



**THE
KIMBERLEY
ZONE**

Meeting Minutes

20 June 2025

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1. Kimberley Country Zone Meeting Open: 9:05am

Chair acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the different lands on which people met today, and paid respect to all the Elders past, present and emerging.

2. Attendance and Apologies

Name	Shire / Council / Organisation	Method
Members		
Cr David Menzel	Zone Chair, and President, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	Zoom
Cr Malcolm Edwards	President, Shire of Halls Creek	Zoom
Observers		
James Watt	Director Corporate Services, Shire of Broome	Zoom
Tamara Clarkson	CEO, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Zoom
Susan Leonard	CEO, Shire of Halls Creek	Zoom
Cr Tony Chafer	Deputy Shire President, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	Zoom
Vernon Lawrence	CEO, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	Zoom
Executive Support Team		
Michelle Mackenzie	Principal Mira Consulting	Zoom
Rebecca Billing	Administrative Assistant, NAJA Business Consulting	Zoom
Apologies		
Gordon Thomson	President, Shire of Christmas Island	
David Price	CEO, Shire of Christmas Island	
Aindil Minkom	President, Cocos (Keeling) Islands	
Frank Mills	CEO, Cocos (Keeling) Islands	
Tony Lacy	Cocos (Keeling) Islands	
Cr Azah Badlu	Cocos (Keeling) Islands	
Nick Sloan	CEO, WALGA	
Cr Karen Chappel	President, WALGA	

Name	Shire / Council / Organisation	Method
Paul Rosair	Principal NAJA Business Consulting	
Jane Lewis	Principal Redit Research	
Cr Paul Kelly	Deputy President, WALGA	
Sam Mastrolembo	CEO, Shire of Broome	
Cr Chris Mitchell	President, Shire of Broome	
Jeff Gooding	Commissioner, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	
Guests		
Sam McCleod	Manager Commercial Services, WALGA	Zoom

3. Disclosures, Conflicts and Declarations of Interest:

Financial Interest / Impartiality			
Member	Item Number	Item	Nature of Interest
Nil			

4. Kimberley Country Zone State Council Agenda:

Attachments:

1 President's Report

2 WALGA State Council Agenda and Report on State Council Actions (Separately Attached)

1.1 Presidents Report – Attachment 1



President's Report

July 2025

Introduction

As always, I am proud to highlight our continual efforts, to influence Government and support our Members through advocacy, expertise, and opportunities for connection.

This is a really busy time for Local Governments, leading into the annual budget period and planning for Local Government elections in October. There has also been some significant media on a range of matters including Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer, Renewable Energy proposals, pets registration system and credit card control, that I have represented the Local Government sector on recently.

Auditor General's Report on Local Government Management of Purchasing Cards - Response to media commentary

The Auditor General tabled a performance audit into Local Government management of purchasing Cards on 28 May.

The audit reviewed six metropolitan Local Governments. The report found no evidence of cards being misused. However as in all performance audit reports there were recommendations for some process improvements.

Subsequent to the report being tabled, there has been some media commentary around some case study items in the report. I have responded strongly to the implication that the report was indicative of a wider culture of entitlement in the Local Government sector.

Generalised interpretation, or application to the sector, is not reflective of the overall findings of the Auditor General Report or the extraordinary work that Local Governments perform across the State.

Local Governments understand that the community expects transparency and value for money. As a sector we are committed to upholding the highest level of integrity and maintaining public trust.

Dog and Cat Registration system - Pets WA

The Minister for Local Government, Hon Hannah Beazley MLA recently announced that the State Government has agreed to end the contract for development and implementation of the Centralised Registration System. The Minister advised that the Local Government sector had raised the need for more time to develop the system.

WALGA will continue to support the introduction of a centralised cat and dog registration database and I have requested the State Government to consult with Local Governments, following its termination of the contract to deliver PetsWA.

Local Governments have been concerned that fees collected through PetsWA will not achieve full cost recovery for their regulatory responsibilities under the *Dog Act 1976* and *Cat Act 2011*.

A well-designed central registration system, with proper engagement with the Local Government sector, has the potential to deliver key benefits for both pet owners and Local Governments.

Renewable Energy Transition

Community Benefits and Engagement Guide

Work on WALGA's Community Benefits and Engagement Guide is now complete. An information session on the draft Guide was held in May, and all Local Governments were given the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft over a two-week period. We thank you all for your input over the last few months on this important piece of work.

Ministerial Forum

The Renewable Energy Ministerial Forum will be held on Thursday, 12 June, with the Minister for Energy and Decarbonisation, Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson BA MLA and the Minister for Planning and Lands, Hon John Carey MLA to address Local Governments on the State Government's plans for the renewable energy transition. This will be followed by a roundtable discussion with Minister Sanderson and a workshop session conducted by PoweringWA, focussing on community benefits. I have met separately with both Ministers to further discuss the Sector's key challenges and priorities in the transition to renewable energy.

Rating

WALGA is also undertaking work on the rating of renewable energy facilities, focusing on the WA legislative framework, how other Australian jurisdictions are managing the rating of renewable energy facilities and providing a summary of options and recommendations for the rating of renewable energy facilities by Local Governments going forward.

2025 Local Government Emergency Management Forum

I am excited to announce that WALGA will hold its first Local Government Emergency Management Forum on Tuesday, 17 June at the City of Stirling Reception Hall. The theme for the Forum is Local Government Future Proof: Preparing today for tomorrow's challenges. This forum will provide delegates with an opportunity to enhance their emergency management capabilities, gain valuable insights and strategies from shared lessons, and build and strengthen relationships within the sector. Hon Paul Papalia, CSC MLA, Minister for Emergency Services, will provide the opening address, with presentations from Dr Jill Charker, the National Emergency Management Agency Deputy Coordinator General, James Ashley, WA Manager, Bureau of Meteorology and panel sessions featuring Local Governments from around the State.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Emergency Management Roundtable

The second WALGA Bushfire Management Roundtable was held on Wednesday, 26 March, bringing together executive and subject matter experts from WALGA, LGIS, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), and Chief Executive Officers of Dandaragan, Albany, Manjimup, Corrigin, Kwinana, and Waroona Local Governments. Participants discussed a number of complex issues facing Local Governments in emergency management and identified priority actions for DFES and WALGA, focusing on further strengthening support to Local Government CEOs in Bush Fire Brigade (BFB) management, and strategic reform of the Local Government Grants Scheme (LGGS).

2025-26 State Budget

The State Budget will be handed down on Thursday, 19 June. WALGA staff will be in the Budget lock-up and will provide budget information and analysis directly to Mayors, Presidents and CEOs via the WALGA website.

President Cr Karen Chappel AM JP
WALGA President

President's Contacts

The President's contacts since 7 May and scheduled before 2 July are as follows:

State and Commonwealth Government Relations

- Hon Jessica Stojkovski MLA, Minister for Child Protection; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport; Peel
- Hon John Carey MLA, Minister for Planning and Lands; Housing and Works; Health Infrastructure
- Mr Lachlan Hunter MP, Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Food; Racing and Gaming
- Hon Simone McGurk MLA, Minister for Creative Industries; Heritage; Industrial Relations; Aged Care and Seniors; Women
- National Cultural Ministers Meeting
- Hon Hannah Beazley MLA, Minister for Local Government; Disability Services; Volunteering; Youth; Gascoyne
- Hon Tjorn Sibma MLA, Shadow Minister for Finance; Training and Workforce Development; Major Infrastructure

Zone Meetings

- Kimberley Zone Meeting
- Northern Country Zone Meeting

Local Government Relations

- **State Council Meetings**
 - Finance and Services Committee Budget Workshop
 - Local Government House Trust Meeting
 - Information Forum, 4 June 2025
 - Finance and Services Committee, 18 June 2025
- **ALGA**
 - Board Meeting, 9 May 2025
 - General Meeting, 9 May 2025
 - NGA Briefing
 - National General Assembly
- **LGIS**
 - Board Meeting, 23 May 2025
- WALGA Mayors and Presidents Forum
- WALGA Alumni Sundowner
- WALGA Renewable Energy Forum
- Bus Stop Infrastructure Agreement signing with Public Transport Authority
- Emergency Management Forum

Conferences, Workshops, Public Relations

- 500 Club Sundowner
- Reconciliation WA, National Reconciliation Week Breakfast
- WA Women's Hall of Fame 15th Anniversary Alumni and Supporters Evening
- Telstra Infracore, WA Regional Connectivity Policy Workshop
- Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Board Meeting

1.2 Reports from Representatives

WALGA –

- Sam McCleod, Manager Commercial Services

5.2.1 Reports from Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Report

Report will be provided once available.

5.3 Reports from Kimberley Country Zone

Zone Delegates are invited to read and consider the WALGA State Council Agenda, which has been provided as an attachment with this Agenda and can be found via the link [here](#).

The Zone can provide comment or submit an alternative recommendation on any of the items, including the items for noting.

The Zone comment will then be presented to the State Council for consideration at the meeting on 2 July 2025. The State Council Agenda items requiring a decision of State Council are extracted for Zone consideration below.

5.3.1 Item/Matters for Decision

Item / Matters for Decision As per State Council Agenda	Recommendations
8.1 Suspension and Disqualification for Offences Advocacy Position	<p>RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>That the Zone support the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.1 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided below.</p> <p>WALGA RECOMMENDATION</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> That WALGA amend and rename advocacy position 2.5.5 <i>Disqualification Due to Conviction</i> to read as follows: <p><i>Suspension and Disqualification for Offences</i></p> <p><i>The WA Local Government sector advocates that:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A new disqualification criterion should be added to the Local Government Act 1995 that disqualifies a person from serving as an Elected Member if they have been convicted of an offence against the Planning and Development Act, or the Building Act in the preceding five years. A new suspension criterion should be added to the Local Government Act 1995 allowing the Minister of Local Government to suspend a Council Member charged with an offence, where the Minister is satisfied this would be in the best interests of the Local Government, based on advice of the Director General. That WALGA incorporate advocacy on this issue into its ongoing legislative reform engagement.

Item / Matters for Decision As per State Council Agenda	Recommendations
	<p>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The South East Metropolitan Zone (SEMZ) passed a motion requesting that WALGA advocate for additional powers for the Minister to suspend Council Members charged with criminal offences likely to damage the reputation of the Local Government, and disqualify if convicted. • Suspension, dismissal and disqualification must balance the public interest in elected representatives of good character, with protections for the individual and respect for democratic processes. • While the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> (the Act) includes a range of suspension, dismissal and disqualification mechanisms, their operation also depends on how the relevant decision-makers choose to use their powers. • This report recommends that the dismissal mechanisms under the Act are sufficient to address the Zone's concern, but that WALGA's advocacy position be amended to include an additional suspension power for the Minister of Local Government. • The Governance Policy Team endorsed the advocacy position at its meeting on 19 May. <p>STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS</p> <p>Influence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government. <p>Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide practical sector-wide solutions based on research and evidence. <p>POLICY IMPLICATIONS</p> <p>The current Advocacy Position 2.5.5 Disqualification Due to Conviction position provides as follows:</p> <p>Position Statement: A new disqualification criterion should be added to the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> that disqualifies a person from serving as an Elected Member if they have been convicted of an offence against the <i>Planning and Development Act</i>, or the <i>Building Act</i> in the preceding five years.</p> <p>Background: A planning or building system conviction is potentially more serious than a <i>Local Government Act</i> conviction because of Local Government's prominent role in planning and building control and the significant personal benefits which can be illegally gained through these systems.</p> <p>This report recommends that this position is renamed and amended to include an additional point 2, as follows:</p> <p><i>Suspension and Disqualification for Offences</i></p>

Item / Matters for Decision As per State Council Agenda	Recommendations
	<p><i>The WA Local Government sector advocates that:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. A new disqualification criterion should be added to the Local Government Act 1995 that disqualifies a person from serving as an Elected Member if they have been convicted of an offence against the Planning and Development Act, or the Building Act in the preceding five years.</i> <i>2. A new suspension criterion should be added to the Local Government Act 1995 allowing the Minister of Local Government to suspend a Council Member charged with an offence, where the Minister is satisfied this would be in the best interests of the Local Government, based on advice of the Director General.</i>
<p>8.2 State Development Applications and Decision Making Advocacy Position</p>	<p>RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>That the Zone support the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.2 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided below.</p> <p>WALGA RECOMMENDATION</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Replace Advocacy Position 6.4 Development Assessment Panels with the following: <p><i>6.4 State Development Applications and Decision Making</i></p> <p><i>WALGA calls on the State Government to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Ensure that decision making on development applications (DAs) is:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. consistent and accountable</i> <i>b. accessible to local communities</i> <i>c. respectful of, and appropriately applies, local planning frameworks in line with their statutory weight.</i> <i>2. Reform the Development Assessment Panel (DAP) system to:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. raise the DAP threshold from the current \$2 million to \$5 million and mandate periodic reviews of the threshold</i> <i>b. modify the composition of DAPs to provide equal representation of Specialist Members and Local Government Members</i> <i>c. review DAP processes to ensure proponents provide necessary information in a timely manner</i> <i>d. provide clear procedural guidance on the roles and functions of Local Government officers and Council</i> <i>e. allow access to the State Referral Coordination Unit for DAP applications to ensure timely and adequate referral responses from State Government agencies are provided to Local Governments.</i> <i>3. Abolish the state significant development assessment pathway (Part 11B of the Planning and Development Act 2005).</i>

Item / Matters for Decision As per State Council Agenda	Recommendations
	<p>4. <i>If the significant development assessment pathway is retained, implement the following reforms:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>raise the cost threshold to \$50 million and mandate periodic reviews of the threshold</i> <i>align statutory timeframes with DAP and Local Government determined DAs</i> <i>ensure all developments are consistent with applicable local planning instruments and provide comprehensive guidelines for discretionary decision making, including applying extraordinary discretion</i> <i>delete references to 'mandatory significant development' to ensure the pathway remains entirely opt-in</i> <i>undertake periodic reviews of its operation and effectiveness.</i> <p>2. Notes the Development Assessment Panel 2011 – 2024 Review and State Development Pathway 2020 – 2025 Review reports.</p> <p>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed that Advocacy Position 6.4 Development Assessment Panels be replaced with a new, expanded position that includes all forms of State Government development assessment and decision making. The updated position incorporates principles for state decision making, a refined list of recommended reforms to the Development Assessment Panels (DAPs) system and recommends that the significant development pathway be abolished but includes a list of recommended reforms if the pathway is retained. The draft position was informed by WALGA's review of the operation of the DAPs and the state significant development pathways, input from Local Government officers, and previous WALGA submissions. The draft position and accompanying review reports were provided to Local Governments for Council endorsed or CEO approved preferred feedback by 23 May. The Environment Policy team endorsed the position at their meeting on 29 May. <p>ATTACHMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rationale for draft advocacy position <p>POLICY IMPLICATIONS</p> <p>It is proposed State Council replace the current Advocacy Position 6.4 Development Assessment Panels:</p> <p><i>The Association does not support Development Assessment Panels (DAPs), in their current structure.</i></p> <p><i>Necessary changes to the structure of the DAPs system include:</i></p>

Item / Matters for Decision As per State Council Agenda	Recommendations
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>The abolishment of the current 'mandatory' mechanism where a proposal has a value of \$10 million or greater, and its replacement with an 'opt in' mechanism for all proposals.</i> 2. <i>Raising the DAP threshold from the current \$2 million to \$5 million,</i> 3. <i>The composition of DAPs should be modified to provide equal representation of Specialist Members and Local Government Members.</i> 4. <i>The creation of a distinct Special Matters DAP (SMDAP) is not supported, given there are already multiple avenues for determination on the basis of zoning and monetary value of applications. Should the State Government progress with the implementation of a SMDAP, the following changes are proposed to the model released in March 2022:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>allow proponents with proposals that meet the threshold or criteria being able to opt-out of the SMDAP pathway and allow assessment and determination by Local Government</i> • <i>mandate consultation with the relevant Local Governments prior to the issuing of a Ministerial Order in relation to SMDAP Precinct Criteria, and ensure SMDAP Precincts be identified through regulations, rather than by the Minister,</i> • <i>include greater professional planning expertise, and knowledge of local context through the Local Government members of the District DAP, by including majority professional town planner panel members, with two Local Government</i> • <i>representatives</i> • <i>expand the role of Local Governments in SMDAP processes and appropriate remuneration for involvement of Local Governments be included to support the SMDAP decision-making process.</i> 5. <i>In principle, the further reduction in the number of panels from five to three is supported, to the extent that this reduces the administrative burden on local governments and enhances consistency of decision making.</i> 6. <i>In principle, the permanent appointment of panel members where this results in consistent decision-making is supported as this reduces the potential for conflicts of interest and ensures sound knowledge of DAP processes and procedures.</i> 7. <i>WALGA supports greater transparency around DAP processes and decisions, as community distrust of DAP decision-making is a key area of concern for many local governments.</i> <p>with a new advocacy position 6.4 State Development Applications and Decision Making Advocacy Position:</p> <p><i>WALGA calls on the State Government to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Ensure that decision making on development applications (DAs) is:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>consistent and accountable</i> b. <i>accessible to local communities</i> c. <i>respectful of, and appropriately applies, local planning frameworks in line with their statutory weight.</i> 2. <i>Reform the Development Assessment Panel (DAP) system to:</i>

Item / Matters for Decision As per State Council Agenda	Recommendations
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>raise the DAP threshold from the current \$2 million to \$5 million and mandate periodic reviews of the threshold</i> b. <i>modify the composition of DAPs to provide equal representation of Specialist Members and Local Government Members</i> c. <i>review DAP processes to ensure proponents provide necessary information in a timely manner</i> d. <i>provide clear procedural guidance on the roles and functions of Local Government officers and Council</i> e. <i>allow access to the State Referral Coordination Unit for DAP applications to ensure timely and adequate referral responses from State Government agencies are provided to Local Governments.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. <i>Abolish the state significant development assessment pathway (Part 11B of the Planning and Development Act 2005).</i> 4. <i>If the significant development assessment pathway is retained, implement the following reforms:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>raise the cost threshold to \$50 million and mandate periodic reviews of the threshold</i> b. <i>align statutory timeframes with DAP and Local Government determined DAs</i> c. <i>ensure all developments are consistent with applicable local planning instruments and provide comprehensive guidelines for discretionary decision making, including applying extraordinary discretion</i> d. <i>delete references to 'mandatory significant development' to ensure the pathway remains entirely opt-in</i> e. <i>undertake periodic reviews of its operation and effectiveness.</i>
8.3 Public Library Agreement	<p>RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>That the Zone support the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.3 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided below.</p> <p>WALGA RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>That State Council endorse the <i>State and Local Level Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia</i>.</p> <p>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WALGA is a signatory to the <i>State and Local Government Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia</i> (the Agreement). • The five-year Agreement defines roles and responsibilities in the delivery of public libraries and provides the structure and framework for the delivery of the WA Public Libraries Strategy and future vision for public library services. • The current Agreement, endorsed by State Council in July 2020, is due for renewal in September 2025. • WALGA has participated in the review of the Agreement, which has recommended minor amendments.

Item / Matters for Decision As per State Council Agenda	Recommendations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the signing of a new Agreement, a sector consultation process will be undertaken for the associated Local Level Agreements between the State Library and Local Governments. The Agreement does not include funding arrangements for public libraries. WALGA continues to advocate for increased public library funding. <p>ATTACHMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State and Local Level Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia 2025 – 2030 <p>STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS</p> <p>Endorsing the Agreement aligns with WALGA's 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, particularly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Influence – Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government and empower the Local Government sector to build communities equipped for the future. Support – Grow opportunities for Local Governments' sharing of services and resources. Expertise – Optimise organisational capability to service members' needs and foster relationships between our subject matter experts and stakeholders. <p>POLICY IMPLICATIONS</p> <p>Endorsement of the new Agreement aligns with WALGA's current Advocacy Position 3.8 Public Libraries, which states:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Western Australian Local Government public libraries provide valuable local cultural infrastructure, creating social and community hubs for community capacity building, recreation, education and literacy, digital inclusion, and social connection, cohesion and inclusion.</i> <i>WALGA supports the provision of Public Library services in Western Australia through a formal partnership between Local Government and the State Government of Western Australia, governed by the Library Board Act 1951, namely the State and Local Government Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia (2020).</i> <i>The WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026 provides a framework for a shared vision, strategic direction and collaborative action in the provision of a vibrant and sustainable 21st century public library network.</i> <i>It is essential that a sustainable funding model enables Local Governments to continue to deliver library services to support continued growth and adaptation to changing community needs.</i>

1.6 Other State Council Agenda Items

Zone Delegates are invited to raise for discussion, questions or decision any of the items in the State Council Agenda, including the items for noting, Policy Team and Committee Reports or the Key Activity Reports.

1.4 Status Report on State Council Resolutions

Meeting	Resolution	Comment	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
7 May Item 8.1 Regulations for CEO KPIs and Online Registers – WALGA Submission	That WALGA endorse the recommendations contained in the attached ' <i>Regulations for CEO KPIs and public registers submission</i> ', subject to strengthening recommendation 1c to highlight the additional software and resource implications to the sector due to the introduction of public registers. RESOLUTION 026.2/2025	Submission lodged with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries on 7 May.	May 2025	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
7 May Item 8.2 Dog and Cat Management Advocacy Position	That WALGA replace Advocacy Position 2.12 <i>Puppy Farming</i> with a revised <i>Dog and Cat Management</i> advocacy position, as follows: <i>In regard to the Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act 2021 and the PetsWA Centralised Database, the WA Local Government sector advocates:</i> a) <i>that all Local Governments achieve full cost recovery in ensuring compliance with the Dog Act 1976 or Cat Act 2011 through a combination of appropriate fees and State Government funding that encourages compliance and serves the interests of all Western Australians regardless of where they live.</i> b) <i>that Fees and Charges set in Regulations are reviewed bi-annually and, at minimum, adjusted by the Local Government Cost Index.</i> c) <i>that the PetsWA centralised registration database is developed, operated and maintained by State Government, with no loss to Local Government registration fee revenue.</i> d) <i>that the function of PetsWA be restricted to the registration of dogs and cats, exclude ancillary functions such as animal related complaints and infringement notices, and integrate with existing Local Government corporate systems.</i> e) <i>for the continued legislative exemptions for livestock working dogs in recognition of their special breeding requirements.</i>	Advocacy Positions Manual updated. A letter has been sent to the Minister for Local Government, advising of the State Council's updated advocacy position.	May 2025	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services

	<p>f) <i>for a State Government-led education initiative whereby the community is encouraged to purchase puppies from approved breeders.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 027.2/2025</p>			
<p>7 May Item 8.3 Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations Advocacy Position</p>	<p>That WALGA replace the following Advocacy Positions:</p> <p>5.2.1 Environmental Protection Act 5.2.2 Land Clearing in Road Reserves</p> <p>with an updated Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations Advocacy Position as follows:</p> <p><i>WALGA calls on the Western Australian Government, in consultation with Local Government, to undertake legislative and policy reform to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of the regulatory system for clearing native vegetation in Western Australia, including:</i></p> <p>1. <i>Amending the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and associated regulations to remove unnecessary process, complexity and improve timeframes, including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>introducing statutory timeframes for the determination of referrals, permit applications and appeals</i> b. <i>increasing the default duration of Area and Purpose Permits to 10 years</i> c. <i>providing a permanent exemption for clearing of previously legally cleared transport corridors, including allowing Local Governments to clear for safety reasons.</i> d. <i>strengthening environmental data sharing requirements to ensure proponents cannot opt-out of sharing data</i> 	<p>Advocacy Positions Manual updated.</p> <p>Correspondence sent to the Minister for the Environment with the updated position.</p>	June 2025	<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p> <p>Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure</p>

	<p><i>collected for environmental assessment and monitoring purposes.</i></p> <p>2. <i>Ensuring the regulatory system is adequately resourced to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>implement an expedited process for clearing permits for projects that prevent death and serious injury (road safety), and state and federally funded or co-funded projects</i> b. <i>establish a dedicated Local Government Unit within the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>case manage Local Government referrals and clearing permit applications</i> ii. <i>provide guidance and training for Local Governments, particularly in relation to roadside vegetation management</i> iii. <i>support partnerships with Local Governments in strategic environmental offsets</i> c. <i>enable timely investigation and enforcement action for illegal clearing</i> d. <i>increase investment in the collection and provision of statewide biodiversity data, including:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>funding and coordinating a state-wide biodiversity survey program to standardise habitat and vegetation mapping</i> ii. <i>making biodiversity data more discoverable, accessible and useable</i> iii. <i>ensuring survey data relied upon for decision making is contemporary and accurate, particularly if there has been a change in environmental condition.</i> <p>3. <i>Undertaking bioregional planning for native vegetation management, with a focus on highly cleared areas and implementing strategic solutions for environmental offsets that can be utilised by Local Government.</i></p>			
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	<p>4. Ensuring that environmental offsets are relevant and proportionate, including:</p> <p>a. proximity to the area impacted</p> <p>b. the environmental value being impacted.</p> <p>5. Working with the Australian Government to reduce duplication between the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 029.2/2025</p>			
<p>7 May</p> <p>Item 8.4</p> <p>Submission on the State Recovery Arrangements</p>	<p>That State Council endorse the submission to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services on proposed revisions to the State Recovery Arrangements, subject to incorporating Advocacy Position 8.9 - Expansion of the Community Emergency Services Manager Program.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 030.2/2025</p>	<p>Submission lodged with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services on 8 May 2025.</p>	<p>May 2025</p>	<p>Nicole Matthews</p> <p>Executive Manager Policy</p>
<p>7 May</p> <p>Item 8.5 Health (Public Buildings) Regulations Consultation</p>	<p>That WALGA endorse the submission on Health (Public Buildings) Regulations Consultation to the Department of Health.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 031.2/2025</p>	<p>Submission lodged with the Department of Health on 7 May 2025.</p>	<p>May 2025</p>	<p>Nicole Matthews</p> <p>Executive Manager Policy</p>
<p>7 May</p> <p>Item 8.6</p> <p>Submission for 2025 State Wage Case</p>	<p>That State Council endorse the WALGA 2025 State Wage Case submission to the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 032.3/2025</p>	<p>Submission lodged and accepted by the WAIRC on 13 May.</p> <p>WALGA presented the submission at a WAIRC hearing held on 21 May.</p>	<p>May 2025</p>	<p>Tony Brown</p> <p>Executive Director Member Services</p>
<p>7 May</p> <p>Item 8.7 Finance and Services</p>	<p>That State Council endorse the Minutes of the Finance and Services Committee meeting held on 23 April 2025.</p>	<p>All items have been actioned.</p>		<p>Tony Brown</p> <p>Executive Director Member Services</p>

Committee Minutes – 23 April 2025 - CONFIDENTIAL	RESOLUTION 033.2/2025			
5 March Item 8.1 Climate Change Advocacy Position	That State Council refer this advocacy item back to the Environment Policy Team for further development. RESOLUTION 003.1/2025	At the 24 March Environment Policy Team meeting, it was agreed that WALGA would develop a consultation approach for consideration by the Policy Team. At the 29 May meeting, the Policy Team agreed to the proposed consultation approach, which involves providing the composite Advocacy Position to all Local Governments for a 10-week consultation period, with Council endorsed or CEO approved feedback preferred. An additional Policy Team meeting will be held to consider comments and a composite resolution.	May 2025	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy
5 March Item 9.1 Infrastructure Policy Team Report	That State Council: 1. Note the report from the Infrastructure Policy Team for the 5 March 2025 meeting. 2. Determine to: a. Delete Advocacy Position 5.2.8 (Towards Zero Road Safety Strategy 2008 – 2020). b. Amend the title of Advocacy Position 5.2.7 from Road Safety Strategy (Imagine Zero) to Driving Change Road Safety Strategy 2020-2030.	Advocacy Positions Manual updated. The Infrastructure Policy Team resolved to recommend WALGA engage an independent specialist to develop a framework to support the Local Government sector in decision making and advocacy relating to speed limits.		Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure

	<p>3. <u>Undertake further policy development and consultation with Members regarding the default open road speed limit in Western Australia.</u></p> <p>RESOLUTION 013.1/2025</p>			
<p>6 December Item 8.1 2024 Annual General Meeting Resolutions</p>	<p>That:</p> <p>1. the item 7.1 Amendments to <i>Cat Act 2011</i> - Allow Local Governments to Make Local Laws to Contain Cats to the Owner's Property be endorsed.</p> <p>...</p> <p>3. the following resolutions from the 2024 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the Governance Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:</p> <p>7.2 Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land-Banking</p> <p>7.3 Advocacy for Expansion of Differential Rating to Include Long Term Unoccupied Commercial Buildings (Property Activation Levy).</p> <p>RESOLUTION 089.5/2024</p>	<p>Advocacy Positions Manual updated.</p> <p>Correspondence has been sent to the Minister for Local Government requesting the CAT Act be reviewed to provide Local Governments with the ability to contain cats on an owner's property.</p> <p>In addition, work has commenced on developing a template Cat Local Law to assist Local Government to make local laws to the extent of the current local law-making powers.</p> <p>Work on items 7.2 and 7.3 is being carried out and an update will be provided when complete.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services</p>
<p>6 December Item 8.1 2024 Annual General Meeting Resolutions</p>	<p>That:</p> <p>...</p> <p>2. the following resolutions from the 2024 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the Environment Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:</p> <p>7.2 Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land-Banking</p> <p>7.4 Action on Asbestos for Western Australia</p>	<p>Resolution 7.2 (regarding the planning related items within this resolution): The demolition of single houses is generally a form of development exempt from requiring development approval, and only a demolition permit is required for the complete or partial demolition, dismantling</p>		<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p>

	<p>7.6 Advocacy for Accessibility.</p> <p>...</p> <p>RESOLUTION 089.5/2024</p>	<p>or removal of a building or an incidental structure. The current planning and building legislation do not allow the conditioning of approval or refusal of a building permit in a manner proposed by the AGM resolution.</p> <p>Resolution 7.4: WALGA is engaging at the State and National level on this issue, including through membership of the WA Interagency Asbestos Group and nationally the Asbestos Safety Eradication Agency reference group and has raised the issues impacting Local Governments in relation to safe removal and disposal, including ensuring statewide options.</p> <p>Resolution 7.6: Liveable Housing Design Standard as part of the National Construction Code provides a set of technical provisions that if complied with enable dwellings to better meet the needs of the community, including older people and people with mobility limitations. The code specifies seven minimum standards to ensure all new homes are accessible with modifications including step-free entrances and showers and wider doors</p>		
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		<p>and corridors that can accommodate wheelchairs and walking aids.</p> <p>All states enact the NCC through state legislation and regulation. A range of states are taking different approaches in terms of adopting the liveable housing requirements, but at time of writing all states except NSW and Western Australia have adopted the liveable housing provisions.</p> <p>The NCC 2022 only became operational in WA on 1 May. With the appointment of a new Commerce Minister following the 2025 State Election, WALGA will again raise the prospects of WA adopting the standard.</p>		
6 December Item 8.2 Local Government Elections Advocacy Positions	<p>That item 1 be deferred, and the Secretariat further investigate implications of compulsory and voluntary participation in Local Government elections and report back to State Council.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 090.5/2024</p> <p>That WALGA adopt the following Elections Advocacy Positions:</p> <p><i>The Local Government sector supports:</i></p>	<p>Advocacy Positions Manual updated.</p> <p>Preparation of a report on implications of compulsory and voluntary participation in Local Government elections in progress.</p> <p>Letter written to Minister for Local Government advising on the five advocacy positions endorsed.</p>	Ongoing	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Councillors serve four-year terms with elections every two years and half of the Council positions spilled at each election. 2. First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system for Local Government elections. If Optional Preferential Voting (OPV) remains as the primary method of voting, the sector supports the removal of the 'proportional' part of the voting method for general elections. 3. First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system for internal Council elections. 4. Councils holding elections by means of in-person, postal and/or electronic voting. 5. Current legislative provisions of Mayor/President of Class 1 and Class 2 Local Governments being directly elected by the community and Class 3 and Class 4 Local Governments determining whether its Mayor or President is elected by the Council or by the community. <p>RESOLUTION 091.5/2024</p>			
6 December Item 8.6 Bus Stop Infrastructure Agreement	That State Council: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provides in principle support for the proposed Bus Stop Infrastructure Partnership Agreement between WALGA and the Public Transport Authority 2024/25 to 2028/29. 2. Request the WALGA Secretariat negotiate with the Public Transport Authority seeking: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Deletion of the word "typically" from Clauses 6.2, 8.1 (ii) and 8.6 (i) b. Indexation of funding provided under the Bus Shelter Subsidy Program (BSSP) and Bus Shelter Maintenance Assistance Scheme (BSMAS) during or at the end of the Agreement 	Following conclusions of discussions with the PTA, a revised agreement incorporating, to the extent possible the matters raised by State Council, was presented to the WALGA President and CEO for consideration and is scheduled for signing in mid-June.		Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure



	<div>3. Authorise the WALGA President to sign the Bus Stop Infrastructure Partnership Agreement, on the completion of best endeavours to negotiate with the Public Transport Authority.</div> <div>4. Refer the request for WALGA develop an advocacy position that Commonwealth Disability Standards have a provision for minimum standards of public transport shelter to the Infrastructure Policy Team.</div> <div>RESOLUTION 095.5/2024</div>			
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1.5 COMPLETE ZONE STATUS REPORT

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Kimberley C	7 May State Council Agenda Item 8.3 Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations Advocacy Position	<p>Supports the WALGA recommendation on item 8.3 Native Vegetation Clearing regulations advocacy position and provides an additional Zone resolution to be added to the recommendation as per the following</p> <p>That the Kimberley Regional Group of Councils resolves and submits to State Council:</p> <p>In accordance with its submission “Clearing Legislation Review” to WALGA on 18 December 2024, that the State Government:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provides Legislative Clarity and Consistency: The Western Australian Government undertake a review to resolve the current inconsistencies and overlaps between the <i>Land Administration Act 1997</i>, <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>, and the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i>, particularly where these relate to the clearing of native vegetation and the delivery of public works by Local Governments. 	<p>SECRETARIAT COMMENT</p> <p>The Kimberley Country Zone prepared a paper, which informed its recommendation and that was considered by WALGA in developing the Advocacy Position.</p> <p>Point 1 - The proposed Advocacy Position includes ‘WALGA calls on the Western Australian Government, in consultation with Local Government, to undertake legislative and policy reform to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of the regulatory system for clearing native vegetation in Western Australia. This aligns with the Kimberley Zone recommendation in relation to having clarity and consistency of regulation.</p> <p>WALGA sought clarification from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) regarding whether Local Governments require a clearing permit if extracting gravel under the provisions of the Land Administration or Local Government Act. The Department confirmed that Local Government do need to apply for a clearing permit and the two pieces of legislation give the Local Government the ability to access the gravel but not authorisation to clear native vegetation in order to access it. There is no exemption</p>	June 2025	<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039</p>

		<p>2. Enables Streamlined Gravel Extraction for Public Works: The Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004 be amended to include an explicit exemption from the requirement for a clearing permit for the extraction of gravel and other basic raw materials from Crown and private land (including in environmentally sensitive areas – in accordance with standard remediation practices), where such materials are required for public works purposes -including road construction, repair, and maintenance - aligning this exemption with the intent and powers already granted under "written law" in the <i>Land Administration Act 1997</i> and the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i>.</p> <p>3. Provides for Safety Exemptions in Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs): That the existing clearing permit exemptions under the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> for safety-related activities - such as emergency access, hazard reduction, and bushfire management - be clarified and extended to apply within Environmentally Sensitive Areas</p>	<p>under Schedule 6 or the Clearing Regulations for the purpose of gravel extraction. No change to the draft Advocacy Position has been made.</p> <p>Point 2 – For Local Government approximately 2% of Referrals and 5% of Clearing Permits relate to extractive activities, such as gravel pits. In the metropolitan and peri-urban areas, gravel requirements are frequently met by purchasing material from commercial suppliers, rather than the Local Governments own gravel pits. However, in regional areas Local Governments generally source gravel and manage pits and so have to be cognisant of a range of legislation and approvals process including both Environmental (State and Commonwealth) and Aboriginal Heritage. As noted, the provisions in the Local Government Act 1995 and Land Administration Act 1997 do not overrule other legislative requirements and it is not the intent for these Acts to do so. No change has been made to the Draft Advocacy Position.</p> <p>Point 3 - Environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs) are classes or areas of native vegetation where the exemptions for clearing vegetation under the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004 do not apply. However, for clearing assessed and authorised under other statutory processes set out in Schedule 6 of the EP Act a clearing permit is not required, even if it is within an</p>		
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		<p>(ESAs), ensuring that essential public safety and emergency response actions are not impeded by regulatory constraints.</p>	<p>ESA. This exemption includes clearing required under other laws (such as the Land Administration Act 1997, Bush Fires Act 1954 and Fire Brigades Act 1942). It also includes clearing for fire prevention and control on Crown land. As this issue is covered by current exemptions, no change has been made to the Draft Advocacy Position.</p> <p>STATE COUNCIL RESOLUTION</p> <p>That WALGA replace the following Advocacy Positions:</p> <p>5.2.1 Environmental Protection Act</p> <p>5.2.2 Land Clearing in Road Reserves</p> <p>with an updated Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations Advocacy Position as follows:</p> <p><i>WALGA calls on the Western Australian Government, in consultation with Local Government, to undertake legislative and policy reform to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of the regulatory system for clearing native vegetation in Western Australia, including:</i></p> <p>1. <i>Amending the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and associated regulations to remove unnecessary process, complexity and improve timeframes, including:</i></p>		
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>introducing statutory timeframes for the determination of referrals, permit applications and appeals</i> b. <i>increasing the default duration of Area and Purpose Permits to 10 years</i> c. <i>providing a permanent exemption for clearing of previously legally cleared transport corridors, <u>including allowing Local Governments to clear for safety reasons.</u></i> d. <i>strengthening environmental data sharing requirements to ensure proponents cannot opt-out of sharing data collected for environmental assessment and monitoring purposes.</i> <p>2. <i>Ensuring the regulatory system is adequately resourced to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>implement an expedited process for clearing permits for projects that prevent death and serious injury (road safety), and state and federally funded or co-funded projects</i> b. <i>establish a dedicated Local Government Unit within the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>case manage Local Government referrals and clearing permit applications</i> ii. <i>provide guidance and training for Local Governments, particularly in relation to roadside vegetation management</i> iii. <i>support partnerships with Local Governments in strategic environmental offsets</i> 		
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			<p>c. <i>enable timely investigation and enforcement action for illegal clearing</i></p> <p>d. <i>increase investment in the collection and provision of statewide biodiversity data, including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>funding and coordinating a state-wide biodiversity survey program to standardise habitat and vegetation mapping</i> ii. <i>making biodiversity data more discoverable, accessible and useable</i> iii. <i><u>ensuring survey data relied upon for decision making is contemporary and accurate, particularly if there has been a change in environmental condition.</u></i> <p>3. <i>Undertaking bioregional planning for native vegetation management, with a focus on highly cleared areas and implementing strategic solutions for environmental offsets that can be utilised by Local Government.</i></p> <p>4. <i><u>Ensuring that environmental offsets are relevant and proportionate, including:</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i><u>proximity to the area impacted</u></i> b. <i><u>the environmental value being impacted.</u></i> <p>5. <i>Working with the Australian Government to reduce duplication between the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 029.2/2025</p> <p>CARRIED</p>		
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Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
<div> <div>People</div> <div>Place</div> <div>Prosperity</div> <div>Performance</div> </div>	<div> <div>Advocate</div> <div>Partner</div> <div>Promote</div> </div> <div> <div>Facilitate</div> <div>Fund</div> <div>Monitor</div> </div>	Nil	
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
<p>Note: As a quorum was not achieved, the Kimberley Country Zone meeting proceeded as an informal discussion.</p> <p>The items below were noted and discussed, but no resolutions were passed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The report from the WALGA President 2. The State Council Agenda Items as circulated 3. The recommendations in the Matters for Decision contained within the State Council Agenda 4. The Items for noting 5. The Status Report on State Council Resolutions 6. The Kimberley Zone Status Report 			
Moved:	N/A	Responsible:	-
Seconded:	N/A	Due date:	-
Carried:	-		

5. Conclusion of Zone Matters: 9:21am

6. Jacqui Dodd Scholarship

For Noting

Submitted by: WALGA Training Team

Background

The LGA50220 Diploma of Local Government – Elected Member Scholarship, named in honour of the late Jacqui Dodd, former long-serving WALGA Training Services Manager, has been awarded since 2021. This program is the highest qualification an Elected Member can achieve through WALGA Training and enables participants to increase their skills and knowledge in order to confidently provide leadership to their community.

The scholarship covers 50% of training and assessment fees and provides additional travel expense compensation for regional applicants upon completion of the program. WALGA Training awards this scholarship to two Metropolitan and two Regional Elected Members.

To qualify, applicants must be current Elected Members, have completed all Council Member Essentials training, and must not have previously received the scholarship.

This year's nominations will open on Tuesday, 1 July and close on Friday, 15 August 2025 at 12 noon. The scholarship winners will be announced at the Local Government Convention in September.

For more information and details on how to apply please visit the WALGA Training [website](#), contact the team via email training@walga.asn.au, or call us on (08) 9213 2088.

Recommendation/s	Action(s)
For Noting	