State Council Agenda 2 July 2025

Ordinary meeting no. 3 of 2025 of the Western Australian Local Government Association State Council to be held at ONE70, LV3, 170 Railway Parade, West Leederville at 4:15pm.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES 3
1.1 Opening 3
1.2 Attendance 3
1.3 Apologies 3
2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY 4
3 ANNOUNCEMENTS 4
4 MINUTES 4
4.1 Minutes of the State Council meeting held 7 May 2025 4
4.1.1 Business arising from the Minutes of the State Council meeting held 7 May 2025 4
5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 4
6 EX OFFICIO REPORTS 4
6.1 City of Perth Report 4
6.2 LG Professionals Report 4
7 EMERGING ISSUES 4
8 MATTERS FOR DECISION 5
8.1 Suspension and Disqualification for Offences Advocacy Position 5
8.2 State Development Applications and Decision Making Advocacy Position 10
8.3 Public Library Agreement 15
MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY STATE COUNCILLORS (UNDER SEPARATE COVER) 23
9 POLICY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS 24
9.1 Infrastructure Policy Team Report 24
9.2 People and Place Policy Team Report 25
9.3 Governance Policy Team Report 27
9.4 Environment Policy Team Report 29
9.5 Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Report 30
10 MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION 31
10.1 2025 Local Government Audit Experience Survey Results 31
10.2 Renewable Energy Community Benefits and Engagement Guide 35
10.3 Report on Local Government Road Assets and Expenditure 2023/24 37
10.4 WALGA Bushfire Management Roundtable 39
11 ORGANISATION REPORTS 41
11.1 Key Activity Reports 41
11.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Advocacy Portfolio 41
11.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure Portfolio 46
11.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Member Services Portfolio 49
11.1.4 Report on Key Activities, Policy Portfolio 54
11.2 President's Report 58
11.3 CEO's Report 58
12 ADDITIONAL ZONE RESOLUTIONS 58
13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING 58
14 CLOSURE 58
STATUS REPORT ON STATE COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 59

1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

1.1 OPENING

1.2 ATTENDANCE

Members	WALGA President - **Chair**	President Cr Karen Chappel AM JP
	WALGA Deputy President	
	Central Metropolitan Zone	Cr Paul Kelly
	Avon-Midland Country Zone	President Chris Antonio
	Central Country Zone	President Cr Phillip Blight
	Central Metropolitan Zone	Cr Helen Sadler
	East Metropolitan Zone	President Paige McNeil
	East Metropolitan Zone	Cr Haeden Miles
	Gascoyne Country Zone	President Eddie Smith
	Goldfields Esperance Country Zone	President Cr Laurene Bonza
	Great Eastern Country Zone	Cr Stephen Strange
	Great Southern Country Zone	Cr Scott Crosby
	Kimberley Country Zone	President Chris Mitchell JP
	Murchison Country Zone	President Cr Les Price
	North Metropolitan Zone	Cr Michael Dudek
	North Metropolitan Zone	Cr Lewis Hutton
	North Metropolitan Zone	Cr Bronwyn Smith
	Northern Country Zone	To be advised
	Peel Country Zone	Mayor Caroline Knight
	Pilbara Country Zone	Cr Wendy McWhirter-Brooks
	South East Metropolitan Zone	Mayor Patrick Hall
	South East Metropolitan Zone	Mayor Terresa Lynes
	South Metropolitan Zone	Mayor Logan Howlett JP
	South Metropolitan Zone	Cr Karen Wheatland
	South Metropolitan Zone	Cr Barry Winmar
	South West Country Zone	President Cr Tony Dean
Ex Officio	Local Government Professionals WA President	Mr Anthony Vuleta
Secretariat	Chief Executive Officer	Mr Nick Sloan
	Executive Director Member Services	Mr Tony Brown
	Executive Manager Infrastructure	Mr Ian Duncan
	Executive Manager Policy	Ms Nicole Matthews
	Executive Manger Advocacy	Ms Rachel Horton
	Chief Financial Officer	Mr Rick Murray
	Manager Association and Corporate Governance	Ms Kathy Robertson
	State Council Governance Officer	Ms Meghan Dwyer

1.3 APOLOGIES

Ex Officio	The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor – City of Perth	Deputy Lord Mayor, Cr Bruce Reynolds

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 7 MAY 2025

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the WALGA State Council meeting held on 7 May 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

4.1.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE STATE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 7 MAY 2025

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 EX OFFICIO REPORTS

6.1 CITY OF PERTH REPORT

Deputy Lord Mayor, Cr Bruce Reynolds, is an apology for the meeting.

6.2 LG PROFESSIONALS REPORT

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

7 EMERGING ISSUES

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

8 MATTERS FOR DECISION

8.1 SUSPENSION AND DISQUALIFICATION FOR OFFENCES ADVOCACY POSITION

By Jason Russell, Senior Governance Specialist

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

1. **That WALGA amend and rename advocacy position 2.5.5 *Disqualification Due to Conviction* to read as follows:**

   Suspension and Disqualification for Offences

   The WA Local Government sector advocates that:
   1. ***A new disqualification criterion should be added to the Local Government Act 1995 that disqualifies a person from serving as an Elected Member if they have been convicted of an offence against the Planning and Development Act, or the Building Act in the preceding five years.***
   2. ***A new suspension criterion should be added to the Local Government Act 1995 allowing the Minister of Local Government to suspend a Council Member charged with an offence, where the Minister is satisfied this would be in the best interests of the Local Government, based on advice of the Director General.***

2. **That WALGA incorporate advocacy on this issue into its ongoing legislative reform engagement.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The South East Metropolitan Zone (SEMZ) passed a motion requesting that WALGA advocate for additional powers for the Minister to suspend Council Members charged with criminal offences likely to damage the reputation of the Local Government, and disqualify if convicted.
- Suspension, dismissal and disqualification must balance the public interest in elected representatives of good character, with protections for the individual and respect for democratic processes.
- While the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) includes a range of suspension, dismissal and disqualification mechanisms, their operation also depends on how the relevant decision-makers choose to use their powers.
- This report recommends that the dismissal mechanisms under the Act are sufficient to address the Zone's concern, but that WALGA's advocacy position be amended to include an additional suspension power for the Minister of Local Government.
- The Governance Policy Team endorsed the advocacy position at its meeting on 19 May.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS
Influence:

- Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government.

Support:

- Provide practical sector-wide solutions based on research and evidence.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS
The current Advocacy Position 2.5.5 Disqualification Due to Conviction position provides as follows:

Position Statement:	A new disqualification criterion should be added to the *Local Government Act 1995* that disqualifies a person from serving as an Elected Member if they have been convicted of an offence against the *Planning and Development Act*, or the *Building Act* in the preceding five years.
Background:	A planning or building system conviction is potentially more serious than a *Local Government Act* conviction because of Local Government's prominent role in planning and building control and the significant personal benefits which can be illegally gained through these systems.

This report recommends that this position is renamed and amended to include an additional point 2, as follows:

Suspension and Disqualification for Offences

The WA Local Government sector advocates that:

1. *A new disqualification criterion should be added to the Local Government Act 1995 that disqualifies a person from serving as an Elected Member if they have been convicted of an offence against the Planning and Development Act, or the Building Act in the preceding five years.*
2. *A new suspension criterion should be added to the Local Government Act 1995 allowing the Minister of Local Government to suspend a Council Member charged with an offence, where the Minister is satisfied this would be in the best interests of the Local Government, based on advice of the Director General.*

BACKGROUND
At its November 2024 meeting, the SEMZ asked WALGA to advocate:

That the Local Government Act 1995 be amended to give the Minister for Local Government the power to:

1. *Disqualify a person from membership of a council if the person has been convicted of a criminal offence that, in the opinion of the Minister for Local Government, under the advice of the State Solicitor's Office, has the potential to damage the reputation of the local government or the local government sector more broadly.*
2. *Suspend the council member who is charged with a criminal offence that has the potential to damage the reputation of the local government or the local government sector more broadly, until the charges are dealt with; and*
3. *Require a person to be paid fees and allowances until they are disqualified.*

COMMENT

The *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) automatically disqualifies someone from membership of a Council if convicted of certain types of offences. The Act also includes mechanisms for suspending and dismissing Council Members. Each mechanism differs in terms of the parties, processes, powers, and preconditions involved.

While suspended, a Council Member cannot perform any of the powers and duties of their role. Suspension does not affect the duration of a Council Member's term or their eligibility to be a candidate for election to Council. If a Council Member is dismissed, the office of the member becomes vacant from the time when the order dismissing the member takes effect. A Council Member that is dismissed is not prevented from standing in future elections. In contrast, persons disqualified are ineligible to hold or be elected to office as a Council Member.

It is necessary for these mechanisms to balance the public interest in ensuring that elected representatives are of good character, with protections for due process, the presumption of innocence and resumption of rights following completion of a sentence. There must also be an appropriate level of respect for the democratic process and the rights of communities to choose their representatives.

Whether the suspension, dismissal and disqualification framework is fit-for-purpose depends on the legislative framework (e.g. legislative settings for disqualification, powers and constraints on powers to suspend and dismiss) and its implementation (e.g. how decision-makers exercise their discretion to intervene).

Existing Disqualification Provisions

A person may be disqualified from membership of a Council based on the following provisions of the Act:

Provision	A person is disqualified –
2.20	If they are a member of a parliament
2.21	If they are a bankrupt or their affairs are under insolvency laws
2.22	**Because of conviction**
2.23	If they are a member of another Council
2.24	Because of misapplication of local government funds or property
5.117	If SAT orders disqualification (for not more than 5 years) for serious or recurrent breach, or failure to comply with order

Section 2.22 of the Act provides that a person is disqualified if:

- they have been convicted of a crime and are in prison serving a sentence for that crime,
- have been convicted of a serious local government offence in the previous 5 years, or
- have been convicted of an offence carrying an indictable penalty of imprisonment for more than 5 years.

Clearly, the threshold for disqualification is high, excluding all lower-level offences and even indictable offences with a penalty of 5 years or less. As an example, high-level indecent assault will be dealt with as an indictable offense, with the offender liable for up to 5 years imprisonment. Serious local government offences are offences against the Act for which a person may be sentenced to imprisonment or a fine of over $10,000. A court sentencing a person for a serious local government offence may make an order waiving the disqualification, or reducing the period for which it applies.

There is currently no ability for the Minister to disqualify a person from Council membership. SAT has discretion to order disqualification in some circumstances, while a court has the authority to order that disqualification not apply. In the context of these judicial or quasi-judicial processes, there are strong protections for the rights of the affected person. This reflects the seriousness of this penalty. While the SEMZ motion calls for disqualification, dismissal may be a more appropriate penalty if the exercise of Ministerial discretion is required.

Current Dismissal Provisions
Under sections 8.15K and 8.15L of the Act, the Minister may recommend that the Governor dismiss a Council Member, if the Minister is satisfied that it is appropriate to intervene. The Minister must be satisfied based on the Director General's written advice that:

- the member is impeding the Local Government's ability to perform its functions and duties under the Act, and/or
- it is in the best interest of the Local Government that the member be dismissed.

The Minister must also be satisfied that the seriousness of the situation for the Local Government requires intervention.

The Minister must give the member:

- a report that includes their proposed recommendation and grounds for the recommendation;
- a show cause notice;
- 21 days to respond.

The Minister must consider the member's response prior to making a recommendation to the Governor that that the member be dismissed.

Best interest is not defined and allows for a broad range of factors to form the grounds for dismissal. This could include where a Council Member has been charged with or convicted of an offence, and the charges or conviction are adversely affecting the Local Government.

It appears that the existing framework for dismissal has the capacity to respond to circumstances referenced in the SEMZ's motion and rationale. WALGA considers it is reasonable to expect that the Local Government Inspector may have greater capacity to provide targeted and timely investigation and advice to support this mechanism.

Current Suspension Provisions
Section 8.15E of the Act enables the Minister to suspend a Council Member or order them to undertake remedial action.

The Minister can only act where they are satisfied that it is appropriate to intervene, based on one or more of the following:

- The member has been charged with a disqualification offence.
- The Director General has made an allegation to SAT against the member, of a serious or recurrent breach.
- The Director General has written to the Minister advising that they suspect on reasonable grounds that one or more of the following applies:
    - The member has failed to perform their role, functions or duties;
    - The member's conduct has adversely affected the ability of another person to perform their role, functions or duties;

- The member's conduct has adversely affected the ability of the Local Government to comply with the principles that apply under section 5.40 of the Act (principles affecting employment by Local Government, including the responsibility to provide safe and healthy working conditions in accordance with WHS legislation).

The Minister must give:

- The member a written notice of the proposed order that provides the allegations and particulars supporting the proposed order is based on.
- The member a show cause notice, allowing 21 days for the member's response
- Any submissions made by the member consideration prior to making the order.

While suspended, a Council Member is not entitled to be paid any fee or allowance to which they would otherwise be entitled. A Council Member is liable to repay annual allowances and fees paid in advance, as if the member had, for the period of their suspension, ceased to hold the office.

Options for reform of suspension

The current system shares some common elements with the Zone's proposal, however, some changes could be made to bring them into closer alignment. Under the current framework, the Director General and Minister would need to be satisfied that any reputational damage resulting from charges was impeding the workings of the Local Government before they could move to suspend a Council Member.

Charges resulting in reputational damage could be included in the legislation as an explicit ground for which the Director General can recommend suspension to the Minister. However, reputational damage may be somewhat narrow or subjective.

A 'best interests' test, consistent with that provided in the dismissal mechanism (discussed above), could allow the consideration of a broad range of factors, including reputational damage. A mechanism could be introduced allowing the Minister to suspend a Council Member who is charged with an offence that, despite not being a disqualification offence, satisfies the Minister that it is in the best interests of the Local Government to suspend the member. Consistent with the other grounds for suspension, this could be on the advice of the Director General, as the State Solicitor's Office will be primarily concerned with avoiding prejudice to any matter currently before the courts.

Local Government Reform Amendments

The *Local Government (Amendment) Act 2024* will transfer the powers of the Director General under these provisions to the soon-to-be-established Local Government Inspector. The Inspector/Inspectorate model has been introduced to provide improved oversight and early interventions capability into the Local Government sector.

The Inspector will be able initiate inquiries into the affairs of a local government and recommend suspension and dismissal of Council Members. It is expected that this newly created office may have greater independence, timeliness, focus and flexibility in addressing conduct issues.

The Governance Policy Team considered and endorsed the proposed advocacy position at its meeting on 19 May.

8.2 STATE DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS AND DECISION MAKING ADVOCACY POSITION

By Coralie Claudio, Senior Policy Advisor Planning

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA:

1. Replace Advocacy Position 6.4 Development Assessment Panels with the following:

6.4 State Development Applications and Decision Making

WALGA calls on the State Government to:

1. ***Ensure that decision making on development applications (DAs) is:***
   - a. ***consistent and accountable***
   - b. ***accessible to local communities***
   - c. ***respectful of, and appropriately applies, local planning frameworks in line with their statutory weight.***
2. ***Reform the Development Assessment Panel (DAP) system to:***
   - a. ***raise the DAP threshold from the current $2 million to $5 million and mandate periodic reviews of the threshold***
   - b. ***modify the composition of DAPs to provide equal representation of Specialist Members and Local Government Members***
   - c. ***review DAP processes to ensure proponents provide necessary information in a timely manner***
   - d. ***provide clear procedural guidance on the roles and functions of Local Government officers and Council***
   - e. ***allow access to the State Referral Coordination Unit for DAP applications to ensure timely and adequate referral responses from State Government agencies are provided to Local Governments.***
3. ***Abolish the state significant development assessment pathway (Part 11B of the Planning and Development Act 2005).***
4. ***If the significant development assessment pathway is retained, implement the following reforms:***
   - a. ***raise the cost threshold to $50 million and mandate periodic reviews of the threshold***
   - b. ***align statutory timeframes with DAP and Local Government determined DAs***
   - c. ***ensure all developments are consistent with applicable local planning instruments and provide comprehensive guidelines for discretionary decision making, including applying extraordinary discretion***
   - d. ***delete references to 'mandatory significant development' to ensure the pathway remains entirely opt-in***
   - e. ***undertake periodic reviews of its operation and effectiveness.***

2. Notes the Development Assessment Panel 2011 – 2024 Review and State Development Pathway 2020 – 2025 Review reports.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- It is proposed that Advocacy Position 6.4 Development Assessment Panels be replaced with a new, expanded position that includes all forms of State Government development assessment and decision making.
- The updated position incorporates principles for state decision making, a refined list of recommended reforms to the Development Assessment Panels (DAPs) system and recommends that the significant development pathway be abolished but includes a list of recommended reforms if the pathway is retained.
- The draft position was informed by WALGA's review of the operation of the DAPs and the state significant development pathways, input from Local Government officers, and previous WALGA submissions.
- The draft position and accompanying review reports were provided to Local Governments for Council endorsed or CEO approved preferred feedback by 23 May.
- The Environment Policy team endorsed the position at their meeting on 29 May.

ATTACHMENT

- Rationale for draft advocacy position

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

It is proposed State Council replace the **current** Advocacy Position **6.4 Development Assessment Panels**:

The Association does not support Development Assessment Panels (DAPs), in their current structure.

Necessary changes to the structure of the DAPs system include:

1. *The abolishment of the current 'mandatory' mechanism where a proposal has a value of $10 million or greater, and its replacement with an 'opt in' mechanism for all proposals.*
2. *Raising the DAP threshold from the current $2 million to $5 million,*
3. *The composition of DAPs should be modified to provide equal representation of Specialist Members and Local Government Members.*
4. *The creation of a distinct Special Matters DAP (SMDAP) is not supported, given there are already multiple avenues for determination on the basis of zoning and monetary value of applications. Should the State Government progress with the implementation of a SMDAP, the following changes are proposed to the model released in March 2022:*
    - *allow proponents with proposals that meet the threshold or criteria being able to opt-out of the SMDAP pathway and allow assessment and determination by Local Government*
    - *mandate consultation with the relevant Local Governments prior to the issuing of a Ministerial Order in relation to SMDAP Precinct Criteria, and ensure SMDAP Precincts be identified through regulations, rather than by the Minister,*
    - *include greater professional planning expertise, and knowledge of local context through the Local Government members of the District DAP, by including majority professional town planner panel members, with two Local Government*
    - *representatives*
    - *expand the role of Local Governments in SMDAP processes and appropriate renumeration for involvement of Local Governments be included to support the SMDAP decision-making process.*
5. *In principle, the further reduction in the number of panels from five to three is supported, to the extent that this reduces the administrative burden on local governments and enhances consistency of decision making.*

6. *In principle, the permanent appointment of panel members where this results in consistent decision-making is supported as this reduces the potential for conflicts of interest and ensures sound knowledge of DAP processes and procedures.*
7. *WALGA supports greater transparency around DAP processes and decisions, as community distrust of DAP decision-making is a key area of concern for many local governments.*

with a **new** advocacy position **6.4 State Development Applications and Decision Making Advocacy Position**:

WALGA calls on the State Government to:

1. *Ensure that decision making on development applications (DAs) is:*
   a. *consistent and accountable*
   b. *accessible to local communities*
   c. *respectful of, and appropriately applies, local planning frameworks in line with their statutory weight.*
2. *Reform the Development Assessment Panel (DAP) system to:*
   a. *raise the DAP threshold from the current $2 million to $5 million and mandate periodic reviews of the threshold*
   b. *modify the composition of DAPs to provide equal representation of Specialist Members and Local Government Members*
   c. *review DAP processes to ensure proponents provide necessary information in a timely manner*
   d. *provide clear procedural guidance on the roles and functions of Local Government officers and Council*
   e. *allow access to the State Referral Coordination Unit for DAP applications to ensure timely and adequate referral responses from State Government agencies are provided to Local Governments.*
3. *Abolish the state significant development assessment pathway (Part 11B of the Planning and Development Act 2005).*
4. *If the significant development assessment pathway is retained, implement the following reforms:*
   a. *raise the cost threshold to $50 million and mandate periodic reviews of the threshold*
   b. *align statutory timeframes with DAP and Local Government determined DAs*
   c. *ensure all developments are consistent with applicable local planning instruments and provide comprehensive guidelines for discretionary decision making, including applying extraordinary discretion*
   d. *delete references to 'mandatory significant development' to ensure the pathway remains entirely opt-in*
   e. *undertake periodic reviews of its operation and effectiveness.*

BACKGROUND

There are a range of development application (DAs) decision makers in the Western Australian Planning system. While Local Governments process and determine the vast majority of DAs, other State Government boards or agencies are also decision makers, particularly for complex proposals and public works. This includes DAPs, the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) and other State Government agencies (i.e. DevelopmentWA) that determine DAs such as DAPs, significant development applications (Part 17 and Part 11B of the *Planning Development Act 2005*) and developments under region schemes, redevelopment schemes and improvement schemes and public works.

WALGA has historically opposed DAPs and the significant development pathway as they erode the role of Local Government in providing a valuable community perspective on planning proposals.

WALGA has undertaken two reviews of the performance of the DAP system in 2016 and 2020. Those reviews informed WALGA's current advocacy position, endorsed in May 2022, that recommends changes to the DAP system to ensure it operates in an efficient, effective, and transparent way, and appropriately considers matters of local planning context in decision-making.

The current position is being reviewed as part of WALGA's regular position review process and in recognition of significant planning reforms in 2024, specifically the replacement of the proposed special matters DAP with the permanent significant development pathway (Part 11B).

To inform the review of the DAP position and its ongoing advocacy, WALGA collated and reviewed data on the operation of the DAPs and the significant development pathway.

The DAP Report examines DAP data from its inception in 2011 to the end of the 2023-24 financial year, with a focus on observable trends since the previous report in 2020. The report indicates minor improvements in the DAP system, particularly in reliability and consistent decision making. Despite this, the DAP system continues to determine many low-value applications that lack strategic importance and should be redirected to the Local Government pathway.

The Significant Development Pathway Report examines data from the pathway's commencement in 2020 until 1 April 2025. The report finds that this pathway is used infrequently and does not process applications efficiently, contrary to its intended purpose and that the pathway's other goals, driving economic recovery (Part 17) and aiding housing supply (Part 11B), have also not been met.

The collated data will be uploaded to the DAP Dashboard on WALGA's website.

WALGA has drafted a revised advocacy position that will sit within the context of the Planning Principles and Reform advocacy position and will expand on the DAP position to:

1. Be applicable to all State Government DAs and approvals (e.g. significant development pathway, DAPs, Public Works, region scheme approvals, Development WA).
2. Establish principles to guide transparent and accountable decision-making on development applications, ensuring that local planning frameworks are appropriately considered, and communities, particularly in regional areas, are granted equitable access to the decision-making process.
3. Include a refined list of reforms to the DAP system, while retaining the position to increase the DAP threshold and for equal representation of Specialist Members and Local Government Members.
4. Include a recommendation that the significant development pathway be abolished based on the findings of the significant development pathway report, and includes a list of reforms if the pathway is to be retained to ensure it operates more efficiently and only processes genuine state significant projects.

The draft position and accompanying review reports were provided to Local Governments for Council endorsed or CEO preferred feedback by 23 May.

COMMENT
The current DAP advocacy position is outdated and does not reflect the current planning framework, specifically the introduction of the permanent significant development pathway (Part 11B of the *Planning and Development Act 2005*).

The proposed new advocacy position will complement WALGA's planning advocacy position, 6.1 Planning Principles and Reform, that notes decisions should be made by the level of government closest to and most impacted by a planning proposal and should appropriately reflect local environment, context, communities and character.

The proposed advocacy position has been informed by feedback from CEO approved and Council endorsed submissions, Local Government officer input and WALGA's previous submissions, specifically on DAP reforms and amendments to the *Planning and Development Act 2005* that introduced the significant development pathway.

Some minor amendments were made to the draft position in response to members' feedback, particularly regarding the recommendations for the state significant development pathway.

Local Government feedback was that the pathway was not functioning effectively in its current form. While some Local Governments advocated for its abolition, others considered that there may benefits if the pathway was limited to genuine state-significant projects only and operated more efficiently. The draft position calls for the reforms to the pathway and for it be subject to periodic review if retained.

Further information on the rationale for the position and feedback provided is attached.

The Environment Policy agreed to recommend that State Council endorse the new expanded position at their meeting on 29 May.

8.3 PUBLIC LIBRARY AGREEMENT

By Rebecca Hicks, Policy Officer Community

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse the *State and Local Level Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA is a signatory to the *State and Local Government Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia* (the Agreement).
- The five-year Agreement defines roles and responsibilities in the delivery of public libraries and provides the structure and framework for the delivery of the WA Public Libraries Strategy and future vision for public library services.
- The current Agreement, endorsed by State Council in July 2020, is due for renewal in September 2025.
- WALGA has participated in the review of the Agreement, which has recommended minor amendments.
- Following the signing of a new Agreement, a sector consultation process will be undertaken for the associated Local Level Agreements between the State Library and Local Governments.
- The Agreement does not include funding arrangements for public libraries. WALGA continues to advocate for increased public library funding.

ATTACHMENT

- State and Local Level Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia 2025 – 2030

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Endorsing the Agreement aligns with WALGA's 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, particularly:

- Influence – Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government and empower the Local Government sector to build communities equipped for the future.
- Support – Grow opportunities for Local Governments' sharing of services and resources.
- Expertise – Optimise organisational capability to service members' needs and foster relationships between our subject matter experts and stakeholders.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Endorsement of the new Agreement aligns with WALGA's current Advocacy Position 3.8 Public Libraries, which states:

1. *Western Australian Local Government public libraries provide valuable local cultural infrastructure, creating social and community hubs for community capacity building, recreation, education and literacy, digital inclusion, and social connection, cohesion and inclusion.*
2. *WALGA supports the provision of Public Library services in Western Australia through a formal partnership between Local Government and the State Government of Western Australia, governed by the Library Board Act 1951, namely the State and*

Local Government Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia (2020).

3. *The WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026 provides a framework for a shared vision, strategic direction and collaborative action in the provision of a vibrant and sustainable 21st century public library network.*
4. *It is essential that a sustainable funding model enables Local Governments to continue to deliver library services to support continued growth and adaptation to changing community needs.*

BACKGROUND

WALGA is a signatory to the *State and Local Government Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia* (the Agreement), which is due for renewal in September 2025. The Agreement defines the roles and responsibilities for each tier of government in the delivery of public libraries and provides the structure and framework for the delivery of the *WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026* and the future vision for public library services.

Following internal endorsement from signatories, the current Agreement received final endorsement in September 2020 by the Public Library Working Group (PLWG), which includes: WALGA, the State Library of Western Australia (SLWA), the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC), Public Libraries WA Inc. and Local Government Professionals Australia WA. The same process will be undertaken for this renewal.

Connected to the Agreement are Local Level Agreements between the SLWA and individual Local Governments that provide public library services. Local Level Agreements set out more detailed public library service delivery requirements and will be reviewed in early 2026, including sector consultation.

COMMENT

WALGA has worked with SLWA to review the Agreement to meet the September 2025 renewal date. Amendments are minor and do not raise any issues for WALGA Members.

The scope of the Agreement does not extend to public library funding. SLWA is currently reviewing the Public Library Material Funding Allocation Model. WALGA and Local Governments will be consulted as part of the review.

State Government funding has failed to keep pace with the needs of public libraries, population growth or inflation. WALGA continues to advocate for increased overall funding for public libraries to maintain and enhance service levels that meet the diverse needs of communities across WA and support the implementation of the WA Public Library Strategy.

Following the renewal of the Agreement, WALGA will work with SLWA to develop a sector-wide consultation plan for the review of Local Level Agreements.

State and Local Government Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia

September 2025

Preface

Since the 1950s, the Library Board of Western Australia (Library Board) has delivered public library services through the State Library of Western Australia (SLWA) in partnership with Local Government. The *Library Board of Western Australia Act 1951* provides the governing legislation in which Local Governments operate public libraries in partnership with the State Government.

In 2017, the Minister for Culture and the Arts released the first *WA Public Libraries Strategy* (the Strategy) to establish strategic priorities for public library service development in Western Australia. The current Strategy was released with a focus on outcomes for the Western Australian community. State and Local Government recognise the need for an overarching agreement to define the shared commitment to deliver a responsive and sustainable public library service for all Western Australians as set out in the Strategy.

This Public Library Services Agreement establishes the way in which State and Local Government will work together to deliver improved public library services to our community through the provision of:

- An agreed vision for driving the future direction of Western Australia's public library services.
- A collaborative approach for achieving real outcomes in delivering a relevant and sustainable public library service for all Western Australians.
- A statement of guiding principles to support communication, consistent decision making and collaborative action.
- A definition of the roles and responsibilities of both State and Local Government.

Public Library Services Agreement – guiding a partnered approach to the provision of State and Local Government public library services

The State and the Local Government sector have a shared commitment to delivering responsive and sustainable public library services to all Western Australians, recognising that in a digital age and global knowledge economy, public libraries empower individuals and communities through access to information, technology, lifelong learning and cultural and recreational opportunities.

Western Australia's public libraries are community hubs, bringing people together and facilitating literacy, learning and 21st century skills for growth and success in education, employment and life.

By working together to achieve common goals, State and Local Government will be more effective in providing equitable and accessible public library services for Western Australians. With over 12 million in person and online visits to Western Australia's public libraries every year, State and Local Government are committed to continuing to work together to enhance public library services and use resources effectively to maximise the return on investment that they provide. Working in collaboration will deliver more agile and innovative public library services and programs that respond to the diverse needs of Western Australian communities and are sustainable into the future.

Minister for Creative Industries

President of the Western Australian Local Government Association

Chairman of the Library Board of Western Australia

President of the Local Government Professionals Australia WA

[Date]

Vision

A vibrant and sustainable 21st century public library network at the heart of the Western Australian community where people can connect, learn and grow.

Goals

State and Local Government will work in partnership to provide a statewide public library network where:

- Public libraries are vibrant, inclusive community hubs that connect people with each other, with services and with their community.
- Public libraries provide diverse, accessible, relevant and comprehensive collections that support the educational, informational, cultural, and recreational needs of the community.
- Services and programs respond to the diverse needs of local communities, providing accessible experiences that support their information, cultural and recreational needs.
- Western Australians are empowered to prosper in an online world and digital economy through equitable access to technology and lifelong learning.
- Service models, systems and processes continue to evolve to be customer-centric, efficient, effective, sustainable and meet community need, optimising investment through collaboration.
- Goals are aligned with State and Local Government strategic priorities. Services are measured and evaluated to ensure achievement of outcomes and positive impact for the community.

[photo of signatories]

Principles

The following principles will guide the shared provision of public library services by State and Local Government in Western Australia.

1. Partnership
    - State and Local Government work together to provide the best possible library service, through mutual respect and cooperation.

2. Communication
    - Communication and decision making will be open, transparent and timely.

3. Consultation
    - State and Local Government will undertake timely consultation and engagement regarding matters affecting public libraries.

4. Accountability
    - Both parties are accountable for their decisions and decision-making processes.
    - There is a commitment to good governance.

5. Service Delivery
    - State and Local Government are committed to free, universal and equitable access to relevant and contemporary public library services for all Western Australian residents and visitors.
    - Access to information and ideas will be free of censorship and the influence of sectional interests, within legal and regulatory obligations.
    - Services will be flexible and respond to the diverse needs of Western Australian communities as well business requirements of State and Local Government.
    - Service planning, development and delivery will be responsive and sustainable.
    - Policy, strategy, service goals and objectives will have a long-term focus to respond to community needs and expectations.

6. Community Engagement
    - Appropriate community engagement and consultation will inform public library services planning and delivery.

7. Reciprocity
    - State and Local Government are committed to build on their 70-year partnership, each demonstrating respect for the other.

Roles and Responsibilities

To realise the vision and goals in this Public Library Services Agreement, State and Local Government have specific roles and responsibilities as outlined below.

Both State and Local Government, represented by the signatories to this agreement, agree to:

- Support a statewide public library service that provides free access for all residents of Western Australia.
- Operate with the expectation that State and Local Government will make a financial contribution to the provision of public library services, and each acknowledge the other's contribution where appropriate.
- Support the partnership and maintain joint decision-making arrangements and accountability mechanisms through the Public Libraries Working Group.
- Develop policies, plans, guidelines, performance and reporting standards to guide public libraries and be adopted by both parties.
- Ensure that the Library Board of Western Australia enters into an agreement with each Local Government that will uphold the principles of this Agreement and the core products and services to be provided free of charge.
- Recognise that the shared responsibilities for public library services are applicable regardless of any formal or informal arrangements between individual Local Governments and other government or non-government organisations for outsourcing or co-location of public library services.
- Work cooperatively to agreed standards established in the Guidelines, Standards and Outcome Measures for Australian Public Libraries, to support the ongoing development of library services in Western Australia to meet community needs.

State Government agrees to:

- Provide a financial contribution to each Local Government that operates a public library in accordance with an agreed public library funding methodology and administer the allocation, reporting and acquittal processes for the funding.
- Provide resources and services, including centralised purchasing and a State-wide online catalogue, to agreed standards.
- Provide strategic advice, consultancy and training on public library services including additional support for regional and remote public library services and provide feedback to Local Government on library services as required.
- Coordinate collaborative statewide and targeted initiatives and programs.

Local Government agrees to:

- Provide physical and technological infrastructure, staffing and operating costs, to agreed standards.
- Be accountable to the State Government for financial contributions as provided by the State.
- Collaborate on statewide initiatives and programs, as specified in relevant documents such as Local Level Agreements and the Public Libraries Strategy.
- Provide strategic input and advice on public library services, including giving feedback to State Government on library services as required.

Governance

State and Local Government have established a Public Libraries Working Group (PLWG) to oversee the implementation of this Public Library Services Agreement. Membership of the PLWG includes representation from the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, the Library Board of Western Australia and the State Library of Western Australia, Local Government Professionals Australia WA, Office of Digital Government, Public Libraries WA, Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA). Other organisations may be invited to join the group with agreement from the current membership.

Review and Modification Process

This Public Library Services Agreement is to apply for a period of five (5) years from the date of signing and may be extended subject to the written consent of all signatories.

A review of this Public Library Services Agreement will be initiated by the PLWG three (3) years after the date of signing and will report with recommendations to the Library Board of Western Australia and the WALGA State Council.

This Public Library Services Agreement may only be modified during the life of the Agreement with the written consent of all parties via PLWG.

Dispute Resolution Process

In relation to any matter that may be in dispute between the parties in relation to this Public Library Services Agreement:

a. If a dispute or difference arises between the parties in connection with this Public Library Services Agreement, a party may give the other/s a written notice specifying the dispute or difference.
b. The dispute is to be resolved by the signatories to the Public Library Services Agreement working in good faith with a view to achieve mutually agreeable outcomes.
c. If further resolution is required, parties are to engage an independent mediator with the cost to be shared between all parties.

Break clause

This Public Library Services Agreement may be terminated at any time by the mutual agreement of the Minister for Creative Industries, Library Board of Western Australia, WALGA State Council, and President of the Local Government Professionals Australia WA.

Prior to terminating this Public Library Services Agreement it is intended that, where possible and appropriate, the parties use mechanisms provided within this Agreement including, but not limited to, the Dispute Resolution clause to address and resolve any issues that may exist between the parties.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY STATE COUNCILLORS (UNDER SEPARATE COVER)

Items Under Separate Cover to State Council only.

9 POLICY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY TEAM REPORT

By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager, Infrastructure

FOR NOTING

The Infrastructure Portfolio comprises the following work units:

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

This Report provides an update on matters considered, since the last State Council meeting, by the Infrastructure Policy Team at its meeting held on 7 May 2025.

1. Matters for State Council Decision

Nil

2. Matters for State Council Noting

The Policy Team discussed the following matters:

- Progressing the Speed Management Policy adopted by State Council in 2024.
- Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.
- Local Government input to the review of graduated driver training and licencing system.

9.2 PEOPLE AND PLACE POLICY TEAM REPORT

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy

FOR NOTING

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

- *Community*
- *Emergency Management*

This Report provides an update on matters considered since the last State Council meeting by the People and Place Policy Team at its meeting held on 21 May.

1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION

The Policy Team discussed and endorsed the State and Local Government Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia, which is included for decision in the July State Council Agenda (item 8.3).

2. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING

The Policy Team noted the following items in the May State Council Agenda, including:

- Item 9.2 People and Place Policy Team Report
- Item 10.2 Draft State Public Health Plan Submission
- Item 11.1.4 Report on Key Activities, Policy Portfolio

3. PEOPLE AND PLACE POLICY TEAM MATTERS

Gascoyne Country Zone Resolution – Indigenous Land Use Agreements for Towns/Cities
The Policy Team considered the following resolution from the Gascoyne Country Zone.

> *That WALGA State Council request the State Government on behalf of all towns where there are Unallocated Crown Lands within townsites that are subject to Native Title negotiate an ILUA, at the State's cost, for the extinguishment of Native Title.*

The Policy Team discussed the Zone's resolution and noted that WALGA will undertake further work to explore options to respond and will provide further advice at the next Policy Team meeting.

2025 Local Government Emergency Management Forum
The Policy Team noted that WALGA will hold its first Local Government Emergency Management Forum on Tuesday, 17 June. The theme for the Forum is *Local Government Future Proof: Preparing today for tomorrow's challenges*. More information and the registration link are available here.

The Policy Team also received updates on:

- WALGA's inaugural Aboriginal Elected Member Roundtable
- 2025 Aboriginal Engagement Forum
- Public Health Planning Master Class Series
- Outcomes of the CEO Emergency Management Roundtable

- Pole top fires were raised as an issue at the last Policy Team meeting. WALGA provided the following update:
    - Western Power ceased washing insulators on live power lines due to safety concerns, which caused an increase in pole-top fires. WALGA raised this issue in a submission to the Economic Regulation Authority. Western Power has been undertaking alternative treatments including silicone spraying and washing from helicopters.

9.3 GOVERNANCE POLICY TEAM REPORT

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services

FOR NOTING

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*

This Report provides an update on matters considered since the last State Council meeting by the Governance Policy Team at its meeting held on 19 May.

1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION

Suspension and Disqualification for Offences Advocacy Position
The Policy Team reviewed a report proposing an updated advocacy position to provide the Minister for Local Government with discretional powers under the *Local Government Act 1995* to suspend council members who are criminally charged, and to disqualify them upon conviction.

The review was conducted following a Zone resolution from the South East Metropolitan Zone.

Agenda item 8.1 of the State Council Agenda relates to this matter.

2. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING

The Policy Team received an update on the status of Tranche 1 and Tranche 2 amendments to the *Local Government Act*, as currently understood by WALGA as listed below.

Tranche	Reform	Comments	Implementation Timeframe
1	**Public Registers**	Submission provided following State Council 7 May.	2026
1	**CEO Matters**	Submission provided following State Council 7 May.	2026
1	**Communications Agreements**	Expecting public consultation to commence this week. Closing date TBC	Post elections, October 2025
1	**Meeting Procedures**	Regulations currently in drafting process. Expecting further targeted consultation.	Post elections, October 2025

2	**Audit Risk and Improvement Committees**	Drafting to commence soon and be progressed quickly.	Post elections, October 2025
1	**Council Plans**	IPR Working Group	2 year implementation period
2	**LG Inspector / Monitors** • **Confidentiality changes**	Priority. Aim to appoint Inspector Q4 2025	Q1 2026
2	**Adjudicators and breach system**	With Inspectorate	2026
2	**Vexatious and frivolous complaints (LG CEO power to restrict communication) Inspector commencement**	With Inspectorate	2026
2	**Rates and Revenue Policy**	Work in progress at Department	Effect by 1 Jan 2026, would require LGs to comply by 1 March 2026
1	**Community Engagement Charters**		2026
1	**Community Surveys**		2026
1	**Alfresco Dining**		2026
1	**Crossovers**		2026
2	**Regional Subsidiaries (Regulations)**		2026
2	**Building Upgrade Finance**		2026
2	**CEO/senior employee disqualifications**		2026
2	**Shared CEO/senior employees**		2026

9.4 ENVIRONMENT POLICY TEAM REPORT

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy

FOR NOTING

The Environment Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

- *Climate change*
- *Native vegetation and biodiversity*
- *Biosecurity*
- *Water resources*
- *Sustainability*
- *Planning and building*

This Report provides an update on matters considered since the last State Council meeting by the Environment Policy Team at its meeting held on 29 May.

1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION

Advocacy Position Review
The Environment Policy Team considered the draft Advocacy Position and endorsed the recommendation that State Council adopt a new State Development Applications and Decision Making Advocacy Position.

Agenda item 8.2 relates to this matter.

2. ENVIRONMENT POLICY TEAM MATTERS

Climate Change Advocacy Position
At the 24 March Environment Policy Team meeting, it was agreed that WALGA would develop a consultation approach for consideration by the Policy Team. The Policy Team agreed to the proposed consultation approach whereby the composite Advocacy Position and associated background paper considered by State Council will be provided to all Local Governments (via communication to CEOs and Mayors/Presidents) for a 10-week consultation period, with Council endorsed or CEO approved feedback preferred. The Policy Team will then meet again to consider feedback provided and a composite resolution, which will then be included as an item for decision for a subsequent round of Zone / State Council meetings.

The Policy Team also received updates on the following:

- H5 Bird Flu
- Native Vegetation Regulation engagement
- Draft Child Care Premises Position Statement
- Upcoming Renewable Energy Forum to be held on 12 June.

9.5 MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL (MWAC) REPORT

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste

FOR NOTING

This Report provides an update on matters considered since the last State Council meeting by the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC), at the meeting held on 30 April.

1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION

Nil.

2. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING

Nil.

3. MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MATTERS

MWAC considered:

- Better Practice Waste Management at Public Events Guidance:
  - Local Governments host various community events, which provide an opportunity to adopt better waste management practices. Some Local Governments have developed their own sustainable events policies.
  - The Guideline aims to provide a consistent approach for public events.
  - Input on the Guideline, from Local Government, has been received and incorporated.
  - The Guideline is being introduced to the sector via a Webinar on 27 May.
- The development of a Better Practice Guideline for Procurement of Waste Services. Members discussed the draft guideline and provided input regarding the key matters that Elected Members would seek from Officer reports on waste procurement.

MWAC received updates on:

- Review of policy statements and better practice documents
- Soft plastic recycling – Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) application to establish a product stewardship scheme
- B-Cycle battery product stewardship – ACCC application to continue to operate a Scheme
- Progress on work related to improving waste management infrastructure and contingency planning, and governance
- FOGO Forum held on Tuesday, 11 March
- E-Cigarette advocacy
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Authorised Officer Training
- Household Hazardous Waste Battery Campaign

10 MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

10.1 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDIT EXPERIENCE SURVEY RESULTS

By Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance

FOR NOTING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA has again partnered with Local Government Professionals WA (LG Professionals) to survey the Local Government sector on experiences during the most recent annual financial audit process.
- The 2025 survey questions asked respondents about their experience of the 2023/24 audit process.
- Questions were largely the same as those in the audit surveys conducted in 2023 and 2024, allowing for direct comparison of results over time.
- Over the three years of the audit survey, the key issues identified have remained consistent. These areas demonstrated varying levels of improvement in this year's survey results:
    - timeframe and delays;
    - additional workload on Local Government staff;
    - cost;
    - inconsistent advice from contract Auditors and the Office of the Auditor General (OAG); and
    - asset valuation requirements.
- WALGA and LG Professionals have met with representatives from the OAG to share the outcomes from the survey and discuss the experience and concerns of Members.
- WALGA and LG Professionals will continue to work with the OAG to reform the audit process in line with sector feedback, with a particular focus on those areas of concern identified in the 2025 survey results.

ATTACHMENT

- 2025 Audit Experience Survey Results Summary
- Audit survey results comparison infographic

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

WALGA's current Advocacy Position in relation to the Local Government audit process was updated in July 2024 following last year's audit experience survey.

2.2.2 Local Government Audit Process

WALGA advocate to the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) to reform the audit process for Local Governments by seeking:

1. *Audits of Local Governments are completed and reported on in a timely manner and that the processes, procedures and scope of audits are consistently applied.*
2. *That the OAG review the requirements for pre-audit information with a view to reducing the need for additional information where possible;*
3. *That the OAG review their costing formulae for Local Government audits and show constraint in audit cost increases;*

4. *That the OAG provide a breakdown on the cost of the audit and justification for any variance to the estimate to the Local Government as part of the final billing process;*
5. *That auditors be required to improve their communication and information management and avoid repeated requests for information that has already been provided or that is publicly available;*
6. *That Local Governments only be required to communicate with contract Auditors (unless the OAG is directly auditing the Local Government) and the onus be placed on the contract Auditors to confirm their advice with the OAG before instructing the Local Government; and*
7. *Seek an opportunity for Local Government to make representations in relation to any adverse findings prior to the publication of the report.*

BACKGROUND

Responsibility for financial auditing of Local Governments in WA transitioned from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries to the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) with the proclamation of the *Local Government Amendment (Auditing) Act 2017*. Since this time, there have been a range of comments and criticisms of the audit experience from the Local Government sector.

For the past three years, WALGA have partnered with Local Government Professionals WA (LG Professionals) to produce a survey of Local Governments' annual audit experience. The survey has recently been repeated for the 2023/24 audit process, utilising similar questions to the 2023 and 2024 surveys to create a comparison over time.

The survey was designed to enable the Associations to provide consistent and constructive advice to the OAG. The OAG is again supportive of the process and welcomes the contribution from the peak bodies to inform their continued improvement.

WALGA and LG Professionals have met with representatives from the OAG to share the results of the survey and broadly discuss the experience of Member Local Governments during the 2023/24 audit process.

COMMENT

The 2025 survey was distributed to all 139 Local Governments in February, with responses closing in mid-March.

A total of 59 Local Governments (42.5%) responded, compared to 83 (58%) in 2024 and 91 (62%) in 2023.

The survey was largely comprised of the same questions as previous years, with most framed as a statement asking respondents to answer in one of five ways:

1. Strongly disagree;
2. Disagree;
3. Neutral;
4. Agree; or
5. Strongly agree.

Overall, the results and comments from the 2025 survey highlight an improving audit scenario when compared with the last two years. Comparison of results in the five key emerging issue areas identified in the 2023 and 2024 surveys (which has formed the basis for WALGA's advocacy efforts to the OAG) demonstrate notable improvements in most areas.

Timeframe and delays

In 2023 just over 50% of respondents identified that their audits were failing to hit the timeframes set for the process. This was substantially improved in 2024, with 82% of respondents identifying compliance with those required timeframes. In 2025 this has again improved to 98%, providing a high level of confidence that this is no longer an issue of concern in the sector.

Additional workload on Local Government staff

In both 2023 and 2024, 80% of respondents were concerned at the additional workload that was being generated for their staff by the audit process beyond the tasks anticipated in the pre-audit preparation advice. That level of concern has reduced to 68% in 2025 and whilst that is a move in the right direction, 68% still represents a substantial proportion of respondents and clearly indicates that this remains an issue within the sector.

Cost

There continues to be frustration across the sector with the escalating costs of the audit, which is significantly above indices such as CPI and Wage Growth. Transparency of costings and the justification of costs were the dominant concerns of survey respondents.

Inconsistent advice from contract Auditors and OAG

Receiving inconsistent advice from contracts Auditors versus from the OAG was a significant issue for nearly 20% of respondents in 2023. This reduced significantly in 2024 to only 6%, but has increased to 11% in 2025. The 2025 result suggests more needs to be done to ensure consistency between auditors.

Asset Valuation Requirements

"Fair Value" was a significant issue for respondents in 2023, and reform was championed by a range of sector proponents resulting in changes that largely diminished criticisms of the valuation system in the 2024 audit survey. No significant criticisms of Fair Value were forthcoming in the 2025 survey suggesting that this issue is considered solved.

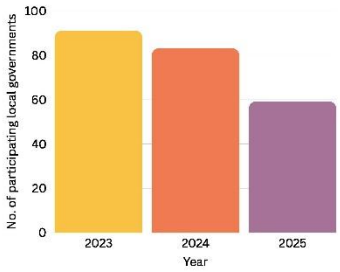
CONCLUSION

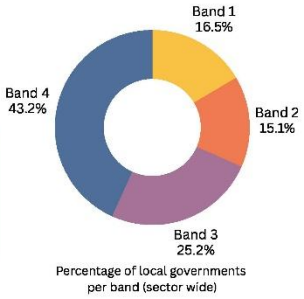
The 2025 survey results did not indicate any new, previously unidentified issues with the audit process, and most of the key issues above showed at least some improvement in this year's survey results. This suggests that the ongoing surveying, education, communication and advocacy work being undertaken by WALGA and LG Professionals with the OAG and the Local Government sector is appropriately interrogating the issues.

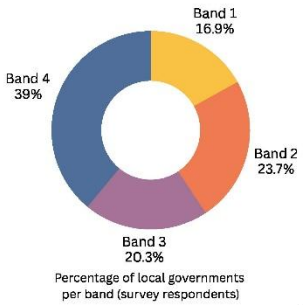
WALGA will continue its advocacy efforts with the OAG to secure the best result for Local Governments.

Local Government Audit Survey Results Comparison 2023 - 2025

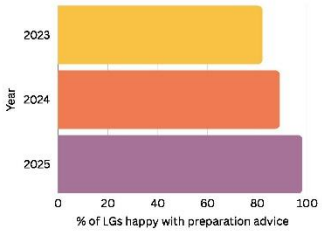
Survey participation is easing but still significant and representative of the sector

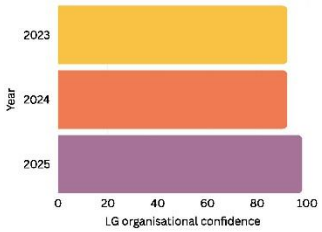


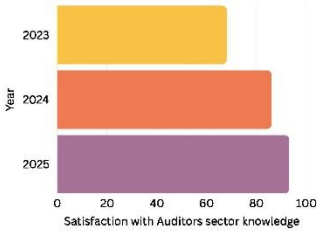




Feedback is generally positive and shows improvements in the audit experience



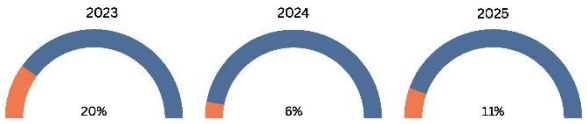




BUT not all requirements were notified in some cases

Audit Conduct: Professionalism and timeliness of auditors were high.

There was a slight drop in perceived consistency



Increase in workload on LG staff, beyond anticipation

Well supported in understanding audit conclusions

Post Audit

- Concerns about costs
- Perception that audit scope is growing - particularly IT
- Not all information requested prior to site visit
- More time needs to be spent onsite by some auditors
- Increased workload for LG staff
- 25% either did not know of, or did not use the OAG guide
- Generally higher levels of satisfaction with auditors (both OAG and contractors) overall

Future Focus

Reducing cost

Reducing workload impacts on local government staff

10.2 RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND ENGAGEMENT GUIDE

By Lisa Harwood, Principal Policy Advisor Economic Development

FOR NOTING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Western Australia's energy sector is transforming to achieve the State and Australian Governments' 2050 net zero emissions target.
- There is no comprehensive framework to guide the energy transition, including expectations regarding consultation and the delivery of community benefits by project proponents.
- State Council endorsed a suite of renewable energy-related advocacy positions in September 2024.
- WALGA has since been progressing a number of initiatives to support Local Governments.
- This includes the development of a Community Benefits and Engagement Guide to support Local Governments when engaging with developers and their communities, which has now been finalised.

ATTACHMENTS

- Renewable Energy in WA – WALGA Research Paper
- Empowering Local Governments – Planning for Renewable Energy
- Community Benefits and Engagement Guide (available from 9 June)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This item relates to the following WALGA advocacy positions:

6.16 Energy Transition Engagement and Community Benefit Framework
6.17 Renewable Energy Facilities
6.18 Priority Agriculture

BACKGROUND

WALGA developed three advocacy policy positions related to the renewable energy transition that were endorsed by State Council at its September 2024 meeting. These positions form the basis of WALGA's advocacy on this issue and are guiding our discussions with Government and advocacy on behalf of our Members.

It is essential that the energy transition currently underway delivers economic opportunities, ensures reliable and affordable electricity, and provides benefits for local communities. WALGA is calling on the State Government to develop a comprehensive framework to manage the impact of the energy transition that includes local engagement and the realisation of local community benefits from energy transition projects as a priority.

Negotiating community benefits and engaging with developers in the absence of a State framework continues to be a key challenge for Local Governments. WALGA commenced work on preparing a Community Benefits and Engagement Guide at the beginning of 2025 at the request of Members. The purpose of the Guide is to provide succinct guidance to the sector on managing engagement and community benefit challenges when it comes to large scale renewable energy projects.

COMMENT

WALGA has now finalised its Community Benefits and Engagement Guide (see attachment). A series of templates and checklists accompanies the Guide to provide practical resources for Local Governments to use.

Local Governments have been kept up to date with the progress of the Guide via State Council items for noting, emails to all CEOs from the WALGA CEO, and updates in the Teams Group for Local Government leaders.

The process of developing the Guide began in February 2025 and has involved engagement with Local Governments throughout, including:

- two workshops in March attended by 28 representatives, providing the opportunity for Local Governments to discuss the challenges they face with community benefits and engagement with developers and the community. Topics discussed include the need for the sector to work together; concerns around housing and other infrastructure; community impact; and the planning process;
- an information session in May attended by 35 Local Government representatives to take them through the draft Guide. Topics discussed include guidance on how to engage with State Government; rating mechanisms; and the planning application process;
- the consultant also engaged industry (Clean Energy Council and Smart Energy Council) and State Government (PoweringWA and Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage) to provide input into, and feedback on, the draft Guide;
- a two-week feedback period, providing Local Governments the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Guide, with nine Local Governments providing feedback.

10.3 REPORT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT ROAD ASSETS AND EXPENDITURE 2023/24

By Mark Bondietti, Policy Manager Transport and Roads

FOR NOTING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Report on Local Government Road Assets and Expenditure 2023/24 has been finalised.
- This Report provides information, statistics and trends on:
    - the length and types of roads and bridges managed by Local Governments;
    - sources of funding and the use of funds in expanding, upgrading, renewing and maintaining roads, paths and bridges;
    - actual expenditure relative to that needed to sustainably maintain the road network;
    - Road safety performance on Local Government roads.
- The report is intended to underpin advocacy for continued and increased Federal and State funding for Local Government roads and to support Councils wishing to benchmark aspects of their own roads programs with similar or neighbouring areas.

ATTACHMENT

- Report on Local Government Road Assets and Expenditure 2023/24

BACKGROUND

The Report on Local Government Road Assets and Expenditure 2023/24 (the report) was produced by WALGA with assistance from the WA Local Government Grants Commission. The report provides information on the lengths and types of roads, paths and bridges and highlights trends in the data over the preceding five years. It includes statistics and trends on the funding sources and amount of Local Government expenditure on roads, paths and bridges. Details are provided on the allocation of expenditure between expansion, upgrade, maintenance and renewal of the network at a regional level and for individual Local Governments. Trends in the road safety performance on Local Governments roads from 2019 to 2023 are provided.

The expenditure statistics are analysed to provide comparisons of road preservation performance, net preservation needs and expenditure effort. These comparisons provide insight into the adequacy of funding and the difference between road preservation needs and current expenditure on road preservation.

COMMENT

Local Government is responsible for 127,952 kilometres of roads with a replacement value of over $40.5 billion, which makes up 87% of the State Road network (excluding Forestry and National Park roads). Only 33% of these roads are sealed with a bitumen surface, the rest being gravel or unformed roads. In 2023/24 the total expenditure on Local Government roads was $1034.1 million and 49% of this was funded by State and Federal Government grants. Three and a half percent of this investment in roads in 2023/24 was to repair flood damage. In the last five years, total road expenditure has increased by 11.7%.

Much of the Local Government road network is now approaching the end of its design life and an increasing portion of funding is being spent on maintenance and renewal (collectively termed preservation). In 2023/24 expenditure on preservation (excluding flood damage) was $752.5 million amounting to 72.7% of the total expenditure.

An important objective of the report is to assess if road expenditure on preservation is keeping up with road preservation needs. This is determined by comparing actual annual expenditure on road preservation with the estimated amount needed to maintain the roads in their current condition in that year. The estimated cost of maintaining the Local Government road network in its current condition in 2023/24 was $1090.4 million and Local Governments spent $752.4 million on preservation. There was therefore a shortfall of $338.0 million. This is $80.8 million more than 2022/23 and $144.2 million more than 2019/20, which indicates that the average condition of the road network is deteriorating.

A further important objective is to assess the sustainability and capacity of Local Government to fund their road preservation requirements. For regional Local Governments, 62% of road expenditure is funded by State or Federal Government grants and for the Wheatbelt, this figure rises to 75%. On average, Local Governments spend 18% of their revenue capacity on roads. This illustrates the dependence on State and Federal funding and many regional Local Governments would have to spend almost their entire income on roads if this was the only source of funding.

The statistics and analysis presented in the report provides evidence for the level of expenditure required on Local Government roads and underpins the argument for sustainable funding to maintain and improve the condition and functionality of the road network.

10.4 WALGA BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT ROUNDTABLE

By Sam Kennedy, Senior Policy Advisor - Emergency Management

FOR NOTING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The second WALGA Bushfire Management Roundtable was held on 26 March, bringing together executive and subject matter experts from WALGA, LGIS, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), and Chief Executive Officers of Dandaragan, Albany, Manjimup, Corrigin, Kwinana, and Waroona Local Governments.
- Local Governments have a critical role in emergency management, including statutory responsibilities for mitigation, prevention and response and community-led recovery, necessitating well-functioning relationships with DFES as the Hazard Management Agency for multiple prescribed hazards.
- The Roundtable provides an opportunity for in-depth discussion of complex and/or contentious issues facing Local Governments in emergency management, and aims to identify, progress and monitor key priorities and actions.
- Discussions at the Roundtable were productive, identifying four actions for DFES and two for WALGA - focusing on further strengthening support to Local Government CEOs in Bush Fire Brigade (BFB) management, and strategic reform of the Local Government Grants Scheme (LGGS).
- A short sector update from the Roundtable has been prepared for circulation to Members.
- The next Roundtable is anticipated to be held in early 2026.

ATTACHMENT

- Sector Update - WALGA Bushfire Management Roundtable

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Bushfire Management Roundtable provided an opportunity to discuss issues related to WALGA's emergency management advocacy positions:

8.4 Consolidated Emergency Services Act
8.8 Local Government Grants Scheme
8.9 Expansion of the Community Emergency Services Manager Program
8.10 Management of Bush Fire Brigades

BACKGROUND

WALGA Bushfire Management Roundtables have been convened by WALGA to respond to an identified need for strengthened information flow between DFES and Local Government CEOs to support the fulfilment of their emergency management responsibilities.

The first Roundtable, held in February 2024, led to a collaborative project between DFES and WALGA, in which Local Government CEOs were provided with DFES training records for registered BFB members and a comprehensive information package, aimed at supporting CEO preparation for the upcoming bushfire season.

COMMENT
Key priorities and actions identified at the 26 March 2025 Roundtable include:

DFES Actions

- Continue to work with WALGA on the best ongoing approach to sharing information on BFB management with CEOs, including a more structured doctrine component to guide local policy development.
- Consider providing LGIS with access to relevant DFES doctrine to inform the provision of advice to Local Governments on BFB procedures, when requested by Local Governments.
- Continue to work with WALGA on LGGS reform, including a strategic approach to LGGS allocation.
- Provide updates/advice on management of burnt asbestos on farms and disaster recovery funding arrangements, recognising financial, WHS, environmental and recovery implications.

WALGA Actions

- Revisit Local Government views on BFB management in the 2025 EM Survey - anticipated to be delivered in September 2025.
- Continue to work with DFES on LGGS reform, including a strategic approach to LGGS allocation, whilst also continuing to advocate for an increase in funding, aligned to our 2025 State Election Priorities.

11 ORGANISATION REPORTS

11.1 KEY ACTIVITY REPORTS

11.1.1 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, ADVOCACY PORTFOLIO

By Rachel Horton, Executive Manager Advocacy

FOR NOTING

The Advocacy Portfolio comprises the following work units:

- *Marketing*
- *Communications*
- *Media*
- *Events*

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

1. MARKETING

In addition to promoting numerous WALGA events, a number of marketing campaigns are currently in progress.

Battery Waste Disposal Campaign

WALGA partnered with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) and the Household Hazardous Waste Program (HHWP) to raise awareness about the dangerous disposal of household batteries and offer a solution to the public.

WALGA supported existing advertising efforts by DWER with a digital marketing campaign. The key objectives were to create awareness around the multiple drop off zones across WA and decrease incorrect disposal of battery waste.

Over a six-week period more than 1.5 million impressions have been served to the WA public resulting in over 23,000 users clicking on 'Learn More' and converting over 19,500 visits to the 'Waste Sorted' page. This equates to an impressive 82% conversion rate which is far above the industry benchmark of 2-5%. Once on the website, 32% of visitors engaged with the post code finder tool to locate their nearest recycling drop-off location.

Diploma of Local Government

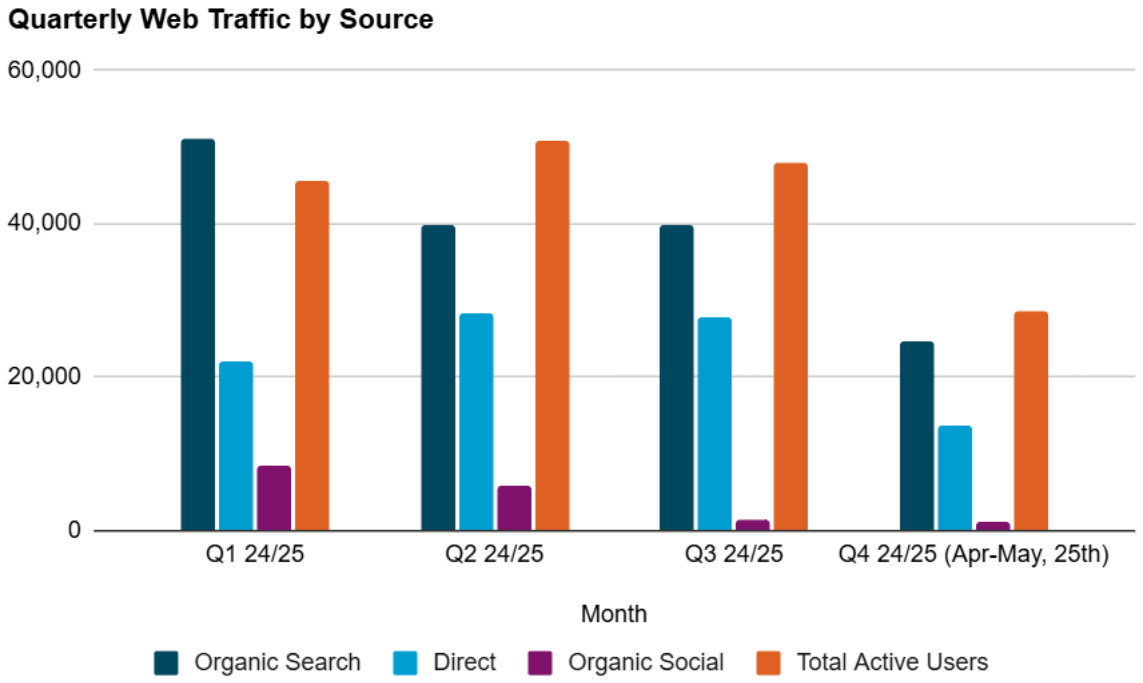
Marketing has commenced advertising for the Diploma of Local Government course for Officers (General and Planning stream). As well as WALGA owned channels and cross promotion in WALGA newsletters, targeted paid advertising has commenced across LinkedIn, Meta and Google.

2025 Local Government Election Campaign

Planning has commenced for the 2025 Local Government Election Campaign. WALGA is partnering with the DLGSC and WAEC, with WALGA leading the creative development and media planning. There are two objectives, to increase diversity of Councillor nominations and increase voter turnout.

Event Marketing
Significant Marketing activity is underway to support a busy events season including the Renewable Energy Forum (12 June), an Elected Member Training Alumni Sundowner (12 June), the inaugural Emergency Management Forum (17 June), the Local Government Awards (19 July), People and Culture Seminar (25 July) and Transport & Roads Forum (14 August).

Website (NB: Partial Period: 1 April - 25 May)
With just over two thirds of quarter four captured within the reporting period the data is showing consistent performance. Direct traffic is strong with 57% resulting from organic search engine results. WALGA email alerts drive another 14% of traffic to the website and the remainder is driven by social media and referral links.



2. COMMUNICATIONS

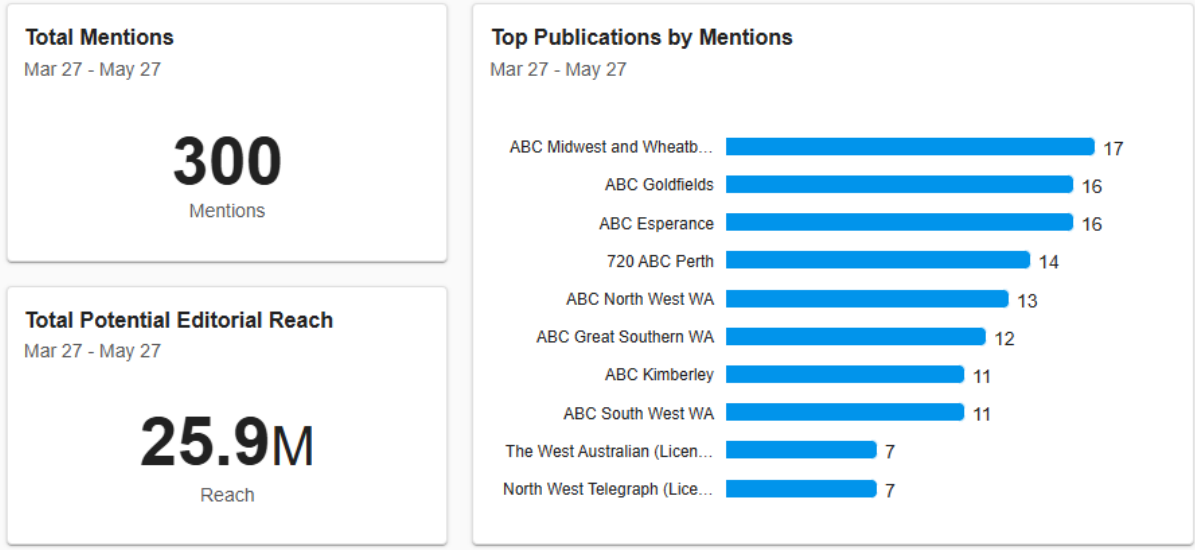
Multiple internal and external communications were prepared throughout the reporting period including:

- Eight LG Direct weekly newsletters distributed to over 2,000 Elected Members and Local Government staff
- Development of WALGA's Local Government Directory and Western Councillor Magazine
- WALGA's Quarterly Member Report
- 2025 Federal Budget Analysis

Work has also commenced on the 2024-25 Annual Report.

3. MEDIA

There were 300 mentions of WALGA and President Karen Chappel AM JP between Thursday, 27 March – Tuesday, 27 May. This is an increase from 216 in the previous reporting period. The majority of mentions were by the ABC Midwest and Wheatbelt, followed closely by ABC Goldfields and ABC Esperance.



Earned Media

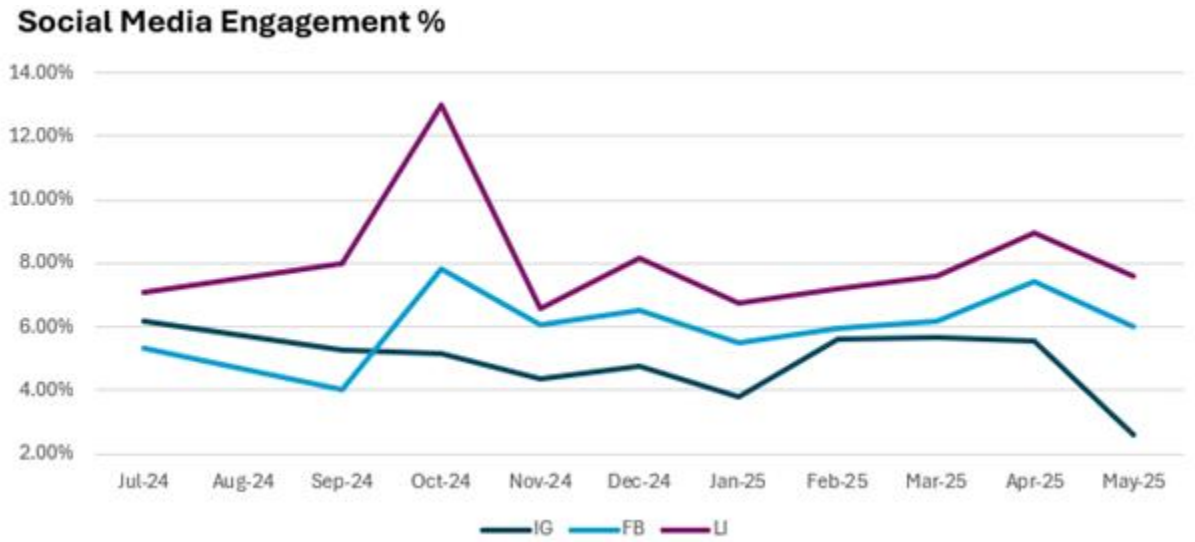
WALGA received 18 media requests for comment across print, radio, television and online media illustrating the trust the media has in WALGA as a reliable voice on Local Government issues.

1. WA Tree Festival – 28 March
2. WALGA's Sustainable Energy Project – 3 April
3. E-Cigarette Collection Study – 8 April
4. WALGA's Model Local Planning Policy – 11 April
5. Zone Minutes – 15 April
6. Aboriginal Engagement – 15 April
7. WALGA's Sustainable Energy Project – 16 April
8. FOGO – 17 April
9. Responsible Authority Reports – 17 April
10. Housing – 17 April
11. RoadWise – 29 April
12. RoadWise – 1 May
13. Federal Election – 12 May
14. Tree Retention – 14 May
15. Puppy Farming Laws – 16 May
16. RoadWise – 19 May
17. Cat Act – 20 May
18. PSHB – 27 May

Media Releases

1. WALGA advocacy answered with Coalition commitment to revitalise the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program – 14 April
2. Over $34 million in savings estimated for Local Government as Phase Two of WALGA's Sustainable Energy Supply Project commences – 15 April
3. Funding available to eligible WA Local Governments in fight against Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer – 27 May

Social Media
Facebook and LinkedIn are tracking well with both spiking in April following content around the Aboriginal Engagement Forum. Instagram is mostly used for reels during events which is why there is less engagement post April.



LinkedIn has strong engagement at 8%, the highest posts being a congratulatory post for a Cert III cohort which achieved 41% engagement, followed by the Aboriginal Engagement Forum which achieved 28%. A post featuring WALGA State Council alongside Minister Beazley also generated 23% engagement.

Facebook has generated over 13,000 impressions and an average of 6% engagement and Instagram another 8,080 in the reporting period.

4. EVENTS

Three events are scheduled in June, two of which are inaugural events for WALGA.

Waste & Environment Summit
The Waste & Environment Summit scheduled for 4–5 June in Esperance was cancelled due to low registration numbers. A communications plan was developed to ensure all stakeholders were advised in a timely fashion and the decision was taken with sufficient time for attendees and speakers to recoup travel and accommodation costs. No costs were incurred by WALGA, and pre-prepared material is being shared online. The Advocacy and Policy portfolio will discuss future plans for the event.

Local Government Emergency Management Forum
The inaugural Local Government Emergency Management Forum will be held on Tuesday, 17 June at the Stirling Civic Centre. The event will bring together Local Government representatives and industry stakeholders to share strategies, build capability, and address current and emerging challenges in emergency management. The theme is 'Local Government future proof: Preparing today for tomorrow's challenges'. Hon Paul Papalia CSC MLA, Minister for Emergency Services will deliver the opening address.

People & Culture Seminar
This year's People & Culture Seminar, to be held at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre is themed 'The 3 Cs of HR: Compliance, Compassion, Collaboration'. The program features leading Industrial Relations and Human Resources speakers from both the public and private sectors in WA. Registrations opened on 27 May.

2025 Local Government Convention
Planning is underway for the 2025 Convention, returning to the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre on 22-24 September. The creative theme has been established with a marketing launch planned for June 2025 including Exhibitors and Sponsors.

11.1.2 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE PORTFOLIO

By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure

FOR NOTING

The Infrastructure Portfolio comprises the following work units:

- *Roads*
- *Funding*
- *Urban and Regional Transport*
- *Asset Management*
- *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)
Guidelines for the use of crumbed rubber modified sprayed seals, reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAP) and a catalogue of standard pavement profiles have been published recently. Work has commenced on an investigation into available technologies for best practice road condition assessments and data collection and the development of a road safety rating tool for intersections.

Condition Assessment of Roads of Regional Significance
The condition assessment survey project for the Kimberley region is underway, with data collection ongoing. The project is anticipated to be completed by the end of June 2025. This will complete the assessment of the most regionally important Local Government roads across the State.

Road Rail Interface Agreements
Rail Interface Agreements are a requirement under the *Rail Safety National Law (WA).* For road/rail interfaces on the Arc Infrastructure network, a model *pro forma* agreement between Local Governments and Arc Infrastructure has been drafted and agreed and is currently undergoing legal review by Arc Infrastructure and Main Roads WA. Once this is complete, the Agreement should be available for Local Government review and action. WALGA will begin a process to liaise with each relevant affected Local Government to provide advice around the new Agreement, prior to Arc Infrastructure dispatching the relevant Agreements to each Local Government.

Update of User Guides for calculating the cost of road wear for defined freight tasks
Revised guides for calculating the cost of road wear for defined freight tasks on sealed and unsealed roads have been published on the WALGA website. A downloadable excel calculator that will guide practitioners through the methodology has also been developed. This second edition reflects significant escalation in road construction costs.

2. ROAD FUNDING

Multi-Criteria Assessment (MCA) Model Revisions
The WALGA Infrastructure Team is working with the Regional Road Groups to harmonise the MCA models used by Regional Road Groups to prioritise projects for Road Project Grant funding. 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. All the Regional Road Groups have commenced the MCA revision process, with the process in the Gascoyne, Great Southern, and SW region now complete.

3. TRANSPORT

Bus Stop Infrastructure
The Bus Stop Infrastructure Agreement has been finalised, with the formal signing scheduled for June.

Active Transport and Micromobility-Discussion Paper
WALGA recently hosted two Active Transport workshops on 6 March with high-level stakeholders, and a follow-up online workshop for Local Government officers on 2 April. These sessions provided valuable insights into the gaps and challenges in active transport across the sector. This work now forms the foundation for the next stage, which will focus on developing a formal policy position to guide and support active transport initiatives in Local Government.

4. ASSET MANAGEMENT

Road Assets and Expenditure (RAE) Report Project
With the completion of a final report detailing the current processes used to develop the RAE Report and identifying options for improvement in data collection, interpretation, and presentation, work is now ongoing to prepare tender materials and commence the project to achieve the future state of the RAE process. This phase will include the development of a database, reporting interface, and dashboard.

5. Utilities

Underground Power
The Targeted Underground Power Program (TUPP) working group, including Western Power, Energy Policy WA and WALGA, continued to develop options to support the viability of the program that is facing increasing costs. Particular focus is on reducing the project cost risks and identifying solutions to respond to those property owners in hardship situations. Two projects from the previous Network Renewal Program remain to be delivered, with the first TUPP project scheduled for commencement late in 2025-26.

Streetlighting
The pilot phase of the Proactive Streetlight Replacement Program has commenced with LED streetlights being installed in selected suburbs in the Cities of Cockburn, Melville and Kwinana. A Ministerial announcement is anticipated regarding the delivery of the next phase of the Program. WALGA provided feedback to the consultant engaged by Western Power to undertake a survey of Local Governments regarding aspects of streetlighting that are most important. It is not clear when the survey will be undertaken.

Telecommunications
WALGA will contribute to a regional telecommunications policy workshop organised by WA Farmers Federation and Telstra.

6. ROAD SAFETY

RoadWise Recognised
76 Local Governments are registered RoadWise Councils. The RoadWise Recognised Advisory Committee met in February and May. Points, which signify road safety actions undertaken, were considered for 72 (95%) of RoadWise Councils who together recorded more than 200 activities each quarter. The Points that were allocated reflected actions delivered across the different areas of the RoadWise Framework. The spread of activity demonstrates how holistic the approach to road safety across governance, management, and operations has been and is acknowledged with the awarding of RoadWise Recognised Ribbons, up to a maximum of five. In this way, the allocation of Points and Ribbons is designed to encourage local road safety toward better and ultimately best practice.

11.1.3 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, MEMBER SERVICES PORTFOLIO

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services

FOR NOTING

The Member Services Portfolio comprises the following work units:

- *Association and Corporate Governance*
- *Commercial Services*
- *Commercial Development and Management (Preferred Supplier Program)*
- *Employee Relations*
- *Governance and Procurement*
- *Training*

The following outlines the activities of the Member Services Portfolio since the May State Council meeting.

1. ASSOCIATION AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Local Government Honours Program 2025
Nominations for the 2025 Honours Program have closed and the Panel have selected this year's recipients. The 2025 Program continued the success of previous years with many outstanding nominations across six award categories.

WALGA's Honours Program affords public recognition and celebration to the outstanding achievements and lasting contributions made by Elected Members and employees to their respective Councils, the Local Government sector, the Association and the wider community. Thank you to all those who nominated someone for this year's Program.

Recipients for the 2025 Program will be recognised at an awards event on Saturday, 19 July at the WA Museum Boola Bardip.

2. COMMERCIAL

Preferred Supplier Program
The Preferred Supplier Program continues to develop with supplier additions, and new category development. A legal review to update contractual documentation has commenced.

A project to develop guidance resources and information about Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Council Business Systems has been initiated. This activity will support the use of the WALGA Panel for procurement and contracting processes.

Phase two of the WALGA Sustainable Energy Supply Project has been successfully implemented. The new term of the project involves 50 WALGA Members and incorporates a diversification strategy to further support sustainable energy infrastructure development.

ARENA/EV Projects
The ARENA project continues to progress through a reporting and knowledge-sharing phase. There are no significant matters to update.

Through ongoing work to explore potential new opportunities for external funding of Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure, WALGA has been working with the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS) to engage with a small number of Local Governments in the Mid-West and surrounding regions on potential delivery arrangements for additional public EV Charging infrastructure. This work has provided an excellent opportunity to work with DEMIRS to explore potential future funding and delivery mechanisms, considering the specific needs and priorities of members.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Project
The Sector AI Readiness Assessment is now well underway. Following an open tender process, The Strategy Group has been appointed to undertake the sector readiness assessment, as well as more detailed assessments of 12 participating member Local Governments. Consistent with practice of the Office of the Auditor General, the Local Governments subject to the detailed assessments will not be publicly identified in updates or reporting.

Briefing engagements and a webinar were held in mid-May. Member engagement will ramp up into June. While the key findings will be reported back to the sector, the specific format of this reporting may depend on the findings and outcomes of the assessments.

This work is expected to inform the Association's potential future initiatives related to AI and cybersecurity.

3. EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

WALGA ER continues to represent the sector in a number of applications in the WA Industrial Relations Commission (WAIRC) including:

Applications CICS 5, 8 and 9 of 2023 - Union demarcation dispute.
Application IAC 2 of 2025 - Industrial Appeal Court appeal
These applications relate to a dispute over coverage of Local Government employees between three unions, the Western Australian Municipal, Administrative, Clerical and Services Union of Employees (WASU), Local Government, Racing and Cemetries Employees Union (LGRCEU) and the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union of Workers (CFMEUW).

The matter has had 20 hearing days to date in July and October 2024, with the CFMEUW evidence still to be completed. further 20 hearing days is anticipated.

During the hearing in October 2024 the CFMEUW made a number of applications:

a) The first application was to dismiss the matter, which the Commission rejected and dismissed.
b) The second application was for discovery of documents from WALGA and the WASU, which the Commission ordered and WALGA and WASU complied with. WALGA and WASU have claimed privilege over these documents **(Privilege Claim**).
c) A further appplication for discovery of documents from WALGA, WASU and the LGRCEU. In response the WASU, LGRCEU and WALGA applied to dismiss the

CFMEUW's second application for production of documents. This was dismissed by the CICS on 26 March 2025 (Dismissal Decision).

The CFMEUW have lodged an appeal to the Industrial Appeal Court (**IAC**) against the Dismissal Decision (IAC 2/2025). Programming orders have been issued but a hearing date has not been set and is unlikely to be before September 2025. The IAC is comprised of three WA Supreme Judges.

The Privilege Claim will be heard by the CICS as an interloctory matter on 28 May 2025. The substantive application will be relisted at a later point.

The various applications for production of documents by the CFMEUW and to dismiss the matter have caused significant delays to the substantive matter in this case and result in continued uncertainty in the Local Government sector generally as to the CFMEUW's coverage and role.

Application APPL 164 of 2024

An application was made by the WASU through s80BH of the *Industrial Relations Act 1979* (WA) (IR Act) to be named to the Local Government Industrial Award – Industrial Agreement (LGIA-IA) which is an instrument that transitioned to the State Industrial Relations system. If WASU is named to the LGIA-IA it is then able to take action to enforce the instrument, but more importantly the WASU could 'retire' it under s. 41(7) of the IR Act and the state awards (LGO and ME Awards amongst others) would then apply.

Sixty Local Governments have been named to APPL 164 of 2024 and WALGA is directly representing the Shire of Dundas (lead Local Government) as their industrial agent in this matter and assisting other Local Governments. WALGA filed a response on behalf of the Shire of Dundas on 17 January.

On 5 March the WASU lodged an application to dismiss the Respondent's response filed in this matter on the basis that the objections of the Respondents have no real prospect of success and the matter should proceed without hearing further from the Respondents.

A directions hearing was heard on 17 March where the WASU's application to dismiss the Respondent's objections was dismissed and that the preliminary issue should be subject to a hearing.

The matter was heard on 13 May 2025. The Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS) on behalf of the Minister for Industrial Relations applied and was granted leave to intervene in the hearing of this matter. The position put forward by the Minister was consistent with WALGA's position.

The decision has been reserved.

Application CICS 1 of 2025 - 2025 State Wage Case

Annually the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission (WAIRC) in Court Session issues a decision setting the WA minimum wage.

WALGA submitted a written submission on behalf of the Local Government sector which provided an opportunity for the Local Government sector to influence minimum wage and award pay rates, which in turn impacts on wages paid to Local Government employees.

A hearing was held on 21 May 2025 and WALGA provided oral submissions, along with DEMIRS (on behalf of the Minister for Industrial Relations), Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Unions WA and the WA Council of Social Service.

WALGA submitted that consideration should be given to wage increases that balance the need for fair wages with the requirement for Local Governments to carefully manage their budgets in the interest of their communities.

The matter will be relisted when the annual wage review of the Fair Work Commission has been handed down for any final submissions.

4. GOVERNANCE AND PROCUREMENT

Local Government Elections Working Group
WALGA is again representing Member's interests in an Elections Working Group convened by the Department of Local Government, with WA Electoral Commission (WAEC). The Working Group supports the WAEC in planning for and conducting elections on behalf Local Governments. WALGA will again coordinate public notice information for the small number of Local Governments not using the WAEC to conduct their elections, for publication on the DLGSC's website, fulfilling in part the Local Government's public notice requirements

Local Government Elections - Owners and Occupier Electoral Roll Webinar
WALGA's Governance Team co-hosted a webinar with Department of Local Government, on Wednesday, 4 June 2025. The webinar was targeted at officers, informing about Local Government Act reforms that have substantially changed evidence requirements and the way owner and occupier eligibility claims are to be assessed by Local Government CEOs. A recording of the webinar is available by contacting WALGA Governance.

Local Government Elections - Owners and Occupier Electoral Roll Eligibility Guide
WALGA's Guide for processing owner and occupier eligibility claims has been substantially re-written to reflect the Local Government Act reforms. The WALGA Guideline is available online to WALGA Governance subscribers.

Local Government Elections - Candidate briefings
WALGA is again liaising with the Department of Local Government and the WA Electoral Commission to provide an online Statewide Candidate Briefing webinar before candidate nominations open. The webinar is expected to be scheduled in mid-August, with nominations opening 28 August.

WALGA has also invited Local Governments to register their interest in WALGA providing an in-person or virtual presentation at local candidate briefings. WALGA will prioritise local candidate briefings jointly hosted by several Local Governments and depending upon our capacity, will consider individual briefings for a single Local Government.

Local Government Elections - Political Signage Guideline: Implied Constitutional Freedom of Political Communication
WALGA's *Political Signage Guideline* has been updated to include the latest information and case law. The Guideline considers the impact of the implied constitutional freedom of political communication on Local Government powers to regulate election signs. The Guideline is available for download by Governance subscribers.

Governance Alert and Procurement Newsletters
The first of a re-invigorated Governance Alert newsletter was circulated on 1 May to CEOs and officers that subscribe to WALGA's Governance subscription service. Topics covered included the above Local Government Elections webinars and guides, as well as Local Government Act reforms:

- Local Laws Reviews - new FAQ resource, to assist Local Governments to monitor and manage the mandatory reviews within prescribed timeframes.
- Committee Presiding Member Appointments required before 1 July 2025.
- *Local Government (Development Assessment Panel) Regulations 2025* - template authorisations to assist CEOs to authorise employees to prepare Responsible Authority Reports.
- Caretaker Provisions - raising awareness the Caretaker Provisions and limitations on significant acts apply from 4pm, 4 September 2025 (close of nominations).
- Information about Local Governments providing continuing professional development in the final months of a Council Member's term of office.

Governance newsletters and Procurement newsletters will continue to be circulated on a regular basis to Governance and Procurement subscribers (respectively).

5. TRAINING

The April intake had five students start their Certificate III in Local Government. Feedback of the program continues to be positive.

Based on feedback from the sector, WALGA has lodged a Notice of Intent with the State Training Board for the Certificate III in Local Government being available as a School Based Traineeship (SBT) in addition to our application to have the Diploma of Local Government made available as an existing worker Traineeship. This is currently under review and is awaiting the endorsement of the Minister for Training and Workforce Development. This application is the first of multiple steps and does not guarantee funding through the Department of Training and Workforce Development.

Planning for a large intake for the Diploma of Local Government – Elected Member program in November is underway The Jacqui Dodd Scholarship will open on 1 July and close 15 August. The scholarships will be awarded at the AGM of the WALGA Convention, together with the graduation ceremony for students of the Diploma of Local Government - Elected Member.

11.1.4 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, POLICY PORTFOLIO

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy

FOR NOTING

The Policy Portfolio comprises the following work units:

- *Economics*
- *Environment and Waste*
- *Planning and Building*
- *Emergency Management*
- *Community*

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

1. ECONOMICS

Renewable Energy

Rating research paper

Work is underway on a research paper that explores Local Government rating of renewable energy facilities. The paper will include:

1. Legislative Framework Review - to determine the current legislative provisions available to WA Local Governments and provide recommendations for any legislative changes in relation to the rating of renewable energy facilities.
2. National and Local Review - to research how other Australian jurisdictions are managing the rating of renewable energy facilities and consult with a selection of Western Australian Local Governments.
3. Way Forward - provide a summary of options and recommendations for the rating of renewable energy facilities by Local Governments going forward.

Political and Government engagement

The WALGA President and CEO have met with the new Minister for Energy and Decarbonisation; Manufacturing; Skills and TAFE; Pilbara, Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson BA MLA, and the Minister for Planning and Lands; Housing and Works; Health Infrastructure, Hon John Carey BA MLA.

Renewable Energy Ministerial Forum

In June, WALGA supported the Renewable Energy Ministerial Forum with addresses from Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA, Minister for Minister for Energy and Decarbonisation; Manufacturing; Skills and TAFE; Pilbara and Hon John Carey MLA, Minister for Planning and Lands; Housing and Works; Health Infrastructure. The Ministers addressed Local Governments on their plans for the renewable energy transition and the State Government's priorities. This was followed by a roundtable discussion with Minister Sanderson and a workshop session conducted by PoweringWA, focusing on community benefits.

Community Benefits and Engagement Guide

WALGA has completed the development of its Community Benefits and Engagement Guide (see item 10.2). This guide is designed to offer clear and concise direction to the Local Government sector on how to navigate the challenges of community engagement and

delivering community benefits in the context of large-scale renewable energy projects. To support practical implementation, the guide is accompanied by a suite of templates and checklists, providing Local Governments with ready-to-use tools to assist in their planning and engagement efforts.

2. ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE

WA PSHB Tree Recovery program
The State Government's WA Tree Recovery Local Government Grant Program opened on 26 May, with applications closing on 7 July 2025. The Grant Program is designed to support the replacement of trees removed due to PSHB infestation and improve long-term canopy cover by planting at a ratio of three trees to every one tree removed, where possible. Up to $1,140 is available for each tree removed, which includes one primary replacement tree, two additional trees and eligible establishment items and services (including understory plants). Funding of up to $150,000 per planting site is available to assist with high-cost replacement planting sites in specific circumstances. Grants will be awarded in August 2025 to enable Local Governments to order tree and understory stock for planting across the 2026, 2027 and 2028 planting seasons.

WALGA advocated strongly for tree recovery funding and has welcomed the commencement of the Grant Program, while reaffirming the need for further ongoing funding and measures to intensify Local Government PSHB response efforts and further protect and grow our tree canopy. WALGA's media release can be found here.

H5 Bird Flu
The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) is leading the development of the WA Response Plan for H5 Bird Flu. WALGA is actively engaging in this process along with a range of State Government agencies. WALGA participated in a national Carcass Management Workshop (8 May) with other States and Territories and was the only voice representing Local Government. The workshop identified key resources required for the response.

WALGA has established a cross-organisational team to ensure the Association has a coordinated approach in relation to preparedness, response and recovery. DPIRD presented on H5 Bird Flu preparedness to State Council at its Information Forum on 4 June.

3. PLANNING AND BUILDING

Urban Greening Priority Projects – Funding Agreement
WALGA has recently finalised a funding agreement with the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) for three priority urban greening projects to be delivered in 2025. Project implementation is supported by a funding allocation of $90,900 (ex GST) from the WAPC.

WALGA developed detailed project scopes and budgets for three priority urban greening projects, as identified by the Local Government Urban Forest Working Group in late 2024.

The priority projects are:
- Climate ready street tree trials
- Creation of a Perth and Peel urban forest spatial mapping layer
- A guide on structural engineering options to support root management and tree growth.

The WAPC is providing financial support for urban greening demonstration projects in the Perth and Peel metropolitan region, which is intended to contribute to the achievement of the State Government's Perth and Peel Urban Greening Strategy, currently under development.

WALGA, through the Urban Forest Facilitator, is the project coordinator and has established Steering Groups for each project. Steering Groups comprise representatives from the UFWG, DPLH and other targeted stakeholders such as State Government, research organisations and peak representative bodies. Steering Group members will provide specialist knowledge and guidance to ensure a collaborative, shared approach to project implementation.

4. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

WALGA 2025 Local Government Emergency Management Forum
WALGA will hold its first Local Government Emergency Management Forum on 17 June at the City of Stirling Reception Hall. The theme for the Forum is *Local Government Future Proof: Preparing today for tomorrow's challenges.* Hon Paul Papalia CSC MLA, Minister for Emergency Services will address the Forum which will includes a diverse range of speakers and panellists across three sessions: community disaster resilience, crisis communication, and recovery lessons learned.

Delegates will also hear from an array of Local Government emergency management practitioners, sector leaders and change makers. More information and the registration link are available here.

Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement Program
WALGA has launched its pilot project with five Local Governments selected through an Expression of Interest process in February 2025. The selected councils include the Shires of Manjimup, Shark Bay, Chittering and Gingin and the City of Kwinana.

The pilot objectives are to:
- Test and refine templates and resources.
- Identify challenges in achieving LEMA endorsement.
- Gather input for user guidelines on Local Arrangements.
- Identify and collect additional support tools/resources used by Local Governments.

The pilot is expected to run until August, after which a review and report will be prepared for State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) on the outcomes.

SEMC has endorsed DFES to proceed with the development and testing of a LEMA Development Framework, aiming for a more scalable approach to LEMA development and review. This delivers on WALGA's 2023 recommendation to establish a maturity assessment model.

5. COMMUNITY

Aboriginal Elected Member Roundtable
WALGA hosted its first Aboriginal Elected Member Roundtable on 8 April, the day before the Aboriginal Engagement Forum. The event was very successful, with 15 Elected Members attending (out of 28 invited) from 12 diverse Local Governments across WA. The Roundtable has provided direction to WALGA as we strive to increase the cultural competency, safety and access to our services and support for current and prospective Aboriginal Elected Members. At the WALGA Aboriginal Engagement Forum on 9 April, Lanie Chopping, Director General DLGSC, committed to working with WALGA to increase representation and support Aboriginal Elected Member candidates. WALGA intends to make the Roundtable an annual event.

Aboriginal Engagement Forum (AEF)
This year's event, held on 9 April, was a resounding success with highly positive feedback from delegates, sponsors and collaborators. Tickets sold out at the venue's capacity of 258, and a waitlist was required. Delegates from 54 Local Governments (representing 16 Zones) attended, including 8 State Councillors, 33 Elected Members and 12 Aboriginal Elected Members. Critical to the success of the 2025 AEF was the strong focus on programming and the guidance of the Reference Group. The refreshed Reference Group had a 75% Aboriginal representation, and Aboriginal presenters accounted for 80% of the programming. The inclusion of an outdoor Yarning Space also elevated the event, providing an outdoor hub for delegates to network, enjoy food and engage directly with selected stakeholders and event sponsors. Delegates provided very positive feedback through our post-event survey, with all sessions receiving a 90% approval rating of 4 out of 5 or above.

Public Health Planning
The State Public Health Plan 2025-2030 was published on the 4 June and provides the strategic framework that Local Governments must consider within their Local Public Health Plans due by 4 June 2026. WALGA is actively engaging with a range of stakeholders that are developing public health planning resources to ensure these supports are responsive to the needs and priorities of Local Governments. WALGA has surveyed Local Government officers working on Local Public Health Plans to better understand the needs of the sector. The feedback from stakeholders will support the development of a tailored WALGA Local Public Health Planning masterclass series for delivery in the second half of 2025. This series will target the operational needs of Local Governments and address gaps in information and support identified in the engagement phase.

Child Safeguarding Reportable Conduct Scheme
Following the release of the Ombudsman's Western Australia's Reportable Conduct Scheme: A review of systems to protect children report, WALGA partnered with the Ombudsman's Reportable Conduct Scheme to deliver an information webinar and in-person workshop on the Local Government Reportable Conduct Scheme. These sessions were targeted at Local Government CEOs and Executives who are responsible for conducting investigations into allegations of reportable conduct by Local Governments.

11.2 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President's Report was made available at the time the Agenda was published.

FOR NOTING

11.3 CEO'S REPORT

The CEO's Report will be circulated to State Councillors with the Revised Agenda (under separate cover).

FOR NOTING

12 ADDITIONAL ZONE RESOLUTIONS

To be advised following Zone meetings.

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary meeting of the WALGA State Council will be a Regional Meeting, hosted by the Goldfields Esperance Country Zone in the Shire of Dundas, on Friday, 5 September commencing at 11:00am.

14 CLOSURE

STATUS REPORT ON STATE COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

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

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	e) for the continued legislative exemptions for livestock working dogs in recognition of their special breeding requirements. *f) for a State Government-led education initiative whereby the community is encouraged to purchase puppies from approved breeders.* RESOLUTION 027.2/2025			
7 May Item 8.3 Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations Advocacy Position	That WALGA replace the following Advocacy Positions: 5.2.1 Environmental Protection Act 5.2.2 Land Clearing in Road Reserves with an updated Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations Advocacy Position as follows: *WALGA calls on the Western Australian Government, in consultation with Local Government, to undertake legislative and policy reform to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of the regulatory system for clearing native vegetation in Western Australia, including:* *1. Amending the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and associated regulations to remove unnecessary process, complexity and improve timeframes, including:* *a. introducing statutory timeframes for the determination of referrals, permit applications and appeals* *b. increasing the default duration of Area and Purpose Permits to 10 years* *c. providing a permanent exemption for clearing of previously legally cleared transport corridors, including allowing Local Governments to clear for safety reasons.*	Advocacy Positions Manual updated. Correspondence sent to the Minister for the Environment with the updated position.	June 2025	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	d. strengthening environmental data sharing requirements to ensure proponents cannot opt-out of sharing data collected for environmental assessment and monitoring purposes. *2. Ensuring the regulatory system is adequately resourced to:* *a. implement an expedited process for clearing permits for projects that prevent death and serious injury (road safety), and state and federally funded or co-funded projects* *b. establish a dedicated Local Government Unit within the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to:* *i. case manage Local Government referrals and clearing permit applications* *ii. provide guidance and training for Local Governments, particularly in relation to roadside vegetation management* *iii. support partnerships with Local Governments in strategic environmental offsets* *c. enable timely investigation and enforcement action for illegal clearing* *d. increase investment in the collection and provision of statewide biodiversity data, including:* *i. funding and coordinating a state-wide biodiversity survey program to standardise habitat and vegetation mapping* *ii. making biodiversity data more discoverable, accessible and useable* *iii. ensuring survey data relied upon for decision making is contemporary and accurate, particularly if there has been a change in environmental condition.*			

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	3. Undertaking bioregional planning for native vegetation management, with a focus on highly cleared areas and implementing strategic solutions for environmental offsets that can be utilised by Local Government. *4. Ensuring that environmental offsets are relevant and proportionate, including:* *a. proximity to the area impacted* *b. the environmental value being impacted.* *5. Working with the Australian Government to reduce duplication between the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.* RESOLUTION 029.2/2025			
7 May Item 8.4 Submission on the State Recovery Arrangements	That State Council endorse the submission to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services on proposed revisions to the State Recovery Arrangements, subject to incorporating Advocacy Position 8.9 - Expansion of the Community Emergency Services Manager Program. RESOLUTION 030.2/2025	Submission lodged with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services on 8 May 2025.	May 2025	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy
7 May Item 8.5 Health (Public Buildings) Regulations Consultation	That WALGA endorse the submission on Health (Public Buildings) Regulations Consultation to the Department of Health. RESOLUTION 031.2/2025	Submission lodged with the Department of Health on 7 May 2025.	May 2025	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy
7 May Item 8.6 Submission for 2025 State Wage Case	That State Council endorse the WALGA 2025 State Wage Case submission to the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission. RESOLUTION 032.3/2025	Submission lodged and accepted by the WAIRC on 13 May. WALGA presented the submission at a WAIRC hearing held on 21 May.	May 2025	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
7 May Item 8.7 Finance and Services Committee Minutes – 23 April 2025 - CONFIDENTIAL	That State Council endorse the Minutes of the Finance and Services Committee meeting held on 23 April 2025. RESOLUTION 033.2/2025	All items have been actioned.		Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
5 March Item 8.1 Climate Change Advocacy Position	That State Council refer this advocacy item back to the Environment Policy Team for further development. RESOLUTION 003.1/2025	At the 24 March Environment Policy Team meeting, it was agreed that WALGA would develop a consultation approach for consideration by the Policy Team. At the 29 May meeting, the Policy Team agreed to the proposed consultation approach, which involves providing the composite Advocacy Position to all Local Governments for a 10-week consultation period, with Council endorsed or CEO approved feedback preferred. An additional Policy Team meeting will be held to consider comments and a composite resolution.	May 2025	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy
5 March Item 9.1 Infrastructure Policy Team Report	That State Council: 1. Note the report from the Infrastructure Policy Team for the 5 March 2025 meeting. 2. Determine to: a. Delete Advocacy Position 5.2.8 (Towards Zero Road Safety Strategy 2008 – 2020).	Advocacy Positions Manual updated. The Infrastructure Policy Team resolved to recommend WALGA engage an independent		Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	b. Amend the title of Advocacy Position 5.2.7 from Road Safety Strategy (Imagine Zero) to Driving Change Road Safety Strategy 2020-2030. 3. Undertake further policy development and consultation with Members regarding the default open road speed limit in Western Australia. RESOLUTION 013.1/2025	specialist to develop a framework to support the Local Government sector in decision making and advocacy relating to speed limits.		
6 December Item 8.1 2024 Annual General Meeting Resolutions	That: 1. the item 7.1 Amendments to *Cat Act 2011*- Allow Local Governments to Make Local Laws to Contain Cats to the Owner's Property be endorsed. ... 3. the following resolutions from the 2024 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the Governance Policy Team for further work to be undertaken: 7.2 Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land-Banking 7.3 Advocacy for Expansion of Differential Rating to Include Long Term Unoccupied Commercial Buildings (Property Activation Levy). RESOLUTION 089.5/2024	Advocacy Positions Manual updated. Correspondence has been sent to the Minister for Local Government requesting the CAT Act be reviewed to provide Local Governments with the ability to contain cats on an owner's property. In addition, work has commenced on developing a template Cat Local Law to assist Local Government to make local laws to the extent of the current local law-making powers. Work on items 7.2 and 7.3 is being carried out and an update will be provided when complete.	Ongoing	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
6 December Item 8.1 2024 Annual General Meeting Resolutions	That: ... 2. the following resolutions from the 2024 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the	**Resolution 7.2** (regarding the planning related items within this resolution): The demolition of single houses is generally a form of development exempt from		Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	Environment Policy Team for further work to be undertaken: 7.2 Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land-Banking 7.4 Action on Asbestos for Western Australia 7.6 Advocacy for Accessibility. ... RESOLUTION 089.5/2024	requiring development approval, and only a demolition permit is required for the complete or partial demolition, dismantling or removal of a building or an incidental structure. The current planning and building legislation do not allow the conditioning of approval or refusal of a building permit in a manner proposed by the AGM resolution. **Resolution 7.4:** WALGA is engaging at the State and National level on this issue, including through membership of the WA Interagency Asbestos Group and nationally the Asbestos Safety Eradication Agency reference group and has raised the issues impacting Local Governments in relation to safe removal and disposal, including ensuring statewide options. **Resolution 7.6:** Liveable Housing Design Standard as part of the National Construction Code provides a set of technical provisions that if complied with enable dwellings to better meet the needs of the community, including older people and people with mobility limitations. The code specifies seven		

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
		minimum standards to ensure all new homes are accessible with modifications including step-free entrances and showers and wider doors and corridors that can accommodate wheelchairs and walking aids. All states enact the NCC through state legislation and regulation. A range of states are taking different approaches in terms of adopting the liveable housing requirements, but at time of writing all states except NSW and Western Australia have adopted the liveable housing provisions. The NCC 2022 only became operational in WA on 1 May. With the appointment of a new Commerce Minister following the 2025 State Election, WALGA will again raise the prospects of WA adopting the standard.		
6 December Item 8.2 Local Government Elections Advocacy Positions	That item 1 be deferred, and the Secretariat further investigate implications of compulsory and voluntary participation in Local Government elections and report back to State Council. RESOLUTION 090.5/2024 That WALGA adopt the following Elections Advocacy Positions:	Advocacy Positions Manual updated. Preparation of a report on implications of compulsory and voluntary participation in Local Government elections in progress.	Ongoing	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	The Local Government sector supports: *1. Councillors serve four-year terms with elections every two years and half of the Council positions spilled at each election.* *2. First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system for Local Government elections. If Optional Preferential Voting (OPV) remains as the primary method of voting, the sector supports the removal of the 'proportional' part of the voting method for general elections.* *3. First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system for internal Council elections.* *4. Councils holding elections by means of in-person, postal and/or electronic voting.* *5. Current legislative provisions of Mayor/President of Class 1 and Class 2 Local Governments being directly elected by the community and Class 3 and Class 4 Local Governments determining whether its Mayor or President is elected by the Council or by the community.* RESOLUTION 091.5/2024	Letter written to Minister for Local Government advising on the five advocacy positions endorsed.		
6 December Item 8.6 Bus Stop Infrastructure Agreement	That State Council: 1. Provides in principle support for the proposed Bus Stop Infrastructure Partnership Agreement between WALGA and the Public Transport Authority 2024/25 to 2028/29. 2. Request the WALGA Secretariat negotiate with the Public Transport Authority seeking: a. Deletion of the word "typically" from Clauses 6.2, 8.1 (ii) and 8.6 (i) b. Indexation of funding provided under the Bus Shelter Subsidy Program (BSSP) and Bus Shelter	Following conclusions of discussions with the PTA, a revised agreement incorporating, to the extent possible the matters raised by State Council, was presented to the WALGA President and CEO for consideration and is scheduled for signing in mid-June.		Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	Maintenance Assistance Scheme (BSMAS) during or at the end of the Agreement 3. Authorise the WALGA President to sign the Bus Stop Infrastructure Partnership Agreement, on the completion of best endeavours to negotiate with the Public Transport Authority. 4. Refer the request for WALGA develop an advocacy position that Commonwealth Disability Standards have a provision for minimum standards of public transport shelter to the Infrastructure Policy Team. RESOLUTION 095.5/2024			