

State Council Agenda 6 March 2024

Ordinary meeting no. 1 of 2024 of the Western Australian Local Government Association State Council to be held at ONE70, LV1, 170 Railway Parade, West Leederville at 4:15pm.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES.....	4
1.1	Opening	4
1.2	Attendance	4
1.3	Apologies	4
2	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY	5
3	ELECTION OF WALGA PRESIDENT AND DEPUTY PRESIDENT	5
4	ANNOUNCEMENTS	5
5	MINUTES.....	5
5.1	Minutes of the State Council meeting held 6 December 2023.....	5
5.1.1	Business arising from the Minutes of the State Council meeting held 6 December 2023.	5
6	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.....	6
7	EMERGING ISSUES	6
8	MATTERS FOR DECISION.....	7
8.1	Separation (Centre) and Edge Line Markings by Local Government on Low Volume Rural Roads.....	7
8.2	Recovered Materials Framework Advocacy Position.....	12
8.3	Review of <i>Cemeteries Act 1986</i> and <i>Cremation Act 1929</i> Discussion Paper....	15
9	POLICY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS	18
9.1	Environment Policy Team Report	18
9.2	Governance Policy Team Report	19
9.3	Infrastructure Policy Team Report	21
9.4	People and Place Policy Team Report.....	22
9.5	Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Report.....	23
10	MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION	25
10.1	2024-25 Federal Budget Submission	25
10.2	Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan (EM-SAP) Local Government Consultation Project.....	33
11	ORGANISATION REPORTS.....	36
11.1	Key Activity Reports.....	36
11.1.1	Report on Key Activities, Advocacy Portfolio.....	36
11.1.2	Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure Portfolio.....	40
11.1.3	Report on Key Activities, Member Services Portfolio.....	43
11.1.4	Report on Key Activities, Policy Portfolio.....	48



11.2	President's Report	53
11.3	CEO's Report	53
11.4	Ex Officio Reports.....	53
11.4.1	The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas will provide the City of Perth Report to the meeting.	53
11.4.2	LG Professionals WA State President Mr Anthony Vuleta will provide the LG Professionals Report to the meeting.	53
12	ADDITIONAL ZONE RESOLUTIONS	53
13	DATE OF NEXT MEETING.....	53
14	CLOSURE	53
	STATUS REPORT ON STATE COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS.....	54



1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

1.1 Opening

1.2 Attendance

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

1.3 Apologies



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 ELECTION OF WALGA PRESIDENT AND DEPUTY PRESIDENT

An election for the position of WALGA President and Deputy President will be conducted in accordance with clauses 16 and 16A of the Association Constitution.

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Nick Sloan, shall act as returning officer.

Nominations opened on 1 February 2024 and close at 5.00pm on Tuesday, 27 February 2024.

The term of office of both the President and Deputy President is for a two (2) year period from 6 March 2024 and expires at the first ordinary meeting of State Council in 2026.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS

5 MINUTES

5.1 Minutes of the State Council meeting held 6 December 2023

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the WALGA State Council meeting held on [6 December 2023](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

5.1.1 Business arising from the Minutes of the State Council meeting held 6 December 2023.



6 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.

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 Separation (Centre) and Edge Line Markings by Local Government on Low Volume Rural Roads

By Max Bushell, Senior Policy Advisor Road Safety and Infrastructure

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA endorse the below Advocacy Position:

- 1. Main Roads Western Australia allow Local Governments to install edge line and separation (centre) line markings on roads that meet all relevant criteria, but do not meet the criterion on traffic volume.**
- 2. For this exemption, Local Governments must adhere to the following conditions:**
 - a) The Local Government contact Main Roads via the Regional Network Manager with their intent to undertake line marking on specific roads that do not meet the traffic volume criterion, but meet all the other criteria.**
 - b) The Local Government obtain a Council resolution, committing to fund all installation and maintenance costs.**
 - c) Local Government undertake spotting/surveying.**
 - d) Main Roads to undertake an inspection following the survey/spotting work, confirm the start and finish points for the longitudinal line markings, and record the sections of road with line markings to be maintained by Local Government in the relevant database.**
 - e) Main Roads approve the final layout prior to line marking occurring.**
 - f) Local Government undertake the works.**
 - g) Local Government maintain the works in accordance with Main Roads WA standards.**
 - h) Local Government remove the lines if maintenance works are not performed to the standard.**

Executive Summary

- The Main Roads WA warrant does not currently allow edge line or separation (centre) line markings on Local Government roads that carry less than certain traffic volume thresholds.
- Local Governments would like to enhance the safety of their roads by installing line markings in instances where only the traffic volume criterion under the warrant is not met.
- A process is proposed in this item whereby Local Governments would pay for the installation and maintenance and Main Roads would perform the necessary inspections to ensure that the markings adhere to the applicable standard.
- Local Governments would not be required to undertake these works, but rather would have the option to install line markings on qualifying roads that do not meet the traffic volume criterion at their own cost.



Policy Implications

Road Safety Strategy

State Council Resolution

March 2022 – 325.2/2022

September 2019 – 99.6/2019

Including:

- that the Road Safety Council considers establishing a program that encourages and supports the development of innovative, low-cost solutions that can be applied as mass action treatments to progressively work towards the zero vision.
- that Local Government managed roads be eligible for such funding to avoid a growing gap in safety performance, on the roads used by the community, on every trip.

There are currently no Advocacy Positions specifically relating to installing line markings on low volume roads that do not meet the current Main Roads WA warrant.

Background

Local Governments in WA maintain approximately 127,000km, or 87.2%, of the road network in WA, of which 31.2% or around 40,000km is sealed. Much of the Local Government road network carries low volumes of traffic. As road asset managers, Local Governments place high importance on road safety when planning, constructing, and maintaining the road network under their control.

Safety Treatments

Line marking and signage are among the most cost-effective road safety treatments available to Local Governments.

Painted Separation Lines

One simple measure to enhance the safety of a road at low cost and with reasonable effectiveness is the provision of painted separation (centre) lines. The Main Roads Treatment Resource Guide indicates that providing painted separation (centre) lines can reduce instances of head-on crashes by 20% and run off road crashes by 10%.¹

Painted Edge Lines

Another low-cost road safety treatment is the provision of painted edge lines. According to the Main Roads Treatment Resource Guide, moving from no edge lines to painted edge lines will reduce crashes resulting in death or serious injury (KSI crashes) by 25%.¹

The safety of road users may additionally be increased by improvements in Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) in vehicles. Lane Departure Warning and Lane Keeping Assist are two ADAS, which do not function without painted separation (centre) lines and edge lines.

¹ Main Roads Western Australia. (2021). *Treatment Resource Guide*. Retrieved from <https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/globalassets/technical-commercial/road-safety/treatment-resource-guide.pdf?v=492d8e>.



Main Roads Warrant

Derived from Australian Standard 1742.2:2022, the current Main Roads warrant, as outlined in the [Guideline for Barrier Line Marking Assessment](#), for installing separation (centre) lines is based on vehicle volumes and pavement width:

- On rural roads: 300 vehicles per day,
- On urban roads: 2500 vehicles per day,
- 5.5m or greater seal width.

For edge lines, the warrant is slightly different, though still based on vehicle volumes and pavement width. The thresholds are as follows:

- On rural roads: 2500 vehicles per day or greater or heavy vehicle volumes of 300 vehicles per day or greater,
- 6.8m or greater seal width,
- On rural or other arterial roads where the shoulder is partly or fully sealed and seal requirements are met.²

Many country roads in WA qualify for separation (centre) lines based on seal width, but not on vehicle volumes. Some Local Governments may be in a position to fund and undertake line marking works on these qualifying roads, but are currently unable to do so, based on the Main Roads' warrant.

Cost

The cost of providing separation (centre) line and edge line markings and the service life of line markings may vary between regions. The costs can be approximated as follows:

- Line marking (centre and edge lines) - \$1,580/km; Lifespan – 1-5 years
- Audio tactile line markings (centre and edge lines) - \$7,000/km; Lifespan – 5 years³

Local Governments should take local conditions into account and consult with the relevant Main Roads Regional Manager in the development of a maintenance program for line markings.

Risks to Local Government

The identified risks to Local Government in providing separation (centre) and edge line markings are concerns around inconsistency between Local Government areas, the removal of line markings due to a lack of maintenance and changing council priorities.

Inconsistency across Local Government jurisdictional boundaries

As an option for Local Governments, some Local Governments may not be able to take on the extra cost burden or have the capacity to undertake line marking works. This may lead to line markings commencing/ending at the jurisdictional boundary between shires. While inconsistent, there are currently no markings on roads that do not meet the warrant, so an inconsistent approach to providing line markings will increase safety for road users as

² Austroads. (2019). *Guide to Traffic Management Part 10: Traffic Control and Communication Devices*. Retrieved from https://austroads.com.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0026/342836/AGTM10-19-Guide-to-Traffic-Management-Part-10-Traffic-Control-and-Communication-Devices.pdf.

³ Mak, M. and Tang, E. (2023). *Practitioner's Guideline: Low-Cost Safety Improvements for Rural Local Government Roads in WA*. Retrieved from <https://warrrip.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/LG-TRRIP-01-Practitioners-Guideline-Low-Cost-Safety-Rural-Final.pdf>.



opposed to the current status quo. This increase in safety outweighs concerns about inconsistent markings on the Local Government Road network.

Lack of Maintenance of Line Markings

If lines are not maintained, they will no longer perform a useful function and could mislead drivers. Should such a situation arise, Local Government would be required to remove the lines at their own cost. As such, it is important that Local Governments prepare and commit to a program of maintenance for their line markings.

Changes to Council Priorities

Line maintenance may have reduced priority at a Local Government in instances where the council priorities change. Local Governments can mitigate the possibility of this occurring by preparing and honouring long-term maintenance contracts.

Comment

The safety of the Local Government road network could be enhanced by amending the current warrant to allow Local Governments to install separation (centre) lines and edge lines in instances where they do not meet the vehicle volume requirements, but do meet all the remaining requirements for separation (centre) line and edge line marking.

To mitigate the identified risks, it is proposed that in seeking Main Roads support to allow line marking Local Governments commit to the following conditions:

1. The Local Government contact Main Roads via the Regional Network Manager with their intent to undertake line marking on specific roads that do not meet the traffic volume criterion but meet all the other criteria.
2. The Local Government obtain a Council resolution, committing to fund all installation and maintenance costs.
3. Local Government undertake spotting/surveying.
4. Main Roads to undertake an inspection following the survey/spotting work, confirm the start and finish points for the longitudinal line markings, and record the sections of road with line markings to be maintained by Local Government in the relevant database.
5. Main Roads approve the final layout prior to line marking occurring.
6. Local Government undertake the works.
7. Local Government maintain the works in accordance with Main Roads WA standards.
8. Local Government remove the lines if maintenance works are not performed to the standard.

The seal width of the road must meet the following parameters to be eligible for line marking.

Separation (Centre) line Markings – Minimum 5.5m seal width

Edge Line Markings – Minimum 6.8m seal width

Installation of line markings by Local Governments under these circumstances would be optional.



Should the traffic volumes exceed the threshold for line marking per the current Main Roads standards in the future following installation, control and maintenance of the line markings would be transferred to Main Roads, subject to written agreement between the relevant Local Government and the Main Roads Regional Manager.

By allowing Local Governments to undertake line marking works, the safety of rural, sealed roads could be improved. It would be incumbent on Local Government, however, to assume the installation and maintenance costs and remove the lines, should maintenance not be undertaken or not be undertaken to an acceptable standard.



8.2 Recovered Materials Framework Advocacy Position

By Rebecca Brown, Manager Waste and Environment

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA:

1. Rescind the existing *WALGA Standards for Recycled Organics Applied to Land Policy Statement 2007* and Advocacy Position 7.9:

Local Government:

1. Acknowledges the benefits of applying recycled organics to land, especially as a means of diverting organic material from landfill; and,
2. Supports the development of standards for applying recycled organics to land, to ensure a fit for purpose product is developed.

2. Endorse a new *Recovered Materials Framework Advocacy Position* as follows:

The use of recovered materials, across a range of applications, is essential in reducing the use of basic raw materials, meeting State Waste Strategy Targets and increasing diversion of waste from landfill. To ensure end users have high confidence in the quality and safety of products derived from recovered materials, consistent, outcomes-based standards and investment certainty are required.

The State Government, in consultation with Local Government and the waste management industry, should take a leadership role in facilitating the use of recovered material by:

1. Developing a regulatory framework which:
 - a. Outlines clear, outcomes-based specifications for individual products which take into consideration the receiving environment and allow for site-specific assessment.
 - b. Minimises risk to human health and the environment from the use of recovered material.
 - c. Establishes robust systems to provide quality assurance and ongoing surveillance throughout the supply chain.
2. Providing guidance and support mechanisms for the successful implementation of the framework.
3. Supporting the development of, and access to, sustainable end markets and long-term offtake agreements through initiatives such as active engagement with potential end users and the inclusion of recovered material content targets in Government procurement and large infrastructure projects.

Executive Summary

- The [Standards for Recycled Organics Applied to Land Policy Statement 2007](#) was developed at a time when the main option for landfill diversion of organic material in Western Australia was through mixed waste Alternative Waste Treatment (AWT) facilities.
- The Policy Statement provides principles for the development of standards for recycled organics applied to land, however these principles are potentially broadly applicable to any recovered material applied to land.



- The approach taken is that the principles/approach in the Policy Statement have been reviewed and used to inform the development of the Recovered Materials Framework Advocacy Position.
- The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation is developing a Recovered Materials Framework to cover the application of recovered materials to land.
- The Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) endorsed the new Advocacy Position in December 2023.

Attachment

Nil

Policy Implications

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

7.9 Recycled Organics Applied to Land

Local Government:

1. Acknowledges the benefits of applying recycled organics to land, especially as a means of diverting organic material from landfill; and,
2. Supports the development of standards for applying recycled organics to land, to ensure a fit for purpose product is developed.

A new Advocacy Position focused on the development of a Recovered Materials Framework is proposed:

The use of recovered materials, across a range of applications, is essential in reducing the use of basic raw materials, meeting State Waste Strategy Targets and increasing diversion of waste from landfill. To ensure end users have high confidence in the quality and safety of products derived from recovered materials, consistent, outcomes-based standards and investment certainty are required.

The State Government, in consultation with Local Government and the waste management industry, should take a leadership role in facilitating the use of recovered material by:

1. Developing a regulatory framework which:
 - a. Outlines clear, outcomes-based specifications for individual products which take into consideration the receiving environment and allow for site-specific assessment.
 - b. Minimises risk to human health and the environment from the use of recovered material.
 - c. Establishes robust systems to provide quality assurance and ongoing surveillance throughout the supply chain.
2. Providing guidance and support mechanisms for the successful implementation of the framework.
3. Supporting the development of, and access to, sustainable end markets and long-term offtake agreements through initiatives such as active engagement with potential end users and the inclusion of recovered material content targets in Government procurement and large infrastructure projects.



Background

In 2007, when the [Policy Statement on Standards for Recycled Organics Applied to Land](#) was developed, Regional Councils had in place or were developing, Alternative Waste Treatment (AWT) infrastructure for mixed waste composting (output of 2-bin system or City of Stirling's 1-bin system).

This direction was largely in response to State Government push to reduce waste to landfill and eliminate the development of new landfill sites in the Perth metropolitan area. At that time the State Government had not expressed a technology/system preference. AWTs were diverting substantial amounts of material from landfill to beneficial uses, however because of the mixed waste source there was a high degree of concern about potential contamination of land. The approach taken in the Policy Statement was to advocate for outcome based, fit for purpose, standards.

With the decision of Beech J in *Eclipse Resources Pty Ltd v The State of Western Australia* in 2016, any clean fill material applied to land (over 500 tonnes/year) could be considered landfilling. The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation has undertaken several consultations on the development of framework to facilitate the use of recovered materials (Waste Derived Materials Framework 2019-20).

In WALGA's previous submissions on the establishment of a Legislative framework for recovered materials, the following key outcomes were identified:

- Risk based, fit for purpose standards – the standards should be based on the risk associated with the material and its use in specific applications.
- Streamlined approval process for waste derived materials – a process which does not require an application to be lodged with the Department for every use of material and that is supported by clear guidance documentation (developed in consultation with industry).
- WA specific evidence base – to be able to make risk-based assessments DWER will need to establish a reliable WA specific evidence base, and secured staff with the necessary skills and experience to successfully implement a framework.
- Certainty and stability for markets - the establishment of a legislative framework for waste derived materials will not automatically create market demand for waste derived materials. A range of other initiatives are required to support uptake of these materials, such as active engagement with potential end users and the inclusion of recycled content targets in Government procurement.

Following these consultations the Department is progressing a Recovered Materials Framework. The development of an Advocacy Position on this will inform WALGA's input into the development of the final Framework.

Comment

Local Government is a user and a producer of recovered materials and will benefit from a robust legislative framework that provides certainty regarding the use of products. The materials which will be covered by the Framework include any material recovered from waste which is applied to land. For example, FOGO derived compost, glass from kerbside recycling used in road construction, and construction and demolition waste used in road construction.

The Advocacy Position provides a strong basis for WALGA to argue for an effective framework and the key elements of it to be implemented.



8.3 Review of *Cemeteries Act 1986* and *Cremation Act 1929* Discussion Paper

By James McGovern, Manager Governance and Procurement

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA:

1. **Supports the intent of the Review of Cemeteries Act 1986 and Cremation Act 1929 Discussion Paper to reduce red tape, modernise legislation and standardise administrative practices; and**
2. **Advocates that Local Government cemetery managers retain the capacity to impose cemetery fees and charges under Part 6 of the Local Government Act.**

Executive Summary

- The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries released the Review of *Cemeteries Act 1986* and *Cremation Act 1929* Discussion Paper in November 2023 for public submission.
- WALGA was granted an extension to the submission closing period of 16 February 2024 to permit sector involvement in providing feedback from the Zone process and State Council consideration.

Attachment

- [Review of *Cemeteries Act 1986* and *Cremation Act 1929* Discussion Paper](#)

Policy Implications

Relates to WALGA Advocacy Position 2.1.14 'Fees and Charges'

Budgetary Implications

Nil

Background

The Review of *Cemeteries Act 1986* and *Cremation Act 1929* Discussion Paper was released for public comment in November 2023.

The key focus of the Review is to obtain stakeholder feedback on a range of issues identified in the WA cemetery and cremation industry. The intent of the Review is to reduce unnecessary red tape and provide clearer legislation for the benefit of the general public and the funeral industry, including 108 Local Governments with responsibility for open and closed cemeteries and planning requirements of cemeteries within their districts.

The Review is based on 7 key themes:

- **Legislation** - That improvement to legislation could result in greater administrative efficiencies;
- **Alternative Methods for Disposal of Human Remains** - Considering alternative and traditional burials and cremations may provide greater clarity about types of burials that may be provided;
- **Cemetery Redevelopment** – Amending legislation to strengthen public consultation requirements may allay concerns when planning for cemetery redevelopment;



- **Burials Outside of Proclaimed Cemeteries** – Cemetery managers, including Local Governments, could be given responsibility for approving burials outside proclaimed cemeteries, under conditions to be defined by legislation or policy reform;
- **Licensing of Funeral Directors and Monumental Masons** – An improved registration system has potential to replace multiple registrations across different cemeteries;
- **Cremation Services in WA** – Potential for further improvements to the publicly owned and operated crematoria services in WA;
- **Consistency of Forms and Fees** – Prescribed forms could be introduced and fees and charges standardized for consistency.

Comment

WALGA promoted the opportunity to provide a submission to the Review and requested Local Government submissions be circulated to WALGA. To date, no submissions were received however it is understood the Department has received some sector feedback.

At face value, the main themes of the Review appear worthy of support due to the intent to reduce red tape and for all Cemetery Boards, including Local Governments, to operate cemeteries on a consistent footing. One theme that may benefit from closer analysis is the proposal for consistency of fees.

Currently, Local Governments are required by legislation to observe a range of factors when setting fees and charges under the provisions of s.6.17 of the Local Government Act, which includes the cost to the Local Government to provide the service.

The sector may support consistency of fees if the effort to provide the service is likely to be consistent; for example, across a sample of 4 Local Governments in different regions, the adopted 2023/24 fee and charge for a single monumental mason licence ranged for \$163.00 to \$193.00, suggesting a similar effort is required to provide this service.

Alternatively, the sector may not support standardising the level of fees where the cost of providing the service is likely to be affected by different cost factors; for example, across the same 4 Local Governments the adopted 2023/24 fee and charge for a standard burial range between \$1,204 and \$2,307, suggesting a range of different cost factors affect the ability of each Local Government to provide this service.

The presumed support for maintaining some local autonomy to set fees and charges is supported by long-standing WALGA advocacy position 2.1.14⁴:

2.1.14 Fees and Charges

Position Statement

That a review be undertaken to remove fees and charges from legislation, and Councils be empowered to set fees and charges for Local Government services.

⁴ Source – WALGA Advocacy Positions, 12 January 2024



Summary

It is recommended that on balance, that WALGA support the Review and advocate for Local Governments to continue to impose cemetery fees and charges under the current legislative provisions.

In terms of next steps, the feedback from this Review will inform the development of a Decision Regulatory Impact Statement and to determine next steps which may include amendments to current legislation or introduction of new Act(s). Further consultation with stakeholders is likely at this future stage.



9 POLICY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 Environment Policy Team Report

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council:

- 1. Note the election of _____ to the position of Chair of the Environment Policy Team, and**
- 2. Note the Environment Policy Team Report for the 16 February 2024 meeting.**

The Environment Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

- *Climate change*
- *Native vegetation and biodiversity*
- *Biosecurity*
- *Water resources*
- *Sustainability*
- *Waste management*

The Environment Policy Team will be conducting its first meeting on 16 February 2024. Therefore, a verbal report will be provided at the March State Council meeting.

The name of the Policy Team Chair will be provided following the 16 February 2024 meeting, for noting.



9.2 Governance Policy Team Report

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council:

- 1. Note the election of Mayor Patrick Hall as the Chair of the Governance Policy Team.**
- 2. Note the matters considered by the Governance Policy Team at its meeting held on 6 February 2024.**
- 3. Determine to:**
 - a. retain the following Advocacy Positions unchanged:**
 - i. 2.1.8 Differential Rates**
 - ii. 2.1.16 Recovery of Mining Tenement Rates**
 - b. retire the following WALGA Advocacy Position:**
 - i. 2.5.1 Public Notices**
 - ii. 2.5.21 Recordings and Live Streaming of Council Meetings**

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 6 February 2024.

1. Matters for State Council Decision

Advocacy Position Review

The Governance Policy Team provides recommendations regarding WALGA Advocacy Positions for State Council's decision. Advocacy Positions may be reviewed in the [WALGA Advocacy Position Manual](#).

The Secretariat advised that the format of the Association's Advocacy Position Manual will be revised, so that achieved Advocacy Positions will be included in a separate section of the Manual for future reference purposes.

Advocacy Position recommended for retention;

- 2.1.8 Differential Rates as the advocacy position has not yet been addressed through the Local Government Act reform.
- 2.1.6 Recovery of Mining Tenement Rates as amendment of the *Mining Act 1978* to this effect has not yet been achieved.



Advocacy Positions recommended for retirement as they have been achieved:

- 2.5.1 Public Notices
- 2.5.2 Recordings and Live-Streaming of Council Meetings

2. Matters for State Council Noting Election of Chair

Mayor Patrick Hall was elected as Chair.



9.3 Infrastructure Policy Team Report

By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager, Infrastructure

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council:

- 1. Note the election of Cr Stephen Strange to the position of Chair of the Infrastructure Policy Team.**
- 2. Note the matters considered by the Infrastructure Policy Team meeting held on 20 December 2023.**

This Report provides an update on matters considered, since the last State Council meeting, by the Infrastructure Policy Team at its meeting held on 20 December 2023.

1. Matters for State Council Decision

The Policy Team considered and recommended an item concerning Separation (Centre) and Edge Line Marking by Local Government on Low Volume Rural Roads be considered by State Council ([State Council Item 8.1](#))

2. Matters for State Council Noting

The Policy Team progressed actions and advocacy in relation to:

- extended lead time for quotes from Western Power for Headworks;
- changes to the Main Roads WA Traffic Management Company Registration Scheme; and
- required changes to the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFAWA).

The Policy Team noted progress in changes sought to regulations governing undertaking roadworks on Total Fire Ban days.



9.4 People and Place Policy Team Report

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council

- 1. Note the election of President Cr Phillip Blight to the position of Chair of the People and Policy Team, and**
- 2. Note the People and Place Policy Team Report for the 7 February 2024 meeting.**

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

- *Community*
- *Emergency Management*
- *Planning and Building*

The People and Place Policy Team conducted its first meeting on 7 February 2024.

President Cr Phillip Blight was elected as Chair.

A full report was not available for inclusion in the March State Council agenda. Therefore, a verbal report will be provided to the meeting.



9.5 Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Report

By Rebecca Brown, Manager Waste and Environment

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the resolutions of the 13 December 2023 Municipal Waste Advisory Council Meeting.

Executive Summary

- This item summarises the proceedings of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) meeting held on Wednesday, 13 December 2023.
- Copies of MWAC Agendas and Minutes are available from WALGA staff on request.

Procedural Matters

- Cr Giorgia Johnson was elected unopposed as MWAC Chair and Cr Karen Wheatland was elected unopposed as MWAC Deputy Chair, for a two year term, expiring in December 2025.

Matters for Decision

- New Recovery Material Framework Advocacy Position and rescind Recycled Organics Applied to Land Policy Statement ([State Council Item 8.2](#)).

Matters for Discussion

MWAC considered the following matters:

- *Soft Plastics collective advocacy:* WALGA, with the other Local Government Associations, is advocating nationally against the proposed inclusion of soft plastics in kerbside recycling collections (by the Australian Food and Grocery Council). Trials of kerbside soft plastic collection in NSW and SA have yielded high participation rates, however have identified significant issues with resourcing and infrastructure at the participating Material Recovery Facilities (MRF). WALGA and MRF operators recently met with a soft plastics processor intending to establish a recycling plant in Perth and expressed support for a non-kerbside collection option. Collection of soft plastics through kerbside is not supported in WA because:
 - Soft plastic is a significant contaminant in the paper stream and is likely to become a greater issue with the upcoming paper export bans.
 - Consistent messaging across WA is not to place anything in bags in the Recycling bin – mixed messaging will be very difficult to overcome. Bagged material is 6% of contamination by weight in kerbside recycling.
 - MRF resourcing and infrastructure is not adequate to accommodate additional separating and sorting of bags.
 - Product stewardship should be in place for all packaging to ensure schemes have longevity before committing to collection options.
- *Waste Levy Policy Statement:* MWAC discussed the review of the Policy Statement, which is scheduled for early 2024. There was strong support from members for continued advocacy to hypothecate the full Levy to achieving strategic waste management outcomes. The WALGA Budget Submission includes the detail of how the full Levy allocation could be expended to support Local Government and the community to achieve State Waste Strategy Targets



- *Plan for Plastics – Compostable Produce Bags:* Following submissions from WALGA, and the retail sector, the Minister for Environment will amend the regulations implementing Western Australia's Plan for Plastics to allow for produce bags that are certified as compostable and can be used as caddy liners for food organics garden organics (FOGO) systems. The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation will consult with impacted industries on these issues to determine whether the ban on non-compostable produce bags should be extended to include barrier bags for meat and dairy products, and the need for a design standard. To ensure industry has sufficient time to prepare for this change, and to align with a similar change coming into effect in South Australia, the implementation date will be moved from 1 March 2024 to 1 September 2024.



10 MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

10.1 2024-25 Federal Budget Submission

By Dana Mason, External Affairs Manager

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note WALGA's 2024-25 Federal Budget Submission.

Executive Summary

- The WALGA President has written to the Federal Assistant Treasurer to support the initiatives identified in ALGA's 2024-24 Federal Budget Submission.
- The submission also highlights additional areas that are a priority for WA Local Governments in the 2024-25 Budget, including:
 - Funding to improve safety on high-speed roads in regional and peri-urban areas.
 - Addressing gaps on the long-term cycle network
 - Addressing systemic issues in the provision of health services in the regions and compensating Local Governments for the costs they are incurring to support the provision of primary health services in their communities.
 - Funding for a dedicated training program for key areas of skills shortages in Local Government, including town planners, building surveyors and Environmental Health Officers (EHOs).
 - Funding support for programs to manage the impacts of climate change and build resilience.
- The submission was provided to Commonwealth Treasury and the Assistant Treasurer in January 2024, and will be sent to all WA Members of Federal Parliament in coming weeks.

Attachment

- WALGA 2024 Federal Budget Submission letter
- [ALGA 2024 Federal Budget Submission](#)

Background

The Federal Assistant Treasurer recently called for submissions for the 2024-25 Budget.

Each year, ALGA prepares a submission on behalf of the Local Government sector nationally. The 2024-25 ALGA submission requests funding for a range of initiatives across the following key themes:

- Addressing Local Government Financial Sustainability,
- Improving Core Local Government Funding Programs, and
- Partnering with Local Government to address national priorities.

The WALGA President wrote to the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer in January 2024 in support of the ALGA submission. WALGA's submission (attached) also seeks a commitment to address additional issues of particular importance for WA Local Governments:



- Funding to improve safety on high-speed roads in regional and peri-urban areas,
- Addressing systemic issues in the provision of health services in the regions and compensating Local Governments for the costs they are incurring to support the provision of primary health services in their communities,
- Funding for a dedicated training program for key areas of skills shortages in Local Government, including town planners, building surveyors and Environmental Health Officers (EHOs), and
- Funding support for programs to manage the impacts of climate change and build resilience.

These priorities have previously been endorsed by State Council [July 2019 – 79.5/2019; May 2022 – 334.4/2022; July 2023 – 460.3/2023; 237.FM/2023]

WALGA's submission will be provided to all WA Members of Federal Parliament to highlight these priority initiatives.

Comment

The 2024-25 Federal Budget is an ideal opportunity to advocate for priority initiatives for the WA Local Government sector in advance of the upcoming Federal Election.

WALGA will be seeking opportunities to engage with WA Members of Federal Parliament on these and other key issues for the sector.



Item 10.1: 2024-25 Federal Budget Submission
Attachment: WALGA 2024 Federal Budget Submission letter

25 January 2024

via email: prebudgetsubmissions@treasury.gov.au

Hon Stephen Jones MP
Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Financial Services
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Assistant Treasurer

2024-25 FEDERAL BUDGET
PRIORITIES FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

I am writing to highlight the priorities for Western Australian Local Governments in the 2024-25 Federal Budget.

The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) represents and supports all 139 Local Governments in the State. WALGA uses its influence, support and expertise to deliver better outcomes for WA Local Governments and their communities.

WALGA is also a member of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), the national voice of Local Government.

The 2024-25 Federal Budget will once again be delivered in a challenging economic environment. Soaring living costs continue to take a toll on households, with many being forced to tighten their belts. Businesses and Governments are also feeling the impacts of inflation through the rising cost of program and infrastructure delivery.

These challenges are compounded in Western Australia due to its vast geographical size, which creates unique challenges for regional areas of the state due to limited suppliers and materials, constraints on key infrastructure and labour shortages.

The 2024-25 Budget represents an important opportunity to invest in programs and initiatives that will overcome these challenges. It is more important than ever that all levels of Government direct spending towards services, programs and infrastructure that will deliver the greatest value to the community.

WALGA fully supports the ALGA 2024-25 Pre-Budget Submission, which highlights a range of priorities for the Local Government sector across the country.

WALGA would also like to highlight a number of further priorities that will address the unique challenges being experienced in Western Australia.



Road Safety

In 2022 the road fatality rate in regional WA was 18.7 per 100,000 population, more than 6.5 times the rate in the Perth metropolitan area and more than four times the Australian fatality rate. Over 70% of all fatal and serious injury crashes in regional WA result from run-off road or head-on collisions.

There are significant challenges to improve the safety of the extensive, lightly trafficked, Local Government managed road network in regional Western Australia. However, relatively low-cost treatments, specifically sealing road shoulders and installing audible edge and centre (separation) lines have been proven to significantly reduce the frequency of run-off road and head-on crashes. As an example, installing a 1m wide sealed shoulder is estimated to reduce run-off road casualty crashes by 61% (Main Roads Western Australia 2021, Treatment resource guide, MRWA, Perth, WA).

A Business Case led by the RAC WA in partnership with WALGA and Main Roads WA, with support from the National Transport Research Organisation, proposes a program to apply proven treatments on 439 sealed high-speed roads covering 8,200km in regional and peri-urban areas. The proposed \$552 million program would result in the avoidance of 138 fatalities and 489 serious injuries over a modelled 30-year lifespan and an average 23.6% improvement in the AusRAP Star Rating Score. The program aligns with the National Road Safety Strategy and its goals.

A funding commitment of \$25 million per year from 2024-25 is sought to undertake this transformational change to regional road safety.

Regional and Rural Health

Those living in outer-metropolitan, regional and rural locations in WA have poorer access to primary health care, and as a result face increased costs, reduced quality of care and worse health outcomes compared those in metropolitan areas.

At least 68 WA Local Governments⁵⁵ are reluctantly stepping in to address this failure through subsidising the provision of healthcare services for their communities, including funding accommodation, vehicles and medical centre operations. This is placing pressure on Local Government resources and diverting funds away from the provision of other essential community services and infrastructure.

The Commonwealth and State Government need to address the systemic issues in the provision of health services in the regions and develop and fund innovative solutions. As a first step, WALGA proposes the Commonwealth and State Government convene a consultative committee of key stakeholders, including Local Government, to focus on:

⁵⁵ Based on 2021-22 figures



- Addressing critical healthcare workforce shortages,
- Managing the health challenges posed by ageing populations and chronic illnesses,
- Innovation in service provision, and
- Developing appropriate funding mechanisms and levels for healthcare service provision.

Until the broader systemic issue are addressed, rural and regional Local Governments should be **reimbursed for the costs incurred to support the delivery of essential primary health services for their communities.**

Skills Shortages

Local Governments, like other sectors of the WA economy are experiencing key skills shortages, which are impacting their capacity to efficiently undertake important planning and regulatory functions to protect the wellbeing of the WA community.

In particular, planners, building surveyors and Environmental Health Officers (EHO) were identified in the 2022 Local Government Workforce Skills and Capability Survey to be critical Local Government Occupations and among the hardest in WA to fill. The Western Australian Department of Training and Workforce Development's State Priority Occupation List identifies both town planners and building surveyors as a State Priority 1, noting that here is a high level of demand, ongoing difficulty in filling positions and challenges in attracting people to the profession. EHO are also identified on the State Priority Occupation List as a State Priority 2.

Funding for a dedicated Local Government training program for town planning, building surveyor and EHO is necessary to support education, training and professional development for these key areas of skills shortage in WA.

Building resilience to disasters

Increasing and more severe natural disasters are a key consequence of climate change, and come at a significant cost to the national economy. Natural disasters are currently estimated to cost the Australian economy \$38 billion annually and are expected to rise to \$73 billion annually by 2060. Investing in resilience, both before and after disasters, is an effective mechanism to reduce these costs, as highlighted in WALGA's submission to the Government's Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding.

Betterment funding needs greater support in the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements WA (DRFA-WA). WA has lagged behind other States in incorporating betterment funding. WALGA recommends that betterment is a standard requirement through the DRFA and that WA Local Governments have equitable access to betterment funding to support disaster impacted WA communities. This is also reinforced in WALGA's [State Budget Submission](#), which requests that the State Government creates a reserve fund for disaster resilient reconstruction of essential public assets following a natural disaster.



In WA, demand for Commonwealth Disaster Funding Grants, such as the Disaster Ready Fund, significantly exceeds supply and funding rounds are highly competitive. WA includes one third of the Australian land mass and 11% of the Australian population, however only \$8.8 million, or 4% of Round 1 of the Disaster Ready Fund was allocated to WA projects.

WALGA recommends an increased pool of funding for disaster risk reduction, which will reduce the long-term cost of disasters, and that an equitable allocation of funding is provided to support WA communities.

Climate Change

Climate change is making our communities more vulnerable to hotter temperatures, more extreme weather events, and damage to infrastructure.

Addressing the causes and impacts of climate change requires a collaborative effort across all levels of government, business and the community.

It is recognised that the Commonwealth Government has provided funding for a range of programs aimed at addressing the impacts of climate change, including the \$100 million Community Energy Upgrades Fund. **The Commonwealth Government needs to continue to work with State and Local governments to manage the impacts of climate change and to build resilience.**

Managing Coastal Erosion and Inundation

Climate change induced sea level rise presents a real and direct threat to the liveability of our communities and is a nation-wide issue requiring national leadership and investment. Infrastructure Australia has identified the development of a national coastal erosion and inundation strategy as a high priority initiative. However, there is currently no national strategy or dedicated national funding program for adapting to coastal hazards.

Given our extensive coastline, coastal hazards are a particularly important issue for WA. The majority (80%) of WA's population lives within 10km of the coast and coastal hazards pose a significant threat to infrastructure such as ports and roads, public assets, private property, and natural coastal ecosystems. Managing the long-term impacts of coastal erosion and inundation is beyond the financial and technical capacity of Local Governments.

WA Local Governments support the need for a **sustainable, equitable and efficient funding model for coastal adaptation. It is proposed that the Productivity Commission be tasked with investigating an appropriate funding framework that shares the cost of adapting to coastal hazards appropriately among all levels of Government and the community.**

Urban Canopy

Trees are crucial to mitigate the impacts of climate change in urban areas, providing shade and reducing heat, while also creating liveable neighbourhoods, improving air quality, enhancing biodiversity and promoting psychological and emotional wellbeing.



With climate projections of higher temperatures, more very hot days and longer and more intense heatwaves, this role will become even more important. The impacts will be more pronounced in urban areas as a result of the heat island effect caused by heat absorbing materials used in roads and buildings.

Local Governments are working hard to implement measures to reduce tree loss on private land and undertake comprehensive tree planting programs on street verges, parks and other public areas. Unfortunately, between 2011 and 2020 one quarter of Perth's urban canopy has been lost, largely through the clearing of private land for development.

The task of creating cooler cities and shadier suburbs is a national one, with Local Governments around Australia working hard to address this climate risk. Several State Governments are working to support Local Governments through funding through competitive grant programs for urban planting. Previous Commonwealth greening initiatives, such as the 20 Million Trees Program, focused on biodiversity and environmental outcomes, and thus had limited impact on urban heat where people live, our suburbs and towns. Funding from the Commonwealth will accelerate efforts to green our cities and suburbs to increase liveability and reduce the impacts of climate change.

Active Travel

The population of Greater Perth is forecast to grow by around 30% by 2031 with the demand for travel likely to increase in line with population. Mode shift from reliance on private cars to active and public transport remains limited. Nearly one third of Perth's 34 strategic activity centres have low accessibility by public transport, increasing the importance of active transport connections. Making it feasible and easier for people to travel by active modes has wide ranging benefits aligned with Government priorities including reducing greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles, health benefits from improving air quality and increased physical activity and reduced economic and social costs of traffic congestion. Infrastructure Australia has recognised the essential role of active transport in cities and emphasized the need to complete cross-boundary Local Government transport networks.

Local Governments have worked collectively and with the State Department of Transport to define a network of primary, secondary and local active travel routes. Currently around 40% of the primary network and 34% of the secondary network is completed. The remainder is either non-existent or requires significant improvement.

Funding support from the Commonwealth will accelerate the delivery of key routes on the Long Term Cycle Network in WA, and connect key destinations.

We look forward to partnering with the Commonwealth Government to address these priority areas of investment, which are important to WA Local Governments and the communities they represent.



For enquiries please contact WALGA CEO Nick Sloan on 08 9213 2025
or nsloan@walga.asn.au.

Yours sincerely

Cr Karen Chappel AM JP
WALGA President



10.2 Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan (EM-SAP) Local Government Consultation Project

By Simone Ruane, Project Lead, Emergency Management

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the update on the Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan Local Government Consultation project.

Executive Summary

- In October 2022, a SEMC Climate Change Subcommittee (CCSC) was established to provide leadership and guidance in the development of an Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan (EM-SAP).
- The EM-SAP is being developed through the Department of Fire and Emergency Service's (DFES') Climate Change Adaptation Program (CCAP).
- WALGA has been engaged to obtain input from the Local Government sector on an EM-SAP Discussion Paper to inform the development of the final EM-SAP that will be submitted for endorsement by the SEMC in mid-2024.
- WALGA's consultation with the Local Government sector on the EM-SAP will be delivered during February and March 2024 and will include an EM-SAP Information Webinar on 14 February and several interactive workshops delivered on the 20, 21 and 26 February.
- Registration to participate in WALGA's EM-SAP webinar and workshops is via the [WALGA website](#).
- A draft WALGA submission that includes the consultation summary and EM-SAP recommendations will be submitted to State Council via the Flying Minute process for endorsement at the end of March, to meet the SEMC's consultation timeframes.

Attachment

- [Western Australian Sector Adaptation Plan \(EM-SAP\) Discussion Paper \(December 2023\) State Emergency Management Committee](#)

Background

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) has identified climate change impacts and risks for the EM sector as a strategic priority and a SEMC Climate Change Subcommittee (CCSC) has been established to provide guidance in the development of an [Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan \(EM-SAP\)](#). WALGA's CEO Nick Sloan was appointed as the CCSC Sponsor and Executive Manager Policy, Nicole Mathews as the Deputy Chair.

The EM-SAP is one of seven sector-based plans delivered to help implement the [Western Australian Climate Adaptation Strategy](#). The EM-SAP strategic project has been funded by the National Disaster Risk Reduction grant fund and is being developed through the Department of Fire and Emergency Service's (DFES') Climate Change Adaptation Program (CCAP).



The EM-SAP aims to:

- Build enhanced and shared understanding of climate change impacts and risks for the EM sector;
- Embed climate change risk and management considerations into EM decision making where relevant; and
- Identify and prioritise adaptation actions that can help ensure the EM sector is well adapted to climate change.

The EM-SAP is being developed in broad consultation across the EM sector. Given Local Governments are prescribed various responsibilities under the *Emergency Management Act, 2005*, they are considered a key Emergency Management Agency (EMA) stakeholder in the EM-SAP project. WALGA has therefore been engaged to obtain targeted input from the Local Government sector on an EM-SAP Discussion Paper, released by the DFES CCAP, to inform the development of the final EM-SAP.

The consultation on the EM-SAP Discussion Paper that opened on the 13 December 2023 and closes on the 29 March 2024 provides the EM sector an opportunity to have their say on the EM-SAP's content and objectives, and to shape the sector's climate change adaptation priorities.

The consultation is seeking feedback on:

- Current and planned adaptation activities undertaken by organisations; and
- The sector adaptation objectives and actions and reporting processes and governance structure proposed in the Discussion Paper.

It is not expected that further public consultation on a draft EM-SAP will be conducted. However, WALGA will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft EM-SAP via a targeted consultation process with the SEMC Subcommittees, that includes the CCSC. A final EM-SAP is expected to be endorsed by SEMC in mid-2024.

WALGA Project Lead, Emergency Management, Simone Ruane is coordinating the consultation with the Local Government sector on the EM-SAP that will be delivered during February and March 2024. WALGA will initiate the consultation by hosting an EM-SAP webinar that will include presentations from CCSC Chair and DFES Assistant Commissioner, Rick Curtis and CCAP Manager Dr Neville Ellis that will highlight the imperative of climate change adaptation for the SEMC and the EM sector, provide an overview of the purpose and proposed actions of the EM-SAP, and outline how Local Governments can provide input. In addition, POD Consultancy has been engaged to support the design and facilitation of a series of a face to face and three online workshops to obtain the responses from a diverse range of WA Local Governments on the questions posed to Local Government in the EM-SAP Discussion Paper.

To meet the SEMC's consultation timeframes, a draft submission of WALGA's EM-SAP recommendations and their alignment with WALGA's advocacy positions will be presented to the People and Place Policy Team and State Council via the Flying Minute process for endorsement at the end of March. State Council will have an opportunity for input on the draft final EM-SAP before it is presented to SEMC, if there are any substantial changes that cannot be addressed by the original submission.

**Comment**

Western Australian Local Governments are already experiencing the impacts of climate change. Warmer and dryer conditions, extreme weather events, sea level rise, and extended bushfire seasons are testing many Local Government's emergency management capabilities and the resilience of their respective communities. Recent reviews into Local Government's current EM responsibilities to maintain Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) and administer Local Emergency Management Committees (LEMCs) have confirmed that the current system for local emergency management is not fit for purpose, is administratively onerous and does not adequately consider the increasing risks associated with climate change. The EM-SAP project provides an important opportunity for Local Governments to inform State Emergency Management Framework reforms that strengthen the consideration of climate change in emergency management planning in a way that does not result in further administrative burden and resource requirements for Local Governments who are already struggling to meet their emergency management obligations.



11 ORGANISATION REPORTS

11.1 Key Activity Reports

11.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Advocacy Portfolio

By Rachel Horton, Executive Manager Advocacy

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the Key Activity Report from the Advocacy Portfolio for March 2024.

The Advocacy Portfolio comprises the following work units:

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

The following outlines the key activities for November and December 2023 and January 2024.

1. Marketing:

The new WALGA website is in the final stage of development with content population underway. Following a final stage of user testing, the launch is planned for March 2024. Further templates and assets are being developed as part of the continued roll-out of the refreshed WALGA brand.

The Marketing team has supported the promotion of WALGA training courses, which has resulted in a significant uptake in enrolments with many courses nearly at capacity.

2. Communications and Media

Media Engagement

Throughout the reporting period, President Karen Chappel conducted a number of TV, print, radio and online interviews on a range of issues, including recycling of waste in regional areas, state planning policies, short-term rental accommodation, R-code reform (granny flats), the Grattan Institute report into roads funding and housing issues.

In January, the President also spoke to several media outlets about Australia Day and how Councils choose to hold citizenship ceremonies and events. Media included The West Australian, the Sunday Times, the ABC, 7Regional TV and Channel 9 Perth.

Media monitoring recorded 387 mentions relating to WALGA and Local Government in mainstream media. The top stories were Australia Day, alcohol bans and the reform to R-codes.

President Chappel was specifically mentioned 33 times.

The main outlets comprised radio (124), press (139) and online (124).



Source: MyMedia.

Five separate Media Releases were published and distributed by WALGA Communications from 1 November 2023 to 31 January 2024.

- [WALGA welcomes Government Announcement on Short Term Rental Accommodation](#)
- [WALGA supports call for more local roads funding](#)
- [WALGA welcomes additional funding for local roads](#)
- [WALGA releases 2024-25 State Budget Priorities](#)
- [Cooler Cities and Shadier Suburbs: Applications open for Perth and Peel Local Governments to expand tree canopy.](#)

Other communications published:

- September/October 2023 edition of the Western Councillor
- 13 weekly LG Direct newsletters to over 2,000 Elected Members and senior staff

The 2024 Local Government Directory was compiled throughout December and January 2023. The hard copy version will be distributed in March 2024.

Social Media Engagement

Compared to the same period last year, the total number of 'fans and followers' of WALGA social media has increased by over 10% from c.19,000 to over 21,000.

Post engagement has also increased:

LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram combined statistics

- 101 post comments and replies (increase of 84%)
- 124 posts (increase of 29%)
- 2.7k post reactions and likes (increase of 81%)
- Average post engagement rate of 6% (increase of 30%)

Facebook Top Posts

The screenshot shows three top-performing posts from WALGA on Facebook. Each post includes a thumbnail image, the WALGA profile picture, the post text, and the date and time.

- Post 1:** A photograph of a community event at night with string lights. Text: "Congratulations to Pingelly for winning the 2023 Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Award. *The Shire of Pingelly is grateful to". Date: Nov 30, 08:00.
- Post 2:** A group photo of people in a seminar room. Text: "On Friday, 10 November WALGA officially welcomed new Elected Members to the sector with our New Councillor Seminar." Date: Nov 15, 04:00.
- Post 3:** A photograph of a bridge over a river. Text: "The Fitzroy River bridge is today officially open after the State's worst flood destroyed it in January. The new-and-improved bridge". Date: Dec 10, 02:00.



Instagram Top Posts

Top posts



On Thursday 14 December, WALGA hosted our end-of-year 'WALGA Wrap' event at Perth City Farm. The event provided an



Yesterday, WALGA hosted an induction for our newly elected State and Deputy State Councillors. A record number of 14 new State



Nine Local Governments were recognised for their efforts this week as part of the 2023 Most Accessible Community of Western

LinkedIn Top Posts

Top posts



The Fitzroy River bridge is today officially open after the State's worst flood destroyed it in January. The new-and-improved bridge



The City of Gosnells has committed to the development of 11 all-abilities playgrounds across their Local Government area. The City



WALGA has recently opened applications for 33 Councils in the Peel and Perth regions to apply for funding from the State

Figures from Hootsuite

3. Government Relations:

The WALGA State Budget Submission 2024-25 was distributed to State Ministers and Directors-General in November 2023.

There have been a number of planned and reactive advocacy initiatives via various media, including communications around safer student pedestrian crossings, additional CSRFF money, the rebuilding of the Fitzroy River Bridge, urban tree canopy, all-access playgrounds and connected cycle networks.

4. Events

WALGA Wrap

The President's Cocktail function, newly named the 'WALGA Wrap', took place in December at the Perth City Farm. A strong contingent of elected members, officers, key stakeholders, WALGA staff and Preferred Supplier Panel members attended the reinvented networking function to celebrate achievements throughout 2023.

The event featured a gourmet BBQ, music by Brandon Poletti and a moving Welcome to Country performed by State Councillor and Deputy Mayor of the City of Kwinana, Cr Barry Winmar.

Feedback from attendees was positive.

MACWA Awards

The 2023 Most Accessible Community of Western Australia (MACWA) Awards were held on 15 December 2023 at the Surf Life Saving Club in Scarborough. WALGA sponsored the event through venue, catering, photography provision, and award prizes.



Virtual Graduation

This February, WALGA will host the first virtual graduation ceremony to acknowledge students graduating from WALGA's unique *Cert III in Local Government*. Hosted by the WALGA President and CEO, the ceremony will also feature a video message from the new Minister for Local Government; Youth; Minister Assisting the Minister for Training and Workplace Development, Hon Hannah Beazley BA MLA.

The virtual ceremony is an inclusive solution for the majority of students who live in regional areas. Students will be presented with their certificate by their Line Manager, captured via Zoom, and celebration hubs will be hosted concurrently by several Local Governments.



11.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure Portfolio

By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

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

The Infrastructure Portfolio comprises the following work units:

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

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

1. Roads

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

Four new projects have been initiated as part of the Local Government Transport and Roads Research and Innovation Program:

1. Use of crumbed rubber modified bitumen and reclaimed asphalt (RAP) in asphalt applications;
2. Use of crumbed rubber modified bitumen in spayed seal applications;
3. Design and construction guidance for the use of crushed recycled concrete; and
4. A catalogue of typical pavement structures for local roads.

This program of work builds on the [projects completed](#) in 2023.

Condition Assessment of Roads of Regional Significance

Industry proposals were assessed and a consultant appointed to complete a road condition assessment for all *Roads of Regional Significance* in the South West region of WA (approximately 2,100km). The project commenced in January 2024 with the bulk of the survey work to be performed between February and April 2024.

Road Rail Interface Agreements

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



2. Funding

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

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

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

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

Roads to Recovery and other Federal Funding Programs

Working with ALGA and the State Associations, WALGA engaged with the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts concerning the design and guidelines for key Australian Government infrastructure funding programs, Roads to Recovery, Black Spot and the Safer Local Roads & Infrastructure Program. WA Local Governments are generally supportive of the administrative arrangements. The competitive funding approach for the smaller programs raises equity concerns, as a reasonable level of resources is required to develop strong project proposals.

Multi-Criteria Assessment (MCA) Model Revisions

Work continues to harmonise the MCA models used by Regional Road Groups to prioritise project proposals for funding under the Road Project Grant funding pool. The process has now commenced in seven of the nine regions in regional WA. 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.

Business Case for Safety Improvement to High Speed Sealed Local Government Roads

Meetings were held with the Minister for Road Safety / Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport and senior government officers concerning the proposed investment by Federal and State Governments to improve the level of safety provided to users of high speed, sealed Local Government roads in peri-urban and rural areas. The Association is continuing to work in partnership with the RAC to highlight the importance of this investment.

3. Utilities

Underground Power

Negotiations with Western Power regarding a template Targeted Underground Power Program Co-Funding Agreement proceeded during December and January with support from LGIS concerning risk and insurance.

The Minister for Energy is considering proposed Guidelines for the Targeted Underground Power Program. Affordability remains a key concern for Local Governments. The program design excludes customer connection costs when calculating the State Government contribution to project costs which presents a significant hurdle for many projects to achieve high levels of community support. WALGA is working with the program steering committee to develop proposals that will improve affordability.



Streetlighting

Meetings were held with Western Power and the Economic Regulation Authority regarding service standards for streetlight repair times. Currently cable faults and other complex faults are excluded from the data reported. Cable faults, which often involve a series of lights being off and may be on major roads, typically take months to repair exposing road users to increased risk. Other matters in relation to unmetered supply (for Local Government owned lights) and customer complaint handling were also progressed.

Bus Stop Infrastructure

The partnership agreement between WALGA and the Public Transport Authority (PTA), which defines the roles and responsibilities for planning, installation and maintenance of bus stop infrastructure, has recently expired. A series of meetings with Local Government officers to review the current agreement and identify opportunities for improvement has been completed and discussions with PTA scheduled for February.

Active Transport Reference Group

The new Active Transport Reference Group met with representatives from the Department of Transport and other stakeholders in December to consider and plan:

- Evaluation of Low-Cost Urban Road Safety Treatments,
- Policies in relation to pedestrian crossings,
- Exploring the relationship between urban greening initiatives and active transport, and
- Funding issues, including the review of the WA Bicycle Network Grants program.

4. Road Safety

Road Safety Council Update

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

[Meeting held 16 November 2023](#)

[Meeting held 8 December 2023](#)

RoadWise Councils

WALGA's RoadWise Councils initiative is a fresh approach aimed at engaging and supporting Local Governments to adopt and apply policies and practices that effectively and sustainably lead to better road safety outcomes for WA communities.

Since invitations to participate commenced in August 2023, fifty-four (54) Local Governments have registered as a RoadWise Council. The majority (70%) registered with a resolution of full Council and thirty percent via a Declaration signed by the Shire President/Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer.

Participating Local Governments are spread across the state with RoadWise Councils located in all ten Regional Road Group regions.

In terms of road safety activities, 37 or 71% of registered RoadWise Council have recorded the delivery of activity aligned with the RoadWise Council Framework in the first few months.



11.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Member Services Portfolio

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the Key Activity Report from the Member Services Portfolio for March 2024.

The Member Services Portfolio comprises the following work units:

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

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

1. Association and Corporate Governance

WALGA Strategic Planning

The current [WALGA Strategic Plan](#) is due to end in 2025. Over the next 12 months, WALGA will undertake a thorough process to develop a new Strategic Plan to guide the Association's strategic direction and priorities for the next five years.

The planning process will engage State Councillors, the Executive team, Association staff, Member Local Governments and external stakeholders, including State and Federal Government, media and relevant industry. The final Strategic Plan will provide a clear, accessible, documented strategy that recognises the key strategic issues facing WALGA and empowers the Association to achieve its mission.

The new Strategic Plan 2025-2030 will be endorsed by State Council at the December 2024 Ordinary Meeting.

Zone Chair Induction

During the November 2023 round of Zone meetings, all Zones elected a Chair and Deputy Chair. Pursuant to the WALGA Corporate Governance Charter, an induction will be held for all newly elected Zone Chairs and Deputy Chairs. The induction will include an overview of the roles of Zones, Zone Chairs and State Councillors, and will provide an opportunity for networking and idea sharing between Chairs from all 17 Metropolitan and Country Zones around the state.

The induction will be conducted as a half day, in person event on Tuesday, 30 April at the WALGA offices in West Leederville. An invitation and further information will be sent to Zone Chairs, Deputy Chairs and Zone Executive Officers in the coming weeks.



Local Government Honours Program 2024

Nominations for the 2024 Honours Program are opening soon.

Last year's Honours Program was very successful, recognising 45 Elected Members and officers from across the state for their contributions to Local Government. Planning is now underway to make the 2024 Program the best yet.

WALGA's Local Government Honours Program affords significant public recognition and celebration to the outstanding achievement and lasting contributions made by Elected Members and employees to their respective Councils, the Local Government sector, the Association and the wider community.

The 2024 Program includes six award categories:

1. Local Government Medal
2. Life Membership
3. Eminent Service Award
4. Merit Award
5. Local Government Distinguished Officer Award
6. Young Achievers Award

The opening of the 2024 Program will be formally announced on Friday, 8 March, with nominations closing on Friday, 31 May.

2. Commercial

Preferred Supplier Program (PSP) Development

In the last operating quarter WALGA added 34 new supply arrangements to the PSP across multiple categories.

Based on a new process of Member recommendation and endorsement WALGA anticipates adding approximately 60 further suppliers to the program in the coming months. Members seeking to have suppliers invited to Tender for the WALGA Preferred Supplier Program should email commercial@walga.asn.au with their requests.

New Category Development is currently being planned and developed for:

- Architectural Services
- HR and Organisational Services
- Line Marking Services
- Leisure Centre Services (aquatic and pool supplies)
- Managed Accounting and Corporate Services

For further information and to recommend companies for Tender notification please email commercial@walga.asn.au

As new PSP contracts are implemented updates are made to both eQuotes and the [WALGA Preferred Supplier Directory](#).

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



Sustainable Energy Project

The WALGA Sustainable Energy Project formally commenced on 1 April 2022 delivering aggregate energy purchases to 48 WALGA Members. Following six completed quarters of the project the total estimated cost savings are approximately \$16 million and Carbon Offsets total approximately 49,900 tonnes.

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

WALGA has adopted a strategy for evolving future phases of the project. Under this plan MOU's are currently being signed to obtain verifiable consent to represent the aggregate sector spend into a new Tender process. A tender is also under evaluation for a Carbon Reporting Tool, inclusive of options available for Member purchasing via the Tender submissions.

3. Employee Relations

WA Industrial Relations Commission applications

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

- Application APPL 80 of 2023 – The Western Australian Municipal, Administrative, Clerical and Services Union of WA (WASU) and the Local Government, Racing and Cemeteries Employees Union (WA) (LGRCEU) filed an application to increase the wages in the Municipal Employees (Western Australia) Award 2021 (ME Award). If the WASU and LGRCEU are successful, wages in the ME Award will increase for the highest level by \$285.68 per week. WALGA has filed an application to intervene in this application to ensure it can represent the sector's views and raise important case law research which sets out principles for how wages can be amended in awards. The WASU, LGRCEU and Mike Fitzgerald has objected to WALGA's intervention in this matter.
- Applications APPL 3 and 4 of 2023 – WALGA is responding to claims from the Western Australian Services Union for additional entitlements in the Local Government Officers' (Western Australia) Award 2021 (LGO Award) and the ME Award. This matter has not yet been listed for a hearing, but the WASU is seeking discovery of documents from Local Governments and WALGA. If discovery is ordered, this means the WAIRC will order the parties to hand over non-public documents to the WASU.
- Applications APPL 26 and 27 of 2023 – The decisions in these matters resulted in the Commission retaining a number of facilitative clauses in the State awards which will assist Local Government employers and employees agree on work arrangements to suit individual employee circumstances. A few amendments have been made to the ME Award and the LGO Award as a result of the decisions.

Application to intervene in union demarcation dispute

In response to sector feedback, WALGA has filed forms in the WAIRC to intervene in three applications CICS 5, 8 and 9 of 2023. These applications relate to a dispute over coverage of Local Government staff between three unions, the WASU, LGRCEU and the CFMEUW.

WALGA Salary and Workforce Survey 2023

The survey closed in December 2022 and the results have been uploaded to the WALGA Salary and Workforce Survey online portal. Local Governments who have completed the survey or purchased access to the portal will be able to view the survey report and the results in the online dashboard in February.



Webinar – Sexual harassment

WALGA ER delivered a webinar on the new positive duty on employers to prevent sexual harassment on 29 November 2023 which attracted 57 registrants.

4. Governance and Procurement

Local Government Act Amendments – Fees for Independent Committee Members and Caretaker period

As a consequence of the *Local Government Amendment Act 2023*, a further provision commenced as from 1 January 2024. Section 5.100 was amended and Regulation 34ACA of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations* introduced to permit payment of fees to committee members who are not Council Members or employees of the Local Government. The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal set the range of fees to be paid to independent committee members under Variation 3 of 23 October 2023 (below):

Table 6: Committee meeting and prescribed meeting fees per meeting – local governments and regional local governments

Band	Elected members		Independent committee members	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
1	\$325	\$415	\$0	\$415
2	\$195	\$305	\$0	\$305
3	\$100	\$215	\$0	\$215
4	\$50	\$125	\$0	\$125
All regional local governments	\$50	\$125	\$0	\$125

New provisions will soon commence to introduce a Caretaker period and to place limitations on decisions, defined as significant acts, that a Local Government can make during this period. The new provisions will introduce the definition of ‘Caretaker period’ in new section s1.4A that will apply at ordinary elections but will not apply for extraordinary elections. The range of significant act restrictions will be implemented by introduction on new section 3.73 of the Act. The Caretaker period provisions will commence from 1 July 2024.

Local Government Elections Review

WALGA’s governance staff are conducting a review of Local Government elections for the period 2015-2023. This includes examining the cost of conducting elections.

A number of Zones had raised concerns with the election process and the cost.

A report, together with proposals for an alternative engagement strategy that provides for an independent assessment of WALGA’s election advocacy is being prepared. This report is anticipated to be submitted for the April/May round of Zone and State Council meetings.



5. Training

2024 has seen a very busy start to the year with 25 workshops booked and confirmed for February. Eighteen of those workshops will be delivered at WALGA and 7 will be delivered at Local Governments across Western Australia.

The Certificate III program has 6 new Trainees and 1 Fee for Service enrolments for the February 2024 intake. The first Graduation Ceremony was held virtually on Wednesday, 7 February, celebrating the hard work, dedication and commitment of the first 12 Graduates and to thank supervisors and friends for their support. WALGA CEO Nick Sloan opened the Graduation and the Hon Hannah Beazley MLA, Minister for Local Government; Youth; and Minister Assisting the Minister for Training and Workforce Development addressed the Graduates. WALGA President Karen Chappel then presented the Certificates to all Graduates. WALGA's focus is to continue building this highly specialised foundation program through 2024, with the aim to develop new talent and to build future capacity for the sector. Work has commenced on developing the Diploma of Local Government for Officers and hope that delivery of the Diploma will commence in 2025.



11.1.4 Report on Key Activities, Policy Portfolio

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager, Policy

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

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

The Advocacy Portfolio comprises the following work units:

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

The following provides outlines the portfolio's activities since the December 2023 State Council meeting.

1. Economics

December Economic Briefing

In December, WALGA released its latest [Economic Briefing](#). Local Government costs increased 4.4% in 2022-23 and are expected to increase by a further 3.9% in 2023-24 before easing in the coming years.

The next Economic Briefing will be in March and will have particular relevance for Local Government budget setting.

2. Environment and Waste

Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer (PSHB)

WALGA has been working with the Department and our member Local Governments on efforts to contain and eradicate the PSHB, which presents a significant threat to environment, social and economic values. The PSHB Quarantine Area now covers 25 Local Governments in the Perth region. Affected trees across the quarantine area, including in Fremantle, Claremont, Kings Park and Perth Zoo and Hyde Park are being removed or having branches lopped off in an effort to eradicate the borer. DPIRD has commenced a [digital community awareness campaign for PSHB](#) at Yagan Square over January 2024, through the screening of an animated video. Local Governments are asked to share the animation on their communication channels to strengthen the impact of the message. WALGA has also written to the DPIRD Director General, requesting access to up-to-date spatial mapping of infested premises to allow Local Governments to better target surveillance and management efforts.

Natural Resource Management Grants

In late 2023, nearly \$250,000 in funding was awarded to Local Government to undertake ecological assessments of Local Government managed lands, development of Local Biodiversity Strategies and development and adoption of local planning policies on native vegetation and biodiversity. Local Governments who were successful in the first round of funding included City of Albany, Shire of Augusta-Margaret River, Avon Regional



Organisation of Council (Shires of Toodyay and Victoria Plains), Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup, Shire of Harvey, City of Bunbury, Shire of Esperance, Shire of Manjimup, Shire of Northam and Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale. WALGA opened a second round of funding, with application due December 2023, and a further two Local Governments have been awarded funding.

3. Planning and Building

Urban Forests

Urban Greening Grants

In November 2023, WALGA signed a funding agreement with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) for \$3.75 million to deliver the Urban Greening Grant Program. The program was a key initiative presented in WALGA's 2023-24 State Budget Submission. The program will fund additional tree and understorey planting for the 33 Local Governments located in the Perth and Peel regions to expand tree canopy and vegetative cover in high urban heat areas. The grant program is offered in two rounds, with Round 1 targeted at planting in 2023-24 and Round 2 for planting in 2024-25. An online information session was held in December 2023, attended by 33 officers from 19 Local Governments. Round 1 of the grant program closed on 25 January 2024 and an announcement on Round 1 funding is expected in late February.

The grant funding has also provided for the employment of an Urban Forest Program Facilitator from January 2024 to June 2025, with the position appointed on 22 January 2024.

WA Tree Festival 2024

WALGA is hosting a breakfast event for Elected Members and CEOs on Wednesday, 27 March to launch the WA Tree Festival (Tree Fest). Environment and Climate Action Minister The Hon Reece Whitby MLA and the Garden Guru's Trevor Cochrane have been invited to provide addresses at the Breakfast. Tree Fest, which runs from 6 April to 5 May 2024 sees Local Governments from across the State host a series of community events to celebrate the value of trees in urban areas.

Planning and Building

Local Government Planning Fees and Charges

The maximum fees Local Government may charge for certain planning services is set by State Government regulations and not been reviewed or increased since 2013. The lack of review and indexation means that Local Government planning charges are not achieving cost recovery and planning services are increasingly being subsidised by general rate revenue. In late 2023 WALGA prepared a [Local Government Planning Fees and Charges Paper](#) to inform a request to the Western Australian Planning Commission to review fees, establish an annual indexation for the fees and increase the fees for the 24-35 financial year. In response the WAPC Chairman has requested that the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage review the Paper and WALGA's recommendations and has agreed to meet with WALGA in early 2024.

Medium Density Codes and Planning Reform

The State Government [announced](#) amendments and finalisation of *State Planning Policy 7.3 Residential Design Codes*, including revised Medium Density Code provisions on 30 January 2024. The amended R-Codes will be released in early-March 2024 and will become operational in April 2024.



Several other changes to Western Australia's planning system will also come into effect on 1 March 2023 following the gazettal of the *Planning and Development Amendment Act 2023*. These include reforms to the Development Assessment Panels, the new Significant Development Pathway, and an online system for lodgement and tracking of applications.

Building Reform

On 20 December 2023 the State Government [announced](#) its response to the 39 recommendations of the national [Building Confidence Report](#), which considered improvements to building regulatory frameworks and compliance with building standards across Australia. The reforms include: the staged implementation of mandatory inspections of new apartment and other commercial buildings, tiered registration of builders, clearer processes for documenting design changes during construction, and enhancements to building design documentation.

WALGA's advocacy positions support clearer and broadened registration requirements for building professionals, improved building documentation and mandatory building inspections where Local Governments are not solely responsible for undertaking the inspections.

The Government will consult with key stakeholders over 2024, with the first stage of the reforms due to start in 2026 with mandatory inspections of high-rise apartments. WALGA will continue to advocate for a broadening of mandatory inspections to single residential buildings, consistent with our advocacy position.

4. Resilient Communities

Emergency Management

Power and Telecommunications Outages

The Wheatbelt, Goldfields and the Perth Hills were significantly impacted by power outages and associated telecommunication failures caused by severe storm cell activity in January. WALGA held a roundtable with affected Local Governments and Regional Development Commissions representatives on 6 February to collate and distil feedback on the impact of recent power outages, as well as inform future responses and measures to improve resilience for such events.

Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement Program

In December 2023, the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) approved a [LEMA Improvement Program](#) to initiate LEMA reforms. The first phase of the LEMA Improvement Program will be delivered as a partnership project between WALGA and the DFES, on behalf of SEMC, over two years. The funding secured includes provision for a WALGA LEMA Improvement Facilitator to work directly with Local Governments to pilot new LEMA approaches. The LEMA Improvement Program is set to commence in March 2024. This initiative marks the first phase of a multi-year schedule to implement the key activities of the [LEMA Improvement Plan](#) that was informed by [WALGA's LEMA Review consultation findings and recommendations](#).

State Emergency Management Committee

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



SEMC is currently consulting on two policy documents:

- A [WA Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan Discussion Paper](#). SEMC has engaged WALGA to coordinate consultation with Local Governments. Further information is available [here](#).

In January, WALGA provided officer level feedback on two consultations:

- [State Hazards Plan Energy Supply Disruption](#). Feedback aimed to ensure that the traffic management responsibilities of Local Governments in an Energy Supply Disruption emergency are aligned to recent changes to the State Emergency Management Policy Section 5.12 – Funding for Emergency Responses. The feedback was aligned to feedback provided by President Chappel in a letter to the SEMC Chair on the [State Hazard Plan Crash Emergency](#), in November 2023.
- [State Hazard Plan HAZMAT](#). Feedback aimed to ensure the response responsibilities identified for Local Governments are practically achievable and was aligned to WALGA's advocacy positions 8.2 State Emergency Management Framework and 2.5.10 Control of Certain Unvested Facilities: Section 3.53.

Emergency Management Survey

The 2023 WALGA Local Government Emergency Management Survey closed on 8 December 2023. 102 Local Governments (75%) responded to the survey. The survey responses are currently being collated with a report expected to be finalised in April 2024.

5. Community

Aboriginal Affairs

WALGA's Aboriginal Engagement Forum

The 2024 WALGA Aboriginal Engagement Forum (AE Forum) will be held Wednesday 20 March 2024 at Fraser's in Kaarta Gar-up (Kings Park). This year's Forum theme is 'Looking Back to Move Forward'. Program planning is well advanced with the program including Yvonne Weldon, an aboriginal councillor at the City of Sydney and sessions showcasing innovative and wide-ranging Local Government initiatives.

Local Government Reconciliation Resource

WALGA has renewed its commitment to work with key partners to develop an online platform for a Local Government Reconciliation Framework. The platform will provide a resource hub to support Local Governments meet their reconciliation community engagement, statutory, legislative, policy and regulatory obligations. The project is being led by Reconciliation WA. Funding from LotteryWest is contingent on financial contributions from the project Working Group members, including WALGA, Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC), Department of Lands and Heritage (DPLH), and Department of Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC). The project is aiming to launch the online platform in May 2024 in Reconciliation Week. The platform will be tested and shared with WALGA members at the 2024 Aboriginal Forum.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

WALGA continues to work with members to identify and address challenges in the implementation of the amended Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act legislation. Feedback from the sector will inform discussions with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) regarding commitments to develop guidance and advisory materials for Local Government, including Regulation 10 applications, and the development of a waiver application for site investigation fees related to community projects that require a section 18 consent. WALGA is facilitating a roundtable discussion for the Gascoyne Zone with DPLH



on this matter with the intent to progressing implementation solutions applicable across the Local Government sector.

Early Years

WALGA provided an information webinar and panel membership for the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) grant program. The AEDC Grant program provides a one-off grant to help Local Governments implement projects aimed at improving the overall health and wellbeing of young children aged 0-5 years living in Western Australia.

WALGA has connected members who provide childcare services to information webinars regarding round three Attraction and Retention Packages for Regional Childcare Workers Grant program. The grant program provides up to \$25,000 per annum to regional Local Governments to fund initiatives that support the early childhood education and care workforce.



11.2 President's Report

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

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

11.3 CEO's Report

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

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

11.4 Ex Officio Reports

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

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

11.4.2 LG Professionals WA State President Mr Anthony Vuleta will provide the LG Professionals Report to the meeting.

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

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 held a Regional meeting, hosted by the City of Wanneroo on **Wednesday, 1 May 2024**.

14 CLOSURE



STATUS REPORT ON STATE COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

To the March 2024 State Council Meeting

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
6 December 2023 Item 7.1 2023 Annual General Meeting Resolutions	<p>That the following resolutions from the 2023 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the appropriate Policy Team for further work to be undertaken</p> <p>...</p> <p>5.1 Local Governments' representation at the State Administrative Tribunal relating to planning matters within its district <i>That WALGA lobby the State Government for legislative reform to enable Local Governments the automatic right to be a represented party at all State Administrative Tribunal hearings related to planning matters within its district.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 501.5/2023</p>	<p>This matter will be considered by the Environment Policy Team at its meeting on 16 February 2024.</p> <p>The WALGA Secretariat supports in principle the motion and recommended to the Policy Team that WALGA's DAP Advocacy Position be updated to reflect the intent of the AGM Motion.</p> <p>As the Policy Team meeting occurs after the distribution of the Agenda for the March State Council, the Policy Team will be considered by State Council at its May 2024 meeting.</p>		Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy
6 December 2023 Item 7.1 2023 Annual General Meeting Resolutions	<p>That the following resolutions from the 2023 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the appropriate Policy Team for further work to be undertaken</p> <p>...</p> <p>5.2 Land Use Policy <i>That WALGA establish and promote policies to protect and prioritise the preservation of agricultural land against its displacement by non-agricultural activities</i></p>	<p>This matter will be considered by the Environment Policy Team at its meeting on 16 February 2024.</p>		Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy



MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	<p><i>that lead to a net reduction of the State's productive agricultural land.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 501.5/2023</p>			
<p>6 December 2023 Item 7.1 2023 Annual General Meeting Resolutions</p>	<p>That the following resolutions from the 2023 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the appropriate Policy Team for further work to be undertaken</p> <p>...</p> <p>5.4 Regional and Remote Housing <i>That WALGA advocates to the WA State and Commonwealth Governments to address the dire shortage of affordable key worker family housing options in regional and remote towns to encourage families to live and work in regional and remote towns. Social housing is addressed at both the State and Federal levels.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 501.5/2023</p>	<p>WALGA housing advocacy ongoing.</p>		<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p>



<p>6 December 2023 Item 7.2 Advocacy Position – Crown Land and Management Order Administration – Land Administration Act 1997</p>	<p>That WALGA endorse the below Advocacy Position: <i>Crown Land and Management Order Administration - Land Administration Act 1997</i> WALGA advocates to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Apply the following principles when dealing with matters affecting Local Government's role in managing Crown land:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Local Government is an equal partner with State Government in managing, developing and administration of Crown land for community benefit.</i> b. <i>Local Government should be provided timely advice and consulted where State Government proposals impact management of or investment in Crown land.</i> c. <i>Ensure timely communication with Local Government where DPLH intends to challenge an intention to levy leasing or land use revenues under a power to lease arrangement.</i> d. <i>Decision-making criteria, policy and procedure transparency contributes to whole of government efficiency, effectiveness and accountability.</i> 2. <i>Publish the policies and procedures that underpin decision making regarding:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Establishing, varying or revoking management orders.</i> b. <i>Leasing Crown land or facilities, subject to a management order.</i> 	<p>This item was the subject of a resolution from the 2023 Annual General Meeting (which was noted by State Council in item 7.1 of the December 2023 Agenda).</p> <p>The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.</p> <p>Correspondence has been sent to the Director General of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage advising of State Council's resolution.</p>	<p>January 2024</p>	<p>Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services</p>
---	--	--	---------------------	--



MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>c. Decision review where a management body or proponent lessee is dissatisfied with a decision or process.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 502.5/2023</p>			
<p>6 December 2023 Item 7.3 Review of Public Open Space Advocacy Positions</p>	<p>That WALGA endorse:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the deletion of Advocacy Position 4.3 Water Management; 2. the deletion of Advocacy Position 4.4 Public Open Space; and 3. new Advocacy Position 6.11 Public Open Space as follows: <p><i>6.11 Public Open Space</i> <i>New subdivisions and developments should provide appropriate Public Open Space (POS) or POS contributions to provide environmental benefits and meet the needs of the community.</i> <i>The State Government should take a leadership role in the strategic planning of POS, in consultation with Local Government, including:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Reviewing the requirement for a minimum 10 per cent of all new residential land to be provided as POS to determine if this metric is still appropriate.</i> 2. <i>Developing a 10+ year regional level sporting facilities plan to identify and prioritise gaps in regional sporting facilities and acquire and fund regional</i> 	<p>The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.</p>	<p>January 2024</p>	<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p>



MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	<p><i>open spaces, specifically sporting facilities, in a timely manner to align with population growth.</i></p> <p>3. <i>Developing contemporary legislative and policy mechanisms to ensure that:</i></p> <p>a. <i>POS design and delivery:</i></p> <p>i. <i>appropriately allocates different POS uses and purposes, balancing environmental, recreational, sporting and community needs.</i></p> <p>ii. <i>does not have its use impeded by drainage and utilities facilities.</i></p> <p>iii. <i>is accessible and appropriately distributed.</i></p> <p>iv. <i>is cost effective to enable sustainable maintenance and replacement by Local Government.</i></p> <p>v. <i>is responsive to urban ecology, regional climatic conditions, and climate change.</i></p> <p>vi. <i>considers water requirements and availability as a priority, includes water sensitive urban design principles, and prioritises water allocations for the irrigation and maintenance of functional active recreational and sport facilities.</i></p>			



MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	<p><i>b. POS cash in lieu contributions are equitable, transparent, and simplified by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>i. streamlining the process to collect and expend cash in lieu contributions by delegating functions to Local Government.</i><i>ii. broadening how cash in lieu funds can be spent to include works beyond the current scope.</i><i>iii. allowing for the collection of cash in lieu contributions at development application stage and for all forms of subdivision, including two lot subdivisions or developments.</i><i>iv. investigating the option of a standard fixed rate contribution fee per lot or dwelling when contributions are intended for public open space upgrades.</i> <p><i>4. Providing guidance documents and support to assist Local Governments with their strategic POS planning.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 503.5/2023</p>			



MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
<p>6 December 2023 Item 7.4 2024 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members</p>	<p>That WALGA endorse the submission to the 2024 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 504.5/2023</p>	<p>WALGA's submission was provided to the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal (SAT) on 11 December 2023. Submissions to SAT close on 9 February 2024. SAT will likely publish its 2024-2025 determination in April 2024.</p>	<p>Complete</p>	<p>Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services</p>
<p>6 December 2023 Item 7.5 Household Hazardous Waste Policy Statement and Advocacy Position</p>	<p>That WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rescind the 2003 WALGA <i>Household Hazardous Waste Policy Statement</i> and Advocacy Position 7.10 Household Hazardous Waste; and 2. Endorse a new Household Hazardous Waste Policy Statement and Advocacy Position as follows: <p><i>7.10 Household Hazardous Waste</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) is a small but significant component of the waste stream which requires specialised management strategies to protect human health, property and the environment.</i> 2. <i>This requires:</i> 	<p>The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.</p>	<p>January 2024</p>	<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p>



MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	<p><i>a. Effective Product Stewardship for all HHW; and</i></p> <p><i>b. The maintenance and expansion of the HHW Program, funded by the State Government and Product Stewardship Schemes, to provide for the management of HHW collected from the community by Local Government.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 505.5/2023</p>			
<p>6 December 2023 Item 7.6 Waste Education Policy Statement and Advocacy Position</p>	<p>That WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rescind the existing WALGA <i>Waste Management Education Policy Statement 2008</i> and Advocacy Position 7.8 Waste Management Education; and 2. Endorse a revised WALGA Waste Education Policy Statement 2023 and Advocacy Position as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Waste education is essential part of waste management that empowers the community to engage in waste avoidance, reuse and recovery, and to use services correctly.</i> 2. <i>Effective waste education requires:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Consistent communications by all stakeholders to ensure messages are clear and the community has confidence in the information provided.</i> 	<p>The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.</p>	<p>January 2024</p>	<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p>



MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	<p>b. <i>A strategic and long-term investment from the State Government, with funding mechanisms in place to support and enable collaboration between Local Governments and Regional Councils.</i></p> <p>c. <i>Recognition of waste education in the definition of 'waste service' in the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007, in order to allow a charge for waste education as part of the waste service charge.</i></p> <p>d. <i>Identification of priority problematic materials within the waste stream and ongoing advocacy for evidence based alternative approaches.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 506.5/2023</p>			
<p>6 December 2023 Item 7.7 Submission E-Waste Landfill Ban Regulations</p>	<p>That WALGA endorse the Submission on the <i>Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (e-waste) Regulations 2023.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 507.5/2023</p>	<p>WALGA submission lodged on 6 December 2023.</p>	<p>December 2023</p>	<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p>



MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
6 December 2023 Item 7.8 Submission on Philanthropic Engagement Framework for Emergency Management	That WALGA endorse the submission to the State Emergency Management Committee on the Draft Philanthropic Engagement Framework for Emergency Management. RESOLUTION 508.5/2023	WALGA submission was provided to the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) on 8 December 2023.	December 2023	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy
6 December 2023 Item 7.9 Submission to the WA Action Plan for Young People Consultation Paper	That WALGA endorse the submission to the WA Action Plan for Young People Consultation Paper. RESOLUTION 509.5/2023	WALGA submission was provided to the Department of Communities on 8 December 2023.	December 2023	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy
6 December 2023 Item 7.10 Appointments to State Council Policy Teams and Committees	That the appointments of State Councillors to Policy Teams, the Finance and Services Committee and Committees as outlined in the Minutes be endorsed. RESOLUTION 510.5/2023	The appointments as endorsed have been actioned. A full list of State Council membership on Policy Teams and Committees can be found on the WALGA website here .	December 2023	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services



MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
6 December 2023 Item 7.11 Finance and Services Committee Minutes – 29 November 2023	That the Minutes of the Finance and Services Committee meeting held on 29 November 2023 be endorsed. RESOLUTION 511.5/2023	Action has been taken to implement the revised 2023-24 Budget.	December 2023	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
6 December 2023 Item 7.12 Selection Committee Flying Minute – 11 November 2023	That the resolutions contained in the 11 November 2023 Selection Committee Flying Minute be endorsed. RESOLUTION 512.5/2023	The appointments have been actioned.	Complete	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
6 December 2023 Item 8.2 Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team Report	That State Council: 1. Retain Advocacy Position “2.5.22 Re-counts”, with the following amendment: <i>The Local Government sector supports the introduction of standard processes for vote re-counts if there is a very small margin (e.g., 10 or fewer votes) between candidates, inclusive of Regulations that specify the circumstances in which the Returning Officer must arrange for some or all of the votes to be re-counted.</i> 2. Delete Advocacy Positions: (a) 2.5.2 No Wards for Band 3 and 4 Councils	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.	January 2024	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services



MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	<p>(b) 2.5.5 Tiered Limits on the Number of Councillors</p> <p>(c) 2.5.14 Tender Exemption General Practitioner Services</p> <p>(d) 2.5.21 Candidate Profiles</p> <p>(e) 2.5.23 Electoral Rolls</p> <p>(f) 2.5.24 Standardised Election Caretaker Period</p> <p>(g) 2.5.27 Recording Votes in Council Minutes</p> <p>(h) 2.5.31 Special Electors' Meeting</p> <p>3. Notes the Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team's consideration of the following:</p> <p>(a) Performance of the Auditor General – Audit Experience Survey Results</p> <p>(b) Optional Preferential Voting – Cost to Local Government</p> <p>RESOLUTION 516.5/2023</p>			



MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
6 December 2023 Item 8.4 People and Place Policy Team Report	That State Council: 1. note the matters considered by the Policy Team; and 2. rescind Advocacy Positions: a. 6.10 Town Planning and Alcohol Outlets; b. 6.12 Affordable Housing; c. 6.13 Senior Housing Strategy; d. 6.14 Capital City Planning Framework; and e. 6.15 Built Heritage. RESOLUTION 518.5/2023	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.	January 2024	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy
16 October 2023 Flying Minute 2024-25 State Budget Submission	That WALGA's 2024-25 State Budget Submission be endorsed. RESOLUTION 237.FM/2023	Confirmed (RESOLUTION 500.5/2023) and noted (RESOLUTION 520.5/2023) by State Council at the 6 December 2023 meeting. WALGA submission sent to Ministers, Opposition, Government Agencies and key stakeholders. Advocacy on budget initiatives ongoing.	Completed	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy
12 October 2023 Flying Minute Submission on Asbestos	That the Asbestos National Strategic Plan: Phase Three 2024-2030 submission be endorsed. RESOLUTION 236.FM/2023	Confirmed (RESOLUTION 500.5/2023) and noted (RESOLUTION 520.5/2023) by State Council at the 6 December 2023 meeting.	October 2023	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy



MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
National Strategic Plan		WALGA submission lodged 13 October 2023.		
12 October 2023 Flying Minute Draft Code of Practice for Onsite Wastewater Disposal	That the Draft Code of Practice for On-site Wastewater Disposal in Western Australia 2023 submission be endorsed. RESOLUTION 235.FM/2023	Confirmed (RESOLUTION 500.5/2023) and noted (RESOLUTION 520.5/2023) by State Council at the 6 December 2023 meeting. WALGA submission lodged 16 October 2023.	October 2023	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy
26 September 2023 Flying Minute Aboriginal Heritage Legislation Amendment and Repeal Bill, Regulations, Consultation Policy and Section 18 Guideline – Submission to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage	That State Council: 1. Endorse the draft submission to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage; and 2. Note that WALGA is seeking legal advice on amendments to the Fees Regulations required to give effect to an exemption for Local Government from per site investigation fees, and that this will be included as a recommendation in the submission. RESOLUTION 234.FM/2023	Confirmed (RESOLUTION 500.5/2023) and noted (RESOLUTION 520.5/2023) by State Council at the 6 December 2023 meeting. WALGA submission sent to the Department for Planning, Lands and Heritage on 26 September 2023.	September 2023	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy



MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
21 September 2023 Flying Minute Submission on the Exposure Draft of the Recycling and Waste Reduction (Export - Paper and Cardboard) Rules 2023	That the Submission on the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)'s Exposure Draft of the Recycling and Waste Reduction (Export - Paper and Cardboard) Rules 2023 be endorsed. RESOLUTION 233.FM/2023	Confirmed (RESOLUTION 500.5/2023) and noted (RESOLUTION 520.5/2023) by State Council at the 6 December 2023 meeting. Submission lodged 22 September 2023.	September 2023	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy
21 August 2023 Flying Minute Draft Operational Policy 2.3 Planning for Public Open Space	That the submission on Draft Operation Policy 2.3 Planning for Public Open Space to Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage be endorsed. RESOLUTION 232.FM/2023	Confirmed (RESOLUTION 500.5/2023) and noted (RESOLUTION 520.5/2023) by State Council at the 6 December 2023 meeting. WALGA submission sent to the Department for Planning, Lands and Heritage on 23 August 2023	August 2023	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy
17 August 2023 Flying Minute Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding	That WALGA's submission to the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding be endorsed. RESOLUTION 231.FM/2023	Confirmed (RESOLUTION 500.5/2023) and noted (RESOLUTION 520.5/2023) by State Council at the 6 December 2023 meeting. Submission lodged on 18 August 2023.	August 2023	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy



MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE



<p>16 August 2023 Flying Minute Objection to the 2023 WA Electoral Distribution Commission Proposed Boundaries</p>	<p>That the objection to the 2023 Western Australian Distribution Commission's proposed boundaries be endorsed.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 230.FM/2023</p>	<p>WALGA's objection to the proposed State election boundaries was submitted to the WA Electoral Commission on 21 August.</p> <p>The final boundaries were published by the Commission in December 2023. In the report, the Commissioners acknowledged the concerns raised in many of the submission received (including that of WALGA) as to the impacts of abolishing a non-metropolitan electoral district. Nevertheless, the final boundaries include an amalgamation of two non-metropolitan districts (North West Central and Moore) into a single district (Mid-West), to enable the creation of a new metropolitan district in Perth's outer metropolitan growth area.</p> <p>The Final Report can be found here.</p> <p>Confirmed (RESOLUTION 500.5/2023) and noted (RESOLUTION 520.5/2023) by State Council at the 6 December 2023 meeting.</p>	<p>Complete</p>	<p>Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services</p>
---	---	---	-----------------	--



MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
11 August 2023 Flying Minute Submission to the Review of the Main Roads Pedestrian Crossing Facilities Guidelines	That State Council note: 1. the new Advocacy Position regarding the design and implementation of pedestrian crossings; and 2. the submission to Main Roads WA on the draft Pedestrian Crossing Facilities Guidelines as endorsed by State Council via Flying Minute. RESOLUTION 229.FM/2023	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated. Confirmed (RESOLUTION 500.5/2023) and noted (RESOLUTION 520.5/2023) by State Council at the 6 December 2023 meeting.	January 2024	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure
13 September 2023 Item 7.2 Advocacy Position on Road Works during Total Fire Ban	That WALGA endorse the following principles in relation to the exemptions and conditions under which road works may be undertaken during a Total Fire Ban: 1. Road Activity Tiers: That there be a tiered risk approach for road work activities and associated controls, based on the proposed activities and fire danger forecast. 2. Local Government operations: That any controls specified in regulations to provide effective risk mitigation and response be able to be implemented within the works crew deployed for the task. 3. Reduce Red Tape: That the processes where repeated notification to DFES for the same task at the same location is required be streamlined. RESOLUTION 485.4/2023	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated to insert new advocacy position 5.2.12 Road Works during Total Fire Ban. Feedback is now being sought from stakeholders on a proposal to remove most of the regulations concerning roadworks during Total Fire Bans, retaining: 1. 'road work' as a prescribed activity (r.24Y) meaning that Local Governments can do work during a Total Fire Ban; 2. Requirement to stop all road works if there is both a Total Fire Ban and Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating (r.24ZA); and 3. Notify DFES of the work (r.24ZB)	June 2024	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure



MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
		<p>The onus falls on the Local Government to ensure fire safety provisions based on the work area and work activities are sufficient to prevent a fire during a Total Fire Ban.</p> <p>The Association is investigating templates or better practice models in Local Governments that could be shared to support decision making by Local Government officers.</p> <p>It is likely that the existing regulations remain in place for the 2023/24 fire season.</p>		
<p>1 March 2023 Item 7.4 Submission on Draft Guideline Minimising Noise Impact from Outdoor Community Basketball Facilities</p>	<p>That WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Note that the Environment Minister has withdrawn the Draft Guideline: Minimising noise impact from outdoor community basketball. Write to the Ministers for Environment, Local Government, Sport and Planning requesting the formation of a cross Government working group, including relevant representative bodies, to consider and develop solutions to balance urban density and infill, public recreation and noise management. <p>RESOLUTION 422.1/2023</p>	<p>Correspondence sent and issue raised with the Minister's office on multiple occasions. WALGA will continue to pursue a response.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p>



MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
<p>7 December 2022 Item 5.1 2022 Annual General Meeting Resolutions</p>	<p>The following resolutions from the 2022 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the relevant Policy Team for further work to be undertaken: ...</p> <p>3.1 Road Traffic Issues <i>That WALGA advocate on behalf of the local government sector to the State Government and in particular, Main Roads, to increase importance and weight given to local knowledge and input regarding road traffic issues including requests for speed reduction, intersection treatments and overall preventative and traffic safety measures.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 394.8/2022</p>	<p>The Infrastructure Policy Team resolved: <i>That efforts to increase the importance given to Local Government knowledge regarding traffic issues be deferred for consideration in mid-2023 after a clear Local Government advocacy position on speed management is developed and endorsed.</i></p> <p>This matter is central to the new Speed Management Policy adopted by State Council in May 2023. Implementation strategy being considered.</p>	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure
<p>7 December 2022 Item 5.1 2022 Annual General Meeting Resolutions</p>	<p>The following resolutions from the 2022 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the relevant Policy Team for further work to be undertaken: ...</p> <p>3.2 Car Parking and Traffic Congestion Around Schools <i>That WALGA engages with the State Government on behalf of Local Government to review issues</i></p>	<p>The Infrastructure Policy Team resolved: <i>That WALGA uses its role at the Safe Active Travel to School Working Group to advocate for these outcomes and provide advice back to the Local Government sector.</i></p>	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure



MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	<p><i>associated with car parking and traffic congestion around school sites including but not limited to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Reviewing car parking standards for schools;</i> <i>2. Ensuring sufficient land is set aside for the provision of parking on school sites;</i> <i>3. Reviewing the co-location of schools to avoid issues being exacerbated;</i> <i>4. Restricting school access from major roads;</i> <i>5. Developing plans to enable schools to manage school traffic;</i> <i>6. Develop programs to educate drivers; and</i> <i>7. Develop options and implement initiatives to encourage alternative modes of transport to school.</i> <p>RESOLUTION 394.8/2022</p>			
<p>7 December 2022 Item 5.1 2022 Annual General Meeting Resolutions</p>	<p>The following resolutions from the 2022 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the relevant Policy Team for further work to be undertaken:</p> <p>3.3 Proposal for Regional Road Maintenance Contracts with Main Roads WA <i>That WALGA assist Local Governments and work with the Hon Minister Rita Saffioti to introduce a similar program that is currently in play in Queensland and introduce a sole invitee Program for Local Governments to engage in a Road Maintenance Performance Contract with Main Roads WA.</i></p>	<p>The Infrastructure Policy Team resolved: <i>That the opportunities and interest in contracting Local Governments to undertake maintenance and minor works on the State road network be explored in discussion with Main Roads WA.</i></p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure</p>



MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	RESOLUTION 394.8/2022			
7 December 2022 Item 5.1 2022 Annual General Meeting Resolutions	The following resolutions from the 2022 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the relevant Policy Team for further work to be undertaken: ... 3.4 Northern Australia Beef Roads Program <i>That WALGA work with the Hon Madeleine King MP Minister for Resources and Minister for Northern Australia to make Beef Road Funding available to all Australian Local Governments north and south, or establish a Southern Australia Beef Road Funding Program to allow for equitable support across Australia's beef and agriculture industries.</i> RESOLUTION 394.8/2022		Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure
1 December 2021 Item 5.3 2021 Annual General Meeting	That the following resolutions from the 2021 WALGA Annual General Meeting be endorsed for action: Cost of Regional Development <i>That WALGA makes urgent representation to the State Government to address the high cost of development in regional areas for both residential and industrial land, including the prohibitive cost of utilities headworks, which has led to market failure in many regional towns.</i> ... RESOLUTION 294.7/2021	In March the State Government announced the establishment of a new Infrastructure Development Fund that includes a stream to support the delivery of regional worker accommodation with applications open until September 2024. This is an infrastructure investment program to address infrastructure constraints in the water, wastewater and electricity network at a precinct or strategic site scale impacting the delivery of	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure



MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
		regional worker accommodation. Full details can be found here .		
3 September 2021 Item 6.1 Stop Puppy Farming Legislation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the update on the Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill 2021 be noted. 2. That: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. any additional costs incurred by a Local Government in administering the Dog Act be paid by the State Government; and b. the Fees and Charges set in Regulations are reviewed bi-annually and at minimum, be adjusted by the Local Government Cost Index. <p>RESOLUTION 275.5/2021</p>	<p>The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries recently released a consultation paper in August 2023, seeking Local Government feedback on the formulation of regulations relating to the Stop Puppy Farming amendments to the Dog Act 1976.</p> <p>The feedback from Local Government will inform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of draft regulations; • Specifications and functionality of the centralised dog and cat registration system (CRS); and • Resources needed by local government to implement and enforce the legislative requirements of the Stop Puppy Farming legislations. <p>The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural</p>	Ongoing	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services



MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
		<p>Industries has also engaged consultants to review the fees and charges that Local Governments can apply.</p> <p>Consultation is about to commence with the sector and the public on the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• seek input on whether full cost recovery of the cost of the new Centralised Registration System (CRS) would have undesirable impacts• confirm or refine time and cost estimates, and• identify if there are specific groups in the community or circumstances that would justify lower fees. <p>This stakeholder consultation period will run for a period of five weeks will close on Friday, 8 March 2024.</p> <p>When this work is complete a further update will be provided.</p>		