



South East Metropolitan Zone

Minutes

24 August 2022

South East Metropolitan Zone

Hosted by the City of South Perth

Cnr Sandgate Street & South Terrace, South Perth

Wednesday 24 August 2022 commenced at 6:00 pm

Acknowledgement of Country

We, the delegates of the South East Metropolitan Zone acknowledge the traditional owners of this land that we are meeting on today and pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

Minutes

MEMBERS

2 Voting Delegates from each Member Council

City of Armadale	Cr Melissa Northcott Ms Joanne Abbiss, Chief Executive Officer – non-voting delegate
City of Canning	Mayor Patrick Hall
City of Gosnells	Cr David Goode JP Cr Sarah Patterson Mr Ian Cowie, Chief Executive Officer - non-voting delegate
City of South Perth	Cr Jennifer Nevard Cr Carl Celedin (SC) Ms Vicki Lummer, A/Chief Executive Officer – non-voting delegate
Town of Victoria Park	Cr Bronwyn Ife - Chair Cr Peter Devereux Mr Anthony Vuleta, Chief Executive Officer – non-voting delegate
WALGA Secretariat	President Cr Karen Chappel, WALGA President Cr Paul Kelly, WALGA Deputy President Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy Lyn Fogg, Governance Specialist
DLGSC Representative	Liam O'Neill, Principal Strategy Officer Kirsty Martin, Director Policy and Legislation
Guest Speakers	Rosie Hegarty, Employment Facilitator, Local Jobs Program

APOLOGIES

City of Armadale	Mayor Ruth Butterfield (SC)
City of Canning	Cr Jesse Jacobs Mr Michael Littleton, Chief Executive Officer – non-voting delegate

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Confirmation of Attendance, an attendance sheet was circulated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Zone Delegates were requested to provide sufficient written notice, wherever possible, on amendments to recommendations within the State Council or Zone agenda prior to the Zone meeting, to the Chair and Secretariat.

Agenda Papers were emailed 7 days prior to the meeting date.

ATTACHMENTS WITHIN THE AGENDA

1. Draft Minutes of the previous meeting
2. Zone Status Report
3. President's Report
4. Standing Orders

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Elected Members must declare to the Chairperson any potential conflict of interest they have in a matter before the Zone as soon as they become aware of it. Councillors and deputies may be directly or indirectly associated with some recommendations of the Zone and State Council. If you are affected by these recommendations, please excuse yourself from the meeting and do not participate in deliberations.

Nil.

2. DEPUTATIONS

With the agreement of the Chair, Cr Bronwyn Ife, the presentation by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries was brought forward.

2.1 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Representative Update Report.

Kirsty Martin, Director Policy and Legislation and Liam O'Neill, Principal Strategy Officer was in attendance to update the Zone on DLGSC issues.

Noted

Ms Rosie Hegarty joined the meeting by video communication at 6.25pm.

2.2 Local Jobs Program

Rosie Hegarty, Employment Facilitator provided information on the Local Jobs Program.

The Local Jobs Program supports tailored approaches to accelerate reskilling, upskilling and employment in 51 regions across Australia. Recognising that regions and their communities have been impacted by COVID-19 in varying ways, the program includes:

- 51 Employment Facilitators across 51 regions
- a Local Jobs and Skills Taskforce in each of these regions
- a Local Jobs Plan developed for each of these regions

- projects funded through a Local Recovery Fund in each of these regions
- a National Priority Funding Pool

Noted.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr David Goode
Seconded: Cr Jennifer Nevard

That the Minutes of the meeting of the South East Metropolitan Zone held on 22 June 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING

A Status Report outlining the actions taken on the Zone's resolutions was enclosed as an attachment to the agenda.

Noted

5. STATE COUNCIL AGENDA - MATTERS FOR DECISION

(Zone delegates to consider the Matters for Decision contained in the WA Local Government Association State Council Agenda and put forward resolutions to Zone Representatives on State Council)

The full State Council Agenda can be found via link: [9 September 2022 State Council Agenda](#)

The Zone is able to provide comment or submit an alternative recommendation that is then presented to the State Council for consideration.

Matters for Decision

5.1 2023-24 State Budget Submission

That the 2023-24 State Budget Submission be endorsed.

5.2 Proposed Advocacy Position on Management of Bush Fire Brigades

That the following Advocacy Position on Management of Bush Fire Brigades be endorsed.

8.10 Management of Bush Fire Brigades

1. Bush Fire Brigade volunteers play a critical role in helping to protect their local communities. Local knowledge and skills are integral to bushfire management in Western Australia.
2. Future management and funding of volunteer Bush Fire Brigades must:
 - a) Recognise the changing risk environment, including work health and safety requirements, and the increasing intensity and frequency of bushfires;
 - b) Take account of the differing circumstances of Bush Fire Brigade units and regional variations in bush firefighting approaches; and
 - c) Be adequately and equitably resourced through the Emergency Services Levy.
3. The State Government, through the Consolidated Emergency Services Act and/or other mechanism's must:

- a) establish a clear framework to enable transfer of Bush Fire Brigades to the State Government if a Local Government decides to do so;
 - b) Consult on the process, timeline, and implications for transfer of responsibility for Bush Fire Brigades in accordance with 3(a) through the establishment of a working group comprising representatives of Local Government, Bush Fire Brigades, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES);
 - c) Provide for mandatory and minimum training requirements and recognition of competency and prior learning for Bush Fire Brigade volunteers, supported by a fit-for-purpose and universally accessible training program, designed in consultation with Bush Fire Brigade representatives, Local Government and LGIS, and managed by DFES; and
 - d) Develop a co-designed suite of relevant management guidelines and materials to assist in the management of Bush Fire Brigades.
4. The State Government to consider the most appropriate operational model for State Government management of Bush Fire Brigades, which may include the establishment of an independent Rural Fire Service, as recommended in the 2016 Ferguson Report.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Melissa Northcott
Seconded: Cr Sarah Patterson

That the South East Metropolitan Zone

1. Supports all Matters for Decision as listed above in the September 2022 State Council Agenda; and
2. Notes all Matters for Noting and Organisational Reports as listed in the September 2022 State Council Agenda.

CARRIED

6. BUSINESS

6.1 Emergency Services Levy – Administration Fee

By City of Gosnells

BACKGROUND

The Emergency Services Levy is a State Government charge that is required to be collected by Local Governments. The levy funds the operations of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and some funding is passed back to local government to support the operation of Bushfire Brigades and State Emergency Services Units.

Local governments are paid an administration fee intended to cover costs associated with collecting the levy.

For the 2022/23 year, the State Government has increased the ESL by 5%. This will result in the collection of an additional \$26.2 million.

Through correspondence dated 15 July 2022, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services has advised that the ESL Administration Fee paid to local governments will remain at \$2.25 million.

The fee paid to Local Governments for collecting the ESL has not changed since at least 2013/14. However, over that same period, the total value of ESL collected has increased from \$271.2 million to \$417.5 million per annum, an increase of 54%.

Key costs associated with a Local Government collecting the ESL include staff time, technology costs and postage, all of which have increased significantly since 2013/14.

State Council considered advocacy positions relating to Emergency Management at its meeting on 6 July 2022. The final resolution adopted six advocacy positions on the ESL with one being that *“The ESL should be collected by the State Government, but failing that the administration fee should recompense Local Governments for the complete cost of administering the ESL”*.

COMMENT

It is disappointing that within two weeks of WALGA adopting this advocacy position, the State Government advised Local Governments that the administration fee would not be increasing. To ensure that this matter remains prominent on the State Government’s agenda, it is recommended that the South East Metropolitan Zone asks WALGA to raise Local Government concerns directly with the State Government. In raising these concerns, WALGA could note that if calculating *“the complete cost of administering the ESL”* can be open to some debate as to what is included, a simple and effective way to increase the administration fee would be to link it to the increase in the ESL itself.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Davide Goode
Seconded: Cr Sarah Patterson

That the South East Metropolitan Zone recommend to State Council that, in the absence of the State Government agreeing to collect the ESL itself, the Minister for Emergency Services be requested to increase the administration fee paid to Local Governments for collecting the ESL in line with annual increases to the ESL.

CARRIED

6.2 Review of the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007: Consideration of WALGA Discussion Paper

By Rebecca Brown, Manager Environment and Waste, WALGA

BACKGROUND

The first 10-year [statutory review](#) of the [Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007](#) (BAM Act) is currently underway; this is a key opportunity for Local Government to influence how post-border biosecurity is managed in Western Australia.

The [Independent Panel](#) undertaking the review, is using a three-stage engagement process:

- Stage 1 (closed) - open submissions and a survey to identify major themes and issues
- Stage 2 - stage 1 will ‘provide the foundation for participatory processes to further explore themes and issues’
- Stage 3 - broader engagement to get feedback on the findings and potential solutions, expected to take place in late 2022/early 2023.

The Independent Panel is required to make its report, including any recommended amendments to the Act, to the Minister for Agriculture and Food by March 2023.

WALGA prepared a [Discussion Paper](#) to inform comment on the Review, which includes 11 key biosecurity themes and related recommendations reflecting issues raised by Local Government, and those identified in the [Auditor General’s 2013 and 2020 Reports](#).

Policy Implications

WALGA’s current Policy Position on Biosecurity, was endorsed in 2017 and is available in the [Advocacy Positions Manual](#) (Section 4.5).

COMMENT

WALGA is seeking Zones' consideration of the recommendations included in the Discussion Paper to inform its submission to the Review on behalf of the sector and the development of an updated Biosecurity Advocacy Position. WALGA intends to put an updated Policy Position to the December State Council meeting. Local Governments are also strongly encouraged to make their own submissions to the review as appropriate in Stage 2 and 3.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Sarah Patterson

Seconded: Mayor Patrick Hall

That the Zone endorse the following recommendations:

- 1. Strategic direction and regional priorities: The State Government develop a strategic framework that enables the prioritisation of biosecurity threats in geographically defined regions and sets targets for declared pest management.**
- 2. Agency responsibilities: The roles and responsibilities of each State Government department responsible for biosecurity management need to be a clearly defined and communicated, a formalised structure for different agencies to work together established, and increased investment made in declared pest management on State Government managed land.**
- 3. Declared Pest Rate and Recognised Biosecurity Groups: If the Declared Pest Rate and Recognised Biosecurity Groups (RBGs) are to continue to be key mechanisms for the management of widespread and established declared pests, changes are required to improve their operation and effectiveness to better support the concept of shared responsibility.**
- 4. Environmental biosecurity: A more balanced view of biosecurity that has a greater focus on environmental biosecurity is required, through increased recognition and management of pest species that have significant ecological impacts.**
- 5. Responses to incursions: Increased and more equitable distribution of funding is required to ensure each step of the biosecurity continuum is adequately resourced for all stakeholders, including Local Government.**
- 6. Management of declared pests in urban areas: Declared pest management in all urban areas requires support through an appropriate funding mechanism.**
- 7. Problematic non-declared pests: The process for the listing of declared pests needs to be timely and transparent to ensure that land managers, including Local Government, are not resourcing the control of an increasing number of problematic non-declared pest species.**
- 8. Sustainable funding model: A sustainable and equitable funding model is required to manage the increasing biosecurity management threat.**
- 9. Compliance and enforcement: The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Developments responsibility for compliance and enforcement needs to be adequately resourced and enacted.**
- 10. Monitoring, research and innovation: Strategic monitoring, use of new technologies and the establishment of data management systems are required to inform biosecurity investment decisions and support adaptive management.**
- 11. Community education and involvement: A stronger focus on community education to increase understanding and awareness will improve engagement with biosecurity management programs and assist with timely incursion responses.**

CARRIED

6.3 Request to Present - National Emergency Management, Resilience and Recovery Agency (NEMRRA)

By Chantelle O'Brien, Governance Support Officer

A request has been received to present at WALGA Zone meetings by a representative from National Emergency Management, Resilience and Recovery Agency (NEMRRA). Christine Comer covers the Metropolitan region along with other surrounding regions.

Attached with the Agenda is a Media Release that provides some further information.

Christine is seeking the Zone's support to provide a deputation at the South East Metropolitan Zone at the November meeting that is schedule to be held on 23 November.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Bronwyn Ife
Seconded: Cr Melissa Northcott

That the South East Metropolitan Zone supports a deputation from Christine Comer at the 23 November Zone meeting about the NEMRRA.

CARRIED

6.4 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review project

By Susie Moir, Policy Manager, Resilient Communities

WALGA and the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) Business Unit are working in partnership with key stakeholders to identify options to improve LEMA processes. WALGA has received AWARE funding to undertake the Local Government consultation for the LEMA Review.

WALGA will be delivering a series of workshops with Local Government to contribute to the design of a more streamlined, scalable, and fit-for-purpose LEMA model. The outcomes of the workshops will inform a LEMA Improvement Plan that will be prepared by the SEMC Business Unit.

Interactive workshops are being held in several locations with complimentary refreshments provided.

Target Audience: Chief Executive Officers, Emergency Management staff and Elected Members.

Workshop details below:

- Geraldton 7 September – Geraldton Multipurpose Centre 10.30am – 2:00pm
- Stirling 12 September – City of Stirling Civic Centre, Stirling Room 9:00am –12:00pm
- Katanning 13 September – Katanning Leisure Centre 10.30am – 2:00pm
- Bunbury 14 September – City of Bunbury Administration, Function Room 10.30am – 2:00pm
- Northam 15 September – Bilya Koort Boodja Centre 10.30am – 2:00pm
- Victoria Park 16 September – Town of Victoria Park Administration Building 9:00am –12:00pm
- Online workshops – date TBC

Registration

To register for a free LEMA Review workshop, [click here](#) and choose your relevant date and location.

Read more in the [WALGA LEMA Review Issues Paper](#). Local Governments are also encouraged to provide written feedback by COB Friday 15 October 2022.

For further information please email [Simone Ruane](#), WALGA's LEMA Review Project Lead, or call 9213 2049.

Noted

6.5 Local Government Convention Speakers

By Cr Melissa Northcott

BACKGROUND

The Australian Local Government Women's Association WA Branch are extremely disappointed at the lack of female keynote and guest speakers at the 2022 WALGA Local Government Convention.

Communities look to Local Government for leadership.

We know that gender bias exists, and women continue to miss out on the highest levels of leadership and decision making.

We also know that if society doesn't see women in positions of power, they start to think that only men can be leaders, and women are then less likely to pursue leadership roles.

Local Government still to this day remains a male dominated industry and this needs to change. It starts with gender equity.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

In respect to the 2022 Local Government convention, over all speakers, there are 12 women and 13 men.

The following information is provided;

- WALGA has been conscious to pursue a line-up of speakers for this year's Convention that represents gender balance and are pleased that the below figures reflect as close to a 50:50 female: male ratio as you can get with an odd number of speakers (25). Note, these figures exclude the President's role as a speaker throughout the event.
- This year's theme, "Embracing Change", will encourage speakers and delegates to explore new and progressive thinking, and our briefs to speakers has been to focus on this theme in their presentations. On that basis, we are confident that the presentations will include topics such as gender equity, the role of women in the workplace and supporting women in Local Government.

Plenary sessions: Female = 4* or 33%; Male = 8 or 67%**

*Including MC

**Including Panel Moderator

MC			
	Di Darmody		F
Opening Keynote			
	Simon Trott	Chief Executive Officer, Rio Tinto Iron Ore	M
Local Government into the Future			
	Bernard Salt AM		M
	Hon. Lianne Dalziel	Mayor of Christchurch	F
			<i>invited</i>
Convention Breakfast			
	Justin Langer AM		M
The State of Play: Panel Session with Federal Members of Parliament			
	Hon Catherine King MP		F
	Hon Madeleine King MP		F
	Ben Harvey		M
Leading the Way for Climate Resilient Regions			
	TBA	TBA	
	Dr Brad Pettitt MLC	Member for South Metropolitan Region	M
	Rupert Flury		M
	Mayor Hon Albert Jacob	City of Joondalup	M
Closing Keynote			
	Dr Craig Challen OAM		M

Concurrent sessions: Female = 7 or 58%; Male = 5 or 42%

Session 1.1 Tourism into the Future			
	Carolyn Turnbull	Managing Director, Tourism WA	F
	Tracey Cinavas-Prosser	Chief Executive Officer, Destination Perth	F
	Catrin Alsop	Chief Executive Officer, Australia's South West	F
	The Rt Hon Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas	City of Perth	M
Session 1.2 Future of Local Government Workforce			
	Sharon Parker	Future of Work Institute, Curtin University	F
	Michelle Tjondro	SGS Economics	F
	TBA	TBA	
Session 1.3 Building Control: Red Tape or Community Service?			
	Bronwyn Weir	Weir Legal Consulting	F
	Brett Mace	Chief Executive Officer, AIBS	M
	Saj Abdoolakhan	Executive Director Building and Energy, DMIRS	M
Session 1.4 Holistic Wellbeing Measures			
	Prof Fiona Stanley AC	WADI Project Ambassador	F
	Mike Salvaris	ANDI Project Director, University of Melbourne	M
	Beat Huser	Waikato Region	M
			<i>invited</i>
			<i>invited</i>

TOTAL:

Female 12*

Male 13

***Inclusive of Hon Kristy McBain, Mayors and Presidents Forum on Sunday**

A number of other women were asked to speak at the convention, however they were unavailable.

In respect to the 2021 Local Government Convention, the 3 keynote speakers on the program were all women, being Julie Bishop, Grace Tame and Jelena Dokic. Unfortunately, due to Covid, Grace Tame and Jelena Dokic were late withdrawals.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Melissa Northcott
Seconded: Cr Bronwyn Ife

In the interest of promoting gender equity and inclusion within Local Government, we call on WALGA to consider equal representation by engaging female guest speakers in plenary and concurrent sessions at future Local Government Conventions.

CARRIED

6.6 WALGA Best Practice Governance Review Principles – AGM item

By Tim Lane, Manager Strategy and Association Governance

BACKGROUND

In March 2022, State Council commissioned the WALGA Best Practice Governance Review (BPGR) with the aim of ensuring WALGA's governance model is contemporary, agile and maximises engagement with members. The BPGR, overseen by a Steering Committee appointed by State Council, is now well underway.

The BPGR Steering Committee have formulated a set of governance principles to guide the development of potential governance models.

At a special meeting on 22 August, State Council endorsed the principles, along with an AGM Agenda item which seeks endorsement of the principles by members at the 2022 Annual General Meeting on 3 October.

The purpose of the AGM item is to gauge member support for progressing the BPGR to the development of potential models.

Following consideration of the principles at the 2022 AGM, an extensive consultation and engagement process will be undertaken with members on these potential governance models. This will occur during October, November and December, with the intention of using the member feedback to inform a final report. This report will then be considered at Zone meetings in February 2023 and subsequently the March 2023 State Council meeting.

Once the final report is endorsed, Constitutional amendments will be prepared for consideration by State Council, followed by the broader membership at the 2023 AGM. As per WALGA's Constitution, amendments to the Constitution require endorsement by a 75 percent majority at both State Council and a general meeting of members.

COMMENT

The AGM Agenda is due to be distributed in late August, ahead of the AGM on Monday, 3 October at Crown Perth.

It is recommended that once the AGM Agenda is distributed, members consider the item and governance principles and inform their registered Voting Delegates on how to vote.

Noted.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Nil.

8. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

8.1 WALGA President's Report

The WALGA President, Cr Karen Chappel JP, presented the President's Report.

Noted

8.2 State Councillor's report to the Zone

WALGA State Councillor, Cr Carl Celedin, presented on the previous State Council meeting.

Noted

9. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Moved: Cr Bronwyn Ife
Seconded: Cr Peter Devereux

That the next ordinary meeting of the South East Metropolitan Zone be held on Wednesday 23 November 2022 at the Town of Victoria Park commencing at 6:00 pm.

CARRIED

10. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at **7.42pm**.