

Central Country Zone

Minutes

Friday, 26 August 2022

Shire of Beverley
Town Hall, 132-134 Vincent Str
Beverley

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Central Country Zone

Hosted by Shire of Beverley,
132-134 Vincent St. Beverley

Meeting commenced at 9.35 am on Friday, 26 August 2022

Minutes

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

1.1 Housekeeping – Zone Chair

1. Welcome:
The Acting Zone Chair welcomed Zone members and provided OSH/bathroom/exit information to those in attendance.
2. Share your name and Local Government:
Delegates were reminded to ensure that they call their name and Local Government when taking the floor to allow for accurate Minutes to be recorded.

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendance

Shire of Beverley	President Cr David White Deputy President Cr Chris Lawlor Mr Steve Gollan, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Brookton	President Cr Katrina Crute Deputy President Cr Neil Walker Mr Gary Sherry, Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Brookton
Shire of Corrigin	President Cr Des Hickey Ms Natalie Manton, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Cuballing	President Cr Eliza Dowling Deputy President Cr Rob Harris Mr Stan Scott, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Dumbleyung	President Cr Julie Ramm Mr Gavin Treasure, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Kulin	Cr Barry West Cr Brad Smoker
Shire of Lake Grace	President Cr Len Armstrong Deputy President Cr Ross Chappell Mr Alan George, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Narrogin	President Leigh Ballard Cr Graham Broad Mr Dale Stewart, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate

Shire of Pingelly	President Cr Bill Mulroney Mr Andrew Dover, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Quairading	President Cr Peter Smith Cr Jonathan Hippisley Ms Nicole Gibbs, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Wagin	President Cr Phillip Blight Mr Ian McCabe, Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Wandering	President Cr Ian Turton Mr Alan Hart Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of West Arthur	Cr Karen Harrington Mr Vin Fordham Lamont, Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Wickepin	President Cr Julie Russell Mr Noel Mason, A/Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Williams	Cr Moya Carne Mr Geoff McKeown, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Guests	Brad Pearce, Operations Manager Narrogin, Main Roads Rob Cossart, Chief Executive Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission Subha Gunalan, Director Local Government Financial Reform, DLGSC Alan Carmichael, Senior Project Officer, DLGSC Boyd Brown, Regional General Manager, Telstra Richard Burnell, Executive Director Corporate Services, DFES Dr Mia Carbon, Executive Directory Biosecurity, DPIRD Pam l'Anson (DPIRD)
WALGA	Cr Karen Chappel, WALGA President Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services Kathy Robertson, Executive Officer Governance & Organisational Services Rodney Thornton, RoadWise
Apologies	Hon Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt Peter Rundle MLA, Member for Roe Rick Wilson MP, Federal Member for O'Connor Hon Martin Aldridge MLC, Member for Agricultural Region Hon Shelley Payne MLC, Member for Agricultural Region Hon Darren West MLC, Member for Agricultural Region Hon Steve Martin MLC, Member for Agricultural Region Hon Colin de Grussa MLC, Member for Agricultural Region Hon Sandra Carr MLC, Member for Agricultural Region Deputy President Cr Mike Weguelin, Shire of Corrigin Deputy President Cr Amy Knight, Shire of Dumbleyung President Cr Grant Robins, Shire of Kulin Mr Garrick Yandle, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate, Shire of Kulin Deputy President Cr Jackie McBurney, Shire of Pingelly Deputy President Cr Gregory Ball, Shire of Wagin Mr Bill Atkinson, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate, Shire of Wagin Deputy President Cr Paul Treasure, Shire of Wandering Deputy President Cr Wes Astbury, Shire of Wickepin President Cr Jarrad Logie, Shire of Williams Cr Neil Morrell, Shire of West Arthur

Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt
Kathleen Brown, Electorate Officer, Office of Hon Mia Davies MLA
Renee Manning, Wheatbelt Development Commission - Principal Regional
Development Officer
Samantha Cornthwaite, Regional Manager, Wheatbelt, DLGSC

Attachments

The following are provided as attachments:

1. Item No. 5.1 Telecommunications Resilience Improvement
2. Item No. 5.2 Telstra ATS
3. Item No. 5.3 Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development – Animal Welfare in Emergencies

State Council Agenda – via link: [State Council Agenda - 9 September 2022](#)

3. ELECTIONS OF ZONE CHAIR

3.1 Elections of Chair of the Central Country Zone

Pursuant to the WALGA Constitution, the Secretariat shall assume the Chair for conducting the election of office bearers.

The election for the Chairperson shall be conducted and the term set to expire in November 2023, in line with the terms of State Council representatives and in sync with Local Government Elections.

Nominations for Zone Chair was distributed to Member Councils via email dated 29 July 2022 calling for nominations. Nominations closed at 5pm on Monday 15 August 2022.

Zone Chairperson:

The following nomination was received for the position of Chair for the term, set to expire in November 2023.

- **President Leigh Ballard** **Shire of Narrogin**

DECLARATION

That President Leigh Ballard be elected as Chairperson of the Central Country Zone for the term expiring in November 2023.

3.2 Elections of Deputy Chair of the Central Country Zone

With the appointment of the current Deputy Zone President as the new President, nominations will be called from the floor for the position of Deputy Chair.

The following nomination was received from the floor for the position of Deputy Chair for the term:

- **Cr Des Hickey** **Shire of Corrigin**

DECLARATION

That Cr Des Hickey be elected as Deputy Chairperson of the Central Country Zone for the term expiring in November 2023.

3.3 Executive Committee Membership of the Central Country Zone

The Executive Committee consists of the President, Deputy President, State Councillor and up to 3 Zone representatives.

Depending on who is appointed Deputy President will determine whether there is a vacancy on the Executive Committee.

No nominations were received from the floor.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

HOST COUNCIL INTRODUCTION

President Cr David White welcomed Delegates to the Shire of Beverley and gave a presentation on recently completed and future Shire projects.

5. GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS

5.1 Richard Burnell, Executive Director Corporate Services, DFES

Richard Burnell presented to the Zone on the updates to the Regional Telecommunications Resilience Improvements works. **(Attachment 1)**

5.2 Boyd Brown, Regional General Manager, Telstra

Boyd Brown presented to the Zone on the availability of access to emergency generators for telecommunication. **(Attachment 2)**

5.3 Dr Mia Carbon, Executive Director Biosecurity, DPIRD

Dr Mia Carbon presented to Zone on the State Animal Welfare Response Plan. **(Attachment 3)**

6. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Nil

7. AGENCY REPORTS

7.1 Wheatbelt RDA

Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development RDA Wheatbelt, was an apology.

Noted

7.2 Department of Local Government, Sport, and Cultural Industries

Subha Gunalan, Director Local Government Financial Reform, DLGSC, provided an update to the Zone.

Noted

7.3 Wheatbelt Development Commission

Rob Cossart, Chief Executive Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission, provided an update to the Zone. Rob advised that he could organise a presentation on climate resilience plan for the next meeting

Noted

7.4 Main Roads Western Australia

Brad Pearce, Operations Manager Narrogin, Main Roads, will provided an update to the Zone.

Noted

8. MINUTES

8.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the Central Country Zone meeting held on Friday, 24 June 2022

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

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr David White
Seconded: Cr Katrina Crute

That the Minutes of the Central Country Zone meeting held on Friday, 24 June 2022 are confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

8.2 Business Arising from the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Meeting on Friday, 24 June 2022

8.2.1 (Item 6.1) Proposed Advocacy Position on Arrangements for Management of Volunteer Bushfire Brigades

Shire of Pingelly

At the previous Zone meeting on Friday, 24 June 2002, the Zone resolved a procedural motion to discuss this item at the August Zone meeting.

Moved: Cr Bill Mulroney
Seconded: Cr Jackie McBurney

That:

1. *WA Local Government Association (WALGA) to advocate for the:*
 - a. *Modernisation of Western Australian emergency services legislation, including alignment of the WA Bush Fires Act 1954 with the rest of Australia by removing the legislative requirement for WA Local Governments to manage Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades (VBFB);*
 - b. *Provision of a legislated State Government department or agency to do so, fully implementing recommendation 15 of the "Reframing Rural Fire Management" Report of the Special Inquiry into the January 2016 Waroona Fire (Ferguson Report), which states;*

"The State Government to create a Rural Fire Service to enhance the capability for rural fire management and bushfire risk management at a State, regional and local level. The proposed Rural Fire Service will:

- be established as a separate entity from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services or, alternatively, be established as a sub-department of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services;
- have an independent budget;
- be able to employ staff;
- have a leadership structure which, to the greatest degree possible, is regionally based and runs the entity;
- be led by a Chief Officer who reports to the responsible Minister on policy and administrative matters; and to the Commissioner for Fire and Emergency Services during operational and emergency response;
- have responsibilities and powers relating to bushfire prevention, preparedness, and response; and
- operate collaboratively with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, the Department of Parks and Wildlife, Local Government, and volunteer Bush Fire Brigades.

In creating the Rural Fire Service, the State Government to consider whether back office and corporate support services could be effectively provided by an existing Department, such as the Department of Fire and Emergency Services or the Department of Parks and Wildlife. The State Government to review the creation of the Rural Fire Service two years after its establishment, to assess whether its structure and operations are achieving the intended outcome.”

2. WALGA to support, in the review of the emergency services legislation and formation of a Rural Fire Service, a comprehensive plan developed by local government representatives; volunteer bush fire representatives; a VFRS volunteer representative; the Department of Premier and Cabinet, and former professionals from Rural Fire Services in other states for:
 - a. Full engagement with the VBFBs and local governments to understand their successes, challenges, ideas and hopes for this service;
 - b. Inclusion of a review of the history and past performance of the volunteer bush fire brigades in Western Australia, including all previous studies and findings, with volunteer safety as a key theme;
 - c. A best practice assessment of volunteer bush fire brigades departmental/agency structures and legislative underpinnings across Australia; and
 - d. A legislative outcome goal that ensures that organisational structures, expertise, strategy, management, and control, best meet the health and safety mandates of the WHS Act 2020 while retaining volunteers and their interests at the centre of the organisation;

and that this comprehensive plan is presented to local governments and state government in full for a final decision prior to proceeding; and

3. Not support any of the 4 options in its “Arrangements for Management of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades: Proposed Advocacy Position” paper in favour of the creation of a Rural Fire Service.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

Moved: Cr Bill Mulroney
Seconded: Cr Jackie McBurney

That the Motion be left on the table for discussion at the next Zone meeting.

CARRIED

Since the meeting of 24 June 2022, the Shire of Pingelly have provided the following:

Matter for Decision

Proposed WALGA Advocacy Position for Investigation into a Rural Fire Service for WA

Recommendation:

That WALGA advocate for the development of a comprehensive proposal including costings for the formation of a Rural Fire Service and associated legislation to fully implement Recommendation 15 of the “Reframing Rural Fire Management” Report of the Special Inquiry into the January 2016 Waroona Fire (Ferguson Report) by representatives from, and exclusive to: local government;

- **bush fire brigade volunteers;**
- **volunteer fire and rescue services;**
- **the Department of Premier and Cabinet for the State Government;**
- **long serving professionals from Rural Fire Services in other states;**

and that this comprehensive proposal is presented to local governments and state government in full for a final decision prior to any action being taken.

Background

Volunteer bush fire brigades have been formed to support farmers and supplement their firefighting capacity in 1954, through the commencement of the Bush Fires Act with local governments being given responsibility to establish and run the brigades.

Over time the State Government has increasingly mandated duty of care requirements to the members and those charged with their management, to the point where the duty of care now extends to the volunteers themselves and penalties under the Work Health and Safety (WHS) Act 2020 includes up to 20 years in jail for local government staff for the charge of ‘industrial manslaughter’.

The WHS Act was introduced to align WA with the other states. In these states, the local government is not responsible for bushfire or brigades. This is the responsibility of a separate rural/country fire service.

Following the 2016 Waroona Yarloop bush fires the Public Sector Commission tasked a special inquiry led by Mr. Euan Ferguson AFSM into the matter. In his report prologue (pg.12) he summarises his findings thus:

“It is my view that there exists a need to effect fundamental changes to the system of rural fire management in Western Australia. My conclusion, which has been very carefully considered, is that the current system for managing bushfire in Western Australia is failing citizens and the government.”

As a result, after examining all the evidence, he recommended the creation of an independent (from DFES) Rural Fire Service, particularly considering the very frequent response to the question of DFES involvement in fighting bush fires (Ferguson Report pp. 237 – 245):

- *DFES staff do not have sufficient expertise in rural fire management and don’t understand our needs; and*
- *Inappropriate training is provided.*

In light of the severe penalties under the WHS Act and the pending review of the relevant legislation, WALGA is reexamining its advocacy position and has provided options 1-4 below.

Comment

The Ferguson Report has examined this issue from an independent standpoint and has recommended a Rural Fire Service independent from DFES (recommendation attached). The below analysis also demonstrates that this is by far the most preferable option for local governments. However, the proposal is sparse on detail and it is recommended that a full proposal is developed prior to a final decision and any action taken.

	Options	Option Analysis
Variations on the Status Quo	WALGA Options 1-3: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Status quo – BFBs managed by LGs with management transfer arrangements negotiated on an ad hoc basis with DFES 2. Improvements – status quo with increased funding and better access to training resources and other support 3. Hybrid Model - BFBs managed by LGs with management transfer arrangements negotiated centrally with DFES 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Liability remains with LG, including potential for staff as PCBU's to be personally prosecuted for actions of volunteers under WHS Act ✗ Bushfire is not a LG core function; therefore, executive staff rarely have expertise in this life and death area ✗ Unclear lines of communication and reporting due to BFBs being LG entities but training, funding and operational support are through DFES ✗ BFBs are underfunded, particularly in comparison with VRFS and LGs frequently do not have enough funding to properly fund or manage the BFBs or associated liability ✗ Increased funding, training, and other support from DFES has often been sought but rarely forthcoming as there is no incentive to provide the support. When it has been provided, it is what DFES considers the need to be rather than what the LG requires. Increased funding and support may be removed unilaterally ü LG has local knowledge, presence, and relationships with BFBs and landowners ü LG has long experience managing volunteers e.g., taking a consultative and conciliatory approach ü Minimal disruption to BFBs
BFB managed by DFES	WALGA Option 4: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Transfer - Responsibility for management of all BFBs is transferred to DFES <p>DFES BFB BFBs transferred by LGs to DFES either under status quo or hybrid model (options 1 & 3)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Significant loss of volunteers is expected. While farmers will continue to assist their neighbours, many will no longer members of the BFB ensuring that the BFB fire appliance is underused, and the response is less efficient ✗ Out of area assistance expected to drop due to reduced BFB membership with potentially catastrophic impacts ✗ DFES are not experienced in appropriately managing BFB volunteers and do not have the confidence of the volunteers ● Fire is a DFES core function, however DFES lack expertise in bushfire ü Aligns liability with funding and removes it from LG
Rural Fire	Alternative - Rural Fire Service A rural fire service is set up, consistent with other states and territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Unknown structure, composition, and cost ü Recommended following an expert review into this issue even prior to the introduction of the WHS Act ü Aligns liability with funding and removes it from LG ü Bushfire will be the core function and appropriately managing volunteers one of the main activities

Recommendation 15 of the “Reframing Rural Fire Management” Report of the Special Inquiry into the January 2016 Waroona Fire (Ferguson Report) states;

“The State Government to create a Rural Fire Service to enhance the capability for rural fire management and bushfire risk management at a State, regional and local level. The proposed Rural Fire Service will:

- be established as a separate entity from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services or, alternatively, be established as a sub-department of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services;*
- have an independent budget;*
- be able to employ staff;*
- have a leadership structure which, to the greatest degree possible, is regionally based and runs the entity;*
- be led by a Chief Officer who reports to the responsible Minister on policy and administrative matters; and to the Commissioner for Fire and Emergency Services during operational and emergency response;*
- have responsibilities and powers relating to bushfire prevention, preparedness, and response; and*
- operate collaboratively with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, the Department of Parks and Wildlife, Local Government, and volunteer Bush Fire Brigades.*

In creating the Rural Fire Service, the State Government to consider whether back office and corporate support services could be effectively provided by an existing Department, such as the Department of Fire and Emergency Services or the Department of Parks and Wildlife.

The State Government to review the creation of the Rural Fire Service two years after its establishment, to assess whether its structure and operations are achieving the intended outcome.”

ZONE SECRETARIAT COMMENT

The WALGA State Council Agenda, Item 5.2, provides a detailed report on a Proposed Advocacy position on the Management of Bush Fire Brigades from a sector perspective.

An analysis of submissions to WALGA from the Zone Local Governments will be provided prior to the meeting.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr David White
Seconded: Cr Katrina Crute

That this item be deferred to consider in conjunction with Zone agenda item 11.3.1, State Council Agenda for decision, Item 5.2.

CARRIED

8.3 Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee held Wednesday, 17 August 2022

The Minutes of the Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on Thursday, 17 August 2022 and were attached to the agenda.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Phillip Blight
Seconded: Cr Des Hickey

That the Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 17 August 2022 be endorsed.

CARRIED

9. ZONE BUSINESS

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

By Rebecca Brown, Manager Environment and Waste, WALGA

Background

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

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

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

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

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

Policy Implications

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

Comment

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

The Zone amended the officer recommendation at item 8 as underlined.

Moved: Cr Phillip Blight

Seconded: Cr Bill Mulroney

That the Zone endorse the following recommendations:

- 1. Strategic direction and regional priorities:** The State Government develop a strategic framework that enables the prioritisation of biosecurity threats in geographically defined regions and sets targets for declared pest management.
- 2. Agency responsibilities:** The roles and responsibilities of each State Government department responsible for biosecurity management need to be a clearly defined and communicated, a formalised structure for different agencies to work together established, and increased investment made in declared pest management on State Government managed land.
- 3. Declared Pest Rate and Recognised Biosecurity Groups:** If the Declared Pest Rate and Recognised Biosecurity Groups (RBGs) are to continue to be key mechanisms for the management of widespread and established declared pests, changes are required to improve their operation and effectiveness to better support the concept of shared responsibility.
- 4. Environmental biosecurity:** A more balanced view of biosecurity that has a greater focus on environmental biosecurity is required, through increased recognition and management of pest species that have significant ecological impacts.

5. **Responses to incursions:** Increased and more equitable distribution of funding is required to ensure each step of the biosecurity continuum is adequately resourced for all stakeholders, including Local Government.
6. **Management of declared pests in urban areas:** Declared pest management in all urban areas requires support through an appropriate funding mechanism.
7. **Problematic non-declared pests:** The process for the listing of declared pests needs to be timely and transparent to ensure that land managers, including Local Government, are not resourcing the control of an increasing number of problematic non-declared pest species.
8. **Sustainable funding model:** A sustainable and equitable funding model is required to manage the increasing biosecurity management threat. Funding to be independent of the DPIRD budget.
9. **Compliance and enforcement:** The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Developments responsibility for compliance and enforcement needs to be adequately resourced and enacted.
10. **Monitoring, research, and innovation:** Strategic monitoring, use of new technologies and the establishment of data management systems are required to inform biosecurity investment decisions and support adaptive management.
11. **Community education and involvement:** A stronger focus on community education to increase understanding and awareness will improve engagement with biosecurity management programs and assist with timely incursion responses.

CARRIED

The Zone noted that it reserves its position on Recognised Biosecurity Groups.

9.2 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review project

By Susie Moir, Policy Manager, Resilient Communities, WALGA

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

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

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

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

Workshop details below:

- Geraldton 7 September – Geraldton Multipurpose Centre 10.30am – 2:00pm
- Stirling 12 September – City of Stirling Civic Centre, Stirling Room 9:00am – 12:00pm
- Katanning 13 September – Katanning Leisure Centre 10.30am – 2:00pm
- Bunbury 14 September – City of Bunbury Administration, Function Room 10.30am – 2:00pm
- Northam 15 September – Bilya Koort Boodja Centre 10.30am – 2:00pm
- Victoria Park 16 September – Town of Victoria Park Administration Building 9:00am – 12:00pm
- Online workshops – date TBC

Registration

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

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

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

Noted

9.3 WALGA Best Practice Governance Review Principles – AGM Item

By Tony Brown, Zone Executive Officer

Background

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

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

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

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

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

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

The AGM Item and the Principles document were attached in the agenda.

Comment

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

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

Noted

10. ZONE REPORTS

10.1 Zone President Report

The Zone President provided a report to the Zone.

10.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG)

By Cr Katrina Crute provided an update to the Zone as per the attachment in the agenda.

10.3 Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC)

President Leigh Ballard provided an update to the Zone.

10.4 Regional Health Advocacy Representative

Ms. Natalie Manton provided an update to the Zone.

10.5 WALGA RoadWise

Rodney Thornton, RoadWise, provided an update to the Zone.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Julie Russell

Seconded: President Cr David White

That all Zone Reports in item 10.1 to 10.5 be received.

CARRIED

11. WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (WALGA) BUSINESS

11.1 State Councillor Report

Cr Phillip Blight

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

July 2022 Strategic Forum

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

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

July 2022 State Council Meeting

WALGA 2022-23 Budget

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

Emergency Management Policy Positions

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

WA Public Libraries Strategy

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

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

Noted

11.2 WALGA Status Report

By Tony Brown, Executive Officer



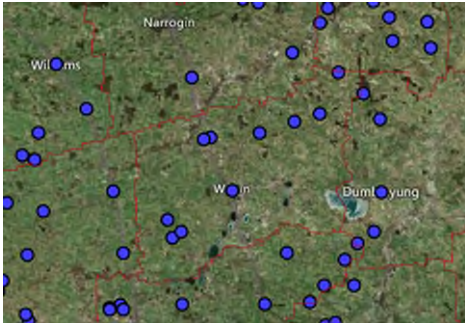
BACKGROUND

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

CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE STATUS REPORT

August 2022

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Central C	2022, 18 February Zone Agenda Item 11.1	That the Central Country Zone recommend that the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group be disbanded and request WALGA to consider establishing a policy forum to encompass all Freight issues.	<p>The Infrastructure Policy Team noted that a decision to disband the Agricultural Freight Group is a matter for the participating Zones.</p> <p>To assist developing a recommendation, the Infrastructure Policy Team requested that the Terms of Reference for a possible Agricultural Freight Policy Forum be developed for consideration at the next meeting. The infrastructure Policy Team will review the draft Terms of Reference at the September meeting.</p>	August 2022	Ian Duncan Executive Manager, Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Central C	2022, 18 February Zone Agenda Item 11.1 Regional Telecommunications	That WALGA partner with Telstra and Western Power to scope, design and cost a solution to enable full mobile and internet connectivity through the Central Country Zone area, including suitable back up power generation to ensure continued mobile connectivity during emergency outage events.	<p>The Infrastructure Policy Team addressed this Zone resolution on 2 March noting the recently initiated project to bring together telecommunications and power providers to identify those parts of the telecommunications network that are most vulnerable to power supply interruptions.</p> <p>Delegates noted the inclusion of Automatic Transfer Switches (ATS) in projects proposed by Telstra for funding under Round 2 of the Mobile Network Hardening Program. These negate the need to enter the hut and deal with the telecommunications equipment in order to change to back-up power generation. The successful projects under this round have not yet been announced.</p> <p>The in-coming Federal Government has committed \$400 million to improving telecommunications in regional Australia. This is expected to include an objective review of real service coverage.</p> <p>The Australian Government and DPIRD hold databases of reported mobile telephone black spots (see example map). It may be helpful to</p>	August 2022	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager, Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039

			<p>continue to report areas with no mobile service to raise the profile of the issues.</p>  <p>WALGA does not have the financial resources to fund a project to scope, design and cost a solution to enable full and resilient mobile and internet connectivity through the Central Country Zone area and will continue to work with the telecommunications carriers and power suppliers to strengthen the resilience of communications services, as well as advocate to Governments regarding the need for this essential service.</p>		
Central C	2021, 20 August Zone Agenda Item 8.4 Social Housing Economic Recovery Package Grant Funding	<p>1. That the Zone notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Governments are eligible for grants to support the construction, refurbishment, and maintenance of community housing properties as part of the State Government's Social Housing Economic Recovery Package (SHERP) Program. The next round of SHERP grants open on Wednesday 1 September 2021. The Department of Communities will provide further information on the SHERP grants at a WALGA webinar to be held at 1:30pm on Wednesday 1 September. <p>2. Request WALGA to advocate for more State funding for housing in the regions.</p>	<p>A total of \$57 million in SHERP refurbishment grants were announced on 25 January 2022. Three of the 8 Local Governments that applied for SHERP refurbishment grants were successful: Shires of Donnybrook-Balingup, Williams and Boyup Brook.</p> <p>The Shire of Harvey and Shire of Murray received funding as part of the SHERP New Build Grants program.</p> <p>WALGA's 2022-23 Budget Submission (included in State Council Agenda) is also seeking an additional \$5m per annum for the Regional Development Assistance Program, and redefinition of the program to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> separate projects in smaller towns from projects in larger towns and cities fund a broader range of projects of regional significance, administered through Voluntary Regional Organisations of Councils and Regional Subsidiaries, as they are formed. 	August 2022	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager, Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039
Central C	2020, 21 February Zone Agenda Item 12.1 General Practitioner Services in Rural Areas - Shire of Corrigin	That WALGA be requested to investigate tendering issues around General Practitioner Services in Rural Areas with consideration given to including an exemption from tendering for such services under the Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996.	<p>WALGA has included this item in the draft submission on Local Government legislative reform proposals.</p> <p>WALGA's policy position is as per below: <i>WALGA advocates for the inclusion of a tender exemption for General Practitioner (GP) services under Part 4, Division 2 of the Local</i></p>	August 2022	Tony Brown Executive Director, Member Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au

			<p><i>Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996, to support Local Governments retain necessary primary health care services for their communities; and</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake additional research in support of the Advocacy Position with the following aims: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify State and Federal Government policy settings and other factors contributing to gaps in primary health care services in regional communities; and Quantify the number of regional Local Governments that have current contracts, or are proposing to enter into contracts, for General Practitioner services and the associated costs to Local Government incurred. <p>The Minister for Local Government hosted a roundtable on this issue with effected Local Governments. The Ministers office and the Department are now researching possible solutions.</p> <p>The Minister for Local Government hosted a roundtable on this issue with effected Local Governments. The Ministers office and the Department are now researching possible solutions.</p> <p>The Minister for Local Government hosted a roundtable on this issue with effected Local Governments. The Ministers office and the Department are now researching possible solutions and will hold a further roundtable to advise on their findings shortly.</p>		
Central C	2019, 29 November Zone Agenda Item 10.8 Western Australia's Share of Fuel Excise	That WALGA prepares and endorses a strategy to obtain transparency of the distribution of the fuel excise with the intent to maximise the return to Western Australia for road maintenance.	<p>The resolution has been referred to the Infrastructure Policy Team and based on direction provided further research to support an advocacy position is being carried out.</p> <p>The Association met with the RAC and received access to a 2020 revision of a report commissioned by the RAC quantifying motorist taxation and Federal Government investment in WA transport infrastructure.</p>	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager, Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Central C	2021, 19 November Zone Agenda Item 12.1 Sector ICT solution	That the Zone request WALGA to research providers and the viability of an in-house IT system.	<p>The idea of an all-of-sector model ICT solution is not viable for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different size Local Governments – no one size fits all. Local Government's being at different levels of need and maturity in the ICT requirements. We are unlikely to get the requisite LG buy-in to warrant the investment; and The inherent complexity of a custom-built system is time and cost-prohibitive. <p>A more workable suggestion is for a group of similar size/maturity level Local Governments to engage a consultant to define a model set that</p>	August 2022	Tony Brown Executive Director, Member Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au

			<p>meets their needs. Any recommendations could be reviewed by a representative of the LG ICT Managers Network to ensure it is appropriate.</p> <p>It would be expected that the following range of recommendations are achievable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable hardware requirements (including remote options where appropriate) • Suggested lightweight accounting software • Baseline model directory structure • Security options • Backup software and procedures • Suitable internet options <p>WALGA is looking to assist in facilitating discussions on a shared service model to research this with a group of Local Governments further.</p>		
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Zone Comment

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

Noted

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

11.3.1 State Council Agenda Items – 9 September 2022

Background

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

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

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

Matters for Decision

5.1 2023-24 State Budget Submission

Executive Summary

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

Recommendation

That the 2023-24 State Budget Submission be endorsed.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Bill Mulroney
Seconded: Cr Graham Broad

That the 2023-24 State Budget Submission be endorsed, subject to the following additions:

1. Using the Central Country Zone as a pilot, scope, design and cost an effective solution to enable full and resilient mobile and internet connectivity across the region; and
2. Encourage greater utilisation of rail for grain logistics and increased funding for the rail network.

CARRIED

5.2 Proposed Advocacy Position on Management of Bush Fire Brigades

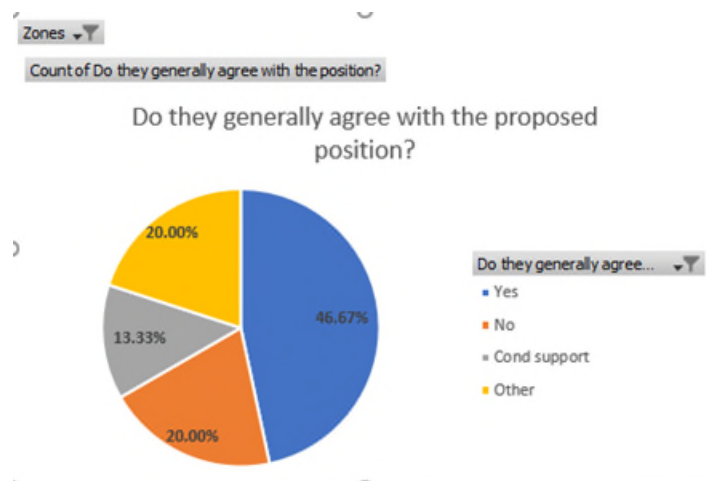
Executive Summary

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

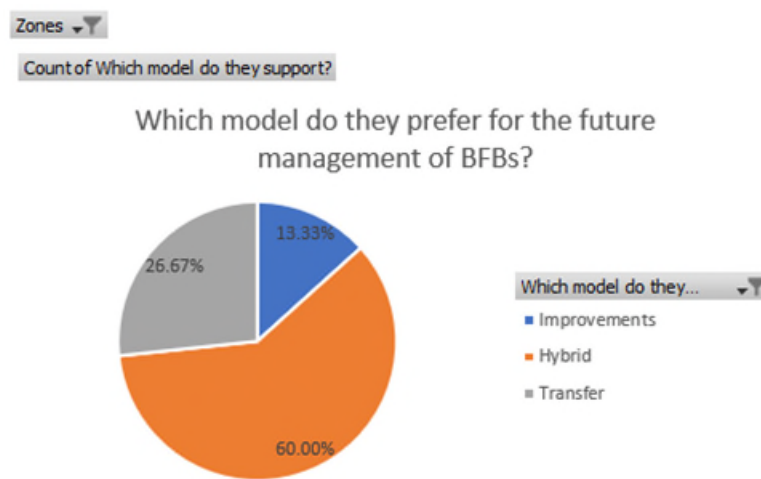
An analysis of submissions to WALGA from the Central Country Zone Local Governments is as follows:

All 15 LGs in the Central Country Zone provided a response to our consultation.

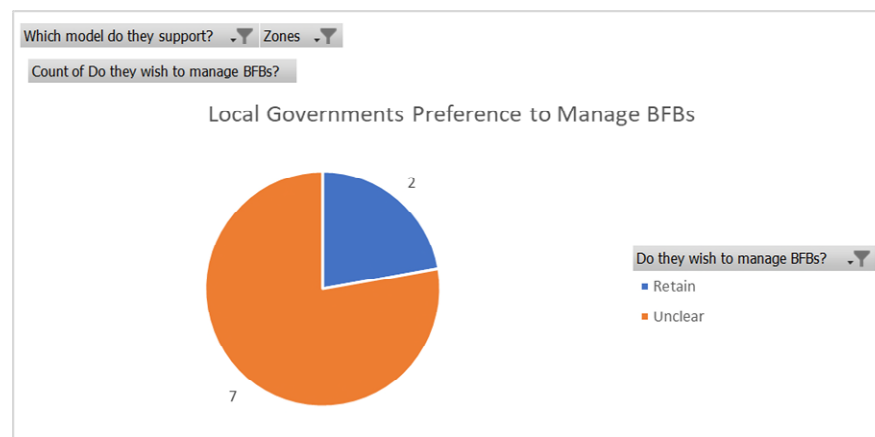
- Did they agree with the advocacy position?
 - 6 endorsed WALGA's proposed position as written in the Discussion Paper
 - "other" indicated they didn't comment directly on the proposed position but rather discussed their own preference.



- What BFB management option was supported:



- BFB management preference among LGs that supported a hybrid model and manage BFBs:



- Key issues raised:

- Local autonomy over fire prevention activities remains including the imposing of harvest and movement bans, Fire Break Orders, Burning season timings and subsequent burning permits controls
- Several noted WHS as a concern, and calls for a review/redraft of the legislation
- Three desire establishment of a Rural Fire Service

Recommendation

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

Management of Bush Fire Brigades

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

The Zone proposed amendments to the advocacy position as underlined below.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Peter Smith
Seconded: Cr Katrina Crute

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

Management of Bush Fire Brigades

1. *The State Government to consider the most appropriate operational model for management of Bush Fire Brigades, which may include the establishment of an independent Rural Fire Service, as recommended in the 2016 Ferguson Report.*

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

CARRIED

Matters for Noting / Information

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

Noted

11.4 WALGA President's Report

The WALGA President's Report is attached to the agenda. **(Attachment 5)**

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Bill Mulroney

Seconded: Cr Julie Ramm

That the Central Country Zone notes the WALGA President's Report.

CARRIED

12. EMERGING ISSUES

The Zone reconsidered item 3.3

12.1 Executive Committee Membership of the Central Country Zone

President Cr Len Armstrong nominated from the floor.

DECLARATION

That President Cr Len Armstrong be appointed to the Central Country Zone Executive Committee as a Zone representative.

13. DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The Executive Committee will next meet on Wednesday, 16 November 2022 via MS Teams.

The next meeting of the Central Country Zone will be held on Friday, 25 November 2022, commencing at 9.30am. This meeting will be hosted by the Shire of Brookton.

14. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at **1.11 pm**.

Attachment 1.



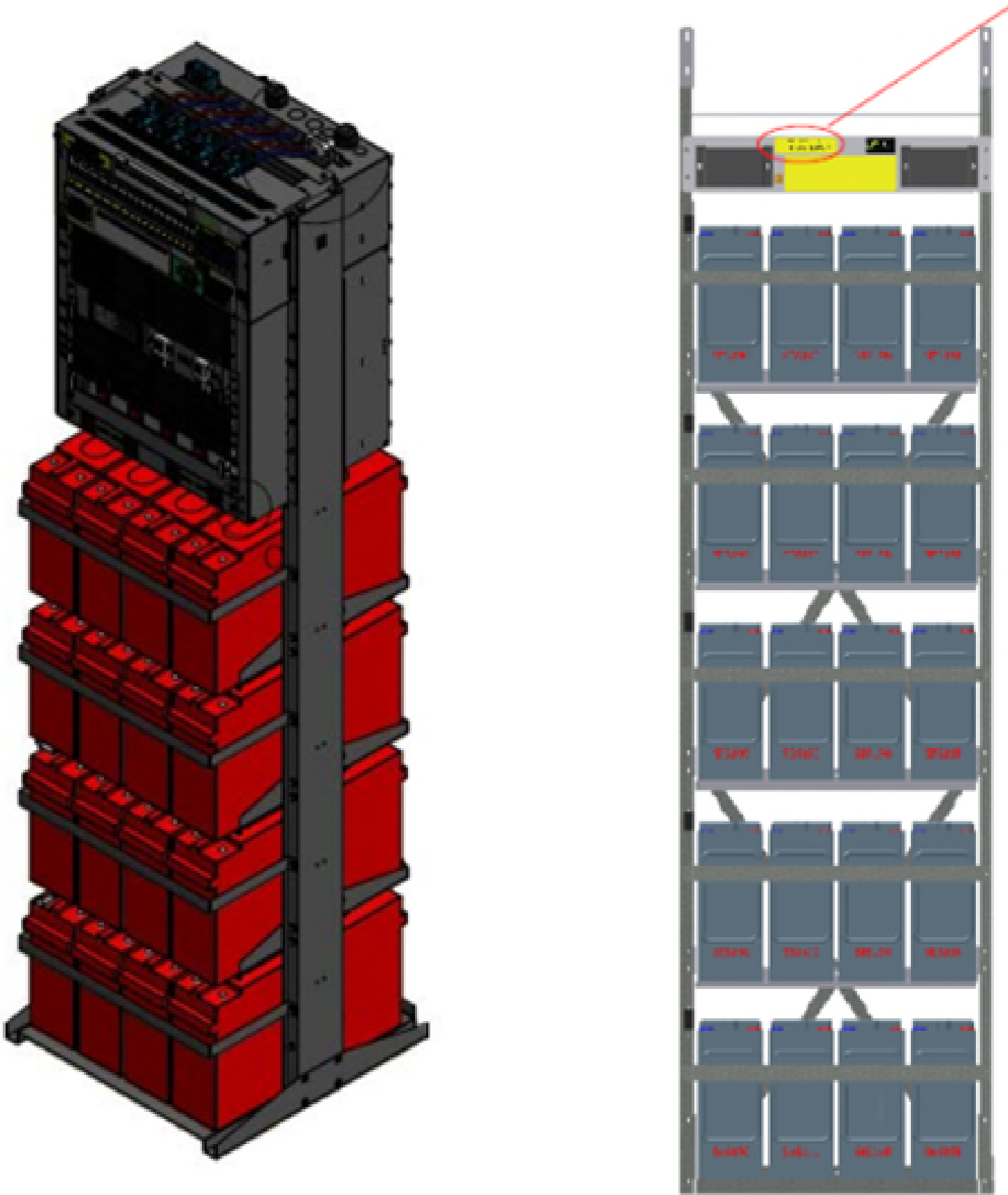
Telstra ATS



Upgrade Batteries to 48 hours

- The standard amount of batteries for regional locations is 3 hours plus travel time (as per Telstra Standards).
- For a 2.5kW site, upgrade to 48 hours requires additional 10 strings of 190Ah batteries plus battery racks.

Batteries	
Community Intervention Required	No.
Complexity / Reliability	Simple and reliable.
Noise suitable for residential locations	Yes.
Reserve Time	2 days.
Cost	\$48,400. Less for a smaller site. More if batteries can't fit inside the shelter.
Life Expectancy	8 Years.
Notes	Once depleted, temporary generator must be sent by Telstra.



Permanent Generator Solution



- Telstra supply a 9kVA generator with an acoustic canopy that complies to EPA noise limits.
- Generator is fixed on site and meets all Australian Standards and NCC requirements.
- Tank size will allow for at least 72 hours run time, before refueling is required.

Permanent Generator

Community Intervention
Required

No.

Complexity / Reliability

Moderately Complex.

Noise suitable for residential
locations

Yes.

Reserve Time

3 days before refuelling.

Cost

\$80,000 upfront, \$10,000
operational cost over 10 years.
(Less if site is far from homes).

Life Expectancy

10+ Years.

Notes

Expensive if mobiles & exchange
site need to be upgraded.



Temporary Generator Solution



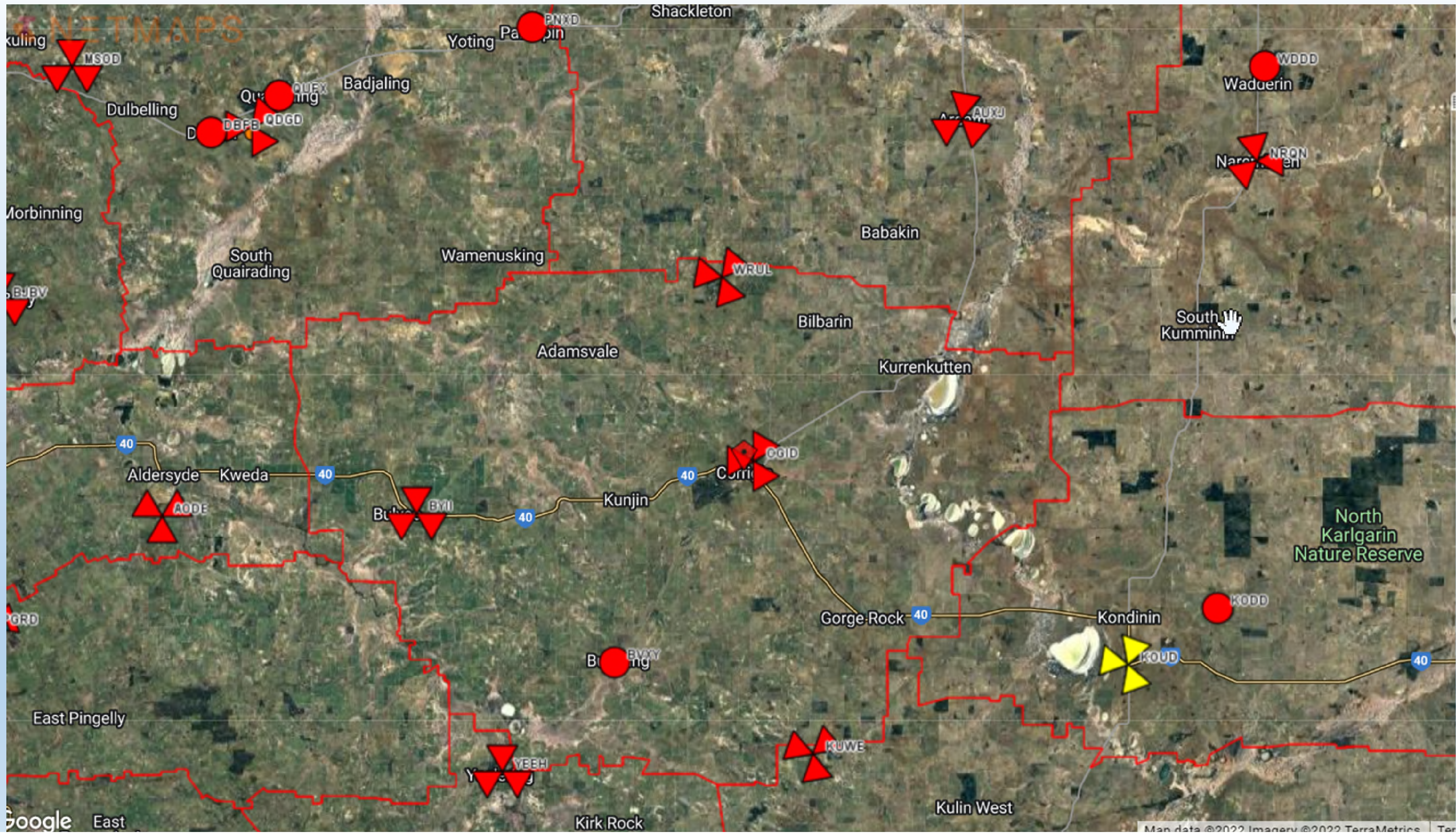
- Telstra procure and supply a 9kVA generator, no acoustic treatment included.
- Generator is installed in a temporary fashion, via the mobile emergency power point (MEPP).
- The MEPP is upgraded with an automatic transfer switch with voltage sensing.
- It does not meet EPA noise limits, and this will need to be negotiated with the community.
- Tank size will allow for at least 72 hours run time, before refueling is required.

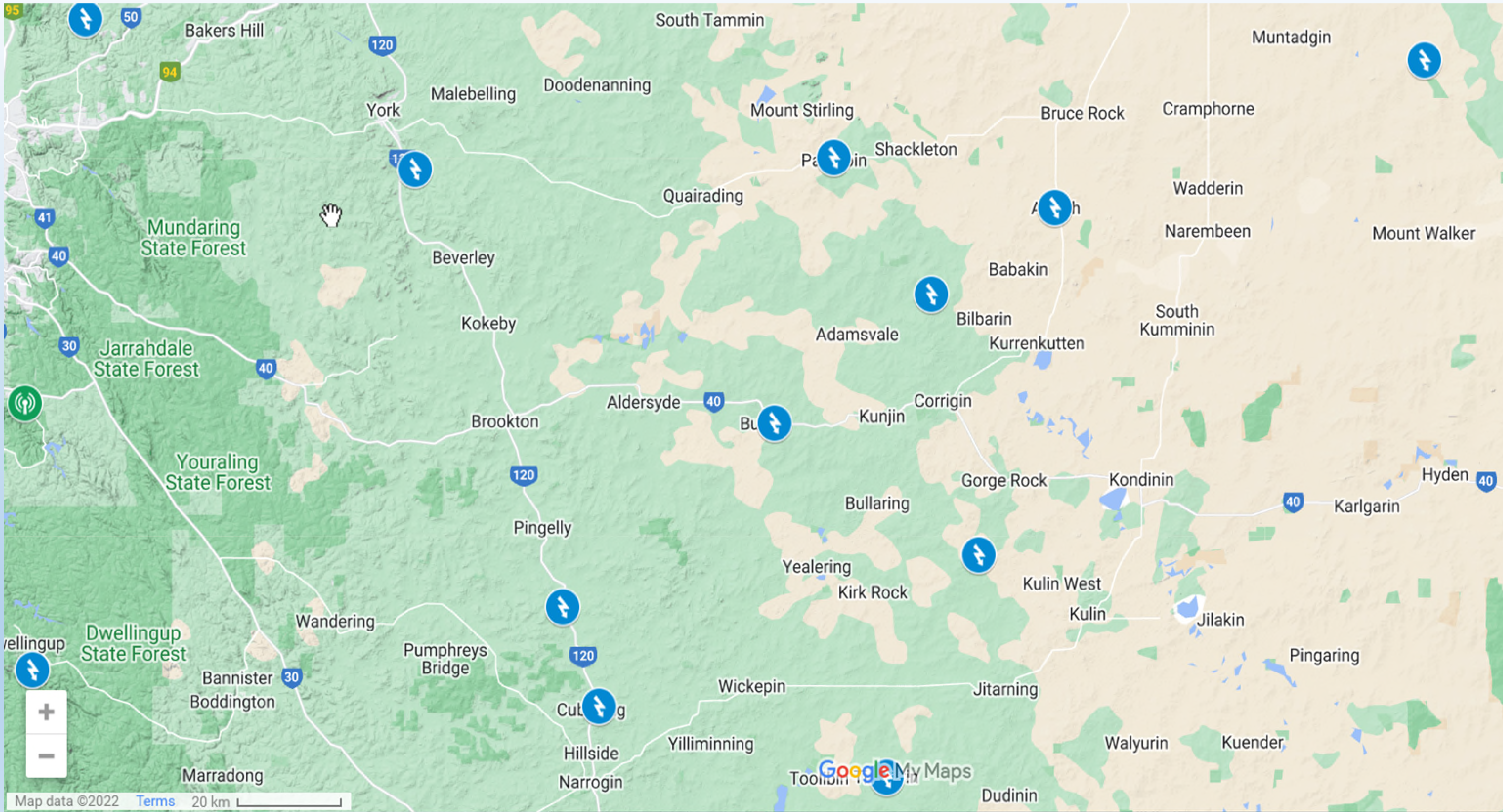
Temporary Generator

Community Intervention Required	No.
Complexity / Reliability	Moderately Complex.
Noise suitable for residential locations	No, need to be negotiated with the neighbouring property.
Reserve Time	3 days before refuelling.
Cost	\$40,000 upfront. \$10,000 operational cost over 10 years.
Life Expectancy	10 Years.

Notes







Copy

Seagroatt
Nature Reserve

Why? Nature serve

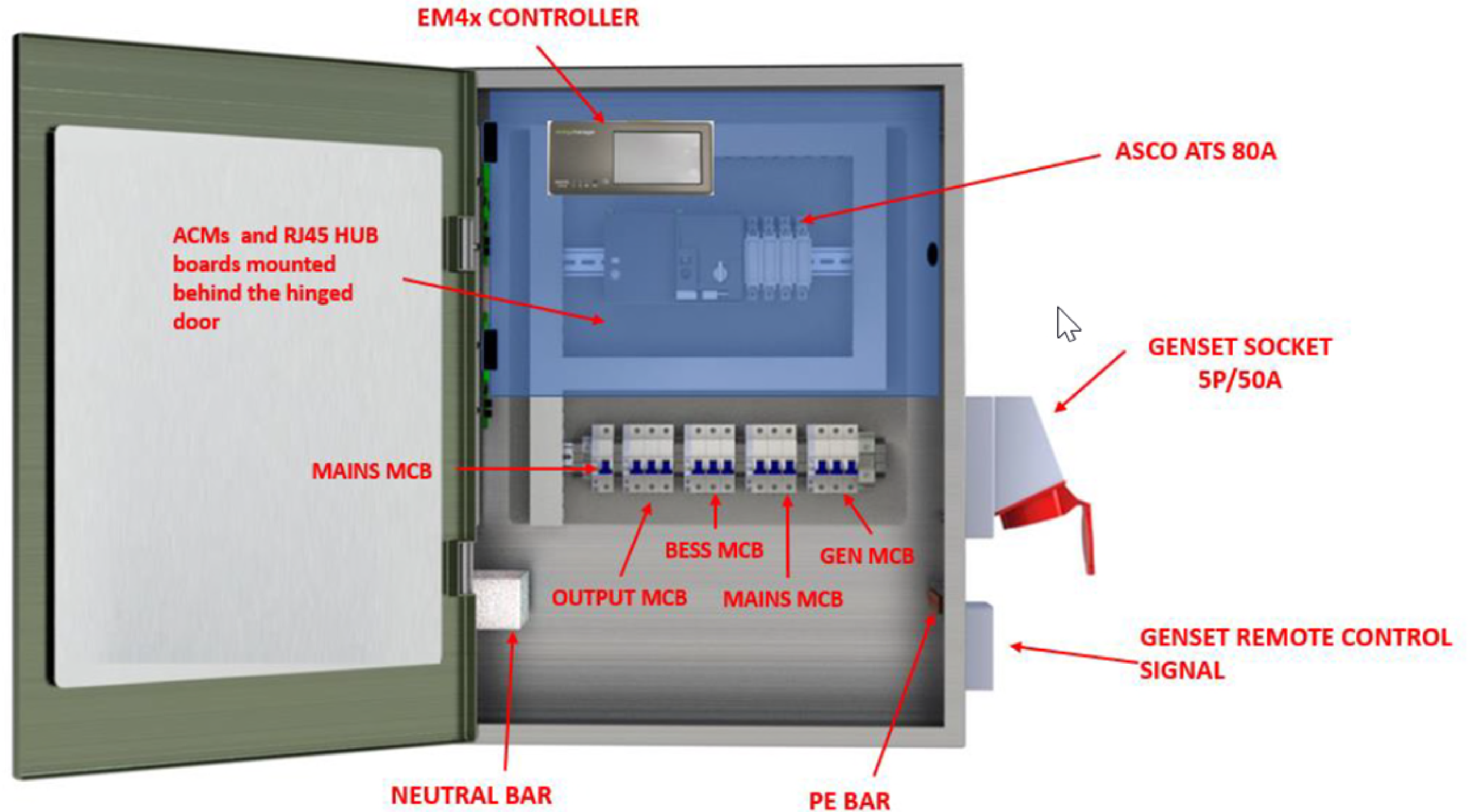
Aldersyde

Map data ©2020 Terms of Use Report a map





What is in the box?



WALGA Zone Meeting Update

Telecommunications Resilience Improvement

Richard Burnell
26 August 2022



FOR A SAFER STATE



Agenda Topic

Telecommunications resilience improvement

2021/22 Strategy - Update

Improve power network reliability, improve base station power resilience, provide fail over options

1. Upgrade batteries to min 12 hours
2. emergency NBN satellite WiFi
3. increase mobile satellite emergency WiFi assets
4. Standalone Power Systems (minimal)
5. ad-hoc requests to Telstra for standby generators
6. investigate purpose-built standalone power for telecoms towers
7. formalise standby generator model, pilot and business case



MNHP Round 1 Completed June 30, 2021

Completed August 19, 2022

New SkyMuster truck delivered 2021

Telstra and Optus progressed independently

1. PUMP coverage in-fill program



2. Seek funding to extend battery upgrades

3. continue Standalone Power Systems



4. implement standby generator business case (needs funding)



MNHP Round 2 applications August 2021

Telstra and Optus internally funding – gap analysis required (Working Group progressing)

STAND Mobile Network Hardening

There are >4,000 towers in WA. 1,124 “macro cell” towers, >3,000 small cell

Replace 3-hour batteries with 12-hour (minimum) batteries

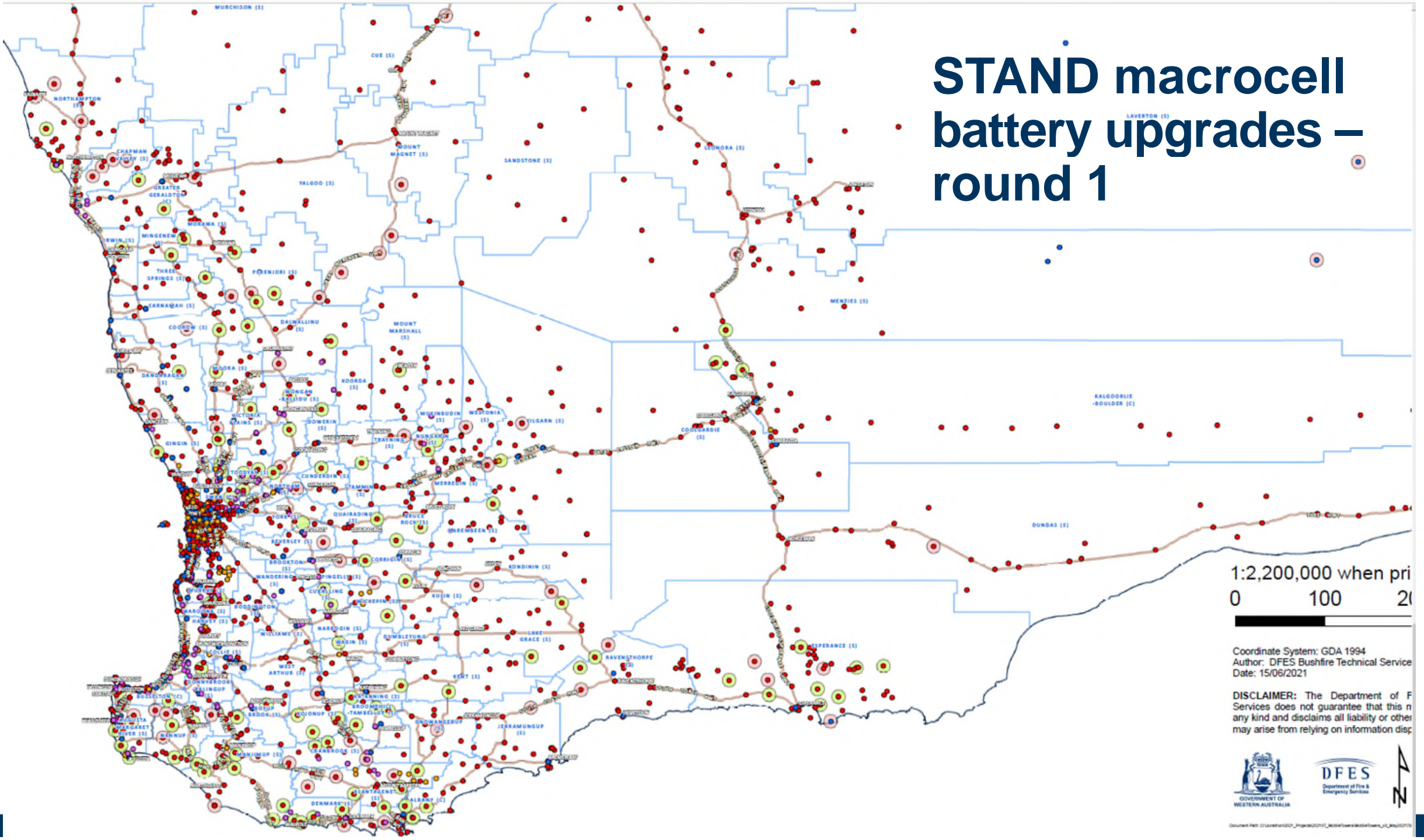
Round 1 = \$12m - WA has 206 towers funded through Rounds 1 & 2 MBSP

- Telstra submitted funding requests for all towers
- Canberra approved 108 – 11 in Central Country Zone (see map overleaf)
- completed by June 30

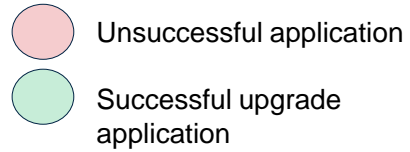
Round 2 = \$6m – any tower or exchange with co-funding

- focus on feeder sites and exchanges
- State Govt contribution approved to reduce Federal contribution
- 141 sites applied for and approved
- will leave >900 sites under-powered

STAND macrocell battery upgrades – round 1



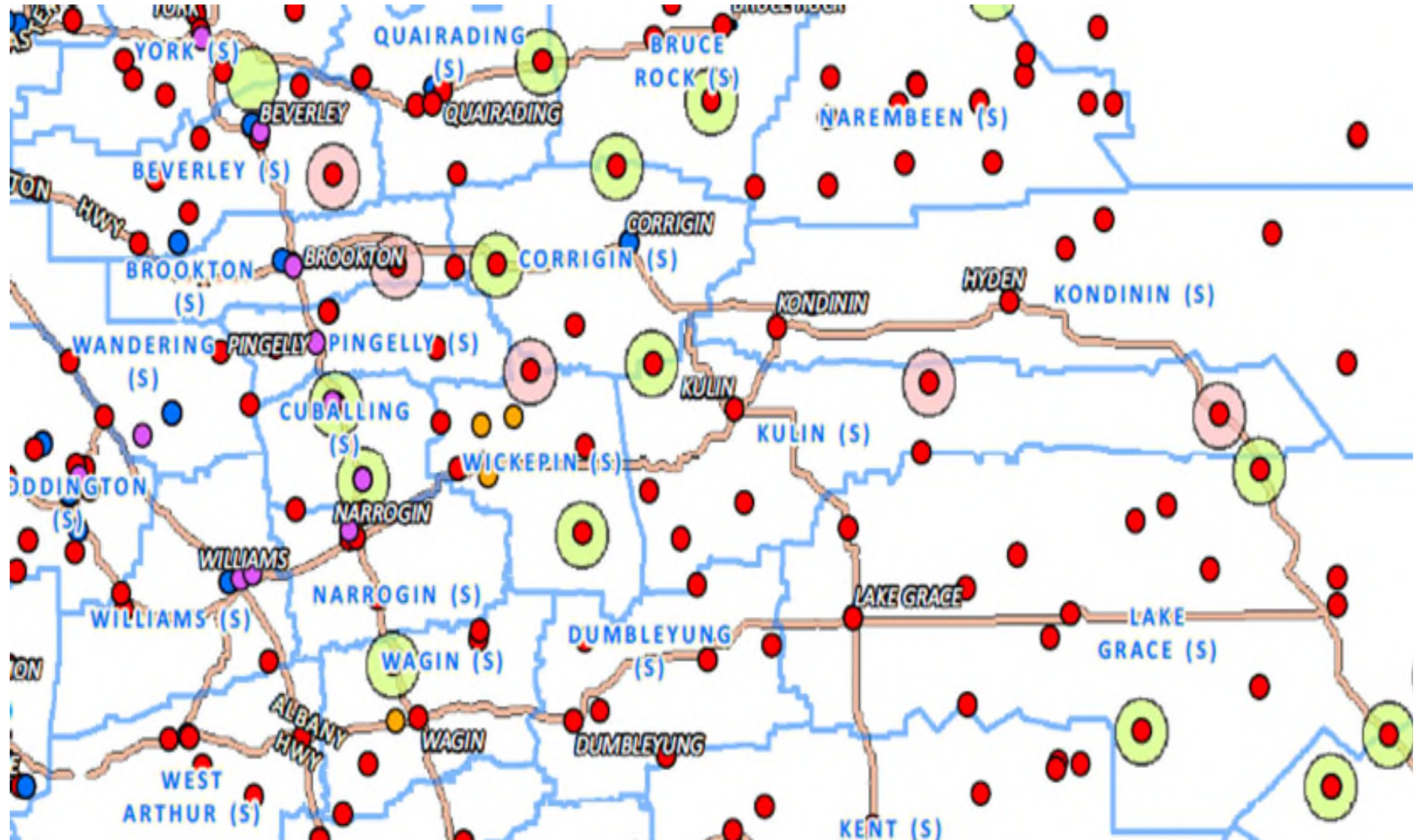
STAND macrocell battery upgrades – round 1



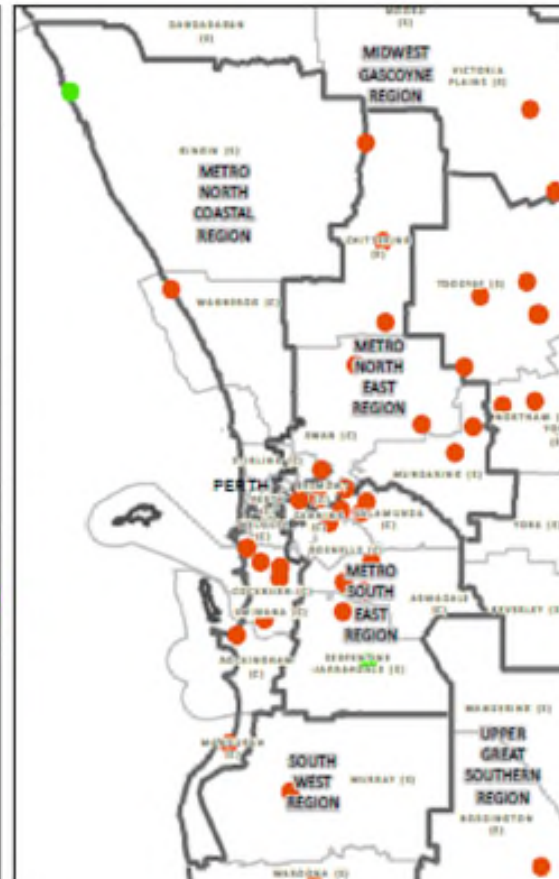
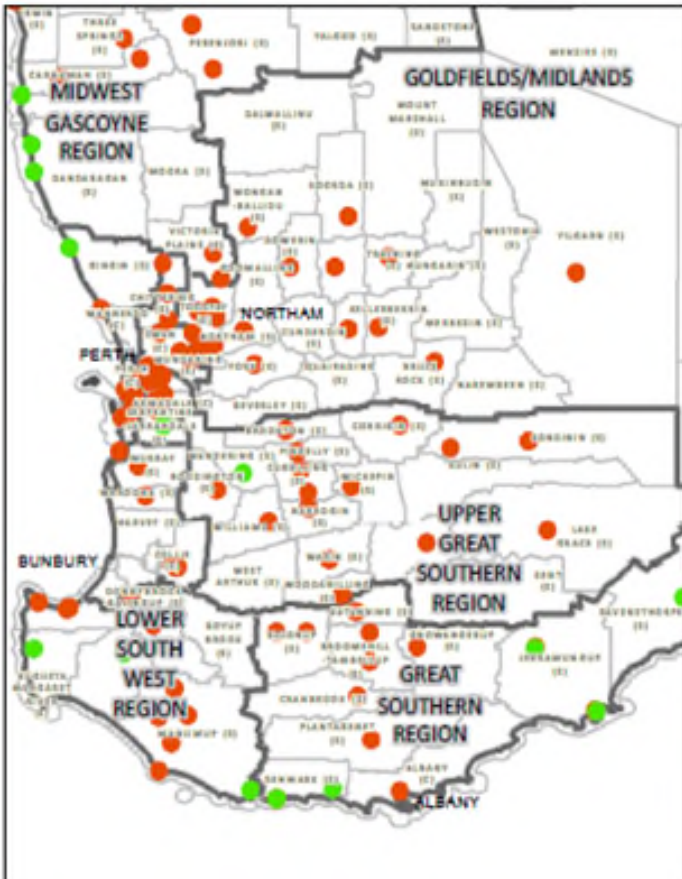
LICENSEE



	Towers (Est)	Eligible Towers	Battery Upgrades
Beverley	11	1	0
Brookton	4	1	0
Corrigin	3	2	2
Cuballing	4	2	2
Dumbleyung	6	1	1
Kulin	7	3	1
Lake Grace	16	2	2
Narrogin	7	0	0
Pingelly	4	0	0
Quairading	7	1	1
Wagin	7	1	1
Wandering	7	0	0
West Arthur	8	0	0
Wickepin	8	2	1
Williams	6	0	0
	105	16	11
		15.2%	10.5%

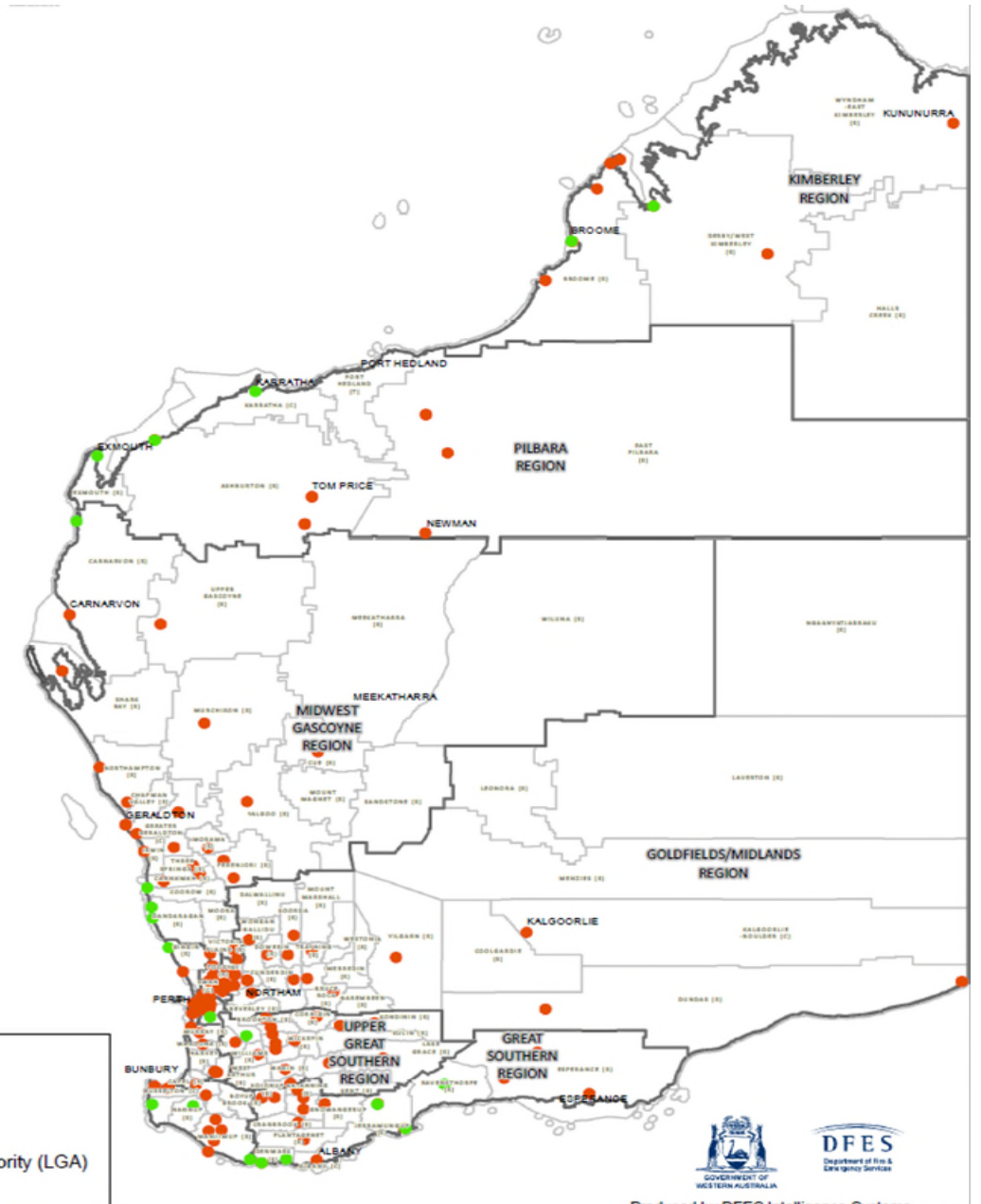


STAND emergency NBN satellite WiFi services



STAN Satellite Sites

- COMPLETED (20)
- INCOMPLETE (140)
- Local Government Authority (LGA)
- DFES Regions



STAND Round 2 Update

Improving the resilience of regional telecommunications networks during bushfires and natural disasters – ***back up power***.

WA awarded 141 (26%) of solutions funded nationally.

State's contribution \$881,000

Solutions cover a range of permanent and portable generators, power system upgrades and increased battery backup

STAND Mobile Network Hardening Project Round 2 (approved however carrier not yet contracted)

Beverley	Fixed Generator	Telstra
Beverley	Fixed Generator	Optus
Brookton	Fixed Generator	Telstra
Brookton	CPX (Supplementary battery module)	Optus
Cuballing	Fixed Generator	Telstra
Dale	Battery upgrade (12 hours)-Plus system upgrade	Telstra
Darkan South	Generator + power system upgrade	Telstra
Pingelly	Fixed Generator	Telstra
Popanyinning	Fixed Generator	Telstra
Quairading South	Battery upgrade (12 hours)	Telstra
Trayning	Battery upgrade (12 hours)-Plus system upgrade	Telstra
Wandering	Fixed Generator	Telstra
Wandering	CPX (Supplementary battery module)	Optus
Westdale	Fixed Generator	Telstra
Westdale	CPX (Supplementary batter module)	Optus
Williams	CPX (Supplementary battery module)	Optus

Plug-In Generators

- A.k.a. external 'Auto Transfer Switch'.
- These allow for generators, usually as a supplementary backup, to be plugged in and started before battery backup fails to prolong the operations of that site in the absence of mains power restoration.
- Telstra has funding for 20 services in 2022/23 in WA.
- Initial sites Corrigin and Dongara.
- Working Group will be consulted to advise on location prioritisation for remaining services.



Working Group

- Established in 2021
- Comprises Carriers, Western Power, Horizon Power, DPIRD, WALGA and DFES
- Secured funding for dedicated analysts to identify the gaps in power resilience and proposed investment priorities
- DPIRD will then progress funding submission with the State
- Government establishing a Regional Telecommunications Resilience Committee – Working Group will provide information as required

Thank You



FOR A SAFER STATE



Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Animal Welfare in Emergencies

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional development (DPIRD) plays a crucial role in emergency management to safeguard Western Australia's primary industries and regions and support their growth by preventing and minimising the impact of incidents.

DPIRD places a high priority on emergency preparedness and response and is committed to ensuring we have the capacity and capability to rapidly support the management of an emergency.

DPIRD continues to support local communities with their preparedness and response arrangements to any natural hazard incident that may impact the community. To support these emergency management functions, DPIRD has strengthened its internal Local and District emergency management coordination network through:

- strengthening the ability for DPIRD representation at local and district emergency management committees.
- provision of internal resources and support for these staff across the State.
- annual regional exercising opportunities for these representatives.

State Support Plan for Animal Welfare in Emergencies

In 2018, the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) formally assigned the role and responsibility for coordinating animal welfare in emergencies to DPIRD.

The State Support Plan Animal Welfare in Emergencies was prepared by DPIRD in collaboration with the SEMC, relevant Hazard Management Agencies (HMAs) and community and animal organisations.

The Plan acknowledges that:

- Western Australia's emergency management arrangements define DPIRD as the primary agency for coordinating animal welfare services in emergencies.
- As the closest level of government to the affected community, local government also has a key role in supporting emergency animal welfare activities.
- The owner or carer's ability to address animal welfare issues may be hampered or prevented due to the nature of the emergency. In such cases, local arrangements may assist. If local arrangements do not exist, are inadequate or have been exhausted, the controlling agency or HMA may determine the need to access the arrangements under this Plan.

The Plan clarifies roles and responsibilities between the various stakeholders for the delivery of emergency activities in relation to animal welfare in emergencies.

On the activation of the Plan by DPIRD we will, with the support of the members of the Committee for Animal Welfare in Emergencies, coordinate the animal welfare response in support of the existing local and district arrangements.

Any response established under this Plan will task the animal welfare emergency group to address response aspects such as:

- triage and treatment of animals;
- emergency food, water and shelter;
- transportation of evacuated and stray animals;
- disposal of deceased animals;
- reuniting animals with their owners/carers with the support of the Department of Communities.

Emergency event information and reporting

During a developing emergency event you should monitor local ABC radio, the Emergency WA website, and your Local Government information.

The DPIRD website also provides information on preparing for natural hazard events, including planning for livestock, horses, and companion animals.

- o For information about animal owners/cares preparing for natural hazard events please visit www.aqric.wa.gov.au/animalwelfare/resources-0
- o The State Support Plan for Animal Welfare in Emergencies can be found at <https://semc.wa.qov.au/emergencv-management/plans>
- o A Local Government Animal Welfare Response Plan template can be found at <https://www.aqric.wa.qov.au/sites/gatewav/files/2020%20DPI RD%20Local%20PAWE%20Guide%20and%2QTemplate.pdf>

For further information, email sawc@dpird.wa.qov.au.

26 August 2022