



Shire of Lake Grace

28 May 2025

**Ordinary Council Meeting
INFORMATION BULLETIN
ITEM 16.0 - ATTACHMENTS**

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Information Bulletin
Infrastructure Services Report

Shire of Lake Grace

Prepared for the May 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting
presenting information to the end of April 2025

Road Maintenance Grading

For the month of March 2025

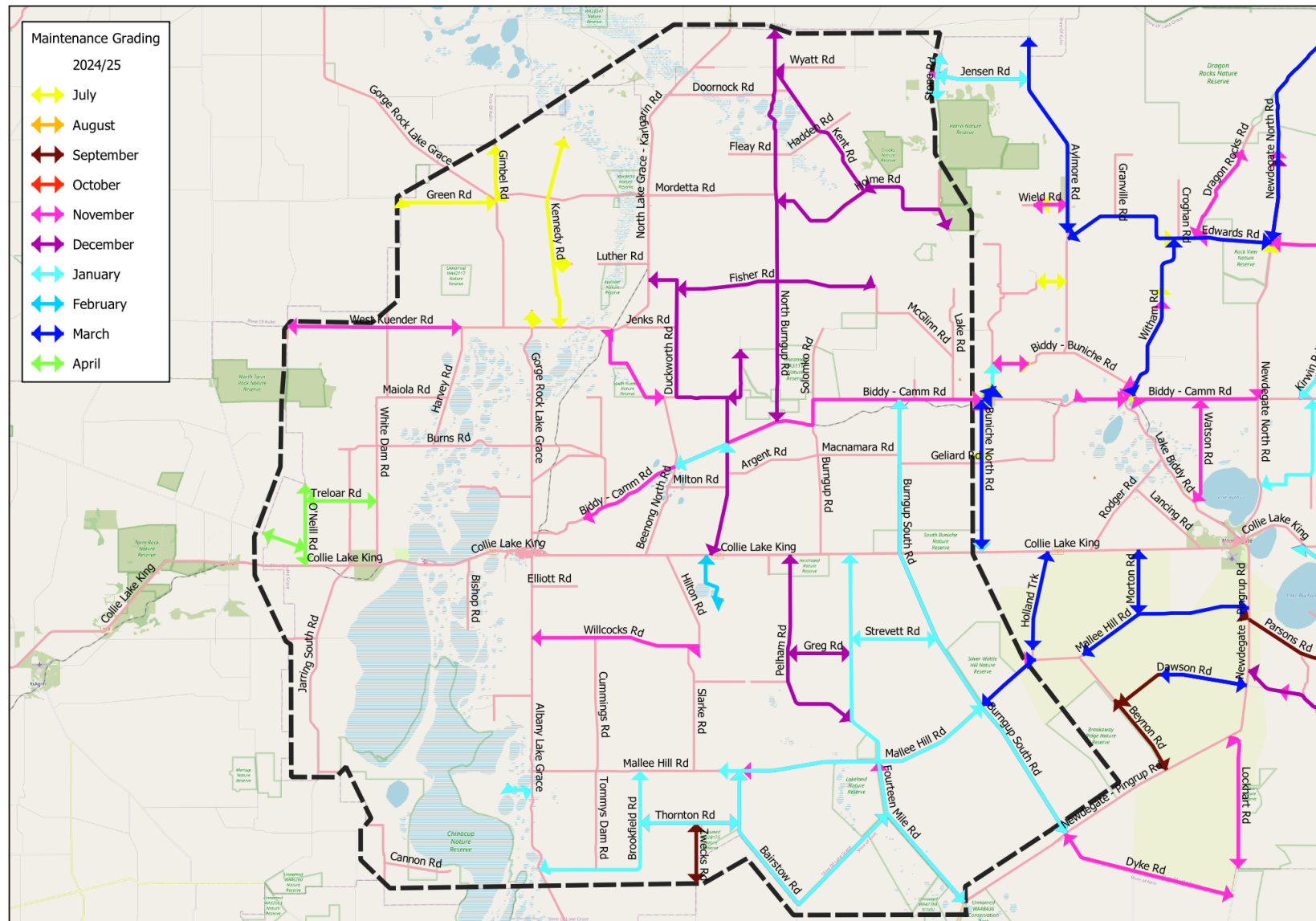
Lake Grace Area		Newdegate Area		Lake King-Varley Area	
Road Name	Graded (km)	Road Name	Graded (km)	Road Name	Graded (km)
No grading carried out (Road construction)		Aylmore Rd	15.12	Ace Rd	4.99
		Biddy Camm Rd	23.60	Biddy Camm Rd	16.17
		Buniche North Rd	11.61	Broombush Flat Rd	21.24
		Dawson Rd	6.39	Finlay Rd	4.70
		Edwards Rd	17.03	Kathleen Rd	7.78
		Haig Rd	10.36	Mulcahy Rd	8.77
		Hollands Track Rd	7.30	Pickernell Rd	26.53
		Mallee Hill Rd	18.50	Purnta Rd	5.94
		Morton Rd	4.76	Rose Rd	2.33
		Newdegate North Rd	18.71	Smith Rd	4.96
		Oakey Rd	9.31		
		Witham Rd	12.71		
Subtotal	0.00	Subtotal	155.40	Subtotal	103.41

For the month of April 2025

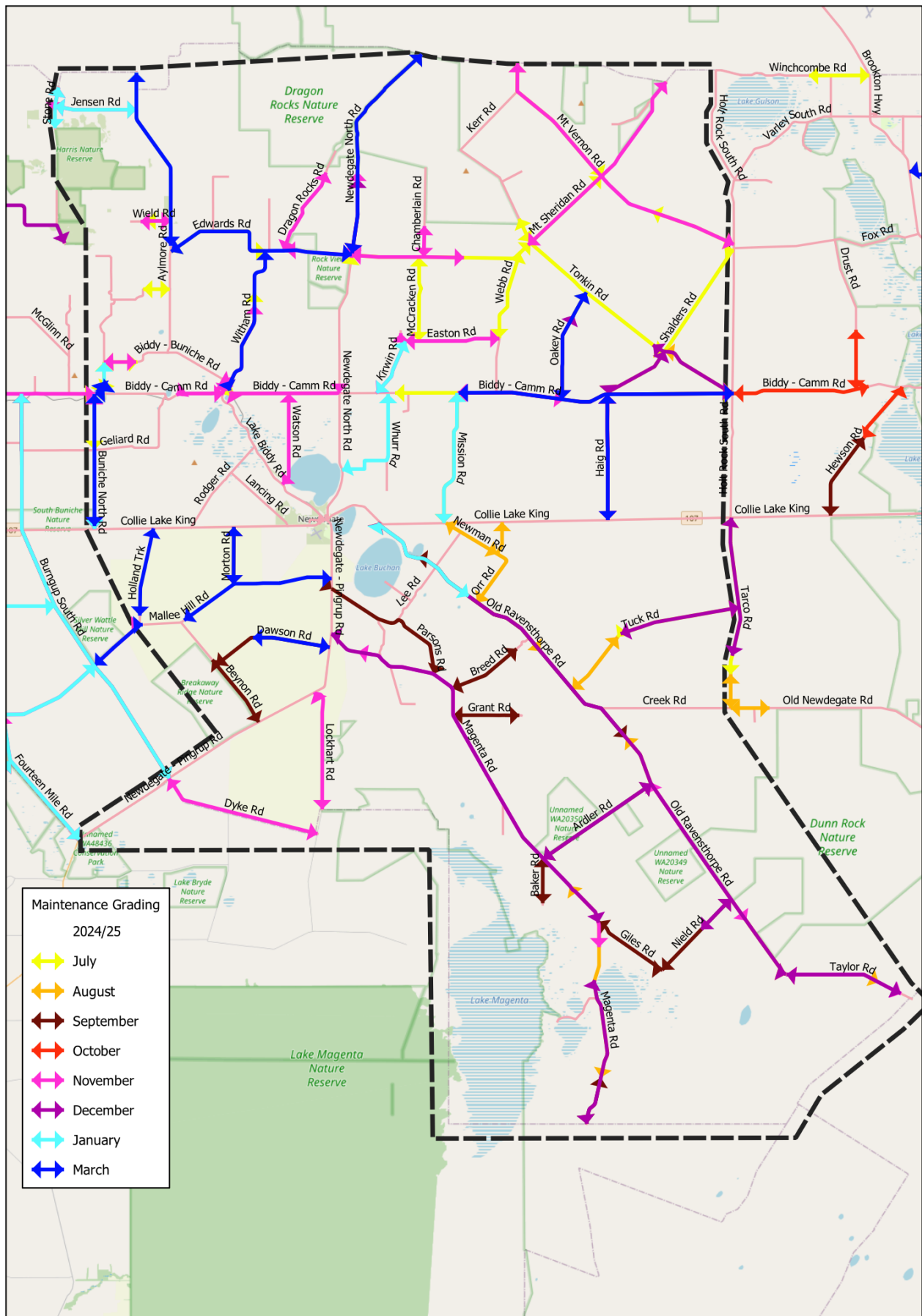
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2024/25 Year-To-Date Grading by Month

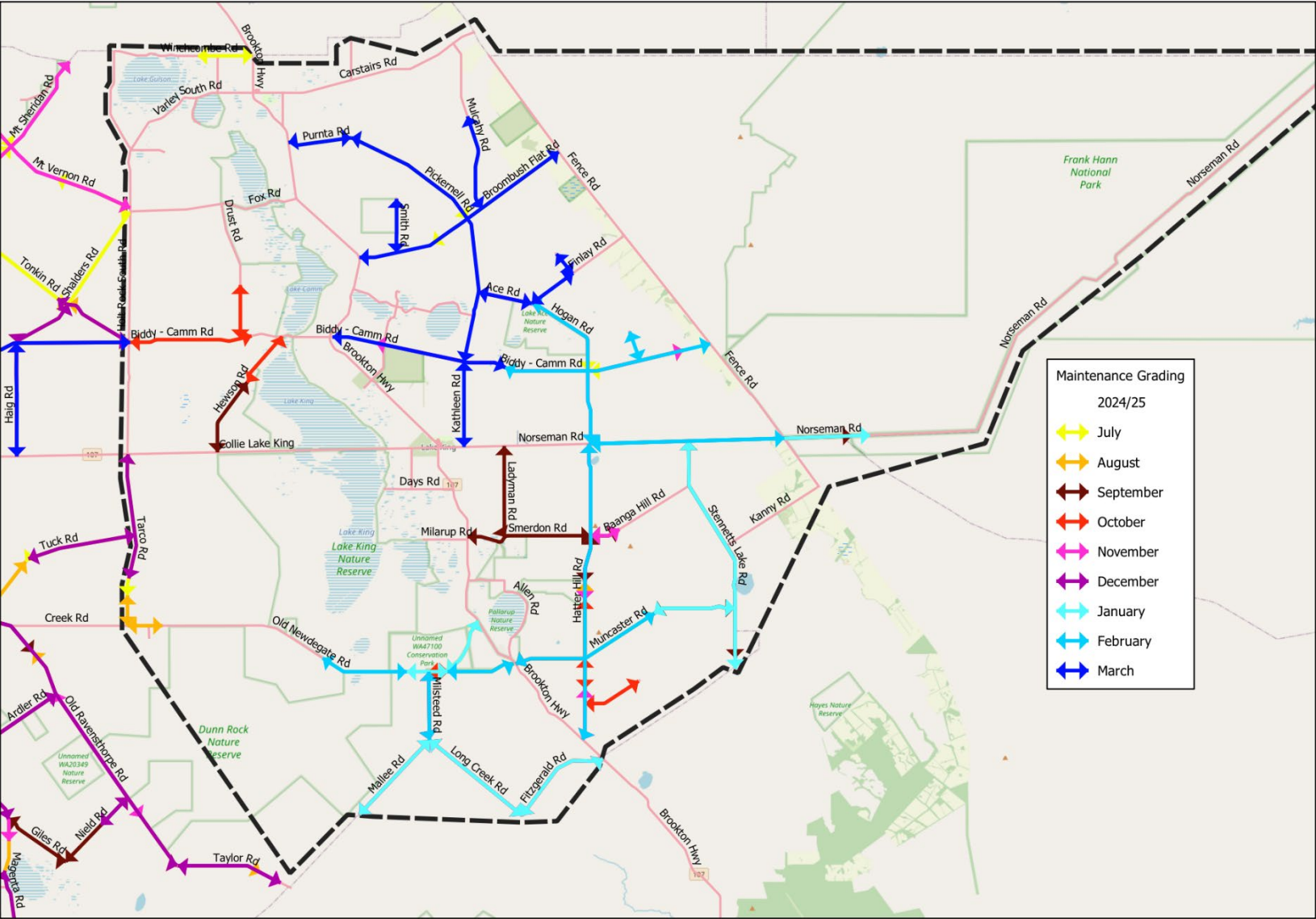
Year	Month	Lake Grace Area (km)	Newdegate Area (km)	Lake King-Varley Area (km)	Monthly Subtotal
2024	July	28.20	204.69	79.59	312.48
	August	0.00	112.31	92.59	204.90
	September	39.37	101.79	96.31	237.47
	October	27.73	0.00	79.54	107.27
	November	164.95	223.55	87.50	476.00
	December	121.89	208.05	0.00	329.94
2025	January	138.64	75.53	102.54	316.71
	February	4.35	0.00	123.59	208.73
	March	0.00	155.40	103.41	258.81
	April	14.70	Pending	Pending	14.70
	May				
	June				
	<u>To-Date</u>	<u>539.83</u>	<u>1081.32</u>	<u>765.07</u>	<u>2,467.01</u>



Monthly maintenance grading – Lake Grace area



Monthly maintenance grading – Newdegate area



Monthly maintenance grading – Lake King-Varley area

Plant Maintenance

Plant Acquisitions

- Nil.

Plant Repairs

Plant	Plant Description	Action
PLOD07	2021 Volvo L90F Loader	Replace 2 x loader tyres.
PLVU60	2024 Ford Everest Sport	15,000 km service.
PTCK22	2021 Hino 3 Ton Tip Truck	55,000 km service.
PTCK24	2021 Isuzu 9 Ton Crew Cab	General service.
PTCK26	2022 Volvo Prime Mover	General service.

Building Construction & Maintenance

Construction

- Nil.

Maintenance

Lake Grace

- 10b Gumtree Dr.
- Hall, Lakes Village.
- Hall, Public.
- Hall, RSL.
- Medical Centre.
- Playgroup.
- Shire Depot.

Newdegate

- Recreation Centre.

Lake King

- Public Hall.
- Public Toilets.

Varley

- Public Hall.
- Sports Pavilion.

Other

- Lake Grace Airstrip Building.

Parks & Gardens Maintenance

Lake Grace

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

Newdegate

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

Lake King

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

Varley

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

Pingaring

- Nil.

Customer Service Requests

For the period of 1 July 2023 to 30 April 2025:

Category	Complete	Incomplete	Total	% Complete
Works	36	9	45	80.0%
Building	42	24	66	63.6%
Parks & Gardens	23	3	26	88.5%
<i><u>Total</u></i>	<i><u>101</u></i>	<i><u>36</u></i>	<i><u>137</u></i>	<i><u>73.7%</u></i>

Central Country Zone Minutes

Friday 11 April, 2025

Hosted by the Shire of Wickepin

Commenced at 9.30am

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Policy and Advocacy Prioritisation Framework

The Central Country Zone adopted the Framework on 12 April 2024.

How to use the Framework:

- If the majority of the factors are towards the left column, the issue is a high priority.
- If the majority of the factors are towards the middle, the issue requires action, but is not a high priority.
- If the majority of the factors are towards the right column, the issue is a low priority.

Impact on Local Government Sector Impact on Local Government sector without intervention	High	Medium	Low
Reach Number of member Local Governments affected	Sector-wide	Significant (multiple regions, Zones, or bands)	Few
Influence Capacity to influence decision makers	High	Medium	Low
Principles Alignment to core principles such as autonomy, funding, general competence	Strong	Partial	Peripheral
Clarity Policy change needed is clear and well-defined	Clear	Partial	Unclear
Decision-maker support Level of support among decision-makers (political and administrative)	High	Medium	Low
Public support Level of support among the public or other stakeholders	High	Medium	Low
Positive consequences for WALGA Prospect of positive consequences for WALGA. E.g. enhanced standing among members or leverage for other issues.	High	Medium	Low
Negative consequences for WALGA Prospect of negative consequences for WALGA for not undertaking the advocacy effort. E.g. diminished standing among members or other stakeholders.	High	Medium	Low
Partnerships Potential for partnerships with other stakeholders	Yes (3+)	Possibly (1-2)	No (0)

ATTACHMENTS

The following are provided as attachments to the Minutes

1. Item 3 Host Presentation
2. Item 7.1 DLGSCI Report
3. Item 7.4 Mainroads Report
4. Item 9.1 Cost Shift and Compliance Report

The full 7 May 2025 State Council Agenda [can be found here](#) as well as attached.

1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

1.1 OPENING

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9.30am.

1.2 HOUSEKEEPING – ZONE CHAIR

1. Welcome:

The Zone Chair, President Cr Des Hickey, welcomed Zone members and provided OSH/bathroom/exit information to those in attendance.

2. Share your name and Local Government:

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

1.3 ATTENDANCE

Shire of Beverley	President Cr David White Mr Steve Gollan Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Corrigin	President Cr Des Hickey (Chair) Deputy President Cr Sharon Jacobs Ms Natalie Manton Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Cuballing	Cr Adrian Kowald Cr Scott Ballantyne
Shire of Dumbleyung	President Cr Amy Knight Mr Gavin Treasure Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Kulin	Cr Robbie Bowey
Shire of Lake Grace	Deputy President Stephen Hunt Mr Alan George Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Narrogin	President Leigh Ballard Cr Clive Bartron Mr Dale Stewart Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Pingelly	President Cr Jackie McBurney Mr Andrew Dover Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Quairading	President Cr Trevor Stacey Deputy President Cr Jonathan Hippisley Ms Natalie Ness, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Wagin	President Cr Phillip Blight Dr Kenneth Parker, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Wandering	President Cr Sheryl Little Deputy President Cr Alan Price Mr Ian Fitzgerald, A\Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of West Arthur	Deputy President Cr Karen Harrington Mr Vin Fordham Lamont, Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Wickepin	President Cr Julie Russell Cr Lindsay Corke Mr Peter Clarke, A\Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

Guests

University of Western Australia (UWA)	Dr John Duncan
150SQUARE	Associate Professor Nik Callow
Wheatbelt Development Commission	Caroline Robinson, Consultant
	Grant Arthur, Director Regional Development
	Emma Everett, Regional Development Officer
Main Roads WA	Yogesh Shinde, Operations Manager Narrogin
Water Corporation	Michael Roberts, Regional Manager Goldfields & Agricultural Region
Regional Development Australia WA	Josh Pomykala, Director Regional Development

Members of Parliament

Hon Steve Martin MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region

WALGA

Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services
Connor Warn, Policy Officer Environment
Naomh Donaghy, Governance and Organisational Services Officer
Rodney Thornton, Regional Road Safety Advisor

1.4 APOLOGIES

MEMBERS

Shire of Beverley	Deputy President Cr Dee Ridgway
Shire of Brookton	President Cr Katrina Crute
	Cr Tamara de Lange
	Mr Gary Sherry Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Cuballing	President Cr Eliza Dowling
	Deputy President Cr Rob Harris
	Mr Chris Paget Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Dumbleyung	Deputy President Cr Grant Lukins
Shire of Kulin	President Cr Grant Robins
	Mr Alan Leeson Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Lake Grace	President Cr Len Armstrong
Shire of Pingelly	Deputy President Cr Peter Wood
Shire of Wagin	Deputy President Bryan Kilpatrick
Shire of West Arthur	President Cr Neil Morrell
Shire of Wickepin	Deputy President Cr Wes Astbury
Shire of Williams	Cr Jarrad Logie
	Mr Peter Stubbs, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

GUESTS

Department of Local Government, Sport, & Cultural Industries	Samantha Cornthwaite, Regional Manager Wheatbelt
CBH Group	Kellie Todman, Manager Government and Industry Relations
Main Roads	Mohammad Siddiqui, Director Wheatbelt Region
Wheatbelt Development Commission	Rob Cossart, Chief Executive Officer
	Renee Manning, Principal Regional Development Officer - Central East

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Lachlan Hunter MP, Member for the Central Wheatbelt
Hon Sabina Winton MLA, Member for the Wheatbelt
Hon Colin de Grussa MLC, Member for Agricultural Region
Rick Wilson MP, Federal Member for O'Connor

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Elected Members must declare to the Chairman any potential conflict of interest they have in a matter before the Zone as soon as they become aware of it. Councillors and deputies may be directly or indirectly associated with some recommendations of the Zone and State Council. If you are affected by these recommendations, please excuse yourself from the meeting and do not participate in deliberations.

NIL

3 HOST COUNCIL PRESENTATION

President Cr Julie Russell, Shire of Wickpin, extended a welcome to delegates and guests and provided a presentation on projects and issues facing the Shire of Wickpin.

This presentation is attached to the Minutes (**Attachment 1**)

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS

NIL

5 GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS

All Deputations have a time limit of 20 minutes, which includes questions time.

5.1 SPEAKERS FOR THE APRIL ZONE MEETING

5.1.1 University of Western Australia (UWA)

Dr John Duncan and Associate Professor Nik Callow

UWA are spearheading a project in relation to Water Smart Dams; looking at dam water supplies combining in-the-field monitoring and developing apps to model dam performance. UWA spoke about this project, as well as the work that has been done on regional and on-farm water security options and planning tools.

They also talked about/demonstrate the Water Evaluation Tool - an app that has been developed to support modelling dam performance to meet demand.

NOTED

5.1.2 Cost Shift and Compliance Project Update

Caroline Robinson, Consultant, 150SQUARE

The Zone welcomed Caroline Robinson, Consultant from 150SQUARE to present the findings of the Cost Shift and Compliance Project carried out on behalf of the Zone, as initiated by the Zone in August 2024.

NOTED

6 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Any Members of Federal and State Government in attendance are invited to provide a brief update on matters relevant to the Zone.

Hon Steve Martin MLA, Member for the Agricultural Region

NOTED

7 AGENCY REPORTS

7.1 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SPORT AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES

Samanta Cornthwaite, Regional Director Wheatbelt

The DLGSC was an apology for this meeting, The Report is now attached to the Minutes **(Attachment 2)**

NOTED

7.2 WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Grant Arthur, Director Regional Development

Grant Arthur provided an update to the Zone.

NOTED

7.3 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA WHEATBELT

Josh Pomykala, Director Regional Development

The RDA report was attached to the Agenda.

NOTED

7.4 MAIN ROADS WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Yogesh Shinde, Operations Manager Narrogin

The MainRoads report was circulated in advance of the meeting, now attached to the Minutes **(Attachment 3)**

Yogesh Shinde presented to the Zone.

NOTED

7.5 CBH GROUP

Kellie Todman, Manager - Government & Industry Relations

Kellie Todman was an apology for this meeting.

NOTED

The meeting took a break at 11.03am, resumed at 11.13am

8 MINUTES

8.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM THE CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE MEETING HELD ON 14 FEBRUARY 2025

The Minutes of the Central Country Zone meeting held on 14 February 2025 have previously been circulated to Member Councils.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Leigh Ballard

Seconded: Deputy President Cr Karen Harrington

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Central Country Zone held on 14 February 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

8.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FROM THE CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE MEETING HELD ON 14 FEBRUARY 2025

8.2.1 (Item 9.1.4) Telstra Closure of 3G Services

Shire of Dumbleyung

BACKGROUND:

At the February meeting, the Zone Resolved;

Moved: President Cr Amy Knight

Seconded: Deputy President Stephen Hunt

That WALGA Central Country Zone instigates a region wide survey on the impacts of Telstra's 3G network closure on its residents and report back on the results of the survey at its next April 2025 meeting.

Since the February meeting, a region wide survey was distributed to the Zone. At the time of writing the Agenda, there were **255** responses. A report was circulated prior to the meeting.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Amy Knight

Seconded: President Cr Phil Blight

That the Central Country Zone write to Telstra's Regional General Manager, Boyd Brown, sharing the full findings of this survey, and requesting a response on how Telstra will actively address the issues within the report.

CARRIED

8.2.2 (Item 13.1) Letter to the Minister for Regional Development

Shire of Dumbleyung

BACKGROUND:

At the February meeting:

The Shire of Dumbleyung suggested that the Zone write the letter of thanks and acknowledgment to the Minister for Regional Development on Wheatbelt Development Commission efforts to coordinate and submit a successful \$32.8M Wheatbelt Regional Housing Initiative proposal through the Federal Government Housing Support Program (Stream 2).

This letter was sent as per Attachment 2 of the Agenda, we are awaiting a response.

NOTED

8.2.3 (Item 13.2) Round Table update

BACKGROUND:

At the February meeting:

The Shire of Wandering requested an update on the Band 4 Roundtable discussions which commenced late last year. A report will be provided at the April one meeting.

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services

Following the Band 4 roundtable meeting hosted by the Minister for Local Government, Hon Hannah Beasley, on 3 September 2024, WALGA was pleased to host a further meeting of Band 4 Local Governments to continue the discussion.

The meeting was held on 11 October at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. All 60 Band 4 Local Governments in the State were invited to attend. Overall, 72 representatives from 48 Local Governments attended the meeting.

The aim of the meeting was to identify and agree on the top issues facing Band 4 WA Local Governments, to enable the group to consider and develop potential solutions to these issues, before presenting to the Minister.

Caroline Robinson, Director of 150 Square facilitated the discussion.

COMMENT

As the main outcome of the meeting, the group identified the top four strategic and operational issues facing Band 4 Local Governments (from most pressing to least pressing):

1. Housing;
2. Audit;
3. Provision of medical services; and
4. Financial Assistance Grants (timing).

WALGA has since undertaken considerable work on the above issues.

An update report on the work done to date was recently circulated to all Band 4 CEOs and Presidents and was provided as an attachment to this item.

NOTED

8.3 MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 1 APRIL 2025

The Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on 1 April 2025 were provided as an attachment to the Agenda.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Phil Blight

Seconded: President Leigh Ballard

That the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on 1 April 2025 be endorsed.

CARRIED

8.4 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FROM THE CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 1 APRIL 2025

8.4.1 (Item 7.6) Minutes on a Page

BACKGROUND:

The Great Eastern Country Zone have recently adopted an additional standard item in their meetings. After a Zone meeting, in addition to the official Minutes being distributed to all Delegates/meeting attendees, "Minutes on a Page" are distributed to Member Local Governments for all Elected Members to view. This is a condensed, '*need to know*' version of the Minutes, done in an effort to;

- keep the whole Council informed of Zone business
- inform non Delegates on what happens at Zone meetings
- encourage Elected Members to become Delegates in the future.

The Executive Committee were asked to discuss if "Minutes on a Page" would be beneficial to the Central Country Zone.

Executive Comment:

The Committee are in support of this addition to the Zone process.

NOTED

8.4.2 (Item 6.2.1) Ministerial Speakers

BACKGROUND:

At the February (Zone) meeting, the Executive Committee discussed Ministerial speakers for the 2025 Zone meetings.

Letters were issued to;

- *Minister for Local Government, Hon Hannah Beazley*
- *Minister for Transport, Hon Rita Saffioti*
- *Minister for Agriculture, Hon Jackie Jarvis*
- *Minister for Wheatbelt Region, Hon Sabine Winton*

The Minister for Transport, the Hon Rita Saffioti MLC, has advised she is unavailable. We have requested a written update on the portfolio priorities.

Letters have been reissued to the Minister for Local Government and the Minister for Agriculture, following the election.

WALGA have written to all Ministers who have been allocated a region, to attend future Zone meetings. The Executive will write to Minister Winton, advising of the Central Country Zone meeting dates.

Secretariat Comment

Following the April Executive Committee meeting, The Executive officer issued an invite to *Hon Sabine Winton MLA* to attend all Central Country Zone meetings, and to speak at an upcoming meeting.

We are awaiting a response.

NOTED

9 ZONE BUSINESS

9.1 COST SHIFT AND COMPLIANCE PROJECT UPDATE

BACKGROUND:

At the August 2024 meeting of the Zone it was resolved;

That the Executive Committee resolution be endorsed by the Central Country Zone.

"That the Zone engage an independent consultant to review the figures of the top four Cost Shift Items and top four Compliance Costs, following which the Item will be brought back to the Executive Committee for further action."

The Zone authorises the Executive Committee to engage an independent consultant within the constraints of the Central Country Zone budget.

The Zone welcomes Darren Mollenoyux, Consultant from 150SQUARE to present the findings of this project.

A report was circulated prior to the meeting (**Attachment 4**).

Zone comment:

This item, and the recommendations within the report will be included in the June Agenda, for Discussion.

NOTED

9.2 PROVISION OF GP SERVICES

Shire of Lake Grace

BACKGROUND:

As a follow on from the WALGA hosted meeting of Band 4 Local Governments held on 11 October at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, where Chief Executive Officers and Presidents from all 60 Band 4 Local Governments in the State were invited to attend to discuss the top issues affecting local governments, the Shire of Lake Grace called a meeting of six local governments (band 3 and band 4) and key stakeholders on Friday 29 November 2024. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the financial and in-kind contributions made by local governments to

secure medical service providers in their communities. It was also decided that submissions be made to both the state and federal governments for budget consideration.

Caroline Robinson from 150 Square was contracted to prepare the submission and subsequent actions.

A Position Paper was prepared on behalf of the Shires of Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Kojonup, Narembreen, Lake Grace and Ravensthorpe and was submitted to the Federal Budget Pre-Submission process for consideration.

In addition, these members of the alliance agreed that a motion be prepared and submitted to the ALGA National Assembly of Local Government being held in Canberra from 24-27 June 2025.

The Shire of Lake Grace is putting the motion to ALGA on behalf of the group of local governments listed above collectively now the 'Alliance of RM 6 and RM 7 Councils'

The Motion reads;

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to increase the Financial Assistance Grants for regional and remote local governments (RM6 and RM7) to assist in funds associated with attracting and retaining general practitioners, therefore redirecting ratepayer funds to local government responsibilities.

The full submission is included in the attachments of the Agenda.

It is planned at this stage to send up to 4 delegates to the Assembly which will also include meetings with the relevant government departments.

This action aligns with the Local Government Primary Healthcare Services Survey undertaken by Rural Health West and commissioned by WALGA in 2023 and endorsed by State Council in December 2024

Zone members are requested to note the motion submitted to the National Assembly of Local Government regarding financial assistance for the provision of medical services to regional and remote local governments. If successful in the campaign positive benefits may be seen across all local governments in like positions.

Secretariat Comment

WALGA supports the Alliance of RM 6 and RM 7 Councils' (the Alliance) motion submitted to the ALGA NGA calling for increased Australian Government financial support for Local Governments supporting the provision of essential healthcare services for their communities. The provision of healthcare services in Australia is both an Australian and State responsibility, principally through the Medicare system at the Federal level. Raising this issue at the ALGA NGA provides an opportunity to elevate the issue to an ALGA priority at the National level and gain support from Local Governments experiencing similar cost imposts in other jurisdictions. It is pleasing to hear that the WALGA commissioned Local Government Primary Healthcare Services Survey Report (Survey Report) was useful in the development of the Alliances' Position Paper and ALGA motion.

Equitable access to primary healthcare is an important issue for many WALGA, including some that fall outside of the rural zone according to the Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Area (RRMA) classification. Reflective of the financial impact on the sector and building on the Survey Report, WALGA has begun a strategic advocacy plan which includes targeted actions for the Australian and State Governments, leveraging the opportunities of elections, new Cabinet compositions and the renegotiation of the National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA) between the Australian

Government and States and Territories. WALGA continues to offer its support to the Alliance on this important issue.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Deputy President Stephen Hunt

Seconded: Cr Robbie Bowey

That the Central Country Zone receives the report and notes the submission to the ALGA National Assembly.

CARRIED

9.3 ADVOCACY FOR STATEWIDE COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENTS FUND (CEF) FRAMEWORK & RENEWABLE ENERGY GUIDELINES

By Dale Stewart /Shire of Narrogin

BACKGROUND

The Shire of Narrogin has recently adopted its *Community Enhancements Fund Policy*, a clear, consistent, and equitable approach to ensuring communities benefit from the renewable energy transition. The Shire is currently processing five (5) large-scale wind, solar, and BESS proposals and has identified the need to ensure social licence and community return are enshrined in both local and State policy frameworks.

In November 2024, the Shire also published a *Renewable Industry Framework & Advocacy Statement*, calling for a five-pillar approach supported by all levels of government and the renewable energy sector.

Without a statewide framework, regional local governments risk being left to negotiate independently with major proponents, risking inconsistency, inequity, or missed opportunities.

Shire of Narrogin - TWA Policy

[Renewable Energy in the Shire of Narrogin » Shire of Narrogin](#)

Shire Comment

Adopting a WALGA-led advocacy position based on the Narrogin model would promote best practice across WA and address current policy gaps. The approach complements WALGA's advocacy on responsible renewable development and reflects growing sector and community expectations.

The Shire of Narrogin is requesting the support of the Central Country Zone to elevate this matter to WALGA State Council and the State Government.

Secretariat Comment

WALGA recognises the work and leadership of the Shire of Narrogin in preparing their *Narrogin – Love the Life, Power the Future – Community Enhancements Fund (CEF) Policy*.

We continue to advocate to the State Government for the development of an Engagement and Community Benefit Framework, as well as a State Planning Policy for renewable energy.

WALGA have begun preparation of a best practice Community Benefits and Engagement Guide, designed to support Local Governments when engaging with proponents and the community. The Shire of Narrogin's Policy will be an important input into this Guide.

WALGA is also conducting research relating to Local Government rating and payment in lieu of rates in respect to renewable energy projects. This project will involve preparing an EOI for consultants to provide advice on current rating provisions available to Local Governments, including differential rating and reviewing other rating methods from other states including Victoria's Payment in Lieu of Rates (PILOR) Scheme.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Leigh Ballard

Seconded: Deputy President Karen Harrington

That the Central Country Zone of WALGA:

- 1. Supports the Shire of Narrogin's Community Enhancements Fund (CEF) Policy as a best-practice model for equitable benefit-sharing from large-scale renewable energy projects;**
- 2. Requests WALGA State Council to advocate to the State Government for the development of a Statewide Community Enhancements Fund Framework, consistent with the key principles of the Shire of Narrogin's CEF Policy, including:**
 - **A minimum indexed contribution from renewable energy proponents based on installed capacity;**
 - **Local government management of restricted cash reserves for community benefit;**
 - **A dedicated component for Indigenous Nations Funds (recommended 10%);**
 - **Alignment with local government strategic planning;**
 - **Transparent governance, community engagement, and annual reporting.**
- 3. Further requests WALGA to advocate for the adoption of a broader Renewable Industry Framework for WA as outlined in the Shire of Narrogin's Advocacy Position, including:**
 - **Consistent planning standards for renewable energy development (e.g., setbacks, zoning);**
 - **A State-mandated community engagement framework;**
 - **Legacy workforce housing solutions in lieu of short-term TWAs;**
 - **A uniform Payment in Lieu of Rates (PILoR) model for wind, solar and BESS facilities;**
 - **Empowerment of local governments to manage benefit-sharing and rating mechanisms.**

CARRIED

9.4 ZONE PRIORITIES FOR MINISTERIAL BRIEFINGS

By Dana Mason, External Affairs Manager, WALGA

BACKGROUND

Following the March election, the Cook Government has unveiled its new Cabinet, emphasizing regional representation by appointing a dedicated Minister for each region.

The new Cabinet structure shows that the Government intends to have a greater focus on regional WA during this term.

WALGA has written to all Ministers responsible for specific regions, inviting them to participate in upcoming meetings of their respective WALGA Zones.

WALGA will also provide each Minister with a written briefing on the key issues facing their region.

To ensure these briefings are comprehensive, WALGA is seeking input from the Zones to identify the top three to five priorities they would like highlighted.

The Central Country Zone identified its priority issues at the February 2024 Zone meeting and may like to use these as a basis for identifying their top priorities;

1. Challenges faced by Band 4 Local Governments relating to State/Federal Government services being provided by Local Governments together with Local Government compliance requirements.
2. Essential Services – power, telecommunication and water.
3. Housing - including Land Development in relation to Headworks costs

The Zones provide an important opportunity for the Government to have a direct line of communication and engagement with regional WA and ensure that local issues are considered in the broader policy agenda.

WALGA will report on engagements with Ministers responsible for specific regions through the President's report at future Zone meetings.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Jackie McBurney

Seconded: Cr Robbie Bowey

That the Central Country Zone provide the below top three items to WALGA as the Zone's priorities:

- a) **Housing- including Land Development in relation to Headworks costs**
- b) **Essential Services – power, telecommunication and water.**
- c) **Lack of policy framework around renewables.**

CARRIED

9.5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANELS) REGULATIONS 2025

By Chris Hossen, Policy Manager, Planning and Building and Felicity Morris, Manager Governance and Procurement

BACKGROUND

The State Government's 2021 updates to the *Action Plan for Planning Reform* included measures to improve consistency and transparency for DAP applications, including clarifying the respective role of Elected Members and officers to remove Elected Members from what were deemed to be administrative DAP functions.

These changes were not included in amendments to the *Planning and Development Act 2005*, but were included as part of the 2024 reforms to the *Local Government Act 1995* through the insertion of a new section (s. 9.69 B) to allow for the creation of regulations that specify DAP functions that must be performed on behalf of the Local Government by the CEO or authorised officer.

On Tuesday 1 April, new *Local Government (Development Assessment Panels) Regulations 2025* (the Regulations) were gazetted. The Regulations come into full effect from 1 May, and will apply to all Development Assessment Panel (DAP) applications lodged from that date. The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) sent an LG Alert to the sector on 2 April advising of the new regulations.

The Regulations:

- require Responsible Authority Reports (RARs) to be prepared and submitted by the CEO of a Local Government, or an employee authorised by the CEO
 - CEOs of Class 1 and 2 Local Governments must authorise at least one employee

- Local Governments will still be able to engage external consultants to assist in preparing RARs
- prohibit the Council from directing the CEO, an authorised employee or a consultant in preparing the RAR or directing the CEO to engage a particular consultant
- require the CEO and authorised employees to disclose conflicts of interests in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1995*, and not undertake any DAP functions in which they have a conflict of interest.

The Regulations are available on the [WA Legislation website](#).

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

WALGA [Advocacy Positions](#) 6.1 Planning Principles and Reform and 6.4 Development Assessment Panels.

COMMENT

Local Governments have one month to consider and implement the appropriate authorisations, and any resulting changes to systems and processes. WALGA will produce template authorisations and will host an officer information session with the relevant departments to assist Local Governments.

While Councils will be prevented from directing staff in the preparation of RARs, the administration can continue to brief Council on the content and progress of any DAP applications. There are no changes to the composition of DAPs.

WALGA will continue to oppose changes that erode Local Government autonomy and influence in the WA planning system and will continue to advocate for reforms that recognise the benefits of local decision making in planning.

WALGA is commencing a review of its Development Assessment Panel advocacy position and will consult with the sector and zones as part of that process.

Questions regarding the Regulations can be directed to the local government reform team at actreview@dlqsc.wa.gov.au or the DAP secretariat at daps@dplh.wa.gov.au.

NOTED

9.6 AUDIT FEE 2025 - CHANGE IN CHARGING PRACTICE OF OFFICE OF AUDITOR GENERAL

Mr Gary Sherry, Shire of Brookton

BACKGROUND

The Office of the Auditor General's (OAG) indicative fee for the Shire of Brookton audit for the 2024-25 financial report is \$47,077 (GST Exclusive). The indicative fee represents an increase of 6.75% compared to the prior year invoiced audit fee (2023-24 - \$44,100).

Historically the OAG has issued the invoice at the conclusion of the audit and the issuing of the audit opinion. The OAG has decided to modify this practice to align with the approach adopted across the professional services industry where billing typically occurs on a progressive basis (e.g. upon completion of key milestones or agreed timeframes). The remainder of the indicative fee will be issued at the conclusion of the audit and once the audit report has been issued

The OAG has now introduced interim billing upon completion of the interim audit phase for an amount not exceeding 50% of the indicative fee, following our review of past invoice practice.

COMMENT

The Shire of Brookton are amazed that the OAG, at 31 March 2025 and without any prior notice, now requires the Shire of Brookton to make an unbudgeted payment of up to 50% of the 2024/25 audit indicative fee by the end of May 2025.

The 2024/25 audit indicative fee of up to \$23,538 is an unbudgeted expense.

While not opposed to the practice of invoicing on a progressive basis, that the OAG could provide only one months notice of this change of invoicing practice is staggering.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Phil Blight

Seconded: President Cr Julie Russell

That the Central Country Zone of WALGA writes to the Auditor General and WA Parliament Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations (cc the Minister for Local Government) to express concern that;

- 1. the Office of the Auditor General has increased the cost of audits by amounts greater than annual inflation again; and**
- 2. has, without consultation with local government, modified their invoicing practices and now require local government to pay 50% of their 2024/25 audit in this financial year**
- 3. that the Office of the Auditor General's commitment to greater transparency and cost control made to the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations has not been achieved**

CARRIED

9.7 2025 DETERMINATION OF THE SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES TRIBUNAL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND ELECTED MEMBERS

By Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance

BACKGROUND

The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal (SAT) has issued its 2025 determination in relation to Local Government Chief Executive Officer remuneration and Elected Member fees and allowances.

WALGA made a submission to SAT on behalf of the sector late last year. The submission was considered by Zones and State Council in November/December last year. WALGA's submission recommended:

- 1. A 4% increase to Elected Member fees and allowances and CEO remuneration bands.**
- 2. An increase to the Regional/Isolation Allowance, and publication of clear guidance to the sector outlining how the Allowance is applied in terms of methodology, criteria and weightings.**
- 3. The creation of a new fee category for independent audit, risk and improvement committee members without bands, with the fee set at a level which recognizes the skills and knowledge required for such a role, and that the new category provide a fee for the independent chair position as well as independent member positions.**

Attachment

- [2025 Determination of the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Council Members](#)

Comment

On 4 April, SAT released its latest Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members Determination.

In summary, the 2025 Determination provides for the following:

- A 3.5% increase to CEO remuneration band ranges (plus the 0.5% additional Superannuation Guarantee).
- A 3.5% increase to the fee band ranges and some allowances for Elected Members (exclusive of superannuation where relevant).
- A reduction of the four band ranges for independent committee members to one band, with the range to be from \$0 to \$450.
- Provision for reimbursement of expenses for independent committee members has also been determined for the first time.
- A determination as to the rates for the independent chair of the audit, risk and improvement committee will be determined at a future date, to coincide with the commencement of the legislative changes.

The Tribunal have also committed to conducting a comprehensive survey of Local Governments in the latter half of 2025 to assess the:

- placement of CEOs within their band and the adequacy of the current remuneration ranges;
- placement of Elected Members within their band and the adequacy of the current fee ranges and suitability of allowances;
- effectiveness of the Regional/Isolation Allowance, Housing Allowance and motor vehicle provisions; and
- attraction and retention issues for CEOs and executives, particularly in the regions.

The Tribunal will then review the eligibility criteria to receive the Regional/Isolation Allowance, as well as the quantum and effectiveness of the Allowance.

The Determination comes into effect from 1 July 2025.

NOTED

10 ZONE REPORTS

10.1 CHAIR REPORT

President Cr Des Hickey

There was no Chair Report for this meeting.

Resolved

10.2 GREAT SOUTHERN DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (DEMC)

President Jackie McBurney

President Jackie McBurney provided an update regarding the sharing of information from this committee. Any relevant information will be sent forward to WALGA for distribution to Zone Delegates.

NOTED

10.3 WHEATBELT INTERAGENCY HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN ADVISORY GROUP

President Jackie McBurney

President Jackie McBurney provided an update.

NOTED

10.4 WALGA ROADWISE

Rodney Thornton, Regional Road Safety Advisor

Rodney Thornton provided a report to the Zone.

NOTED

11 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

11.1 STATE COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cr Phillip Blight

The February State Councillor report was attached to the Agenda.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Phil Blight

Seconded: Cr Clive Barton

That the State Councillor Report be received.

CARRIED

11.2 WALGA STATUS REPORT

By Tony Brown, Executive Officer

COMPLETE ZONE STATUS REPORT April 2025

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Central C	14 February 2025 Zone Agenda Item 9.1.3 Support for Public Ownership of WA Freight Rail Network	That the Central Country Zone request WALGA to: 1. Supports State Government efforts to ensure the on-going sustainability and growth of freight rail in Western Australia; 2. Seeks a commitment from the in-coming State Government to: a. focus on ensuring a competitive freight rail network and services reduce freight on roads; providing road safety, environmental benefits; and b. work with Local Governments and other stakeholders to maximise the local economic growth opportunities provided through effective management of the rail network and corridors.	The Infrastructure Policy Team supported including the proposed advocacy position in a new or consolidated policy statement in relation to freight rail following consultation with Local Governments and other stakeholders to better define the social, economic and environmental benefits sought from a publicly controlled freight rail network.	April 2025	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Central C	5 March 2025 State Council Agenda Item 8.1 Climate Change Advocacy Position	That State Council replace the 2018 Climate Change Policy Statement Advocacy Position 4.1 Climate Change with the following advocacy position: WALGA calls on the Australian and Western Australian Governments to: 1. provide the necessary climate leadership, coordination, and action to deliver a climate change response that improves and maintains the quality of life for all Western Australians for generations to come. 2. provides funding and resources and support to Local Government to enable local communities to respond to the effects of climate change	State Council ALTERNATE MOTION That State Council refer this advocacy item back to the Environment Policy Team for further development. RESOLUTION 003.1/2025 CARRIED	April 2025	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039
Central C	26 August 2023 Zone Agenda Item 9.2 Water	That the Central Country Zone: 1. Rejects Water Corporation attempts to classify regional sites as a 'Non-Standard Water Service'	WALGA is developing a Background Paper for whole of sector consultation and reviewing its Water Advocacy Position/s and has	April 2025	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au

	Corporation – Non-Standard Water Services	(unless specific agreement is reached with a Local Government Authority); - Formally writes to Water Corporation and the Minister for Water confirming this position; - Requests that WALGA supports the position of the Central Country Zone and rejects the Water Corporation's attempts to classify regional sites as a 'Non-Standard Water Service'; and - Requests WALGA to engage with the Minister for Water to retain the current services, unless specific agreement is reached with a Local Government Authority.	included the need for equitable access to drinking water as a key pillar. In developing this paper, WALGA is undertaking significant targeted consultation with Local Government CEOs and officers across the State.		9213 2039
Central C	15 November 2024 Zone Agenda Item 9.1.4 PetsWA Centralized Pet Registry Scheme Revenue	That the Central Country Zone request WALGA; - advocate to the Government of Western Australia that 100% of the revenue derived from pet registrations (both dogs and cats) continue to be returned directly to local governments to effectively administer the Dog Act 1976 and Cat Act 2011. - recommend that the new centralized PetsWA Pet Registry Scheme, administered by the State Government, should not retain any commission or portion of the registration fees for its operations, as the current fee structure does not adequately cover the costs associated with pet management at the local government level.	This item has been referred to the Governance Policy Team. The Policy Team has recommended as follows: That WALGA - replace Advocacy Position 2.12 <i>Puppy Farming</i> with a new <i>Puppy Farming</i> advocacy position, as follows: <i>The WA Local Government sector:</i> <i>Advocates that fees reflect completed cost modelling to ensure that Local Governments achieve full cost recovery in ensuring compliance with animal management legislation.</i> <i>Urges that any additional costs incurred by a Local Government in administering the Dog Act 1976 or Cat Act 2011 be paid by the State Government.</i> <i>Requests that Fees and Charges set in Regulations are reviewed bi-annually and, at minimum, adjusted by the Local Government Cost Index.</i> <i>Acknowledges the benefit of de-sexing of dogs not used for approved breeding purposes.</i> <i>Supports a Centralised Registration Database that is developed, operated and maintained by State Government, with no loss to Local Government revenue.</i> <i>Requests that the Centralised Registration Database be restricted to a centralised registration system (excluding animal related complaints and infringements) that integrates</i>	April 2025	Tony Brown Executive Director, Member Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au

			<i>with Local Government's existing corporate systems.</i> <i>g) Supports the legislative exemptions for livestock working dogs in recognition of their special breeding requirements.</i> <i>h) Supports a State Government-led education initiative whereby the community is encouraged to purchase puppies from professional registered breeders.</i> This item is listed in the State Council Agenda.		
Central C	19 November 2021 Zone Agenda Item 12.1 Sector ICT solution	That the Zone request WALGA to research providers and the viability of an in-house IT system.	Work continues to be undertaken to support Members seeking ICT solutions. A project to scan and enhance the PSP panel has been initiated, with an Infopage distributed to Members in late 2024- It is intended consultancy resources will be utilised to support the preparation of scope of service documentation and related tools to support procurement processes through the PSP. This work is ongoing and being led by WALGA's Commercial Development Team. Any queries can be directed to Brian Ging.	April 2025	Tony Brown Executive Director, Member Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au

Zone Comment

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

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Jackie McBurney

Seconded: Deputy President Cr Sharon Jacobs

That the Central Country Zone, WALGA Status Report for April 2025 be noted.

CARRIED

11.3 WALGA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Jackie McBurney

Seconded: President Cr Julie Russell

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

CARRIED

12 WALGA STATE COUNCIL AGENDA – 7 May 2025

Zone Delegates were invited to read and consider the WALGA State Council Agenda, which was provided as an attachment with the Agenda and can be found via the link [here](#).

The Zone can provide comment or submit an alternative recommendation on any of the items, including the items for noting. The Zone comment will then be presented to the State Council for consideration at their meeting.

The State Council Agenda items requiring a decision of State Council are extracted for Zone consideration below.

The full Agenda can also be viewed [HERE](#)

12.1 REGULATIONS FOR CEO KPIS AND ONLINE REGISTERS – WALGA SUBMISSION (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.1)

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services and Felicity Morris, Manager Governance and Procurement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Consultation is open on the draft Local Government Regulations Amendment Regulations 2024 (the Draft Regulations), which give effect to reforms relating to the publication of online registers, publication of CEO performance criteria and performance reviews, and other CEO matters.
- The Local Government legislation reform platform from the State Government indicated that one of the reform outcomes was "Reducing red tape, increasing consistency and simplicity".
- The overwhelming sector feedback is that these reforms will not achieve this aim and will instead increase red tape without any clear public benefit.
- Sector feedback has been collated and identifies overarching concerns listed in this report.
- The attached submission, informed by this feedback, is recommended for endorsement.

ATTACHMENT

- [Regulations for CEO KPIs and public registers Draft WALGA submission](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

WALGA's existing advocacy positions are based on the high-level reform proposals provided for public consultation in 2022.

The current [Advocacy Positions](#) are:

2.2.4 CEO Recruitment Panel

The Local Government sector supports the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries establishing a panel of approved panel members to perform the role of the independent person on CEO recruitment panels.

2.5.27 Online Registers

The Local Government sector supports requiring Local Governments to report specific information in online registers on the Local Government's website, including registers for leases, community grants, interests disclosures, applicant contributions and contracts (excluding contracts of employment).

2.5.28 Publishing CEO Key Performance Indicators

1. *The Local Government sector conditionally supports the reporting of CEO Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that are consistent with the strategic direction and operational function of the Local Government, subject to exemptions for publishing KPIs of a confidential nature.*
2. *The Local Government sector does not support results of CEO performance reviews being published.*

BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Amendment Act 2023* (2023 Amendment Act) contained the Tranche 1 reforms to the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act). This included the following changes which are yet to commence:

- Requirements for Local Government CEO's performance criteria and performance reviews to be published.
- Establishment of a panel of independent persons for CEO performance reviews.
- A requirement for Local Governments to publish and maintain registers on their website.

The draft Local Government Regulations Amendment Regulations 2024 (the Draft Regulations), which will give effect to these reforms, have been released for public consultation. The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) have requested comment by 8 May. Information is available on the [DLGSC website](#), including a copy of the [Draft Regulations](#) and a [DLGSC Consultation Paper](#).

WALGA circulated a discussion paper and request for comment to all Local Governments on 30 January.

COMMENT

Responses received from Local Governments indicate serious concerns with the detail of the Draft Regulations. Overarching concerns include:

- The creation of red tape and excessive administrative burden, in conflict with a stated aim of the reform, and without clear public benefit.
- Continued proliferation of compliance requirements for Local Governments, including overlapping but inconsistent reporting obligations.
- Unreasonable implementation timeframes given existing Local Government workload, cumulative burden of ongoing program of reform and upcoming elections.
- Confusion and lack of clarity (plain English drafting) in the Draft Regulations.

Specific concerns are discussed in relation to each proposal.

CEO matters: Publishing performance criteria and reports on performance review

Of the submissions that provided comment on this aspect of the Draft Regulations, over half expressed strong opposition to publication of CEO KPIs and performance reviews. Opposition was based on factors including the inconsistency with public sector practice, risks to CEOs, mechanisms for reporting on organisational rather than individual performance and the erosion of Local Government autonomy. A small number of Local Governments broadly supported the regulations or their intent. In addressing the content of Draft Regulations 18AA and 18FAA, submissions raised concerns with the proposed reporting of target achievement and the mechanisms for exclusion of performance criteria from publication.

CEO matters: Independent persons panel (CEO recruitment)

Key concerns included a lack of clarity about the selection criteria and processes to be followed by the Departmental CEO in establishing the panel, the capacity for Councils to appoint independent members from within their own districts, and the management of conflicts of interest.

CEO matters: Certification, recruitment and termination

There were divided views on the requirement for separate certification, but support for the retention of a requirement to conduct a selection process before contract expiry, the option

to include additional information in a performance criterion and the proposed modification of the CEO Standards in relation to termination during probation.

Registers: General considerations

Local Governments articulated a range of concerns that are applicable to all registers, including the administrative burden, unreasonable commencement and retrospectivity, lack of clarity and difficulty in applying the requirements, and the implications of the *Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing Act 2024* (the PRIS Act).

Lease register

Submissions raised considerable concerns with this proposed register. Issues include the breadth of the lease definition, safety and confidentiality for residents and community groups, commercial in confidence information and the ability of Local Governments to generate best value from assets, whether through commercial returns or community benefits.

Grants and sponsorships register

Some Local Governments provided general support for the register, subject to the exclusion of retrospectivity. However, the majority of submissions identified concerns regarding the value threshold, privacy and confidentiality, and a lack of clarity in the calculation of value.

Development contributions register

The majority of submissions expressed concerns regarding the administrative burden with limited improvements in transparency and oversight of Developer Contribution Plans (DCPs) than is currently provided for under the state planning framework. This burden is exacerbated by the retrospectivity and short implementation timeframe. Those Local Governments with a high number of DCPs advise that this is likely to lead to delays and increased costs in the administration of DCPs. Privacy considerations and practical issues with the calculation of interest for individual contributions, and the list of items and percentage of expenditure were also identified.

Contracts for goods and services register

All submissions that commented on the contract register highlighted concerns including the administrative burden associated with the unreasonably low threshold value and duplication of existing reporting requirements. Members raised heightened fraud risks, and issues relating to commercial in confidence information. There is also a lack of clarity regarding the definition of contract and contract value.

This sector feedback and detailed analysis of the Draft Regulations has informed the preparation of the attached draft WALGA submission.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA endorse the recommendations contained in the attached *'Regulations for CEO KPIs and public registers submission'*.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Phil Blight

Seconded: President Leigh Ballard

That the Central Country Zone opposes the draft regulations which are contrary to theme 2 of the reforms being 'reducing red tape, increasing consistency and simplicity'

CARRIED

12.2 DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT ADVOCACY POSITION (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.2)

By Felicity Morris, Manager Governance and Procurement and Marnie Herrington, Governance Specialist

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Motions from Zones regarding the PetsWA Centralised Registration Database provide an opportunity to review the existing *Puppy Farming* advocacy position and replace it with a new *Dog and Cat Management* advocacy position.
- The purpose of the new position is to reflect the progression of the *Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act 2021* and the emerging concerns of the Local Government sector regarding the PetsWA centralised registration system.
- The Governance Policy Team endorsed the new advocacy position at its meeting on 24 March.

ATTACHMENT

- [Comparison table between current Advocacy Position 2.12 Puppy Farming, and proposed advocacy position Dog and Cat Management.](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This item is to replace existing Advocacy Position 2.12 *Puppy Farming* with a new *Dog and Cat Management* position.

The current Advocacy Position is as follows:

2.12 Puppy Farming

1. The WA Local Government sector:

- a) Welcomes a cost modelling review of the financial impact on Local Governments to ensure that Local Government is able to fully recover costs and not be disadvantaged in ensuring compliance of any new legislation to Stop Puppy Farming.*
- b) Acknowledges the benefit of de-sexing of dogs not used for approved breeding purposes, and request further information on the complexities associated with de-sexing of dogs prior to considering supporting the proposal.*
- c) Supports a centralised dog registration system that is developed, operated and maintained by State Government.*
- d) Supports appropriate legislative exemptions for livestock working dogs in recognition of their special breeding requirements.*
- e) Does not support the transition of pet shops to adoption centres.*
- f) Requests there be a Local Government-specific consultation process in relation to the proposed amendments to the Animal Welfare Act to*

introduce Standards and Guidelines for the Health and Welfare of Animals including dogs.

- g) Supports a State Government-led education initiative whereby the community is encouraged to purchase puppies from professional registered breeders.*
- h) Requests the State Government discontinue the use of the term 'Farming' due to the negative connotation that may be associated with other regulated industries, and consider re-naming the initiative 'Stop Puppy Mills'.*

2. The Local Government sector advocates that:

- 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.*

The recommended new Advocacy Position is as follows:

Dog and Cat Management

In regard to the Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act 2021 and the PetsWA Centralised Database, the WA Local Government sector advocates:

- a) that fees reflect completed cost modelling to ensure that Local Governments achieve full cost recovery in ensuring compliance with the Dog Act 1976 or Cat Act 2011.*
- b) that Fees and Charges set in Regulations are reviewed bi-annually and, at minimum, adjusted by the Local Government Cost Index.*
- c) that the PetsWA centralised registration database is developed, operated and maintained by State Government, with no loss to Local Government registration fee revenue.*
- d) that the function of PetsWA be restricted to the registration of dogs and cats, exclude ancillary functions such as animal related complaints and infringement notices, and integrate with existing Local Government corporate systems.*
- e) for the continued legislative exemptions for livestock working dogs in recognition of their special breeding requirements.*
- f) for a State Government-led education initiative whereby the community is encouraged to purchase puppies from approved breeders.*

A table comparing the current and proposed advocacy position can be seen in Attachment A.

BACKGROUND

Stop Puppy Farming Legislation

- At its September 2018 meeting, State Council adopted a detailed position in relation to the Stop Puppy Farming Initiative (*Resolution 103.6/2018*).
- At its March 2020 meeting, State Council resolved that "WALGA write to the Minister and request that he withdraw the Stop Puppy Farming Bill and more appropriately consult with the sector, traditional custodians and the wider community, or failing that, that he remove any reference to Local Government in the bill as the sector does not endorse it in its current form" (*Resolution 13.1/2020*).
- At its September 2021, State Council adopted additional points to the advocacy position, supporting WALGA continuing to advocate that:

- 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)

- In December 2021, the *Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act 2021* (the Act) was passed by Parliament. The Act amended both the *Dog Act 1976* and the *Cat Act 2011* in several ways.
- The implementation of the legislation is occurring in phases, with existing pet shops needing to transition to adoption centres by obtaining a 'pet shop approval' through their Local Governments by 26 May.
- It is anticipated that dog breeding approval provisions and mandatory sterilisation of dogs (unless an exemption is in place) will take effect later in 2025. In August 2024, the State Government awarded a contract to Seisma Group to establish PetsWA (the new centralised registration system for dogs and cats), which is anticipated to be operational later in 2025.

Fees and cost recovery

In a letter to WALGA dated 1 November 2021, Minister John Carey confirmed that “the State Government has committed to covering the costs associated with the establishment of the Centralised Registration System, to centrally record the registration of all domestic cats and dogs within Western Australia”. However, the State Government position relating to ongoing costs associated with the system and the particulars about revenue generated from registrations has not been made clear.

In early 2024, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) released a Consultation Paper prepared by consultants Marsden Jacob Associates on the new and existing fees and charges under the *Dog Act 1976* and *Cat Act 2011*. WALGA provided a submission in line with State Councils advocacy position as follows.

That WALGA:

1. *Welcomes a cost modelling review of the financial impact on Local Governments to ensure that Local Government is able to fully recover costs and not be disadvantaged in ensuring compliance of any new legislation to Stop Puppy Farming;*
2. *Supports a centralised dog registration system that is developed, operated and maintained by State Government;*
3. *Any additional costs incurred by a Local Government in administering the Dog Act be paid by the State Government; and*
4. *The Fees and Charges set in Regulations are reviewed biennially and at minimum, be adjusted by the Local Government Cost Index.*

Zone resolutions

Central Country Zone

At the Central Country Zone Meeting of 15 November 2024, the Zone considered an item which raised concerns that the administrative costs of the PetsWA central registration system would be withheld by the State Government from registration fees collected by Local Governments. As already noted, registration fees are already insufficient to cover the costs of Local Government cat and dog management responsibilities.

The Zone resolved:

That the Central Country Zone request WALGA to:

- a) *advocate to the Government of Western Australia that 100% of the revenue derived from pet registrations (both dogs and cats) continue to be returned directly to Local Governments to effectively administer the Dog Act 1976 and Cat Act 2011.*
- b) *recommend that the new centralized PetsWA Pet Registry Scheme, administered by the State Government, should not retain any commission or portion of the registration fees for its operations, as the current fee structure does not adequately cover the costs associated with pet management at the Local Government level.*

North Metropolitan Zone

At the North Metropolitan Zone Meeting of 20 November 2024, the Zone considered an item which raised concerns that the community would be able to lodge complaints through the PetsWA centralised registration system and that infringements would be issued through the system. As no integration with Local Government systems has been advised, this would create a duplicate workload for officers.

The Zone resolved:

That WALGA advocate to the State Government for the PetsWA Centralised Registration Database scope to be restricted to a centralised registration system (excluding complaints and infringements) that integrates with Local Government's existing corporate systems.

COMMENT

As the Act has progressed, the existing advocacy position should be reviewed to reflect the current state.

A comparison between the current and proposed advocacy position is provided in Attachment A, with key themes addressed below.

Cost Recovery

Under the *Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act 2021*, Local Governments will have increased responsibilities, including approvals to breed and pet shop approvals, as well as associated investigation and enforcement functions. WALGA has continued to advocate to the State Government for fees and charges to be set at a level that achieves full cost recovery and that any additional costs incurred by a Local Government in administering the Dog Act be paid by the State Government. The proposed advocacy position retains these key positions.

The fees from registrations and animal related infringements do not currently cover all costs associated with Local Government responsibilities. There is a risk that the State Government could administer the PetsWA system in a way which reduces Local Government income from registrations.

WALGA's existing advocacy position supports PetsWA to be managed by the State (Advocacy Position 2.12.b). The proposed *Dog and Cat Management* Advocacy Position expands on the existing position to make it absolutely clear that there should be no loss of registration fee revenue to the Local Governments in administering the database.

Scope of PetsWA

The Act provides for a centralised registration system, known as PetsWA, to be managed by the State Government. DLGSC has been tasked with the implementation of the system.

The contract to develop PetsWA was awarded on 2 August 2024 and is expected to launch in the second half of 2025. PetsWA is intended to replace the dog and cat registers managed by individual Local Governments with a single online system, used state-wide. PetsWA will allow dog and cat owners to register their pets and make payments online.

In addition to uncertainty about revenue from fees and charges under PetsWA, there is ambiguity about the scope of information recorded within PetsWA. DLGSC has noted that PetsWA could be used to manage public complaints, request ranger visits, manage dangerous dog notices, and issue infringements. This could increase administrative burden on Local Government staff by duplicating data entry with existing record management systems, as there is no clarity on the extent of the integration with Local Government's existing systems.

To avoid this, PetsWA should be integrated with Local Government's existing systems and the scope should be restricted to its original function as a centralised registration system.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA replace Advocacy Position 2.12 *Puppy Farming* with a revised *Dog and Cat Management* advocacy position, as follows:

In regard to the Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act 2021 and the PetsWA Centralised Database, the WA Local Government sector advocates:

- i) that fees reflect completed cost modelling to ensure that Local Governments achieve full cost recovery in ensuring compliance with the Dog Act 1976 or Cat Act 2011.*
- j) that Fees and Charges set in Regulations are reviewed bi-annually and, at minimum, adjusted by the Local Government Cost Index.*
- k) that the PetsWA centralised registration database is developed, operated and maintained by State Government, with no loss to Local Government registration fee revenue.*
- l) that the function of PetsWA be restricted to the registration of dogs and cats, exclude ancillary functions such as animal related complaints and infringement notices, and integrate with existing Local Government corporate systems.*
- m) for the continued legislative exemptions for livestock working dogs in recognition of their special breeding requirements.*
- n) for a State Government-led education initiative whereby the community is encouraged to purchase puppies from approved breeders.*

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Phil Blight

Seconded: Cr Scott Ballantyne

That the Central Country Zone recommend:

That WALGA replace Advocacy Position 2.12 Puppy Farming with a revised Dog and Cat Management advocacy position, as follows;

In regard to the Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act 2021 and the PetsWA Centralised Database, the WA Local Government sector advocates:

- 1. that all Local Governments achieve full cost recovery in ensuring compliance with the Dog Act 1976 or Cat Act 2011 through a combination of appropriate fees and State Government funding that encourages compliance and serves the interests of all Western Australians regardless of where they live**
- 2. that Fees and Charges set in Regulations are reviewed bi-annually and, at minimum, adjusted by the Local Government Cost Index.**
- 3. that the PetsWA centralised registration database is developed, operated and maintained by State Government, with no loss to Local Government registration fee revenue.**
- 4. that the function of PetsWA be restricted to the registration of dogs and cats, exclude ancillary functions such as animal related complaints and infringement notices, and integrate with existing Local Government corporate systems.**
- 5. for the continued legislative exemptions for livestock working dogs in recognition of their special breeding requirements.**
- 6. for a State Government-led education initiative whereby the community is encouraged to purchase puppies from approved breeders.**

CARRIED

12.3 NATIVE VEGETATION CLEARING REGULATIONS ADVOCACY POSITION (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.3)

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy and Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The effectiveness, cost and complexity of the regulatory system for native vegetation clearing has been a longstanding concern for Local Governments, particularly in relation to its impacts on the delivery of road and other infrastructure projects.
- WALGA has made numerous representations and submissions to the State Government on this issue.
- WALGA's current [advocacy positions](#) relating to the regulation of clearing of native vegetation were endorsed by State Council in 2004 (5.2.1) and 2006 (5.2.2).
- Numerous reviews and significant legislative and policy changes aimed at streamlining regulatory requirements have occurred since that time which has resulted in some improvement, however, problems persist.
- The updated Advocacy Position, seeks to respond to feedback and issues raised by the sector, calls the State Government to:
 - implement **legislative, policy and process changes**, including the imposition of statutory timeframes for assessments and appeals; increasing the duration of clearing permits; providing a permanent exemption to enable clearing in previously legally cleared transport corridors; and strengthening environmental data sharing requirements.
 - allocate **adequate resources** to implement an expedited process for road safety and state and federally funded or co-funded projects; a dedicated Local Government unit to process applications and support the sector; timely compliance and enforcement action; and implement a state-funded collection and provision of data.
 - undertake **bioregional planning** and implement **strategic solutions for environmental offsets** for Local Government.
 - **reduce duplication** between the State and Australian government regulatory systems.
- At their joint meeting on 24 March, the Environment and Infrastructure Policy Teams recommended that State Council endorse the Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations advocacy position.

ATTACHMENT

- [WALGA Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations Issues Paper](#)
- [Road Safety Briefing Note](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This item is to replace existing Advocacy Positions 5.2.1 Environmental Protection Act and 5.2.2 Land Clearing in Road Reserves with a new *Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations* position.

The current [Advocacy Positions](#) are as follows:

5.2.1 Environmental Protection Act

Impact on Road Reserves Position Statement. The Local Government sector supports continued advocacy to minimise the impact on road reserves and in regards to

Regulations, processing times, access to vegetation data and a Code of Practice on maintenance activities.

5.2.2 Land Clearing in Road Reserves

The Local Government sector supports Schedule 2 of the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004 as a permanent exemption for the maintenance of existing transport corridors and supports the continued advocacy for improvements to processing and timelines of the current clearing legislation.

The proposed Advocacy Position is as follows:

Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations

WALGA calls on the Western Australian Government, in consultation with Local Government, to undertake legislative and policy reform to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of the regulatory system for clearing native vegetation in Western Australia, including:

- 1. Amending the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and associated regulations to remove unnecessary process, complexity and improve timeframes, including:*
 - a. introducing statutory timeframes for the determination of referrals, permit applications and appeals*
 - b. increasing the default duration of Area and Purpose Permits to 10 years*
 - c. provide a permanent exemption for clearing of previously legally cleared transport corridors*
 - d. strengthening environmental data sharing requirements to ensure proponents cannot opt-out of sharing data collected for environmental assessment and monitoring purposes.*
- 2. Ensuring the regulatory system is adequately resourced to:*
 - a. implement an expedited process for clearing permits for projects that prevent death and serious injury (road safety), and state and federally funded or co-funded projects*
 - b. establish a dedicated Local Government unit within the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to:*
 - i. case manage Local Government referrals and clearing permit applications*
 - ii. provide guidance and training for Local Governments, particularly in relation to roadside vegetation management*
 - iii. support partnerships with Local Governments in strategic environmental offsets*
 - c. enable timely investigation and enforcement action for illegal clearing*
 - d. increase investment in the collection and provision of statewide biodiversity data, including:*
 - i. funding and coordinating a state-wide biodiversity survey program to standardise habitat and vegetation mapping*
 - ii. making biodiversity data more discoverable, accessible and useable.*
- 3. Undertaking bioregional planning for native vegetation management, with a focus on highly cleared areas and implementing strategic solutions for environmental offsets that can be utilised by Local Government.*
- 4. Working with the Australian Government to reduce duplication between the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.*

BACKGROUND

Western Australia is one of the most biodiverse places on Earth and has significant regional endemism, meaning it has plants and animals that only live in a particular location (Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute). Eight of Australia's 15 declared biodiversity hotspots are in WA and the South West Ecoregion, (running from Shark Bay in the northwest to Esperance in south east with a narrow strip along the southeastern coast to the border between WA and SA) is one of only 34 internationally recognised Global Biodiversity Hotspots (and the only in Australia). A Global Biodiversity Hotspot is defined as a geographical region that has at least 1,500 vascular plant species and has lost at least 70 per cent of its original supporting habitat.

In Western Australia the clearing of native vegetation is primarily regulated under Part V Division 2 of the [Environmental Protection Act 1986](#) (EP Act) and [Environmental Protection \(Clearing of Native Vegetation\) Regulations 2004](#) (Regulations). Under section 51C of the EP Act clearing of native vegetation is an offence unless a permit has been granted, or an exemption applies.

The Regulations provide exemptions for routine land management practices, including for clearing done for maintenance in existing, previously legally cleared transport (road and rail) corridors, provided that the previous clearing occurred within the preceding 10 years (Regulation 5, Item 22). Schedule 2, cl. 2 of the Regulations specify the extent of maintenance clearing for an area or purpose:

Area or purpose	Extent of clearing
Crossover area	Clearing to the extent previously cleared for the area.
Lateral clearance area	Complete clearing to the width and height previously cleared for that stretch of road or railway.
Maintenance and protection of transport corridor infrastructure	Clearing to the extent necessary to – a) Maintain the efficacy and safety of the infrastructure; b) Protect the infrastructure (for example from fire); and c) Provide access to the infrastructure to maintain it.
An area that is a public roadside facility	Clearing to the extent necessary to maintain (but not extend) the intended use of the area.
Sight line area	Clearing to the extent previously cleared for that area.

Schedule 2, cl. 1 of the Regulations provides the following definitions:

- *crossover area* means the area occupied by a crossover from a road to a property adjacent to the road and any associated sight line areas;
- *lateral clearance area*, in relation to a stretch of road or railway, means the area (if any) parallel to and immediately adjacent to the stretch of road or railway that is ordinarily cleared;
- *public roadside facility* includes a camping area, rest area, information bay, road train assembly area or parking area or a footpath or cycle track in the road reserve;

- *transport corridor infrastructure*, in relation to a stretch of road or railway, includes barriers, signs, guideposts, drains, levies, embankments, gutters, bridges, overpasses and other similar structures or works.

While this exemption does not apply in an environmentally sensitive area, an area that would otherwise be an environmentally sensitive area is not an environmentally sensitive area to the extent it is in a maintenance area of transport corridor.

The Australian Government regulates clearing that is likely to impact a matter of National Environment Significance through the application of Parts 7 - 9 of the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act) and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000*.

The effectiveness, cost, complexity and timeframes associated with the regulatory system for native vegetation clearing have been a longstanding concern for Local Governments, particularly in relation to impacts on the delivery of road projects, which make up approximately 60 per cent of Local Government clearing permit applications and 30 per cent of referrals (Dec 2021 – Oct 2024). WALGA has made numerous representations and submissions to the State Government on this issue.

WALGA has three [advocacy positions](#) related to native vegetation clearing regulation dating (2004, 2006, 2018). Numerous reviews and significant legislative and policy changes have occurred since that time, aimed at streamlining regulatory requirements, including the Western Australian Offset Policy (2011) and Guideline (2014), the Review of the Western Australian Offsets Framework (2019), the implementation of cost recovery for clearing permit applications (2019), the release of the [Native Vegetation Policy for Western Australia](#) in 2022, the [Independent \(Vogel-McFerran\) Review of WA Environmental Approvals Processes and Procedures](#) (2023) and amendments to the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* in 2020 and 2024.

As a result of these changes, the exemption for clearing in previously cleared transport corridors increased from 5 to 10 years, a referral process was introduced for low impact clearing and minor scheme amendments no longer require referral to the Environmental Protection Authority.

While these changes have resulted in some improvements, problems persist. This was recognised by the Vogel-McFerran Review, which found that “approvals processes have become overly complex, time-consuming, and costly – holding back economic development without any benefit to the environment”.

In 2024, to inform the development of an updated advocacy position on native vegetation clearing regulation, WALGA undertook research and analysis of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) and the Office of the Appeals Convenor data, previous submissions and Zone resolutions/feedback and held a sector webinar to inform the development of an [Issues Paper](#). The Paper was considered by the Environment Policy Team and included in the November 2024 Zone meeting Agendas for feedback.

The main themes from the consultations, Zones and issues paper feedback were:

- key challenges faced by the sector related to the complexity of the regulatory system, costs associated with the process and the time taken for assessment and appeals; and
- these challenges can delay critical road and infrastructure projects and impact Local Government's ability to attract and retain grant funding.

COMMENT

A consolidated, updated advocacy position will enable WALGA to comprehensively advocate for members to address the challenges of operating in a complex and costly regulatory environment, whilst balancing the protection of the environment.

The updated Advocacy Position calls on the State Government to:

- Implement **legislative, policy and process changes** including:
 - the imposition of statutory timeframes for assessments and appeals;
 - a permanent exemption for clearing in previously legally cleared transport corridors;
 - increasing the duration of clearing permits; and
 - strengthening environmental data sharing requirements.
- Allocate **adequate resources** to implement an expedited process for road safety and state and federally funded or co-funded projects; a dedicated Local Government unit to process applications and support the sector; timely compliance and enforcement action; and implement a state-funded collection and provision of data.
- Undertake **bioregional planning** and implement **strategic solutions for environmental offsets** for Local Government.
- **Reduce duplication** between the State and Australian government regulatory systems.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA replace the following Advocacy Positions:

5.2.1 Environmental Protection Act

5.2.2 Land Clearing in Road Reserves

with an updated Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations Advocacy Position as follows:

WALGA calls on the Western Australian Government, in consultation with Local Government, to undertake legislative and policy reform to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of the regulatory system for clearing native vegetation in Western Australia, including:

1. *Amending the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and associated regulations to remove unnecessary process, complexity and improve timeframes, including:*
 - a. *introducing statutory timeframes for the determination of referrals, permit applications, **and appeals investigations and prosecutions.***
 - b. *increasing the default duration of Area and Purpose Permits to 10 years*
 - c. *provide a permanent exemption for clearing of previously legally cleared transport corridors*

- d. *strengthening environmental data sharing requirements to ensure proponents cannot opt-out of sharing data collected for environmental assessment and monitoring purposes.*
- 2. *Ensuring the regulatory system is adequately resourced to:*
 - a. *implement an expedited process for clearing permits for projects that prevent death and serious injury (road safety), and state and federally funded or co-funded projects*
 - b. *establish a dedicated Local Government unit within the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to:*
 - i. *case manage Local Government referrals and clearing permit applications*
 - ii. *provide guidance and training for Local Governments, particularly in relation to roadside vegetation management*
 - iii. *support partnerships with Local Governments in strategic environmental offsets*
 - ~~c. *enable timely investigation and enforcement action for illegal clearing*~~
 - d. *increase investment in the collection and provision of statewide biodiversity data, including:*
 - i. *funding and coordinating a state-wide biodiversity survey program to standardise habitat and vegetation mapping*
 - ii. *making biodiversity data more discoverable, accessible and useable.*
- 3. *Undertaking bioregional planning for native vegetation management, with a focus on highly cleared areas and implementing strategic solutions for environmental offsets that can be utilised by Local Government.*
- 4. *Working with the Australian Government to reduce duplication between the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.*

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Amy Knight

Seconded: Cr Scott Ballantyne

That the Zone support the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.3, with amendments to 1a, and the deletion of 2c as provided above.

CARRIED

12.4 SUBMISSION ON THE STATE RECOVERY ARRANGEMENTS (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.4)

By Rachel Armstrong, Policy Manager Emergency Management

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) is consulting on revised State Recovery Arrangements via [Engage WA Emergency Management](#). Formal consultation closes Friday, 2 May.
- WALGA was granted an extension to enable the draft submission to be included as an Item for Decision in the 7 May State Council Agenda.
- The revised arrangements integrate lessons from past recoveries, current best practices, and clarify roles and responsibilities.
- There are no significant changes to Local Government roles and responsibilities under the *Emergency Management Act 2005* and State Emergency Management Framework.
- The Commonwealth - State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements - Western Australia (DRFA-WA) are not part of the State Emergency Management Framework and are outside the scope of the review.
- WALGA's draft submission was shared with Local Governments and the draft final version incorporates feedback.
- WALGA's submission is generally supportive of the revised State Recovery Arrangements, which provide improved clarity on roles and responsibilities in recovery, particularly for State Government, and clearer arrangements for transitioning from response to recovery and from recovery to business as usual.
- WALGA's submission highlights the need for State Government investment in streamlined, appropriate and effective funding mechanisms for recovery and resilience building, and the need to ensure adequate support to Local Governments.
- The People and Place Policy Team noted the draft submission at its 18 March meeting.

ATTACHMENT

- [Draft State Recovery Arrangements – WALGA submission](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

WALGA's submission on the State Recovery Arrangements is aligned to the following [Advocacy Positions](#) :

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; and*
- 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.*

8.11 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA)

- 1. The State Government should fund the implementation of the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement Plan endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC).*
- 2. A reformed LEMA system should:*
 - a. Clearly articulate the roles and responsibilities of Local Governments in emergency management;*
 - b. Simplify the reporting processes and reduce the administrative burden of maintaining compliance;*
 - c. Provide a suite of scalable tools and guidance materials that are accessible through an online knowledge hub;*
 - d. Build the emergency management capacity and capability of Local Governments through the provision of targeted training, exercising support, human resources and sustainable funding;*
 - e. Assist Local Governments to continue to deliver their core business activities and provide public information during an emergency event;*
 - f. Improve the connectivity of Local Governments' various risk management and hazard planning processes through an integrated approach; and*
 - g. Enable resource sharing and collaboration across the Local Government sector.*

5.4.3 Betterment (resilience)

The Local Government sector supports increased funding for the replacement or restoration of damaged assets to a more resilient standard following an event.

BACKGROUND

Since 2020, Western Australia has faced complex recovery challenges from events like Cyclone Seroja, Wooroloo bushfires, and Kimberley floods, necessitating greater State involvement. The review of State Recovery Arrangements aims to integrate lessons from past recoveries, update best practices, and clarify roles.

There are no changes to Local Government's responsibility to manage recovery following an emergency affecting the community in its district as set out in the *Emergency Management Act 2005* (s36b). There are no substantive changes to Local Government roles and responsibilities for recovery under the State Emergency Management Framework.

The proposed changes to the State Recovery Arrangements include:

- introducing four State Strategic Recovery Priorities which are informed by the National Principles for Disaster Recovery in the [Australian Disaster Recovery Framework](#).
- implementing a new four-tiered Model for State Involvement in Recovery where the State's involvement increases with the complexity of the recovery.
- clarifying roles and responsibilities for Local Government, Hazard Management Agencies, State agencies, and support organisations. The improved clarity in State roles in recovery should make it easier for Local Governments to access the support they need to coordinate community-led recovery.
- emphasising greater community engagement in recovery.
- reduced emphasis on an Impact Statement as a trigger for transitioning recovery coordination from the Hazard Management Agency (HMA) to Local or State Government and a new requirement for transition arrangements to be planned/agreed with Local Governments.
- clarifying the requirement for a planned transition from recovery arrangements to 'business-as-usual' service delivery for Local and State Government.

WALGA and Local Governments have been involved in preliminary consultations to support the development of the revised State Recovery Arrangements, including through the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC), WALGA's Local Government Emergency Management Advisory Group (LGEMAG) and Local Government Focus Groups.

COMMENT

WALGA requested and was granted an extension to enable the draft submission to be included as an Item for Decision in the 7 May State Council Agenda.

WALGA's draft submission incorporates feedback from preliminary consultation, WALGA's advocacy positions, and input from the sector via the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review and the 2023 Local Government Emergency Management Survey. This feedback has consistently demonstrated support within the sector for shared responsibility for recovery, with the level and type of support required varying with the size, scale and complexity of the event and Local Government capacity.

Overall, the amended State Recovery Arrangements provide much improved clarity on how responsibility for recovery is to be shared and therefore a better foundation for recovery coordination.

The submission recommends:

1. The State Government should develop streamlined, appropriate and effective funding mechanisms to invest in Local Government recovery and resilience building.
2. Investment in recovery should not be limited by the eligibility requirements of the DRFA-WA and should meet the recovery requirements of Local Governments and Communities.
3. The DRFA-WA must be urgently reviewed to streamline administration, approvals and evidentiary requirements, address the cash-flow impacts of the reimbursement model and enable resilient reconstruction / betterment following a disaster.
4. The State Government should invest in effective risk assessment and risk reduction, in addition to ensuring to providing effective and fit for purpose State Recovery Arrangements.

State Strategic Recovery Priorities

5. WALGA supports the proposed four State Strategic Recovery Priorities: 1. Assist people to meet their recovery needs; 2. Enable community-centred recovery; 3. Restore community function and wellbeing; 4. Foster community disaster resilience.

Model for State Involvement in Recovery

6. WALGA supports the proposed 4-tier Model for State involvement in Recovery.
7. WALGA supports the roles assigned to Local Government under each recovery level (R1-4). The roles and responsibilities are aligned to current roles and responsibilities.
8. WALGA supports the roles assigned to State Government under each recovery level (R1-4), which provide improved clarity.

Roles and responsibilities

9. WALGA supports the roles and responsibilities allocated to Local Governments in the revised State Recovery arrangements, including section 6.3 of the revised State EM Policy, with minor amendments as outlined in Appendix 1. The roles and responsibilities in the revised arrangements are aligned to current roles and responsibilities.
10. WALGA recommends that the revised State Recovery Arrangements clearly reinforce the role of the State Recovery Coordinator to confirm individual Local Government's capacity to undertake their allocated roles and responsibilities during recovery and ensures additional support is provided as required.
11. WALGA supports the roles and responsibilities allocated to Hazard Management Agencies and Controlling Agencies in section 6.6 of the revised State EM Policy, which provide improved clarity.
12. WALGA supports the roles and responsibilities allocated to State agencies in section 6.7 and Appendix F of the revised State EM Policy, which provide improved clarity.
13. The revised State Recovery Arrangements should formalise coordination protocols between Local Governments and State agencies to enable rapid mobilisation of essential workers in disaster impacted communities.
14. The revised State Recovery Arrangements should consider inclusion of roles, responsibilities and coordination protocols for essential services, as coordinated restoration of essential services is fundamental to early recovery.
15. The revised State Recovery Arrangements should reinforce compliance with data sharing arrangements under 6.1.72 of the EM Act to ensure that State Agencies are sharing information effectively in recovery and include this as a specific function of the State Recovery Coordinator / Controller.

Greater emphasis on engaging community

16. WALGA supports the greater emphasis on engaging communities in planning recovery, and the flexibility in approach so that this can be adapted to meet Local Government and community needs and capacities.

Phases of Recovery

17. WALGA supports amendments to the State EM Plan to introduce three phases of recovery: 1) Recovery Planning. 2) Response and Early Recovery. 3) Recovery Operations.
18. Considering Phase 3) Recovery Operations:
 - a. The requirements for Local Governments to review and evaluate the Local Operational Recovery Plan should be scalable to the Local Government's capacity, and the recovery level and context and supported by simple and effective guidance.
 - b. All monitoring and evaluation requirements for DRFA-WA programs, if applicable, should be coordinated by the State Government.
19. Recovery Operations should be supported by pre-prepared State-level Urgent Recovery Programs and surge capacity for implementation.
20. Streamlined guidance should be provided for needs assessment, review and evaluation. The approach should be scalable to the Local Government's capacity, and the recovery level and context.

Public Information and Communication

21. WALGA supports nomination of DFES, instead of the State Emergency Public Information Coordinator to coordinate State-level recovery public information and communications. DFES should consult and coordinate with Local Governments on recovery communications.

Transition between response and recovery

22. WALGA supports the proposed requirements for a planned transition of recovery coordination by agreement between the Hazard Management Agency and Local Government for R1 and R2 recoveries.
23. WALGA supports the proposed requirements for a planned transition of recovery coordination between the Hazard Management Agency and State Government for R3 and R4 recoveries with a written transition plan.

Transition from recovery to 'business-as-usual' service arrangements

24. WALGA supports the proposed requirements for the State to plan the de-escalation of State recovery involvement and transition to 'business as usual' service arrangements. The requirements for a transition plan are clearly described and sufficient, however should be outlined in a written plan.

Requirement for an Impact Statement

25. WALGA supports the requirement that the HMA prepares an Impact Statement in all Level 2 and 3 incidents.

Local Operational Recovery Plans

26. WALGA supports the general requirement for a Local Operational Recovery Plan to be prepared for R2, R3 and R4 events.
27. The Local Recovery Guideline should be revised to provide better guidance to Local Governments on how to prepare a Local Operational Recovery Plan.

28. State Recovery support should be provided to prepare a Local Operational Recovery Plan, if requested by the Local Government.
29. WALGA Recommends renaming the Local Operational Recovery Plan to [Event] Recovery Action Plan.

Executive Government Forum

30. WALGA supports provisions to enable strategic oversight and direction for complex recovery issues via referral to an existing cross-government executive forum or a Director General/Chief Executive Officer-level forum.

The People and Place Policy Team noted the draft submission at their 18 March meeting.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse the submission to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services on proposed revisions to the State Recovery Arrangements.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Phil Blight

Seconded: Cr Clive Barton

That the Zone support the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.4 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED

12.5 HEALTH (PUBLIC BUILDINGS) REGULATIONS CONSULTATION (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.5)

By Coralie Claudio, Senior Policy Advisor, Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Department of Health (DoH) is seeking feedback on the [Consultation Paper 2025 Health \(Public Buildings\) Regulations 1992](#) (Consultation Paper), which examines whether the Regulations should be repealed without replacement.
- Repealing the Regulations is not supported by the sector, as it would impede Local Governments' ability to proactively manage and mitigate public health risks.
- Revised Regulations are supported to provide a contemporary, risk-based approach to public building management, eliminating unnecessary building construction requirements and incorporating modern compliance and enforcement tools.
- WALGA received an extension of time from DoH to allow the submission to be considered by State Council as part of the May Agenda.

ATTACHMENT

- [WALGA's submission on the Health \(Public Buildings\) Regulations Consultation](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

WALGA's submission is consistent with the following [WALGA Advocacy Position](#)

6.6 Building Act and Regulations

Assessments of the effectiveness of building control systems across Australia have recognised that there is diminishing public confidence in the building and construction industry, and that change is required to ensure buildings are safe and perform to expected standards. Now more than ever, the focus is on Local Government building departments to deliver good governance, local leadership and sustainable services that meet the needs of their communities whilst supporting local jobs and economic growth. The Association has the following endorsed positions:

- 1. Support the retention of Local Government as the primary permit authority in Western Australia for decisions made under the Building Act 2011.*
- 2. Supports mandatory inspections for all classes of buildings; however, Local Government should not be solely responsible for all mandatory inspections.*
- 3. Advocate for the State Government to urgently prioritise legislative reform that addresses systemic failures in the current building control model and to provide clarification on the role of Local Government in building control to ensure building legislation supports the following objectives:*
 - a. Quality buildings that are cost efficient.*
 - b. Functional, safe and environmentally friendly buildings.*
 - c. Good decision making in all aspects of building.*
 - d. Efficiency and effectiveness in building management, administration and regulation.*
 - e. Openness and accountability with respect to all building matters.*
 - f. Recognition of the rights and responsibilities of all parties in building matters in an equitable manner.*
- 4. Existing and proposed building control related fees and charges to be cost recovery for Local Government.*
- 5. WALGA will work with members, state agencies and industry groups to develop training opportunities and to promote the Local Government building surveying*

profession to ensure sustainability of Local Government building control services.

6. *WALGA supports the Australian Building Codes Boards Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings by supporting Local Governments to meet community strategic objectives of a net zero carbon future by 2050 through work with members, state agencies and industry groups.*

BACKGROUND

The *Health (Public Buildings) Regulations 1992* (the Regulations) were established to ensure the safety, health, and welfare of people using public buildings in Western Australia. The current definition of a public building is broad, and captures most public areas where people gather for a pre-determined purpose, including for entertainment, sports and recreation, worship and educational purposes.

These Regulations set standards for the construction, maintenance, and operation of public buildings, covering aspects such as occupancy limits, emergency exits, evacuation plans, ventilation, lighting and sanitary facilities. Local Governments play a crucial role in enforcing the Regulations, specifically by conducting routine inspections to ensure ongoing compliance with health and safety standards.

In 2018, the DoH released a Discussion Paper *Managing public health risks in public buildings in Western Australia*, that sought feedback on two options: repealing the Regulations without replacement or providing new, updated Regulations under the *Public Health Act 2016*.

WALGA's submission at the time supported the latter option as Regulations would continue to allow for the assessment and maintenance of the operational safety of public buildings that would maintain patron safety and provide adequate control and enforcement tools for Local Government officers.

This was the position of DoH when the Consultation Summary Report was published in 2019. The report also noted that the Regulations shouldn't duplicate the construction requirements in building legislation and instead focus on the ongoing management of public health risks associated with the building. No updated Regulations were released.

In February, DoH released the Consultation Paper that re-examined if the Regulations should be repealed without replacement. The paper outlines relevant legislative and regulatory changes since 2019 and further examines the need for Regulations in addition to the WA building legislation and the National Construction Codes (NCC) that set safety standards and protocols for building construction.

COMMENT

WALGA does not support the repealing of the Regulations, as it would impede Local Governments' ability to undertake routine inspections, proactively managing and mitigating public health risks related to public buildings.

WALGA's submission acknowledges that the Regulations are outdated, and they should be reviewed and updated to ensure they are contemporary, fit for purpose and focus on the ongoing management of public buildings, rather than building construction requirements.

Health provisions, specifically the ongoing management of public buildings, are not appropriately placed within building legislation, and the building sector is not adequately trained or resourced to effectively manage ongoing public health risks.

Additionally, the general public health duty under the updated *Public Health Act 2016*, along with other legislation and inspections undertaken by government agencies, does not provide effective management and compliance mechanisms to address public building safety.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA endorse the submission on Health (Public Buildings) Regulations Consultation to the Department of Health.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Deputy President Cr Rob Harris

Seconded: President Cr Phil Blight

That the Zone support the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.5 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED

12.6 OTHER STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

Zone Delegates are invited to raise for discussion, questions or decision any of the items in the State Council Agenda, including the Items for Noting, Policy Team and Committee Reports or the Key Activity Reports.

NIL

13 EMERGING ISSUES

NIL

14 NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on 10 June 2025 commencing at 7.30am, via MTeams.

The next Central Country Zone meeting will be held on 20 June 2025 commencing at 9.30am. This meeting will be hosted by the Shire of Williams.

15 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 12.41pm.



Central Country Zone Meeting

Shire of Wickepin
Wickepin Community Centre
11 April 2025

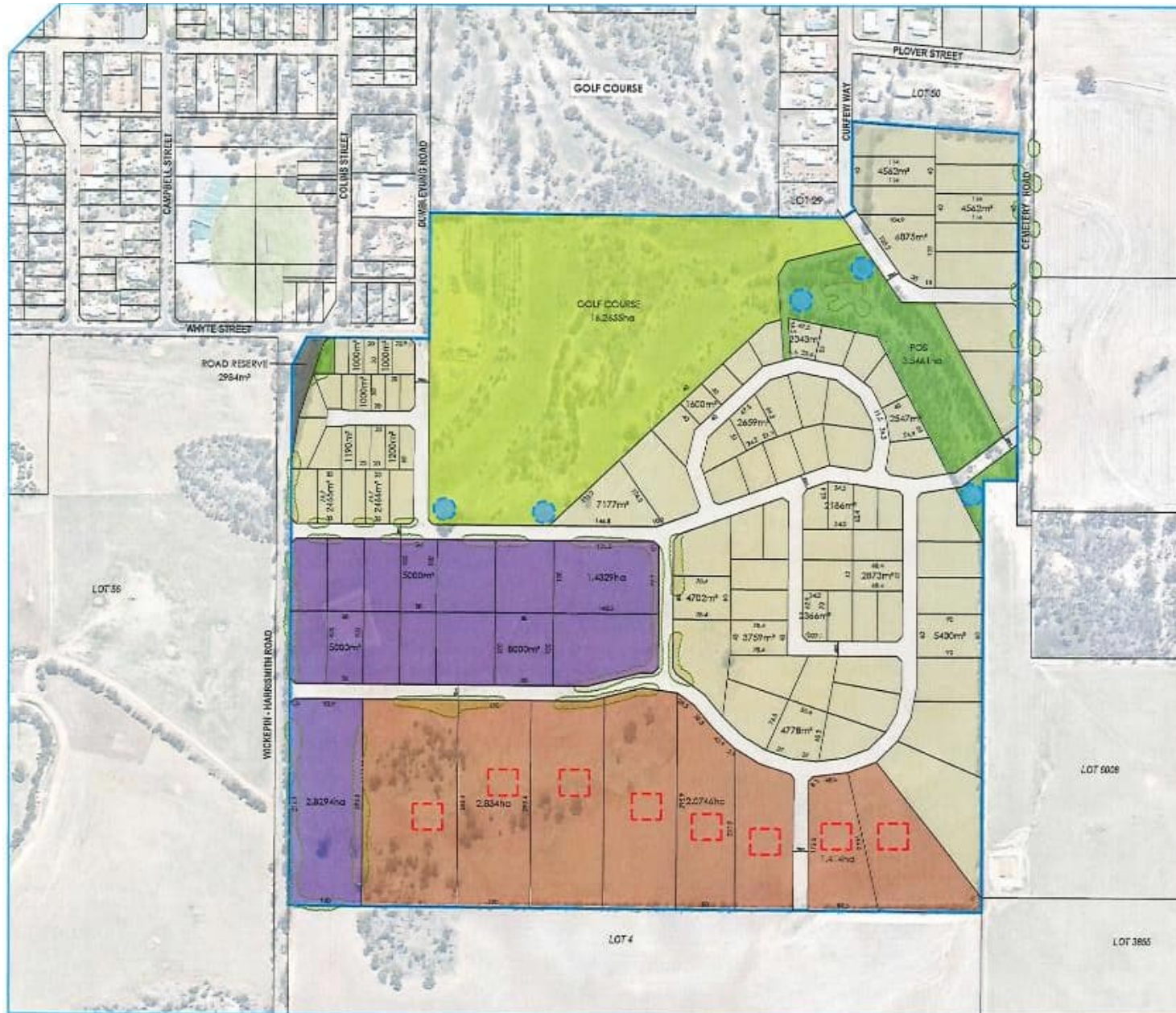
Welcome to the April 2025 Central Country Zone of WALGA Meeting in Wickepin

Local Planning Strategy

- Council has been in the process of developing a Local Planning Strategy since 2023 and is now nearing completion of this document, which will form the basis for the preparation, implementation and review of the Shire of Wickepin Local Planning Scheme No.4
- Whilst this has been a long process, the benefits that it will bring to the Shire is for the orderly development of land and how it will occur in the future.

Proposed Land Development

- Within the above LPS a major land development is proposed for Lot 9001 within the Wickepin townsite, which will accommodate residential, lifestyle and industrial blocks.
- The current lack of this land is a major impediment to the growth of Wickepin.
- next slide shows a potential plan for the development of Lot 9001



SUBDIVISION CONCEPT PLAN

Lot 9001
Wickepin-Harrismith Road
Wickepin
Shire of Wickepin

LEGEND

- Subject Area
- Existing Lot Boundary
- Proposed Lot Boundary
- Revegetation / Vegetation Buffer
- Public Open Space
- Retained Golf Course
- Drainage Basin
- Industry
- Rural Residential
- Residential
- Indicative Building Envelope

SUBDIVISION SUMMARY

No. Lots	115
Total Area Lots	622517m ²
Avg Area Lots	5413m ²
Min Lot Area	1000m ²
Max Lot Area	36828m ²

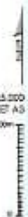
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SUBDIVISION CONCEPT: 220722 ST
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PLANNING & PROPERTY

10/26/2022 Planning & Property
10/26/2022 Planning & Property
10/26/2022 Planning & Property
10/26/2022 Planning & Property

DRAWING NUMBER: REV
DP 230722 02 1

SCALE: 1:5,000
SHEET: 15 OF 15



Development of Growth Strategy

- To complement the development of the LPS and to support the Shires Strategic Community Plan, Corporate Business Plan and annual Budgets, Council considered it was appropriate to develop a Growth Strategy for the Shire of Wickepin.
- Council has engaged the services of 150 Square to assist Council and the community in developing the Strategy.
- The major Growth Strategy objectives for the Shire were identified as:-
 - Develop and release serviced land
 - Enable population growth; and
 - Provide essential services to stop economic leakage
- The next stages in the process are :-
 - Community Consultation
 - Profiling a suite of critical projects and Council prioritisation

Co-operative Bulk Handling (CBH) Development Plan

- CBH precinct expansion to increase Wickepin Receiving Site's holding capacity of grain from 140,000 tonnes to 224,000 tonnes.
- Local businesses do very well from the sales of lunches and fuel from not only the truckies, but from the CBH staff and management.
- CBH accommodation expansion.

CBH Accommodation Construction



Recent Local Events

- Lake Yealering Regatta | 7/10/2023
- Ignite Wicky Wickepin Festival | 24/02/2024
- Astrotourism Night Show | 5/10/2024
- Yealering Blooms Garden Day | 12/10/2024
- Opening of Woodland Court Independent Living Units | 16/10/2024
- Australia Day Breakfast | 26/01/2025

Lake Yealering Regatta



Ignite Wicky Wickepin Festival



Astrotourism Night Show



Opening of Woodland Court Independent Living Units



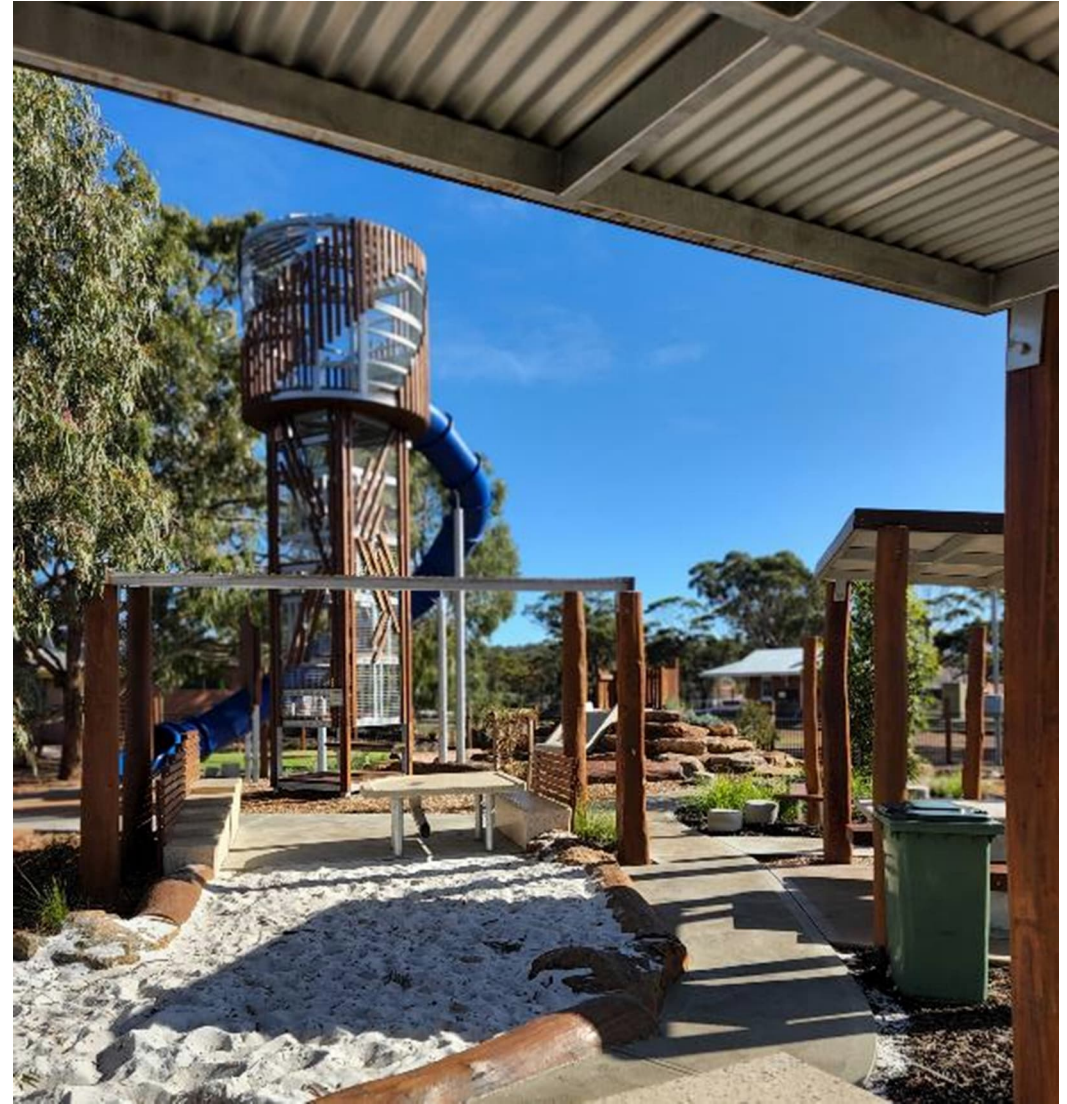
Australia Day Breakfast



Construction in Wickepin

- Wogolin Road Playground & Skate Park
 - The Shire of Wickepin opened the Skate Park on the 29th November 2024.
- Wickepin Pool Toilet Facilities
- Yealering Ablution Block Upgrade
- Yealering Living Lakes Foreshore Precinct Upgrades
- Harrismith Ablution Block Upgrade for truck drivers
- Harrismith Playground Upgrade

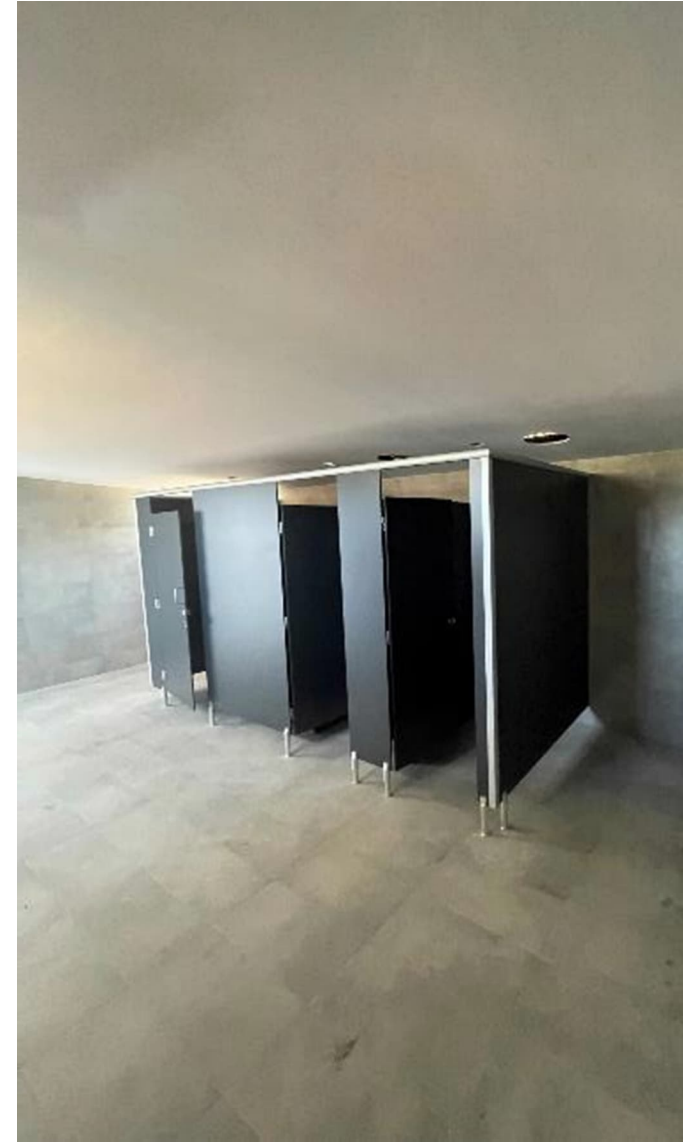
Wogolin Road Playground & Skate Park



Wickepin Pool Toilet Facilities



Yealering Ablution Block



Harrismith Community Centre Playground



Other Issues

- **Wickepin Hotel** - The closure of the Hotel in 2023 has left the town without a very important social hub, and I'm pleased to advise that a Community Committee has now commenced internal refurbishment works with the aim of re-opening the Hotel in late 2025.
- **Staffing** - The Shire of Wickepin has incurred several senior staff, (CEO and Manager Works) movements since 2022. I am pleased to advise that a Manager of Works was appointed in late 2024 and a new CEO was appointed in February 2025, who will be taking up this position on 16 June. Council believes that the appointments will now provide much-needed stability to the organisation as we move forward.



Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

Local Government Division Report

April 2025

Local Government Act Reform

Tranche 1

- Consultation is now open on proposed regulations for the implementation of reforms to CEO KPI's, CEO employment standards and public registers and closes on **8 May 2025**.

Tranche 2

- The *Local Government Amendment Act 2024* (2024 Amendment Act) passed Parliament and received royal assent on 6 December 2024.
- Tranche two reforms include:
 - the new Local Government Inspector
 - introduction of monitors for early intervention
 - council member superannuation
 - increasing penalties
 - enabling resource sharing
 - streamlining processes for model local laws
 - greater role clarity for council members and CEOs
 - introduction of a rates and revenue policy for local governments
 - changes to audit committees
 - providing greater flexibility for regional subsidiaries
 - building upgrade finance.
- Many provisions of the 2024 Amendment Act have now taken effect with information available on the DLGSC website regarding these changes, including the new roles and responsibilities.
- Further amendments commenced on 1 February 2025 to enable council members to be paid superannuation more easily.
- DLGSC provides regular updates to the local government sector on the progress of reforms via DLGSC's Reform webinar series, revisions to the DLGSC website and LG alerts.
- Further progress of the reforms in the 2024 Amendment Act is advancing with announcements expected throughout the year as amendments are implemented.

Model Financial Statements (MFS)

- Updates to the Model Financial Statements for the 2024-25 annual financial statements will be published in the second quarter of 2025.
- The new asset valuation requirements apply from the 2023-24 financial year onwards.
- Non-financial asset valuation guidelines are currently being prepared. A draft was presented to a sector body workshop held on 22 March 2024, plus inter-jurisdictional consultation has been undertaken, and feedback is being addressed with a view to finalise and publish in the second quarter of 2025.

Differential rates and Budget/Audit Extensions

- DLGSC is preparing for the 2025/26 budget season.
- Local governments who require ministerial approval for their differential rates should ensure that they submit their applications promptly and well in advance of the council meeting in which they intend to set their budget.
- Applications for ministerial approval should be sent to legislation@dlgsc.wa.gov.au.
- To avoid delays during the application process, please ensure the data is complete and sufficient evidence is provided. If you require further information, please contact the Legislation email address above.

Local Government Grants Commission

- Vacancies still exist on the Commission and processes will be initiated now that the State Government election caretaker period has ended.
- The processes will address vacancies for:
 - The Metropolitan member and its Deputy
 - The Country Urban member
 - The Deputy to the Deputy Chair.
- In February and March 2025, the Commission conducted public hearings with four metropolitan local governments and seven local governments in the Near Eastern Wheatbelt Region, respectively.
- The Commission will be visiting the Midwest region in May 2025.

Financial Assistance Grants funding

- Local governments will receive the final payment of their 2024-25 Financial Assistance (FA) Grants in May 2025.
- On 25 March 2025, the Australian Treasurer, the Hon Dr Jim Chalmers MP, delivered the 2025-26 Federal Budget.
- \$423.6 million was allocated to Western Australian local governments through the FA Grant program. This will consist of:
 - \$261.3 million to general purpose grant funding; and
 - \$162.3 million to local road funding.
- Due to the early delivery of the 2025-26 Federal Budget prior to the announcement of the 2025 Federal election, the current FA Grant estimates are from the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal

Outlook and use population data from June 2024. As a result, the difference between the Budget figure and final figure advised to WA in July 2025 is likely to have a larger difference (either increase or decrease) than normal.

- At the time of preparing this report, DLGSC has not been advised if there will be an advance payment of funds.

Stop Puppy Farming

- The *Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act 2021* (SPF Act) requires the design and development of a centralised registration system (called PetsWA) for dogs and cats.
- Regulations were made on 28 November 2024 to affect the pet shop and dog supply approval reforms.
- As a result, from 26 May 2025, only pet shops that hold a pet shop approval can sell dogs and puppies that are sourced from holders of a dog supply approval.
- Only refuge operations and dog management facilities may apply for dog supply approval.
- Applications for pet shop approval are to be made to local governments, and applications for dog supply approvals to DLGSC.
- An interim centralised registration system was created to affect this regulatory change.
- Please contact stoppuppyfarming@dlgsc.wa.gov.au if you have any questions or if you wish to request access to the interim centralised registration system.
- Further regulation changes are proposed in 2025 to introduce approval to breed and mandatory sterilisation.

Centralised Registration System (PetsWA)

- Migrating the data from current dog and cat registries is critical to the success of the project, to achieve one single repository of dog and cat registry information.
- There will be three data collections required across the project.
- Data collection 1 (DC1) closed on 31 January 2025.
- As of 25 March 2025, 88% of local governments have provided their data.
- Data collection 2 (DC2) commenced on 24 February 2025 and will be broken up into five sub collection groups. Subgroup 1 has been completed, and subgroup 2 commenced on 4 April 2025.

Off Road Vehicles

- The Off-Road Vehicle Bill (ORV Bill) seeks to update existing legislation to simplify the process for riders to register their off-road vehicles (ORV) and increase penalties for offences, such as riding in prohibited areas or riding an unregistered ORV.
- On 7 November 2024, the ORV Bill passed in the Legislative Assembly and was subsequently introduced into the Legislative Council.
- On 17 December 2024, Parliament was prorogued, which meant the ORV Bill lapsed.
- The ORV Bill was re-introduced into the Legislative Council in April 2025.
- The ORV committee (ORVC) continues to meet regularly.
- Grants program key dates as published in the ORV Grants Program Guidelines:

- Assessment and recommendations: November 2024 to May 2025
- Funding agreement execution: by 30 June 2025
- Project delivery: July 2025 to June 2027.

Local Government Placemaking training initiative

- Placemaking helps build community connections by bringing together planners, community members, architects, local government, business and other groups, working collaboratively to activate local spaces.
- Over 500 local government staff or elected members from councils across WA accessed the DLGSC-funded training in its first year.
- Due to strong interest from the sector, DLGSC extended the placemaking training partnership with Town Team Movement until July 2025.
- To register for the free online training, please visit <https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/local-government/local-governments/placemaking-training>

DLGSC Contacts

LG Support and Engagement	lghotline@dlgsc.wa.gov.au
LG Policy and Legislation Includes Statutory Approvals (Differential rates, budget and audit extensions)	legislation@dlgsc.wa.gov.au
CRS – Stop Puppy Farming	stoppuppyfarming@dlgsc.wa.gov.au Petswa@dlgsc.wa.gov.au
Grants Commission – Financial Assistance Grants	Grants.commission@dlgsc.wa.gov.au
LG accounting or financial enquiries	LG.accounting@dlgsc.wa.gov.au
LG Act Reform	actreview@dlgsc.wa.gov.au
LG Advisory Board	advisoryboard@dlgsc.wa.gov.au
Off-Road Vehicles	orv@dlgsc.wa.gov.au

*Keeping
WA Moving*

Wheatbelt Region

WALGA Zone Meetings – April 2025



Completed Works to date 2024-25

Regional Road Safety Program - Widen Shoulder and Seal (approx. 166km)

- Great Northern Hwy (239.90 – 253 SLK) **Dalwallinu to Wubin 13km**
- Narrogin Kondinin Rd (139.47 – 162.56 SLK) **West of Kondinin 23km**
- York Merredin Rd (87.2 – 106.68 SLK) **Quairading to Bruce Rock 19.5km**
- Northam Cranbrook Rd (217.30 - 232.14 SLK) **South of Wagin 15km**
- York Merredin Rd (19.50 – 29 SLK) **York to Quairading 9.5km**
- Northam Pithara Rd, (94 – 129.16 SLK) **Wongan Hills to Ballidu 35km**
- Collie Lake King Rd, (224 - 274 SLK) **East of Dumbleyung to Lake Grace 50km**

Other Capital projects

- **Bridge 541 replacement – (Collie Lake King Rd - SLK 171.14 - South of Wagin)**
- **Great Eastern Hwy - Demolition of the Walgoolan Bridge 629**



Bridge 629 on Great Eastern Highway

WBR RRSP Update

Status/Tranche Length (km)

Completed 1290.48

0 395.9

1 323.04

2 104.22

3 38.4

4 106.72

5 157.03

6 90.83

7 14.84

6a 59.5

FY 25/26 104.86

8 104.86

In Progress 181.19

6 26.25

7 46.8

6a 108.14

Grand Total 1576.53

Legend

- WBR_Road_Network
- Rehab within Tranches
- PRR_MLF
- Tranche
- Tranche 0 - 5 Completed
- Tranche 6 & 7 - State and c'wealth funded
- Tranche 6a - State Funded
- Tranche 8 - FY 25/26

- Completed shoulder sealing to date – 1290.48km
- Current Tranche funding T6, T6a & T7 is in progress – 181.19kms
- Tranche 8 (FY 25/26) Project development activity under way – 104.86kms
 - Chidlow York Road – 28.5 km
 - Collie Lake King Road – 39.94 km
 - Midlands Road – 14.78 km
 - York Merredin Road – 21.64

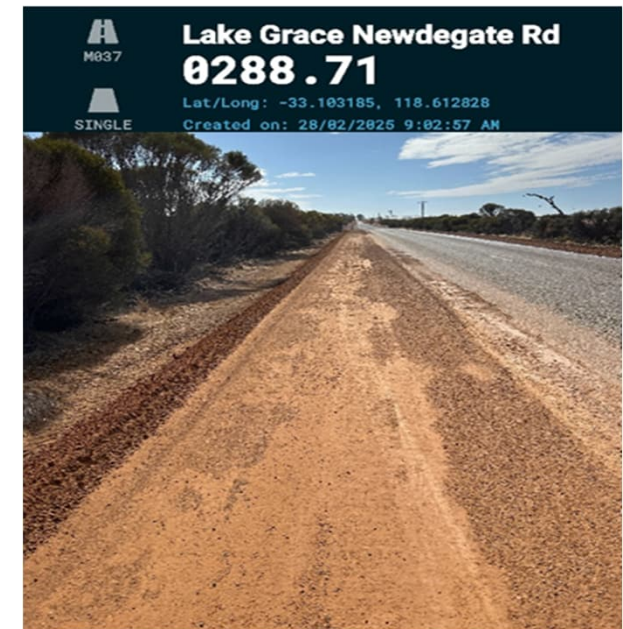
Under Construction / In progress 2024-25

Regional Road Safety Program - Widen Shoulder and Seal (approx. 156KM)

- Collie lake King (277.4 – 300 SLK) **Lake Grace to Newdegate 22.6km**
- Midlands Rd (24.79 - 61.30 SLK) **Moora to Watheroo 36.5km**
- Northam Pithara Rd (46 - 92.80 SLK) **Goomalling to Wongan Hills 47km**
- Northam Cranbrook Rd (45.30 – 65.39 SLK) **York to Beverley 20.km**
- Northam Cranbrook Rd (67.59 - 97.44 SLK) **Beverley to Brookton 30km**

Other Capital Projects

- Christmas Rd / GEH Intersection upgrade (In-house delivery)
- Northam Road Train Assembly Area (In-house delivery)
- GEH Walgoolan to Southern Cross - Packages 3, 6 & 8A (302.20 – 306.50, 335.20 – 339.80 and 340.90 – 343.27 SLK) over 24/25 and 25/26 – **Carrabin to Morine Rock**
- Bridge 3197- **York Williams Rd, Beverley**
- Bridge repair works - 3143 on Yeo Rd (SLK 2.35), 0442 on Lake King Road (SLK 117.28), and 4551 on Tarwonga Road (SLK 22.78)



Confirmed Projects for 2025/26 - Currently Under Development

- GEH Walgoolan to Southern Cross – P8B total 21.42km (**Morine Rock to Southern Cross**)
- Great Eastern Hwy – Coates Gully Stage 2 (SLK 56.65 - 67.45) 10.8km – **El Cabello to West of Baker's Hill**
- Collie Lake King Rd SLK 94 – **Climbing Lane, West of Darkan**
- Regional Road Safety Program Tranches (8) \$25.64m - totalling 104.86 km
 - Chidlow to York – approx. 28.5 km
 - Collie Lake King Rd – approx. 40 km
 - Midlands Rd – approx. 14.78 km – Watheroo to Mid-West border
 - York Merredin Rd approx. 21.64 km
- Bridge 661- Weld Street, Gingin – Delivery postponed to 2025/2026



Support for LG Bridges Design and Construction Management

Delivery Options

- Local Governments to arrange and manage design and construction
- Main Roads to arrange design and Local Government to arrange and manage construction
- Main Roads to arrange and manage design and construction

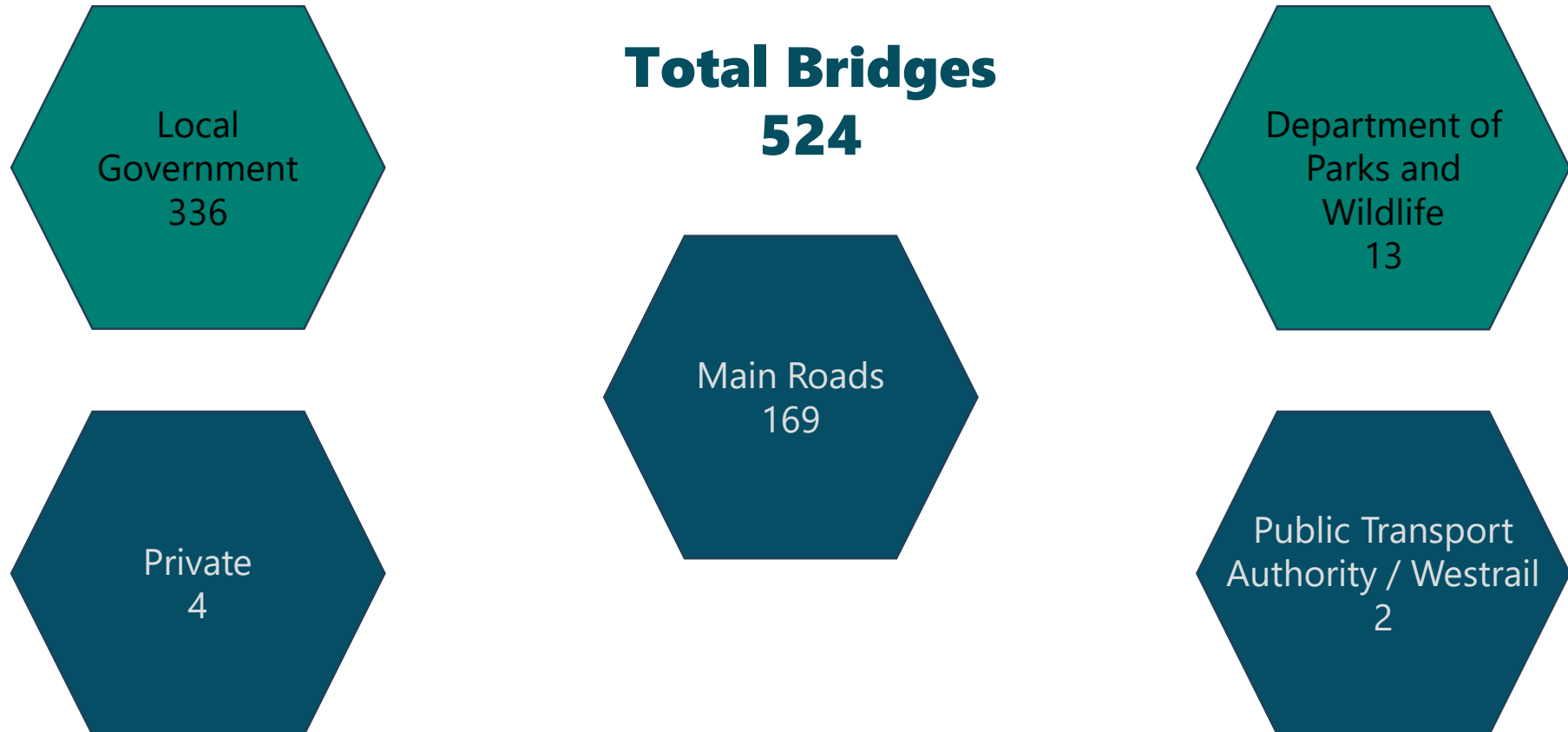
Demarcation of responsibilities between Main Roads and respective shires undertaking work

Local Governments:

- Obtaining Environmental and Heritage Approval – Ensuring Compliance with Environmental and Heritage Acts

Main Roads:

- Main Roads Undertakes Reviews of Bridge Design
- Reviews, Inspections and Maintenance of Structures



WALGA Central Country Zone Cost Shifting Report

April 2025 - FINAL DRAFT



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Date	April 2025

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Executive Summary

Cost shifting is a significant challenge for the Local Government sector in Western Australia, particularly for the 15 Local Governments in the WALGA Central Country Zone. This report investigates the financial impact of cost shifting and compliance costs on these Local Governments.

An initial survey in mid-2024 identified major cost shifting and compliance costs, highlighting the financial burden on Local Governments, to perform both statutory and compliance but also to supply essential services to their communities such as the provision of doctors and childcare.

Local Governments are often required to allocate resources to implement Federal and State legislation and regulations, but the true costs of these functions are frequently under-recognised and inadequately funded. This study reveals significant variations in circumstances, structures, and systems amongst Local Governments in the Zone, which influence cost shifting.

What can be observed is that the Local Governments in the Zone must divert substantial portions of their rates from core services like roads and community facilities to mandated services without adequate revenue-raising capabilities or administrative funding. Additionally, the need to provide non-core services such as medical, aged care, and childcare due to market failures in rural areas exacerbates the financial strain.

This report is the first step for the Zone in working towards an advocacy position that underscores the need for greater recognition and support for Local Governments in managing the financial impacts of cost shifting, statutory and compliance requirements.

Introduction

Cost shifting is a significant challenge facing the Western Australian Local Government sector. In early 2024, the issue of cost shifting and compliance became a major topic of concern for the 15 Wheatbelt Local Governments comprising the WALGA Central Country Zone.

An initial survey was conducted by WALGA on behalf of the Zone in mid-2024, to identify examples and associated costs of services that are being provided by Local Governments that should sit with other levels of Government, compliance requirements and statutory fees that are set below cost recovery rates. The survey identified the major cost shifting and compliance costs across the 15 Local Governments and provided estimates of the cost to Local Governments and the percentage of rates being spent on these items. The survey data was limited by a lack of a set definition and method of calculating costs and as such the Zone determined to engage a consultant to further investigate and provide a more detailed/accurate picture of the true cost imposition on Shires.

150Square was engaged by the Zone in late 2024, to review the figures of the;

1. Top four cost shift items;
2. Top four compliance costs; and
3. Under recovery of statutory fees for the local governments in the Central Country Zone.

There were a large number of additional statutory, compliance and cost shifting activities occurring within all Zone members that have not been investigated in this report. The determination of what was included in this Report was decided by a majority decision of the Zone. This report is not an exclusive list of statutory, compliance and cost shifting occurring in and to the sector.

A large number of Acts impose requirements on Local Governments to devote resources to implement Federal and State Government legislation and regulations. Often the resourcing costs are under-recognised, meaning that the true cost of performing these functions is not always adequately provided for and Local Governments are also unable to set appropriate fees and charges to recoup these costs - limited either by legislation, economics or community expectations.

Despite Local Governments being a third tier of Government and there should be an expected level of uniformity, what this initial report has highlighted is the different circumstances, structures and systems within the Local Governments, even across like for like that influence cost shifting.

It is clear too that the amount of rates that Local Governments are having to divert away from services and infrastructure considered core business (roads, sport and recreation facilities, waste management, community facilities etc) and into services and functions that are imposed on them from the State or Federal Government is mounting. Much of these services and functions imposed on them do not carry the ability to revenue raise nor come with administrative funding from the higher tier of Government.

The foray into non-core business such as medical services, aged care and child care due to market failure in rural communities, also exasperates the situation.

1. Definition

What is Cost Shifting?

For the purposes of this report the following definition of cost shifting applies:

Cost shifting occurs when the responsibility for, or merely the cost of, providing a certain service, concession, asset or regulatory function is shifted from one sphere of government to another, without corresponding funding or revenue raising ability required to deliver that new responsibility. Cost shifting forces local governments to divert ratepayers' funds away from much-needed local infrastructure projects, to meet additional demands placed on them by state and federal governments.

2. Context

Local Government Sustainability Inquiry

In March 2024, the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport adopted an inquiry into local government sustainability.

The interim report from this inquiry, which was released in February 2025 highlighted that increased service obligations and cost shifting, restrictions associated with revenue raising and inequitable distribution of grants funding, are placing increasing demands on financial sustainability for Local Governments.

The report notes that the role of Local Governments has evolved and expanded significantly over time, with Local Government increasingly being relied upon to provide services and manage complex infrastructure assets, some of which were formally the responsibility of the Commonwealth, State, and Northern Territory governments. The inquiry found that Councils responsibilities can now include:

- Health, aged care, childcare, and mental health services;
- Housing supply planning and development and provision of enabling infrastructure;
- Progressively complex infrastructure and asset management, including maintaining depreciating assets;
- Environmental regulatory compliance and management obligations; and
- Climate adaptation and emergency management.

Costing and Pricing Government Services Guidelines - WA Government (2020)

The Guidelines are intended to assist government agencies to better understand their costs and the factors that have the greatest influence on those costs (i.e. the cost drivers).

Determining the full cost of services enhances:

- Resource allocation within agencies;
- Decision making by Ministers concerning policy options;
- The ability of Government to allocate resources through the budget process;
- Setting appropriate prices for agencies where Government has decided to recover costs; and
- Benchmarking (where appropriate) with the private sector or with agencies in other

The WA Treasurer's instruction 810 'Review of Fees and Charges' requires agencies, in respect of the services for which they provide, to conduct regular reviews of fees and charges. In some instances, this requirement is also specified in subsidiary legislation. The Zone should be aware of these Guidelines in determining the next steps after this initial report.

3. Background

Central Country Zone

The Central Country Zone commissioned a member survey in mid-2024 to establish:

- a) What services were being provided by Local Governments that should sit with State or Federal Government and the cost of providing these services;
- b) Examples of compliance requirements, associated costs and views on whether the compliance was required or not; and
- c) Statutory fees set below cost recovery rates.

The survey revealed that cost shifting i.e. the percentage of rates being spent on areas considered the responsibility of either the Federal or State Government, varied between 2.33% and 25.67% of a Local Government's total rate income, with the exception of the Shire of Williams which recorded 49.3%. The most significant examples of cost shifting were the provision of medical services, provision of childcare services, provision of aged care services and State Government Agreement Acts and other exemptions to enterprises which reduce rates.

The survey also found that on average 6.77% of rates across the 15 Local Governments was being spent on compliance costs. The major compliance costs identified were audit fees, asset valuations, Records Management Act requirements and public health plan requirements.

Finally, the survey revealed that the major areas where Local Governments were being constrained in seeking full cost recovery for delivering regulatory functions imposed by State Legislation were dog permits, development approvals, building permits and animal control costs.

While the survey was useful in demonstrating the impost of cost shifting and compliance in some areas, the data was limited by the lack of a set definition and method of calculating these costs. It was resolved by the Zone that a consultant would be engaged to review the figures and progress the work.

Following the first round of meetings with members, 150Square recommended a refinement to the investigations and the Zone agreed:

Statutory Duties

- Development Applications
- Building Permits
- Emergency Services Levy
- Ranger services (It was agreed that animal control costs associated with dog and cat registrations would not be included due to the introduction of PetsWA, an online platform, which at the time was still being developed and hence it would be difficult to determine its impact).

Compliance Costs

- Audits (annual, Reg 17, Reg 5, LCI);
- Asset Valuations;
- Integrated Planning and Reporting; and
- Public Health Plans.

Cost Shifting - Case Studies

Case studies were developed on childcare, aged care, medical services and the freight task that local governments have 'stepped into' due to market failure and to meet community and business needs.

4. Methodology

CEO Meetings

150Square met online with 14 of the 15 Local Government CEOs to discuss the project, individual circumstances and survey construction.

Survey

A survey was prepared in collaboration with AccuWest. It was provided in an online format to Local Government CEOs in January 2025 along with an information sheet detailing what information would be collected, how cost calculations should be made and how the data would be analysed and presented back to the Zone.

Local Governments were asked to complete information on statutory duties and compliance costs on the:

1. Internal role that leads the process;
2. The number of hours to prepare and complete the tasks associated with one application / duty;
3. How many occasions each year, on average, occurs for each compliance / statutory duty; and
4. Equipment costs specifically required for the activity.

11 responses were received.

Case Studies

In order to gain a better understanding of the financial and operational impacts of Local Governments providing services as a result of market failure or insufficient service provision by another level of government, case studies were developed with the assistance of a small number of Local Governments in the following areas:

- Provision of medical services
- Provision of aged care services
- Provision of child care services

State agreements and other enterprise exemptions that result in lost or reduced rate revenue were also explored to gain a better understanding of how these arrangements impact on Local Government.

Local Government Groupings

To enable like for like comparisons, the 15 Local Governments were categorized based on the following criteria:

Group 1: Over \$2m rate base, with more than 30 employees.

Group 2: Under \$2m rate base, with less than 30 employees (blue)

Local Government	Number of ratepayers	Revenue	2022/23 Rates	Number of Employees	Group
1. Shire of Beverley	1370		3,082,199	33	1
2. Shire of Brookton	668		2,571,698	35	1
3. Shire of Corrigin	825		2,882,324	37	1
4. Shire of Dumbleyung	459		1,932,341	26	2
5. Shire of Kulin	556		2,174,104	50	1
6. Shire of Lake Grace	908		4,993,932	44	1
7. Shire of Narrogin	3424		5,446,704	128	1
8. Shire of Pingelly	858		2,330,171	25	1

9. Shire of Quairading	741		2,492,164	37	1
10. Shire of Wagin	1324		2,511,175	52	1
11. Shire of Wandering	356		1,338,041	21	2
12. Shire of West Arthur	612		1,887,578	26	2
13. Shire of Wickepin	551		1,471,690	28	2
14. Shire of Williams	660		2,137,090	32	1
15. Shire of Woodanilling	320		888,849	14	2

Exclusions

Excluded in the cost calculations was:

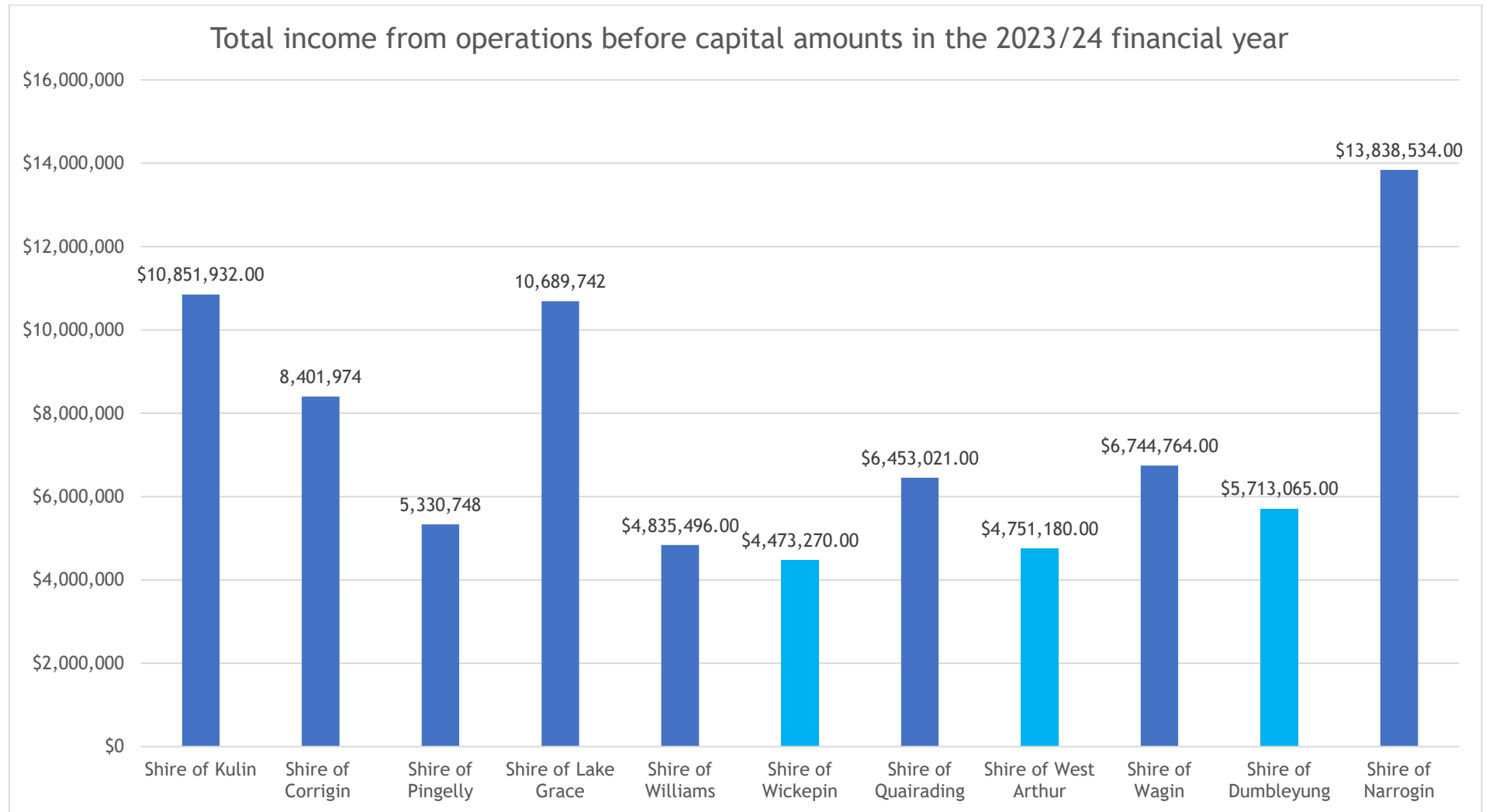
- The opportunity cost for the Local Government;
- Concessions;
- Depreciation; and
- Non-compliance and enforcement costs.

Assumptions

There are a number of assumptions made across the findings. These are outlined in each section.

The accuracy of data provided by Local Governments varies as does the internal processes. For this reason we are not confident in providing statements on the impact to ratepayers at individual Local Governments nor as a collective across some of the findings.

5. Findings



KEY: Dark blue Group 1 | Light blue Group 2

NB: Shire of Kulin distorted by 22/23 FAG's payment being received in 23/24.

Statutory Fees

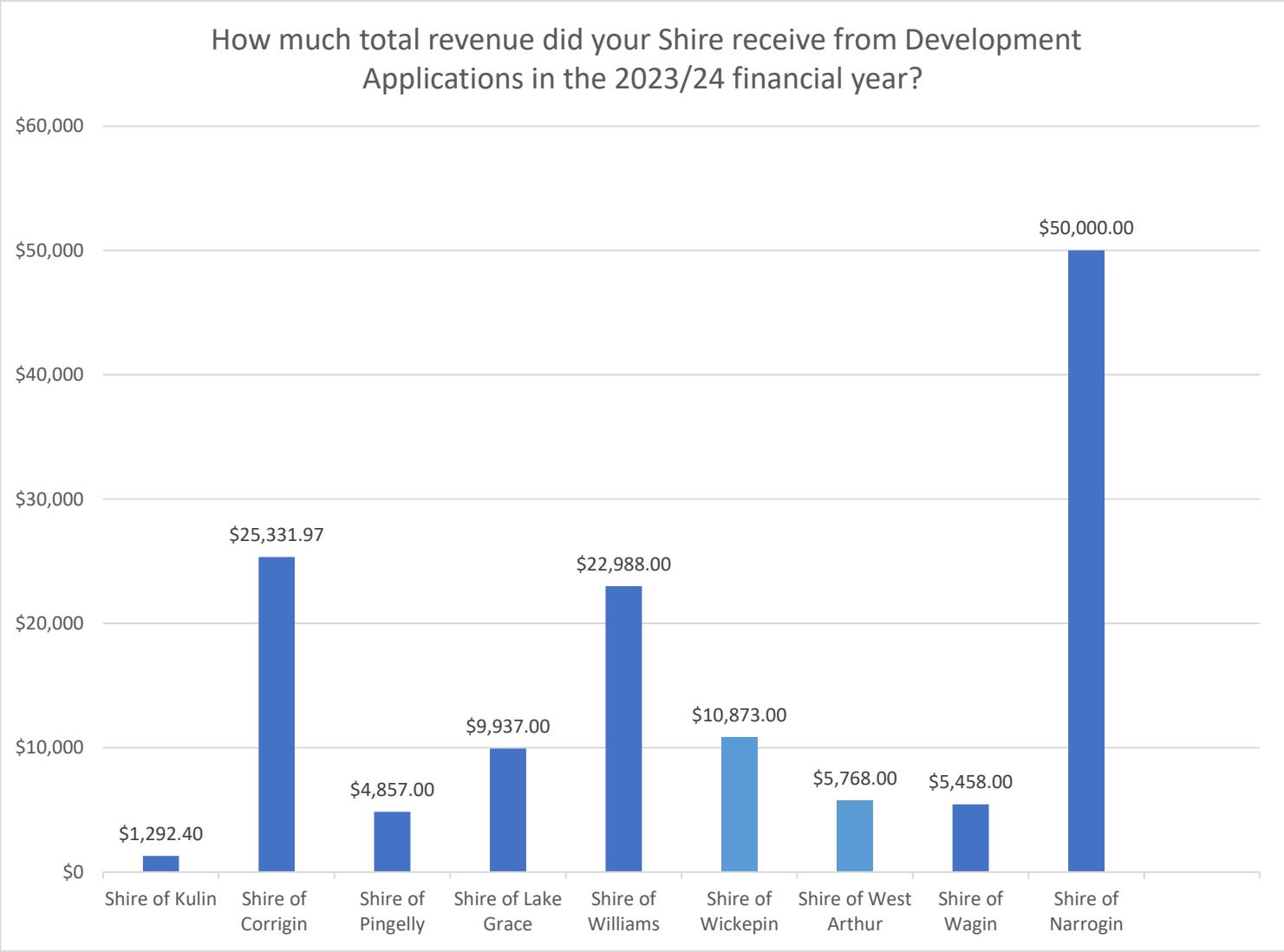
The first section of the survey asked Local Governments to provide information designed to allow for a standardised calculation of the cost to administer regulatory functions imposed by State Legislation that cannot be recovered through fees and charges.

1. Development Applications

Development Approval is a legal document that provides permission for specified use or development to occur on a particular piece of land. It is obtained by submitting a development application by following the below process:

1. Design phase (applicant undertakes depending on the size and scale of the project, applicants may be required to liaise with architects, artists, town planners or other service providers prior to lodging a development application).
2. Development application
3. Working Drawings/Condition Clearance
4. Building Permit (at the local government)

Number of Development Applications received by the Local Government annually (regardless of the process)			
	Under \$50K	Between \$51K and \$1m	Over \$1m
GROUP 1			
1-5	3	4	6
6-10	2	4	
10-15	2		
16-20	1		
GROUP 2			
1-5	3	3	3



Summary

- Three Local Governments undertake Development Applications internally (Pingelly, Dumbleyung, Narrogin). There is a large variance in the net costs for internal administration and costs incurred by these Local Governments.
- All respondents charged statutory fees for Development Applications under \$50,000. For applications of more than \$50,000 Local Governments charged 0.32% of the estimated cost of development.
- For the respondents that outsourced their Development Applications they get charged between \$55-\$165 per hour (plus GST).
- We asked respondents to estimate the ANNUAL NET costs of processing Development Applications that cannot be recovered through Development Application fees or any other related income. One Shire indicated they were unable to ascertain the amount as it was heavily dependent on the type of Development Application received, as an example in 23/24 the Shire invoiced \$18,912 in charges and income was only \$10,873 (CBH application) incurring a loss of \$8,039. Another Shire indicated that they provide advice to the applicant which cannot be recouped in Development Application fees.
- When we applied our assumptions to one Local Government's data (*outsourced DA's*), the following results were determined:

No Applications p.a.	Internal hours worked per application	Hourly rate	Total internal costs p.a.	Total cost p.a.	Revenue	Net cost p.a.	Avg cost per DA
19	4.5	43.44	3,714.12	38,072.45	25,331.97	12,740.48	2,003.81

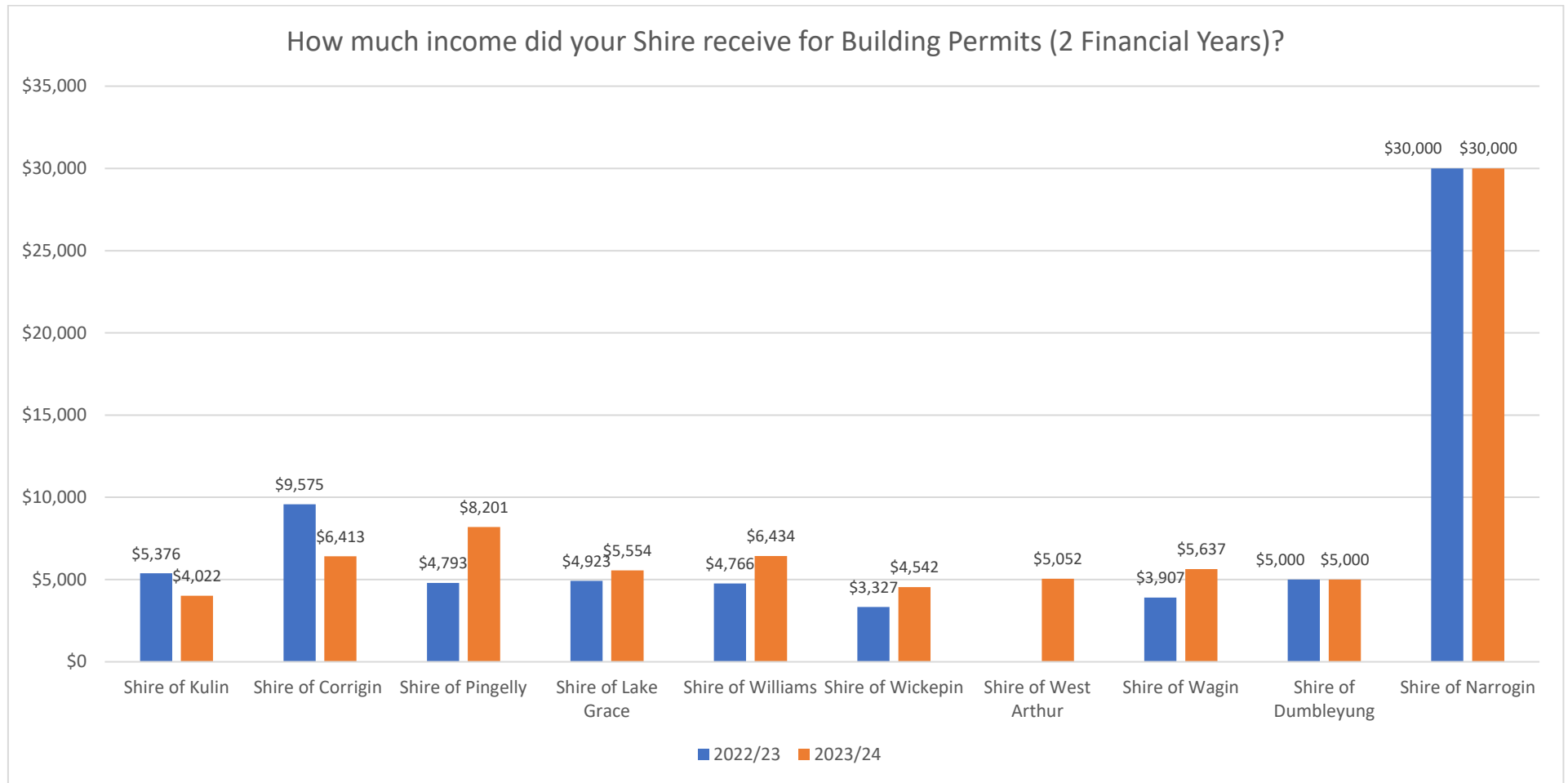
Comment

- There is a large variance in the number of internal hours it takes to complete a Development Application. The complexity of the application is a significant influence on the process and influences the choice of process if outsourced.

Assumptions:

- *For the Local Governments that undertake Development Applications internally we have estimated it costs \$43.44/hr (excluding overhead costs). We have used the Local Government Award and determined the appropriate Officer, using information provided.*
- *For Local Governments that outsource Development Applications we averaged the hours from the Local Governments data provided.*

2. Building Permits



The number of Building Permit applications received by Local Governments annually (regardless of whether the process is internal or outsourced):

GROUP 1	
1-5	1
6-10	1
10-15	3
16-20	1
More than 20	2
GROUP 2	
6-10	3

When we applied our assumptions to one Local Government's data (*outsourced Building Permits*), the following results were determined, demonstrating the costs associated with assessing an application, then outsourcing the remaining process. Internal processing is still required, costing the Local Government, which cannot be recouped:

No Applications p.a.	Outsourced cost per hour	Hours to assess per application	Total outsourced cost per assessment	Total outsourced cost p.a.	Internal hours worked per application	Hourly rate	Total internal costs p.a.	Total cost p.a.	Revenue	Net cost p.a.	Ave cost per BP
13	150.00	5	750.00	9,750.00	2	43.44	1,129.44	10,879.44	6,413.00	4,466.44	836.88

Summary

- Majority of respondents indicated they charge the statutory fees for Building Permits.
- 7 members in Group 1 undertake the administration duties of Building Permits, one outsources.
- 2 members in Group 2 outsource all processes with Building Permits and one undertakes administration only.
- For those that undertake Building Permit administration only, the Customer Service Officer undertakes the role supported by an EHO or Senior Finance Officer.
- There is a mixture of providers for outsourcing with the Shire of Kalamunda (\$82/hr), Shire of Narrogin (\$70-\$130/hr) and external consultants (\$530 for BA2, less for BA1) undertaking the role.

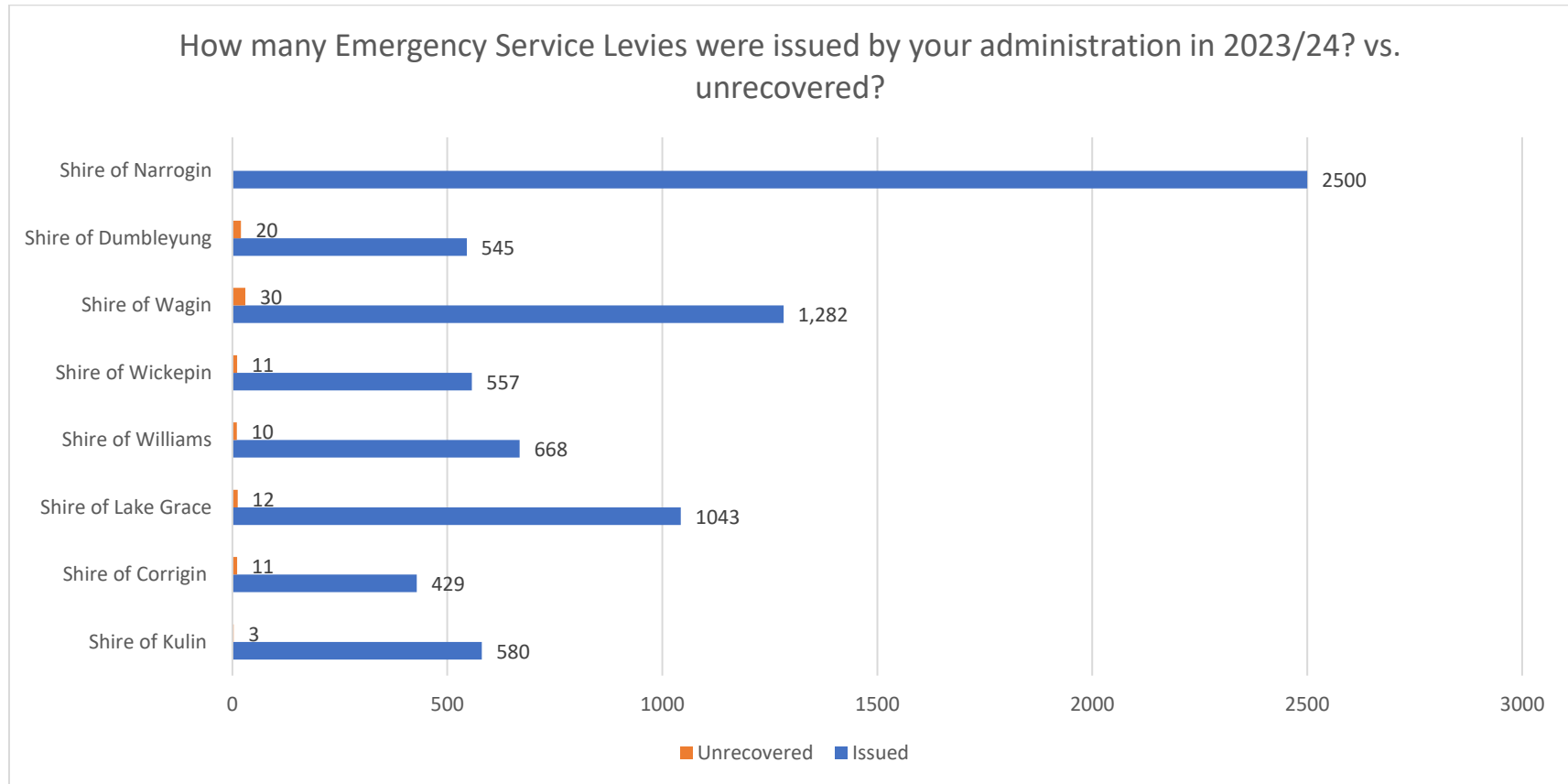
- Every respondent receives the processing fees for Building Permits.
- We asked respondents to estimate the ANNUAL NET costs of processing Building Permits that cannot be recovered through Building Permit fees or any other related income, as an example one Local Government indicated \$100,000, another indicated \$83,232. Respondents indicated that Project Manager time cannot be recovered in Building Permit fees.
- When we undertook an averaging of hours and costs to outsource the entire Building Permit process, we estimated the net cost to the Local Government was still \$836 per application.
- When using these estimates, one Local Government in Group 1 had a net cost of \$13,262 per annum for all Building Permits in the financial year, and one Local Government in Group 2 had a net cost of \$3,923 per annum. These results are heavily influenced by the number of Building Permits received each year.

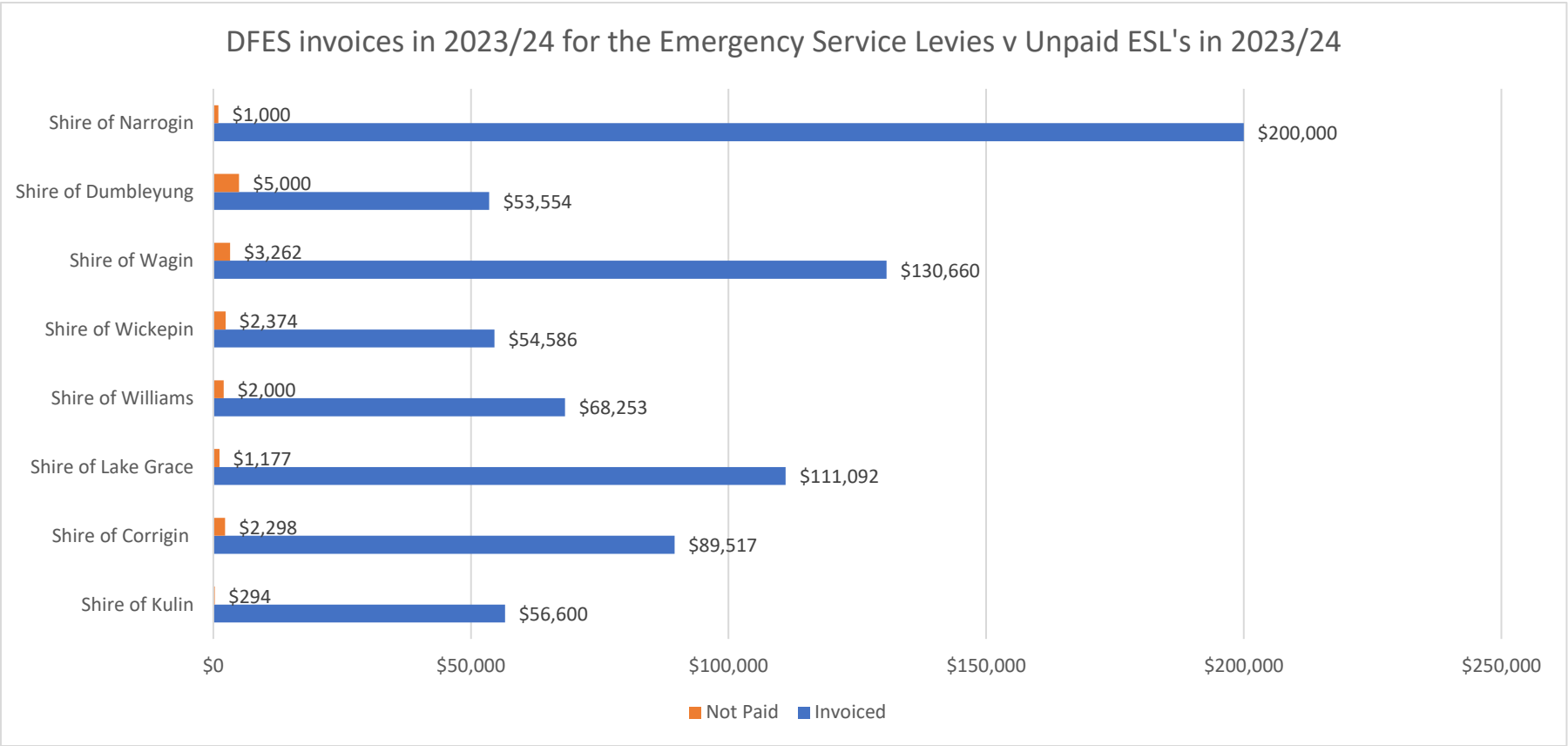
Comment

- A critical influence in the results for the Building Permits assessment is the majority of Local Governments have not been invoiced by the metropolitan Local Government (outsourced process) for the costs associated with processing Building Permits, so this has significantly influenced the cost vs. income generation results.

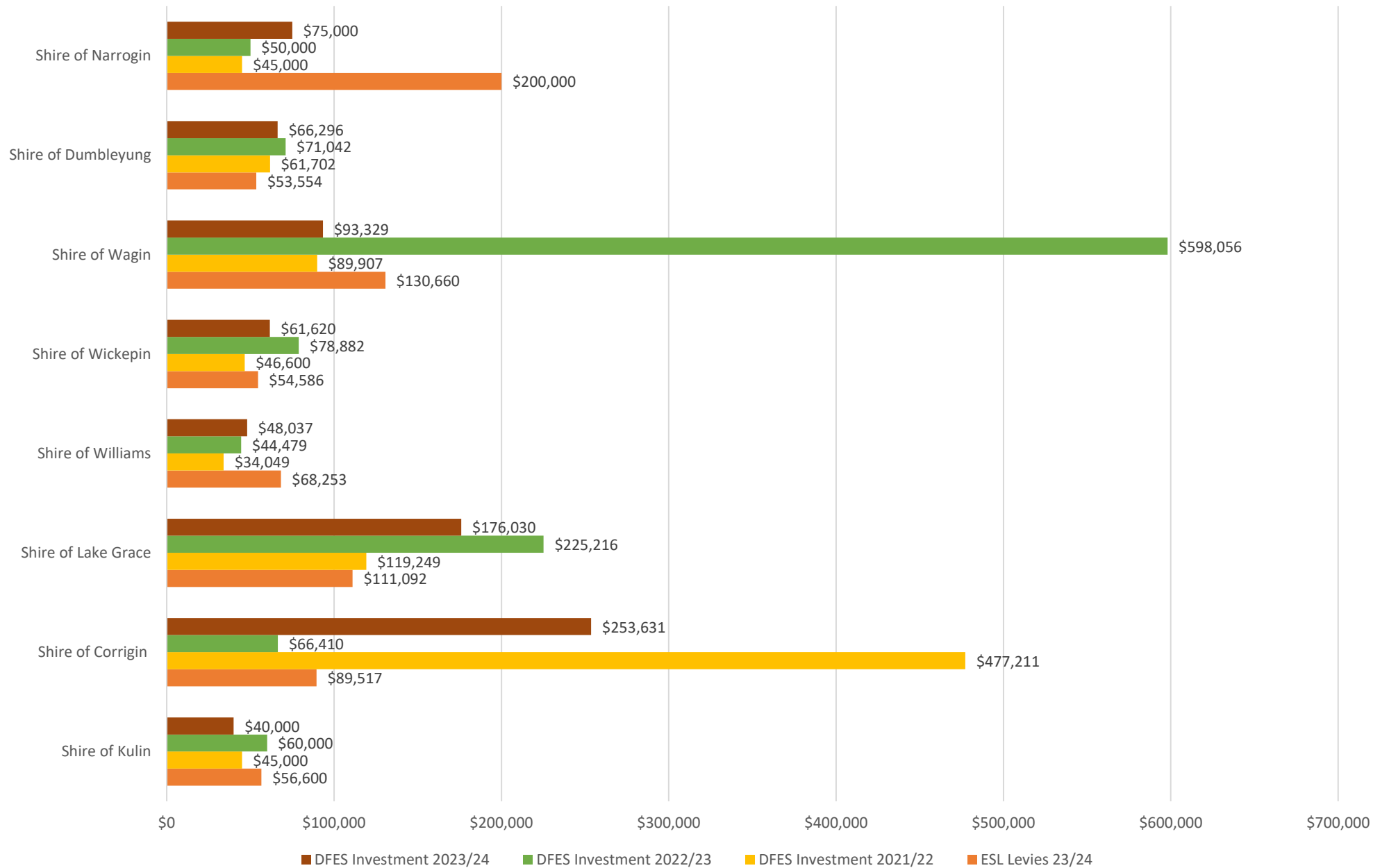
3. Emergency Services Levy

The Emergency Services Levy (ESL) is a State Government charge applicable to all properties in WA, which is invoiced and collected by Local Governments on behalf of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES). The Rates team members undertake this responsibility and it is part of the rates process.





ESL Levies 23/24 vs DFES Investment over past three financial years



Summary

- Of the 7,604 ESL levies issued across 8 Local Governments, 97 could not be recovered.
- The inability to recover the levies resulted in \$17,405 loss across the 8 Local Governments.
- Levies across the Zone in 23/24 totalled \$764,262.
- DFES funding received across the Zone over the past three financial years totalled \$918,639.

Comment

- Recouping the costs associated with undertaking the ESL rates process is less significant to Local Governments. Ensuring ESL levies and emergency service funding is re-invested into communities and volunteer operations is a high priority.

Other Statutory Costs

1. Ranger Services

GROUP 1	
Outsource / alternative arrangement	6
Employ	2
GROUP 2	
Outsource / alternative arrangement	3
Employ	0
Total Responses	11

Summary

- For the Local Governments that outsource or have alternative arrangements, they average 2-5 days a month for ranger services in their Local Government.
- 4 local governments use a contractor on an as needs basis, rather than a set number of days.
- Outsourcing ranges from \$291 to \$370 a day for Ranger services, with one Shire paying approximately \$650 a day (potentially an abnormality).
- One Shire that employs a Ranger outsources to other Shires (both within and outside of the Zone) and can recoup some costs, otherwise there is minimal income generating opportunities for Ranger services.
- Direct costs to 10 Local Governments to deliver Ranger Services cost \$344,260 in the 23/24 financial year, with revenue being \$59,577.
- Net annual costs range from \$2,925 to \$32,100 for Local Governments that outsource this service.

Comment

- Local Governments do not have the ability to influence fees and charges for Ranger services and therefore have limited revenue raising ability in this area.

2. Compliance Costs

ANNUAL AUDIT



Summary

- 10 out of the 11 Local Governments had AMD as Auditors, one had the Office of Auditor General.
- 6 Local Governments engaged with auditors 100% online and 5 had auditors visit in person for the 23/24 annual audit.
- All CEOs lead the Annual Audit, with the majority of work being completed by either the DCEO or Finance Manager. For the staff that lead the interim and annual audit, only one Local Government indicated it was 17-24hrs of preparation work, with the majority of Local Governments indicating it took more than 41hrs of preparatory work.
- The roles responding and meeting with the auditor indicated this also took more than 41hrs, with only four Shires indicating it was less than 24hrs of meeting and responding time.
- A key concern raised by Local Governments was some auditors requested documents be loaded onto an online portal which required time by Local Government staff, but then auditors did not access them at all or requested them again in person when they visited the Local Government.
- Two Group 1 Local Governments engaged external support for the preparation and undertaking of the interim and annual audit, one was charged \$9,134 and another was charged \$30,000.
- There is a variance in the figures provided by some Local Governments versus what is reported in their Annual Financial Statements. We have used figures provided in the survey for the above results.

REG 17 and REG 5 AUDIT

Summary

- CEOs were responsible for leading Reg 17 and Reg 5 audits, with support from the DCEO and Finance Managers.
- Six Local Governments had a Governance Officer (or equivalent) that was also required to support the process.
- On average the process for Local Governments to undertake Reg 17 and Reg 5:
 - One Local Government in Group 1 took 16-25hrs to prepare both audits;
 - Some Local Governments in Group 1 took 9-16hrs to respond and meet with the auditor, whilst others indicated it was more than 25hrs; and
 - For Group 2, the time spent preparing, meeting and responding for Reg 17 and 5 was less than Group 1.
- Five Local Governments in Group 1 sought external expertise for Reg 17 and 5, accounting an additional cost to ratepayers.
- Two Local Governments in Group 2 sought external expertise for Reg 17 and 5, accounting an additional cost to ratepayers.
- In the 23/24 financial year, 11 Local Governments incurred an additional \$57,114 for audits.

Comment

- It should be noted that the additional compliance on Local Governments has necessitated the appointment of Governance Officers and engagement of external contractors to prepare and assist Local Governments through the audit process.

TOTAL AUDIT COSTS

Using total audit costs provided in the Local Government's 2023/24 Annual Financial Statements;

Local Government	Fin Stats Audit	Grants & Other Audits	Total	% of rates
Kulin	35,500	4,080	39,580	1.72
Corrigin	42,200	5,850	48,050	1.59
Pingelly	29,770	3,000	32,770	1.34
Lake Grace	37,700	4,550	42,250	0.82
Williams	22,090	-	22,090	0.98
Wickepin	26,500	7,300	33,800	2.16
Quairading	31,590	3,450	35,040	1.32
West Arthur	28,790	4,600	33,390	1.6
Wagin	23,340	5,700	29,040	1.1
Dumbleyung	38,500	5,434	43,934	2.1
Narrogin	79,680	13,150	92,830	1.6
	395,660	57,114	452,774	

- In the 23/24 financial year across 11 Local Governments, total fees for the annual audit was \$395,660.
- The movement of annual audit costs for the Local Governments from 2017/18 to 2023/24 ranges between 96% to a 276% increase.
- Audit fees cannot be recouped by Local Governments.

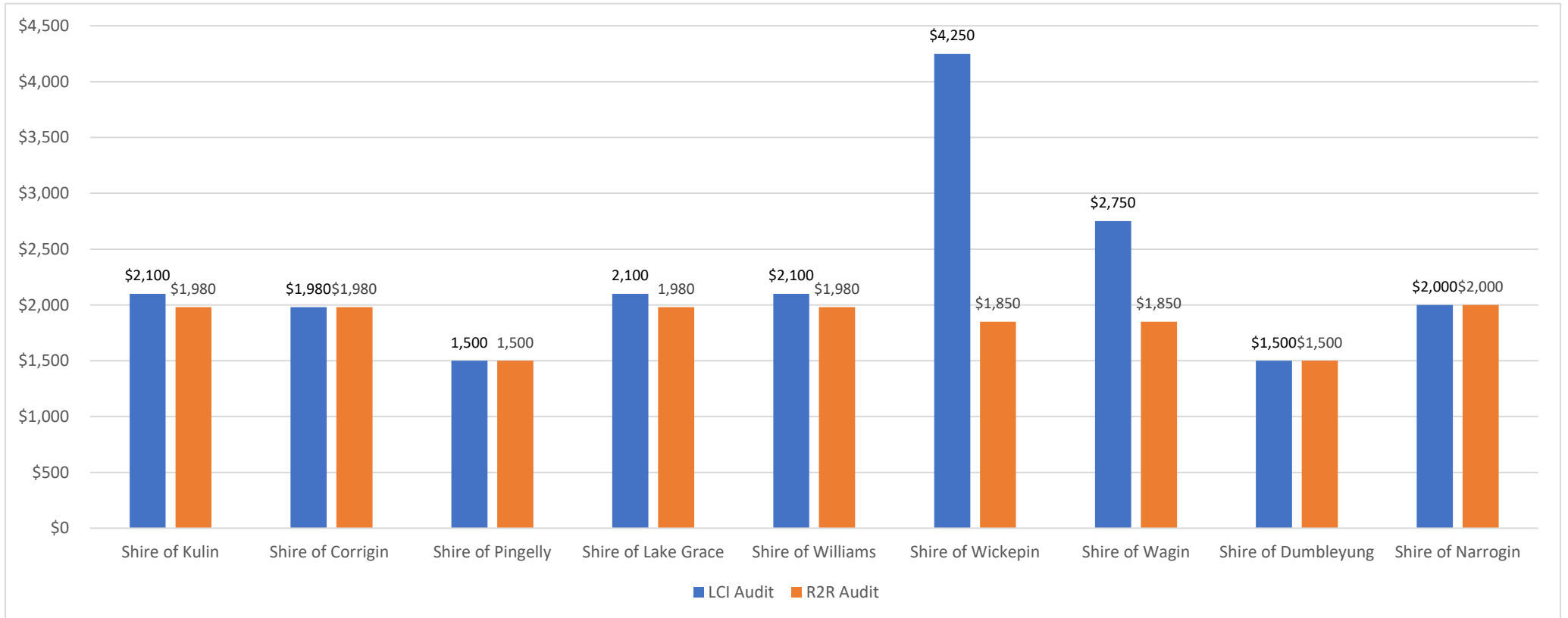
ASSET VALUATIONS

Lead by the Deputy CEO or Works Manager, Local Governments on average spent between 16 - 32hrs preparing and responding for asset valuations. In the 2023/24 financial year members paid various amounts for asset valuations (depending on whether they were in the asset valuation cycle):

- Shire of Pingelly \$8,285
- Shire of Wagin \$14,425
- Shire of Corrigin \$20,873
- Shire of Williams \$20,665
- Shire of Wickepin \$43,066
- Shire of Narrogin \$60,000

ADDITIONAL AUDITS

Lead by the Deputy CEO or Finance Manager, the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (Commonwealth) and Roads to Recovery (Commonwealth) grants required additional audits outside of the annual audit of the Local Government. The costs for undertaking these audits is outlined below.



INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING

Local Governments were asked the costs for their last major Strategic Community Plan review as per the Integrated Planning and Reporting requirements, for those that engaged external consultants:

Group 1

- \$8,030 to \$36,000

Group 2

- \$7,505 - \$50,000

The Local Governments were asked to estimate the ANNUAL NET costs of preparing, undertaking and reporting against the Strategic Community Plan and Corporate Business Plan that cannot be recovered through fees or any other related income. Costs included staff time for community consultation, advertising, postage and reporting and ranged from \$7,000 to \$25,000.

PUBLIC HEALTH PLANS

Of the 11 Local Governments, six have completed their Public Health Plans. Some of the six completed the plans internally and accounted for approx. 17hrs - 33hrs of their time. Some Local Governments had external expertise and this cost between \$6,800 and \$15,000.

The Public Health Plans are essentially primary health plans and whilst community socio and economic health is an outcome in the provision of Local Government services and facilities, they are not responsible for primary health services and facilities which is included in the plans.

When questioned about appointing additional staff to implement, monitor, and report on the Public Health Plan, local governments stated that these tasks would be incorporated into existing roles. They expressed that the value of the Public Health Plan is relatively low, as it is being prepared to meet legislative compliance rather than addressing community needs. The state government's revisions to public health legislation aim to broaden the responsibilities of local governments to include regulation of public health and preventive medicine. However, these revisions do not take into account the capacity of local government or their communities.

6. Major Cost Shifting Components

Provision Of Childcare Services

According to the initial survey conducted by WALGA in mid-2024, eight Local Governments within the Central Country Zone provided financial support for the provision of childcare services costing them from \$5,000 to \$150,000 per annum.

RUN INTERNALLY

The Shire of Williams operate both a centre based long-day care facility and Family Daycare service, which supports educators across multiple regional locations in WA to provide education and care to children in their registered home or venue.

The Shire of Williams provides full administration of the Willi Wag Tails Childcare Centre and directly employ 11 staff under varying employment contract arrangements (full-time, part-time, casual) equating to 3.9 FTE. The Shire are also responsible for the provision and maintenance of the premises.

The budgeted cost to provide these services in the 2024-25 financial year was \$362,179.

The primary costs associated with providing these services is wages and on-costs, building maintenance, administration and insurances. This does not include additional costs associated with governance and oversight of the service by the CEO and Council.

The budgeted revenue from the combined services is \$678,437 for the 2024-25 financial year, with the primary income sources being childcare centre fees and the administration levy charged to family day care educators.

ENGAGING AN EXTERNAL PROVIDER

REED, a not for profit, currently operates in the following communities of the Zone;

- Darkan
- Narrogin
- Pingelly
- Wickepin
- Brookton
- Quairading

For some of the Local Governments they provide a building (asset and ongoing maintenance) for REED to operate within. This is at a cost to the Local Government which cannot be recouped.

Provision Of Medical Services

The initial report provisioned by WALGA on behalf of the Zone indicated that nine of the 15 Local Governments supported the provision of medical services, with costs ranging from \$6,000 to \$439,273 per annum. This represents a significant portion of rate income being spent on primary health.

The members of the Zone contribute cash each year to attract and retain resident GP services, plus housing, vehicles, and surgeries. These financial contributions are sourced through rates and is unsustainable. They are essential for community health but place a significant financial strain on Local Government resources, diverting funds from other vital services that are well within the remit of Local Government.

The Local Governments are using a substantial portion of their ratepayer funds to attract and retain GPs. The financial incentives to attract a GP are currently heavily influenced by the Local Government tender process where providers have the ability to set and negotiate the market rate.

Local Governments are required to step into the space of primary health care because the per capita expenditure by the Commonwealth and States on health is lower in the regions, the viability of practices is challenged due to remote geography, increased business costs and less patients.

Not only is this a significant opportunity cost for Local Governments and their communities but it diverts their limited funds towards a service that should be funded by State and/or Commonwealth Government. It means core Local Government services and infrastructure are underfunded, not pursued or not maintained to an adequate level (impacting Councils ability to adequately manage their asset maintenance and preservation programs).

The current Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor within the Financial Assistance Grants paid to Local Governments is insufficient. Higher income incentives are currently required by Local Governments and practice operators to attract GPs to remote areas, and existing programs do not meet these needs.

Provision Of Aged Care Services

The Zone report from July 2024 indicated that seven Local Governments in the Zone support the provision of aged care services at a cost of between \$4,000 and \$250,000. This support includes:

- Provision of aged care packages;
- Aged care services such as transport options; and/or
- Provision of independent living units / retirement units (asset and ongoing maintenance).

State Agreements and Enterprise Exemptions that Limit Rates

Many Government and private property owners in a Local Government area are exempt from paying rates. Currently, under the Local Government Act 1995, exemptions from rates apply to:

- Land used or held exclusively for churches (religious bodies)
- Land used or held exclusively for schools
- Land used exclusively for charitable purposes
- Land vested in trustees for agriculture or horticultural show purposes
- Land owned by Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited (CBH)
- Land exempted by the Minister for Local Government
- Land used or held by a local government or a regional local government (other than for purposes of a trading undertaking)
- Land used or held by the Crown (State Government) for a public purpose.

While the organisations conducting activity on these land types are exempt from paying rates all expect and receive services and infrastructure from Councils, the cost of which is funded by ratepayers.

CBH rate exemptions were an area specifically raised with 150Square as a concern. A case study prepared with the support of the Shire of Williams indicates that CBH in lieu of rates pays an ex-gratia payment to the Shire on a per tonne basis. Over the last five years this has averaged \$38,205 per annum. Modelling has not been completed to identify the rate income that could be generated from CBH owned land if the exemption was lifted. Considering that 659,000 tonnes of grain was delivered to the Narrakine site in the Shire of Williams in the 2023/24 season, at a conservatively estimated value of \$200 million+, ~\$38,000 toward the upkeep and renewal of the Shire's local road and bridge network, seems very inadequate.

7. Recommendations

Recommendation One

The role of the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation in WA is to scrutinise, on behalf of the Western Australian Parliament, instruments made under statutory delegation by:

- The Governor in Executive Council;
- Ministers;
- Statutory Bodies; and
- Local Governments.

We recommend the Zone identify from this report:

1. One statutory cost, in one Local Government in Group 1;
2. One statutory cost in one Local Government in Group 2; and
3. One compliance cost in all Local Governments in the Zone,

that has a significant negative financial impact on all Zone members and ultimately reduces funding available to deliver core Local Government facilities and services, and that has limited revenue raising ability.

Following this, we recommend:

- A second and concise survey be issued to these members to gain further confidence in the data provided;
- Survey respondents articulate a flow chart of the processes involved;
- And compare the data to rates received to demonstrate the tangible impact on ratepayers and the delivery of Local Government facilities and services.

We recommend that this information is then submitted to the Joint Standing Committee for their review.

We recommend this information and the Zone's advocacy position is also submitted to WA Treasury and aligned to instruction 810 'Review of Fees and Charges'.

Recommendation Two

We recommend that the Zone also provides this information (from recommendation one) to WALGA to support their policy positions from the State Election, specifically in the Local Government Reform area:

Remove fees and charges from legislation and regulation and allow Local Governments to set fees for their services.

Undertake an independent review of all rate exemptions to ensure equity and fairness among ratepayers in the community

Recommendation Three

The Local Government Primary Healthcare Services Survey Report by Rural Health West in 2024 identified a number of recommendations, one being the WA State Government establish a Local Government Primary Healthcare funding program. Based on the survey findings an initial annual fund of \$5 million per annum was recommended across the State.

This amount will likely be inadequate. Potentially such a fund should only be applied to RM4 - RM7 local governments (under the Modified Monash Model) of which the Zone members are included under.

We recommend a motion to the Zone and State Council regarding an increase to the Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor be submitted.

Recommendation Four

Submit an executive summary of this report, case studies and findings from recommendation one, to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport's Local Government Sustainability Inquiry.

Recommendation Five

Make a Pre-Budget Federal Government submission requesting an increase in Financial Assistance Grants to rural Local Governments using information from recommendation one and the case studies.

8. Appendix: Case Studies



CASE STUDY STATE AGREEMENT ACT & OTHER ENTERPRISE EXEMPTIONS THAT REDUCE RATES

SHIRE OF WILLIAMS

AT A GLANCE

A State Agreement is a legal agreement between the WA Government and a proponent of a major project. There has only been one State Agreement created in the past decade and no new agreements since 2017.

State agreements establish project delivery and royalty requirements but often lack detail on social and community benefit obligations for proponents.

Section 6.26 of the Local Government Act 1995 details land which is exempt from rates such as charitable organisations, religious bodies, schools, Co-Operative Bulk Handling (CBH) and land exempted by the Minister for Local Government. Each year millions in rates are foregone by local governments in Western Australia as a result of these exemptions.



"The CBH business in Williams has doubled in the last decade, and it may increase further as cropping expands and less emphasis is based on livestock.... the cost to the Shire to maintain the road network is not easy to quantify because grain movements to CBH are not the only transport using roads. But clearly it is time of year when trucking is at its most intense.

Peter Stubbs, CEO Shire of Williams



CBH

Under the Local Government Act 1995, land owned by CBH that is used solely for the storage of grain and where there is a written agreement to make a contribution to the local government, is not rateable land.

In the Shire of Williams the Narrakine CBH site, which has a total storage capacity of 573,810 tonnes and consists of 15 permanent open bulk heads, two silos and one permanent open bulkhead, has seen an 8.5% increase in the tonnes of grain received over the last five seasons (up from 607,660 in 2019/20 to 659,000 in 2023/24). Applying a conservative price per tonne, it is estimated that this single site processed well in excess of \$200 million worth of grain during the 2023/24 period alone.

Grain movements to the CBH receival site within the Shire impact on the local and state road and bridge network. It is estimated that there are upwards of 10,000 truck movements to get grain to the Narrakine site each harvest. That grain is then moved out of the site via truck to ports or other markets.

The Shire of Williams are responsible for maintaining and upgrading the local road network and bridges that connect growers to the CBH site. There is significant cost associated with this upkeep including expenditure on plant and equipment, staff and related overheads and capital improvements. The cost to the Shire that is specifically or primarily resulting from grain movements, is difficult to quantify because the local road/bridge network is not used exclusively for this purpose.

CBH, in lieu of rates, make an ex-gratia payment to the Shire of Williams. These payments are made at an agreed rate per tonne. Over the past five seasons the ex-gratia payment made by CBH to the Shire of Williams has ranged from \$34,328 - \$43,354 and averaged \$38,205 per annum. The variance between these payments and the potential rate revenue that could be generated from CBH owned property cannot be accurately quantified because it has not been assigned a rating category, and a differential rating would likely apply.

CASE STUDY PROVISION OF CHILDCARE

SHIRE OF WILLIAMS



AT A GLANCE

Willi Wag Tails is a centre based long day care service operated by the Shire of Williams.

The centre opened in August 2012 and operates Monday to Friday from 7.30am – 5.30pm, offering full day care as well as before and after school care for up to 20 children.

The Shire of Williams is also a registered provider of Family Day Care across 17-19 regional communities. The Willi Wag Tails Family Day Care Service supports educators to provide quality education and care to children from birth to 12 years of age in the educators registered home or venue.



The Shire of Williams approach to Childcare and especially Family Day Care may not be easily replicated by other Local Governments. It requires the skills sets and motivation of staff, and we are fortunate to have that.

Peter Stubbs

CEO, Shire of Williams

RATIONALE

The Shire's entry into childcare service provision stemmed from growing community demand. Low profits and enrolment numbers and corresponding challenges in servicing overhead costs and building/facility upkeep were a known deterrent to private providers entering into the local market and Family Day Care wouldn't provide enough stability or the necessary volume of childcare places to meet demand. With no suitable alternative and a recognition that the absence of childcare services negatively impacts on liveability and the ability to attract and retain workers and residents, the Shire deemed it in the best interests of the community to provide the service.

OPERATING MODEL

The Shire of Williams provides full administration of the centre based and family day care services. The Shire is also responsible for the provision and maintenance of the Willi Wag Tails Childcare Centre premises.

There is a very specific skills set, and ratio of staff to children required to operate the service. The Shire employs 11 staff with varying employment arrangements (full-time, part-time, casual) equating to 3.9FTE.

COSTS

The budgeted cost to the Shire to operate the centre based and family day care services in the 2024-25 financial year is \$362,179. The major costs include childcare centre staff wages and on costs, building maintenance, administration and insurances.

The budgeted revenue from the family day care service in the 2024-25 financial year is \$176,937. This income is generated primarily through an administration levy charged to the educators. The centre based childcare service is expected to generate \$501,500 in revenue. The principal source of income is childcare centre fees.

The Shire maintain a reserve account for capital improvements.

CASE STUDY PROVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES

SHIRE OF PINGELLY



AT A GLANCE

The Pingelly General Practice, located within the Pingelly Health Centre, operates Monday to Thursday from 9.00am to 5.00pm and Friday from 8.00am to 12.00pm.

The Pingelly General Practice began operating in 2012. The practice was established to provide consistent and accessible healthcare services to the local community.



The Shire of Pingelly have been contributing toward the costs of the GP service for more than 10 years. Before that, there was no GP in town. Our community needed a full-time GP so there wasn't really a suitable alternative option.

Andrew Dover
Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Pingelly

BACKGROUND

The Sustainable Health Review by the WA State Government found that health service delivery in rural and remote areas presents considerable challenges including that it is generally more costly to deliver 'small scale' services in the country than in the metropolitan area. This coupled with lifestyle and other factors, make it difficult to attract and retain GPs in rural areas, without considerable incentives.

In the absence of a local GP and the evident need for this service in the community, the Shire of Pingelly with support from the community facilitated the establishment of the Pingelly General Practice in 2012. In order to do so, the Shire of Pingelly offered an incentive package inclusive of a house and access to a surgery.

In June 2018 the Pingelly Health Centre was opened. The new centre incorporated a general practitioner suite inclusive of consulting rooms and a shared procedure room. The Pingelly General Practice began operating from the Centre shortly after its opening.

In 2021/22 WA Country Health Services commissioned an independent review of the Pingelly Health Centre. Amongst the findings of the review was an evident increase in demand for GP Services since the health centre opened. This affirmed for the Shire, the continued need to support a local General Practice.

OPERATING MODEL

The Pingelly General Practice is administered by the GP at their own cost. The consulting rooms are located within the Pingelly Health Care Centre, which is operated by WA Country Health Services.

COSTS

The cost per annum to the Shire of Pingelly to retain the GP service is \$150,000 in addition to the provision of a four bedroom, two bathroom home for the General Practitioners use. The GP retains all billings, so no costs are recouped by the Shire.

CASE STUDY PROVISION OF CHILDCARE

SHIRE OF KULIN



AT A GLANCE

The Kulin Childcare Centre, operated by the Shire of Kulin, is a centre-based long day care service offering full-day care, occasional care, and after-school care. It is open Monday to Friday, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and is licensed to care for up to 19 children.

Currently, the Centre serves 31 families with a total of 48 children enrolled. Most families utilise the service to support workforce participation.

The Shire of Kulin has been operating the service since 2005.



"Over the years the financial investment from the Shire of Kulin to keep the doors open to support our community has been very significant.... Our Centre is reliant on Sustainability Funding. Without this funding we would be running the service at a \$230,000 loss"

Taryn Scadding

Executive Manager Community
Services, Shire of Kulin

RATIONALE

Before 2005, a privately operated family daycare service in Kulin provided care for up to six children three days a week. When the provider announced their intent to cease operations at the end of 2004, and recognizing the growing need for childcare in the community, the Shire of Kulin commissioned a survey to assess the market potential for a centre-based childcare service. The survey, conducted in April 2004, indicated a demand for approximately 37 regular childcare places. This data, along with an understanding of the critical role childcare plays in facilitating workforce participation and providing social networks and support for rural parents, motivated the Shire to establish the Kulin Childcare Centre.

OPERATING MODEL

The Shire of Kulin oversees the administration, financial management, and governance of the Kulin Childcare Centre. The Shire is the approved provider, and all staff are employed directly by the Shire of Kulin.

Currently, eight staff members are employed in various roles, including educators, cleaners, and administrative support, under different contract arrangements (full-time, part-time, and casual). These staff members are managed by the Executive Manager of Community Services.

The Shire leases the building from the State Government on a peppercorn lease.

COSTS

The total budgeted cost to operate the service in 2024/25 is \$512,000. The major expenses are staff wages and Shire overheads to provide financial administration of the Centre. Minor costs include maintenance, insurance, equipment, and consumables. The projected revenue over this period is \$427,000, which is primarily generated from childcare fees and sustainability funding, resulting in an expected loss of \$86,000. While operational costs are covered by fees and funding, the Shire absorbs administrative costs to keep fees affordable, which results in the service operating at a loss.



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Developing the people of rural WA so *they* can create change in their communities.



Newdegate Library Resource & Community Resource Centre Management Committee



NOTICE PAPER

To the Committee

You are hereby notified that a Meeting of the Newdegate Community Library and Community Resource Centre Management Committee has been convened:

Date: 8th May 2025

At: Newdegate Community Resource Centre,
Mitchell St, Newdegate

Commencing: 9:30 am

To discuss the items of business in the agenda as set out on the following pages.

Acknowledgement of Country to be read by the Chairperson

I wish to acknowledge the traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, and pay my respects.

I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today.

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SHIRE OF LAKE GRACE

Agenda/Minutes of the Newdegate Community Library and Community Resource Centre Management Committee Meeting to be held at the Newdegate Community Library, Mitchell St, Newdegate on Thursday 8th May 2025.

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE

Subject to mutual directions from the Shire, the Newdegate CRC and the Minister and subject to the Agreement to which the committee rules the objectives are;

- 1) to ensure that the Facilities are administered efficiently and in accordance with principles and procedures set down in the Agreement.*
- 2) to maintain policy and guidelines which shape the day-to-day operation of the Facilities;*
- 3) to annually review matters relating to fees and charges, access and service delivery;*
- 4) to annually review plans for the Facilities to ensure that they are consistent with the Agreement and complement the needs and aspirations of persons using the Facilities;*
- 5) to assist in mediating and settling any disputes arising from the use of the Facilities;*
- 6) to facilitate the management and control of the Facilities in accordance with the requirements and policies of the Shire and the Minister;*
- 7) to develop community awareness of the potential and the limitations of the Facilities and to facilitate communication between users of the Facilities, the Shire, the Centre and the Minister;*
- 8) to encourage and facilitate access to the resources of the Facilities so that they are available to both School and public/community users;*
- 9) to ensure that the equipment and other resources of the Facilities will be of good quality and suitable to meet the needs of the School and community users;*
- 10) to ensure that there will be coordinated management and administration of all information materials, items and resources used in the Facilities;*
- 11) to encourage and facilitate the provision of fully integrated and efficient services, facilities and operation for the benefit of both School and community users; and*
- 12) to liaise and accept additional materials offered to the Facilities by way of community donation; provided that such donations to the Library conform to the Shire's and the Department of Education's Libraries Selection Guidelines.*

1.0 DECLARATION OF OPENING & ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Chairperson opened the Meeting at 9:30 am.

2.0 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Present

Judy Garlick	Principal	DoE Representative
Naomi Barrett-Lennard	Librarian	DoE Representative
Claire Ness	Librarian	CRC Representative
Roz Lloyd	Councillor	Shire of Lake Grace
Alan George	Chief Executive Officer	Shire of Lake Grace
Nicole Kennedy		Community Representative

Apologies

Aleisha Hall	Chairperson	CRC Representative
Jade Parker	Librarian	CRC Representative
Steph Clarke-Lloyd	Former Chairperson	CRC Representative

Observers/Visitors

3.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 NEWDEGATE COMMUNITY LIBRARY & COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING – 12th November 2024

Recommendation/ Resolution

Moved: Roz Lloyd

Seconded: Naomi Barrett-Lennard

That the minutes of the Newdegate Community Library & Community Resource Centre Management Committee Meeting held on 12th November 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED all /

4.0 REPORTS

4.1 NEWDEGATE LIBRARY REPORT

Newdegate Library Report May 2025

January was a quiet month with our loan statistics at 1 due to school holidays. 15 in February & March numbers are at 9. We have had a few more loans as school has gone back.

The library area has been used by the Newdegate CRC and community for events such as Paint & Sip, Pilates, Book club, spray meetings, Thank A Volunteer Morning Tea, Auschem and First Aid courses. We have also had CRC & school meeting in the library space.

Regards

Jade Parker

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2005	12	45	37	21	46	33	4	16	6	15	15	14
2006	21	21	27	7	21	22	14	34	27	6	20	15
2007	17	16	24	3	24	32	15	39	25	19	19	4
2008	9	30	15	14	33	14	6	16	9	20	17	8
2009	2	23	20	15	25	28	12	15	10	17	15	8
2010	3	13	16	14	13	23	28	26	27	26	35	27
2011	5	37	52	27	77	54	22	42	35	76	72	38
2012	10	69	33	27	50	20	49	18	26	54	59	31
2013	8	34	30	20	30	21	36	28	18	27	36	29
2014	39	50	35	33	53	36	61	29	24	61	32	47
2015	23	50	52	58	62	53	42	59	45	38	88	38
2016	17	77	29	45	42	15	53	39	43	43	65	42
2017	26	55	40	43	29	29	40	13	29	39	29	28
2018	9	37	15	30	19	36	33	18	51	30	66	48
2019	31	26	54	34	33	39	29	34	7	43	35	33
2020	6	33	42	2	12	23	27	24	39	54	21	16
2021	17	36	51	53	22	32	25	31	38	33	20	27
2022	5	23	27	8	31	13	19	32	8	42	8	17
2023	13	9	14	10	26	29	9	28	21	37	14	10
2024	6	12	18	13	26	16	6	15	12	31	16	4
2025	1	15	9									

4.2 NEWDEGATE COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE REPORT

Coordinators Report OCTOBER 2024 – MARCH 2025

Dear Committee,

Completed events/workshops:

(Since last general meeting)

Carers WA Community Breakfast
Halloween Slime – Kids Workshop
Feather Hunt – Library-
Christmas Shopping Day
Christmas Wreaths & Baubles Crafts
CRC Staff Party
CRC Christmas Colouring Competition
Pixie Post – with Newdegate Primary School students
Newdegate Community Christmas Carols
Thank A Volunteer Morning Tea
Paint & Sip Night

AEC Election Polling Location

Auschem Training

Quiz Night

-Thanks again to Em Gilmour for being Quiz Master for the night

Current & Upcoming events/workshops:

DATES

Pilates with Lucy	Started Feb 2025
Provide First Aid via St Johns	31 st March
Tiny Tots First Aid via St Johns	1 st April
Movie Night at the Newdegate Hall "Over The Hedge"	4 th April
Forklift Course (numbers pending)	3 rd & 4 th April
Easter Hat Competition & Kids Colouring Competition	April
Hyden Twilight Markets (The Gate Collective)	27 th April
Australia's Biggest Morning Tea	22 nd May

2025 Future Courses (workshop owners have been contacted)

*Pots & Tangles -Macrame Course choice of wall hanging or potholder

*Ceramics workshop by Pia Sweeting

-Pia is seeking a grant to help her provide this course for free to the wheatbelt CRC's

-The CRC have supplied her with a letter of support towards her grant application

* I have contacted a local Perth musician for quote/costings for a Youth DJ Workshop

-would seek a grant to cover or reduce workshop fees.

Completed Reports:

*DPIRD MSC Report for March

*Get Online Week Grant Acquittal

*Thank A Volunteer Day Grant Acquittal

Other:

-AEC is providing the CRC with a \$200 payment to dispose of all cardboard/rubbish post-election

-Lightspeed EFTPOS

Once Leana is happy with the switch we can cancel our Tyro machine & subscription.

Making all the sales history & payments "all in one" via Lightspeed.

-WFI Insurance & Bresland Insurances are due for renewal

Due by 30/04/2025

Kind Regards,

Jess Bielby

4.3 NEWDEGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT

Newdegate Primary is continually working collaboratively with CRC and using the space constantly. Assemblies, P&C and School Council Meetings, School Development Days for Professional Learning, Incursions – Police Chat, Spare Parts Puppet Theatre,

Online Speech Therapy sessions for parents and students, supported by an Education Assistant, School Psychologist.

Still awaiting further clarity from the DoE Screening Unit in regard to the wording of the agreement to make it viable for our current usage. 3rd March 2025, Doug Cook (Director of Education -Wheatbelt) is on the panel for the screening committee, which is currently rewriting the policy concerning police clearances, considering the contextual complications of shared community facilities. Last contact with Doug suggested waiting a little longer (7th April). Hoping this will give the principal discretion to make local decisions.

- Latest email correspondence from Doug Cook – Director of Education (Wheatbelt) read – encouraging to wait for the Screening Unit’s new wording.

5.0 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

Appointment of Chairman of Committees of Council – meeting to nominate a person (does not have to be from Council) and submit to Council for approval. – not required as not a Council meeting.

Principal or representative to be chair – Judy elected unopposed

6.0 OTHER BUSINESS

Up to date with DPIRD
Planned shop revamp for the Gate Collective
Hyden Markets may be rescheduled
Front door blind is being replaced - Esperance Blinds

7.0 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Newdegate Library Resource and Community Resource Centre Management Committee Meeting is scheduled to take place on TBC (October or when screening unit returns wording) commencing at 9:30am at the Newdegate Community Resource Centre, Mitchell St, Newdegate.

8.0 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Chairperson closed the meeting at 9:45.



Newdegate Swimming Pool Management Committee



NOTICE PAPER

To the Committee

Date: 8th May 2025

At: Newdegate Community Resource Centre, Mitchell St, Newdegate

Commencing: 9:00 am

To discuss the items of business in the agenda as set out on the following pages.

Acknowledgement of Country to be read by the Chairperson

I wish to acknowledge the traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, and pay my respects.

I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today.

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8.0 CLOSURE	5

Agenda/Minutes of the Newdegate Swimming Pool Management Committee Meeting to be held at the Newdegate Community Library, Mitchell Street, Newdegate on Tuesday 14 May 2024.

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE

Subject to directions of the Minister and the Shire and subject to the Licence and of these Rules the objectives are;

- 1) *to advise on the management and control of the Facilities by the Parties according to the terms of the Agreement;*
- 2) *to develop community awareness of the potential of the Facilities;*
- 3) *to promote communication between the Minister, the Shire and users of the Facilities, including booking guidelines and procedures;*
- 4) *to make recommendations to the Shire and the Minister on:*
 - a) *the conditions of hire;*
 - b) *hire charges;*
 - c) *staffing and maintenance;*
 - d) *the settlement and disputes involving management procedures; and*
 - e) *the standard of the Facilities.*

1.0 DECLARATION OF OPENING & ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 9:05am.

2.0 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Present

Judy Garlick	Principal Newdegate PS	DoE Representative
Jasmine Offer	Newdegate PS	DoE Representative
Rochell Walker	Newdegate PS	DoE Representative
Len Armstrong	President	Shire of Lake Grace
Roz Lloyd	Councillor	Shire of Lake Grace
Alan George	Chief Executive Officer	Shire of Lake Grace

Apologies

Nil

Observers/Visitors

Nil

3.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 NEWDEGATE SWIMMING POOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 12th November 2024

Recommendation/Resolution

Moved Jasmine Offer (Newdegate Primary School)

Seconded Alan George (CEO Shire of Lake Grace)

That the minutes of the Newdegate Swimming Pool Management Committee Meeting on 12th November 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED all /

4.0 REPORTS

4.1 NEWDEGATE SWIMMING POOL REPORT

Principal's Report:

There was an online meeting, 13th March, with Rob Tagliaferri (Regional Manager – Central Region – Buildings and Contracts, Department of Finance), Arek Prasek (Associate Director – structural & Aquatic Engineer – Built Environment Collective), Rowan Gilbert (H&H Architects), Alan George (CEO Shire of Lake Grace), Alison Spencer (Newdegate PS) and Judy Garlick (Principal Newdegate PS).

Discussion of need to allow a couple of days for water to degas, then empty using Shire pump and pipe at no more than 3-4 litres per second so the concrete doesn't dry out too fast, transfer the water to the school tanks (3 tanks of 250,000Litres capacity) and footy tank and header tank.

The pool was scanned (GPR Scanning) for cracks, leaks etc with a drone in Week 4 (27th March) with an orally given visual result of no cracks where the wall meets the base, no visible cracks elsewhere. Silicone looks good and there was no leakage as the water levels of the main pool didn't drop over the allocated time. The toddler pool had a 10mm drop in water level but no leak evident – could be impacted by the outlet pipe in the gutter.

Thanking the Shire of Lake Grace (Alan George and Craig Elefson) for taking responsibility for the emptying of the pool in Week 9 (1st April 2025) and transferring the water to the school tanks, Footy oval tanks and a truckload to the top header tank. Then ensuring the last of the water was removed ready for the coring.

Arek stated 'There are two hydrostatic valves in the diving bowl, and there is also a sump with an automatic pump that starts when the water level rises. This should provide sufficient protection for the pool.' which would protect from groundwater lifting.

Arek Prasek – Associate Director Structural & Aquatic Engineer - was onsite 7th and 8th April (7th while GPR scanning occurred, 8th while coring occurred) while coring was occurring and

gave an oral visual initial report that the concrete looks good, no cracks, was obviously good quality concrete used in the initial installation. He will send his report to Rob Tagliaferri.

Coring occurred 8th April, 18 cores – 3 at each site as indicated with chalk lines, and cores sent to the lab for testing, analysis will take 6-8 weeks. Arek took a sample for initial testing. Coring sites were filled with expanding solution to ensure no leakage in the future.

4.2 SHIRE OF LAKE GRACE REPORT

5.0 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

Appointment of Chairman of Committees of Council – meeting to nominate a person (does not have to be from Council) and submit to Council for approval. – Not necessary as not a Council meeting, just need an appointment of Chair – best to be Principal Newdegate Primary or representative -Judy elected unopposed.

Continue to follow up with DoE representatives in regard to continuation of process towards resurfacing. – awaiting further information from Rob Tagliaferri. Arel to give two options to the DoE (liner and megapoxy), tiling is very expensive.

Replacement of turf by Shire of Lake Grace is on hold until pool repairs are completed. Alan reported they have some turf from Perth Hockey Stadium in readiness – replace existing old turf in front of toilet block (with cool touch turf), near Toddlers' pool and under shade area. Replace lawn at the block end with turf so the cover roller can sit there as well.

6.0 OTHER BUSINESS

Currently about 50cm water in the pit from the rain and 5cm in one end of the toddlers' pool.

The Interschool Swimming Carnival held 6th March for Pingrup PS, Lake King PS and Newdegate PS was again very successful and well supported with nearly all parents in attendance.

In-Term swimming lessons were held in February this year to work with resurfacing of the pool, both Lake King and Newdegate use the pool for swimming lessons.

Newdegate also uses the pool for Phys Ed lessons a couple of times a week in Terms 1 and 4. Community use is very strong, particularly after school and weekends with the community valuing the facility.

7.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Newdegate Swimming Pool Management Committee Meeting is scheduled to take place on TBC - August or when results are returned- at the Newdegate Community Library, Mitchell Street, Newdegate commencing at 9:00 am.

8.0 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Chairperson closed the meeting at 9:20 am.



Lake King Progress Association

MINUTES

General Meeting

Wednesday 9th April 2025

- Meeting open: 7:07pm
- Presence and apologies
Present: Roz Lloyd, Len Armstrong, Aaron Wooldridge, Kevin Penny, Michael West, Dom Daly, Jade Penny, Cindy Atkins, Jo Brooks, Louise Teale, Lindsay Brownley, Rachael Winyard.

Apologies: Courtney Roberts, Rocket Roberts, Craig Brooks, Craig Elefsen, Alan George, Ross Chappell, Steve Hunt, Kaye Brownley, Rachel Hardey, Kylie Sugg
- Previous minutes from General Meeting 25th February 2025
Accepted: Dom Daly, Seconded: Rachael Winyard
- Business arising from previous meeting
 - Emergency Services Shed: remote has been replaced: refer to Shire report
 - Crossroads: road verge has been tidied.
- President's Report (Lindsay Brownley)
Continual discussion with Shire and Main Roads about speed limit through town. Thank you to Michael West for taking on the vice president. Thank you to the Shire representatives and Kevin Penny for attending the meetings tonight. Appreciate Kevin and Colins support and interest in Lake King and restoring the stamp battery and other historical features in the community.
- Treasurer's Report (Rachael Winyard)
Main expenses were the BAS. Zero subs have increased per month, seems to be across their platform. Closing balance \$389166.37
Moved Rachael Winyard, Seconded Jo Brooks
- Councillors Report (Aaron Wooldridge)
The emergency services door remote has been replaced, communicated to Kylie Sugg on the 17th March. All doors are now automatic. Plumber will be out to look at water issues. Shire has organised crossroads road verge work, it has been tidied and mulched. Bicentennial and cemetery fence to be completed at the same time: no date set yet. Note- ANZAC service will be taking place in the park on 25th April.

Pavillion is still in the works: new grants application still in process. Progress may need to contribute more funds to the project.

Pumps at the town dams have been turned off so that is why the ovals have not been watering. Negotiating with Water Corp to get some water carted to the sports ground dams. Stamp Battery and Equestrian Request to be discussed in general business

- Shire report (Len Armstrong)
Ovals are now looked after by contractors. Shire does not know when they are coming or going or what they are doing. Water supply is important so the pumps remaining on is essential. Electors meeting took place last month and no rate payers turned up therefore Shire assume there are no complaints or issues. Shire Community grants are available up to \$5000. Len will raise the issue of the speed limits again at the Roadwise meeting happening in Lake Grace tomorrow.
- Correspondence inwards
 - 14/2/25 S Cullen- Better Beginnings
 - 18/2/25 Australia Post - grant
 - 20/2/25 K Sugg – Roadwise meeting minutes
 - 25/2/25 R Dunkeld – finance invoice
 - C Elfesen – Mainroads response to speed limit
 - C Elfesen – Mainroads - Crossroads clean-up
 - 28/2/25 S Cullen – Better Beginnings
 - J Barr- invoice
 - 5/3/25 Australia Post – grant
 - A Turnbull – Streets Alive
 - 6/3/25 R Winyard – P&C invoice
 - 10/3/25 C Steele – Regional Arts WA
 - 12/3/25 Australia Post - grant
 - 17/3/25 S Cullen- Anzac Service
 - 19/3/25 Shire LG – hall hire Western Power
 - 20/3/25 R Sutherland – CLEMC agenda
 - 23/3/25 S Cullen – Anzac Service
 - 26/3/23 K Penny – meeting attendance
 - 27/3/25 C Elfesen – town gardener
 - Shire LG – hall hire Western Power
 - 28/3/25 S Cullen – Youth Week
 - 31/4/25 R Sutherland – survey
 - A Turnbull – community grants
 - S Cullen –Anzac
 - J Mead - Anzac
 - 4/4/25 K Armanasco – hall booking Western Power
 - J Barr- invoice
 - 5/4/25 F Barsby – western power
 - 7/4/25 A Turnbull – cleaner advert
- Correspondence outwards
 - 14/2/25 R Winyard – AGM minutes
 - 28/2/25 R Dunkeld – response
 - LK Progress Committee – Fwd. C Elfesen email
 - C Elfesen - reply
 - 4/3/25 LK Community – updates, minutes

18/3/25	A Turnbull – reply grants S Cullen – reply Anzac
24/3/25	F Barsby – Western Power hall booking R Winyard- P&C letter
26/3/25	K Penny – meeting attendance C Elfesen – parks tidy and events upcoming
31/3/25	100 year committee – Fwd. K Penny email LK Community – Youth Week info S Cullen- reply Anzac
4/3/25	J Mead- reply Anzac F Barsby – Western Power hall booking
6/4/25	LK Roadhouse & Agencies – Anzac breakfast order
7/4/25	A Adams – meeting LK Community & LG Shire – meeting agenda

- General business

- Pavilion – refer to shire report
- Bicentennial Playground – refer to shire report
- ANZAC service (Louise Teale)
Thank you to the school & Mr Daly for once again organising the service, during school holidays. Thank you to LG Shire for supplying a wreath. Progress Association will again provide breakfast and to organise a busy bee for clean-up of the church prior to the event.
- Stamp Battery & tourism (Kevin Penny)
Thank you for allowing my involvement in these projects. Major project at the moment is getting the stamp battery stood up (currently in the Shire depot yard) this will allow publicity photo shots with Track Care and other advertising. This will then hopefully generate stories and knowledge about the history of the workings of it at Hatters Hill. Progress Association may need to supply \$2000- \$3000 for the steel work of this. Also spoke to ABC radio in regards to the granite tanks. Other groups (4Wheel drive clubs) interested in assisting to restore the other 3. Issues may be getting permissions for access. National Trust have also been in contact. They want to do an archaeological survey on them but this may also create access issues in the future. Also wanting to help the 100 year committee with projects: in particular a digital record of farm localities and family ownership and personal histories with storage in the cloud (hopefully with the Shire financial support into the future).
- 100 Year (Louise Teale)
Have joined 'Town Team Movement', government initiative for invigorating town spaces through community projects. Lots of support and resources available. Looking at creating a historical mural, community involvement.
- Cemetery Update (Jo Brooks)
Rachel Hardey met with Craig Elefsen and contract builders at the cemetery for discussion of the new fence. Designs are in but we need a few more wheels. Jo to advertise for these. Works will be done at the same time as the Bicentennial Playground.
- Town entry signs (Lindsay Brownley)
Have spoken to Tyson Laycock, Mech Fab, and he will now get the tractor designs/files from Melissa Cugley (original artist of the tractor museum signage) to finalise our town entry signs.

- Town Gardener – thank you to Cheryl. Doing a really great job of tidying and caring for our public spaces and amenities.
- Lakes Equestrian Riding Club (Cindy Atkins)
For the past 9 months there have been regularly meetings and riding with a formal instructor, 12 riders (multi age). Horse Farrier services 90 horses in the area on an 8 week basis. Looking at becoming a non-profit organisation. Proposing to use the existing pavilion building for facilities and to create an equestrian club (2 arenas, round yard, float parking, water tank, shed etc: refer to plan). Cindy and Jana have met with Alan and Craig to look at the site and discussion with Shire now happening, more information 23rd April. Have sourced donations (cash and in kind) already and will also be seeking support from Lake King Progress Association.
Lindsay Brownley- a great initiative, but you will need to become affiliated with Lake King Progress Association and attend meetings regularly to be eligible for financial support.

“Propose that Lakes Equestrian Riding Club become a member of the Lake King Progress Association.”

Moved- Jade Penny, Seconded – Cindy Atkins

All in favour, accepted.

- Lake King Cart club (Aaron Wooldridge)
The LG Shire are seeking information from community on the cart clubs origins and history.
Suggestions to contact: John Pickernell, Neville Finn,

- Next LKPA General meeting date – Wednesday 30th July 2025
- Meeting closed: 8:02pm



MINUTES

Lake King Progress Association

Finance Meeting

Wednesday 9th April 2025

- Meeting Open: 7:00pm
- Present: Roz Lloyd, Len Armstrong, Aaron Wooldridge, Kevin Penny, Michael West, Dom Daly, Jade Penny, Cindy Atkins, Jo Brooks, Louise Teal, Lindsay Brownley, Rachael Winyard.
- Apologies: Courtney Roberts, Rocket Roberts, Craig Brooks, Steve hunt, Ross Chappell, Craig Elefsen, Alan George, Rachel Hardey, Kylie Sugg, Kaye Brownley,
- Previous Finance Meeting minutes, held on the 17th April 2024 (no meeting was held on 16th October 2024).

Accepted: Dom Daly, Seconded Rachael Winyard

- Business Arising
 - To set up funds for 100 year events leading up to and taking place in 2028- discuss in general meeting
- Finance Request Received
 1. (Submitted by Lake King P&C) apply for annual funds of \$5000.00 in exchange for the continued contribution of writing and distributing the community newsletter each fortnight. Funds will be used within school as needed.
All in favour- accepted
- Next LKPA Finance meeting date - Wednesday 15th October 2025
- Meeting Closed: 7:06pm



MINUTES

General Meeting

Monday 19 May 2025, Freebairn Recreation Centre Kulin, commencing 10.30 am.

1. **MEETING OPENED:** 10.31 am

2. **ATTENDANCE RECORD:**

2.1. Attendees:

President		Bevan Thomas
Vice President		Jen Green
Executive Officer / Marketing Coordinator		Alyssa Szekeres
Shire Representatives	Bruce Rock	Jen Verhoogt, Rachael Hearne
	Corrigin	Natalie Manton, Sharon Jacobs, Megan Leach
	Kondinin	-
	Kulin	Taryn Scadding, Robbie Bowey, Kirra Pederick
	Lake Grace	Jo Morgan, Len Armstrong, Aaron Wooldridge
	Narembeen	Hannah Bald, Georgia Atkins, Amy Hardham
	Quairading	Jo Hayes
	Beverley	Jacinta Murray, John Maxwell
Associate Members		

2.2. Apologies: David Burton, Kerrie Green, Alan George, Melissa Schilling, Tayla Bryant and Renee Faltyn.

2.3. Guests: -

3. **PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

3.1. Confirmation – GENERAL MEETING

MOTION

Moved: Taryn Scadding

Seconded: Amy Harding

That the Minutes of the Roe Tourism Association General Meeting held on 17 February 2025 at the Shire of Bruce Rock.

CARRIED

3.2. Business Arising from Previous General Meeting Minutes: -

4. **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

4.1 RTA Financial Report for period 01 February 2025 – 30 April 2025

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

MOTION

Moved: Jo Hayes

Seconded: Sharon Jacobs

That the Committee accepts the Financial Report for the period 01 February 2025 – 30 April 2025 as a true and accurate record.

5 REPORTS:

5.1 Presidents Report

- Congratulates Alyssa on safe arrival of her baby
- Keep feeding Alyssa information, events and updates to share

5.2 Marketing Coordinator Report

- Full marketing report attached.
- Shires have received positive feedback regarding Video Content Collaborating with Local Schools. Group going ahead with this project.

Action: Alyssa to find out Camping and Caravan Show dates for 2026.

Action: Alyssa to research Wildflower Society, possible membership.

Action: Group agreed to go ahead with digital Art Trail.

6 GENERAL BUSINESS:

6.1 Brochure Reprint Required

- Based on previous costings, a rough estimate for a smaller print run of 10,000 copies with only minor changes would be approximately \$6,000 (no GST applicable). This is more than budgeted for, group agreed to discuss possible options at next meeting in August.
- For reference, the last print run involved 14,000 copies and incurred higher costs due to extensive changes, including a map update and the addition of a new shire.

Action: Shires to send all adjustments to Alyssa by 30 June 2025

Action: Alyssa to collect feedback and gain an accurate quote for reprint.

6.2 Associate Membership Meeting Date/Presentations

- Group to discuss Associate Membership “showcase your business” opportunity as provided in the membership package.
- Group agree to lock in 2 dates (*based on numbers of members) for 2025-2026 Financial year to host virtual meetings with Associate members to have opportunity to share their business.

Action: Alyssa to contact 2024-2025 Financial year members to arrange 1 on 1 meetings to gain their insights and understanding.

Action: Alyssa to investigate presenters to talk to the shire representatives and associate members to gain knowledge and insights.

Action: Alyssa to share more details of associate membership on social media for shires to share on their social media.

6.3 Capturing Visitors and Feedback

- Group discussed the idea of gathering accommodation visitor data. Agreed to hold off on the Accommodation visitor data collection for this period.

Action: Alyssa to investigate AGO data collection or data collection options through 3rd party.

6.4 RTA Displays

- Group to discuss the idea of having a display for promotion of association and pathway at in-person events such as field days, ag shows, tourism events and more.

Action: Alyssa to look into grant opportunities to fund this.

Action: Alyssa to look into display options.

6.5 Pathways to Wave Rock Signage Project

- All shires have received their signage, with most having displayed theirs.
- Feedback was provided that the font needs to be larger in the future, possibly the signage itself needs to be larger also. Font can be hard to read/see when travelling at speed.

6.6 Social Media Update

- All shires are reminded to update their social media to correct details along with checking other websites such as Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre and Australia's Golden Outback.

Action: Shires to update their information on these websites.

7 MEMBER SHIRE REPORTS:

Beverley

- Dome Roadhouse now open 7 days/week – great to be able to get a coffee and fuel
- Pool upgrades have been started
- Hotel Beverley has been sold to new owners and is currently closed
- **Upcoming events:**
 - Beverley Airshow will be held on 11 April 2026 – date change
 - BSA events include; 21 Hearts and Lucy Durack
 - Beverley Show - 23 August
 - Vintage Car Racing Club Trials being held at old racecourse
- **Completed events:** Easter Tennis, Easter Markets and Art Exhibition (weeklong event this year)

Bruce Rock

- Local pie shop is reopening – great for town
- Brochures are being collated and updated
- Kokerbin Rock and Wildflower Drive are looking at being upgraded.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - Ag Show
 - Comedy Gold
 - John Wood and Dave Allen in September
 - Veterans Week - November

Corrigin

- Caravan Park and Walt Street RV stop are very busy – caravan clubs increased in town
- New Air BnB's open in area- short term accommodation
- Paddocks Camps still working on completing applications/management plans
- Brochures have been walking out the door – busy
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - Ag Show - 13 September
 - Festival of Small Halls – August
- **Completed events:** Art Exhibition, Museum Open Day (new and successful)

Kondinin

- No report shared

Kulin

- Kirra new Community Development Officer
- Updating tourist amenities in main street
- Pool and Slide structure upgrades have begun
- Aquatic Centre numbers have increased this year – great attendance
- Macrocarpa Walk Trail car park upgrades
- Budget updates and planning
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - Bush races (03, 04, and 05 October 2025)
- **Completed events:** Blazing Swan (saw approx. 4500 tourists - using local businesses)

Lake Grace

- Aaron Wooldridge new DCEO at shire
- Damage at Kwongan Heathland Walk, needing repairs and updates
- Jam Patch ECO Toilet issues and being replaced
- Jo attending Tourism Conference in Fremantle
- Lots of Caravans in and around the town
- Completed murals in Varley
- Lake King improvements to pony club and cemetery happening
- Lots of use of All Abilities Playground – particularly popular for ages 3-10
- New revamp of "Wave" signs
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - December Harvest Event
 - AIM Hospital 100 years celebration in 2026 preparations begin
 - "A Circus Sensation" in October
- **Completed events:** Lakes from Brakes event (350-400 attendees)

Narembreen.

- New caretaker at the Caravan Park – new online booking system
- Working towards accreditation for Dark Skies – Astrotourism
- Lake Walker and Avoca Farm interpretive signage installed
- Landscaping of Heritage Precinct starting in June
- Visit Narembreen Facebook page launched to match Instagram account
- Astrotourism signage entry signage into the town
- Bike track project – working with community
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - SOCK Week 2025 coming up – 18 towns applied for the funding

Quairading

- Caravan Park is very busy - Tender finalised for 2 x 1-bedroom cabins to alleviate short-term accommodation shortage
- Development of a 13-room motel approval has been successful
- Stage 1 redevelopment of sports precinct and more work to happen once funding approved/received
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - Star Tracks Astrotourism event – approx. 50 attendees

8 NEXT MEETING: 18 August 2025 at Shire of Quairading commencing at 10.30 am.

9 CLOSE OF MEETING: 12:03 pm

Thank you Kulin for hosting the meeting.