

Great Southern Country Zone

Minutes

Friday, 26 August 2022

Shire of Katanning
Katanning Leisure & Function Centre
4 Pemble Str. Katanning

Contact Zone Secretariat:

Lyn Fogg
Zone Executive Officer
WALGA Governance Specialist
lfogg@walga.asn.au
08 9213 2042

Janine Neugebauer
Governance and Organisational Services Officer
jneugebauer@walga.asn.au
09 9213 2079

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ATTACHMENTS:

1. [Item 4.1](#) National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRA) - Media Release NEMRRA formation
2. [Item 7.1](#) Minutes Zone Meeting, 24 June 2022 (circulated separately with Agenda)
3. [Item 10.4](#) WALGA RoadWise Report
4. [Item 11.3.1](#) State Council Agenda – via link: [State Council Agenda - 9 September 2022](#)
5. [Item 11.4](#) WALGA President's Report (circulated separately with Agenda)
6. [Item No.12](#) Power Supply Allocation Issues

Great Southern Country Zone

Hosted by Shire of Katanning
Katanning Leisure & Function Centre
4 Pemble Str. Katanning

Meeting Commenced at 10.04am on Friday, 26 August 2022

Minutes

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

We, the Great Southern Country Zone of WALGA acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this land, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and future.

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES:

City of Albany	Cr Paul Terry Libby Harding, A/Executive Director Corporate & Commercial Services (non-voting)
Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup	President, Cr Michael White Deputy President, Cr Doug Barritt Anthony Middleton, Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Cranbrook	President, Cr Philip Horrocks Deputy President, Cr George Pollard Linda Gray, Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Denmark	Cr Donna Carman
Shire of Gnowangerup	President, Cr Fiona Gaze Cr Kate O'Keeffe Bob Jarvis, Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Jerramungup	Martin Cuthbert, Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Katanning	President, Cr Liz Guidera (Deputy Chair) Deputy President, Cr John Goodheart Julian Murphy, Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Kent	President, Cr Scott Crosby
Shire of Kojonup	Cr Kevin Gale Cr Alan Egerton-Warburton Grant Thompson, Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)
Shire of Plantagenet	Deputy President, Cr Jon Oldfield

Cr Ken Clements (Deputy for President Cr Chris Pavlich)
Cr Len Handasyde (Observer –GSRRG/GSRC, Chair)
John Fathers, Deputy Chief Executive Officer (non-voting)

Shire of Woodanilling

Cr Peter Morrell

Guests

Members Of Parliament

Rick Wilson MP, Federal Member for O'Connor
Hon Shelley Payne MLC, Member for Agricultural Region
Jodie Pollard, Recovery Support Officer

National Recovery and Resilience
Agency

Great Southern Development
Commission

Kylie Sullivan, Regional Development Officer

Department of Local Government,
Sport and Cultural Industries

Mel Eastough, Regional Manager

WALGA

Lyn Fogg, Zone Executive Officer
Janine Neugebauer, Governance & Organisational Services
Officer
Vivienne Gardiner, WALGA RoadWise Road Safety Adviser

APOLOGIES:

City of Albany

Mayor Dennis Wellington
Andrew Sharpe, Chief Executive Officer
Cr Janine Phillips

Shire of Denmark

David Schober, Chief Executive Officer

Shire of Gnowangerup

Deputy President, Cr Greg Stewart

Shire of Jerramungup

Deputy President, Cr Julie Leenhouders

Shire of Kent

Cr Kate Johnston

Shire of Plantagenet

President, Cr Chris Pavlovich
Cameron Woods, Chief Executive Officer

Shire of Woodanilling

President, Cr Stephen Jefferies
Deputy President, Cr Russel Thomson
Kelly Bartley, Chief Executive Officer

Guests

Peter Rundle MLA, Member for Roe
Jane Kelsbie MLA, Member for Warren-Blackwood
Natasha Monks, Chief Executive Officer, GSDC
Simon Lyas, Director, Regional Development, RDA

Robert Dew, Executive Officer, LGAFG

Liz Toohey, Regional Manager, DLGSC

WALGA

Nicole Mathews, Executive Manager Policy WALGA

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4. GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS

4.1 National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRA)

Refer: [ATTACHMENT 1](#)

Jodie Pollard, Recovery Support Officer, National Recovery & Resilience Agency (NRRA) presented to the Zone on the NRRA's role with current focus on recovery following a natural disaster and building community resilience.

NOTED

5. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Members of Parliament provided the Zone with a brief updated:

- Rick Wilson MP, Federal Member for O'Connor
- Hon Shelley Payne MLC, Member for Agricultural Region

NOTED

6. AGENCY REPORTS

6.1 South Coast Natural Resource Management (SCNRM)

Cr Jon Oldfield advised the Zone that there was nil to report.

NOTED

6.2 Great Southern Development Commission

No update provided.

NOTED

6.3 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

Mel Eastough, Regional Manager provided an update to the Zone.

NOTED

6.4 RDA Great Southern WA Inc.

Simon Lyas, CEO, was an apology but provided information relevant to the RDA's support of the Zone's DAMA project – refer Item 7.2.1.

No further update provided at this meeting.

NOTED

7. MINUTES

7.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the Great Southern Country Zone meeting held on 24 June 2022

The Minutes of the Great Southern Country Zone meeting held on Friday, 24 June 2022 have previously been circulated to Member Councils and was attached to the Agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: President, Cr Scott Crosby
Seconded: President, Cr Michael White

That the minutes of the Great Southern Country Zone meeting held on Friday, 24 June 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

7.2 Business Arising from the Minutes from the Great Southern Country Zone Meeting held on Friday, 24 June 2022

7.2.1 Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA)

At the June meeting, the following was resolved:

That the Great Southern Country Zone of WALGA supports the concept of the Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) as follows:

- 1. The Great Southern Country Local Governments are to report back to the Zone Executive Officer by Wednesday, 17 August 2022 as to their interest in joining the DAMA.***
- 2. The Great Southern Country Zone acknowledge the Regional Development Australia office will act as the Designated Area Representative (DAR), and***
- 3. The Great Southern Country Zone acknowledges that funding will be required from each Local Government.***

The CEO's of Kojonup and Plantagenet prepared a draft Ordinary Council Meeting (OCM) template for each of the Local Governments to prepare for their respective July OCM's so that the deadline for response prior to the next Zone Agenda deadline of 17 August 2022 could be met.

The following shires have provided confirmation to support the Zone resolution of the Great Southern Country Zone Dama, including confirmation of their financial contribution.

Shire of Broomehill Tambellup	\$2,500
Shire of Cranbrook	\$2,500
Shire of Denmark	\$8,000
Shire of Gnowangerup	\$2,500
Shire of Jerramungup	\$2,500
Shire of Katanning	\$7,000
Shire of Kent	\$1,000
Shire of Kojonup	\$5,000
Shire of Plantagenet	\$8,000
Shire of Woodanilling	\$1,000

COMMENT

The Zone to consider the next steps in proceeding with the DAMA concept.

DISCUSSION:

Simon Lyas, CEO, RDA Great Southern WA Inc. was an apology but provided, by email dated 25 August 2022, the following information that was tabled and read aloud to the Zone:

- RDA Great Southern approved a \$10K contribution to the DAMA Business Case at its meeting on Friday 24 June 2022.
- At the same meeting RDA approved its commitment to be the Designated Area Representative (DAR) and will manage the development of the Business Case.
- I have spoken to an immigration consultancy in Perth – Perdaman Global Services, and expect to receive their quote for preparation of the DAMA Business Case in the next two weeks. Perdaman have prepared the South West DAMA BC, and the Pilbara DAMA BC and have extensive immigration experience.
- RDA Great Southern is in the process of recruiting a 0.6 EFT Research Officer who will assist in the preparation of the DAMA Business Case including coordinating employer surveys throughout the region. The surveying will commence in the near future and will require support from the Shires for distribution via their websites, newsletters etc.

- Our office will be happy to liaise on a regular basis with all Shires and we expect to form a small DAMA working group in the near future to assist with and monitor progress on the project.

MOTION (Shire of Plantagenet)

The Shire of Plantagenet Zone Representative, Deputy President, Cr Jon Oldfield, tabled the following proposed motion and supporting information:

Proposed Motion:

That a working group consisting of three Great Southern Local Government Authority CEOs and one Council representative, from the Shires of Kojonup, Katanning and Plantagenet, be established to progress the DAMA on behalf of the ten committed Great Southern Local Governments.

Comment (Background)

There is support from ten Great Southern Shires for the establishment of a regional DAMA. There is also uncertainty with regard the necessary funding required for development of the business case; the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) and Regional Development Australia Great Southern (RDA-GS) will undertake, in the establishment of the DAMA and administration of the Designated Area Representative (DAR).

A working group representing the interests of the ten committed Great Southern Shires can resolve these uncertainties and make recommendations regarding the geographical boundary; the required budget for the business case; who will deliver the business case and to administer the DAR, before proceeding further.

The Working Group Charter would include:

1. Recommending the ten Shires consult with their respective industries on skill shortages and gather supporting evidence by Friday, 23 September 2022.
2. (a) Review the other WA DAMA business cases and their learnings to determine our process and next steps; and
(b) Prepare a draft budget and scope of works for the business case and prepare a shortlist of suitable contractors to quote on the business case by 17 October 2022.
3. Make recommendations as to who will function as the DAR in our region and determine the application of fees and operating model to deliver the service with the interested parties by 17 October.
4. Prepare the final report with recommendations for the next Great Southern Country Zone meeting on Friday, 28 October 2022.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Deputy President, Cr Jon Oldfield

Seconded: President, Cr Scott Crosby

Proposed Motion as moved, was amended with the approval of the Mover and Seconder to read as follows:

That a working group consisting of three Great Southern Local Government Authority CEOs from the Shires of Kojonup, Katanning and Plantagenet, and the Great Southern Country Zone President, be established to progress the DAMA on behalf of all committed Great Southern Local Governments.

DAMA Working Group Charter:

1. **Recommending the committed Local Government's consult with their respective industries on skill shortages and gather supporting evidence by Friday, 23 September 2022.**
2. (a) **Review the other WA DAMA business cases and their learnings to determine our process and next steps; and**
 (b) **Prepare a draft budget and scope of works for the business case and prepare a shortlist of suitable contractors to quote on the business case by 17 October 2022.**
3. **Prepare the final report with recommendations for the next Great Southern Country Zone meeting on Friday, 28 October 2022.**

CARRIED

The meeting further **AGREED** that the DAMA Working Group meetings should include representation from the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) and Regional Development Australia Great Southern (RDA-GS)

7.3 Zone Priority Strategic Issues

7.3.1 Housing

Issues raised include:

- Availability of land. Market failure. Most Zone Local Governments have residential property 'shovel-ready' for subdivision and development, but the increasing cost of headworks is a barrier for developers.
- Advocate for lower deposits for bank loans on residential housing.
- Review of Planning Act to see if it is appropriate for regional areas and amend it to cut out any barriers to building, e.g., building codes changed to allow more innovative and sustainable construction methods.
- Problem with builders not being able to hire enough staff to undertake building projects.
- Current difficulty sourcing building materials.
- State Government requires more GROH housing in the region.
- Job, House, and Land packages.
- Carbon reduction – stand-alone sustainable housing developments for communities. Matter for WA Planning Commission.

Action (GSCZ 24/06/2022): Each Zone council to discuss and prioritise key outcomes to be achieved to increase housing in regional areas. Quantify the housing needs of each community.

Action (GSCZ 26/08/2022): If Local Governments could respond by 21 October 2022, so that this issue can be considered at the 28 October 2022 meeting.

7.3.2 Reliable Digital Connectivity / Telecommunications

- Delegates to discuss with their councils about issues to bring to the Zone on this matter.
- Mayor Wellington suggested submitting joint Zone proposal to local members prior to elections.
- Need shovel-ready projects for this proposal.
- Councils can ask City of Albany CEO for the City's investment prospectus.
- What is the one project we could go to the next State Government election with? Possibly housing and telecommunication connectivity.

Action (GSCZ 24/06/2022): Each Zone council to discuss and prioritise key outcomes to be achieved to improve telecommunications in regional areas and report back to the Zone.

Action (GSCZ 26/08/2022): If Local Governments could respond by 21 October 2022, so that this issue can be considered at the 28 October 2022 meeting.

7.3.3 Jobs and Investment

How do we attract more people to move from cities to live in regional areas?

Action (GSCZ 24/06/2022): WALGA to gather information (referring to items 7.3.1 and 7.3.2) and required key outcomes from Zone Councils on Housing and Digital Connectivity, and then create a Zone proposal to take to State and Federal Governments. Zone Councils to liaise with Lyn Fogg at WALGA.

Update (GSCZ 26/08/2022): Work is progressing on this item and further information will be provided for the October meeting.

NOTED

8. FINANCIAL REPORT

8.1 Financial Report for June and July 2022

Month of June 2022

No transactions have been accounted for the month of June 2022. Records for the financial year ended 30 June 2022 have been submitted to the auditor John Fathers.

Transfer of accounting to WALGA

The transition of the accounting function to WALGA is pending one, the supply of accounting records and two, the update of bank signatories, including the addition of Rick Murray (WALGA CFO) as a bank signatory. This requires a hard copy of the Bank Signatory Change to be signed by zone committee members and delivered to Mr Murray, who will then visit a local branch of the Bank to complete the process.

Month of July 2022

Transactions for July 2022 will be reported to the next meeting when is expected that WALGA finance team will have access to the bank account and the transition is completed.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President, Cr Fiona Gaze

Seconded: President, Cr Michael White

That this report and outstanding actions be noted.

CARRIED

8.2 Change to Bank Signatories

The Commonwealth Bank requires a motion from the Great Southern Zone to change the bank signatories as follows:

RESOLUTION

Moved: President, Cr Scott Crosby

Seconded: President, Cr Fiona Gaze

1. That the Great Southern Zone of the WA Local Government Association makes the following changes to bank signatories for its Commonwealth Bank account number: 10089139 (BSB: 066-515 Katanning branch) :
 - a. Remove: Veronica Fleay and Annabel Paulley.

- b. Add: WA Local Government Association Chief Finance Officer Rick Murray and Finance Manager, Tina Mossdrop

2. That the Great Southern Zone of the WA Local Government Association changes the postal address for all bank correspondence relating to the Commonwealth Bank account number: 10089139: from PO Box 100, Woodanilling, WA 6316 to PO Box 1544 West Perth WA 6872.
3. That the Great Southern Zone of the WA Local Government Association requests that the Commonwealth Bank removes Annabel Paulley from online banking viewing access relating to account number: 10089139 and provides online banking access to Chief Finance Officer Rick Murray of the WA Local Government Association.

CARRIED

9. ZONE BUSINESS

9.1 Review of the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007: Consideration of WALGA Discussion Paper

By Rebecca Brown, Manager Environment and Waste, WALGA

Background

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

The [Independent Panel](#) undertaking the review, is using a three-stage engagement process:

- Stage 1 (closed) - open submissions and a survey to identify major themes and issues
- Stage 2 - stage 1 will 'provide the foundation for participatory processes to further explore themes and issues'
- Stage 3 - broader engagement to get feedback on the findings and potential solutions, expected to take place in late 2022/early 2023.

The Independent Panel is required to make its report, including any recommended amendments to the Act, to the Minister for Agriculture and Food by March 2023.

WALGA prepared a [Discussion Paper](#) to inform comment on the Review, which includes 11 key biosecurity themes and related recommendations reflecting issues raised by Local Government, and those identified in the [Auditor General's 2013 and 2020 Reports](#).

Policy Implications

WALGA's current Policy Position on Biosecurity, was endorsed in 2017 and is available in the [Advocacy Positions Manual](#) (Section 4.5).

Comment

WALGA is seeking Zones' consideration of the recommendations included in the Discussion Paper to inform its submission to the Review on behalf of the sector and the development of an updated Biosecurity Advocacy Position. WALGA intends to put an updated Policy Position to the December State Council meeting. Local Governments are also strongly encouraged to make their own submissions to the review as appropriate in Stage 2 and 3.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Deputy President, Cr Jon Oldfield
Seconded: President, Cr Scott Crosby

That the Zone endorse the following recommendations:

1. Strategic direction and regional priorities: The State Government develop a strategic framework that enables the prioritisation of biosecurity threats in geographically defined regions and sets targets for declared pest management.

2. **Agency responsibilities:** The roles and responsibilities of each State Government department responsible for biosecurity management need to be a clearly defined and communicated, a formalised structure for different agencies to work together established, and increased investment made in declared pest management on State Government managed land.
3. **Declared Pest Rate and Recognised Biosecurity Groups:** If the Declared Pest Rate and Recognised Biosecurity Groups (RBGs) are to continue to be key mechanisms for the management of widespread and established declared pests, changes are required to improve their operation and effectiveness to better support the concept of shared responsibility.
4. **Environmental biosecurity:** A more balanced view of biosecurity that has a greater focus on environmental biosecurity is required, through increased recognition and management of pest species that have significant ecological impacts.
5. **Responses to incursions:** Increased and more equitable distribution of funding is required to ensure each step of the biosecurity continuum is adequately resourced for all stakeholders, including Local Government.
6. **Management of declared pests in urban areas:** Declared pest management in all urban areas requires support through an appropriate funding mechanism.
7. **Problematic non-declared pests:** The process for the listing of declared pests needs to be timely and transparent to ensure that land managers, including Local Government, are not resourcing the control of an increasing number of problematic non-declared pest species.
8. **Sustainable funding model:** A sustainable and equitable funding model is required to manage the increasing biosecurity management threat.
9. **Compliance and enforcement:** The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Developments responsibility for compliance and enforcement needs to be adequately resourced and enacted.
10. **Monitoring, research, and innovation:** Strategic monitoring, use of new technologies and the establishment of data management systems are required to inform biosecurity investment decisions and support adaptive management.
11. **Community education and involvement:** A stronger focus on community education to increase understanding and awareness will improve engagement with biosecurity management programs and assist with timely incursion responses.

CARRIED

9.2 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review project

By Susie Moir, Policy Manager, Resilient Communities, WALGA

WALGA and the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) Business Unit are working in partnership with key stakeholders to identify options to improve LEMA processes. WALGA has received AWARE funding to undertake the Local Government consultation for the LEMA Review.

WALGA will be delivering a series of workshops with Local Government to contribute to the design of a more streamlined, scalable, and fit-for-purpose LEMA model. The outcomes of the workshops will inform a LEMA Improvement Plan that will be prepared by the SEMC Business Unit.

Interactive workshops are being held in several locations with complimentary refreshments provided.

Target Audience: Chief Executive Officers, Emergency Management staff and Elected Members.

Workshop details below:

- Geraldton 7 September – Geraldton Multipurpose Centre 10.30am – 2:00pm
- Stirling 12 September – City of Stirling Civic Centre, Stirling Room 9:00am – 12:00pm
- Katanning 13 September – Katanning Leisure Centre 10.30am – 2:00pm
- Bunbury 14 September – City of Bunbury Administration, Function Room 10.30am – 2:00pm

- Northam 15 September – Bilya Koort Boodja Centre 10.30am – 2:00pm
- Victoria Park 16 September –Town of Victoria Park Administration Building 9:00am –12:00pm
- Online workshops – date TBC

Registration

To register for a free LEMA Review workshop, [click here](#) and choose your relevant date and location.

Read more in the [WALGA LEMA Review Issues Paper](#). Local Governments are also encouraged to provide written feedback by COB Friday 15 October 2022.

For further information please email [Simone Ruane](#), WALGA's LEMA Review Project Lead, or call 9213 2049.

NOTED

9.3 WALGA Best Practice Governance Review Principles - AGM item

By Tim Lane, Manager Strategy and Association Governance, WALGA

Background

In March 2022, State Council commissioned the WALGA Best Practice Governance Review (BPGR) with the aim of ensuring WALGA's governance model is contemporary, agile and maximises engagement with members. The BPGR, overseen by a Steering Committee appointed by State Council, is now well underway.

The BPGR Steering Committee have formulated a set of governance principles to guide the development of potential governance models.

At a special meeting on 22 August, State Council endorsed the principles, along with an AGM Agenda item which seeks endorsement of the principles by members at the 2022 Annual General Meeting on 3 October.

The purpose of the AGM item is to gauge member support for progressing the BPGR to the development of potential models.

Following consideration of the principles at the 2022 AGM, an extensive consultation and engagement process will be undertaken with members on these potential governance models. This will occur during October, November and December, with the intention of using the member feedback to inform a final report. This report will then be considered at Zone meetings in February 2023 and subsequently the March 2023 State Council meeting.

Once the final report is endorsed, Constitutional amendments will be prepared for consideration by State Council, followed by the broader membership at the 2023 AGM. As per WALGA's Constitution, amendments to the Constitution require endorsement by a 75 percent majority at both State Council and a general meeting of members.

Comment

The AGM Agenda is due to be distributed in late August, ahead of the AGM on Monday, 3 October at Crown Perth.

It is recommended that once the AGM Agenda is distributed, members consider the item and governance principles and inform their registered Voting Delegates on how to vote.

NOTED

10. ZONE REPORTS

10.1 Zone President Report

Deputy Zone President, Liz Guidera provided an update to the Zone, noting a range of matters relevant to Zone meetings (efficiency, frequency and purpose).

NOTED

10.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG)

No updated provided - Cr Russel Thomson, was an apology.

NOTED

10.3 Great Southern Human Services Forum

Cr Donna Carmen advised no matters to be updated at this meeting.

NOTED

10.4 WALGA Roadwise

Refer: [ATTACHMENT 3](#) – Regional (Great Southern) Road Safety Advisor Report, August 2022

Vivienne Gardiner, WALGA RoadWise Road Safety Adviser, provided an update to the Zone.

NOTED

10.5 The Great Southern Regional Road Group

DISCUSSION

Cr Len Handasyde, Chair of the Great Southn Regional Road Group, tabled the following report:

As the Zone Councils are aware, there are 12 Councils in the GSRRG, which includes these 11 and the Shire of Ravensthorpe.

The budgeted funding pool for last financial year totaled some \$13,383,747.

This is broken up as follows:

<i>Direct grants:</i>	<i>\$2,286,300</i>
<i>State Blackspot:</i>	<i>\$316,584</i>
<i>Road Project Grants:</i>	<i>\$7,778,786</i>
<i>Commodity Routes Funding:</i>	<i>\$1,321,964</i>
<i>Australian Blackspot:</i>	<i>\$102,199</i>

Direct grants are always claimed, paid out and acquitted.

There was a total of around \$3M carried over into this financial year and around \$2M of that paid out in July and August as accrued for work that was completed prior to the end of June but not acquitted in time. With targets of 90% this meets the target AFTER the June deadline.

The Government will look at the end of June figure though and note the \$3M carried over for the Great Southern and call it 77.5% completed or 22.5% carried over.

While the work was done, the paperwork isn't complete for a whole range of reasons, and we need to look at improving this.

Measures are being looked at to assist the process also I believe by SAC and we will see what comes from it.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Peter Morrell
Seconded: President, Cr Michael White

That the Great Southern Regional Roads Report be received.

CARRIED

10.6 Great Southern Roads Sub-Committee

In the Minutes of the 24 June Zone meeting, a copy of Cr Len Handasyde's June report and a copy of the roads list was provided to the Zone, noting that all the Shires should review the roads list that the Sub-Committee is working to in order that any updated information is on the table.

Action (GSCZ 24/06/2022): All Zone Shires are encouraged to review the attached Report and Roads List and provide comment to the Zone's Executive Officer.

DISCUSSION

Cr Len Handasyde, Chair of the Great Southern Roads Sub-Committee, tabled the following report:

Great Southern Roads Committee – Meeting held in Tambellup on Friday, 19 August 2022

Meeting attended by seven (7) Elected Members from the Great Southern, two CBH employees (via Zoom) and one staff member from both the Shires of Broomhill-Tambellup and Plantagenet.

This Committee is working well and seeking information from Great Southern Councils for those roads on the list. Information will assist us to build the picture of what is happening now and feed it into what will likely happen in the future. Roads information that is more than five years old, is too old and it is recommended that new data be sought for those roads in the busiest times of the year.

CBH is planning for freight increase of 7% year on year for a few years spread over both rail and roads. CBH's data will be come a part of that used in this project along with hopefully Bunge and other stats.

Information on the rail network through a discussion paper will be emailed through to Shire CEO's shortly. It was agreed that Simon Lyas (RDA-GS) be approached to present the discussion papers to the Zone.

The Harvest Mass Management System (HMSS) and Accredited Mass Management System (AMMS) were discussed at some length. Much of this work will likely come under the work that the Roads Committee will do. There is a discrepancy between the HMMS and AMMS, less tolerance to overloading under HMMS. Data is required to show the impact. Concerns also that the costs of accreditation is low and users aren't monitored or audited.

It was thought by the group that the two groups should merge into one and a recommendation [from the GS Roads Sub-Committee] is provided below.

The next part of the work will be data collection and making sense of that data.

Process for data collection:

- 1. Identify the cost to engage a consultant.*
- 2. Local Governments to share the cost over and above any funding provided (e.g. Wheatbelt Shires contributed \$6,000 each).*
- 3. Approach agencies that may assist and provide relevant data (CBH, GSDC, etc.)*
- 4. Prepare a brief for the consultant.*
- 5. Consultant to collect and collate data.*

Discussion to be had with WALGA Zones to the north regarding movement of heavy vehicles and impacts they're experiencing.

It was agreed, that costings and a Consultant's Brief need to be finalized before any discussion with the funding agencies and LGA's. Local Governments are the primary source of raw data, Department Primary Industries and Regional Development is another source of data, and GSDC for data on future projections for the region.

GS Roads Sub-Committee RECOMMENDATIONS and ZONE RESOLUTION:

Moved: President, Cr Michael White

Seconded: President, Cr Philip Horrocks

- 1. That it be recommended to the Great Southern Country Zone WALGA that the Sub-Committees Great Southern Roads Committee and the Heavy Haulage Committee be combined.**
- 2. That the Great Southn Country Zone WALGA write to each Shire Chief Executive Officer / Manager of Works requesting them to collect data for each of the identified roads in their respective Shire, including during 2022 harvest period; noting that data over 5 years' old is not acceptable.**
- 3. That the Great Southern Country Zone WALGA formally request from Co-operative Bulk Handling a copy of their prioritized list of routes for the Great Southern Region.**
- 4. That the Great Southern Council Zone WALGA formally request from Bunge Grain Services a copy of their Prioritised list of routes for the Great Southern Region.**

CARRIED

10.7 Heavy Haulage Working Group

At the April 2022 meeting, the Zone resolved as follows: That:

- 1. The Great Southern WALGA Zone create a Heavy Haulage Working Group to review the Main Roads WA control systems of Restricted Access Vehicles (RAV) & Accredited Mass Management Scheme (AMMS) on Local Government roads in the Great Southern.**
- 2. Working Group charter to include:**
 - a) Reviewing the impact and compliance of AMMS concessional loading on the Local Government Road network and,**
 - b) The compliance and implications of RAV access to the Local Government Road network and effectiveness in the Local Government CA07 conditions.**
- 3. Working Group to comprise of Cr Kevin Gale, Cr Scott Crosby, Cr Russel Thomson and Chair of the Great Southern Regional Road Group, with technical support from WALGA.**
- 4. Working group make recommendations to the Great Southern Zone and will disband in one year or the end of June 2023.**

At the June 2022 meeting, there was no further update on this item.

Item noted by the meeting in context of the report provided and resolutions made at item 10.6 above.

NOTED

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

11.1 **State Councillor Report**

Zone President: President, Cr Chris Pavlovich

The third ordinary meeting of State Council for 2022 was held on Wednesday, 6 July. It was the first State Council meeting of the year to be held in person at the WALGA offices.

July 2022 Strategic Forum

At the July Strategic Forum, State Councillors received engaging and important presentations from a variety of speakers:

- The Minister for Local Government, Hon John Carey MLA, gave an update on the Minister's **Local Government legislative reforms**.
- The Deputy Commissioner Operations Command, Craig Waters AFSM, and Manager Consolidated Legislation, Lauren Townsend, from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, provided an update on the development of the **Consolidated Emergency Services Act**.
- State Library of WA CEO and State Librarian, Catherine Clark, presented on the work of the State Library and the **State Library Strategy**.
- WALGA CEO, Nick Sloan, Executive Director Member Services, Tony Brown, and Manager Association and Corporate Governance, Tim Lane, delivered a presentation on the **WALGA Best Practice Governance Review**. The presentation included information about the governance models of other Local Government Associations in Australia and New Zealand, and comparable advocacy organisations in WA.
- WALGA Manager Commercial Development, Andrew Blitz, provided an overview of a proposal to explore the concept of an **investment vehicle** managed by WALGA.

July 2022 State Council Meeting

WALGA 2022-23 Budget

The main item on the State Council Agenda was WALGA's 2022-23 Budget, which contains funding for important strategic, capital and operational projects and improvements. The budget was unanimously endorsed by State Council.

Emergency Management Policy Positions

Two key items were considered by State Council to endorse revised policy positions in the emergency management space in advance of significant work happening across the emergency management policy portfolio. Three emergency services Acts (*Fire Brigades Act*, *Bush Fires Act*, and *Fire and Emergency Services Act*) will be consolidated into the Consolidated Emergency Services Act, and significant consultation will be undertaken on the legislation in the medium term.

WA Public Libraries Strategy

State Council endorsed the draft WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026.

Other decisions as per the [Full Minutes](#).

RESOLUTION

Moved: Deputy President, Cr Jon Oldfield

Seconded: President, Cr Scott Crosby

That the State Councillor Report be received.

CARRIED

11.2 WALGA Status Report

By Tony Brown, Executive Officer

BACKGROUND

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



GREAT SOUTHERN COUNTRY ZONE STATUS REPORT AUGUST 2022

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Grt Southern C	2022, 24 June Zone Agenda Item 7.3 Local Government Cat Local Laws	That the Great Southern Zone of WALGA; 1) Acknowledge the challenges with gazettal of Cat Local Laws, which meet community expectations, under current legislation, particularly in relation to cat containment within the property of the owner, and control of cats in public places and; 2) Write to WALGA State Council seeking an update and feedback on resolution 232.4/2021; and; 3) Write to the Honourable John Carey, Minister for Housing, Lands, Homelessness and Local Government requesting an update and timelines associated with updates to the Dog and Cat Acts.	This remains a matter of concern to the sector. A number of Local Governments have recently failed to make Cat Local Laws inclusive of provisions for cat containment and prohibition from roaming in public places. The lack of adequate heads of power for this purpose within the Cat Act 2011 requires statutory review and amendment. WALGA will inform the Minister for Local Government of the urgent need for review of the Cat Act.	Ongoing	Tony Brown Executive Director, Member Services tbrown@walga.asn.au 9213 2051
Grt Southern C	2019, 25 November Zone Agenda Item 8.1.4 Prioritise Key Strategic Issues for the Zone in 2020 Lobby against Legislation (CA07) That Will Prevent Local Governments from Restricting Access to Local Government Roads	The Great Southern Zone of WALGA does <u>not</u> support the removal of the CA07 condition on RAV approval, and replacement with the CA88 condition in its current form. WALGA therefore be requested to endorse this position and to write to the Minister for Transport that an alternative condition is formulated following discussion with Asset Managers to provide greater control and management of their asset base.	<p>The RAV Access working group met by teleconference in early December. Based on the resolution of this meeting a letter detailing Local Government expectations was sent to Main Roads WA.</p> <p>The Association discussed this matter with Main Roads WA in November 2020. They are engaging with the State Solicitors Office prior to a proposed consultation with Local Government concerning a proposed approach.</p> <p>WALGA has subsequently met with Main Roads who confirm that the status quo remains until further notice.</p>	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager, Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031

Grt Southern C	2019, 25 November Zone Agenda Item 8.1.3 Prioritise Key Strategic Issues for the Zone in 2020 Distribution of Roads Funding	That the WA Local Government Association be requested to endorse the Great Southern Zone's position on the distribution of road funding, and to write to the Treasurer and Minister for Transport of Western Australia to seek increases in the return of revenue collected by the Commonwealth of Australia to a level that sustains and preserves the vital road assets under management of Local and State Authorities.	A working group has been established and is progressing with the support of the Regional Development Commission. WALGA will provide continuing support as required.	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager, Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Grt Southern C	2019, 25 November Zone Agenda Item 8.1.2 Prioritise Key Strategic Issues for the Zone in 2020 Clearing Requirements in Town Sites – Align with Metropolitan Requirements	That WALGA writes to the Minister for Emergency Services, the Minister for Planning, Lands and Heritage and the Minister for Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety to request an amendment to the Action Plan for Bushfire Framework Review 2019, to increase in the minimum area of declared bushfire prone vegetation from one hectare to four hectare to be valid for regional and remote townsites and villages in addition to metropolitan areas.	<p>The State Government announced on 30 July 2019 a comprehensive review of the Bushfire Prone Area Map and mapping methodology, this includes a three-stage action plan to address the inherited inconsistencies across Western Australia's bushfire frameworks, standards, and mapping.</p> <p>More information can be found here: https://www.dplh.wa.gov.au/bushfireframeworkreview2019</p> <p>As part of the Bushfire Framework Review 2019, there will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a staged review of the Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas • development of a new mapping methodology • an amendment to the policy and regulatory mechanisms, including State Planning Policy 3.7 Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas and Guidelines for Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas. <p>Advice received from the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage was that a revised SPP 3.7, guidelines and regulations, would be released for public comment in June 2020. This will now occur in 2021.</p> <p>Letters to the three responsible Ministers were sent in January 2020. Minister Logan responded on March 2020. The matter has been noted by the Minister and a request for DFES to raise the matter with the Bushfire Framework Review working group has occurred. Local Governments will get an opportunity to further comment on the new map once it is published.</p> <p>DPLH advises that the updated SPP3.7 and revised Bushfire Prone Area Map will not be released for public comment until the first half of 2023.</p>	Ongoing	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager, Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039

Zone Comment

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

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Donna Carman
Seconded: President, Cr Scott Crosby

That the Great Southern Country Zone, WALGA Status Report for August 2022, be noted.

CARRIED

11.3 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda's – Matters for Decision

11.3.1 State Council Agenda – 9 September 2022

Background

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

The full State Council Agenda can be found via link: [State Council Agenda - 9 September 2022](#)

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

Matters for Decision

5.1 2023-24 State Budget Submission

Executive Summary

- Each year, WALGA prepares a submission to the State Government outlining the sector's priorities for the upcoming budget.
- The identified priorities will help to deliver a number of important objectives for the future of the State, including:
 1. Supporting industry and diversifying our economy
 2. Taking action on climate change
 3. Supporting the wellbeing of all Western Australians
 4. Delivering a legislative environment that meets the needs of our modern economy and society
- The proposed approach to the 2023-24 Submission and priorities were endorsed by State Council in July via [Flying Minute](#).

RECOMMENDATION:

That the 2023-24 State Budget Submission be endorsed.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Deputy President, Cr Jon Oldfield
Seconded: President, Cr Scott Crosby

That Great Southern Country Zone supports Matters for Decision, item 5.1 (2023-24 State Budget Submission) as listed above in the September 2022 State Council Agenda.

CARRIED

5.2 Proposed Advocacy Position on Management of Bush Fire Brigades

Executive Summary

- Under the Bush Fires Act 1954, Local Governments have responsibility for the establishment and management of volunteer Bush Fire Brigades (BFBs).
- It is timely for the sector to consider its position on the most appropriate future management arrangements for BFBs as:
 - the State Government is currently preparing the Consolidated Emergency Services Act, which is expected to be released for consultation in early 2023; and
 - the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* (WHS Act), enacted in March 2022, has raised the sector's concerns regarding risk and liability in the management of BFBs.
- WALGA consulted the sector on this issue from 24 May to 29 July 2022 through a paper, *Arrangements for management of Bush Fire Brigades: Proposed Advocacy Position (the Paper)*.
- A total of 89 submissions were received from Local Governments, representing 64% of the Local Government sector and 77% of Local Governments that manage BFBs.
- Based on the feedback received, a revised Advocacy Position on Management of BFBs is proposed for State Council consideration.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the following Advocacy Position on Management of Bush Fire Brigades be endorsed.

Management of Bush Fire Brigades

1. *Bush Fire Brigade volunteers play a critical role in helping to protect their local communities. Local knowledge and skills are integral to bushfire management in Western Australia.*
2. *Future management and funding of volunteer Bush Fire Brigades must:*
 - a) *Recognise the changing risk environment, including work health and safety requirements, and the increasing intensity and frequency of bushfires;*
 - b) *Take account of the differing circumstances of Bush Fire Brigade units and regional variations in bush firefighting approaches; and*
 - c) *Be adequately and equitably resourced through the Emergency Services Levy.*
3. *The State Government, through the Consolidated Emergency Services Act and/or other mechanism's must:*
 - a) *establish a clear framework to enable transfer of Bush Fire Brigades to the State Government if a Local Government decides to do so;*
 - b) *Consult on the process, timeline, and implications for transfer of responsibility for Bush Fire Brigades in accordance with 3(a) through the establishment of a working group comprising representatives of Local Government, Bush Fire Brigades, the Department of Local Government, Sport, and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES);*
 - c) *Provide for mandatory and minimum training requirements and recognition of competency and prior learning for Bush Fire Brigade volunteers, supported by a fit-for-purpose and universally accessible training program, designed in consultation with Bush Fire Brigade representatives, Local Government and LGIS, and managed by DFES; and*
 - d) *Develop a co-designed suite of relevant management guidelines and materials to assist in the management of Bush Fire Brigades.*
4. *The State Government to consider the most appropriate operational model for State Government management of Bush Fire Brigades, which may include the establishment of an independent Rural Fire Service, as recommended in the 2016 Ferguson Report.*

Matters for Noting / Information

- 6.1 Local Government Homelessness Knowledge Hub
- 6.2 State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement 2023/24
- 6.3 Paid Family and Domestic Violence Leave Entitlements Update
- 6.4 Proposed State Industrial Relations Transition
- 6.5 2023-24 State Budget Submission Approach

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Michael White

Seconded: Cr Jon Oldfield

That the Great Southern Country Zone:

1. **Supports Matters for Decision, item 5.2 as listed above in the September 2022 State Council Agenda, SUBJECT to:**

The WALGA Secretariat clarifying the legal liability of local government and Bush Fire Brigade Volunteers in the chain of Work Health and Safety responsibilities.

And;

2. **Notes all Matters for Noting and Organisational Reports as listed in the September 2022 State Council Agenda.**

CARRIED

11.4 WALGA President's Report

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

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Scott Crosby

Seconded: Cr Peter Morrell

That the Great Southern Country Zone notes the WALGA President's Report.

CARRIED

12. EMERGING ISSUES

Shire of Gnowangerup

- Impact of disposal of agricultural tires in the environment.
- New residential and industrial land development project.

Shire of Jerramungup

- Western Power limitation on rural / regional property power supply, requiring installation of circuit breakers that limit power supply to 32 amps when any other major electrical work performed on a property.
 - Other Zone Members also noted this was a growing concern in the Region.

Refer: [ATTACHMENT No.6](#) – Additional Information provided following the meeting by Ms Shelly Payne MLC, Member for Agricultural Region.

Shire of Kojoonup

- Seeking funding from the Regional Development Commission to research a housing project proposal.

Shire of Plantagenet

- Investigating a new location for an emergency management precinct.

13. DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The upcoming Great Southern Country Zone meetings will be held on:

Friday, 28 October

Hosted by Shire of Woodanilling (**Joint Meeting**)

Great Southern Regional Road Group

- Meeting will commence at 9.30am and finish at 11.30am

Great Southern Country Zone

- Meeting will commence at 12pm and finish at 3pm

Friday, 25 November

Great Southern Country Zone

- Online meeting to consider the State Council Agenda

14. CLOSURE


There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 11.58am.



Australian Government

Senator the Hon Murray Watt

Minister for Emergency Management
Friday, 01 July 2022

 Media release

Australia's Key Disaster Agencies Now Even Closer

Australia's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from, natural disasters will be further enhanced, under plans being recommended to the Governor-General.

Minister for Emergency Management, Senator the Honourable Murray Watt, has announced the Government's intention to recommend to the Governor-General the creation of a single emergency management, resilience and recovery agency.

From today, July 1, the National Resilience and Recovery Agency will be relocated to sit within the Home Affairs Portfolio, under machinery of government changes already announced by the Prime Minister.

This means the situational awareness, emergency preparedness, crisis management and response functions of Emergency Management Australia, which already sits in the Department of Home Affairs, will be joined in the Portfolio by the recovery and resilience functions of the National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRA).

Further, Minister Watt will recommend to the Governor-General that, from September 1, the NRRA and EMA should merge to form a new organisation, called the National Emergency Management, Resilience and Recovery Agency (NEMRRA), which will combine the efforts of both agencies.

"Combining all these disaster related functions into one agency under the Home Affairs Portfolio is a significant step forward and strengthens Australia's ability to prepare for, manage and recover from an increasing number and severity of disasters," Minister Watt said.

"Due to the effects of climate change, Australia will face more major natural disasters in the future, and we have to prepare and adapt now to ensure that as a nation we're in the best position to deal with the that inevitability."

Natural disasters currently cost the Australian economy \$38 billion per year on average, and human-made hazards have comparable whole of economy costs, with the estimated cost of natural disasters in Australia to reach at least \$73 billion per year by 2060 under a low emissions scenario, and \$94 billion under a high emissions trajectory.

"I am confident that these structural changes will assist in delivering the Albanese Government's commitment to ensure that Australia is better prepared for the natural disasters we know will come."

One consequence of these recommended changes is that, from September 1, the Office of the Coordinator-General of the NRRA will cease to exist.

7/1/22, 11:51 AM

Australia's Key Disaster Agencies Now Even Closer

The Coordinator-General, the Hon Shane Stone AC QC will take leave from today, before ceasing his employment with the NRRRA on 31 August. I would like to thank Mr Stone for his service, in establishing and leading the NRRRA since its inception.

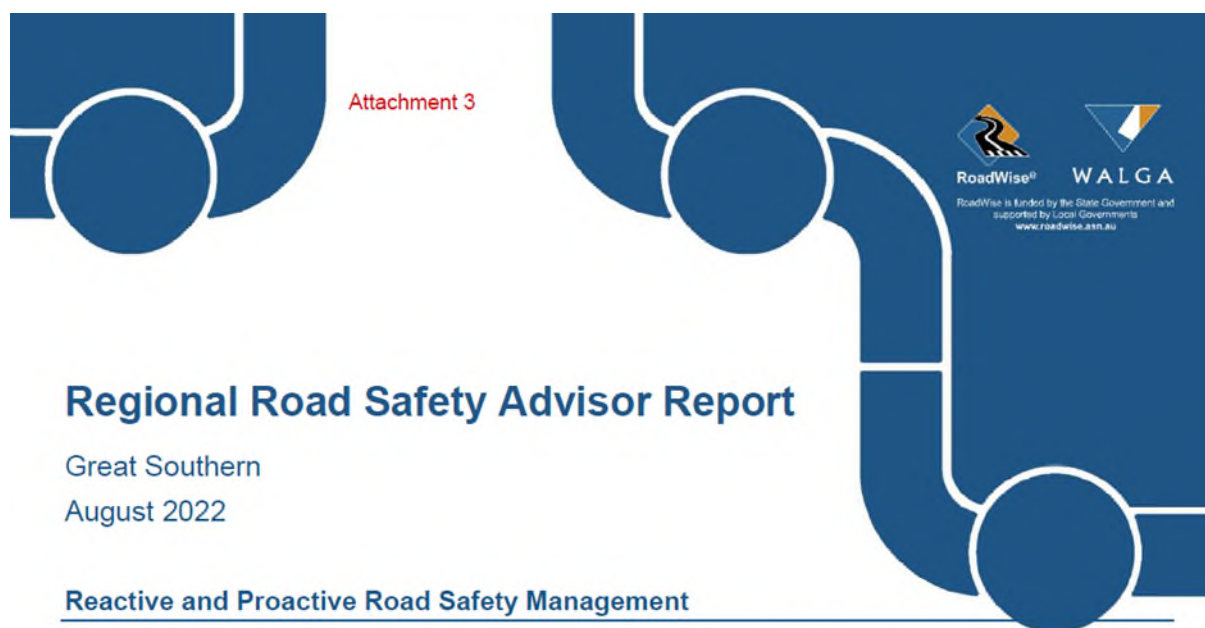
The Chief Operating Officer for the Department of Home Affairs, Ms Justine Saunders APM, will serve as the Acting Coordinator-General of the NRRRA until the establishment of the proposed new agency.

Last updated: 01 July 2022

<https://minister.homeaffairs.gov.au/MurrayWatt/Pages/australias-key-disaster-agencies-now-even-closer.aspx>

2/2

ATTACHMENT 3 – Item 10.4 RoadWise Report



Reactive and Proactive Road Safety Management

Crash history has been used for many years to predict locations where crashes are most likely to happen in the future. This approach is very useful where there are high concentrations of crashes, however in regional and rural areas like the Great Southern crash locations tend to be more scattered, making it harder to identify the location of future potential crashes.¹

Between 2014-2018, the most common serious crash type in the Great Southern was single vehicle run-off-road crashes at 50.8 per cent.²

According to Austroads, the majority of crashes in Australia are estimated to occur outside what would traditionally be classified as 'Black Spots'. A large proportion of more serious crashes occur at locations where there is no existing crash history. Which is why it is important to use proactive and reactive road safety management approaches in combination to achieve road safety outcomes.¹

A reactive approach to road safety refers to tools and strategies that rely on a crash occurring. Proactive tools and approaches are based on knowledge about the road and roadside factors that contribute to the risk. Proactive tools and approaches are important, as they are able to identify locations where there is a high risk of severe crash before it occurs.



Great Southern Priority Treatments²

Reactive road safety management examples³:

- Black Spot analysis
- Speed limit reviews
- Crash investigations

Proactive road safety management examples³:

- Network safety plans
- Road safety audits
- Safe system assessment framework

Please contact Vivienne Gardiner, Regional Road Safety Advisor at vgardiner@walga.asn.au to discuss road safety management approaches and tools for your organisation.

¹ Austroads (2021), *Guide to Road Safety Part 2, Safe Roads* [Guide to Road Safety Part 2: Safe Roads \(austroads.com.au\)](https://www.austroads.com.au/guide-to-road-safety-part-2) July 2022.

² WALGA RoadWise, *Road Safety Performance on Local Government Roads 2014-2018 Great Southern Report*, July 2022.

³ Australian Road Research Board, *Netrisk for Local Governments Workshop*, 9 June 2022

Great Southern Road Safety Conference 9 March 2023

SAVE THE DATE: The Great Southern Road Safety Conference has been postponed for the last few years largely due to COVID-19. The Shire of Cranbrook however is hosting the event again on **9 March 2023**.

The conference aims to bring together people from across the Great Southern who work in road safety to share ideas, learn and be inspired to address regional and rural road safety together.

The conference runs over a day, in Cranbrook. The conference will include guest speakers from across the state and will also involve facilitated activities to enable people to share issues, brainstorm and collaborate.

Please contact Jeff Alderton, Manager of Works at the Shire of Cranbrook via email jeff.alderon@cranbrook.wa.gov.au or Vivienne Gardiner, Regional Road Safety Advisor, at vgardiner@walga.asn.au for further information.

Changes to Main Roads Speed Zoning Policy

The Main Roads WA Speed Zoning Policy guides the setting of regulatory speed limits for all public roads, including Local Government roads, in WA. Specific information is provided in the policy for different scenarios, including for school zones.

In the previous policy, school zones could only be applied to roads on the school frontage. This change permits roads without direct frontage on the school, but with a clear visual connection to the school, to be considered for school zones.

By allowing for more flexibility, the application of school-related infrastructure within the 40km/h zone extends can also be tailored to fit each situation. A copy of the Speed Zoning Policy can be found [here](#).

For more information, please email WALGA Policy Officer Road Safety and Infrastructure, Max Bushell at mbushell@walga.asn.au or 9213 2068.

Best Practice Road Safety – Unsealed Roads

The Australian Road Research Board (ARRB) *Best Practice Guide 2 – Unsealed Roads* includes a section on road safety planning. The Guide recognises that improving safety on the unsealed road network can be a significant challenge for Local Governments to manage within a limited budget.

The Guide suggests focusing firstly on safety strategies that can help the motorist drive to conditions. For drivers to be able to drive to conditions and adjust their driving behaviour to reduce risk, they need to be able to easily read what those conditions are⁴.

Many safety measures which warn motorists to drive to conditions, and supplement providing a self-explaining road through high levels of design are low cost in nature for example placement of signs, guide posts, improving sight distance etc.

For more information visit the ARRB *Best Practice Guide 2 – Unsealed Roads* at this [link](#).

Calendar of Events

Australasian Road Safety Conference 2022 – 28 – 30 September, Christchurch New Zealand or virtual.
[ARSC 2022 Conference | Road Safety Excellence - Australasia \(australasianroadsafetyconference.com.au\)](https://australasianroadsafetyconference.com.au)

For more information:

Vivienne Gardiner, Regional Road Safety Advisor

T: 0418 904 081

E: vgardiner@walga.asn.au

⁴ Australian Road Research Board, *Best Practice Guide 2 – Unsealed Roads* [Best Practice Guides \(arrb.com.au\)](https://www.arrb.com.au) July 2022

ATTACHMENT No.6 – Item 12. Emerging Issues – Shire of Jerramungup - Power Supply Allocation Issues

From: CommunityEnquiries <communityenquiries@westernpower.com.au>

Sent: Monday, 29 August 2022 3:21 PM

Subject: Power supply allocation review underway

Good afternoon

Please find attached a media release issued today regarding a review into power supply allocations. We expect to be able to update you on the outcome of the review by the end of the year.

The review covers issues associated with the requirement to install a main switch circuit breaker. This led to reports of some rural and regional households experiencing instances of 'tripping' when multiple large appliances were used exceeding their supply allocation. The requirement for a main switch circuit breaker is triggered only for new connections to the grid and when a new circuit is added to an already connected premise, for example when a new air conditioner, electric stove top, solar systems or Electric Vehicle charging equipment is installed.

The main switch circuit breaker acts to protect against larger network outages that impact multiple customers. Where households exceed their supply allocation, it creates a risk of overload and damage to upstream assets such as transformers and service leads, which are not designed to take the increased load.

Currently the standard electrical supply allocation for rural connections is 32Amp single phase.

The standard supply definition was developed when the network was constructed predominately in the 1950-60s. At that time many rural towns had their own generation and customers' electricity needs were much lower. The introduction of new electrical household appliances and larger machinery and farming equipment has seen some customers' needs increase. The general electrical supply allocation has not changed though as it reflects the configuration and capacity of the local network.

Regards

Marisa

Marisa Chapman

Community Engagement Team Leader

Stakeholders and Communications

A 363 Wellington St. Perth 6000 | M 0426 261 614 | T 08 9326 6686

E marisachapman@westernpower.com.au

Review of power supply allocations underway

As part of Western Power's commitment to delivering the best possible power supply to the community, we're reviewing the regional and rural standard supply allocations of 32 Amp for single phase (240V) connections to ensure they are fit for purpose.

Western Power's Head of Grid Transformation, Ben Bristow, said the review followed the updating of technical manuals, standards and guidelines associated with both traditional and renewable energy connections, which was essential with the community's drive towards decarbonisation.

"The supply allocation has not changed, however, following the August 2021 update to the Western Australian Services and Installations Requirements (WASIR), there are new connection requirements if customers wish to alter their connection arrangement or increase their usage," he said.

"These updates are to ensure the safety management of the network and to align with the evolving renewable energy market and state/national compliance frameworks, as well as Australian Standards."

"This has caused some confusion and concern in parts of the community, as such we've listened to feedback and have begun a review."

"We'll continue to engage with electrical contractor industry bodies and solar installers to assess the opportunities, risk and consequences of alternative options with the aim of providing an update by the end of the year."

Mr Bristow said the update to the WASIR was needed to support and facilitate the growth of renewable energy and distributed energy resources - such as rooftop solar, battery storage, electric vehicles, and electric vehicle chargers.

"Western Power has around 2.3 million customers, that is 1.1 million connections, and we manage the grid effectively and efficiently by ensuring each connection can individually draw up to their agreed supply allocation," he said.

"Updated requirements for new connections is that the main switch must be a circuit breaker, designed to provide overload protection for a household if connection service capacity is exceeded to prevent tripping of upstream network protection."

As before, electrical contractors have an obligation, when adding new circuits (i.e. additional load, electric vehicle charging, solar systems, air-conditioning, new electric stoves), to assess demand requirements for households in line with network connection service requirements and apply for upgrades if they are likely to be exceeded.

Households are responsible for managing their total electrical load and should seek electrical contractor advice when adding or replacing larger appliances and equipment to ensure they have the required service connection capacity.



Western Power manages, maintains and plans the electricity grid to accommodate the energy needs of West Australians, in line with its obligations under legislation and standards such as the WASIR. Western Power is supporting the decarbonisation efforts of West Australians by modernising the grid and responding to the needs of customers.

More information can be found on the Western Power website.

End.

About Western Power:

Western Power is a Western Australian State Government owned corporation responsible for building, maintaining and operating an electricity network which connects our 2.3 million customers to traditional and renewable energy sources, delivering a critical service to the community.

We're at the forefront of the energy industry in leveraging new technologies, including integrating microgrid and battery storage solutions. We're planning the grid of the future that's leading the way to a cleaner, brighter and more resilient energy supply for the next generation.

To find out more visit the Western Power website at www.westernpower.com.au

Western Power Media: media@westernpower.com.au or 1300 139 240 (24 hours)

