

State Council Agenda 1 May 2024

Ordinary meeting no. 2 of 2024 of the Western Australian Local Government Association State Council to be held at the City of Waneroo, 23 Dundobar Road, Wanneroo at 12.30pm.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | |
|-----------|---|-----------|
| 1 | OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES | 3 |
| 1.1 | Opening | 3 |
| 1.2 | Attendance | 3 |
| 1.3 | Apologies | 4 |
| 2 | ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY | 4 |
| 3 | ANNOUNCEMENTS | 4 |
| 4 | MINUTES | 4 |
| 4.1 | Minutes of the State Council meeting held 6 March 2024 | 4 |
| 4.1.1 | Business arising from the Minutes of the State Council meeting held on 6 March 2024 | 4 |
| 5 | DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST | 4 |
| 6 | EMERGING ISSUES | 4 |
| 7 | MATTERS FOR DECISION | 5 |
| 7.1 | Waste Levy Advocacy Position..... | 5 |
| | MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY STATE COUNCILLORS (UNDER SEPARATE COVER) | 12 |
| 8 | POLICY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS | 13 |
| 8.1 | Environment Policy Team Report | 13 |
| 8.2 | Governance Policy Team Report | 14 |
| 8.3 | Infrastructure Policy Team Report | 15 |
| 8.4 | People and Place Policy Team Report..... | 16 |
| 8.5 | Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Report..... | 19 |
| 9 | MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION | 21 |
| 9.1 | WALGA 2023 Emergency Management Survey | 21 |
| 9.2 | Tree Retention Model Local Planning Policy | 23 |
| 9.3 | Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement Plan Implementation | 26 |
| 9.4 | Planning and Building Performance Monitoring Project | 28 |
| 9.5 | 2024 WALGA Aboriginal Engagement Forum | 31 |
| 10 | ORGANISATION REPORTS | 33 |
| 10.1 | Key Activity Reports..... | 33 |
| 10.1.1 | Report on Key Activities, Advocacy Portfolio | 33 |
| 10.1.2 | Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure Portfolio | 37 |
| 10.1.3 | Report on Key Activities, Member Services Portfolio | 41 |
| 10.1.4 | Report on Key Activities, Policy Portfolio | 45 |
| 10.2 | President's Report | 49 |
| 10.3 | CEO's Report | 49 |
| 10.4 | Ex Officio Reports..... | 49 |
| 10.4.1 | City of Perth Report | 49 |
| 10.4.2 | LG Professionals Report | 49 |
| 11 | ADDITIONAL ZONE RESOLUTIONS | 49 |
| 12 | DATE OF NEXT MEETING | 49 |
| 13 | CLOSURE | 49 |
| | STATUS REPORT ON STATE COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS | 50 |



1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

1.1 OPENING

1.2 ATTENDANCE

| | | |
|--------------------|---|---|
| Members | WALGA President - Chair WALGA Deputy President Central Metropolitan Zone Avon-Midland Country Zone Central Country Zone Central Metropolitan Zone East Metropolitan Zone East Metropolitan Zone Gascoyne Country Zone Goldfields Esperance Country Zone Great Eastern Country Zone Great Southern Country Zone Kimberley Country Zone Murchison Country Zone North Metropolitan Zone North Metropolitan Zone North Metropolitan Zone Northern Country Zone Peel Country Zone Pilbara Country Zone South East Metropolitan Zone South East Metropolitan Zone South Metropolitan Zone South Metropolitan Zone South Metropolitan Zone South West Country Zone | President Cr Karen Chappel AM JP Cr Paul Kelly President Chris Antonio President Cr Phil Blight Cr Helen Sadler Deputy State Councillor (TBC) Cr Emily Wilding President Eddie Smith President Cr Laurene Bonza Cr Stephen Strange Cr Scott Crosby President Chris Mitchell President Cr Les Price Cr Michael Dudek Cr Lewis Hutton Deputy State Councillor (TBC) President Cr Kirrilee Warr Mayor Rhys Williams Cr Wendy McWhirter-Brooks Mayor Patrick Hall Cr Adam Hort Mayor Logan Howlett JP Cr Karen Wheatland Cr Barry Winmar President Cr Tony Dean |
| Ex Officio | The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor – City of Perth Local Government Professionals WA President | Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas Mr Anthony Vuleta |
| Observers | | |
| Secretariat | Chief Executive Officer Executive Director Member Services Executive Manager Infrastructure Executive Manager Policy Executive Manger Advocacy Chief Financial Officer Manager Governance and Procurement Manager Association and Corporate Governance Executive Officer Governance | Mr Nick Sloan Mr Tony Brown Mr Ian Duncan Ms Nicole Matthews Ms Rachel Horton Mr Rick Murray Mr James McGovern Ms Kathy Robertson Ms Meghan Dwyer |



1.3 APOLOGIES

East Metropolitan Zone
North Metropolitan Zone

President Paige McNeil
Cr Bronwyn Smith

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

WALGA acknowledges the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to Country, culture and community. We embrace the vast Aboriginal cultural diversity throughout Western Australia, including Boorloo (Perth), on the land of the Whadjuk Noongar People, where WALGA is located and we acknowledge and pay respect to Elders past and present.

WALGA is committed to supporting the efforts of WA Local Governments to foster respectful partnerships and strengthen relationships with local Aboriginal communities.

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

4 MINUTES

4.1 MINUTES OF THE STATE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 6 MARCH 2024

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the WALGA State Council meeting held on [6 March 2024](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

4.1.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE STATE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6 MARCH 2024

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

6 EMERGING ISSUES

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



7 MATTERS FOR DECISION

7.1 WASTE LEVY ADVOCACY POSITION

By Rebecca Brown, Manager Waste and Environment

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council:

- 1. Replace the existing WALGA *Waste Levy Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 7.4 Waste Management Funding*.**

Local Government considers that:

- 1. Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy funds should be hypothecated to strategic waste management activities in line with the State Waste Strategy and strongly opposes the application of the Levy to non-waste management related activities, such as funding State Government core activities; and**
- 2. The Levy should not be applied to licensed landfills outside the metropolitan area.**

- 2. Endorse a new Waste Levy Advocacy Position as follows:**

The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy (the Levy) was established in WA to fund programs relating to the management, reduction, reuse, recycling, monitoring or measurement of waste and administering the fund. The current Levy is applied to waste generated, or landfilled, in the Perth metropolitan area.

Currently, only 25% of the collected funds are retained for strategic waste management activities, 75% are allocated to the ongoing operations of the Department responsible for administration of the Levy.

Local Government considers that:

- 1. The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy funds must be fully hypothecated to strategic waste management activities in line with the State Waste Strategy and not be used for non-waste management related activities, such as funding State Government core activities.**
- 2. Strategic waste management activities funded by the State Government should:**
 - a. Provide adequate funding and support for Regional Councils, non-metropolitan and metropolitan Local Governments;**
 - b. Reflect the targets and priorities within the Waste Strategy;**
 - c. Fully fund and acknowledge the life cycle costs of infrastructure and services; and**
 - d. Facilitate the development, implementation and ongoing operation of Product Stewardship Schemes.**
- 3. The Levy should not be applied to waste generated in the non-metropolitan area as it is not feasible, or appropriate, to implement the Levy in areas with a limited rate base, access to markets for recycled materials, economic growth and resources to manage such a change.**



4. **The Levy should not be applied to waste received at premises undertaking licensed activities whose primary purpose is resource recovery.**
5. **The Levy must be supported by a clear, evidence-based rationale to demonstrate the suitability of how charges are set, how and where funds are allocated, and the extent to which it is delivering on its objectives.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Waste Levy and Strategic Waste Funding Policy Statement was first endorsed in 2008 and was amended in 2018.
- The Statement outlines the Local Government position on levies charged on the weight or volume of waste received at licensed premises and the application of those funds to waste management activities.
- In 2023, the WA Government published the findings of a Review of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Levy. The consultation summary report and supporting consultant report can be accessed on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) [website](#).
- Key outcomes of the Levy Review included a five-year schedule of increases and a commitment to investigate extending the levy boundary to regional areas.
- The new Waste Levy Advocacy Position uses contemporary language emphasises:
 - Full hypothecation of the Levy;
 - The key areas of expenditure for the Levy;
 - Opposition to the expansion of the Levy's geographic application;
 - Opposition to the application of the Levy to resource recovery activities; and
 - The need for a clear evidence-based rationale for setting and expending the Levy.
- The Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) endorsed the new Advocacy Position in February 2024.

ATTACHMENT

- Waste Levy Policy Statement

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This item rescinds the existing [Policy Statement](#) and [Advocacy Position](#):

7.4 Waste Management Funding

Local Government considers that:

1. *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy funds should be hypothecated to strategic waste management activities in line with the State Waste Strategy and strongly opposes the application of the Levy to non-waste management related activities, such as funding State Government core activities; and*
2. *The Levy should not be applied to licensed landfills outside the metropolitan area.*

A new Advocacy Position for the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy is proposed:

The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy (the Levy) was established in WA to fund programs relating to the management, reduction, reuse, recycling, monitoring or measurement of waste and administering the fund. The current Levy is applied to waste generated, or landfilled, in the Perth metropolitan area.



Currently, only 25% of the collected funds are retained for strategic waste management activities, 75% are allocated to the ongoing operations of the Department responsible for administration of the Levy.

Local Government considers that:

1. The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy funds must be fully hypothecated to strategic waste management activities in line with the State Waste Strategy and not be used for non-waste management related activities, such as funding State Government core activities.
2. Strategic waste management activities funded by the State Government should:
 - a. Provide adequate funding and support for Regional Councils, non-metropolitan and metropolitan Local Governments;
 - b. Reflect the targets and priorities within the Waste Strategy;
 - c. Fully fund and acknowledge the life cycle costs of infrastructure and services; and
 - d. Facilitate the development, implementation and ongoing operation of Product Stewardship Schemes.
3. The Levy should not be applied to waste generated in the non-metropolitan area as it is not feasible, or appropriate, to implement the Levy in areas with a limited rate base, access to markets for recycled materials, economic growth and resources to manage such a change.
4. The Levy should not be applied to waste received at premises undertaking licensed activities whose primary purpose is resource recovery.
5. The Levy must be supported by a clear, evidence-based rationale to demonstrate the suitability of how charges are set, how and where funds are allocated, and the extent to which it is delivering on its objectives.

BACKGROUND

WALGA's [Waste Levy Policy Statement](#) and Advocacy Position 7.4 Waste Management Funding were first endorsed in 2008, and amended in 2018 following a review and to reflect the implementation of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 (State Waste Strategy).

The updated Advocacy Position has been updated to make the language more contemporary and outlines the Local Government position on levies charged on the weight or volume of waste received while undertaking licensed activities, and the application of those funds to waste management activities.

The key elements of the Advocacy Position remain, there is no support for the non-metropolitan application of the Levy and all funds raised through the Levy should be hypothecated to Strategic waste management activities.

The Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) endorsed the new Advocacy Position in February 2024.

COMMENT

Currently, 75% of Levy funds go to consolidated revenue with the remaining 25% hypothecated to the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Account. A significant proportion of funds allocated to the WARR Account goes into funding ongoing operations of the Department. MWAC has identified the continued importance of full hypothecation of the Levy to strategic waste management activities. [WALGA's Budget](#)



[Submission](#) identifies the need for the full Levy amount to be expended on strategic waste management initiatives.

WALGA's 2020 [Submission](#) to the Levy Review reiterated key points of WALGA's position, in particular Local Governments' concern regarding a potential expansion of the levy to non-metropolitan areas. Following the Levy Review, DWER has advised it is preparing a consultation regulatory impact statement (CRIS) on options to expand the area where the WARR Levy applies. This is expected to be released for comment in 2024. The CRIS will examine the benefits, costs and financial impacts of expanding the area.

When the two Waste to Energy facilities begin operation, the amount of waste to landfill and consequently Levy generation will decrease. The State Government's long-standing position is that only residual waste is to be used for energy recovery following better practice source separation and does not propose to apply a levy on this material. The ongoing implementation and promotion of State Waste Strategy target initiatives such as Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) systems, community education and behaviour change programs and the Container Deposit Scheme are also expected to be reduce landfill volumes.

The State Budget projections for the Levy show a decreased income, but greater hypothecation of the Levy to the WARR Account to compensate for the reduced income. This will maintain the annual funding amount to the WARR account, which provides assurance for Local Government of ongoing support for waste initiatives. However, as a significant proportion of funds within the account are directed to the ongoing operations of DWER, WALGA will continue to argue strongly for full hypothecation of levy funds to strategic waste management activities.



Waste Levy Policy Statement

March 2024

Policy Statement

A Policy Statement to outline the WALGA position on Levies charged on the weight or volume of waste received at sites undertaking licensed activities and the application of those funds to waste management activities.

Background

The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy (the Levy) was first established in WA in 1998, through the *Environmental Protection (Landfill) Levy Act 1998* (EP Levy Act) where money raised through the Levy was only used to fund programs relating to the management, reduction, reuse, recycling, monitoring or measurement of waste and administering the fund. The current Levy is applied to putrescible waste and inert waste generated in, or disposed of, in the metropolitan area.

The Levy was originally intended to fund strategic waste management activities. In 2009, the EP Levy Act was amended to allow the Levy funds to be used to support the core activities of the State Government Department responsible for Levy administration. This means only 25% of the collected funds are retained for strategic waste management activities, with a significant proportion of these funds used to fund ongoing operations of the Department relating to waste management, such as salaries and overheads.

This Policy Statement provides comment on the existing Waste Levy as an existing mechanism.

Statement of Policy

1. Support for Waste Levy

a) **The Waste Levy should be fully hypothecated to Strategic Waste Management Activities.**

Local Government strongly opposes the application of the Levy to non-waste management related activities, such as funding State Government core activities and ongoing operations.

b) **The Levy should not be applied to waste generated in the non-metropolitan area.**

It is not feasible, or appropriate, to implement the Levy in non-metropolitan areas with a limited rate base, access to markets for recycled materials, economic growth and resources to manage such a change. The Levy's application to these areas would have negative environmental, social and economic outcomes.

c) **The Levy should not be applied to waste received at premises undertaking licenced activities whose primary purpose is resource recovery.**

Local Government strongly opposes the application of the Levy to waste delivered to sites undertaking licenced activities, where those activities have, as a primary purpose, resource recovery (such as materials recovery facilities (MRFs), green waste processing facilities and waste to energy facilities (WTEs). Local Government will consider the appropriateness of the Levy being applied to waste delivered to other types of licenced activities (for example mine dumps) on a case-by-case basis.

2. Strategic Waste Management Activities

Levy funds should be expended on programs that:

- a) **Support the achievement of targets, and reflects the priorities, within the State Waste Strategy**
- b) **Provide adequate funding and support for Regional Councils, non-metropolitan and metropolitan Local Governments, ensuring the difference in regional priorities are recognised**
- c) **Fully fund the life-cycle costs of infrastructure and services**
- d) **Facilitate the development, implementation and ongoing operation of Product Stewardship Schemes.**

3. Basis for setting Levy

The Waste Levy rate should be determined by reference to following criteria:

a) **Capacity to fund the State Waste Strategy**

It is necessary that the Levy rate(s) is/are supports the implementation of the State Waste Strategy. Local Government recognises that total annual expenditures may sometimes exceed and at other times fall below the total revenues raised by the Levy.

b) **Capacity to achieve any other stated objectives**

Any proposal from the State Government to use the Levy to achieve objectives, other than the generation of funds for strategic activities, must have valid reasons to show how a change in the Levy will support those objectives before Local Government would support the use of Levy funds.

c) **Capacity to pay the Levy**

In setting the Levy rate, the State Government must consider the capacity of Local Governments and their communities to pay the Levy.

a) **Capacity to Plan**

To ensure Local Government can plan and budget for changes to the Levy, and has a firm basis for business cases to change service provision, at least a 5 year rolling schedule for the Levy is required.

4. Regulation of the Levy

The Levy must be supported by a comprehensive regulatory regime for activities that are, or should be, licenced.

Without effective regulation, the Levy's ability to raise funds and act as an economic instrument to reduce waste to landfill is negated.



MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY STATE COUNCILLORS (UNDER SEPARATE COVER)

Items Under Separate Cover to State Council only.



8 POLICY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1 ENVIRONMENT POLICY TEAM REPORT

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager, Policy

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the matters considered by the Environment Policy Team at its meeting on 6 March 2024.

The Environment Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

- *Environment*
- *Planning*
- *Climate change*
- *Building Regulation*
- *Natural resource management*
- *Urban Forests*

This Report provides an update on matters considered by the Environment Policy Team at its meeting on 6 March 2024.

1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION

Nil

2. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING

Nil

3. PORTFOLIO UPDATES

The Policy Team was provided with updates on:

- Urban Forests
 - The release of WALGA's model Tree Retention Local Planning Policy (LPP);
 - Round One of the Local Government Urban Greening Grant Program; and
 - The State Government's announcement of the development of a Perth and Peel Urban Forest Strategy.
- Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer;
- The State Government's consideration of the Report of the Independent Panel's Review of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*;
- Local Government planning fees and charges – the Minister for Planning; Lands; Housing; Homelessness has agreed to a comprehensive review; and
- Native vegetation clearing permit assessment timeframes.



8.2 GOVERNANCE POLICY TEAM REPORT

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the report on the Governance Policy Team.

The Governance Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

- *Governance (Local Government legislation)*
- *Local Government Reform/Regional Service Delivery*
- *Local Government Revenue*
- *Local Government Elections*
- *Employee Relations/Industrial Relations*
- *Training*

The Governance Policy Team have not held a meeting since the last State Council meeting in March.

A meeting of the Governance Policy Team will be scheduled to occur in May, where the following key items of business will be presented:

- Standardised Meeting Procedures Submission
- Elections Review Report



8.3 INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY TEAM REPORT

By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the matters considered by the Infrastructure Policy Team at its meeting on 6 March 2024.

The Infrastructure Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

- *Transport*
- *Infrastructure*
- *Road Safety*
- *Underground power*
- *Street lighting*

This Report provides an update on matters considered by the Infrastructure Policy Team at its meeting on 6 March 2024.

1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION

Nil

2. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING

The Policy Team noted the Zone Resolutions and Composite resolution for the item on the 6 March 2024 State Council agenda for decision – Separation and Edge Line Markings by Local Government on Low Volume Rural Roads.

The Policy Team progressed actions and advocacy in relation to:

- Regulating heavy vehicle road access conditions; Extended lead time for quotes from Western Power for headworks and changes to infrastructure;
- Royalty payments for mine site materials used in road construction and maintenance;
- Regional Telecommunication Independent Review;
- Review of Main Road Cross over Policy;
- Required changes to the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements; and
- Local Government Active Transport Working Group

The team noted that ALGA has accepted the invitation to hold the National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress in Western Australia in December 2024.

3. PORTFOLIO UPDATES

The Policy Team was provided with a presentation on the areas of focus for the Infrastructure portfolio.



8.4 PEOPLE AND PLACE POLICY TEAM REPORT

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager, Policy

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the matters considered by the People and Place Policy Team at its meeting on 6 March 2024.

The People and Place Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

- *Community*
- *Emergency Management*

This Report provides an update on matters considered by the People and Place Policy Team at its meeting on 6 March 2024.

1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION

Nil

2. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING

The Policy Team discussed the following items for noting on the 6 March 2024 State Council agenda:

- 2024-25 Federal Budget Submission; and
- Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan (EM-SAP) Local Government Consultation Project.

3. MATTERS REFERRED BY ZONES

Murchison Country Zone: Improving the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS)

At the People and Place Policy Team Meeting on 7 February 2024, the Policy Team considered the following resolution of the Murchison Country Zone:

That WALGA advocate for improvements to the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS) for regional Western Australia particularly around fuel and accommodation subsidies.

The People and Place Policy Team resolved to:

1. Note the request from the Murchison Country Zone.
2. Request that WALGA write to the Minister for Health to seek a review of the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme.

At the People and Place Policy Team Meeting on 6 March 2024, the Policy Team amended the recommendation to:

1. Note the request from the Murchison Country Zone.
2. Request that WALGA write to the Minister for Health to seek a review of the current level of the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme *with the intention to increase it to reflect current costs, including an annual CPI increase.*



South East Metropolitan Zone: Mitigating public health implications of increasing temperatures, frequent heatwaves coupled with accelerated depletion of tree canopy.
East Metropolitan Zone: Public health planning for climate change (heat) risks

The People and Place Policy team considered the following resolutions of the East and South East Metropolitan Zones:

The South East Metropolitan Zone is seeking WALGA:

- *Develop Model Text Provisions for the sector to address increasing risks to community public health generated by escalating heat wave conditions and Urban Heat Island effects coupled with accelerated loss of tree canopy; and*
- *As a matter of urgency, advocates to the state government to establish additional funding to enable local governments to implement intensive, widespread measures to mitigate the major public health implications of increasing temperatures, frequent heatwaves coupled with accelerated depletion of tree canopy, particularly in urban areas.*

The East Metropolitan Zone is seeking WALGA:

- *Develop draft model actions to guide Public Health Plans to address increasing risks to community public health generated by escalating heat wave conditions and Urban Heat Island effects coupled with accelerated loss of tree canopy; and*
- *As a matter of urgency, advocates to the state government to establish additional funding to enable local governments to implement intensive, widespread measures to mitigate the major public health implications of increasing temperatures, frequent heatwaves coupled with accelerated depletion of tree canopy, particularly in urban areas.*

The People and Place Policy Team resolved:

1. To note the resolutions of the South East and the East Metropolitan Zones.
2. The ongoing WALGA advocacy regarding the implementation of Stage 5 of the Public Health Act 2016, as stated in Advocacy Position 3.2.1.
3. That WALGA will continue to advocate for sector support, advice and funding for Public Health Plan drafting and implementation.

Gascoyne Zone: Challenges with Aboriginal Heritage Matters

The People and Place Policy Team was provided with an update on action arising from the resolution of the Gascoyne Country Zone:

That the Gascoyne Country Zone requests that WALGA schedules a Teams meeting between the Gascoyne Zone delegates and the relevant Policy Team to discuss the issues the Zone faces in complying with Aboriginal Heritage Legislation and establishing indigenous Land Use Agreements.

On 22 February 2024, WALGA convened an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Roundtable for the Gascoyne Zone in Carnarvon. The aim of the roundtable was to gain a shared understanding of the requirements under the amended *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and its interaction with heritage surveys, Standard Heritage Agreements, and Indigenous Land Use Agreements; and to share Local Government feedback and progress implementation solutions applicable across the Local Government Sector in partnership with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH). The discussion provided some practical solutions and proposals which WALGA is seeking to progress with DPLH, aligned to the State Government's commitment to guidance and support for the sector.



President Eddie Smith hosted the Roundtable in Carnarvon and informed the Policy Team that it was very informative and worthwhile. The People and Place Policy Team resolved to encourage zones that are inclined to host a roundtable on the Aboriginal Heritage Act with involvement from DWER and DPLH.

4. PORTFOLIO UPDATE

The Policy Team was provided with updates on the:

- WALGA Emergency Management Survey;
- Power and Telecommunications Roundtable held on 20 February; and
- LEMA Improvement Project.



8.5 MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL (MWAC) REPORT

By Rebecca Brown, Manager Waste and Environment

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the resolutions of the 21 February 2024 Municipal Waste Advisory Council Meeting.

This Report provides an update on matters considered by the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) at its meeting held on 21 February 2024.

1. MATTERS FOR DECISION

Waste Levy Advocacy Position

MWAC resolved to rescind the existing Waste Levy Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 7.4 Waste Management Funding and endorse a new Waste Levy Advocacy Position (State Council [Item 7.1](#) for Decision refers).

Waste Levy Advocacy Position

MWAC, through WALGA, resolved to write to the Minister for Energy; Environment and Climate Action:

- Expressing Local Governments' concern about the impacts of the e-waste to landfill ban regarding the e-waste to Landfill Band the need for further funding and effective product stewardship in line with WALGA's advocacy position on [Landfill Bans](#); and
- Seeking an update on the outcomes of the consultation on the Container Deposit Scheme expansion, timeframe for the expansion and reiterating Local Governments' strong support for the expansion of the Scheme to include wine and spirit bottles as a minimum.

2. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

MWAC considered *Waste Advocacy Priorities for 2024*:

- Increase the proportion of the Waste Levy being provided to Local Government to assist the sector in meeting the State Waste Strategy targets and provide investment certainty;
- Achieve regulatory certainty through provision of the Waste Derived Materials Framework, new DWER Regulatory Framework in place providing a risk-based approach to regulation, and the completion of the WARR Strategy Review and revised State Waste Strategy;
- Ensure the State Waste Infrastructure Plan is fit for purpose across WA, with a specific focus on ensuring sufficient regional infrastructure;
- The implementation of effective product stewardship schemes for electrical and electronic waste, packaging, tyres and mattresses which address WALGA's 10 Principles for Product Stewardship.
- Development of a WALGA Circular Economy Policy Position; and
- Research and engagement with Local Government on key issues with asbestos, including illegal dumping, Local Government infrastructure, emergency management and community need to identify priority action areas and funding required.



MWAC also discussed the importance of ensuring high quality services were in place and ensuring different community needs were met, particularly for CALD communities and different types of development (e.g. multi-residential vs single unit dwellings).



9 MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

9.1 WALGA 2023 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SURVEY

By Rachel Armstrong, A/Policy Manager, Emergency Management

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the results of the 2023 Local Government Emergency Management Survey.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 102 (75%) of the 137 mainland WA Local Governments responded to WALGA's 2023 Emergency Management Survey.
- Key issues raised by Local Governments included: community preparedness and resilience; capacity to respond to and manage recovery; management of Bush Fire Brigades; inadequate LGGS funding; lack of emergency management resources; and challenges accessing grant funding.
- The survey demonstrates the importance of Community Emergency Services Managers (CESMs) to Local Governments that have one and that many regional Local Governments without a CESM would like one.
- The survey identified several issues with the *Bush Fires Act 1954* that Local Governments would like to see resolved in the proposed Consolidated Emergency Services Legislation.
- The survey results will inform WALGA's policy development and advocacy on behalf of the sector, including the WALGA 2024-25 State Budget Submission, and in the lead up to the next State and Federal elections.
- A summary of the survey results was presented at the State Council Information Forum on 3 April, and in a Sector webinar was held on 11 April 2024.

ATTACHMENT

- [Executive Summary – WALGA 2023 Emergency Management Survey](#)

BACKGROUND

WALGA undertakes a Local Government Emergency Management Survey every two years, with previous surveys undertaken in 2019 and 2021.

In 2019, WALGA undertook the 'Before, During, After' Local Government Emergency Management Survey. Actions undertaken as a result of the survey feedback included the establishment of a Local Government Emergency Management Network, and development of a new 'Emergency Management for Local Government Leaders' training course.

The 2021 survey built on the feedback received in the 2019 Survey with a specific focus on managing volunteer Bush Fire Brigades. The results provided the basis for a review of [WALGA's Emergency Management Advocacy Positions](#) and have enabled WALGA to effectively represent the Local Government sector's interests, including through:

- The State Emergency Management Committee, State Bushfire Advisory Committee, Inter- Agency Bushfire Operations Committee; and



- Representations to Government and policy submissions, including the 2023-24 and 2024-25 WALGA State Budget Submissions.

102 (75%) of the 137 mainland WA Local Governments responded to WALGA's 2023 Emergency Management Survey, which was conducted from 6 November and 8 December 2023.

COMMENT

Key issues raised by Local Governments in responding to the 2023 Survey included: community preparedness and resilience; capacity to respond to and manage recovery; management of Bush Fire Brigades; inadequate LGGS funding; lack of emergency management resources; and challenges accessing grant funding.

The survey demonstrates the importance of Community Emergency Services Managers (CESMs) to Local Governments that have one and that many regional Local Governments without a CESM would like one. The survey also identified several issues with the *Bush Fires Act 1954* that Local Governments would like to see resolved in the proposed Consolidated Emergency Services Legislation.

The 2023 Survey results provide critical information to underpin WALGA's Emergency Management policy and advocacy work. The results will inform WALGA's policy development and advocacy on behalf of the sector, supporting the [WALGA 2024-25 State Budget Submission](#), and in the lead up to the 2025 State and Federal elections. Key focus areas include the need for adequate resourcing for Local Government Emergency Management, increased support for volunteer Bush Fire Brigades (BFB) and State Emergency Service (SES) through the Local Government Grants Scheme (LGGS) and ensuring matters important to Local Government are considered in the development of the Consolidated Emergency Services Act.

Supporting material will be prepared to summarise and communicate key information to Local Governments, State and Federal Government and other stakeholders.



9.2 TREE RETENTION MODEL LOCAL PLANNING POLICY

By Coralie Claudio, Senior Policy Advisor, Planning

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the Tree Retention Model Local Planning Policy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA's model Tree Retention Local Planning Policy (LPP) was released in March 2024.
- The LPP aims to create a consistent regulatory framework for tree protection across WA.
- The LPP stipulates the circumstances in which a development approval is required to remove a tree and guides the assessment of these applications and other planning proposals.

ATTACHMENT

- [Model Local Planning Policy: Tree Retention](#)
- [Letter from the WALGA President to the Minister for Planning; Lands; Housing; Homelessness](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

WALGA Advocacy Position **4.6 Urban Forest:**

To promote the growth of Western Australia's urban forest the State Government should:

- 1. Identify a lead agency with responsibility for setting the strategic direction and oversight of urban forest initiatives.*
- 2. Provide recurrent funding for a comprehensive and accessible Urban Greening Grant program to support Local Government investment in public realm planting, focusing on high urban heat areas and enhancing biodiversity outcomes.*
- 3. In consultation with Local Government:*
 - a. Develop a state-wide Urban Forest Strategy, based on the overarching principles of a resilient, connected, expanded and equitable urban forest including:*
 - i. a minimum tree canopy target of 30% by 2040 for the Perth and Peel regions,*
 - ii. robust and contemporary data to inform decision making,*
 - iii. funding mechanisms to support growth in urban canopy.*
 - b. Develop contemporary legislative and policy mechanisms to enable the protection and growth of urban forest, including:*
 - i. an effective and efficient regulatory mechanism that allows Local Government to consider the removal or alteration of a significant tree as a form of development,*
 - ii. incentivising the provision and retention of trees on private property within the state planning framework,*
 - iii. prioritisation of trees and vegetation as a key structural element in the design of new neighbourhoods to facilitate climate resilient and liveable communities,*



- iv. *consideration of public realm design to maximise opportunities for tree retention and new planting consistent with any tree canopy targets.*
4. *Work with Local Government and other stakeholders to increase community awareness and promote behaviour change in relation to urban forest growth and retention to support State and Local Government targets and action.*

BACKGROUND

The current State planning framework is largely silent on regulatory and policy mechanisms that can be used to retain trees on private land. Local Governments have sought to address this void through different statutory mechanisms, namely local planning policy or local planning scheme provisions. Proposed changes to local planning schemes by Local Governments to include tree protection provisions on private land within have been rejected by the Minister for Planning.

In 2023, WALGA prepared an *Issues Paper: Local Government Approaches to Tree Retention* (Issues Paper) which outlined the key challenges for Local Government in retaining trees on private land and street trees. Legal advice on the questions posed in the Issues Paper was procured from McLeods Barristers and Solicitors, who produced the *Legal Response to the Local Government Approaches to Tree Retention* (2023). The legal advice was purchased by approximately 50 Local Governments.

Key findings from the legal advice include:

- The removal of a tree is an activity that falls within the concept of 'works';
- Whether or not the works involved in removing a tree amount to a development that requires approval is a matter of fact and degree and is therefore inherently uncertain; and
- To remove uncertainty, it would be preferable for the planning framework to stipulate the circumstances in which approval is required to remove a tree. This can be done via scheme or policy provisions.

The development of a model LPP in response to the legal advice was identified by the Urban Forest Working Group (UFWG) as a high priority. The model LPP has been developed by WALGA, in consultation with the UFWG, and reviewed by McLeods.

The model LPP:

- Clarifies that the tree removal (or other tree damaging activity) is works that requires development approval;
- Introduces and defines the term 'regulated tree' being a living tree that:
 - Is 8 metres or more high, and/or
 - Has an average canopy diameter of at least 6 metres,
 - Has a trunk circumference of at least 1.5 metres, measured 1.4 metres above the ground, and
 - is of a species that is not included on State or local area weed register;
- Lists the circumstances where tree damaging activity would be exempt from requiring a development approval (i.e. tree does not meet the definition of regulated tree); and
- Promotes and facilitates tree preservation at all stages of the planning and development process, including strategic planning proposals and subdivision applications, as well as development applications.

The model LPP was [released](#) in March 2024.



COMMENT

Local Governments can adopt the LPP in accordance with the procedures set out in the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Scheme) Regulations 2015*, which requires community consultation and consideration by Council.

The provisions of the model LPP can be modified to respond specific Local Government context or community feedback. WALGA is recommending that Local Governments seek to minimise changes, particularly in relation to the definition of regulated tree and when a development application is required for tree damaging activity, to promote consistency in approach and reduce uncertainty for decision makers, proponents, and communities.

The model LPP has been well received by the sector with a number of Local Governments investigating the use of, or preparing to implement, the policy.

WALGA briefed the Minister for Planning on the model LPP prior to its release and provided him with a copy on its release. The WALGA President has also promoted the LPP during media interviews with ABC Radio and 6PR.



9.3 LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS (LEMA) IMPROVEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

By Simone Ruane, Project Lead, Emergency Management

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the Local Emergency Management Arrangement Improvement Project update.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- In December 2023, the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) endorsed a Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement Plan, including funding to deliver the first phase of the Plan.
- The LEMA Improvement Plan aims to progress the local emergency management reforms recommended by Local Governments in the LEMA Review and will be delivered as a partnership between WALGA and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES).
- WALGA has been allocated \$356,000 to employ a LEMA Project Lead to work directly with Local Governments to develop and pilot new LEMA approaches over an 18-month period.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Advocacy Position **8.11 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA):**

1. *The State Government should fund the implementation of the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement Plan endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC).*
2. *A reformed LEMA system should:*
 - a. *Clearly articulate the roles and responsibilities of Local Governments in emergency management;*
 - b. *Simplify the reporting processes and reduce the administrative burden of maintaining compliance;*
 - c. *Provide a suite of scalable tools and guidance materials that are accessible through an online knowledge hub;*
 - d. *Build the emergency management capacity and capability of Local Governments through the provision of targeted training, exercising support, human resources and sustainable funding;*
 - e. *Assist Local Governments to continue to deliver their core business activities and provide public information during an emergency event;*
 - f. *Improve the connectivity of Local Governments' various risk management and hazard planning processes through an integrated approach; and*
 - g. *Enable resource sharing and collaboration across the Local Government sector.*

BACKGROUND

Under the *Emergency Management Act 2005* WA Local Governments are required to establish one or more Local Emergency Management Committees (LEMCs) and maintain Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) for their district. LEMA refers to the suite of emergency management documentation, systems, processes, agreements, and



memorandums of understanding (MOU) that support a coordinated approach to EM at the local level.

Recognising the need for a more contemporary and fit-for-purpose local emergency management system, in 2019 the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) approved a review of the current LEMA model to identify the key issues and opportunities for improvement. In 2021, WALGA was allocated [AWARE Funding](#) to lead a Local Government consultation for the LEMA Review to ensure a sector-informed approach.

From April to December 2022, WALGA consulted with 100 Western Australian Local Governments to inform the LEMA Review. The resulting [LEMA Review Consultation with Western Australian Local Governments: Project Summary and Recommendations Report](#) laid the groundwork for a comprehensive [LEMA Improvement Plan and a five-year implementation approach](#). The Plan aims to reduce administrative burden and build the knowledge and capability of Local Governments in developing and maintaining fit-for-purpose LEMA. The SEMC approved the Plan and funding from the State Level Project Fund to deliver Phase 1 of the LEMA Improvement Plan in December 2023.

Phase 1 will be delivered as a partnership project between WALGA and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) on behalf of the SEMC. WALGA has been allocated \$356,000 to employ a LEMA Project Lead to work directly with Local Governments to co-develop and pilot new LEMA approaches and supporting resources over an 18-month period.

COMMENT

The initiation of the LEMA Improvement Program demonstrates the commitment of the State Government to progress LEMA reforms. However, as outlined in WALGA's [2024-2025 Budget Submission](#), funding of \$1 million per year over 5 years is needed to implement the full LEMA Improvement Plan. WALGA's submission also requests \$9 million per annum for a Local Government Emergency Management Program to build the capacity of Local Governments to maintain effective LEMA and sustain improvements over the longer term.



9.4 PLANNING AND BUILDING PERFORMANCE MONITORING PROJECT

By Chris Hossen, Policy Manager, Planning and Building

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the results of the 2022-23 Local Government Performance Monitoring Project.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA's Local Government Performance Monitoring Project has been undertaken annually since 2017.
- WALGA uses the findings of the project to support advocacy and policy development, particularly around planning and building regulation reform.
- 42 Local Governments participated in the 2022-23 Project, representing approximately 90% of Western Australia's population and 94% of the State's total population growth between 2021 and 2022.
- The 2022-23 data shows that Local Governments have maintained high levels of performance in undertaking their strategic and statutory planning and building functions.
- The findings of the Project are incorporated into an online interactive dashboard publicly available through the WALGA website.

ATTACHMENT

- [Key Indicator Snapshot](#)
- [Performance Monitoring Dashboard](#)

BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Performance Monitoring Project* (the Project) and associated *Local Government Performance Monitoring Report* (the Report) was initiated by the Growth Alliance Perth and Peel (GAPP) group and WALGA in 2017, in response to inaccurate and misleading reporting of the planning performance metropolitan Local Governments by Property Council WA.

The Project and accompanying Report have been undertaken annually since that time, with the number of participating Local Governments increasing from 11 to 43 in 2022-23. The process of collecting and reporting data has also been refined and improved. The Performance Monitoring Dashboard, now in its third year, provides a collated view of all participating Local Governments across the seven years of Project reporting, and allows Local Governments to analyse and compare performance by year, region or against individual Local Governments. The use of the dashboard reduces project costs and reporting times and allows for a faster expansion of the project.

The dashboard is not intended to be a comparison of individual Local Government performance; however it allows individual Local Governments to draw comparisons between themselves and other Local Governments, which may be useful for those who may have similar development pressures and resourcing.



COMMENT

42 Local Governments now participate in the project:

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Albany | Armadale | Augusta-Margaret River |
| Bassendean | Bayswater | Belmont |
| Broome | Bunbury | Busselton |
| Cambridge | Canning | Cockburn |
| Denmark | East Fremantle | Fremantle |
| Gosnells | Greater Geraldton | Harvey |
| Joondalup | Kalamunda | Karratha |
| Kwinana | Mandurah | Manjimup |
| Melville | Mosman Park | Mundaring |
| Nannup | Nedlands | Northam |
| Perth | Port Hedland | Rockingham |
| Serpentine Jarrahdale | South Perth | Stirling |
| Subiaco | Swan | Toodyay |
| Victoria Park | Vincent | Wanneroo |

These Local Governments represent approximately 90% of Western Australia's population and 94% of the state's total population growth between 2021 and 2022. Collectively they provide a strong indication of how the Local Government sector in Western Australia is performing in the areas of strategic and statutory planning and building regulation. There is low standard deviation within most specific measures, and average sector performance year on year is consistent, this indicated a high degree of confidence that the reported performance is reflective of the sector as a whole, and that high levels of performance by some larger Local Governments are not impacting sector averages.

Key findings from the 2022-23 data:

- Participating Local Governments determined 55,598 applications (development applications, subdivision referrals and building permits), a 16% decrease on the previous year;
- 92% of these applications were determined or responded to within statutory timeframes;
- 99% of all development applications were approved;
- 97% of all development applications were determined under delegated authority;
- 22 Local Governments are currently reviewing their Local Planning Scheme (LPS);
- Local Governments continue to be concerned at the length of time taken to receive consent to advertise and final endorsement for LPSs; and
- For scheme amendments:
 - Local Governments finalised 64 scheme amendments in 2022-2023,
 - 60% of the time taken to complete scheme amendments could be attributed to State Government processes, significantly higher than the 49.5% average over the 7 years of reporting.



WALGA uses the findings of the project to support advocacy and policy development, particularly around planning and building regulation reform and to reinforce the critical role of Local Government in the planning system. WALGA will continue to utilise this information to inform policy development, advice and advocacy in relation to any legislation, policy or regulations prepared by the State which affect the planning and building functions of Local Government.

WALGA is encouraging additional Local Governments to participate in the 2023-24 financial year reporting period, with a focus on the remaining metropolitan and peri-urban Local Governments.



9.5 2024 WALGA ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT FORUM

By Hannah Godsave, Acting Manager, Community Policy and Michelle Dayman, Senior Advisor Events

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the report on the 2024 Aboriginal Engagement Forum.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The WALGA Aboriginal Engagement Forum was held on 20 March 2024 at the State Reception Centre in Kaarta Gar-up (Kings Park).

The Forum provides an opportunity for the WA Local Government sector and partners to embrace the principles of reconciliation, through respectful Aboriginal and community engagement.

Feedback from speakers, attendees, WALGA Executive and State Councillors has been overwhelmingly positive, with 93 per cent of survey respondents saying they would attend future Forums.

BACKGROUND

WALGA has delivered Aboriginal Engagement Forums (the Forum) since 2017. The Forums provide an opportunity for the WA Local Government sector and partners to embrace the principles of reconciliation - to listen, learn and share with a collective goal of creating positive outcomes for Aboriginal Peoples and the wider community. The Forums aim to build capacity to achieve better practice policy, programs, and service delivery in Local Government.

The 2024 theme 'Djinaning Koora Djinaning Boorda' (Looking Back to Move Forward) acknowledged that our shared path to reconciliation is not straight forward but through reflection, sharing experiences, innovation, and collaboration we can inspire each other and move forward. The morning session, Djinaning Koora (Looking Back) centered around the understanding that without acknowledging our past and its impact, we are unable to move forward to achieve true reconciliation. The afternoon session, Djinaning Boorda (Moving Forward) celebrated the role Local Government plays in driving local level reconciliation. The [news article](#) on the Forum provides further reflections on the program.

187 delegates that attended the Forum, including:

- 34% identifying as Aboriginal;
- 108 from Local Government, including 17 Elected Members, representing 43 Local Governments across 13 WALGA Zones; and
- representatives from the not-for-profit sector, Aboriginal Organisations, State Government agencies and other businesses.



The Forum was facilitated by Ballardong Noongar woman Roanna Edwards as Master of Ceremonies. The program included presentations from Cr Yvonne Weldon from the City of Sydney, Carol Innes, Co-Director of Danjoo Koorliny, and representatives from Local Governments and Aboriginal organisations. The afternoon panels showcased a diverse mix of projects by Local Governments from across the State. Increased Aboriginal representation was evident, with First Nation presenters in all sessions.

The production of the event was elevated to align with the WALGA rebranding and create an event 'look and feel' consistent with the Forum's aim of providing space to share and learn. The planning of the event was supported by a Reference Group for cultural guidance that included State Councillors, Cr Barry Winmar and Cr Helen Sadler as well as Deborah Wilkes, Deputy CEO at the Shire of Shark Bay and Local Government officers.

COMMENT

Ticket sales for the 2024 Forum were lower than expected, despite a managed and targeted marketing campaign. While it is difficult to precisely identify the reasons for the lower attendance, this has also been the recent experience of other organisations holding events in this space and has been attributed to an unease and uncertainty about engaging in the Aboriginal policy space post the Voice Referendum.

Feedback on the Forum from attendees has been overwhelmingly positive, with 93 per cent of survey respondents saying they would attend future Forums. Frequent comments along the lines of "best Forum to date" reflect the concerted effort to elevate both the production and programming of the event and the collaboration between the WALGA Policy and Advocacy teams, Elected Member representatives and Local Government officials via the Reference Group and other channels.



10 ORGANISATION REPORTS

10.1 KEY ACTIVITY REPORTS

10.1.1 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, ADVOCACY PORTFOLIO

By Rachel Horton, Executive Manager Advocacy

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the Key Activity Report from the Advocacy Portfolio to the 1 May 2024 State Council meeting.

The Advocacy Portfolio comprises the following work units:

- *Marketing*
- *Communications*
- *Media*
- *Government Relations*
- *Events*

The following outlines the activities of the Advocacy Portfolio since the 6 March 2024 State Council meeting.

1. MARKETING

The new WALGA website will be launched on 9 April 2024, following final testing throughout March. This will also mark the official launch of the new brand, with only the new logo and brand assets being utilised from this date onwards. Communications have been drafted along with a promotional video to announce the launch to the external audience. Internal communications and activations have also been planned to ensure employees are up-to-date and equipped with knowledge around the correct use of the brand.

The Executive Manager, Advocacy participated in an ALGA working group to develop a National Federal Election Campaign. Discussions included identifying election asks, campaign goals, sector participation, resourcing and campaign themes.

Following the State Council Election Priorities workshop in March 2024, WALGA has also begun work on a State Election Campaign, including developing the strategic approach, determining the key asks and theme.

The Marketing team is developing campaigns to promote WALGA training courses to Member Councils including the Certificate III in Local Government, Diploma of Local Government (for Elected Members) and Health and Safety Representative courses.



2. COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA

Media Coverage

Media monitoring recorded 269 mentions of “WALGA” and “Local Government” in mainstream media throughout the reporting period.

The top three media outlets were 6PR Perth (80 mentions), The West Australian (30) and ABC Radio Perth (29).

The top stories covered were urban canopy and greening, state funding of Local Government libraries, bushfire management, ARENA funding for electric vehicles, reforms to R-codes and granny flat compatibility. Stories that gained the most momentum were WALGA’s response to planning reforms and granny flats, and the WALGA State Budget submission on Renewing our Libraries.

Throughout February and March President Karen Chappel was mentioned 55 times in mainstream media. In addition to being interviewed for Channel 9 on urban greening, the President was interviewed for print, radio and online publications on the above topics, plus on her re-election as WALGA President.

(Source: MyMedia)

Press Releases

WALGA Communications published four Media Releases:

- Local Governments taking the lead to protect mature trees on private land (5 March, 2024)
- It’s Electrifying! WALGA welcomes funding support for Councils to shift to EVs in WA (7 March 2024)
- WALGA President Karen Chappel re-elected for second term (7 March 2024)
- WALGA says no to dongas in backyards (13 March 2024)

Other communications published:

- 8 weekly LG Direct newsletters to over 2,000 Elected Members and senior staff.
- The hard copy version of the 2024 Local Government Directory has been sent to print and will be distributed in April 2024.

Social Media Engagement

In general, Instagram and LinkedIn have seen growth in reach and engagement whilst Facebook has seen a decline. The Marketing Team will plot the statistics month-on-month to identify which stories are gaining most traction and whether engagement is moving to different platforms.

Trends are compared to the previous reporting period of 1 December 2023 – 31 January 2024.

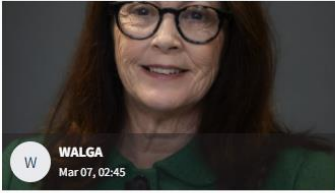
LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram combined statistics

- 39,822 page and profile reach
- 71,025 page and profile impressions
- 61 posts (11.6% decrease)
- 98 post comments and replies (60.7% increase)
- 1,167 post reactions and likes (33.3% decrease)
- Average post engagement rate of 7.45% (32.9% increase)
- 1,084 video views (63.3% decrease)



Facebook Top Posts

Top posts



Shire of Morawa President Karen Chappel AM JP has been re-elected as President of the WA Local Government Association, for her second term. Elected at the State Council meeting yesterday. Councillor Chappel



Local Governments taking the lead to protect mature trees on private land WALGA has today released a new Model Local Planning Policy (LPP) to support Local Governments to stem the loss in tree canopy cover in



WALGA President Cr Karen Chappel AM JP met with the Hon. John Carey, the Minister for Planning, Lands; Housing and Homelessness today to discuss the recently announced Perth and Peel Greening Strategy and the

- 12,208 post reach (23.4% decrease)
- 13,033 post impressions (23.4% decrease)
- 5.27% post engagement rate (2.5% decrease)

Instagram Top Posts

Top posts



Last week, WALGA hosted our annual Aboriginal Engagement Forum at the State Reception Centre, Kaarta Gar-up (Kings Park). Returning in 2024 with an elevated look and feel, the event commenced with a



Local Governments throughout the Perth and Peel regions will share in \$591,839.32 worth of funding under the first round of the Urban Greening Grants Program. "This is a terrific start to the Urban Greening Grants



On Tuesday March 5 Team WALGA cleaned up Railway Parade (home of the WALGA office), collecting 31kg of waste and 53 beverage containers! WALGA is part of the Keep Australia Beautiful Council's Adopt a Spot Program

- 2,394 post reach (31.6% increase)
- 2,418 post impressions (25.8% increase)
- 7.55% post engagement rate (77.1% increase)

LinkedIn Top Posts

Top posts



From today, Local Governments throughout the Perth and Peel regions will share in \$591,839.32 worth of funding under the first round of the Urban Greening Grants Program. "This is a terrific start to the Urban



As Western Australia experiences a brutal 3-day heatwave, we are reminded we need Cooler Cities and Shadier Suburbs. We need more tree canopy. In WA we are losing trees and at a rate faster than we can replace



WALGA President Karen Chappel re-elected for second term Shire of Morawa President Karen Chappel AM JP has been re-elected as President of the WA Local Government Association, for her second term. Elected at

- 1,700 post reactions (11.1% increase)
- 86,482 post impressions (6.5% increase)
- 7.39% post engagement rate (13.6% increase)



LinkedIn Advocacy related posts

- [8 February – State Budget Submission - Cooler Cities, Shadier Suburbs](#)
- [9 February – State Budget Submission - Renew Our Libraries](#)
- 14 February – State Budget Submission - Library Lovers Day, repost from Australian Bureau of Statistics (no link available)
- [28 February – State Budget Submission - President Chappel and CEO Nick Sloan Canberra meetings](#)
- [1 March – Meeting with Hon. John Carey to discuss the recently announced Perth and Peel Greening Strategy and the importance of growing our tree canopy to mitigate the impacts of climate change](#)
- [6 March - WALGA Model Local Planning Policy \(LPP\) Tree Retention](#)
- [14 March – WALGA says no to dongas in backyards](#)
- [19 March – Urban Greening grants recipients, with mention of State Budget Submission ask](#)
- [22 March – State Budget Submission - Ride to School Day](#)
- [25 March – State Budget Submission - CSRFF funding ask](#)

3. EVENTS

WALGA Aboriginal Engagement Forum

The 2024 WALGA Aboriginal Engagement Forum was held on 20 March 2024 at the State Reception Centre in Kaarta Gar-up (see [Item 9.5](#)).

Launch of 2024 WA Tree Festival

On Wednesday 27 March 2024, WALGA collaborated with the Kings Park and Botanic Garden to launch the WA Tree Festival (Tree Fest) for 2024 at Kaarta Gar-up (Kings Park).

Local Government Officers, Mayors and Presidents, CEOs, stakeholders, and the WA Tree Festival Steering Committee enjoyed an address from the Director of the Western Australian Botanic Garden Sue McDougall and renowned WA media personality and long-time host of The Garden Gurus, Trevor Cochrane.

It was a great opportunity to celebrate the many Local Governments and community groups involved in this year's festival and come together to highlight that we all have a vital role to play in protecting and enhancing our natural environment.

This is the first time WALGA has assisted in the launch of the event, which has strong links to both our work in delivering the Urban Greening Grant Program, and our State Budget Submission ask of \$20 million between 2024-25 to expand the Urban Greening Grant Program and \$1million for the creation of a State-Wide Urban Forest Strategy.



10.1.2 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE PORTFOLIO

By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the Key Activity Report from the Infrastructure Portfolio for May 2024.

The Infrastructure Portfolio comprises the following work units:

- *Roads*
- *Funding*
- *Urban and Regional Transport*
- *Utilities*
- *Road Safety*

The following outlines the activities of the Infrastructure Portfolio since the last State Council meeting.

1. ROADS

Local Government Transport and Roads Research and Innovation Program (LGTRRIP)

Three projects have been completed and a further four are progressing. Two workshops were recently held to seek project proposals for future works. The team is also seeking Local Government volunteers to serve on the Operations Team that will prioritise projects and to serve as project leaders.

Condition Assessment of Roads of Regional Significance

Work continues on the Condition Assessment of Roads of Regional Significance in the South West Region (approximately 2,100km) with video data collection complete for three Local Government areas and the remaining data collection programmed for late March and early April. Following data collection the consultant will perform the defect logging component of the program with work expected to be complete by May/June 2024.

Road Rail Interface Agreements

Rail Interface Agreements are a requirement under the *Rail Safety National Law (WA) Act 2015*. A model *pro forma* agreement between Local Governments and Arc Infrastructure is nearing the end of negotiations and should be available for Local Government review and action soon. This agreement updates various elements of the existing agreements, particularly adding clarification on types of works and the responsibilities of both parties. Additionally, negotiations regarding Interface Agreements with the PTA are also underway. As soon as these negotiations are complete, WALGA will liaise with each affected Local Government to provide advice around the new agreement.

Update of User Guides for calculating the cost of road wear for defined freight tasks

Due to recent escalation in road construction costs, WALGA has initiated an update of the unit rates that are used to underpin the methodologies in the User Guides for calculating the cost of road wear for defined freight tasks on sealed and unsealed roads. NTRO will be appointed to update the guides and to compile an online calculator.



2. FUNDING

State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement 2023/24 – 2027/28

Working groups have been established to progress implementation of the commitments made in the agreement in relation to:

1. Increasing application of the Safe System approach to the local road network,
2. Employment of Aboriginal people, and
3. Use of recycled materials in road construction and maintenance.

Each of these groups has held at least one meeting during the quarter.

Multi-Criteria Assessment (MCA) Model Revisions

The WALGA Infrastructure Team has progressed the work to harmonise the MCA models used by Regional Road Groups to prioritise project proposals for funding under the Road Project Grant funding pool in the Goldfields-Esperance, Gascoyne, Kimberley, and South West regions. Additionally, work on the MCA models has commenced in the Wheatbelt South and Great Southern regions. The proposed changes to the MCA models reflect the new focus areas of the State Roads Funds to Local Governments Agreement, while still allowing for flexibility to recognise the significant differences between regions.

3. TRANSPORT

Regional Freight Strategy

WALGA accepted an invitation to participate in the Steering Committee overseeing the development of a new Regional Freight Strategy for Western Australia. This is an opportunity to influence the development of this strategy including ensuring that the first and last kilometre issues are not overlooked. It is currently planned to complete the review by the end of 2024, requiring significant, focussed efforts.

Bus Stop Infrastructure

The partnership agreement has been in place from 2018/19 to 2022/23. WALGA has commenced a review of the current Agreement and has consulted a cross section of Local Governments to inform negotiations with the PTA for a new Agreement. WALGA has had an initial meeting with the PTA and the first draft has been completed.

4. UTILITIES

Underground Power

Discussions with Western Power regarding a template Targeted Underground Power Program Co-Funding Agreement continued with some further matters requiring legal advice. The Minister for Energy is still considering proposed Guidelines for the Targeted Underground Power Program.

WALGA convened a meeting of technical experts from the Electrical Safety section of Building and Energy (Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety), who regulate the State's electricity rules, with Western Power and Local Governments to identify the regulatory and practical issues that need to be resolved in order to enable EV chargers to be installed in the road reserve. Several Local Governments are keen to provide this capacity as part of the underground power projects. The matters identified will be progressed by Western Power.

Project delivery is continuing for the final projects in Round 6 of the former State Underground Power Program and the Network Renewal Underground Power Program (NRUPP). Affordability remains a key concern for Local Governments. WALGA is working with the program steering committee to develop proposals that will improve affordability.



Streetlighting

Western Power provided an outline of the 2024/25 streetlight pricing proposal that it intends to submit to the Economic Regulation Authority at the end of March. There is no formal stakeholder consultation process. However, the Economic Regulation Authority has indicated that it will consider submissions and the Association is developing a response.

The Association has been advocating for an effective consultation process with Local Governments to underpin the development of a Streetlighting Strategy that reflects the diversity of needs and aspirations across the sector. While very late, Western Power has now appointed a consultant and undertaken an initial survey of Local Governments. The regulatory requirement is for Western Power to publish a Streetlighting Strategy by the end of June 2024.

5. ROAD SAFETY

Road Safety Council Update

The Road Safety Council Communiques highlight the key discussions and considerations of the Council meetings. View the Communiques via the following link:

[Road Safety Council Meeting Communiques](#)

RoadWise Councils

Fifty-eight (58) Local Governments have now registered as a RoadWise Council since August 2023. Seventy two percent (72%) registered with a Resolution of Council and 28% via a Declaration. There is a spread of RoadWise Councils across all ten Regional Road Group regions. In terms of road safety activity, 50% of registered RoadWise Councils recorded activity in the first quarter and 65% during the second quarter of 2023-24.

RoadWise Recognised

Upon registration, RoadWise Councils become eligible to participate in the new RoadWise Recognised. This initiative is designed to recognise the positive influence of RoadWise Councils on road safety, benchmark and monitor their road safety actions and create opportunities for knowledge sharing and collaboration through the allocation and accumulation of Ribbons and Points.

The Ribbons rating (to a maximum of five) indicates the application of a holistic approach to road safety across governance, management and operations. Ribbons are allocated annually. Points signify the effort and expected relative effectiveness of the road safety actions delivered by RoadWise Councils. Points are allocated on a quarterly basis.

In the first six months, RoadWise Councils have recorded a total of 110 activities and have been awarded 60 Ribbons and 5,920 Points, collectively. Results will be communicated back to individual RoadWise Councils via their Road Safety Advisor. The annual Ribbon status will be announced later in the year. To date there are seven Councils with a three Ribbon status, 11 with a 2 Ribbon status and 16 with a one Ribbon status.



6. ASSET MANAGEMENT

Data collection for the 2022/23 Road Assets and Expenditure Report is nearing completion and initial analysis underway. WALGA is also seeking proposals from consultants to evaluate the current Road Assets and Expenditure Report data collection and report preparation processes and, once identified, to undertake the work to improve the delivery of the Road Assets and Expenditure Report. This project will identify opportunities to streamline the data collection and support better data reporting. A contract is expected to be awarded in April 2024, with the initial scoping and information gathering element of the project completed by the end of the Financial Year 2023/2024.



10.1.3 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, MEMBER SERVICES PORTFOLIO

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the Key Activity Report from the Member Services Portfolio to the 1 May 2024 State Council meeting.

The Member Services Portfolio comprises the following work units:

- *Association and Corporate Governance*
- *Commercial Contract Services*
- *Commercial Development*
- *Commercial Management*
- *Employee Relations*
- *Governance and Procurement*
- *Training*

The following outlines the activities of the Member Services Portfolio since the 6 March 2024 State Council meeting.

1. GOVERNANCE AND PROCUREMENT

Standardised Meeting Procedures Discussion Paper

Meeting Procedures (Standing Orders) Local Laws have been the foundation for facilitating efficient and effective Council and Committee meetings. State Government's Local Government Reform includes the proposal for replacing local laws with Standard Meeting Procedures Regulation.

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries is consulting on proposals, with feedback required to the Department by 29 May 2024. Local Governments are encouraged to provide their feedback to the Department.

WALGA has prepared a companion Discussion Paper that melds the Department's Consultation Paper with comment to provoke thought and considered response. WALGA is seeking feedback, consolidating administrative and Council Member views by Monday, 29 April 2024. Local Government feedback will be used to develop a sector wide advocacy position for submission to the Department.

2. COMMERCIAL

Preferred Supplier Program (PSP) Development

A tender for new Preferred Suppliers across multiple Panels and Categories of supply has been issued to approximately 80 endorsed suppliers. The Tender is under evaluation and progressive contracting will occur over June and July.

The next scheduled tender for Preferred Suppliers will be issued in August 2024. Members seeking to have suppliers invited to Tender for the WALGA Preferred Supplier Program should email commercial@walga.asn.au with their requests and endorsements.



A new category for Line Marking Services has been added to the Roads Infrastructure and Depot Services Panel. Following a public Tender new suppliers have been contracted and are now active.

New Categories of supply for the Professional Services PSP have been developed for HR and Organisational Services, with approximately 40 suppliers contracted to deliver, CEO Performance Reviews; EAP; Workplace Investigations; Change Management/Org Development and other employment related services.

New Category Development is currently being planned and developed for:

- PSP002 – Architectural Services
- PSP002-011 – Project and Operations Management
- PSP004 – Managed Accounting and Corporate Service
- PSP005 – Leisure Centre Equipment and Supplies

A full list of the [WALGA PSP panels and associated categories](#) is available on the WALGA website.

Sustainable Energy Project

The WALGA Sustainable Energy Project formally commenced on 1 April 2022 delivering aggregate energy purchases to 48 WALGA Members. Following seven completed quarters of the project the total estimated cost savings are approximately \$16 million and Carbon Offsets total approximately 48,300 tonnes.

There has been a substantial increase in the retail cost of electricity since the commencement of the project. The WALGA rates are only fixed until March 2025 and this will heavily impact the future cost of energy following the term of the initial contract.

WALGA has adopted a strategy for evolving future phases of the project. A procurement process is currently being developed.

WALGA is implementing a new Carbon Reporting Tool to support project reporting.

3. EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

WA Industrial Relations Commission applications

WALGA ER has been representing the sector in a number of applications regarding the State awards in the WA Industrial Relations Commission (WAIRC). These matters include the following:

- Application APPL 80 of 2023 – The Western Australian Municipal, Administrative, Clerical and Services Union of WA (WASU) and the Local Government, Racing and Cemeteries Employees Union (WA) (LGRCEU) filed an application to increase the wages in the Municipal Employees (Western Australia) Award 2021 (ME Award). If the WASU and LGRCEU are successful, wages in the ME Award will increase for the highest level by \$285.68 per week. WALGA will act in this matter by representing those Local Governments named to the ME Award which have instructed WALGA to act as an industrial agent in their and the sector's interests. This matter has been listed for conciliation on 19 April 2024.
- Applications APPL 3 and 4 of 2023 – WALGA is responding to claims from the Western Australian Services Union for additional entitlements in the Local Government Officers' (Western Australia) Award 2021 (LGO Award) and the ME Award. This matter has not yet been listed for a hearing, but the WASU sought discovery of documents



from Local Governments and WALGA. A discovery order was made, however this order is presently stayed pending WALGA's appeal.

- Applications APPL 26 and 27 of 2023 – The decisions in these matters resulted in the Commission retaining a number of facilitative clauses in the State awards which will assist Local Government employers and employees agree on work arrangements to suit individual employee circumstances. A few amendments have been made to the ME Award and the LGO Award as a result of the decisions, including the obligation that employers must pay employees within two days of the last day of a pay cycle. APPL 27 of 2023 (which deals with the ME Award) included a variation to address wages which are below the minimum wage, this application is adjourned pending the outcome of APPL 80 of 2023.
- Application APPL 6 of 2024 – The LGRCEU has filed an application to increase the industry allowance in the ME Award (clause 19.5) from \$21.82 to \$34.82 for compensation for disabilities on construction and maintenance work. Local Governments have until 5 April 2024 to respond to this claim. The Shires of Brookton, Cue, Mount Magnet have sort to intervene in this matter.
- Application CICS 5, 8 and 9 of 2023 - Application to intervene in union demarcation dispute

In response to sector feedback, WALGA successfully applied to intervene in three applications. These applications relate to a dispute over coverage of Local Government employees between three unions, the WASU, LGRCEU and the CFMEUW. Essentially the WASU is seeking an order that it cover Local Government outside employees to the exclusion of the CFMEUW. The matter is listed for hearing for four weeks from 15 to 24 July and 29 July to 9 August 2024.

WALGA Salary and Workforce Survey 2023

The survey closed in December 2022 and the results have been uploaded to the WALGA Salary and Workforce Survey online portal. Local Governments who have completed the survey or purchased access to the portal can view the survey report and the results in the online dashboard. A webinar outlining key results was held in March and will be available on our website in due course.

People and Culture Seminar

Date has been set for 19 July 2024. It will be held at the Perth Convention Centre. The Seminar provides an opportunity to hear from expert speakers on key HR/IR topics affecting the Local Government sector, and networking opportunities. The program is in development.

4. TRAINING

WALGA Training has received high volumes of enquiries and enrolments across all training offerings including the Diploma of Local Government for Elected Members. Since the Local Government Elections in October 2023, we are pleased that so many Elected Members have undertaken their required training and feedback received so far indicates that our learners are very satisfied with our improved Council Member Essentials learning options.

LGA30120 Certificate III in Local Government

The next Certificate III in Local Government commences mid-April 2024 aligned with the school holiday terms in Western Australia. Many Local Governments realising the quality and value of this training program and are undertaking long term planning for the publicly funded traineeship options under Jobs and Skills WA or plan to train their existing workers with the Fee for Service option. Overall, the program is growing in popularity, and it is



recommended that Local Governments register their interest early ahead of time to ensure WALGA Training can offer a training place.

Brand new course offerings

In the background, our highly specialised course development teams have been busy at work, developing specialised technical yet practical new short course options to support the sector undergoing an everchanging legislative environment.

Offering updated course materials and ongoing professional development on a regular basis is a very important value proposition to our members. As part of our mission, WALGA endeavours to support Local Government staff in their daily work roles through our course offerings including the latest:

- Report Writing for Informed Decision Making
- Delegation and Authorisation – Essentials
- Prevent Sexual Harassment & Psychosocial Hazards in the Workplace (Senior Leaders' Workshop)
- Active Bystanders (Train the Trainer)



10.1.4 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, POLICY PORTFOLIO

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager, Policy

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the Key Activity Report from the Policy Portfolio to the May 2024 State Council meeting.

The Policy Portfolio comprises the following work units:

- *Economics*
- *Environment and Waste (see MWAC Report)*
- *Planning and Building*
- *Emergency Management*
- *Community*

The following outlines the Policy Portfolio's activities since the March 2024 State Council meeting.

1. ECONOMICS

March Economic Briefing

In March, WALGA released its latest [Economic Briefing](#). Local Government costs increased 0.8% in the December quarter and are expected to rise 3.1% in 2024-25. The next Economic Briefing will be in June.

Updated Economic Development Framework and New Templates Released

WALGA's [Economic Development Framework](#) was updated and re-released in March. The Framework assists local governments to define their role in economic development and guide their strategies and actions.

WALGA worked with SGS Economics to develop templates for [Business Cases and Economic Development Strategies](#), tailored to the unique needs of the Local Government sector. These templates are available for Members to be downloaded and customised to suit their local government requirements.

WALGA Presentation at the Regional Development Australia WA Conference

WALGA Economics Manager, Daniel Thomson, presented at Regional Development Australia's WA Conference on the structure and role of WALGA, WALGA's advocacy priorities and opportunities for RDAs and local governments to work together to drive regional development.

2. ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE

New Climate Change Declarations

There are 5 new signatories to the WALGA Climate Declaration, with the Warren Blackwood Alliance of Councils (comprising the Shires of Boyup Brook, Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Donnybrook-Balingup, Manjimup and Nannup) signing the Declaration. This brings the total number of Local Governments making a Declaration to 56, representing over 85% of WA's population. WALGA encourages all Local Governments to become signatories.



Regional Local Government Environmental Regulation Roundtable

WALGA facilitated a virtual Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) Roundtable for regional Local Government CEOs on 19 March. This followed a similar session held for Metropolitan CEOs in December 2023. The Roundtable provided attendees with the opportunity to hear from the Department on reforms and activities underway and discuss matters of importance to the sector, including waste management, native vegetation clearing permits and offsets and licencing.

3. PLANNING AND BUILDING

Planning Fees and Charges

The Minister for Planning; Lands; Housing; Homelessness has agreed to WALGA's request for a comprehensive review of Local Government Planning Fees and Charges. The review is a significant first step to ensuring fees are set at cost recovery, appropriately indexed, and adhere to a contemporary methodology. The review will be undertaken by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH). WALGA has had a constructive initial meeting with DPLH officers to discuss the parameters of the review.

Planning Information Sessions

State Planning Policy 7.3 Residential Design Codes (SPP7.3)

The amended SPP7.3, including the new Medium Density Code provisions was released on 8 March 2024, with the policy becoming operational on 1 April 2024. WALGA held a sector webinar with DPLH to inform Local Government officers of the key changes to SPP7.3, as well as the explanatory guidelines. The webinar was attended by 104 Local Government officers. Further information can be found on the [DPLH website](#).

Environmental Protection Amendment Regulations

On 12 March 2024, WALGA held a webinar alongside the EPA and the DWER, with 106 Local Government officers attending to discuss the various [planning scheme amendments that are no longer required to be assessed under the updated regulations](#).

Urban Forests

Tree Retention model Local Planning Policy Released

WALGA released a model Tree Retention Local Planning Policy in March ([Item 9.2 refers](#)).

Urban Greening Grants

The Urban Greening Grant Program, managed by WALGA and funded by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, provides \$3.75 million to support Local Governments in the Perth and Peel regions to plant trees and understorey vegetation across two funding rounds (winter 2024 and winter 2025). 12 Local Governments have been awarded \$591,839.32 in round one of the Program: Bayswater, Belmont, Gosnells, Joondalup, Kalamunda, Murray, Perth, Rockingham, South Perth, Stirling, Swan and Waroona. Collectively, these Local Governments will plant over 9,400 trees and 29,000 understorey species this winter. Plantings will occur within parks and reserves, around playgrounds, and in streetscapes that form part of key pedestrian and cycling routes connecting with business districts and community facilities.

Applications for Round Two will open in April 2024, with \$2.8 million available. Funding will be awarded in June 2024. Further information is available on the WALGA [website](#).



Urban Forest Working Group Meeting

WALGA held the Urban Forest Working Group (UFWG) on 28 March 2024, attended by over 50 Local Government officers. WALGA provided updates on the Model Local Planning Policy for Tree Retention, Tree Stock Quality, the 2024 WA Tree Festival and 2025 Urban Forest Conference. DPLH provided an overview of draft framework being developed for the Perth and Peel Urban Greening Strategy and the City of Bassendean presented to the group on how Local Governments can optimise use of the Urban Monitor datasets.

4. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency management Roundtable

On 20 February, WALGA CEO Nick Sloan hosted an Emergency Management Roundtable, attended by DFES and six Local Government CEOs to discuss Bushfire Management and issues arising during the 2024-25 high threat bush fire period.

State Emergency Management Committee

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) met on 6 March attended by WALGA CEO Nick Sloan. SEMC Communiqués are available [here](#).

Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan

The Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan (EM-SAP) is being developed by the SEMC Climate Change Subcommittee (CCSC) to embed climate change adaptation considerations into the Western Australian emergency management sector. The EM-SAP will be one of seven sector-based plans delivered to help implement the Western Australian Climate Adaptation Strategy required under the *Climate Change Bill 2023*.

With the support of Pod Consultancy, WALGA undertook consultation with the sector during February and March, with representatives from 32 diverse WA Local Governments participating. A Consultation Summary Report that summarises the feedback from WALGA's EM-SAP consultation activities has been submitted to the SEMC Business Unit as preliminary findings. A formal WALGA EM-SAP submission, that includes recommendations aligned with WALGA's [Emergency Management Advocacy Positions](#) is will be submitted to State Council for endorsement via the Flying Minute process on 11 April 2024. WALGA's submission will inform the development of a final EM-SAP that will be submitted for endorsement by the SEMC in mid-2024.

5. Community

Aboriginal Affairs

Local Government Reconciliation Resource Hub

WALGA is partnering with Reconciliation WA and State Agencies to development an online platform for a Local Government Reconciliation Resource Hub. The platform will provide a one stop shop to support Local Governments to undertake reconciliation community engagement, statutory, legislative, policy and regulatory obligations. All parties have now signed the project MOU, activating LotteryWest funding. WALGA has contributed \$25,000 towards the Hub and will continue to work with Reconciliation WA and the sector to provide content and case studies for inclusion.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

On 22 February 2024, WALGA convened an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Roundtable for the Gascoyne Zone in Carnarvon. The aim of the roundtable was to gain a shared understanding of the requirements under the amended *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and its interaction with heritage surveys, Standard Heritage Agreements, and Indigenous Land Use Agreements; and to share Local Government feedback and progress implementation



solutions applicable across the Local Government Sector in partnership with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH). The discussion provided some practical solutions and proposals which WALGA is seeking to progress with DPLH, aligned to the State Government's commitment to guidance and support for the sector.

National Reconciliation Week Webinar

National Reconciliation Week runs from 27 May – 3 June 2024 with the theme 'Now More Than Ever'. In partnership with WALGA, Reconciliation WA held a National Reconciliation Week (NRW), attended by 86 Local Government representatives which provided information on how the sector can be involved in this year's NRW.

Commencement of Part 5 of the Public Health Act 2016

In March, the State Government announced that [Part 5 of the Public Health Act 2016](#) will be phased in from 4 June 2024. Under Part 5 the Department of Health must finalise and publish a new State Public Health Plan by 4 June 2025 and Local governments are required to create local public health plans that are consistent with the State Public Health Plan by 4 June 2026. In addition, some low-risk public health regulations will be replaced with guidelines and improvement notices and enforcement orders will be introduced.

The Department of Health has committed to provide updates and engage with Local Governments to ensure a collaborative and informed approach to implementation. WALGA is working with the State Government to secure support and guidance for the sector.

Town Team Training

WALGA is delivering a free workshop for Local Governments to learn about the establishment and facilitation of resilient places through the Town Team Movement on Monday, 20 May at WALGA. Attendees will learn how to find innovative opportunities in a Local Government context, reduce risks in place improvement and community development projects, and better engage local businesses and residents.



10.2 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the President's Report for May 2024 be received.

10.3 CEO'S REPORT

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the CEO's Report for May 2024 be received.

10.4 EX OFFICIO REPORTS

10.4.1 CITY OF PERTH REPORT

The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas will provide the City of Perth report to the meeting.

10.4.2 LG PROFESSIONALS REPORT

Mr Anthony Vuleta, President, LG Professionals WA, will provide a report to the meeting.

11 ADDITIONAL ZONE RESOLUTIONS

To be advised following Zone meetings.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary meeting of the WALGA State Council will be held in the Boardroom at WALGA, ONE70, LV1, 170 Railway Parade, West Leederville on 10 July 2024 commencing at 4.15pm.

13 CLOSURE



STATUS REPORT ON STATE COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

| MEETING | RESOLUTION | COMMENT | COMPLETION DATE | OFFICER RESPONSIBLE |
|--|--|---|-----------------|--|
| 6 March 2024 Item 7.1 Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer (PSHB) Biosecurity Response and Implications for Local Government | That State Council note: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The significant threat PSHB represents to growth and retention of urban forests. 2. WALGA and Local Government's engagement in the PSHB biosecurity response. 3. The importance of shared surveillance by government, industry and community to assist with eradication efforts. 4. The need for funding for trees lost due to PSHB and ameliorate the long term urban canopy impact. RESOLUTION 003.1/2024 | For noting. | Complete | Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy |
| 6 March 2024 Item 8.1 Separation (Centre) And Edge Line Markings by Local Government on Low Volume Rural Roads | That WALGA endorse the below Advocacy Position: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Main Roads Western Australia allow Local Governments to install edge line and separation (centre) line markings on roads that meet all relevant criteria, but do not meet the criterion on traffic volume. 2. Main Roads Western Australia to consider reducing the traffic volume threshold in the Main Roads warrant for installing separation (centre) lines to recognise the proven safety benefits. 3. For this exemption, Local Governments must adhere to the following conditions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Local Government contact Main Roads via the Regional Network Manager with their intent to undertake line marking on specific roads that do not meet the traffic volume criterion, but meet all the other criteria. b) The Local Government obtain a Council resolution, committing to fund all installation and maintenance costs. c) Local Government undertake spotting/surveying. d) Main Roads to undertake an inspection following the survey/spotting work, confirm the start and finish points for the longitudinal line markings, | The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated. | March 2024 | Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure |



| MEETING | RESOLUTION | COMMENT | COMPLETION DATE | OFFICER RESPONSIBLE |
|---|--|--|-------------------|---|
| | <p>and record the sections of road with line markings to be maintained by Local Government in the relevant database.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e) Main Roads approve the final layout prior to line marking occurring. f) Local Government undertake the works. g) Local Government maintain the works in accordance with Main Roads WA standards. h) Local Government remove the lines if maintenance works are not performed to the standard. <p>RESOLUTION 004.1/2024</p> | | | |
| <p>6 March 2024 Item 8.2 Recovered Materials Framework Advocacy Position</p> | <p>That WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rescind the existing WALGA <i>Standards for Recycled Organics Applied to Land Policy Statement 2007</i> and Advocacy Position 7.9: Local Government: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acknowledges the benefits of applying recycled organics to land, especially as a means of diverting organic material from landfill; and, 2. Supports the development of standards for applying recycled organics to land, to ensure a fit for purpose product is developed. 2. Endorse a new <i>Recovered Materials Framework Advocacy Position</i> as follows: The use of recovered materials, across a range of applications, is essential in reducing the use of basic raw materials, meeting State Waste Strategy Targets and increasing diversion of waste from landfill. To ensure end users have high confidence in the quality and safety of products derived from recovered materials, consistent, outcomes-based standards and investment certainty are required. | <p>The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.</p> | <p>March 2024</p> | <p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p> |



| MEETING | RESOLUTION | COMMENT | COMPLETION DATE | OFFICER RESPONSIBLE |
|---|--|---|-------------------|--|
| | <p>The State Government, in consultation with Local Government and the waste management industry, should take a leadership role in facilitating the use of recovered material by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developing a regulatory framework which: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Outlines clear, outcomes-based specifications for individual products which take into consideration the receiving environment and allow for site-specific assessment. b. Minimises risk to human health and the environment from the use of recovered material. c. Establishes robust systems to provide quality assurance and ongoing surveillance throughout the supply chain. 2. Providing guidance and support mechanisms for the successful implementation of the framework. 3. Supporting the development of, and access to, sustainable end markets and long-term offtake agreements through initiatives such as active engagement with potential end users and the inclusion of recovered material content targets in Government procurement and large infrastructure projects. <p>RESOLUTION 005.1/2024</p> | | | |
| <p>6 March 2024 Item 8.3 Review of Cemeteries Act 1986 and Cremation Act 1929 Discussion Paper</p> | <p>That WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supports the intent of the Review of Cemeteries Act 1986 and Cremation Act 1929 Discussion Paper to reduce red tape, modernise legislation and standardise administrative practices; 2. Supports the intent of providing accessibility for alternative types of burials and disposal of human remains; and 3. Advocates that Local Government cemetery managers retain the capacity to impose cemetery fees and charges under Part 6 of the Local Government Act. | <p>Correspondence sent to Minister for Local Government.</p> <p>The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.</p> | <p>March 2024</p> | <p>Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services</p> |



| MEETING | RESOLUTION | COMMENT | COMPLETION DATE | OFFICER RESPONSIBLE |
|--|---|--|-----------------|---|
| | RESOLUTION 006.1/2024 | | | |
| 6 March 2024 Item 8.4 Selection Committee Guidelines Review | That State Council endorse the Selection Committee Guidelines – <i>Selection Process for Appointments to State Government, Federal Government, WALGA and other Boards and Committees</i> , subject to the removal of the last dot point in Part D(i) i.e. whether the nominee has been sanctioned by the Local Government Standards Panel. RESOLUTION 008.1/2024 | Guidelines have been updated. | March 2024 | Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services |
| 6 March 2024 Item 8.5 Selection Committee Minutes – 19 December 2023 and 20 February 2024 | That: 1. the resolutions contained in the 19 December 2023 Special Selection Committee Meeting Minutes be noted; and 2. the recommendations contained in the 20 February 2024 Selection Committee Meeting Minutes be endorsed. RESOLUTION 009.1/2024 | Selection Committee resolutions have been actioned. | March 2024 | Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services |
| 6 March 2024 Item 8.6 Finance and Services Committee Minutes – 21 February 2024 | That the Minutes of the Finance and Services Committee meeting held on 21 February 2024 be endorsed. RESOLUTION 010.1/2024 | The WALGA Budget Plan 2024–25 is currently being implemented. The WALGA Investment Project will be referred to the 24/25 WALGA budget for funding for a full business plan. | | Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services |
| 6 March 2024 Item 8.9 LGIS Board Remuneration | That State Council approve the remuneration for LGIS Board Members be increased by 6% for the 2024-25 financial year as per the LGIS Corporate Governance Charter guidance. RESOLUTION 013.1/2024 | The remuneration increase will be implemented for the 24/25 financial year. | March 2024 | Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services |



| MEETING | RESOLUTION | COMMENT | COMPLETION DATE | OFFICER RESPONSIBLE |
|---|--|---|-----------------|---|
| 6 March 2024 Item 8.11 Use of the Association's Common Seal | That State Council: 1. Approve the use of the Common Seal for the \$65.9M LGIS Bank Guarantee for 2024. 2. Note the use of the Association's common seal for the following purposes: a. Funding Agreement between Department of Water and Energy and WA Local Government Association, and b. Fifth Deed of Amendment to Facility Agreement. RESOLUTION 015.1/2024 | Noted | March 2024 | Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services |
| 6 March 2024 Item 9.2 Governance Policy Team Report | That State Council: ... 3. Determine to: a. retain the following Advocacy Positions unchanged: i. 2.1.8 Differential Rates ii. 2.1.16 Recovery of Mining Tenement Rates b. retire the following WALGA Advocacy Position: i. 2.5.1 Public Notices ii. 2.5.21 Recordings and Live Streaming of Council Meetings RESOLUTION 017.1/2024 | The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated. | March 2024 | Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services |
| 6 December 2023 Item 7.1 2023 Annual General Meeting Resolutions | That the following resolutions from the 2023 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the appropriate Policy Team for further work to be undertaken ... 5.1 Local Governments' representation at the State Administrative Tribunal relating to planning matters within its district <i>That WALGA lobby the State Government for legislative reform to enable Local Governments the automatic right to be a represented party at all State Administrative Tribunal hearings related to planning matters within its district.</i> | That the Environment Policy Team met on 16 February 2024 and determined: That the Environment Policy Team: 1. Note the 2023 AGM resolution, that WALGA lobby the State Government for legislative reform to enable Local Governments the automatic right to be a represented party at all State Administrative Tribunal hearings related to planning matters within its district. | | Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy |



| MEETING | RESOLUTION | COMMENT | COMPLETION DATE | OFFICER RESPONSIBLE |
|--|---|--|-----------------|---|
| | RESOLUTION 501.5/2023 | <p>2. Note that the AGM resolution is consistent with the intent of WALGA Advocacy Position 6.3 Third Party Appeal Rights, and 6.4 Development Assessment Panels.</p> <p>3. Requests that WALGA continue to pursue advocacy consistent with these positions as part of the Planning reform process.</p> <p>The WALGA Secretariat supports in principle the motion and notes that the DAP Advocacy Position is scheduled for review later in 2024. Proposals such as those raised by the Shire of Toodyay will be considered during this review.</p> | | |
| <p>6 December 2023 Item 7.1 2023 Annual General Meeting Resolutions</p> | <p>That the following resolutions from the 2023 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the appropriate Policy Team for further work to be undertaken</p> <p>...</p> <p>5.2 Land Use Policy <i>That WALGA establish and promote policies to protect and prioritise the preservation of agricultural land against its displacement by non-agricultural activities that lead to a net reduction of the State's productive agricultural land.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 501.5/2023</p> | <p>This matter was considered by the Environment Policy Team at its meeting on 16 February.</p> <p>That the Environment Policy Team:</p> <p>1. Note the Research Paper: Protection of Productive Agricultural Land and the next steps outlined in the paper.</p> <p>In response, WALGA has prepared a Research Paper: Protection of Productive Agricultural Land that provides the policy context, history of WALGA's advocacy and analysis of State and Local Government approaches to agricultural land use protections.</p> <p>The Research Paper outlines how the Western Australian planning framework guides planning for rural land uses and assets and the current tools available to Local Governments to adapt their local</p> | | <p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p> |



| MEETING | RESOLUTION | COMMENT | COMPLETION DATE | OFFICER RESPONSIBLE |
|--|--|--|-----------------|---|
| | | <p>planning frameworks to respond to the concerns raised at the WALGA AGM.</p> <p>WALGA will meet with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) to discuss their progress with the various initiatives being undertaken on a State level to protect priority agricultural land.</p> <p>Following this, WALGA will report back to the Policy Team on potential further actions, and WALGA should pursue taking an advocacy position on this matter, and the scope and extent to any potential advocacy position.</p> | | |
| <p>6 December 2023 Item 7.1 2023 Annual General Meeting Resolutions</p> | <p>That the following resolutions from the 2023 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the appropriate Policy Team for further work to be undertaken</p> <p>...</p> <p>5.4 Regional and Remote Housing <i>That WALGA advocates to the WA State and Commonwealth Governments to address the dire shortage of affordable key worker family housing options in regional and remote towns to encourage families to live and work in regional and remote towns. Social housing is addressed at both the State and Federal levels.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 501.5/2023</p> | <p>WALGA housing advocacy ongoing.</p> | | <p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p> |
| <p>1 March 2023 Item 7.4 Submission on Draft Guideline Minimising Noise Impact from Outdoor</p> | <p>That WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Note that the Environment Minister has withdrawn the Draft Guideline: Minimising noise impact from outdoor community basketball. Write to the Ministers for Environment, Local Government, Sport and Planning requesting the formation of a cross Government working group, including relevant | <p>Correspondence sent and issue raised with the Minister's office on multiple occasions. WALGA will continue to pursue a response.</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> | <p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p> |



| MEETING | RESOLUTION | COMMENT | COMPLETION DATE | OFFICER RESPONSIBLE |
|---|---|--|-----------------|---|
| Community Basketball Facilities | representative bodies, to consider and develop solutions to balance urban density and infill, public recreation and noise management. RESOLUTION 422.1/2023 | | | |
| 7 December 2022 Item 5.1 2022 Annual General Meeting Resolutions | The following resolutions from the 2022 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the relevant Policy Team for further work to be undertaken: ... 3.1 Road Traffic Issues <i>That WALGA advocate on behalf of the local government sector to the State Government and in particular, Main Roads, to increase importance and weight given to local knowledge and input regarding road traffic issues including requests for speed reduction, intersection treatments and overall preventative and traffic safety measures.</i> RESOLUTION 394.8/2022 | The Infrastructure Policy Team resolved: <i>That efforts to increase the importance given to Local Government knowledge regarding traffic issues be deferred for consideration in mid-2023 after a clear Local Government advocacy position on speed management is developed and endorsed.</i> This matter is central to the new Speed Management Policy adopted by State Council in May 2023. Implementation strategy being considered. | Ongoing | Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure |
| 7 December 2022 Item 5.1 2022 Annual General Meeting Resolutions | The following resolutions from the 2022 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the relevant Policy Team for further work to be undertaken: ... 3.2 Car Parking and Traffic Congestion Around Schools <i>That WALGA engages with the State Government on behalf of Local Government to review issues associated with car parking and traffic congestion around school sites including but not limited to:</i> <i>1. Reviewing car parking standards for schools;</i> <i>2. Ensuring sufficient land is set aside for the provision of parking on school sites;</i> <i>3. Reviewing the co-location of schools to avoid issues being exacerbated;</i> <i>4. Restricting school access from major roads;</i> <i>5. Developing plans to enable schools to manage school traffic;</i> <i>6. Develop programs to educate drivers; and</i> | The Infrastructure Policy Team resolved: <i>That WALGA uses its role at the Safe Active Travel to School Working Group to advocate for these outcomes and provide advice back to the Local Government sector.</i> | Ongoing | Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure |



| MEETING | RESOLUTION | COMMENT | COMPLETION DATE | OFFICER RESPONSIBLE |
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| | <p>7. <i>Develop options and implement initiatives to encourage alternative modes of transport to school.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 394.8/2022</p> | | | |
| <p>7 December 2022 Item 5.1 2022 Annual General Meeting Resolutions</p> | <p>The following resolutions from the 2022 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the relevant Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:</p> <p>3.3 Proposal for Regional Road Maintenance Contracts with Main Roads WA <i>That WALGA assist Local Governments and work with the Hon Minister Rita Saffioti to introduce a similar program that is currently in play in Queensland and introduce a sole invitee Program for Local Governments to engage in a Road Maintenance Performance Contract with Main Roads WA.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 394.8/2022</p> | <p>The Infrastructure Policy Team resolved: <i>That the opportunities and interest in contracting Local Governments to undertake maintenance and minor works on the State road network be explored in discussion with Main Roads WA.</i></p> | Ongoing | Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure |
| <p>7 December 2022 Item 5.1 2022 Annual General Meeting Resolutions</p> | <p>The following resolutions from the 2022 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the relevant Policy Team for further work to be undertaken: ...</p> <p>3.4 Northern Australia Beef Roads Program <i>That WALGA work with the Hon Madeleine King MP Minister for Resources and Minister for Northern Australia to make Beef Road Funding available to all Australian Local Governments north and south, or establish a Southern Australia Beef Road Funding Program to allow for equitable support across Australia's beef and agriculture industries.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 394.8/2022</p> | | Ongoing | Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure |
| <p>1 December 2021 Item 5.3 2021 Annual General Meeting</p> | <p>That the following resolutions from the 2021 WALGA Annual General Meeting be endorsed for action: Cost of Regional Development</p> | <p>In March the State Government announced the establishment of a new Infrastructure Development Fund that includes a stream to support the delivery of regional worker</p> | Ongoing | Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure |



| MEETING | RESOLUTION | COMMENT | COMPLETION DATE | OFFICER RESPONSIBLE |
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| | <p><i>That WALGA makes urgent representation to the State Government to address the high cost of development in regional areas for both residential and industrial land, including the prohibitive cost of utilities headworks, which has led to market failure in many regional towns.</i></p> <p>... RESOLUTION 294.7/2021</p> | <p>accommodation with applications open until September 2024. This is an infrastructure investment program to address infrastructure constraints in the water, wastewater and electricity network at a precinct or strategic site scale impacting the delivery of regional worker accommodation. Full details can be found here.</p> | | |
| <p>3 September 2021 Item 6.1 Stop Puppy Farming Legislation</p> | <p>1. That the update on the Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill 2021 be noted.</p> <p>2. That:</p> <p>a. any additional costs incurred by a Local Government in administering the Dog Act be paid by the State Government; and</p> <p>b. the Fees and Charges set in Regulations are reviewed bi-annually and at minimum, be adjusted by the Local Government Cost Index.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 275.5/2021</p> | <p>The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries released a Consultation Paper prepared by consultants Marsden Jacob Associates on the new and existing fees and charges under the <i>Dog Act 1976</i> and <i>Cat Act 2011</i> relating to the Stop Puppy Farming initiative.</p> <p>Local Governments were encouraged to consider the various fees and charges proposed to be introduced for the following approvals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog and cat registration by owners and contributions to the Centralised Registration System; • Dog supply approvals; • Approvals to breed for dogs; • Pet shop approvals (only applicable to dogs). <p>The consultation period closed on 15 March 2024 and WALGA provided a submission in line with State Councils advocacy position as follows;</p> <p><i>That WALGA:</i></p> | <p>Completed</p> | <p>Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services</p> |



| MEETING | RESOLUTION | COMMENT | COMPLETION DATE | OFFICER RESPONSIBLE |
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| | | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Welcomes a cost modelling review of the financial impact on Local Governments to ensure that Local Government is able to fully recover costs and not be disadvantaged in ensuring compliance of any new legislation to Stop Puppy Farming;2. Supports a centralised dog registration system that is developed, operated and maintained by State Government;3. Any additional costs incurred by a Local Government in administering the Dog Act be paid by the State Government; and4. The Fees and Charges set in Regulations are reviewed biennially and at minimum, be adjusted by the Local Government Cost Index1. | | |