

State Council

Full Minutes

6 May 2020

NOTICE OF MEETING

Meeting of the Western Australian Local Government Association State Council held via video conference on Wednesday 6 May 2020.

1. ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1.1 Attendance

Members	President of WALGA - Chair Deputy President of WALGA, Northern Country Zone Avon-Midland Country Zone Central Country Zone Central Metropolitan Zone Central Metropolitan Zone East Metropolitan Zone East Metropolitan Zone Goldfields Esperance Country Zone Gascoyne Country Zone Great Eastern Country Zone Great Southern Country Zone Kimberley Country Zone Murchison Country Zone North Metropolitan Zone North Metropolitan Zone North Metropolitan Zone Peel Country Zone Pilbara Country Zone South East Metropolitan Zone South East Metropolitan Zone South Metropolitan Zone South Metropolitan Zone South Metropolitan Zone South West Country Zone	Mayor Tracey Roberts JP President Cr Karen Chappel JP President Cr Ken Seymour – via video President Cr Phillip Blight – via video Cr Jenna Ledgerwood – via video Cr Paul Kelly – via video Cr Catherine Ehrhardt via video at 4:11pm Cr Cate McCullough – via video President Cr Malcolm Cullen – via video President Cr Cheryl Cowell – via video President Cr Stephen Strange – via video Cr Ronnie Fleay – via video Cr Chris Mitchell JP – via video Cr Les Price – via video Cr Frank Cvitan – via video Mayor Mark Irwin- via video at 4:18pm Cr Russ Fishwick JP – via video President Cr Michelle Rich – via video Mayor Peter Long – via video Cr Julie Brown – via video Mayor Ruth Butterfield – via video Cr Doug Thompson – via video Mayor Carol Adams OAM – via video Mayor Logan Howlett JP- via video President Cr Tony Dean via video
Ex Officio	Chair Commissioner, City of Perth Local Government Professionals WA	Mr Andrew Hammond – via video Mr Jamie Parry – via video
Observer	East Metropolitan Zone	Cr Giorgia Johnson – via video
Secretariat	Chief Executive Officer EM Environment & Waste EM Governance & Organisational Services EM Finance & Marketing EM Infrastructure Manager Strategy & Association Governance Financial Controller Manager Governance Manager Environment Policy Executive Officer Governance	Mr Nick Sloan Mr Mark Batty – via video Mr Tony Brown Mr Zac Donovan – via video Mr Ian Duncan – via video Mr Tim Lane – via video Mr Rick Murray Mr James McGovern – via video Ms Nicole Matthews – via video Ms Margaret Degebrodt

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

1. OPEN and WELCOME

The Chair declared the meeting open at 4:04pm

• Acknowledgement of Country

I would like to acknowledge the Whadjuk Nyoongar People who are the Traditional Custodians of this land we meet on today and I would like to pay my respects to their Elders past, present and future.

Welcome to:

Cr Frank Cvitan, North Metropolitan Zone

Cr Giorgia Johnson, East Metropolitan Zone observer

State Councillors and WALGA secretariat

APOLOGIES

Nil

MEETING ASSESSMENT

I invite President Cr Tony Dean to undertake a meeting assessment at the conclusion of the meeting.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Pursuant to our Code of Conduct, State Councillors must declare to the Chair any potential conflict of interest they have in a matter before State Council as soon as they become aware of it.

I note that there are several State Councillors and deputies that may be directly or indirectly associated with the recommendations of the Selection Committee. I ask that if you are affected by these recommendations, that you excuse yourself from the meeting and do not participate in deliberations.

Cr Ronnie Fleay declared an interest in Item 5.1 as a member of the WAPC

Cr Paul Kelly declared an interest in Items 5.4 and 5.5 as a candidate for the LGIS Board

Mayor Carol Adams declared an interest in Items 5.4 and 5.5 as a candidate for the LGIS Board

Mayor Mark Irwin declared an interest in Items 5.4 and 5.5 as a candidate for the LGIS Board

PAPERS

State Councillors received the following documents under separate cover:

- Strategic Forum Agenda
- Item 5.3 Finance and Services Committee Meeting Minutes;
 - Appendix Pack
 - Budget Pack
 - Financial Dashboard March 2020
 - Financial Statements March 2020
- Item 5.4 Selection Committee Minutes;
- Item 5.5 Selection Committee Interview Report
- Item 5.6 LGIS Minutes 8 April 2020
- Item 5.7 Use of Common Seal;
- Item 5.8 2020 Annual General Meeting
- CEO's report to State Council
- President's Report (previously emailed to your Zone meeting)

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

3.1 Minutes of Meeting Held 4 March 2020

Moved: Cr Julie Brown
Seconded: Cr Ronnie Fleay

That the Minutes of the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) [State Council Meeting](#) held on 4 March 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

RESOLUTION 49.2/2020

CARRIED

3.1.1 Business Arising from the Minutes of 4 March 2020.
Nil

3.2 Minutes of Special State Council Meeting Held 27 March 2020

Moved: Cr Chris Mitchell
Seconded: Mayor Carol Adams

That the [Minutes of the Special State Council](#) meeting held Friday 27 March 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

RESOLUTION 50.2/2020

CARRIED

3.2.1 Business Arising from the Minutes of 27 March 2020.
Nil

3.3 Flying Minute – 1 April - Submission on the Proposed Reforms to the Approval Process for Commercial Buildings

Moved: President Cr Phillip Blight
Seconded: President Cr Karen Chappel

RESOLUTION 51.2/2020

CARRIED

That the Flying Minute of 1 April, [Submission on the Proposed Reforms to the Approval Process for Commercial Buildings](#), be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

3.3.1 Business Arising from the Minutes of 1 April 2020.
Nil

3.4 Flying Minute – 3 April – Local Government COVID-19 Operational Support Initiatives

Moved: President Cr Phillip Blight
Seconded: President Cr Karen Chappel

That the Flying Minute of 3 April Local Government [COVID-19 Operational Support Initiatives](#), be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

RESOLUTION 52.2/2020

CARRIED

3.4.1 Business Arising from the Minutes of 3 April 2020.
Nil

3.5 Flying Minute – 17 April – National Redress – Participation of Local Governments

Moved: President Cr Phillip Blight
Seconded: President Cr Karen Chappel

That the Flying Minute of 17 April [National Redress – Participation of Local Governments](#), be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

RESOLUTION 53.2/2020

CARRIED

3.5.1 Business Arising from the Minutes of 17 April 2020
Nil

3.6 Flying Minute – 17 April – LGIS Board Member Contribution Strategy

Moved: President Cr Phillip Blight
Seconded: President Cr Karen Chappel

That the Flying Minute of 17 April [LGIS Board Member Contribution Strategy](#), be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

RESOLUTION 54.2/2020

CARRIED

3.6.1 Business Arising from the Minutes of 17 April 2020
Nil

3.7 Flying Minute – 22 April – Regional Aviation Policy Issues Paper

Moved: President Cr Phillip Blight
Seconded: President Cr Karen Chappel

That the Flying Minute of 22 April, [Regional Aviation Policy Issues Paper](#), be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

RESOLUTION 55.2/2020

CARRIED

3.7.1 Business Arising from the Minutes of 22 April 2020
Nil

3.8 Flying Minute – 22 April – Draft State Aviation Strategy 2020

Moved: President Cr Phillip Blight
Seconded: President Cr Karen Chappel

That the Flying Minute of 22 April [Draft State Aviation Strategy 2020](#), be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

RESOLUTION 56.2/2020

CARRIED

3.8.1 Business Arising from the Minutes of 22 April 2020
Nil

4. EMERGING ISSUES

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

- As per matters listed

5. MATTERS FOR DECISION

- As per matters listed
- Items Under Separate Cover to State Council only

6. MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

- As per matters listed.

7. ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

7.1 Key Activity Report

- 7.1.1 Commercial and Communications
- 7.1.2 Governance and Organisational Services
- 7.1.3 Infrastructure
- 7.1.4 Strategy, Policy and Place

7.2 Policy Forum Reports

- 7.2.1 Policy Forum Reports

7.3 President's Report

Recommendation

That the President's Report for May 2020 be received.

7.4 CEO's Report

Recommendation

That the CEO's Report for May 2020 be received.

7.5 LG Professionals Report

LG Professionals President, Jamie Parry, to provide LG Professionals Report to the meeting.

Commissioner Andrew Hammond, to provide a report.

8. ADDITIONAL ZONE RESOLUTIONS

- As per matters listed

9. MEETING ASSESSMENT

President Cr Tony Dean requested to provide feedback as to the effectiveness of the meeting.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the WALGA State Council to be held at WALGA on Wednesday 3 June 2020.

11. CLOSURE

Agenda Items

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4. EMERGING ISSUES

4.1 COVID-19 Pandemic – WALGA Response

Moved: Cr Julie Brown
Seconded: President Cr Cheryl Cowell

That the information contained in this report relating to WALGA's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and WALGA's advocacy on requesting no additional State Government cost impositions on Local Governments be noted.

RESOLUTION 57.2/2020

CARRIED

Executive Summary

- The COVID-19 pandemic, declared as a State of Emergency on 16 March 2020 in Western Australia, is having a profound impact on the health, wellbeing and economy of Western Australia
- WALGA's Local Government members have been severely impacted by the pandemic and WALGA is working hard to provide advocacy, resources, communications and guidance on a range of fronts to support the Local Government sector.
- This item summarises at a high level the activities that WALGA is undertaking to provide support for members, and is correct and up-to-date as at 14 April 2020.
- Additional supplementary information will be provided at the Zone and State Council meetings.

Policy Implications

Much of the advocacy detailed in this item is in accordance with existing policy positions; some of the advocacy detailed in this item relates only to the current crisis situation so will not impact existing policy positions.

Budgetary Implications

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on WALGA's budgets, both for the remainder of the 2019-2020 financial year and the upcoming 2020-2021 financial year are being developed with the Finance and Services Committee with information and decisions coming to State Council in due course.

Background

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic upon the health, wellbeing and economic capability of the Western Australian community has been rapid, and will continue to impact for months if not years, to come. As of 16 March 2020 Western Australia is in a State of Emergency. Our border has been closed to all but in exceptional circumstances, and intra-state travels restrictions have also been put in place in order to manage the health implications of COVID-19.

While the implications for sector are variable across the state, it is clear that there is an expectation of both State and Commonwealth Governments, and our communities, that Local Government also plays its part. It is, and it will continue to do so, in the knowledge that the situation is constantly changing, and that often difficult decisions need to be made quickly at all levels of government to contain the health, community and economic impacts of COVID-19.

WALGA staff are embedded throughout the Emergency Management Structure at the highest levels, as follows:

- State Emergency Management Committee
- State Emergency Coordinating Group

- Public Health Emergency Operations Centre
- State Health Implementation Coordination Committee

These structures provide the State Emergency Management Coordinator (Commissioner of Police) with the information necessary to undertake the decisions required under the head of power bestowed by the *Emergency Management Act 2005*. WALGA provides advice into these structures to enable informed decision making in relation to Directions that are issued, as they relate to Local Government.

Under WA laws, a number of Directions have been made in the interests of slowing the spread of COVID-19. The Directions impact a number of activities – including travel, gathering sizes and on the operation of businesses. The Directions can be accessed via the [WA Government website](#).

Below is a sample of Directions that have been made:

- Self-isolation following Interstate
- Travel Self-isolation following Overseas Travel
- Directions regarding cruise ships
- Mass Gatherings
- Closure of Certain Places of Business, Worship and Entertainment
- Visitors to Aged Care Facilities
- Remote Aboriginal Communities
- Closure of Gun Shops
- Kimberley Region Travel Restrictions
- Goldfields – Esperance (Local Government district travel restrictions)

For more Directions, and full details, visit the [WA Government website](#). It is envisaged that more Directions, impacting on a range of activities relevant to Local Government will continue to be issued as the response to COVID-19 evolves.

Comment

Given the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, WALGA is working on multiple fronts to provide communications, support and advocacy on behalf of members. As noted above, the information contained in this report is correct as at 14 April 2020 and supplementary information will be provided at Zone and State Council meetings and through alternative communication channels.

Special Meeting of State Council

Following [correspondence from the Premier](#), Hon Mark McGowan MP, to the WALGA President, Mayor Tracey Roberts JP, a Special Meeting of State Council was convened for Friday, 27 March 2020.

State Council noted the significant contribution of Local Governments in supporting their communities through the pandemic from a range of perspectives, and considered a number of options for how Local Governments, subject to having capacity, could further support their communities.

The State Council resolution is outlined in full below:

That WALGA:

- 1. Notes the significant contribution of Local Governments in supporting their communities through the COVID-19 pandemic from a financial, economic, community and social perspective.**
- 2. Requests each Local Government give consideration to the following suite of actions, for Local Governments with the capacity to do so, to provide a coordinated and consistent response to the COVID-19 pandemic:**
 - a. Consider not increasing rates for the 2020-21 financial year**
 - b. Adoption of the WALGA template rates hardship policy by Local Governments that do not currently have a policy**
 - c. Consider rate relief options to support small businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic**
 - d. Review fees and charges considering whether fees can be reduced, waived or deferred during the COVID-19 pandemic**
 - e. Bring forward capital works and infrastructure spending with aggressive application of reserves and borrowing**
 - f. Prioritise Local Government spending with businesses and contractors located within the Local Government**
 - g. Implement business friendly payment terms to support business cash flow**
 - h. Consider supporting Community sporting and cultural groups by either establishing grant programs or waiving fees and charges**
 - i. Redeploy staff affected by facility closures to tasks that support the community**
- 3. Notes the State Government is urgently drafting legislative and regulatory amendments to support the actions outlined in point 2 above**
- 4. Notes the advocacy for the following:**
 - a. An increase in Local Government borrowing capacity beyond current Western Australian Treasury Corporation borrowing limits**
 - b. Suspension of the Western Australian Treasury Corporation's borrowing guarantee charge of 0.7 percent on top of the loan interest rate for the 2020-2021 financial year**
 - c. No increase to street lighting and utility tariffs in 2020-2021**
 - d. Deferral of revaluations for the 2020-2021 financial year**
 - e. Request the Office of the Auditor General to cease performance audits for the 2020-2021 financial year**
 - f. Freezing of the waste levy for the 2020-2021 financial year**

COVID-19 Response Team

WALGA has assembled a COVID-19 Response Team. Its role is to contribute intelligence, bring sector issues to the State Government table and seek resolution/escalation where needed, with a focus on what our members need. With emergency management, policy and communications expertise drawn from across WALGA, the team is also pivotal in ensuring State agencies and departments channel the multiple requests for information and data to you through WALGA, in order to enable information streamlining and reducing the duplication of these requests where these are occurring.

Advocacy

Through the President and the Chief Executive Officer, WALGA has sent a range of correspondence to both State and Commonwealth leaders, advocating for sector outcomes, including on the following issues:

- To the Premier, advising of the State Council decision noting the significant contribution of Local Government in supporting their communities, and requesting the sector to consider a suite of actions, for those members with the capacity to do so, to undertake in response to COVID-19
- To the State Treasurer, seeking consideration of a range of State measures required to assist the sector in delivering a net zero rate, fees and charges increase across the sector
- To the Commonwealth Treasurer, Commonwealth Minister for Local Government, State Minister for Local Government, leader of the Opposition and the leader of the WA Nationals, and the WA Branch Secretary of the Australian Services Union on the need for JobKeeper eligibility to include Local Government employees
- To the Minister for Local Government, seeking a safety net for those who default on their rate payments in the 2020/21 financial year
- To the Minister for Commerce, seeking a freeze on a range of regulations relative to fast tracking processing times for building applications
- To the Minister for Planning, highlighting the exceptional performance of the sector in progressing development applications
- To the Minister for the Environment to increase hypothecation of the waste levy to fast track investment in waste and recycling infrastructure
- To the WA Valuer General and the Minister for Lands on the need to defer the revaluation of land until the 2021-22 financial year
- To the Office of the Auditor General on the need to defer all performance audits for 2020-21, to defer by six months Local Government financial and performance audits, and to freeze auditing costs for 2020-21
- To both Federal and State Governments seeking commitments that ongoing grant funding arrangements including Roads to Recovery, Financial Assistance Grants, State Roads Funds to Local Government, Black Spot Programs etc will continue to be funded post 30 June, following the decision to defer Federal and State 2020-21 Budgets until October

WALGA has also:

- Identified a long list of existing competitive grant funded programs that have received funding applications for well-developed projects that were not successful and advocated to State Government that these shovel ready projects offer an excellent way to stimulate the economy in the post COVID-19 recovery phase.
- Requested the ability to utilise developer contributions funds set aside for emergency use in respect to COVID-19. This will require an amendment to section 154 of the *Planning and Development Act 2005*.
- Requested Local Governments be empowered to re-purpose grant funding allocated to specific purposes for the COVID-19 response. For example, if a Local Government has been provided grant funds to build a recreation centre, these funds, including the Council's contribution, could potentially be re-purposed under State of Emergency provisions.

Legislative and Regulatory Amendments

WALGA has also been liaising with the State Government in relation to urgent legislative and regulatory amendments to support Local Governments during this crisis.

The State Government have proposed the following amendments to the *Local Government Act 1995* to support more streamlined decision making during the pandemic:

- Section 3.12 – Provide LGs the ability to suspend, by resolution, certain parts of a local law during a state of emergency or public health emergency.
- A power for the Minister to defer any election and extend the appointment of any Commissioners, notwithstanding the other provisions in the Act, for the duration of the State of Emergency.
- Power to be provided to Minister to waive requirement for absolute majority decision during a State of Emergency declared under the *Emergency Management Act 2005*
- All public meetings are suspended during a State of Emergency declared under the *Emergency Management Act 2005*
- Where a state of emergency is declared under the *Emergency Management Act 2005*, all time periods specified in the Act are suspended and recommence after the time specified in the declaration has expired or it is revoked by the Minister
- Minister (for Local Government) has power to waive requirements for giving public notice during a State of Emergency declared under the *Emergency Management Act 2005*

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations

The Financial Management Regulations have been amended to remove the requirement to give public notice during a state of emergency, for the purpose of responding to the emergency, when:

- Repurposing financial reserves
- Borrowing money
- Changing the use of borrowed money

These amendments ease the process for the movement and use of reserve funds, and borrowing of money while a state of emergency declaration is in force. This assists a number of Local Governments

who have been looking to transfer funds from reserve funds to a specific COVID-19 reserve and also to borrow funds to carry out work to stimulate the local economy.

Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations

The Functions and General Regulations have been amended to increase to the tender threshold to \$250,000.

Removing the requirement to publicly invite tenders during a state of emergency for:

- The supply of goods or services associated with a state of emergency and
- A contract renewal or extension of no more than 12 months when the original contract is to expire within three months.

These amendments, which represent another advocacy success, permit a wider range of procurement activities to be conducted under Purchasing Policies and assist Local Governments in their response and recovery activities.

Local Government (Long Service Leave) Regulations

Amendments to the Long Service Leave Regulations will:

- Clarify that long service leave will continue to be accrued during any period of absence from duty due to the employer's response during a state of emergency
- Allow long service leave to be taken in two or more separate periods and
- Allow employees to access long service leave during a state of emergency if they have completed at least seven years of continuous service.

Local Government (Administration) Regulations

In relation to Council meetings, the Local Government sector successfully advocated for amendments to the Local Government Administration Regulations to allow Council meetings to be held electronically. These amendments were gazetted in late March 2020.

The amendments provide for Local Governments to convene Council and committee meetings with all participants remotely in attendance by instantaneous communications. The changes ensure that Council decision making necessary for responding to the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency and for continuing to administer the Local Government's functions, can continue.

Support and Assistance

The WALGA team have been providing support and guidance across a number of teams to assist a range of Local Government functional areas. A few specific issues of support and guidance are highlighted below.

Governance Support

Electronic Meetings

To support Local Governments with the convening of electronic Council meetings, enabled by the regulatory amendment outlined above, WALGA has prepared an Electronic Council Meeting (eMeeting) Guide to assist Local Governments in understanding the new Regulations and how they interact with existing meeting procedures.

Delegations and Decision Making

A further Guide on preparing and reviewing the Local Government's delegations and authorisations is provided that encourages maximising the use of delegations, authorisations and policies for efficient and agile Local Government decision-making during this emergency period has also been prepared.

Financial Hardship Policy

In accordance with State Council's resolution of Friday 27 March 2020, a template Financial Hardship Policy has been provided to help Local Governments assess the unique circumstances and challenges that ratepayers are likely to face as a consequence of the COVID 19 pandemic.

Template Regional Movement Authority

A template that Local Governments may provide to contractors performing work for the Local Government where the contractor is required to move between regions that are subject to COVID-19 Emergency movement restrictions.

Employee Relations

In March 2020 the global impact of COVID-19 became a reality for Local Governments, their employees and the communities they support. State and Federal Governmental directives have resulted in the closure of facilities, social distancing measures being implemented and those vulnerable instructed to stay home.

These measures have impacted Local Government workforces and the way they operate. To date the WALGA Employee Relations service has responded to 177 of 538 enquiries received for the month of March about COVID-19. Enquiries include, but are not limited to, working from home, stand down, enterprise agreement variations and leave entitlements. In addition the Employee Relations service has published information to the sector about stand down, leave entitlements and working from home and created a dedicated COVID-19 folder on the WALGA website for subscribers.

While it is a last resort for Local Governments to stand down employees we understand the ASU will be lodging disputes in the Fair Work Commission where this occurs. To date we are aware of one dispute being lodged. We expect to see an increase in claims of this nature.

Infrastructure

The infrastructure team has been working with Councils to address concerns about the movement of specialist contractors between regions and the risks associated with dependence on key personnel to deliver infrastructure projects.

Health and Economic Vulnerability Analysis

To assist Local Governments as they look to provide the most appropriate response and recovery packages in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, WALGA has been looking at the extent to which each local community in WA will be impacted by COVID-19.

As a way of doing this, our Economics team have analysed a range of demographic and social data that provide an indication of the COVID-19 health and economic vulnerability of each Local Government Area in WA.

This tailored, individual information has been provided to each Local Government on request. To date, 54 Local Governments have requested and been provided with an analysis of their data.

Commercial Development

Local Supplier Engagement Initiative

State Council approved via Flying Agenda Item \$78,000 to be reallocated from the year to date operating surplus to provide all Member Local Governments at no charge access to the Vendorpanel Marketplace local supplier management functionality for a 12-month trial period.

The Vendorpanel Marketplace is an additional function available under the eQuotes platform which provides Local Governments:

- The ability to more readily engage and source quotations from local supplier market.
- Greater transparency over quotation processes, and
- To show support for local businesses by providing a new opportunity to access contracts.

WALGA will be informing Local Government CEOs of the new functionality to promote to their local suppliers as evidence of the local economy.

Personal Protection Supply Initiative

State Council also approved, by Flying Minute, WALGA to underwrite an order of 60,000 hand sanitiser units worth \$380,000 to supply 32 Local Governments in metropolitan and regional areas.

A convenient means to help ensure greater personal hygiene in the workplace and public places is the provision of hand sanitiser. However, excessive demand as a consequence of the pandemic, exacerbated by a culture of hoarding, has severely limited the availability of hand sanitiser.

LGIS Contract Management

Member Contribution Strategy 2020-21

A special meeting of the LGIS Board was held on 8 April with a focus, led by the WALGA board members, to define a strategy to help reduce the financial impact of renewals on Member Local Governments.

In recognition of the extraordinary circumstances confronting Local Governments the LGIS Board has proposed a strategy to draw on the Scheme's retained capital and contribution reserve to reduce contributions required of Members in 2020-21.

With the objective of delivering the greatest possible benefit to Members within responsible financial management parameters, the strategy as proposed by the LGIS Board is anticipated to provide total savings to Members of between \$7million to \$9m.

In context, the surplus distributions to Members last financial year were the result of a \$6m allocation

Communications

The following communications initiatives have been implemented in response to the COVID-19 response:

Communications for Incident Response Team

Media and communication support for the WALGA COVID-19 Incident Response Team including media management and production and distribution of the COVID 19: Daily Update from the WALGA President and CEO that is distributed to the sector.

COVID-19 Web Page

A new landing page created from the [WALGA website](#) to focus on COVID-19 information and support for the Local Government sector, which includes sections as follows:

- State Emergency Declarations;
- Intergovernmental Relations;
- Changing Business of Local Government;
- Business Continuity and Emergency Supply Services;
- Tools, Templates and Resources; and
- A Councils in the Community section that profiles measures and actions taken by Local Governments to redress the impacts of the pandemic.

Councils in the Community

Print ad placements previously used for promotion of YourEveryday content have been transitioned to instead promote Council initiatives that support local communities.

[A section of the WALGA website](#) has been created to showcase all of these initiatives, together with policy decisions of Council directly relating to support for business and communities as a result of COVID-19.

State Councillors Messages to Zones

To help engage with the sector during times of self-isolation and travel restrictions, WALGA has initiated production of weekly video messages from State Councillors with the link emailed to every Elected Member within their specific zone. The video messages are intended to provide State Councillors the opportunity to show support for the Members of their Zone by sharing insights from within the zone and its Member Councils response to COVID-19.

Special CEO Liaison

In addition to the regular communications from the WALGA Chief Executive Officer to colleagues in the sector, WALGA has also appointed a former Local Government CEO to make contact with every CEO in the sector to both define the measures they are implementing at a local level and to better understand specific challenges. Contact has already been made with all CEOs and the process will be repeated. The response from CEOs has been overwhelmingly supportive of WALGA making personal contact.

President's Column

The column on Tuesday, 7 April titled [Councils Back Communities in Time of Crisis](#) highlighted how WA Councils took up the challenge to help local communities confront the COVID-19 Pandemic. It spoke about some Local Governments putting a clamp on rates, slashing charges for services and expediting approvals to assist local businesses and sustain local economies. Many other Local Governments had similar comprehensive strategies and even those with less financial capacity were focused on measures they could implement. It also called out some of the critics of Local Governments – such as the Property Council calling for more action from Councils, yet the Property Council did not seem as forthcoming with encouraging wholesale rent relief from its landlord members.

Webinar Program

WALGA has implemented a weekly Webinar program to assist the sector with information. The following is a schedule of the webinars held:

- **Monday, 16 March**
Hon Roger Cook MLA, Deputy Premier, Minister for Health
Hon David Templeman MLA Minister for Local Government,
Dr Clare Huppertz, Department of Health
- **Friday, 20 March**
Hon David Templeman MLA Minister for Local Government
Clinician, Revle Bangor-Jones and
Dr Mike Lindsay, Department of Health's Director of Environmental Health,
- **Friday, 27 March**
Hon David Templeman MLA Minister for Local Government
Premier Mark McGowen (Video appearance)
- **Friday, 3 April**
Hon David Templeman MLA Minister for Local Government
Gary Dreibergs, Deputy Police Commissioner
- **Wednesday, 8 April**
State Emergency Welfare Plan briefing –
Michelle Andrews, Director General, Department of Communities
Jenny McGrath, Acting Commissioner of Mental Health
Deb Zanella, Chair of WACOSS
- **Thursday, 9 April**
Hon David Templeman MLA Minister for Local Government
Hon Stephen Dawson MLC Minister for Environment,
Mike Rowe, Director General of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
(DWER)

4.2 Local Government Act Emergency Provisions (05-034-02-0015 TL)

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

Moved: President Cr Karen Chappel
Seconded: Cr Paul Kelly

That WALGA:

- 1. Notes and supports the introduction of legislation that:**
 - a. Provides for Ministerial emergency powers on the condition that the Local Government sector is consulted prior to the issuing of an order using this power, and**
 - b. Provides the ability for Local Governments to suspend a provision of a local law**
- 2. Continues to advocate for the 2019-20 valuations to apply to the 2020-21 rates.**

RESOLUTION 58.2/2020

CARRIED

Executive Summary

- The Minister for Local Government announced the following four proposals to amend the *Local Government Act 1995* to incorporate a number of emergency provisions as follows:
 1. Valuations from 2019-20 to apply to 2020-21 rates
 2. Rates, fees and charges to remain at 2019-20 levels in 2020-21
 3. Ministerial power to make changes to the Act, and
 4. Ability for Local Governments to suspend Local Law provisions.
- Following the Minister's announcement, it is understood that the Government decided not to progress with items (1) and (2) above
- The legislative amendments are likely to progress through Parliament in mid-April providing little opportunity for the Local Government sector to influence the legislation
- The amendments will only apply to the current State of Emergency and will be removed from the Act following the COVID-19 pandemic
- It is recommended that the legislative proposals be broadly supported and that WALGA continue to advocate for deferment of the 2020-21 valuations

Background

As part of the State Government's response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Minister for Local Government announced, during a WALGA hosted webinar to the Local Government sector held on 9 April 2020, that the Government would be amending the *Local Government Act 1995* to enable the following:

1. Valuations – valuations from 2019-20 to apply to 2020-21 rates
2. Rates, fees and charges – rates, fees and charges not to be increased above 2019-20 levels
3. Ministerial emergency powers – the Minister for Local Government will be able to make changes to provisions of the *Local Government Act 1995* by gazetting an order
4. Local Laws – Local Governments will be able to suspend a local law provision by absolute majority

Following the webinar, the WALGA Chief Executive Officer was advised that the Government had decided not to implement points (1) and (2) above relating to rates, fees and charges and the application of 2019-20 valuations to the 2020-21 rates.

It is important to note that the legislative amendments that are implemented will only apply during the current COVID-19 State of Emergency. The Government's intention is to introduce a new Part 10 of the *Local Government Act 1995* that will include a provision for that part of the Act to be deleted following the pandemic.

The legislative amendments will be introduced to Parliament in mid-April.

Comment

Comment is provided below in relation to each of the components of the proposed legislative amendments.

Ministerial Emergency Powers

The power of the Minister to vary provisions by gazetting an order is strong and far-reaching and it is anticipated that this power will enable certainty and clarity in relation to a range of issues.

For instance, by issuing an order, the Minister would be able to waive the requirement for an annual meeting of electors to be held, or the Minister could issue an order changing the date by which the annual budget must be set.

Given the strong relationship between the Minister and the Local Government sector, and the flexibility that this legislative power will accord the Minister, there will be opportunities for advocacy on issues as they arise, which will be able to be addressed in a timely manner with Ministerial support.

It should also be noted that, due to the far-reaching nature of this power, there may be the potential for unintended consequences or outcomes detrimental to the interests of the Local Government sector.

It is recommended that this proposal be supported on the basis that the Local Government sector is consulted to the extent possible prior to the issuing of any orders under this power.

Local Laws – Power to Suspend Provisions by Absolute Majority

The proposal for Local Governments to suspend provisions of a Local Law by absolute majority is supported. This power is in accordance with the principle that Local Governments are best positioned to make decisions on behalf of their communities, and will be useful for Local Governments to respond to the current crisis situation in a range of contexts.

Amendments Announced, but not Progressing

The following commentary relates to the amendments that were announced by the Minister prior to the Government decision not to proceed with these aspects of the proposal.

Rating, Fees and Charges – Application of 2019-20 Valuations to 2020-21 Rates

The Local Government sector and WALGA have been advocating for valuations to be deferred for the upcoming financial year so that fluctuations in rates will not dilute the impact of overall zero percent rate increases.

To that end, WALGA President, Mayor Tracey Roberts JP, wrote to the Hon Ben Wyatt MLA, Treasurer and Minister for Lands, seeking deferment of the upcoming valuations. The Minister has responded to the WALGA President advising that the Valuer General will continue to fulfill his statutory obligations. The [Minister's letter is available here](#).

Analysis from one metropolitan Local Government indicates that some property owners will have a significant increase in their rates liability (in the order of 300 percent), and that some property owners would have a sizeable reduction in their rates liability (in the order of 40 percent).

It is recommended that WALGA continue to advocate for the 2019-20 valuations to apply to 2020-21 rates.

Rating, Fees and Charges – No Increases Forced Legislatively

From the point of view of the secretariat, forcing rates, fees and charges to remain at 2019-20 levels is unnecessary and unhelpful and should not be supported. It is pleasing that the Government has decided not to proceed with this proposal.

Legislating to ensure rates, fees and charges remain at 2019-20 levels would be unnecessary because most Local Governments have committed to doing this in any case. State Council, at its [27 March 2020 Special Meeting](#) noted the significant support Local Governments were already providing the community in this regard, and recommended, amongst a range of measures, that not increasing rates be considered by its members to support the community.

Concurrently, WALGA commissioned former Local Government Chief Executive Officer, Dr Shayne Silcox, to speak with all Local Governments about their plans to support the community during the 2020-21 financial year. The preliminary findings of Dr Silcox's work indicates that 98 percent of Local Governments are developing a budget predicated on no increases in rates.

It is for these reasons that a legislative solution would be unnecessary; notwithstanding the crisis situation impacting all aspects of society, the proposed legislative approach would undermine the key role of Local Government Councils as democratically elected decision makers responsible for revenue and expenditure decisions on behalf of their communities.

State Council endorsed a [Rate Setting Policy Statement](#) in December 2015 that emphasises the fundamental role of Council in making rating decisions.

5. MATTERS FOR DECISION

5.1 Amendment to Third Party Appeal Rights – Preferred Model (06-03-01-0001 VJ)

By Vanessa Jackson, Policy Manager Planning and Improvement

Moved: Cr Julie Brown

Seconded: President Cr Stephen Strange

1. That the proposed amendment to the Third Party Appeals Process Preferred Model, being that third parties in addition to Local Governments are able to make an appeal on decisions made by Development Assessment Panels, is not supported, and
2. That the proposed amendment to the Third Party Appeals Process Preferred Model, being that closely associated third parties in addition to Local Governments are able to appeal decisions made by the Western Australian Planning Commission and the State Administrative Tribunal, in addition to Development Assessment Panels, is not supported.

RESOLUTION 59.2/2020

CARRIED

Executive Summary

- At the 2019 WALGA Annual General Meeting (AGM), a motion was carried to amend the existing Preferred Model for Third Party Appeal rights for decisions made by Development Assessment Panels.
- All Local Governments were contacted, seeking their views on a two part motion. The closing date for feedback was 28 February 2020.
- 35 Local Governments provided a response, 11 supported the motions, 19 did not support the AGM motions and 5 did not support any Third Party Appeal rights being introduced in WA.
- The 2019 WALGA AGM motion is therefore not supported.

Attachments

1. Responses to AGM motion: [https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/Documents/Responses-to-2019-AGM-Motion_March-2020-\(1\).pdf?lang=en-AU](https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/Documents/Responses-to-2019-AGM-Motion_March-2020-(1).pdf?lang=en-AU)
2. Preferred model after May 2019 State Council meeting: ([report-2019](#))

Policy Implications

The current policy position is that the Association supports the introduction of Third Party Appeal rights for decisions made by Development Assessment Panels, with the Preferred Model endorsed at May 2019 State Council Meeting (44.4/2019).

Background

At the August 2019 WALGA AGM, an item was discussed by members which proposed an amendment to the existing 'Preferred Model' for Third Party Appeal Rights for decisions made by Development Assessment Panels.

The following two part motion was carried by the attendees: -

1. *That there be an amendment to the Third Party Appeals Process Preferred Model, being that third parties in addition to Local Governments are able to make an appeal.*

2. *That there be an amendment to the Third Party Appeals Process Preferred Model, being that closely associated third parties in addition to Local Governments are able to appeal decisions made by the Western Australian Planning Commission and the State Administrative Tribunal, in addition to Development Assessment Panels.*

AGM motions are non-binding on State Council. The 2019 AGM motions were considered at the September 2019 State Council meeting where it was resolved, that:

1. The Motions passed by the 2019 Annual General Meeting be noted,
2. All items be forwarded to the relevant State Council Policy Team/Forum/Committee for action, and
3. A report on the progress and action taken in respect to the AGM items be presented to State Council no later than the March 2020 State Council Meeting.

As per point 2 of the resolution above, State Council referred the item to the Planning Policy Team for action. Given that the AGM motions were not consistent with State Council's adopted position, additional consultation with the sector was undertaken, so that State Council would be able to make a fully informed decision.

On the 6 November 2019, an email was sent from WALGA's CEO to all members, requesting that each member provide a clear indication as to whether or not their Council supports the AGM motions to amend the Preferred Model.

The closing date for feedback was 27 January 2020. This date was extended to 28 February 2020 following member requests for additional time.

Comment

A total of 35 Local Governments provided a response, as outlined in the attachment.

In summary: -

- 11 Local Governments supported the AGM motions
- 19 Local Governments did not support the AGM motions
- 5 Local Governments do not support any Third Party Appeal Rights being introduced.

The responses indicate that nearly twice as many members do not support the proposed changes. Therefore it is recommended that the proposed amendments to the preferred Model, proposed at the AGM, are not supported.

5.2 Managing Lodging House Health Risks in WA (05-031-01-0001 BW)

By Bec Waddington, Policy Officer Community

Moved: President Cr Malcolm Cullen
Seconded: Cr Chris Mitchell

That the submission to the Department of Health in response to the Managing Lodging House Health Risks in WA discussion paper be endorsed.

RESOLUTION 60.2/2020

CARRIED

Executive Summary

- The *Public Health Act 2016* is progressing through a five-stage process of implementation and is currently at Stage 4. All regulations from the previous *Health Act 1911* will be repealed and replaced with new regulations at the commencement of Stage 5, which is anticipated to commence in 2021.
- The Department of Health released the 'Managing Lodging House Health Risks in WA' discussion paper for public comment with three options for consideration.
- WALGA's Submission discusses the Local Governments preference for Option C to regulate lodging houses under the Public Health Act using housing regulations

Attachment

WALGA Submission to Department of Health: Managing Lodging House Health Risks in WA

Policy Implications

WALGA has previously made comment on the Public Health regulations; Construction Sites Facilities, Cloth Materials and Temporary Toilets Regulations (Resolution 139.7/2018) and Aquatic Facilities and Public Buildings (Resolution 15.3/2019) and Managing Public Health Risks Associated with Pesticides in WA (Resolution 131.FM/2019). This paper relates directly to Managing Public Health Housing Risks in WA, which WALGA recently made a submission on (Resolution 2.1/2020).

Background

The Department of Health (DOH) released the "Managing lodging house health risks in WA" discussion paper for public comment. The discussion paper outlines three options for consideration for Western Australia. These options include:

- **Option A:** Repeal without replacement. This option would also mean that existing local laws under the Health (MP) Act will become void;
- **Option B:** Repeal and replace with model local laws. Existing local laws under the Health (MP) Act will become void and Local Governments will need to make local laws for public health matters under the *Local Government Act 1995*;
- **Option C:** Continue to regulate lodging houses under the Public Health Act using housing regulations.

Comment

The report contains technical advice in response to the 16 survey questions. Some key feedback from Local Governments were:

- All responses were supportive of Option C; the DOH preferred approach.

- Ongoing management of lodging house health risks are essential due to the vulnerable community members that utilise them
- Many of the current issues associated with lodging houses are due to inappropriate managers; the new legislation provides an opportunity to introduce minimum requirements for owners/managers, as well as more effective enforcement tools for Local Government.

WALGA has requested that Local Government officers are directly involved in process of drafting any new regulations to ensure that they adequately address Local Government issues.

Local Governments provided input to this submission via a WALGA information session on 26 February where 13 officers (representing seven Local Governments) participated in person, and eight officers (representing eight Local Governments) participated via webinar. City of Wanneroo also provided a formal submission and City of Subiaco provided additional written comments. WALGA officers responsible for the areas of Governance, Community, Emergency Management and Planning Policy have provided comment on the submission.

Managing Lodging House Health Risks in Western Australia

WALGA Submission to Department of Health

March 2020

Contact:

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Introduction

The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) is the united voice of Local Government in Western Australia. The Association is an independent, membership-based organisation representing and supporting the work and interests of Local Governments in Western Australia.

It provides an essential voice for its members who are 138 Local Governments, 1,215 Elected Members and approximately 22,000 Local Government employees as well as over 2.2 million constituents of Local Governments in Western Australia. The Association also provides professional advice and offers services that provide financial benefits to the Local Governments and the communities they serve. WALGA is appreciative of the extensive consultation with Local Government that the Department of Health has undertaken in the review of legislation and regulations.

Background

The Department of Health (DOH) released the “Managing Lodging House Health Risks in WA” discussion paper for public comment. The discussion paper outlines three options for consideration for Western Australia. These options include:

- **Option A:** Repeal without replacement. This option would also mean that existing local laws under the Health (MP) Act will become void;
- **Option B:** Repeal and replace with model local laws. Existing local laws under the Health (MP) Act will become void and Local Governments will need to make local laws for public health matters under the *Local Government Act 1995*;
- **Option C:** Continue to regulate lodging houses under the Public Health Act using housing regulations.

Local Government is an enforcement agency under the *Public Health Act 2016* (the Public Health Act), with Local Government Environmental Health Officers (EHO's) playing a key role in administering the Public Health Act and Regulations. To ensure broad representation of Local Government responses to the Discussion Paper, and within this submission, WALGA promoted the Discussion Paper consultation through our formal communication channels, as well as via emails to Local Government networks of officers working in environmental health.

On 26 February 2020 WALGA hosted an information session and a total of 15 Local Governments attended. This included 13 officers (representing seven Local Governments) participating in person, and eight officers (representing eight Local Governments) participating via webinar. DOH officers provided an overview of the discussion paper and participants had the opportunity to ask questions, raise issues and provide feedback, which has helped to inform this submission. WALGA also received a formal submission from City of Wanneroo and additional written comments from City of Subiaco. Additionally, WALGA officers responsible for the areas of Governance, Community, Emergency Management and Planning Policy have provided comment on the submission. A stakeholder engagement overview is provided in Appendix 1.

Local Government Response

Option A

Question 1: Do you support the adoption of Option A: Repeal without replacement?

WALGA does not support the adoption of Option A as there are potentially significant public health risks associated with lodging houses that require management.

Option B

Question 2: Do you support the adoption of Option B: Repeal and replace with model local laws?

WALGA does not support the adoption of Option B.

Whilst it is important that health risks with lodging houses are managed, there are complications and potential for confusion with the use of model local laws. The difficulty in developing a local law under the *Local Government Act 1995* which affects private property has been highlighted through the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation (JSCDL).

The JSCDL specifically enquired into the relationship between the powers of a Local Government to enact Local Laws impacting on private property in [Report 7 of 2003 – ‘Powers of Entry and Powers to Make Local Laws that Affect Private Land under the Local Government Act 1995’](#). In summary, the Report finding stated:

- the local law-making power provided by section 3.5(1) of the Act is constrained by sections 3.25 and 3.27; and accordingly
- where a local government relies on section 3.5(1) for making a local law in relation to entry onto private land, the local government:
 - a) is restricted to the matters specified in Schedules 3.1 and 3.2; and
 - b) must comply with the procedures for entering private land set out in Part 3, Division 3, Subdivision 3 of the Act.
- any local law made under the Act inconsistent with the above is not authorised or contemplated by the Act.

Despite being recommended in 2003, the findings of Report 7 remain the contemporary view of the JSCDL. It is often referenced in Local Government undertakings where a Local Government is perceived to have exceeded its Local Law-making powers by attempting to impose powers or conditions over private land in addition to that which is contemplated in Schedule 3.1 and 3.2 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Now that a Local Law related to public health can be made in accordance with Section 3.5(4B) of the Act, there remains potential that the Findings of Report 7 may frustrate attempts to make public health-related Local Laws affecting private property, such as the case with lodging houses.

Option C

Question 3: Do you support the adoption of Option C: continue to regulate lodging houses under the Public Health Act 2016 using new housing regulations?

WALGA supports the adoption of Option C.

This is the preferred option of Local Government as provided in person, via webinar and in the written submissions. This will maintain management of lodging house public health risks and will provide more consistency and more effective enforcement options for Local Governments.

Whilst WALGA supports Option 3, there is further detail required as to the exact wording of the regulations, specifically how the proposed regulations and the National Construction Code will interact. There should also be consideration of the impact by the Western Australian Planning Commission's review regarding short stay accommodation following the [Parliamentary Inquiry into Short-Stay Accommodation](#) by the Economics and Industry Standing Committee tabled in September 2019 in Parliament. In addition the Consumer Protection division of the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety are currently reviewing the residential tenancies legislation and have released a discussion paper outlining broadening protections for boarders and lodgers, introducing minimum standards for rentals and creating a register for lessors. Therefore WALGA, requests that Local Government officers are directly involved in the development of these regulations and have the opportunity to review and comment on the wording of the proposed regulatory amendments.

Proposal 1 – Amend the definition of a lodging house

Question 4: Overall, do you support the proposed changes to the definition of a lodging house outlined in proposal 1, section 8.1.1?

The discussion paper suggests a new 'Lodging House' definition aligning with the classifications in the National Construction Code (NCC), however, there is no cross referencing with the State's Planning requirements. Under the *State Planning Policy 7.3 – Residential Design Codes Vol 1*, there is a different definition used in the planning framework, specifically the term 'Residential Building' (Page 45 of the RCodes below). It is unclear whether the review will automatically revise this definition, or possibly the two parts of the development approvals processes for a lodging house will not be aligned. The different definitions between the disciplines of Planning and Health have caused unnecessary confusion over the years.

It is also concerning that the 'number' of residents within a lodging house has been removed in the proposed definition, without any rationale being provided. This misalignment of proposed definition with the existing planning definition, and justification for the removal of the number of residents, must be addressed prior to any formalisation of Option C.

Question 5: Do you support the exclusions outlined in 8.1.2?

There is support for the exemptions listed, as they seem to be appropriately managed via other mechanisms.

WALGA recognises the difficulty in understanding the effect that some of the reviews currently underway will have on the lodging house accommodation type. In particular the [Parliamentary Inquiry into Short-Stay Accommodation](#) by the Economics and Industry Standing Committee. Recommendations from this inquiry include regulating short stay accommodation (typically **class 1A** and **class 2** buildings) under the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015*, outlined on page 21 of the Discussion Paper. The discussion paper outlines the position that short stay accommodation be excluded from regulation under lodging houses

requirements. Caution must be taken, as this is a pre-emptive assumption and if not accurate may affect the proposals outlined, and in turn the implications for Local Government.

Question 6: Is there anything this definition fails to capture or any potential duplication?

Local Governments have raised queries about accommodation such as mining camps, student accommodation, serviced apartments, and multi-story residential buildings with one owner and multiple long-term tenants. Backpacker hostels have also been queried; they seem to be included in tourist accommodation (which is exempt) but are intended to be covered by lodging house legislation.

Due to the ambiguity about what would be included, further clarity is required.

<u>Proposal 2 – Registration of lodging houses</u>

Question 7: Do you support the inclusion of lodging houses as a public health risk activity that must be registered with a Local Government?

WALGA supports lodging houses being registered with a Local Government; acknowledging that the roles and functions of Local Government remain the same. WALGA acknowledges that the application of the fees and charges for the registration of lodging houses, inspections and enforcement are currently set at cost recovery, however, there is no mention that this will be continued. WALGA has an advocacy position that measures should be in place to remove fees and charges from legislation and Councils be empowered to set fees and charges for Local Government services (Endorsed March 2019-06.3/2019).

Local Governments have indicated that many of the issues related to lodging houses come from inappropriate management and that this regulation could provide the opportunity to improve this. Some items for consideration given to the registration process including:

- Requirement to have a record of the owner as well as manager
- Annual registration process to ensure that the registers are kept up to date, and provisions for the transfer of a registration
- Provision for revoking a registration when necessary
- Timeframes for inspection frequency
- Certain threshold points for additional requirements (e.g. there is no longer going to be a requirement to have a keeper present at all times, but potentially when you have 20 or more people it is considered high risk and then an on-site manager should be required)
- The need for more robustness around minimum requirements for who can register a lodging house. This may include some form of minimum requirements or standards or training for owners and/or managers of lodging houses.

Local Governments have suggested including the requirement for registered lodging houses to have venue management plans, with both risk and emergency management planning components included. Having these would assist in the threshold points mentioned above, of the prescribed conditions as well as forming the basis for issuing a compliance notice.

Question 8: Do you support the requirements for assigning maximum accommodation?

Assigning maximum number accommodation is supported by Local Government, as it will assist in inspections and is similar to the process for public building accommodation certificates.

<u>Proposal 3 – Construction requirements</u>

Question 9: Do you support the prescriptive or outcome based requirements for laundry facilities?

Both written submissions received supported a prescriptive approach, with the view that 'adequate' is too vague and hard to defend in court in the absence of a suitable definition.

Question 10: Would you support the relevant NCC provisions for sanitary conveniences being contained within lodging house regulation?

Yes, this would provide consistency of application and avoid duplication.

Question 11: Do you support the proposed provisions for kitchen facilities?

There is some uncertainty from Local Governments around the requirements for kitchens; due to the more intensive use in a lodging house which may mean a domestic kitchen is not appropriate. There is concern that the term 'adequate' has too much ambiguity. City of Subiaco have requested a guidance document, which provides further detail on what is appropriate. City of Wanneroo have suggested that larger lodging houses comply with AS 4674, whilst making smaller facilities exempt from this.

Proposal 4 – Use requirements

Question 12: Do you support the additional requirements for restrictions of sleeping areas?

Yes. Although, as with the kitchen provisions, Local Governments have requested some further guidance around what would be deemed 'adequate'.

Proposal 5 – Emergency preparedness

Question 13: Do you support the provisions outlined above for emergency egress?

Yes, provisions for emergency egress are supported as they align with NCC and to most current lodging house local laws. Please refer to comments under Question 7, which refer to the requirements for lodging houses to have emergency management plans

Proposal 6 – Fire prevention and control

Question 14: Do you support the provisions outlined above for fire prevention and control?

Yes, Local Governments support the provisions for fire prevention and control as per the NCC.

Proposal 7 – Administrative requirements

Question 15: Do you support the requirement for a register of lodgers?

Yes, as this would be essential in the event of an emergency.

Proposal 8 – Requirements for lodgers

Question 16: Do you support the removal of requirements for lodgers?

Yes. It is difficult for Local Governments to take action against the lodgers, so it is more appropriate for the responsibility to rest with the owner/manager.

<u>Proposal 9 – Vector control</u>

Question 16: Do you support the other requirements for vector control outlined above?

Yes, it is appropriate for these vector control measures to be maintained.

Conclusion

Thank you again for the opportunity to make comment on the “Managing lodging house health risks in WA” Discussion Paper. Local Governments are appreciative of the opportunity to provide input on the development of the *Public Health Act 2016* regulations, and it is anticipated that integrating the experiences and knowledge of Local Government Environmental Health Officers into regulation will lead to improved health and wellbeing for community.

WALGA supports DOH’s preferred option C to continue to regulate lodging houses under the *Public Health Act 2016* using new housing regulations, but requests that Local Government officers are directly involved in the development of these regulations.

Appendix: Stakeholder Engagement

Engagement Process

Newsletters:

- WALGA Local Government News
- WALGA Community and Place News

Emails:

- Metropolitan Environmental Health Management Group (MEHMG)
- Local Government Environmental Health Officers Mailing List
- Regional Networks Environmental Health Officers
- WALGA Teams: Governance, Planning, Emergency Management

Formal correspondence:

- Submission sent to WALGA People and Place Policy Team prior to State Council
- *to be approved by WALGA State Council*

Information Session held on Wednesday 26 February

In-person participants:

- City of Bayswater
- City Belmont
- City of Perth
- City of Rockingham
- City of Subiaco
- City of Wanneroo
- Shire of Mundaring
- Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Webinar participants:

- City of Greater Geraldton
- City of Karratha
- Shire of Dandaragan
- Shire of Corrigin
- Shire of East Pilbara
- Shire of Exmouth
- Shire of Kellerberrin
- Shire of Manjimup

Written submissions / comments received from:

- City of Wanneroo
- City of Subiaco
- WALGA Planning
- WALGA Governance

**MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY STATE COUNCILLORS
(UNDER SEPARATE COVER)**

5.3 Finance and Services Committee Minutes (01-006-03-0006 TB)

Moved: President Cr Karen Chappel
Seconded: Cr Chris Mitchell

1. That the Minutes of the Finance and Services Committee Meeting held 22 April 2020 be endorsed;
2. That the Business Continuity Budget for the six month period ending 30 November 2020 be endorsed.

Voting Requirement: ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

RESOLUTION 61.2/2020

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

5.4 Selection Committee Minutes (01-006-03-0011 CO)

Item 5.5 State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Board

Nominations were sought from State Councillors and Deputy State Councillors for 1 Metropolitan Member and 1 Non-Metropolitan Member on the State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee.

State Council noted that there was still a vacancy for a representative from a Metropolitan Local Government.

The Chair Mayor Tracey Roberts called for nominations from the floor for a Metropolitan Local Government representative.

Cr Michelle Rich nominated for this position.

There being no further nominations, Cr Rich will be put forward as the Metropolitan Representative under item 5.5 of the Selection Committee minutes.

Cr Paul Kelly declared an interest in Items 5.4 and 5.5 as candidate for LGIS Board and left the meeting at 5:13pm

Mayor Carol Adams declared an interest in Items 5.4 and 5.5 as candidate for LGIS Board and left the meeting at 5:13pm

Mayor Mark Irwin declared an interest in Items 5.4 and 5.5 as candidate for LGIS Board and left the meeting at 5:13pm

President Michelle Rich declared an interest in Items 5.4 and 5.5 as a nominee for the position on the SAC and left the meeting at 5:13pm

Moved: Mayor Logan Howlett
Seconded: Cr Chris Mitchell

That:

1. The recommendations contained in the 28 April 2020 Selection Committee Minutes be endorsed including the appointment of Cr Michelle Rich to the State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee;
2. The resolution contained in the 28 April 2020 Selection Committee Minutes be noted.

RESOLUTION 62.2/2020

CARRIED

5.5 Selection Committee Interview Report (01-006-03-0011 CO)

Moved: President Cr Karen Chappel
Seconded: Mayor Logan Howlett

That:

1. The Selection Committee Interview Report be noted; and,
2. Cr Paul Kelly be appointed to the Local Government Insurance Scheme (LGIS) Board as Metropolitan Elected Member.

RESOLUTION 63.2/2020

CARRIED

Cr Paul Kelly, Mayor Carol Adams, Mayor Mark Irwin and President Michelle Rich returned to the meeting at 5:16pm

5.6 LGIS Board Minutes

Moved: Mayor Logan Howlett
Seconded: President Cr Karen Chappel

That the Minutes of the LGIS Board meeting held 8 April 2020 be received.

RESOLUTION 64.2/2020

CARRIED

5.7 Use of the Association's Common Seal (01-004-07-0001 NS)

Moved: President Cr Stephen Strange
Seconded: Cr Paul Kelly

That the use of the Association's Common Seal be noted.

Document	Document Description	Signatories	State Council prior approval
Letter of Offer (Restatement)	Western Australian Local Government Association ABN 28 126 945 127 as Trustee for the LGIS Local Government Insurance Scheme	Nick Sloan	No

RESOLUTION 65.2/2020

CARRIED

5.8 2020 Annual General Meeting

Moved: Cr Chris Mitchell

Seconded: Cr Ronnie Fleay

That:

- 1. The 2020 Annual General Meeting be held on Friday, 25 September 2020;**
- 2. Arrangements be made for the meeting to be held in person as the preferred option; and,**
- 3. If gathering and/or travel restrictions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic prevent the meeting from being conducted in person, the meeting be conducted in a virtual setting.**

RESOLUTION 66.2/2020

CARRIED

6. MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

6.1 Submission Position Statement: Special Entertainment Precincts and Options Paper for Proposed Amendments to the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997 (05-036-02-0022 VJ)

By Vanessa Jackson, Policy Manager Planning and Improvement

Moved: President Cr Karen Chappel
Seconded: President Cr Malcolm Cullen

That the submission on Position Statement: Special Entertainment Precincts & the Options Paper for proposed amendments to the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997* be noted.

RESOLUTION 67.2/2020

CARRIED

Executive Summary

- The State Government prepared a position statement and options paper, which outlined possible planning and environmental approvals processes to manage noise within entertainment precincts.
- Three options were provided: Status Quo, agent of change and indoor assigned noise levels or establishment of a Special Control Area (SCA) for an entertainment precinct.
- The submission was due by 14 February 2020, consequently, the submission was processed through WALGA's interim submission process, and endorsed by State Council by Flying Minute.

Attachment

WALGA Submission - Position Statement: Special Entertainment Precincts & Options Paper for Proposed Amendments to the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997*.

<https://walgapip.ning.com/submissions/entertainment-precincts-position-statement-and-regulations-submis>

Background

The State Government prior to the last State election committed to supporting the arts sector and exploring reforms to encourage development of live music and entertainment venues and cultural industries. Inner city areas with a higher density of entertainment venues are experiencing significant infill development with an increasing number of mixed-use and high density residential developments. There are growing concerns that as Perth, and Northbridge in particular, diversifies and densifies that there will be increased conflict between noise emitting premises and noise-sensitive premises.

In September 2019, the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH), on behalf of the Western Australian Planning Commission, and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) prepared a Position Statement: Special Entertainment Precincts & the Options Paper for proposed amendments to the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997. These papers outline proposed reforms that address the issue of entertainment noise impacts in the Northbridge mixed use entertainment precinct. The City of Perth has been an integral contributor to these reforms.

The consultation includes two parts,

1. [Draft Position Statement – Entertainment Precincts.](#)
2. [Options Paper – Managing Noise in Entertainment Precincts - Possible amendments to the Environmental Protection \(Noise\) Regulations 1997.](#)

(Both documents can be accessed through the links).

The Draft Position Statement seeks to:

- provide clear and consistent development guidance for designated special entertainment precincts
- establish a framework that reduces potential land use conflicts between noise-sensitive receivers and entertainment venues through the application of relevant planning considerations, and
- provide an increased level of assurance for entertainment venues by establishing a framework to achieve greater operational certainty.

The Options Paper puts across three possible regulatory approaches for changes to the Noise Regulations:

- Option 1 – status quo
- Option 2 – agent of change and indoor assigned levels, and
- Option 3 – special entertainment precincts.

The Options Paper outlines the advantages and disadvantages of the three options. The State Government has declared that their preference is for Option 3.

Comment

DPLH and DWER have been working collaboratively on reforms to better manage noise from amplified music in entertainment precincts. The reforms are centered on the desire to ensure the ongoing viability of our State's entertainment industry by balancing the needs of venues with other businesses and residents in vibrant entertainment areas.

WALGA prepared a draft Submission which provides general support for both the draft Position Statement and the Option 3 of the Options Paper.

Association officers previously considered the matter of entertainment noise through DPLH's discussion paper on 'Planning for entertainment noise in the Northbridge area' (November 2018). Qualified support was provided for what is now regarded as 'Option 2', though noted a number of technical and implementation matters that would require addressing. Following the release of that paper, the State has determined that the technical and implementation matters with Option 2 are unable to be suitably addressed. Thus Option 3, a new approach, has been developed by DPLH, DWER and the City of Perth. In light of this, the draft Submission rescinds the previous support the 'Option 2' and in turn provides support for 'Option 3'.

The draft Submission deals extensively with the matter of who should be able to lodge a Scheme Amendment request for the establishment of a special entertainment precinct. The Association has taken the view that the identification of an SCA as proposed in the draft Position Statement is a matter of strategic concern for Local Governments. Other comments and recommendations provided in the draft Submission are largely technical in nature.

Feedback from the sector to date:

- City of Fremantle provided their submission on the proposals, which has been incorporated in the submission
- The views of the City of Perth have been ascertained from their recent Scheme Amendment initiation to establish a special entertainment precinct in Northbridge, and
- The views of the Local Government Managers of Environmental Health Group were also obtained.



The submission was processed through WALGA's interim submission process and endorsed by Flying Minute on the 12 February 2020 (Resolution 194.FM/2020).

6.2 Submission on the Proposed Reforms to the Approval Process for Commercial Buildings (05-015-02-0005 VJ)

By Vanessa Jackson, Policy Manager Planning and Improvement

Moved: President Cr Karen Chappel

Seconded: President Cr Malcolm Cullen

That the endorsed submission on the proposed reforms to the approval process for commercial buildings be noted.

RESOLUTION 68.2/2020

CARRIED

Executive Summary

- In December 2019, the State Government prepared a Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement (CRIS) for improvements to the commercial building approvals processes.
- The CRIS proposes 28 improvements, ranging from documentation requirements; performance solutions; fire authority consultation; engagement of building surveyors; third-party review of high-risk designs; variations to the design during construction; inspections of building work; material compliance; and the Building Commissioner's powers.
- The submission was due on 3 April 2020, consequently, the submission was processed through WALGA's interim submission process, and endorsed by State Council by Flying Minute on 1 April 2020.

Attachments

Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement (CRIS)

WALGA Submission - proposed reforms to the approval process for commercial buildings.

Background

The Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) has prepared a Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement (CRIS), as a step to fulfill the McGowan Government's commitment to improve processes to enhance the quality and standard of commercial and apartment buildings in WA. This is in response to the recommendations contained in the National Building Confidence report. The Building Confidence report concluded that there are a number of significant systematic deficiencies with Australia's building industry culture and Australia's governance arrangements and made 24 principle-based recommendations for reform, ranging from reviewing the registration requirements for building practitioners, powers of regulators and strategies for the proactive regulation of building design and construction.

The State's CRIS proposes 28 reforms to improve building compliance for class 2-9 buildings in WA. The reform proposals are wide-ranging and seek to address issues identified in the Building Confidence report, such as documentation requirements; performance solutions; fire authority consultation; engagement of building surveyors; third-party review of high-risk designs; variations to the design during construction; inspections of building work; material compliance; and the Building Commissioner's powers.

Comment

Support or qualified support was provided for 25 of the 28 proposals, as they have the potential to improve the building assessment and construction process for Class 2-9 buildings.

Three of the proposals are not supported, as follows:

1. Proposal 8 – DFES can provide their advice at any stage, which could occur after a Building Permit has been issued. This would be difficult for the Building Surveyor to respond to, as all paperwork has been submitted to the Permit Authority.

It would also be an administrative nightmare for Local Government if the advice is received after the building permit had been issued. DFES advice should be included into the application for a Building Permit to make it a 'complete application' rather than after, as the advice could affect the building design.

2. Proposal 19 – Removing the need for a Notice of Completion (BA7 form from the Builder) when an Occupancy Permit is being sought (by the building surveyor). The builder should be accountable for the submission of the Notice of Completion to state that all works have been completed in accordance with the National Construction Code and the Building Permit issued, the Occupancy Permit covers a different range of issues to ensure that the building is suitable to be occupied. Due to the processes covering different aspects of the building, i.e. building product compliance versus the building's function, removing the BA7 requirement is not supported.
3. Proposal 26 - Inspections: The discussion paper proposes a new inspection regime, with Mandatory inspections for all construction work, either by permit authorities (Option A); or private sector inspectors (Option B). Option A is not supported, as the full responsibility of Class 2-9 inspections would be placed on the Local Government sector, which is contrary to existing WALGA policy positions. Option B is therefore supported, subject to the Independent Building Surveyor who signed the Certificate of Design Compliance being responsible for undertaking the inspections. Therefore, Local Government would only be responsible for follow up inspections if they signed the CDC, other inspections would be the responsibility of the building surveyor who certified the building as part of the permit application process.

Feedback from the sector: -

- 35 officers attended a workshop session held on the 13 February 2020 (representing 21 Local Governments) including the Cities of Bayswater, Bunbury, Canning, Cockburn, Fremantle, Greater Geraldton, Joondalup, Kalamunda, Mandurah, Melville, Perth, Rockingham, South Perth, Stirling, Subiaco, Vincent, Town of Cottesloe and Shires of Augusta Margaret River, Collie, Dandaragan and Serpentine Jarrahdale. The workshop collated the thoughts and comments of these technical practitioners, in order to prepare the attached submission.

The submission was reviewed and supported by the People and Place Policy Team, and endorsed by State Council via flying minute on 1 April 2020 ([RESOLUTION 43.FM/2020](#)).

The endorsed submission was lodged with the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety on 3 April 2020.

6.3 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) (01-006-03-0008 RNB)

By Rebecca Brown, Manager Waste and Recycling

Moved: President Cr Karen Chappel
Seconded: President Cr Malcolm Cullen

That the resolutions of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council at its 26 February 2020 meeting be noted.

RESOLUTION 69.2/2020

CARRIED

Executive Summary

- This item relates to the MWAC meeting held on 26 February 2020, key outcomes of this meeting included:
 1. Endorsement of the Submission on the Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement on phasing out certain waste exports
 2. Endorsement of the Plastic Reduction Options for Local Government Paper.

Background

The Municipal Waste Advisory Council is seeking State Council noting of the resolutions from the **26 February 2020** meeting, consistent with the delegated authority granted to the Municipal Waste Advisory Council to deal with waste management issues.

Copies of Agendas and Minutes are available from WALGA staff, on request.

Comment

The key issues considered at the meetings held on **26 February 2020** included:

Regulatory Impact Statement on Export Bans

A Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement on the proposed export bans for glass, plastic, tyres and paper/cardboard has been released. The Paper identifies options for Government interventions in relation to the proposed bans for paper, cardboard, plastic, tyres and glass. The Draft Submission which has been developed identifies the necessary conditions for the bans to be implemented effectively and some of the cost implications for Local Government. The Submission also identifies the need for effective product stewardship schemes for the products covered by the ban.

MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MOTION

That the Municipal Waste Advisory Council endorse the Submission on the Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement on phasing out certain waste exports.

Moved: Mayor Howlett Seconded: Cr Abetz

Plastic Reduction Options for Local Government

In July 2019 MWAC undertook a survey of Local Governments to identify what action the sector was taking in relation to single use plastic. MWAC agreed that a summary of these actions would be developed to inform Local Government decision making. The summary has been developed into a Plastic Reduction Options for Local Government Paper. The Paper investigates the current approaches taken by Local Governments to address single use plastic products in their own operations and in the broader community.

MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MOTION



That the Municipal Waste Advisory Council endorse the Plastic Reduction Options for Local Government Paper.
Moved: Mayor Howlett Seconded: Cr Abetz

7. ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

7.1 Key Activity Reports

7.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Commercial and Communications (01-006-03-0017 ZD)

By Zac Donovan, Executive Manager Commercial and Communications

President Malcolm Cullen left the meeting at 5:21pm

Moved: Cr Julie Brown
Seconded: Cr Jenna Ledgerwood

That the Key Activity Report from the Commercial and Communications unit to the May 2020 State Council meeting be noted.

RESOLUTION 70.2/2020

CARRIED

Cr Ronnie Fleay left the meeting at 5:24pm

Commercial and Communications comprises of the following WALGA work units:

- Commercial Development
- Commercial Management
- LGIS Contract Management
- Marketing and Events
- Media and Advocacy (currently vacant)

The following provides an outline of the most recent key activities of Commercial and Communications:

Commercial Development

Preferred Supplier Contract Development

There are currently evaluations and contracting in process for PSA's including: ICT Services, Library Services, Engineering Consulting Services, Hardware and Automotive supplies, Tender Management Services.

An urgent Tender is being constructed to develop Recruitment Services to replace the Executive Recruitment Services previously provided by WALGA. This development is both complex and significant in scale and scope, and time is being taken to ensure that the approach to market is well structured.

Review, redevelopment and retendering of the following panels is required: Telecommunications, Energy, Legal Services, Business Systems and Software Services, Asset Management Consulting, Signs, Road Building (Regional Suppliers), Ag and Turf, Corporate Wardrobe and PPE, Waste Management Services.

Additionally there are Specialised Truck and Plant/Machinery tenders progressing with the National Purchasing Network which involve a project contribution from WALGA.

Recruitment Replacement Service

The recent restructure of WALGA as endorsed by State Council removed the provision of the WALGA recruitment service. As a replacement for Local Governments requiring the unit is:

- Processing variation proposals to the existing Temporary Personnel Supplier Panel to enable permanent recruitment services.
- Developing a tender to be advertised in mid-April to provide an opportunity for new suppliers to engage with the segment.

It is anticipated that the refreshed panel with function expanded for existing participants and new providers finalised will be completed by June.

Tender Management Replacement Service

In addition the recent WALGA restructure also terminated the tender management service available to Members. To replace the service the unit has undertaken a tender for management services and is currently working through submissions.

It is anticipated that WALGA will select a panel of three providers to offer tender management services to Local Governments. Again it was proposed that this process would be completed by June 1 to coincide with the new WALGA financial year however work has progressed to the stage that completion should be expected by early May.

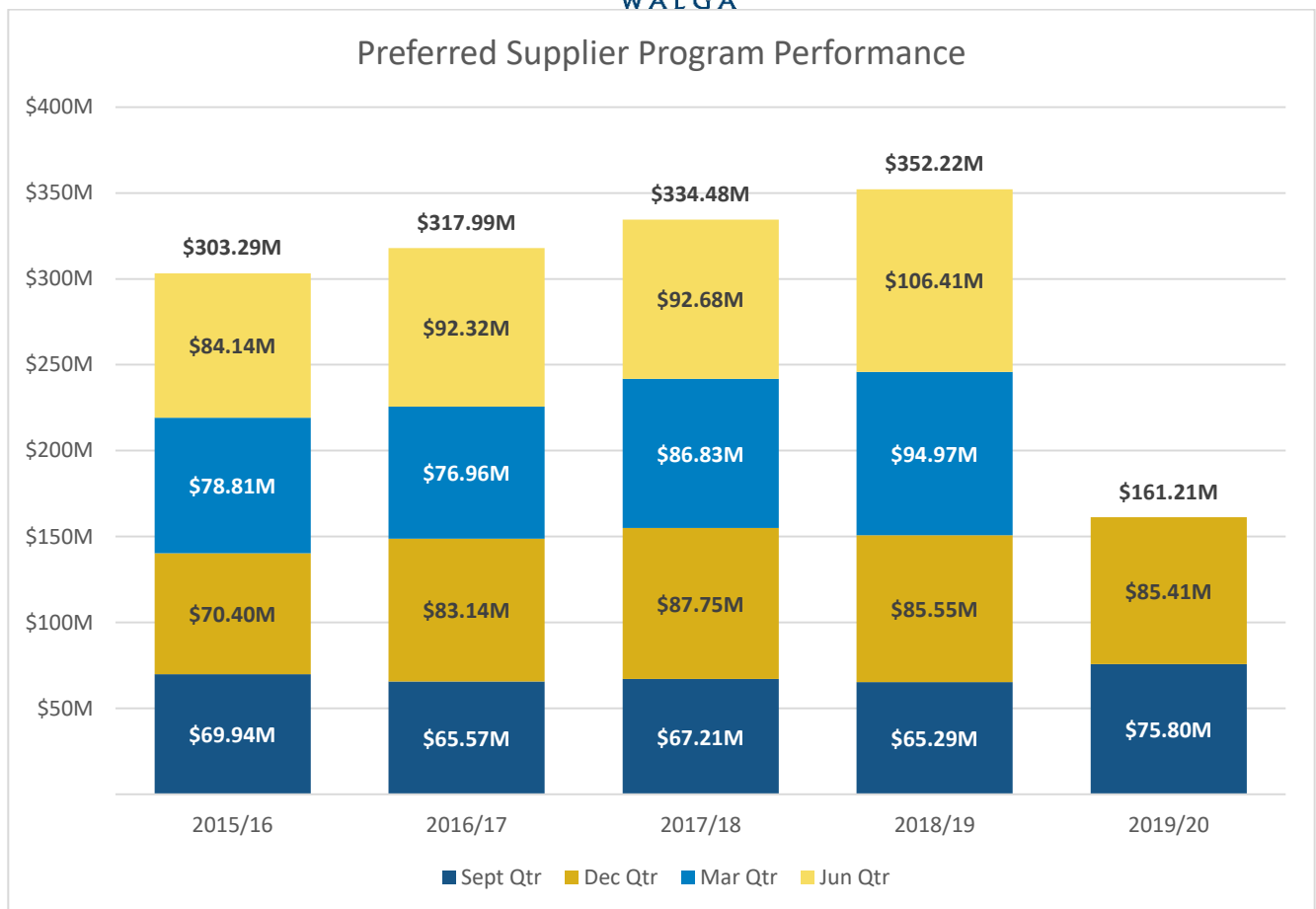
Commercial Management

Finalisation of Tender Services

With the termination of the tender management service, the unit has been required to finalise a number of tender projects that were active when the restructure was implemented. It is anticipated all these projects will be completed by the end of the WALGA financial year.

Preferred Supplier Contract Performance

The following graph to December 2020 shows the supply of \$161.21 million of goods services and works under the Preferred Supplier Program to WALGA Members for the first two operating quarters.



There is immediate concern for the economic impact of COVID19 on Preferred Supplier activity. Reporting for the close of the March 2020 quarter will provide an immediate indicator. The first two months of this Quarter will have represented regular business, however the month of March has seen major disruption to supply chains and service provision.

Marketing and Events

Media Monitoring

Articles on specific topics relating to Local Government over the past two months are considered to be more balanced than negative or positive. This month's media activity defies the usual trend with an equal number of positive and negative articles. Issues that received considerable attention over the past two months included:

- Balanced to positive coverage was recorded on the topic of the **COVID-19 Pandemic**. This topic received the most coverage, and it has been broken down to the following sub-topics:
 - **Budget/ Rates/ Financial Matters:** This topic received the most positive coverage, which related to Local Governments discussing rate freeze and relief packages to assist the community and local businesses. Other coverage related to Local Governments working to rearrange budgets due to the long term financial implication of the pandemic. There were two negative articles, which related to a former Mayor claiming he was not impressed with relief services being put in place and believed Councils could do more. Another negative article related to business owners claiming the Council was imposing a rate rise in the face of the global pandemic, but the Local Government clarified it was a change in rating, not a rate rise per se, and that the decision was made before the pandemic.

- **Operation/ Staffing:** Mostly balanced coverage was recorded on this sub-topic. The majority of the articles related to Local Governments closing its offices and recreation facilities due to the pandemic. Other coverage included Councils using technology to provide virtual assistance and online meetings.
- **Emergency Management:** Completely balanced coverage was recorded on this sub-topic. The majority of the articles related to a pandemic plan being put in place for regional WA and WALGA advising all Local Governments to focus on essential services.
- Negative to balanced coverage was recorded on the topic of **Councils/Council Members in the News**. There were multiple negative articles about a tribunal finding of an inner-city Mayor and CEO who could have abused their power by not responding to the concerns of a former Councillor.

Media Statements

Media Statements released from Tuesday, 17 February to Monday, 6 April were:

Thursday, 5 March	New President for WALGA
Monday, 9 March	Joint Media Release: Peak Bodies Urge Against Abolishing Remote Area Tax Concessions
Thursday, 12 March	Independent Report Reveals Clear Audit for Councils
Friday, 27 March	COVID-19: Emergency Meeting to Support Communities
Monday, 6 April	COVID-19: JobKeeper Snub Will Hurt Communities
Thursday, 9 April	COVID-19: Regulations to Wreck Rates Freeze

Social Media

In this 45 day period between Tuesday, 18 February and Thursday, 2 April:

- **Twitter:** WALGA's Twitter page earned 19.3K impressions, and decreased on the previous period (which was longer). The top tweet for Impressions in this period was a tweet about Mayor Tracey Roberts being elected as WALGA President. The tweet generated 2,245 impressions, 23 engagements and a total engagement rate of 1.0%. The tweet with the highest Engagement rate was a tweet about the COVID-19 webinar that happened on 27 March. The tweet generated 440 impressions, 34 engagements and a total engagement rate of 7.7%. Over this 45 day period, the WALGA Twitter profile gained 23 new followers, giving a total of 1867 followers; with 36 retweets, 66 likes and 38 link clicks.
- **Facebook:** The WALGA Facebook post with the highest reach was a post about disposing of batteries correctly. This post had an organic (unpaid) reach of 5730 people and an engagement rate of 5%. It generated 61 likes, comments and shares. Over this period, the WALGA Facebook page received 64 new likes, taking it to 1725 likes and 87 new followers, taking it to 2044 followers. HHW Temporary Collection Day events were also advertised during the report period until 30 March, when the remainder were cancelled due to COVID-19. In regard to YourEveryday content promotion, a page-promotion ad campaign with the aim of increasing the page following commenced on Thursday, 13 February and ended Tuesday, 24 March. The campaign spent \$999.76 and earned 87,080 impressions, a reach of 24,960 people and the average cost per Like generated was \$1.28. The YourEveryday Facebook page received 585 new likes, taking it to 970 likes and 611 new followers, taking it to 996 followers.
- **Organic Search:** The best performing Organic post on the page featured Kwinana's Recquatic Centre. This post reached 1668 people, gained 3 likes, 3 shares and received 24 post clicks. The engagement rate was 1%.

- **LinkedIn:** The most popular post for Impressions on LinkedIn over this period was a post about Honours Awards. This post had 2187 impressions, 57 clicks, 17 likes and an engagement rate of 3.48%. The post with the highest engagement rate was a post about the COVID-19 webinar, with an engagement rate of 6.64%. 1703 Impressions and 28 likes. Over this period the WALGA LinkedIn page received 120 new followers bringing it to a total of 10,584.

WALGA Events

During the months of February and March, WALGA's Event Team coordinated the following events:

WALGA Welcome to 2020 Drinks

Wednesday, 12 February

ONE70 Courtyard

148 Preferred Suppliers and 49 Local Government Officers registered to attend this cocktail function.

Building Approval Process Workshop

Thursday, 13 February

The Boulevard Centre, Floreat

The Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety – Building and Energy Division has released a Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement titled 'Reforms to the approvals process for commercial buildings in Western Australia'. WALGA has arranged this workshop to discuss this in more detail with members. 35 Local Government Officers attended in person and 8 via webinar.

President's Farewell Cocktails

Wednesday, 19 February

The Ritz-Carlton

More than 130 guest from State and Local Government joint WALGA Senior staff and State Councillors to celebrate and thank outgoing WALGA President Cr Lynne Craigie OAM.

Public Libraries Info Session Allocation Model

Monday, 24 February

WALGA Boardroom

95 Local Government Officers registered to attend the forum to discuss the review of and proposed changes to the allocation model for the distribution of State Government public library materials funding in preparation for the implementation of the new Tiered Model in July 2020.

Proposed Work Health and Safety Laws and Wage Theft Seminar

Tuesday, 25 February

WALGA Boardroom

43 Local Government Officers attended the WALGA Employee Relations and HWL Ebsworth Lawyers joint seminar on the proposed changes to the Western Australian work health and safety laws and the hot topic of 'wage theft'. The seminar provided information to assist Local Governments in understanding the key issues and the steps needed to meet these challenges head on in 2020.

Social distancing restrictions enacted in response to COVID-19 resulted in the following proposed events to be cancelled:

- Harnessing People Power: Increasing Local Government Support for Volunteers

- Tuesday, 24 March (now cancelled)*
- Waste 101: Workshop & Tour
- Friday, 27 March (now cancelled)*
- Field Tour of Lake Algal Bloom Management – Floating Vegetated Islands
- Tuesday, 31 March (now cancelled)*
- Mayors and Presidents Forum
- Friday, 3 April (now cancelled)*
- Exploring Local Government Alliances/Partnerships to address Climate Change
- Wednesday, 8 April (now cancelled)*
- Urban Forest Conference
- Friday, 17 April (now cancelled)*

7.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Governance and Organisational Services (01-006-03-0007 TB)

By Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Services

Moved: Cr Julie Brown

Seconded: Cr Jenna Ledgerwood

That the Key Activity Report from the Governance and Organisational Services Unit to the May 2020 State Council meeting be noted.

RESOLUTION 71.2/2020

CARRIED

Governance and Organisational Services comprises of the following WALGA work units:

- Governance Support for Members
- Employee Relations
- Training
- Regional Capacity Building
- Strategy & Association Governance

The following provides an outline of the key activities of Governance and Organisational Services since the last State Council meeting.

Employee Relations

Ministerial Review of State IR System

The State Government tabled a report into the review of the State industrial relations (IR) system in April 2019. The report recommends that Local Governments be regulated by the State IR system rather than the national IR system. To date there has been little acknowledgement of the amount of work, time, cost and resources involved in transitional from one IR system to another by the State Government.

In a survey conducted in late 2019 85 Local Governments responded to a survey and of those 98% oppose the State Government's recommendation, 8.2% are neutral and 4.8% support the State Governments recommendation.

WALGA has launched a political campaign and contacted Federal and State Ministers advocating against the recommendation. To date a meeting has been conducted with Mr Peter Katsambanis MLA. Due to COVID-19 other meetings have been cancelled and will be re-scheduled in coming months.

Local Government Industry Award

WALGA ER has continued to advocate for WA Local Governments with regard to the casual and overtime provisions in the Local Government Industry Award 2010 (**Award**). WALGA ER has filed a number of submissions and advocated on behalf of the Australian Local Government Associations to propose clearer wording to the casual employee provisions to clarify that casual loading is not payable to a casual employee when they are working overtime or on public holidays.

In response to COVID-19 the Fair Work Commission is proposing interim amendments to the Award to assist Local Governments and employees during this unprecedented time.

Association Governance

Zone and State Council Meetings

Due to the ongoing restrictions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, all Zone and State Council meetings are being held remotely using teleconference or videoconference platforms.

The May 2020 State Council meeting was due to be held as a regional meeting, hosted by the South Metropolitan Zone at the City of Cockburn, held in conjunction with the South Metropolitan Zone Forum. However this function has been cancelled, with the State Council meeting scheduled to be held via videoconference.

2020 Annual General Meeting

The cancellation of the Local Government Convention, due to be held in August, has impacts on the 2020 WALGA Annual General Meeting.

Work is ongoing in relation to alternative options for the Annual General Meeting and members will be advised in due course.

Sector Governance Support

Local Government Financial Ratios

An agenda item was prepared for the November/December 2019 round of Zone and State Council meetings in respect to Local Government Financial Ratios.

Currently, there are seven financial performance indicators which are required to be included in the annual financial report of a Local Government under section 6.4(2) of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 50 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996. Over a number of years there has been mounting concern as to the appropriateness of these indicators in providing a reasonable benchmark and measure of the financial performance of all local governments in WA.

WALGA has contracted a Local Government Financial consultant to provide recommendations on meaningful ratios and what the recommended indicators are for each ratio.

Following Zone input, the WALGA State Council resolved as follows;

That the item on Financial Ratios be deferred and that WALGA form a Sector Reference Group to further review the ratios including all Zone feedback and provide recommendations to the May 2020 State Council meeting.

Expressions of interest were sought and 40 Local Government professionals registered to participate in the reference group. Meetings will be scheduled over the next couple of months and a report will be prepared suggesting new ratios to a future round of Zone and State Council meetings.

Local Government Act Review – Phase 1 Update

The Local Government Legislation Amendment Act 2019 introduced a range of amendments to the Local Government Act including requirements for Elected Member training, reviewed gift provisions for Elected Members and CEO's and increased access to public information.

A number of provisions from the Amendment Act have yet to commence and in December 2019, State Council adopted resolutions in relation to the draft Mandatory Code of Conduct and draft Chief Executive Officer Standards for Recruitment, Performance Review and Termination, requesting further consultation on these issues.

The Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries focus has been re-directed to COVID-19 legislative and regulatory priorities and a timeframe for completion of the drafts has been deferred in the short term.

Additionally, a number of other Amendment Act provisions have yet to commence including the requirement for a Council Member training and development policy; changes to the authorisations process; policy for temporary employment of CEO; and publishing information such as primary and annual returns online.

Local Government Act Review – Phase 2

The Minister for Local Government has advised that the expert panel reviewing the next stage of the Act review process, will finalise their work by 30 April 2020 and present a report to the Minister.

The Minister has advised that progression of the Act review process is on hold whilst the COVID-19 response is taking place.

Training

WALGA's in-person and on-site training has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. WALGA training is looking to provide virtual training classrooms in the near future and these training courses will be advertised for attendance.

WALGA's eLearning offering continues and is available for anyone interested in this mode of learning. In respect to the Universal training subjects (Council Member Essentials) the following is the status on the availability of the courses by eLearning;

- Introduction to Local Government - available
- Meeting Procedures - available
- Conflicts of Interest – available
- Serving on Council – available from 30 April 2020
- Understanding Financial Reports and Budgeting – available from 31 July 2020

Any queries on training please contact the WALGA Training team

7.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure (05-001-02-0003 ID)

By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure

Moved: Cr Julie Brown
Seconded: Cr Jenna Ledgerwood

That the Key Activity Report from the Infrastructure Unit to the May 2020 State Council meeting be noted.

RESOLUTION 72.2/2020

CARRIED

Roads

Condition Assessment of Roads of Regional Significance

Funds have been provided through the *State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement* to perform condition surveys of all the Roads of Regional Significance. For the first phase, Talis Consultants have been engaged to survey roads in the Mid West region including recording video of regionally significant unsealed roads. Due to ongoing COVID-19 challenges it is unclear when the fieldwork will be completed. These surveys will provide a consistent dataset for the Regional Road Group to consider in funding decisions.

State Road Funds to Local Government Procedures

Main Roads WA has distributed to Regional Road Groups the reviewed procedures for the *State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement 2018/19 to 2022/23*. Feedback on the reviewed procedures is required to Main Roads WA by 17 April 2020.

Proposed Removal of the CA07 RAV operating condition

On advice from the State Solicitors Office, Main Roads WA is intending to remove the CA07 condition that requires a transport operator to obtain a letter of approval from the relevant Local Government. Main Roads WA is proposing to replace the condition with a notification process (CA88). After consultation with the sector, WALGA has written to Main Roads WA stating that WALGA does not support the alternative and will uphold the position adopted by State Council in December 2018. Main Roads have not responded and the status quo (CA07) remains in place.

ROADS 2040: Development Strategies for Regionally Significant Local Roads

Work has commenced to review the criteria for roads to be included in the development strategies for regionally significant roads, which are those roads eligible for Road Project Grant funding through the *State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement*. Guidance for Regional Road Groups is also being prepared to support development of the next version of this important strategic document. The current version, ROADS 2030, was published in 2013 with some updates published since.

Funding

State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement 2018/19 to 2022/23

A review of the level of funding (\$196 million for 2019/20) under the *State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement* was completed. This identified the rationale for increased funding and proposed application of additional funding across a range of Local Government priorities. A proposal has been developed that provides an increase of \$83 million per year by 2022/23, which restores the funding to 27% of vehicle licence fee revenue in that year. This is a 35% increase on the amount

currently included in State Budget forecasts. The WALGA CEO and two State Councillors met with the Hon. Minister of Transport, Rita Saffioti in early March to present the proposal.

Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network

Pre-construction activities were completed for the first two sections of road to be improved under the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network Program. A project manager has been appointed and hosting arrangements completed. Video and photographs of these road sections were recorded. Construction work commenced in late January 2020. The impact of COVID19 on the availability of specialist contractors to provide stabilisation and sealing services is a risk to timely project delivery.

Urban and Regional Transport

Shared Path Guidelines

WALGA is jointly developing guidelines for delivering shared paths with the Department of Transport (DOT). Draft guidelines were put out for public comment by the DOT. WALGA collected and consolidated feedback from Local Government on the draft guidelines and provided a report to DOT. Final guidelines are expected to be released in the near future and will need to be considered when preparing funding applications and delivering projects funded under the Perth and Regional Bicycle Network Grants programs.

Parking review

WALGA is developing a guideline parking policy, in collaboration with the Department of Transport and a Local Government senior officer working group. A discussion paper has been drafted and opened for consultation. Further research is being undertaken to inform the guidelines. This will include detailed case studies, drawn from the experience of Local Governments in Western Australia.

State Underground Power Program

Ten of the seventeen projects approved under the current Round 6 of the State Underground Power Program have been completed or are under construction. A further one is ready to commence construction. However, there are difficult decisions to be made with some of the remaining projects where either final costs are above the estimates used to survey ratepayers when measuring support for the project or Councils are keen to be assured that the strong support expressed through surveys in 2016 remains. The Association is working with affected Councils, Energy Policy WA and Western Power to find solutions that can work in the current environment.

Road Safety

Road Safety Council Update

The recent meetings of the Road Safety Council have been focused on the next road safety strategy and on the Road Trauma Trust Account (RTTA) budget for 2020-21.

A new road safety strategy has been drafted, based on: research, statistical modelling, community consultation feedback, stakeholder input and international best practice evidence.

RoadWise Activity

To find out more about RoadWise activities, view the monthly newsletter at <https://www.roadwise.asn.au/roadwise-road-safety-newsletter.aspx> and visit the RoadWise Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WALGARoadWise/>.

7.1.4 Report on Key Activities, Strategy, Policy and Planning (01-006-03-0014 MJB)

By Mark Batty, Executive Manager Strategy, Policy and Planning

Moved: Cr Julie Brown
Seconded: Cr Jenna Ledgerwood

That the Key Activity Report from the Strategy, Policy and Planning Team to the May 2020 State Council meeting be noted.

RESOLUTION 73.2/2020

CARRIED

The following provides an outline of the key activities of the Strategy, Policy and Planning Portfolio since the last State Council meeting.

ORGANISATIONAL REALIGNMENT

The organisational review in the first quarter of 2020 has seen the combining of the People and Place portfolio with the Environment and Waste portfolio and the Economic portfolio to form the Strategy, Policy and Planning portfolio. All future Key Activity Reports will be reported under the new portfolio heading of Strategy, Policy and Planning.

For this agenda, please note that all Community and Emergency Management resources have instead been dedicated to supporting the sector through participation in the WALGA COVID-19 Response Team.

PLANNING

Performance Monitoring Report – 2018-19 edition

The third version of the Local Government Performance Monitoring Report on the planning and building functions of Local Government has been finalised. This year's data is from 26 Local Governments and shows that the majority of Local Governments continue to meet statutory timeframes for approvals and referrals. For the first time regional and rural Local Governments participated in the project, with 5 providing data. Participants now equate to 77% of the states total population and 94% of all population growth between 2008 and 2018, and thus form a represented sample which is likely to be applicable to other Local Governments. The final report is available [here](#).

State Government response - Short Term Accommodation

The State Government recently provided its response to the Economics and Industry Standing Committee's Enquiry into Short-Stay Accommodation. This can be viewed [here](#). The government has accepted 9 of the Committee's 10 recommendations. The State Government will move to establish a centralised state-wide registration scheme for all short-stay accommodation and also work to establish regulation to ensure that online platforms are required to display a venue's registration number on any listing. An inter-governmental working group is to be established to guide the creation of the new framework.

Further, the State will work to both update the current planning guidance around short-stay accommodation and also provide more contemporary land use definitions for both 'hosted' and 'un-hosted' short-stay accommodation. Both these items have been long standing advocacy items for the Association.

Scheme Resolutions

The Scheme Resolution Guide provides a standardised manner in which Local Government officers can present Scheme Amendment Resolutions to Council for a decision. The guide, which is voluntary, is an attempt to create greater uniformity across the sector. It is hoped that the Guide will be particularly useful for those Local Governments that only process a Scheme Amendment once every few years. The Guide can be viewed and downloaded [here](#).

Decisions of WA Courts and Tribunals – Case Notes

The State Government regularly publishes the proceedings from Western Australian courts and tribunals. WALGA's planning team scans these proceedings for decisions which may be relevant to planning departments and summarises key points of interest into short case notes. There are 33 case notes currently available to members [here](#), on the planning improvement portal.

ENVIRONMENT

New initiative for Local Governments across Australia to work together for action on Climate Change

A National Climate Emergency Summit was held in Melbourne on 14-15 February, with a range of speakers from different sectors calling for urgent action to address climate change. As part of the summit, a workshop was held for Local Government elected members and officers to discuss establishing a national network to explore what a climate emergency transition could look like at Local Government level.

Over 160 people from over 90 Local Governments around Australia attended the workshop, split evenly between elected members and officers. WALGA Environment Policy Advisor Dr Garry Middle and representatives from the City of Fremantle, The City of Vincent and the Shire of Mundaring also attended.

Workshop attendees considered questions about the barriers to taking action on climate change, the merits of having a national network of Local Governments, and what a network could look like. It was identified that a key advantage of a network would be advocacy and speaking with a strong collective voice. Key concerns were identified regarding the possible duplication of other initiatives and how such a network would be resourced.

National Coastal Hazards Working Group established

Coastal Local Governments in WA have been proactive in carrying out adaptation planning for the expected impacts of climate change that includes increased erosion and inundation. These impacts will be felt nationally, and the WA Government recently called for a national response to address these issues. In November 2019, a national Meeting of Environment Ministers (MEM) agreed to "establish an intergovernmental working group to collate existing information on coastal erosion and inundation hazard risk management and propose a collaborative approach to coastal erosion for consideration through a future Meeting of Environment Ministers."

The Working Group is chaired by WA and is made up of representatives from the relevant State and Territory agencies, and two representatives from WALGA, representing the interests of all Australian coastal Local Governments.

The Working Group is required to provide a final report to the MEM later this year.

Local Government Urban Forest Working Group

The Working Group meeting was held on 4 March, at the Canning River Eco Education Centre and was attended by representatives from 19 Local Governments. The meeting focused on data options to support urban forest mapping and management. It included presentations from the City of Canning on an example of transforming underutilised utility land to increase green space, the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage's (DPLH) Urban Forest Data Dashboard, and WALGA's LGmap.

Preparations for WALGA's Trees in a Liveable City: An Urban Forest Conference, planned for 17 April 2020, were postponed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The conference will be rescheduled.

LGmap (formerly known as the Environmental Planning Tool)

A new promotional video has been released that demonstrates the benefits of LGmap and its application to a broad range of Local Government business. The short snapshot of the LGmap functionality is available on WALGA's website through a [video link](#).

Following recommendations of the Local Government Urban Forest Working Group, LGmap now includes mapping of the Urban Heat Island Index for the Perth region, based on CSIRO's 2018-19 data.

LGmap users have been notified about a continued opportunity for training via webinar, which was utilised in March by the Shire of Narrogin. In March, LGmap demonstrations were delivered to DWER and DBCA and a trial was set up for the City of Bayswater.

EnviroNews

The March, April, and May editions of EnviroNews can be accessed electronically on the WALGA website [here](#). The May edition is scheduled for release on 27 May.

7.2 Policy Forum Reports

7.2 Policy Forum Reports (01-006-03-0007 TB)

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

Moved: President Cr Karen Chappel
Seconded: Cr Chris Mitchell

That the report on the Key Activities of the Association's Policy Forums to the May State Council Meeting be noted.

RESOLUTION 74.2/2020

CARRIED

Policy Forums

The following Policy Forums have been established

- Mayors / Presidents Policy Forum
- Container Deposit Legislation Policy Forum
- Mining Communities Policy Forum
- Economic Development Policy Forum

All Policy Forums have not held meeting since the last State Council meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

7.3 President's Report

Moved: Cr Chris Mitchell
Seconded: Mayor Logan Howlett

That the President's Report for May 2020 be received.

RESOLUTION 75.2/2020

CARRIED

7.4 CEO's Report

Moved: Cr Chris Mitchell
Seconded: President Cr Malcolm Cullen

That the CEO's Report for May 2020 be received.

RESOLUTION 76.2/2020

CARRIED

7.5 Ex-Officio Reports

7.5.1 LG Professionals Report

Mr Jamie Parry, President, LG Professionals provided an update to the meeting.

7.5.2 City of Perth Report

Mr Andrew Hammond, Chair Commissioner, City of Perth provided an update to the meeting.

8. ADDITIONAL ZONE RESOLUTIONS

Moved: President Cr Michelle Rich
Seconded: Cr Julie Brown

That the item from the Peel Zone in respect to “Local Government Rate and Waste Collection Revenue” be discussed.

RESOLUTION 77.2/2020

CARRIED

Moved: President Cr Michelle Rich
Seconded: Cr Julie Brown

Local Government Rate and Waste Collection Revenue

That WALGA immediately begin lobbying the Federal Government to provide immediate support for the collective communities of Australia by funding the entire Local Government Rate and Waste Collection revenue for the 2020/21 budget year.

RESOLUTION 78.2/2020

LOST

Moved: President Cr Michelle Rich
Seconded: Cr Doug Thompson

Local Government Rate and Waste Collection Revenue

That WALGA immediately begin lobbying the Federal Government to provide immediate support for the collective communities of Australia.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

Moved: Cr Tony Dean
Seconded: President Cr Stephen Strange

That the following motion be put.

CARRIED

That WALGA immediately begin lobbying the Federal Government to provide immediate support for the collective communities of Australia.

The motion was put and lost.

RESOLUTION 79.2/2020

LOST

President Cr Cheryl Cowell left the meeting at 6:26pm.

Moved: Mayor Logan Howlett
Seconded: Cr Chris Mitchell

That the additional Zone Resolutions from the May 2020 round of Zones meetings as follows be referred to the appropriate policy area for consideration and appropriate action.

RESOLUTION 80.2/2020

CARRIED

SOUTH WEST COUNTRY ZONE

Payments to Volunteers Impacted by Emergency Events – People and Place

That the South West Country Zone request WALGA to advocate for the State and Commonwealth Governments to introduce a payment system for emergency services volunteers to partially offset their income lost when volunteering in emergency events.

NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE

Exemption for Western Power to Attend to Power Outages during Total Fire Bans and Harvest Vehicle Movement Bans – People and Place

That the Northern Country Zone approach the WALGA State Council seeking from DFES an exemption for Western Power to attend to power outages during times of Total Fire Ban (TFB) and/or Harvest/Vehicle Movement Bans. The exemption is to be conditional upon DFES obtaining endorsement from the local Chief Bushfire Control Officer (CBFCO) or the local Fire Control Officer (FCO) of there being adequate fire control equipment accompanying Western Power at these times.

GASCOYNE COUNTRY ZONE

Local Law Process – Governance and Organisational Services

That WALGA advocate for the Local Law making process to be streamlined as part of the Review of the Local Government Act.

PEEL ZONE

Revaluation of Properties - Governance and Organisational Services

That WALGA:

1. Advises the State Government that this is a critical issue for the Local Government sector and it is contrary to the intent of the States Zero rates increase;
2. Continues to advocate on behalf of all Local Governments that the revaluation process should be deferred to the 2021/22 financial year, given the confusion that will occur for ratepayers following the direction from the State outlining a freeze on rates because of the COVID19 pandemic;
3. Seeks a legal opinion on ratepayers rights to receive a zero rates rise, given most Local Governments have publicly stated that rates will not increase; and
4. Undertakes a communications campaign on valuations and rates given the complexity of setting the rates.

Rates on Subsidised Housing - Governance and Organisational Services

That WALGA facilitate a working party made up of interested Local Governments to liaise with the sector in general, prepare a report and to lobby the state government for:

- An amendment to the *Local Government Act 1995* to provide for a clearer definition around what constitutes a charitable purpose;
- Whether such definition should apply to residential properties that are leased for a financial consideration;
- To request the Department of Housing consider granting Local Government an ex-gratia payment of rates on properties they lease to third parties that subsequently successfully claim rates exemption; and
- Any other item pertinent to the matter

SOUTH METROPOLITAN ZONE

Advocate against Modern Slavery – Governance and Organisational Services

1. That WALGA encourages all Local Governments in WA to take a stand against modern slavery
2. That WALGA introduces the following clauses into the procurement policy template to ensure all Local Governments in WA are taking all steps possible to reduce the risk of using goods or services that support modern slavery.
 - including clauses in supplier contracts obliging them to be familiar with and to comply with the requirements of the *Modern Slavery Act 2018*;
 - Request suppliers to complete periodical questionnaires relating to the sources of their products, materials and business practices and compliance with the requirements of the new legislation;
 - periodically audit suppliers to ensure compliance and address remediation steps to be taken where non-compliance is found to exist; and
 - providing training to employees.

Public Open Spaces – People and Place

That WALGA lobby the State Government to increase the provision of Public Open Space from the current minimum of 10% to a new minimum of 20% and mechanisms to generate additional open space in areas of significant infill development.

Support for Local Government – Governance and Organisational Services

That the South Metropolitan Zone:

1. Request WALGA to advocate to State Government to establish a state based mechanism to help fund the necessary activities of Local Governments in WA proportional to the revenue they have lost because of COVID-19 shut downs.
2. Request WALGA to advocate at the national level for Local Government in its dealing with the Federal Government, in particular regarding access to JobKeeper and additional Financial Assistance Grants.

CENTRAL METROPOLITAN ZONE

Process Surrounding Dilapidation Reports – People and Place

The Central Zone strongly recommends WALGA lodge a submission to State Government, in support for formal registration of practitioners conducting dilapidation reports to industry standards.

Financial Incentive Mechanisms – Governance and Organisational Services

That WALGA requests the Minister of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and the WA State Government to retain the financial incentive mechanisms that enable Local Governments to collect rates and charges for delivery of services to our community of residents.

EAST METROPOLITAN ZONE

WALGA Advocacy in Relation to Aboriginal Communities and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) – People and Place

WALGA advocate to Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians Ken Wyatt and State Ministers Ben Wyatt and Peter Tinley for the State Government to ensure that vulnerable Aboriginal communities and ACCOs are provided additional support during the COVID-19 pandemic to enable the continuation of their services and activities.

East Metro Zone Local Government Responses to COVID19 – Governance and Organisational Services

That WALGA facilitate the sharing between the Zone CEOs of a summary of each Zone members' COVID19 responses.

9. MEETING ASSESSMENT

Moved: Mayor Ruth Butterfield
Seconded: President Cr Tony Dean

That WALGA'S Corporate Governance Charter be amended to remove the requirement for a Meeting Assessment to be carried out at State Council meetings.

RESOLUTION 81.2/2020

CARRIED

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

That the next meeting of the Western Australia Local Government Association State Council be held on **Wednesday 3 June 2020** commencing 4pm.

11. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 6:30pm

State Council Status Report

COMPLETE STATUS REPORT ON STATE COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS To the May 2020 State Council Meeting

MEETING DATE	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
2020 March 4 Item 4.1 Stop Puppy Farming Legislation	That WALGA write to the Minister and request that he withdraw the Stop Puppy Farming Bill and more appropriately consult with the sector, traditional custodians and the wider community, or failing that, that he remove any reference to Local Government in the bill as the sector does not endorse it in its current form. <u>RESOLUTION 13.1/2020</u>	Correspondence has been sent to the Minister for Local Government advising of State Councils position	Ongoing	Tony Brown Exec Manager Governance & Association Services
2020 March 4 Item 5.1 National Redress Scheme – Future Participation of WA Local Governments	That State Council: 1. Acknowledge the State Government's decision to include the participation of Local Governments in the National Redress Scheme as part of the State's declaration; 2. Endorse the negotiation of a Memorandum of Understanding and Template Service Agreement with the State Government, and 3. Endorse by Flying Minute the Memorandum of Understanding prior to execution, in order to uphold requirements to respond within legislative timeframes. <u>RESOLUTION 14.1/2020</u>	WALGA has commenced drafting the MOU and Template Service Agreement with the State Government.	Ongoing	Mark Batty Exec Manager Environment & Waste
2020 March 4 Item 5.2 Submission on Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy	That the submission to the Department of Premier and Cabinet in response to the Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy be endorsed; subject to the word 'good' is deleted and the word 'fulfilling' inserted on pages 10 and 17 of the submission. <u>RESOLUTION 15.1/2020</u>	The Submission was provided to the Department of Premier and Cabinet by the due date.	Completed	Mark Batty Exec Manager Environment & Waste

MEETING DATE	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
2020 March 4 Item 8 Additional Zone Resolutions Federal Government Drought Communities Program	That State Council endorse the recommendation from the Great Eastern Country Zone relating to the Federal Government Drought Communities Program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the Great Eastern Country Zone requests WALGA, in consultation with ALGA, to liaise with the WA State Government Ministers for Water, Agriculture and Environment to provide a coordinated holistic response in respect to the ongoing drying climate issues and access to the Drought Communities Funding Program. <u>RESOLUTION 37.1/2020</u>			Mark Batty Exec Manager Environment & Waste
2019 Dec 4 Item 4.1 Bushfire Fighting Vehicles	That WALGA State Council: 1. Note this issue and support the concerns raised. 2. Commit to working collectively with Local Governments to resolve this issue with the State Government and Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) as a matter of urgency. <u>RESOLUTION 141.7/2019</u>	1. WALGA noted the concerns and has raised these with the Commissioner of DFES. 2. WALGA facilitated attendance by DFES at a meeting with the Shire of Esperance to discuss concerns raised and options for improvements to their fleet. It has been reported to WALGA that the actions were to trial large tyres and central tyre inflation systems (2 x Tankers), work is progressing on both. Furthermore, a Bushfire Fleet Mobility Working Group is scheduled to meet 17 February 2020.	Ongoing	Mark Batty Exec Manager Environment & Waste
2019 Dec 4 Item 5.3 Mandatory Code of Conduct for Council Member, Committee Members and Candidates – Sector Feedback	That WALGA: 1. Request the Mandatory Code of Conduct Working Group be reconvened by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries; 2. Refer the following matters to the Working Group for further consideration: (a) <u>Part A – Principles - Supported</u> (b) Part B – Behaviours i. ensuring principles of natural justice can be adequately upheld in all circumstances;	Correspondence has been sent to the Director General of the Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries advising of the Council resolution on this issue. A formal response on this issue has not been received. The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries are currently focusing on legislative and regulatory amendments relating to COVID-19.	Ongoing	Tony Brown Exec Manager Governance & Association Services

MEETING DATE	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. training opportunities that will assist Council Members determine complaint outcomes under Part B; iii. development of a template Complaints Management Policy; iv. reconsider the purpose of allowing 'any person' to make a complaint; v. ensuring Committee Members and Candidates are included in Part B; and vi. re-naming 'Rules' to an appropriate term throughout Part B. vii. <u>Develop a complaint process that is carried out by DLGSC or another party (which must be external of the local government). For any breach of the Code (being part b or part c) and where the Council, Mayor/President or CEO are not the decision makers in determining whether the breach has or has not occurred and/or whether any action is required.</u> <p>(c) Part C – Rules of Conduct</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. review the rationale for creating a new Rule of Conduct breach where three or more breaches of Part B – Behaviours are found and the Local Government resolves to refer the matter to the Local Government Standards Panel; and ii. review the proposal to amend the definition of an 'interest' relating to Impartiality Interests from the present definition in Regulation 11 of the Local Government (Rules of Conduct) Regulations. iii. <u>Develop a complaint process that is carried out by DLGSC or another party (which must be external of the local government). For</u> 			

MEETING DATE	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
	<p><u>any breach of the Code (being part b or part c) and where the Council, Mayor/President or CEO are not the decision makers in determining whether the breach has or has not occurred and/or whether any action is required.</u></p> <p>iv <u>Review the appropriateness of the elements of the rule of conduct to only apply to a person who is a Council Member or Candidate both at the time of the conduct and at the time of the panel decision.</u></p> <p>3. Recommend the Working Group develop an endorsed Mandatory Code of Conduct for further consultation with the Local Government sector.</p> <p><u>RESOLUTION 144.7/2019</u></p>			
2019 Dec 4 Item 5.4 Standards & Guidelines for CEO Recruitment & Selection Performance Review & Termination – Sector Feedback	<p>That WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Request the CEO Recruitment and Selection, Performance Review and Termination Working Group be reconvened by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries; and 2. Refer the following matters to the Working Group for consideration: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Removal from the Model Standards the requirement to readvertise CEO positions after 10 years of continuous service; (b) Encouraging, rather than mandating, the involvement of an independent person in 	<p>Correspondence has been sent to the Director General of the Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries advising of the Council resolution on this issue.</p> <p>A formal response on this issue has not been received. The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries are currently focusing on legislative and regulatory amendments relating to COVID-19.</p>	Ongoing	Tony Brown Exec Manager Governance & Association Services

MEETING DATE	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
	<p>the CEO Recruitment and Selection Process;</p> <p>(c) Reconsideration of the proposal for independent review of the recruitment process;</p> <p>(d) Support the role of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries as the regulator for monitoring and compliance; and</p> <p>(e) Further investigate a role for a Local Government Commissioner.</p> <p>3. Recommend the Working Group develop endorsed Model Standards for further consultation with the Local Government sector.</p> <p><u>RESOLUTION 145.7/2019</u></p>			
2019 Dec 4 Item 5.5 Local Government Financial Ratios	<p>That the item on Financial Ratios be deferred and that WALGA form a Sector Reference Group to further review the ratios including all Zone feedback and provide recommendations to the May 2020 State Council meeting.</p> <p><u>RESOLUTION 146.7/2019</u></p>	<p>Expressions of interest have been sought from Local Government professionals to participate in a Sector Reference Group and it is anticipated that meetings to review the current ratios and recommend new ratios will be held over the next two months.</p> <p>Registrations of Interest have been received from 40 Local Government representatives. The working group will commence work following issues relating to COVID-19 reducing.</p>	May 2020	Tony Brown Exec Manager Governance & Association Services
2019 Dec 4 Item 5.6 Local Government Audits	<p>That WALGA:</p> <p>1. Write to the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) advising of the cost increases to the Local Government sector in respect to financial audits over the first 2 years of the OAG audits and request:</p> <p>a) Constraint on the audit cost increases in the future</p> <p>b) Information in relation to the additional scope, testing and review requirements under the OAG in order for local governments to understand the increase in costs.</p>	<p>Correspondence has been sent to the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) in respect to items 1, 2 and 3.</p> <p>Correspondence has been sent to the Minister for Local Government in respect to item 4.</p>	Ongoing	Tony Brown Exec Manager Governance & Association Services

MEETING DATE	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
	<p>2. Write to the Office of the Auditor General seeking a formal commitment that audits of Local Governments are completed and reported on in a timely manner and that the processes, procedures and scope of audits are consistently applied.</p> <p>3. Write to the Office of the Auditor General seeking to include in the "Audit Results Report" for each financial year, a report on the effectiveness and additional value to Local Governments that the responsibility of Financial Audits being assigned to the Office of the Auditor General has provided.</p> <p>4. Write to the Minister for Local Government seeking formal commitment that Performance Audits carried out by the Office of the Auditor General are the financial responsibility of the State Government.</p> <p><u>RESOLUTION 147.7/2019</u></p>			
2019 Dec 4 Item 5.8 Membership of Development Assessment Panels	<p>That WALGA advocate to the Minister for Planning, that the composition of Development Assessment Panels (DAPs) be modified to provide equal representation of Specialist Members and Local Government Members, in accordance with the original objectives of the DAP system to enhance the decision making process by improving the balance of experts.</p> <p><u>RESOLUTION 149.7/2019</u></p>	<p>Correspondence has been sent to the Minister for Planning, seeking the change in the composition of Development Assessment Panels.</p> <p>The following response has been received:</p> <p><i>"As you are aware the recently released Action Plan for Planning Reform proposes several reforms and improvements to DAP systems and processes. These will provide a consistent robust DAP process reducing potential conflicts of interest and promote consistency of decision making, thereby addressing many of the perceived issues with the current system.</i></p> <p><i>As you have noted, the composition of local government representation is not being considered as part of the current planning reform process, however, a number of other significant reforms are proposed. The most notable being a reduced number of DAPs to no more than three and the engagement of specialist members on a full time basis. This will be supported by the establishment of a pool of non-voting subject matter experts to provide DAPs with independent, expert advice as required.</i></p>	Ongoing	Mark Batty Exec Manager Environment & Waste

MEETING DATE	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
		<p><i>It is my intention that these reforms will enhance the decision making process by providing greater consistency and transparency. The reduced number of DAPs and the engagement of full time specialist members will also allow specialist members to gain a greater level of local expertise therefore further enhancing the process.</i></p> <p><i>Thank you for raising this with me and I encourage WALGA and the local government industry to remain an active participant in the planning reform process."</i></p> <p>These proposed changes to the DAPs composition, will require amendment to the DAP Regulations, therefore, the matter of Local Government equal representation will be raised again as part of the public comment period.</p>		
2019 Dec 4 Item 5.10 Local Government as Collection Agency for Construction Training Fund	1. That WALGA advise the Construction Training Fund (CTF): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 That due to the operational improvements and establishment of an on-line portal for payments of the Building and Construction Industry Training Fund, Local Government will not continue to be a collection agency for these payments 1.2 That the online receipt issued upon payment of the <i>Building and Construction Industry Training Fund</i>, must clearly show the property address and estimated building value to ensure it complies with section 20 of the <i>Building Act 2011</i> 1.3 That the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) must provide access to the data collated in the Building Permit Database Project to assist CTF in their acquittal process, and 1.4 That a review of the apprenticeship pathways should be undertaken, as the Local Government sector can provide many potential apprentice pathways directly connected to the construction and development industry. 2. That WALGA advise the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Education & Training and Minister for Commerce that the current	<p>Correspondence has been sent to the CTF Board advising them of the State Council Resolution. Separate letters have also been sent to the Ministers for Commerce, Education and Training and Local Government to seek their support.</p> <p>The CTF Executive Director has responded, advising the following:</p> <p><i>"While 37 of the State's 140 LGAs responded to the WALGA's recent survey about collection of the BCITF, CTF is concerned that stakeholders in the building and construction industry – who would be affected by the changes to current permit allocation procedure – have not to date been consulted. As such, CTF has approached HIA an MBA for feedback from their members..."</i></p> <p>CTF advised that they will meet with WALGA once feedback from the building and construction industry has been received before establishing a way forward to address the issues arising from the State Council's recommendation.</p> <p>The Minister for Commerce has also provided a response, indicating that they will be working with the CTF to enable access to the data already being captured by the Building Permit Database project. If a local government isn't providing this data, the CTF may still require information direct from those Local Governments.</p> <p>The Minister for Education & Training has also provided a response, similar in content to the CTF letter, that Local Government provides a 'one stop shop' for Industries payment of the fees.</p> <p>Awaiting the CTF to arrange a meeting on the issue.</p>	Ongoing	Mark Batty Exec Manager Environment & Waste

MEETING DATE	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
	<p>CTF collection process is unnecessary administrative red tape for the Local Government sector, and seek their support for Local Government to not continue to be a collection agency for these payments.</p> <p><u>RESOLUTION 151.7/2019</u></p>			
2019 Dec 4 Item 5.13 Wheatbelt Regional Health Services	<p>That WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Re-establishes a working group to progress a Memorandum of Understanding with Local Governments in the Wheatbelt region and the WA Country Health Service, based on the previous work by the former Wheatbelt Health MOU Group, which outlines communication, responsibilities and strategic priorities unique to the region; and 2. Work with key service providers and stakeholders to engage with Local Government to further discuss the issues and develop solutions in the aged care services sector. <p><u>RESOLUTION 154.7/2019</u></p>	<p>WALGA has written to the Central Country Zone, Avon-Midland Zone and the Great Eastern Country Zone to advise them of the December 2019 State Council resolution to re-establish the Wheatbelt Health MOU and requested nominations for a working group. WALGA has also advised the WA Country Health Service, WA Primary Health Alliance and the Wheatbelt Development Commission. WALGA will convene a working group of relevant representatives to progress the Wheatbelt Health MOU...</p>	In Progress	Mark Batty Exec Manager Environment & Waste
2019 Dec 4 Item 5.15 Submission on the Climate Change in Western Australia Issues Paper	<p>That the WALGA submission on the Climate Change in Western Australia Issues Paper be endorsed, with the following amendments to be included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Greater emphasis on transitioning affected workers in the Collie region and support the diversification of the Collie and South West economies; 2 Increase the investment of funding for the restoration and management of the Swan River foreshore; 3 Use money collected from the landfill levy to assist local governments in investigating and remediating former landfill sites which were 	<p>The aforementioned changes were made to the draft submission. The submission was sent to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation on 6 December 2019.</p>	Completed	Mark Batty Exec Manager Environment & Waste

MEETING DATE	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
	<p>operated in accordance with best industry best practice at the time;</p> <p>4 The inclusion of an additional bullet point under the heading 'protecting biodiversity' providing 'recognise the significant role that native forests have as carbon stores and valuing these assets accordingly'.</p> <p><u>RESOLUTION 156.7/2019</u></p>			
2019 Sept 6 Item 4.1 Proposed Elected Member 'Welfare/Counselling' Program(s)	<p>That WALGA requests LGIS to investigate the design and development of a tailored support service for Elected Members including the provision of a short term counselling service.</p> <p><u>RESOLUTION 92.6/2019</u></p>	Request has been forwarded to LGIS CEO for advice and action.	March 2020	Zac Donovan Executive Manager Finance and Marketing
2019 Sept 6 Item 9.1 Action to Reduce Run-off Road Crashes in Rural WA	<p>That WALGA actively supports Federal and State Government investing in \$100m per year to seal shoulders and install edge lines to 17,000kms of State Highways over the next 10 years.</p> <p><u>RESOLUTION 128.6/2019</u></p>	Opportunities for further advocacy continue to be sought.	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure
2018 December 5 Item 4.1 State / Local Government Partnership Agreement on Waste Management and Resource Recovery	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That State Council endorse investigating a State / Local Government Partnership Agreement on Waste Management and Resource Recovery. 2. That the item be referred to MWAC for is development and negotiation with the State Government. 3. A report regarding a proposed "State / Local Government Partnership Agreement on Waste Management and Resource Recovery" be brought back to the next meeting of State Council. <p><u>RESOLUTION 131.7/2018</u></p>	The Officers Advisory Group is undertaking analysis of the State Waste Strategy to consider and recommend to MWAC and State Council the elements to be included in a draft Partnership Agreement. WALGA is also liaising with the Waste Authority and the Department of Local Government and Communities on the issue.	Ongoing	Mark Batty Exec Manager Environment & Waste

MEETING DATE	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
2018 December 5 Item 5.1 Proposed Removal by Main Roads WA of the "Letter of Approval" Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition	<p>That WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Opposes withdrawal of the "Letter of Approval" Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition until an acceptable alternative to Local Government is developed; Supports the position that Local Governments not use provision of the Letter of Authority to charge transport operators to access the Restricted Access Vehicle network; Supports the development of standard administrative procedures including fees and letter formats; and Supports the practice of Local Governments negotiating maintenance agreements with freight owners/generators in cases where the operations are predicted to cause extraordinary road damage as determined by the Local Government. Advocates to Main Roads to establish a stakeholder working group to develop an appropriate mechanism through which the increased infrastructure costs from the use of heavy vehicles and those loaded in excess of limits (concessional loading) can be recovered from those benefiting, and redirected into the cost of road maintenance. <p><u>RESOLUTION 132.7/2018</u></p>	<p>On advice from the State Solicitors Office, Main Roads WA is intending to remove the CA07 condition that requires a transport operator to obtain a letter of approval from the relevant Local Government. Main Roads is proposing to replace the condition with a notification process (CA88). After consultation with Regional Road Groups and a Stakeholder Working Group, the overwhelming majority of participants are of the view that the proposed arrangement is not an acceptable alternative. WALGA has written to Main Roads WA stating that WALGA does not support the alternative and that the position adopted by Sate Council in December 2018 has not changed.</p>	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Exec Manager Infrastructure
2018 December 5 Item 5.9 Aboriginal Advocacy and Accountability	<p>That the interim submission to an Office for Advocacy and Accountability in Aboriginal Affairs in Western Australia: Discussion paper be endorsed.</p>	<p>It is expected that this matter will progress in the second quarter of 2019.</p> <p>The Association has been advised that the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) will be leading a whole-of-government Aboriginal Affairs Strategy that aims to be finalised for consideration by Cabinet by the end of 2019. Although the scope of the Strategy extends only to State Government agencies DPC are seeking to keep the</p>	Ongoing	Mark Batty Exec Manager Environment & Waste

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Office Interim Submission	<u>RESOLUTION 140.7/2018</u>	Association engaged and to provide input if applicable. This Strategy is seen as complimentary to the Aboriginal Advocacy and Accountability Office concept explored at the end of 2018. No further update available at this time		
2018 September 7 Item 5.8 Interim Submission to the Independent Review of the Strategic Assessment of the Perth and Peel Regions	That the Interim Submission to the Independent Review of the Strategic Assessment of the Perth and Peel Regions be endorsed <u>subject to the inclusion of:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Further guidance regarding the form of a assurance and adaptive management framework; and 2. Reference to the costs to Local Government of the ongoing management of conservation areas and how decisions the impacts of land use within urban areas will impact on peri-urban areas. <u>RESOLUTION 109.6/2018</u>	Following the SAPPR Review Panel's report to Government, which identified unresolved 'gateway issues' – legal risk, flexibility and funding - in February 2019 it was announced that the review would be extended so that these issues could be progressed and options developed. WALGA met with the Panel on 31 May 2019 to discuss funding options. The Review Panel also briefed the Growth Area Alliance Perth and Peel at its 13 June meeting. The Review Panel provided its report to the Deputy Premier in August 2019. WALGA met the Review Panel again in on 3 September and subsequently wrote to the Review Chair on 27 September to reiterate WALGA's in-principle support for the SAPPR, contingent on the issues raised in earlier submissions and feedback to the Review Panel being addressed satisfactorily and the establishment of a consultative and transparent process is established going forward. On the 26 March 2020, the Premier announced that the review of SAPPR will be deferred indefinitely, in an effort to free up resources and allow the State Government to continue to focus all efforts on responding to COVID-19. https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/03/Administrative-changes-to-support-COVID-19-response-.aspx	Ongoing	Mark Batty Exec Manager Environment & Waste
2018 July 4 5.7 Interim Submission – Review of the State Industrial Relations System	That the interim supplementary submission in response to the Interim Report of the Review of the State Industrial Relations System be endorsed. <u>RESOLUTION 78. 5/2018</u>	The Final Report (Report) of the review into the WA State Industrial Relations System was tabled in State Parliament on 11 April 2019. This report makes the recommendation to amend the <i>Industrial Relations Act 1979</i> (IR Act) to enable a declaration to be made that WA Local Government authorities are not "national system employers" for the purposes of the <i>Fair Work Act 2009</i> (FW Act). If endorsed at State and Federal levels there will be transitional arrangements to assist the 93% of Local Government currently operating in the Federal system transition to the State system. A taskforce comprising of key stakeholders, including WALGA, has been formed in June 2019 to discuss and scope out the proposed two year transition process. WALGA's position does not support the States recommendation and advocacy on this issue will continue. Advocacy has increased in opposing the State Governments proposal. Support for WALGA's position has been requested from all Local Governments and meetings are being scheduled with all State political parties as well as with the Federal Minister for Industrial Relations, Christian Porter.	Ongoing	Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services

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2017 July 5 5.5 Corella Project (05-046-02-0003 MH)	That State Council 1. Note the outcomes of the Coordinated Corella Control pilot program. 2. Endorse WALGA's proposed approach to the continuation and expansion of the Program in 2017/18. 3. Seek to have the program expanded to the whole of the State, including the provision of adequate resources.	<p>The Minister for Agriculture has agreed to the review of the Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act (2007), and WALGA will raise the need to address significant incursions of this pest in town-sites and the peri urban areas across the south-west land division. The Preferred Supplier Program provides for contractors to manage this species, and WALGA continues to maintain the pest bird portal for interested members.</p> <p>WALGA also presented in a webinar on 3 April 2020, convened by the South West Group, on the effectiveness of regional corella control.</p>	Ongoing	Mark Batty Executive Manager Environment and Waste
2017 March 1 5.11 Urban Forest (05-038-04-2211 LS)	That WALGA: 1. Advocate and work with the State Government to further prevent the loss of urban tree canopy, which is a significant environmental and social issue for communities across the State; and 2. Work with member Councils to develop a system of appropriate market based and regulatory instruments to promote the increase in the urban tree canopy on private property.	<p>WALGA has established a Local Government Urban Forest Working Group (comprising representatives from 22 Local Governments) which is focusing on building Local Government capacity, identifying gaps and delivering practical planning outcomes and tools. It is intended that the group will operate as a community of practice for Local Governments to share their experiences and take collective action and responsibility for progressing agreed priority issues.</p> <p>WALGA has developed a proposal as part of the WALGA draft pre-budget submission for the development of a State Urban Forest Strategy which would include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A comprehensive planning policy framework and mechanisms for the retention and planting of trees in relation to greenfield and infill development. A community education program to raise awareness of the many benefits of urban tree canopy for the community and provide information about suitable trees to plant; A competitive grant program matching Local Governments investments in delivering their urban forest strategies (and similar initiatives); Continued investment in urban tree canopy data and measurement. <p>WALGA is also advocating on this issue directly with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, in the context of the development of the State Climate Change Policy.</p> <p>WALGA in conjunction with the 24 Local Governments that form the Local Government Urban Forest Working Group are hosting the inaugural Urban Forest Conference on 17 April 2020 at the University of Western Australia in Perth. The conference will seek to showcase the achievements of the various stakeholders involved in growing Perth's urban canopy, as well as incorporating best practice examples from the private sector, highlight new research and provide networking opportunities. The broad themes of the conference will cover best practice urban design and planning to better accommodate canopy, planting for biodiversity, improved data outcomes, behaviour change and community perceptions and two technical workshops that will explore bushfire mitigation in a changing climate and how this impacts urban canopy and a tree planting matrix to assist with better planting outcomes for the swan coastal plain.</p>	Ongoing	Mark Batty Executive Manager Environment and Waste

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		Consistent with Government guidelines during the Covid-19 crisis, this conference has been postponed.		