

State Council Agenda

1 July 2026

Ordinary meeting no. 3 of 2026 of the
Western Australian Local Government
Association State Council to be held at
ONE70, LV3, 170 Railway Parade, West Leederville
at 4:15pm.

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1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

1.1 OPENING

1.2 ATTENDANCE

Members	WALGA President - Chair	Mark Irwin
	WALGA Deputy President	
	Avon-Midland Country Zone	Chris Antonio
	Central Country Zone	Phillip Blight
	Central Metropolitan Zone	Helen Sadler
	Central Metropolitan Zone	Paul Kelly
	East Metropolitan Zone	Paige McNeil
	East Metropolitan Zone	Cate McCullough
	Gascoyne Country Zone	Matthew Niikkula
	Goldfields Esperance Country Zone	Laurene Bonza
	Great Eastern Country Zone	Stephen Strange
	Great Southern Country Zone	Scott Crosby
	Kimberley Country Zone	Chris Mitchell JP
	Murchison Country Zone	Les Price
	North Metropolitan Zone	Suzanne Migdale
	North Metropolitan Zone	Lewis Hutton
	North Metropolitan Zone	Eman Seif JP
	Northern Country Zone	Elizabeth Sudlow
	Peel Country Zone	Mike Walmsley
	Pilbara Country Zone	Audra Smith
	South East Metropolitan Zone	Patrick Hall
	South East Metropolitan Zone	Terresa Lynes
	South Metropolitan Zone	Robert Schmidt
	South Metropolitan Zone	Karen Wheatland
	South Metropolitan Zone	Barry Winmar
	South West Country Zone	Donelle Buegge
Ex Officio	Local Government Professionals WA President	Mr Anthony Vuleta
Secretariat	Chief Executive Officer	Nick Sloan
	Executive Manager Member Services	Kirsty Martin
	Executive Manager Infrastructure	Ian Duncan
	Executive Manager Policy	Nicole Matthews
	Chief Financial Officer	Rick Murray
	Manager Governance and Procurement	Felicity Morris
	Manager Association and Corporate Governance	Kathy Robertson
	State Council Governance Officer	Habiba Farrag

1.3 APOLOGIES

Ex Officio	The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor – City of Perth	Lord Mayor, Bruce Reynolds
Secretariat	Executive Manger Advocacy	Ms Rachel Horton

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

WALGA acknowledges the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to Country, culture and community. We embrace the vast Aboriginal cultural diversity throughout Western Australia, including Boorloo (Perth), on the land of the Whadjuk Noongar People, where WALGA is located and we acknowledge and pay respect to Elders past and present.

WALGA is committed to supporting the efforts of WA Local Governments to foster respectful partnerships and strengthen relationships with local Aboriginal communities.

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

4 MINUTES

4.1 MINUTES OF THE STATE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 7 MAY 2026

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the WALGA State Council meeting held on [7 May 2026](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

4.1.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE STATE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 7 MAY 2026

4.2 FLYING MINUTE – SELECTION COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING – 7 APRIL 2026

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the [Flying Minute – Selection Committee Special Meeting – 7 April 2026](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of decision.

4.2.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FLYING MINUTE – SELECTION COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING – 7 APRIL 2026

4.3 FLYING MINUTE – WALGA SUBMISSION ON THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL BIOSECURITY RESPONSE AGREEMENT (NEBRA)

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the [Flying Minute – WALGA Submission on the National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement \(NEBRA\)](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of decision.

4.3.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FLYING MINUTE – WALGA SUBMISSION ON THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL BIOSECURITY RESPONSE AGREEMENT (NEBRA)

4.4 FLYING MINUTE – WALGA SUBMISSION ON THE EXPOSURE DRAFT OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARD FOR MATTERS OF NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the [Flying Minute – WALGA Submission on the Exposure Draft of the National Environmental Standard for Matters of National Environmental Significance](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of decision.

4.4.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FLYING MINUTE – WALGA SUBMISSION ON THE EXPOSURE DRAFT OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARD FOR MATTERS OF NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE

4.5 FLYING MINUTE – STATE HAZARD PLAN HOSTILE ACT – WALGA DRAFT SUBMISSION

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the [Flying Minute – State Hazard Plan Hostile Act - WALGA Draft Submission](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of decision.

4.5.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FLYING MINUTE – STATE HAZARD PLAN HOSTILE ACT – WALGA DRAFT SUBMISSION

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pursuant to our Code of Conduct, State Councillors must declare to the Chair any potential conflict of interest they have in a matter before State Council as soon as they become aware of it.

6 EX OFFICIO REPORTS

6.1 CITY OF PERTH REPORT

Lord Mayor, Bruce Reynolds, is an apology for this meeting.

6.2 LG PROFESSIONALS REPORT

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

7 EMERGING ISSUES

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

8 MATTERS FOR DECISION

8.1 CLIMATE CHANGE ADVOCACY POSITION

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste

RECOMMENDATION

That State Council replace the Climate Change Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 4.1 with a new Climate Change Advocacy Position as follows:

- 1. *Local Government acknowledges the risks associated with, and is committed to addressing, climate change to meet the needs of their communities.***
- 2. *WALGA calls on the Australian and Western Australian Governments to:***
 - a. *Provide the necessary climate leadership, coordination and action to ensure an orderly transition to achieve emission reduction targets and address the impacts of climate change.***
 - b. *Ensure that Local Government has the funding, guidance and practical support required to meet increasing risk and expanded legislative requirements to plan for, mitigate and adapt to climate impacts.***

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A new climate change Advocacy Position is proposed to replace the position endorsed by State Council in 2018.
- WALGA released a Consultation Paper and draft Climate Change Advocacy Position in January 2026 for Council endorsed feedback by 1 May 2026.
- 39 Council endorsed submissions and two officer level comments were received:
 - 18 (44%) supported the draft Position.
 - 18 (44%) supported the draft Position with comments and/or proposed changes.
 - four (10%) did not support the draft Position and proposed an alternative.
 - one (2%) did not support the Advocacy Position.
- The draft Advocacy Position has been refined in response to the feedback received, noting that the majority of submissions either supported the draft position in its entirety or supported with comment and/or amendment:
 - *"to meet the needs of their communities"* has been added to Point 1 to better reflect Local Government context.
 - Point 2b has been revised to:
 - Include explicit reference to increasing risk and expanded legislative requirements and align with language in the *Local Government Act* (mitigation, rather than emissions reduction).
 - Be clear that Local Government must be provided with the funding, guidance and practical support required to meet increasing risk and legislative requirements.

- At its meeting on 25 May 2026, the Environment Policy Team considered this item and recommended that State Council replace the current Climate Change Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 4.1 with the new Advocacy Position.

ATTACHMENT

- [Climate Change Advocacy Position Consultation Report](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item aligns with WALGA's Strategic Pillars:

- **Influence:** Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government and lead policy development for the Local Government sector.
- **Support:** Anticipate, understand and respond to Member needs.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

It is proposed that the [Climate Change Policy Statement](#) and **current** Advocacy Position 4.1 Climate Change as follows:

Local Government acknowledges:

1. *The science is clear: Climate change is occurring and greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are the dominant cause.*
2. *Climate change threatens human societies and the Earth's ecosystems.*
3. *Urgent action is required to reduce emissions, and to adapt to the impacts from climate change that are now unavoidable.*
4. *A failure to adequately address this climate change emergency places an unacceptable burden on future generations.*

Local Government is committed to addressing climate change.

Local Government is calling for:

1. *Strong climate change action, leadership and coordination at all levels of government.*
2. *Effective and adequately funded Commonwealth and State Government climate change policies and programs.*

be **replaced** with (changes following consultation underlined):

1. *Local Government acknowledges the risks associated with, and is committed to addressing, climate change to meet the needs of their communities.*
2. *WALGA calls on the Australian and Western Australian Governments to:*
 - a. *provide the necessary climate leadership, coordination and action to ensure an orderly transition to achieve emission reduction targets and address the impacts of climate change.*
 - b. *ensure that Local Government has the funding, guidance and practical support required to meet increasing risk and expanded legislative requirements to plan for, mitigate and adapt to climate impacts.*

BACKGROUND

In 2018, State Council endorsed a [Climate Change Policy Statement](#) and Advocacy Position, following extensive sector consultation. Since this position was adopted there have been significant legislative, policy, technological and scientific changes, including:

- The national *Climate Change Act 2022* and the Western Australian Climate Change Bill 2023.
- Increased legislative responsibilities, including the *Local Government Amendment Act 2023*, which expanded Western Australian Local Governments' general function under Part 3 s3.1(1A) of the *Local Government Act 1995*:
 - a. To promote the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the district;
 - b. To plan for, and to plan for mitigating, risks associated with climate change; and
 - c. In making decisions, to consider potential long-term consequences and impacts on future generations
- The release of the Australian Government's [National Climate Risk Assessment](#) and [National Adaptation Plan](#) in 2025.
- Escalation of the transition to renewable energy, uptake of electric vehicles and energy efficiency standards under the National Construction Code.
- Climate science and projections ([international](#), [national](#) and [WA specific](#)) have also become clearer regarding the risks posed by climate change and the need for action to address the consequential impacts.

Work commenced on the review of the current position in 2024. An updated draft position was considered at the March 2025 State Council meeting, with the position referred back to the Environment Policy Team for further development. In January 2026, WALGA released a Consultation Paper and draft Advocacy Position, with Council endorsed feedback requested by 1 May 2026.

COMMENT

Responses were received from 41 Local Governments, 39 Council endorsed submissions and two officer level comments (Karratha and Melville):

- 18 (44%) supported the draft Advocacy Position:
 - Metropolitan: Joondalup, Stirling, Bayswater, Kalamunda, Bassendean, Canning, Cockburn, Melville, Rockingham, Cambridge, Subiaco and Serpentine Jarrahdale.
 - Regional: Harvey, Victoria Plains, Gnowangerup, Kalgoorlie Boulder, Ngaanyatjaraku and Karratha.
- 18 (44%) were supported with comment and/or proposed changes:
 - 7 sought minor wording refinements or small additions:
 - Metropolitan: Belmont, Gosnells and Kwinana.
 - Regional: Dumbleyung, West Arthur, York and Mingenew.
 - 11 proposed more substantial amendments:
 - Metropolitan: Mundaring, Armadale, Victoria Park, East Fremantle, Fremantle, Perth and Vincent.
 - Regional: Augusta Margaret River, Busselton, Kent and Cocos (Keeling) Islands.
- Four (10%) did not support the draft Advocacy Position and proposed an alternative position:
 - Regional: Waroona (alternative position). Quairading, Wagin and Cue provided the Central Country Zone position.
- One (2%) did not support the draft Advocacy Position and did not provide an alternative:
 - Regional: Collie.

Responses were received from Local Governments across all Metropolitan Zones and from all but two Country Zones.

Across both metropolitan and regional submissions, Local Governments emphasised that the roles and responsibilities of each level of government in climate change mitigation and adaptation remain unclear, while legislative obligations placed on Local Governments have expanded without a sustainable funding model to support implementation. Small, rural and remote Local Governments raised concerns about their communities' heightened exposure to heat, extreme weather and infrastructure failure, combined with limited local capacity and resources to respond effectively.

The draft Advocacy Position has been refined in response to the feedback received, noting that the majority of submissions either supported the draft position in its entirety or supported with comment and/or amendment:

- "*to meet the needs of their communities*" has been added to Point 1 to better reflect Local Government context.
- Point 2b has been revised to:
 - Include explicit reference to increasing risk and expanded legislative requirements and align with language in the Local Government Act (mitigation, rather than emissions reduction).
 - Be clear that Local Government must be provided with the funding, guidance and practical support required to meet increasing risk and legislative requirements.

The Position has been kept high level, noting that many of the specific matters raised in the feedback are included in other WALGA Advocacy Positions (or will be incorporated when these positions are reviewed) and/or will inform WALGA's more detailed climate advocacy.

A [Climate Change Advocacy Position Consultation Report](#) providing a summary of feedback received and rationale for the changes to the position is attached.

At its meeting on 25 May 2026, the Environment Policy Team considered this item and recommended that State Council replace the existing Climate Change Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 4.1 with the new Climate Change Advocacy Position.

8.2 TRAIN STATION PRECINCTS ADVOCACY POSITION

By Coralie Claudio, A/Manager Planning and Building

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse the following new Advocacy Position:

Train Station Precincts

- 1. Local Government supports a coordinated approach to the planning and development of train station precincts that is transport-orientated, place responsive and provides for increased housing density and diversity.***
- 2. In developing Train Station Precinct Improvement Plans and Schemes the State Government should:***
 - a. Respect, acknowledge and build on existing and progressing local planning frameworks.***
 - b. Ensure effective collaboration, partnerships and coordination across Government agencies and with Local Government.***
 - c. Prioritise redevelopment of State-owned land to deliver optimal housing and mixed-use outcomes.***
 - d. Undertake meaningful and ongoing community engagement.***
 - e. Directly fund and/or implement funding mechanisms to deliver public realm and infrastructure requirements.***
- 3. Decisions on any future State-led train station precincts must be evidence-based, transparent and made in consultation with Local Government.***

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- In November 2025, the State Government [announced](#) it would commence the preparation of Improvement Plans and Improvement Schemes for ten train station precincts across the Perth metropolitan region.
- A new Train Station Precinct Advocacy Position is proposed, which identifies the need for collaborative, place-based, and infrastructure-led precinct planning that enables housing delivery while respecting local planning frameworks and maintaining community confidence, supported by strong State Government coordination and funding.
- The position is intended to support timely and direct engagement with the State Government on sector priorities for current and future State-led train station precincts.
- The draft position has been informed by a review of Council resolutions and feedback from Local Governments, including those associated with the initial ten identified train station precincts.
- The Environment Policy Team endorsed the position at its meeting on 18 May 2026.

ATTACHMENT

- [Rationale New Advocacy Position: Train Station Precincts](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item aligns with WALGA's Strategic Pillars:

- **Influence** – Lead advocacy on issues that are important to Local Government, including coordinated precinct planning and housing delivery.
- **Support** – Anticipate, understand, and respond to Member needs, ensuring Local Governments are effectively engaged in State-led precinct planning processes.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

It is proposed that the **new** Train Station Precincts Advocacy Position be **endorsed**.

This draft position is consistent with, and builds upon, Advocacy Position 6.1 Planning Principles and Reform:

- 1. The Local Government sector supports an efficient and effective planning system guided by legislation, policy, and processes that:*
 - a. facilitates the creation of sustainable and liveable communities and places;*
 - b. has a focus on strategic planning that delivers on long-term objectives and outcomes that balance social, environmental, cultural, and economic interests;*
 - c. is easy to understand, accessible and transparent;*
 - d. recognises the diversity of Western Australia and ensures that local environment, context, communities and character are appropriately reflected in planning frameworks and decision making;*
 - e. ensures decisions are made by the level of government closest to and most impacted by a planning proposal; and*
 - f. establishes consistent planning frameworks and streamlines planning processes where there is a demonstrated benefit in doing so.*
- 2. Reforms to the planning system should:*
 - a. be guided by the above principles;*
 - b. deliver community benefit;*
 - c. promote system efficiency, including through the use of technology;*
 - d. be evidence-based and informed by robust, transparent data;*
 - e. proceed at an appropriate pace to enable effective implementation;*
 - f. be informed by engagement with the community; and be amended only with WALGA involvement and consultation with Local Government.*

BACKGROUND

Planning around train stations, including the establishment of local planning frameworks and the determination of development applications, has historically been the responsibility of Local Governments.

In November 2025, the State Government announced it was commencing the establishment of Improvement Plans and Schemes around ten train station precincts across the Perth metropolitan region to streamline planning and development and facilitate housing development. Through this process, the State would become responsible for setting planning frameworks, including elements such as height and zoning, and determining development applications.

The ten station precincts, involving 14 directly affected Local Governments, are listed below:

- Ballajura (City of Swan);
- Bassendean (Town of Bassendean);
- Carlisle/Oats Street (Town of Victoria Park);
- Claisebrook (City of Perth and City of Vincent);
- Cottesloe (Town of Cottesloe and Shire of Peppermint Grove);
- Glendalough (City of Vincent and City of Stirling);
- Morley (City of Bayswater);
- Mosman Park (Town of Mosman Park and Shire of Peppermint Grove);
- Redcliffe (City of Belmont); and
- Swanbourne (Town of Claremont, City of Nedlands and Town of Cottesloe).

Improvement Plans and Schemes for the Ballajura and Redcliffe stations were already underway prior to this announcement. Importantly, the announcement noted these were only the first stations, indicating additional state-led station precincts may be identified in the future.

At its December 2025 meeting, State Council resolved that:

1. *State Council request WALGA to prepare an Advocacy Position in consultation with Members, regarding the transport and planning principles required to ensure quality outcomes in the newly announced "Station Precinct Improvement Plans and Schemes" in Metropolitan Perth and regional stations if included.*
2. *The Advocacy Position will include transport and place-making outcomes on both government controlled and private land that maximise liveability and use of the public transport network.*

RESOLUTION 069.5/2025

To inform the development of the Advocacy Position, WALGA sought feedback from Local Governments associated with the initial ten station precincts, including collecting and reviewing relevant Council reports and resolutions from ten Local Governments.

The draft position supports a coordinated approach to station precinct planning and makes the following key recommendations to support effective development and implementation of Improvement Plans and Schemes:

- Promote housing density, diversity and delivery while ensuring place-responsive and transit-oriented development outcomes.
- Recognise the State Government's critical role in coordination and investment, including redevelopment of underutilised State land.
- Call for recognition of existing and progressing local planning frameworks and meaningful engagement with Local Governments and communities.
- Support a strategic, evidence-based and transparent approach to identifying and delivering future State-led station precincts.

The draft advocacy position was circulated to the sector for feedback over a two-week period until 7 May. WALGA received 22 responses, all from metropolitan Local Governments, including nine of the 14 Local Governments directly affected by the initial ten identified train station precincts.

COMMENT

This Advocacy Position is intended to enable WALGA to make timely and direct representations to the State Government on the sector's priorities for State-led train station precincts.

The proposed new Advocacy Position will complement WALGA's planning Advocacy Position, 6.1 Planning Principles and Reform, which notes that planning frameworks and decision-making should reflect local environment, context, communities and character, and that decisions should be made by the level of government closest to and most impacted by a planning proposal.

The draft position has been informed by a review of relevant Council resolutions and Local Government officer input, including feedback from WALGA's Planning Advisory Group.

The draft advocacy position was refined following sector consultation to emphasise that a planning framework alone will not deliver on-the-ground outcomes. Instead, it highlights the substantial scale of State Government collaboration, coordination and funding required to enable and accelerate precinct delivery, including a stronger focus on the redevelopment of underutilised State Government land.

The position was also refined to avoid blanket support for all State Improvement Plans and Schemes, instead clarifying the circumstances in which State-led planning may be appropriate for future station precincts.

The Environment Policy Team recommended that State Council endorse the position at its meeting on 18 May 2026.

8.3 SUBMISSION ON THE CAT ACT REVIEW

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager Environment and Waste and Felicity Morris, Manager Governance and Procurement

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse the submission on the Review of *Cat Act 2011*.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- On 13 February 2026 the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS) opened consultation on the second statutory review of the *Cat Act 2011* (the Cat Act).
- All elements of the Cat Act are under review, including registration, enforcement/compliance, sterilisation, microchipping, breeding and limits on the number of cats.
- WALGA used current Advocacy Positions, previous submissions, a webinar with the sector and opportunity to comment on a draft submission to gather feedback.
- The submission identifies that reform to the legislation is required, in relation to:
 - Consolidation of the Cat Act and *Dog Act 1976*;
 - Stronger provisions for consistent non-compliance;
 - Clear definitions for owned and unowned cats;
 - Development of a Model Cat Local Law;
 - A limit on the number of cats; and
 - Lowering the age of sterilisation.
- Consultation by LGIRS closes at 5:00pm on Monday, 31 August 2026.
- A joint meeting of the Governance and Environment Policy Teams on 25 May 2026 recommended that State Council endorse the submission.

ATTACHMENT

- [Submission on the Review of the *Cat Act 2011*](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item aligns with WALGA's Strategic Pillars:

- **Influence:** Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government and lead policy development for the Local Government sector.
- **Support:** Anticipate, understand and respond to Member needs.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This submission has been developed based on current WALGA [Advocacy Positions](#):

- 2.12.1 Review of the *Cat Act 2011* and *Dog Act 1976*, and
- 2.12.2 Dog and Cat Management.

And previous submissions and positions on the legislation.

BACKGROUND

On 13 February 2026, the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS) opened [consultation](#) on the review of the *Cat Act 2011* (the Cat Act), the second statutory review of the legislation. The previous review was undertaken in 2019. The Cat Act provides for the control and management of cats and aims to promote and encourage the responsible ownership of cats, and for related matters.

As articulated in the Second Reading Speech, the Cat Act was introduced with the aim to reduce the number of stray cats being euthanised each year, encourage responsible cat ownership and provide for better management of the unwanted impacts of cats on the community and environment.

The submission provides recommendations on provisions in the Cat Act and identifies some of the issues Local Governments experience with implementing the legislation. WALGA used current Advocacy Positions, previous submissions, a webinar with the sector and opportunity to comment on a draft submission to gather feedback.

The webinar, held on 26 March 2026, had 61 registrations from Local Government. Feedback was received, and incorporated, on the draft submission.

The submission was considered, and is recommended to State Council for endorsement, by a joint meeting of the Governance and Environment Policy Teams on 25 May 2026.

COMMENT

In this submission WALGA has identified several areas where reform to the legislation is required, including:

- Consolidation of the Cat Act and *Dog Act 1976*;
- Stronger provisions for consistent non-compliance;
- Clear definitions for owned and unowned cats;
- Development of a Model Cat Local Law;
- A limit on the number of cats; and
- Lowering the age of sterilisation.

In drafting the submission, WALGA has also identified implementation challenges for the sector in particular low registration rates for cats, the lack of a centralised database for registration and limited resourcing.

Cat containment is out of scope of this submission, as the State Government is progressing the [Cat Amendment \(Local Laws\) Bill 2026](#) to enable Local Governments to make cat containment Local Laws. WALGA is engaging separately with the sector on this matter.

Submission on the Review of the *Cat Act 2011*

May 2026

About WALGA

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.

WALGA uses its influence, support and expertise to deliver better outcomes for WA Local Governments and their communities. We advocate to all levels of Government on behalf of our Members, and provide expert advice, services and support to Local Governments.

WALGA's vision is for agile and inclusive Local Governments enhancing community wellbeing and enabling economic prosperity.

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 Nyoongar People, where WALGA is located and we acknowledge and pay respect to Elders past and present.

Introduction

WALGA appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on the review of the *Cat Act 2011* (Cat Act) being undertaken by the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS). The Cat Act intends to:

1. Provide for the control and management of cats
2. Promote and encourage the responsible ownership of cats, and for related matters.

As articulated in the Second Reading Speech, the Cat Act was introduced with the aim to reduce the number of stray cats being euthanised each year, encourage responsible cat ownership and provide for better management of the unwanted impacts of cats on the community and environment.

The Cat Act requires all cats that have reached six months of age to be sterilised, microchipped and registered with the Local Government in which the cat is ordinarily kept. Cats must be wearing registration tags when in public places to enable identification. Cat control notices, seizing cats, cat management facilities and breeding of cats are also matters covered in the Act. The Cat Act gives Local Governments the power to administer and enforce the legislation and make Local Laws under the Act.

All elements of the Cat Act are under review, including registration, enforcement/compliance, sterilisation, microchipping, breeding and limits on the number of cats. LGIRS is further seeking insights on related cat management approaches that have been successful in other Australian States and Territories.

In this submission WALGA has identified several areas where reform to the legislation is required, including:

- Consolidation of the Cat Act and *Dog Act 1976*
- Stronger provisions for consistent non-compliance
- Clear definitions for owned and unowned cats
- Development of a Model Cat Local Law
- A limit on the number of cats
- Lowering the age of sterilisation.

This submission has been developed based on [WALGA Advocacy Positions](#) (2.12.1 Review of the *Cat Act 2011* and *Dog Act 1976* and 2.12.2 Dog and Cat Management), previous submissions and positions on the legislation (see [Attachment 1](#) for WALGA State Council's resolution on the Proposal for Domestic Cat Control Legislation) and with input from Local Governments via a webinar held on Thursday, 26 March 2026. The submission provides recommendations on provisions in the Cat Act and identifies some of the issues Local Governments experience with implementing the legislation.

Cat containment is out of scope of this submission, as the State Government is progressing the [Cat Amendment \(Local Laws\) Bill 2026](#) to enable Local Governments to make cat containment Local Laws.

Review - Legislation

Consolidation of the Cat Act and Dog Act 1976

Many requirements in the Cat Act replicate Dog Act provisions, including registration, microchipping and some enforcement provisions. WALGA is supportive of combining the Cat Act and *Dog Act 1976* to form a Companion Animals Act. A combined Act would reduce and simplify administrative burden, provide a consistent approach to the administration and enforcement of the legislation, and reflect the actions of most other Australian States and Territories. It would also have the advantage of allowing much-needed amendments to the *Dog Act 1976* to be progressed.

Stronger provisions for consistent non-compliance

Local Governments raised concerns about cat owners who demonstrate consistent non-compliance with provisions in the Cat Act. The sector considers that provisions should be included in the Cat Act that allow stronger action to be taken by Local Governments where cat owners repeatedly fail to comply with cat control notices and where infringements are not a sufficient deterrent. Local Governments also support the strengthening of the powers of seizure, cancelling registrations and penalties for failing to comply with cat control notices.

Clear definitions for owned and unowned cats

In contrast with other cat management policies at the Australian and State Government levels, the Cat Act does not provide clear definitions for the different categories of cats. The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's Threat Abatement Plan for Predation by Feral Cats 2024 uses 'feral cat' terminology to describe cats that are not formally owned (sometimes referred to as 'stray cats') and 'pet cat' terminology to describe cats that are owned. Similarly, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development uses 'feral cat', 'stray cat' and 'domestic cat' terminology in its Feral Cat Policy, with only domestic cats being classified as owned and subject to the Cat Act.

The sector considers that definitions should be included in the Cat Act to distinguish between cats that are owned (registered and microchipped) and unowned (not registered and not microchipped). A clear definition of cats that are unowned, would enable Local Governments to begin the process of re-homing an impounded cat faster and provide clarity on the appropriate course of action if a person attempts to collect a cat without proof of ownership. WALGA identified this issue and proposed the resolution, cats either being owned or unowned, in its submission on the Proposal for Domestic Cat Control Legislation in August 2010.

Importantly, the implementation of these definitions would require a transition period and education campaign for owners to register and microchip their cats to limit any unintended consequences (e.g. ownership not being able to be confirmed).

Development of a Model Cat Local Law

The sector is supportive of State Government developing a Model Cat Local Law for Local Governments to adopt and/or tailor to meet local community needs. This Model Local Law would address the scope of matters for which a Local Law may be made under the Cat Act.

Currently, matters under section 79(3) of the Cat Act are included in a number of different Local Laws made by Local Governments, illustrated in this [map](#) created by WALGA. In summary:

- 39% of Local Governments have adopted or sought to progress a Cat Local Law
- 4% of Local Governments have included cats in an Animals Local Law
- 9% of Local Governments have included cats in an Animals, Environment and Nuisance Local Law
- 2% of Local Governments have included cats in a Consolidated Local Law
- 28% of Local Governments have included cats in a Health Local Law
- 18% of Local Governments have no mention of cats in any Local Law.

Adoption of a Model Cat Local Law would support a consistent approach to implementing the Cat Act across Local Governments and further support cat owner compliance when moving between Local Government districts.

Where cat containment is concerned, the Model Cat Local Law should incorporate transitional arrangements to ensure consistency, equity and animal welfare outcomes.

Including a limit on the number of cats

The Cat Act prescribes a Local Law may be made to limit the numbers of cats that can be kept at premises. This means that the number of cats allowed can vary between Local Governments. The sector supports a maximum number of cats that can be kept at premises being included in the Cat Act to ensure consistency across Local Governments. This provision would align with the *Dog Act 1976*, which sets a maximum number of dogs that can be kept in, or at, premises to six.

Lowering the age of sterilisation

The Cat Act requires the owner of a cat that has reached six months of age to ensure the cat is sterilised by a veterinarian, unless the cat is exempt. The sector strongly supports lowering the age of cat sterilisation on the basis that cats can reach sexual maturity much earlier than six months of age. In New South Wales, cats are required to be sterilised by four months of age, unless their owner is granted an exemption/permit.

Review - Implementation

Low registration rates

The Cat Act requires the owner of a cat that has reached six months of age to ensure the cat is microchipped and registered with the Local Government in the district in which the cat is ordinarily kept. Despite this being a requirement, feedback from Local Government indicates the registration of cats remains low across the State.

Limited compliance with this provision in the Cat Act, in combination with the absence of an 'owned cat' definition, causes issues when cats are impounded. Cats that are not registered and microchipped have very low collection rates across the State, with many Local Governments reporting less than 20% of impounded cats being reclaimed by owners. Holding an unregistered cat and attempting to find the owner requires significant Local Government resources and the owner may never be identified.

In its submission on the Proposal for Domestic Cat Control Legislation (2010), WALGA advocated for registration fees being set at full cost recovery (see Attachment 1). Additionally, in its [Dog and Cat Management Advocacy Position](#), WALGA advocates for Local Governments to achieve full cost recovery in ensuring compliance with the Cat Act through a combination of appropriate fees and State funding that encourages cat owner compliance and serves the interests of all Western Australians regardless of where they live. Access to State funding that could be used as an incentive to increase cat registration rates may prevent some of the issues Local Governments currently face as a result of the low registration of cats.

Centralised database

The sector also experiences difficulties with finding the owners of impounded cats even when they are microchipped. Such circumstances include when registration details are not updated when a cat is transferred to a new owner (e.g. from a breeder or rescue organisation) or when an owner moves to a different Local Government district.

The sector strongly supports the establishment of a centralised cat and dog registration system. A centralised registration system would help ensure the identification and history of each cat is provided, including details of the Local Government district(s) in which it has been registered, and the compliance and enforcement history of owners and cats. The Local Government sector is keen to ensure that a centralised system is reliable, usable and has adequate funding and technical support. To ensure this, there needs to be strong Local Government consultation in development and a staged and well managed implementation process. A centralised cat and dog registration and management system, with these characteristics, would support improved control and reduce the enforcement and resource challenges Local Governments currently face.

It is noted that the State Government has not progressed the implementation of a centralised dog and cat registration system, PetsWA, which would replace registers managed by individual Local Governments with a single platform. The PetsWA initiative aimed to make it easier for owners to update their animal registration when moving to another Local Government district and to help identify potential cases of puppy farming across the State in line with the Stop Puppy Farming reforms.

The sector has already contributed substantial time and resources in supporting the State Government's development of the PetsWA initiative and is calling for State Government to implement a centralised registration system.

Resourcing

In its submission on the Proposal for Domestic Cat Control Legislation (2010), WALGA highlighted the need for rangers and authorised persons to be trained in the appropriate handling of cats. The sector has since highlighted there are limited options for practical training for cat handling at TAFE institutions, with the focus being largely on dangerous dogs. WALGA recommends that the State Government funds the development and provision of specific cat handling and housing training opportunities for Local Government officers.

The sector considers that cat registration fees and increased State funding to support the implementation and enforcement of the Cat Act, including financial support of community capacity to implement cat containment outcomes as included in draft legislative amendments to enable Local Governments to make Local Laws on cat containment, are essential.

In New South Wales, the State Government and Environmental Trust recently invested \$6 million to expand the Keeping Cats Safe at Home Project, aimed to encourage and empower cat carers to keep their cats indoors. Using research, education and targeted desexing, the first phase of the project (2021-2024) saw a 25-50% reduction in roaming cats in three Local Government districts and an increase in desexed, microchipped and registered cats across 11 participating Local Governments. Regional WA Local Governments have a lower capacity for resourcing enforcement and generally rely on hiring contract rangers that service multiple Local Government districts. These resourcing

constraints would be exacerbated by the enforcement of cat containment, with funding needed to hire additional rangers to undertake the work.

State Government funding for cat management facilities is also critical. Many cat management facilities, including Cat Haven and RSPCA WA, are already at capacity. WALGA is supportive of State funding to upgrade and develop more fit-for-purpose shelter facilities as needed by the sector.

Conclusion

WALGA appreciates the opportunity to provide a submission on the review of the Cat Act on behalf of the Local Government sector. As highlighted in this submission, Local Governments face challenges in implementing the legislation when there are limited resources and low levels of compliance. The sector is supportive of the development of a Model Cat Local Law and for the Cat Act to be amended to lower the age of sterilisation and provide a maximum number of cats permitted.

WALGA looks forward to working with the State Government to provide proactive, positive solutions to the challenges faced by the sector, including cat containment.

Attachment 1: 8 August 2010 State Council resolution

That the Department of Local Government be advised that the introduction of cat control legislation is supported on condition that:

1. The cost to Local Governments to implement and administer the proposed legislation is minimised by:
 - a. the State Government training rangers and authorised officers and providing funding for the acquisition of specialised cat control equipment;
 - b. the State Government fully funding any public education and awareness campaign; and
 - c. registration fees being set at full cost recovery.
2. The Department of Local Government form a working partnership with WALGA during the drafting process of the legislation to ensure:
 - a. the legislation is as simple as possible to administer and enforce;
 - b. sufficient notice is given before the enactment of proposed legislation to allow Local Governments time to budget and prepare for cat control legislation and to update infrastructure, equipment and procedures; and
 - c. consideration is given to:
 - i. National Parks;
 - ii. A Class reserves;
 - iii. unallocated Crown Land; and
 - iv. local planning schemes.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY STATE COUNCILLORS (UNDER SEPARATE COVER)

Items Under Separate Cover to State Council only.

9 POLICY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY TEAM REPORT

By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager, Infrastructure

FOR NOTING

The Infrastructure Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

- *Transport*
- *Infrastructure*
- *Road Safety*
- *Underground power*
- *Street lighting*

This Report provides an update on matters considered, since the last State Council meeting, by the Infrastructure Policy Team at its meeting held on 28 April.

1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION

Nil

2. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING

The Policy Team provided input to support further development of the Active Travel Advocacy Plan.

Short- and medium-term implications for Local Governments arising from significant increases in the price of diesel, bitumen and a wide range of oil derived construction products were discussed.

The implications from the State Government decision to temporarily permit higher mass vehicles largely unrestricted access to the local road network was considered, with the guidance provided that WALGA needs to advocate for reasonable responses.

3. MATTERS REFERRED FROM ZONES

- The absence of a funded renewal and replacement strategy for Water Corporation owned bridges on the Swan Coastal Plain in the Peel and South West Country Zones has resulted in load limits being applied which impact access in these areas.
 - WALGA held initial meetings with Water Corporation officers and correspondence was prepared.
- Main Roads replacement of intermediate speed zones on approach to towns with Speed Limit Ahead signs to warn drivers of a sudden transition to a lower speed limit in the Central Country Zone.
 - As this change is consistent with Australian Standards and has been progressively implemented around Western Australia since 2020, it was agreed to investigate the available travel speed data and explore with the Zone/affected Shires whether the type and location of signage is appropriate.

- Pole top fires and slow Western Power response to de-energise in the Central Country Zone.
 - This matter will be raised during the scheduled engagement with Western Power.
- Standard road management agreements between neighbouring Local Governments, raised by the Central Metropolitan Zone.
 - A template agreement was prepared in 2025 and is available on the [WALGA website](#).

9.2 PEOPLE AND PLACE POLICY TEAM REPORT

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy

FOR NOTING

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

- *Community*
- *Emergency Management*

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

1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING

Flying Minute – State Hazard Plan Hostile Act Submission

At the May meeting, the People and Place Policy Team supported WALGA's submission to the Western Australian Police Force on the State Hazard Plan – Hostile Act. The submission recommends strengthening Local Government recognition, involvement and support in hostile act preparedness, coordination and recovery through greater inclusion in planning and exercises, addressing regional challenges, and ensuring access to recovery funding. This submission was endorsed by State Council via the Flying Minute process on 29 May.

The full Flying Minute is available on the [WALGA website](#).

WALGA Bushfire Management Roundtable Summary Report

The People and Place Policy Team noted the WALGA Bushfire Management Roundtable Summary Report, which outlined the discussion and outcomes of the third annual Bushfire Management Roundtable, held on 26 March. Discussions highlighted challenges facing volunteer brigades, the need for clearer statewide coordination frameworks, and reinforced the importance of sustainable funding and grant reform to better reflect bushfire risk and demand.

2. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING

Nil.

3. PEOPLE AND PLACE POLICY TEAM MATTERS

The Emergency Management team provided an update on:

- The LEMA Pilot Project, which has now been completed with documents and a report to be tabled at the 21 May State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) meeting, along with a request to fund a 16-month position at WALGA for implementation support.
- Upcoming State Emergency Management Framework consultations.
- WALGA's Emergency Management Forum, held on 26 May.

The Community team provided an update on:

- Rural health advocacy, including giving evidence to the Public Hearing of the Federal Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Reference Committee Inquiry into Medicare access and funding in rural, regional and remote Australia.
- The ALGA Closing the Gap Implementation Plan.
- The ALGA National Disability Project and revised Guide for Local Governments.

The Policy Team requested that WALGA consider inviting the Commissioner for Children and Young People to a future State Council Strategic Forum or potentially a roundtable with sector representatives.

9.3 GOVERNANCE POLICY TEAM REPORT

By Kirsty Martin, Executive Manager Member Services

FOR NOTING

The Governance Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

- *Governance (Local Government legislation)*
- *Local Government Reform/Regional Service Delivery*
- *Local Government Revenue*
- *Local Government Elections*
- *Employee Relations/Industrial Relations*
- *Training*

This Report provides an update on matters considered, since the last State Council meeting by the Governance Policy Team. The Governance Policy Team met on 2 June 2026.

1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION

Cat Act Review

A joint Environment and Governance Policy Team meeting was held on 25 May 2026 to consider WALGA's submission to the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS) on the *Cat Act 2011* (the Cat Act). Due to a combination of prior commitments and late changes in availability, the Governance Policy Team was not represented at the joint meeting. However, members had the opportunity to review the submission and no concerns were raised. Consultation for this review was opened on 13 February 2026 and closes on Monday, 31 August 2026 at 5:00pm. The submission provides recommendations on provisions in the Cat Act and identifies some of the issues Local Governments experience with implementing the legislation. WALGA used Advocacy Positions, previous submissions, a webinar with the sector and opportunity to comment on a draft submission to gather feedback. The webinar, held on 26 March 2026, had 61 registrations from Local Government. Feedback was received, and incorporated, on the draft submission.

State Council [item 8.3](#) refers to this matter.

2. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING

Nil.

3. GOVERNANCE POLICY TEAM MATTERS

At the June meeting, the Governance Policy Team welcomed new member Suzanne Migdale.

Audit experience survey

The Governance Policy Team received an update on the progress of the annual audit experience survey, the results of which will be reported via the Policy Team to the September State Council meeting.

Rating review project

The Governance Policy Team was briefed on WALGA's intention to conduct an overarching review of issues associated with rating and rates exemptions, which have been the subject of heightened concerns across the sector over the past 6-12 months. The issue of Local Governments being able to sufficiently and fairly rate across their whole rate base has been longstanding. WALGA has advocated to Government for a broad review of all rating categories and those exemptions which pose specific problems to Local Government. As the 2025-26 State Budget Submission for Government to undertake a broad review was unsuccessful, WALGA is now proposing to undertake this work itself.

The project will address the motions that have been referred to the Governance Policy Team and WALGA's existing advocacy positions. The Governance Policy Team endorsed the inclusion of Forest Product Commission rates equivalency payments within this scope of work.

Local Government Act reform

The Governance Policy Team received an update on the latest information provided by LGIRS regarding the progress of Local Government Act reforms. WALGA understands that the development of standardised Meeting Procedures remains the key Departmental priority. The Committee also discussed challenges with reform implementation, particularly in relation to the amended requirements for closing meetings to the public under section 5.23 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

9.4 ENVIRONMENT POLICY TEAM REPORT

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy

FOR NOTING

The Environment Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

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

This Report provides an update on matters considered, since the last State Council meeting, by the Environment Policy Team at its meetings held on 18 May and 25 May, and the Joint Environment and Governance Meeting held on 25 May.

1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION

Submission on the Cat Act Review

The Joint Environment and Governance Policy Teams recommended that State Council endorse the submission to the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS) on the review of the *Cat Act 2011*. The submission provides recommendations on provisions in the Cat Act and identifies some of the issues Local Governments experience with implementing the legislation.

State Council [item 8.3](#) relates to this matter.

Train Station Precincts Advocacy Position

The Environment Policy Team recommended that State Council endorse a new Train Station Precincts Advocacy Position, developed in response to a request of State Council. The draft Advocacy Position promotes collaborative, place-based and infrastructure-led precinct planning to support housing delivery while maintaining alignment with local frameworks, supported by strong State Government coordination and funding. It is intended to guide engagement with the State Government on current and future precincts, informed by Council resolutions and Local Government feedback.

State Council [item 8.2](#) relates to this matter.

Climate Change Advocacy Position

The Environment Policy Team considered a revised draft Climate Change Advocacy Position informed by Council endorsed feedback from 39 Local Governments and two administration responses. The Policy Team recommended that State Council replace the Climate Change Policy Statement and Advocacy Position 4.1 with a new Climate Change Advocacy Position.

State Council [item 8.1](#) relates to this matter.

2. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING

Planning and Building Performance Monitoring Project

At the May meeting, the Environment Policy Team was updated on the Planning and Building Performance Monitoring Project, which provides an assessment of planning and building regulatory functions across the sector. The 2024-25 data shows that Local Governments continue to maintain high levels of performance in undertaking their strategic and statutory planning and building functions. The findings of the Project are available as an online interactive dashboard publicly available through the [WALGA website](#).

State Council [item 10.2](#) relates to this matter.

Flying Minute - Submission on Exposure Draft of the National Environmental Standard for Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES)

The Environment Policy Team recommended that State Council endorse a submission to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water on the Exposure Draft of the National Environmental Standard for Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES). The submission provides general support for the MNES Standard, recommending streamlined bilateral assessment processes, measurable outcomes, stronger application and evidencing of the Mitigation Hierarchy at both project and landscape scale, and the use of up-to-date environmental data. The submission was endorsed by State Council by Flying Minute on 26 May 2026.

The full Flying Minute is available on the [WALGA website](#).

Flying Minute - Submission on National Biosecurity Reforms

The Environment Policy Team recommended that State Council endorse a submission to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry on the National Biosecurity Reform Agenda Discussion Paper. WALGA's submission supports aligning biosecurity reform with the emergency management framework, emphasises prevention amid increasing global risks, and prioritises strengthened governance, preparedness, response and funding to support effective biosecurity measures. The submission will be considered by State Council by way of Flying Agenda. The submission is due on 12 June 2026.

Flying Minute – Submission on Proposed Restrictions for Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides

The Environment Policy Team recommended that State Council endorse a submission to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry on the Discussion Paper on Proposed Restrictions for Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs). WALGA's submission recommends reviewing emergency permit pathways, clarifying authorised user eligibility, supporting restricted access classification of SGARs, and delivering public education to promote best practice pest control. The submission will be considered by State Council by way of Flying Agenda. The submission is due on 11 June 2026.

9.5 MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL (MWAC) REPORT

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager, Environment and Waste

FOR NOTING

This Report provides an update on matters considered, since the last State Council meeting, by the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC), at the meeting held on 22 April.

1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION

Nil.

2. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING

Nil.

3. MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MATTERS

MWAC considered:

- Feedback on the Terms of Reference of the Inquiry into solar panel reuse and recycling in Australia, which identified that for Local Government the primary focus of the Inquiry should be establishment of a mandatory product stewardship scheme which fully covers the costs of collecting, transporting and recycling solar panels.
- The updated Better Practice Shopping Trolley Illegal Dumping Guideline.
 - The Guideline helps Local Governments identify practical opportunities to reduce the burden of shopping trolley management and minimise the impacts of illegally dumped trolleys on their operations.
- Review of Waste Management Infrastructure Advocacy Position. Key issues for the position to address included:
 - Investment in infrastructure that supports a broad range of Local Governments within a region, taking into account optimal location, ongoing operational costs and equitable access.
 - State Government funding and support to accompany policy changes, such as the e-waste landfill ban.
 - Infrastructure that enables effective separation of materials to generate clean feedstock.
 - Managing waste as close to its source as possible.
- The impact of fuel prices on waste management and potential advocacy actions for regional areas.
- Review of policy statements and better practice documents and analysis of potential gaps, including illegal dumping, littering, asbestos, export bans, right to repair, consideration of waste management as an essential service/utility, landfill fees and charges, and management of construction and demolition sites.
- Feedback provided on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Compliance and Enforcement Policy, which highlighted ensuring compliance and enforcement functions are prioritised as an essential component of the Department's activities and that there is sufficient resourcing and legislation in place.

10 MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

10.1 WALGA 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SURVEY FINDINGS

By Sam Kennedy, Senior Policy Advisor - Emergency Management

FOR NOTING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The 2025 WALGA Local Government Emergency Management Survey, undertaken in partnership with Edith Cowan University (ECU), highlights ongoing resource, workforce and funding pressures across the Local Government sector, including rising emergency management expectations, structural funding challenges, grant access difficulties, and increasing staffing and capacity constraints.
- Bushfire risk continues to dominate Local Government emergency management activity, shaping hazard workload, planning, and resource allocation. Reported preparedness for complex, emerging risks (such as cyber and biosecurity threats) remains limited, and Local Governments strongly support improved State-led risk tools to support local risk assessment, Local Government Grants Scheme funding reform, and strengthened sector support.
- 100 Local Governments (73% of sector) completed the survey.
- The 2025 survey findings were presented at the WALGA State Council Strategic Forum session on 4 March 2026, via a sector webinar held on 30 April and at the WALGA Emergency Management Forum on 26 May 2026.
- Key survey findings will be used to inform WALGA advocacy, including a planned review of WALGA's Emergency Management Advocacy Positions during 2026-27.

ATTACHMENT

- [WALGA Emergency Management Survey Summary Report](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This submission is relevant to and affirms WALGA's existing Emergency Management [Advocacy Positions](#):

- 8.1 Emergency Management Principles;
- 8.2 State Emergency Management Framework;
- 8.3 Sustainable Grant Funding Model for Emergency Management;
- 8.8 Local Government Grants Scheme;
- 8.9 Expansion of the Community Emergency Services Manager Program; and
- 8.10 Management of Bush Fire Brigades.

BACKGROUND

WALGA's Local Government Emergency Management Survey has been conducted every two years since 2019 and provides a comprehensive picture of key emergency management pressures and emerging issues across the Local Government sector. Delivered in partnership with Edith Cowan University's (ECU) Survey Research Centre, the 2025 survey achieved strong sector participation, with 100 of Western Australia's 137 Local Governments contributing (73%). The results offer a robust and representative snapshot covering 23 metropolitan and 77 regional councils, all Local Government Bands, and 85

Local Governments with Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade (VBFB) responsibilities, alongside 15 without.

COMMENT

The quantitative summary findings and full data report from the 2025 survey are attached to this item.

2025 Survey Insights at a Glance

Insight One: Expectations are outpacing Local Government capacity

~90% of Local Governments have maintained or increased their emergency management investment, but emergency demands are growing faster. 54% of Local Governments report staffing is insufficient to meet their current emergency management responsibilities. *Local Governments are not under-investing; they are absorbing increasing system demand without a proportional increase in capacity.*

Insight Two: Local Government capacity is under systemic strain

Local Governments are facing critical system-driven workforce, funding, and capability pressures. 80% are now topping up VBFB funding to maintain essential capability. 48% consider the current range of emergency management grant programs (including Disaster Ready Fund, AWARE, Mitigation Activity Fund Grants program as well as Local Government Grants Scheme) to be inadequate.

Insight Three: Proven models should be scaled

Scaling proven models, like the Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) program, is a clear and practical way to strengthen system capability. Targeted capability support delivers results. Among Local Governments without a CESM, 53% would like to have one.

Insight Four: Bushfire is shaping system pressures

Bushfire is dominating the system and forcing structural questions. 91% of Local Governments rank bushfire in their top five hazards; 66% say bushfire crowds out all-hazards work; 41% support transfer of VBFB responsibility to the State, and 55% now support reconsideration of an independent Rural Fire Service.

Insight Five: One State, many realities

Local Governments operate in fundamentally different risk and capacity environments. A single emergency management model cannot meet these diverse needs, reinforcing the importance of a differentiated, risk-based approach, as recognised through the LEMA Improvement Program.

10.2 PLANNING AND BUILDING PERFORMANCE MONITORING PROJECT

By Kieran McGovern, Acting Senior Policy Advisor Planning

FOR NOTING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA has undertaken the Local Government Performance Monitoring Project annually since 2017.
- The Project collects a range of data on Local Government planning and building regulatory functions and seeks to provide a representative and evidence-based analysis of the performance of the sector.
- The findings of the project are used to build sector capacity and inform and support WALGA's advocacy and policy development, particularly in relation to planning and building regulation reform.
- 52 Local Governments participated in 2024-25, representing approximately 92% of Western Australia's population and 96% of the State's total population growth.
- The 2024-25 data shows that Local Governments continue to maintain high levels of performance in undertaking their strategic and statutory planning and building functions.
- The findings of the Project are available as an online interactive dashboard publicly available through the [WALGA website](#).

ATTACHMENTS

- [Key Indicator Snapshot](#)
- [List of Participating Local Governments](#)
- [Local Government Performance Monitoring Dashboard](#)
- [State Development Assessment Pathways Monitoring Dashboard](#)

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Performance Monitoring Project (the Project) and associated Local Government Performance Monitoring Report (the Report) were initiated by the Growth Alliance Perth and Peel (GAPP) group and WALGA in 2017, in response to inaccurate and misleading reporting of the planning performance of metropolitan Local Governments. The Project and Report have been undertaken annually since that time, with the number of participating Local Governments increasing from 11 to 52 in 2024-25.

The Project collects a range of data on Local Government planning and building regulatory functions and seeks to provide a representative and evidence-based analysis of the performance of the sector.

The findings of the Project are available via a Power BI dashboard on the WALGA website that provides a collated view of all participating Local Governments across the nine years of the Project, and allows Local Governments to analyse and compare performance by year, region or against individual Local Governments.

The dashboard does not compare individual Local Government performance, however it allows individual Local Governments to draw their own comparisons between themselves and other Local Governments, which may be useful for those who have similar development pressures and resourcing.

The data collected via the Project is the only source of Local Government performance monitoring information available in the State, and as such, the State Government relies on this data when reporting to the Commonwealth Government.

COMMENT

52 Local Governments participated in the Project in 2024-25. These Local Governments represent approximately 92% of Western Australia's population and 96% of the State's total population growth between 2023 and 2025. Collectively, they provide a strong indication of how the Local Government sector in Western Australia is performing in the areas of strategic and statutory planning and building regulation.

Key findings from the 2024-25 data:

- Participating Local Governments determined 73,642 applications (development applications, subdivision referrals and building permits), a 17% increase on the previous year.
- The timeliness data is relatively consistent with previous years despite the increase in applications, with 85% of these being determined or responded to within statutory timeframes.
- The participants determined 21,555 development applications in 2024-25, equating to a value of \$10.48b.
 - 99% of all development applications were approved.
 - 98% of all development applications were determined under delegated authority.
- Over the same period, Development Assessment Panels and the Significant Development Pathway determined 268 and 17 development applications respectively, with a value of \$7.18b and \$1.75b.
- Whilst there is an increase in the number of applications being determined, the average number of FTE have decreased.

There is a low standard deviation within most measures, and average sector performance year on year is consistent, providing a high degree of confidence that the reported performance is reflective of the sector, and that high levels of performance by some larger Local Governments are not impacting sector averages.

The process of collecting and reporting data for 2024-25 has been refined and improved. Whilst a consultant had previously been engaged to collect and review the data, WALGA has completed this process internally this year to provide a more critical in-depth analysis of the data and reporting.

WALGA will continue to utilise this data to inform policy development, advice and advocacy relating to the planning and building functions of Local Government.

WALGA is encouraging additional Local Governments to participate in the 2025-26 financial year reporting period, with a focus on the last remaining metropolitan and peri-urban Local Governments.

10.3 WALGA BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT ROUNDTABLE

By Rachel Armstrong, Policy Manager Emergency Management

FOR NOTING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA convened the third annual Bushfire Management Roundtable on 23 March, providing a forum for Local Government Chief Executive Officers to engage directly with senior leaders from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and LGIS on system-level bushfire management issues.
- The Roundtable reaffirmed the value of regular senior-level engagement at a time of increasing bushfire risk, extended fire seasons and escalating work health and safety responsibilities for Local Governments under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020*.
- Local Governments highlighted increasing pressure on volunteer bush fire brigades, including workforce sustainability challenges, fatigue and growing liability exposure.
- CEOs provided strong feedback on the need for clearer statewide guidance and more consistent frameworks to support cross-boundary bushfire operations and during transfer of control.
- The importance of long-term, predictable bushfire mitigation funding and continued reform of the Local Government Grants Scheme to better reflect bushfire risk and operational demand was reinforced.
- A detailed summary of issues raised and agreed follow-up is provided in the attached Summary Report.
- This item was also noted at the People and Place Policy Team meeting on 19 May.

ATTACHMENT

- [2025 WALGA Bushfire Management Roundtable Summary Report](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item aligns with WALGA's Strategic Pillars:

- **Influence** – Lead advocacy on issues that are important to Local Government.
- **Support** – Provide practical sector-wide solutions based on research and evidence.
- **Expertise** – Foster relationships between our subject matter experts and stakeholders.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The [Advocacy Positions](#) relevant to the Roundtable are the following:

- 8.4 Consolidated Emergency Services Act;
- 8.7 Emergency Services Levy;
- 8.8 Local Government Grants Scheme;
- 8.9 Expansion of the Community Emergency Services Manager Program; and
- 8.10 Management of Bush Fire Brigades.

BACKGROUND

The WALGA Bushfire Management Roundtable is held annually to provide Local Government Chief Executive Officers with a direct forum to engage with State agencies on strategic bushfire management issues, emerging risks and system performance. The third

Roundtable was held on 23 March at the Bushfire Centre of Excellence and brought together Chief Executive Officers from the following Local Governments:

- City of Albany
- City of Armadale
- City of Busselton
- Shire of Bruce Rock
- Shire of Carnarvon
- Shire of Gingin
- Shire of Katanning
- Shire of Nannup
- Shire of Waroona.

The Roundtable also included representatives from WALGA, DFES, DBCA and LGIS.

COMMENT

The Roundtable confirmed that Local Governments remain committed to managing bushfire risk but are operating under increasing workforce, safety, funding and governance pressures. Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades continue to experience recruitment, retention and fatigue challenges, compounded by longer fire seasons and increased cross boundary deployments. CEOs also raised growing concern about meeting obligations under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* in the absence of consistent procedures, particularly where deployments occur between Local Governments and where control is transferred between agencies.

Reform of the Local Government Grants Scheme remains critical to addressing inequities and capability gaps, particularly for ageing infrastructure, appliances and communications. Ongoing governance complexity and a lack of role clarity between State and Local Government continue to present operational and risk challenges. Local Governments reiterated the need for long-term, predictable mitigation funding and improved coordination across land managers. Overall, the Roundtable highlighted the importance of continued senior level engagement and coordinated State and Local Government action to ensure bushfire management arrangements remain fit for purpose as risk, expectations and obligations continue to evolve.

Actions included for DFES to work with WALGA and Local Governments on volunteer fitness for work options, informed by approaches used in other jurisdictions, and to progress reform to the Local Government Grants Scheme.

10.4 FLYING MINUTES ENDORSED BY STATE COUNCIL

FOR NOTING

The following Flying Minutes have been endorsed by State Council since the May 2026 meeting:

- Selection Committee Special Meeting Minutes – 7 April 2026;
- WALGA Submission on the National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement (NEBRA);
- WALGA Submission on the Exposure Draft of the National Environmental Standard for Matters of National Environmental Significance; and
- State Hazard Plan Hostile Act – WALGA Submission.

The full Flying Minutes are available on the [WALGA website](#).

11 ORGANISATION REPORTS

11.1 KEY ACTIVITY REPORTS

11.1.1 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, ADVOCACY PORTFOLIO

By Rachel Horton, Executive Manager Advocacy

FOR NOTING

The Advocacy Portfolio comprises the following work units:

- Marketing
- Communications
- Media
- Government Relations
- Events
- Association Governance

1. MARKETING

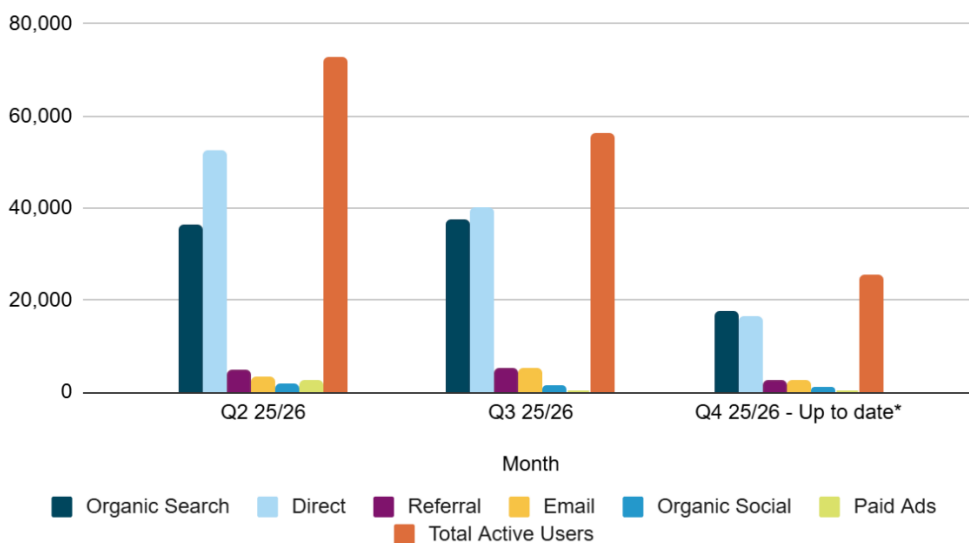
Training Campaigns

Three marketing campaigns have run throughout the reporting period, all resulting in strong year-on-year improvement across major traffic and engagement metrics.

- **Diploma of Local Government (Elected Member) – May Intake**
A new initiative was launched with an [Elected Member Stories hub](#) created to showcase real experiences and highlight the value of the program. The campaign resulted in a 61% increase in visitors compared to the March 2025 intake and a 41% conversion rate.
- **Cert III** – 70% increase in visitors and 63% conversion rate.
- **Health and Safety Representatives Course** - 18 students registered for the course (above the target of 15) and 88% increase in visitors.

WALGA Website

Quarterly Web Traffic by Source



Overall, (halfway through Q4) traffic and active users are broadly in line with Q3 mid-quarter volumes. Compared to the same period last year, sessions increased by 7% and active users by 16%. The most visited pages this quarter were the Local Government Directory and upcoming events. The training pages have also seen a 33% increase in visits compared to Q4 2025.

The migration of the RoadWise website into the WALGA website is progressing well and will be complete by 30 June 2026.

2. COMMUNICATIONS

Multiple internal and external communications were prepared throughout the reporting period between Saturday 21 March and Friday, 15 May (56 Days) including:

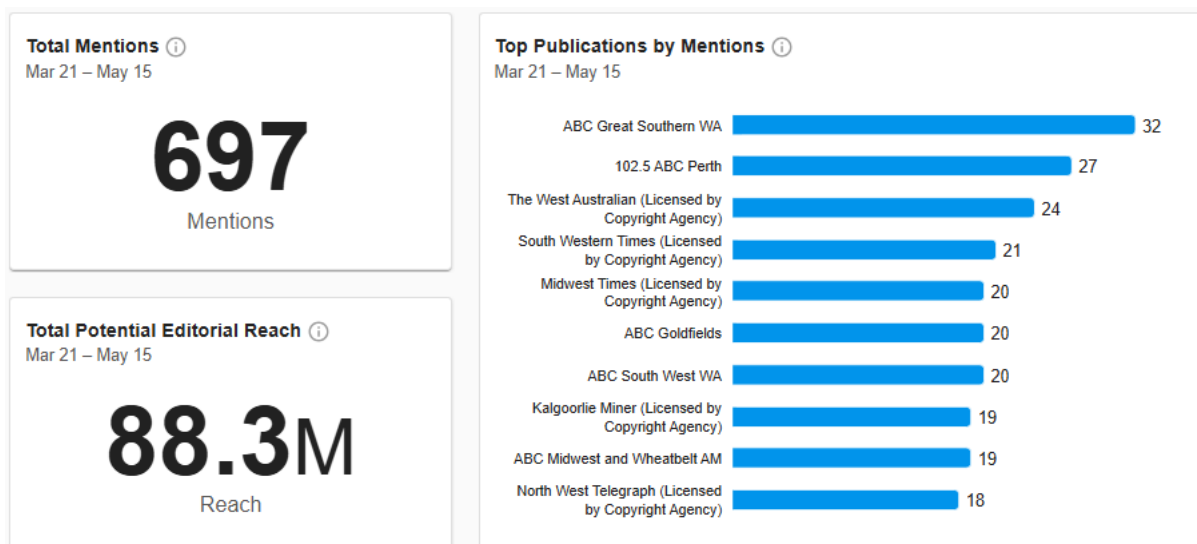
- Eight LG Direct weekly newsletters distributed to more than 2,000 Elected Members and senior staff.
- Three WALGA Media Releases.
- WALGA's 2026-27 State and Federal Budget Analysis.
- Western Councillor Magazine.
- Local Government Directory.

3. MEDIA

There were 697 mentions of WALGA and the WALGA President between Saturday, 21 March and Friday, 15 May (56 Days), an average of 12 mentions a day. The majority of mentions were from ABC Great Southern, ABC Radio Perth and the West Australian. Topics included fuel security, FOGO, Local Government matters, and the polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB).

Top media mentions by reach:

- Auditor General's report on Local Government audits – 16 million
- Local Government Elections – 14.5 million



Earned Media:

WALGA received 25 requests for comment across print, radio, television and online media (13 print media, six radio and six television interviews).

Media Releases:

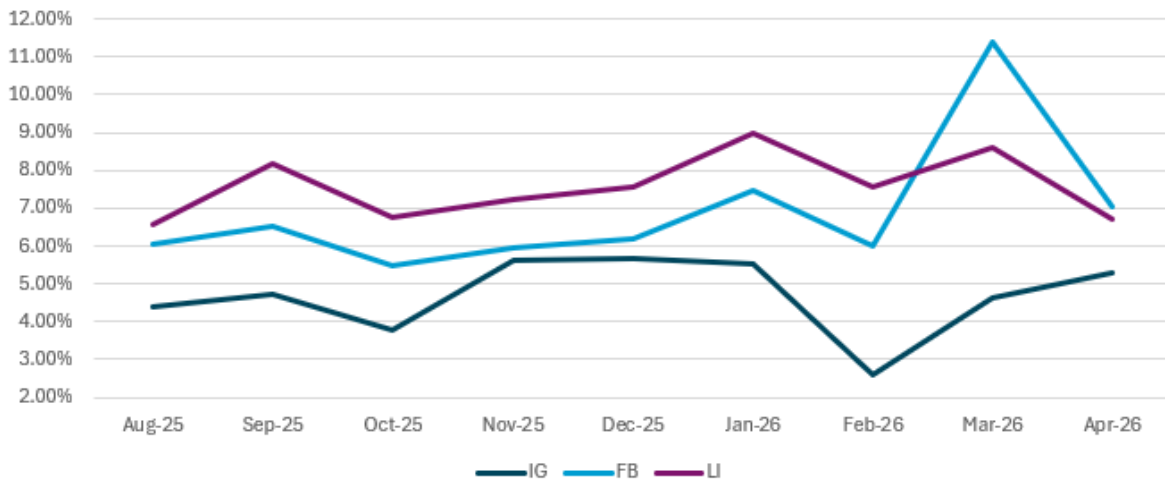
WALGA released three proactive media statements regarding the Federal Budget commitment to housing and the development of WALGA’s Economic Development Case Study Guide.

- [WALGA commends funding for Local Government CCTV – 30 March 2026](#)
- [WALGA welcomes \\$2 billion Federal Budget investment in housing enabling infrastructure – 10 May 2026](#)
- [WALGA showcases Local Government Economic Development success - 11 May 2026](#)

Social Media:

The below statistics cover the period between Saturday 21 March and Friday, 15 May (56 Days).

Social Media Engagement %



Reach remains strong across all channels, with a combined audience of more than 15,000 across platforms. Engagement rates continue to outperform industry benchmarks, (7% on LinkedIn, 6% on Facebook, and 3% on Instagram), with a peak in March around the Aboriginal Engagement Forum. The Cert III Graduation wrap-up generated particularly high engagement on social media, with a 19% engagement rate on Facebook and 33% engagement rate on Instagram.

4. GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Political Engagement

WALGA continues to engage with key State and Federal Government and Opposition representatives on issues affecting the Local Government sector.

At the State level, WALGA has met with the Premier, Deputy Premier, the Minister and Shadow Minister for Local Government, and Ministers and Shadow Ministers across key portfolios including planning, housing, and community services.

Federally, engagement has included the Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, the Shadow Assistant Minister, and the Member for Durack.

These meetings have enabled political leaders to connect with WALGA’s new President, Mark Irwin, and reaffirm WALGA’s commitment to working collaboratively across all levels of Government to deliver better outcomes for local communities.

State and Federal Budgets

WA Treasurer Rita Saffioti handed down the State Budget on 8 May 2026. The Budget focusses on addressing key pressures facing the community, with key announcements related to major investments to boost housing supply and affordability, enhance health infrastructure, respond to fuel supply challenges, and ease cost-of-living pressures.

WALGA attended the State Budget Industry Briefing to gain early access to the Budget and distributed a member update that evening highlighting the key initiatives relevant to Local Governments. WALGA also provided members with a timely briefing outlining key initiatives in the Federal Budget.

5. EVENTS

Events held during the reporting period:

Diploma of Local Government Alumni Sundowner – 5 May 2026

The Sundowner provided an opportunity for alumni to reconnect and strengthen relationships across the sector. The event featured a video message from alumni Georgie Carey and an address from WALGA State Councillor and Shire of Exmouth President, Matt Niikkula, who shared insights into the Shire's recovery efforts following the impacts of Tropical Cyclone Narelle in the region.

Economic Development Case Studies Launch – 11 May 2026

The Economic Development Case Studies Launch celebrated the release of a new resource to support Local Governments in strengthening economic outcomes within their communities. The event attracted over 50 in-person attendees and more than 65 online participants, with 58 Local Governments represented.

2026 Emergency Management Forum – 26 May 2026

The 2026 Forum, held at Murdoch University was attended by 150 delegates. The Forum brought together Emergency Management practitioners, sector leaders and industry experts, with opportunities for delegates to connect with exhibitors including DFES Resilience and Recovery, Bushfire Centre of Excellence, LGIS, and WALGA.

Upcoming Events

- WALGA Local Government Awards – 12 June 2026, WA Museum Boola Bardip
- WALGA People & Culture Seminar – 3 July 2026, PCEC
- Certificate III Virtual Graduation – 25 July 2026, WALGA
- 2026 Local Government Convention – 16-18 September 2026 PCEC

Planning is well underway for the Convention, with a focus on delivering a program that reflects the diversity of Local Governments across Western Australia. Exhibitor registrations opened on 22 May and delegate registrations will open mid-June.

6. ASSOCIATION GOVERNANCE

Regional State Council meeting

The May 2026 State Council meeting was hosted by the Central Country Zone in the Shire of Pingelly. State Council holds two meetings per year in a regional location – one hosted by a Country Zone and another by a Metropolitan Zone.

While in Pingelly, State Councillors heard directly from delegates of the Central Country Zone on renewable energy, strategic road maintenance planning and key worker housing.

The next Regional meeting will be hosted by the Central Metropolitan Zone at the City of Perth in September.

Local Government Honours Program 2026

The nomination campaign 'Shine a Light on Local Government' concluded with a record number of nominations across six award categories. (77 nominations compared to 50 in 2025.) The campaign attracted a 45% engagement rate and over 1,500 views to the Awards information page.

ONE70 Property Management Services

WALGA's accommodation at 170 Railway Parade, West Leederville (ONE70) is owned by the Local Government House Trust, of which WALGA is Trustee. The Trust is overseen by a Board of Management, comprised of State Councillors and representatives from the membership.

The long-term property manager and former Joint Venture partner, Qube, are ending their property management services to ONE70 as of 30 June this year. WALGA, on behalf of the Trust, conducted an RFQ process to appoint a new property management services provider. Following a very competitive process, the Trust Board decided to engage JLL for an initial 3-year period. The transition process from Qube to JLL is underway, with JLL due to commence services on 1 July 2026.

11.1.2 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE PORTFOLIO

By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure

FOR NOTING

The Infrastructure Portfolio comprises the following work units:

- *Roads*
- *Road Funding*
- *Transport*
- *Asset Management*
- *Utilities*
- *Road Safety*

The following outlines the activities of the Infrastructure Portfolio since the May 2026 State Council meeting.

1. ROADS

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

WALGA and the National Transport Research Organisation (NTRO) have convened a series of workshops with Local Government and industry to develop the next pipeline of projects. A shortlist is being developed and WALGA will convene an operations team with Local Government representation to prioritise the list. A new LGTRRIP website is under development and will go live shortly.

Guidelines and Specifications for Residential Crossovers

WALGA's review of the Residential Crossover Guidelines and Specifications is progressing. Current work is focused on assessing and updating references to external standards, guidelines and technical documents that have changed since the publication of the existing document, to ensure all cited information remains current and relevant. Feedback from Local Governments is also being used to identify opportunities to improve the clarity, usability and overall content of the guidelines. Stakeholder input will be considered as the revisions are finalised.

Heavy Vehicle Access on Local Roads

A working group of representatives from mining, agricultural and metropolitan Local Governments, along with WALGA and Main Roads met to propose arrangements that could support Local Governments to continue to effectively manage large freight tasks on local roads within the constraints of the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Act 2012* and the *Road Traffic (Administration) Act 2008*. Many Local Governments have relied on RAV network access conditions (CA07) to facilitate negotiations with freight generators and carriers, that Main Roads changed in late 2025.

A model was tentatively agreed. The group is waiting on documentation from Main Roads that is required to facilitate engagement with Local Governments.

2. ROAD FUNDING

State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement

The current Agreement expires in June 2028 and WALGA has initiated discussions to inform the process towards the drafting and signing of a new Agreement.

Regional Road Safety Program

Program delivery is continuing with the next steering group meeting proposed for August. There was no Federal co-funding for the program included in the 2026/27 budget. Engagement with stakeholders and government to secure on-going and expanded support for this work is continuing.

Multi-Criteria Assessment (MCA) Model Revisions

WALGA is continuing to work alongside Regional Road Groups to better align the MCA models used by Regional Road Groups to prioritise projects for Road Project Grant funding with the updated procedures of the State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement (Agreement). At their May 2026 meeting, the State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee supported the MCA models developed by Great Southern, Kimberley, and South-West regions and arrangements are being made to have these, together with Gascoyne and Metropolitan policies and procedures to be made accessible via a website. Significant progress has been made in each of the other regions.

3. TRANSPORT

Active Transport and Micromobility Advocacy Plan

The Active Transport and Micromobility Advocacy Plan is progressing. The proposed advocacy actions were presented to the Infrastructure Policy Team and were well received, with constructive feedback and suggestions provided. WALGA is now reviewing and prioritising the actions to inform the next steps in the development of the plan.

4. ASSET MANAGEMENT

Road Assets and Expenditure Report Project

Progress on modernising the architecture and processes for data management, entry, and processing associated with the Road Assets and Expenditure Report continues. The Discovery and Design phases of the project are now complete, and the project is in the Build phase. The project will include the development of a database, reporting interface, and dashboard and will go live in August 2026 for the data entry component of the 2025/26 report. WALGA has begun the process of informing the Local Government sector of these changes and supporting Local Governments in utilising the updated and enhanced process and outputs.

Concurrently, the 2024/25 Report on Local Government Road Assets and Expenditure was finalised and distributed to stakeholders.

Review of the WALGA Road Visual Condition Assessment Manual

The final version of the WALGA Road Visual Condition Manual is ready for publication and will be released, pending several changes to the RAMM software package to accommodate the updated methodology. The Manual will be released three months ahead of a "Go Live" date, when changes to the RAMM software package will be formally integrated. An instructional webinar will be delivered in advance.

Western Power

The State Budget released in May makes it clear that the Government has prioritised new housing developments and slowed delivery of the underground power program. This is arguably a response to limited contractor and internal delivery capacity, rather than funding. This will delay commencement of underground power projects that were intended to be undertaken over the coming five years. Western Power has communicated with affected Local Governments.

WALGA will be seeking to ensure that the viability of these projects is not significantly compromised by new Western Power investment in the overhead network in these areas.

WALGA is continuing to advocate that Western Power progress consultation with Local Governments regarding a streetlight asset management strategy.

ERA Framework and Approach

WALGA reviewed the draft Framework and Approach for Access Arrangement 6 published by the Economic Regulation Authority (ERA). Feedback concerning issues with Western Power services that could potentially be addressed through the Access Arrangement continue to be sought from Local Governments. In the interim period, WALGA met with Western Power to discuss WALGA's submission to the Framework and Approach Discussion Paper consultation.

Telecommunications

Some progress was made with Telstra, the Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development and other stakeholders to define an operational model and agreements that would enable timely deployment of backup generators to support telecommunications services during power failures. Critical liability matters still need to be resolved.

WALGA provided a submission to the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee Inquiry into the Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Universal Outdoor Mobile Obligation) Bill 2025. This submission was based on WALGA's existing Advocacy Positions, highlighting that the proposed legislation needs to explicitly ensure that 000 services are universally accessible, that very high reliability and resilience is achieved and services are affordable. The Committee recommended that the Senate passes the Bill without amendment, although there were dissenting views put forward.

5. ROAD SAFETY

RoadWise Councils

As of 1 April 2026, there were 75 Local Governments registered as RoadWise Councils. There is a spread of RoadWise Councils across all ten Regional Road Group regions. In the period January to March 2026, 87% (65) of registered RoadWise Councils recorded a total of 260 local road safety activities, supported by WALGA's team of road safety staff.

RoadWise Recognised

The RoadWise Recognised Advisory Committee met in February and endorsed the allocation of 3,440 points to the 63 RoadWise Councils, who collectively recorded delivering actions to progress better road safety outcomes during the previous quarter (October–December 2025). Points are allocated for each road safety activity or intervention undertaken as per the RoadWise Framework. Points are based on the effectiveness, longevity and scale of the road safety activity and considers the capacity of the RoadWise Council.

Preparations were completed for the RoadWise Recognised Awards to be presented in June.

Road Safety Council

The Road Safety Council Communiques can be viewed at [Road Safety Council Meeting Communiques](#).

11.1.3 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, MEMBER SERVICES PORTFOLIO

By Kirsty Martin, Executive Manager Member Services

FOR NOTING

The Member Services Portfolio comprises the following work units:

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

The following outlines the activities of the Member Services Portfolio since the May 2026 State Council meeting.

1. COMMERCIAL

The Preferred Supplier Program (PSP) continues to grow, with 266 new suppliers (including 46 Aboriginal businesses) added to the program this financial year to date, and a further 95 tender submissions currently under evaluation.

New supply category development is currently in tender phase for Leisure Centre Supplies (pool chemicals and aquatic supplies), and Project Management Services (superintendent services).

A major update to the PSP Member Conditions templates is currently being drafted to reflect recent regulatory and legislative changes.

The Sustainable Energy Supply Project has reported performance results for the first three quarters of the new contract term, delivering 49 Members a total of 85MWh of renewable energy and offsetting approximately 32,500 tonnes of carbon emissions. Estimated cost savings have exceeded \$1.25 million. The project has also established a Strategy Advisory Group to guide future sustainable energy initiatives and diversification opportunities.

2. EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

WALGA Employee Relations continues to represent the sector in the following applications in the WA Industrial Relations Commission (WAIRC) and Fair Work Commission (FWC), including:

- Road Transport Contractual Chain Order – Fuel Cost Recovery – 20026 (MS2026/1)
 - The FWC's Road Transport Contractual Chain Order (RTCCO) is now in effect and impacting Local Governments. The RTCCO commenced on 21 April and introduced mandatory fuel cost recovery obligations across road transport contractual chains.
 - The RTCCO requires Local Governments in road transport contractual chains to:
 1. Make fortnightly adjustments to payments for road transport work to ensure recovery of increased fuel costs; and
 2. Take reasonable steps to ensure compliance across the contractual chain, including that other parties adjust their rates accordingly.

- The RTCCO is subject to a review by the FWC after the first month of operation and then every three months thereafter.
- WALGA is working with ALGA and other State Local Government Associations to obtain further advice for the sector.
- Applications CICS 5, 8 and 9 of 2023 – Union demarcation dispute and associated applications:
 - CICS 5, 8 and 9 of 2023 is an application by the Western Australian Municipal, Administrative, Clerical and Services Union of Employees (WASU), for coverage of Local Government employees to the exclusion of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union of Workers (CFMEUW) (the Demarcation claim).
 - The Local Government, Racing and Cemeteries Employees Union (LGRCEU) and WALGA are intervenors.
 - The Demarcation claim was heard by the WAIRC, sitting as the Commission in Court Session (CICS), over 41 days in July and October of 2024 and October and November 2025. The CICS has reserved its decision in the Demarcation claim. Given the length of the hearing, the number of witnesses and amount of evidence produced during the hearing it is not possible to predict when the Demarcation claim decision will be handed down.
- State Wage Case:
 - Annually, the WAIRC in Court Session issues a decision setting the WA minimum wage.
 - WALGA has submitted a written submission on behalf of the Local Government sector and will make oral submissions at the hearing which commenced on 20 May.

3. GOVERNANCE AND PROCUREMENT

WALGA's Governance and Procurement team have been working closely with Employee Relations to assist Local Governments to understand their responsibilities under the Fair Work Commission Road Transport Contractual Chain Order (RTCCO). WALGA continues to meet with CEOs regarding the impact of fuel price and supply, and State Councillors meet regularly with the State Fuel Controller, Mr Rob Cossart.

WALGA facilitated a webinar on 1 May with a presentation from Duncan Fletcher, Partner at Kingston Reid, on the implications of the RTCCO for Local Governments. Over 200 people joined the webinar and more have since viewed the recording, available on WALGA's [Fuel Security](#) webpage. This page also features procurement and contract management advice to assist Local Governments in dealing with fuel price volatility.

Fuel matters, and the RTCCO, featured in the latest Procurement eNewsletter, distributed on 29 April. The newsletter also included information about the Department of Home Affairs' engagement with the Local Government sector on countering foreign interference in Local Government, following a briefing to the Governance and Procurement team by the Counter Foreign Interference Coordination Centre.

The team has supported the Environment and Waste Team with the review of the Cat Act.

4. TRAINING

This year has continued with strong enrolment numbers for February, March and May, with April always being lower due to school and public holidays.

Council Member Essentials

At the 2025 election, a total of 578 Councillors were elected, 231 of them are newly Elected Members and six have since resigned. As of 31 March, 90% of Councillors have enrolled with WALGA Training. Of that pool, 48.7% have completed all five modules, 8.7% have completed four modules, 21.3% completed three modules or less and 21.3% have not yet started their training.

Diploma of Local Government – Elected Member Alumni Sundowner

On 5 May, WALGA Training held the annual Diploma Alumni event, celebrating past Diploma graduates. At the event, two inspiring Alumni guest speakers shared their Elected Member experiences. Georgie Carey, previous Deputy Mayor from Mosman Park shared her journey from being elected to Council at the age of 21 to her recent move to the Harvard Kennedy School in Boston, USA, where she is studying her Master of Public Policy. Matt Niikkula, President at the Shire of Exmouth, provided insights on his journey from having grown up in Exmouth and running a local business to being elected and leading his community through a Category 4 cyclone. Eva Godwin, WALGA Training Services Manager reflected on how the Diploma program has grown, sharing updates on strengthened financial literacy outcomes and the important role Elected Members play in making strategic, long-term decisions for their communities.

Diploma of Local Government – Elected Member

A new Diploma intake started on 5 May with six full Diploma enrolments, two Skill Sets and one continuation from the Skill Set to the full Diploma. Enquiries for the next intake in November are already being received. The Jacqui Dodd Scholarship will open in July and close in August. The Scholarships will be announced at the 2026 WALGA Convention.

Certificate III in Local Government

In early 2026, the Department of Training and Workplace Development confirmed WA Jobs and Skills funding to deliver the Certificate III in Local Government as a School Based Traineeship. Since then, the Training team has been contacting Local Governments to determine interest and potential uptake, in collaboration with schools and the Apprenticeship Connect Provider in the local areas.

To support this cohort effectively, WALGA is planning a special class, delivering the program over 18 months instead of the traditional 12 months. Some Local Governments have already expressed interest in taking on between three to five Trainees.

The April intake had two Trainees and three Fee for Service students starting their Certificate III journey. The next intake is in July.

Launch of LG Design Review Panel eLearning

In collaboration with the Government Architect of Western Australia (GAWA) and the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC), WALGA is proud to launch the Local Government Design Review eLearning courses. Further information about the courses can be found on the [WALGA website](#).

11.1.4 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, POLICY PORTFOLIO

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy

FOR NOTING

The Policy Portfolio comprises the following work units:

- *Economic Policy and Development*
- *Environment and Waste*
- *Planning and Building*
- *Emergency Management*
- *Community*

The following outlines the activities of the Policy Portfolio since the May 2026 State Council meeting.

1. ECONOMIC POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT

WALGA welcomed our new Economist, Nathaniel Hanna in April. Nathaniel comes to WALGA from the Economic Regulation Authority and has previously worked at the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

State and Federal Budgets

WALGA participated in the State Budget Lockup and delivered analysis and commentary to the sector on the budget's expected impacts on the local economy, including economic diversification, community infrastructure, housing, and utility and street lighting charges. In addition, WALGA provided an overview of key Federal Budget spending measures and their relevance to the Local Government sector. WALGA's budget analysis can be found on the WALGA website [here](#).

Quarterly Economic Briefing

The [Quarter 1 2026 WALGA Economic Briefing](#) was released in April. A key focus of the Briefing was the impacts of rising oil prices as a result of the war in the Middle East, with ACIL Allen undertaking scenario analysis on how current and potential oil shortages affect the Local Government sector and outlining implications for costs and financial sustainability. WALGA hosted a sector webinar on the Briefing with ACIL Allen on 23 April.

Local Government Economic Development Case Studies

The launch of WALGA's [Economic Development Case Study Guide: From Idea to Implementation](#) was held on 11 May. The publication and content on the WALGA website present a series of Local Government case studies that reflect common challenges and approaches in delivering economic development initiatives across diverse local contexts. The case studies support shared learning and highlight the important role Local Governments play in delivering economic development opportunities for their communities. The hard-copy publication will be supported by a new digital case studies page hosted alongside WALGA's other economics resources.

2026 Census

WALGA hosted a webinar on 5 March with the Australian Bureau of Statistics to highlight ways Local Government can support rigorous data collection during the upcoming Census in August. With Census data underpinning Local Government funding applications and advocacy asks, the webinar was particularly relevant for areas with high representation of Aboriginal people, transient and FIFO workers, people experiencing homelessness, and culturally and linguistically diverse groups.

2. ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE

Illegal Tobacco and Vapes Enforcement

Over 100 representatives from Local Government attended a webinar hosted by WALGA for the Department of Health and WA Police to discuss amendments to the *Tobacco and Other Products Control Act 2006*. These amendments are already assisting in enforcement operations, resulting in the closure of stores in Local Government areas across Western Australia. The Department of Health and WA Police provided an update on current efforts to address illicit tobacco and vape activity within the community and sought the assistance of Local Governments through the provision of timely intelligence, particularly where closed premises re-open within their jurisdictions.

Biosecurity

H5 Bird Flu

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), as the Hazard Management Agency, has been developing a H5 Bird Flu State Response Governance Plan for Western Australia. WALGA has provided feedback on the development of the Plan and continues to engage with DPIRD on this matter. WALGA is advocating for Local Government costs to be included in any H5 Bird Flu response. WALGA is finalising a Template H5 Bird Flu Plan for Local Governments. As at the end of May, Australia remains the only continent free of H5 Bird Flu.

Polyphagous Shot-hole Borer

The State Government has provided \$3.6 million to the 30 Local Governments in the PSHB Management Zone to support management activities. Local Governments have until 8 June to apply for up to \$120,000 under the PSHB Local Government Support Scheme. The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) also opened Round 2 of the WA Tree Recovery Local Government Grant Program in late May.

\$4.8 million was allocated in the 2026-27 State Budget for PSHB management. WALGA continues to advocate for a significant increase in PSHB funding, noting that the transition to long-term management ends on 1 January 2027.

DPIRD is in the final stages of preparing an Integrated Pest Resource Suite of resources for Local Government, industry and the community, which is anticipated to be released in July. The resources will be available online and provide best practice guidance, checklists and decision-making tools to support a consistent approach to PSHB management. In May, DPIRD provided PSHB training at the City of Greater Geraldton, and have further training scheduled for the Shire of Manjimup on 24 June and the Avon-Midland area in July.

WALGA developed a submission on the National Biosecurity Reform Agenda. This represents a key opportunity to ensure the national biosecurity system is fit-for-purpose for future biosecurity incursions. WALGA has met with ALGA, equivalent State Associations and capital city Local Governments to share information about the PSHB response and build a united approach on national biosecurity reform priorities. The WALGA CEO

presented at the QLD Government Safeguarding Australia's Tree Health Forum, highlighting the challenges for Local Government in the PSHB response and ongoing management and the key opportunities for reform to the national biosecurity system.

3. PLANNING AND BUILDING

WALGA Planning Performance Project

The results of the [2024-25 Planning Performance Project](#) have been released (State Council [item 10.2](#) refers to this matter).

Liveable Neighbourhoods and Residential Design Code Reviews

The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) are currently undertaking a review of two important planning documents. [Liveable Neighbourhoods](#), to be renamed Neighbourhood Design, guides the structure planning and subdivision for greenfield and large brownfield (urban infill) sites. The Residential Design Codes (R-Codes) provide planning and design provisions for residential development across Western Australia. WALGA represents the sector by participating in DPLH advisory groups for both projects and has attended a series of advisory group meetings and technical workshops since the beginning of the year. It is anticipated that the revised documents will be released for consultation later this year.

Building Surveyors

Registrations

Last year, the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS) updated its [Building Services Board policy](#), outlining revised criteria for assessing Building Surveyor registration applicants. The sector raised concerns that the changes made registration more difficult and, in some cases, unattainable for Local Government Building Surveyors. This situation presents considerable workforce risks, particularly in the context of ongoing shortages of qualified Building Surveyors across the Local Government sector. In response, WALGA has engaged with LGIRS and facilitated several meetings between LGIRS representatives and Building Surveyor groups to clarify the policy and explore short- and long-term options for clear, equitable, and achievable registration pathways.

Training

Following strong WALGA advocacy, the Construction Industry Training Council (CITC) has advised that South Metropolitan TAFE has committed to scoping the Advanced Diploma of Building Surveying, with the intention of offering the qualification from Semester 1, 2027. As part of the scoping process, South Metropolitan TAFE is seeking some preliminary industry input to assist with planning, delivery considerations and broader workforce pathway development within WA.

This is an encouraging development for the sector and a positive step toward supporting future workforce capability and training pathways within WA.

4. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement Program

WALGA has completed its work on Phase 1 of the [LEMA Improvement Program](#) and has been successful in securing State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) administered State Level Project funding to employ a project officer for 16 months to deliver Local Government LEMA implementation support.

To deliver on the commitment of a sector-led LEMA improvement process, WALGA partnered with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) to deliver Phase 1 of the project, including the co-design of new templates and guidance, piloted with five Local Governments. WALGA provided a LEMA Pilot report and revised LEMA Guidance and Templates to DFES on 15 April. On 21 May, SEMC endorsed a 16-month plan to implement the outputs of Phase 1 of the LEMA improvement program. This is expected to include:

- A SEMC Policy Communique confirming minimum LEMA requirements.
- Releasing the new LEMA templates and guidance that meet these requirements via the SEMC consultation portal.
- Providing practical support to Local Governments to adopt the new LEMA approach
- Releasing the Local Emergency Management Development Model for sector-wide consultation.
- Developing proposed amendments to the State Emergency Management Framework to embed the LEMA development Model and new LEMA templates.

Emergency Management Forum 2026: One State, Many Realities

On 26 May, WALGA hosted its annual Emergency Management Forum at Murdoch University. A sold-out event, the day featured informative sessions from industry leaders across Australia, Local Government Case Study presentations, and networking for emergency management staff, executives, and Elected Members. Over 150 delegates attended the Forum from across the State, ranging from the City of Karratha as the northernmost Local Government, to the Shire of Augusta Margaret River in the south and Shire of Yilgarn in the east.

Discussions included how the emergency landscape might evolve over the next decade, the importance of building connections to support resilience, and tools to foster planning and response capabilities unique to Local Government communities.

Emergency Management Representation Summary

WALGA CEO Nick Sloan represented the Association at the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) on 21 May. The latest SEMC communique from March is available [here](#). Other representation includes the:

- Bushfire Operations Committee, 29 May.
- State Bushfire Advisory Council (SBAC), 5 March.
 - The latest SBAC Communique can be viewed [here](#).
- Interagency Bushfire Operations Committee (IBOC), 14 March and 6 May.
 - The latest IBOC Communique can be viewed [here](#).

Exercise Assisi - Committee for Animal Welfare in Emergencies (CAWE)

The WALGA Emergency Management team attended Exercise Assisi, hosted by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) in collaboration with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), Department of Communities (DoC) and the CAWE Committee (including RSPCA, Perth Zoo, International Fund for Animal Welfare, and the Australian Veterinary Association). The Cities of Kalamunda and Armadale participated in the Level 3 bushfire in a metropolitan urban fringe scenario exercise. The event gave participants a greater understanding of incident processes and clarified the roles and responsibilities of involved parties, including for incident coordination, community communication and wildlife management.

5. COMMUNITY

Rural Health

On 28 April, WALGA gave evidence to the Federal Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Reference [Committee Inquiry into Medicare access and funding in rural, regional and remote Australia](#). There was good engagement with the data provided in the [WALGA 2025 General Practice Support Survey Report](#) and the issue of Local Governments increasingly absorbing costs due to gaps in the Medicare funding model and recognised burden is placing pressure on already constrained local budgets. WALGA is continuing to develop solutions-based advocacy with health stakeholders. An options paper is being developed ahead of sharing with the State Health Minister.

ALGA Closing the Gap Implementation Plan

As a signatory to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, ALGA is required to maintain an Implementation Plan and report on progress annually. ALGA has developed a new Implementation Plan, in collaboration with State and Territory Member Associations, via the First Nations Policy Network, which includes WALGA officers. ALGA has incorporated the feedback from Member Associations that the Implementation Plan should clarify the roles and responsibilities of ALGA and its Members as peak bodies, distinct from Government Parties.

The Implementation Plan will provide a useful foundation for effective advocacy to the State Government to establish relationships and mutual understanding with peak bodies representing Aboriginal community organisations which aligns with WALGA's existing work plan.

ALGA National Disability Project

WALGA and other Member Associations have been working with ALGA to develop a revised version of the Disability Inclusion Planning Guide. The Guide was developed by ALGA in 2016 to provide information and tools to help Local Government update, develop and implement inclusive policies and practices. The revised version, in the form of a microsite, will be released at the ALGA NGA in June.

11.2 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The [President's Report](#) was made available at the time the Agenda was published.

FOR NOTING

11.3 CEO'S REPORT

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

FOR NOTING

12 ADDITIONAL ZONE RESOLUTIONS

To be advised following Zone meetings.

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary meeting of the WALGA State Council will be a Regional Meeting, hosted by the Central Metropolitan Zone in the City of Perth, on Wednesday, 2 September.

14 CLOSURE

STATUS REPORT ON STATE COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
<p>7 May 2026 Item 8.1 Protecting Council Member and Employee Privacy Advocacy Position</p>	<p>That State Council endorse the following new Advocacy Position:</p> <p><i>Protecting Council Member and Employee Privacy</i></p> <p><i>That WALGA advocates to the State Government to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Undertake a review of disclosure requirements for Local Government Council Members and employees under the Local Government Act 1995,</i> 2. <i>Undertake the necessary legislative amendments to strike an appropriate balance between transparency, personal safety, and contemporary community expectations of privacy, including:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Amend section 5.95(1) to prescribe that the right to inspect primary and annual returns contained in the register of financial interests under s.5.94(b) does not extend to the full residential address of the relevant person, and is instead limited to the suburb or locality.</i> b. <i>Amend Form 7 of the Local Government (Constitutional) Regulations 1998 to remove the requirement to disclose a full residential address when making the declaration of office.</i> <p>RESOLUTION 018.2/2026</p>	<p>The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.</p>	<p>COMPLETE</p>	<p>Kirsty Martin Executive Manger Member Services</p>

<p>7 May 2026 Item 8.2 Water Management Advocacy Position</p>	<p>That State Council:</p> <p>1. Endorse the following new Advocacy Position:</p> <p><i>Water Management</i></p> <p>1. <i>Access to consistent, reliable and adequate water supplies is critical for Local Government operations, emergency response, community health, amenity, environmental sustainability and economic activity.</i></p> <p>2. <i>WALGA is calling on the State Government to:</i></p> <p>a. <i>Modernise water management legislation and regulation, including:</i></p> <p>i. <i>undertaking a review of the water licensing and allocation system to ensure equitable access and prioritise high value community use including for public open space</i></p> <p>ii. <i>developing a state-wide framework for integrated regional and catchment-scale water planning.</i></p> <p>b. <i>Protect and adequately, sustainably and equitably fund critical water infrastructure for Local Government, including:</i></p> <p>i. <i>drainage and irrigation upgrades</i></p> <p>ii. <i>alternative water sources (recycled and reused water, stormwater harvesting, desalination and groundwater replenishment) and disused water asset transfer</i></p> <p>iii. <i>small-scale sewerage infrastructure headworks and infill sewerage.</i></p> <p>c. <i>Expand the Waterwise Council Program statewide and provide:</i></p> <p>i. <i>increased support and resources to assist Local Government in delivering water efficiency measures</i></p>	<p>The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.</p>	<p>COMPLETE</p>	<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p>
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MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	<p><i>ii. incentives for Local Governments to undertake water efficiency initiatives.</i></p> <p><i>d. Improve water data access and capability for Local Governments to ensure evidence-based decision making.</i></p> <p><i>e. Provide effective leadership, guidance, education and enforcement to address the impacts of stormwater runoff.</i></p> <p>2. Retires Advocacy Position <i>6.14 Planning for Water.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 019.2/2026</p>			
<p>7 May 2026 Item 8.3 Off Roads Vehicles Advocacy Position</p>	<p>That State Council retire Advocacy Position 3.12 <i>Off Road Vehicles.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 020.2/2026</p>	<p>The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.</p>	COMPLETE	<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p>
<p>7 May 2026 Item 8.4 Homelessness Advocacy Position</p>	<p>That State Council replace Advocacy Position 3.11 Homelessness with the following:</p> <p><i>WALGA calls on the Western Australian and Australian Governments to provide leadership, support and sustainable, long-term funding to prevent and respond to homelessness, in particular by:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Ensuring specialist homelessness services are responsive to local need, place-based and people-centred.</i> <i>2. Investing in crisis accommodation, social and affordable housing and wraparound services.</i> <i>3. Strengthening homelessness data collection and sharing arrangements to provide current, granular and locally relevant information to inform funding and improve service provision.</i> 	<p>The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.</p>	COMPLETE	<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p>

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	RESOLUTION 021.2/2026			
7 May 2026 Item 8.5 Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Wind-Up	That State Council: 1. Wind-up the Partnership Agreement which establishes the Municipal Waste Advisory Council, effective 30 June 2026. 2. Note the replacement of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council with a Waste Management Strategic Advisory Committee. RESOLUTION 022.2/2026	WALGA will progress the establishment of the Waste Management Strategic Advisory Committee.	Ongoing	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy
7 May 2026 Item 8.6 Electoral Reforms Advocacy Position Consultation	That WALGA: 1. Affirm point 1 of Advocacy Position 2.5.16 <i>Elections</i> , confirming that the Local Government sector supports four year terms with elections every two years and half of the Council positions spilled at each election. 2. Affirm Advocacy Position 2.5.15 <i>Participation in Local Government Elections</i> , confirming that the Local Government sector supports voluntary participation in Local Government elections. RESOLUTION 023.2/2026	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.	COMPLETE	Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services
7 May 2026 Item 8.7 Submission for 2026 State Wage Case	That State Council endorses the WALGA 2026 State Wage Case submission (Submission) to the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission (WAIRC) and authorises WALGA to exercise discretion to amend the Submission in response to changing economic circumstances and/or lodge further submissions in response to any direction of the WAIRC. RESOLUTION 024.2/2026	WALGA filed its written submission to the WAIRC on 13 May. Verbal submissions were made at the initial hearing on 20 May. A further hearing will be listed to consider the impact of the Federal minimum wage once that has been determined.	COMPLETE	Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
<p>4 March 2026 Item 9.3 Request for Delegated Authority – State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee (SAC)</p>	<p>That State Council approves by Flying Minute confirmation of the three appointments to the vacant positions on the State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee (SAC) as recommended by the Selection Committee.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 005.1/2026</p>	<p>The three vacant positions on SAC were advertised to Members. A special meeting of the Selection Committee was held to consider applications received.</p> <p>A Flying Agenda including the recommendations of the Committee was distributed to State Council.</p> <p>The recommendations of the Selection Committee were endorsed by State Council. The new SAC Members have all been contacted and have attended their first meetings.</p>	<p>COMPLETE</p>	<p>Rachel Horton Executive Manager Advocacy</p>
<p>3 December 2025 Item 7.1 Transport Oriented Development Advocacy Position</p>	<p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State Council request WALGA to prepare an Advocacy Position in consultation with members, regarding the transport and planning principals required to ensure quality outcomes in the newly announced "Station Precinct Improvement Plans and Schemes" in Metropolitan Perth and regional stations if included. 2. The Advocacy Position includes transport and place-making outcomes on both government controlled and private land that maximise liveability and use of the public transport network. <p>RESOLUTION 069.5/2025</p>	<p>See State Council Agenda item 8.2 – Train Station Precincts Advocacy Position.</p>	<p>COMPLETE</p>	<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p>

<p>3 December 2025 Item 8.1 2025 Annual General Meeting Resolutions</p>	<p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the following resolutions from the 2025 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the People and Place Policy Team for further work to be undertaken: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7.1 Provision of Medical Services in Remote and Very Remote Local Governments 7.2 Homelessness – Short-term Accommodation Solutions <p>RESOLUTION 070.5/2025</p> <p><i>The AGM resolutions are as follows:</i></p> <p>7.1 Provision of Medical Services in Remote and Very Remote Local Governments <i>That WALGA calls on the Western Australian Government and WA Grants Commission to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>increase the total funding and then the Medical Facilities Cost Adjuster component of the Financial Assistance Grants to Local Governments; and</i> 2. <i>recalculate distributions to those Local Governments that are providing block cash payments to attract and retain general practitioners to allow affected Council to redirect ratepayer funds to Local Government responsibilities.</i> <p>7.2 Homelessness – Short-term Accommodation Solutions <i>That WALGA advocate to the State Government to provide culturally appropriate short term accommodation options and wrap-around support services that provide sustainable homelessness solutions in all Local Governments across Western Australia.</i></p>	<p>In relation to AGM item 7.1 – Improving access to primary healthcare services in rural and remote areas remains an advocacy priority for WALGA, supported by the WALGA 2025 General Practice Support Survey Report published in January 2026.</p> <p>This advocacy priority is also reflected in the current Federal and State Budget Submissions and aligned to the revised Advocacy Position endorsed by State Council in September 2025.</p> <p>WALGA is exploring opportunities for partnership advocacy on this matter with health sector stakeholders. This work includes developing solution options. Progress will be shared with State Council in due course.</p> <p>In relation to AGM item 7.2 – State Council has endorsed a new Homelessness Advocacy Position:</p> <p><i>WALGA calls on the Western Australian and Australian Governments to provide leadership, support and sustainable, long-term funding to prevent and respond to homelessness, in particular by:</i></p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy</p>
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MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
		<p>1. Ensuring specialist homelessness services are responsive to local need, place-based and people-centred.</p> <p>2. Investing in crisis accommodation, social and affordable housing and wraparound services.</p> <p>3. Strengthening homelessness data collection and sharing arrangements to provide current, granular and locally relevant information to inform funding and improve service provision.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 021.2/2026</p>		
<p>3 December 2025 Item 8.1 2025 Annual General Meeting Resolutions</p>	<p>That: ...</p> <p>2. the following resolution from the 2025 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the Governance Policy Team for further work to be undertaken: 7.4 Rating Exemption Advocacy Position</p> <p>RESOLUTION 070.5/2025</p> <p><i>The AGM resolution is as follows:</i></p> <p>7.4 Rating Exemption Advocacy Position <i>That WALGA, in addition to its current advocacy positions 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 relating to rating exemptions,</i></p>	<p>This item has been referred to the Governance Policy Team for further consideration.</p> <p>WALGA's current advocacy positions call for a broad review into the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories, with a particular focus on the charitable purpose's exemption. WALGA included funding for a review of rates in its most recent State Budget submission.</p>	Ongoing	Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	<p><i>advocate to the WA Government for the introduction of a reimbursement model, whereby the WA Government repays Local Government the greater of:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>75% of the value of rates lost in applying the charitable purposes exemption; or</i> 2. <i>1% of the total rate revenue of the Local Government.</i> 	<p>Additional concerns regarding rating and rating exemptions have arisen. Further scoping work is being undertaken to consider the most effective way to address these concerns.</p>		
<p>3 December 2025 Item 8.2 2026 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members</p>	<p>That State Council endorse the submission to the 2026 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members, with the following additions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A new recommendation that the Regional/Isolation Allowance be reviewed in full, noting that the application of the Allowance is inequal and inconsistent. 2. A new recommendation that an appropriate fee be set for the deputy to the presiding member of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees to attend meetings. 3. A new recommendation that the travel costs incurred while driving a privately owned or leased vehicle be calculated at the same rate contained in the <i>Public Service Award 1992</i> to bring it in parity with the public sector. 4. The percentage values in recommendations 1 and 2 of the submission be amended from 3% to 4%. 5. Include a work-value argument regarding Elected Member remuneration to strengthen the case for an increase to Elected Member fees and allowances, and to refer the request to reclassify Elected Members as not volunteers to the relevant Policy Team. <p>RESOLUTION 073.5/2025</p>	<p>The submission to SAT was updated to include those additional points and provided to the Tribunal on 6 January 2026.</p> <p>The Advocacy Positions Manual has also been updated to reflect the recommendations contained in the submission.</p> <p>The request to reclassify Elected Members as not volunteers (as per point 5 of the resolution) has been referred to the Governance Policy Team for further consideration.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Rachel Horton Executive Manager Advocacy</p> <p>Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services</p>

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
3 December 2025 Item 8.5 Electoral Material – Authorisation Statement Address Requirements	That: 1. WALGA advocate to the State Government to amend section 4.87 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> to: a. Replace the requirement to include the name and address of the person authorising the electoral material, with a requirement to include the name and locality of the person authorising the material. b. Remove the requirement for the name and business address of the electoral material printer to appear at the end of the electoral material. 2. The suggestion from the South East Metropolitan Zone to advocate to amend section 5.95 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> to specify that the right to inspect Primary and Annual Returns contained in the Register of Financial Interests under s.5.94(b) does not extend to the residential address of the relevant person be referred to the Governance Policy Team so that a full report can be presented to State Council for consideration. RESOLUTION 077.5/2025	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated. A new advocacy position relating to Resolution 2 was endorsed by State Council at the May 2026 meeting (see item 8.1 Protecting Council Member and Employee Privacy Advocacy Position from the May 2026 meeting, above).	COMPLETE	Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services
5 September 2025 Item 8.2 Rating of Miscellaneous Licenses	That WALGA: 1. Advocate for Local Governments to continue to have the ability to rate miscellaneous licences under the <i>Mining Act 1978</i> , and 2. Oppose legislative amendments that seek to exempt occupied miscellaneous licence land from rating.	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated. Correspondence has been sent to the Premier and Minister for Local Government. Opposition parties have been briefed.	COMPLETE	Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	<p>3. Continue to advocate for a broad review to be conducted into the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under section 6.26 of the Local Government Act 1995.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 050.4/2025</p>	<p>The Bill has been deferred by the Legislative Council.</p> <p>In addition, funding for the broad review of rating exemptions was included in the State Budget submission.</p>		
<p>2 July 2025 Item 8.1 Suspension and Disqualification for Offences Advocacy Position</p>	<p>That WALGA defers consideration of this matter for further work, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. defining appropriately serious offences for intervention; and b. addressing the role of the Local Government Inspector. c. evaluating whether advocacy for disqualification based on convictions under the Planning and Development Act 2005 and Building Act 2011 should be retained. <p>RESOLUTION 037.3/2025</p>	<p>Work has commenced on defining appropriately serious offences for intervention.</p> <p>Further work will be undertaken pending clarification of the role of the Office of the Inspector.</p>	Ongoing	Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services
<p>5 March 2025 Item 9.1 Infrastructure Policy Team Report</p>	<p>That State Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the report from the Infrastructure Policy Team for the 5 March 2025 meeting. 2. Determine to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Delete Advocacy Position 5.2.8 (Towards Zero Road Safety Strategy 2008 – 2020). b. Amend the title of Advocacy Position 5.2.7 from Road Safety Strategy (Imagine Zero) to Driving Change Road Safety Strategy 2020-2030. 3. Undertake further policy development and consultation with Members regarding the default open road speed limit in Western Australia. 	<p>The Infrastructure Policy Team resolved to recommend WALGA engage an independent specialist to develop a framework to support the Local Government sector in decision making and advocacy relating to speed limits.</p> <p>This was delayed pending anticipated changes to Main Roads WA policy.</p>	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION STATUS	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	RESOLUTION 013.1/2025			
<p>6 December 2024 Item 8.2 Local Government Elections Advocacy Positions</p>	<p>That item 1 be deferred, and the Secretariat further investigate implications of compulsory and voluntary participation in Local Government elections and report back to State Council.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 090.5/2024</p> <p>That WALGA adopt the following Elections Advocacy Positions:</p> <p><i>The Local Government sector supports:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Councillors serve four-year terms with elections every two years and half of the Council positions spilled at each election.</i> 2. <i>First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system for Local Government elections. If Optional Preferential Voting (OPV) remains as the primary method of voting, the sector supports the removal of the 'proportional' part of the voting method for general elections.</i> 3. <i>First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system for internal Council elections.</i> 4. <i>Councils holding elections by means of in-person, postal and/or electronic voting.</i> 5. <i>Current legislative provisions of Mayor/President of Class 1 and Class 2 Local Governments being directly elected by the community and Class 3 and Class 4 Local Governments determining whether its Mayor or President is elected by the Council or by the community.</i> <p>RESOLUTION 091.5/2024</p>	<p>Following further sector consultation, item 1 was affirmed at the May 2026 State Council meeting (see item 8.6 Electoral Reforms Advocacy Position Consultation, from the May 2026 meeting above).</p> <p>The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.</p>	COMPLETE	Kirsty Martin Executive Manager Member Services