014 December 2014 – 114.5/2014 May 2015 – 39.2/2015 May 2016 – 37.2/2016 December 2016 - 104.6/2016 December 2016 - 112.6/2016 March 2017 - 6.1/2017 May 2017 - 30.2/2017 July 2017 - 59.7/2017 September 2017 - 91.9/2017 December 2017 - 116.6/2017 December 2017 - 117.12/2017 December 2019 - 140.7/2019 December 2019 - 141.7/2019 December 2019 - 170.7/2019 December 2019 - 171.7/2019 December 2019 - 172.7/2019 May 2020 - 57.2/2020 September 2020 - 126.4/2020 December 2020 - 160.6/2020 March 2021 - 180.1/2021 July 2021 - 244.4/2021 September 2021 - 276.5/2021
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5.2 New Emergency Management Advocacy Position – Community Emergency Service Manager Program (05-024-02-0059 SM)

By Susie Moir, Policy Manager, Resilient Communities

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the following WALGA Advocacy Position relating to the Community Emergency Service Manager (CESM) Program be endorsed:

8.9 Expansion of the Community Emergency Services Manager Program

That the Association advocates for an expansion of the Community Emergency Service Manager (CESM) Program, as follows:

- 1. All Local Governments should have the option of participating in the CESM Program.***
- 2. The full cost of the CESM Program should be funded through the Emergency Services Levy.***

Executive Summary

- The Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) Program was established to provide Local Governments with additional support to undertake their emergency management functions.
- Following consultation with the sector in 2021, it is proposed to endorse an Advocacy Position for the expansion of the CESM Program.

Policy Implications

In addition to [Agenda item 5.1](#) on the review of WALGA's Emergency Management Advocacy Positions, this new [Advocacy Position](#) provides a specific position on the CESM Program.

Background

The CESM Program was developed by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) to provide Local Governments and Bush Fire Brigade volunteers with an enhanced and comprehensive approach to bush fire risk management.¹

The CESM program was launched in 2003 and expanded in 2007 to encompass an all-hazards approach across prevention, preparedness, response and recovery (PPRR). The CESM Program is designed to bolster Local Government emergency management capacity to deliver services to support community resilience, including bushfire risk management, Local Government Grant Scheme funding applications, management of Bush Fire Brigades (BFBs), and supporting the establishment or review of Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA).

The CESM program is co-funded by DFES and the Local Government, making it particularly valuable to Local Governments without the financial capacity to fully fund an officer to undertake their emergency management functions. It is important to note that funding from DFES or the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) is not provided to Local Governments to fund a similar 'officer' role.

One of the key objectives of the CESM program is to develop a partnership that will see a best practice approach to emergency management delivery between the Local Government sector and DFES.

Key focus areas for CESMs are:

- Bushfire Risk Management Plan (BRMP) preparation and maintenance;
- support for the Local Government to comply with their relevant Emergency Management legislative requirements;

¹ DFES Community Emergency Service Managers Reference Manual, May 2021

3. enhancement of volunteer capability and capacity to maintain competencies and skills in line with brigade/unit profiles;
4. provision of all hazard community engagement programs and initiatives to educate local communities and reduce the likelihood of emergency incidents; and
5. operational response coordination within the Local Government area.

WALGA's submission to the 2017 Economic Regulation Authority's review of the ESL, supported the ESL funding the CESH function and strongly supported equitable funding of this position between Local Governments to ensure consistency.

Recommendation 14 of the ERA's final report stated that *"the ESL should be used to fund the full costs of the CESHs in local government. However, it should not be used to fund the broader emergency service and management responsibilities of local government, or the administration costs linked to bush fire brigades and SES units"*.

WALGA partially supported this recommendation, subject to a review of the role, responsibilities and reporting arrangements of the CESH Program. This Advocacy Position has been included in the proposed Advocacy Position on the ESL (listed in Appendix 1 under ESL in [Agenda item 5.1](#))

Comment

WALGA's 2021 Emergency Management Survey results indicated that Local Governments with access to the CESH Program generally felt more confident about their management of BFBs, compared to Local Governments without a CESH.

Of the 111 Local Governments with BFBs, 56 Local Governments have a share of 35 CESH positions with varying cost sharing arrangements between DFES and Local Government under individual MOUs (as at August 2021). DFES employs the Metropolitan CESH's under a Fire Services EBA, while the regional CESH's are employed by Local Governments under an EBA or Local Government Officer Award. Presently only Local Governments with responsibility for managing BFBs have CESHs.

Some examples of the different cost sharing arrangements include the following:

- The Shire of Mundaring (Band 2) has 9 BFBs and a DFES-CESH (not shared with another LG) with 50% paid by DFES and 50% paid by the Shire (covering salary, vehicle and other costs).
- The Shires of Morawa, Murchison, Perenjori, and Yalgoo (all Band 4) have a total of 13 BFBs and a shared CESH with 60% paid by DFES and 10% paid by each Shire.
- The Shires of Moora and Victoria Plains (Band 3 and 4 respectively) have a total of 10 BFBs and a shared CESH with 70% paid by DFES and 15% paid by each Shire.
- The Shires of Collie and West Arthur (Band 3 and 4 respectively) have a total of 9 BFBs and a shared CESH with 60% paid by DFES, 28% paid by the Shire of Collie and 14% paid by the Shire of West Arthur.

Some Local Governments have raised issues with the inconsistent cost and resource sharing arrangements, including the weighting of responsibility of the position to DFES, as well as the different leave and salary allocations depending on who is the employer of the CESH. Some Local Governments fund positions from their own revenue that perform the responsibilities of a CESH but do not receive any monetary support from DFES or the ESL.

In WALGA's 2021 Emergency Management survey, 24 Local Governments expressed an interest in accessing the CESH program. 15 Local Governments were 'unsure' if they wanted access to the CESH program and another 15 Local Governments advised that they didn't want a CESH.

On 18 May 2022, the People and Place Policy Team reviewed this proposed Advocacy Position and resolved to support the new Advocacy Position on the expansion of the CESM Program being included in the July 2022 State Council Agenda, subject to the following amendment:

To remove point 3 of the recommendation:

3. *All CESMs should be employed by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, to enable the provision of consistent employment arrangements to all CESMs.*

Zone Consideration	
Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Gascoyne Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Great Eastern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Great Southern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Kimberley Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Murchison Country Zone	No meeting held
North Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Northern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Peel Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Pilbara Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South West Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported

GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE COUNTRY ZONE

GVROC support the WALGA Advocacy Position relating to the Community Emergency Service Manager (CESM) Program as presented, noting the comments provided.

GVROC comments: *A number of concerns were raised during the discussion on the ESL operations and administration as follows:*

- *Currently DFES determine the rates of ESL for LGAs and also the distribution of the ESL. It is believed this is not best practice and it would be better to separate the operations and administration of the ESL, with a suggestion that the Department of Finance could set the rates, and DFES determine the distribution of the ESL and manage its operations.*
- *Need to also consider the impact of ESL on small regional LGAs and how they are best placed to collect and manage this process given limited capacity.*

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

The Goldfields Esperance Country Zone's concerns are addressed through Item for Decision 5.1 Review of Advocacy Positions relating to Emergency Management and the proposed new Advocacy Position 8.7 Emergency Services Levy:

8.7 Emergency Services Levy

Local Government request the implementation of the recommendations from the 2017 Economic Regulation Authority (ERA) Review of the Emergency Services Levy, which supported increased transparency and accountability in the administration and distribution of the ESL through:

1. *Expansion of the ESL to fund Local Government emergency management activities across prevention, preparedness and response;*
2. *Administration of the ESL by an independent organisation that is funded through consolidated revenue, with regular independent reviews of expenditure and assessment of the effectiveness of ESL funding expenditure to support prevention, preparedness and response activities;*

3. *The ESL administration fee should recompense Local Governments for the complete cost of administering the ESL;*
4. *Public disclosure of the allocation and expenditure of the ESL;*
5. *Public disclosure by the State Government on the progress of implementation of each of the ERA Review recommendations; and*
6. *A review of the role, responsibilities and reporting arrangements of the Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) Program.*

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: President Cr Michelle Rich

Seconded: Cr Chris Mitchell

That the following WALGA Advocacy Position relating to the Community Emergency Service Manager (CESM) Program be endorsed:

8.9 Expansion of the Community Emergency Services Manager Program

That the Association advocates for an expansion of the Community Emergency Service Manager (CESM) Program, as follows:

1. ***All Local Governments should have the option of participating in the CESM Program.***
2. ***The full cost of the CESM Program should be funded through the Emergency Services Levy.***

RESOLUTION 355.5/2022

CARRIED

5.3 Draft WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026 and Updated Advocacy Position

By Susie Moir, Policy Manager, Resilient Communities

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. the draft WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026 be endorsed.
2. WALGA's existing Advocacy Position on Public Libraries be deleted and replaced as follows:

3.8 Public Libraries

1. *Western Australian Local Government public libraries provide valuable local cultural infrastructure, creating social and community hubs for community capacity building, recreation, education and literacy, digital inclusion, and social connection, cohesion and inclusion.*
2. *WALGA supports the provision of Public Library services in Western Australia through a formal partnership between Local Government and the State Government of Western Australia, governed by the Library Board Act 1951, namely the State and Local Government Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia (2020).*
3. *The WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026 provides a framework for a shared vision, strategic direction and collaborative action in the provision of a vibrant and sustainable 21st century public library network.*
4. *It is essential that a sustainable funding model enables Local Governments to continue to deliver library services to support continued growth and adaptation to changing community needs.*

Executive Summary

- The Public Libraries Working Group (PLWG) has been overseeing the development of a new WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026 (Strategy) with a focus on strengthening communities, digital inclusion and the value placed on public libraries.
- Consultation was undertaken between February 2021 and April 2022 through workshops with public library professionals; stakeholder interviews with a targeted selection of metropolitan, regional and remote Local Government public libraries; and public consultation via an online survey.
- The new Strategy will support the work of 232 public libraries operated by Local Government around Western Australia.
- Endorsement of the Strategy is being sought from WALGA State Council and the Library Board of Western Australia, prior to submission to the Minister for Culture and the Arts for final approval.
- An updated advocacy position is proposed to reflect current governance arrangements, the outcomes being sought under the new Strategy and the achievement of elements of the existing position under the *2016-2021 WA Public Libraries Strategy*.

Attachments

- Draft WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026

Policy Implications

WALGA's existing advocacy position:

3.8 Public Libraries

WALGA supports:

1. *the provision of Public Library services in Western Australia through a formal partnership between Local Government and the State Government of Western Australia governed by the Library Board Act 1951;*
2. *the tiered model of library service delivery; and*
3. *the transfer of ownership of stock from State to Tier 1 Local Governments.*

(May 2019 – 46.4/2019)

Budgetary Implications

WALGA contributed \$16,755 to the consultant's fees to undertake the community consultation, and prepare and draft the Strategy and a proposed Implementation Plan and Evaluation Framework.

Background

WALGA is a party to the *State and Local Government Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia (2020)* (the Agreement) as well as Chair of the PLWG which is established to oversee the implementation of the Agreement. Other members of the PLWG are:

- State Library of WA;
- Library Board of WA;
- Public Libraries WA;
- a representative from a Tier 2 regional public library;
- LG Professionals WA;
- Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC);
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development; and
- Office of Digital Government.

PLWG identified that the 2017 *WA Public Libraries Strategy* was outdated and engaged a consultant to develop a new strategy in December 2021. The Strategy has been developed, guided by a Working Group involving representatives from WALGA, DLGSC, PLWA, LG Professionals WA and the State Library.

Consultation was undertaken with Local Governments and the public libraries sector during 2021, and further targeted community consultation on the draft Strategy was undertaken through a selection of metropolitan, regional and remote Local Government public libraries, as well as broad community consultation via a survey, from February to April 2022.

The Strategy outlines a set of principles to support implementation, with a focus on delivering the best outcomes for Western Australians and ensuring that PLWG members are committed to working in partnership to deliver these outcomes.

The Strategy is guided by the following principles:

- Community comes first;
- We are stronger and smarter when we work together;
- We are accountable; and
- We are committed to success.

The Strategy outcomes are outlined under three key pillars, being:

- Libraries Strengthening Community;
- Digitally Inclusive Libraries; and
- Public Libraries Valued as an Essential Community Asset.

Comment

WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026

Through public libraries, Local Governments provide important, local level social and cultural infrastructure. Supported through a partnership between State and Local Government, public libraries play an essential role in community capacity building and connection, literacy and skills development, social inclusion, facilitating digital inclusion, and supporting access to technology.

The new Strategy acknowledges the need to ensure that public libraries accurately assess and evaluate the impact of the services they provide to their communities. This is critical to demonstrating the value of libraries to stakeholders and communities and will assist in ensuring sustainable funding for libraries to continue to grow and respond to the changing needs of their communities.

In 2021 there were more than 7 million in-person visits and 3 million online visits to public libraries. Western Australians borrowed more than 16 million books, electronic books, audiobooks, magazines, DVDs and other items to keep themselves educated, informed and entertained.

Recently the important role of public libraries in supporting digital inclusion and the health and wellbeing of local communities was recognized when the State Government provided a grant of \$375,000 to support public libraries to assist community members to setup the ServiceWA app. This funding provided extra staffing, translation services, outreach initiatives and other resources to assist the community to use and understand the app.

An implementation plan is being developed to outline the actions required to achieve the outcomes described in the Strategy and assign responsibility and timelines to these actions, as well as an evaluation framework to measure the success of these actions.

Updated Advocacy Position

It is appropriate that the existing advocacy position be updated to reflect current governance arrangements and the outcomes being sought under the *Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026*. In addition, Items 2 and 3 of WALGA's existing Public Libraries Advocacy Position have been achieved under the *2016-2021 WA Public Libraries Strategy*.

An updated Advocacy Position is therefore proposed.

3.8 Public Libraries

1. *Western Australian Local Government public libraries provide valuable local cultural infrastructure, creating social and community hubs for community capacity building, recreation, education and literacy, digital inclusion, and social connection, cohesion and inclusion.*
2. *WALGA supports the provision of Public Library services in Western Australia through a formal partnership between Local Government and the State Government of Western Australia, governed by the Library Board Act 1951, namely the State and Local Government Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia (2020).*
3. *The WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026 provides a framework for a shared vision, strategic direction and collaborative action in the provision of a vibrant and sustainable 21st century public library network.*
4. *It is essential that a sustainable funding model enables Local Governments to continue to deliver library services to support continued growth and adaptation to changing community needs.*

Zone Considerations	
Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Gascoyne Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Goldfields Esperance Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Great Eastern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Great Southern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Kimberley Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Murchison Country Zone	No meeting held
Northern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Peel Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Pilbara Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South West Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported

NORTH METROPOLITAN ZONE

That the North Metropolitan Zone supports all Matters for Decision as listed in the July 2022 State Council Agenda, subject to an amendment to the recommendation in item 5.3 by adding a third point as follows:

“Request details be given to Local Governments on the next phase, particularly the process and stakeholder engagement plan, on developing an implementation plan.”

SOUTH EAST METROPOLITAN ZONE

That:

1. the draft WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026 be endorsed.
2. WALGA’s existing Advocacy Position on Public Libraries be deleted and replaced as follows:

3.8 Public Libraries

1. *Western Australian Local Government public libraries provide valuable local cultural infrastructure, creating social and community hubs for community capacity building, recreation, education and literacy, digital inclusion, and social connection, cohesion and inclusion.*
2. *WALGA supports the provision of Public Library services in Western Australia through a formal partnership between Local Government and the State Government of Western Australia, governed by the Library Board Act 1951, namely the State and Local Government Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia (2020).*
3. *The WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026 provides a framework for a shared vision, strategic direction and collaborative action in the provision of a vibrant and sustainable 21st century public library network.*
4. *It is essential that a sustainable funding model enables Local Governments to continue to deliver library services to support continued growth and adaptation to changing community needs.*
5. *That the Library Act 1955, and associated regulations, to be reviewed to reflect a modern progressive library service.*

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

An implementation plan will be developed by the Public Libraries Working Group (PLWG), based upon consultation with the Local Government sector and the priorities identified in the WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026.

An outstanding action from the WA Public Libraries Strategy 2017-2022 is the review of the existing library legislation and regulations. PLWG is currently preparing a sector consultation in relation to the review of the Regulations. In more recent times the PLWG has held the view that the legislative library framework is not an impediment to the conduct of public library services and focused resources on opportunities to enhance and strategically support libraries.

COMPOSITE RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Les Price
Seconded: Cr Helen Sadler

That:

1. The draft WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026 be endorsed.
2. Local Governments to be engaged in the development of the implementation plan to support the Strategy.
3. WALGA's existing Advocacy Position on Public Libraries be deleted and replaced as follows:
 - 3.8 *Public Libraries*
 1. *Western Australian Local Government public libraries provide valuable local cultural infrastructure, creating social and community hubs for community capacity building, recreation, education and literacy, digital inclusion, and social connection, cohesion and inclusion.*
 2. *WALGA supports the provision of Public Library services in Western Australia through a formal partnership between Local Government and the State Government of Western Australia, governed by the Library Board Act 1951, namely the State and Local Government Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia (2020).*
 3. *The WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026 provides a framework for a shared vision, strategic direction and collaborative action in the provision of a vibrant and sustainable 21st century public library network.*
 4. *It is essential that a sustainable funding model enables Local Governments to continue to deliver library services to support continued growth and adaptation to changing community needs.*
4. The State Government to consult with the Local Government sector to identify the constraints experienced by the sector due to the requirements of the *Library Act 1955* and the potential benefits of reviewing the *Library Act 1955*.

RESOLUTION 356.5/2022

CARRIED

WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026

Libraries are at the heart of our community

Public libraries welcome people of all ages, cultures and beliefs. We offer safe places and are trusted by our community.

Public libraries are important to the Western Australian community and have been for more than 70 years. Every year we welcome more than 11 million West Australians who seek to access library services onsite, online or elsewhere in their community.

Our services offer great opportunities to learn, develop and entertain! With 233 branches across the state, WA public libraries are proud to provide:

- Free access to books, ebooks, audiobooks and other content to entertain and inspire people of all ages and cultures, while boosting reading, recreation and literacy.
- Free access to computers and wifi for those who don't have them at home as well as friendly staff to provide help to those who need assistance or lack confidence in using online services.
- A place for people to come together, connect with one another and with what is happening in their community.
- Opportunities for people of all ages and interests to pursue formal and informal study and lifelong learning.
- Comfortable public spaces where people can study, work, read and relax, with no expectation of buying anything or being sold anything.
- Foster community health and wellbeing, especially for vulnerable people or in times of significant stress, through opportunities to connect and engage.
- Support for the local economy by enabling job seekers, entrepreneurs and micro businesses to access information, wifi services and meeting rooms.

Public libraries aspire to support local community in a way that leaves nobody alone, at a loss or left behind.

Where people can connect, learn and grow

The 2020 State and Local Government Partnership Agreement for provision of public library services² offers a shared vision for public libraries in WA.

A vibrant and sustainable 21st Century public library network at the heart of the Western Australian community where people can connect, learn and grow.

Building on the foundation provided by the WA public library system's first statewide strategy in 2017, this new strategy will ensure that we continue to make a real difference for the WA community – large and small, metropolitan, regional and remote.

Guiding principles

In delivering outcomes for our community through this strategy, public libraries and our partners will be guided by these principles:

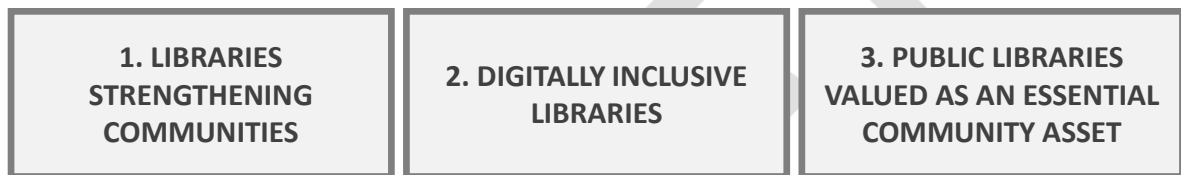
- **Community comes first.** Everything we do under the strategy will be first and foremost about improving outcomes for the WA community, especially inclusion and empowerment of Aboriginal, culturally diverse and vulnerable communities.

² State and Local Government Partnership Agreement for the provision of public library services, 2020.

- **We are stronger and smarter when we work together.** We will strengthen existing partnerships and foster new relationships with community organisations, government agencies and other stakeholders to maximise benefit for the WA community.
- **We are accountable.** Local and State Government will be accountable for achievement of the strategy. We will develop plans and measures to ensure we meet community need.
- **We are committed to success.** We will invest in our capability to ensure that we can deliver on the strategy's vision and aspirations.

Three Pillars

Our partners, stakeholders and community have endorsed the following three pillars as the focus for outcomes under the strategy:



1. Libraries Strengthening Community

We are vibrant community hubs – open to all, well-used and much-loved. While there are core services the community expect, the particular offering of each library will reflect the unique needs of its community. Our approach is to maximise the benefits to our community by responding to local needs. We will:

- 1.1 Give our community a greater say in the services, collections and programs public libraries provide.
- 1.2 Partner in our community to use our resources more effectively, build skills and celebrate local culture and history.
- 1.3 Help people to access further education, get a job and explore their interests through the delivery of learning experiences.
- 1.4 Bring people together and increase community connection and belonging.
- 1.5 Empower Aboriginal people to preserve their language and culture through local ownership and delivery of cooperative library services in Aboriginal communities.

2. Digitally Inclusive Libraries

Computers and the internet are an essential part of everyday life. They enable people to work, communicate and access health, education, government and community services. People who do not have access to these technologies or the skills and confidence to use them are at risk of being excluded from society.

The *Digital Strategy for the Western Australian Government 2021-2025* aims to remove the barriers to digital inclusion – internet connections, affordability and skills.³ We support delivery of the Digital Strategy and will help all Western Australians, especially those in regional, rural and remote areas, to fully participate in a digital society and digital economy. We will:

- 2.1 Provide free and reliable community access to computers, the internet and emerging technologies either in our libraries or through local partners.
- 2.2 Build people's digital skills and confidence through training programs and resources.

³ *Digital Strategy for the Western Australian Government*, WA Office of Digital Government, 2021.

- 2.3 Enable people to find, reserve and borrow an item from any WA public library through improved technology and systems.

3. Public Libraries Valued as an Essential Community Asset

Every \$1 invested in our public libraries delivers a return of more than \$4.⁴ Yet current data does not show:

- the social impact we have on learning, access to technology, personal wellbeing and social connections, or
- the economic value we deliver by supporting children's and adult literacy, job readiness and a stronger community.⁵

Better data and research on our services will help government, business and community to make more informed decisions on investment in public libraries. We will:

- 3.1 Develop and use measures which demonstrate the impacts our services, spaces and collections deliver for the WA community.
- 3.2 Obtain research and data which tells the story of the social impact and economic value of our services.
- 3.3 Ensure that all public libraries have access to sustainable funding to meet the evolving needs of the WA community.

DRAFT

⁴ *The Value of Public Libraries in Victoria*, SGS Economics and Planning, 2017.

⁵ *Standards and Guidelines for Australian Public Libraries*, Australian Public Library Alliance and Australia Library and Information Association, 2020.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY STATE COUNCILLORS (UNDER SEPARATE COVER)

5.4 Finance and Services Committee Minutes incorporating the 2022-23 Budget (01-006-03-0006 TB)

Moved: President Cr Moira Girando JP
Seconded: Mayor Logan Howlett

That:

- 1. The Minutes of the Finance and Services Committee meeting on 29 June 2022 be endorsed.**
- 2. The 2022-23 Governance Budget for the Association as recommended by the Finance and Services Committee be endorsed.**

RESOLUTION 357.5/2022

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

Executive Summary

- The Finance and Services Committee met on 29 June 2022;
- The Budget 2022-23 being for the full year ending 30 June 2023 was endorsed by the Committee;
- The Minutes of the meeting, together with the 2022-23 Budget have been distributed to all members of State Council.

Attachments

- Finance and Services Committee Minutes – 29 June 2022
- Management Financials Pack – detailed pack
- Financial Dashboard – 31 May 2022
- FY23 Governance Budget Report
- Governance Budget Pack 2022-23
- Detailed Management Budget Pack 2022-23
- Local Government Investment Vehicle

Background

The WALGA Governance Budget 2022-23 was prepared for final consideration and endorsement by the Finance and Services Committee ahead of presentation to State Council at this meeting.

The Draft Budget and High Level Plans were presented to the Finance and Services Committee on 1 June at a budget workshop for discussion and feedback. State Council was provided with a budget update at the Information Forum held later that same day.

The final Governance Budget 2022-23 was endorsed by the Finance and Services Committee at its meeting on 29 June 2022.

Comment

The Minutes of the Finance and Services Committee and the 2022-23 Governance Budget are presented for State Council consideration.

The CEO and the CFO will provide a detailed presentation to State Council.

5.4.1 City of Perth Report

The City of Perth Report was brought forward.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas provided the City of Perth report to the meeting.

5.5 Selection Committee Minutes – CONFIDENTIAL (01-006-03-0011 CO)

By Chantelle O'Brien, Governance Support Officer

Moved: Cr Chris Mitchell
Seconded: Mayor Logan Howlett

That:

- 1. The recommendations contained in the 29 June 2022 Selection Committee Minutes be endorsed, and**
- 2. The resolutions contained in the 29 June 2022 Selection Committee Minutes be noted.**

RESOLUTION 358.5/2022

CARRIED

Executive Summary

- The Selection Committee met on 29 June 2022 to consider nominees to be put forward for appointment for the following vacancies:
 - Municipal Waste Advisory Council/Officers Advisory Group Local Government Advisory Board
 - Control of Vehicles (Off Road Areas) Act Advisory Committee
 - WALGA Selection Committee
- In addition, the Selection Committee considered an additional item:
 - Review of the final Selection Committee Guidelines.

The Minutes containing the Selection Committee's recommendations for State Council endorsement and resolution for noting, are provided as an attachment, and the full agenda incorporating nomination documentation is available on request.

Attachment

- Selection Committee Minutes – 29 June 2022

Background

Pursuant to the resolution of State Council in February 2002, the WA Local Government Association Selection Committee was established to oversee the selection process for Local Government vacancies on boards and committees.

The Selection Committee conducts a merit-based and transparent assessment process encompassing the principle of "best person for the job". Upon completion of the assessment of nominations for vacancies, the Selection Committee either endorses preferred candidates for appointment (under delegated authority) or makes advisory recommendations to State Council for ratification of preferred candidates.

Comment

Municipal Waste Advisory Council/Officers Advisory Group

Municipal Waste Advisory Council/Officers Advisory Group are seeking to fill three Metropolitan and three Non-Metropolitan vacancies due to term expiry.

Four nominations in each category were received. In reviewing the aggregate scores, the Selection Committee agreed to recommend the highest ranked nominees for appointment.

Control of (Off Road) Vehicles Advisory Committee

The Minister for Minister for Housing; Lands; Homelessness; Local Government, Hon John Carey MLA, requested WALGA submit a panel of names eligible for appointment to the Control of (Off Road) Vehicles Advisory Committee.

Two nominations were received. The Selection Committee determined that, as both nominees are from the Shire of Gingin, to ensure diversity of representation, that Mr Aaron Cook be put forward for the position of Member, and Cr Frank Johnson be put forward for the position of Deputy Member.

WALGA Selection Committee

Following the resignation of longstanding Selection Committee Independent Member Damien Stewart, WALGA are seeking to fill the vacancy. The Selection Committee in addition to reviewing nominations, requested that a letter of thanks be sent to Damian on behalf of WALGA.

With the closing of nominations on 17 June, one nomination was received.

The Selection Committee reviewed Ms Parul Chauhan's nomination and determined that she exceeded the criteria for the position.

On that basis, the Selection Committee recommends that Ms Chauhan be appointed to the Selection Committee.

Review of Selection Committee Guidelines

The Selection Committee have reviewed and provided comment on the Selection Committee Guidelines and a final amended version has been recommended for endorsement by State Council.

An additional item under separate cover has been prepared for State Council to consider. Please refer to [Agenda item 5.6](#).

5.6 Selection Committee Guidelines (01-006-02-0001 TL)

By Tim Lane, Manager Strategy and Association Governance

Moved: President Cr Moira Girando JP
Seconded: Cr Les Price

That the Selection Committee Guidelines – *Selection Process for Appointments to State Government, Federal Government, WALGA and Other Boards and Committees* – be endorsed.

RESOLUTION 359.5/2022

CARRIED

Executive Summary

- The Selection Committee has undertaken a review of the guidelines governing the Selection Committee's nomination and selection process for appointments to boards and committees
- While the current processes are fundamentally sound, the guidelines have been amended to align with contemporary processes and best practice
- Cosmetic and more substantive changes are proposed, which are detailed below, and are demonstrated in the mark-up version attached to this report
- The final version, incorporating the Selection Committee's amendments, is also attached

Attachment

- Selection Committee Guidelines – Mark-up version demonstrating changes
- Selection Committee Guidelines – Final version, presented for endorsement

Background

The Selection Committee has undertaken a review of the guidelines that underpin WALGA's nominations and selection process for appointments to Government, WALGA and other boards and committees.

The guidelines – *Selection Process for Appointments to State Government, Federal Government, WALGA and Other Boards and Committees* – outline:

- Principles guiding the Selection Committee in making recommendations and appointments
- Processes undertaken by the secretariat to support the Selection Committee
- Deliberative and decision-making processes of the Selection Committee
- WALGA's commitment to diversity and gender equity through the Selection Committee process, and
- A framework to ensure quality assurance and ongoing improvement.

To undertake the review the Selection Committee discussed the existing guidelines at their April 2022 meeting. While the Selection Committee considered that the nominations and selection process is fundamentally sound, the Selection Committee identified opportunities for improvement to modernise the guidelines and ensure their alignment to contemporary best practice. To facilitate the review, the secretariat distributed a revised mark-up version of the guidelines incorporating a range of amendments stemming from:

- Selection Committee discussions on the guidelines, current practice and aspiration, and
- Recent changes to the Committee's membership and processes.

Comments were invited from members of the Selection Committee who made several contributions that are incorporated into the version presented for State Council consideration.

Comment

While the nominations and selection process is fundamentally sound, amendments to the guidelines are required to align with contemporary language, practice and processes.

Broadly the proposed amendments to the guidelines are as follows:

- **Membership** – amended to reflect the addition of two State Councillors as per State Council's decision in March 2022.
- **Standards Panel Sanctions** – codifying the requirement for nominees to state whether they have been sanctioned by the Standards Panel in their nomination.
- **Deliberative decision-making process** – clarification of the Selection Committee's process for decision making and deliberations on recommendations and appointments.
- **Diversity and gender equity** – modernisation of the section that relates to diversity and including, expanded upon below.
- **Decision-making process of State Council** – Clarification that it is not recommended that State Council put forward alternative candidates.
- **Interview component** – clarification regarding when interviews are required.
- **List of Boards and Committees** – amendment to the list of current boards and committees to which the nomination and selection process applies.
- **Language** – removal of gendered language and consistency regarding capitalisation.

Diversity and Gender Equity

The amendments to the section relating to diversity, inclusion and gender equity are important and presented a challenge to the Selection Committee to strike the appropriate balance.

Diversity and inclusion in representation is important and is an issue that WALGA takes seriously from the perspective of Council representation, Local Government workforce composition, and Local Government representation on State Government and other boards and committees.

For instance, WALGA recently put forward a State Council endorsed [submission](#) to the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal informing the Local Government Elected Member and CEO Determination highlighting the importance of diverse representation on Councils:

“It is WALGA’s view that the overall Local Government system, including the remuneration framework, should strive to enhance the diversity of representation on Councils to reflect community demography. As community representatives, it is important that the Council comprises members from a range of backgrounds and life experiences. The legitimacy of Council decisions from the perspective of community members is enhanced if the Council comprises ‘people like me’ who ‘share my concerns’.”

In relation to the selection process for appointments to boards and committees, it is important that the Selection Committee continues to encourage nominations from a diverse range of people involved in Local Government in Western Australia.

Increasingly, requests from Ministers for a panel of names includes specific reference to diversity considerations. For instance, the request letter from the Minister for Local Government, Hon John Carey MLA to WALGA in February 2022 to put forward a panel of names eligible for appointment to the Local Government Advisory Board included the following:

“I invite WALGA to provide a list of nominees for the Advisory Board that reflects the diversity of Local Government members, matters to be considered may include gender, nationalities and cultural backgrounds, abilities and disabilities, regions, education and age. If nominated members are unable to satisfy these requirements, I would appreciate you outlining the reasons when submitting the list of nominees.”

The intent of the guidelines, as proposed by the Selection Committee, is to encourage nominations from a diverse range of people involved in Local Government, and to take diversity into consideration

whenever possible. The guidelines explicitly state that WALGA primarily aims to put forward the best possible representatives of the Local Government sector while considering diversity requirements when possible.

It is common human resources management practice to encourage applications from a diverse range of candidates. WALGA's advertisements for employment vacancies state the following: "We embrace diversity and strongly encourage applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and people from culturally diverse backgrounds."

The Selection Committee's proposed amendments aim to strike an appropriate balance between the Selection Committee's merit-based process while ensuring nominations from a diverse range of Local Government representatives are encouraged and considered.

The amended guidelines are put forward for State Council consideration.

5.7 Use of the Association's Common Seal (01-004-07-0001 NS)

Moved: Cr Chris Mitchell
 Seconded: President Cr Stephen Strange

That the use of the Association's Common Seal be noted.

RESOLUTION 360.5/2022

CARRIED

Document	Document Description	Signatories	State Council prior approval
LETTER OF OFFER – LGIS BANK GUARANTEE	Acceptance of offer for Work Cover Bond Facility for LGIS to the value of \$49,200,000 at a cost of 0.65% of the Facility (\$319,800).	WALGA President, Cr Karen Chappel JP WALGA CEO, Nick Sloan	No

5.8 LGIS Board Minutes – CONFIDENTIAL

By Craig Hansom, LGIS Contract Manager

Moved: President Cr Phil Blight
Seconded: Cr Frank Cvitan

That State Council:

- 1. Approve the annual Scheme Management fee payable to JLT be increased by 2.15% for the 2022-23 financial year as recommended by the LGIS Board.**
- 2. Approve payment of \$80,000 to JLT for the Journey Protection management fee under the expansion of Scheme covers.**
- 3. Approve a 2% increase to the WALGA Trustee Fee from the Scheme.**
- 4. Note the minutes of the LGISWA Scheme Board meeting held on 12 May.**

RESOLUTION 361.5/2022

CARRIED

Executive Summary

- The LGIS Board endorsed a JLT scheme management fee increase of 2.15% for application in the 2022-23 financial year.
- A Journey Protection management fee of \$80,000 will be payable to JLT under the expansion of Scheme covers. This will be offset by a \$50,700 reduction in the Journey indemnity cover broking and placement fees.
- It is proposed that the WALGA fee be adjusted by 2% for application in the 2022-23 financial year.
- The Scheme's financial performance continues to be challenged by high net claims expenses and lower investment returns with a forecast deficit for 30 June of \$4.3 M.
- Available capital remains within the "identify and monitor" range at 138% against the Minimum Capital Requirement.

Attachment

- LGISWA Scheme Board Minutes 12 May 2022

Background

Minutes of the recent LGIS Board meetings have been distributed to the members of the State Council under separate cover.

As per the LGISWA Scheme Management Agreement at Schedule A.3 and B.3, the Scheme Management fees will be reviewed annually by WALGA taking into account advice from the LGIS Board and considering that index-driven changes are to be no less than a minimum of 2% and no more than a maximum of 5% per annum.

As per the LGISWA Scheme Management Agreement at Schedule C.1, WALGA's trustee fee will be reviewed annually by WALGA State Council which shall endorse adjustments to the trustee fees as required. State Council previously endorsed (Resolution 224.3/2021) a Trustee Fee model based primarily on costs that reflect the resource effort performed by WALGA staff that reduce the risk for Local Governments to the benefit of the LGIS Scheme.

Comment

As a consequence of the 12 May LGIS Board meeting, State Council needs to make a determination regarding the annual adjustment of the Scheme Management fee payable to JLT. Determination is also required by State Council regarding the annual adjustment of the WALGA Trustee fee from the Scheme.

The LGIS Board endorsed a Finance and Audit Committee recommendation that the JLT scheme management fees be adjusted by 2.15% for application in the 2022-23 financial year.

An additional \$80,000 will also be payable to JLT for a Journey Protection management fee, as endorsed by the LGIS Board in March for the implementation of a Journey Injury fund under the expansion of Scheme covers (State Council Resolution 236.4/2021). This will be offset by a \$50,700 reduction in the Journey indemnity cover broking and placement fees.

It is proposed that the WALGA fee be adjusted by 2% for application in the 2022-23 financial year. This is a conservative increase compared to the WALGA proposed salary inflator of 2.5%.

Items of note from the LGIS Board meeting include:

- The Board adopted a new 2022-2025 Service Plan covering risk management services, regional risk support services, health/wellbeing services and injury management services.
- The Board adopted the Scheme Budget for 2022-23.
- The Board approved the allocation of the Special Projects provision as noted in the minutes.
- The Board agreed that the \$3 M of accumulated surplus transferred to provisioning for future member Contributions Credits in October 2021 be transferred back to accumulated surplus to bolster the Scheme's capital adequacy.
- The Operating deficit from year-to-date trading is \$4.95 M and the forecast deficit for June 30 is \$4.3 M - attributable primarily to net claims expenses being \$7.23 M higher than budget and investment earnings being \$1.72 M below budget.
- Available capital is \$31.14 M, which equates to a capital ratio of 138% against the Minimum Capital Requirement, which remains within the "identify and monitor" range.

5.9 Honours Panel – Appointment of Non-executive Member

By Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services

Moved: Cr Les Price
 Seconded: Cr Catherine Ehrhardt

That Ms Lynne Craigie OAM be appointed to the WALGA Honours Panel as Non-executive Member representing country interests.

RESOLUTION 362.5/2022

CARRIED

Executive Summary

- Ms Lynne Craigie OAM is put forward by the WALGA President for appointment to the position of Non-executive Member (representing country interests) on the WALGA Honours Panel.
- The vacancy has been created by the resignation of Mr Murray Lang.
- Nominations for the 2022 Honours Program closed on 24 June. The appointment of Ms Craigie would enable a full Panel to consider the nominations received at the Honours Panel meeting scheduled for Thursday, 7 July.

Background

Following the resignation of Mr Murray Lang, the position of Non-executive Member (representing country interests) on the WALGA Honours Panel is vacant. In accordance with the Corporate Governance Charter, membership of the Honours Panel is as per below, with the current members listed:

WALGA Deputy President – Chair	Cr Paul Kelly
State Councillor (metropolitan constituency)	Cr Russ Fishwick JP
State Councillor (metropolitan constituency)	Mayor Carol Adams
State Councillor (country constituency)	Cr Les Price
State Councillor (country constituency)	President Cr Tony Dean
Non-executive member (country interests)	VACANT
Non-executive member (metropolitan interests)	Ms Heather Henderson
Non-executive member (Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries)	Mr Tim Fraser
Chief Executive Officer, WALGA	Mr Nick Sloan

As per the Corporate Governance Charter (p26), appointment to the Honours Panel is the responsibility of State Council: *“appointment of State Councillor and external representatives shall be determined by State Council”*.

Comment

Ms Lynne Craigie OAM is put forward by the WALGA President Cr Karen Chappel for appointment as a Non-executive Member (representing country interests) on the WALGA Honours Panel.

Traditionally, Non-executive Members of the Honours Panel are drawn from the pool of former State Councillors, Life Members, and notable servants to Local Government and WALGA. Ms Craigie was awarded the Local Government Medal in 2020 for exceptional service to the WA Local Government sector, most notably as the WALGA President from 2015 until 2020 and as the President of the Shire of East Pilbara for 15 years.

The 2022 Honours Program is well underway, with nominations having closed on Friday, 24 June. The Honours Panel is scheduled to meet on Thursday, 7 July to deliberate on received nominations. To that end, it is recommended that Ms Craigie be appointed to the Honours Panel to enable nominations in the 2022 Honours Program to be deliberated on by the Honours Panel with full membership.

6. MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

6.1 2020/21 Local Government Performance Monitoring Project (05-047-01-0011 CH)

By Chris Hossen, Policy Manager, Planning and Building

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the results of the 2020/21 Local Government Performance Monitoring Project and publication of the Performance Monitoring Dashboard be noted.

Executive Summary

- The 2022 Local Government Performance Monitoring Project (Project) and associated Local Government Performance Monitoring Report shows that Local Governments have maintained high performance in undertaking their planning and building functions during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- WALGA has undertaken the Project annually since 2018 with data provided by participating Local Governments. The Project has continued to expand with 30 Local Governments participating this year in 2022.
- This year the written Report has been replaced with an [online interactive dashboard](#) accessible on the WALGA website.
- The new format provides several benefits for participating Local Governments, reduces overall project cost and reporting times for WALGA, and will allow the project to grow at an accelerated rate in future years.

Attachment

- [2022 Key Indicator Snapshot](#)
- [Performance Monitoring Dashboard](#)

Background

The WALGA Local Government Performance Monitoring Project and associated Performance Monitoring Report originated in response to the inaccurate and unfair portrayal of Local Governments' planning performance in the Property Council's 2016 *Benchmarking Greater Perth Local Governments report*. The Project is undertaken annually and has continued to expand from 11 Local Governments in 2018 to 30 this year.

Comments

Local Governments participating in the 2022 Project were: the Cities of Armadale, Bayswater, Belmont, Bunbury, Busselton, Canning, Cockburn, Fremantle, Gosnells, Greater Geraldton, Joondalup, Kalamunda, Karratha, Kwinana, Mandurah, Melville, Rockingham, South Perth, Stirling, Subiaco, Swan, Vincent, Wanneroo; the Towns of Bassendean, Port Hedland and Victoria Park; and, the Shires of Augusta-Margaret River, Broome, Mundaring and Nannup.

These Local Governments represent 79% of Western Australia's total population and between 2009 and 2019 accounted for 86% of the state's population growth. They provide a strong indicator of how the Local Government sector in Western Australia is performing in the areas of strategic and statutory planning and building regulation.

Key findings for 2022:

- Local Governments determined 73,484 applications (development applications, subdivision referrals and building permits), a 40% increase on the previous year,
- 90% of all applications were determined or responded to within statutory timeframes,
- 99% of all development applications were approved,
- 98% of all development applications were determined under delegated authority

- 12 Local Governments have a current Local Planning Strategy (LPS), 14 Local Governments are currently reviewing their LPS, and four Local Governments neither have a current LPS nor are they developing or reviewing their strategy,
- Local Governments continue to have concerns with the length of time to receive consent to advertise and final endorsement for LPS,
- 45% of Local Governments have reviewed, consolidated or undertaken an audit of their Local Planning Scheme within the past five years. 58% of Local Governments are in the process of reviewing their scheme,
- For scheme amendments, on average:
 - Local Governments finalised 2.4 scheme amendments in 2020-21, with each taking an average of 18 months to complete,
 - 44% of the time taken to complete scheme amendments could be attributed to State Government processes. This compares to 47% average over the 5 years of reporting.

WALGA has undertaken a range of process improvements to contemporise how this year's Project is reported. The annual written report has been replaced by an online interactive dashboard which provides access to all five years of Project reporting and allows Local Governments to analyse and compare performance by year, region or against individual Local Governments. Moving to a dashboard format has reduced project costs and reporting times and will allow for faster expansion of the project in future years.

The dashboard provides a collated view of the 30 Local Governments that participate. The relatively low variance collectively and within most of the individual performance indicators suggests that the performance may be reflective of the Local Government sector as a whole, although there are exceptions.

Importantly, while the dashboard is not intended to be a comparison of individual Local Government performance it does allow individual Local Governments to draw comparisons themselves and other Local Governments, which may be useful for those who may have similar development pressures and resourcing.

WALGA has, and will continue to, encourage relevant State Government agencies to consider and use this performance information in any legislation, policy or regulations prepared by the State which affects Local Government.

WALGA is promoting this project to the sector with a view to continue to increase member participation in the 2021-22 financial year reporting period.

Zone Consideration	
Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Central Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Central Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Gascoyne Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Goldfields Esperance Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Great Eastern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Great Southern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Kimberley Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Murchison Country Zone	No meeting held
North Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Northern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Peel Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Pilbara Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
South East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
South Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
South West Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Mayor Logan Howlett
Seconded: Cr Catherine Ehrhardt

That the results of the 2020/21 Local Government Performance Monitoring Project and publication of the Performance Monitoring Dashboard be noted.

RESOLUTION 363.5/2022

CARRIED

6.2 Proposed Advocacy Position on Arrangements for Management of Volunteer Bushfire Brigades (05-024-02-0059 SM)

By Susie Moir, Policy Manager, Resilient Communities

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the Proposed Advocacy Position Paper regarding the arrangements for the management of Bush Fire Brigades be noted.

Executive Summary

- The Association has prepared a Proposed Advocacy Position on the arrangements for management of Bush Fire Brigades Paper to guide sector consultation on this matter.
- The Paper was circulated to all CEOs on 24 May 2022 seeking feedback, preferably endorsed by Councils, by 8 July 2022 to inform the preparation of a proposed Advocacy Position for consideration by State Council at their September 2022 meeting.
- Adoption of an Advocacy Position on the arrangements for management of Bush Fire Brigades is timely as the State Government is currently preparing the *Consolidated Emergency Services Act*, which is expected to be released for consultation in early 2023.

Attachment

- [Arrangements for Management of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades: Proposed Advocacy Position](#)

Policy Implications

WALGA does not currently have an [Advocacy Position](#) on the arrangements for management of Volunteer Bushfire Brigades.

WALGA has prepared eight updated Advocacy Position Statements relating to Emergency Management, which will be considered at the July State Council meeting ([Agenda Item 5.1](#)). An Advocacy Position on the expansion of the Community Emergency Services Manager Program is also submitted for decision ([Agenda Item 5.2](#)).

Background

Rural fire management has been the subject of recommendations following a number of reviews over the last 10 years. The [Ferguson Report](#) on the 2016 Waroona Bushfire recommended that the State Government establish a rural fire service to address issues in rural fire management, including insufficient capacity and unsuitable governance to deliver rural fire services. The 2017 [Economic Regulation Authority Review of the Emergency Services Levy \(ESL\)](#) considered the extent to which the ESL should be available to fund the administrative and/ or operational costs of a rural fire service, although it was outside the terms of reference for the ERA to examine the merits of a rural fire service or form a view on the best model of a rural fire service⁶. A number of Local Governments provided submissions to the ERA Review in support of a rural fire service⁷.

Comment

The Proposed Advocacy Position Paper has been developed to obtain feedback from the sector to assist the Association to prepare an Advocacy Position on the management of Bush Fire Brigades. The Paper outlines the rationale for the following proposed new Advocacy Position:

Management of Bush Fire Brigades

1. *The Association advocates that the State Government must provide for:*
 - a) *A clear pathway for Local Governments to transfer responsibility for the management of Bush Fire Brigades to the State Government when ongoing management is beyond the capacity, capability and resources of the Local Government;*

⁶ [ERA Review of the ESL, 2017, pg 185](#)

⁷ [ERA ESL Review – summary of submissions to issues paper and draft report](#)

- b) *The co-design of a suite of relevant guidelines and materials to assist those Local Governments that manage Bush Fire Brigades;*
 - c) *Mandatory and minimum training requirements for Bush Fire Brigade volunteers supported by a universally accessible training program managed by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES); and*
 - d) *The recognition of prior learning, experience and competency of Bush Fire Brigade volunteers.*
2. *That a Working Group comprising representatives of WALGA and DFES be established to develop a process and timeline for the transfer of responsibility for Bush Fire Brigades in accordance with 1(a).*
 3. *Where management of Bush Fire Brigades is transferred to DFES in accordance with 1(a), DFES should be resourced to undertake the additional responsibility.*

Responses to WALGA's 2021 Local Government Emergency Management Survey indicated that there are a number of concerns within the sector with respect to the current arrangements for management of BFBs. 53% of respondents from Local Governments that manage BFBs expressed that they did not think it was appropriate that Local Government should manage BFBs, while 33% indicated that they did think it was appropriate that Local Governments should manage BFBs but some changes were required to the arrangements. WALGA's 2021 Local Government Emergency Management Survey provided some initial data about the sector's views on this issue and indicated that further consideration of the issue was required. This consultation will enable that data to be interrogated more deeply, and encourages a discussion between BFBs, administration and Elected Members on the matter through the request for Council endorsed responses.

A hybrid model is proposed in order to be responsive to the varying contexts, conditions and communities in Local Governments across the State. Just as every regional community is different and has its own culture, a one size fits all approach to BFB management may not be appropriate:

Across Western Australia 111 Local Governments manage 563 BFBs involving approximately 20,000 volunteers. Local Governments manage anywhere between one and 20 BFBs. Some Local Governments have the support of a Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) to assist in BFB management. Western Australian Local Governments vary greatly in:

- size, ranging from less than 1.5 to over 370,000 square kilometres;
- population, just over 100 to more than 220,000 people;
- the number of staff employed, from less than 10 to over 1000; and
- revenue received, which in 2019-20 ranged from just over \$2 million to just over \$225 million.

The endorsement of a new Advocacy Position on this issue will guide the Association in its discussions with the State Government as it progresses the consolidation of the *Fire Brigades Act 1942*, *Bush Fires Act 1954* and *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998* into the *Consolidated Emergency Services Act*.

The Paper was sent to all CEOs on 24 May 2022 for a response by 8 July 2022. Local Governments are encouraged to engage with their volunteers and communities on the matter and pass a resolution through their Council.

A report on the feedback received and a final Proposed Advocacy Position will be prepared for consideration at the 9 September 2022 State Council meeting.

Zone Consideration	
Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Central Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Central Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Gascoyne Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Goldfields Esperance Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Great Eastern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Great Southern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Kimberley Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Murchison Country Zone	No meeting held
North Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Northern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Peel Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Pilbara Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
South East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
South Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
South West Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Mayor Logan Howlett
Seconded: Cr Catherine Ehrhardt

That the Proposed Advocacy Position Paper regarding the arrangements for the management of Bush Fire Brigades be noted.

RESOLUTION 363.5/2022

CARRIED

6.3 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 Co-design Process, Phase 1 Submission

By Susie Moir, Policy Manager, Resilient Communities

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 Co-design Process, Phase 1 Submission* endorsed via Flying Minute on 26 May 2022 be noted.

Executive Summary

- The *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021* (ACH Act) passed the Parliament in December 2021 and is expected to commence in 2023.
- The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) recently undertook Phase 1 of the co-design process for the regulations, statutory guidelines and operational policies that will support the ACH Act.
- WALGA's submission made 25 recommendations, particularly relating to the proposed activity categories, the need for ongoing sector consultation, and the need to balance the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage against the requirements for Local Governments to undertake necessary infrastructure and maintenance works in the interests of local communities.
- WALGA's submission was circulated to State Council via Flying Minute process and was endorsed on 26 May 2022.
- Minor amendments were made to the submission as a result of comments received through the Flying Minute process and the submission was provided to DPLH on 27 May 2022.

Attachment

- [WALGA submission: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021, May 2022](#)
- [Flying Minute – WALGA submission: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021](#)

Policy Implications

This submission aligns with WALGA's existing [Advocacy Positions](#) and previous submissions:

3.1.3 Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 and South West Native Title Settlement

The Association acknowledges Noongar people as the traditional owners of the South West Region. Local Government is supportive of conserving and protecting the State's Aboriginal heritage.

(July 2019 – 68.5/2019)

3.1.2 Reconciliation

The Association supports the efforts of the Local Government sector to recognise and respect Aboriginal cultural practices and places of meaning, through the development of Reconciliation Action Plans.

(September 2012 – 118.5/2012)

It should be noted that an updated WALGA Advocacy Position on Aboriginal cultural heritage is under development.

Previous WALGA submissions:

- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 - 2018 Review Submission* endorsed by State Council in July 2018;
- AHA Review Consultation Phase Two, submission endorsed by State Council in July 2019;
- WALGA's 2020 response to survey during Phase 3 consultation based on previous submissions and member feedback (including the Aboriginal Heritage Reference Group);
- WALGA and DPLH co-facilitated ten place-based online workshops which considered activities regularly undertaken by Local Government (included at Appendix 2 of the Submission).

Background

The *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021* (ACH Act) passed the Parliament in December 2021 and is expected to commence in 2023. The legislation replaces the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*, providing a contemporary framework for the recognition, protection, conservation and preservation of Aboriginal cultural heritage.

DPLH is currently developing the regulations, statutory guidelines and operational policies that will support the ACH Act. Phase 1 of DPLH's co-design process involved a short, five-week consultation period beginning on 26 April 2022 guided by a series of Factsheets. It is understood that these materials will be further consulted on during two subsequent consultation phases later in 2022.

Comment

WALGA and other stakeholders sought an extension to the 27 May 2022 closing date for submissions but this was not agreed by DPLH.

WALGA's submission was informed by previous WALGA submissions on Aboriginal cultural heritage, the views of WALGA's Aboriginal Heritage Reference Group, and written feedback from some Local Governments. The short time frame provided did not allow for thorough consultation with Local Governments. However WALGA arranged for DPLH to deliver two co-design workshops specifically for Local Governments on 20 and 23 May 2022, attended by 29 Local Governments.

Some feedback was received from State Council via the Flying Minute process, in particular requesting that the submission take a stronger stance on the activity categories in relation to activities on already disturbed and developed land, and for ongoing infrastructure maintenance activities. Minor amendments were made to the submission to address these concerns.

WALGA's submission includes 25 recommendations, primarily relating to:

- The importance of the Activity Table being clearly described and defined to prevent confusion;
- Categorisation of activities being based on underlying condition of the land (previously disturbed land/ uncleared land etc);
- Requirements for the categorisation of particular activities conducted by Local Government and/ or private landholders as exempt (for example, emergency works, compliance with s.33 Notices under the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, ongoing maintenance and upgrades of existing infrastructure);
- Concerns around the application of the legislation to residential, freehold properties larger than 1100 square metres in cities and towns;
- Need for processes to be scalable depending on size of area, type of activity and resources of proponents;
- Need for 12 weeks consultation during the next co-design phase; and
- Requirements for ongoing and sufficient funding to support the the efficient establishment and functioning of the new Aboriginal heritage system, in particular with respect to the ACH Council, Local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services (LACHS) and Local Governments.

In 2021 WALGA and DPLH co-facilitated ten place based online workshops to identify activities regularly undertaken by Local Government, which 43 Local Governments participated in. At the conclusion of the consultation process WALGA submitted to DPLH a Draft Composite Local Government Activity List, Consultation Report, and Draft Activity Lists provided by the City of Kalamunda, Town of Port Hedland and Shire of Augusta-Margaret River. These documents have been resubmitted as Annexure 2 of the Submission.

Zone Consideration	
Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Central Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Central Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Gascoyne Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Great Eastern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Great Southern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Kimberley Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Murchison Country Zone	No meeting held
North Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Northern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Peel Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Pilbara Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
South East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
South Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
South West Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted

GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE COUNTRY ZONE

1. GVROC note the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 Co-design Process, Phase 1 Submission endorsed via WALGA Flying Minute on 26 May 2022.
2. And GVROC request WALGA State Council note the potential that if this process is not managed properly that LGAs will be burdened with activity notices and request that adequate locks and funding are in place to address this concern.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

The comments of the Goldfields Esperance Country Zone are noted.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Mayor Logan Howlett
 Seconded: Cr Catherine Ehrhardt

That the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 Co-design Process, Phase 1 Submission* endorsed via Flying Minute on 26 May 2022 be noted.

RESOLUTION 363.5/2022

CARRIED

6.4 Western Power Access Arrangement Review Submission (05-001-03-0019 ID)

By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the submission to the Economic Regulation Authority concerning the proposed Western Power Access Arrangement 2022-23 – 2026/27 endorsed via Flying Minute on 20 April 2022 be noted.

Executive Summary

- The Economic Regulation Authority invited submissions from stakeholders concerning the Access Arrangement proposed by Western Power, that will govern services offered, prices charged, capital and operating expenditure over the five years from 2022/23 – 2026/27.
- The ERA has published a Discussion Paper and held a stakeholder briefing. In addition, Local Government representatives attended a briefing from Western Power.
- A submission has been prepared that identifies matters that require further review and investigation by the ERA particularly relating to streetlighting, safety (pole top fires), network reliability performance measurement and pricing for infrastructure related services.
- Strong support for the proposed network initiated underground power program is offered. Underground power has been demonstrated to offer significant benefits and delivering this in a way that avoids Western Power incurring significant renewal costs to old overhead infrastructure enables residents to face lower costs.
- State Council endorsed the submission by Flying Minute on 20 April 2022.
- The submission was provided to the Economic Regulation Authority on 20 April 2022.

Attachment

- [Western Power's Fifth Access Arrangement Review: Submission to the Economic Regulation Authority](#)
- [Flying Minute – Western Power Access Arrangement Review Submission](#)

Policy Implications

This submission is aligned with the endorsed [Advocacy Positions](#):

5.5 *Street Lighting* December 2017 – 126.6/2017

5.7 *Underground Power* December 2020 – 145.6/2020

Background

Western Power operates a regulated electricity network. An access arrangement approved by the Economic Regulation Authority (ERA) sets out the services, terms and conditions, including prices, for Western Power's customers. Local Governments are not direct customers for most services but engage with Western Power in ways that are unique to the sector including streetlighting, underground power and relocation of infrastructure. The approved prices Western Power charges for operation and maintenance of streetlights comprises the majority of the Synergy tariff set by the State Government.

The next Access Arrangement will cover the period 2022/23 to 2026/27. The ERA's review is intended to ensure that Western Power invests in and operates the network as efficiently as possible for the long-term benefit of electricity consumers. Western Power must also maintain security, reliability and safety and take account of the environmental consequences of energy supply and consumption.

Comment

The Access Arrangement proposed by Western Power primarily focuses on responding to State Government policy in relation to sustainable energy. The key matters addressed in the WALGA submission to the ERA are:

1. Streetlighting

The submission seeks further consideration by the ERA of the proposed change to the Reference Service definition, to require that streetlights are maintained to the design standard that existed at the time of their installation rather than the current lighting standards. The current Access Arrangement requires streetlighting to be maintained to current lighting standards. While fixed pole spacing means that it is not feasible to meet current standards in all circumstances, reference to standards existing at some unknown time in the past does not provide a sound basis for Local Governments to work with Western Power to address inadequate lighting and spill lighting, which both lead to complaints from residents.

The Access Arrangement proposed by Western Power introduces a strategy to use LED replacement globes in existing luminaires that would currently use mercury vapour, CFL, metal halide or high-pressure sodium lamps. There has been no consultation with Local Governments or information provided concerning the quality of lighting and lifecycle costs that will be achieved using this approach. The proposed Access Arrangement does not list proposed pricing for streetlights with this combination of technologies. Consequently, it is critical that much more information is provided to the ERA and that it is demonstrated that this approach is both cost effective and deliver a level of lighting that is acceptable to Local Governments.

2. Underground Power

The Access Arrangement proposes that \$440 million, net of capital contribution of \$241.9 million (that will be raised from residents through their Local Government or from the State Government), will be spent over five years to underground 875 kilometres of existing overhead electricity distribution lines. This will underground sections of the network where it is cost comparative relative to upgrading the overhead distribution network. This represents a marked acceleration in the program of underground projects relative to the past five years.

The Local Government submission supports prioritising placing electricity distribution infrastructure underground rather than upgrading poles and overhead wires when significant renewal work is required. Where undergrounding can be achieved cost effectively it represents a once in an asset life opportunity to markedly improve the streetscape and capture a wide range of benefits. The submission supports the ERA valuing forward looking benefits from undergrounding distribution infrastructure, such as the ability to accommodate more roof top solar power and electric vehicle charging.

3. Safety

Silicone treatments are currently used to reduce the incidents of pole top fires. In the draft Access Arrangement, Western Power proposes to reduce the volume of silicone treatments and incur increased costs in total, due to a change in policy or regulation that requires these treatments be applied only to de-energised lines. Local Governments in peri-urban and regional areas have raised concerns about an increase in pole-top fires. The submission requests that the ERA seek from Western Power alternative approaches to efficiently mitigate the risk of pole top fires, rather than accept the increased risk.

4. Customer Communication

The submission acknowledges that social media and websites have an increasing role in communication with customers. The Local Government submission highlights that telecommunications infrastructure is critically dependent on power supplies, so Western Power cannot rely on customers having access to internet-based communications during periods of power outages and some capacity for traditional communication arrangements must be maintained.

5. Network Reliability

The Local Government submission highlights that the network wide reliability performance measures do not highlight or provide incentives for Western Power to address the much poorer performance that occurs in parts of the network. It is recommended that focused performance measures be investigated. It is also identified that the blanket exclusion of periods of Total Fire Ban from the

performance measures provides no incentive for Western Power to develop safe ways of working under exemptions that are available, and so potentially better meet customer expectations under these circumstances.

6. Infrastructure Related Services

The submission calls on the ERA to review and if necessary, set efficient prices for defined Western Power services such as connection / disconnection and relocation of poles, stays or domes.

The Infrastructure Policy Team endorsed the submission on 14 April 2022. State Council endorsed the submission by Flying Minute on 20 April 2022. The submission was submitted to the Economic Regulation Authority on 20 April 2022.

Zone Consideration	
Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Central Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Central Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Gascoyne Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Goldfields Esperance Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Great Eastern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Great Southern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Kimberley Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
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North Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Northern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Peel Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Pilbara Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
South East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
South Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
South West Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Mayor Logan Howlett
Seconded: Cr Catherine Ehrhardt

That the submission to the Economic Regulation Authority concerning the proposed Western Power Access Arrangement 2022-23 – 2026/27 endorsed via Flying Minute on 20 April 2022 be noted.

RESOLUTION 363.5/2022

CARRIED

6.5 Economic Development Research (05-088-03-0004 DM)

By Dana Mason, Manager Economics and Strategic Projects

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the research into the Local Government sector's economic development priorities and activities be noted.

Executive Summary

- With COVID-19 having a significant impact on economic and business activity, WALGA is seeking to gain a renewed understanding of the sector's economic development priorities and activities.
- WALGA has commenced a research project to gather insights into the current economic development landscape and to identify the key issues for local economies for use in policy discussions with the State and Federal Government.
- The findings of the research will be brought to the State Council Economic Development Policy Forum in the second half of 2022 and will be used to shape WALGA's support to the sector on economic issues.

Background

WALGA undertook a major piece of work in 2019 to support Local Governments to better understand the role they can play in driving local economic development, and to understand barriers and challenges to Local Government's economic development activities and to put forward solutions.

After a significant period of research and consultation with Local Governments, State Government and other important stakeholders including business groups and universities, the outcome of this project was a series of documents for Local Government aimed at supporting their economic development roles and responsibilities including [an economic development framework and policy agenda](#). Positive feedback has been received that these have been useful tools for Local Governments in looking to establish or refresh their economic development strategies.

Since then, COVID-19 has had a significant impact on local economies, and many Local Governments have focused their economic development activities on the provision of support to assist local businesses to navigate the pandemic and the imposition of restrictions. The pandemic has also seen a number of shifts that may have longer term implications for local economies and Local Government's economic development activities, including the greater use of technology and work from home arrangements.

In light of these developments, WALGA is refreshing its' knowledge base on the local economic development landscape and priorities to ensure the Association has a contemporary understanding of the issues facing the sector with respect to economic development. As part of this work a consultant has been engaged to:

- Undertake desktop research on the current economic development landscape and key economic development information for individual Local Governments;
- Conduct focus groups sessions with Local Governments to explore key economic development topics, issues and challenges identified through desktop research;
- Provide a report outlining:
 - Common areas of focus for the sector (economic development priorities);
 - Opportunities for collaboration across the sector and with other levels of Government, including alignment with Diversify WA;
 - Barriers and challenges faced by Local Governments when undertaking economic development activities; and
 - Proposed policy solutions, including consideration of best practise in other jurisdictions in Australia and around the world.

The findings of the research will be considered by the State Council Economic Development Policy Forum in the second half of 2022.

It is intended that the research will be used to update the policy agenda developed in 2018 which aims to support Local Governments' economic development activities and underpin advocacy to the State and Federal Governments, as well as to WALGA's support to the sector on economic issues.

Comment

WALGA continues to receive feedback that economic development is a focus area for Local Governments. A survey of members was undertaken in November 2021 to inform the future work program and direction for the team. Almost 60 Local Governments from across the state responded to the Survey, with priorities being:

- Access to data and statistics;
- Advocacy; and
- Economic development case studies.

This research project will provide up to date information necessary to allow WALGA to deliver on these services and to meet Members' needs.

Zone Consideration	
Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Central Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Central Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Gascoyne Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Great Eastern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Great Southern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
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Murchison Country Zone	No meeting held
North Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Northern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Peel Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Pilbara Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
South East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
South Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
South West Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted

GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE COUNTRY ZONE

The GVROC note the WALGA research into the Local Government sector's economic development priorities and activities and request WALGA respond to the GVROC comments as listed.

Comments:

- *GVROC consider this research to be a significant matter, which has had little detail or information provided since it first started being looked at in 2018. The GVROC request more details and information to be provided on the work and input that has been undertaken since 2018 and information on who the consultant is and timelines for the work proposed going forward.*
- *The GVROC would also like to request that representatives from WALGA involved in this project and consultancy come to our next meeting on 29th July 2022 to present on it the research project and activities proposed to be undertaken.*

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

The comments of the Goldfields Esperance Country Zone are noted. WALGA's Economics Team will present to the next GVROC meeting.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Mayor Logan Howlett
Seconded: Cr Catherine Ehrhardt

That the research into the Local Government sector's economic development priorities and activities be noted.

RESOLUTION 363.5/2022

CARRIED

6.6 Development of Child Safe Policy for Local Government (05-065-03-006 BW)

By Bec Waddington, Policy Advisor Community

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the update on the development of the Child Safe Policy for Local Government be noted.

Executive Summary

- The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse recommended that Local Governments should designate child safety officer positions from existing staff profiles with support from governments at the national, state and territory levels.
- The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) and the Department of Communities (DoC) are developing a Child Safe Policy for Local Government.
- The development of the policy builds upon the Child Safety Officers Consultation undertaken during 2021.
- A series of co-design workshops will be held with Local Government sector representatives during June 2022. Sector wide consultation is planned for July 2022.
- It is anticipated that the draft policy will be presented to WALGA State Council for endorsement in December 2022, prior to consideration for Ministerial endorsement.

Attachment

- [Implementation of Child Safety Officers in Local Governments: Summary of Findings](#)
- [Discussion Paper on Implementation of Child Safety Officers in Local Governments: WALGA Submission](#)

Policy Positions

3.6 Children and Young People

The Local Government sector supports the development and well-being of children and young people through strategic partnerships and a combination of services and facility provision. The Association advocates that the State and Commonwealth should continue to invest in the wellbeing of young West Australians.

December 2018 – 141.7/2018

3.10.2 National Redress

WALGA supports Local Government participation in the State's National Redress Scheme, with full financial coverage by the State

March 2020 – 14.1/2020

Background

Recommendation 6.12 of the [Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse](#) (the Royal Commission) recommended that, with support from governments at the national, state and territory levels, Local Governments should designate child safety officer positions from existing staff profiles to carry out the following functions:

1. developing child safe messages in local government venues, grounds and facilities;
2. assisting local institutions to access online child safe resources;
3. providing child safety information and support to local institutions on a needs basis; and
4. supporting local institutions to work collaboratively with key services to ensure child safe approaches are culturally safe, disability aware and appropriate for children from diverse backgrounds.

A Discussion Paper on the implementation of child safety officers in Local Governments was developed by DoC in 2020 to guide sector consultation. The consultation occurred between

December 2020 and April 2021, with 55 Local Governments providing input to the WALGA submission which was endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute in March 2021.

The WALGA submission made a number of recommendations including:

- child safety should be embedded across Local Government functions and business areas, rather than as a stand-alone person or position;
- a clear framework needs to be developed outlining the scope of the child safety function, including minimum requirements and reporting requirements;
- the State Government should provide capacity building support to Local Government through the provision of resources including template policies, procedures and guidelines, and ongoing training and skills development;
- the State's independent oversight body needs to be resourced to provide expert officers in each region to provide support and guidance to Local Governments;
- State or Commonwealth funding will be required for the delivery of the child safety function in smaller, less well-resourced Local Governments; and
- State Government and Local Government form a working group to guide further consultation and policy development.

DoC released a summary of the consultation findings in April 2022. The findings report recognised the feedback from the sector including the value of embedding child safety across all Local Government frameworks. It also highlighted the need for further engagement with the Local Government sector to strengthen the approach to child safety, including supporting understanding of child safeguarding, clarifying the child safety function and identifying dedicated training and resources.

Comment

DoC and DLGSC are looking to build on the previous consultation and are currently developing a policy to support Local Governments to implement the child safety functions into existing roles. It is anticipated this will be in the form of a policy template that sets out Local Government responsibilities to support child safe communities but enables flexibility to adapt or embed the policy in each unique Local Government.

Policy development will commence in June 2022 via a co-design process with a representative group of Local Governments. Local Government representatives from WALGA's Community Industry Reference Group, the Child Safety Community of Practice and those involved in previous consultation are invited to participate. Other invited stakeholders include LG Professionals WA, Commissioner for Children and Young People, Youth Advisory Council of WA, People with Disability WA and Aboriginal Health Council.

Alongside this process, WALGA is continuing to advocate to the State Government for:

- a clear framework for implementation, with a clear delineation of State and Local Government responsibilities for child safety;
- capacity building support and resources for Local Governments to support ongoing implementation;
- the State's independent oversight body to be resourced to provide expert officers in each region to provide support and guidance to Local Governments; and
- funding to support Local Government delivery, particularly for Band 3 and 4 Local Governments.

It is anticipated that a draft policy template will be released for sector wide consultation in July 2022. WALGA will provide the final draft template (informed by sector feedback) to State Council for decision at the December 2022 meeting.

The Minister for Child Protection will endorse the final policy.

Zone Consideration	
Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Central Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Central Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Gascoyne Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Goldfields Esperance Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Great Eastern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Great Southern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Kimberley Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Murchison Country Zone	No meeting held
North Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Northern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Peel Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Pilbara Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
South East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
South Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
South West Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Mayor Logan Howlett
Seconded: Cr Catherine Ehrhardt

That the update on the development of the Child Safe Policy for Local Government be noted.

RESOLUTION 363.5/2022

CARRIED

6.7 National Reconciliation Week Local Government Activation Program (05-032-03-0011 VB)

By Vikki Barlow, Senior Policy Advisor Community

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the update on the National Reconciliation Week Local Government Activation Program be noted.

Executive Summary

- National Reconciliation Week (NRW), 27 May - 3 June, is an important annual event central to the *Relationships* pillar of [WALGA's Reconciliation Action Plan](#) (RAP).
- WALGA partnered with Reconciliation WA to support a NRW activation program for all Local Governments.
- 33 Local Governments participated in NRW, delivering 60 events with approximately 1814 attendees.

WALGA Advocacy Position

3.1.2 Reconciliation

The Association supports the efforts of the Local Government sector to recognise and respect Aboriginal cultural practices and places of meaning, through the development of Reconciliation Action Plans.

(September 2012 – 118.5/2012)

Background

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. NRW is held from 27 May to 3 June. These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey, the successful 1967 Referendum and the High Court Mabo decision respectively.

WALGA is actively involved in Reconciliation, working with Local Government, and advocating for improved Aboriginal relationships. NRW is an important event and is vital to the *Relationships* pillar of [WALGA's Reconciliation Action Plan](#) (RAP).

Comment

This year's NRW theme, '[Be Brave. Make Change.](#)' sought to challenge individuals, families, communities, organisations and government to tackle the unfinished business of reconciliation. In the spirit of this theme, WALGA partnered with Reconciliation WA to provide an opportunity for Local Governments to get involved in the NRW program. A statewide NRW Virtual Breakfast was hosted at Boola Bardip (WA Museum) on Friday, 27 May.

The breakfast was broadcast live with the aim of engaging communities across the State. Participants, including Local Governments were encouraged to participate in the virtual breakfast via video whilst hosting their own NRW Breakfast. The NRW Virtual Breakfast included Welcome to Country from Elders around the State, cultural performances, a fly through collections in Boola Bardip, and an address from Hon. Dr Tony Buti, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. To complement the virtual breakfast, every Local Government received a free 'NRW Activation Box' to assist them to design and activate COVID-safe breakfast events to suit their local community and circumstances.

As a result of the partnership there was a notable increase in the number of Local Governments who engaged in NRW. A total of 33 Local Governments participated in NRW, delivering 60 events with approximately 1814 attendees.

All Elected Members, Local Government CEOs and officers are invited to attend WALGA's sixth annual [Aboriginal Engagement and Reconciliation Forum](#) to be held on 5 October 2022.

Zone Consideration	
Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Central Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Central Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Gascoyne Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Goldfields Esperance Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Great Eastern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Great Southern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Kimberley Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Murchison Country Zone	No meeting held
North Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Northern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Peel Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Pilbara Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
South East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
South Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
South West Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Mayor Logan Howlett
Seconded: Cr Catherine Ehrhardt

That the update on the National Reconciliation Week Local Government Activation Program be noted.

RESOLUTION 363.5/2022

CARRIED

6.8 WA Strategic Trails Blueprint 2022-2027 – Draft for Comment (05-053-03-007 BW)

By Bec Waddington, Policy Officer Community

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the update on the WA Strategic Trails Blueprint 2022-2027 – Draft for Comment be noted.

Executive Summary

- The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) in partnership with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) have drafted the *Western Australian Strategic Trails Blueprint 2022-2027* which is now open for comment.
- Local Governments have been invited to provide comments directly to DLGSC on the draft plan until 29 July 2022.

Attachment

- [Western Australian Strategic Trails Blueprint 2022-2027- Draft for Comment](#)

Background

DLGSC, in partnership with DBCA, have drafted the next five-year trails strategy for Western Australia. WALGA, as a member of the Project Reference Group, has supported the development of the Blueprint, which is currently available as a draft for comment.

The Western Australian Strategic Trails Blueprint 2022-2027 (the Blueprint) is an overarching guide for consistent and coordinated planning, development and management of quality trails and trail experiences across Western Australia. It provides a vision, guiding principles, strategic directions and actions for consideration across the State by government, trail managers, landholders, trail support groups, tourism operators and the community.

The new Blueprint is intended to build on the [Western Australian Strategic Trails Blueprint 2017-2021](#), with a strategic refocus for the trails industry towards deepening trail users connection to country, community and culture, whilst ensuring ongoing economic, environmental and social sustainability of trails developments. Local Governments have a role to play in this integrated framework, which aims to streamline trail planning, development, management and funding across the whole State.

Comment

Local Governments across WA manage and maintain trails by providing the infrastructure necessary for quality recreation and visitor experiences. Trails provide Local Governments with opportunities to enhance community health and wellbeing, environmental conservation and economic value through tourism opportunities.

DLGSC and DBCA recognise the important role of Local Governments in trail development and management across the State, and have extended the consultation period on the Blueprint to support Local Government feedback.

WALGA is hosting a webinar on 23 June for Local Governments where DLGSC, DBCA and Common Ground will present on the Draft Blueprint.

Local Governments are encouraged to provide feedback on the [Draft Blueprint](#) directly to [DLGSC](#) by Friday, 29 July 2022.

Zone Consideration	
Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Central Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Central Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Gascoyne Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Goldfields Esperance Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Great Eastern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Great Southern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Kimberley Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Murchison Country Zone	No meeting held
North Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Northern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Peel Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Pilbara Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
South East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
South Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
South West Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Mayor Logan Howlett
Seconded: Cr Catherine Ehrhardt

That the update on the WA Strategic Trails Blueprint 2022-2027 – Draft for Comment be noted.

RESOLUTION 363.5/2022

CARRIED

6.9 Issues Paper: Local Government Approaches to Tree Retention (05-036-03-0020 RP)

By Ruby Pettit, Policy Officer Planning

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the WALGA Issues Paper: Local Government Approaches to Tree Retention (May 2022) be noted.

Executive Summary

- The Issues Paper: Local Government Approaches to Tree Retention (Issues Paper) seeks to identify issues that Local Governments are experiencing in using existing mechanisms to retain trees on public and private land, further mechanisms which may be used by Local Governments, and possible options for resolving these issues.
- The Issues Paper has been prepared by WALGA's Planning and Environment teams in close consultation with the Tree Retention Subcommittee (the Subcommittee) of the WALGA Urban Forest Working Group, comprising regional and metropolitan Local Government officers and the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH).
- The legal questions arising from the Issues Paper will be used to prepare a Request for Quote for advice from suitably experienced legal firms on the WALGA preferred supplier panel. It is proposed that this work will to be funded collaboratively by Local Governments that wish to receive this advice.
- The legal advice will inform further priorities and actions, for example development of policy guidance for the sector and further advocacy to the State Government on tree retention in the State planning framework.

Attachment

- [Issues Paper: Local Government Approaches to Tree Retention \(May 2022\)](#)

Policy Implications

4.6 Urban Forestry

Local Government supports advocacy and work to further prevent the loss of urban tree canopy, including the Association's collaboration with the State Government and consultation with Local Government, to develop policies to support Local Government's efforts to maintain and grow tree canopy cover.

(March 2017 – 13.1/2017)

The content and trajectory for the Issues Paper aligns with the existing advocacy position. Following the findings of the legal review and further analysis of the issues identified, [WALGA's Advocacy Position](#) will be reviewed.

Background

Canopy cover across urban areas in Western Australia continues to decline, predominantly through tree loss on private land. At the same time the extent of hard surface is increasing and is higher than the national average. These trends have significant environmental, economic and social impacts, including the following:

- Increased urban heat island effect as paved surfaces absorb more heat, leading to increased household energy costs, increased heat-related illnesses and harsher, less walkable urban environments;
- Reduced air quality and reduced greenhouse gas emission absorption; and
- Reduced biodiversity and connection to nature in our suburbs.

WALGA has been actively advocating and supporting the sector on the issue of urban forest and tree retention, including proposing a State Urban Greening Program as part of the WALGA State Budget

Submission, the development of the [Better Urban Forest Guide](#) with DPLH in 2019 and delivering the 2020 Urban Forest Conference.

WALGA has also facilitated the Local Government Urban Forest Working Group (UFWG) since 2019.

In early 2021, the UFWG undertook strategic planning to identify focus areas to dedicate the skills and expertise within the Group towards strategic projects. Tree retention was identified as a key priority and an expert subcommittee was formed to progress work in this area.

The Issues Paper has been prepared by the WALGA Planning and Environment teams in close consultation with the UFWG Subcommittee. The purpose of the Issues Paper is to identify the key challenges faced by Local Governments using existing measures for tree retention, as well as additional mechanisms for tree retention.

The Issues Paper poses a number of hypothetical scenarios to ground common situations Local Governments may experience where they seek to retain trees, including:

- Tree valuation methods used by Local Governments which seek financial compensation for the removal of canopy trees;
- Instances where proposed vehicle crossovers are in conflict with trees on road reserves (two scenarios);
- Instances where trees are removed from private land in the absence of other development occurring;
- Tree Preservation Orders made over private land to prevent tree removal; and
- Instances where trees are retained in accordance with the R-Codes Volume 1.

The Issues Paper also includes a general discussion on the scope for additional policy and legislative measures through which trees may be retained:

- The ability of Local Governments to make planning scheme provisions to retain trees on private land;
- The scope for the planning system to consider the amenity impacts of trees and their removal;
- The balance between delivering a public good and protecting private property rights;
- What constitutes a 'significant' tree and what might be achieved by applying a sector-wide definition;
- The impact of standard subdivision processes on established trees; and
- The capacity for the planning framework to better create space for trees to grow and be planted.

WALGA is working with the Subcommittee and LGIS to identify the key legal questions arising from the Issues Paper and prepare a request for quote for suitably experienced legal firms on the WALGA preferred supplier panel. WALGA and the Subcommittee will together identify resource requirements to obtain legal advice and discuss opportunities for collaborative funding of the advice and any further research required.

It is anticipated the legal advice will assist WALGA and the Subcommittee to identify a clear way forward to ensure Local Government tree retention measures can withstand legal challenge and achieve their intended aims. This may include development of policy guidance for the sector as well as further advocacy to the State Government on tree retention in the State planning framework.

Comment

The loss of mature trees across our State's urban areas is already resulting in suburbs that are hotter, less resilient and less liveable. Liveability and urban heat will be increasingly significant issues for Local Governments as heat waves become more common and summer temperatures increase in the coming years.

This Issues Paper represents an important step taken by WALGA and its UFWG, through the Subcommittee, to consider how Local Governments can best allocate resources and interventions to facilitate tree retention and meet their urban forest objectives. The Issues Paper has been prepared

with input and consultation from experienced practitioners and covers in detail common issues experienced by Local Governments in their tree retention work.

To address the potential liabilities and other issues identified in the Issues Paper, it is intended that further advice will be sought from legal and other experts, potentially under a collaborative funding arrangement. This research and advice will be used to prepare guidance and advocacy strategies to assist Local Governments in meeting their responsibility to their communities to ensure liveable and resilient neighbourhoods into the future.

Zone Consideration	
Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Central Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Central Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Gascoyne Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Goldfields Esperance Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Great Eastern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Great Southern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Kimberley Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Murchison Country Zone	No meeting held
North Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Northern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Peel Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Pilbara Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
South East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
South Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
South West Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Mayor Logan Howlett
Seconded: Cr Catherine Ehrhardt

That the WALGA Issues Paper: Local Government Approaches to Tree Retention (May 2022) be noted.

RESOLUTION 363.5/2022

CARRIED

6.10 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) (01-006-03-0008 RNB)

By Rebecca Brown, Manager, Environment and Waste

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the resolutions of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council from its 27 April 2022 meeting be noted.

Executive Summary

This item summaries the outcomes of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) meeting held on 27 April 2022.

Background

- MWAC is seeking that State Council notes the resolutions from its 27 April 2022 meeting, consistent with the delegated authority granted to MWAC to deal with waste management issues.
- Copies of Agendas and Minutes are available from WALGA staff, on request.

Comment

The key issues considered at the meeting held on 27 April 2022 included:

Product Stewardship for Photovoltaics

Photovoltaic (PV) systems were placed on the Federal Environment Minister's Product Stewardship Priority List in 2016. An industry agreed nationwide scheme design must be finalised by June 2022, operational by June 2023 and include an approach to deal with legacy PVs.

Progress has been limited and an industry-led, national product stewardship scheme has not been developed. The Product Stewardship Centre of Excellence has been tasked with facilitating the design of a Scheme.

The Issues Paper outlines some of the key considerations in relation to end of life PV management and, using WALGA's [Principles for Product Stewardship](#), identifies the key considerations for designing an effective Product Stewardship Scheme for PVs.

MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MOTION

That the Municipal Waste Advisory Council endorse the Issues Paper: Photovoltaic Product Stewardship.

Moved: Cr Price
Seconded: Cr Wheatland

CARRIED

Zone Consideration	
Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Central Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Central Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Gascoyne Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Goldfields Esperance Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Great Eastern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Great Southern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Kimberley Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Murchison Country Zone	No meeting held
North Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Northern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Peel Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
Pilbara Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
South East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
South Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation noted
South West Country Zone	WALGA recommendation noted

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Mayor Logan Howlett
Seconded: Cr Catherine Ehrhardt

That the resolutions of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council from its 27 April 2022 meeting be noted.

RESOLUTION 363.5/2022

CARRIED

7. ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

7.1 Policy Team Reports

7.1.1 Environment and Waste Policy Team Report

Presented by Policy Team Chair, Cr Les Price

Moved: Cr Frank Cvitan
Seconded: Cr Chris Mitchell

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

RESOLUTION 364.5/2022

CARRIED

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

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

This report provides an update on matters considered by the Environment and Waste Policy Team at its meeting held on 3 May 2022.

1. Matters for State Council Decision

Nil

2. Matters for Noting by State Council

2.1 Environmentally Sustainable Design Buildings Project

A presentation from Ashley Robb, WALGA Senior Policy Advisor, Planning, on the Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Buildings Project, including the [Supporting the Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings Discussion Paper](#).

2.2 Central Metropolitan Zone resolution

Consideration of the Central Metropolitan Zone Resolution that:

1. *WALGA undertake a campaign with the State Government to take urgent action to legislate to restrict the sale of Second Generation Anti-coagulant Rodenticides (SGARs); and*
2. *WALGA undertake a campaign with Local Governments which provide rodent baiting to residents for the Local Governments to not provide this type of poison and specify on demolition permits or for health orders that this type of poison is not to be used.*

The Policy Team resolved that WALGA:

1. provide information to Local Governments through EnviroNews and LGNews and also consider disseminating social media collateral to Local Government; and
2. continue to monitor progress with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) review.

2.3 General Updates

An update on WALGA's work:

- seeking Local Government expressions of interest for an aggregated WALGA bid for ARENA Future Fuels funding for electric vehicle charging infrastructure;
- WALGA's Natural Resource Management Community Stewardship Grant application; and
- review of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*.

7.1.2 Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team Report

Presented by Policy Team Chair, Cr Russ Fishwick

Moved: Cr Russ Fishwick JP

Seconded: Cr Chris Mitchell

That State Council:

1. retains Advocacy Positions:
 - a. 2.5.56 Rating Exemptions – Charitable Purposes
 - b. 2.9.1 Cyber Bullying Protections
2. amends Advocacy Positions:
 - a. 2.2.2 Local Government Audit Structure, by inserting items 5 to 8 as follows:
 5. *Local Government Annual Financial Audits should be completed by the 31 October each year, so that Local Governments can reasonably comply with legislative provisions for Annual Reports and Elector Meetings.*
 6. *Completion of Local Government Annual Financial Audits should not be delayed to enable completion of financial audits of a third party entity to which the Local Government is a participant or member, on the basis that each Local Government and Regional Local Government is a separate and independent entity and Australian Accounting standards equity accounting provisions already apply.*
 7. *Audit issues should be raised with a Local Government no more than four weeks from submission of the Annual Financial Statements to the Office of the Auditor General.*
 8. *Requests the OAG to review the accounting treatment for road assets transferred from Local Government to Main Roads WA, as the approach applied in 2020/21 resulted in significant distortion of operating results for Local Government in the year in which the transfer occurs.*
 - b. 2.5.69 Surveillance Devices Act 1998 Amendment, as follows:

WALGA advocates for amendment of Regulation 4 of the Surveillance Devices Regulations 1999 (WA) so that it includes “Local Government ‘Authorised Persons’ employees as defined in the Local Government Act 1995 section 5.36(1)(b) who perform law enforcement functions on behalf of the Local Government” as a class of Law Enforcement Officers for the purposes of the Surveillance Devices Act 1998 (WA).
 - c. 2.7 Elected Member Training, as follows:
 - i. Delete items 3 and 4 as these items have been achieved, AND
 - ii. Amend item 2:
 2. *Requests the State Government through the Minister for Local Government to provide funding assistance to compensate Local Governments for Elected Members to receive participation in universal training;*
3. adopts WALGA Advocacy Position – Legislative Council Member Allowances – Regional Representation, as follows:

Position Statement	<i>WALGA advocates to State Government through the Minister for Electoral Affairs and the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal to provide additional allowances to Members of the Legislative Council (MLC), on the proviso that they have a staffed office in country areas, to facilitate a regional presence of MLCs.</i>
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RESOLUTION 365.5/2022

CARRIED

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

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

This report provides an update on matters considered, since the last State Council meeting, by the Governance and Organisational Services (GOS) Policy Team at its meeting held on 3 May 2022.

1. Matters for State Council Decision

1.1 WALGA Advocacy Position Reviews

The GOS Policy Team reviewed a number of WALGA Advocacy Positions and provides recommendations for State Council consideration.

Advocacy Positions may be reviewed in the WALGA [Advocacy Position Manual](#).

Advocacy Position 2.5.56 Rating Exemptions – Charitable Purposes

GOS Policy Team comment: Noted that Advocacy Position 2.5.56 is a sub-set of WALGA's Advocacy Position in 2.1.1 Rating Exemptions Review Position Statement:

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

The GOS Policy Team recommends State Council retain Advocacy Position 2.5.56 Rating Exemptions – Charitable Purposes.

Advocacy Position 2.2.2 Local Government Audit Structure

The City of Joondalup at its meeting held 15 February 2022 resolved to request WALGA to form an advocacy position on issues concerning the audit relating to the following matters:

- timing of audit
- delays due to third party audits
- the accounting treatment for road assets transferred from Local Government to Main Roads WA

Current Policy

Local Government audits carried out by the Office of the Auditor General should take into account the following:

1. *Constraint on the audit cost increases*
2. *Audits of Local Governments are completed and reported on in a timely manner and that the processes, procedures and scope of audits are consistently applied.*
3. *Request the Office of the Auditor General include in the "Audit Results Report" for each financial year, a report on the effectiveness and additional value to Local Governments that the responsibility of Financial Audits being assigned to the Office of the Auditor General has provided.*
4. *Request the Minister for Local Government to provide a formal commitment that Performance Audits carried out by the Office of the Auditor General are the financial responsibility of the State Government.*

GOS Policy Team comment: The GOS Policy Team considered that the issues raised by the City of Joondalup echoed concerns raised anecdotally by other Local Governments and were supported.

The GOS Policy Team recommends State Council amend Advocacy Position 2.2.2 Local Government Audit Structure.

Advocacy Position 2.5.69 Surveillance Devices Act 1998 Amendment

GOS Policy Team comment: The GOS Policy Team considered amendment of the Advocacy Position to more broadly encompass the range of officers who may use body worn cameras when performing functions on behalf of a Local Government, including planning, building and health compliance and enforcement.

The GOS Policy Team recommends State Council amend Advocacy Position 2.5.69 Surveillance Devices Act 1998 Amendment.

Advocacy Position 2.7 Elected Member Training

Current Policy

The Local Government sector:

1. Supports and encourages all Elected Members to carry out the Elected Member skillset, as a minimum, that comprises:
 - a) Understanding Local Government
 - b) Serving on Council
 - c) Understanding Financial Reports and Budgets
 - d) Conflicts of Interest; and
 - e) Meeting Procedures and Debating.
2. Requests the State Government through the Minister for Local Government to provide funding assistance to Local Governments to enable all Elected Members to receive training;
3. Supports Local Governments being required to establish an Elected Member Training Policy to encourage training and include budgetary provision of funding of tuition costs for Elected Members; and,
4. Supports Local Government election candidates being required to attend a Candidates Information Session, either in person or online, as an eligibility criteria for nomination as an Elected Member.

GOS Policy Team comment: Provisions of the *Local Government Legislation Amendment Act 2019* [s.61] were proclaimed on 9 August 2019, and fulfilled WALGA's advocacy items 1, 3 and 4 above (vide amendments to sections 5.126, 5.128 and 4.48(2)(b) of the Local Government Act 1995 respectively).

Although Item 1 has been achieved, it is considered important for WALGA to retain an Advocacy Position that demonstrates ongoing support for Universal Training of Council Members. At its meeting the GOS Policy Team further recommended amendment of Item 2 of the Advocacy Position to focus the advocacy on compensating Local Governments for Elected Member participation in Universal Training, rather than potentially encompassing discretionary training provided under a Continuing Professional Development Policy.

The GOS Policy Team recommends State Council amend Advocacy Position 2.7 Elected Member Training.

Advocacy Position 2.9.1 Cyber Bullying Protections

GOS Policy Team comment: Whilst the previous Morrison Federal Government had commenced an inquiry into the proposed Social Media (Anti-Trolling) Bill 2022, which included provisions that addressed the WALGA advocacy position, the Bill did not progress and it will therefore remain an advocacy matter to the new Albanese Federal Government.

The GOS Policy Team recommends State Council retain Advocacy Position 2.9.1 Cyber Bullying Protections.

1.2 Proposed New Advocacy Position – Regional Members of the Legislative Council Allowances

The South West Country Zone requested WALGA to advocate to the Minister for Electoral Affairs and the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal to provide additional allowances to Members of the Legislative Council (MLC), on the proviso they have an office in country areas, to facilitate a regional presence of MLCs.

GOS Policy Team comment: The Zone request is consistent with the WALGA submission to the Ministerial Expert Committee on Electoral Reform dated 8 June 2021, prepared via State Council's Electoral Reform Policy Forum and approved by State Council flying minute.

The GOS Policy Team recommends State Council adopts a new Advocacy Position.

2. Matters for State Council Noting

Nil.

7.1.3 Infrastructure Policy Team Report

Presented by Policy Team Chair, President Cr Chris Pavlovich

Moved: President Cr Chris Pavlovich
Seconded: Mayor Logan Howlett

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

RESOLUTION 366.5/2022

CARRIED

The Infrastructure Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

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

This Report provides an update on matters considered, since the last State Council meeting, by the Infrastructure Policy Team at its meeting held on 4 May 2022.

1. Matters for State Council Decision

Nil

2. Matters for Noting by State Council

A submission to the Economic Regulation Authority regarding the 2022/23 – 2026/27 Access Arrangement for Western Power was endorsed by Flying Agenda. Western Power are continuing to engage regarding Electric Vehicle charging stations, but not the critical matters identified in the WALGA submission.

3. Items Referred from Zones

The Policy Team considered and agreed recommendations in relation to:

- Rail safety at crossings, specifically advocacy for changes to regulations and standards to make trains more conspicuous;
- Spillage of materials from ore trucks onto roads;
- Driving on closed unsealed roads.

These recommendations are reflected in the Zone Status Reports.

Additional matters referred from Zones that will be considered at future meetings are:

A request that WALGA enter into discussions with Horizon Power in relation to programs and funding to transition overhead wires in the Kimberley to underground power.

4. New Policy Issues

The Infrastructure Policy Team will need to further consider whether WALGA requires an updated policy in relation to the operation and potential withdrawal of warden controlled children's crossings.

7.1.4 People and Place Policy Team Report

Presented by Policy Team Chair, President Cr Tony Dean

Moved: President Cr Tony Dean
Seconded: Cr Frank Cvitan

That State Council:

1. note the matters considered by the People and Place Policy Team at its meetings on 6 April and 18 May 2022;
2. rescind its decision (resolution no. 326.2/2022) of 2 March 2022 where it relates to Advocacy Position 6.9; and
3. reinstate the Advocacy Position subject to the changes endorsed by the People and Place Policy team on 22 February, that reads:

6.9 Sex Industry Regulation

Position Statement *The Local Government sector supports in principle, the recognition and licensing of sex work in WA as it allows normal regulatory controls to be put in place, on condition that brothels should be excluded from predominantly residential areas.*

Background *The Association has been involved in discussions / proposals to decriminalise sex work since 1999. State Council has determined the position through consultation with all member Councils (on several occasions), and consideration of feedback and representative position papers, workshops, discussions with other government agencies, support groups and members of the sex industry. The Association will only comment on regulatory, operational, amenity and cost implications that arise for Local Government from any sex work legislation – not moral issues.*

RESOLUTION 367.5/2022

CARRIED

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

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

This Report provides an update on matters considered, since the last State Council meeting, by the People and Place Policy Team at its meetings held on 6 April and 18 May 2022.

1. Matters for State Council Decision

1.1 Advocacy Position – 6.9 Sex industry regulation

At its meeting on 6 August 2021, the People and Place Policy Team considered the review of WALGA's Planning and Building policy positions. As part of that review it determined to remove three outdated policy positions from the manual, including 6.9 Prostitution Legislation.

In the months following the August decision, consultation was undertaken on planning legislation in both New South Wales and Victoria relating to the regulation of the sex industry, with Victoria finalising its reforms in February 2022 and becoming the third Australian state to decriminalise sex

work. The recent decisions of other states highlights that the regulation of the sex industry remains a relevant topic for Local Government across Australia.

In light of this, the Policy Team considered the matter again at its meeting on 22 February 2022. At that time, the Policy Team changed their original recommendation and resolved to retain the position subject as per below.

The original decisions made by the Policy Team on 6 August were included in the People and Place Policy Team Report presented to State Council at its 2 March 2022 meeting. Unfortunately, advocacy position 6.9 was inadvertently placed on the list of positions to be deleted.

As this was not the intent of the Policy Team, it now proposed that State Council rescind its decision (326.2/2022) and reinstate advocacy position 6.9 with the changes agreed to by the Policy Team on 22 February.

2. Matters for Noting by State Council

2.1 People and Place Policy Team meeting on 6 April 2022

At the meeting on 6 April, the People and Place Policy Team:

- Considered relevant matters for decision on the May State Council agenda, including the late item Draft Submission on the Development Assessment Panel Regulations;
- Considered an item from the East Metropolitan Zone relating to third party appeal rights, and determined not to support a proposal for a revision of WALGA's current advocacy position on third party appeals or undertaking a comprehensive sector consultation on third party appeal rights;
- Noted the statewide overview of Local Government Emergency Management Capability;
- Viewed a demonstration of the Planning Performance Monitoring Dashboard ([Agenda item 6.1](#)); and
- Reviewed Advocacy Positions as follows:
 - Considered eight updated Advocacy Positions on emergency management, provided feedback and supported the submission of the positions to the July State Council meeting;
 - Considered the Association's Advocacy Positions on sex industry regulation and rescinded its decision from March 2022 and reinstated the position subject to the changes approved in February 2022 (part of this item).

2.2 People and Place Policy Team meeting on 18 May 2022

At the meeting on 18 May, the People and Place Policy Team:

- Heard a deputation from State Councillor Cr John Daw, Shire of Mundaring about third party appeal rights in relation to the East Metropolitan Zone's resolution not to support the retention of Advocacy Position 6.4 (Third Party Appeal Rights) and request a revision by the People and Place Policy Team, and resolved to seek further clarity on WALGA's preferred model in the Advocacy Position;
- Received a presentation from the Coastal Facilitator about the recent Local Government survey findings and ongoing activities and advocacy;
- Endorsed eight new emergency management advocacy positions for consideration by State Council at the July meeting ([Agenda item 5.1](#));
- Considered the new advocacy position on Community Emergency Services Managers (CESMs) and supported the position being included on the July 2022 State Council agenda subject to an amendment ([Agenda Item 5.2](#));
- Considered the proposed Advocacy Position on the management of Volunteer Bushfire Brigades Paper and endorsed it for distribution to the sector for consultation ([Agenda item 6.2](#));
- Received an update on the consultation on the co-design of the regulations and guidelines to support the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021* ([Agenda item 6.3](#));

- Received an update on the consultation on the development of a child safe policy for Local Government being undertaken by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, and the Department of Communities ([Agenda item 6.6](#));
- Considered the letter received from the Minister for Emergency Services relating to issues with secondary vehicle access in bushfire prone areas responding to previous correspondence from WALGA resulting from a resolution of the South East Metropolitan Zone in November 2021.

The WALGA President attended the 18 May 2022 meeting as an invited guest.

7.2 Key Activity Reports

7.2.1 Report on Key Activities, Commercial and Communications Unit (01-006-03-0017)

By Andrew Blitz, Acting Executive Manager Commercial, and Narelle Cant, Acting Executive Manager Marketing and Communications

Moved: President Cr Michelle Rich
Seconded: Cr John Daw

That the Key Activities Report from the Commercial and Communications Unit to the July 2022 State Council meeting be noted.

RESOLUTION 368.5/2022

CARRIED

Commercial

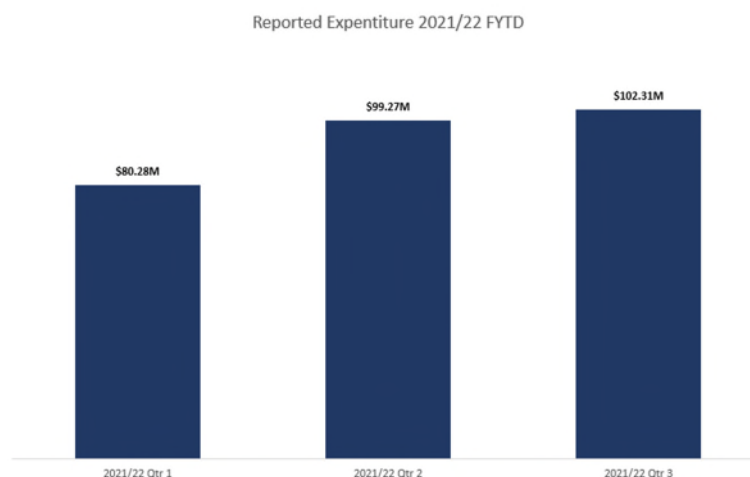
The Commercial Unit comprises:

- *Commercial Management*
- *Commercial Development*
- *LGIS Contract Management*

Commercial Management

Third Quarter Reporting

The operating quarter ending March has closed with reported expenditure of \$102.3 million for the quarter. Year to date WALGA has supplied \$282 million of goods, services and works under the program.



The full year Member expenditure under the WALGA Panels for the previous year ending June 2021 was \$358 million with 47% of this activity being delivered in the key supply areas of Roads, Waste and Energy.

Feedback from Members and Suppliers confirms strong inflationary pressure within the market, coupled with supply chain delays and labour shortages. This has had a moderate impact to date on PSP transactional turnover in some of the smaller value Panels. Forward estimates have taken into account the anticipated delay of many roads and infrastructure projects due to budget constraints in

the year ahead. An adverse impact on the sector's Asset Management gap and a longer-term normalisation of works are the likely trends that will influence Preferred Supplier demand.

Member Engagement

Due to COVID disruption regional visits to Members between January and May were postponed. A visit schedule has now been set with 102 visits to be made by WALGA Contract Managers and other staff across the organisation between June to November, 2022. The vast majority of Regional Members will receive an in-person visit from WALGA staff.

Concurrent to this activity a strategy is being developed for enhanced Metropolitan Member engagement. This activity is expected to be more functionally targeted across business units to raise awareness of the PSP value that can be accessed within different technical areas of supply.

Preferred Supplier Management System (PMS)

Market analysis reports outlining Member's spend activity and whole of panel analytics for suppliers are being prepared for distribution.

A systems upgrade process to evolve further automated reporting and integrations with other WALGA systems is being developed.

Commercial Development

Energy

WALGA's Energy Contract has been fully implemented with the initial three year term commencing 1 April 2022. Since the contracting of renewable energy rates there has been a surge in market prices. Project participants are protected from this cost escalation for the duration of the initial term, and the challenge to evolve PPA infrastructure to succeed the first project phase remains a Development priority.

Construction

The first category of the new Construction Preferred Supplier Panel (PSP) has been released with eight providers appointed for the supply of Modular and Prefabricated Dwellings. WALGA will shortly be tendering for additional categories of new building construction, building refurbishment, demolition, earthworks and site remediation. Through development of this new Panel WALGA is commissioning a new set of legal terms, and working with the industry and representative bodies to address some of the pressure points within the construction sector. These relate to inflationary pressure on material supplies, labour shortages, subcontractor protection, and the risk of financial due diligence and ongoing solvency. WALGA aims to make a positive contribution towards balancing demand and supply, mitigating risk, and delivering security of supply to Members and local industry.

Preferred Supplier Development

Regular PSP development activity continues with Panel review and refresh activity to onboard new suppliers to the program. New suppliers have recently been added to the Temporary Labour and ICT Services contracts, with processes pending for the Financial and Corporate Services and Leisure Cultural and Community Services Panels.

There is strong demand for enhanced EV fleet supply options. Although the market is currently subject to significant supply chain delays, the Development team will be looking to secure medium term supply options in conjunction with anticipated access to ARENA grant funding by Members. This is intended to be complemented by further sustainability services and goods supply development.

Marketing and Communications

The Marketing and Communications Unit comprises:

- *Marketing*
- *Communications*
- *Member Engagement*

The following outlines the key activities of Marketing and Communications since the May State Council meeting.

Marketing

Implementation of Stakeholder Engagement and Member Segmentation Project Recommendations

WALGA has commenced implementation of recommendations from an external review of WALGA's marketing and communications, and stakeholder engagement, conducted by Marketforce and GRA Partners.

The Stakeholder Engagement and Member Segmentation Project is a priority initiative from the Strategic Plan 2020-2025. The objectives are to build WALGA's reputation as a trusted partner, credible contributor and informed advocate for the Local Government sector and gain a deeper understanding of the membership to tailor service delivery and communication to members.

Following extensive research and consultation with key stakeholders, including members, government, media, industry bodies and the community, WALGA has a model for more contemporary engagement. This model is built around 13 recommendations across seven priority plans: an advocacy framework; brand strategy (refresh); marketing and communications strategy; media and government relations strategies; feedback and integrated research; CRM and marketing technology; and member services.

Marketforce and GRA Partners presented a report of its review at the State Council Informal Briefing Session on 1 June.

The Marketing and Communications Unit is reviewing all of its current processes, activities and measurement tools, and scoping and prioritising the roll out of the recommendations, some of which are already underway.

Rates Campaign

To support Members in countering negative sentiment about increases in rates in 2022, WALGA will run a campaign in June and July that focuses on the positive impact of rate contributions to local communities.

WALGA will be repurposing content from our Your Everyday content to highlight the use of rate revenue to deliver facilities and services for residents and ratepayers. The campaign will be delivered in partnership with Seven West Media and include a 'win your rates' competition to generate community engagement. This will be supported by an integrated digital campaign across WALGA channels and a media strategy.

Energy Project – Synergy/WALGA

WALGA is working with Synergy to promote Local Governments involved in a joint renewable energy procurement project, the largest of its kind in Australia.

Through an agreement with Synergy, negotiated for Local Governments by WALGA, 50 Councils are purchasing 100 per cent renewable energy to power their facilities. This will reduce CO2 emissions from those Local Government facilities by an estimated 150,000 tonnes over the next three years.

Videos showcasing four of the Councils involved in the project will be produced to illustrate and promote the work of WA Local Governments in real action to reduce emissions and be more sustainable.

Communications

Federal Election Campaign

WALGA worked alongside ALGA and local government associations in other states and territories on a five-week Federal election campaign, releasing media statements, writing to Federal Members and candidates, hosting two webinars with Federal Members, and posting on social media.

The social media campaign featured weekly messaging on priority areas, displayed across Facebook and Instagram, and organic social media posts on LinkedIn and Twitter, with links to ALGA's campaign website.

The campaign engaged with 15,281 people in Western Australia, attracting 416 click throughs to the ALGA campaign web pages. The two most popular topics were Economic Recovery and Local Roads and Community Infrastructure.

State Budget Communications

WALGA responded to this year's State Budget, delivered on May 12, with a media statement [here](#) on the afternoon of the Budget. The following morning, WALGA provided Members with information via a newsletter with links to the WALGA website, which hosted detailed information on topics of relevance to the sector.

Social media channels were also utilised to communicate more broadly on the implications of the State Budget for Local Government.

Member Engagement

Local Government Convention and Trade Exhibition

Registration for the 2022 Local Government Convention and Trade Exhibition will open in June. The event will be held at Crown Perth, from Sunday 2 October to Tuesday 4 October.

This year's theme is "Embracing Change" and the conference program will explore current and anticipated changes to the local government landscape, and how the sector can collaborate to inform, guide and embrace change. Speakers secured include:

- Mr Simon Trott, CEO, RioTinto Iron Ore
- Bernard Salt AM, one of Australia's leading social commentators
- Dr Craig Challen, OAM, the Australian cave diver that was part of the rescue of 12 boys and their coach in the 2018 Thai Cave Rescue
- Former coach of the Australian men's cricket team, Justin Langer AM.

Breakfast with Heads of Agencies and Mayors and Presidents Forum

On 6 May, WALGA hosted a Heads of Agencies breakfast, followed by the bi-annual Mayors and Presidents Forum at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The breakfast was attended by 80 Local Government representatives, who had the opportunity to speak directly with 11 Heads of State Government agencies on a broad range of topics of interest and intersect with Local Government.

Following the breakfast, Elizabeth Shaw from PricewaterhouseCoopers gave an enlightening and informative presentation on Workplace Culture and Behaviour in Local Government.

Other Events Hosted by WALGA

- Harnessing the Benefits of Volunteerism in Natural Areas Workshop, 20 May: 42 in-person, five webinar attendees
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act co-design Workshops, 20 and 23 May: total 90 registrants.
- Environmentally Sustainable Buildings Forum – Transition to 7 Star Homes, 15 June.
- Trails and Local Governments, 23 June.

7.2.2 Report on Key Activities, Governance and Organisational Services (01-006-03-0007 TB)

By Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services

Moved: President Cr Michelle Rich
Seconded: Cr John Daw

That the Key Activities Report from the Governance and Organisational Services Unit to the July 2022 State Council meeting be noted.

RESOLUTION 368.5/2022

CARRIED

Governance and Organisational Services comprises of the following WALGA work units:

- *Governance and Procurement*
- *Employee Relations*
- *Training*
- *Regional Capacity Building*
- *Strategy & Association Governance*

The following provides an outline of the key activities of Governance and Organisational Services since the last State Council meeting.

Strategy & Association Governance

WALGA Best Practice Governance Review

Undertaking a thorough Best Practice Governance Review of WALGA's governance model was identified as a key strategic priority from the Association's [Corporate Strategy 2020-25](#). A review has also been precipitated by external factors, such as over the past 20 years there has been a series of amendments to the Constitution and the Corporate Governance Charter that has seen a misalignment between key Association governance documents, in addition there are proposed legislative reforms to remove WALGA from being constituted under the Local Government Act 1995 and potential constitutional requirements for WALGA to become a registered organisation under the Industrial Relations Act 1979. Strategically, the Best Practice Governance Review is intended to ensure that WALGA's governance model is contemporary, agile and maximises engagement with members. The review will incorporate all areas of WALGA's Governance structure and processes.

The Governance Review Project is now well underway. A Steering Committee has been formed, with membership including the WALGA President and Deputy President, 2 State Councillors, 2 Elected Members and 2 Chief Executive Officers together with the WALGA CEO. Price Waterhouse Coopers (PwC) have been appointed as consultants to support the Committee through their deliberations. There will be ongoing engagement with State Council, the Zones and other stakeholders throughout the Project, with the aim of presenting an item on principles and framework to 2022 Annual General Meeting and looking to finalise a report by the end of this calendar year. Any proposed constitutional amendments will need to be scheduled for the 2023 WALGA AGM for Member consideration and endorsement

Employee Relations

Proposed State Industrial Relations (IR) transition

WALGA met with the Hon. Bill Johnston MLA, Minister for Industrial Relations regarding the proposed State IR transition on 9 May 2022. At that meeting WALGA confirmed the key priority areas for Local Governments on the transition include the:

1. **Timing of the proposed transition:** WALGA is seeking that the commencement of the 'relevant day' under the regulations provide for a six-month time period (from the commencement of the regulations) before the transition takes effect for Local Governments.

2. **Funding and resource request:** WALGA is asking for \$15 million in funding for Local Governments over two years based on a comprehensive sector survey, and further State Government support by way of educational resources.
3. **Reviving the Local Government taskforce:** Reconfirming the Minister's commitment to reconvene the taskforce to address issues arising during the proposed State IR transition. The Final Report of the Ministerial Review recommended that if the s.14(2) FW Act endorsement is obtained, that a taskforce be assembled and chaired by a representative of DMIRS, to oversee, monitor, assist, facilitate and progress the transition of Local Government employers and employees between the Federal and State IR systems.

Governance and Procurement

Local Government Legislative Reform

The Minister for Local Government has invited WALGA on to 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. The first meeting has been held and considered issues relating to earlier intervention and effective regulation and the potential workings of the Office of the Inspector.

WALGA will provide regular updates to the sector as the legislative reform process progresses and information is able to be shared.

Regional Subsidiaries

Advocacy continues with requesting the Regional Subsidiary regulations be amended to remove the current beauracracy. WALGA contracted a legal firm to prepare amended regulations and we have presented these to the Minister for Local Government's Office. There are a number of regional groups who are waiting for the regulations to be amended and will then look to transition to a Subsidiary. The Minister's Office has advised that are looking at this as it forms part of the Minister's legislative reform agenda.

Training

The training team is working on new course development projects including:

- **LGA30120 Certificate III in Local Government** which can be offered as a Traineeship. Currently the aim is to have this course added to our RTO Scope over the next few weeks.
- **Procurement Courses:** The Procurement course upgrade project is project is now close to completion and covers 6 specialised Courses:
 - Procurement and Contract Essentials
 - Procurement Planning and Risk
 - Introduction to Specification
 - Contract Administration and Management
 - Compliance, Evaluation and Contract Award
 - Developing Specifications for Excellence
- **Health and Safety Representative** course being registered with the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety
- **White Card course** – Prepare to work safely in the construction industry, to be added to RTO Scope of Registration in the near future
- **Environment – eLearning Course** – Over the next few weeks, 3 modules are ready to be released:
 - Biosecurity
 - Corporate and community sustainability
 - Climate Change 101

Enrolment numbers continue to be very strong across all courses including Face to Face at WALGA and on-site at Local Governments, which has increased steadily since the last report. Also, feedback received from Learners consistently reflects the high quality of learning resources our team has developed and the strong commitment of our highly skilled and experienced trainers.

7.2.3 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure Unit (05-001-02-0003 ID)

By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure

Moved: President Cr Michelle Rich
Seconded: Cr John Daw

That the Key Activities Report from the Infrastructure Unit to the July 2022 State Council meeting be noted.

RESOLUTION 368.5/2022

CARRIED

Roads

Condition Assessment of Roads of Regional Significance

Funding has been provided through the State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement to perform visual condition surveys of Significant sealed roads (ROADS 2040) and video of the Significant unsealed roads over a five-year cycle. The first two phases of this project, covering the Mid West, Great Southern and Goldfields-Esperance regions have been completed. In addition, the survey has included condition reporting on access roads to remote Aboriginal communities. The next phase will cover the Wheatbelt region and following a call for proposals, the Australian Road Research Board (ARRB) have been appointed. There is an opportunity for individual Shires to leverage off this contract and add additional roads at their cost. ARRB will communicate with all the Wheatbelt Shires in this regard.

Local Government Transport and Roads Research and Innovation Program

WALGA and Main Roads are developing a research program that will deliver guidance to Local Governments to assist in the adoption of technologies and practices that will enhance productivity and delivery of roads and transport initiatives. WALGA has collected topic proposals from Local Governments, and these have been ranked by an operations team of Local Government and Main Roads practitioners. WALGA and Main Roads will next develop scope of works for the selected projects and propose a budget allocation for the 2022/23 financial year.

WALGA Road Visual Condition Assessment Manual Update

WALGA is working with the IPWEA WA Asset Management Committee to review and update the Road Visual Condition Assessment Manual, originally published in 2016. The Manual provides the guidelines for the manual collection of visual surface condition data and has been used widely across WA. Most recently, the Manual provided the methodology for the generation of Pavement Condition Indices, Surface Condition Indices, and Drainage Condition Indices for Roads of Regional Significance in three regions as part of the Condition Survey of Local Government roads project. The update is forecast to be completed by November/December 2022.

Funding

State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement

The current Agreement expires in June 2023. The Minister of Transport and Planning has given approval for Main Roads WA to proceed with negotiations for a new Agreement and the State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee (SAC) has endorsed a timeline and process. The sector is represented and led in the negotiation process by the Local Government delegates to SAC. Regional Road Group Chairs and a reference group of senior officers from each Regional Road Group are providing critical input to the development of options and a preferred position for Local Government. Decisions regarding a proposed agreement will need to be made by State Council with input from the Zones later in 2022. WALGA and Main Roads are meeting fortnightly to facilitate the process. The State Government has indicated that a new agreement should provide an increased focus on Aboriginal employment, use of recycled materials and road safety.

Utilities

Underground Power

The Economic Regulation Authority has not yet published a response to the submission made by WALGA and others in April regarding the Western Power Access Arrangement to 2027 (AA5). Western Power has responded to some of the matters raised including outage information that was highlighted in the WALGA submission. Further consultation is proposed, and this process is on-going.

In the absence of a State Government policy or program, Western Power has continued to engage directly with targeted Local Governments to deliver underground power projects using the Network Renewal Undergrounding Program Pilot (NRUPP). These approaches appear to be generally well received by the Local Governments involved and are allowing some capability and capacity in the industry to be maintained pending a larger program of work.

Telecommunications

Telecommunications carriers are again advocating strongly to the Federal Government that multifunction poles, required for expansion of 5G mobile services, be included under the Low Impact facilities Determination (LIFD), which would mean that no planning approval is required prior to their installation. Multi-function poles can be up to 12 metres tall and could potentially be installed by multiple carriers in the same locations. WALGA has been supporting efforts at a national level through ALGA to put forward alternative proposals. The previous Federal Minister was receptive to approaches from the carriers, who are advocating very strongly.

WALGA staff have contributed to an interagency working group to help develop proposals for initiatives that will improve telecommunications (mobile and digital) service quality in regional WA that could be considered as part of the State's Digital Strategy.

Road Safety

Road Safety Ratings for Local Government Roads Project

As part of a project to develop a new tool or adapt an existing tool to evaluate the safety of Local Government roads, WALGA recently held consultation workshops across WA. These workshops were designed to seek feedback from Local Governments on the level of interest in evaluating their road network's safety, the internal capacity and capability to undertake an assessment of their road network, which type of assessment methodology would make the most sense/be feasible for Local Governments, and how the resulting data would be used. Both in-person and virtual workshops were held. The data gathered will inform the direction of the project and support the adaptation or development of a tool to best suit the needs of Local Governments.

Road Safety Council Update

On 25 May, the Road Safety Council received the Road Safety Minister's Expectations. The Council considered governance matters relating to the functions of the Council under the Road Safety Council Act 2002. An update on key road safety developments was presented by the Road Safety Commission, including the regulation of eRideables consultation process and review timeframe. Highlighting road safety activity supporting the implementation of the Driving Change strategy, WALGA presented the 2015-2019 Road Safety Performance on Local Government Roads reports and the Royal Automobile Club (RAC) reported on a trial of their Driver Coaching App and provided the results of the RAC Member Priorities Tracker Survey.

Demonstration Project – Local Government Road Safety Management System

The Local Government Road Safety Management System Project has been working closely with the Shires of Manjimup, Esperance and Dardanup to demonstrate how road safety performance can be managed and improved, using the International Standard for road traffic safety management (ISO 39001) as a framework. All three participating Local Governments have mapped their existing Local Government policies, programs or procedures which either incorporate road safety outcomes or could be strengthened to embed best practice road safety into Local Government business. The Shire of Manjimup has moved to the planning stage by developing a draft Road Traffic Safety Policy. This policy outlines how the Shire will adopt a policy of continual improvement through the road safety management system to guide road traffic safety, planning and construction where possible.

7.2.4 Report on Key Activities, Strategy, Policy and Planning Unit (01-006-03-0017 NM)

By Nicole Matthews, Acting Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning

Moved: President Cr Michelle Rich
Seconded: Cr John Daw

That the Key Activities Report from the Strategy, Policy and Planning Unit to the July 2022 State Council meeting be noted.

RESOLUTION 368.5/2022

CARRIED

The Strategy, Policy and Planning (SPP) Portfolio comprises:

- *Economics and Strategic Projects*
- *Environment and Waste (see MWAC Report)*
- *Planning and Building*
- *Resilient Communities*

The following outlines the key activities of SPP since the May State Council meeting.

Economics and Strategic Projects

2022-23 State Budget

The State Budget was handed down on 12 May 2022. WALGA provided members with a timely update on the [key initiatives in the budget](#) for Western Australian Local Governments.

WALGA considered that the State Budget was focussed on the right areas to address current pain points being felt throughout Western Australian communities, while also looking to address longer term economic and social development. While funding in areas such as regional health, mental health, telecommunications, remote communities, road infrastructure and climate action were all welcome, the sector would have liked to see funding directed towards grass roots initiatives that are being delivered by Local Governments.

Work has now commenced to develop WALGA's submission in advance of the 2023-24 Budget. A briefing on the proposed approach and priorities will be provided at the July Strategic Forum meeting.

Local Government Costs

Cost pressures facing Local Governments have been a significant area of focus in recent months, with the sector reporting that the cost of providing community services and infrastructure has increased significantly over the past year as a result of external factors such as COVID-19 supply constraints, the outbreak of war in Ukraine, and shortages of workers.

The Economics team is currently undertaking a new round of forecasts for WALGA's Local Government Cost Index (LGCI), which tracks the change in prices of goods and services for Local Governments. Enhancements continued to be made to the Index to ensure that it remains robust and reliable, with additional data acquired to support the components of the index that relate to construction costs. The Economics team have received many inquiries in recent months around movements in the LGCI to assist Local Governments with budgeting and rate setting. The revised forecasts will be released in June as part of WALGA's Economic Briefing.

To subscribe to the quarterly briefing or find out more contact WALGA Economist Daniel Thomson on dthomson@walga.asn.au.

Local Government Economic Development

With COVID-19 having a significant impact on economic and business activity, WALGA is currently updating the research undertaken in 2019 that formed the basis of its Local Government Economic Development Framework.

This project is aimed to support Local Governments to better understand the role they can play in driving local economic development. It also identified barriers and challenges to Local Government's economic development activities and to put forward solutions.

We are reaching out to Local Governments to understand the current economic development landscape and to identify the key issues for local economies for use in policy discussions with the State and Federal Government. These insights will also be used to shape WALGA's support to the sector on economic issues in coming months.

Environment

Grants

Natural Resource Management

WALGA received 15 Expressions of Interest from metropolitan and non-metropolitan Local Governments across the South West bio-region to be part of a collective application for the Natural Resource Management – Community Stewardship Grants (NRM Grants). Based on the level of interest from the sector, WALGA submitted a grant application for \$438,000. It is anticipated the successful applicants will be announced in November 2022. If successful, this grant will enable WALGA to assist Local Governments in developing Local Biodiversity Strategies and/or policies, mapping and undertaking native vegetation assessments and development and delivery of a better practice roadside vegetation management training package.

Electric Vehicles

WALGA received 22 expressions of interest (11 metropolitan, eight regional Local Governments and three regional councils) to participate in an aggregated WALGA application for Australian Renewable Energy Agency funding for electric vehicle charging infrastructure for Local Government fleets. Funding anticipated aggregated requests for the purchase and installation of chargers totals approximately \$8.5 million. Under the ARENA criteria, the charging infrastructure is targeted at council use (not public charging locations) and will be located at facilities such as administration centres, depots and community centres. Local Governments will provide their matching contribution through the purchase of light battery electric vehicles (BEVs) for their corporate fleets, with 293 vehicles nominated for purchase at a cost of approximately \$15 million. Many Local Governments are also interested in BEV opportunities for commercial and heavy vehicles, including street sweepers, waste trucks, light trucks, buses and graders.

WALGA's is considering the next steps in seeking funding from ARENA, and potential value-add opportunities under the recently announced State Government funding Scheme. This will include investigating supply options for Local Government through WALGA Preferred Supplier Panels (PSPs) and CUA arrangements for BEVs and related hardware and software to facilitate fleet availability and competitive pricing.

Biosecurity

Consultation on the review of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* is expected commence in June. WALGA will be also undertaking direct consultation with the sector to inform its submission to the review.

Planning and Building

Environmentally Sustainable Buildings Forum – Transition to 7 Star Homes

On 15 June WALGA hosted an online forum to discuss expected changes to the National Construction Code's energy efficiency standards and Western Australia's transition to 7 Star homes. Over 100 participants from Local Government, state agencies and other invited guests listened to guest speakers from Sustainability Victoria, Department of Communities, Housing Industry Association and accredited energy assessors from Northern Aspect Energy Consultants. The Planning and Building Team also presented a summary of member feedback on WALGA's discussion paper Supporting the Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings.

WALGA Urban Forest Conference 2022: Valuing Canopy

The WALGA Planning and Environment teams are working to deliver a second Urban Forest Conference in November 2022. The conference is a forum to showcase latest research, significant policy and best practice examples in urban forest management and will bring together local and state government, industry and academic stakeholders to explore challenges and opportunities for the urban forest. This year's conference theme is 'Valuing Canopy' and will be held at Curtin University.

Development Assessment Panels & Extension of significant development pathway

The State Government has reestablished the Part 17 pathway for significant projects until December 2023, originally established as a temporary, 18-month economic recovery measure to generate economic output and employment.

WALGA opposes the special development pathway and [outlined](#) our concerns at its reestablishment and the lack of consultation on the decision.

The establishment of a Special Matters Development Assessment Panel has also been delayed until at least early 2023 to allow additional consultation on the reforms. WALGA continues to advocate on this matter.

Resilient Communities

The team has delivered several [webinars](#):

- 8 June 2022: Supporting the Prevention of Violence Against Women: Co-delivered with Our Watch, ALGA and all State and Territory Local Government Associations, directed at Local Government officers, this webinar is the second in the Our Watch series and will look at the role of Local Government in promoting gender equality and preventing violence against women.
- 29 June 2022: Local Government Family and Domestic Violence Toolkit: Delivered by the Local Government Community Safety Network, this Webinar delves further into strategies and initiatives supported by the Local Government Toolkit.
- 23 June 2022: [Trails and Local Government](#): Hosted by WALGA and presented by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries in partnership with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and Common Ground, this webinar will focus on the value that trails can bring to a Local Government as part of the consultation for the Draft Strategic Trails Blueprint.

Local Government Homelessness Knowledge Hub Project

Shelter WA in partnership with WALGA and Local Government Professionals have developed an **Online Homelessness Knowledge Hub**, which will act as a central online hub of resources and information to support Local Government in providing localised responses to homelessness. Shelter WA was awarded a Strengthening and Adapting Organisations Grant from Lotterywest to undertake the project. The Knowledge Hub will be launched during Homelessness Week 2022, 1 – 7 August.

AFAC Independent Operational Review of the Wooroloo Fire (Wooroloo Review)

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) has commenced implementation of a number of the recommendations from the Wooroloo Review. A workshop was held on 9 June to commence work on Recommendations 7 (establishment and management of Vehicle Control Points and the use of Restricted Access permits) and 8 (road clearing capability) with WALGA, City of Swan and Shire of Mundaring invited to attend. Initial contact has also been received from DFES about Recommendation 10 (review of the impact assessment process).

After Action Review: February 2022 Severe Weather Event, Concurrent Level 3 Bushfires

DFES has commenced a review into the 4 Level 3 bushfires that occurred in February 2022 involving DFES, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and WALGA representatives. An initial meeting was held on 8 June 2022 to discuss the lessons management process, review roles and responsibilities, discuss the methodology and data collection plan, stakeholder identification and next steps.

7.3 Policy Forum Report

Moved: President Cr Michelle Rich
Seconded: Cr Chris Mitchell

That the report on the key activities of the Mining Communities Policy Forum to the July 2022 State Council meeting be noted.

RESOLUTION 369.5/2022

CARRIED

Mining Communities Policy Forum

Prepared by Kelly McManus, Principal Policy and Advocacy

The State Government recently announced that a preliminary engineering survey contract has been awarded to local Aboriginal company Gee Gie to assess abandon mine features near Cue, Marble Bar and Yalgoo. Gee Gie will work with the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety to identify, document and prioritise remediation work of abandoned mine features. Details can be found [here](#)

WALGA is progressing meetings with RDA Midwest Gascoyne and DMIRS.

7.4 President's Report

Moved: Mayor Ruth Butterfield
Seconded: President Cr Phillip Blight

That the President's Report for July 2022 be received.

RESOLUTION 370.5/2022

CARRIED

7.5 CEO's Report

Moved: Mayor Ruth Butterfield
Seconded: President Cr Phillip Blight

That the CEO's Report for July 2022 be received.

RESOLUTION 370.5/2022

CARRIED

7.6 Ex-Officio Reports

Moved: Mayor Logan Howlett
Seconded: Cr Chris Mitchell

That the City of Perth Report and the LG Professionals Report be received.

RESOLUTION 371.5/2022

CARRIED

7.6.1 City of Perth Report

The City of Perth report was moved forward and provided as item 5.4.1.

7.6.2 LG Professionals Report

Ms Annie Riordan, President, LG Professionals WA, provided a report to the meeting.

8. ADDITIONAL ZONE RESOLUTIONS

Moved: President Cr Michelle Rich

Seconded: Cr Paul Kelly

That the additional Zone Resolutions from the June 2022 round of Zones meetings as follows be referred to the appropriate policy area for consideration and appropriate action and noting that some have already been referred.

RESOLUTION 372.5/2022

CARRIED

ZONE ITEM: Proposed Advocacy Position for Management of Bushfire Brigades Discussion Paper (Strategy, Policy and Planning Unit)

Gascoyne Country Zone

That the Gascoyne Country Zone support the “Hybrid Model” for the Management of Bushfire Brigades.

Goldfields Esperance Country Zone

That GVROC:

1. notes the discussion paper and WALGA’s support for the hybrid model option for the management of BFBs.
2. Requests all GVROC Local Government members to provide a written response to this Paper or to complete the survey as requested.
3. Note that the Shire of Dundas was granted an extension to 26 July 2022 for responses and recommends all LGAs request extension to ensure responses meet the requirements for LGAs.
4. Requests WALGA to note and consider the GVROC comments/concerns listed below in its proposed advocacy position and discussion paper.

GVROC comments:

In progressing any model for management of Bushfire Brigades there needs to be assurances that there are fair and equitable resources provided to all Bushfires Brigades whether they are continued to be retained by LGAs or if they are transferred over to DFES. There are concerns that DFES operated Bushfire Brigades will be focussed on and well resourced, while LGA retained ones are left behind to fend for themselves, effectively then forcing them to be transferred to DFES with DFES then retaining all Bushfire Brigades. This is not the best solution as in some cases the Bushfire Brigades can be more effectively managed and operated through the LGA. Another concern that has been raised that needs to be considered is the continuing decrease in volunteers and how this can be addressed in any future management model.

Great Eastern Country Zone

That the Zone encourage individual Local Governments to provide a submission to WALGA and the Zone consider this item at the August 2022 Zone meeting.

CENTRAL METROPOLITAN ZONE

State Grant-Funding Equality for Local Government Active Transport Infrastructure (Infrastructure Unit)

That the Central Metropolitan Zone request the WA Local Government Association (WALGA) to adopt advocacy positions that support:

1. Increased flexibility in the purposes for which State grant funding to Local Government road infrastructure can be used – broadening the uses to include pedestrian and cycle infrastructure.
2. Funding contributions for cycle infrastructure grants to be 2/3 State: 1/3 Local Government, aligning with the ratios for State road infrastructure grant funding.

3. That the equality in funding ratios for cycle infrastructure grants in Point 2 is achieved through an increase in State funding contribution.

That the advocacy position is used to lobby the State Government to achieve equality in funding for all modes of transport infrastructure under the jurisdiction of Local Government, for the benefit and well-being of the community.

GASCOYNE COUNTRY ZONE

Intensive Family Community Intervention (Strategy, Policy and Planning Unit)

That the Gascoyne Country Zone seeks WALGA's support to advocate to the State Government to allocate funds and/or resources to fund and implement the Intensive Family Community Intervention in Carnarvon and other communities impacted by youth crime and social issues and support fundamental change to policy position to ensure it can be implemented.

DFES Working Group (Strategy, Policy and Planning Unit)

That the Gascoyne Country Zone recommend WALGA request DFES to form a working group of participants from affected Shires to review the current process and report back on outcomes and solutions.

Management Orders on State Owned Land (Strategy, Policy and Planning Unit)

That the Gascoyne Country Zone recommend that WALGA in consultation with Zone delegates, advocate to the State Government for a review of the Management Orders pertaining to State Land that is managed by Local Government especially in relation to Local Government leasing such land to other parties.

GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE COUNTRY ZONE

WALGA Best Practice Governance Review Update (Governance and Organisational Services Unit)

GVROC note the update on the WALGA Best Practice Governance Review Project and request WALGA respond to the below comments and questions.

GVROC comments:

- *The GVROC would like more information regarding the consultation plan proposed for the next phase of the project. What will be the opportunity for LGAs to provide feedback into the process or is just through the Steering Committee and State Council?*
- *It was also suggested that the Steering Committee should travel out to each Zone to meet and discuss with the Zones (GVROC) on the process.*
- *Based on the above comments/questions the Timeframes for the project also seem short to make well informed decisions, with a final report due in October, presented at Zone meeting in November and then to State Council in December. GVROC suggest that to ensure good consultation and feedback into the process it may be better to push this timeframe out into 2023.*

GREAT EASTERN COUNTRY ZONE

Roadworks During a Total Fire Ban (Strategy, Policy and Planning Unit)

That the Great Eastern Country Zone request WALGA to advocate for modifications to the current exemptions, to provide for a harvest and movement ban, not a total fire ban.

Office of Auditor General (Governance and Organisational Services Unit)

That the Great Eastern Country Zone request WALGA to advocate to the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) that:

2. The OAG should be responsible for any additional costs incurred and not the individual Local Governments when a contract auditor cannot complete their contract.

3. The OAG should consider removing the duplicity in the current audit process and look to provide a more efficient service.

GREAT SOUTHERN COUNTRY ZONE

Cat Local Laws (Governance and Organisational Services Unit)

That the Great Southern Zone of WALGA;

1. Acknowledge the challenges with gazettal of Cat Local Laws, which meet community expectations, under current legislation, particularly in relation to cat containment within the property of the owner, and control of cats in public places and;
2. Write to WALGA State Council seeking an update and feedback on resolution 232.4/2021; and;
3. Write to the Honourable John Carey, Minister for Housing, Lands, Homelessness and Local Government requesting an update and timelines associated with updates to the Dog and Cat Acts.

NORTH METROPOLITAN ZONE

Safe Use of eRideables (Infrastructure Unit)

That the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) advocate for State Government to implement a State-level campaign to further promote and support the safe use of eRideables in addition to media circulated by the Road Safety Council.

SOUTH EAST METROPOLITAN ZONE

Elected Members Sustainability Network (Strategy, Policy and Planning Unit)

That the suggestion of an Elected Member Sustainability Network be referred to the Environment Policy Team meeting, 6 July 2022, for consideration.

8.1 ALGA Board meeting and 2022 National General Assembly

WALGA Deputy President Cr Paul Kelly provided an update on the recent ALGA Board meeting and National General Assembly.

8.2 WALGA Staff Movements

WALGA President Cr Karen Chappell welcomed Mr Graham Mason, Manager Media and Communications.

State Council were advised that Ms Kelly Mc Manus, Principal Policy and Strategy, will be leaving WALGA and has been appointed as the Policy Advisor to the Federal Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Kristy McBain MP.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the WALGA State Council will be a Regional meeting hosted by the Peel Country Zone at the City of Mandurah on Friday, 9 September.

10. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at **5:45pm**.

DECLARATION

These minutes were confirmed at the meeting held on 9 September 2022.

Signed

Person presiding at the meeting at which these minutes were confirmed

STATUS REPORT ON STATE COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS To the July 2022 State Council Meeting

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
4 May 2022 Item 5.1 Submission to Statutory Review of the <i>Food Act 2008</i>	That the submission to the Department of Health relating to the Statutory Review of the <i>Food Act 2008</i> , be endorsed subject to an amendment to include an additional sentence on page 11 under Section 2.2, Areas for improvement, Temporary or Mobile Food Businesses, after the second sentence, as follows: <i>"In addition further consideration could be given to the operation of home-based food businesses and small producers and the constraints experienced in compliance with the Act."</i> RESOLUTION 334.4/2022	Submission was amended and lodged with the Department of Health.	Complete	Nicole Matthews Acting Executive Manger Strategy, Policy and Planning
4 May 2022 Item 5.2 Local Government Grant Scheme Funding	That WALGA advocates to the Minister for Emergency Services and the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An allocation of Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGGS) 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 (LGGGS) to prepare a Comprehensive Asset Management Plan that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	A letter was sent to the Minister for Emergency Services and Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner advising of the State Council resolution on 25 May 2022.	Ongoing	Nicole Matthews Acting Executive Manger Strategy, Policy and Planning

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 overall Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) funding pool to future capital grants that align with the Comprehensive Asset Management Plan (as updated from time to time). <p>RESOLUTION 336.4/2022</p>			
<p>4 May 2022 Item 5.3 Draft Active Travel to School Roadmap</p>	<p>That WALGA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 3. Uses the Draft Active Travel to School Roadmap to strengthen advocacy for increased funding for 	<p>The Director General of the Department of Transport was formally advised of the State Council decision.</p>	<p>Complete</p>	<p>Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure</p>

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
	<p>walking and cycling infrastructure in Western Australia by the State and Federal Government.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 337.4/2022</p>			
<p>4 May 2022 Item 5.4</p>	<p>That the WALGA Development Assessment Panel Regulations Submission be endorsed.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 338.4/2022</p>	<p>The Submission was lodged with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage</p>	<p>Complete</p>	<p>Nicole Matthews Acting Executive Manger Strategy, Policy and Planning</p>
<p>4 May 2022 Item 5.7 LGIS Board Minutes</p>	<p>That WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. endorses the revised LGIS Corporate Governance Charter that reflects recent State Council resolutions and other governance changes; and 2. notes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the Minutes of the LGISWA Scheme Board workshop held on 24 February; and b. the Minutes of the LGISWA Scheme Board meeting held on 25 March. <p>RESOLUTION 341.4/2022</p>	<p>No further action required.</p>	<p>Complete</p>	<p>Craig Hansom Acting Executive Manager Commercial</p>
<p>4 May 2022 Item 5.8 WALGA President's Allowance and LGIS Director Fee</p>	<p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State Council endorses that the WALGA President's allowance includes responsibilities for carrying out LGIS Director responsibilities; and 2. the LGIS Director fee for the President's position on the board be retained by WALGA. <p>RESOLUTION 342.4/2022</p>	<p>This item has been actioned and WALGA's payroll and insurance areas have been notified.</p>	<p>June 2022</p>	<p>Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services</p>
<p>2 March 2022 Item 6.3 Detection of Polyphagous Shot-hole Borer and Implications for Local Government</p>	<p>That State Council note:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The emerging biosecurity threat following the detection of the polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB) in the metropolitan area. 2. That PSHB has the potential to significantly impact on Local Governments' street trees and public open space. 3. The response activities being coordinated by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, including the imposition of a Quarantine Area Notice covering 17 Local Government areas and expanded surveillance program. 	<p>An expanded Quarantine Area Notice came into effect on 13 May 2022 and now covers 21 Local Government areas. The new areas covered are the City of Bayswater, City of Belmont, Town of Bassendean and three localities in the City of Swan – South Guildford, Guildford and Caversham.</p> <p>The QAN continues to apply to the Local Government areas of Cambridge, Canning, Claremont, Cockburn, Cottesloe, East Fremantle, Fremantle, Melville, Mosman Park, Nedlands, Peppermint Grove, Perth, South Perth, Stirling, Subiaco, Victoria Park and Vincent.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Nicole Matthews Acting Executive Manger Strategy, Policy and Planning</p>

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
	RESOLUTION 320.2/2022	WALGA provided an update to the sector on this matter, as well as facilitating a workshop for impacted Local Governments.		
<p>2 March 2022 Item 7.3.4 People and Place Policy Team Report</p>	<p>That State Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. determine to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. retain the following Advocacy Positions unchanged: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. 6.4 Third Party Appeal Rights ii. 6.5 Development Assessment Panels iii. 6.8 Planning Fees and Charges iv. 6.12 Town Planning and Alcohol Outlets v. 6.15 Senior Housing Strategy vi. 6.18 Industrial Planning vii. 6.19 Special Residential Zones b. note the following Advocacy Positions are no longer relevant and approve removal from the WALGA Advocacy Position Manual: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. 6.3 Local Government Planning Improvement Program ii. 6.9 Prostitution Legislation iii. 6.10 Directions 2031 2. note the matters considered by the People and Place Policy Team. <p>RESOLUTION 326.2/2022</p>	<p>The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated accordingly.</p> <p>Item 1b(ii) of this decision was to remove the advocacy position related to prostitution legislation. The Policy Team rescinded this decision at its meeting of 22 February in light of recent legislative reforms in other States, determining to maintain the position subject to minor modification. Unfortunately, the original decision to delete advocacy position 6.9 was inadvertently left on the list of positions to be deleted in the Policy Team Report presented to March State Council.</p> <p>As this was not the intent of the Policy Team it is now proposed that the Policy Team at its meeting of 6 April will request State Council rescind its decision (326.2/2022) and reinstate advocacy position 6.9 with the changes agreed to on 22 February. This decision will be brought to the July State Council for a decision.</p>	Ongoing	Nicole Matthews Acting Executive Manger Strategy, Policy and Planning

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
1 December 2021 Item 5.3 2021 Annual General Meeting	That: 1. The following resolutions from the 2021 WALGA Annual General Meeting be endorsed for action: <u>Cost of Regional Development</u> That WALGA makes urgent representation to the State Government to address the high cost of development in regional areas for both residential and industrial land, including the prohibitive cost of utilities headworks, which has led to market failure in many regional towns. ... RESOLUTION 294.7/2021	WALGA is continuing to advocate to the Minister for Lands and the Minister for Regional Development. WALGA has regular meetings with Development WA.	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure
1 December 2021 Item 5.11 Constitution and Governance Review	That the proposed Constitution and Governance Review as outlined in this report be endorsed. RESOLUTION 301.7/2021	The Governance Review Project is now well underway. A Steering Committee has been formed, with membership including the WALGA President and Deputy President, 2 State Councillors, 2 Elected Members and 2 Chief Executive Officers together with the WALGA CEO. Price Waterhouse Coopers (PwC) have been appointed as consultants to support the Committee through their deliberations. There will be ongoing engagement with State Council, the Zones and other stakeholders throughout the Project, with the aim of presenting an item on principles and framework to 2022 Annual General Meeting and looking to finalise a report by the end of this calendar year. Any proposed constitutional amendments will need to be scheduled for the 2023 WALGA AGM for Member consideration and endorsement.	October 2023	Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Services
3 September 2021 Item 5.2 Tender Exemption Provisions – General Practitioner Services	That WALGA: 1. Adopt a new Advocacy Position Statement under ‘Local Government Legislation - Tender Exemption General Practitioner Services’: <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 to secure and retain necessary primary health care services for their communities; and</i>	1. Correspondence has been sent to the Minister for Local Government advocating for this position. 2. The Minister for Local Government held a roundtable discussion with effected Local Governments on this issue. The Ministers Office and the Department of Local Government are carrying out further research on this matter.	Ongoing	Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Services

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
	2. Undertake additional research in support of the Advocacy Position with the following aims: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify State and Federal Government policy settings and other factors contributing to gaps in primary health care services in regional communities; and 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. RESOLUTION 264.5/2021			
3 September 2021 Item 6.1 Stop Puppy Farming Legislation	1. That the update on the Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill 2021 be noted. 2. That: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. any additional costs incurred by a Local Government in administering the Dog Act be paid by the State Government; and b. the Fees and Charges set in Regulations are reviewed bi-annually and at minimum, be adjusted by the Local Government Cost Index. RESOLUTION 275.5/2021	Correspondence has been sent to the Minister for Local Government advising of resolution 2.	Ongoing	Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Services
5 May 2021 Item 5.4 Review of the State Industrial Relations System	That WALGA: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seek confirmation from the State Government on whether it intends to re-introduce legislation for Local Governments to operate solely in the State Industrial Relations System. 2. If the State Government reintroduces legislation to require all Local Governments to operate within the State Industrial Relations System, continue to advocate for the State Government to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Amend the <i>Industrial Relations Act 1979</i> (WA) to include additional provisions to modernise the State IR system; and b. Provide adequate funding and resourcing to ensure Local Governments are equipped with 	The Industrial Relations Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 (IR Bill) was given Royal Assent on 22 December 2021 as Act No. 30 of 2021. Part 1 of the <i>Industrial Relations Legislation Amendment Act 2021</i> (WA) (IRLA Act) commenced on 22 December, which deals with preliminary matters. All other parts of the IRLA Act will be proclaimed by publishing a notice of proclamation in the Western Australian Government Gazette. The declaration that all Local Governments are not national system employers will have the effect of transitioning all Local Governments to the State industrial relations system if it is endorsed by Federal Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Hon Tony Burke MP.	June 2022	Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
	<p>the appropriate tools and training to enable a smooth transition.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 207.2/2021</p>	<p>WALGA has written to the New Minister for Federal Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Hon Tony Burke MP advising that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) WA Local Governments do not support the legislation mandating Local Governments to operate in the State IR system. (b) However, if the political will of both the WA and Federal Governments are such that WA Local Governments will be declared to be non-national system employers under the FW Act, Local Governments and WALGA wish to work constructively with all parties to ensure any transition is smooth and appropriately resourced to minimise the impact on Local Government employers and employees. (c) If you elect to provide in-principal support or endorse a declaration to transfer Local Governments to the State IR system: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Encourage the WA Government to agree to a six-month transitional timeframe from the 'relevant day' before Local Government are required to comply with the State IR system. ii. Enact Federal transitional legislation to deal with proceedings on foot in the Federal IR system at the time of the transition. iii. Encourage the WA Government to allocate appropriate funding and resources to assist the sector with the transition to the State IR system. Currently no funding has been committed to assist with any proposed transition. 		
<p>3 March 2021 Item 5.3 Eligibility of Slip On Fire Fighting Units for Local Government Grants Scheme Funding</p>	<p>That WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supports the inclusion of capital costs of Trailer Fire Fighting Units and Slip On Fire Fighting Units including for Farmer Response Brigades (for use on private motor vehicles) on the Eligible List of the Local Governments Grants Scheme (LGGS). 	<p>A letter was sent to DFES Commissioner Klemm on 16 March 2021 advising of State Council's decision on 3 March. The Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group met on 20 March 2021 however did not discuss eligible items in the Manual. An EOI process for the Officer position was successful but a second round process will be run for the Elected member position.</p>	<p>Complete</p>	<p>Nicole Matthews Acting Executive Manger Strategy, Policy and Planning</p>

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
	<p>2. Requests the Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group to include this matter on the Agenda of their next Meeting (expected March 2021).</p> <p>3. Requests WALGA to work with the Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group to develop appropriate operational guidelines and procedures for the safe use of Slip On Fire Fighting Units funded in accordance with the LGGs.</p> <p>4. Supports the update of the WALGA membership of the Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group to include one Local Government Elected Member and one Local Government Officer, with these appointments determined through the WALGA Selection Committee process.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 180.1/2021</p>	<p>DFES has advised that the Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group has been discontinued. WALGA CEO Nick Sloan is meeting with the DFES Commissioner Darren Klemm on 2 August to discuss how Local Government input to the LGGs Manual will be collected in future.</p> <p>DFES advised on 4 June 2021 that the matter of eligibility of slip on units was not yet finalized. Follow up emails were sent to DFES on 26 July 2021 and 20 January 2022.</p> <p>The FES Commissioner wrote to WALGA on 8 April 2022 advising that DFES undertook extensive investigation and analysis to consider the matter and concluded that due to safety and crew protection concerns, and Government and public expectations of the use of Emergency Services Levy funds, DFES does not support the proposal. The Commissioner confirmed DFES' partnership with WALGA and its members to identify and enact future opportunities to meet the objective of enhancing rural fire capabilities.</p>		
<p>2 December 2020 Item 5.3 Family and Domestic Violence and the Role of LGs</p>	<p>That:</p> <p>1. WA Local Governments recognise the prevalence, seriousness and preventable nature of family and domestic violence and the roles that Local Governments can play in addressing gender equity and promoting respectful relationships in their local community.</p> <p>2. WALGA advocates to the State Government:</p> <p>a. to work with Local Government in defining the role and responsibilities and expectations of Local Governments in family and domestic violence.</p> <p>b. for adequate funding for family and domestic violence programs and services, particularly in regional areas.</p> <p>c. for appropriate resources and funding be allocated to Local Governments to implement any particular roles and actions addressing</p>	<p>WALGA is a member of the Department of Communities Path to Safety: Western Australia's Strategy to Reduce Family and Domestic Violence 2020 – 2030 Reference Group, which reconvened 8 December 2021.</p> <p>A report on the progress of the first Action Plan 2020-2022 highlighted of State Government funding of \$23 million provided as part of the WA Recovery Plan, to help address family and domestic violence in the community. These measures are further supported by the National Partnership Agreement COVID-19 Domestic and Family Violence Responses (National Partnership Agreement). The WA State Government has issued all the \$14.2 million funding received through the National Partnership Agreement. Approximately \$7.9 million in grants have been awarded to WA family and domestic violence service organisations. A quarter of the grants were awarded to Aboriginal Controlled Community Organisations (ACCOs), further building capacity in this sector to deliver culturally safe supports,</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Nicole Matthews Acting Executive Manger Strategy, Policy and Planning</p>

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
	<p>family and domestic violence as defined in the State Strategy.</p> <p>d. to provide support to Local Government in the broader rollout of the Prevention Toolkit for Local Government.</p> <p>e. to continue advocacy to the Commonwealth Government for additional funding and support.</p> <p>3. WALGA organises presentations for Local Governments that address family and domestic violence, as part of relevant events or webinars.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 144.6/2020</p>	<p>including services that are specifically targeted at regional and remote parts of the State.</p> <p>WALGA continues to work closely with ALGA and Our Watch, the national peak body in the primary prevention of violence against women and their children in Australia.</p> <p>WALGA in collaboration with the Local Government Community Safety Network Steering Committee delivered an event for the sector on 18 May 2021 focusing on family and domestic violence.</p> <p>The Australian Government is developing the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032 (Draft National Plan).In February 2022 WALGA submitted a letter supporting the aims, vision, and pillars of the Draft National Plan, consistent with the Association's Advocacy Position Statement on Family and Domestic Violence.</p> <p>The first of 2 Webinars being delivered by ALGA, Our Watch and the State and Territory Associations was delivered on Thursday, 12 May targeting Councillors, CEO's and Executive leaders, on Local Government's role in promoting gender equity and preventing violence against women. The second webinar in June will target all Local Government officers.</p>		

MEDIA RELEASE



3 July 2022

Local Government strengthened by new reforms

New reforms to the Local Government Act announced today by the State Government will strengthen the sector and better serve ratepayers in the long term.

In responding to today's announcement of reforms by Local Government Minister John Carey, WALGA President Karen Chappel said the package reflected the changing role and expectations the community held for Local Government.

"Many of the initiatives outlined by Minister Carey today are well supported by the sector and will further improve the accountability and efficiency of local governments across the state," she said.

"We have been seeking modernisation of Local Government legislation for some time and I am pleased to see the Minister has listened to our advocacy."

The introduction of an independent Local Government Inspector would give ratepayers confidence that all Local Governments were serving their communities responsibly and would result in a faster and less costly process in resolving complaints.

Cr Chappel said reducing unnecessary red-tape across a range of areas of Local Government responsibility would be beneficial for ratepayers in all communities.

She said successful advocacy from WALGA had ensured Local Governments with populations less than 5000 had a cap of seven, not five councillors.

A more flexible approach to enable resource sharing between local governments was also welcomed.

The introduction of *optional* preferential voting has demonstrated the Minister's commitment to listen to feedback from the Local Government sector.

Other major reforms successfully advocated by WALGA include:

- Greater clarity of roles and responsibilities of Elected Members and Chief Executive Officers
- Tiered compliance approach to financial reporting requirements according to size and scale of Local Governments including model financial statements.

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MEDIA RELEASE



- Simplification of strategic planning processes and community engagement models
- The proposal to require audit committees to have a majority of independent members has not been progressed
- Greater flexibility in the establishment of regional subsidiaries
- Retention of current election cycle for Elected Members.

Work on the detailed design of the legislation is now underway and Cr Chappel welcomed the Minister's commitment for WALGA's ongoing participation on the Act Review working group.

Ends

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Department of
Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries

Local Government Reforms: Full Reform Proposals

WALGA Responses




Theme 1: Early Intervention, Effective Regulation and Stronger Penalties

CURRENT PROVISIONS	ORIGINAL PROPOSAL	AMENDED PROPOSAL	WALGA
1.1 Early Intervention Powers			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Act provides the means to regulate the conduct of local government staff and council members and sets out powers to scrutinise the affairs of local government. The Act provides certain limited powers to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Suspend or dismiss councils ○ Appoint Commissioners ○ Suspend or order remedial action (such as training) for individual councillors. • The Act also provides the Director General with the power to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conduct Authorised Inquiries ○ Refer allegations of serious or recurrent breaches to the State Administrative Tribunal ○ Commence prosecution for an offence under the Act. • Authorised Inquiries are a costly and relatively slow response to significant issues. Authorised Inquiries are currently the only significant tool for addressing significant issues within a local government. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is proposed to establish a Chief Inspector of Local Government (the Inspector), supported by an Office of the Local Government Inspector (the Inspectorate). • The Inspector would receive minor and serious complaints about elected members. • The Inspector would oversee complaints relating to local government Chief Executive Officers (CEOs). • Local Governments would still be responsible for dealing with minor behavioural complaints. • The Inspector would have powers of a standing inquiry, able to investigate and intervene in any local government where potential issues are identified. • The Inspector would have the authority to assess, triage, refer, investigate, or close complaints, having regard to various public interest criteria – considering laws such as the <i>Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003</i>, the <i>Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984</i>, the <i>Building Act 2011</i> and other legislation. • The Inspector would have powers to implement minor penalties for less serious breaches of the Act, with an appeal mechanism. • The Inspector would also have the power to order a local government to address non-compliance with the Act or Regulations. 	<p>No major changes to the central concepts. Work to develop and refine detail is ongoing.</p>	

CURRENT PROVISIONS	ORIGINAL PROPOSAL	AMENDED PROPOSAL	WALGA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Panel Report, City of Perth Inquiry and the Select Committee Report made various recommendations related to the establishment of a specific office for local government oversight. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Inspector would be supported by a panel of Local Government Monitors (see item 1.2). The existing Local Government Standards Panel would be replaced with a new Conduct Panel (see item 1.3). Penalties for breaches to the Local Government Act and Regulations will be reviewed and are proposed to be generally strengthened (see item 1.4). These reforms would be supported by new powers to more quickly resolve issues within local government. 		✓
WALGA Response Support Items 1.1 to 1.3, but requests the Minister to explore alternate mechanisms for resolving local level complaints.			-
1.2 Local Government Monitors			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are currently no legislative powers for the provision of monitors/temporary advisors. The DLGSC provides support and guidance to local governments, however, there is no existing mechanism for pre-qualified, specialised assistance to manage complex cases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A panel of Local Government Monitors would be established. Monitors could be appointed by the Inspector to go into a local government and try to resolve problems. The purpose of Monitors would be to proactively fix problems, rather than to identify blame or collect evidence. Monitors would be qualified specialists, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experienced and respected former Mayors, Presidents, and CEOs - to act as mentors and facilitators Dispute resolution experts - to address the breakdown of professional working relationships Certified Practising Accountants and other financial specialists to assist with financial management and reporting issues Governance specialists and lawyers - to assist councils to resolve legal issues Human Resource and procurement experts - to help with processes like recruiting a CEO or undertaking a major land transaction. 	No major changes to the central concepts. Work to develop and refine detail is ongoing.	✓

CURRENT PROVISIONS	ORIGINAL PROPOSAL	AMENDED PROPOSAL	WALGA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only the Inspector would have the power to appoint Monitors. Local governments would be able to make requests to the Inspector to appoint Monitors for a specific purpose. 		✓
WALGA Response Support Items 1.1 to 1.3, but requests the Minister to explore alternate mechanisms for resolving local level complaints.			-
1.3 Conduct Panel			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Local Government Standards Panel was established in 2007 to resolve minor breach complaints relatively quickly and provide the sector with guidance and benchmarks about acceptable standards of behaviour. Currently, the Panel makes findings of alleged breaches based on written submissions. The City of Perth Inquiry report made various recommendations that functions of the Local Government Standards Panel be reformed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Standards Panel is proposed to be replaced with a new Local Government Conduct Panel. The Conduct Panel would be comprised of suitably qualified and experienced professionals. Sitting councillors will not be eligible to serve on the Conduct Panel. The Inspector would provide evidence to the Conduct Panel for adjudication. The Conduct Panel would have powers to impose stronger penalties – potentially including being able to suspend councillors for up to three months, with an appeal mechanism. For very serious or repeated breaches of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> (the Act), the Conduct Panel would have the power to recommend prosecution through the courts. Any person who is subject to a complaint before the Conduct Panel would have the right to address the Conduct Panel before the Panel makes a decision. 	No major changes to the central concepts. Work to develop and refine detail is ongoing.	✓
WALGA Response Support Items 1.1 to 1.3, but requests the Minister to explore alternate mechanisms for resolving local level complaints.			-

CURRENT PROVISIONS	ORIGINAL PROPOSAL	AMENDED PROPOSAL	WALGA
1.4 Review of Penalties			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are currently limited penalties in the Act for certain types of non-compliance with the Act. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Penalties for breaching the Act are proposed to be strengthened. It is proposed that the suspension of councillors (for up to three months) is established as the main penalty where a councillor breaches the Act or Regulations on more than one occasion. Councillors who are disqualified would not be eligible for sitting fees or allowances. They will also not be able to attend meetings or use their official office (such as their title or council email address). It is proposed that a councillor who is suspended multiple times may become disqualified from office. Councillors who do not complete mandatory training within a certain timeframe will also not be able to receive sitting fees or allowances. 	<p>Disqualifications</p> <p>It is further proposed to establish a provision that results in a person automatically becoming disqualified for 10 years from being an elected member at any local government in WA if they have been suspended three times (by either the Conduct Panel, State Administrative Tribunal or Minister).</p>	
1.5 Red Card Referrals			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently, local governments have different local laws and standing orders that govern the way meetings run. Presiding members (Mayors and Presidents) are reliant on the powers provided in the local government standing orders local laws. Differences between local governments is a source of confusion about the powers that presiding members have to deal with disruptive behaviours at council meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed that Standing Orders are made consistent across Western Australia (see item 2.6). Published recordings of all meetings would also become standard (item 3.1). It is proposed that Presiding Members have the power to 'red card' any attendee (including councillors) who unreasonably and repeatedly interrupt council meetings. This power would: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require the Presiding Member to issue a clear first warning. If the disruptions continue, the Presiding Member will have the power to 'red card' that person, who must be silent for the rest of the meeting. 	<p>Red Cards Not Progressed</p> <p>'Red Card Resolutions' will not be progressed. However, it is proposed that the new Meeting Procedure Regulations will have clear powers for Presiding Members to maintain order at meetings.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">-</p>

CURRENT PROVISIONS	ORIGINAL PROPOSAL	AMENDED PROPOSAL	WALGA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disruptive behaviour at council meetings is a very common cause of complaints. Having the Presiding Member be able to deal with these problems should more quickly resolve problems that occur at council meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A councillor issued with a red card will still vote but must not speak or move motions. If the person continues to be disruptive, the Presiding Member can instruct that they leave the meeting. Any Presiding Member who uses the “red card” or ejection power will be required to notify the Inspector. Where an elected member refuses to comply with an instruction to be silent or leave, or where it can be demonstrated that the Presiding Member has not followed the law in using these powers, penalties can be imposed through a review by the Inspector. 		✓
WALGA Response: Supported initial proposal, subject to a provision permitting council members to call a point of order to overrule the presiding member by an absolute majority.			-
1.6 Vexatious Complaint Referrals			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No current provisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local governments already have a general responsibility to provide ratepayers and members of the public with assistance in responding to queries about the local government’s operations. Local governments should resolve queries and complaints in a respectful, transparent and equitable manner. Unfortunately, local government resources can become unreasonably diverted when a person makes repeated vexatious queries, especially after a local government has already provided a substantial response to the person’s query. It is proposed that if a person makes repeated complaints to a local government CEO that are vexatious, the CEO will have the power to decide that the complainant is being unreasonable, and that they will no longer respond. A person who is deemed an unreasonable complainant can appeal to the Inspector. 	No major changes. Work to develop and refine detail is ongoing.	✓
WALGA Response Supported, subject to the legislation including the ability of a person to lodge an appeal with the Inspector.			✓

CURRENT PROVISIONS	ORIGINAL PROPOSAL	AMENDED PROPOSAL	WALGA
1.7 Other Minor Reforms			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other minor reforms are being considered to enhance the oversight of local government. Ministerial Circulars have traditionally been used to guide the local government sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential other reforms to strengthen guidance for local governments are being considered. For example, one option being considered is the potential use of sector-wide guidance notices. Guidance notices could be published by the Minister or Inspector to give specific direction for how local governments should meet the requirements of the Act and Regulations. For instance, the Minister could publish guidance notices to clarify the process for how potential conflicts of interests should be managed. It is also proposed (see item 1.1) that the Inspector has the power to issue notices to individual local governments to require them to rectify non-compliance with the Act or Regulations. 	<p>Primary and Annual Returns Based on submissions, reforms to Annual and Primary Returns will add new penalties for non-compliance, and powers for the Inspector to compel any person to correct a potential error or omission on their return.</p>	✓

Theme 2: Reducing Red Tape, Increasing Consistency and Simplicity

CURRENT PROVISIONS	ORIGINAL PROPOSAL	AMENDED PROPOSAL	WALGA
2.1 Resource Sharing			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Act does not currently include specific provisions to allow for certain types of resource sharing – especially for sharing CEOs. Regional local governments would benefit from having clearer mechanisms for voluntary resource-sharing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendments are proposed to encourage and enable local governments, especially smaller regional local governments, to share resources, including Chief Executive Officers and senior employees. Local governments in bands 2, 3 or 4 would be able to appoint a shared CEO at up to two salary bands above the highest band. For example, a band 3 and a band 4 council sharing a CEO could remunerate to the level of band 1. 	No major changes. Work to develop and refine detail is ongoing.	✓
2.2 Standardisation of Crossovers			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approvals and standards for crossovers (the section of driveways that run between the kerb and private property) are inconsistent between local government areas, often with very minor differences. This can create confusion and complexity for homeowners and small businesses in the construction sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed to amend the <i>Local Government (Uniform Local Provisions) Regulations 1996</i> to standardise the process for approving crossovers for residential properties and residential developments on local roads. A Crossover Working Group has provided preliminary advice to the Minister and DLGSC to inform this. The DLGSC will work with the sector to develop standardised design and construction standards. 	No major changes. Work to develop and refine detail is ongoing.	✓

CURRENT PROVISIONS	ORIGINAL PROPOSAL	AMENDED PROPOSAL	WALGA
2.3 Introduce Innovation Provisions			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently, the Act has very limited provisions to allow for innovations and responses to emergencies (such as the Shire of Bruce Rock Supermarket). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New provisions are proposed to allow exemptions from certain requirements of the Act for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short-term trials and pilot projects Urgent responses to emergencies. 	No major changes. Work to develop and refine detail is ongoing.	✓
2.4 Streamline Local Laws			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local laws are required to be reviewed every eight years. The review of local laws (especially when they are standard) has been identified as a burden for the sector. Inconsistency between local laws is frustrating for residents and business stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed that local laws would only need to be reviewed by the local government every 15 years. Local laws not reviewed in the timeframe would lapse, meaning that old laws will be automatically removed and no longer applicable. Local governments adopting Model Local Laws will have reduced advertising requirements. 	No major changes. Work to develop and refine detail is ongoing.	✓
2.5 Simplifying Approvals for Small Business and Community Events			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inconsistency between local laws and approvals processes for events, street activation and initiatives by local businesses is frustrating for business and local communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed reforms would introduce greater consistency for approvals for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> alfresco and outdoor dining minor small business signage rules running community events. 	No major changes. Work to develop and refine detail is ongoing.	✓
2.6 Standardised Meeting Procedures, Including Public Question Time			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local governments currently prepare individual standing order local laws. The Act and regulations require local governments to allocate time at meetings for questions from the public. Inconsistency among the meeting procedures between local governments is a common source of complaints. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide greater clarity for ratepayers and applicants for decisions made by council, it is proposed that the meeting procedures and standing orders for all local government meetings, including for public question time, are standardised across Western Australia. Regulations would introduce standard requirements for public question time and the procedures for meetings generally. 	Electors' Meetings Further minor changes to Electors Meetings are proposed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of electors required to call an Electors' Special Meeting to 300 (from 100) or five per cent of the number of electors (whichever is less). 	✓

CURRENT PROVISIONS	ORIGINAL PROPOSAL	AMENDED PROPOSAL	WALGA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of the public across all local governments would have the same opportunities to address council and ask questions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow a Presiding Member to refuse to hold a second Electors' Special Meeting if the matter raised has already been considered at a Special Electors' Meeting within the last 12 months (the local government would still have to refer the matter for inclusion on the agenda of the next Council Meeting) The new meeting procedures regulations will also apply to Electors' meetings, including the annual electors' meeting. This will enable the Presiding Member to maintain order while ensuring members of the public have a clear right to ask questions. 	✓
<p>WALGA Response: Section 5.28 of the Local Government Act 1995 should be amended to increase the number of electors required to request a meeting to 500, or 5 percent of electors, whichever is fewer. For Local Governments with total electors of less than 500, the requirement should be a minimum of 25 percent of electors. Will seek clarity on whether a statutory prohibition will be embedded in the legislation, whether it is intended that a Presiding Member will have discretion.</p>			✓
<p>2.7 Regional Subsidiaries</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiatives by multiple local governments may be managed through formal Regional Councils or less formal "organisations of councils" such as NEWROC and WESROC. These initiatives typically have to be managed by a lead local government. In 2016-17, provisions were introduced to allow for the formation of Regional Subsidiaries. Regional Subsidiaries can be formed in line with the <i>Local Government (Regional Subsidiaries) Regulations 2017</i>. So far, no Regional Subsidiary has been formed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work is continuing to consider how Regional Subsidiaries can be best established to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> enable Regional Subsidiaries to provide a clear and defined public benefit for people within member local governments provide for flexibility and innovation while ensuring appropriate transparency and accountability of ratepayer funds where appropriate, facilitate financing of initiatives by Regional Subsidiaries within a reasonable and defined limit of risk Ensure all employees of a Regional Subsidiary have the same employment conditions as those directly employed by member local governments. 	<p>Financial Reporting Streamlined financial reporting requirements will be extended for regional subsidiaries, so they only need to comply with band 3 and 4 model financial statement provisions.</p> <p>Borrowing for Projects It is proposed to amend the Act to enable regional subsidiaries to borrow money for capital projects to achieve the purpose specified in the regional subsidiaries charter (subject to conditions, including within prescribed borrowing limits).</p>	✓
<p>WALGA Response Supported, subject to the use of a Charter as the primary governance and regulatory instrument.</p>			✓

Theme 3: Greater Transparency & Accountability

CURRENT PROVISIONS	ORIGINAL PROPOSAL	AMENDED PROPOSAL	WALGA
3.1 Recordings and Live-Streaming of All Council Meetings			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently, local governments are only required to make written minutes of meetings. • While there is no legal requirement for live streaming or video or audio recording of council meetings, many local governments now stream and record their meetings. • Issues relating to behaviours and decisions at meetings constitute a large proportion of complaints about local governments. • Local governments are divided into bands with the largest falling in bands 1 and 2, and smaller local governments falling bands 3 and 4. The allocation of local governments into bands is determined by The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal based on factors¹ such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Growth and development ○ Strategic planning issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is proposed that all local governments will be required to record meetings. • Band 1 and 2 local governments would be required to live- stream meetings and make video recordings available as public archives. • Band 1 and 2 are larger local governments, are generally located in larger urban areas, with generally very good telecommunications infrastructure, and many already have audio-visual equipment. • Band 1 and 2 local governments would be required to live- stream meetings and make video recordings available as public archives. • Several local governments already use platforms such as YouTube, Microsoft Teams and Vimeo to stream and publish meeting recordings. • Limited exceptions would be made for meetings held outside the ordinary council chambers, where audio recordings may be used. • Recognising their generally smaller scale, typically smaller operating budget, and potential to be in more remote locations, band 3 and 4 local governments would be required to record and publish audio recordings, at a minimum. 	<p>Limited Exemptions It is proposed to allow for minor exemptions to the requirement for live-streaming in defined scenarios (for instance, for a council holding a meeting outside of council chambers, and with the prior written consent of the Inspector).</p>	✓

¹ See page 3 of the [2018 Salaries and Allowance Tribunal Determination](#)

CURRENT PROVISIONS	ORIGINAL PROPOSAL	AMENDED PROPOSAL	WALGA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Demands and diversity of services provided to the community ○ Total expenditure ○ Population ○ Staffing levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● These local governments would still be encouraged to Livestream or video record meetings. ● All council meeting recordings would need to be published at the same time as the meeting minutes. Recordings of all confidential items would also need to be submitted to DLGSC for archiving. 		✓
WALGA Response: Support live streaming of OCM and SCMs of Band 1-2 LGs and audio recordings for Band 3-4 LGs. Do not support archiving the recordings of confidential matters by the Dept.			✓
3.2 Recording All Votes in Council Minutes			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A local government is only required to record which councillor voted for or against a motion in the minutes of that meeting if a request is made by an elected member at the time of the resolution during the meeting. ● The existing provision does not mandate transparency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To support the transparency of decision-making by councillors, it is proposed that the individual votes cast by all councillors for all council resolutions be required to be published in the council minutes to identify those for, against, on leave, absent or who left the chamber. ● Regulations would prescribe how votes are to be consistently minuted. 	No major changes. Work to develop and refine detail is ongoing.	✓
3.3 Clearer Guidance for Meeting Items that may be Confidential			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Act currently provides broad definitions of what type of matters may be discussed as a confidential item. ● There is limited potential for the review of issues managed as confidential items under the current legislation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recognising the importance of open and transparent decision-making, it is considered that confidential meetings and confidential meeting items should only be used in limited, specific circumstances. ● It is proposed to make the Act more specific in prescribing items that may be confidential and items that should remain open to the public. ● Items not prescribed as being confidential could still be held as confidential items only with the prior written consent of the Inspector. ● All confidential items would be required to be audio recorded, with those recordings submitted to DLGSC. 	Specific Provisions Proposed provisions for managing confidential items at council meetings (and preventing councils from unreasonably using confidentiality provisions to avoid public scrutiny) have been refined to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● clarify that only a limited part of a meeting specific to confidential information (e.g., receiving legal advice) may be closed 	-

CURRENT PROVISIONS	ORIGINAL PROPOSAL	AMENDED PROPOSAL	WALGA
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • specify that certain matters (town planning and development applications, budgeting, major land transactions, leases of local government property) must be held in full public view • Specify that certain matters (CEO appointment, management of behavioural complaints about elected members, local government cybersecurity) must be held confidentially • Require that any other matters proposed to be considered confidentially will require the prior approval of the Inspector. 	-
WALGA Response: WALGA generally supported the proposals, however, the involvement of the Inspector was unanticipated. Our advocacy will encourage the prescription of confidential matters (third party information such as IP, CIC contracts, etc) without reference to the Inspector.			-
3.4 Additional Online Registers			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local governments are required to provide information to the community through annual reports, council minutes and the publication of information online. • Regular online publication of information can substitute for certain material in annual reports. • Consistency in online reporting across the sector will provide ratepayers with better information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is proposed to require local governments to report specific information in online registers on the local government's website. Regulations would prescribe the information to be included. The following new registers, each updated quarterly, are proposed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lease Register to capture information about the leases the local government is a party to (either as lessor or lessee) ○ Community Grants Register to outline all grants and funding provided by the local government 	<p>To clarify, the online register of contracts is only for the supply of goods and services and will not include direct employment contracts. To clarify, information about the identity of individual residential tenants of housing owned by the local government will not be required to be published on the online lease register.</p>	✓


CURRENT PROVISIONS	ORIGINAL PROPOSAL	AMENDED PROPOSAL	WALGA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These registers supplement the simplification of financial statements in Theme 6. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interests Disclosure Register that collates all disclosures made by elected members about their interests related to matters considered by council Applicant Contribution Register accounting for funds collected from applicant contributions, such as cash-in-lieu for public open space and car parking Contracts Register that discloses all contracts above 		✓
3.5 Chief Executive Officer Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) be Published			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a requirement of the Act that CEO performance reviews are conducted annually. The Model Standards for CEO recruitment and selection, performance review and termination require that a local government must review the performance of the CEO against contractual performance criteria. Additional performance criteria can be used for performance review by agreement between both parties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide for minimum transparency, it is proposed to mandate that the KPIs agreed as performance metrics for CEOs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be published in council meeting minutes as soon as they are agreed prior to (before the start of the annual period) The KPIs and the results be published in the minutes of the performance review meeting (at the end of the period) The CEO has a right to provide written comments to be published alongside the KPIs and results to provide context as may be appropriate (for instance, the impact of events in that year that may have influenced the results against KPIs). 	<p>Limited Exemptions It is proposed that a provision is included to allow councils to seek the Inspector's approval not to publish a specific CEO KPI, if there is a clear public interest reason for doing so.</p>	-
<p>WALGA Response Conditionally support the reporting of CEO KPIs consistent with the strategic direction and operational function of the LG, subject to exemptions for publishing KPIs of a confidential nature.</p> <p>Do not support the results of performance reviews being published.</p>			-

Theme 4: Stronger Local Democracy and Community Engagement

CURRENT PROVISIONS	ORIGINAL PROPOSAL	AMENDED PROPOSAL	WALGA
4.1 Community and Stakeholder Engagement Charters			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is currently no requirement for local governments to have a specific engagement charter or policy. • Many local governments have introduced charters or policies for how they will engage with their community. • Other Australian States have introduced a specific requirement for engagement charters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is proposed to introduce a requirement for local governments to prepare a community and stakeholder engagement charter which sets out how local government will communicate processes and decisions with their community. • A model Charter would be published to assist local governments who wish to adopt a standard form. 	No major changes. Work to develop and refine detail is ongoing.	✓
4.2 Ratepayer Satisfaction Surveys (Band 1 and 2 local governments only)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many local governments already commission independent surveying consultants to hold a satisfaction survey of residents/ratepayers. • These surveys provide valuable data on the performance of local governments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is proposed to introduce a requirement that every four years, all local governments in bands 1 and 2 hold an independently managed ratepayer satisfaction survey. • Results would be required to be reported publicly at a council meeting and published on the local government's website. • All local governments would be required to publish a response to the results. 	Standardised Questions Based on requests from ratepayers, it is proposed that some standard questions be pre-defined in Regulation to allow for the comparison of results between local governments.	✓
WALGA Response Support the conduct of community, rather than ratepayer, satisfaction surveys.			✓

CURRENT PROVISIONS	ORIGINAL PROPOSAL	AMENDED PROPOSAL	WALGA
4.3 Introduction of Preferential Voting			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current voting method for local government elections is first-past-the-post. The existing first-past-the-post does not allow for electors to express more than one preference. The candidate with the most votes wins, even if that candidate does not have a majority. Preferential voting better captures the precise intentions of voters and as a result may be regarded as a fairer and more representative system. Voters have more specific choice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preferential voting is proposed to be adopted as the method to replace the current first past the post system in local government elections. In preferential voting, voters number candidates in order of their preferences. Preferential voting is used in State and Commonwealth elections in Western Australia and other states. This provides voters with more choice and control over who they elect. All other states use a form of preferential voting for local government. 	<p>Optional Preferential Voting Optional preferential voting is proposed, to ensure that electors may lodge a valid vote without numbering all candidates, if they wish to vote in that way.</p>	-
<p>WALGA Response Oppose preferential voting in favour of first past the post. However, if FPTP is not retained, then optional preferential voting is preferred.</p>			-
4.4 Public Vote to Elect the Mayor and President			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Act currently allows local governments to have the Presiding Member (the Mayor or President) elected either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> by the electors of the district through a public vote; or by the council as a resolution at a council meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mayors and Presidents of all local governments perform an important public leadership role within their local communities. Band 1 and 2 local governments generally have larger councils than those in bands 3 and 4. Accordingly, it is proposed that the Mayor or President for all band 1 and 2 councils is to be elected through a vote of the electors of the district. Councils in bands 3 and 4 would retain the current system. A number of Band 1 and Band 2 councils have already moved towards Public Vote to Elect the Mayor and President in recent years, including City of Stirling and City of Rockingham. 	No major changes. Work to develop and refine detail is ongoing. Transitional arrangements are under consideration.	x
<p>WALGA Response Oppose this proposal and support retaining the current provision, that the election of Mayors/Presidents be at the discretion of each Local Government.</p>			x

CURRENT PROVISIONS	ORIGINAL PROPOSAL	AMENDED PROPOSAL	WALGA
4.5 Tiered Limits on the Number of Councillors			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of councillors (between 5 and 15 councillors) is decided by each local government, reviewed by the Local Government Advisory Board and approved by the Minister. The Panel Report recommended electoral reforms to improve representativeness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed to limit the number of councillors based on the population of the entire local government. Some smaller local governments have already been moving to have smaller councils to reduce costs for ratepayers. The Local Government Panel Report proposed for a population of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> up to 5,000 – five councillors (including the President) between 5,000 and 75,000 – five to nine councillors (including the Mayor/President) above 75,000 – nine to fifteen councillors (including Mayor). 	<p>Change for Smaller Local Governments Based on requests from impacted councils, it is proposed to adjust this to allow local governments with a population of up to 5,000 people to decide to have 5, 6 or 7 councillors.</p>	✓
4.6 No Wards for Small Councils (Band 3 and 4 Councils only)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A local government can make an application to be divided into wards with councillors elected to those wards. Only about 10% of band 3 and 4 local governments currently have wards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed that the use of wards for councils in bands 3 and 4 is abolished. Wards increase the complexity of elections, as this requires multiple versions of ballot papers to be prepared for a local government's election. In smaller local governments, the population of wards can be very small. These wards often have councillors elected unopposed or elect a councillor with a very small number of votes. Some local governments have ward councillors elected with less than 50 votes. There has been a trend in smaller local governments looking to reduce the use of wards, with only 10 councils in bands 3 and 4 still having wards. 	<p>No major changes. Work to develop and refine detail is ongoing. Transitional arrangements are under consideration.</p>	✓

CURRENT PROVISIONS	ORIGINAL PROPOSAL	AMENDED PROPOSAL	WALGA
4.7 Electoral Reform – Clear Lease Requirements for Candidate and Voter Eligibility			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A person with a lease in a local government district is eligible to nominate as a candidate in that district. • A person with a lease in a local government district is eligible to apply to vote in that district. • The City of Perth Inquiry Report identified a number of instances where dubious lease arrangements put to question the validity of candidates in local government elections, and subsequently their legitimacy as councillors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reforms are proposed to prevent the use of “sham leases” in council elections. Sham leases are where a person creates a lease only to be able to vote or run as a candidate for council. • The City of Perth Inquiry Report identified sham leases as an issue. • Electoral rules are proposed to be strengthened: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A minimum lease period of 12 months will be required for anyone to register a person to vote or run for council ○ Home-based businesses will not be eligible to register a person to vote or run for council because any residents are already the eligible voter(s) for that address ○ Clarifying the minimum criteria for leases eligible to register a person to vote or run for council. • The reforms would include minimum lease periods to qualify as a registered business (minimum of 12 months), and the exclusion of home-based businesses (where the resident is already eligible) and very small sub-leases. • The basis of eligibility for each candidate (e.g., type of property and suburb of property) is proposed to be published, including in the candidate pack for electors. 	<p>Further work is being progressed to ensure the integrity of enrolment on the owner and occupier rolls for local government elections, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • further definition to minimum lease requirements to exclude sham leases (while ensuring legitimate businesses are represented); • guidance to standardise evidence requirements for claiming eligibility based on a property lease or ownership; and • minor amendments to clarify and standardise disclosure and decision-making related to electoral gifts. 	

CURRENT PROVISIONS	ORIGINAL PROPOSAL	AMENDED PROPOSAL	WALGA
4.8 Reform of Candidate Profiles			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Candidate profiles can only be 800 characters, including spaces. This is equivalent to approximately 150 words. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further work will be undertaken to evaluate how longer candidate profiles could be accommodated. Longer candidate profiles would provide more information to electors, potentially through publishing profiles online. It is important to have sufficient information available to assist electors to make informed decisions when casting their vote. 	<p>No major change to the proposal, though candidate profiles are likely to be published online, rather than on ballot papers.</p>	✓
4.9 Other Minor Electoral Reforms			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other minor reforms are proposed to improve local government elections. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reforms are proposed to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The introduction of standard processes for vote re-counts if there is a very small margin between candidates (e.g., where there is a margin of fewer than 10 votes a recount will always be required) The introduction of more specific rules concerning local government council candidates' use of electoral rolls. 	<p>Recounts It is proposed to provide candidates, or their nominated scrutineers, with a specific avenue to request a recount immediately at the counting of votes, if a set percentage margin in the count is within a limit to be prescribed in regulations.</p> <p>Filling Extraordinary Vacancies Following Elections Based on input from the sector, it is proposed to create a new power to allow vacancies on councils arising up to twelve months after an election to be filled by the next highest-polling candidate.</p> <p>Election Timeframes It is necessary to extend timeframes for elections in the Act to account for slower postal services.</p>	✓

CURRENT PROVISIONS	ORIGINAL PROPOSAL	AMENDED PROPOSAL	WALGA
		<p>Electronic/Online Voting It is proposed to amend the Act to allow for the future implementation of electronic voting in elections (when the technology is deemed suitable). Regulations would then need to be developed.</p> <p>Extended Leave from Meetings Based on advocacy from the sector, it is proposed to provide a right for elected representatives to take up to six months' leave if they become a parent or guardian. Similarly, they may take up to six months of medical leave with a medical certificate.</p>	✓

Theme 5: Clear Roles and Responsibilities

CURRENT PROVISIONS	ORIGINAL PROPOSAL	AMENDED PROPOSAL	WALGA
5.1 Introduce Principles in the Act			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Act does not currently outline specific principles. The Act contains a short “Content and Intent” section only. The Panel Report recommended greater articulation of principles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed to include new principles in the Act, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recognition of Aboriginal Western Australians Tiering of local governments (with bands being as assigned by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal) Community Engagement Financial Management. 	No major changes. Work to develop details and refine exact phrasing/wording is ongoing.	✓
5.2 Greater Role Clarity			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Act provides for the role of council, councillor, mayor or president and CEO. The role of the council is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> govern the local government’s affairs be responsible for the performance of the local government’s functions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Local Government Act Review Panel recommended that roles and responsibilities of elected members and senior staff be better defined in law. It is proposed that these roles and responsibilities are further defined in the legislation. These proposed roles will be open to further consultation and input. These roles would be further strengthened through Council Communications Agreements (see item 5.3). 	See below	✓
	<p>5.2.1 - Mayor or President Role</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed to amend the Act to specify the roles and responsibilities of the Mayor or President. While input and consultation will inform precise wording, it is proposed that the Act is amended to generally outline that the Mayor or President is responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representing and speaking on behalf of the whole council and the local government, at all times being consistent with the resolutions of council 	<p>Minor changes in wording to provide that the presiding member is to exemplify respectful conduct.</p> <p>Work to develop details and refine exact phrasing/wording is ongoing.</p>	✓

CURRENT PROVISIONS	ORIGINAL PROPOSAL	AMENDED PROPOSAL	WALGA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facilitating the democratic decision-making of council by presiding at council meetings in accordance with the Act ○ Developing and maintaining professional working relationships between councillors and the CEO ○ Performing civic and ceremonial duties on behalf of the local government ○ Working effectively with the CEO and councillors in overseeing the delivery of the services, operations, initiatives and functions of the local government. 		✓
	<p>5.2.2 – Council Role</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is proposed to amend the Act to specify the roles and responsibilities of the Council, which is the entity consisting of all of the councillors and led by the Mayor or President. ● While input and consultation will inform precise wording, it is proposed that the Act is amended to generally outline that the Council is responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Making significant decisions and determining policies through democratic deliberation at council meetings ○ Ensuring the local government is adequately resourced to deliver the local government's operations, services and functions – including all functions that support informed decision-making by council ○ Providing a safe working environment for the CEO ○ Providing strategic direction to the CEO ○ Monitoring and reviewing the performance of the local government. 	No major changes. Work to develop details and refine exact phrasing/wording is ongoing.	✓
	<p>5.2.3 – Elected Member (Councillor) Role</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is proposed to amend the Act to specify the roles and responsibilities of all elected councillors. 	No major changes. Work to develop details and refine exact phrasing/wording is ongoing.	✓

CURRENT PROVISIONS	ORIGINAL PROPOSAL	AMENDED PROPOSAL	WALGA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● While input and consultation will inform precise wording, it is proposed that the Act is amended to generally outline that every elected councillor is responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Considering and representing, fairly and without bias, the current and future interests of all people who live, work and visit the district (including councillors elected for a particular ward) ○ Positively and fairly contributing and applying their knowledge, skill, and judgement to the democratic decision-making process of council ○ Applying relevant law and policy in contributing to the decision-making of the council ○ Engaging in the effective planning and review of the local government's resources, and the performance of its operations, services, and functions ○ Communicating the decisions and resolutions of council to stakeholders and the public ○ Developing and maintaining professional working relationships with all other councillors and the CEO ○ Maintaining and developing their knowledge and skills relevant to local government ○ Facilitating public engagement with local government. ● It is proposed that elected members should not be able to use their title (e.g., "Councillor", "Mayor", or "President") and associated resources of their office (such as email address) unless they are performing their role in their official capacity. 		✓
	<p>5.2.4 – CEO Role</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Act requires local governments to employ a CEO to run the local government administration and implement the decisions of council. 	No major changes. Work to develop details and refine exact phrasing/wording is ongoing.	-


CURRENT PROVISIONS	ORIGINAL PROPOSAL	AMENDED PROPOSAL	WALGA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To provide greater clarity, it is proposed to amend the Act to specify the roles and responsibilities of all local government CEOs. ● While input and consultation will inform precise wording, it is proposed that the Act is amended to generally outline that the CEO of a local government is responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coordinating the professional advice and assistance necessary for all elected members to enable the council to perform its decision-making functions ○ Facilitating the implementation of council decisions ○ Ensuring functions and decisions lawfully delegated by council are managed prudently on behalf of the council ○ Managing the effective delivery of the services, operations, initiatives and functions of the local government determined by the council ○ Providing timely and accurate information and advice to all councillors in line with the Council Communications Agreement (see item 5.3) ○ Overseeing the compliance of the operations of the local government with State and Commonwealth legislation on behalf of the council ○ Implementing and maintaining systems to enable effective planning, management, and reporting on behalf of the council. 		✓
WALGA Response: Item 5.2.4 Supported, subject to including reference that the CEO is responsible for the recruitment and performance management of all staff as indicated in the current Act and Regulations.			-
5.3 Council Communication Agreements			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Act provides that council and committee members can have access to any information held by the local government that is relevant to the performance of the member's functions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In State Government, there are written Communication Agreements between Ministers and agencies that set standards for how information and advice will be provided. 		✓

CURRENT PROVISIONS	ORIGINAL PROPOSAL	AMENDED PROPOSAL	WALGA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The availability of information is sometimes a source of conflict within local governments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed that local governments will need to have Council Communications Agreements between the council and the CEO. These Council Communication Agreements would clearly specify the information that is to be provided to councillors, how it will be provided, and the timeframes for when it will be provided. A template would be published by DLGSC. This default template will come into force if a council and CEO do not make a specific alternative agreement within a certain timeframe following any election. 	<p>Default Agreement The default agreement (to be developed in consultation with the sector) will start at the commencement of election caretaker periods. The CEO and an absolute majority of council must agree for an arrangement other than the default to apply. The agreement will specify how information should be requested and received. Provisions about the information elected members can access would be unchanged.</p>	✓
5.4 Local Governments May Pay Superannuation Contributions for Elected Members			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elected members are eligible to receive sitting fees or an annual allowance. Superannuation is not paid to elected members. However, councillors can currently divert part of their allowances to a superannuation fund. Councils should be reflective and representative of the people living within the district. Local governments should be empowered to remove any barriers to the participation of gender and age diverse people on councils. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed that local governments should be able to decide, through a vote of council, to pay superannuation contributions for elected members. These contributions would be additional to existing allowances. Superannuation is widely recognised as an important entitlement to provide long term financial security. Other states have already moved to allow councils to make superannuation contributions for councillors. Allowing council to provide superannuation is an important part of encouraging equality for people represented on council – particularly for women and younger people. Providing superannuation to councillors recognises that the commitment to elected office can reduce a person's opportunity to undertake employment and earn superannuation contributions. 	<p>Councils to Determine Whether to Pay Additional Superannuation Allowance No change, confirming councils will be able to decide whether to pay superannuation. This is based on the model recently introduced in New South Wales.</p>	✓

CURRENT PROVISIONS	ORIGINAL PROPOSAL	AMENDED PROPOSAL	WALGA
5.5 Local Governments May Establish Education Allowances			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local government elected members must complete mandatory training. There is no specific allowance for undertaking further education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local governments will have the option of contributing to the education expenses for councillors, up to a defined maximum value, for tuition costs for further education that is directly related to their role on council. Councils will be able to decide on a policy for education expenses, up to a maximum yearly value for each councillor. Councils may also decide not to make this entitlement available to elected members. Any allowance would only be able to be used for tuition fees for courses, such as training programs, diplomas and university studies, which relate to local government. Where it is made available, this allowance will help councillors further develop skills to assist with making informed decisions on important questions before council and provide professional development opportunities for councillors. 	<p>No major changes. Work to develop and refine detail is ongoing.</p>	✓
5.6 Standardised Election Caretaker period			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is currently no requirement for a formal caretaker period, with individual councils operating under their own policies and procedures. This is commonly a point of public confusion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A State-wide caretaker period for local governments is proposed. All local governments across the State would have the same clearly defined election period, during which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councils do not make major decisions with criteria to be developed defining 'major' Incumbent councillors who nominate for re-election are not to represent the local government, act on behalf of the council, or use local government resources to support campaign activities. There are consistent election conduct rules for all candidates. 	<p>Limited Exemptions It is proposed to include minor exemptions to allow councils to make specific decisions essential to ongoing operation of the local government during the caretaker period.</p>	✓

CURRENT PROVISIONS	ORIGINAL PROPOSAL	AMENDED PROPOSAL	WALGA
5.7 Remove WALGA from the Act			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) is constituted under the Act The Local Government Panel Report and the Select Committee Report included this recommendation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Local Government Panel Report recommended that WALGA not be constituted under the Act. Separating WALGA out of the Act will provide clarity that WALGA is not a State Government entity. 	No major changes. Work to develop and refine detail is ongoing.	-
WALGA Response: Supported, subject to WALGA undertaking further due diligence on the broader implications on the proposal and subsequent consultation with the sector. Any proposed reforms should ensure that the LGA retain statutory provisions for LGIS and PSP Program, and no disadvantage to WALGA's capacity to provide services and represent the sector.			-
5.8 CEO Recruitment			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent amendments introduced provisions to standardise CEO recruitment. The recruitment of a CEO is a very important decision by a local government. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed that DLGSC establishes a panel of approved members to perform the role of the independent person on CEO recruitment panels. Councils will be able to select an independent person from the approved list. Councils will still be able to appoint people outside of the panel with the approval of the Inspector. 	No major changes. Work to develop and refine detail is ongoing.	✓
WALGA Response: Supported on the proviso that no cost is associated with the use of the approved panel.			✓

Theme 6: Improved Financial Management and Reporting

CURRENT PROVISIONS	ORIGINAL PROPOSAL	AMENDED PROPOSAL	WALGA
6.1 Model Financial Statements and Tiered Financial Reporting			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The financial statements published in the Annual Report are the main financial reporting currently published by local governments. Reporting obligations are the same for large (Stirling, Perth, Fremantle) and small (Sandstone, Wiluna, Dalwallinu) local governments, even though they vary significantly in complexity. The Office of the Auditor General has said that some existing reporting requirements are unnecessary or onerous - for instance, information that is not relevant to certain local governments, or that is a duplicate of other published information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Minister strongly believes in transparency and accountability in local government. The public rightly expects the highest standards of integrity, good governance and prudent financial management in local government. It is critically important that clear information about the financial position of local governments is openly available to ratepayers. Financial information also supports community decision-making about local government services and projects. Local governments differ significantly in the complexity of their operations. Smaller local governments generally have much less operating complexity than larger local governments. The Office of the Auditor General has identified opportunities to improve financial reporting, make statements clearer and reduce unnecessary complexity. Recognising the difference in the complexity between smaller and larger local governments, it is proposed that financial reporting requirements should be tiered—meaning that larger local governments will have greater financial reporting requirements than smaller local governments. It is proposed to establish standard templates for Annual Financial Statements for band 1 and 2 councils and simpler, clearer financial statements for bands 3 and 4. 	<p>No significant changes.</p> <p>Work on the Model Financial Statements is ongoing. It is expected that the new Model Financial Statements will be in place for the 2022-23 financial year.</p>	

CURRENT PROVISIONS	ORIGINAL PROPOSAL	AMENDED PROPOSAL	WALGA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online Registers, updated quarterly (see item 3.4), would provide faster and greater transparency than current annual reports. Standard templates will be published for use by local governments. Simpler Strategic and Financial Planning (item 6.2) would also improve the budgeting process. 		✓
6.2 Simplify Strategic and Financial Planning			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirements for plans are outlined in the Local Government Financial Management and Administration Regulations. There is also the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) framework. While many councils successfully apply IPR to their budgeting and reporting, IPR may seem complicated or difficult, especially for smaller local governments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear information about the finances of local government enables informed public and ratepayer engagement and input to decision-making. The framework for financial planning should be based around information being clear, transparent and easy for all ratepayers and members of the public to understand. In order to provide more consistency and clarity across the State, it is proposed that greater use of templates is introduced to make planning and reporting clearer and simpler, providing greater transparency for ratepayers. Local governments would be required to adopt a standard set of plans, and there will be templates published by DLGSC for use or adaptation by local governments. It is proposed that the plans that are required are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simplified Council Plans that replace existing Strategic Community Plans and set high-level objectives with a new plan required at least every eight years. These will be short-form plans with a template available from DLGSC Simplified Asset Management Plans to consistently forecast costs of maintaining the local government's assets. 	<p>Borrowing Against Freehold Land A further amendment is proposed to allow a local government to borrow against the freehold (private/zoned) land it owns. Otherwise, no major changes. Work to develop and refine detail is ongoing.</p>	✓

CURRENT PROVISIONS	ORIGINAL PROPOSAL	AMENDED PROPOSAL	WALGA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A new plan will be required at least every 10 years, though local governments should update the plan regularly if the local government gains or disposes of major assets (e.g., land, buildings or roads). A template will be provided, and methods of valuations will be simplified to reduce red tape ○ Simplified Long Term Financial Plans will outline any long-term financial management and sustainability issues, and any investments and debts. A template will be provided, and these plans will be required to be reviewed in detail at least every four years ○ A new Rates and Revenue Policy (see item 6.3) that identifies the approximate value of rates that will need to be collected in future years (referencing the Asset Management Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan) providing a forecast to ratepayers (updated at least every four years) ○ The use of simple, one-page Service Proposals and Project Proposals that outline what proposed services or initiatives will cost, to be made available through council meetings. These will become Service Plans and Project Plans added to the yearly budget if approved by council. This provides clear transparency for what the functions and initiatives of the local government cost to deliver. Templates will be available for use by local governments. 		✓
6.3 Rates and Revenue Policy			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Local governments are not required to have a rates and revenue policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Rates and Revenue Policy is proposed to increase transparency for ratepayers by linking rates to basic operating costs and the minimum costs for maintaining essential infrastructure. 	No major changes. Work to develop and refine detail is ongoing.	✓

CURRENT PROVISIONS	ORIGINAL PROPOSAL	AMENDED PROPOSAL	WALGA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some councils defer rate rises, resulting in the eventual need to drastically raise rates to cover unavoidable costs, especially for the repair of infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Rates and Revenue Policy would be required to provide ratepayers with a forecast of future costs of providing local government services. The Policy would need to reflect the Asset Management Plan and the Long-Term Financial Plan (see item 6.2), providing a forecast of what rates would need to be, to cover unavoidable costs. A template would be published for use or adaptation by all local governments. The Local Government Panel Report included this recommendation. 		✓
6.4 Monthly Reporting of Credit Card Statements			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No legislative requirement. Disclosure requirements brought in by individual councils have shown significant reduction of expenditure of funds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The statements of a local government's credit cards used by local government employees will be required to be tabled at council meetings on a monthly basis. This provides oversight of incidental local government spending. 	No major changes. Work to develop and refine detail is ongoing.	✓
6.5 Amended Financial Ratios			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local governments are required to report seven ratios in their annual financial statements. These are reported on the MyCouncil website. These ratios are intended to provide an indication of the financial health of every local government. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial ratios will be reviewed in detail, building on work already underway by DLGSC. The methods of calculating ratios and indicators will be reviewed to ensure that the results are accurate and useful. 	Further work on this is ongoing.	✓

CURRENT PROVISIONS	ORIGINAL PROPOSAL	AMENDED PROPOSAL	WALGA
6.6 Audit Committees			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local governments must establish an Audit Committee that has three or more persons, with the majority to be council members. The Audit Committee is to guide and assist the local government in carrying out the local government's functions in relation to audits conducted under the Act. The Panel Report identified that Audit Committees should be expanded, including to provide improved risk management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure independent oversight, it is proposed the Chair of any Audit Committee be required to be an independent person who is not on council or an employee of the local government. Audit Committees would also need to consider proactive risk management. To reduce costs it is proposed that local governments should be able to establish shared Regional Audit Committees. The Committees would be able to include council members but would be required to include a majority of independent members and an independent chairperson. 	<p>No Requirement for Majority of Independent Members (only Independent Chair) Recognising the practical difficulty in recruiting independent people expressed by several local governments, the requirement for Audit Committees to have a majority of independent members will not be progressed. However, the requirement for an independent chairperson remains.</p> <p>Local Governments May Renumerate Independent Committee Members The Act will be amended to allow local governments to pay fees to committee members within Salaries and Allowances Tribunal limits.</p>	✓
<p>WALGA Response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the role of the OAG as the responsible entity for independent oversight of LG audits. Support Audit Committees with an Elected Member majority (YES) Support proposal to establish shared regional Audit Committees Support the appointment of an independent member as Audit Committee Chair to remain at the discretion of each LG Support the payment of meeting fees or defined reimbursements to independent Audit Committee Members. (YES) 			-

CURRENT PROVISIONS	ORIGINAL PROPOSAL	AMENDED PROPOSAL	WALGA
6.7 Building Upgrade Finance			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local government sector has sought reforms that would enable local governments to provide loans to property owners to finance building improvements. This is not currently provided for under the Act. The Local Government Panel Report included this recommendation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reforms would allow local governments to provide loans to third parties for specific building improvements - such as cladding, heritage and green energy fixtures. This would allow local governments to lend funds to improve buildings within their district. Limits and checks and balances would be established to ensure that financial risks are proactively managed. 	<p>Clarification – Lending Terms No major changes, but it should be clarified that financial institutions may provide the principal funds for the loan. Local governments would then collect repayments via rates notices (and pass on funds to any external lender) and would be able to foreclose on the land to recover debts using existing <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> provisions in the event of default by the borrower. Work to develop and refine detail is ongoing.</p>	✓
6.8 Cost of Waste Service to be Specified on Rates Notices			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No requirement for separation of waste charges on rates notice. Disclosure will increase ratepayer awareness of waste costs. The Review Panel Report included this recommendation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed that waste charges are required to be separately shown on rate notices (for all properties which receive a waste service). This would provide transparency and awareness of costs for ratepayers. 	<p>No major changes. Work to develop and refine detail is ongoing.</p>	✓



SHICC PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN #29

Tuesday 28 June 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:** for Western Australia (WA) to date:
 - **892,527** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
 - **865,567** people recovered from COVID-19
 - **4,093,120** COVID-19 PCR tests conducted
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#), [Vaccination dashboard](#) and [WA COVID-19 data update](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status and 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](#).

COVID-19 testing clinic changes

Four metropolitan PCR testing clinics – those at Fiona Stanley Hospital, Armadale Health Service, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and St John of God Midland Public Hospital – will be closed from 15 July 2022.

[Free PCR testing will continue to](#) be available at other sites across WA, including clinics near the closed locations.

Testing clinics at Royal Perth Hospital, Joondalup Health Campus, Rockingham Hospital and the PathWest public drive-through facility in Murdoch (alongside Fiona Stanley Hospital) will continue to operate between 8am and 8pm on weekdays and from 8am to 4pm on weekends.

Free RATs to be handed out at pop-up locations

Three million additional free rapid antigen tests (RATs) will be available for the Western Australian community at pop-up distribution sites in metropolitan and regional areas.

Free RATs can now be collected from Perth metropolitan shopping centres and train station. RATs will become available at regional shopping centres from Monday 11 July 2022.

Additional RATs are also available for people with a [disability](#) and their support workers.

Visit the [WA free RAT program page](#) for more information. The page will be updated regularly over the coming weeks as more locations are added.

Mask mandates removed in airport terminals

On Saturday 18 June, [mask](#)-wearing mandates at airports in Western Australia were lifted.

These changes were in line with the [latest](#) national advice from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC).

Masks must continue to be worn on aircraft as per existing requirements and are still strongly recommended to be worn in international and domestic terminals.

Masks are still required in certain settings in WA, including healthcare settings, residential aged and disability care facilities, and on public and passenger transport.

People are encouraged to wear a mask where physical distancing is not possible to protect vulnerable members of the community, including those at risk of serious illness from COVID-19 and the flu.

After COVID-19

Most people with COVID-19 will recover completely within a couple of weeks. Advice is available on the HealthyWA [website](#) for people who have recovered from COVID-19, including:

- how to look after your health after the acute infection has resolved
- what to do if symptoms persist for an extended period
- what to do if you're exposed to COVID-19 again
- what to do if you develop COVID-like symptoms again.

People [diagnosed](#) with COVID-19 and people who are [close contacts](#) should refer to the relevant advice available on HealthyWA.

COVID-19 mandatory vaccination policy

The [updated](#) mandatory vaccination policy requirements came into effect on 20 June 2022.

The remaining workforces required to be vaccinated to enter their workplace are limited to those working with the most vulnerable in our community, to protect them from severe disease. The affected workforces are:

- healthcare and health support workers in hospitals and primary healthcare settings
- workers in residential aged care
- workers in residential disability settings.

The [Department of Health](#) and [WA Government](#) websites have further information available, including frequently asked questions and advice for [healthcare](#) and health support workers.

COVID-19 vaccination program

COVID-19 Vaccination clinics changes

The Ellenbrook, Rockingham and Canning Vale COVID-19 vaccination clinics are now closed, enabling further pop-up clinics to be added to the list operating at selected shopping centres across the Perth metropolitan area.

The shopping centre pop-up clinics include Butler Central, Wanneroo Central, Victoria Park Central, Maddington Central, Mandurah Forum and Newpark Shopping Centre at Girrawheen.

Bookings are not needed, but as these new shopping centre clinics will only be open for 4 to 6 weeks, walk-ins are advised to attend as soon as possible.

If you want to find a clinic, participating pharmacy or GP, visit <https://rollup.wa.gov.au/locations>

Mental Health professionals delivering in-home COVID-19 vaccinations

In-home vaccination services for people who need extra support, including community mental health clients, are delivered by the North Metropolitan Health Service (NMHS) across the Perth metropolitan area.

This service operates Monday to Friday. To request an in-home vaccination contact the NMHS COVID Vaccination Program via NMHSCoVIDVaccination@health.wa.gov.au, phone 0499 723 332 or complete the referral [form](#).

COVID-19 vaccination sedation clinic

A sedation clinic is operating to provide COVID-19 vaccinations (primary course and booster doses) for people with disability, neurodiversity, or severe needle phobia aged 5 years and older, who would otherwise remain unvaccinated.

This **free** service is running for a fixed term at Subiaco Private Hospital in the Perth metropolitan area, with the level of sedation dependant on the person's needs. Influenza vaccines can be co-administered at the time of COVID-19 vaccination.

The sedation clinic referral information [form](#) can be completed by a health professional, patient or carer.

Queries about the service can be directed to DOH.SedationClinic@health.wa.gov.au.

Vaccine information and resources

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

- Australian Government – [Updates to the COVID-19 vaccination program](#) (other languages)
- Australian Government – [Get ready for winter](#) – translated poster
- Australian Government – Updated [fact sheet](#) on booster doses and winter doses (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people)
- Australian Government – [Common questions about COVID-19 vaccines](#) (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people)
- HealthyWA – [COVID-19 vaccine](#) (for WA community), including [FAQs](#)
- HealthyWA – [Influenza and COVID-19](#) vaccines information
- Keeping Culture Safe and Strong Aboriginal - COVID-19 [vaccination 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

- [Air Travel \(Face Covering\) Directions \(No 3\)](#)

Updated factsheets

- [Guidelines for public hospital discharge and interhospital transfer of positive or suspect COVID-19 cases](#)
- [COVID-19 Response Checklist for Specific Settings](#)
- [Doffing coveralls in the context of COVID-19](#)
- [Mandatory vaccination for workers Version 10](#)
- [COVID-19 Care Plan for person with a disability](#)
- [Guidelines for maternity services](#)
- [Guidelines for neonatal services](#)

- [COVID-19 and breastfeeding](#)
- [COVID-19 in pregnancy](#)
- [Information for COVID-19 women in labour](#)
- [COVID-19 Guideline for management of acute behavioural disturbance](#)
- [Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia #39](#)
- [Clinician alert #85](#)

Testing

General population [testing criteria](#)

The Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia has been updated.

Testing locations

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

Series of National Guidelines (SoNG)

The [latest](#) iteration was released on 3 June 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 WA Police Line: 131 444 to report breaches of quarantine, business activities, border controls and other State of Emergency Directions

Next advice The Bulletin is issued **fortnightly**. Next issue: **12 July 2022**.

Last updated **28 June 2022**

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SHICC PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN #30

Tuesday 12 July 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:** for Western Australia (WA) to date:
 - 967,525 confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
 - 933,060 people recovered from COVID-19
 - 4,184,589 COVID-19 PCR tests conducted
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#), [Vaccination dashboard](#) and [WA COVID-19 data update](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status and 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](#).

Reinfection update

WA is adopting new national health advice on COVID-19 reinfection – updating the State's guidelines to show reinfection can occur from 4 weeks after recovering from the virus. COVID-19 reinfection cases were previously defined as a case that occurs more than 12 weeks after an initial infection.

The updated [advice](#), from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC), follows the detection of an increasing number of BA.4 and BA.5 COVID-19 Omicron variants in the WA community. These subvariants are now dominant in the WA community, representing over 50 per cent of new cases.

The new guidance means:

- People who have had COVID-19 should again get tested and isolate if they have symptoms more than 4 weeks after recovering from COVID-19.
- People who develop new acute respiratory symptoms within 4 weeks of recovery should stay at home and seek advice from their healthcare provider.
- People who meet the close contact definition within 4 weeks of release from isolation and who are asymptomatic do not need to follow close contact requirements.

This updated reinfection advice does **not** impact the recommended interval between COVID-19 infection and a COVID-19 vaccination. People who have recovered from COVID-19 must wait 3 months after having a COVID-19 infection before receiving a [COVID-19 vaccination](#).

Listen to the Chief Health Officer, Dr Andrew Robertson, speak to [6PR](#) about COVID-19 reinfection.

Additional information is available in the [announcement](#) and [media statement](#).

Free influenza vaccination program extended

The free influenza vaccination program has been extended until the end of July for everyone in WA.

Influenza (commonly called the 'flu') is a highly contagious virus that affects the respiratory system and is particularly dangerous for young children, older adults and those with underlying health conditions. Influenza vaccination is the best protection against serious illness and is recommended for everyone from 6 months of age.

People can receive their free influenza vaccination at participating pharmacies and GPs. Free influenza vaccinations are also available at State-run COVID-19 vaccination clinics for anyone aged 5 years and older.

The COVID-19 vaccine does not protect against influenza, so you should still have an influenza vaccine if you've had the COVID-19 vaccinations.

More information on influenza vaccination, including where to get one and the importance of receiving the COVID-19 and influenza vaccine, is available at [HealthyWA](#).

Preparing for COVID-safe travel

Before you travel, ensure you plan for what you'll do if you test positive to COVID-19 or become a close contact while you're away. For example:

- Consider what you'll do if you get COVID-19 and are unable to return home safely to isolate. You may need to stay where you are (in your holiday accommodation) or find alternative accommodation.
- Take medication and other essential supplies in case you're unable to access them while you're away. For example, take rapid antigen tests (RATs), face masks, hand sanitiser, tissues, and medication (pain relief, regular medications, and prescriptions). Consider how you'll get food delivered if you need to isolate.

More COVID-safe travel tips are available the HealthyWA [website](#).

Tour operators and COVID-19

Tour operators are reminded to ensure appropriate plans and protocols are in place if guests or staff develop COVID-19 symptoms, become a COVID-19 case or close contact.

Tour operators conducting overnight tours with accommodation shall assist to coordinate [appropriate isolation](#) for guests and staff who become COVID-19 cases. It's recommended operators identify appropriate accommodation ahead of tours, recognising there is limited accommodation available in many parts of regional WA and people who test positive for COVID-19 are not permitted to return home via commercial aircrafts while they are in isolation.

[COVID-safe](#) principles should be practised on tour to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission. These include:

- Using [face masks](#) as required and encouraging their use when physical distancing isn't possible
- Following [enhanced cleaning practices](#), where relevant
- Ensuring guests and staff have access to hand sanitiser, face masks and RATs
- Facilitating COVID-19 testing by RAT or PCR for people with symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

Further information for [tour operators](#) is available at the Department of Health [website](#) in the 'travel, accommodation and shared living' section.

COVID-19 testing clinic changes

Four metropolitan PCR testing clinics – those at Fiona Stanley Hospital, Armadale Health Service, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and St John of God Midland Public Hospital – will close from 15 July 2022.

[Free PCR testing](#) will continue to be available at other sites across WA, including near the closed locations.

Testing clinics at Royal Perth Hospital, Joondalup Health Campus, Rockingham Hospital and the PathWest public drive-through facility in Murdoch (alongside Fiona Stanley Hospital) will continue to operate between 8am and 8pm on weekdays and from 8am to 4pm on weekends.

Free RATs to be handed out at pop-up locations

Three million additional free rapid antigen tests (RATs) will be available for the Western Australian community at pop-up distribution sites in metropolitan and regional areas.

Free RATs can now be collected from Perth metropolitan shopping centres and train stations, **and regional pop-up locations**.

Additional RATs are also available for people with a [disability](#) and their support workers.

Visit the [WA free RAT program page](#) for more information. The page will be updated regularly over the coming weeks as more locations are added.

COVID-19 vaccination program

Winter COVID-19 booster eligibility expanded

ATAGI has updated its [recommendations](#) for a winter dose of COVID-19 vaccine to help reduce severe disease from the emerging surge of Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 subvariant infections, and to reduce the burden on Australian hospitals and the healthcare system in coming months.

From Monday 11 July 2022:

- Adults aged 50 to 64 years are recommended to receive a winter booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Adults aged 30 to 49 years can receive a winter booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- The interval recommended between a recent COVID-19 infection, or last booster dose, and a winter booster dose is 3 months.

This advice is in addition to the previous recommendations for a winter booster, which remain in place for:

- All adults aged 65 years or older
- Residents of aged care or disability care facilities
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 years or older
- People who are [severely immunocompromised](#) (this will be their fifth dose)
- People aged 16 years or older with a [medical condition](#) that increases the risk of severe COVID-19 illness
- People aged 16 years or older with disability, significant or complex health needs, or multiple comorbidities which increase the risk of a poor outcome.

To reduce wait times, bookings are encouraged and can be made through [VaccinateWA](#). Winter boosters are available at any state-run COVID-19 vaccination clinic or an appointment can be booked through a participating GP or pharmacy using [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#).

Vaccination post COVID-19 infection

ATAGI updated their [advice](#) relating to individuals with a past COVID-19 infection. They recommend all people should wait **3 months** post confirmed infection with COVID-19 before they receive their next scheduled COVID-19 vaccination.

Following this 3-month period, the next scheduled COVID-19 dose should be given as soon as possible.

Vaccine information and resources

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

- Australian Government – [COVID-19 booster vaccine advice](#)
- Australian Government – [COVID-19 vaccination clinical considerations](#)
- Australian Government – [COVID-19 vaccine translated information](#)
- Australian Government – Updated [fact sheet](#) on booster doses and winter doses (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people)
- HealthyWA – [COVID-19 vaccine](#) (for WA community), including [FAQs](#)
- HealthyWA – [Influenza and COVID-19](#) vaccines information
- Keeping Culture Safe and Strong Aboriginal - COVID-19 [vaccination 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

- [COVID Transition \(Testing and Isolation\) Directions \(No 16\)](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Face Covering\) Directions \(No 8\)](#)
- [COVID \(Redundant Instruments\) Revocation Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [Revocation Instrument \(No. 2\) 2022 - Authorisation to Supply or Administer a Poison \[SARS-COV-2 \(COVID-19\)\]](#)
- [Prohibition on the Use of Nebuliser Machines Directions \(No 4\) Revocation Directions](#)

Updated factsheets

- [Clinician Alert #68](#)
- [Release of Cases from Isolation: Information for Clinicians](#) – Updated 12 July 2022
- [Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia #40](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control Advice on Cleaning and Disinfection Version 1.2](#)
- [COVID-19 Visitor Guideline for WA Public Hospital and Health Services Version 11.1](#)
- [Guidelines for Outpatient Services Version 3.6](#)
- [N95 and P2 Respirator Options for WA Health Care Facilities](#)
- [Guidelines on the use of the HALO CS3000 Powered Air-Purifying Power Unit Version 4](#)
- [Communication Pathway for Vessels with Concern of COVID-19](#) – Updated 6 July 2022
- [Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines for Western Australian Residential Care Facilities Version 2.1](#)
- [What to do when you Test Positive for COVID-19 Version 9](#)
- [What to do if you are a COVID-19 Close Contact Version 9](#)

Testing

General population [testing criteria](#)

The *Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia #40* is now available.

Testing locations

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

Series of National Guidelines (SoNG)

The [latest](#) iteration was released on **8 June 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](#)
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Next advice The Bulletin is issued fortnightly. Next issue: **26 July 2022**.

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