



# GVROC Council Meeting to consider WALGA State Council Agenda Items

## Unconfirmed Minutes

Tuesday 26 April 2022  
Zoom Videoconference, commencing at 9.00am

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# **GOLDFIELDS VOLUNTARY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS (GVROC)**

**Videoconference meeting of the GVROC Council to consider WALGA State Council Agenda Items was held Tuesday 26 April 2022 9.00am**

## **AGENDA**

### **1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The purpose of the meeting is to provide advice to the WALGA State Council Representative, Cr Laurene Bonza on the Agenda for the WALGA State Council Meetings to be held on 4 May 2022.

### **2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

### **3. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

#### **3.1 Attendance**

Cr Mal Cullen (Chair)	President, Shire of Coolgardie
Cr Tracey Rathbone	Councillor, Shire of Coolgardie
Mr James Trail	CEO, Shire of Coolgardie
Cr Kim Eckert	Councillor, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder
Mr Andrew Brien	CEO, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder
Cr Laurene Bonza	President, Shire of Dundas
Mr Peter Fitchat	CEO, Shire of Dundas
Cr Ian Mickel	President Shire of Esperance
Cr Ron Chambers	Councillor, Shire of Esperance
Ms Holly Phillips	A/CEO Shire of Esperance
Cr Patrick Hill	President, Shire of Laverton
Mr Peter Naylor	CEO, Shire of Laverton
Cr Robert Wedge	Councillor, Shire of Laverton
Mr Cary Green	Director Governance & Corporate, Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku
Mr Andrew Mann	Executive Officer, GVROC

#### **3.2 Apologies**

Cr John Bowler	Mayor, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Cr Sharon Warner	Councillor, Shire of Dundas
Mr Shane Burge	CEO, Shire of Esperance
Cr Peter Craig	President, Shire of Leonora
Mr Jim Epis	CEO, Shire of Leonora
Mr Brian Joiner	CEO, Shire of Menzies
Cr Paul Warner	Councillor, Shire of Menzies
Cr Jill Dwyer	Councillor, Shire of Menzies
Cr Peter Grundy	President, Shire of Wiluna
Cr Timothy Carmody	Councillor, Shire of Wiluna
Mr Gary Gaffney	A/CEO, Shire of Wiluna
Mr Kevin Hannagan	CEO, Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku
Cr Damian McLean	President, Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku

### 3.3 **Guests**

Nil

### 3.4 **WALGA Representatives**

Craig Hansom	Acting Executive Manager Commercial and Communications
Ruby Pettit	Policy Officer Planning

### 3.5 **DLGSC Representatives**

Nil

<b>4. MINUTES OF MEETINGS</b>
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#### 4.1 **Minutes of a Meeting of GVROC to consider WALGA State Council Agenda Items held 18 February 2022**

Minutes of the GVROC Council Meeting to consider WALGA State Council held Friday 18 February 2022 are presented for adoption (**Attachment 1**).

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Unconfirmed Minutes of the GVROC Council Meeting to consider WALGA State Council held Friday 18 February 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

<b>RESOLUTION:</b>	<b>Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie</b>
	<b>Seconded: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas</b>

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**Carried**

#### 4.2 **Action Sheet Report**

An update on the actions based on the resolutions from the meeting held on 18 February 2022 meeting are presented for noting (**Attachment 2**).

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Action Sheet Report as listed for noting be received.

<b>RESOLUTION:</b>	<b>Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie</b>
	<b>Seconded: Cr Kim Eckert, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder</b>

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**Carried**

<b>5. EMERGING ITEMS</b>
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**From:** Chair GVROC

**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 Zone can provide comment or submit an alternate recommendation that is then presented to the State Council for consideration.

A full copy of the State Council Agenda for the meeting on 4 May 2022 can be found at **Attachment 3**.

Notification of emerging items must be provided to the Chair no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting.

## **6. Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Decision**

### **6.1 Submission to Statutory Review of the Food Act 2008 (05-031-01-0006 BW)**

#### **WALGA Recommendation**

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

#### **IN BRIEF:**

- The Department of Health (DOH) is undertaking a Statutory Review of the *Food Act 2008* (the Act) and has invited stakeholders to provide submissions. Local Governments were required to submit a Council endorsed submission.
- Overall, feedback from Local Governments is that the Act is an effective piece of legislation. The enforcement tools of improvement notices and infringements provisions have proved very successful for Local Governments.
- The submission highlights areas for improvement which largely relate to the systems that support the Act, rather than the Act itself.
- The engagement process has highlighted some communication issues between DOH and the Local Government sector. WALGA recommends that DOH further engage with the Local Government sector, as a key enforcement agency, to work collaboratively on improving the framework underpinning the Act.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- WALGA Submission: Statutory Review of the Food Act

#### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

Through its Advocacy Position 3.2 Health, WALGA supports improving health outcomes for Western Australians through investment in and provision of infrastructure and delivery of services in partnership with health professionals.

WALGA has previously made comment on the introduction of the Act (resolution 355.2/2008). A key component of this recommendation was the request that DOH establish a Food Legislation Working Group to address Local Government concerns and to support the development and implementation of subsidiary legislation.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

On 1 December 2021 the Minister for Health, the Hon. Roger Cook MLA, announced the [Statutory Review of the Food Act 2008](#) (the Act). The review aims to examine the operation and effectiveness of the Act in meeting its objective to ensure food for sale is both safe and suitable for human consumption and in preventing misleading conduct in connection with the sale of food. The review will identify any issues with the effectiveness and operation of the Act and make recommendations to strengthen and support the objectives of the Act and its regulatory effectiveness.

The Act is predominantly enforced by Local Government Environmental Health Officers who are authorised to conduct food business assessments, investigate complaints, conduct routine food sampling, issue food recalls and ensure food businesses are compliant with the Act, Food Regulations 2009 (Regulations) and Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code.

The Department of Health WA (DOH) requested that submissions from Local Government be endorsed by Council. The consultation period was from 1 December 2021 to 14 March 2022. WALGA advocated for an extension of the consultation period, and DOH extended the closing date to 5 May 2022 to provide Local Governments additional time to obtain Council endorsement.

#### **COMMENT:**

Local Government has important responsibilities to regulate food businesses as an enforcement agency under the Act.

Overall, feedback from Local Governments is that the Act is an effective piece of legislation. The enforcement tools of improvement notices and infringements provisions have proved very successful. Some areas for improvement are highlighted in the submission and include emerging industries, access to appropriate expertise, temporary and mobile food businesses, registrations, company structures and powers under the Act.

Feedback received from the sector highlights that most of the challenges relating to the Act are with the systems and governance that support the Act, rather than the Act itself. This is reflected in two reports from the Auditor General's Office, *Regulation of Consumer Food Safety by the Department of Health* and *Regulation of Consumer Food Safety by Local Government Entities*.

Despite extensive engagement, Local Government feedback in relation to the workings of the Act has been limited, with many officers citing issues with the engagement process. WALGA's engagement for this submission has highlighted issues around processes and communications between Local Governments and DOH.

WALGA recommends that DOH further engage with the Local Government sector, as a key enforcement agency, to work collaboratively on the supporting framework to strengthen the effectiveness of the Act.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**GVROC support the endorsement of the WALGA submission to the Department of Health relating to the Statutory Review of the Food Act 2008.**

**RESOLUTION:**                      **Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**  
   **Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie**

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**Carried**

## **6.2 Local Government Grant Scheme Funding (05-024-03-0006 VJ)**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

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

1. 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.
5. 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.

### **IN BRIEF:**

- The Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) was established in 2003-04 as a funding source for Local Government Volunteer Bushfire Brigades (BFB) and State Emergency Services (SES) units. LGGS funds are derived from the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) and are administered by DFES.
- Despite an increase in LGGS funding over the years, the funding has not grown at a sufficient rate to account for the increasing costs of assets, in particular buildings and vehicles.
- Currently there is no centralised comprehensive asset management plan for Local Government emergency services facilities or equipment for BFBs or SES, as this information is contained within each Local Governments asset management register.
- It is recommended that a facilities and capital equipment audit be undertaken to establish a baseline of existing assets. This information would enable the preparation of a Comprehensive Asset Management Plan which outlines a forward plan of modifications, replacements, and additions.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

The Recommendation aligns with WALGA's existing Policy Position 8.3 *Emergency Services Levy*:

*The Association advocates for a full review of the Emergency Services Levy, its administration, fee structure and distribution mechanism to facilitate funding back to Local Government to support their Emergency Management responsibilities as legislated in the Emergency Management Act 2005. (July 2014 – 59.3/2014)*

### **BACKGROUND:**

The ESL, introduced in 2003-04, is an annual charge paid by all property owners in Western Australia for the purpose of funding emergency services. Local Governments collect the ESL from private property owners on behalf of DFES, with the charge included with rates notices.

The LGGS is funded by the ESL and provides financial support to BFB and SES units from the ESL. The LGGS is divided into two parts:

1. capital grants for significant capital works initiatives, including facilities, appliances, vehicles and major items of equipment; and



2. operating grants for general operating costs and minor purchases including fleet and facility maintenance, training, PPE, insurances, and other minor non-recurrent items.

Two committees (SES and BFB) oversee the capital funding allocated to Local Governments. Two Local Government representatives are appointed to each of these committees. Operating grants are determined by DFES.

In 2003-04 funding for the LGGS was set at \$15.6 million, comprising \$7.5 million in operating grants, and \$8.1 million in capital grants. Operating expenditure profiles were based on historical expenditure; there was no comprehensive asset planning process undertaken by or for Local Governments at that time. Further, there is no centralised comprehensive asset management plan for Local Government emergency services facilities or equipment for BFBs or SES units, as this information is contained within each Local Government's asset management register.

Information provided by DFES in 2021 about the expenditure of the LGGS, cost increases for asset replacement, prioritisation of fleet replacement, and the current strategy of the Capital Grants Committee indicates that:

- The LGGS allocation for 2020-21 totalled \$35 million, comprising \$12 million in operating grants and \$23 million in capital grants for BFB and SES units.
- Operating grant budget allocations for each financial year are offered based on the average of the previous two years' completed acquittals (past expenditure trends) and the current year's actual allocation, indexed with the prevailing cost escalation factor.
- Since the establishment of the LGGS in 2003-04, DFES has advised that the cost of replacement fire appliances has increased significantly, primarily due to additional safety requirements such as crew protection measures and manufacturer safety and vehicle performance features, and manufacturer cost increases. Light tanker costs have increased more than threefold, and heavy tanker costs had increased two and three times. The cost of buildings has also increased more than CPI because of changing building standards, higher materials costs, higher construction labour costs and additional features and components. LGGS funding has not increased to reflect these changes.
- The current strategy employed by the LGGS Capital Grants Committee is to prioritise the replacement of the vehicle fleet. However, the large fleet replacement backlog leaves little LGGS funding left for building works or other equipment. It is estimated that it will take three-four years for this backlog to clear at the current LGGS funding levels. Fleet replacement is a clear priority due to many aging fleet vehicles being overdue for or nearing replacement age; lack of essential manufacturer safety features in older fleet vehicles which are now commonplace, such as airbags and, for Light Tanker and 1.4 Tankers, water deluge systems.
- In addition, the building strategy being progressed by the LGGS Capital Grants Committee has been to prioritise the provision of a building to a BFB lacking a fleet storage facility, which has resulted in the deferral of applications from many Local Governments with building modification or replacement needs.
- Many Local Governments have been reluctant to re-submit (or submit new) facility funding applications because of previous experiences of having funding applications rejected. This has significantly contributed to the growing backlog of undocumented facility replacement needs.

DFES sought \$11.9 million of additional funding under the COVID-19 WA Recovery Plan funding pool for shovel-ready and unsuccessful facilities funding applications lodged by Local Governments to the 2020-21 LGGS Capital Grants Committees in May 2021. However, DFES only received \$6 million of funding, therefore, there remains a backlog of \$5.9 million in unfunded applications.

**COMMENT:**

Since the LGGS commenced in 2003-04, applications for renovation, replacement or additions to facilities have exceeded the available funding in 18 out of 19 years and funding requests for new and replacement vehicles have also exceeded the available funding every year. This clearly demonstrates that LGGS funding that was established in 2003-04 has not kept pace with cost increases. It is expected that cost pressures will continue to increase, including from:

- more frequent and intense natural disasters occurring throughout the State, and
- more stringent safety standards and legislative requirements such as in the new *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* which commenced on 31 March 2022.

DFES has a current list of the investments made from the ESL, and more recently, from the Recovery Stimulus funding for water tanks and buildings, to provide a list of assets from when the grants started in 2003-04. However, without an audit of all existing facilities, appliances, vehicles, and major items of equipment of BFB and SES, the full quantum of the future funding that is required is unclear.

An audit would inform the preparation of a Comprehensive Asset Management Plan that aligns with the existing asset management principles outlined in the DLGSC Asset Management National Framework and Guidelines, and the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework. The Asset Management Plan would also provide a forecast for the emergency response needs of communities across Western Australia over the next 10 years, and the corresponding modifications, replacements and additions required to fulfil this demand. It could also investigate the extent to which future BFB facilities can be co-located or integrated with other infrastructure needs. The plan would be reviewed every five years.

The audit and subsequent comprehensive asset plan will provide a robust basis for LGGS capital grant funding that is sufficient to meet the current and future requirements of BFB and SES units, better protect local communities and ensure Local Governments can meet their legislative work health and safety obligations.

**GVROC COMMENT:**

The GVROC would like to have a better explanation on how the ESL works as the understanding is that there are significant monies sitting in the ESL Fund, yet as this item states the annual LGGS allocations for asset replacements are not meeting the replacement costs and demands across the local governments. Can the State Council request further details and provide this to the Zone.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**The GVROC:**

1. support WALGA advocating to the Minister for Emergency Services and the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner as per the WALGA recommendations 1 to 5.
2. request the State Council seek further explanation on how the ESL works and why assets cannot be funded for replacement when there are excess monies remaining in the fund.

**RESOLUTION:**

**Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**

**Seconded: Cr Ian Mickel, Shire of Esperance**

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**Carried**

### **6.3 Draft Active Travel to School Roadmap (05-001-03-0051 SDS)**

#### **WALGA Recommendation**

##### **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.**

##### **IN BRIEF:**

- The Director-General of Transport has formally requested WALGA endorse the Department of Transport (DOT) Draft Active Travel to School Roadmap.
- The Roadmap includes an initiative which, as worded in the current draft, states that Local Governments will identify sub-regional challenges to active travel to school, and amend or introduce planning guidelines to address these challenges.
- A Local Government officer was present on the working group that informed the guidelines, and this position on the working group has recently passed to WALGA staff.
- WALGA has advised DOT officers that it is not appropriate for this working group or the Department to assign tasks or policy positions to Local Governments without consultation. These DOT officers have agreed to revise this initiative, so as to state that the DOT will consult with Local Governments to achieve the objective outlined in the Roadmap.

##### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- Draft Active Travel to School Roadmap 2021 - 2030

##### **BACKGROUND:**

A report into the declining rate of active travel to school in Perth was published by the Department of Transport in 2021<sup>1</sup>. This report was commissioned in part to respond to increasing complaints about traffic, congestion and parking around schools. In most instances traffic and parking management responsibilities fall to Local Governments. The Active Travel to School Working Group was convened by the Bike Riding Reference Group, a senior inter-departmental working group chaired by Chris Tallentire MLA, to address the identified problem of a significant decline in the proportion of children walking or cycling to school.

The Active Travel to School Working Group includes representation from the Department of Transport (chair and secretariat), Departments of Education and Health, Main Roads, the Public Transport Authority, the Road Safety Commission and Local Government. For most of the life of this working group, the Local Government position was filled by a Local Government officer. WALGA staff have recently joined the working group but were not directly involved in preparing the Roadmap.

WALGA has been formally requested to endorse the proposed Active Travel to School Roadmap.

##### **COMMENT:**

The Active Travel to School Roadmap sets out 23 initiatives grouped under four social-ecological factors of travel behaviour: urban environment, policy and regulation, individual factors and social factors. Local Governments will potentially be involved in delivery of eight of these initiatives that are being lead by a range of State Government Departments and agencies.

The draft Roadmap assigns WALGA responsibility for Urban Environment Initiative 1; “Local governments to identify sub-regional school transport challenges and amend existing planning guidelines and develop new guidelines where gaps exist.”

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Transport The Declining Rate of Walking and Cycling to School in Perth, 2021 accessed at [AT P Declining Rate walking cycling to school in Perth.pdf \(transport.wa.gov.au\)](https://transport.wa.gov.au/AT_P_Declining_Rate_walking_cycling_to_school_in_Perth.pdf)

Responsibility for developing State level planning guidelines is the responsibility of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and / or the Department of Transport. It is proposed that Urban Environment Initiative #1 be amended to:

*"Consult local governments to identify sub-regional school transport challenges and amend existing planning guidelines and develop new guidelines where gaps exist."*

The lead agency would be Department of Transport, supported by WALGA.

Department of Transport officers have agreed to the revised wording, which does not commit Local Governments to a particular action or policy position.

Traffic and parking management around schools is a significant challenge for many Local Governments in urban areas. Initiatives to increase the use of active travel, and so reduce traffic and parking needs will require engagement with and cooperation of Local Governments. Consequently, it is recommended that the Active Travel to School Roadmap be endorsed, subject to revised wording of Urban Environment Initiative 1 as described above.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**GVROC support the WALGA recommendation as listed.**

**RESOLUTION:**                      **Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie**  
   **Seconded: Cr Kim Eckert, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder**

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**Carried**

## **7. Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Matters for Noting/Information**

### **7.1 Draft National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children (05 086-03-0004 VB)**

#### **WALGA Recommendation**

**That the letter in relation to the Draft National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children consultation be noted.**

#### **IN BRIEF:**

- The Australian Government is developing the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032 (Draft National Plan).
- The Department of Social Services undertook consultation on the [Draft National Plan](#) between 14 January and 25 February 2022.
- WALGA submitted a letter supporting the aims, vision, and pillars of the Draft National Plan, consistent with the Association's Advocacy Position Statement on Family and Domestic Violence.
- The letter highlights the need for clearer definition of the role and responsibilities of Local Government in family and domestic violence, as well as ongoing funding to support the implementation of the Prevention Toolkit for Local Government.

#### **ATTACHMENT:**

- [WALGA Letter on Draft National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children](#)

#### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

WALGA's Advocacy Position Statement on Family and Domestic Violence states:

##### **3.10.1 Family and Domestic Violence**

1. *WA Local Governments recognise the prevalence, seriousness, and preventable nature of family and domestic violence and the roles that Local Governments can play in addressing gender equity and promoting respectful relationships in their local community.*
2. *WALGA advocates to the State Government:*
  - a. *to work with Local Government in defining the role and responsibilities and expectations of Local Governments in family and domestic violence.*
  - b. *for adequate funding for family and domestic violence programs and services, particularly in regional areas.*
  - c. *for appropriate resources and funding be allocated to Local Governments to implement any particular roles and actions addressing family and domestic violence as defined in the State Strategy.*
  - d. *to provide support to Local Government in the broader rollout of the Prevention Toolkit for Local Government.*
  - e. *To continue advocacy to the Commonwealth Government for additional funding and support.*

*(December 2020 – 144.6/2020)*

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The Australian Government is developing the National Plan to replace the existing *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022* when it ends in mid-2022. Development of the National Plan is a joint responsibility of the Commonwealth, states and territories.

The draft National Plan has been developed through consultation with victim-survivors, specialist services, representatives from the health, law and justice sectors, business, and community groups, all levels of government and other experts. Previous consultations that inform the Draft National Plan include The House Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs *Inquiry into family, domestic and sexual violence* and the *National Summit on Women's Safety*.

The ten-year National Plan will be underpinned by two, five-year action plans, including dedicated five-year Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plans. The action plans will detail the priority focus areas for implementation and will focus efforts and government investment in those areas.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Council on family, domestic and sexual violence is leading work on the dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plans.

WALGA is a member of the Family and Domestic Violence State Association Network led by ALGA and Our Watch (peak body for prevention of violence against women and children). The Network works collaboratively to identify and develop resources for the sector and to undertake advocacy. A coordinated approach was developed to inform Association's responses to the Draft National Plan.

WALGA is also a member of the State Government's reference group for the *Path to Safety: Western Australia's strategy to reduce family and domestic violence 2020 – 2030*. The reference group involves key stakeholders from State Government agencies, peak community sector organisations and WALGA and oversees the implementation of the first *Action Plan July 2020 – June 2022*.

**COMMENT:**

The aims, vision, and pillars of the Draft National Plan align with WALGA's Advocacy Position on Family and Domestic Violence, the State Government's strategy and the work that the Family and Domestic Violence State Association Network is undertaking.

WALGA's letter highlights the need for clearer role definition for Local Government, the benefits of the continued rollout of the Prevention Toolkit for Local Government and the need for further support, resources and funding to support Local Government activities to address family and domestic violence

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**GVROC note the WALGA letter in relation to the Draft National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children consultation.**

**RESOLUTION:**

**Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**

**Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie**

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**Carried**

## **7.2 Feedback on Community Disaster Resilience Strategy Discussion Paper (05-024-02-0067 VJ)**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

**That the feedback provided to the State Emergency Management Committee on the Community Disaster Resilience Strategy Discussion Paper be noted.**

### **IN BRIEF:**

- The State Government released a Community Disaster Resilience Strategy Discussion Paper for public consultation between 31 October 2021 and 31 March 2022.
- The Discussion Paper outlines a number of transformational shifts and change initiatives, however, due to limited detail in the paper, it is unclear what the exact impact of these proposed initiatives on Local Government's operations may be.
- Feedback on the Discussion Paper by way of letter from the President has been prepared, requesting a formal consultation period on the draft Community Disaster Resilience Strategy be provided in due course.

### **ATTACHMENT:**

- [WALGA Feedback on the Community Disaster Resilience Strategy Discussion Paper](#)

### **BACKGROUND:**

At the WA Emergency Management Conference held on 13 October 2021, the Hon. Reece Whitby MLA, Minister for Emergency Services announced the commencement of the next round of consultation on the WA [Community Disaster Resilience Strategy Discussion Paper](#).

The intent of the Community Disaster Resilience Strategy is to increase the capacity of communities to cope with and recover from the possible impacts of natural disasters. The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) sought feedback on the strategic directions and initiatives outlined in the Discussion Paper, to inform the final Strategy, by asking the following questions:

- Do the five proposed outcomes represent the right goals for a resilient community?
- Are the transformational shifts possible? Are there any others that could be proposed?
- Do stakeholders agree with the change initiatives?
- Is the Implementation Plan practical?

In March 2022, SEMC through DFES delivered four online workshops with both metropolitan and regional Local Governments, to obtain their feedback.

The consultation period closed on 31 March 2022.

### **COMMENT:**

The Discussion Paper suggests four transformational shifts and 18 associated change initiatives designed to support communities to cope with the impacts of a disaster, to recover afterwards and to adapt to changed circumstances.

Feedback from members at the workshops was generally supportive of the Discussion Paper but qualified with concerns about increasing expectations on Local Governments without increasing resources, and a high level of uncertainty about what is being contemplated by the Strategy. The change initiatives may also have resource implications for the Sector and may require revisions to strategic and operational documents within a Local Government.

Therefore, as there is limited detail in the Discussion Paper on the specific requirements of the actions outlined in the Implementation Plan, it is difficult to determine the extent of the impact of the proposed Strategy on Local Government.

Advice from DFES has been that the draft Strategy will be provided to stakeholders 'as a courtesy' for a short consultation period of two weeks in mid-May, prior to submission to the SEMC Recovery and Community Engagement Subcommittee and Minister for Emergency Services. This two-week period

would not be a formal consultation period as the concept of the Strategy has already been consulted on twice, initially in 2020 and then through this Discussion Paper.

The letter indicates the sector's strong preference to have a further consultation opportunity on the draft Strategy in due course, prior to its formal adoption by SEMC and the State Government.

Although the consultation period closed on 31 March 2022, WALGA sought a small extension until 5 April 2022 to enable the People and Place Policy Team to consider the feedback contained within the attached letter.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**GVROC note the WALGA feedback provided to the State Emergency Management Committee on the Community Disaster Resilience Strategy Discussion Paper.**

**RESOLUTION:**

**Moved: *Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie***

**Seconded: *Cr Kim Eckert, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder***

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**Carried**



## 7.3 **2021 CoastWA Local Government Survey (06-085-01-0002 LS)**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

**That the CoastWA Local Government Survey Outcomes Report be noted.**

### **IN BRIEF:**

- The CoastWA Local Government Survey was implemented to improve understanding of the challenges and barriers to coastal hazard risk management and adaptation planning (CHRMAP) for Local Government. 32 responses were received.
- Broadly the Survey found that CHRMAPs were assisting Local Governments to better manage current and future coastal hazards and that the resources currently available to Local Governments were helpful. However, a number of challenges were identified for both developing and implementing CHRMAPs and that implementation of CHRMAP actions were generally behind schedule.
- Eight recommendations are made based on the findings of the Survey. If implemented these recommendations would further support Local Governments to develop and implement coastal hazard risk management and adaptation plans.
- The Report and its recommendations will inform the review and development of WALGA advocacy positions relating to coastal planning and its support of coastal and estuarine Local Governments.

### **ATTACHMENT:**

- [CoastWA Local Government Survey Summary Snapshot](#)
- [CoastWA Local Government Survey Outcomes Report](#)

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

WALGA's [Advocacy Positions Manual](#) provides:

#### **6.8 Coastal Planning (sub-point 2):**

*That the State Government provides a clear funding path for the implementation of State Planning Policy 2.6 – State Coastal Planning Policy, to ensure that Local Governments are appropriately funded to prepare and implement coastal hazard risk management and adaptation plans.*

WALGA's [Immediate Priorities for the State Government](#) document provides:

#### **Expand the Coast WA Program**

*Provision of additional funds (\$55M) to Local Governments to complete and implement coastal hazard risk assessment and adaptation planning to manage coastal erosion and inundation hot spots.*

### **BACKGROUND:**

A CoastWA Local Government Facilitator was appointed by WALGA in October 2021 to support Local Governments to develop and implement CHRMAPs, including accessing CoastWA funding. The Facilitator position is funded by the State Government through a Coastwest Grant.

In November 2021, a CoastWA Local Government Survey was sent to 49 coastal and estuarine Local Governments. The objectives of the Survey were to:

- Develop a baseline understanding of Local Government progress in developing and implementing Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plans (CHRMAs);
- Understand the challenges for Local Government in developing and implementing CHRMAPs;
- Understand how Local Government can be better supported in developing and implementing CHRMAPs;
- Improve understanding of local coastal management issues and identify potential local erosion hotspots and inundation areas;
- Inform follow-up targeted engagement with individual Local Governments; and
- Inform input into the CoastWA program from a Local Government perspective.

The Survey was open from 23 November 2021 and 7 January 2022. 32 responses were received from 28 Local Governments and one regional partnership. Key findings from the Survey are listed below and are discussed within the attached Outcomes Report:

- Funding is critical for Local Government to develop and implement Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plans;
- Long term funding models for coastal adaptation have not been identified;
- Development of CHRMAPs by Local Government are not necessarily being led by Planning Officers;
- CHRMAPs are challenging to develop and the latter stages of CHRMAP development are the most challenging;
- Most of the resources available to Local Government (from WALGA and State Government) to develop and implement CHRMAPs are valuable;
- CHRMAPs are helping Local Governments plan for and manage coastal hazards;
- CHRMAPs are challenging to implement and implementation is generally behind schedule;
- The greatest barriers to implementing CHRMAPs are related to staffing and budget;
- Planning actions are the most common focus of CHRMAP implementation in the short term;
- Affected property owners respond differently to CHRMAP actions compared to the broader community;
- Additional funding and training is needed to implement CHRMAPs;
- Support to improve community awareness of coastal hazards and coastal adaptation would be more valued than support for other types of community engagement and education;
- Local Governments are actively managing current erosion and inundation impacts; and
- Local Governments do not feel prepared for future potential inundation.

**COMMENT:**

Based on the key findings, eight recommendations have been identified that WALGA will seek to progress to assist Local Governments to develop and implement coastal hazard risk management and adaptation plans.

1. Local Government funding to develop and implement CHRMAPs should continue through CoastWA;
2. Investigate/advocate for the development of a long term equitable, effective and sustainable funding solution;
3. Investigate opportunities to increase Local Government staff resourcing to develop and implement CHRMAPs;
4. Develop a training program for Local Government officers involved in coastal hazard risk management and adaptation planning;
5. Resources such as guidelines, templates, case studies should be focused on the latter stages of developing CHRMAPs and implementation of CHRMAPs;
6. WALGA should continue to support Local Governments through the Local Government CHRMAP Forum and advocacy to State and Federal Governments;
7. Community education should focus on improving awareness and understanding of the broader impacts and potential costs of coastal adaptation measures; and
8. Areas of coastal erosion and inundation identified in the Survey should be used to inform future updates of hotspots reports.

The next steps for WALGA will be to:

- Review and update its advocacy positions related to coastal planning and management, informed by the survey findings and recommendations.
- Continue to support coastal and estuarine Local Governments through the WALGA Local Government CHRMAP Forum and CoastWA Local Government Facilitator.
- Continue to explore opportunities to partner with relevant State Government agencies to implement the Report's recommendations.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**GVROC note the CoastWA Local Government Survey Outcomes Report.**

**RESOLUTION:**

**Moved: Cr Ian Mickel, Shire of Esperance**

**Seconded: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**

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**Carried**

## **7.4 Update on draft WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026 (05-012-03-0001 SM)**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

**That the update on the draft WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026 be noted.**

#### **IN BRIEF:**

- The Public Libraries Working Group (PLWG) has been overseeing the development of a new WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026 (draft Strategy) with a focus on strengthening communities, digital inclusion and the value placed on public libraries.
- A mixed methods consultation approach has been undertaken, with workshops targeted at public library professionals, stakeholder interviews through a targeted selection of metropolitan, regional and remote Local Government public libraries, and public consultation via an [online survey](#) (open until 8 April 2022).
- An implementation plan is being developed to outline the actions required to achieve the outcomes described by the draft Strategy and assign responsibility and timelines to these actions, and an evaluation framework to measure the success or otherwise of these actions.
- The new Strategy will support the work of 232 public libraries operated by Local Government around Western Australia.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- [State and Local Government Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia \(2020\)](#)
- [Draft WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026 Consultation Draft](#)

#### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

WALGA's Advocacy Position on Public Libraries provides:

##### **3.8 Public Libraries**

WALGA supports:

1. *the provision of Public Library services in Western Australia through a formal partnership between Local Government and the State Government of Western Australia governed by the Library Board Act 1951;*
2. *the tiered model of library service delivery; and*
3. *the transfer of ownership of stock from State to Tier 1 Local Governments. (May 2019 – 46.4/2019).*

#### **BACKGROUND:**

WALGA is a party to the State and Local Government Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia (2020) (the Agreement) as well as Chair of the PLWG which is established to oversee the implementation of the Agreement. Other members of the PLWG are:

- State Library of WA;
- Library Board of WA;
- Public Libraries WA;
- A representative from a Tier 2 regional public library;
- LG Professionals WA;
- Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC);
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development; and
- The Office of Digital Government.

PLWG identified that the current 2017 WA Public Libraries Strategy was outdated and engaged a consultant to develop a new strategy in December 2021. A draft strategy has been developed, guided by a Working Group involving representatives from WALGA, DLGSC, PLWA, LG Professionals WA and the State Library.

Targeted consultation through a selection of metropolitan, regional and remote Local Government public libraries, and broad community consultation, is being undertaken on the draft Strategy from February to April 2022.

In developing the draft Strategy, it became clear that the development of an implementation plan and measures was needed. This is particularly important as there is no single, lead agency responsible for implementing the Strategy.

The draft Strategy outlines a set of principles to support the implementation of its outcomes with a focus on delivering the best outcomes for Western Australians and ensuring that PLWG are committed to working in partnership to deliver these outcomes.

The draft Strategy outcomes are outlined under three key pillars, being:

1. Libraries Strengthening Communities
2. Digitally Inclusive Libraries
3. Public Libraries Valued as an Essential Community Asset.

**COMMENT:**

Public libraries provide important, local level social and cultural infrastructure. Supported through a partnership between State and Local Government, public libraries play an essential role in community capacity building and connection, literacy and skills development, social inclusion, facilitating digital inclusion, and supporting access to technology.

The draft Strategy acknowledges the need to ensure that public libraries accurately assess and evaluate the impact of the services they provide to their communities. This is critical to demonstrating the value of libraries to stakeholders and communities and will assist in ensuring sustainable funding for libraries to continue to grow and respond to the changing needs of their communities.

In 2021 there were more than 7 million in-person visits and 3 million online visits to public libraries. Western Australians borrowed more than 16 million books, electronic books, audiobooks, magazines, DVDs and other items to keep themselves educated, informed and entertained.

Recently, the important role of public libraries in supporting digital inclusion and the health and wellbeing of local communities was recognized when the State Government provided a grant of \$375,000 to support public libraries to assist community members to setup the ServiceWA app. This funding is providing extra staffing, translation services, outreach initiatives and other resources to assist the community to use and understand the app.

It is anticipated that PLWG will consider and finalise the draft Strategy at their meeting in April 2022, prior to submission to WALGA State Council and the Library Board of WA (in July 2022), and then be endorsed by the Minister for Culture and the Arts.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**GVROC note the WALGA update on the draft WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026.**

**RESOLUTION:**                      **Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie**  
   **Seconded: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**

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**Carried**

## **7.5 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review Project** **(05-024-03-0040 SR)**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

**That the update on the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review Project be noted.**

### **IN BRIEF:**

- Under the *Emergency Management Act 2005*, Local Governments are required to prepare and maintain local emergency management arrangements (LEMA).
- In 2019, WALGA proposed a review of LEMA be undertaken, which was endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC).
- The aim of the LEMA Review Project is to develop a LEMA Improvement Plan that outlines options for effective and fit-for-purpose emergency management at the local level.
- The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) has been granted Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) funding to undertake the LEMA Review Project.
- WALGA has been allocated \$140,040 of All West Australians Reducing Emergencies (AWARE) grant funding to lead consultations with Local Government for the project.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

WALGA's Advocacy Position on Emergency Management provides:

#### **8. Emergency Management**

*Local Governments in Western Australia play a significant role in emergency management. Both Commonwealth and State Government policy identify Local Government as a key player in community disaster resilience, preparedness and response. Local Governments however face a number of challenges in addressing their emergency management responsibilities, and these challenges differ greatly across the State.*

### **BACKGROUND:**

Local Governments play a critical role in Western Australia's Emergency Management Arrangements. Under section 36 of the *Emergency Management Act 2005* (EM Act), Local Governments are required to develop and maintain LEMA that provide a community-focused, coordinated approach to the emergency management of all hazards within a Local Government area.

LEMA refers to the collective emergency management documentation, systems, processes, agreements, and memorandums of understanding which affect each Local Government district. LEMA are outlined in an overarching document that all Local Governments are responsible for developing, maintaining, and testing. Local Governments are required to review their LEMA every five years, after a significant emergency incident and after exercising their LEMA.

In 2019, WALGA submitted a paper to SEMC outlining the key challenges for Local Governments in fulfilling their LEMA obligations including:

- a lack of clarity around the roles and responsibilities of Local Government in emergency management;
- a lack of ongoing funding and human resource capability to meet Local Government emergency management requirements; and
- a misalignment between Local Government emergency management requirements and the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework for Local Government.

SEMC approved WALGA's proposal for a review of LEMA using a sector-led approach. In 2021, DFES was granted \$171,000 through the Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) for the LEMA Review Project. WALGA was allocated \$140,040 in AWARE grant funding to lead the consultation with Local Government on the project.

The LEMA Review Project aims to develop a LEMA Improvement Plan that will identify opportunities to:

- develop fit-for-purpose and effective LEMA;
- increase stakeholder knowledge of LEMA to enhance community resilience;
- streamline LEMA processes and encourage currency;

- improve the effectiveness of the LEMA as a communication tool; and
- support Local Governments who are not currently engaged in planning for emergencies.

The LEMA Review project will be delivered through a partnership between DFES, WALGA and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC). WALGA's role is to:

- undertake in-depth research on the status of LEMA and develop a comprehensive LEMA discussion paper;
- design and coordinate a consultation process with Local Governments to obtain representative feedback on LEMA;
- provide a recommendations report based on the research findings and consultation outcomes; and
- collaborate with DFES to design a pilot project or exercise process that tests potential new LEMA approaches.

**COMMENT:**

The current one-size-fits-all LEMA compliance model does not adequately consider the size, maturity, and resourcing capability of different Local Governments, nor adequately address resource sharing arrangements between Local Governments.

The LEMA Review Project is based on recommendations presented by WALGA to SEMC that were informed through preliminary consultations with Local Government and WALGA's emergency management policy expertise. The LEMA Review Project provides an important opportunity to ensure that Local Governments are actively represented in the review of local-level emergency management policy.

WALGA has appointed a Project Lead to engage directly with Local Governments in the delivery of the LEMA Review Project. WALGA's Local Government Emergency Management Advisory group (LGEMAG) and the People and Place Policy Team will be actively engaged in the process.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**GVROC note the WALGA update on the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review Project.**

**RESOLUTION:**

**Moved: *Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas***

**Seconded: *Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie***

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**Carried**

## **7.6 Comment on Draft Health Promotion Strategic Framework 2022-2026 (05-031-03-0005 BW)**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

**That the letter submitted to the Department of Health on the Draft Health Promotion Strategic Framework 2022-2026 be noted.**

### **IN BRIEF:**

- The Department of Health released the [Draft Health Promotion Strategic Framework 2022-2026 \(HPSF\)](#) for comment in December 2021.
- WALGA has submitted a letter in support of the draft HPSF which brings opportunities for Local Governments to work with the State Government and other organisations to reduce chronic disease and enhance community health and wellbeing.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- [WALGA letter Draft Health Promotion Strategic Framework 2022-2026](#)
- [Department of Health Letter of Response on Draft WA Health Promotion Strategic Framework](#)

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

The intent of the draft HPSF broadly aligns with WALGA's Advocacy Position on Health which states:

#### **3.2 Health**

*The Association supports improving health outcomes for Western Australians through the investment in and provision of infrastructure and delivery of services in partnership with health professionals.*

*May 2017 – 32.2/2017*

### **BACKGROUND:**

In December 2021 the Department of Health opened consultation on the draft HPSF. The HPSF seeks to build on the achievements of the previous versions (2007-11, 2012-16 and 2017-21) and sets out a plan for reducing the prevalence of chronic disease and injury over the next five years.

WALGA provided a letter of the support for HPSF the on 4 February 2022, noting that the Framework highlights the important role Local Government plays in health promotion and the importance of partnerships and collaboration in achieving positive health and wellbeing outcomes in the community.

### **COMMENT:**

Local Governments make a significant contribution to improving, promoting and protecting the health of communities. Local Government involvement in public health includes:

- Environmental health
- Health promotion
- Mental health
- Alcohol and other Drugs

WALGA supports the development of the draft HPSF which highlights the role of Local Government in health promotion, and the importance of partnerships and collaboration in achieving positive health and wellbeing outcomes for the community.

The updated draft HPSF builds on previous versions and takes into account new evidence, policy changes, and relevant state, national and international developments.

The draft HPSF provides Local Governments easy access to resources and information and will provide enhanced opportunities for Local Governments to partner with the State Government and other organisations to reduce chronic disease and enhance community health and wellbeing.

The HPSF also supports Local Governments with the implementation of Public Health Plans which will be required after Stage 5 of the *Public Health Act 2016* is implemented. It is anticipated that Stage 5 will not commence until mid to late 2022 and Local Governments have two years from the implementation of Stage 5 to develop a Public Health Plan.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**GVROC note the WALGA letter submitted to the Department of Health on the Draft Health Promotion Strategic Framework 2022-2026.**

**RESOLUTION:**                      **Moved: Cr Kim Eckert, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder**  
   **Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie**

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**Carried**



## **7.7 Wooroloo Bushfire Independent Review Final Report (05-024-03-0011 CM)**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

**That the Independent Review of the Wooroloo Bushfire Final Report be noted.**

#### **IN BRIEF:**

- The Final Report on the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC) Independent Review into the Wooroloo Bushfire (Independent Review) was released on Tuesday, 29 March 2022 (the Report).
- WALGA provided a letter of support to the Independent Review highlighting key issues identified in WALGA Policy Positions and in submissions to recent emergency reviews and inquiries, which was endorsed at the December 2021 State Council meeting.
- The Report makes 13 recommendations, with five making direct reference to Local Government, relating to bushfire risk mitigation planning, development control as it relates to planning and building in bushfire prone areas, traffic management, impacts assessments, and telecommunications.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- [AFAC Independent Operational Review: A review of the management of the Wooroloo fire of February 2021](#)
- [City of Swan Media Statement](#)
- [Wooroloo Bushfire Independent Review – WALGA Letter of Support](#)

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The Wooroloo bushfire started on Monday, 1 February 2021, during a COVID-19 lockdown, and devastated over 10,000 hectares of land and destroyed 86 homes.

AFAC's Independent Review was released on Tuesday, 29 March 2022 and includes 13 recommendations. The review focuses on the circumstances leading up to the incident and the operations and management at a strategic level for the duration of the fire.

WALGA's response to the Independent Review highlighted key issues identified in WALGA's Advocacy Positions and submissions to recent emergency reviews and inquiries, supported by the submissions of the City of Swan and Shire of Mundaring.

#### **COMMENT:**

The review commended the efforts of emergency services including volunteer Bushfire Brigades and Local Government staff from the City of Swan and Shire of Mundaring, noting weather conditions during the bushfire were incredibly challenging.

The Report makes 13 recommendations, with five making direct reference to Local Government relating to bushfire risk mitigation planning, development control as it relates to planning and building in bushfire prone areas, traffic management, impacts assessments, and telecommunications.

Key recommendations are:

- Recommendation 3 - That DFES continues development of the bushfire risk planning framework and guidelines that will allow the implementation, coordination, and prioritisation of cross tenure Bushfire Risk Management Plans and activities across each Local Government;
- Recommendation 4 - DFES in collaboration with Local Government should consider the establishment of dedicated bush fire mitigation crews to work with local Bushfire Brigades in implementing the Bushfire Risk Management Plan activities in the identified high-risk bush fire prone areas (e.g. Perth Hills) of the State;
- Recommendation 5 - Any determination that the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner as the Hazard Management Authority (Bushfire) makes in respect of construction standards or subdivision developments, regarding requirements such as Asset Protections Zones, Bushfire Attack Levels etc. should be upheld by the consent authority;

- Recommendation 6 - DFES should promote the creation of a Bushfire Practitioners Accreditation Register to ensure State Planning Policy and bushfire building codes and standards compliance are applied by appropriately trained and accredited practitioners;
- Recommendation 7 - In conjunction with WAPF and Local Government, DFES should undertake a review into the establishment and management of Vehicle Control Points and the use of Restricted Access Permits during major incidents;
- Recommendation 10 - DFES, in consultation with Local Government, should review the impact assessment process to ensure information is captured and made available to relief and recovery agencies in a timely and effective way; and
- Recommendation 11 - DFES and Local Government should continue discussions with telecommunications providers to explore the adequacy of current arrangements for backup power at telecommunication towers in emergency incidents.

WALGA is involved in work that is currently underway in a number of these areas, including membership of the Traffic Management During Emergencies Guidelines Working Group which is reviewing the Traffic Management During Emergencies Guidelines, and the Western Australian Telecommunications Resilience Improvement Working Group which is exploring opportunities to improve the capacity, resilience and reliability of critical telecommunications infrastructure.

As highlighted in the Report, the development of the Consolidated Emergency Services legislation will update the emergency services framework and support the implementation of the recommendations.

WALGA will continue to work with Local Governments and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services to address the review's recommendations which are designed to enhance prevention, preparedness, response and recovery efforts in Western Australia.

The State Emergency Management Committee, on which the WALGA CEO represents the interests of the Local Government sector, will oversee the implementation of the recommendations.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**GVROC note the Independent Review of the Wooroloo Bushfire Final Report.**

**RESOLUTION:**                      **Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**  
   **Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie**

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**Carried**

## **7.8 2022-23 Federal Budget Update (05-088-03-0002 DT)**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

**That the 2022-23 Federal Budget Update be noted.**

#### **IN BRIEF:**

- The 2022-23 Federal Budget was handed down on 29 March ahead of an election expected in May.
- The Budget forecasts a strong rebound from the pandemic with the economy growing as private expenditure replaces Government stimulus.
- The Budget focuses on short-term cost payments to alleviate cost of living pressures, investments in infrastructure, defence and increasing the skilled workforce.
- A significant proportion of Financial Assistance Grants are to be brought forward into 2021-22 and the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program has been extended to 2024-25.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The 2022-23 Federal Budget was handed down by the Treasurer Josh Frydenberg on 29 March against the backdrop of an Australian economy bouncing back more strongly from the pandemic than expected, increasing global economic uncertainty, the war in Ukraine and rising inflation.

With a Federal election due in May, the focus of the budget is on short-term cash payments to ease household concerns about the rising cost of living, as well as investments in infrastructure, defence and increasing the skilled workforce.

Funding for Local Governments and communities announced in the Federal Budget includes:

- Provision for \$2.8 billion in Financial Assistance Grants (equating to 0.55% of Commonwealth taxation revenue), with \$2.1 billion to be brought forward and paid in 2021-22. WA Local Governments will receive \$260 million of this bring forward, for a total of \$417.8 million to be received in the current financial year. Like the previous budget, the intent of this early payment is to provide a local response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022-23, \$84.1 million of the remaining \$704.4 million will be allocated to WA with \$51 million for general purpose and \$33.1 million for local roads;
- The Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program has received a \$500 million extension to deliver more community infrastructure through to 2024-25. In 2022-23 WA Local Governments will receive \$91.7 million, down from the \$120.3 million received in 2021-22 as total funding is phased down;
- \$491 million has been allocated to Roads to Recovery Funding in 2022-23, with \$70.5 million to be spent in WA, a reduction from the \$71.2 million received in 2021-22;
- \$131 million for the Bridges Renewal Program, with \$12.7 million to be spent in WA in 2022-23, up from \$4.4 million received in 2021-22;
- \$129 million for the Black Spot Program, with \$14.2 million allocated to WA in 2022-23, slightly below the \$14.8 million allocated in 2021-22;
- \$818 million over five years to expand digital mobile coverage in regional Australia;
- \$85 million in 2022-23 for waste recovery and processing infrastructure, with \$16.5 million allocated to WA; and
- \$50 million from the Emergency Response Fund for high priority coastal and estuarine disaster risk mitigation projects.

Twelve major new WA infrastructure projects will share \$586 million in new funding, including:

- \$145 million for the Thomas Road Dual Carriageway and interchange;
- \$140 million for WA Regional Road Safety Upgrades; and
- \$100 million for the Morrison Road Level Crossing Removal.

Reflecting rapidly increasing costs and progression to subsequent stages, nine existing WA infrastructure projects will receive \$1.5 billion in additional funding, including major commitments to:

- An additional \$400 million for the Outback Way;
- \$320 million more for the Bunbury Outer Ring Road.
- An extra \$200 million for the Tonkin Highway Stage 3 extension;

- \$178 million in additional funding for the Pinjarra Heavy Haulage Deviation;
- An additional \$135 million for the METRONET Thornlie-Cockburn link; and
- \$116 million more for the METRONET High Capacity Signalling project.

ALGA analysis of what the Federal Budget means for Local Governments is available here:

- [Australian Local Government Association President's media release – 29 March 2022](#)
- [Australian Local Government Association Analysis of the 2021-22 Federal Budget](#)

**COMMENT:**

On the back of extraordinary Government stimulus, record low interest rates and high commodity prices, the Budget forecasts the Australian economy to grow by 4.5% in the current financial year before slowing to 3.5% in 2022-23 and 2.5% in 2023-24. As stimulus recedes, it anticipates that private demand will step up to drive the economy.

Rising inflation has had a major impact with the Budget focused on short-term measures to ease household pressures ahead of an election. Inflation is expected to ease from 4.5% in the current financial year to 2.75% by 2023-24.

Whilst real wages are forecast to decrease in 2021-22, the Budget expects wages to outstrip inflation by 0.25% in 2022-23, with wages growth increasing to 3.25%. Wages growth is expected to drive household consumption.

The unemployment rate is forecast to end the current financial year at 4% and then continue to drop to 3.75% over the next two years. The labour market is expected to remain tight as Net Overseas Migration returns to pre-pandemic levels.

The \$2.8 billion in Financial Assistance Grants announced in the Budget equates to only 0.55% of Commonwealth taxation revenue. ALGA, supported by state and territory associations, is calling for Financial Assistance Grants to be restored to at least one percent of Commonwealth taxation revenue and a once-off injection of Financial Assistance Grants of \$1.3 billion as part of its Federal Election campaign [Don't Leave Local Communities Behind](#). The WALGA President's media release on this issue can be viewed [here](#).

The Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program was extended to 2024-25 with an additional \$501.7 million allocated to the program. The funding for this program is progressively decreasing on an annual basis.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**GVROC note the 2022-23 Federal Budget Update.**

**RESOLUTION:**

**Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie**  
**Seconded: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**

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**Carried**

## 7.9 **Local Government Emergency Management Survey Results (05-024-03-0042 CM)**

### **WALGA Recommendation**

**That the results of the 2021 Local Government Emergency Management Survey Results be noted.**

#### **IN BRIEF:**

- WALGA undertook a Local Government Emergency Management Survey in late 2021 to gauge the sentiment of the sector towards its emergency management roles and responsibilities generally, and in relation to managing volunteer bushfire brigades in particular.
- The survey builds on the feedback received in WALGA's 2019 Emergency Management Survey and is being used to inform WALGA's policy and advocacy on current and emerging emergency management issues.
- Findings from the survey indicate that the Local Government sector is seeking increased resourcing and funding to discharge its emergency management responsibilities and changes to the current arrangements for Local Government management of volunteer Bushfire Brigades.

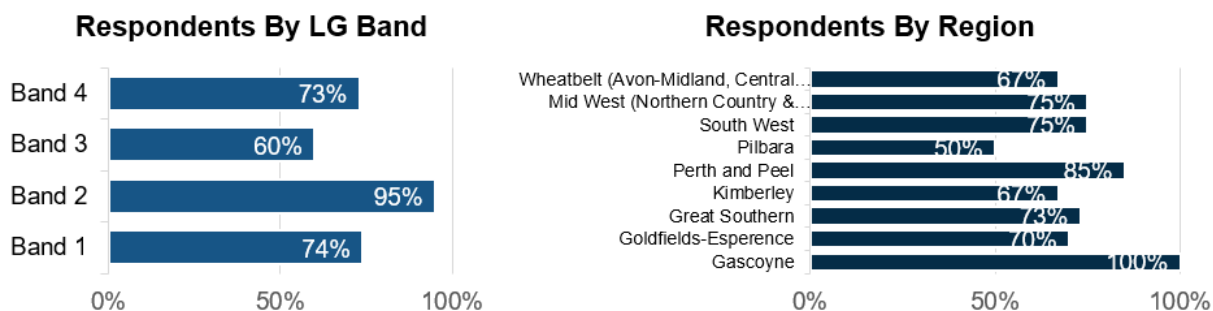
#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- [2021 Local Government Emergency Management Survey Results Infographic](#)
- [2021 Local Government Emergency Management Survey Results Overview](#)
- [InfoPage to Local Government CEOs on the 2021 Local Government Emergency Management Survey](#)

#### **BACKGROUND:**

In late 2021, WALGA undertook a survey of Local Governments to ascertain the sentiment of the sector towards their emergency management roles and responsibilities generally, and in relation to managing volunteer Bushfire Brigades in particular. The 2021 survey aims to build on the feedback received in WALGA's 2019 Emergency Management Survey.

Responses were received from 104 Local Governments, representing 74.8 per cent of all Local Governments in WA:



#### **COMMENT:**

Results of the Survey have been provided to all Local Government CEOs, the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner and the Minister for Emergency Services. WALGA has also shared the results with the sector through its Emergency Management Network and newsletters aimed at Local Government officers working in emergency management.

The Survey responses indicate strong support for:

- the expansion of the Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) Program;
- increased resourcing and funding for the Sector, particular for training and staffing, community resilience and mitigation activities, and exercising Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMAs);
- changes to the current arrangements for Local Governments managing Bushfire Brigades; and

- expansion and simplification of the Local Government Grant Scheme, with greater Local Government control over expenditure.

Further information about the responses and sentiments is available in the attachment.

The results and insights from the survey will inform a review of WALGA emergency management positions and ongoing emergency management advocacy including:

- emergency management funding and resourcing for the sector;
- matters to be considered in the development of the *Consolidated Emergency Services Act*;
- the management of volunteer bushfire brigades and the implications of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020*; and
- the review of the Local Emergency Management Arrangement (LEMA) being undertaken jointly by WALGA and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**GVROC note the results of the 2021 Local Government Emergency Management Survey Results.**

**RESOLUTION:**                      **Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie**  
   **Seconded: Cr Kim Eckert, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder**

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**Carried**

**GVROC also request the GVROC Executive Officer to prepare a position paper in consultation with the CEOs Group to provide further input to WALGA and DFES as part of their review of the Local Emergency Management Arrangements with Local Government Authorities. This will assist in helping the GVROC members better understand what the expectations are in relation to community resilience and on the Local Government Authorities going forward.**

**RESOLUTION:**                      **Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie**  
   **Seconded: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**

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**Carried**

## **8. Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Organisational Key Activity Reports**

- 8.1 Report on Key Activities, Commercial and Communications (01-006-03-0017 CH)
- 8.2 Report on Key Activities, Governance and Organisational Services (01-006-03-0007 TB)
- 8.3 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure (05-001-02-0003 ID)
- 8.4 Report on Key Activities, Strategy, Policy and Planning (01-006-03-0017 NM)

### **GVROC COMMENT:**

GVROC note the Organisation Key Activity Reports as provided.

**RESOLUTION:** Moved: *Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie*  
Seconded: *Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas*

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Carried

## **9. Review of WALGA State Council Agenda - Policy Forum and Policy Team Reports**

The following provides an outline of the key activities of the Association's Policy Forums that have met since the last State Council meeting.

### **Recommendation**

**That the reports on the key activities of the WALGA Policy Forums and Policy Teams to the May 2022 State Council meeting be noted.**

### **Policy Forums**

The following Policy Forums have been established

- Mayors/Presidents Policy Forum (refer to Presidents Report for May 2022 at **Attachment 4**)
- Mining Communities Policy Forum

### **Policy Teams**

- Environment and Waste Policy Team Report
- Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team Report
- Infrastructure Policy Team Report
- People and Place Policy Team Report

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

GVROC notes the Policy Forum and Policy Teams Report update

**RESOLUTION:** Moved: *Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas*  
Seconded: *Cr Kim Eckert, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder*

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Carried

<b>10. Review of WALGA State Council Agenda – State Council Status Report</b>
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**10.1 Complete Status Report on State Council Resolutions - To the May 2022 State Council Meeting**

**GVROC COMMENT:**

Additional to the Complete Status Report on State Council Resolutions, **Attachment 5** provides the relevant Goldfields Esperance Country Zone Status Report.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**GVROC notes the Complete State Council Status Report to the May 2022 State Council meeting and the Goldfields Esperance Country Zone Status Report.**

**RESOLUTION:**

**Moved: *Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas***

**Seconded: *Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie***

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**Carried**



## **11. LATE ITEMS as notified, introduced by decision of the Meeting**

Acceptance of the Late Item:

Moved: *Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas*

Seconded: *Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie*

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Carried

### **11.1 WALGA Training to deliver Emergency Management for Local Government Leaders**

#### **BACKGROUND:**

WALGA is considering delivery of the Emergency Management for Local Government Leaders course in conjunction with future upcoming Zone meeting in August and November.

A specialised and approved trainer will come to the Zone to deliver the 3.5 hour course. The course is targeted at CEO's, Directors, Managers, Mayors/Presidents and Elected Members.

#### Course Overview

As the sphere of Government closest to the community, Local Government is a key player when it comes to local Emergency Management preparedness, prevention, response and recovery.

In a disaster, the community turns first to their Local Government for trusted leadership.

This course provides an essential overview of the role of Local Government leaders before, during and after an emergency. With a focus on the skills necessary to excel as a leader under pressure, this course will equip leaders with invaluable skills and tools to draw upon when your community is impacted by an emergency.

More information can be obtained at <https://walga.asn.au/training/book-a-course/emergency-management-courses/emergency-management-for-local-government-leaders>

#### **COMMENT:**

WALGA is requesting that each Zone consider if there is any interest in holding a training session on this subject following a future Zone meeting in June, August or November 2022?

#### **GVROC COMMENT:**

The GVROC would like to understand and see the Framework for the workshop prior to being held to ensure that the training reflects the circumstances for the region. Remote LGAs and Goldfields LGAs do not fit the general process that is normally moulded on a Wheatbelt regional LGAs. It should not be a one size fits all approach.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the GVROC:

1. note the information from WALGA regarding the potential delivery of the Emergency Management for Local Government Leaders course in conjunction with future upcoming Zone meeting in August and November.
2. Have interest in holding a training session on this subject following a future GVROC meeting on 18 November 2022.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: *Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie*

Seconded: *Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas*

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Carried

## **12. FUTURE MEETINGS**

With the continuing and evolving situation of the COVID-19 “Corona Virus” scheduling of future meetings as in person is a watching brief. This will be reviewed at each meeting by GVROC and decisions made on whether the meetings are held as in person meetings or conducted through Zoom video conferencing.

In noting the above, the following suggested dates in 2022 have been set for the remaining GVROC meetings.

- 27 May 2022 (Kalgoorlie hosted by City Kalgoorlie Boulder)
- 29 July 2022 (TBC)
- 2-5 October 2022 (TBC Perth to coincide with LGA Week and WALGA AGM)
- 18 November 2022 (TBC)

The following are the WALGA State Council meeting dates in 2022 with suggested GVROC Zoom video conference meeting dates prior to these to inform the GVROC’s representatives attending the meetings with relevant input for State Council Agenda Items:

- 4 May 2022 WALGA State Council Meeting - GVROC meeting on **26 April 2022**
- 6 July 2022 WALGA State Council Meeting - GVROC meeting on **24 June 2022**
- 8-9 September 2022 WALGA State Council Meeting - GVROC meeting on **26 August 2022**
- 7 December 2022 WALGA State Council Meeting - GVROC meeting on **25 November 2022**

## **13. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9:45am.