



# East Metropolitan Zone

## Minutes

25 August 2022

# East Metropolitan Zone

Hosted by the City of Bayswater

61 Broun Avenue, Morley – 9272 0622

Thursday 25 August 2022, commenced at 6:30 pm

## Acknowledgement of Country

We, the delegates of the East Metropolitan Zone acknowledge the traditional owners of this land that we are meeting on today and pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

## Minutes

### MEMBERS

### 3 Voting Delegates from each Member Council

Town of Bassendean	Cr Jennie Carter Cr Renee McLennan
City of Bayswater	Cr Giorgia Johnson - <b>Chair</b> Cr Josh Eveson Mayor Filomena Piffaretti (Deputy) Mr Jeremy Edwards, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
City of Belmont	Mayor Phil Marks Cr George Sekulla Cr Bernie Ryan (Deputy)
City of Kalamunda	Cr Janelle Sewell Cr Sue Bilich Ms Rhonda Hardy, Chief Executive Officer (Deputy)
Shire of Mundaring	Cr Paige McNeil Cr John Daw Mr Jonathan Throssell, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
City of Swan	Cr Aaron Bowman Cr Patty Jones Mr Cliff Frewing, Acting Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
WALGA Secretariat	Mr Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure Ms Cassandra Mora, Policy Officer, Emergency Management
DLGSC Representative	Ms Marina Sucur, Senior Project Officer
Guest Speakers	Jodie Dutton, Employment Facilitator, Local Jobs Program

### APOLOGIES

Town of Bassendean	Cr Emily Wilding Ms Peta Mabbs, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
City of Bayswater	Cr Catherine Ehrhardt

City of Belmont	Cr Deborah Sessions Mr John Christie, Chief Executive Officer non-voting delegate
City of Kalamunda	Cr Brooke O'Donnell
Shire of Mundaring	Cr Doug Jeans
City of Swan	Cr Rashelle Predovnik

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Zone Delegates were requested to provide sufficient written notice, wherever possible, on amendments to recommendations within the State Council or Zone agenda prior to the Zone meeting to the Chair and Secretariat.

Agenda Papers were emailed 7 days prior to the meeting date to your Council for distribution to Zone Delegates.

Confirmation of Attendance An attendance sheet was circulated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

## **ATTACHMENTS WITHIN THE AGENDA**

1. Draft Minutes of the previous meeting
2. Zone Status Report
3. President's Report
4. Standing Orders

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### **1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

Nil.

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### **2. DEPUTATIONS**

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#### **2.1 Local Jobs Program**

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Jodie Dutton, Employment Facilitator provided information on the Local Jobs Program.

The Local Jobs Program supports tailored approaches to accelerate reskilling, upskilling and employment in 51 regions across Australia. Recognising that regions and their communities have been impacted by COVID-19 in varying ways, the program includes:

- 51 Employment Facilitators across 51 regions
- a Local Jobs and Skills Taskforce in each of these regions
- a Local Jobs Plan developed for each of these regions
- projects funded through a Local Recovery Fund in each of these regions
- a National Priority Funding Pool

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#### **2.2 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Update**

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The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries representative Marina updated the Zone on DLGSC issues.

**Noted**

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### 3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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Cr George Sekulla arrived at 7:28pm

#### RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr John Daw  
Seconded: Cr Paige McNeil

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the East Metropolitan Zone held 23 June 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED  
(15/0)

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### 4. BUSINESS ARISING

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A Status Report outlining the actions taken on the Zone's resolutions was enclosed as an attachment.

Noted

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### 5. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR DECISION

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

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

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

That the 2023-24 State Budget Submission be endorsed.

##### 5.2 Proposed Advocacy Position on Management of Bush Fire Brigades

Moved: Cr Janelle Sewell  
Seconded: Cr Aaron Bowman

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

##### 8.10 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.

## **AMENDMENT**

Moved: Ms Rhonda Hardy  
 Seconded: Cr Janelle Sewell

- d) Provide provisions for Local Government cost recovery. The Emergency Services Levy should extend to Local Government costs that are not covered by the Local Government Grants Scheme including but not limited to:
  - i. staff resources and training,
  - ii. financial management through collection of the ESL,
  - iii. vehicle /fleet management, maintenance and service,
  - iv. Building management and maintenance, and
  - v. relevant volunteer insurances.
- e) review processes within DFES to ensure that timely renewal of Brigade's fleet vehicles to ensure volunteer are adequately equipped to combat natural disasters.

**WITHDRAWN**

## **AMENDMENT**

Moved: Cr Janelle Sewell  
 Seconded: Cr Aaron Bowman

**That the Proposed Position refer to Advocacy Position 8.7 Emergency Services Levy and 8.8 Local Government Grants Scheme.**

**CARRIED (15/0)**

## **RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Janelle Sewell  
 Seconded: Cr Aaron Bowman

**That the East Metropolitan Zone**

1. **Supports all Matters for Decision as amended and in the September 2022 State Council Agenda; and**

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

CARRIED (15/0)

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6. BUSINESS

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6.1 Cat Act and Relevant Local Laws

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*By Town of Bassendean*

**BACKGROUND**

The Town of Bassendean recently undertook a review of our Cat Local Law and sought to introduce a number of new provisions seeking to minimize the impact of cats on wildlife and address nuisance issues. These provisions reflected community feedback and recommendations made to government through a recent parliamentary inquiry, the findings of which were presented in December 2020.

While supportive of some of the Town's proposed provisions, the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation (JSCDL) was not supportive of the following clause that sought to restrict cats in places that are not public.

***Cats in places that are not public:***

*A cat shall not be in any place that is not a public place unless consent to it being there has been given by the owner or occupier of the premises, or a person who has been authorised to consent on behalf of the owner or occupier.*

In responding to the Town's proposed clause, the JSCDL asserted that it was inconsistent with the Cat Act 2011, and that the mention of cats being in public places within the Act implied that cats were entitled to be in such places by way of Clause 6(1) which states:

*"The owner of a registered cat must ensure that when the cat is in a public place the cat is wearing its registration tag".*

Multiple other local governments have also sought to introduce local law provisions in that restrict a cat's ability to roam in order to reduce the negative impact that roaming can have on native wildlife, neighbours and the cat's own health. Different local governments have approached the issue in variety of ways. For example, the City of Fremantle sought to restrict cats from any City controlled land. However, it is understood that the JSCDL has not been supportive of these recent and various attempts to restrict cats' ability to roam from their owner's properties.

However, of note, the Shire of Northam's Cat Local Law 2019 does allow for the restriction of cats in both public places and places that are not public.

**Part 3 – Control of Cats:**

**3.2 Cats in other places**

**(1) A cat shall not be in a public place unless the cat is, in the opinion of an Authorised Person, under effective control.**

**(2) If a cat is at any time in contravention of clause 3.2(1)-**

**(a) the keep of the cat commits an offence; and**

*(b) an Authorised person may seize and impound the cat and deal with the cat pursuant to the Act.*

**(3) A cat shall not be in a place that is not a public place unless –**

- (a) consent to its being there has been given by the occupier, or a person apparently authorized to consent on behalf of the occupier; &*
- (b) it is under effective control.*

The fact that the Cat Act 2011 refers to “when the cat is in a public place” does not necessitate cats being permitted in public places. Therefore, this motion seeks a legal basis upon which to challenge this interpretation of the Act and request the JSCDL and the relevant Ministers support local laws that reflect community sentiment and recommendations made to parliament and that allow for the restriction of cats’ ability to roam as outlined in the motion.

### **Parliamentary Inquiry Report:**

Tackling the feral cat pandemic: a plan to save Australian wildlife (2020)

[www.apf.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/House/Environment\\_and\\_Energy/Feralanddomesticcats/Report](http://www.apf.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Environment_and_Energy/Feralanddomesticcats/Report)

### **Statutory review of the Cat Act 2011 and Dog Amendment Act 2013**

<https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/department/publications/publication/statutory-review-of-the-cat-act-2011-and-dog-amendment-act-2013>

**“Keep pet cats indoors, say researchers who found they kill 230m native Australian animals each year”**

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/may/15/keep-pet-cats-indoors-say-researchers-who-found-they-kill-230m-native-australian-animals-each-year>

### **Shire of Northam Cat Local Law**

<https://www.northam.wa.gov.au/documents/588/cat-local-law-2019>

### **SECRETARIAT COMMENT**

This is a developing issue in the sector. A number of Local Governments have already attempted to make Cat Local Laws that seek to; prohibit cats from roaming; require cats to be securely kept on premises of the owner; and prohibited from being in any public place. Parliament’s Delegated Legislation Committee has disallowed a number of such attempts on the grounds that the local law-making head of power in the Cat Act does not contemplate local laws to be made for these purposes. The Committees views are summarised in this excerpt from the Annual Report 2016 (Report 89 at 5.32):

In each of these cases, the Committee considered that the relevant provisions of the local law were inconsistent with or repugnant to the provisions of the Cat Act 2011 which:

- allow for cats to be in public places unless they do not comply with the provisions of the Act requiring registration, microchipping and sterilisation
- empower the making of local laws prohibiting cats in certain specified areas.



The Committee confirms that the local law-making head of power under Section 79 of the Cat Act 2011 does not permit Local Governments to require that cats be contained within their owner's property, as is the case with the Dog Act requiring dogs to be 'effectively confined' within the owner's property, and creates an offence for a 'person liable for the control of a dog' if it is not kept under effective control in a public place (except a dog exercise area).

Local Governments have successfully made Cat Local Laws prohibiting cats from being in certain designated places (i.e. specific land under the care, control and management of the Local Government) however it is apparent that any attempt to make Cat Local Laws for broader purposes will meet disallowance action given that "...the Committee has continued to note attempts by local governments to pass local laws effectively prohibiting cats from public and other, unspecified, places."

WALGA's advocacy position supports a review of the Cat Act that will introduce broader powers of cat control.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Cr Renee McLennan  
**Seconded:** Cr Jennie Carter

**That WALGA;**

**1. Seeks legal advice on behalf of member Councils, on the ability to make Local Laws that:**

- **restrict cats from all public areas;**
- **place conditions on when a cat may be permitted in a public area; and/or**
- **restricts all cats in the district to their owner's premises;**

**under the existing provisions of the Cat Act 2011**

**2. Advocates to responsible Ministers (namely, Environment and Local Government) to consistently apply the provisions of the Cat Act 2011 such that it allows the making of such Local Laws.**

**CARRIED (15/0)**

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## **6.2 State Council and Zone Chair Election Processes**

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The minutes of the East Metropolitan Zone meeting noted at their June meeting:

### ***'Review of State Council and Zone Chair Election Processes***

*Delegates requested that this matter be added as a matter for consideration at the next meeting, including advice on the approach taken by other Zones'.*

To address this matter some information is provided for delegates to provide an overview of the election process.

The Election of State Council and Zone representatives is stated in the WALGA Constitution under section 16 as per below:

## **16. ELECTION PROCEDURE**

*Any election other than to elect the President or Deputy President held by the Association shall be conducted as follows:*

- (a) *the Chief Executive Officer or his/her delegate shall act as returning officer;*
- (b) *representatives are to vote on the matter by secret ballot;*
- (c) *votes are to be counted on the basis of “first-past-the post”;*
- (d) *if the election is to fill one vacancy, the candidate who receives the greater or greatest number of votes is elected;*
- (e) *if the election is to fill two or more vacancies, the candidates elected are –*
  - (i) *the candidate who receives the greatest number of votes; and*
  - (ii) *the candidate who receives the next highest number of votes; and*
  - (iii) *the candidate who receives the next highest number of votes, and so on up to the number of vacancies to be filled; and*
- (f) *if two or more candidates receive the same number of votes so that sub-section (d) or (e) cannot be applied, the Chief Executive Officer is to draw lots in the presence of any scrutineers who may be present to determine which candidate is elected.*

In line with this clause a nomination process is carried out and as per the WALGA Corporate Governance Charter as below:

*State Council is responsible for the establishment and review of the processes which are applied by the metropolitan and country constituencies to determine the election of their State Councillors (sub clause 9(4) of the Constitution). State Council will review the election process applied by Zones every two years to ensure that they continue to reflect the best interests of the Association.*

*The Secretariat is the body responsible for coordinating and/or overseeing the nominations and election processes by which the metropolitan and country constituencies elect their State Councillors. The Secretariat will implement any directions from State Council concerning the election processes utilised by Zones, as well as incorporating a regular review process.*

The process that is followed is outlined below (using 2023 dates):

A Chronological overview of the process is detailed below:

- Local Government elections occur on (21 October 2023).
- Member Councils to elect / appoint their Zone Delegates and to advise WALGA as soon as possible but preferably by 9am, Friday (10 November 2023).
- For the purpose of electing their representatives and deputy representatives to the WALGA State Council, Zones are required to hold these elections at their November (2023) meeting.
- Zones to advise WALGA, in writing, of their elected State Council representative and deputy representative immediately following the (2023) November Zone meeting.
- State Councillor Induction Session – morning of (6 December 2023).
- New State Council will take office at the Ordinary Meeting of State Council on 6 December 2023.

In accordance with sub-clause 9(3) of the Western Australian Local Government Association Constitution, nominations are called. This clause is provided below:

- (3) *Representatives and deputy representatives to the State Council shall be elected by Zones of the metropolitan and country constituencies from amongst the delegates to the Zones for a term commencing on the day of the first Ordinary Meeting of State Council immediately following the biennial Local Government elections and concluding on the day before the first Ordinary Meeting of State Council of the following biennial Local Government elections.*

The secretariat has received feedback on the nomination process for the election of State Councillors, specifically relating to the nomination submission deadline. To rectify this, the nomination process for future elections for State Councillor positions is proposed as follows: nominations will be accepted in writing prior to the finalisation of the agenda for the zone meeting. A clear cut off time for the receipt of written nominations to be included in the agenda will be communicated to Zone delegates and members more broadly. Following the cut-off of written nominations to be included in the agenda, nominations will still be accepted up until the commencement of the election. That is, nominations will be accepted in writing prior to the meeting, and from the floor at the meeting before the distribution of ballot papers.

Should the Zone wish to propose any change to this process, a resolution can be determined, which would be provided to State Council for their consideration. The proposed change if to be supported, would need to be implemented across all Zones. Amendment to the WALGA Constitution requires a 75 percent endorsement at State Council and a meeting of members.

**Noted**

## **MOTION**

**Moved:** Cr Aaron Bowman  
**Seconded:** Mayor Filomena Piffaretti

That WALGA amend the Standing Orders to remove calls for nominations from the floor for State Councillor and Deputy State Councillor and that WALGA have consistent standing orders across all Zones.

**LOST (6/9)**

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### **6.3 New Dwelling Gas Installation**

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*By the Town of Bassendean*

## **BACKGROUND**

Local Government has a history of leadership on climate action and emission reduction. WALGA acknowledges the scientific evidence reported by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that communicates the climate emergency we are now in. The third and final report from the IPCC focuses on climate change mitigation and what action needs to be taken immediately to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to alleviate the impacts of climate change. The IPCC report clearly articulates that the situation requires urgent action by all levels of government. ([IPCC 2022](#)).

Climate science has unequivocally demonstrated that climate change is being driven by the burning of fossil fuels including natural gas. The Climate Council states that *“Emissions from the extraction, processing and export of gas have been the main driver behind Australia’s official emissions staying so high. The official figures for emissions from gas are likely significantly underestimated.”* ([Climate Council N.D.](#))

Climate Analytics state: “The domestic emissions from full exploitation of Western Australia’s conventional gas reserves for both domestic use and LNG exports present major challenges for the State to comply with a Paris Agreement-compatible carbon budget. Under the Paris Agreement, Western Australia will need to move from gas to renewable energy sources by 2050 for its domestic energy needs and as well make very large emission reductions in all phases of LNG production and processing.” ([Climate Analytics N.D](#))

Therefore, a transition away from all fossil fuels, including gas, is urgently required. Unfortunately, the opposite is currently occurring. WA is the only state with rapidly rising greenhouse gas emissions, due to uncontrolled carbon pollution from liquid natural gas production growth, undermining the entire country’s efforts to tackle climate change. ([Clean State 2019](#)).

At present, 42% (140Mt) of Australia’s annual domestic emissions (331Mt) are from our households. Therefore, by reducing the use of energy from gas for heating, cooling and cooking in our homes, we are able to collectively have a significant impact on reducing emissions and limiting the effects of climate change. Transition from gas to electric in our homes also has other significant benefits including much greater energy efficiency and health benefits.

Unlike some other states, Western Australia does not have a requirement for new developments to install a gas connection. Despite this, at present, the majority of Western Australian homes are connected to gas. This continues to be standard practice for new developments despite the known environmental impacts and the cost savings associated with the use of renewable energy. Therefore, to change this practice, policies need to be introduced that will either prohibit new gas connections or incentivise new developments to exclude gas connections to the dwellings.

Every new gas appliance installed in households today can be expected to have a useful life of 10-15 years. This equates to over a decade of committed emissions that could otherwise have been avoided. The pathway to climate success is to electrify everything, cease the installation of any new devices that are not powered by renewable energy and to replace the main origins of our emissions (gas and oil powered machines) with cleanly powered electric appliances as they retire, including our water heater, space heaters, cooking appliances and vehicles. Electrifying households is the only credible path to decarbonising home energy use.

In addition to the environmental benefits of prohibiting gas connections to our homes, there are also significant health benefits. A 2021 report [“Kicking the Gas Habit: How Gas is Harming Our Health”](#) demonstrates how burning gas in our homes negatively impacts health. Far from the “clean and natural” image that the gas industry markets, the use of gas for heating and cooking indoors carries many health risks. Cooking with gas is estimated to be responsible for up to 12% of the burden of childhood asthma in Australia. A child living with gas cooking in the home faces a comparable risk of asthma to a child living with household cigarette smoke.

Around the world action is being taken to eliminate or discourage the use of gas in households. For example, the Dutch government has eliminated new gas connections for residential dwellings and the [New York City Council voted](#)

[in December 2021 to ban the use of gas in new buildings](#), following in the footsteps of dozens of smaller U.S. cities.

The Victorian government is considering the future of gas through its consultation on a Natural Gas Substitution Roadmap. [Many local councils and community groups have made submissions](#) calling to electrify households and to enable local governments to ban new gas connections. The main arguments cited are emission reductions and reducing costs to residents. Similarly, the [ACT government is considering legislation](#) to prevent new gas mains network connections to future residential developments and has supported gas free residential property developments. In Perth, representatives from local governments are holding a round table event to discuss progression of similar bans in Western Australia.

Although it would be ideal for the prohibition of new gas connections to be driven at a state or federal level, this is yet to occur. In the absence of this, local governments have a responsibility to drive the change that is needed through their own planning policies and advocacy efforts.

## **SECRETARIAT COMMENT**

The transition from natural gas to renewable energy sources represents an effective emissions reduction pathway. Many Local Governments across Australia are in the process of phasing out gas and replacing it with all-electric alternatives to meet their operational energy demands. Following advocacy from WALGA the Cities Power Partnership will be providing a toolkit and other resources specifically to assist Local Governments considering a transition to electrification. WALGA were successful in this advocacy and the Partnership are intending to provide the toolkit towards the end of 2022.

At the household level, there are considerations including future green hydrogen connections, enforceability and equity. If this item is passed by the Zone, it will be referred to the People and Place and Environment Policy Teams for consideration.

## MOTION

Moved: Cr Renee McLennan  
Seconded: Cr Janelle Sewell

That, in light of the climate crisis and the need to minimise committed emissions, WALGA

1. develop a policy position in relation to the phasing out the installation of gas connections in new dwellings; and
2. advocate to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, Energy, Corrective Services and Industrial Relations (Hon Bill Johnston MLA), the Minister for the Environment and Climate Action (Hon Reece Whitby) for the action necessary to prohibit gas connections from new residential developments across Western Australia be taken.

## AMENDED MOTION WAS PUT

Moved: Cr Renee McLennan  
Seconded: Cr Janelle Sewell

That, in light of the climate crisis and the need to minimise committed emissions, WALGA develop a policy position in relation to the phasing out the installation of gas connections in new dwellings

CARRIED (13/2)

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## 6.4 Zone Standing Orders Amendment

*By Chantelle O'Brien, Governance Support Officer*

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This item was deferred at the June 2022 Zone meeting. As raised by members of the East Metropolitan Zone at their February meeting, and noted at the April Zone meeting, a request to have the East Metropolitan Zone Standing Orders amended to include the requirement of votes to be recorded.

Attached with this Agenda are the amended Standing Orders to include this requirement for the Zone's consideration. A new clause, 33.2 has been added to give effect to this amendment, which states "The Secretariat will cause for the number of votes for and against each Motion to be recorded in the Minutes".

Regarding the acknowledgement of country request, this has been previously listed in the 'Announcements' section of the agenda. This has now been placed in a more prominent location of the Agenda.

## RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr George Sekulla  
Seconded: Cr Aaron Bowman

That the East Metropolitan Zone endorse the amended Standing Orders as attached subject to an additional change of the word chairman to be 'chair' and to be effective from 24 November 2022 Zone meeting.

CARRIED (15/0)

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

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*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: Cr Janelle Sewell  
Seconded: Cr John Daw

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 (15/0)**

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## **6.6 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review project**

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*By Susie Moir, Policy Manager, Resilient Communities*

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**

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## **6.7 WALGA Best Practice Governance Review Principles – AGM Item**

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*By Tim Lane, Manager Strategy and Association Governance*

### **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**

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## **7. OTHER BUSINESS**

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Nil.



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## **8. EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

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### **8.1 WALGA President's Report**

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The WALGA representative presented the President's Report.

**Noted**

### **8.2 State Councillor's report to the Zone**

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WALGA State Councillor, Cr John Daw presented on the previous State Council meeting.

**Noted**

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## **9. NOTICE OF MOTIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING MEETING**

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That WALGA should engage more women for its Local Government Convention and for WALGA to consider more gender diversity at future events and delivery equity training to staff.

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## **10. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

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### **COMMENT**

As members may be aware, there has been some feedback regarding a conflict with EMRC and the East Metropolitan Zone meeting dates.

It is always intended to provide opportunity for all Zone members to be able to attend their Zone meetings, and to allow for discussion on this matter, this item is presented for Zone members to discuss and potentially consider an alternative day to avoid conflict for the November 2022 Zone meeting.

Please note, to coincide with the State Council timeline, the preferred meeting date options for Zones to meet are from Wednesday 23 November to Monday 28 November.

Future Zone meeting dates for 2023 will be presented at the November meeting and any conflict can be rectified at that time.

The November meeting has been previously scheduled for Thursday 24 November, noting this date conflicts with the EMRC meeting, an alternative date between 23 and 28 November can be accommodated.

### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Cr Aaron Bowman

**Seconded:** Cr Patty Jones

**That the next ordinary meeting of the East Metropolitan Zone be held on Thursday, 24 November 2022 at the City of Belmont commencing at 6:30pm.**

**CARRIED (13/2)**

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## **11. CLOSURE**

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There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at **8:29pm**.