

Central Country Zone Minutes

Friday, 22 April 2022

Shire of Wickepin,
Wickepin Community Centre
Campbell Street
Wickepin

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Central Country Zone

Meeting was held at the Wickepin Community Centre, Campbell Street, Wickepin Commenced at 9:37am on Friday, 22 April 2022

Minutes

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

1.1 Announcements

Covid-19 awareness:

- Ensure you have signed in using the SafeWA app or by written register at the door
- Maintain social distancing where possible
- Wear your mask
- Sanitize regularly

1.2 Housekeeping – Zone Chair, Cr Brett McGuiness

1. Welcome:

The Zone Chair, Cr Brett McGuiness welcomed Zone members to the meeting and provided OSH/bathroom/exit information to those in attendance.

2. Share your name and Local Government:

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

Noted

1.3 Host Welcome – Mr. Mark Hook, Shire of Wickepin

Shire of Wickepin CEO, Mr. Mark Hook extended a welcome to delegates and guests.

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Central Country Zone Delegates and CEO's

Shire of Beverley President Cr David White

Shire of Brookton President Cr Katrina Crute

Deputy President Cr Neil Walker

Mr Gary Sherry, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate

Shire of Corrigin President Cr Des Hickey

Ms Natalie Manton, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate

Shire of Cuballing Deputy President Cr Rob Harris

Cr Julie Christensen

Mr Stan Scott, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate

Shire of Dumbleyung President Cr Julie Ramm

Mr Gavin Treasure, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate

Shire of Kulin President Cr Grant Robins

Cr Barry West Cr Robbie Bowey

Shire of Lake Grace President Cr Len Armstrong

Deputy President Cr Ross Chappell

Mr Alan George, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate

Shire of Narrogin President Leigh Ballard

Deputy President Cr Graham Broad

Shire of Quairading Cr Brett McGuiness (Chair)

Cr Jonathan Hippisley

Ms Nicole Gibbs, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate

Shire of Wagin President Cr Phillip Blight

Mr Ian McCabe, A/Deputy Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate

Shire of Wandering President Cr Ian Turton

Mr Ian Fitzgerald, A/Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate

Shire of West Arthur Cr Karen Harrington

Mr Vin Fordham Lamont, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate

Shire of Wickepin Deputy President Cr Wes Astbury

Mr Mark Hook, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate

Shire of Williams President Cr Jarrad Logie

Cr Moya Carne

Mr Geoff McKeown, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate

Guests Rob Cossart, Chief Executive Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission

Peter Kenyon, Community Builder Program

WALGA Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Services

Janine Neugebauer, Governance and Organisational Services Officer

Rodney Thornton, Regional Road Safety Advisor

Apologies

Shire of Beverley Deputy President Cr Chris Lawlor

Mr Steve Gollan Chief Executive Officer

Shire of Corrigin Deputy President Cr Mike Weguelin

Shire of Cuballing President Cr Eliza Dowling

Shire of Dumbleyung Deputy President Cr Amy Knight

Shire of Kulin Mr Garrick Yandle, Chief Executive Officer

Shire of Pingelly President Cr Bill Mulroney

Deputy President Cr Jackie McBurney
Mr Andrew Dover Chief Executive Officer
Mr Dale Stewart Chief Executive Officer

Shire of Narrogin Mr Dale Stewart Chief Executive Office Shire of Wagin Deputy President Cr Gregory Ball Shire of Wandering Deputy President Cr Paul Treasure

Shire of West Arthur President Cr Neil Morrell
Shire of Wickepin President Cr Julie Russell

Guests Mr Rick Wilson MP, Federal Member for O'Connor

Hon Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt (Leader of the

Opposition)

Hon Peter Rundle MLA, Member for Roe

Hon Shelley Payne MLC, Member for Agricultural Region Hon Colin de Grussa MLC, Member for Agricultural Region Hon Darren West MLC, Member for Agricultural Region Hon Steve Martin MLC. Member for Agricultural Region

Kathleen Brown, Electorate Officer, Office of Hon Mia Davies MLA Mandy Walker Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt Clare Atkins, Regional Development Officer, Wheatbelt Development

Commission

Mohammad Siddiqui, Regional Manager Wheatbelt, Main Roads

Brad Pearce, Operations Manager, Main Roads

Tom Axton, A/Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Main Roads Samantha Cornthwaite, A/Regional Manager, (DLGSC) Wheatbelt

Attachments

The following are attached to the Minutes:

1. The Community Builders Program

State Council Agenda – via link: State Council Agenda May 2022

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

NIL

4. GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS

4.1 Peter Kenyon OAM – Community Builder Program

Peter Kenyon OAM, Director, Bank of I.D.E.A.S. provided a presentation to the Zone on the Community Builder Program.

He explained how this leadership program could benefit communities through its leadership development initiative across natural and connected sets of local governments, involving community teams of 3-6 persons.

Peter's presentation is attached. (Attachment 1)

Interested Local Governments should contact Peter for follow-up discussions.

NOTED

4.2 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

NIL

5. MINUTES

5.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the Central Country Zone meeting held Friday, 18 February 2022

The Minutes of the Central Country Zone meeting held on Friday, 18 February 2022 have previously been circulated to Member Councils.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr David White

Seconded: Deputy President Cr Ross Chappell

That the Minutes of the Central Country Zone meeting held Friday, 18 February 2022 are confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

5.2 <u>Business Arising from the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Meeting on Friday,</u> 18 February 2022

5.2.1 Item 4.2.3: Local Government Agricultural Freight Group

At the February 2022 Executive Committee Meeting the following was resolved and endorsed at the subsequent zone meeting:

That the Central Country Zone recommend that the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group be disbanded and request WALGA to consider establishing a policy forum to encompass all Freight issues. This item was referred to WALGA's Infrastructure Policy Team, who have noted that a decision to disband the Agricultural Freight Group is a matter for the participating Zones.

To assist developing a recommendation, the Infrastructure Policy Team requested that the Terms of Reference for a possible Agricultural Freight Policy Forum be developed for consideration at their next meeting.

The Zone will be kept informed on progress on this matter.

NOTED

5.2.2 Item 9.1: CBH - Non-Grain Storage

At the February Zone meeting the issue of CBH exemption from rates and the ex-gratia payment for the storage of Non Grain products by CBH was raised.

There was an understanding that CBH receive an exemption on the basis of Grain Storage but in the case of the Aldersyde Bin in Brookton, it has lime in it for sale to Growers at a significantly cheaper rate than local contractors can do it for.

It is confirmed that the portion of land that is used for anything other than grain storage, the GRV (gross rental value) or UV (unimproved land value) rate would apply on the portion of land concerned (not the agreed ex gratia rate).

<u>NOTED</u>

5.3 Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee held Wednesday, 13 April 2022

The recommendations from the Executive Committee Meeting that require Zone consideration have been extracted for the Zone's consideration.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Katrina Crute Seconded: President Cr Des Hickey

That the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 13 April 2022 be endorsed.

CARRIED

6. WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (WALGA) BUSINESS

Zone delegates considered the Matters for Decision contained in the WA Local Government Association State Council Agenda and put forward resolutions to Zone Representatives on State Council.

6.1 State Councillor Report

President Cr Phillip Blight

Cr Blight advised that at the first ordinary meeting of State Council for 2022 was held as a virtual meeting on Wednesday, 2 March. President Cr Karen Chappel JP was elected President of WALGA for a two-year term after fulfilling the role since December 2021. Cr Paul Kelly, Central Metropolitan Zone, Town of Claremont, was elected Deputy President for a two-year term.

At a special meeting on 23 February, State Council endorsed the recommendations contained in the Local Government Reform Proposal submission. The final submission was submitted to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries on 25 February. The Full Minutes of the special meeting, including the submission, can be found on the WALGA website

Cr Blight also advised that WALGA is undertaking a complete governance review of the organisation including the political structure and processes. A Steering Committee has been established and Cr Blight is a member.

The Steering Committee will be convened by State Council to review WALGA's existing governance model, considering options and proposing recommendations for change.

Specifically, this will involve:

- Consideration of WALGA's current governance model including its purpose, aims, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats
- Consideration of alternative governance models, including a review of similar organisations, including Local Government associations in other jurisdictions, peak bodies, and member organisations
- Review of plausible options and consideration of their benefits, costs, and palatability to the broader membership, and
- Development of recommendations for State Council deliberation.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Leigh Ballard Seconded: Cr Jonathan Hippisley

That the State Councillor Report be received.

<u>CARRIED</u>

6.2 WALGA Status Report

By Tony Brown, Executive Officer

BACKGROUND

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

CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE STATUS REPORT APRIL 2022

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Central C	2022, 18 February Zone Agenda Item 11.1	That the Central Country Zone recommend that the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group be disbanded and request WALGA to consider establishing a policy forum to encompass all Freight issues.	The Infrastructure Policy Team noted that a decision to disband the Agricultural Freight Group is a matter for the participating Zones. To assist developing a recommendation, the Infrastructure Policy Team requested that the Terms of Reference for a possible Agricultural Freight Policy Forum be developed for consideration at the next meeting.	April 2022	lan Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Central C	2022, 18 February Zone Agenda Item 11.1 Regional Telecommunications	to scope, design and cost a solution to enable full mobile and internet connectivity through the Central Country Zone area, including suitable back up power generation to ensure continued mobile connectivity during emergency outage events.	WALGA is a member of the recently formed Telecommunications Resilience Working Group, which comprises telecommunications carriers, power companies, the Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development and Department of Fire & Emergency Services. The working group has embarked on an analysis of the State's mobile network towers to define the current state and the most cost-effective solution to improve power resilience. This analysis should be completed at the end of this year which will rank power treatment actions for each tower by community vulnerability, bushfire/cyclone risk, and power reliability to enable an improvement plan to be considered by both State and Federal Governments for their funding cycles. In parallel, as part of the Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters (STAND) program, NBN Co has been installing the emergency satellite Wi-Fi service into Local Government-approved facilities, with some services already	April 2022	Nicole Matthews A/Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039



			providing sustained communication services during bushfire events and TC Anika. As of 28 March, there are 120 locations now fully operational with the remaining 17 sites to be installed by the end of the financial year. Further, as announced on 15 March, infrastructure upgrades are being funded as part of the second round of the Commonwealth Mobile Network Hardening Program, worth \$10.9 million. 141 mobile network sites across WA will be upgraded to improve mobile phone services for local communities during emergencies.		
Central C	2021 19 November Zone Agenda Item 12.1 Sector ICT solution	That the Zone request WALGA to research providers and the viability of an in-house IT system.	The idea of an all-of-sector model ICT solution is not viable for the following reasons: Different size Local Governments – no one size fits all. Local Government's being at different levels of need and maturity in the ICT requirements. We are unlikely to get the requisite LG buy-in to warrant the investment; and The inherent complexity of a custom-built system is time and cost prohibitive. A more workable suggestion is for a group of similar size/maturity level Local Governments to engage a consultant to define a model set that meets their needs. Any recommendations could be reviewed by a representative of the LG ICT Managers Network to ensure it is appropriate. It would be expected that the following range of recommendations are achievable: Suitable hardware requirements (including remote options where appropriate) Suggested lightweight accounting software Baseline model directory structure Security options Backup software and procedures Suitable internet options WALGA would be prepared to assist in facilitating discussions on a shared service model to research this with a group of Local Governments further.	April 2022	Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au

Central C	2021 19 November Zone Agenda Item 10.3 Police Resources in the Region	That the CCZ call upon WALGA to advocate to State Government on the shortage of police and housing in regional and remote areas.	WALGA continues to undertake advocacy work in relation to Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH) including regular meetings with the Dept Communities, identification of critical areas of need, four- year forecasts and Commercial Team development of preferred supplier for Modular Housing. WALGA has communicated further with the Shire of Quairading CEO who confirms that no further action is required on the Police housing issue. COMPLETE	April 2022	Nicole Matthews A/Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039
Central C	2021 20 August Zone Agenda Item 8.4 Social Housing Economic Recovery Package Grant Funding	1. That the Zone notes: • Local Governments are eligible for grants to support the construction, refurbishment, and maintenance of community housing properties as part of the State Government's Social Housing Economic Recovery Package (SHERP) Program. • The next round of SHERP grants open on Wednesday 1 September 2021. • The Department of Communities will provide further information on the SHERP grants at a WALGA webinar to be held at 1:30pm on Wednesday 1 September. 2. Request WALGA to advocate for more State funding for housing in the regions.	A total of \$57 million in SHERP refurbishment grants were announced on 25 January 2022. Three of the 8 Local Governments that applied for SHERP refurbishment grants were successful: Shires of Donnybrook-Balingup, Williams and Boyup Brook. An announcement of funding for new builds has been delayed until April 2022. WALGA is continuing its advocacy on this issue with the Department of Communities and Minister for Housing.	April 2022	Kelly McManus, Principal Policy and Advocacy kmcmanus@walga.asn.au 9213 2096
Central C	2020 February 21 Zone Agenda Item 12.1 General Practitioner Services in Rural Areas - Shire of Corrigin	That WALGA be requested to investigate tendering issues around General Practitioner Services in Rural Areas with consideration given to including an exemption from tendering for such services under the Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996.	WALGA has included this item in the draft submission on Local Government legislative reform proposals. WALGA's policy position is as per below: WALGA advocates for the inclusion of a tender exemption for General Practitioner (GP) services under Part 4, Division 2 of the Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996, to support Local Governments retain necessary primary health care services for their communities; and 1. Undertake additional research in support of the Advocacy Position with the following aims: a. Identify State and Federal Government policy settings and other factors contributing to gaps in primary health care services in regional communities; and	April 2022	Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au

Central C	2019 Nov 29 Zone Agenda Item 10.8	That WALGA prepares and endorses a strategy to obtain transparency of the distribution of the fuel	b. Quantify the number of regional Local Governments that have current contracts, or are proposing to enter into contracts, for General Practitioner services and the associated costs to Local Government incurred. The Office of the Minister for Local Government has advised that they are interested in establishing a Roundtable on the issue of GP services for Rural Local Governments. The Minister for Local Government hosted a roundtable on this issue with effected Local Governments. The Ministers office and the Department are now researching possible solutions. The resolution has been referred to the Infrastructure Policy Team and based on direction provided further research to	Ongoing	lan Duncan Executive Manager
	Western Australia's Share of Fuel Excise	excise with the intent to maximise the return to Western Australia for road maintenance.	support an advocacy position is being carried out. The Association met with the RAC and received access to a 2020 revision of a report commissioned by the RAC quantifying motorist taxation and Federal Government investment in WA transport infrastructure.		Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031

Zone comment

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

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Phillip Blight

Seconded: Cr Barry West

That the Central Country Zone WALGA April 2022 Status Report be noted.

CARRIED

6.3 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda's - Matters for Decision

6.3.1 State Council Meeting Agenda – 4 May 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 May 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 Submission to Statutory Review of the Food Act 2008

That the submission to the Department of Health relating to the Statutory Review of the *Food Act 2008* be endorsed.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Julie Ramm Seconded: President Cr David White

That the Zone supports WALGA recommendation 5.1.

CARRIED

5.2 Local Government Grant Scheme Funding

That WALGA advocates to the Minister for Emergency Services and the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner for:

- An allocation of Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) funding to undertake an audit of existing facilities, appliances, vehicles, and major items of equipment for both Local Government Volunteer Bushfire Brigades (BFB) and State Emergency Services (SES).
- 2. Following the completion of the audit, an allocation of funding through the Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) to prepare a Comprehensive Asset Management Plan that:

- a. Aligns with the principles in the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' (DLGSC) Asset Management National Framework and Guidelines, and the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.
- b. Forecasts the emergency response needs of communities across Western Australia over the next 10 years, to estimate the quantum of the facilities, appliances, vehicles, and major items of equipment that will be needed.
- c. Outlines a 10 year forward plan of modifications, replacements and additions required.
- d. Investigates the extent to which future BFB facilities can be co-located with other emergency services facilities.
- 3. The establishment of a Working Group involving WALGA, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and LGIS to oversee the preparation of the Comprehensive Asset Management Plan.
- 4. Support for the Comprehensive Asset Management Plan to be reviewed every five years.
- Support for an increase in Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) funding to support the unsuccessful capital grants funding applications by Local Governments to the 2020 21 LGGS Capital Grants Committee.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Julie Ramm Seconded: President Cr David White

That the Zone supports the recommendation subject to amending point 5 as follows:

Support for an increase in overall Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) funding pool to fund future capital grants that align with the Comprehensive Asset Management Plan (as updated from time to time).

CARRIED

5.3 Draft Active Travel to School Roadmap

That WALGA:

- 1. Endorses the Draft Active Travel to School Roadmap, subject to amending Urban Environment Initiative No 1 to "Consult local governments to identify sub-regional school transport challenges and amend existing planning guidelines and develop new guidelines where gaps exist"; and
- 2. Works with the Department of Transport to finalise the Roadmap and encourage Local Government participation in the initiatives identified where these offer solutions to the local issues encountered in each area.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Julie Ramm Seconded: President Cr David White

That the Zone supports the recommendation subject to inserting additional point 3 as follows:

Roadmap development to consider any regional service delivery improvement recommendations coming out of the 2021 initiated Public Accounts Committee Student Transport Assistance Policy Enquiry

CARRIED

Matters for Noting

- 6.1 Draft National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children (05-086-03-0004 VB)
- 6.2 Feedback on Community Disaster Resilience Strategy Discussion Paper (05-024-02-0067 VJ)
- 6.3 2021 CoastWA Local Government Survey (06-085-01-0002 LS)
- 6.4 Update on draft WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026
- 6.5 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review Project (05-024-03-0040 SR)
- 6.6 Comment on Draft Health Promotion Strategic Framework 2022-2026 (05-031-03-0005 BW)
- 6.7 Wooroloo Bushfire Independent Review Final Report (05-024-03-0011 CM)
- 6.8 2022-23 Federal Budget Update (05-088-03-0002 DT)
- 6.9 Local Government Emergency Management Survey Results (05-024-03-0042 CM)

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Phillip Blight
Seconded: Deputy President Cr Des Hickey

That the Central Country Zone

- Supports Matters for Decision, item 5.1, and 5.2 to 5.3 as amended above in the May 2022 State Council Agenda; and
- 2. Notes all Matters for Noting and Organisational Reports as listed in the May 2022 State Council Agenda.

CARRIED

6.4 WALGA President's Report

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

NOTED

7. ZONE REPORTS

7.1 Zone President Report

By President Cr Brett McGuinness

Zone President Cr Brett McGuinness advised the Zone that there was nothing further to report at this stage.

NOTED

7.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG)

By President Cr Katrina Crute

President Cr Katrina Crute provided her report about the LGAFG to the Zone.

NOTED

7.3 Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC)

By President Leigh Ballard

President Leigh Ballard advised that the March meeting has been postponed to May.

NOTED

7.4 Regional Health Advocacy Representative

By Ms. Natalie Manton

On 13 March 2022, Natalie Manton attended a roundtable discussion with the Minister for Local Government regarding the supply of Rural GPs; the discussions are ongoing.

NOTED

8. ZONE BUSINESS – MEMBER COUNCIL MATTERS

NIL

9. ZONE BUSINESS – OTHER BUSINESS/URGENT BUSINESS

NIL

10. ZONE BUSINESS - EMERGING ISSUES

NIL

11. OTHER AGENCY REPORTS

11.1 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

A representative from the Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries, was an apology for the meeting.

NOTED

11.2 Wheatbelt Development Commission

Rob Cossart, Chief Executive Officer Wheatbelt Development Commission provided an update to the Zone on the Wheatbelt fire recovery plan.

The 5 Key focus areas:

- 1. Mental Health
- 2. Built Environment
- 3. Natural Environment
- 4. Power Supply
- 5. Community Recovery & Resilience

NOTED

11.3 Main Roads Western Australia

Mohammad Siddiqui, Tom Axton and Brad Pearce were an apology for the meeting, however, the Main Roads Report (April 2022) was emailed to the Zone as a separated attachment for the Agenda.

NOTED

11.4 Wheatbelt RDA

Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development RDA Wheatbelt was an apology for the meeting, however, her report was attached to the agenda.

NOTED

12. DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The Executive Committee will next meet on 15 June 2022 via MS Teams.

The next meeting of the Central Country Zone will be held on Friday 24 June 2022, commencing at 9.30am. This meeting will be hosted by the Shire of Williams.

13. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 11.05am