

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Name	WA Regional Capitals Alliance (WARCA)	Meeting No.	1 - 2013
Meeting Date	Friday 8 February 2013		
Meeting Time	10am		
Meeting Location	Department of Local Government - 140W Meeting Room - Central William Street [L3.17 (20P)]		
Attendees	City of Greater Geraldton Mayor Ian Carpenter Tony Brun (CEO) City of Kalgoorlie Boulder Don Burnett (CEO) City of Albany Graham Foster - Acting CEO City of Bunbury Cr Ross Slater Andrew Brien (CEO) Town of Port Hedland Acting Mayor George Daccache Mal Osborne (CEO) Shire of Broome Kenn Donohoe (CEO) Shire of Roebourne President Fiona White-Hartig Chris Adams (CEO) UWA Prof Paul Plummer	Apologies	City of Albany Mayor Dennis Wellington City of Kalgoorlie Boulder Mayor Ron Yuryevich Shire of Broome President Graeme Campbell Town of Port Hedland Mayor Kelly Howlett City of Bunbury Mayor David Smith
		Distribution	as above

Purpose of WARCA

WARCA will enable the 7 member regional capital communities to evolve into fully fledged alternatives to the Perth metropolitan area with populations of at least 50,000 by 2026.

Priorities

The agreed priorities of the 2012 initiatives are tabled below.

Initiative	Priority
1. Establish common platform to seek support from the State Government. This initiative is already progressing and should continue to build on the momentum by seeking agreement with State Government.	1
2. Drive results from the UWA Partnership. The cooperation Agreement with UWA was executed in December 2011 and should be driven to deliver results in the immediate future.	2
3. Develop regional growth plans for each member. To ensure consistency across the regional cities, a framework for the development of regional growth plans needs to be established.	3

The key activities for each initiative and milestones have been agreed as follows:

Key Activities	Milestone
1. Establish common platform to seek support from the State Government: a. Agreed position on funding for regional cultural centre; and, b. Obtain funding commitment.	Within 6 months Within 12 months
2. Drive results from the UWA Partnership: a. UWA to publish regular policy papers in the short term;and, b. In the longer term, UWA should deliver its research outcomes.	Immediate Longer term
3. Develop regional growth plans for each member: a. Identify building blocks to reach the goal of 50,000 population (to deliver over 3 horizons); b. Source funding; c. Develop growth plans; and, d. Agreed statutory framework.	Within 6 months Within 6 months Within 18 months Within 3 years

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Recommendation Adopted as Motion:

That WARCA Resolves that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 6 November 2012, as previously circulated, be adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings. [Attachment 1 as per Agenda]

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

2. WARCA Secretariat – City of Bunbury

Background:

Since the creation of the Regional Cities Alliance, the role of the secretariat has been undertaken by the City of Greater Geraldton through the CEO, Tony Brun.

Whilst this has provided a number of positive outcomes, with Tony leaving local government later this year it is now imperative that the role be handed over to another Council.

Proposal:

At present within the City of Bunbury there is capacity to take on the role of secretariat throughout the provision of a dedicated resource for up to 4 days per month.

It is anticipated that if there is support for this proposal amongst other members that a handover-transition period should commence immediately.

The City of Bunbury would pick up the salary costs associated with the secretariat however other costs such as intra and interstate travel should be funded through the WARCA joint funds. This would be accounted for on an annual basis.

Whilst most members may know Geoff Klem, attached is a brief CV to provide some background. Geoff also has a working relationship with Matthew Tonts which would help to ensure the ongoing relationships with UWA.

Further, if there is support for the proposal, a Memorandum of Understanding will be developed through the handover process to set out specific roles and expected outcomes.

Recommendation Adopted as Motion:

That WARCA RESOLVES to:-

1. **Endorse the City of Bunbury assuming the role of Secretariat for the WA Regional Capitals Alliance for the next two years; and**
2. **That a Memorandum of Understanding be developed and presented to the next WARCA meeting for endorsement.**

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

3. Review of Chair and Deputy

In conjunction with the consideration of item 1, this provides an opportunity time to review the current chairman and deputy chairman roles which have been in place since the inception of WARCA in March 2010.

The evolution and transition of WARCA has effectively seen sufficient length of operations and experience to enable the formation of a leadership group along the line adopted by similar State based federations. Hence it is recommended to adopt a Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Immediate Past Chairman model.

Recommendation:

That WARCA RESOLVES to:-

1. Appoint _____ as the Chairman;
2. Appoint Mayor Ian Carpenter, as immediate Past Chairman to be the WARCA representative on the Regional Capitals Australia board; and
3. Appoint _____ as the Deputy Chairman and proxy on the Regional Capitals Australia board.

Motion:

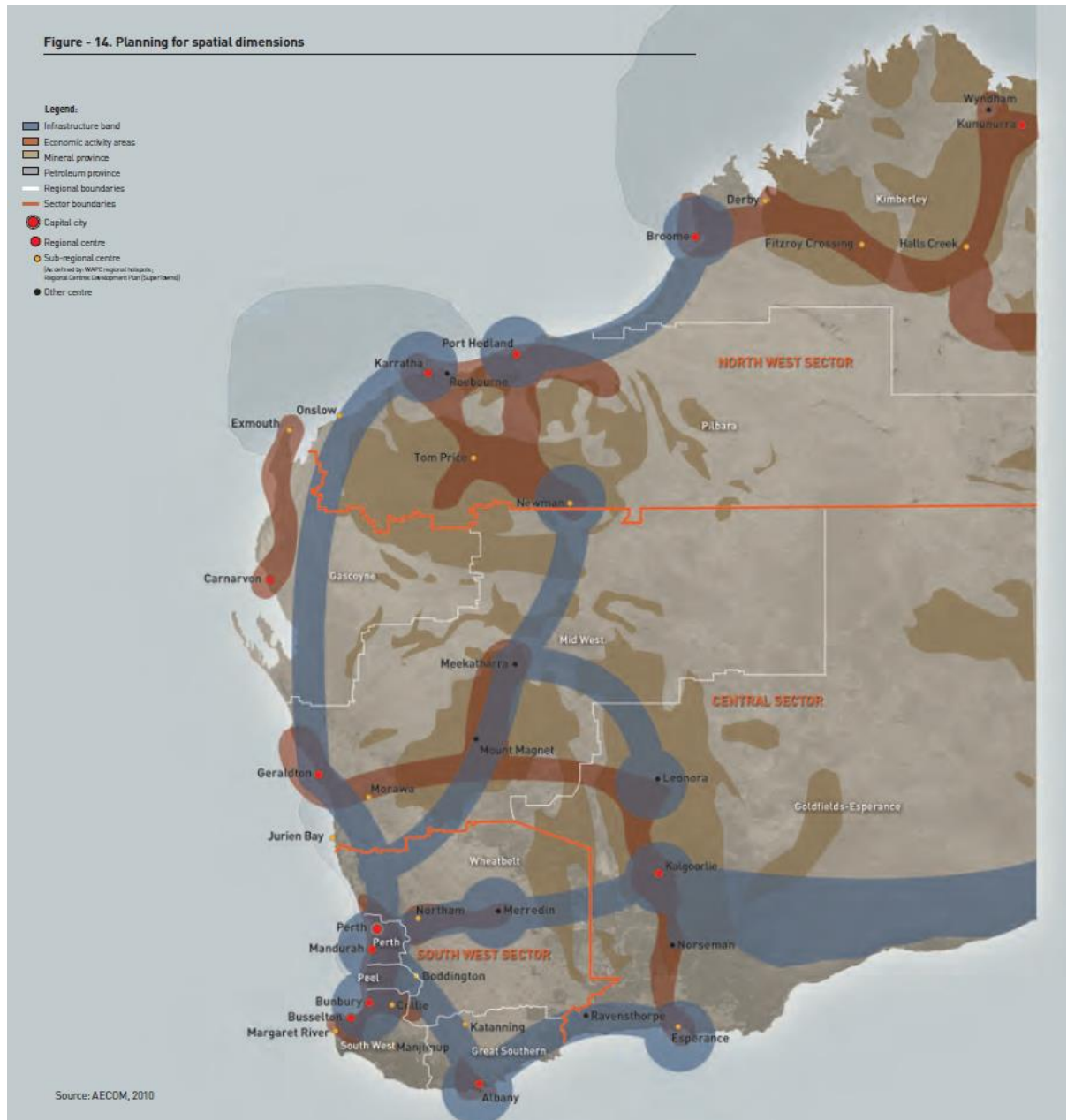
That WARCA RESOLVES to:-

1. **Adopt an amended leadership structure based on:-**
 - a. **Chairman;**
 - b. **Deputy Chairman and proxy on the Regional Capitals Australia board; and**
 - c. **an Immediate Past Chairman to be the WARCA representative on the Regional Capitals Australia board.**
2. **Open Call for Nominations for the positions of Chairman and Deputy Chairman with a ballot to be held at the next Meeting of WARCA to be held in Broome on Friday 28th May 2013.**

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

4. Membership

http://www.planning.wa.gov.au/dop_pub_pdf/State_PlanningStrategy2.pdf



The draft State Plan currently out for advertising represents a significant shift from the previous written advice from the Premier and the strong language used by the current chair of the Regional Development Commission which have the basis for our current membership.

Clearly now the new Government view is that Mandurah (Peel), Busselton (Vase), Carnarvon (Gascoyne) and Kununurra (East Kimberley) are defined as regional centres, as defined in the draft report (and shown in the map above extracted from the State Plan).

This new direction means we possibly need to review our membership to ensure that WARCA aligns with the views and framework of the State Government.

WARCA has previously considered membership on 2 occasions specifically:-

17 February 2012
Membership

BACKGROUND

At the November meeting the following resolution was adopted:

MOTION:

That WARCA Resolves to:

*hold our current membership as is for the time being, and agree to review after 12 months but before 2 years; and
that Shire of Broome would prepare a paper for the February meeting for consideration.*

Moved Graeme Campbell seconded Dennis Wellington

A copy of Mandurah's request for consideration to join WARCA has been attached and the response letter has been attached for reference.

Aside from dealing with the specifics of the paper requested, there has been continued lobbying and approaches from Mandurah and Busselton. They have sought and enlisted the support of the Minister Castrilli (Member for Bunbury) and the Minister Buswell (Member for Vaase) to pursue their inclusion in WARCA.

In a historical context it was noted that the genesis of WARCA was to focus on the regional centres. This context was on the grounds the need to address matters specifically affecting regional centres, as opposed to areas which are larger urban regional communities (whether they are a Shire, Town or City status). It was also noted that all potential members expressed a strong view not to create an entity which could become a new CUCA.

In parallel to this local/WA context, Mayor Ian Carpenter and Tony Brun attended a meeting in Melbourne on the 7th December 2011 in relation to the development of a national alliance of relevant organisations.

19 June 2012
Additional members (Mandurah & Busselton)

There have been continued request from both the City of Mandurah and the City of Busselton to join WARCA.

Copies of their letters of request and the responses have been attached.

RECOMMENDATION

For noting

MOTION

That WARCA has considered the matter and will retain the existing 7 regional capital members for the time being.

CARRIED

Recommendation:

That WARCA Resolves to:-

1. Amend the membership criteria for WARCA to reflect any major local government which is defined as a Regional Centre with the WA State Plan; and
2. Notify all potential members of their opportunity to join WARCA.

Motion:

That WARCA Resolves to:-

- 1. Makes a submission to the Draft WA State Plan focusing on the following key issues:-**
 - i. Clarification of the definition and criteria for a regional city;**
 - ii. Need for a population strategy which clearly identifies decadal target splits of metropolitan vs regional populations for WA over the period of the Plan (with a long term aim of 70% metropolitan to 30% regional); and**
 - iii. Reference key elements of the WARCA Regionalisation Strategy.**
- 2. Seek all members provide input in drafting the submission and ensuring that all members local government also submit supporting submissions.**
- 3. Review the consideration of membership eligibility to WARCA after the adoption of the State Plan by the WA Government with the intent of aligning membership to reflect the defined regional centres in the adopted State Plan.**

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

5. Funding

WARCA has been in the process of evolving into a representative body covering WA key regional cities (capitals). To date funding has been based on an allocation of \$50,000 per Local Government which is then used by each local government to fund their activities in accordance with the general outcomes of WARCA. The current system suited the needs of a new alliance and progressing projects and outcomes in the developmental stages. This has included the allocation of members of travel and other related WARCA expenses. All unallocated funds are then to be contributed to a central fund. However it is now apparent that a fixed approach is required to provide better planning and management of the WARCA initiatives and alliance.

It is proposed to move towards a set amount (or annual membership fee) upfront. The intent is to keep the total expenditure in the same order of magnitude. That would related is approximately for each member to \$10,000 for general WARCA initiatives/management, \$3,000 towards Regional Capitals Australia membership, \$30,000 for the UWAWARCA Partnership.

Recommendation:

That WARCA Resolves to

- 1. Set its intent to impose a membership fee as from the 2013/14 financial year;**
- 2. Set the annual membership in the order of \$10,000 (ex GST) per member;**
- 3. Apply additional annual voluntary project participation charges to be set based on relevant project agreements (e.g. WARCA-UWA Partnership); and**
- 4. Request all membership give consideration of these fees in determining their 2013/14 budget.**

Motion:

That WARCA Resolves to

- 1. Impose a membership fee as from the 2013/14 financial year;**
- 2. Set the annual membership in the order of \$10,000 (ex GST) per member;**
- 3. Apply additional annual project participation charges to be set based on relevant project agreements (e.g. WARCA-UWA Partnership);**
- 4. Require that as a condition of membership to WARCA that all members must commit to allocating \$50,000 to fulfil their obligations as an active member; and**
- 5. Request all membership give consideration of these fees in determining their 2013/14 budget.**

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

6. Draft Regionalisation Strategy – Discussion Paper

In 2011 a draft Regionalisation Strategy discussion paper was developed in order to stimulate discussion in relation to initiatives which may advance the regional capitals.

Whilst the draft discussion paper has been canvassed amongst members, the Department of Local Government and Department of Regional Development & Lands and the office of the Shadow Minister

for Regional Development and the office of the Minister for Regional Development & Lands it has not yet been endorsed or formalised.

Given the impending Federal and State elections, it is recommended that the paper be endorsed for the purposes of stimulating further political debate in relation to improving funding and achieving policy changes to improve opportunities for the regional capitals.

Recommendation became Motion:

That WARCA Resolves to

- 1. Endorse the Regionalisation Strategy – Discussion paper for public release; and**
- 2. Authorise the Chairman to issue a media statement and seek to promote the discussion paper as a means to promote the needs of Regional Capitals**
- 3.**

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

7. Regional Arts Subsidy – City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder

Refer attachment: Nationals discussion paper on Regional Arts

NOTED

8. UWA/WARCA Partnership Update

Paul Plummer, the new Chair in Regional Cities arrived in Perth on the 6th February to take up his appointment.

Plummer arrival was delayed as a result of a 9 month processing period for PR applications. His visa was granted on the 15th January.

Kirsten Martinus has been appointed a postdoctoral research fellow on a full time basis (this was originally supported by fractional funding under the agreement, but has been supplemented by additional University funds). She will take up her position on the 12th February,

As a result of delays, no WARCA or UWA funds have yet been expended on the partnership. The project can thus be viewed as a 5 year project commencing 6 Feb (when the first funds will be drawn down to cover salary).

The delayed appointment has inevitably meant delays to the commencement of the research program. Nevertheless, while at the University of Calgary Paul Plummer completed the following:

- Visit to Australia in October for initial planning meeting.
- Development of year 1 work plan, with indicative activities for year 2
- Completion of the preliminary data analysis for Briefing Paper 1.

There have been delays to the production of Project 1's briefing papers 1 and 2 due to the delayed arrival of Paul Plummer. However, progress has been made and we would suggest revised dates of:

- Briefing Paper 1, 15th February
- Briefing Paper 2, 1 March

The remaining deadlines are as agreed:

- Briefing Paper 3, 30 June
- Final major report, 30 September

Other activities:

- Visits by Paul to each of the WARCA member cities during February and March.
- Identification of specific projects for PhD and Honours students in each of the cities.
- Identification of other activities that may be of value to WARCA members (e.g. training workshops etc.)

NOTED

9. Date of Next Meeting

Date	Venue
2013	
May	30th (tour) and meeting on 31st May 2013 Broome
June	Canberra - National General Assembly June 2013
August	Perth – WALGA Conference August 2013
November	Kalgoorlie on dates to be determined
2014	
February	Perth

10. Closure

Meeting closed at 12.05pm

National Discussion Paper: Regional Arts

A plan to ensure the ongoing success and growth of the arts in regional Western Australia, recognising that arts and culture play a key role in revitalising regional Western Australia.

Overview

Over the past four years, The Nationals WA in Government have directed more than \$4 billion into 2500 individual projects across the length and breadth of regional WA through the unique Royalties for Regions program. This has been funding over and above normal budgeted State Government expenditure.

Introduction

Culture and the arts programs and events are vital to regional communities and form an essential part of the social fabric of towns by promoting a sense of well-being and cultural identity. We are already investing \$40 million over four years into the Royalties for Regions Regional Events Program, many of which deliver arts and culture themes. An additional \$1 million Royalties for Regions funding was initiated in 2012 specifically to assist performing arts companies tour the regions. The Nationals WA want to go further by committing \$16 million over four years to continue building on this investment.

- We will put in place a funding framework to help large and smaller regional entertainment centres stay open and remain viable.
- We will build on existing funding for regional arts organisations, including indigenous art centres and smaller arts and cultural groups to enable them to continue to contribute to the vibrancy, liveability and identity of regional WA.

Recommendation

Establish a framework for recurrent funding for entertainment and cultural centres such as Broome, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Albany, Bunbury and Mandurah, to assist these important community centres to operate and attract national and international acts.

The Nationals WA will boost funding to support regional arts groups and individual projects and work with organisations, such as Country Arts WA (peak body for regional arts in WA).

Funding will be provided for:

- Building the capacity of Indigenous Art Centres and organisations
- Grassroots regional arts and culture organisations through a devolved funding program
- Peak arts organisations to extend their existing specialised regional programs
- Western Australian Music Industry Association (WAMI) to support regional music programs
- Existing professional schools touring companies for regional touring
- Writers' on the Road program that delivers writers and illustrators into regional centres.

Through Royalties for Regions, the Nationals WA have invested billions into fundamentally changing the face of regional WA, and culture and arts are a key part of that change.

Appendix 1 – Action List

Date Initiated	Action	Responsible	Updates	Status (in progress; pending; complete)
05-08-10	Pilbara Cities CGG to invite Chris Adams (Director Pilbara Cities Program) to attend future meetings of WARCA.	T Brun	Reissue invite to attend meeting in Bunbury on 11/11/11 Attending the WARCA meeting in Canberra on 19 June 2012	In Progress
19-10-10	<i>RESOLUTION:</i> <i>The Alliance resolves to allocate unspent funds at the end of each financial year in a Trust which will be held and managed by the Secretariat Local Government.</i>	All	Updated 2/2/11 All Member CEOs to provide an estimate of their unspent allocation to Tony Brun by 20 May so that an invoice can be sent. Updated 15/06/2012 Awaiting estimates – an invoice will be sent prior to end of F/Y	In progress
17-02-12	Set up a meeting with the Chief of Staff to Minister for Arts and also Director General of Department Culture & Arts to discuss the current draft “WA Cultural Infrastructure Directions” policy framework.	Tony Brun	I Carpenter and T Brun attended a Meeting on 18 April with Allanah Lucas, Director General of the Department of Culture and the Arts, Tanya Young, Policy Officer, Office of the Hon John Day.	In progress.
17-02-12	Draft a brief to secure a project support capacity until such time external funding is secured to implement the full secretariat service.	Tony Brun	Update 15/06/2012 Initial information sourced from RCV. Recommendation from RDC and DRDL not to commence in interim as they are seeking to resolve funding support form a State perspective.	Delayed
17-02-12	Kalgoorlie-Boulder and Pilbara Group to distribute their KPMG Report on regional service delivery.	Paul Martin & Don Burnett	Update 15/06/2012 Awaiting distribution of papers.	Delayed
17-02-12	Prof Matthew Tonts to prepare a scoping brief / proposal paper for consideration within the next month (out of session via email) detailing priority initiatives Agreed that Demographic analysis & modelling as an integrated proposal	UWA	Updated 15/06/2012 Currently under investigation and referred to newly appointed Prof for review/feedback prior to his arrival/commencement.	Delayed

Date Initiated	Action	Responsible	Updates	Status (in progress; pending; complete)				
	<table border="1" data-bbox="203 196 1016 408"> <tr> <td data-bbox="203 196 1016 236">Demographic analysis & modelling</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="203 236 1016 276">• <i>Population planning and demographic analysis</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="203 276 1016 339">• <i>Review of ABS and DoP/WAPC population modeling and estimates</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="203 339 1016 408">• <i>Population-economic-social linkages modeling to define service needs</i></td> </tr> </table> <p data-bbox="181 443 1037 533">Also to include:</p> <ul data-bbox="203 472 1037 533" style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Identifying rapid growth implication and linkages to State services (ie health, education and Law/Order)</i> 	Demographic analysis & modelling	• <i>Population planning and demographic analysis</i>	• <i>Review of ABS and DoP/WAPC population modeling and estimates</i>	• <i>Population-economic-social linkages modeling to define service needs</i>			
Demographic analysis & modelling								
• <i>Population planning and demographic analysis</i>								
• <i>Review of ABS and DoP/WAPC population modeling and estimates</i>								
• <i>Population-economic-social linkages modeling to define service needs</i>								
2 August 2012	City of Greater Geraldton to investigate what happens to medical waste at each of the Regional Cities and provide a report to the next meeting.	T Brun	Will be discussed at meeting of 6 November 2012	Noted				
2 August 2012	Blood Transfusion/Collection Centres That WARCA endorse a letter to Minister for Health and Red Cross urging them to establish the service to regional centres.	T Brun						
6/11/12	<p data-bbox="181 791 1037 815">WARCA-UWA Partnership Research 2013</p> <p data-bbox="181 823 1037 847">Timing Of Deliverables</p> <p data-bbox="181 855 1037 903">In the annual planning cycle of projects, the deliverables and activities will be organised to provide maximum benefit from:</p> <ul data-bbox="203 911 1037 999" style="list-style-type: none"> • State and Commonwealth elections • Major government policy initiatives • Major data releases <p data-bbox="181 1007 1037 1062">For the next meeting a draft timeline of deliverables over a longer period will be provided.</p>							