

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Name	WA Regional Cities Alliance (WARCA)	Meeting No.	10
Meeting Date	17 February 2012		
Meeting Time	10.30am to 12.30pm		
Meeting Location	Hosted by Department of Local Government Room 2.17 at 2 nd Floor 140 William Street, Perth		
Attendees	<p>City of Greater Geraldton Mayor I Carpenter Tony Brun, CEO</p> <p>City of Bunbury Mayor David Smith (arrived at 11:50) Andrew Brien, CEO</p> <p>City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder Mayor Ron Yuryevich Don Burnett, CEO</p> <p>City of Albany Mayor Dennis Wellington Faileen James, CEO</p> <p>Shire of Roebourne Colleene Longmore, CEO (arrived at 11:05 / departed at 11:40)</p> <p>Town of Port Hedland Paul Martin, CEO (arrived at 10:50am)</p>		
Attending Observers	Attendance at 12:00-12:30 by: Mike Rowe - RDL Ricky Arnold - DCA	Guest/Invitee Apologies	Shire of Broome President Graeme Campbell Ken Donohoe, CEO
	Attendance at 10:30 Matthew Tonts of UWA		Town of Port Hedland Mayor Kelly Howlett
		Distribution	Shire of Roebourne President Fiona White-Hartig
			as above

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

RECOMMENDATION

That WARCA Resolves that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 11 November 2011, as previously circulated, be adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings (as attached).

MOTION

That WARCA Resolves that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 11 November 2011, as previously circulated, be adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings (as attached).

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

2. Review Status of Actions from Previous Minutes

Action List – see Attachment 1

3. UWA/WARCA Partnership

Attendance at 12:00-12:30 by:

- ***Matthew Tonts of UWA AT 10:30AM***

BACKGROUND

There has been continued progress in developing the UWA/WARCA Partnership. A global search for a new Winthrop Professor of Regional Cities has been undertaken. An extensive list of applications was received and an assessment and interview process is currently underway. WARCA is represented on the UWA selection panel through Tony Brun. It is anticipated interviews will occur in mid-March and positions finalised and appointed ready for commencement by June/July.

In preparing a framework for the Partnership to commence with a prioritising listing of research areas has been developed by Prof Matthew Tonts following a survey and consultation process with the CEO individually.

The priority list will be distributed directly.

RECOMMENDATION

For noting

ACTION

Prof Matthew Tonts to prepare a scoping brief / proposal paper for consideration within the next month (out of session via email) detailing priority initiatives

Agreed that Demographic analysis & modelling as an integrated proposal

Demographic analysis & modelling
• <i>Population planning and demographic analysis</i>
• <i>Review of ABS and DoP/WAPC population modeling and estimates</i>
• <i>Population-economic-social linkages modeling to define service needs</i>

Also to include:

- *Identifying rapid growth implication and linkages to State services (ie health, education and Law/Order)*

4. Membership

BACKGROUND

At the November meeting the following resolution was adopted:

MOTION:

That WARCA Resolves to:

1. *hold our current membership as is for the time being, and agree to review after 12 months but before 2 years; and*

2. *that Shire of Broome would prepare a paper for the February meeting for consideration.*

Moved Graeme Campbell seconded Dennis Wellington

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

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

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

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

The draft outcome of the day included the following statements:

REGIONAL CAPITALS AUSTRALIA

Vision

A well planned network of sustainable regional capitals across Australia

Mission

Partnering with and influencing the Australian Government decisions, policies, strategies and investments

Objectives

- *Provide high level strategic advice on issues, trends and other developments affecting Regional Capitals Australia (RCA) to inform the Australian Government response;*
- *Inform the Australian Government on policy, planning and investment decisions as they relate to regional capitals;*
- *Plan for future growth and sustainable development of regional capitals as a critical element of the national framework;*
- *Identify opportunities and impediments to the sustainable development of regional capitals and develop innovative solutions to manage them;*
- *Advocate and bring a strategic focus to Australian Government that have policies and associated strategies to develop regional capitals;*
- *Advocate for appropriate federal funding for investment in the services and infrastructure in regional capitals*

Of particular interest to WARCA members may be the recommendation to adopt the 'capitals' titles as opposed to 'city'. This was a deliberately chosen word to address potential confusion over membership and focus of the future alliance. The intent of the Regional Capitals name is to create a specific differentiation which is based on status (e.g. Shire, Town or City) and population which currently problems for Western Australian cities as the Commonwealth Government uses the 100,000 population threshold – thereby excluding all WA regional centres.

This naming format was put forward to Ian Fletcher as Chairman of the Regional development Council. He noted that from an RDC and royalties point of view the intention

was to differentiate, empower and consider the regional centres, much in the mould of the major centres in Queensland.

The proposal put forward for consideration is that to create greater certainty that the current name of WA Regional Cities Alliance be changed to WA Regional Capitals Alliance. The concept would have minimal cost impact with minor branding and website changes. As the group is not formally constituted there are no other legal implications.

RECOMMENDATION

Part A

That WARCA Resolves to:-

1. Amend its name from the Western Australian Regional Cities Alliance to the Western Australian Regional Capitals Alliance.

Part B

That WARCA Resolves to:-

1. Note the draft Regional Capitals Australia statement of vision, mission and objectives; and
2. Continue working with other state based regional associations of regional centres to progress a national alliance.

MOTION

Part A

That WARCA Resolves to:-

1. **Amend its name from the Western Australian Regional Cities Alliance to the Western Australian Regional Capitals Alliance.**

Part B

That WARCA Resolves to:-

1. **Note the draft Regional Capitals Australia statement of vision, mission and objectives; and**
2. **Continue working with other state based regional associations of regional centres to progress a national alliance.**

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

5. Annual Carry Over Funds

BACKGROUND

Members may recall that the following resolution was adopted on the 19th October 2010:

The Alliance resolves to allocate unspent funds at the end of each financial year in a Trust which will be held and managed by the Secretariat Local Government.

The intent of this resolution enabled to gradual creation of a fund to tackle larger issues over time through the collection of all unspent allocations in annual WARCA budgeted amounts.

An issue has arisen which requires clarification and direction from the membership. The City of Albany on the 13th December 2011 adopted the following motion.

That Council establish a Regional Cities Alliance Reserves Account and AGREE to transfer unspent funds allocated to the City's ongoing membership of the Regional Cities Alliance to this RESERVE at the end of each financial year

To date only Greater Geraldton and Kalgoorlie-Boulder have contributed their funding portions at the end of the financial year for 200/12.

The funds are retained and managed, on behalf of WARCA, by the secretariat local government, currently the City of Greater Geraldton.

The decision by Albany creates a differentiation and inconsistency between approaches by members and this has the consequence of unduly impacting on those that do carry forward funds.

It is recommended that a new approach be adopted by all members that is consistent with Albany's.

RECOMMENDATION

That WARCA Resolves to:-

1. no longer require members to transfer unspent WARCA Related Budget Allocations to a central account; and
2. support the return of funds previously transferred by the City of Grater Geraldton and City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

MOTION

Recommendation not supported

General discussion related to concerns at the need for centralised funding. This could be resolved through a formal annual membership payment and invoiced at the start of the year.

It was noted that such a service would likely cost in the order of \$18,000 per member.

MOTION

That WARCA Resolve to investigate with the intention of urgently implementing:-

1. **an annual membership fee model for consideration for 2012/13 onwards to be paid at the start of the financial year;**
2. **a WARCA bank account and finances; and**
3. **an external contract secretariat tasked with managing finances and project support/management**

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

ACTION

Tony Brun to draft a brief to secure a project support capacity until such time external funding is secured to implement the full secretariat service.

6. Promoting Regional Living Program Application

BACKGROUND

The Commonwealth Government has announced a [Promoting Regional Living](#) program with \$10.5M funding allocation.

The stated aim of the program is as follows:-

The Promoting Regional Living program will build on the success of the Evocities initiative. It will provide funding over a three-year period to support regional cities and towns in implementing targeted marketing strategies that promote the benefits and opportunities of living and working in those regions.

The growth of our regional cities and towns over the past decade has led to the growth in amenities and services as well as opportunities for a range of lifestyles and opportunities for economic growth. This program will raise awareness among residents of our major capitals of the benefits of living, working and studying in regional cities and towns.

The Promoting Regional Living program is designed to assist regional cities and towns to promote themselves to the broader Australian community as vibrant places to live and work, offering a range of economic opportunities and a great standard of living. The program will target regional cities and towns that have strategies in place for future growth needs.

To date the program has not been formally opened for submissions.

At the WARCA CEO's operational meeting held on the 19th January 2012 it was agreed that the City of Greater Geraldton would take the lead in making a submission, when applications open and that each local government would contribute up to \$2,000 each towards appointing a consultant to develop the brief and submission. The submission will be based on developing a Western Australian focus and seeking to develop a WA delivery of the project. It will also focus on attracting regional investment as opposed to purely regional living/migration, in recognition that all members are in a position to cater for relocation of people.

RECOMMENDATION

For noting

7. Progress on R4R Funding

BACKGROUND

Applications have been submitted to the Royalties for Regions Strategic Regional Funding initiative. These include:

1. **WARCA Secretariat** based on a grant of \$250,000 over 4 years with matching funds of \$250,000 over the same period by WARCA members (or equating around \$9,000 per member per annum);
2. **Growth Plans incorporating Local Planning Strategy and new Contemporary Performance Based Town Planning Scheme** based on a grant of \$4m over 3 years with a matching contribution of \$3.3M by the participating members over that period;
3. **UWA/WARCA Research Alliance** based on a grant of \$1.2m matching the existing \$1.5m joint UWA/WARCA allocation (e.g. no additional funds required).

Copies of the relevant application have been attached for reference.

No advice has been provided by Department of Regional Development and Lands or the regional development Council other than that the submissions are all being reviewed and a decision will be forthcoming. No date or timeframe has been provided.

RECOMMENDATION

For noting

ACTION

Tony Brun to send letter to the Premier and Minister for Regional Development & Lands and Minister for Local Government seeking their urgent consideration to set aside funds in the 2012/13 Budget & Forward Estimates to deliver projects listed above as being critical to the future successful outcomes of WARCA.

8. Regional Cultural & Arts Facilities

Attendance at 12:00-12:30 by:

- **Mike Rowe of Department Regional Development & Lands**
- **Ricky Arnold of Department and Culture & Arts**

BACKGROUND

All members have been working towards providing information on their various regional (as opposed to local) facilities such as Art Galleries, Performing Theatres and Museums.

A summary has been undertaken by the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder. This has been attached for reference.

Discussions have been held with Department of Arts & Culture and department of regional Development and Lands with their stated aim of preparing a joint Minister Day and Minister Grylls cabinet paper for consideration on this matter, seeking to define a common policy position on behalf of the State.

Key outcomes of this initiative include focusing on achieving lifestyle improvements and equivalence to Perth.

Options for consideration of reviewing levels of responsibility:

- Local government – local community and catchment need
- State Government / consolidated revenue - Regional need
- State Government / Royalties for region - Perth equivalence

Key issues include developing a consistent standard to apply to all cities and a framework for the development/enhance of facilities and the maintenance/operating of facilities

RECOMMENDATION

For noting

MOTION

That WARCA Resolves to:-

1. **Work with the Minister for Regional development & Lands and the Minister for Arts to develop a collaborative approach to arts and culture facilities in regional WA;**
2. **Request the Government to fund the appropriate metropolitan equivalent art & culture facilities and services (including art galleries, museums and performing theatres) in all the Regional Centres and**
3. **Release media statements and advice to the above.**

ACTION

Tony Brun to set up a meeting with the Chief of Staff to Minister for Arts and also Director General of Department Culture & Arts to discuss the current draft “WA Cultural Infrastructure Directions” policy framework.

9. Regional “shared services” models i.e. ICT, payroll – F James

For discussion at the meeting

ACTION

Paul Martin and Don Burnett to distribute their KPMG Report on regional service delivery.

MOTION

That WARCA Resolves to:-

1. **Take this matter off the WARCA agenda.**
2. **Future consideration to be through WARCA CEO’s group or by officers**

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

10. Urgent Business

11. Date of Next Meeting

Schedule of Meetings

Date	Venue
2012	
April	To be determined if required
June	Canberra - National General Assembly – Sunday 17 June to Wednesday 20 June 2012 The Theme for 2012 NGA is ‘National Voice, Local Choice – Infrastructure, Planning, Services’
August	Perth – WALGA Conference – 1 August - AGM in the afternoon Official Opening of Exhibition 1 August – in the evening Conference Sessions run on 2 and 3 August . Wednesday 1 there will be a Political Forum which will involve Presidents and CEOs.
November	To be determined

12. CLOSURE

Chairman offered his thanks and appreciation to the Department of Local Government for facilitating the meeting room and catering.

MEETING CLOSED AT 12:15PM

13. POST MEETING WORKSHOP

A strategic planning workshop, facilitated by John Barrington & Associates was held between 1:00pm and 3:00pm.

Appendix 1 – Action List

Date Initiated	Action	Responsible	Updates	Status (in progress; pending; complete)
05-08-10	Pilbara Cities CGG to invite Chris Adams (Director Pilbara Cities Program) to attend future meetings of WARCA.	T Brun	Reissue invite to attend meeting in Bunbury on 11/11/11 Was invited to CEO's meeting	In Progress
19-10-10	RESOLUTION: <i>The Alliance resolves to allocate unspent funds at the end of each financial year in a Trust which will be held and managed by the Secretariat Local Government.</i>	All	Updated 2/2/11 All Member CEOs to provide an estimate of their unspent allocation to Tony Brun by 20 May so that an invoice can be sent.	In progress
02-02-11	CGG to send letters to the following Ministers requesting meetings in conjunction with ACLG in Canberra: Prime Minister Hon Gary Gray Special Minister of State; Special Minister of State for the Public Service and Integrity Hon A Albanese Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Leader of the House Hon S Crean Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government Minister for the Arts, Hon Tony Burke Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities	T Brun	Requests for meetings at the ACLG conference are being sent to the Prime Minister and Ministers noted	ONGOING
17-02-12	Set up a meeting with the Chief of Staff to Minister for Arts and also Director General of Department Culture & Arts to discuss the current draft "WA Cultural Infrastructure Directions" policy framework.	Tony Brun		
17-02-12	Draft a brief to secure a project support capacity until such time external funding is secured to implement the full secretariat	Tony Brun		

Date Initiated	Action	Responsible	Updates	Status (<i>in progress;</i> <i>pending;</i> <i>complete</i>)
	service.			
17-02-12	Kalgoorlie-Boulder and Pilbara Group to distribute their KPMG Report on regional service delivery.	Paul Martin & Don Burnett		