

# Murchison Country Zone of WALGA

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**Shires of** –ABN 75 305 122 944

Cue  
Meekatharra  
Mount Magnet  
Murchison  
**Sandstone**  
**Yalgoo**



## MINUTES

## MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE

## OF

## Western Australian Local Government Association

Friday 22 November 2019 9.30am

Council Chambers

Shire of Cue

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## Ordinary Meeting, Shire of Cue Council Chambers on Friday 22 November 2019

### 1. Opening

Cr R Foulkes-Taylor opened the meeting at 9.30 am and welcomed those present.

### 2. Attendance

#### 2.1 Delegates

Cr Rossco Foulkes-Taylor	Zone President Shire of Murchison
Cr Jorgen Jensen	President Mount Magnet Shire
Cr James McGorman	Shire of Mount Magnet
Cr Ross Pigdon	Shire of Cue
Cr Les Price	Deputy Zone President Shire of Cue
Cr Beth Walton	President Shire of Sandstone
Cr Carol Hodshon	Shire of Sandstone
Cr Harvey Nichols	Shire of Meekatharra
Mr Roy McClymont	CEO Shire of Meekatharra
Cr Emma Foulkes-Taylor	Shire of Murchison
Cr Greg Payne	President Shire of Yalgoo
Cr Gail Trenfield	Shire of Yalgoo

#### 2.2 Observers

Ms Samantha Appleton	Executive Officer Murchison Country Zone
Mr Rob Madson	CEO Shire of Cue
Mr Kelvin Matthews	CEO Shire of Mount Magnet
Mr John Read	Acting CEO Shire of Yalgoo
Mr Eddie Piper	Acting CEO Shire of Sandstone
Mr Bill Boehm	CEO Shire of Murchison

## 2.3 Visitors

Ms Barbara Thompson  
Mr Gavin Treasure  
Mr Stephen Greeve  
Mr Ian Bierman  
Mr Mark Holdsworth  
Hon Robin Scott  
Ms Chantelle Blight  
Mr Bernie Miller  
Mr Tim Lane

Mr Richard Malacari

Mr Mitch Hardy  
Mr Vince Catania MLA  
Mr David Modolo  
Ms Joanne Fabling  
Ms Cecile O'Connor  
Ms Eliz Morris  
Mr Jeff Calver

RDAMW  
CEO Midwest Development Commission  
Water Corporation  
Water Corporation  
RDAMW – Director  
MLC Member for Mining and Pastoral  
Water Corporation  
Main Roads WA  
Manager Strategy and Association Governance,  
WALGA  
Regional Manager Midwest- Gascoyne – Sport  
and Recreation  
Director of Regional Services – DLGSC  
Member for North West  
Electorate Officer for Robin Scott  
CEO Midwest Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Journalist – ABC  
Shire of Mount Magnet  
Regional Director WACH's Midwest

## 2.4 Apologies

Hon Mia Davies MLA  
Ms Melissa Price MHR  
Hon Mark McGowan MLA  
Hon Paul Papalia

Hon Bill Johnston MLA

Hon M P Murray MLA

Hon Dave Kelly MLA

Hon Sue Ellery MLC  
Hon Ben Wyatt MLA

Hon Rita Saffioti MLA  
Hon Michelle Roberts MLA  
Hon Simone McGurk MLA

Hon Peter Tinley AM MLA

Hon Francis Logan MLA

Hon Stephen Dawson MLC

Leader of National Party WA  
Minister for Environment, Member for Durack  
Premier of Western Australia  
MLA Minister for Tourism; Racing and gaming;  
Small Business; Defence Issues; Citizenship and  
MultiCultural Issues  
Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Commerce  
and Industrial Relations; Electoral Affairs; Asian  
Engagement.  
Minister for Seniors and Ageing: Sport and  
Recreation  
Minister for Water; Fisheries; Forestry; Innovation  
and ICT; Science  
Minister for Education and Training  
Treasurer; Minister for Finance; Energy;  
Aboriginal Affairs  
Minister for Transport; Planning: Lands  
Minister for Police; Road Safety  
Minister for Child Protection; Women's Interests;  
Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence;  
Community Services.  
Minister for Housing: Veterans Issues:  
Youth  
Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective  
Services  
Minister for Environment; Disability Services

Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC	Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Minister assisting the Minister for State Development; Jobs and Trade.
Hon Roger Cook MLA	Deputy Premier of WA: Minister for Health; Mental Health
Hon David Templeman	Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Culture and the Arts
Hon John Quigley	Attorney General: Minister for Commerce
Ms Isabel Ross	Mental Health Promotion Coordinator WACHS Midwest
Hon Kyle McGinn MLC	Member for Mining and Pastoral Region
Hon Ken Baston MLC	Member for Mining and Pastoral Region
Samantha Adams	Roadwise
Mr Brendan Wilson	A / District Officer - SES Midwest
Hon Senator Dean Smith	Senator for Western Australia

### **3. Official Opening of Conference**

The Honourable Robin Scott MLC performed the official opening of the meeting.

### **4. Confirmation of the Minutes**

#### **4.1 Confirmation of Minutes – Ordinary Meeting 3 May 2019**

##### Comment –

Minutes of the meeting held 3 May 2019 have been circulated to Member Shires.

##### Recommendation –

That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held 3 May 2019 be confirmed.

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**RESOLUTION –      Moved: Cr Jensen      Seconded: CEO McClymont**

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**That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held 3 May 2019 be confirmed.**

**Carried 12/0**

### **5. Election of Office Bearers**

#### **5.1 Elections of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Murchison Country Zone**

Cr R Foulkes-Taylor vacated the chair. The Executive Officer assumed the chair for the purposes of the election of office bearers.

Pursuant to the WALGA Constitution, the Secretariat shall assume the Chair for conducting the election of office bearers.

Guidelines for elections were distributed to Member Councils as an attachment to a letter dated 18 October 2019.

The election for the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson shall be conducted and the term set at two years expiring in November 2019, in line with the terms of State Council representatives and in sync with Local Government Elections.

The following nomination was received for the positions of Chair for 2 years, November 2019 to November 2021.

- Cr Ross Foulkes-Taylor    Shire of Murchison

#### **DECLARATION**

**That Cr Ross Foulkes-Taylor, Shire of Murchison, be elected as Chairperson of the Murchison Country Zone for the term of 2 years, November 2019 to November 2021.**

The following nomination was received for the positions of Deputy Chair for 2 years, November 2019 to November 2021.

Cr Leslie Price                      Shire of Cue

## **DECLARATION**

**That Cr Leslie Price, Shire of Cue, be elected as Deputy Chairperson of the Murchison Country Zone for the term of 2 year, November 2019 to November 2021.**

### **5.2 Elections of State Council Representative and Deputy State Council representative to the Murchison Country Zone**

Pursuant to the WALGA Constitution, the Secretariat shall assume the Chair for conducting the election of representatives and deputy representatives to the State Council.

Guidelines for elections were distributed to Member Councils as an attachment to a letter dated 18 October 2019.

WALGA incorporates a 24 members State Council with its members derived from Metropolitan and Country Zones. The State Council is chaired by the Association President.

In accordance with sub-clause 9(3) of the WALGA Constitution representatives and deputy representatives to the State Council shall be elected by Zones of the Metropolitan and Country constituencies for two (2) year terms, commencing from the Ordinary Meeting of State Council in December 2017 and concluding at the Ordinary Meeting of State Council two years later.

For the Murchison Country Zone, there is one (1) representative position on State Council and one (1) deputy representative position. The term is from the Ordinary Meeting of State Council in December 2019 and concluding at the Ordinary Meeting of State Council in December 2021.

The following nomination was received for the position of State Council Representative:

·              Cr Leslie Price                      Shire of Cue

## **DECLARATION**

**That Cr L Price, Shire of Cue be elected as the State Council Representative of the Murchison Country Zone to the State Council for the term of 2 years, December 2019 to December 2021.**

The following written nomination was received for the position of Deputy State Council Representative.

·              Ross Foulkes-Taylor                      Shire of Murchison

## **DECLARATION**

**That Cr Ross Foulkes-Taylor, Shire of Murchison be elected as Deputy State Council Representative of the Murchison Country Zone to the State Council for the term of 2 years, December 2019 to December 2021.**

### **5.3 Representative and Deputy Representative to Regional LEMAC - Term Expires Oct 2021**

The following written nomination was received for the position of Representative to the Regional LEMAC for a period of 2 years.

· Cr Gregory Payne                      Shire of Yalgoo

## **DECLARATION**

**That Cr Gregory Payne, Shire of Yalgoo be elected as the Representative of the Murchison Country Zone to the Regional LEMAC for the term of 2 years to October 2021.**

The following written nomination was received for the position of Deputy Representative to the Regional LEMAC for a period of 2 years.

Cr Ross Pigdon                      Shire of Cue

## **DECLARATION**

**That Cr Ross Pigdon, Shire of Cue be elected as the Deputy Representative of the Murchison Country Zone to the Regional LEMAC for the term of 2 years to October 2021.**

Cr Foulkes Taylor resumed the chair.

## **6. WA Local Government Association**

### **6.1 WALGA President**

Mr Tim Lane Manager, Strategy and Association Governance, WALGA commented on the WALGA President's address, he also provided information about the recent Local Government Elections, the Local Government Act Review and provided background to items submitted by WALGA.

#### **Western Australian Local Government Elections**

Local Government elections were recently conducted in Western Australia. The Western Australian Electoral Commission released this year's participation rate at 28.5%, a drop from 2017, at 34.5%. However, it is on par with the trend of previous participation rates at 27.5% in 2015 and 27.8% in 2013

In fact, participation rates have been relatively unchanged since the introduction of postal voting in the late 1990s. Prior to the availability of postal voting in most Local Government elections, participation rates averaged just 15%.

Despite the boost in participation rate from the introduction of postal voting, the evidence shows this method is becoming more expensive and less appealing, with a decline in postal services.

The decline led to postal issues that affected many regional communities, with voting packages failing to arrive on time. Anecdotally, a number of metropolitan residents had the same issue.

The Local Government Minister was made aware of this matter and has committed to undertaking a review, in partnership with WALGA and the Electoral Commission, in the New Year.

Postal issues aside, this year's participation rate is mostly what can be expected from voluntary voting. Despite media reports that argued for the need to spend more money on marketing campaigns to encourage the community to vote, community issues ultimately influence voter participation in the Local Government elections.

Research undertaken by WALGA has failed to identify a statistical correlation between Local Government general election advertising campaigns and overall voter turnout. Instead, the research demonstrated that critical or topical issues and high profile candidates are the highest contributing variables to voter participation at elections.

This year WALGA and the State Government launched a joint campaign to encourage nominations that represented the diversity in our communities.

This campaign aimed to reach individuals from diverse backgrounds who wanted to participate in community debate and pleasingly the campaign saw more than the expected number of people completing the mandatory online induction process to run for election.

The Government has already strongly signalled that it does not favour a move to compulsory voting for Local Government elections however with legislative reform underway the Association will consult closely with our members to adequately test any proposed policy changes.

## Select Committee into Local Government

On 26 June 2019 the Legislative Council established the Select Committee into Local Government (Committee) to inquire into how well the system of local government is functioning in Western Australia. The Committee's reporting date is 26 June 2020.

The Committee received a significant response to its call for submissions; 276 submissions have been received and are being considered by the Committee.

According to the Committee –

*“The submissions provide a range of perspectives both from within and outside of local government, and canvass a wide range of issues. Some submissions explicitly address the Committee's terms of reference and discuss broad issues regarding the system of local government in Western Australia. Other submissions express strong views about individual local governments, or provide detailed information about specific issues or challenges relating to local government. The Committee will examine a range of systemic issues raised in submissions.”*

The Committee has conducted preliminary private briefings with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, WALGA, and the Office of the Auditor General and has recently commenced public hearings. WALGA has been advised that it will be required to give evidence at future public hearings with the first likely to focus on Local Government Insurance Services.

## Local Government Act Review Update

The review of the *Local Government Act 1995* is an important opportunity to transform the statutory framework that defines and limits Western Australian Local Government activities. WALGA has advocated strongly for a 'Principles over Prescription' approach to the Act Review and active promotion of the benefits of the general principles as listed below. Intended to safeguard against the new Local Government Act becoming overly prescriptive, these principles are:

1. Provide for a flexible, principles-based legislative framework;
2. Uphold the General Competence Principle currently embodied in the current Act;
3. Promote a size and scale compliance regime;
4. Promote enabling legislation that empowers Local Government to carry out activities beneficial to its community taking into consideration the Local Government's role in creating a sustainable and resilient community through - Economic Development; Environmental Protection; and Social Advancement.

WALGA has advocated for the Government to reconsider its approach to the legislative review through the establishment of an independent panel of experts to guide the process. Pleasingly the Local Government Minister recently announced the formation of an expert panel to progress the development of the new Local Government Act.

The Local Government Review Panel will consider and recommend high-level direction and guiding principles for the new Act.

The Panel will also continue to engage with the sector, community and stakeholders, and make recommendations on the requirements of a new Local Government Act to meet the future needs of Local Government.

The panel will be chaired by Balcatta MLA David Michael and joined by fellow panel members:

- Professor John Phillimore, Executive Director of the John Curtin Institute of Public Policy;
- A/Professor Graham Sansom of the University of Technology Sydney;
- Ms Anne Wood, Partner at Kott Gunning Lawyers, who specialises in local government law;
- Mr Henry Zelones OAM, the former long-serving Mayor of the City of Armadale; and
- Mr Duncan Ord OAM, Director General of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.

The panel will look at best practice models in Australia and overseas as well as feedback from the recent consultation on WA's Local Government Act 1995

### **Coastal Adaptation Planning and Funding**

I recently met with the WA Premier, Treasurer and Ministers for Local Government and Environment, to reiterate the need for all levels of Government to support local government in its coastal management responsibilities. As I highlighted at the last ALGA Board meeting, in August the Western Australian Government released its state-wide Coastal Erosion Hotspot Report that has identified 55 high priority hotspots requiring a conservatively estimated \$110 million to address over the next five years. The WA Premier sought support at the last COAG meeting in Cairns for a national response.

The recent discussion with the Premier and Ministers indicated that the issue was on the agenda for the November 8th meeting of Environment Ministers. It is pleasing that the issue is now on the national political agenda.

Accordingly, I reiterate the imperative for ALGA and its members to orchestrate a campaign to advocate to the Federal and respective State Governments for the:-

- Introduction of a national funding formula to provide the resources necessary to manage and maintain the coast effectively on behalf of all Australians, including the funds needed to increase the adaptive capacity of Councils to address climate impacts.
- Allocation of additional Financial Assistance Grants to address coastal hazards, and broadening of the range of 'disabilities' listed under Financial Assistance Grants to include factors such as the vulnerability of coastal areas and communities to coastal hazards.
- Development of an intergovernmental agreement on the Coastal Zone that will provide a co-ordinated national approach to coastal governance through and in cooperation with Australian state, territory and local governments and clearly define the roles and responsibilities of each tier of government in relation to coastal zone management.
- Creation of a National Coastal Policy, the basis of which is formed by the intergovernmental agreement on the Coastal Zone, that outlines the principles, objectives

and actions to be taken to address the challenges of integrated coastal zone management for Australia.

- An increase in funding for Australian climate science research programs conducted by CSIRO and other research bodies, including the restoration of funding for the National Climate Change Adaption Research Facility or establishment of a similar body, and continuing support for CoastAdapt. This is essential to ensure that appropriate guidance in responding to coastal hazards is accessible by Australia's coastal Councils so that coastal communities and assets are adequately prepared to address the adverse effects of climate change impacts

### **Preferred Supplier Program – National Contracts**

WALGA continues to participate strongly in the development and use of national supplier contracts. In September of this year, the National Microsoft Arrangement was finalised with Stage 2 going live and being made available to WALGA and LGANT local government members. Other states such as Local Government Associations of SA and Victoria will consider the appropriateness of entering into the arrangement once their current arrangement with Microsoft expires.

The arrangement allows for better than government discounted pricing of up to 10 per cent on enterprise agreements with additional features including aggregation the need of smaller local governments in order to overcome barriers of entry due to minimum threshold level requirements. This approach is a first for Microsoft globally and will allow many smaller local governments that previously did not have access to the full range of Microsoft products to have the same access as larger local governments at the same discounted pricing.

A new and additional category under the arrangement allows suppliers to provide cloud based solutions with software licensing as a service to local governments. This will assist many smaller local governments that are not interested in participating in an enterprise agreement and in purchasing licenses only but would rather seek a solution in the delivery of a service. The supply of Microsoft licenses would be incidental in the delivery of the solution. This approach is particular useful in the growing adoption of smart city solutions to everyday challenges. It also allows local governments to scale up or scale down their requirements, thereby minimising cost and budget constraints.

The new contract will be in place at least until end of March 2022 with a possible extension to 2025.

### **Regional Health**

As is experienced across the Nation, Provision of quality Health services to regional WA continues to be a high priority and one that continues to require dedicated attention from WALGA, particularly Local Government's role in service provision and support.

The Association has been working in this area since at least 2002 and has endeavoured to support its members in advocating for better solutions to address this serious issue.

In May 2018 WALGA conducted the Regional Health Services in Western Australia Survey of Local Governments, receiving a total of 161 responses from 91 Local Governments, representing 66% of members. Of the total 91 participating Local Governments, 31 Wheatbelt Local Governments participated in the survey.

The predominant themes from WALGA's survey were:

1. Workforce challenges in recruiting and retaining doctors, nurses and allied health staff (health professionals).
2. Distance to travel to see a health professional.
3. Access to health professionals (Hours of operation or number of staff providing service).
4. Aged care services for people to stay within their region as they age are limited.

Following a Health Services event in early 2019, attended by many regional members, a Wheatbelt Regional Health Services Forum was held in partnership with the North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils (NEWROC) in Trayning on 20 September 2019. The Forum was held with key service providers and stakeholders; WACHS, St John Ambulance, WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA), Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS), Regional Development Australia (RDA) and the Hon Mia Davies MLA. There were 52 participants in this Forum.

The event recognised the increase in challenges and issues arising in the health sector across the region and provided an opportunity for Local Governments in the Wheatbelt to receive vital information about health services from key health service providers and stakeholders and to discuss solutions specifically targeted to the region. The Forum has further provided key actions to assist with WALGA's advocacy moving forwards to support members in the country as well as the overall health and wellbeing of communities that Local Government serve.

### **5G Telecommunications**

Following consultation with members WALGA has made a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Communications and the Arts *Inquiry into the deployment, adoption and application of 5G in Australia*. Local Governments have highlighted risks to the functionality of existing infrastructure that 5G antennas may be attached to and the potential cost impacts when telecommunications infrastructure needs to be relocated or removed to facilitate developments in the road reserve. 5G mobile phone antennas appear to be defined as low impact facilities in the 2018 Determination and therefore Local Governments would only be notified of their installation. The Association asserts that while one antennae may be of low impact, numerous of these have a cumulative, significant impact and there should be a requirement to follow an approval process.

### **LED Street Lighting**

Following extensive advocacy, the major electricity distributor has now added 3000K LED street lights as an option and the default replacement for failed luminaries on Local Government roads. This is a further step in providing opportunities to increase efficiency and performance of street lighting in WA.

### **Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network**

The Roads of Strategic Importance Initiative (ROSI) funded project to upgrade a network of 80 secondary freight routes connecting the National and State highways with businesses in the Wheatbelt region is continuing with the Federal Government indicating a keen interest in accelerating on-ground work as much as possible.

The Commonwealth has allocated an initial \$70 million to deliver the highest priority projects across the network as part of the Roads of Strategic Importance initiative. State and Local Government funding commitments will be added to this. The WSFN working group model is believed to be the largest place based regional collaboration of LGAs in Australia.

Project Governance arrangements were recently agreed by the 42 participating Local Governments. On-ground works are scheduled to commence in February 2020.

### **Heavy Vehicle Access**

The ability of Local Governments to manage access for vehicles that are longer and/or heavier than standard is being challenged by proposed changes to Restricted Access Vehicle network conditions. Local Governments that depend on agreements with mining companies to contribute to the costs of maintaining access roads are particularly impacted by foreshadowed changes.

### **PRESIDENT'S CONTACTS**

From the 5 September to 3 December 2019 period, contacts that have occurred or are scheduled to take place prior to the September State Council meeting are as follows:

#### **State Government Relations:**

- Hon. David Templeman MLA, Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Culture and the Arts
- State Local Government Partnership Agreement Leadership Group Meeting.

#### **Local Government Relations**

- ALGA Board Meeting X 2
- Municipal Waste Advisory Council
- LGIS Board Meeting
- Local Government Act Reference Group meeting
- Productivity Commission meeting
- LGANT Conference
- State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee meeting
- New Councillor Seminar
- ALGA National Local and Transport Roads Congress
- Civic Sunday Service
- Select Committee Hearing
- Local Government House Trust Board of Management Meeting
- Executive Committee Meeting
- LGIS Event Key Stakeholder Lunch
- City of Armadale Civic Cocktail Function
- Shire of Chittering, CEO Matthew Gilfellon, President Cr Don Gibson & Deputy President Cr John Davis
- City of Subiaco Mayor Penny Taylor
- President's End of Year Cocktails
- Mining Communities Policy Forum

#### **Conferences / Workshops / Public Relations**

- Flashpoint – Seven West Media

- RAC Breakfast with Charles Montgomery
- RAC meeting with Pat Walker
- Town Team movement meeting
- RAC President's Cocktail Reception
- Local Government and Mental Health Forum
- Remembrance Day Service Kings Park RSLWA
- Men's Shed WA meeting with Gary Bryant and Russell Candy
- Meeting with Henry Zelones OAM

### **Zone Meetings**

- Pilbara Country Zone Meeting

## **6.2 Zone Representative to State Council - Cr Les Price**

Cr Price presented information to the meeting about Local Government Structure and WALGA's recent activity. He also discussed his item concerning the Mining Act as well as congratulated Murray Brown for receiving the Local Government Distinguished Award and the Shire of Meekatharra for winning their Secondary School and Overall Winner categories of the WALGA 2019 #shoWcAse in Pixels competition (formerly Banners in the Terrace). He also urged all Councils to send in items to the Western Councillor magazine issued by WALGA.

**The meeting adjourned for Morning Tea at 9.30am and resumed at 11.00am.**

Mr Stephen Green and Mr Ian Bierman then did a presentation on behalf of the Water Corporation regarding the Electro Dialysis Reversal Plants being installed in Mount Magnet, Cue, Sandstone and Meekatharra.



## MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE STATUS REPORT November 2019

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Up-date	WALGA Contact
<b>Murchison Country Zone</b>	<b>2019 March 15 Zone Agenda Item</b> Salaries and Allowances Tribunal – Location Allowance	There needs to be a review of the current location allowances. There needs to be more of an incentive for CEO's in really remote locations. (Very little difference between the allowances for Mingenew as opposed to Wiluna).	The Zones position will be considered in future reviews of the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal review of CEO salaries.	Nov 2019	<b>Tony Brown</b> <b>Executive Manager</b> <b>Governance and</b> <b>Organisational Services</b> <b>9213 2051</b> <a href="mailto:tbrown@walga.asn.au">tbrown@walga.asn.au</a>
<b>Murchison Country Zone</b>	<b>2018 April 24 Zone Agenda Item 6.5</b> Aboriginal Corporation Rates Exemption Matters	That the Region request WALGA to consider and consult on a plan to provide funding for a test case within the next two or three years to resolve whether property owners targeting Aboriginal Australian tenants are capable of claiming rates exemption and the evidentiary burden required to respond to claims of that nature.	The Association is considering this item.  In addition WALGA is advocating for a review of all rating exemptions in the current Local Government Act Review process.  This issue is a key item in phase 2 of the review process that has just commenced.	Nov 2019	<b>Tony Brown</b> <b>Executive Manager</b> <b>Governance and</b> <b>Organisational Services</b> <b>9213 2051</b> <a href="mailto:tbrown@walga.asn.au">tbrown@walga.asn.au</a>

## **6.4 Agenda Briefs – WALGA Meeting 4 December 2019**

### **Recommendation**

That WALGA agenda items 5.1 to 5.17 be supported and agenda information items 6.1 to 6.11 be noted.

### **RESOLUTION**

Moved Cr                      Seconded Cr

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**That WALGA agenda items 5.1 to 5.17 be supported and agenda information items 6.1 to 6.11 be noted.**

**Carried/Defeated:**

**Motion Amended to reflect concern about timing and consistency of the audit process.**

### **AMENDED RESOLUTION**

Moved Cr E Foulkes Taylor

Seconded Cr Price

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**That WALGA agenda items 5.1 to 5.17 be supported with the following amendment to item 5.6 and agenda information items 6.1 to 6.11 be noted.**

#### **5.6     *Local Government Audits (05-034-01-0001 TB)***

**That WALGA;**

- 1) Write to the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) advising of the cost increases to the Local Government sector in respect to financial audits over the first 2 years of OAG audits and request constraint on audit cost increases in the future.**
- 2) Write to the Minister for Local Government seeking formal commitment that Performance Audits carried out by the Office of the Auditor General are the responsibility of the State Government.**
- 3) Write to the Minister seeking a formal commitment that audits of Local Governments are completed and reported on in a timely manner and that the processes, procedures and scope of audits are consistently applied.**

**Carried 12/0**

# MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA

## FLYING AGENDA

### WALGA STATE COUNCIL MATTERS FOR DECISION and NOTING

#### AT WALGA MEETING OF WEDNESDAY 4 December 2019

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*The following recommendations have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 4 December 2019 and which contains important detail of each item.*

*Each recommendation is followed by a direction to refer to the full WALGA State Council Agenda and 3 voting options. This is an editable Word Document so all that is required is to delete the 2 voting options you do not support and in the case of option 3 state your alternative recommendation.*

*Please note that this agenda will be included in our Zone Agenda for discussion on 22 November 2019 so no response is required until our meeting on the Friday 22 November 2019.*

#### **5. Matters for Decision**

##### **5.1 2020-21 State Budget Submission (05-001-03-0006 NF)**

*By Nebojsa Franich, Policy Manager - Economics*

#### **Recommendation**

**That WALGA's submission to the State Government in advance of the 2020-21 Budget be endorsed.**

#### **In Brief**

- Each year, WALGA prepares a submission to the State Government outlining the sector's priorities for the upcoming budget.
- WALGA's strategy for the 2020-21 Budget Submission is to:
  - 4.2 Recognise the challenging economic context the State is in
  - 4.3 Align the sector's asks with State Government priorities and KPIs
  - 4.4 Demonstrate value for money for anything that we ask for
  - 4.5 Be as specific as possible in our asks
  - 4.6 Stand out from the crowd by being targeted and succinct
  - 4.7 Establish relationships and united voices with other advocacy bodies and within Government wherever possible.
- The following four strategic themes form the basis of WALGA's Submission and highlight the key areas the sector is seeking funding or policy change in the 2020-21 State Budget.
  - Empowering Local Governments to contribute to the State's priorities

- Establishing a Strategic Approach to Economic Development in WA
  - Investing in Important Local Government Infrastructure
  - Ensuring a Sustainable Environment for our Communities
- Across the identified four strategic themes, WALGA has put forward 18 initiatives in its 2020-21 State Budget Submission that total \$287 million across the four year forward estimates period. Some 90 per cent of the total funding ask is contained within just six initiatives – demonstrating that WALGA’s funding asks are targeted and are not extensive. In addition, WALGA has suggested a reprioritisation of expenditure from specific existing sources of funding for the majority of the initiatives put forward, in order to ensure future budget surpluses are maintained.
  - In developing the Submission, WALGA has sought feedback from State Council at the Strategic Forum in September and from members throughout September and October.
  - Once it has been endorsed by State Council and submitted to the State Government in mid-December, each Elected Member will be provided with a copy of the Submission to assist them as they advocate to Members of Parliament in their own regions.

## Attachment

WALGA 2020-21 State Budget Submission:

<https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/Documents/State-Budget-Submission-Draft-Draft.pdf?lang=en-AU>

- *Please indicate your stance on this recommendation by deleting 2 of the below options. In the case of an alternative recommendation, please state alternate recommendation.*
- **Support WALGA Recommendation**
- **Not Support WALGA Recommendation**
- **Alternative Recommendation**

## 5.2 Interim Submission - Remote Area Tax Concessions (05-001-03-0006 NF)

*By Nebojsa Franich, Policy Manager Economics*

### Recommendation

**That WALGA’s interim submission to the Productivity Commission’s Draft Report into Remote Area Tax Concessions and Payments be endorsed.**

### In Brief

- In late 2018, Treasurer Josh Frydenberg provided the Productivity Commission with a terms of reference to undertake a study into the zone tax offset and related remote area tax concessions and payments.
- In September 2019, the Productivity Commission released its Draft Report, which recommended:
  - the abolition of the Zone Tax Offset;

- a review of remote area assistance payments and boundaries;
  - a tightening of fringe benefits tax treatment related to employer provided and employee sourced housing;
  - a tightening of fringe benefits tax treatment for concessions and exemptions relating to residential fuel, meals and holiday transport, and no changes to existing fringe benefit tax exemptions and concessions for FIFO arrangements.
- In October 2019, WALGA provided an Interim Submission to the draft report. WALGA's Submission was based on member feedback and was in alignment with its original Submission to the Issues Paper. In brief, WALGA's Submission:
    - highlighted some of the challenges that make it difficult for regional and remote communities to secure sustained population and workforce growth;
    - maintained that the rationale for retaining remote area tax concessions and payments of regional development still exists;
    - outlined concerns that some of the recommendations contained in the Draft Report go directly against regional development objectives and will have a considerable negative impact on the WA Local Government sector; and
    - outlined concerns that the Draft Report fails to adequately assess the employment and economic impacts of the proposed changes, and also doesn't provide a realistic view of alternative, better mechanisms to support regional development.
  - It is anticipated that the Productivity Commission will release its Final Report in February 2020.

## Attachment

WALGA Submission to the Productivity Commission's Draft Report into Remote Area Tax Concessions and Payments can be found here:

[https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/Documents/WALGA-s-Response-The-Productivity-Commission%E2%80%99s-Draft-Report-on-Remote-\(1\).pdf?lang=en-AU](https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/Documents/WALGA-s-Response-The-Productivity-Commission%E2%80%99s-Draft-Report-on-Remote-(1).pdf?lang=en-AU)

- *Please indicate your stance on this recommendation by deleting 2 of the below options. In the case of an alternative recommendation, please state alternate recommendation.*
- **Support WALGA Recommendation**
- **Not Support WALGA Recommendation**
- **Alternative Recommendation**

## **5.3 Mandatory Code of Conduct for Council Member, Committee Members and Candidates – Sector Feedback (05-034-01-0001JMc)**

*By James McGovern, Manager Governance*

## **Recommendation**

**That WALGA:**

1. Request the Mandatory Code of Conduct Working Group be reconvened by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries;
2. Refer the following matters to the Working Group for further consideration:

**(a) Part B – Behaviours**

- i. ensuring principles of natural justice can be adequately upheld in all circumstances;
- ii. training opportunities that will assist Council Members determine complaint outcomes under Part B;
- iii. development of a template Complaints Management Policy;
- iv. reconsider the purpose of allowing 'any person' to make a complaint;
- v. ensuring Committee Members and Candidates are included in Part B; and
- vi. re-naming 'Rules' to an appropriate term throughout Part B.

**(b) Part C – Rules of Conduct**

- i. review the rationale for creating a new Rule of Conduct breach where three or more breaches of Part B – Behaviours are found and the Local Government resolves to refer the matter to the Local Government Standards Panel; and
- ii. review the proposal to amend the definition of an 'interest' relating to Impartiality Interests from the present definition in Regulation 11 of the Local Government (Rules of Conduct) Regulations.

3. Recommend the Working Group develop an endorsed Mandatory Code of Conduct for further consultation with the Local Government sector.

**In Brief**

- The *Local Government Legislation Amendment Act 2019* was assented to in July 2019 and introduced a range of Act amendments, including provision by future amendment to Section 5.103, for a mandatory Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Election Candidates.
- In preparation for the new Code, the Department formed a Working Group that included WALGA, to consider the content of a future Code.
- Prior to endorsement by the Working Group, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries released a Consultation Paper in September requesting sector feedback by the amended date of 6 December 2019.
- WALGA provided a Draft Submission to Member Local Governments and feedback received by 25 October is incorporated in this report; additional commentary is anticipated as part of the WALGA Zone process.

**Attachments**

- Mandatory Code of Conduct – Draft for Consultation:

<https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/Documents/Item-5-3-attachment-draft-code-of-conduct-with-guidelines.docx?lang=en-AU>

- WALGA Mandatory Code of Conduct Draft:

- Please indicate your stance on this recommendation by deleting 2 of the below options. In the case of an alternative recommendation, please state alternate recommendation.
- **Support WALGA Recommendation**
- **Not Support WALGA Recommendation**
- **Alternative Recommendation**

#### **5.4 Standards and Guidelines for CEO Recruitment and Selection, Performance Review and Termination – Sector Feedback (05-034-01-0001 JMC)**

*By James McGovern, Manager Governance*

#### **Recommendation**

**That WALGA:**

- 1. Request the CEO Recruitment and Selection, Performance Review and Termination Working Group be reconvened by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries; and**
- 2. Refer the following matters to the Working Group for consideration:**
  - (a) Removal from the Model Standards the requirement to readvertise CEO positions after 10 years of continuous service;**
  - (b) Encouraging, rather than mandating, the involvement of an independent person in the CEO Recruitment and Selection Process;**
  - (c) Reconsideration of the proposal for independent review of the recruitment process;**
  - (d) Support the role of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries as the regulator for monitoring and compliance; and**
  - (e) Further investigate a role for a Local Government Commissioner.**
- 3. Recommend the Working Group develop endorsed Model Standards for further consultation with the Local Government sector.**

#### **In Brief**

- The *Local Government Legislation Amendment Act 2019* was assented to in July 2019 and introduced a range of Act amendments, including provision by future commencement of new Section 5.39A 'Model standards for CEO recruitment, performance and termination.'
- The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries formed a Working Group that included WALGA, to consider the content of future Model Standards.
- Prior to endorsement by the Working Group, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries released a Consultation Paper in September requesting sector feedback by the amended date of 6 December 2019.

- WALGA provided a Draft Submission to Member Local Governments and feedback received by 25 October is incorporated in this report; additional commentary is anticipated as part of the WALGA Zone process.

### Attachments

- Standards and Guidelines for CEO Recruitment, Performance Review and Termination – Draft for Consultation:

<https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/Documents/Item-5-4-attachment-draft-ceo-standards-and-guidelines.docx?lang=en-AU>

- WALGA Model CEO Standards Draft Submission:

<https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/Documents/Item-5-4-attachment-Draft-Submission-on-CEO-Standards-and-Guidelines-O.pdf?lang=en-AU>

- *Please indicate your stance on this recommendation by deleting 2 of the below options. In the case of an alternative recommendation, please state alternate recommendation.*
- **Support WALGA Recommendation**
- **Not Support WALGA Recommendation**
- **Alternative Recommendation**

### 5.5 Local Government Financial Ratios (05-034-01-0001 TB)

*By Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services*

#### Recommendation

- 1) That WALGA advocate to the Minister for Local Government to amend the Local Government Financial Management Regulations to provide for the following ratios;
  - a. Operating Surplus Ratio
  - b. Debt Service Coverage Ratio
  - c. Asset Sustainability Ratio
  - d. Current Ratio
  - e. Net Financial Liabilities Ratio
- 2) The recommended indicators to the financial ratios be referred to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and the Office of the Auditor General for consideration;
  - a) Operating Surplus Ratio  
A key indicator of a Local Government's financial performance is the Operating Surplus relative to the operating revenues. A benchmark result of 0% or greater is considered acceptable. Advanced is 15% or above.
  - b) Debt Service Coverage Ratio  
A Local Government's ability to service debt is measured by the "Debt Service Cover Ratio". This is the measurement of a local

government's ability to produce enough cash to cover its debt payments. A Basic standard is achieved if the ratio is greater than or equal to 2. An Advanced standard is achieved if the ratio is greater than 5

**c) Asset Sustainability Ratio**

Measures capital expenditure on renewal or replacement of assets, relative to depreciation expense. Standard is met if the ratio can be measured and is 90% (or 0.90) Standard is improving if this ratio is between 90% and 110% (or 0.90 and 1.10)

**d) Current Ratio**

Liquidity refers to how quickly and cheaply an asset can be converted into cash. A Local Government's liquidity is measured by the "Current Ratio". This ratio provides information on the ability of a Local Government to meet its short-term financial obligations out of unrestricted current assets. Standard is met if the ratio can be measured and is at least 90%. Standard is improving if this ratio is between 90% and 110%.

**e) Net Financial Liabilities Ratio**

An indicator of the extent to which the net financial liabilities of a Local Government can be serviced by its operating revenues. Target < 60% per annum.

### **In Brief**

- Currently, there are seven financial performance indicators which are required to be included in the annual financial report of a Local Government under section 6.4(2) of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 50 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996.
- Over a number of years there has been mounting concern as to the appropriateness of these indicators in providing a reasonable benchmark and measure of the financial performance of all local governments in WA.
- WALGA has contracted a Local Government Financial consultant to provide recommendations on meaningful ratios and what the recommended indicators are for each ratio.
- This agenda item recommends the 7 ratios be replaced with 5 more meaningful and relevant ratios

### **Attachment**

Financial Performance Indicators Discussion Paper – RJ Back and Associates:  
<https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/Documents/Financial-Performance-Indicators-Discussion-Paper-2019-Version-2.pdf?lang=en-AU>

- Please indicate your stance on this recommendation by deleting 2 of the below options. In the case of an alternative recommendation, please state alternate recommendation.

- Support WALGA Recommendation
- Not Support WALGA Recommendation
- Alternative Recommendation
- 

## 5.6 Local Government Audits (05-034-01-0001 TB)

By Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services

### Recommendation

That WALGA;

- 1) Write to the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) advising of the cost increases to the Local Government sector in respect to financial audits over the first 2 years of OAG audits and request constraint on audit cost increases in the future.
- 2) Write to the Minister for Local Government seeking formal commitment that Performance Audits carried out by the Office of the Auditor General are the responsibility of the State Government.
- 3) Write to the Minister seeking a formal commitment that audits of Local Governments are completed and reported on in a timely manner and that the processes, procedures and scope of audits are consistently applied.

### In Brief

- In 2017 the Local Government Amendment (Auditing) Act 2017 was proclaimed, giving the Auditor General the mandate to audit Western Australia's Local Governments.
- Feedback from Local Governments indicates that audit costs have increased by 92% across the first two year period since introduced.
- Local Government staff time for providing evidence of financial transactions has also increased significantly.
- Performance Audits of Local Governments are seen as beneficial for the sector, although the cost of performance audits needs to remain as the responsibility of the State Government.
- Advocacy to the Audit General on constraining further audit cost increases has been requested by the Local Government sector.
- Please indicate your stance on this recommendation by deleting 2 of the below options. In the case of an alternative recommendation, please state alternate recommendation.

- Support WALGA Recommendation
- Not Support WALGA Recommendation
- Alternative Recommendation

## **5.7 Review of State Council and Zone Structure and Processes – Working Group Report and Recommendations (01-004-05-0002 TL)**

*By Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services and Tim Lane, Manager Strategy and Association Governance*

### **Recommendation**

**That:**

- 1. The Working Group's Final Report, and State Council's prior endorsement of Recommendations 5, 6, 7, and 8 from the Working Group's Final Report, be noted; and,**
- 2. Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, and 10, from the Working Group's Final Report be endorsed.**

### **In Brief**

- State Council, at its 27 March 2019 meeting, established a Working Group to develop options to revise State Council's structure and processes;
- The Working Group, comprised of the WALGA President, Deputy President, eight State Councillors, a representative from the Regional Cities Alliance, two Local Government Chief Executive Officers supported by senior WALGA staff, had a brief to consider all aspects of WALGA's governance structures and processes and report back to State Council with recommendations;
- The Working Group met three times and considered outcomes of previous reviews, arrangements of other associations of Local Government, strengths and weaknesses of the current model and options for change;
- The Working Group's final report and recommendations were presented for State Council consideration at the September 2019 State Council meeting;
- Recommendations 5, 6, 7, and 8 were endorsed by State Council at the September 2019 meeting, with the balance of the recommendations endorsed in principle subject to sector consultation;
- The Final Report was then distributed to the Local Government sector for comment and a number of submissions were received;
- As per the report below, it is recommended that recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, and 10 from the Final Report be endorsed.

### **Attachments**

- [Final Report – State Council and Zone Structure and Process Working Group](#)
- [Elected Member Prospectus](#)
- *Please indicate your stance on this recommendation by deleting 2 of the below options. In the case of an alternative recommendation, please state alternate recommendation.*
- **Support WALGA Recommendation**
- **Not Support WALGA Recommendation**
- **Alternative Recommendation**

## **5.8 Membership of Development Assessment Panels (05-047-01-0016 VJ)**

*By Vanessa Jackson, Policy Manager Planning and Improvement*

### **Recommendation**

**That WALGA advocate to the Minister for Planning, that the composition of Development Assessment Panels (DAPs) be modified to provide equal representation of technical advice and local knowledge, in accordance with the original objectives of the DAP system to enhance the decision making process by improving the balance of experts.**

### **In Brief**

- At the 2019 WALGA AGM, a request to advocate for a change in the membership of Development Assessment Panels was considered and carried at the meeting.
  - Appointing an additional Elected Member to DAPs would mean there would be three local experts and three planning experts, which provides a balance of the local knowledge and the technical expertise on the Panels.
  - Although the recently released Planning Reform Action Plan states that there will be no change to Local Government membership, advocating for equal representation is still considered appropriate.
- *Please indicate your stance on this recommendation by deleting 2 of the below options. In the case of an alternative recommendation, please state alternate recommendation.*
- **Support WALGA Recommendation**
  - **Not Support WALGA Recommendation**
  - **Alternative Recommendation**

## **5.9 Interim Submission - Draft State Planning Policy 3.6 – Infrastructure Contributions (05-036-03-0010 VJ )**

*By Vanessa Jackson, Policy Manager, Planning and Improvement*

### **Recommendation**

- 1. That the interim submission to the WA Planning Commission on draft State Planning Policy 3.6 – Infrastructure Contributions, be endorsed.**
- 2. That the West Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) be advised that the proposed cap on community infrastructure contributions is strongly opposed and without the removal of this proposed cap, WALGA does not support draft State Planning Policy 3.6 – Infrastructure Contributions.**

## In Brief

- In July 2019, the WA Planning Commission (WAPC) released a revised State Planning Policy 3.6 - Infrastructure Contributions and revised Guidelines.
- The revised State Planning Policy and revised Guidelines aim to provide better guidance and consistency in the application of development contribution plans throughout the State.
- The WA Planning Commissions public comment period closed on 2 September 2019, therefore an interim submission was prepared and submitted.
- *Please indicate your stance on this recommendation by deleting 2 of the below options. In the case of an alternative recommendation, please state alternate recommendation.*
- **Support WALGA Recommendation**
- **Not Support WALGA Recommendation**
- **Alternative Recommendation**

### **5.10 Local Government as Collection Agency for Construction Training Fund (05-015-02-0005 VJ)**

*By Vanessa Jackson, Policy Manager Planning and Improvement*

## Recommendation

### **1. That WALGA advise the Construction Training Fund (CTF):**

- 1.1 That due to the operational improvements and establishment of an on-line portal for payments of the Building and Construction Industry Training Fund, Local Government will not continue to be a collection agency for these payments**
- 1.2 That the online receipt issued upon payment of the *Building and Construction Industry Training Fund*, must clearly show the property address and estimated building value to ensure it complies with section 20 of the *Building Act 2011***
- 1.3 That the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) must provide access to the data collated in the Building Permit Database Project to assist CTF in their acquittal process, and**
- 1.4 That a review of the apprenticeship pathways should be undertaken, as the Local Government sector can provide many potential apprentice pathways directly connected to the construction and development industry.**

### **2. That WALGA advise the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Education & Training and Minister for Commerce that the current CTF collection process is unnecessary administrative red tape for the Local Government sector, and seek their support for Local Government to not continue to be a collection agency for these payments.**

## In Brief

- The Construction Training Fund (CTF) has recently established a secure on line portal for payments of the *Building and Construction Industry Training Fund (BCITF)*.
- WALGA has sought member's views on whether Local Government should continue to be the collection agency for the Construction Training Fund.
- The responses indicate that the administrative burden is onerous, fees received do not achieve cost recovery, therefore, the processing of CTF payments by Local Government should not continue.
- *Please indicate your stance on this recommendation by deleting 2 of the below options. In the case of an alternative recommendation, please state alternate recommendation.*
- **Support WALGA Recommendation**
- **Not Support WALGA Recommendation**
- **Alternative Recommendation**

### **5.11 Interim Submission - Public Health Regulations Review Discussion Papers (05-031-01-0001 BW)**

*By Bec Waddington, Policy Officer Community*

## Recommendation

**That the interim submissions provided to the Department of Health on the following discussion papers be endorsed:**

1. **Managing public health risks at events in WA**
2. **Management of public health risks related to offensive trade in WA**
3. **Managing the public health risks associated with cooling towers and warm water systems in WA**
4. **A new regulatory framework for managing drinking water in WA**

## In Brief

- The *Public Health Act 2016* is progressing through a five-stage process of implementation and is currently at Stage 4. All regulations from the previous *Health Act 1911* will be repealed and replaced with new regulations at the commencement of Stage 5, which is anticipated to commence in 2021.
- Interim submissions for all of the above discussion papers were prepared to meet Department of Health deadlines and are now presented to State Council for final endorsement.

## Attachments

[WALGA Submission Managing public health risks at events in WA](#)

[WALGA Submission Managing public health risks related to offensive trades in WA](#)

[WALGA Submission Managing public health risks associated with cooling towers and warm water systems in WA](#)

[WALGA Submission A new regulatory framework for managing drinking water in WA](#)

- Please indicate your stance on this recommendation by deleting 2 of the below options. In the case of an alternative recommendation, please state alternate recommendation.

- Support WALGA Recommendation
- Not Support WALGA Recommendation
- Alternative Recommendation

## **5.12 Reforms to the Building Approval Process for Single Residential Buildings in Western Australia (05-015-02-0010 VJ)**

*By Vanessa Jackson, Policy Manager Planning and Improvement*

### **Recommendation**

#### **That WALGA:**

1. Advise the Department of Mines Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) that Option 3 of the Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement, improvements to the single residential building approvals process, is supported in principle, subject to the following matters being addressed in consultation with the Local Government sector:
  - a) Prior to any regulatory changes, a review of the building fees and charges is essential, to ensure that any costs associated with the approval of building work, implementation of mandatory inspections, compliance and enforcement actions, and record keeping requirements for the Local Government sector, will result in full cost recovery
  - b) The Independent Building Surveyor who signed the Certificate of Design Compliance should be responsible for undertaking the inspections, therefore, Local Government would not be solely responsible for mandatory inspections
  - c) The State Government's registration process for the Builder should be strengthened to ensure that the builder fulfils their obligations for compliance with the National Construction Code
  - d) Implementation of mandatory inspections should be undertaken by properly qualified and independent personnel, at the following stages (at a minimum) of the construction process
    1. Foundations and footings
    2. Slab/reinforcement of bearers/joists
    3. Waterproofing
    4. Roof, and
    5. Occupancy or final completion
  - e) The occupancy or final completion inspection must ensure that the bushfire construction and energy efficiency requirements have been complied with, and
  - f) The removal of the proposed 'fast track approval' concept, as is not warranted nor properly justified as an improvement option.
2. Endorse the submission of this State Council report to the DMIRS, as the Association's submission on the Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement.

## In Brief

- In September 2019, DMIRS released a Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement for public comment focusing on improvements to the building approvals process for single residential buildings.
- The paper proposes three options for stakeholders; business as usual; introduction of full private certification; or improvements to the current building approval process.
- Submissions on the Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement close on the 9 December 2019.

## Attachment

The full Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement can be accessed here - <https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/publications/reforms-building-approval-process-single-residential-buildings-wa-cris>

- *Please indicate your stance on this recommendation by deleting 2 of the below options. In the case of an alternative recommendation, please state alternate recommendation.*
- **Support WALGA Recommendation**
- **Not Support WALGA Recommendation**
- **Alternative Recommendation**

### 5.13 Wheatbelt Regional Health Services 05-030-03-0006 MM)

*By Marissa MacDonald, Senior Policy Advisor Community*

## Recommendation

### That WALGA:

1. **Re-establishes a working group to progress a Memorandum of Understanding with Local Governments in the Wheatbelt region and the WA Country Health Service, based on the previous work by the former Wheatbelt Health MOU Group, which outlines communication, responsibilities and strategic priorities unique to the region; and**
2. **Work with key service providers and stakeholders to engage with Local Government to further discuss the issues and develop solutions in the aged care services sector.**

## In Brief

- The North East Wheatbelt Region Organisation of Councils (NEWROC) approached WALGA to deliver a regional health forum on 20 September 2019 in Trayning. The Forum was held with key service providers and stakeholders.
- At the forum WALGA coordinated a discussion where attendees recommended the re-establishment of the Wheatbelt Health MOU and to provide an opportunity for Local Governments to continue discussing the issues associated with aged care services.

- The Wheatbelt MOU Group was active between 2006 and 2015, advocated on behalf of Wheatbelt Local Governments and was a partnership between the Avon Midland Country, Central Country and Great Eastern Country Zones, Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt, WA Country Health Service (WACHS) and Wheatbelt Development Commission.

## Attachment

Wheatbelt Regional Health Services – Summary Report can be found here:

<https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/Documents/Wheatbelt-Regional-Health-Services-Summary-Report-Final.docx?lang=en-AU>

- *Please indicate your stance on this recommendation by deleting 2 of the below options. In the case of an alternative recommendation, please state alternate recommendation.*
- **Support WALGA Recommendation**
- **Not Support WALGA Recommendation**
- **Alternative Recommendation**

## 5.14 Interim Submission to the Climate Health WA Inquiry (05-031-01-0001 KD)

*By Kirstie Davis, Policy Manager Community*

## Recommendation

**That the WALGA interim submission to the Climate Health WA Inquiry be endorsed.**

## In Brief

- In March 2019, the State Government, announced the [Climate Health WA Inquiry](#) into the implications of climate change on health.
- WALGA was invited to make a written submission to the Inquiry by 13 September 2019 and to appear before the Inquiry at a public hearing held on 14 November 2019.
- The Association sought comments from Local Governments via an InfoPage to inform the WALGA submission.
- The interim submission was endorsed by the WALGA People and Place Policy Team and submitted to the Department of Health as an interim submission.
- WALGA's submission to the Inquiry aligns with WALGA's Policy Statement on Climate Change endorsed by State Council in July 2018, which calls for strong climate change action and coordination by all levels of government.

## Attachments

[Climate Health WA Inquiry Terms of Reference](#)  
[WALGA Climate Health WA Inquiry Submission](#)

- *Please indicate your stance on this recommendation by deleting 2 of the below options. In the case of an alternative recommendation, please state alternate recommendation.*

- **Support WALGA Recommendation**
- **Not Support WALGA Recommendation**
- **Alternative Recommendation**

### **5.15 Submission on the Climate Change in Western Australia Issues Paper (05-028-03-0011 MB)**

*By Mark Batty - Executive Manager Environment and Waste*

#### **Recommendation**

**That the WALGA submission on the *Climate Change in Western Australia Issues Paper* be endorsed.**

#### **In Brief**

- The State Government released the [Climate Change in Western Australia Issues Paper](#) on 4 September 2019 for public comment.
- Feedback received on the Issues Paper will inform the development of the State Government Climate Policy due for release in 2020.
- The Issues Paper outlines the key issues facing Western Australia in 'the transition to a resilient, low-carbon economy, and identifies opportunities to build on actions already underway'.
- The Issues Paper references and sits within the context of the net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 target announced by the State Government in August 2019.
- WALGA's submission is consistent with the WALGA Climate Change Policy Statement, endorsed by State Council in July 2018 and previously endorsed WALGA climate change related submissions.
- The draft submission was provided to the sector for comment on 9 October 2019. 15 responses were received, all in support of the submission.

#### **Attachments**

[Climate Change in Western Australia Issues Paper](#)

[Draft WALGA submission to the DWER Climate Change in Western Australia Issues Paper](#)

- *Please indicate your stance on this recommendation by deleting 2 of the below options. In the case of an alternative recommendation, please state alternate recommendation.*
- **Support WALGA Recommendation**
- **Not Support WALGA Recommendation**
- **Alternative Recommendation**

### **5.16 Interim Submission – Policy and Application Guidelines for Speed Zoning (05-009-02-0035 MS)**

*By Mal Shervill, Policy Officer Road Safety, Transport and Roads*

#### **Recommendation**

**The interim submission to Main Roads WA on the Policy and Application Guidelines for Speed Zoning be endorsed.**

#### **In Brief**

- Main Roads WA revised the Policy and Application Guidelines for Speed Zoning, which provides the principles and objectives applied in setting speed limits for all public roads in Western Australia.
- Local Governments use the Policy to guide their considerations for speed zoning on local roads and as a basis to develop an application for new or to amend existing speed limits.
- Local Governments gave feedback on the revised Policy and an interim submission, as amended by the Infrastructure Policy Team, was provided to Main Roads WA in September 2019.

#### **Attachment**

Interim Submission - Policy and Application Guidelines for Speed Zoning:

<https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/Documents/Item-5-16-attachment-Interim-Submission.pdf?lang=en-AU>

- *Please indicate your stance on this recommendation by deleting 2 of the below options. In the case of an alternative recommendation, please state alternate recommendation.*
- **Support WALGA Recommendation**
- **Not Support WALGA Recommendation**
- **Alternative Recommendation**

### **5.17 Interim Submission - Response to the Select Committee on Northern Australia (05-049-03-0001 NF)**

*By Nebojsa Franich, Policy Manager, Economics*

#### **Recommendation**

**That WALGA's interim submission to the Select Committee on the effectiveness of the Australian Government's Northern Australia agenda be endorsed.**

#### **In Brief**

- On 4 July 2019 the Senate agreed to the establishment of the Select Committee on the effectiveness of the Australian Government's Northern Australia agenda.

- The Australian Government's Northern Australia agenda includes the development and release of the Northern Australia Green and White papers, and the subsequent implementation of the initiatives identified in the White Paper to progress Northern Australia.
- WALGA's Submission to the Select Committee on the effectiveness of the Australian Government's Northern Australia Agenda:
  - applauds the extensive body of work undertaken by the Australian Government in recent years to understand the drivers of economic and social development in Northern Australia;
  - recommends the adoption of a more formalised Program Evaluation structure to report on and evaluate progress;
  - recommends regular reviews of the Northern Australia agenda; and
  - recommends the implementation of other reforms that WALGA has advocated for in the past that would allow Northern Australia to reach its full economic and social potential, including limiting the use of FIFO to when it is necessary, the implementation of designated area migration agreements and increasing the quantum of financial assistance grants provided to Local Governments.

## Attachment

WALGA Response to the Select Committee on the Effectiveness of the Australian Government's Northern Australia Agenda:

<https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/Documents/Item-5-17-attachment-Select-Committee-Report.pdf?lang=en-AU>

- *Please indicate your stance on this recommendation by deleting 2 of the below options. In the case of an alternative recommendation, please state alternate recommendation.*
- **Support WALGA Recommendation**
- **Not Support WALGA Recommendation**
- **Alternative Recommendation**

## 6. Matters for Noting / Information

### 6.1 Ministerial Review of State IR System (05-034-01-0001 EC)

*By Emma Clements, Employee Relations Service Manager*

## Recommendation

**That State Council notes the sector's position to oppose the State Government's recommendation to amend the *Industrial Relations Act 1979 (WA)* to enable a declaration to be made that WA Local Governments are not "national system employers" for the purposes of the Fair Work Act.**

## In Brief

- The Final Report (Report) of the review into the WA State industrial relations system was tabled in State Parliament on 11 April 2019.

- This report makes the recommendation to amend the *Industrial Relations Act 1979* (IR Act) to enable a declaration to be made that WA Local Government authorities are not “national system employers” for the purposes of the *Fair Work Act 2009* (FW Act).
- If endorsed at state and federal levels there will be transitional arrangements to assist the 93% of Local Government currently operating in the Federal system transition to the State system.
- A Taskforce comprising of key stakeholders, including WALGA, has been formed to discuss and scope out the ‘unintended’ consequences of the recommendation and proposed two year transition process.
- State Council endorsed a position opposing the States Governments proposal to place all Local Governments in the State Industrial Relations systems at the March 2018 State Council meeting (Resolution number 8.1/2018).
- To ensure the interests of Local Government are represented WALGA has established a Sector Reference Group to seek feedback and invited the Minister to address the sector at WALGA’s annual People and Culture seminar in October 2019.

## Attachment

[https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/atoms/files/ministerial\\_review\\_of\\_state\\_industrial\\_relations\\_system\\_-\\_final\\_report.pdf](https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/atoms/files/ministerial_review_of_state_industrial_relations_system_-_final_report.pdf)

## 6.2 Action Plan for Planning Reform (05-04702-0015 VJ)

By Vanessa Jackson, Policy Manager, Planning and Improvement

### Recommendation

**That the release of the Action Plan for Planning Reform be noted.**

### In Brief

- The Minister for Planning has released an Action Plan for Planning Reform, in response to the Independent Planning Reform Team’s Green Paper - *Modernising WA’s Planning System: Concepts for a strategically-led system* released in 2018.
- The Action Plan proposes three overarching goals and 19 reform initiatives to achieve these aims, with Stakeholder Reference Groups and Initiative Working Groups established to guide the implementation of these reform projects.
- Nominations for the Stakeholder and working groups were sought from the Local Government Sector and forwarded to the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage to meet their deadline of the 6 September 2019.

## Attachment

The Action Plan documents are located here - <https://www.dplh.wa.gov.au/action-plan>

## 6.3 Parliamentary Inquiry into Short Stay Accommodation – Final Report (05-036-03-0016 CH)

*By Christopher Hossen, Senior Planner, People and Place*

## **Recommendation**

**That State Council note:**

- 1. the findings and recommendations of the Economics and Industry Standing Committee's Inquiry into Short-Stay Accommodation, and**
- 2. the contribution by the sector to this Inquiry and the positive impact this has had on the findings and recommendations of the Inquiry.**

## **In Brief**

- In 2017, WALGA requested a review of the planning framework in relation to short-stay accommodation, while recognising that Local Government is best placed to determine specific controls on short-term rental accommodation
- On 13 February 2019 the Association appeared before a hearing of the Committee
- The Committee released its findings in September 2019 in a report titled, *'Levelling the Playing Field: Managing the impact of the rapid increase of Short-Term Rentals in Western Australia'*.

## **6.4 Draft State Planning Policy 7.2: Precinct Design – Submission (05-036-03-0067 AR)**

*By Chris Hossen, Senior Planner and Ashley Robb, Project Officer, Planning and Improvement*

## **Recommendation**

**That the submission to the draft *State Planning Policy 7.2: Precinct Design* be noted.**

## **In Brief**

- In August 2019 the Western Australian Planning Commission released the draft *State Planning Policy 7.2: Precinct Design* (SPP7.2) with policy guidelines and a discussion paper.
- The purpose of the policy is to facilitate precinct planning which achieves good design quality and built form outcomes in both greenfield and developed areas.
- This submission was prepared in consultation with Local Governments, reviewed by WALGA's People and Place Policy Team, endorsed by State Council and submitted to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) in October 2019.

## **Attachment**

Link to – [Draft State Planning Policy 7.2: Precinct Design submission](#)

## **6.5 Managing Public Health Risks Associated with Pesticides in WA (05-031-01-0001 MM)**

*By Marissa MacDonald, Senior Policy Advisor, Community*

### **Recommendation**

**That the submission to the Department of Health in response to the Managing Public Health Risks Associated with Pesticides in WA discussion paper be noted.**

### **In Brief**

- The *Public Health Act 2016* is progressing through a five-stage process of implementation and is currently at Stage 4. All regulations from the previous *Health Act 1911* will be repealed and replaced with new regulations at the commencement of Stage 5, which is anticipated to commence in 2021.
- The Department of Health released the “Managing Public Health Risks Associated with Pesticides in WA” discussion paper for public comment with three options for consideration.
- WALGA’s Submission discusses the majority of Local Governments preference for Option C, with Local Governments rejecting two of nine proposals that would see a transfer of responsibilities to Local Governments.

### **Attachment**

[WALGA Submission to Department of Health: Managing Public Health Risks Associated with Pesticides in WA](#)

## **6.6 Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group (05-024-03-0034 MP)**

*By Melissa Pexton, Policy Manager Emergency Management*

### **Recommendation**

**That State Council note the establishment of the Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group and that sector wide consultation will be undertaken as discussion papers are released regarding proposed amendments to the Local Government Grants Scheme operating manual.**

### **In Brief**

- The Association has been advocating for a review of the Local Government Grants Scheme (LGGS) following the review of the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) undertaken by the Economic Regulation Authority.
- The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) have initiated and formalised a working group consisting of DFES, WALGA, Association of Volunteer Bushfire Brigades (AVBFB) and State Emergency Services Volunteers Association (SESVA). The working group have agreed to priority areas within the LGGS that require consideration and review.
- WALGA will be consulting with members on the various priority areas as the discussion papers are released.

## **6.7 Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) Program (05-024-03-0035 MP)**

*By Melissa Pexton, Policy Manager Emergency Management*

### **Recommendation**

#### **That State Council note**

- the implementation of the Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) program as a national project being overseen by the Australian New Zealand Emergency Management Committee and,
- advice from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) for Local Governments to suspend investment in current fire danger rating signage (including electronic signs) until a final prototype is announced.

#### **In Brief**

- The Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) Program will design, develop and implement a national fire danger rating system to better describe the overall fire danger and risk to firefighters, land managers, broader government including Local Governments, utilities, businesses and the community.
- The project has been endorsed and overseen by the Australian New Zealand Emergency Management Committee and commenced in 2016. Critical research and prototypes are being socialised with all jurisdictions with workshops having been held in WA in September 2019. Implementation of the revised system is scheduled for 2020/21.
- There are possible changes to the current fire danger rating system signage and it is recommended that Local Governments suspend investment into signage until a final prototype is announced.

### **Attachment**

<https://www.afac.com.au/docs/default-source/afdrs/afdrs-brochure-for-reading.pdf>

## **6.8 WALGA Emergency Management Engagement Project (05-024-02-0059 EDR)**

*By Evie Devitt-Rix, Senior Policy Advisor Emergency Management*

### **Recommendation**

**That the announcement of the consolidation of the three WA Emergency Services Acts be noted.**

#### **In Brief**

- Currently Western Australia has three Emergency Services Acts: the *Fire Brigades Act 1942*, *Bush Fires Act 1954* and *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998*.
- The Minister for Fire and Emergency Services has announced the consolidation of these three Acts into the Consolidated Emergency Services Act (CES Act).

- The Association's recent engagement of Local Governments has noted that their number one priority in the State Emergency Management Framework is the simplification of legislation by consolidating of the three Acts. WALGA will ensure that once the CES Act is drafted a robust consultation process will be held across the sector.

## **6.9 WALGA Submission to the Inquiry into 5G in Australia (05-001-02-0014 MB)**

*By Mark Bondietti, Policy Manager Transport and Roads*

### **Recommendation**

**That the WALGA Submission to the Inquiry into 5G in Australia be noted.**

### **In Brief**

- The Federal House of Representatives Standing Committee on Communications and the Arts is undertaking an inquiry into the deployment, adoption and application of 5G in Australia.
- WALGA has prepared a submission that has been endorsed by the Infrastructure Policy Team and State Council by Flying Minute.
- The submission draws attention to the negative impacts of uncontrolled installation of a network of antennas on Local Government infrastructure.
- The submission recommends that telecommunications carriers must consult and obtain agreement with Local Governments before installing infrastructure.

## **6.10 WALGA Comments on the Environmental Offsets Framework Review Report (05-025-03-0000 MB)**

*By Nicole Matthews, Environment Policy Manager*

### **Recommendation**

**That WALGA's endorsed submission on the Environmental Offsets Framework Review Report be noted.**

### **In Brief**

- The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER), at the request of the Environment Minister, has conducted a review of the effectiveness of the WA Environmental Offsets Framework and its implementation in delivering its environmental objectives.
- The review found that 'environmental offsets approved since the release of the offsets policy have not fully counterbalanced the significant residual impacts of approvals' and made 12 recommendations (a summary of 25 recommendations are in the body of the report) designed to improve the effectiveness of the offsets framework.
- WALGA participated in the review as a member of the Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG).

- WALGA supports the review recommendations with some qualifications, as detailed in the attached comments.
- On 1 October 2019 State Council resolved by Flying Minute that the submission to DWER on the Environmental Offsets Framework Review be endorsed.

### **Attachment**

Environmental Offsets Framework Review Report – WALGA Comments

[https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/Documents/WALGA-comments-on-draft-offsets-review-report-sent\\_011019-\(002\).pdf?lang=en-AU](https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/Documents/WALGA-comments-on-draft-offsets-review-report-sent_011019-(002).pdf?lang=en-AU)

### **6.11 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) (01006-03-0008 RNB)**

*By Rebecca Brown, Manager, Waste & Recycling*

### **Recommendation**

**That State Council note the resolutions of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council at its 28 August and 9 October 2019 meetings.**

### **In Brief**

- This item summaries the outcomes of the MWAC meetings held on 28 August and 9 October 2019.

## **7. Matters for Consideration**

### **7.1 Financial Statements**

*Proposed by*     *Executive Officer*

*Attachments*     Income & Expenditure – 1/07/18 to 30/06/19  
Income & Expenditure – 1/07/19 to 31/10/19

#### **Comment –**

Refer Financial Statements on next page

#### **30 June 2019**

Reconciled balances of account as at 30 June 2019 –

Cheque Account (229 492)	\$12,568.68	Westpac Bank, Kalamunda
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Reconciled balance of account as at 30 June 2019	
Cheque Account	\$12,568.68

#### **31 October 2019**

Reconciled balances of account as at 31 October 2019 –

Cheque Account (229 492)	\$25,076.29	Westpac Bank, Kalamunda
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Reconciled balance of account as at 31 October 2019	
Cheque Account	\$25,076.29

#### **Recommendation –**

That the Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 and 31 October 2019 be received.

**RESOLUTION –     Moved: Cr Pigdon     Seconded: Cr Trenfield**

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**That the Financial Statements for the periods 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 and 1 July 2019 to 31 October 2019 be received.**

**Carried12/0**

## MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1/07/2018 to 30/06/2019

Bank Balance (as Per B/S) 01/07/18

\$11,039.56

### Income

Date	Source	Amount
18/07/2018	Shire of Meekatharra – Subscription Fees	\$2,500.00
18/07/2018	Shire of Cue – Subscription Fees	\$2,500.00
19/07/2018	Shire of Sandstone – Subscription Fees	\$2,500.00
27/07/2018	Shire of Yalgoo – Subscription Fees	\$2,500.00
31/07/2018	Interest Paid	\$1.25
10/08/2018	Shire of Mt Magnet – Subscription Fees	\$2,500.00
16/08/2018	Shire of Murchison – Subscription Fees	\$2,500.00
31/08/2018	Interest Paid	\$2.03
28/09/2018	Interest Paid	\$1.99
31/10/2018	Interest Paid	\$2.35
30/11/2018	Interest Paid	\$1.73
31/12/2018	Interest Paid	\$1.71
11/01/2019	Shire of Wiluna – Meal Reimbursement	\$60.00
31/01/2019	Interest Paid	\$1.72
28/02/2019	Interest Paid	\$1.55
29/03/2019	Interest Paid	\$1.61
30/04/2019	Interest Paid	\$1.78
31/05/2019	Interest Paid	\$1.27
28/06/2019	Interest Paid	\$0.97
	<b>Total Income to 30 June 2019</b>	<b>\$15,079.96</b>

### Payments

Date	Cheque No	Payee	Description	Amount
02/11/2018	200124	M Brown	Executive Services	\$3,250.00
02/11/2018	200125	M Brown	Reimbursements	\$951.12
02/11/2018	200126	Murchison Club Hotel	Meeting Catering	\$1,600.00
02/05/2019	200127	M Brown	Reimbursements	\$513.60
02/05/2019	200128	M Brown	Reimbursements	\$951.12
02/05/2019	200129	M Brown	Executive Services	\$3,250.00
03/05/2019	200130	R Foulkes Taylor	Honoraria - President	\$600.00
03/05/2019	200131	L Price	Honoraria – Zone Delegate	\$530.00
03/05/2019	200132	J Jensen	Honoraria – Deputy President	\$400.00
03/05/2019	200133	Queen of the Murchison	Meeting Catering	\$1,505.00
<b>Total Expenditure to 30 June 2019</b>				<b>\$13,550.84</b>

**Reconciliation**

Balance Bought Forward 01/07/2018	\$11,039.56
Add Income Received	\$15,079.96
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$26,119.52</b>
Less Expenditure	\$13,550.84
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$12,568.68</b>
<b>Balance as per Bank Statement 30/06/2019</b>	<b>\$12,568.68</b>

**MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1/07/2019 to 31/10/2019**

Bank Balance (as Per B/S) 01/07/19

\$12,568.68

**Income**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>
18/07/2019	Shire of Cue – Subscription Fees	\$2,500.00
22/07/2019	Shire of Sandstone – Subscription Fees	\$2,500.00
25/07/2019	Shire of Cue – Subscription Fees	\$2,500.00
31/07/2019	Interest Paid	\$1.32
31/07/2019	Shire of Meekatharra – Subscription Fees	\$2,500.00
01/08/2019	Shire of Murchison – Subscription Fees	\$2,500.00
30/08/2019	Interest Paid	\$2.05
30/09/2019	Interest Paid	\$2.12
31/10/2019	Interest Paid	\$2.12
	Total Income to 31 October 2019	\$12,507.61

**Payments**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Cheque No</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
There were no payments made in the reporting period				\$0.00
			Total Expenditure to 31 October 2019	\$ 0.00

**Reconciliation**

Balance Bought Forward 01/07/2018	\$12,568.68
Add Income Received	\$12,507.61
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$25,076.29</b>
Less Expenditure	\$0.00
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$25,076.29</b>
<b>Balance as per Bank Statement 31 October 2019</b>	<b>\$25,076.29</b>

## 7.2 Accounts Paid to Be Paid

*Proposed by*    *Executive Officer*

*Attachments*    Nil

Comment –

<b>Cheque</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Amount Incl GST</b>
200134	22/11/2019	S Appleton	EO Secretarial Costs	\$4,000.00
200135	22/11/2019	R Foulkes-Taylor	Expense Reimbursement	\$229.95
200136	22/11/2019	S Appleton	Expense Reimbursement	\$1,123.64
200137	22/11/2019	Murchison Club Hotel	Catering	\$1,470.00
			Total	\$6,823.59

### Recommendation –

That the amounts listed above, cheque numbers 200134 to 200137 be paid for the period between 4 May 2019 and 22 November 2019.

**RESOLUTION –      Moved: Cr Walton      Seconded: Cr Payne**

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**That the amounts listed above, cheque numbers 200134 to 200137 be paid for the period between 4 May 2019 and 22 November 2019.**

**Carried 12/0**

## **7.3 Proposed alternative to the CA07 Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition**

### **Background**

At the December 2018 meeting State Council resolved that WALGA:

1. Opposes withdrawal of the “Letter of Approval” Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition until an acceptable alternative to Local Government is developed;
2. Supports the position that Local Governments not use provision of the Letter of Authority to charge transport operators to access the Restricted Access Vehicle network;
3. Supports the development of standard administrative procedures including fees and letter formats;
4. Supports the practice of Local Governments negotiating maintenance agreements with freight owners/ generators in cases where the operations are predicted to cause extraordinary road damage as determined by the Local Government; and
5. Advocates to Main Roads to establish a stakeholder working group to develop an appropriate mechanism through which the increased infrastructure costs from the use of heavy vehicles and those loaded in excess of limits (concessional loading) can be recovered from those benefiting, and redirected into the cost of road maintenance.

### **Comment**

Main Roads are proposing an alternative to the CA07 condition which will replace the condition with a notification process. They are presenting the proposal to all Regional Road Groups and have requested Local Governments provide feedback through an online survey.

WALGA is establishing a stake holder working group to advise if the proposal is “an acceptable alternative”, or to recommend amendments to Main Roads WA and to advise a policy position for State Council consideration. In accordance with the State Council resolution each Zone is invited to nominate a representative to serve on the Group.

Please supply name and contact details before Wednesday, 4 December 2019 to Audra de Pina, Administration Officer, Infrastructure, on (08) 9213 2059 or email [AdePina@walga.asn.au](mailto:AdePina@walga.asn.au)

For further information please contact Mark Bondietti on 9213 2040 or email [mbondietti@walga.asn.au](mailto:mbondietti@walga.asn.au)

### **Recommendation**

That the The Murchison Country Zone appoints CEO Robert Madson to be its representative on the CA07 Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition.

**RESOLUTION –      Moved: Cr Price      Seconded: Cr Jensen**

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**That the The Murchison Country Zone appoints CEO Robert Madson to be its representative on the CA07 Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition.**

**Carried 12/0**

## 7.4 WALGA Murchison Zone National Local Government Association Representation

<b>Council:</b>	Shire of Mount Magnet
<b>Date of Report:</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> November 2019
<b>Amended By:</b>	N/A
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	Nil
<b>Nature of Interest:</b>	N/A
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2019

### Matter for Consideration

To request the Murchison Zone of the WA Local Government Association (WALGA) to consider approving a delegation of regional representation to the annual National Local Government Association Convention held in Canberra that includes attendance at the Convention, the Regional Forum and scheduled meetings with Federal Ministers and Government Departments for the purpose of discussing issues relevant to the Murchison Region.

### Background

This agenda item is prepared as a result of the Shire of Mount Magnet's Council resolution from its ordinary meeting dated 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2019 as follows;

**Moved:** Cr Morrissey

**Seconded:** Cr Ford

*That Council;*

- *Instruct the CEO to prepare an item for inclusion in the next WALGA Murchison Zone Meeting Agenda to be held in Cue on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2019 requesting the Zone to agree to send a delegation comprising of Murchison member Councils to the annual 2020 National Local Government Association Convention in Canberra for the purpose of raising Murchison Regional issues with Commonwealth Government Ministers and Departments, and*
- *Agree to send nominated delegate(s) from the Shire of Mount Magnet to the annual 2020 National Local Government Association Convention in Canberra for the purpose of raising Murchison Regional issues with Commonwealth Government Ministers and Departments.*

### Resolution 2019-186

**CARRIED 5/0**

WALGA Murchison Zone members are advised that the Shire of Mount Magnet (Shire President, Cr Morris and CEO) attended the National 2019 Local Government Association Convention in June 2019. The visit included representatives from the Shire of Cue (x 3) and Shire of Yalgoo (x 2) as part of a Murchison Region delegation in accordance with the resolution from the WALGA Murchison Zone of November 2018. The purpose being to raise matters with various Commonwealth Ministers and Government Departments and to attend the Convention, including the Regional Forum. Meetings with Commonwealth Ministers and Government Departments were scheduled for during and after the Convention at Parliament House. The Federal Member for Durack, the Hon Melissa Price MP and her office greatly assisted in facilitating this process together with the CEO and meetings were held with several Ministers and Government Departments.

## **Comment**

In accordance with the Shire of Mount Magnet's resolution (above) the WALGA Murchison Zone members are being requested to again send a delegation that is representative of the Murchison Region and to consider such on an annual basis. Pending the agreement by the WALGA Murchison Zone, member Councils are requested to formally advise the Shire of Mount Magnet of their nominated delegate(s) by the end of March 2020 that will allow enough time to make the necessary arrangements and research issues to be raised. In this regard the Shire of Mount Magnet is again prepared to facilitate meetings with Commonwealth Ministers and Government Departments based on the relevant issues to be raised, should the Zone meeting agree. Nominated delegates could then meet in April/May to discuss and finalize relevant issues to be raised that will allow for the particular Ministers and Government Departments meetings to be scheduled. Convening and facilitating these meetings will be then arranged through the office of the Federal Member for Durack, the Hon Melissa Price MP as previously arranged. The 2020 National General Assembly is scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2020 to 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2020 inclusive.

The usual schedule for the Canberra trip includes attendance at the following;

- National Local Government Association Regional Forum on 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2020 (on the preceding Sunday of the commencement of the Convention)
- National Local Government Association Convention on 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2020 to 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2020 (commences on the Monday and concludes at lunchtime on the Wednesday)
- Any scheduled meetings with Government Departments (afternoon of the Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2020), and
- Scheduled meetings with Federal Ministers at Parliament House (all of Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2020 or the preceding Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2020 if necessary).

Each Murchison Region member Council would be responsible for the costs of their nominated delegate(s) attending the joint Murchison Regional delegation Canberra trip. The Shire of Mount Magnet resolved to annually support the nomination of the Shire President, or his proxy to attend the National Local Government Association Convention, Regional Forum and Ministerial meetings irrespective of whether a joint Murchison Regional delegation attends or if only the Shire of Mount Magnet attends.

## **Consultation**

Murchison local governments through the WALGA Murchison Zone

## **Statutory Implications**

Nil

## **Policy Implications**

Not applicable to the WALGA Murchison Zone.

## **Financial Implications**

- Each WALGA Murchison Zone Councils would be responsible for all costs associated with sending their nominated delegate(s) to the National Australian Local Government Association Convention, and
- These costs would include Convention and Regional Forum registration, accommodation, airfares and other sundry costs

### **Strategic Implications**

- Joint Murchison Regional Zone delegation ability to raise, develop and promote opportunities and issues with a regional focus
- Planning for the June 202 visit is required for at least a one week absence from respective Councils.

### **Attachments**

Nil

### **Voting Requirements**

Simple Majority

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the WALGA Murchison Zone approve:

- Sending a delegation of regional representation to the annual National Australian Local Government Association Convention held in Canberra from the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2020 to the 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2020 inclusive that includes attendance at the Convention, the Regional Forum and scheduled meetings with Federal Ministers and Government Departments on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2020 for the purpose of discussing issues relevant to the Murchison Region, and
- Formally advising the Shire of Mount Magnet of each Murchison Councils delegation representatives and relevant Murchison issues to be raised so meetings with Ministers and Government Departments can be researched and prepared by March 2020.

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### **RESOLUTION –      Moved: Cr Jensen      Seconded: Cr Price**

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**That the WALGA Murchison Zone approve:**

- **Sending a delegation of regional representation to the annual National Australian Local Government Association Convention held in Canberra from the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2020 to the 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2020 inclusive that includes attendance at the Convention, the Regional Forum and scheduled meetings with Federal Ministers and Government Departments on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2020 for the purpose of discussing issues relevant to the Murchison Region, and**
- **Formally advising the Shire of Mount Magnet of each Murchison Councils delegation representatives and relevant Murchison issues to be raised so meetings with Ministers and Government Departments can be researched and prepared by March 2020.**

**Carried 12/0**

Mr Vince Catania MLA Member for the North West addressed the meeting about the drought meeting with Minister Littleproud and drought relief funding.

Mr Gavin Treasure, CEO Midwest Development Commission provided an update to the meeting on the activities of the Development Commission.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.30pm and resumed at 1.30pm.

## 7.5 Submission to Mining Commodities Policy Forum

### Background

WALGA will be holding Mining Commodities Policy Forum on 4 December. Cr Price has requested direction from the zone with regard to submitting an agenda item to the forum addressing issues that are relevant to Shires within the zone.

### Comment

Comments from Cr Price are below.

I represent the Murchison Country Zone on State Council and know full well the effects of mining are currently having on our towns, businesses and pastoral enterprises. We are currently reviewing the 1995 Local Government Act as it is outdated, needs to be modernised and brought into line with changing commercial practices. Here we have a 'current' Mining Act which dates back to 1978. It seems ironic that Government considered the Local Government Act needed to be reviewed for those reasons and yet, the Mining Act essentially remains untouched...or, in the very least, tinkered with over time.

Some facts to be considered:-

1. The 1978 Mining Act is outdated and is an Act which favours the Mining Industry in a negotiation process with ANY stakeholder, including Local Government.
2. There is a distinct difference in the negotiation process when a stakeholder is a freehold landowner as opposed to a pastoral leaseholder of Crown Land when negotiating with a Mining company.
3. Stakeholders are often blind-sided and 'put to the sword' by miners who almost bully their way into projects by relying on a one sided and outdated mining act.
4. Compensation under section 123 of the Mining Act is very limiting. The legal process is often exhaustive, intimidating, and cost prohibitive to small stakeholders while miners use the readily available manpower and the financial resources of their shareholders to challenge objections or fend off the concerns of local stakeholders.
5. When dealing with miners on compensation, access and when matters are before the Warden, or in the process of Arbitration, the burden of proof appears to rest with the stakeholders. This process is exhaustive, time consuming, costly and requires the services of a well-qualified mining lawyer.
6. Regional mining towns are feeling the effects of on-site accommodation rather than localized accommodation and support the towns upon which they lean so heavily for support. This is combined with the outsourcing of goods and services from the major regional coastal and metropolitan cities.
7. There is also the considerable effects on a town when mines operate on FIFO. Very little resources are re directed back into the towns they seek to extract minerals from. While we need development in our regions there needs to be a fairer sharing of the

wealth that is taken both by Government (royalties, lease rents etc etc) and miners alike.

8. Royalties taken out of the regions is never matched with capital investment or other forms of financial support in the Shire. The capital investment a miner does inject is for its benefit and very little spills over to the regional shire which supports the various projects within its boundaries.

9. Miners use the infrastructure of both local shires and stakeholders (roads, tracks, fences, gates etc etc) with little regard for the damage or inconvenience they incur. Miners often expect the local Shires to pick up the cost of repair or damage.

10. When constructing a village or camp area on a mine site there is no requirement to obtain planning permission. This is completely unfair when all other residents and developers are required to obtain permits.

11. There is no requirement for miners to pay outstanding rates when transferring leases (unlike normal real estate). Outstanding rates must be paid before the Dept accepts a transfer. Local Shires should be able to caveat a lease for outstanding rates and prevent a transfer or take possession of a lease and on-sell to recover rates.

12. Some miners exploit a lease and find it is either a complete failure or simply economically unviable. Then follows the lapsing of that lease without the payment of the rates. The local Shire cannot collect outstanding rates when a \$2 company goes into liquidation or a restructure takes place.

The Mining Act was tinkered with in 2004 however; a lot of the changes made to the Act were related to processes, timeframes etc and no real amendments were made where the interests of stakeholders were concerned.

### **Recommendation**

That an agenda item be prepared for submission to the Mining Commodities Policy Forum outlining the Murchison Country Zone of WALGA's concerns regarding the Mining Act 1978 (as amended).

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**RESOLUTION –      Moved: Cr Price                      Seconded: Cr Payne**

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**That an agenda item be prepared for submission to the Mining Commodities Policy Forum outlining the Murchison Country Zone of WALGA's concerns regarding the Mining Act 1978 (as amended).**

**Carried 12/0**

Mr Mark Holdsworth of Regional Development Australia addressed the meeting. He thanked Barbara Thompson for her work in organising the Calcutta that raised funds for the RFDS. He also provided advice about grant funding available and the DAMA scheme (Designated Area Migration Arrangements).

## **8. Late Item**

### **8.1 Resolution of the Meeting to Accept Late Item**

Delegates to vote on whether to accept the late item as submitted at agenda item 8.2

#### **Recommendation**

That the Murchison Country Zone of WALGA resolve to admit the late item 8.2 – Mount Magnet Pharmacy Closure.

**RESOLUTION – Moved: CEO McClymont Seconded: Cr McGorman**

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**That the Murchison Country Zone of WALGA resolve to admit the late item 8.2 – Mount Magnet Pharmacy Closure.**

**Carried 12/0**

## 8.2 Mount Magnet Pharmacy Closure

<b>Officer:</b>	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Mount Magnet
<b>Date of Report:</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> November 2019
<b>Amended By:</b>	Nil
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	Nil
<b>Nature of Interest:</b>	N/A
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2019

### Matter for Consideration

That the WALGA Murchison Zone consider action to address the recent closure of the Mount Magnet Pharmacy.

### Background

Members of the WALGA Murchison Zone are advised that the *La Croix Mount Magnet Pharmacy* closed its doors for (permanent) trading on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2019. Little notice of the permanent closure was provided to the community of Mount Magnet. The Mount Magnet Pharmacy serviced clients from Cue and Sandstone, as well as Mount Magnet and the closure has left these communities with no other access to the dispensing of (prescription) medication other than the Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service (GRAMS).

### Comment

The closure of the Mount Magnet Pharmacy affects the communities of Mount Magnet, Cue and Sandstone where, in particular the Cue and Sandstone communities travel regularly to Mount Magnet for the purpose of completing their medication prescription requirements. Mount Magnet also relies on the pharmacy service during the busy tourism season where a large percentage of the (mostly elderly) tourists utilise the pharmacy service for their medication requirements and quite often plan their journeys to stay in Mount Magnet for this purpose.

The Shire of Mount Magnet CEO contacted the owners of La Croix Mount Magnet Pharmacy when advised of the closure to discuss any possible alternatives and was advised that the service was not financially viable for them to continue. The primary reason given being the competition from GRAMS in dispensing medication to the Mount Magnet community in accordance with the contract GRAMS has in place with Rangeway Pharmacy in Geraldton. In this regard the owners of La Croix Mount Magnet Pharmacy advised that the decision to permanently close the pharmacy was purely a business decision and made it quite clear that any resolution to the issue would/should be provided by GRAMS.

The Shire President of the Shire of Mount Magnet contacted the CEO of GRAMS to discuss the issue, however no further communication (at the time of this report) has

been received from the CEO of GRAMS. The Shire President also discussed the issue with the A/Operations Manager - Midwest Murchison WA Country Health Service Midwest (Di Franklin) and can elaborate on the outcome of these discussions at the meeting. The issue has also been raised with the office of the WA Minister of Health who have advised:

- *For urgent care, residents can attend the Mt Magnet Nursing Post run by WACHS.*
- *The GRAMS can provide supplies of medication for chronic treatment and urgent conditions under the Commonwealth Section 100 program in partnership with a community pharmacy (Rangeway).*
- *For minor non-prescription medicines, a Schedule 2 retail licence can be issued where there is no pharmacy, to an appropriate community retailer.*
- *Residents can also obtain prescription medicines from a community pharmacy by post/delivery.*

The above response may address the immediate issue of dispensing prescription medication to the community, however it does not overcome the issue of the permanent closure of the Mount Magnet Pharmacy and, in particular the fact that 'another' business in town has closed its doors permanently that reflects detrimentally on the town. Further a pharmacy provides more than 'prescription medication' and while the comment from the Ministers office above notes that *minor non-prescription medicines, a Schedule 2 retail licence can be issued where there is no pharmacy, to an appropriate community retailer*, it is unlikely the local supermarket retailer in Mount Magnet may, or can expand their stock to include non-prescription medicines.

Correspondence regarding the matter has also been sent by the Shire President to the Hon Vince Catania MP, Member for North West Central seeking his support.

This report therefore requests the support of the WALGA Murchison Zone in pursuing realistic options in terms of ensuring the Mount Magnet Pharmacy continues to operate as a separate business 'shop front' entity that services the communities of Mount Magnet, Cue and Sandstone.

### **Statutory Environment**

Contractual arrangements GRAMS has with Rangeway Pharmacy in Geraldton.

### **Policy Implication**

Lack of essential service to communities of Mount Magnet, Cue and Sandstone.

### **Financial Implications**

Nil

### **Strategic Implications**

The Shire of Mount Magnet Strategic Community Plan 2019-2029 notes that *Council will be responsive to the needs of the community.*

### **Voting Requirements**

Simple majority

### **Attachments**

Nil

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the WALGA Murchison Zone lobby on behalf of the communities of Mount Magnet, Cue and Sandstone in pursuing realistic options in terms of ensuring the Mount Magnet Pharmacy continues to operate as a separate business 'shop front' entity to continue servicing the communities of Mount Magnet, Cue and Sandstone.

### **RESOLUTION –      Moved: Cr Jensen      Seconded: Cr Payne**

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**That the WALGA Murchison Zone lobby on behalf of the communities of Mount Magnet, Cue and Sandstone in pursuing realistic options in terms of ensuring the Mount Magnet Pharmacy continues to operate as a separate business 'shop front' entity to continue servicing the communities of Mount Magnet, Cue and Sandstone.**

**Carried 12/0**

Note: Mount Magnet to prepare letter with Zone chair to sign.

## 9. Shire Reports

### 9.1 Shire of Yalgoo

Shire of Yalgoo

37 Gibbons St

Yalgoo WA 6635

Telephone: (08) 9962 8042

Fax : (08) 9962 8020

Email: [pa@yalgoo.wa.gov.au](mailto:pa@yalgoo.wa.gov.au)



#### Report to Murchison Country Zone of WALGA November 2019

##### **Morawa Rd**

R2R funds have been engaged to commence road construction and bitumen seal for a further section of the Morawa Road extending the existing 4 meter seal width to 7 meters over a 7.5 kilometer section. It is planned to continue this program through to the shire boundary.

##### **Ningham Rd**

RRG funds have been engaged to construct a 4 meter bitumen seal over a 5 kilometer section, heading south towards this roads intersection with the Great Northern Highway. It is planned to continue these staged works until the entire road is all sealed.

##### **Community Activities**

A very successful Emu Festival was held in Yalgoo on 5 October, 2019 utilizing the Shire's new grassed oval facility and Core Stadium complex. The event provided many facilities for children and adults and included live music. This grassed oval venue also hosted a Football Clinic run by the Stephen Michael Foundation where 150 children from Meekatharra, Mt Magnet, Cue, Yalgoo and Mingenew attended.

##### **Vermin Fence**

Construction is currently underway of approximately 50 kilometers of dog proof fencing within the Shire of Yalgoo in cooperation with MRVC, utilizing a \$218,000.00 grant from "Communities Combating Pests and Weed Impacts During Drought Program Biosecurity Management of Pests and Weeds".

##### **FIJV Proposed Iron Ore Project**

A meeting was held on 26 October, 2019 between the Shire of Yalgoo and 14 delegates from FIJV, an Iranian investment company, consisting of Board members and affiliated JV technical delegates regarding its proposed magnetite iron ore 'Yogi' project located 15 kilometers from Yalgoo. EPA approval is expected in March, 2020 and a successful Bankable Feasibility Study achieved within 12 months. The company intend housing its 200 workforce in the Yalgoo town site and transport its concentrate by slurry in pipelines to Geraldton Port. The impact on the Yalgoo community will be significant, doubling its population.

##### **Yalgoo Caravan Park Facility**

Construction is about to commence on additional fully self contained rammed earth chalets to compliment very popular existing chalets at the Yalgoo caravan park, which has been extremely well patronized by tourists this season, particularly during the wildflower season and since the Shire took the initiative of providing its three prospective mining tenements for gold prospectors.

##### **Rating Mining Infrastructure**

The Shire is progressing its proposed rating of mining infrastructure supporting five mining operations within the Shire, subject to the Local Government Minister's approval, which will provide significant additional revenue to assist the Shire in achieving its strategic objectives.

**John Read**

**Acting Chief Executive Officer**

## 9.2 Shire of Mount Magnet



### **SHIRE OF MOUNT MAGNET Activity Report – November 2019**

#### Projects

- Council commenced its Cemeteries Management Plan project in November 2018 with the third stage of the project completed in June 2019. The project to date has involved consultation with the community, refurbishment of its 1905 Cemeteries Record Register, research at the WA State Records Office (SRO), research at the Geraldton Catholic Diocese regarding Parish records, research at the Geraldton Anglican Diocese regarding burial records, and site visit to the Mount Magnet town cemetery for the purpose of undertaking 'ground penetrating radar (GPR)' surveys to identify any possible unrecorded grave and burial sites undertaken by Dr Shane Burke of the Archaeology Unit at Notre Dame University. The subsequent GPR results identified 18 unmarked and unrecorded graves in the east and north section of the cemetery. A further GPR survey for the Lennonville cemetery and the Paynesville cemeteries will be scheduled for early 2020.
- Strategic Community Plan 2019 -2029 - Council commenced a review of its Strategic Community Plan in December 2018 that included community consultation workshops and the receipt of submissions and surveys for inclusion in the draft Strategic Community Plan 2019 -2029. The process was completed in April 2019 and Council adopted the final Plan in May 2019.
- Mount Magnet Entry Wall Statement – Council recently completed the erection of the 'town entry wall statements' with the installation of the emu metal design characters and lettering scheduled for later November that will complete the wall construction project.
- Murchison Geo-Tourism Plan – Council adopted the final Murchison Geo-Tourism Plan at its ordinary meeting dated 30/10/19. The project was a collaboration between the 7 Murchison Shires and the Mid West Development Commission with the Shire of Mount Magnet being the host auspice Council.
- Mount Magnet Visitor Centre and Tourism Plan 2019 -2024 – Council recently completed the Plan that was originally funded by Tourism WA in 2015/16 that is a document that describes the activities of the Mount Magnet Visitor Centre and general tourism in the Mount Magnet district with particular emphasise on the future opportunities for tourism and visitor attractions. The Mount Magnet Visitor Centre and Tourism Plan 2019 -2024 is intended to compliment the Murchison Geo-Tourism Plan.
- Mount Magnet Town Planning Scheme and Local Planning Strategy review – Council recently appointed GHD to undertake a review of its Town Planning Scheme #2 and Local Planning Strategy.
- Swimming Pool – Council recently completed renovation work at the swimming pool as part of the funding it received under the CSRFF program.

- Atlantic Vanadium Pty Ltd have advised Council that they are awaiting final environmental approval and expect to commence production at the Windimurra mine circa March/April 2020, and
- LNG processing plant – Council has received advice and is assisting Clean Energy Fuels Australia (CEFA) with the process of establishing an LNG processing plant on the eastern side of the Great Northern Highway approximately 12 kms south of Mount Magnet.
- Mount Magnet airport runway study – Council appointed AMS to undertake the airport runway study in accordance with the RADS funding (together with Council and mining companies funding) it received. The study commenced with onsite visitations by AMS in October this year to undertake compaction testing of the runway, taxiway and apron areas. The final study report is expected by the end of the year that will inform Council of the requirements and cost to upgrade the airport runway capacity.

### **Human Resources**

- Councils newly appointed Works Manager, Mr Danny Humphries commenced his tenure in May 2019.
- Council appointed (internally) Mr Brian Hawkins as its Town Supervisor/Leading Hand who commenced his tenure in June 2019.
- Council recently appointed Ms Tasma D'Souza as the permanent part time Visitor Centre Officer.
- Council appointed 3 more outdoor staff from casual to permanent status that now brings a total of 8 permanent outdoor employees.
- Council's 3 school based trainees will complete their traineeships at the end of this calendar year with 1 trainee transitioning to the outdoor crew following the successful completion of his Certificate 2 in Horticultural Studies, and
- Council has engaged the services of Ms Katie Hall as its civil engineering consultant.

### **Governance/Finance**

- Audit - Councils newly appointed auditors (Butler Settineri) have completed their first site visit to Mount Magnet for the purpose of undertaking the 2018/19 audit. Council expects to complete the process by early/mid December and hold its Annual Electors meeting.
- Elections – Councils elections were held on 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2019 as 'in person' elections whereby 3 councillors were elected from 5 candidates. The newly elected councillors being Cr Mary Ford (reelected), Cr Cecilia Kelly (newly elected) and Cr Ian Black (newly elected). The election of Councils Shire President and Deputy along with swearing in of new councillors was held on 21<sup>st</sup> of October 2019. Cr Jorgen Jensen was again elected as Shire President with Cr Jim McGorman elected s Deputy.

### **Housing**

Council has 1 x duplex Council staff housing vacant, however is using this residence for contractors only at this stage. All other staff housing is occupied and Council has recently leased out 2 of its vacant Pensioner Units.

### **Civil Works and Plant**

- Council is currently undertaking construction and maintenance roadworks on Wondinong Road and completed maintenance grading on Nalbra, Wogarno and Yowergabbie roads.

- Maintenance grading work continues on the Mt Farmer in accordance with the Road Access and Maintenance Agreement between Council and Gascoyne Resources.
- RRG projects for the 2019/20 have commenced.
- Council recently upgraded CEO vehicle,
- Council has continued with its minor plant replacement program for the 2019/20 year with the purchase of mowers, whipper snippers etc.
- Council recently purchased a new Komatsu grader that was delivered in October 2019 and is awaiting a new water tanker that is expected for delivery in November 2019.
- Council to commence next stage of footpath construction of approximately 500 metres in early 2020, and
- Erection of shed for Hill 50 Winder at Museum scheduled to commence in November as part of BBRF funding Council received.

### **Tourism**

The 2019 tourism season has slowed down with Mount Magnet having recorded a slight increase in tourist visitations this year in accordance with recorded data from the Visitor Centre and Caravan Park.

The 2019 Astro Rocks Festival was held from the 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2019 with a specific Astro Rocks Committee being established by Council to oversee the event and to record numbers attending the events. These were recorded at circa 400+ in total for the 3 day event.

The 2019 Mount Magnet races coincided with the Astro Rocks Fest event on 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2019 where race event organizers report circa 500+ attending the event.

### **Community Activities**

The Mount Magnet cinema reopened in August this year with the intention of 'community viewing' of movies and has held regular movie viewing since then on a monthly basis.

In partnership with WACRH's Community Development Officers (CDOs), Council has commenced the Mount Magnet Social Plan 2019 – 2024 and the CDOs have already held several beneficial community consultations as part of the process. It is expected the Social Plan will be completed and adopted by Council at the end of November 2019.

The Mount Magnet Memorial Swimming Pool opened for the 2019/20 season on 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2019 and will close on 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2020.

Thank you

**Kelvin Matthews**  
*Chief Executive Officer*



### 9.3 Shire of Murchison



#### **Governance**

The Shire is fortunate to have a dedicated and committed set of Councillors who are well connected to the community, understand the history and heritage and contribute in many ways outside their formal roles. Councils very small staff team actively assist in a complementary fashion and punch well above their weight. The 2019 Elections saw Cr's Rossco Foulkes-Taylor, (re-elected President) Andrew Whitmarsh and Quentin Fowler returned unopposed

Outgoing CEO Peter Dittrich left a very positive platform for the new CEO to build on. Acting CEO Eddie Piper, who is well-versed with local government operations through his long-standing career was put in place in transition. The last 6 months has seen the loss of our DCEO, Technical Service Administration Officer and Finance and Administrative Officer. Only last week were these positions were finally refilled so we have been significantly under resourced and behind in several areas but look forward to a positive more manageable 2020.

#### **Roads**

Damage to roads that were closed at the time. Ie Carnarvon–Mullewa and Coolcalalaya West Roads. Council are a bit exasperated as whilst we can legally recover costs for damage to roads, whether closed or not, it's very difficult when a bit of common sense should have prevailed. The Carnarvon–Mullewa has been repaired some month or so ago and Coolcalalaya West Road will be repaired by Christmas. It would seem appropriate that some sort of fine system should prevail as the Shire, like most Shires seems a bit powerless.

Continued progress by Councils Works Crew regarding road maintenance and construction. We continue to receive positive feedback from many grey nomads and others on the positive quality work undertaken which is appreciated. Council has also successfully commenced the conversion of the Beringarra-Cue Road from a poor-quality seal to gravel. Main roads program has now commenced in earnest. Flood 5 works have been successfully completed with the Jan 2019 Flood 6 event now having funding approved.

#### **Other**

Extension of the Roadhouse Lease to the current operators. We often receive great positive feedback and the contribution to recent Sports Club events including this years' AFL Grand Final has been great.

Advancing several positive projects as works in progress including improved validation of assets, new housing with WALGA currently assisting with tenders for 2 new houses into the Murchison Settlement and upgrading and greening of the settlements power supply.

ciao

Bill Boehm  
CEO – Shire of Murchison  
T | 08 9963 7999

## 9.4 Shire of Sandstone



### SHIRE OF SANDSTONE Activity Report November 2019

#### Human Resources

The shire has been successful in engaging a new gardener who is working out quite well. We have one of our truck drivers on long term sick leave and another on workers compo. A female roller driver started a couple of weeks ago and is performing very well. We have previously employed her and knew she was good value.

Importantly the CEO Harry Hawkins was taken to Perth by RFDS in a very sad state on 24 September. He has pancreatitis and has spent considerable time in hospital. He is currently at home but will be admitted during November for further tests and procedures. I have taken the role of Acting CEO from 30<sup>th</sup> September until Harry's return.

#### Road Works and Equipment

The 2019/20 road program covers most areas in the shire with RTR and RRG works plus an extensive shire funded program which will be a combination of floodway and re-sheeting works.

Projects completed or nearing completion re-sheeting and floodway works on Meekatharra Rd and Yeelirrie Rd. The Shire crews are now concentrating on the Paynes Find Rd completing RRG funded re-sheeting works.

In the coming months works on the Paynes Find Rd, Meekatharra Rd, Atlet Station Rd and Yeelirrie Rd will be undertaken.

#### Buildings

The continued expansion to the Caravan Park has seen tenders called for 2 new self contained units for the caravan park to provide another alternative level of accommodation in town for those who want something other than a donga.

Unfortunately this project has been abandoned through being unable to obtain a non-binding estimate of costs to upgrade the electricity supply without paying \$6,500 in advance which would be deducted from the upgrade payment. Of course if it was not proceeded with, the \$6,500 is lost to Council. A guess by a electrician was \$250,000 which, in fact, ruled out the development.

#### Tourism

The telescope is finally operating as it should and visitors to Sandstone will this year be able to view the night sky provided we can get enough volunteers trained to provide the experience. This has not been a large success this year as Harry was the major operator. On his return we will actively seek volunteers

The old school site is also getting closer to being able to fulfil Council's plan for it to operate as a camp site with dormitory style accommodation for groups of people looking for that experience in a remote setting. The interior has been painted and new floor coverings laid while white goods and camp beds have also been purchased. There is a holdup with new ablutions being required.

The Black Range Tearooms has also reopened in April so real coffee and good food is available again for the duration of the tourist season. The Tearooms closed on 30<sup>th</sup> September to re-open next tourist season.

### **Other Projects**

#### **Bowling Green**

Construction of a 2 rink bowling green at the Community Centre was completed in July. The opening was conducted in August and was well attended. It was followed by an afternoon of bowls and then a sausage sizzle that evening. The bowling green has been used on a regular basis since the opening.

#### **Pioneer Park**

Works at Pioneer Park on the cnr of Payne and Oroya Streets are progressing with a large shed erected to house mining and pastoral equipment. A poppet head is now insitu and the mulga fence around the park completed.

This project will showcase relics from an earlier time and be a welcome addition for locals and visitors to visit.

Eddie PIPER  
Acting Chief Executive Officer  
6<sup>th</sup> November 2019



### November 2019 Report to Cue Parliament

#### Governance

At the close of nominations for the 2019 Local Government elections, four nominations had been received for the four vacancies created by the expiration of the terms of office of Councillors Ross Pigdon, Les Price, Ron Hogben and Leonie Fitzpatrick, with the sitting Councillors all renominating and being re-elected for a further four year term. An election was therefore not required for the Shire of Cue.

The Shire President, Deputy Shire President and CEO attended the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly in Canberra in June. The conference was well represented by the Murchison region with attendees from Cue, Mt Magnet and Yalgoo. Delegates heard from a range of speakers and voted on motions submitted from Councils across Australia on matters of federal significance including financial assistance grants, transport, health, education, drought, communications, gambling, waste and the environment. Murchison delegates also lobbied Federal Ministers at Parliament House concerning issues directly affecting the Murchison region.



Murchison delegation in Parliament House - Left to right from rear – Kelvin Matthews, CEO Shire of Mount Magnet, Cr Jorgen Jensen, Shire President Mount Magnet, Cr Ross Pigdon, Shire President Cue, Cr Eliz Morrison, Mount Magnet, Cr Les Price, Deputy Shire President Cue, Cr Tamisha Hodder, Yalgoo, Silvio Brenzi, CEO Shire of Yalgoo, Rob Madson, CEO Shire of Cue

**Admin**

Connection of a dedicated 100/100Mbps internet service to the Shire admin building has been on Telstra's waitlist for over six months without progress. Installation of a new VoIP telephone system has been completed, however its full potential won't be realised until the internet upgrade is finalised.

**Community Events**

On 28 August, the Variety WA Bash visited Cue on their route through the Gascoyne and Murchison regions. Participants enjoyed an overnight stay at Nallan Station and raised an additional \$5,500 in funds for children's charity, Variety.

Erth's Dinosaur Zoo show at the Shire Hall was well attended, with groups travelling from Yalgoo, Mount Magnet and Meekatharra, contributing to a total attendance of 220 people. Volunteer Shire admin staff, plus a few extras, made sure everybody got a feed on the night, and, judging by the reaction of the kids, the show was a roaring success.

**Economic Development**

Westgold continue to cart ore from Comet, Great Fingal and Big Bell mines to their processing plant at Tuckabianna. Westgold's Cue Village mining camp is currently at capacity, as is an additional camp, catering for 120 workers, constructed at their Big Bell mine site.

Musgrave Minerals continue to report good gold results from their drilling at Moyagee as they progress toward full mining operations. Musgrave have entered into a joint venture with Cyprium Metals who are focused on copper deposits.

Fenix Resources are finalising arrangements for their iron ore operations at their Iron Ridge mine situated in the Weld Range, with plans to cart to Geraldton Port.

	<p>The process of certifying the Cue Aerodrome is continuing, primarily to accommodate larger aircraft proposed for Westgold's FIFO operations.</p> <p>The SC Films production, <i>The Dust Walker</i>, which was filmed in Cue, recently opened in Perth as part of the Monster Fest Film Festival.</p> <p>Negotiations are continuing with property owners regarding the proposed purchase of several neglected main street buildings with the aim of bringing life back into the town centre. Purchase of the former Bank of NSW building in Austin Street has been finalised. Work has commenced on tidying up the property and making sure the building is secure and the electricity supply safe.</p>
<b>Tourism</b>	<p>Numbers have now died off at the Tourist Park following a solid season.</p> <p>Construction of a heritage interpretation centre behind the Cue Community &amp; Visitor Centre (old post office) is progressing. The building will provide climate-controlled display space and will feature virtual reality technology to immerse visitors in a 3D holographic experience.</p>
<b>Town Developments</b>	<p>Tenders have been awarded for the construction of three new houses, with two to be leased to the State Government for police accommodation through the Government Regional Officer Housing program.</p> <p>The Shire was successful in obtaining \$40,000 in grant funds through the Community Sports and Recreation Facilities Fund to assist with the construction of a small wheels park in the currently unused cricket pitch area adjacent to the basketball courts. The main component of the park will be a Parkitect modular pump track designed for scooters, skateboards and small bicycles. The track is currently waiting at Fremantle Port for collection.</p> <p>The basketball and tennis courts have received some much needed attention, with a contractor engaged to repair cracks in the base, re-apply a rubberised paint surface and renew the court markings.</p> <p>In case you were wondering why there is a blue tree in Austin Street, this is part of a social campaign to highlight the issue of mental health. The Blue Tree Project started in WA and has spread throughout Australia, helping raise awareness around mental wellbeing. For further information on this important issue, head to the Blue Tree Project website or Facebook page.</p>
<b>Works</b>	<p>WANDRRA funded works to repair flood damage caused to several roads within the Shire during recent rain events have been authorised to proceed to tender.</p> <p>The Shire is negotiating with Fenix Resources to construct and/or</p>

upgrade roads required for their Iron Ridge mine. Negotiations are also proceeding with Westgold regarding sealing several Shire roads accessing their mine sites.

## 9.6 Shire of Meekatharra

### WALGA Murchison Zone Meeting; November 2019



#### Activities and issues - Shire of Meekatharra

##### Major Issues

Long life mining companies are being given full approval by state agencies with no consideration as to how they will transport their inputs and outputs to and from site. In some cases there is an assumption/expectation that they will use Shire roads. Unsealed shire roads are not designed or constructed to take large, long term mine haul programs. There are concerns for the financial and resource impact on shires, public safety and potential environmental impacts that are created when numerous large road trains use unsealed roads.

Proposed changes to the security screening requirements at airports are very concerning and anomalous. The changes will, if adopted, significantly impact Mount Magnet, Wiluna and Meeka airports as well as other Skippers Airline destinations. Lobbying for sanity to prevail continues and we appear to have had a win – yet to be confirmed by the Minister. Thanks to Melissa Price for her assistance with this matter.

Upgrade and sealing of the Goldfields Highway Meekatharra to Wiluna. Mid-West Development Commission, Main Roads and the Wiluna and Meeka Shires are researching potential funding alternatives. Main Roads have been allocated \$1M to undertake further sealing near Wiluna.

Meekatharra District Hospital replacement is urgent. Built in 1955, the Meekatharra Hospital is now 64 years old and must be replaced as a matter of highest priority. Minister for Health, Hon Roger Cook visited Meeka late July and has directed WACHS to do a business case for the replacement of the Hospital. The Business Case should be nearing completion early in 2020.

##### Human Resources

All positions are currently filled.

##### Land/Buildings

Redevelopment of the old Lloyds Building on Main Street has commenced. The project is being jointly funded by Lotteries WA, the Federal Building Better Regions Fund and the Meeka Shire. The project will be completed early in 2020 and includes facilities for the CRC, a gallery, museum, conference centre, hairdresser, café, atrium and 2 retail/office spaces.

The small wheel (skate) park project is complete and was jointly funded by Lotteries WA and the Meeka Shire. It has been amazingly popular with the local kids and some of the more youthful adults.

##### Road Construction & Equipment

Mainly maintenance and resheeting works scheduled this year for the Road Construction Crew. Approx 7 kms of Ashburton Downs Road to be sealed using Roads to Recovery funding. Natural Disaster remedial works are now complete.

##### Promotions/Events

This year's Meeka Festival/Race weekend September 27 – 30 was very successful.

##### Governance/Admin/Finance

No change to the rate in dollar for the 19/20 year across all rate categories.

## **10. Presentations**

**10.1 Water Corporation**

**Mr Stephen Greeve/ Mr Ian Bierman**

**10.2 Midwest Development Commission**

**Mr Gavin Treasure**

**10.3 Regional Development Australia**

**Mr Mark Holdsworth**

## **11. Emerging Issues as Notified/Permitted by the President**

## **12. Next Meeting**

With the May 2020 State Council meeting being scheduled on 6 May 2020, WALGA has nominated a suggested date for the zone meeting being Friday 1 May 2020

**Moved Cr Pigdon**

**Seconded Cr Payne**

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**That the next meeting of the Murchison Country Zone be held in Cue on Friday 1 May 2020.**

**Carried 12/0**

## **13. Meeting Closure**

There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 2.05pm.

**The Minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Murchison Country Zone meeting held 1st May 2020.**

**R Foulkes-Taylor Zone President**