

ELECTED MEMBER PROSPECTUS



Guide to becoming a Zone Delegate or WALGA State Councillor – 2025



THE VOICE OF WA LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) is an independent, member-based, not-for-profit organisation representing and supporting the WA Local Government sector. Our membership includes all 139 Local Governments in the State.

Consider nominating for a position on the Zone or State Council and play a role in shaping policy and advocacy on behalf of Local Government in Western Australia.

OUR FOCUS AREAS



Climate resilience



Disaster readiness



Low carbon



High quality
Infrastructure



Diversity, equity
and inclusion



Appropriately resourced and
flexible Local Government

WHAT DOES WALGA DO?

Influence

- **Advocacy:** Lead advocacy and engagement on issues important to Local Government.
- WALGA acts as a single point of contact for the Local Government sector.
- WALGA facilitates connections with Local Government leaders and stakeholders from all regions across WA.
- WALGA represents every Local Government across WA to ensure local communities are heard and considered in policy-making processes.
- **Events:** WALGA events provide a platform to engage with Local Government representatives, industry stakeholders, and experts to discuss key issues, share knowledge, and foster collaboration.

Support

- **Specialist Support Services:** Providing vital support to Local Government in areas such as governance, employee relations and procurement.
- **Training:** WALGA is a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) offering a range of professional development courses that provide the essential knowledge and skills the Local Government sector requires.
- **Collaboration:** Facilitating partnerships and knowledge-sharing among Local Governments to promote best practice and innovative solutions.
- **Preferred Supplier Program:** Offering access to prequalified suppliers, simplifying procurement for Local Government.

Expertise

- **Policy development:** WALGA has one of the largest policy teams outside of Government, with expertise across planning, environment and waste, economics, community and social policy, emergency management, and governance.
- Our collaborative, evidence-based policy positions aim to deliver positive outcomes that meet community needs.
- **Data and insights:** WALGA collects data covering various aspects of Local Government operations, which can provide valuable insights and analysis to inform policy development and program planning.
- **Program support:** WALGA has a long history in the delivery and administration of grant programs on behalf of Government to ensure the smooth delivery of priority programs and initiatives at a community level.

HOW IS WALGA FUNDED?

A number of components contribute to the WALGA operational budget.

As with most member-based organisations, WALGA has an annual membership fee paid by all Member Local Governments.

WALGA secures additional funding through charges to State and Federal departments and agencies for the administration of grants, fee-for-services selected for use by Members, and returns from supplier contracts as part of group buying arrangement that guarantees lowest market rates for Members.

ZONES

The relationship between State Council and Zones is critical as it underpins WALGA's advocacy on behalf of Local Government at the State and Federal Government levels. Zones have an integral role in shaping the political and strategic direction of WALGA.

Not only are Zones responsible for bringing relevant local and regional issues to the State Council table, but they are also a key player in developing policy and legislative initiatives for Local Government in WA.

ROLE OF ZONES

The key functions of Zones are to:

- elect one or more State Councillor;
- consider the State Council Agenda; and
- provide direction and feedback to their State Councillor.

Additional activities undertaken by Zones may include:

- developing and advocating positions on regional issues affecting Local Government;
- progressing regional Local Government initiatives;
- initiating regional projects relating to the Zone;
- identifying relevant issues for action by WALGA;
- networking and information sharing; and
- contributing to policy development through policy forums and other channels.

Zones provide input into State Council's policy and advocacy efforts in two critical ways:

1. passing resolutions on items contained in the State Council Agenda; and
2. passing resolutions requesting that WALGA act on a particular state-wide issue.

ROLE OF A ZONE DELEGATE

Zone Delegates are appointed to represent their Local Government on the Zone and make decisions at the regional level. Each Zone is an autonomous body with the functions set out in WALGA's Constitution. Zones are responsible for deciding how many Delegates will represent each member Local Government, and for electing a Zone Chair and Deputy Chair.

As their Local Government's representative, a Zone Delegate should give regard to their Council's positions on policy issues. There is also an expectation that Zone Delegates will report decisions made by the Zone back to their Local Government.

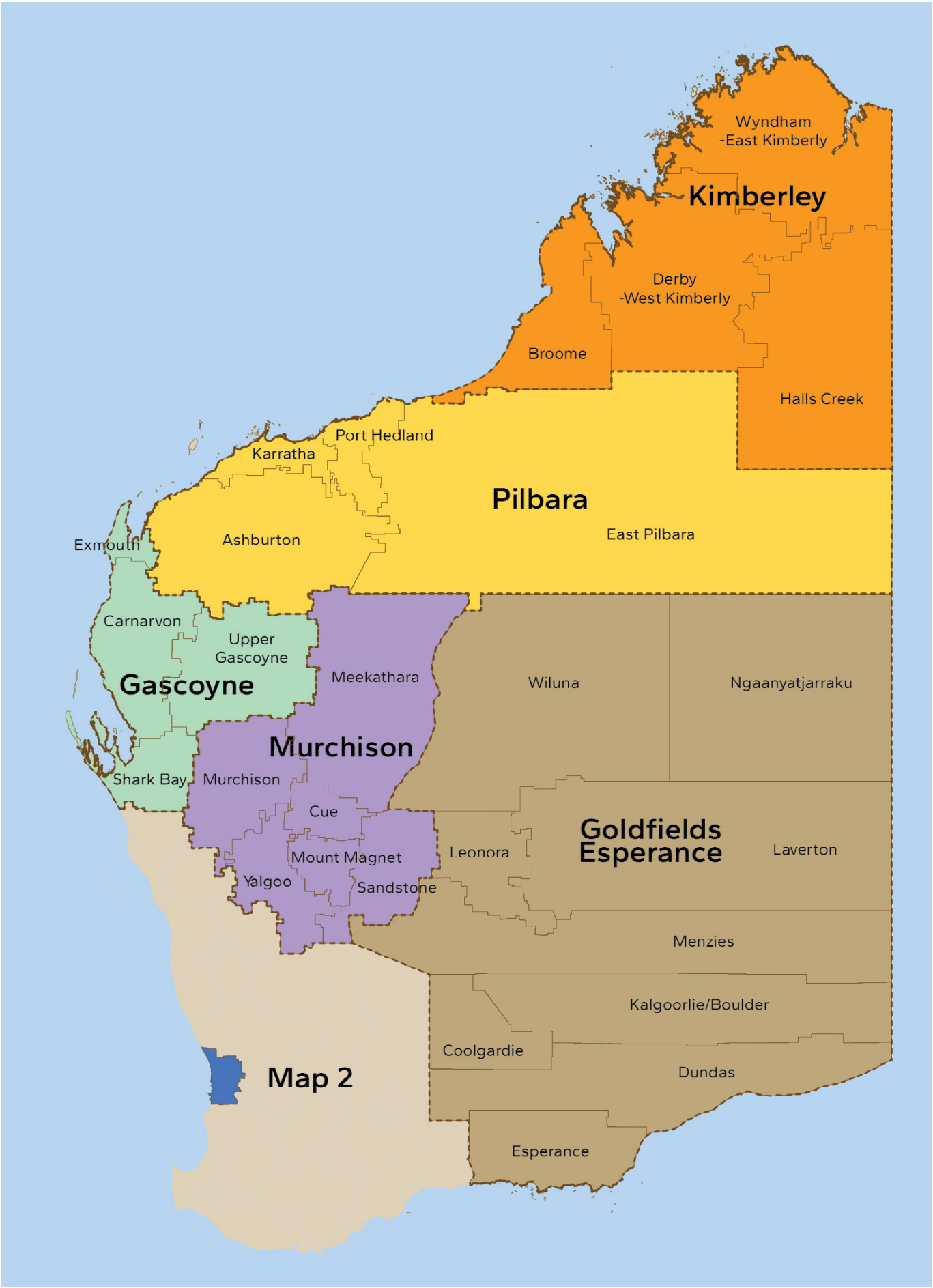
Zones generally meet five times per year in February, April, June, August and November. The day and time of meetings are determined by the Zone. The length of meetings differs between Zones but generally take two to four hours.

Approximate time commitment per year (excluding travel time):

MEETINGS	10 - 20 hours
PREPARATION	Five hours

ZONE MAP 1

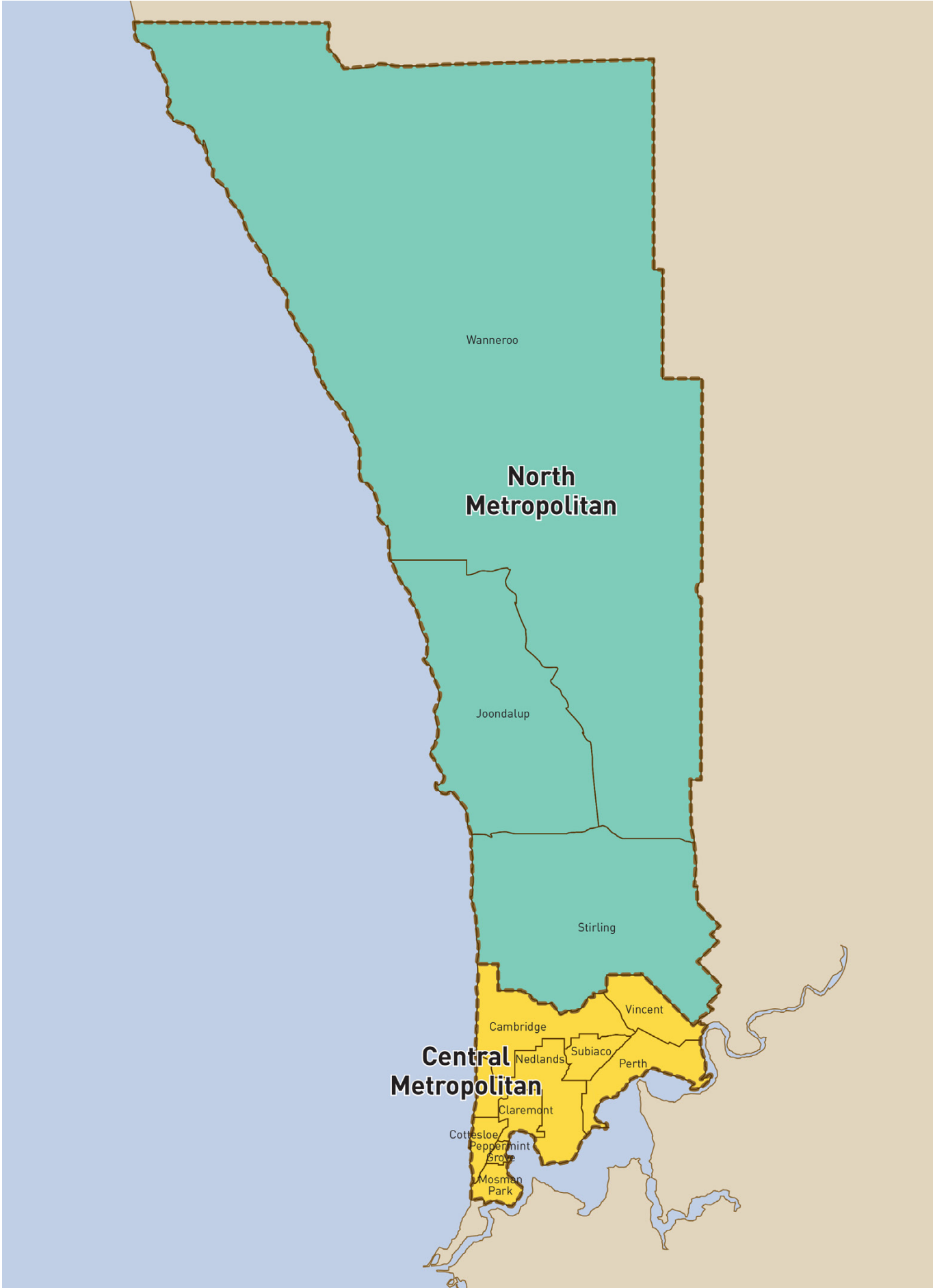
Zone maps are available on walga.asn.au/who-we-are/corporate-governance/zones



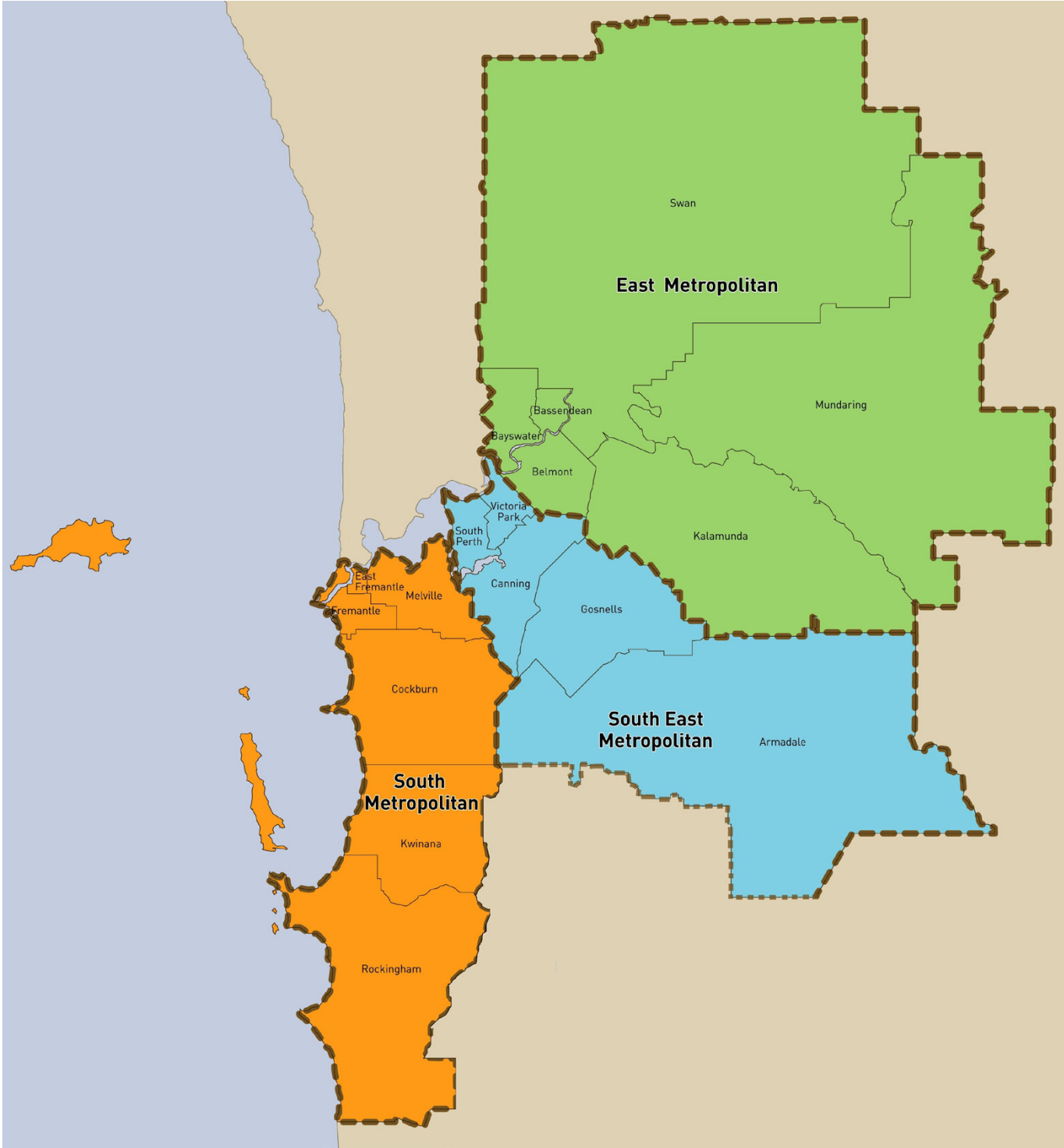
ZONE MAP 2



ZONE MAP 3



ZONE MAP 4



STATE COUNCIL

WALGA's State Council is the decision-making representative body of all 139 Member Local Governments and is responsible for sector-wide policy making and strategic planning.

WALGA is governed by a President and State Council, consisting of 24 State Councillors – 12 from Country constituencies and 12 from Metropolitan constituencies.

Each State Councillor is elected by and from a Zone.



ROLE OF STATE COUNCIL

State Council's primary role is to govern the successful operation of WALGA and broadly includes:

- strategy formulation and policy-making;
- development, evaluation and succession of the CEO;
- monitoring financial management and performance, including the annual budget;
- monitoring and controlling compliance and organisational performance;
- ensuring effective identification, assessment and management of risk;
- promoting ethical and responsible decision-making;
- ensuring effective communication and liaison with Members and stakeholders; and
- ensuring an effective governance framework.

ROLE OF A STATE COUNCILLOR

State Councillors have ultimate responsibility for the overall successful operations of WALGA.

The principal roles of State Councillors relate to:

- policy positions and issues;
- the strategic direction of WALGA; and
- financial operations and solvency.

State Councillors, as Directors of a Board, are required to act consistently in the best interests of the organisation as a whole.

State Councillors are expected to be champions for WALGA and for the Local Government sector.

There are five ordinary meetings of State Council per year, generally held in March, May, July, September and December.

State Councillors are required to serve on a Policy Team or Committee which meets every one or two months, and are encouraged to attend

WALGA events and functions, to play an active and engaging role in representing WALGA and the Local Government sector.

As State Councillors are elected by their Zone, they are also expected to attend and play a prominent role in Zone meetings, including reporting back to Zone Delegates about State Council decisions and WALGA's recent activities, events and advocacy efforts.

State Councillors are paid an annual sitting fee and all expenses incurred to attend State Council meetings are reimbursable.

Approximate time commitment per year (excluding optional events and travel time):

MEETINGS	30 - 40 hours plus one full day and one overnight regional visit
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PREPARATION	15 hours
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GET INVOLVED

Involvement with WALGA through representing your Local Government on the Zone or representing your Zone on State Council is an enriching and rewarding experience.

To learn more about nominating for a position on the Zone or State Council and play a role in shaping policy and advocacy on behalf of Local Government in WA, visit the WALGA website.

Contacts

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RESOURCES



The Western Australian Local Government Directory 2025

Each year, WALGA produces a directory containing contact information and statistics on every WA Local Government. This is a useful resource for our Members, fostering collaboration and efficiency across the sector.



WALGA Annual Report 2023-24

For more details on how WALGA uses its influence, support and expertise to deliver better outcomes for WA Local Governments and their communities, read our 2023-24 Annual Report.



WALGA's 2025 State Election Priorities

This resource showcases initiatives and solutions WALGA presented to the incoming State Government, and continues to advocate for, to keep the state running at its best.



WALGA

Influence. Support. Expertise.

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