



SHIRE OF MORAWA

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

ATTACHMENTS

Monday, 20 October 2025

NB: The agenda attachment published on 15 October 2025, was updated on 17 October 2025, inserting the following:

11.2.1a Monthly Financial Report as on 30 September 2025



**WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S
WILDFLOWER COUNTRY**

Agenda Attachments

Shire of Morawa

Ordinary Council Meeting

20 October 2025

List of Attachments

11.1 Chief Executive Officer

- 11.1.2 Evaside Steven Rose Road interaction Blackspot Project**
Attachment 1 – 11.1.2a Shawmac Road Safety Inspection.

11.2 Executive Manager Corporate & Community Services

- 11.2.1 LATE ITEM - Monthly Financial Report – September 2025**
Attachment 1 – 11.2.1a Monthly Financial Report as on 30 September 2025.

12.1 Reports from Committees

- 12.1 September 2025 Minutes of WALGA State Council Meeting**
Attachment 1 – 12.1a Minutes of WALGA State Council Meeting, 04 September 2025.
- 12.1 September 2025 Minutes of WALGA Annual General Meeting**
Attachment 1 – 12.2a Minutes of WALGA Annual General Meeting, 23 September 2025.
-

Ordinary Council Meeting 20 October 2025

Attachment 1- 11.2.2a Shawmac - Road Safety Inspection.

***Item 11.1.2- Evaside Steven Ross Road
Intersection Blackspot Project***



ROAD SAFETY INSPECTION

Evaside Rd / Stephens Rd / Ross Rd Intersection Morawa

Inspection Ref: 240522_1

Prepared for:

Shire of Morawa

By:

Shawmac Traffic and Safety

Report Issue Date: **26/05/2022**



Road Safety Inspection Document Control Sheet

Project Location:	Evaside Rd / Stephens Rd / Ross Rd Intersection Morawa
Prepared for:	Greenfield Technical Services
Prepared by 1:	Richard Jois
Prepared by 2:	Shawmac Traffic and Safety
Inspection Team Leader:	Richard Jois
Inspection Team Leader Organisation:	Shawmac Traffic and Safety Pty Ltd
Inspection Reference:	24052022_1
Report Issue Date:	26/05/2022



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of the Inspection

A Road Safety Inspection is a formal examination of an existing road or road related area in which an independent, qualified team report on the crash potential and likely safety performance of the location. (Formerly known as an 'Existing Road Safety Audit')

This Road Safety Inspection has been conducted following the general principles detailed in *Austroads Guide to Road Safety Part 6: Road Safety Audit* and in accordance with the requirements contained in the Main Roads Western Australia Policy and Guidelines for Road Safety Audit.

This report results from a request for a Road Safety Inspection to be conducted at Evaside Rd/ Stephens Rd/Ross Rd 20km north of Morawa townsite.

The background and objective of the inspection is to provide a Road Safety Inspection of the two intersections that are located in close proximity to each other and to a rail crossing.

The Road Safety Inspection was undertaken by Richard Jois and Anthony Anastas of Shawmac Traffic and Road Safety Pty Ltd with reference to the details provided by the client.

The Road Safety Inspection comprised an examination of the area identified by Joshua Kirk of Greenfield Technical Services representing the Shire of Morawa.

All the findings described in Section 2 of this report are considered by the inspection team to require action in order to improve the safety of the existing road environment and to minimise the risk of crash occurrence and reduce potential crash severity.

The inspection team has examined and reported only on the road safety implications of the road infrastructure as presented.



1.2 The Inspection Team

Auditor No.	Name	Role	Organisation
0413	Richard Jois	Inspection Team Leader	Shawmac Traffic and Safety Pty Ltd
00942	Anthony Anastas	Inspection Team Member	Shawmac Traffic and Safety Pty Ltd

The inspection team visited the site on 17th May 2022 at 12:00pm. At the time of the site visit the weather was fine and sunny and the existing road surface was dry.

1.3 Specialist Advisors

There were no specialist advisors, Joshua Kirk of Greenfield Technical Services representing the Shire of Morawa attended the daytime site inspection.



1.4 Safe System Findings

The aim of Safe System Findings is to focus the Road Safety Inspection process on considering safe speeds and by providing forgiving roads and roadsides. This is to be delivered through the Road Safety Inspection process by accepting that people will always make mistakes and by considering the known limits to crash forces the human body can tolerate. This is to be achieved by focusing the Road Safety Inspection on particular crash types that are known to result in higher severity outcomes at relatively lower speed environments to reduce the risk of fatal and serious injury crashes.

The additional annotation **"IMPORTANT"** shall be used to provide emphasis to any Road Safety Inspection finding that has the potential to result in fatal or serious injury, or findings that are likely to result in the following crash types above the related speed environment: head-on (>70 km/h), right angle (>50 km/h), run off road impact object (>40 km/h), and crashes involving vulnerable road users (>30 km/h), as these crash types are known to result in higher severity outcomes at relatively lower speed environments.

The exposure and likelihood of crash occurrence shall then be considered for all findings deemed **"IMPORTANT"** and evaluated based on an auditors professional judgement. Auditors should consider factors such as, traffic volumes and movements, speed environment, crash history and the road environment, and apply road safety engineering and crash investigation experience to determine the likelihood of crash occurrence. The likelihood of crash occurrence shall be considered either **"VERY HIGH"**, **"HIGH"**, **"MODERATE"** or **"LOW"** and this additional annotation shall be displayed following the **"IMPORTANT"** annotation on applicable findings.

1.5 Previous Road Safety Inspections

No previous Road Safety Inspections have been conducted at this location.

1.6 Background Data

1.6.1 Crash History

A study of the recent crash history has been conducted in the location considered in the inspection for the five-year period to the end of December 2021. This showed that there were no reported crashes within the extracted data.



1.6.2 Traffic and Speed Data

Evaside Road Stephan Road and Ross Road are all unsealed low volume roads and are derestricted speed zoned. No traffic counts were provided however Evaside and Stephen Roads are estimated at 100 vpd and Ross Road at less than 50 vpd.

1.6.3 Appendices

- Appendix A – Road Safety Inspection Findings Location Plan
- Appendix B – Road Safety Inspection Photographs
- Appendix C – Crash Reports
- Appendix D – Corrective Action Report (CAR)



2. ITEMS RAISED IN THIS ROAD SAFETY INSPECTION

2.1 Finding – Trees in Clearzone and obscuring sight lines to the south of intersection of Stephens Road and Evaside Road

There are trees that are in the clearzone and obscure the sight lines at the intersection of Stephens Road and Evaside Road looking south from the intersection.

Justification of the finding:

The trees in the clearzone pose a hazard for an errant vehicle and increase the risk of injury if a vehicle runs off the road and impacts with the tree. The reduced sight distance could mask a vehicle heading North on Evaside Road and as a vehicle emerges from Stephens Road if they are slightly on the wrong side of the road, they could impact with the approaching vehicle leading to serious or fatal injury to vehicle occupants

The tree located to the south of the intersection reduces Safe Intersection Sight Distance to approximately 150 m. *Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 4A: Unsignalised and Signalised Intersection* indicates that Safe Intersection Sight Distance is the minimum distance which should be provided on the major road at any intersection. Using an operating speed of 110 km/h and reaction time of 2.0 seconds the required Safe Intersection Sight Distance is 285 m measured 7 m back along the side road from the conflict point.

Recommendation

The tree should be removed or pruned to provide adequate Safe Intersection Sight Distance should be provided in accordance with Austroads guidelines.

[IMPORTANT | MODERATE]

2.2 Finding – Steep Embankments along Evaside Road, Stephens Road and Ross Road

There are steep embankments located in the verge on both sides of Evaside Road, Stephens Road and Ross Road that are non-recoverable.

Justification of the finding:

The steep embankments pose a risk of serious or even fatal injuries to vehicle occupants in the event an errant vehicle leaves the road.

Hazards within the clear zone should be removed, suitable protection from them provided, or be frangible to the impact of a vehicle. Effective clear zones are



determined using the method described in Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 6: Roadside Design, Safety and Barriers.

Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 6: Roadside Design, Safety and Barriers indicates that removal of roadside hazards is rated very high as an effective treatment to prevent an off-path incidents.

Recommendation

Ensure clear zones are provided based on MRWA supplement to Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 6: Roadside Design, Safety and Barriers and the relevant design speed or provide suitable barriers to protect occupants of errant vehicles.

[IMPORTANT | HIGH]

2.3 Finding – Non-Standard Advanced Intersection Warning Sign on Stephens Road on the approach to Evaside Road.

The advanced intersection warning sign is a nonstandard sign and indicates that the south bound movement at the intersection has right of way.

Justification of the finding:

Signs are an important part of the road infrastructure to provide guidance to drivers as they approach a change in road environment, if the sign is wrong or misleading a driver may not approach the change to the road environment at an appropriate speed increasing the risk of a crash resulting in injury to vehicle occupants.

All signs should be designed to AS1742 standard signage and retroreflective, non-standard signs should be avoided.

Recommendation

Replace the nonstandard advanced intersection warning sign with an Australian Standard sign as per AS1742.

[IMPORTANT | LOW]

2.4 Finding – Culverts in Clearzone on Evaside and Ross Roads

There are culverts and rock pitching around the culverts that are in the clearzone on Evaside and Ross Roads.



Justification of the finding:

Hazards within the clear zone should be removed, suitable protection from them provided, or be frangible to the impact of a vehicle. Effective clear zones are determined using the method described in Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 6: Roadside Design, Safety and Barriers.

Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 6: Roadside Design, Safety and Barriers indicates that removal of roadside hazards is rated very high as an effective treatment to prevent an off-path incidents.

Recommendation

Extend the culverts or provide protection in the form of road safety barriers.

[IMPORTANT | HIGH]

2.5 Finding – Alignment of the 4-way intersection

The 4-way intersection of Evaside, Stephens and Ross Road are poorly aligned and not consistent with the designs from Austroads.

Justification of the finding:

Due to the poor alignment of the intersecting roads, there is a risk that vehicles could fail to give way whilst exiting the intersection which could result in right angle crashes.

Poorly designed intersections increase the risk of crashes, 4 way intersections have more conflict points and should be avoided where possible to reduce the risk of right angle the thru-thru type crashes reducing the number of legs to an intersection will improve safety, there is a possibility of closing Ross Road as it carries very low volumes of traffic and in turn removes the railway crossing making the intersection of Evaside Road and Stephens Road a T intersection.

Recommendation

Re-align the intersection legs and close Ross Road prior to the railway crossing removing the rail crossing and re-align the Stephens Road approach to Evaside Road to 90 degrees.

[IMPORTANT | HIGH]



2.6 Finding – Missing Give Way sign on Ross Road at Evaside Intersection

The Give Way sign is missing at the intersection of Ross Road and Evaside Road.

Justification of the finding:

There is a risk that vehicles could fail to give way whilst exiting the intersection which could result in right angle crashes.

A minor road should have intersection control signage as per AS1742 to indicate that the minor road should either Give Way or Stop before entering the through road.

Recommendation

Install a Give Way sign at the intersection of Ross Road and Evaside Road.

[IMPORTANT | HIGH]

2.7 Finding – Delineation and signage on the curve on Ross Road prior to the rail crossing and intersection with Evaside Road

The curve on the approach to the rail crossing on Ros Road is poorly delineated with no advanced curve warning signs or CAMs around the curve to indicate to drivers the direction of travel.

Justification of the finding:

The lack of curve warning signage increases the risk of a driver not negotiating the curve and leaving the road resulting in serious or fatal injury to vehicle occupants.

Curved road alignments should be signed in accordance with AS1742 to ensure drivers are aware of the change in road alignment both prior to the curve and around the curve.

Recommendation

Install advanced curve warning signs and CAMs around the curve on Ross Road.

[IMPORTANT | HIGH]



2.8 Finding – Restricted sight distance on Evaside Road south bound on the approach to the intersection with Stephens Road

The approach to the intersection with Ross Road and Stephens Road on Evaside Road has been raised to meet the raised height of the rail crossing on Ross Road reducing the sight distance when heading south on Evaside Road.

Justification of the finding:

The reduction in sight distance can mask vehicles approaching or entering Evaside Road increasing the risk of head on and right-angle crashes as well as rear end crashes.

Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 4A: Unsignalised and Signalised Intersections details the Approach sight distance requirements for the approach to intersections, crests should be avoided where possible to ensure the intersection and vehicles approaching or entering the road at the intersection are clearly visible to approaching drivers.

Recommendation

Evaside Road should be lowered to remove the crest to improve the approach sight distance at the intersection and along Evaside Road, if the recommendation to close Ross Road and the rail crossing is adopted then the intersection of Evaside Road and Stephens Road can be lowered to remove the crest.

[IMPORTANT | HIGH]



3. ROAD SAFETY INSPECTION TEAM STATEMENT

I hereby certify that the inspection team have examined the identified location in undertaking this Road Safety Inspection. I also confirm that this inspection has been conducted following the general principles detailed in *Austroads Guide to Road Safety Part 6: Road Safety Audit* and in accordance with Main Roads Policy and Guidelines for Road Safety Audit.

The inspection has been carried out for the sole purpose of identifying any features of the existing road environment which could be altered or removed to improve the safety of the road infrastructure. The identified issues have been noted in this report. The accompanying findings and recommendations are put forward for consideration by the asset owner for implementation.

Inspection Team Leader

Richard Jois
Senior Road Safety Auditor
Shawmac Traffic & Safety Pty Ltd

0488488401
richard.jois@shawmac-ts.com

26/05/2022 Date

Disclaimer

This report contains findings and recommendations based on examination of the site and/or relevant documentation. The report is based on the conditions viewed on the day of inspection and is relevant at the time of production of the report. Information and data contained within this report is prepared with due care by the Road Safety Inspection Team. While the Road Safety Inspection Team seeks to ensure accuracy of the data, it cannot guarantee its accuracy.

Readers should not solely rely on the contents of this report or draw inferences to other sites. Users must seek appropriate expert advice in relation to their own particular circumstances.

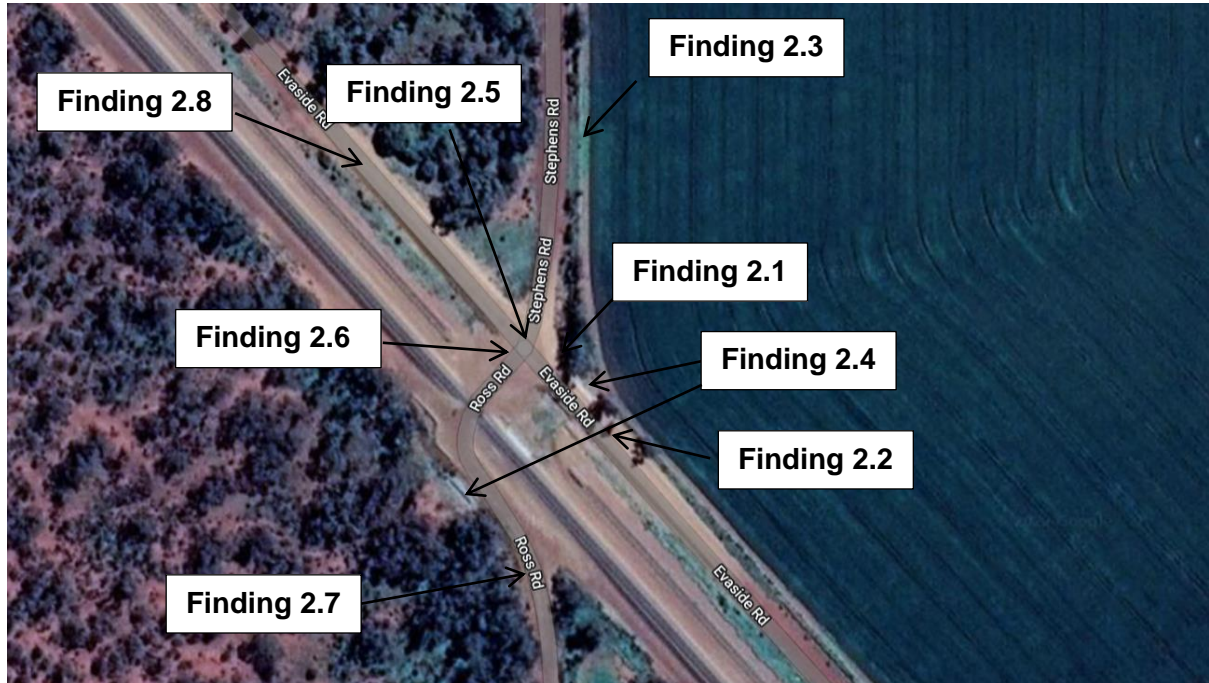
The Road Safety Inspection Team does not warrant, guarantee or represent that this report is free from errors or omissions or that the information is exhaustive. Information contained within may become inaccurate without notice and may be wholly or partly incomplete or incorrect. Before relying on the information in this report, users should carefully evaluate the accuracy, completeness and relevance of the data for their purposes.

Subject to any responsibilities implied in law which cannot be excluded, the Road Safety Inspection Team is not liable to any party for any losses, expenses, damages, liabilities or claims whatsoever, whether direct, indirect or consequential, arising out of or referable to the use of this report, howsoever caused whether in contract, tort, statute or otherwise.



APPENDIX A

ROAD SAFETY INSPECTION FINDINGS LOCATION PLAN



Inspection Findings Location Plan



APPENDIX B

ROAD SAFETY INSPECTION PHOTOGRAPHS



Finding 2.1 – Tree obscuring sight lines to the south at the intersection



Finding 2.2 – Steep Embankment at side of Stephens and Evaside Road



Finding 2.3 – Non-Standard Advanced Intersection Warning Signs



Finding 2.4 Culvert and rock pitching in clearzone



Finding 2.5 – Poorly alignment 4 way intersection



Finding 2.6 - Missing Give way sign at Ross and Evaside Road intersection



Finding 2.7 – Poorly delineated curve on approach to rail crossing on Ross Road



Finding 2.4 - Culvert and steep embankment in clearzone on Ross Road



Finding 2.8 – Restricted sight distance over crest prior to intersection north bound on Evaside Road



APPENDIX C

CRASH REPORTS



There are no reported crashes at the intersection



APPENDIX D

CORRECTIVE ACTION REPORT



Corrective Action Report – Evaside Rd / Stephens Rd / Ross Rd Intersection Morawa Road Safety Inspection

Findings and Recommendations	Project Manager		
	Agree / Disagree	Reason for Disagreeing	Proposed Action and Comments
<p>2.1 Finding – Trees in Clearzone and obscuring sight lines to the south of intersection of Stephens Road and Evaside Road</p> <p>There are trees that are in the clearzone and obscure the sight lines at the intersection of Stephens Road and Evaside Road looking south from the intersection.</p> <p>Justification of the finding:</p> <p>The trees in the clearzone pose a hazard for an errant vehicle and increase the risk of injury if a vehicle runs off the road and impacts with the tree. The reduced sight distance could mask a vehicle heading North on Evaside Road and as a vehicle emerges from Stephens Road if they are slightly on the wrong side of the road they could</p>	Choose an item.		



<p>impact with the approaching vehicle leading to serious or fatal injury to vehicle occupants</p> <p>The tree located to the south of the intersection reduces Safe Intersection Sight Distance to approximately 150 m. Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 4A: Unsignalised and Signalised Intersection indicates that Safe Intersection Sight Distance is the minimum distance which should be provided on the major road at any intersection. Using an operating speed of 110 km/h and reaction time of 2.0 seconds the required Safe Intersection Sight Distance is 285 m measured 7 m back along the side road from the conflict point.</p>			
<p>Recommendation</p> <p>The tree should be removed or pruned to provide adequate Safe Intersection Sight Distance should be provided in accordance with Austroads guidelines.</p> <p>[IMPORTANT MODERATE]</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>		



<p>2.2 Finding – Steep Embankments along Evaside Road, Stephens Road and Ross Road</p> <p>There are steep embankments located in the verge on both sides of Evaside Road, Stephens Road and Ross Road that are non-recoverable.</p> <p>Justification of the finding:</p> <p>The steep embankments pose a risk of serious or even fatal injuries to vehicle occupants in the event an errant vehicle leaves the road.</p> <p>Hazards within the clear zone should be removed, suitable protection from them provided, or be frangible to the impact of a vehicle. Effective clear zones are determined using the method described in Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 6: Roadside Design, Safety and Barriers.</p> <p>Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 6: Roadside Design, Safety and Barriers indicates that removal of roadside hazards is rated very high as an effective treatment to prevent an off-path incidents.</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>		
<p>Recommendation</p> <p>Ensure clear zones are provided based on MRWA supplement to Austroads Guide to Road</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>		



Design Part 6: Roadside Design, Safety and Barriers and the relevant design speed or provide suitable barriers to protect occupants of errant vehicles. [IMPORTANT HIGH]			
<p>2.3 Finding – Non-Standard Advanced Intersection Warning Sign on Stephens Road on the approach to Evaside Road.</p> <p>The advanced intersection warning sign is a nonstandard sign and indicates that the south bound movement at the intersection has right of way.</p> <p>Justification of the finding:</p> <p>Signs are an important part of the road infrastructure to provide guidance to drivers as they approach a change in road environment, if the sign is wrong or misleading a driver may not approach the change to the road environment at an appropriate speed increasing the risk of a crash resulting in injury to vehicle occupants.</p> <p>All signs should be designed to AS1742 standard signage and retroreflective, nonstandard signs should be avoided.</p>	Choose an item.		



Recommendation Replace the non-standard advanced intersection warning sign with an Australian Standard sign as per AS1742. [IMPORTANT LOW]	Choose an item.		
2.4 Finding – Culverts in Clearzone on Evaside and Ross Roads There are culverts and rock pitching around the culverts that are in the clearzone on Evaside and Ross Roads. Justification of the finding: Hazards within the clear zone should be removed, suitable protection from them provided, or be frangible to the impact of a vehicle. Effective clear zones are determined using the method described in Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 6: Roadside Design, Safety and Barriers. Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 6: Roadside Design, Safety and Barriers indicates that removal of roadside hazards is rated very high as an effective treatment to prevent an off-path incidents.	Choose an item.		



<p>Recommendation</p> <p>Extend the culverts or provide protection in the form of road safety barriers.</p> <p>[IMPORTANT HIGH]</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>		
<p>2.5 Finding – Alignment of the 4-way intersection</p> <p>The 4-way intersection of Evaside, Stephens and Ross Road is poorly aligned and not consistent with the designs from Austroads.</p> <p>Justification of the finding:</p> <p>Due to the poor alignment of the intersecting roads, there is a risk that vehicles could fail to give way whilst exiting the intersection which could result in right angle crashes.</p> <p>Poorly designed intersections increase the risk of crashes, 4 way intersections have more conflict points and should be avoided where possible to reduce the risk of right angle the thru-thru type crashes reducing the number of legs to an intersection will improve safety, there is a possibility of closing Ross Road as it carries very</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>		



low volumes of traffic and in turn removes the railway crossing making the intersection of Evaside Road and Stephens Road a T intersection.			
Recommendation Re-align the intersection legs and close Ross Road prior to the railway crossing removing the rail crossing and re-align the Stephens Road approach to Evaside Road to 90 degrees. [IMPORTANT HIGH]	Choose an item.		
2.6 Finding – Missing Give Way sign on Ross Road at Evaside Intersection The Give Way sign is missing at the intersection of Ross Road and Evaside Road. Justification of the finding: There is a risk that vehicles could fail to give way whilst exiting the intersection which could result in right angle crashes. A minor road should have intersection control signage as per AS1742 to indicate that the minor road should either Give Way or Stop before entering the through road.	Choose an item.		



Recommendation Install a Give Way sign at the intersection of Ross Road and Evaside Road. [IMPORTANT HIGH]	Choose an item.		
2.7 Finding – Delineation and signage on the curve on Ross Road prior to the rail crossing and intersection with Evaside Road The curve on the approach to the rail crossing on Ros Road is poorly delineated with no advanced curve warning signs or CAMs around the curve to indicate to drivers the direction of travel. Justification of the finding: The lack of curve warning signage increases the risk of a driver not negotiating the curve and leaving the road resulting in serious or fatal injury to vehicle occupants. Curved road alignments should be signed in accordance with AS1742 to ensure drivers are aware of the change in road alignment both prior to the curve and around the curve.	Choose an item.		



Recommendation Install advanced curve warning signs and CAMs around the curve on Ross Road. [IMPORTANT HIGH]	Choose an item.		
2.8 Finding – Restricted sight distance on Evaside Road south bound on the approach to the intersection with Stephens Road The approach to the intersection with Ross Road and Stephens Road on Evaside Road has been raised to meet the raised height of the rail crossing on Ross Road reducing the sight distance when heading south on Evaside Road. Justification of the finding: The reduction in sight distance can mask vehicles approaching or entering Evaside Road increasing the risk of head on and right-angle crashes as well as rear end crashes. The Guide to Road Design Part 4A: Unsignalised and Signalised Intersections details the Approach sight distance requirements for the approach to intersections, crests should be avoided where	Choose an item.		



possible to ensure the intersection and vehicles approaching or entering the road at the intersection are clearly visible to approaching drivers.			
Recommendation Evaside Road should be lowered to remove the crest to improve the approach sight distance at the intersection and along Evaside Road, if the recommendation to close Ross Road and the rail crossing is adopted then the intersection of Evaside Road and Stephens Road can be lowered to remove the crest. [IMPORTANT HIGH]	Choose an item.		



Corrective Action Report - Evaside Rd / Stephens Rd / Ross Rd Intersection Morawa Road Safety Inspection

NOTE:

- This Corrective Action Report is to be read in conjunction with the full Road Safety Inspection Report and its findings and recommendations.
- The asset owners (MRWA and/or LGA) **must** be informed of these findings, recommendations and proposed actions.
- Items not under the responsibility of this project representative must be forwarded to the persons / agencies who are responsible.

These findings and recommendations have been considered, and the actions listed will be taken accordingly.

Responsible Project Representative	Company / Agency / Division	Position	Date

Asset Owner Representative	Company / Agency / Division	Position	Date

Ordinary Council Meeting 20 October 2025

Attachment 1- 11.2.1a Monthly Financial Report as at 30 September 2025.

Item 11.2.1- Monthly Financial Report- September 2025

SHIRE OF MORAWA
MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT
(Containing the Statement of Financial Activity)
For the Period Ended 30 September 2025

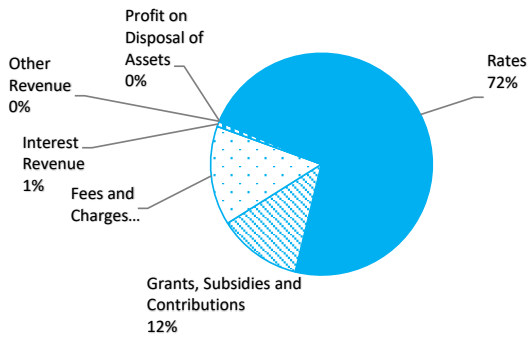
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1995
LOCAL GOVERNMENT (FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT) REGULATIONS 1996

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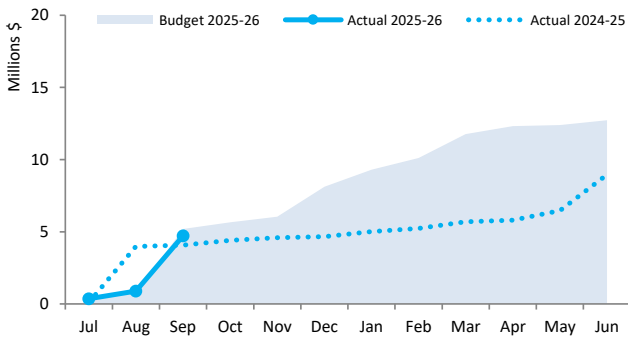
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OPERATING ACTIVITIES

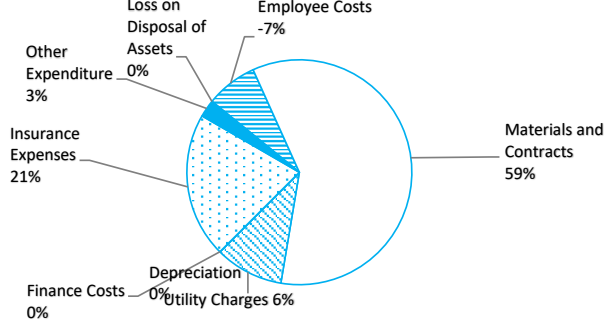
OPERATING REVENUE



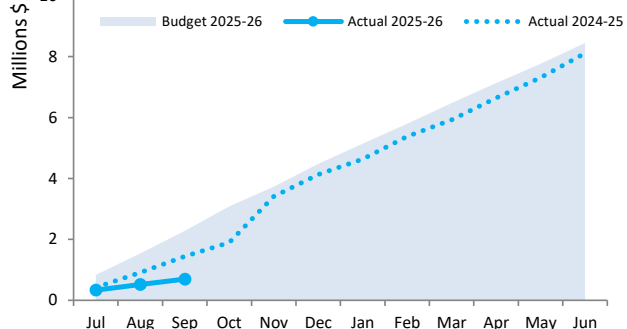
Budget Operating Revenues -v- Actual



OPERATING EXPENSES

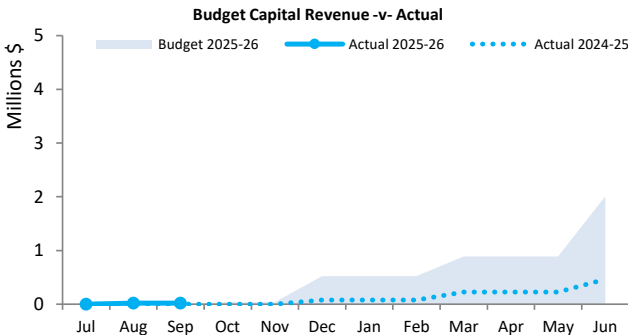


Budget Operating Expenses -v- YTD Actual

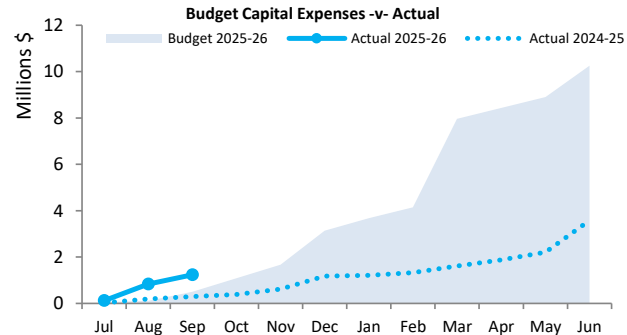


INVESTING ACTIVITIES

CAPITAL REVENUE



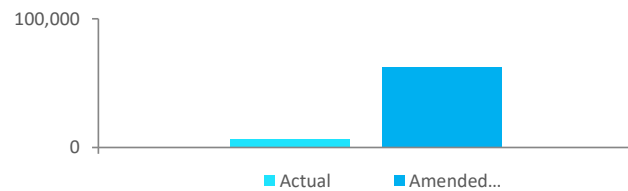
CAPITAL EXPENSES



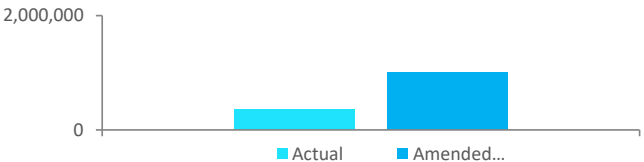
FINANCING ACTIVITIES

BORROWINGS

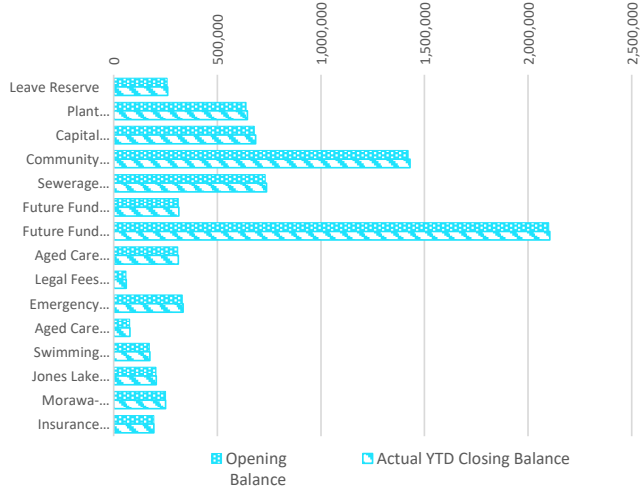
Principal Repayments



Principal Outstanding



RESERVES



This information is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Financial Statements and Notes.

Funding surplus / (deficit) Components

Funding surplus / (deficit)				
	Amended Budget	YTD Budget (a)	YTD Actual (b)	Var. \$ (b)-(a)
Opening	\$2.47 M	\$2.47 M	\$2.14 M	(\$0.33 M)
Closing	\$0.00 M	\$5.48 M	\$4.87 M	(\$0.61 M)
Refer to Statement of Financial Activity				

Cash and cash equivalents		
	\$10.42 M	% of total
Unrestricted Cash	\$2.63 M	25.2%
Restricted Cash	\$7.79 M	74.8%
Refer to Note 2 - Cash and Financial Assets		

Payables		
	(\$0.25 M)	% Outstanding
Trade Payables	\$0.34 M	
0 to 30 Days		0.4%
30 to 90 Days		99.5%
Over 90 Days		0%
Refer to Note 5 - Payables		

Receivables		
	\$2.26 M	% Collected
Rates Receivable	\$2.22 M	49.7%
Trade Receivable	\$0.03 M	% Outstanding
30 to 90 Days		(1812.7%)
Over 90 Days		-1577.7%
Refer to Note 3 - Receivables		

Key Operating Activities

Amount attributable to operating activities			
Amended Budget	YTD Budget (a)		Var. \$ (b)-(a)
\$0.63 M	\$2.96 M	\$3.75 M	\$0.79 M
Refer to Statement of Financial Activity			

Rates Revenue		
YTD Actual	\$3.22 M	% Variance
YTD Budget	\$3.23 M	(0.4%)
Refer to Note 6 - Rate Revenue		

Grants and Contributions		
YTD Actual	\$0.54 M	% Variance
YTD Budget	\$0.57 M	(4.1%)
Refer to Note 13 - Operating Grants and Contributions		

Fees and Charges		
YTD Actual	\$0.64 M	% Variance
YTD Budget	\$0.73 M	(11.9%)
Refer to Statement of Financial Activity		

Key Investing Activities

Amount attributable to investing activities			
Amended Budget	YTD Budget (a)	YTD Actual (b)	Var. \$ (b)-(a)
(\$10.02 M)	(\$0.45 M)	(\$1.24 M)	(\$0.79 M)
Refer to Statement of Financial Activity			

Proceeds on sale		
YTD Actual	\$0.02 M	%
Amended Budget	\$0.19 M	(89.5%)
Refer to Note 7 - Disposal of Assets		

Asset Acquisition		
YTD Actual	\$1.24 M	% Spent
Amended Budget	\$9.91 M	0.0%
Refer to Note 8 - Capital Acquisitions		

Capital Grants		
YTD Actual	\$0.25 M	% Received
Amended Budget	\$5.95 M	(95.8%)
Refer to Note 8 - Capital Acquisitions		

Key Financing Activities

Amount attributable to financing activities			
Amended Budget	YTD Budget (a)	YTD Actual (b)	Var. \$ (b)-(a)
\$0.77 M	(\$0.05 M)	(\$0.06 M)	(\$0.00 M)
Refer to Statement of Financial Activity			

Borrowings	
Principal repayments	\$0.01 M
Interest expense	\$0.00 M
Principal due	\$0.36 M
Refer to Note 9 - Borrowings	

Reserves	
Reserves balance	\$7.79 M
Interest earned	\$0.05 M
Refer to Note 11 - Cash Reserves	

Lease Liability	
Principal repayments	\$0.00 M
Interest expense	\$0.00 M
Principal due	\$0.00 M
Refer to Note 10 - Lease Liabilities	

This information is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Financial Statements and notes.

KEY TERMS AND DESCRIPTIONS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

STATUTORY PROGRAMS

Shire operations as disclosed in these financial statements encompass the following service orientated activities/programs.

PROGRAM NAME AND OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES
GOVERNANCE To manage Councils' Elected Members	Includes Members of Council, Civic Functions and Public Relations, Council Elections, Training/Education of members.
GENERAL PURPOSE FUNDING To manage Council's finances	Includes Rates, Loans, Investments & Grants.
LAW, ORDER, PUBLIC SAFETY To provide, develop & manage services in response to community needs.	Includes Emergency Services, Fire Services and Animal Control
HEALTH To provide, develop & manage services in response to community needs.	Includes Environmental Health, Medical and Health facilities and providers
EDUCATION AND WELFARE To provide, develop & manage services in response to community needs.	Includes Education, Welfare & Children's Services, Youth Development
HOUSING To ensure quality housing and appropriate infrastructure is maintained.	Includes Staff and other housing, including aged care units and Dreghorn Street units.
COMMUNITY AMENITIES To provide, develop & manage services in response to community needs.	Includes Refuse Collection, Sewerage, Cemetery, Building Control and Town Planning.
RECREATION AND CULTURE To ensure the recreational & cultural needs of the community are met.	Includes the Swimming Pool, Halls, Library, Oval, Parks and Gardens and Recreational Facilities.
TRANSPORT To effectively manage transport infrastructure within the shire.	Includes Roads, Footpaths, Private Works, Plant Operating Costs, Outside Crew wages and maintenance of the Airstrip.
ECONOMIC SERVICES To foster economic development, tourism & rural services in the district.	Includes Tourism, Rural Services, Economic Development & Caravan Park.
OTHER PROPERTY AND SERVICES To provide control accounts and reporting facilities for all other operations.	Includes Private Works, Public Works Overheads, Plant Recovery Costs, Administration Overheads and Unclassified Items

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025**

BY PROGRAM

	Ref Note	Adopted Annual Budget (a) \$	Amended Annual Budget (d) \$	YTD Budget (b) \$	YTD Actual (c) \$	Variance \$ (c)-(b)	Variance % (c)-(b)/(b)	Var. ▲▼
OPERATING ACTIVITIES								
Revenue from operating activities								
Governance		2,100	2,100	522	76	(446)	(85.51%)	
General purpose funding - general rates	6	3,209,363	3,209,363	3,227,863	3,220,851	(7,012)	(0.22%)	
General purpose funding - other		1,575,942	1,575,942	396,962	354,104	(42,858)	(10.80%)	▼
Law, order and public safety		28,740	28,740	5,955	6,205	250	4.20%	
Health		14,850	14,850	3,087	455	(2,632)	(85.28%)	
Education and welfare		17,500	17,500	3,117	4,341	1,224	39.26%	
Housing		93,500	93,500	23,361	13,381	(9,980)	(42.72%)	
Community amenities		617,013	617,013	552,453	532,582	(19,871)	(3.60%)	
Recreation and culture		60,945	60,945	9,733	2,666	(7,067)	(72.61%)	
Transport		566,558	566,558	244,300	219,296	(25,004)	(10.23%)	▼
Economic services		268,000	268,000	149,436	92,340	(57,096)	(38.21%)	▼
Other property and services		323,233	323,233	22,119	586	(21,533)	(97.35%)	▼
		6,777,744	6,777,744	4,638,908	4,446,882	(192,026)		
Expenditure from operating activities								
Governance		(618,301)	(618,301)	(143,562)	(34,887)	108,675	75.70%	▲
General purpose funding		(284,454)	(284,454)	(71,100)	(1,825)	69,275	97.43%	▲
Law, order and public safety		(167,669)	(167,669)	(39,434)	(33,366)	6,068	15.39%	
Health		(237,099)	(237,099)	(50,883)	(29,281)	21,602	42.45%	▲
Education and welfare		(254,872)	(254,872)	(64,560)	(15,857)	48,703	75.44%	▲
Housing		(264,877)	(264,877)	(74,784)	(35,380)	39,404	52.69%	▲
Community amenities		(750,201)	(750,201)	(192,377)	(28,847)	163,530	85.00%	▲
Recreation and culture		(2,086,391)	(2,086,391)	(521,232)	(106,411)	414,821	79.58%	▲
Transport		(2,794,522)	(2,794,522)	(696,375)	(47,126)	649,249	93.23%	▲
Economic services		(812,193)	(812,193)	(345,621)	(31,403)	314,218	90.91%	▲
Other property and services		(177,186)	(177,186)	(80,969)	(331,634)	(250,665)	(309.58%)	▼
		(8,447,765)	(8,447,765)	(2,280,897)	(696,018)	1,584,879		
Non-cash amounts excluded from operating activities	1(a)	2,304,200	2,304,200	605,494	2,463	(603,031)	(99.59%)	▼
Amount attributable to operating activities		634,179	634,179	2,963,505	3,753,327	789,822		
INVESTING ACTIVITIES								
Inflows from investing activities								
Proceeds from Capital grants, subsidies and contributions	14	5,949,676	5,949,676	551,656	250,900	(300,756)	(54.52%)	▼
Proceeds from disposal of assets	7	190,000	190,000	0	20,000	20,000	0.00%	▲
Proceeds from financial assets at amortised cost - self supporting loans	9	9,372	9,372	0	0	0	0.00%	
		6,149,048	6,149,048	551,656	270,900	0		
Outflows from investing activities								
Payments for financial assets at amortised cost - self supporting loans	9	(115,000)	(115,000)	0	0	0	0.00%	
Payments for Infrastructure	9	(4,573,094)	(4,573,094)	(50,000)	(875,082)	(825,082)	(1650.16%)	▼
Payments for property, plant and equipment	8	(5,332,600)	(5,332,600)	(400,093)	(360,219)	39,874	9.97%	
		(10,020,694)	(10,020,694)	(450,093)	(1,235,301)	(785,208)		
Amount attributable to investing activities		(3,871,646)	(3,871,646)	101,563	(964,401)	(1,065,964)		
FINANCING ACTIVITIES								
Inflows from financing activities								
Proceeds from new debentures	9	700,000	700,000	0	0	0	0.00%	
Transfer from reserves	11	1,118,409	1,118,409	0	0	0	0.00%	
		1,818,409	1,818,409	0	0	0		
Outflows from financing activities								
Repayment of debentures	9	(62,605)	(62,605)	(11,997)	(6,361)	5,636	46.98%	
Transfer to reserves	11	(987,717)	(987,717)	(42,213)	(49,604)	(7,391)	(17.51%)	
		(1,050,321)	(1,050,322)	(54,210)	(55,965)	(1,755)		
Amount attributable to financing activities		768,088	768,087	(54,210)	(55,965)	(1,755)		
MOVEMENT IN SURPLUS OR DEFICIT								
Surplus or deficit at the start of the financial year	1(c)	2,469,381	2,469,381	2,469,381	2,138,966	(330,415)	(13.38%)	▼
Amount attributable to operating activities		634,179	634,179	2,963,505	3,753,327			
Amount attributable to investing activities		(3,871,646)	(3,871,646)	101,563	(964,401)			
Amount attributable to financing activities		768,088	768,087	(54,210)	(55,965)			
Surplus or deficit after imposition of general rates	1(c)	2	1	5,480,239	4,871,926			

KEY INFORMATION

▲ ▼ Indicates a variance between Year to Date (YTD) Actual and YTD Actual data as per the adopted materiality threshold.

Refer to Note for an explanation of the reasons for the variance.

The material variance adopted by Council for the 2025-26 year is \$10,000 or 10.00% whichever is the greater.

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Financial Statements and notes.

KEY TERMS AND DESCRIPTIONS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

REVENUE

RATES

All rates levied under the *Local Government Act 1995*. Includes general, differential, specified area rates, minimum rates, interim rates, back rates, ex-gratia rates, less discounts and concessions offered. Exclude administration fees, interest on instalments, interest on arrears, service charges and sewerage rates.

GRANTS, SUBSIDIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Refers to all amounts received as grants, subsidies and contributions that are not non-operating grants.

CAPITAL GRANTS, SUBSIDIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Amounts received specifically for the acquisition, construction of new or the upgrading of identifiable non financial assets paid to a local government, irrespective of whether these amounts are received as capital grants, subsidies, contributions or donations.

REVENUE FROM CONTRACTS WITH CUSTOMERS

Revenue from contracts with customers is recognised when the local government satisfies its performance obligations under the contract.

FEES AND CHARGES

Revenues (other than service charges) from the use of facilities and charges made for local government services, sewerage rates, rentals, hire charges, fee for service, photocopying charges, licences, sale of goods or information, fines, penalties and administration fees. Local governments may wish to disclose more detail such as rubbish collection fees, rental of property, fines and penalties, other fees and charges.

SERVICE CHARGES

Service charges imposed under *Division 6 of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 1995*. *Regulation 54 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* identifies these as television and radio broadcasting, underground electricity and neighbourhood surveillance services. Exclude rubbish removal charges. Interest and other items of a similar nature received from bank and investment accounts, interest on rate instalments, interest on rate arrears and interest on debtors.

INTEREST REVENUE

Interest and other items of a similar nature received from bank and investment accounts, interest on rate instalments, interest on rate arrears and interest on debtors.

OTHER REVENUE / INCOME

Other revenue, which can not be classified under the above headings, includes dividends, discounts, rebates etc.

PROFIT ON ASSET DISPOSAL

Excess of assets received over the net book value for assets on their disposal.

NATURE DESCRIPTIONS

EXPENSES

EMPLOYEE COSTS

All costs associate with the employment of person such as salaries, wages, allowances, benefits such as vehicle and housing, superannuation, employment expenses, removal expenses, relocation expenses, worker's compensation insurance, training costs, conferences, safety expenses, medical examinations, fringe benefit tax, etc.

MATERIALS AND CONTRACTS

All expenditures on materials, supplies and contracts not classified under other headings. These include supply of goods and materials, legal expenses, consultancy, maintenance agreements, communication expenses, advertising expenses, membership, periodicals, publications, hire expenses, rental, leases, postage and freight etc. Local governments may wish to disclose more detail such as contract services, consultancy, information technology, rental or lease expenditures.

UTILITIES (GAS, ELECTRICITY, WATER, ETC.)

Expenditures made to the respective agencies for the provision of power, gas or water. Exclude expenditures incurred for the reinstatement of roadwork on behalf of these agencies.

INSURANCE

All insurance other than worker's compensation and health benefit insurance included as a cost of employment.

LOSS ON ASSET DISPOSAL

Shortfall between the value of assets received over the net book value for assets on their disposal.

DEPRECIATION

Depreciation expense raised on all classes of assets.

FINANCE COSTS

Interest and other costs of finance paid, including costs of finance for loan debentures, overdraft accommodation and refinancing expenses.

OTHER EXPENDITURE

Statutory fees, taxes, allowance for impairment of assets, member's fees or State taxes. Donations and subsidies made to community groups.

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025**

BY NATURE

	Ref Note	Adopted Annual Budget (a) \$	Amended Annual Budget (d) \$	YTD Budget (b) \$	YTD Actual (c) \$	Variance \$ (c)-(b)	Variance % (c)-(b)/(b)	Var. ▲▼
OPERATING ACTIVITIES								
Revenue from operating activities								
General rates	6	3,209,363	3,209,363	3,227,863	3,220,851	(7,012)	(0.22%)	
Rates excluding general rates	6	2,230	2,230	6,062	(22)	(6,084)	(100.36%)	
Grants, subsidies and contributions	13	1,790,736	1,790,736	567,982	544,612	(23,370)	(4.11%)	
Fees and charges		1,014,813	1,014,813	730,840	643,950	(86,890)	(11.89%)	▼
Interest revenue		347,265	347,265	82,806	32,203	(50,603)	(61.11%)	▼
Other revenue		320,581	320,581	23,355	5,287	(18,068)	(77.36%)	▼
Profit on disposal of assets	7	92,756	92,756	0	0	0	0.00%	
Gain on FV Adjustment of Financial Assets through P&L		0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	
		6,777,744	6,777,744	4,638,908	4,446,882	(192,026)		
Expenditure from operating activities								
Employee costs		(2,526,357)	(2,526,357)	(738,883)	60,675	799,558	108.21%	▲
Materials and contracts		(2,605,336)	(2,605,336)	(647,549)	(485,307)	162,242	25.05%	▲
Utility charges		(422,880)	(422,880)	(111,369)	(80,579)	30,790	27.65%	▲
Depreciation		(2,388,570)	(2,388,570)	(597,108)	0	597,108	100.00%	▲
Finance costs		(36,282)	(36,282)	(9,063)	(47)	9,016	99.48%	
Insurance expenses		(258,349)	(258,349)	(124,315)	(170,475)	(46,160)	(37.13%)	▼
Other expenditure		(209,992)	(209,992)	(52,610)	(20,285)	32,325	61.44%	▲
		(8,447,766)	(8,447,766)	(2,280,897)	(696,018)	1,584,879		
Non-cash amounts excluded from operating activities	1(a)	2,304,200	2,304,200	605,494	2,463	(603,031)	(99.59%)	▼
Amount attributable to operating activities		634,178	634,178	2,963,505	3,753,327	789,822		
INVESTING ACTIVITIES								
Inflows from investing activities								
Proceeds from capital grants, subsidies and contributions	14	5,949,676	5,949,676	551,656	250,900	(300,756)	(54.52%)	▼
Proceeds from disposal of assets	7	190,000	190,000	0	20,000	20,000	0.00%	▲
Proceeds from financial assets at amortised cost - self supporting loans	9	9,372	9,372	0	0	0	0.00%	
		6,149,048	6,149,048	551,656	270,900	(280,756)		
Outflows from investing activities								
Payments for financial assets at amortised cost - self supporting loans	9	(115,000)	(115,000)	0	0	0	0.00%	
Payments for infrastructure	8	(4,573,094)	(4,573,094)	(50,000)	(875,082)	(825,082)	1650.16%	
Payments for property, plant and equipment	8	(5,332,600)	(5,332,600)	(400,093)	(360,219)	39,874	(9.97%)	
		(10,020,694)	(10,020,694)	(450,093)	(1,235,301)	(1,346,720)		
Amount attributable to investing activities		(3,871,646)	(3,871,646)	101,563	(964,401)	(1,065,964)		
FINANCING ACTIVITIES								
Inflows from financing activities								
Proceeds from new borrowings	9	700,000	700,000	0	0	0	0.00%	
Transfer from reserves	11	1,118,409	1,118,409	0	0	0	0.00%	
		1,818,409	1,818,409	0	0	0		
Outflows from financing activities								
Repayment of borrowings	9	(62,605)	(62,605)	(11,997)	(6,361)	5,636	46.98%	
Transfer to reserves	11	(987,717)	(987,717)	(42,213)	(49,604)	(7,391)	(17.51%)	
		(1,050,321)	(1,050,322)	(54,210)	(55,965)	(1,755)		
Amount attributable to financing activities		768,088	768,087	(54,210)	(55,965)	(1,755)		
MOVEMENT IN SURPLUS OR DEFICIT								
Surplus or deficit at the start of the financial year	1(c)	2,469,381	2,469,381	2,469,381	2,138,966	(330,415)	(13.38%)	▼
Amount attributable to operating activities		634,178	634,178	2,963,505	3,753,327	789,822	26.65%	
Amount attributable to investing activities		(3,871,646)	(3,871,646)	101,563	(964,401)	(1,065,964)	(1049.56%)	
Amount attributable to financing activities		768,088	768,087	(54,210)	(55,965)	(1,755)	3.24%	
Surplus or deficit after imposition of general rates	1(c)	1	0	5,480,239	4,871,926			

KEY INFORMATION

▲ ▼ Indicates a variance between Year to Date (YTD) Actual and YTD Actual data as per the adopted materiality threshold.

Refer to Note for an explanation of the reasons for the variance.

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Financial Statements and Notes.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

	30 Jun 2025	30 Sep 2025
	\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	10,329,728.24	10,420,264.77
Trade and other receivables	806,016.24	2,200,500.63
Inventories	6,626.38	6,626.38
Contract assets	124,918.64	124,918.64
Other assets	36,293.73	(8,591.14)
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	11,303,583.23	12,743,719.28
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Trade and other receivables	56,183.49	56,183.49
Other financial assets	59,714.63	59,714.63
Property, plant and equipment	30,708,941.36	31,069,160.69
Infrastructure	62,971,830.16	63,846,912.16
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	93,796,669.64	95,031,970.97
TOTAL ASSETS	105,100,252.87	107,775,690.25
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	1,331,319.45	(248,982.51)
Other liabilities	156,100.42	396,436.54
Borrowings	29,841.44	23,480.44
Employee related provisions	194,416.99	194,416.99
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,711,678.30	365,351.46
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Borrowings	332,247.55	332,247.55
Employee related provisions	41,422.39	41,422.39
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	373,669.94	373,669.94
TOTAL LIABILITIES	2,085,348.24	739,021.40
NET ASSETS	103,014,904.63	107,036,668.85
EQUITY		
Retained surplus	38,977,828.08	42,949,987.99
Reserve accounts	7,740,797.59	7,790,401.90
Revaluation surplus	56,296,278.96	56,296,278.96
TOTAL EQUITY	103,014,904.63	107,036,668.85

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

BASIS OF PREPARATION

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (as they apply to local governments and not-for-profit entities) and interpretations of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, and the *Local Government Act 1995* and accompanying regulations.

The *Local Government Act 1995* and accompanying Regulations take precedence over Australian Accounting Standards where they are inconsistent.

The *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* specify that vested land is a right-of-use asset to be measured at cost. All right-of-use assets (other than vested improvements) under zero cost concessionary leases are measured at zero cost rather than at fair value. The exception is vested improvements on concessionary land leases such as roads, buildings or other infrastructure which continue to be reported at fair value, as opposed to the vested land which is measured at zero cost. The measurement of vested improvements at fair value is a departure from AASB 16 which would have required the Shire to measure any vested improvements at zero cost.

Accounting policies which have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise. Except for cash flow and rate setting information, the financial report has been prepared on the accrual basis and is based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and liabilities.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPORTING ENTITY

All funds through which the Shire controls resources to carry on its functions have been included in the financial statements forming part of this financial report.

In the process of reporting on the local government as a single unit, all transactions and balances between those funds (for example, loans and transfers between funds) have been eliminated.

All monies held in the Trust Fund are excluded from the financial statements. A separate statement of those monies appears at Note 15 to these financial statements.

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICES

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES

The preparation of a financial report in conformity with Australian Accounting Standards requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that effect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses.

The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances; the results of which form the basis of making the judgements about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with receivables or payables in the statement of financial position. Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are presented as operating cash flows.

ROUNDING OFF FIGURES

All figures shown in this statement are rounded to the nearest dollar.

PREPARATION TIMING AND REVIEW

Date prepared: All known transactions up to 30 September 2025

(a) Non-cash items excluded from operating activities

The following non-cash revenue and expenditure has been excluded from operating activities within the Statement of Financial Activity in accordance with Financial Management Regulation 32.

	Notes	Adopted Budget	Amended Budget	YTD Budget (a)	YTD Actual (b)
Non-cash items excluded from operating activities		\$	\$	\$	\$
Adjustments to operating activities					
Less: Profit on asset disposals	7	(92,756)	(92,756)	0	0
Less: Movement in liabilities associated with restricted cash		8,386	8,386	8,386	2,463
Add: Depreciation on assets		2,388,570	2,388,570	597,108	0
Total non-cash items excluded from operating activities		2,304,200	2,304,200	605,494	2,463

(b) Adjustments to net current assets in the Statement of Financial Activity

The following current assets and liabilities have been excluded from the net current assets used in the Statement of Financial Activity in accordance with *Financial Management Regulation* 32.

		Last Year Closing 30 June 2025	This Time Last Year 30 Sep 2024	Year to Date 30 Sep 2025
Adjustments to net current assets				
Less: Reserves - restricted cash	11	(7,740,798)	(7,102,923)	(7,790,402)
Add Back: Component of Leave Liability not Required to be Funded	12	258,017	249,027	260,480
Add: Borrowings	9	29,841	22,726	23,480
Total adjustments to net current assets		(7,452,939)	(6,831,171)	(7,506,442)

(c) Net current assets used in the Statement of Financial Activity

Current assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	2	10,328,203	10,753,141	10,418,740
Rates receivables	3	586,739	2,827,912	2,165,777
Receivables	3	219,277	79,457	34,724
Other current assets	4	167,839	92,742	122,954
Less: Current liabilities				
Payables	5	(1,329,794)	(274,123)	250,508
Borrowings	9	(29,841)	(22,726)	(23,480)
Contract liabilities	12	(156,100)	(1,100,965)	(396,437)
Provisions	12	(194,417)	(235,119)	(194,417)
Less: Total adjustments to net current assets	1(b)	(7,452,939)	(6,831,171)	(7,506,442)
Closing funding surplus / (deficit)		2,138,966	5,289,148	4,871,926

CURRENT AND NON-CURRENT CLASSIFICATION

In the determination of whether an asset or liability is current or non-current, consideration is given to the time when each asset or liability is expected to be settled. Unless otherwise stated assets or liabilities are classified as at current if expected to be settled within the next 12 months, being the Council's operational cycle.

Liabilities under transfers to acquire or construct non-financial assets to be controlled by the entity

Description	Classification	Unrestricted \$	Restricted \$	Total Cash \$	Trust \$	Institution	Interest Rate	Maturity Date
Cash on hand								
Cash On Hand	Cash and cash equivalents	400		400			NIL	On Hand
At Call Deposits								
Muni Bank Trading - NAB (Current)	Cash and cash equivalents	1,474,326		1,474,326		NAB	0.00%	At Call
Muni Professional Fund - NAB	Cash and cash equivalents	1,153,612		1,153,612		NAB	4.10%	At Call
CAB - Future Fund Grant (Interest) Reserve	Cash and cash equivalents	0	314,539	314,539		NAB	4.10%	At Call
CAB - Leave Reserve Account	Cash and cash equivalents	0	260,480	260,480		NAB	4.10%	At Call
CAB - Swimming Pool Reserve	Cash and cash equivalents	0	174,455	174,455		NAB	4.10%	At Call
CAB - Plant Replacement Reserve	Cash and cash equivalents	0	645,192	645,192		NAB	4.10%	At Call
CAB - Capital Works Reserve	Cash and cash equivalents	0	685,714	685,714		NAB	4.10%	At Call
CAB - Sewerage Reserve	Cash and cash equivalents	0	738,084	738,084		NAB	4.10%	At Call
CAB - Community & Economic Development Reserve	Cash and cash equivalents	0	930,647	930,647		NAB	4.10%	At Call
CAB - Future Funds (Principal) Reserve	Cash and cash equivalents	0	504,499	504,499		NAB	4.10%	At Call
CAB - Legal Reserve	Cash and cash equivalents	0	60,420	60,420		NAB	4.10%	At Call
CAB - Emergency Response Reserve	Cash and cash equivalents	0	334,962	334,962		NAB	4.10%	At Call
CAB - Aged Care Units 1-4 (JVA) Reserve	Cash and cash equivalents	0	78,351	78,351		NAB	4.10%	At Call
CAB - Aged Care Units (Excl. 1-4) Reserve	Cash and cash equivalents	0	312,532	312,532		NAB	4.10%	At Call
CAB - Jones Lake Road Rehab Reserve	Cash and cash equivalents	0	206,110	206,110		NAB	4.10%	At Call
CAB - Morawa-Yalgoo Road Maintenance Reserve	Cash and cash equivalents	0	249,964	249,964		NAB	4.10%	At Call
CAB - Insurance Works Reserve	Cash and cash equivalents	0	194,452	194,452		NAB	4.10%	At Call
Term Deposits		0						
TD: ... 5010 (Future Funds 1)	Cash and cash equivalents	0	800,000	800,000		NAB	4.05%	26/12/2025
TD: ... 8706 (Future Funds 2)	Cash and cash equivalents	0	800,000	800,000		NAB	4.05%	26/12/2025
TD: ... 4783 (Community Development Fund)	Cash and cash equivalents	0	500,000	500,000		NAB	4.05%	26/12/2025
Trust Deposits								
Trust Bank	Cash and cash equivalents				1,525	NAB	0.00%	At Call
Total		2,628,338	7,790,402	10,418,740	1,525			
Comprising								
Cash and cash equivalents		2,628,338	7,790,402	10,418,740	1,525			
		2,628,338	7,790,402	10,418,740	1,525			

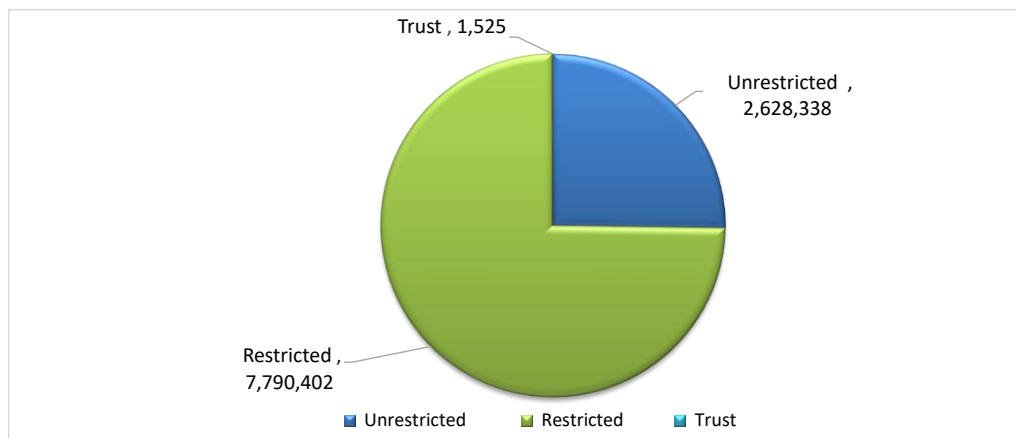
KEY INFORMATION

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, cash at bank, deposits available on demand with banks and other short term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are reported as short term borrowings in current liabilities in the statement of net current assets.

The local government classifies financial assets at amortised cost if both of the following criteria are met:

- the asset is held within a business model whose objective is to collect the contractual cashflows, and
- the contractual terms give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest.

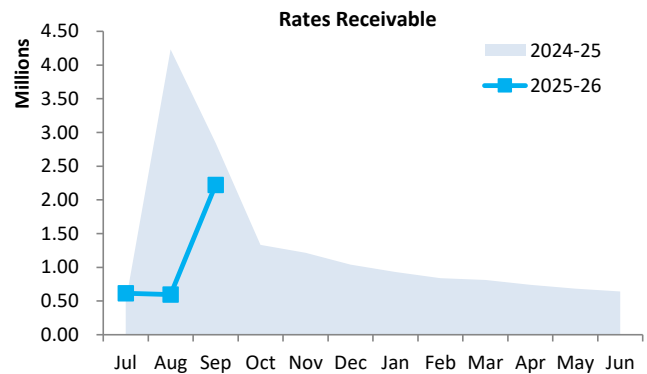
Financial assets at amortised cost held with registered financial institutions are listed in this note other financial assets at amortised cost are provided in Note 4 - Other assets.



**NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025**

**OPERATING ACTIVITIES
NOTE 3
RECEIVABLES**

Rates receivable	30 Jun 2025	30 Sep 2025
	\$	\$
Opening arrears previous years	489,189	642,923
Levied this year	3,732,455	3,778,763
Less - collections to date	(3,578,722)	(2,199,725)
Equals current outstanding	642,923	2,221,961
Net rates collectable	642,923	2,221,961
% Collected	84.8%	49.7%

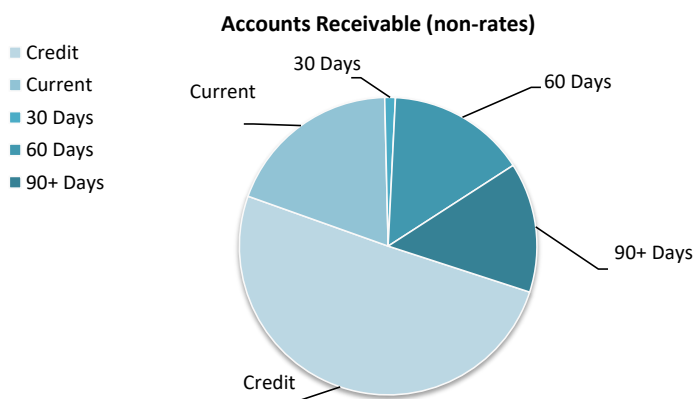


Receivables - general	Credit	Current	30 Days	60 Days	90+ Days	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Receivables - general	(38,301)	14,563	875	11,453	10,730	(680)
Percentage	5631.5%	-2141.2%	-128.7%	-1684%	-1577.7%	
Balance per trial balance						
Sundry receivable						(680)
GST receivable						44,506
Increase in Allowance for impairment of receivables from contracts with customers						(25,012)
Total receivables general outstanding						34,724

Amounts shown above include GST (where applicable)

KEY INFORMATION

Trade and other receivables include amounts due from ratepayers for unpaid rates and service charges and other amounts due from third parties for goods sold and services performed in the ordinary course of business. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets. Collectability of trade and other receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Debts that are known to be uncollectible are written off when identified. An allowance for impairment of receivables is raised when there is objective evidence that they will not be collectible.



	Opening Balance 1 July 2025	Asset Increase	Asset Reduction	Closing Balance 30 Sep 2025
Other current assets	\$	\$	\$	\$
Inventory				
Fuel, Oils and Materials on Hand	6,626	0	0	6,626
Other current assets				
Accrued income	36,294	0	(44,885)	(8,591)
Contract assets				
Contract assets	124,919	0	0	124,919
Total other current assets	167,839	0	(44,885)	122,954
Amounts shown above include GST (where applicable)				

KEY INFORMATION

Inventory

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business less the estimated costs of completion and the estimated costs necessary to make the sale.

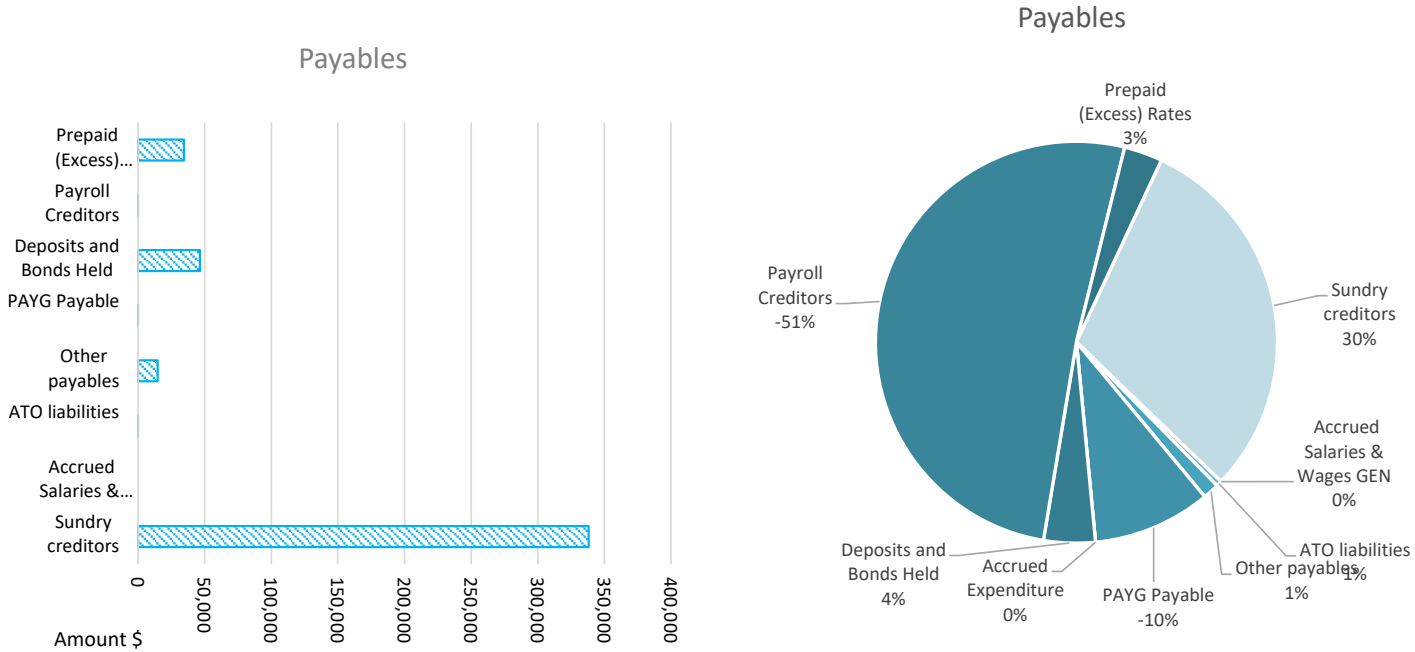
Contract assets

A contract asset is the right to consideration in exchange for goods or services the entity has transferred to a customer when that right is conditioned on something other than the passage of time.

Payables - general	Credit	Current	30 Days	60 Days	90+ Days	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Payables - general	0	1,500	16,915	319,673	65	338,152
Percentage	0%	0.4%	5%	94.5%	0%	
Balance per trial balance						
Sundry creditors						338,152
Accrued Salaries & Wages GEN						0
ATO liabilities						(5,050)
Other payables						14,600
PAYG Payable						(106,329)
Accrued Expenditure						0
Deposits and Bonds Held						46,326
Payroll Creditors						(572,590)
Prepaid (Excess) Rates						34,382
Total payables general outstanding						(250,509)
Amounts shown above include GST (where applicable)						

KEY INFORMATION

Trade and other payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Shire that are unpaid and arise when the Shire becomes obliged to make future payments in respect of the purchase of these goods and services. The amounts are unsecured, are recognised as a current liability and are normally paid within 30 days of recognition.



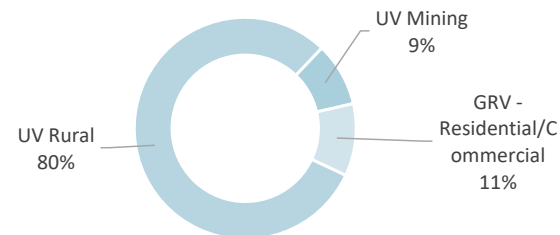
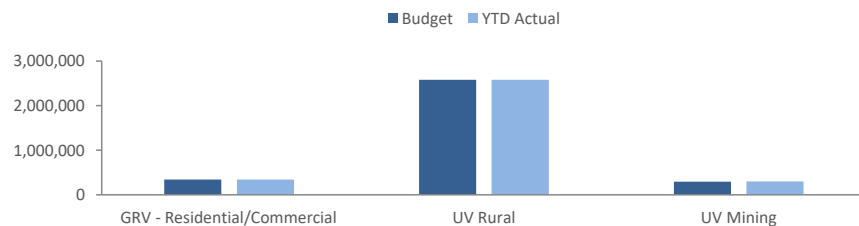
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

OPERATING ACTIVITIES
NOTE 6
RATE REVENUE

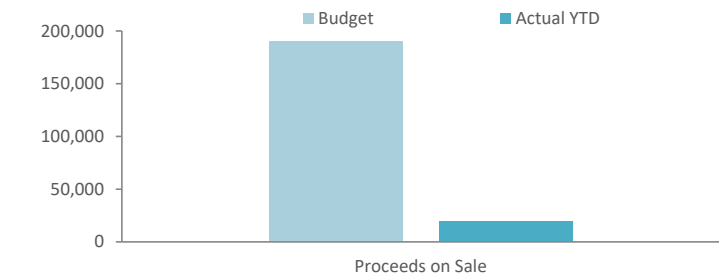
General rate revenue	Budget					YTD Actual			
	Rate in \$ (cents)	Number of Properties	Rateable Value	Rate Revenue	Total Revenue	Rate Revenue	Interim Rates	Back Rates	Total Revenue
RATE TYPE				\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
General Rate									
Gross rental valuations									
GRV - Residential/Commercial	0.091876	265	3,705,874	340,480	340,480	340,481	0	0	340,480.86
Unimproved value									
UV Rural	0.016570	201	155,683,000	2,579,231	2,579,231	2,579,667	0	0	2,579,667.37
UV Mining	0.300660	29	990,611	297,127	297,127	297,837	0	0	297,837.12
Sub-Total		495	160,379,485	3,216,838	3,216,838	3,217,985	0	0	3,217,985.35
Minimum payment									
Minimum \$									
Gross rental valuations									
GRV - Residential/Commercial	369	49	29,423	16,236	16,236	18,081	0	0	18,081
Unimproved value									
UV Rural	369	12	139,700	4,059	4,059	4,428	0	0	4,428
UV Mining	710	11	13,337	9,230	9,230	7,810	0	0	7,810
Sub-total		72	182,460	29,525	29,525	30,319	0	0	30,319
		567	160,561,945	3,246,363	3,246,363	3,248,304	0	0	3,248,304
Discount					(37,000)				(27,453)
Amount from general rates					3,209,363				3,220,851
Rates Written Off					(10,000)				(22)
Ex-gratia rates		0	0	0	12,230				0
Total general rates					3,211,593				3,220,830

KEY INFORMATION

Prepaid rates are, until the taxable event for the rates has occurred, refundable at the request of the ratepayer. Rates received in advance give rise to a financial liability. On 1 July 2023 the prepaid rates were recognised as a financial asset and a related amount was recognised as a financial liability and no income was recognised. When the taxable event occurs the financial liability is extinguished and income recognised for the prepaid rates that have not been refunded.



Asset Ref.	Asset description	Updated Budget				YTD Actual			
		Net Book Value	Proceeds	Profit	(Loss)	Net Book Value	Proceeds	Profit	(Loss)
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Land									
235	LAND - Lot 368 (2) Prater Street	0	0	0	0	0	10,000	0	0
237	LAND - Lot 371 (19) Waddilove Road	0	0	0	0	0	10,000	0	0
Plant and equipment									
Education and welfare									
252	P&E - P252 Toyota Prado DSL WGN A/T GXL 1GTZ485 - TL Roads	25,000	30,000	5,000	0	0	0	0	0
Transport									
621	P&E - P312 - 2021 Pajero Sport 02MO	23,751	40,000	16,249	0	0	0	0	0
43	P&E - P168 2003 IVECO 6700 Truck	20,645	80,000	59,355	0	0	0	0	0
Other property and services									
624	P&E - P293 Mitsubishi Pajero Sport - (EMCCS) 0 MO	27,848	40,000	12,152	0	0	0	0	0
		97,244	190,000	92,756	0	0	20,000	0	0



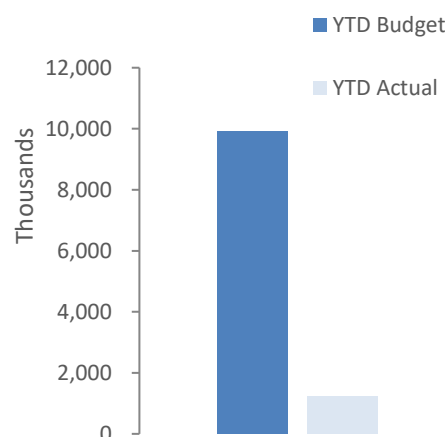
**NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025**

**INVESTING ACTIVITIES
NOTE 8
CAPITAL ACQUISITIONS**

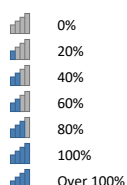
	Adopted Budget	Amended Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Actual Variance
Capital acquisitions					
		\$	\$	\$	\$
Land and Buildings	4,464,000	4,464,000	139,493	133,683	(5,810)
Plant and equipment	868,600	868,600	260,600	226,536	(34,064)
Infrastructure - roads	3,401,724	3,401,724	0	747,706	747,706
Infrastructure - Footpaths	260,000	260,000	0	2,640	2,640
Infrastructure - Parks & Ovals	125,370	125,370	0	1,480	1,480
Infrastructure - Sewerage	50,000	50,000	50,000	4,971	(45,029)
Infrastructure - Other	736,000	736,000	0	118,284	118,284
Payments for Capital Acquisitions	9,905,694	9,905,694	450,093	1,235,301	785,208
Capital Acquisitions Funded By:					
		\$	\$	\$	\$
Capital grants and contributions	5,949,676	5,949,676	551,656	250,900	(300,756)
Borrowings		700,000	0	0	0
Other (disposals & C/Fwd)	190,000	190,000	0	20,000	20,000
Cash backed reserves					
Plant Replacement Reserve	418,000	418,000	0	0	0
Community & Economic Development Reserve	367,612	367,612	0	0	0
Sewerage Reserve	75,000	75,000	0	0	0
Future Fund Grants (Interest) Reserve	40,000	40,000	0	0	0
Future Fund (Principal) Reserve	58,005	58,005	0	0	0
Insurance Works Reserve	159,792	159,792	0	0	0
Contribution - operations	2,647,609	1,947,609	(101,563)	964,401	1,065,964
Capital funding total	9,905,694	9,905,694	450,093	1,235,301	785,208

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

All assets are initially recognised at cost. Cost is determined as the fair value of the assets given as consideration plus costs incidental to the acquisition. For assets acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration, cost is determined as fair value at the date of acquisition. The cost of non-current assets constructed by the local government includes the cost of all materials used in the construction, direct labour on the project and an appropriate proportion of variable and fixed overhead. Certain asset classes may be revalued on a regular basis such that the carrying values are not materially different from fair value. Assets carried at fair value are to be revalued with sufficient regularity to ensure the carrying amount does not differ materially from that determined using fair value at reporting date.














































Capital expenditure total
Level of completion indicators



Percentage Year to Date Actual to Annual Budget expenditure where the expenditure over budget highlighted in red.

Level of completion indicator, please see table at the end of this note for further detail.

Level of completion indicator, please see table at the end of this note for further detail.

	Adopted	Amended			Variance
Account/Job Description	Budget	Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	(Under)/ Over
Buildings					
 Building Capital Works - Early Childhood Education Centre	(3,700,000)	(3,700,000)	0	0	0
 Unallocated Budget	(25,000)	(25,000)	(6,249)	0	6,249
 Lot 377 (24) Barnes St Capital	(25,000)	(25,000)	(6,249)	0	6,249
 Lot 350 (17) Broad Ave Capital	(25,000)	(25,000)	(6,249)	0	6,249
 Reserve 3931 Oval House Mtce	(25,000)	(25,000)	(6,249)	0	6,249
 18A Evans Street, Morawa	(25,000)	(25,000)	(6,249)	0	6,249
 24 Harley Street, Morawa	(10,000)	(10,000)	(2,499)	(55)	2,444
 2 Caulfield St Old Docs House Capital	(63,000)	(63,000)	(15,750)	0	15,750
 New Koolanooka Public Conveniences	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	0	20,000
 Town Hall & Old Chambers	(134,000)	(134,000)	0	(3,106)	(3,106)
 Recreation Centre - Renewals	(82,000)	(82,000)	0	(32,415)	(32,415)
 Interim Depot Construction Works	(50,000)	(50,000)	0	(36,718)	(36,718)
 Old Depot Demolition Works	0	0	0	(61,389)	(61,389)
 Admin Office Upgrade/Renewal	(280,000)	(280,000)	(69,999)	0	69,999
	(4,464,000)	(4,464,000)	(139,493)	(133,683)	5,810
Plant & Equipment					
 Purchase Of Cdo Vehicle	(38,000)	(38,000)	0	0	0
 Purchase Plant & Equipment - Sewerage	(25,000)	(25,000)	(25,000)	0	25,000
 Purchase Of New Iveco Truck	(450,000)	(450,000)	0	0	0
 Purchase Of Street Sweeper	(235,600)	(235,600)	(235,600)	(226,536)	9,064
 Purchase Of Mws Vehicle	(60,000)	(60,000)	0	0	0
 Purchase Of Emccs Vehicle	(60,000)	(60,000)	0	0	0
	(868,600)	(868,600)	(260,600)	(226,536)	34,064
Infrastructure Other					
 Infrastructure Other	(30,000)	(30,000)	0	0	0
 Tennis Courts Resurfacing	(650,000)	(650,000)	0	(118,254)	(118,254)
 Tennis Courts Refencing	(56,000)	(56,000)	0	0	0
	(736,000)	(736,000)	0	(118,284)	(118,284)
Infrastructure Sewerage					
 Sewerage Upgrade	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	(4,971)	45,029
	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	(4,971)	45,029
Infrastructure Parks & Ovals					
 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	0	0	0	(1,480)	(1,480)
 Solomon Terrace Redevelopment	(125,370)	(125,370)	0	0	0
	(125,370)	(125,370)	0	(1,480)	(1,480)
Infrastructure Roads					
 Black Spot Evaside Rd Stage 2 Expenditure	(537,000)	(537,000)	0	(275)	(275)
 Norton Road 2025/26 Gravel Resheet 2Km	(167,720)	(167,720)	0	(53,180)	(53,180)
 Collins Road 2024/25	0	0	0	(7,680)	(7,680)
 Collins Road 2025/26 Gravel Resheet 2Km	(147,445)	(147,445)	0	0	0
 Jones Lake Road 2025/26 Reseal	(211,916)	(211,916)	0	0	0
 Krummel Road 2025/26 Culvert Replacement	(51,805)	(51,805)	0	(4,551)	(4,551)
 Malcolm Road 2025/26 Gravel Resheet 2Km	(277,230)	(277,230)	0	(15,360)	(15,360)
 Broad Avenue 2025/26 Reseal	(52,048)	(52,048)	0	0	0
 Olden Road 2025/26 Gravel Resheet 1Km	(75,337)	(75,337)	0	(5,120)	(5,120)
 Nanekine Road 2024/25 Section	(511,223)	(511,223)	0	(18,790)	(18,790)
 Nanekine Road 2025/26 Reconstruct	(450,000)	(450,000)	0	0	0
 Morawa Yalgoo Road 2025/26 Reconstruction Section 1	(450,000)	(450,000)	0	(456,375)	(456,375)
 Morawa Yalgoo Road 2025/26 Reconstruction Section 2	(450,000)	(450,000)	0	(186,375)	(186,375)
 Sign Renewals	(20,000)	(20,000)	0	0	0
	(3,401,724)	(3,401,724)	0	(747,706)	(747,706)
Infrastructure Footpaths					
 Broad Ave Dual Use Path	(62,500)	(62,500)	0	0	0
 Gill Street Dual Use Path	(62,500)	(62,500)	0	(2,640)	(2,640)
 Prater Street Dual Use Path	(135,000)	(135,000)	0	0	0
	(260,000)	(260,000)	0	(2,640)	(2,640)
	(9,905,694)	(9,905,694)	(450,093)	(1,235,301)	(785,208)

**NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025**

FINANCING ACTIVITIES

NOTE 9

BORROWINGS

Repayments - borrowings

Information on borrowings			New Loans			Principal Repayments			Principal Outstanding			Interest Repayments		
Particulars	Loan No.	1 July 2025	Actual	Amended Budget	Adopted Budget	Actual	Amended Budget	Adopted Budget	Actual	Amended Budget	Adopted Budget	Actual	Amended Budget	Adopted Budget
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Education and welfare														
Early Childhood and Family Centre	143	0	0	365,000	365,000	0	14,595	14,595	0	350,405	350,405	0	10,744	10,744
Housing														
24 Harley Street - Staff Housing	136	217,081	0	0	0	0	17,067	17,067	217,081	200,014	200,014	(350)	9,850	9,850
Recreation and culture														
Netball Courts Redevelopment	139	145,008	0	0	0	6,361	12,774	12,774	138,647	132,234	132,234	397	3,267	3,267
Tennis Courts Renewal Project	142	0	0	220,000	220,000	0	8,797	8,797	0	211,203	211,203	0	6,476	6,476
		362,089	0	585,000	585,000	6,361	53,233	53,233	355,728	893,856	893,856	47	30,337	30,337
Self supporting loans														
Recreation and culture														
Self Supporting Loan - Tennis Club - Court Renewal		0	0	115,000	115,000	0	9,372	9,372	0	105,628	105,628	0	5,945	5,945
		0	0	115,000	115,000	0	9,372	9,372	0	105,628	105,628	0	5,945	5,945
Total		362,089	0	700,000	700,000	6,361	62,605	62,605	355,728	999,484	999,484	47	36,282	36,282
Current borrowings		29,841							23,480					
Non-current borrowings		332,248							332,248					
		362,089							355,728					

All debenture repayments were financed by general purpose revenue.

Self supporting loans are financed by repayments from third parties.

New borrowings 2025-26

Particulars	Amount Borrowed Actual	Amount Borrowed Budget	Institution	Loan Type	Term Years	Total Interest & Charges	Interest Rate	Amount (Used)		Balance Unspent
	\$	\$						Actual	Budget	
Early Childhood and Family Centre	0	365,000	WATC	Debenture	10	93,979	4.5774	0	365,000	0
Tennis Court Renewal	0	115,000	WATC	Debenture	10	30,117	4.6964	0	115,000	0
Tennis Court Renewal	0	220,000	WATC	Debenture	10	56,645	4.5774	0	220,000	0
	0	700,000				180,741		0	700,000	0

KEY INFORMATION

All loans and borrowings are initially recognised at the fair value of the consideration received less directly attributable transaction costs. After initial recognition, interest-bearing loans and borrowings are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Fees paid on the establishment of loan facilities that are yield related are included as part of the carrying amount of the loans and borrowings.

**NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025**

FINANCING ACTIVITIES
NOTE 10
LEASE LIABILITIES

The Shire has no lease liabilities to report as at 30 September 2025

KEY INFORMATION

At inception of a contract, the Shire assesses if the contract contains or is a lease. A contract is, or contains, a lease if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration. At the commencement date, a right of use asset is recognised at cost and lease liability at the present value of the lease payments that are not paid at that date. The lease payments are discounted using that date. The lease payments are discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease, if that rate can be readily determined. If that rate cannot be readily determined, the Shire uses its incremental borrowing rate.

All contracts classified as short-term leases (i.e. a lease with a remaining term of 12 months or less) and leases of low value assets are recognised as an operating expense on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Cash backed reserve

Reserve name	Opening Balance	Budget Interest Earned	Actual Interest Earned	Budget Transfers In (+)	Actual Transfers In (+)	Budget Transfers Out (-)	Actual Transfers Out (-)	Budget Closing Balance	Actual YTD Closing Balance
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Leave Reserve	258,017	8,386	2,463	0	0	0	0	266,403	260,480
Plant Replacement Reserve	639,091	20,770	6,101	422,581	0	(418,000)	0	664,442	645,192
Capital Works Reserve	679,230	22,075	6,484	100,000	0	0	0	801,305	685,714
Community & Economic Development Reserve	1,421,847	46,210	8,800	0	0	(367,612)	0	1,100,445	1,430,647
Sewerage Reserve	731,105	23,761	6,979	60,000	0	(75,000)	0	739,866	738,084
Future Fund Grants (Interest) Reserve	311,565	10,126	2,974	58,005	0	(40,000)	0	339,696	314,539
Future Fund (Principal) Reserve	2,099,729	68,241	4,770	0	0	(58,005)	0	2,109,965	2,104,499
Aged Care Units (Excl. 1-4) Reserve	309,671	10,064	2,861	10,000	0	0	0	329,735	312,532
Legal Fees Reserve	59,849	1,945	571	10,000	0	0	0	71,794	60,420
Emergency Response Reserve	331,794	10,783	3,167	0	0	0	0	342,577	334,962
Aged Care Units 1-4 (JVA) Reserve	77,516	2,519	835	0	0	0	0	80,035	78,351
Swimming Pool Reserve	172,806	5,616	1,650	20,000	0	0	0	198,422	174,455
Jones Lake Road Rehab Reserve	204,161	6,635	1,949	20,000	0	0	0	230,796	206,110
Morawa-Yalgoo Road Maintenance Reserve	249,964	0	0	50,000	0	0	0	299,964	249,964
Insurance Works Reserve	194,452	0	0	0	0	(159,792)	0	34,660	194,452
	7,740,798	237,131	49,604	750,586	0	(1,118,409)	0	7,610,106	7,790,402

**NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025**

**OPERATING ACTIVITIES
NOTE 12
OTHER CURRENT LIABILITIES**

Other Current Liabilities	Note	Opening Balance 1 Jul 2025	Liability Increase	Liability Reduction	Closing Balance 30 Sep 2025
		\$	\$	\$	\$
Other liabilities					
- Contract liabilities	12	31,525	0	(3,741)	27,784
- Capital grant/contribution liabilities	13	124,575	494,977	(250,900)	368,652
Total other liabilities		156,100	494,977	(254,641)	396,437
Provisions					
Annual leave		74,995	0	0	74,995
Long service leave		99,176	0	0	99,176
Total Provisions		174,170	0	0	174,170
Total Other Current Liabilities					570,607
Amounts shown above include GST (where applicable)					

KEY INFORMATION

PROVISIONS

Provisions are recognised when the Shire has a present legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

Provisions are measured using the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PROVISIONS

Short-term employee benefits

Provision is made for the Shire's obligations for short-term employee benefits. Short-term employee benefits are benefits (other than termination benefits) that are expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service, including wages, salaries and sick leave. Short-term employee benefits are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts expected to be paid when the obligation is settled.

The Shire's obligations for short-term employee benefits such as wages, salaries and sick leave are recognised as a part of current trade and other payables in the calculation of net current assets.

Other long-term employee benefits

The Shire's obligations for employees' annual leave and long service leave entitlements are recognised as provisions in the statement of financial position.

Long-term employee benefits are measured at the present value of the expected future payments to be made to employees. Expected future payments incorporate anticipated future wage and salary levels, durations of service and employee departures and are discounted at rates determined by reference to market yields at the end of the reporting period on government bonds that have maturity dates that approximate the terms of the obligations. Any remeasurements for changes in assumptions of obligations for other long-term employee benefits are recognised in profit or loss in the periods in which the changes occur. The Shire's obligations for long-term employee benefits are presented as non-current provisions in its statement of financial position, except where the Shire does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period, in which case the obligations are presented as current provisions.

CONTRACT LIABILITIES

An entity's obligation to transfer goods or services to a customer for which the entity has received consideration (or the amount is due) from the customer.

CAPITAL GRANT/CONTRIBUTION LIABILITIES

Grants to acquire or construct recognisable non-financial assets to identified specifications be constructed to be controlled by the Shire are recognised as a liability until such time as the Shire satisfies its obligations under the agreement.

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

NOTE 13
GRANTS, SUBSIDIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Provider	Unspent Grant, Subsidies and Contributions Liability				Grants, Subsidies and Contributions Revenue			
	Liability 1 Jul 2025	Increase in Liability	Liability Reduction (As revenue)	Current Liability 30 Sep 2025	Adopted Budget Revenue	Amended Annual Budget	Amended YTD Budget	YTD Actual Revenue
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Grants and Subsidies								
General purpose funding								
Grants- FAGS WALGGC - General	0	0	0	0	820,760	820,760	205,190	221,718
Grants- FAGS WALGGC - Local Roads	0	0	0	0	386,382	386,382	96,595	99,612
Law, order, public safety								
DFES Operating Grant - Bush Fire Brigade	0	0	0	0	21,590	21,590	5,397	5,788
Education and welfare								
COTA WA Seniors Week Grant Income	0	0	0	0	1,000	1,000	249	0
Bike Week/Transport-WestCycle Grant Income	0	0	0	0	1,000	1,000	249	0
Morawa Youth Skills Clinics Grant Income	0	0	0	0	2,500	2,500	624	0
Dept of Communities Youth Week WA Grant Income	0	0	0	0	3,000	3,000	750	0
WAPF Safe Street Morawa Grant Income	6,689	0	(3,741)	2,948	2,500	2,500	624	3,741
Community amenities								
Grant Income for Art Gallery	0	0	0	0	50,000	50,000	12,498	0
Recreation and culture								
DLGSC RETB Grant Income - Gallery Upgrade	24,836	0	0	24,836	0	0	0	0
NADC Australia Day Grant	0	0	0	0	5,000	5,000	0	0
Direct Grant (MRWA)	0	0	0	0	213,754	213,754	213,754	213,754
	31,525.12	0	(3,741)	27,784	1,507,486	1,507,486	535,930	544,612
Contributions								
Education and welfare								
Other Income	0	0	0	0	500	500	123	0
Community amenities								
Drummuster Contribution	0	0	0	0	250	250	60	0
Community Benefit Contribution	0	0	0	0	20,000	20,000	4,998	0
Recreation and culture								
Event Income - Other Culture	0	0	0	0	1,800	1,800	450	0
Transport								
Street Lighting Subsidy (MRWA)	0	0	0	0	105,200	105,200	26,298	0
Maintenance Contribution - Silverlake - Morawa Yalgoo Road	0	0	0	0	100,000	100,000	0	0
Road Maintenance Contribution	0	0	0	0	55,000	55,000	0	0
Other property and services								
Income related to Unclassified	0	0	0	0	500	500	123	0
	0	0	0	0	283,250	283,250	32,052	0
TOTALS	31,525	0	(3,741)	27,784	1,790,736	1,790,736	567,982	544,612

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

NOTE 14

CAPITAL GRANTS, SUBSIDIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Provider	Unspent Non Operating Grants, Subsidies and Contributions Liability				Non Operating Grants, Subsidies and Contributions Revenue			
	Liability 1 Jul 2025	Increase in Liability	Liability Reduction (As revenue)	Current Liability 30 Sep 2025	Adopted Budget Revenue	Amended Annual Budget	Amended YTD Budget	YTD Actual Revenue
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Capital Grants and Subsidies								
Education and welfare								
Growing Regions Program - Early Childhood Education Centre Income	0	0	0	0	2,234,775	2,234,775	0	0
Lotterywest - Early Childhood Education Centre Income	0	0	0	0	732,613	732,613	0	0
Recreation and culture								
LRCIP 4 Grant - Solomon Terrace	0	0	0	0	125,370	125,370	0	0
Grant Funding - Town Hall & Old Chambers	0	0	0	0	50,000	50,000	0	0
CSRFF - Tennis Courts Resurfacing Income	0	0	0	0	215,000	215,000	0	0
Transport								
MRWA Grant - RRG - Nanekine Rd - Reconstruct 25/26	0	72,000	0	72,000	180,000	180,000	72,000	0
MRWA Grant - RRG - Morawa Yalgoo Rd - Reconstruction Section 1 25/26	0	120,000	(120,000)	0	300,000	300,000	120,000	120,000
MRWA Grant - RRG - Morawa Yalgoo Rd - Reconstruction Section 2 25/26	0	120,000	(120,000)	0	300,000	300,000	120,000	120,000
MRWA Grant - RRG - Nanekine Road - Widen & Seal	61,140	0	(8,260)	52,880	241,140	241,140	96,456	8,260
RTR Grant - White Road - Gravel Resheeting	32,685	0	0	32,685	0	0	0	0
RTR Grant - Norton Road 2025/26 Gravel Resheet 2Km	0	0	0	0	167,720	167,720	0	0
RTR Grant - Collins Road 2025/26 Gravel Resheet 2Km	0	0	0	0	147,445	147,445	0	0
RTR Grant - Jones Lake Road 2025/26 Reseal	0	0	0	0	211,916	211,916	0	0
RTR Grant - Krummel Road 2025/26 Culvert Replacement	0	0	0	0	51,805	51,805	0	0
RTR Grant - Malcolm Road 2025/26 Gravel Resheet 2Km	0	0	0	0	277,230	277,230	0	0
RTR Grant - Broad Avenue 2025/26 Reseal	0	0	0	0	52,048	52,048	0	0
RTR Grant - Olden Road 2025/26 Gravel Resheet 1Km	0	0	0	0	75,337	75,337	0	0
MRWA Black Spot Grant - Evaside Road Stage 2	0	143,200	0	143,200	358,000	358,000	143,200	0
WA Bicycle Network Grant - Broad Street Footpath	15,375	10,375	0	25,750	30,750	30,750	0	0
WA Bicycle Network Grant - Gill Street Footpath	15,375	10,375	0	25,750	30,750	30,750	0	0
WA Bicycle Network Grant - Prater Street Dual Use Path	0	19,027	(2,640)	16,387	67,777	67,777	0	2,640
	124,575	494,977	(250,900)	368,652	5,849,676	5,849,676	551,656	250,900
Capital Contributions								
Recreation and culture								
Tennis Club - Tennis Courts Resurfacing Contribution	0	0	0	0	100,000	100,000	0	0
	0	0	0	0	100,000	100,000	0	0
Total Non-operating grants, subsidies and contributions	124,575	494,977	(250,900)	368,652	5,949,676	5,949,676	551,656	250,900

**NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025**

**NOTE 15
TRUST FUND**

Funds held at balance date which are required by legislation to be credited to the trust fund and which are not included in the financial statements are as follows:

Description	Opening Balance 1 July 2025	Amount Received	Amount Paid	Closing Balance 30 Sep 2025
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Drug Action Group	660	0	0	660
Youth Fund Raising	865	0	0	865
	1,525	0	0	1,525

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

The material variance thresholds are adopted annually by Council as an indicator of whether the actual expenditure or revenue varies from the year to date Actual materially.

The material variance adopted by Council for the 2025-26 year is \$10,000 or 10.00% whichever is the greater.

EXPLANATION OF MATERIAL VARIANCES

Reporting Program	Var. \$	Var. %	Explanation of positive variances		Explanation of negative variances	
			Timing	Permanent	Timing	Permanent
	\$	%				
Revenue from operating activities						
Fees and charges	(86,890)	(11.89%)	▼		Various fees and charges are budgeted to be received ahead of actually being received. Some significant areas are caravan park revenue and private works revenue.	
Interest revenue	(50,603)	(61.11%)	▼		Interest on term deposits have not yet matured.	
Other revenue	(18,068)	(77.36%)	▼		Diesel fuel rebate income running behind budget.	
Expenditure from operating activities						
Employee costs	799,558	108.21%	▲	Payroll journals have not been processed for July and August. The issue is being looked at by the Shire's IT Support company Readytech.		
Materials and contracts	162,242	25.05%	▲	Various material and contract expense accounts running behind budget.		
Utility charges	30,790	27.65%	▲	Various utility charges contract expense accounts running behind budget.		
Depreciation	597,108	100.00%	▲	Depreciation for 2025/26 has not been run in the asset register. Depreciation will be run once the Shire's 202425 financials have been audited.		
Insurance expenses	(46,160)	(37.13%)	▼		Actual insurance premiums paid are ahead of budget phasing.	
Other expenditure	32,325	61.44%	▲	Various other expenditure expense accounts running behind budget with members sitting fees being the most significant.		
Investing activities						

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

The material variance thresholds are adopted annually by Council as an indicator of whether the actual expenditure or revenue varies from the year to date Actual materially.

The material variance adopted by Council for the 2025-26 year is \$10,000 or 10.00% whichever is the greater.

EXPLANATION OF MATERIAL VARIANCES

Reporting Program	Var. \$	Var. %	Explanation of positive variances		Explanation of negative variances	
			Timing	Permanent	Timing	Permanent
Proceeds from Capital grants, subsidies and contributions	\$ (300,756)	(54.52%)	▼		Actual capital grant revenue recognised is behind budget phasing. Revenue recognition is generally tied to capital works which the funding is associated with. Capital works is currently behind budget.	
Proceeds from disposal of assets	20,000	0.00%	▲	Proceeds from the sale of 2 Prater St and 19 Waddilove Rd were not budgeted for.		
Payments for Infrastructure	(825,082)	(1650.16%)	▼		Capital Works currently ahead of budget phasing. See Note 8 for project details.	

Ordinary Council Meeting 20 October 2025

Attachment 1- 12.1a Minutes of WALGA State Council Meeting, 05 September 2025

Item 12.1a - September 2025 Minutes of WALGA State Council Meeting

State Council Full Minutes 5 September 2025

Ordinary meeting no. 4 of 2025 of the Western
Australian Local Government Association State
Council held at the Norseman Town Hall
at 11:00am.

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1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

1.1 OPENING

The Chair declared the meeting open at 11:00am.

1.2 ATTENDANCE

Members	WALGA President - Chair WALGA Deputy President Central Metropolitan Zone Avon-Midland Country Zone Central Country Zone Central Metropolitan Zone East Metropolitan Zone East Metropolitan Zone Gascoyne Country Zone Goldfields Esperance Country Zone Great Eastern Country Zone Great Southern Country Zone Kimberley Country Zone Murchison Country Zone North Metropolitan Zone North Metropolitan Zone South East Metropolitan Zone South East Metropolitan Zone South Metropolitan Zone South Metropolitan Zone South Metropolitan Zone	Karen Chappel AM JP Paul Kelly Chris Antonio Phillip Blight Helen Sadler Paige McNeil Haeden Miles Eddie Smith Laurene Bonza Tony Sachse (Deputy) Scott Crosby Chris Mitchell JP Les Price Michael Dudek Lewis Hutton Patrick Hall Terresa Lynes Cliff Collinson (Deputy) Karen Wheatland Barry Winmar
Secretariat	Chief Executive Officer Executive Director Member Services Acting Executive Manager Infrastructure Executive Manager Policy Executive Manager Advocacy Acting Chief Financial Officer Policy Manager Community Manager Association and Corporate Governance State Council Governance Officer	Nick Sloan Tony Brown Terri-Anne Pettet Nicole Matthews Rachel Horton Al Singh Hannah Godsave Kathy Robertson Habiba Farrag
Guests	Chief Executive Officer LGIS	James Sheridan

1.3 APOLOGIES

Members	Great Eastern Country Zone North Metropolitan Zone Northern Country Zone Northern Country Zone Peel Country Zone Pilbara Country Zone	Stephen Strange Bronwyn Smith Elizabeth Sudlow Jude Sutherland (Deputy) Caroline Knight Wendy McWhirter-Brooks
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South Metropolitan Zone
South West Country Zone
South West Country Zone

Logan Howlett JP
Tony Dean
Julia Jean-Rice (Meldrum)
(Deputy)

Ex Officio The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor – City of Perth
Local Government Professionals WA
President

Bruce Reynolds
Anthony Vuleta

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. We recognise the Ngadju and Mirning People as the Traditional Custodians of the land we meet on today, 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

3.1 LGIS ANNUAL UPDATE

LGIS Chief Executive Officer, Mr James Sheridan, provided an LGIS update.

4 MINUTES

4.1 MINUTES OF THE STATE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 2 JULY 2025

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Chris Antonio

Seconded: Phil Blight

That the Minutes of the WALGA State Council meeting held on [2 July 2025](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

RESOLUTION 048.4/2025

CARRIED

4.1.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE STATE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 2 JULY 2025

Nil.

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.

- Helen Sadler declared an impartiality interest in Item 8.6 Advocacy Positions for Active Transport and Micromobility as an Independent Director on the WestCycle Board.

6 EX OFFICIO REPORTS

6.1 CITY OF PERTH REPORT

City of Perth Deputy Lord Mayor, Cr Bruce Reynolds, was an apology for this meeting.

6.2 LG PROFESSIONALS REPORT

Mr Anthony Vuleta, President, LG Professionals WA, was an apology for this meeting, however, has provided the following report:

Local Government Professionals WA update

- *LG Pro are developing a Local Government Competency Framework, which has now been launched via a survey to local government officers on 17th July 2025. This will be followed by various focus groups with the sector, with an expected launched time to be Quarter 1 of 2026. This framework will help articulate what is needed to be a successful officer in the Local Government sector.*
- *The Local Government Career Campaign Phase 2 have finished accepting EOIs from local governments, production work is now in progress.*
- *Data Drives Decisions Program (our benchmarking program) is going strong with 4 new local governments signing up to the program.*
- *As you may be aware our CEO Candy Choo has resigned, and we are now actively recruiting for the new CEO position. We expect the process to be completed by mid-end September 2025.*
- *Our new round of Age-Friendly Connectivity Grants has been launched for the 3rd year in partnership with the Department of Communities – applications closing 14th August with the grant monies expected to be distributed by end of October 2025.*
- *Conferences:*
 - *Community Development Conference 10 – 11 September*
 - *Annual State Conference 5 – 6 November*

7 EMERGING ISSUES

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

Nil.

8 MATTERS FOR DECISION

8.1 RATING OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES

By Kirsty Martin, Manager Commercial Management and Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA advocate to the State Government for:

- 1. Legislative amendments to enable WA Local Governments to rate large-scale renewable energy facilities using current rating mechanisms (differential rating based on UV, differential rating based on GRV, or GRV alone) with certainty.**
- 2. A commitment to implement a Payment in Lieu of Rates (PiLoR) framework in Western Australia.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA Members have expressed uncertainty in the rating of large-scale renewable energy facilities across the State which was confirmed through a resolution of the Peel Country Zone Meeting in April 2025.
- In response to the uncertainty, WALGA engaged Paxon Consulting Group to review the rating mechanisms available for Local Governments to recover costs associated with large scale renewable energy projects.
- The purpose of the review was to examine the current legislative framework, undertake a review across other Australian jurisdictions in respect to who rating for such facilities is managed, and provide recommendations for the rating of these facilities in Western Australia, including any required amendments to legislation.
- The Final Report outlined seven Key Findings which confirmed that legislative change would be required to enable Local Governments to rate renewable energy facilities with certainty.

ATTACHMENT

- [Local Government Rating of Renewable Energy Facilities Report](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item relates to WALGA's Strategic Pillars of Influence, Support and Expertise.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There is no current advocacy position for the rating of large-scale renewable energy facilities. Endorsement of this item will enable the establishment of a position.

BACKGROUND

Western Australia's energy industry is transforming to achieve the goal of net zero emissions by 2050. Project proponents are active in many rural, remote and regional areas, seeking to develop renewable energy projects.

The placement, management and impact of renewable energy facilities have become contentious issues nationally and in local communities across Western Australia. Concerns have been raised regarding:

- the location of these facilities on agricultural land,

- the suitability of regulatory frameworks to ensure local communities benefit from the investment,
- the inability of the planning framework to manage on and off-site impacts of proposals, and impact on agricultural land use.

There have been an increasing number of conversations around compensation and cost recovery for those communities housing large scale renewable energy projects. Compensation is typically done through some sort of community benefits arrangement and WALGA has recently developed a Renewable Energy Community Benefits and Engagement Guide to assist WA Local Governments navigate discussions with developers and their communities.

The ability for Local Governments to recover costs (ie road maintenance, additional services used etc) incurred as part of the roll out of large-scale renewable energy projects is equally important. There is a lack of clarity around the best mechanism for achieving cost recovery and Local Governments have been seeking clarification on the applicable land value rating method of these facilities and how best to approach this going forward.

In response to this, WALGA engaged Paxon Consulting Group (Paxon) to review the rating mechanisms currently available to Local Governments to recover costs and provide advice on whether amendments to legislation are required to ensure Local Governments are able to equitably and fairly rate renewable energy facilities. Paxon also undertook a review of other Australian jurisdictions and existing case law to determine the rating options available to Western Australian Local Governments.

The Key Findings of the report are outlined below:

1. Under the current legislative framework, there is no clear method that allows WA Local Governments to impose rates on renewable energy facilities in their area, with certainty.
2. Each rating option considered in this report would require some legislative change to become a more certain and reliable avenue for Local Governments in the rating of renewable energy facilities.
3. In each case, the legislative change could be achieved with fairly 'blunt' legislative amendments – that is, introduction of a new standalone provision (or set of standalone provisions), and minimal amendments required to existing legislation.
4. Any legislative amendments to tighten the rating approach and/or introduce PiLoR should not (in principle) need to be extensive or overly complex.
5. With the PiLoR framework in particular – whilst this may involve more substantial legislative drafting (given that a new framework is needed), if the Victorian model was to be generally followed, this framework would be relatively straightforward and self-contained. This makes it arguably a 'cleaner' approach than the other options, as a (mostly) standalone mechanism – and a clear process – that has minimal interference with existing rate setting processes. Of course, practical matters, namely reaching political alignment on the specifics of the mechanism (especially methodology) and the roll-out / application, may instead give rise to challenges.
6. On all the options considered, the exact nature of the amendments should be determined by which approach or position will be most palatable from a political and policy perspective. For example, whilst WA Local Governments may wish to avoid the time and uncertainty involved with a Ministerial determination / approval on any matters, it is unlikely that it can be avoided entirely (in which case the amendments would need to capture whatever approval rights would sit with the Minister).

7. Finally, if different options or permeations of rating options are used for different types of renewable energy assets, this would create another layer of legislative complexity and increase the scale of changes required.

The options for rating, including the advantages, limitations and ranking of each, are detailed in the Report. The rating options are ranked as follows:

1. PiLoR Framework
2. Differential Rating based on UV with no ratio limit
3. GRV Rating
4. Differential Rating based on GRV with no ratio limit

Although the PiLoR framework is more complex to implement, it is ranked first as it enables Local Governments to fairly and equitably rate renewable energy facilities through a cleaner, mostly standalone rating mechanism, bespoke to renewable energy assets, which is understood and accepted by the renewable energy sector.

The ability to apply a higher and uncapped differential rate determined by the Local Government is ranked second. This option is favoured over both the GRV options, as unlike the GRV options, this option does not require a valuation and is suitable for all renewable asset types.

The Report recommends the following:

1. WALGA to endorse support for the adoption of the PiLoR framework approach to the rating of renewal energy facilities.
2. WALGA to make representation to both the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety and the Department of Energy and Economic Diversification on the merits of the PiLoR framework.
3. WALGA to advocate for legislation amendment to enable WA Local Government to negotiate annual contributions with renewable energy proponents in lieu of rates.
4. WALGA should advocate to State Government to ensure any funds received through a potential community benefit arrangement are clearly identified as separate from the annual rates contributions.

COMMENT

WALGA acknowledges that even though the adoption of the PiLoR framework is the preferred option in the Report, it is also a more substantial change requiring the development of an entirely new framework across multiple State Government agencies.

This is likely to be a longer-term option and as such WALGA will advocate for this in parallel to the above legislative amendments. The adoption of a PiLoR framework in Western Australia would require a new legislative section(s) setting out:

- the legislative ability for an annual payment in lieu of rates;
- which land the process can apply to – noting in Victoria, it's land 'predominantly used' for the generation of electricity;
- the process for determining the quantum of the payment – ideally with a payment calculation methodology, at least as a 'fall back';
- a third party dispute resolution process; and
- any exemptions.

As identified in the Report, amendment to the current legislation pertaining to Local Government rating, is the most straightforward option. As such, WALGA will advocate for the following changes:

GRV Rating

For example, a new section to the effect that:

- if land has any renewable energy (RE) assets, the Minister will determine that the method of valuation is GRV for either the entire property, or the portion of (or lot(s) within) the property with RE assets, irrespective of the existing methodologies in the *Local Government Act 1995* (LG Act);
- when calculating the GRV under the *Valuation Land Act 1978* (VL Act), works effected to the land and items affixed to the land (including turbines, towers, masts and monitoring systems, panels, buildings, substations and connection points, roads, fencing, foundations cabling / connectors etc), are improvements, irrespective of whether above ground or underground, and irrespective of who owns the items.

Differential Rating (UV)

- A new section of the LG Act to the effect that the Minister's approval is not required where the (higher) differential rating category relates to land with RE Assets.
- This could / would be accompanied by a subsection with conditions or parameters on the setting of a higher differential rate, or requirement for compliance with a subsidiary document that contained such parameters.
- If the public consultation process (in s 6.36 of the LG Act) was to be removed or pared back for land with RE Assets, a new subsection in the LG Act would be required, to the effect that the process either did not need to be followed for this category, or setting out a more limited way in which it would apply.

Differential Rating (GRV)

As per legislative changes required under the GRV Rating and Differential Rating (UV) Options.

ZONE CONSIDERATION

Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Central Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Central Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Gascoyne Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Great Eastern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Kimberley Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Murchison Country Zone	No meeting held.
North Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Northern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Pilbara Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
South East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
South Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
South West Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.

PEEL COUNTRY ZONE

That WALGA:

1. Commissions Paxon (report author) to undertake further work to investigate the financial implications of the models proposed including;
 - a. the likely annual financial yield to the local government under the funding models for each of a typical wind, solar and storage project;
 - b. the overall scale of the future industry and the potential total yield to local government in WA for wind, solar and storage under the funding models; and
2. circulates the further information to its members for their consideration.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

The recommendations are not presented as options. Rather recommendation one is intended to provide Local Governments with certainty within the existing statutory framework, whilst recommendation two is a longer-term objective to see PiLoR implemented in line with the Victorian Model.

The composite recommendation has been amended to clarify the two parts to the recommendation.

GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE COUNTRY ZONE

That the GVROC support WALGA to advocate to the State Government for:

1. Legislative amendments to enable WA Local Governments to rate large-scale renewable energy facilities using current rating mechanisms (differential rating based on UV, differential rating based on GRV, or GRV alone) with certainty.
2. A commitment to implement a Payment in Lieu of Rates (PiLoR) framework in Western Australia.
3. WALGA to note and respond to the additional GVROC comments listed.

The GVROC request further details from WALGA on:

1. whether any consideration has been made on how rating of renewable energy facilities contained on mining tenements and on miscellaneous licenses will be treated, given the recent ruling by the Supreme Court around miscellaneous licenses?. If this has not been considered by WALGA can it advocate for its inclusion to the State Government?
2. Again if the renewable energy facilities are developed and contained on mining tenements will there be a legislative requirement placed on the mining company to ensure that it rehabilitates the site at the end of life of the renewable energy facility site, like it is enforced for mining facilities?
3. The GVROC also note from the Victorian Model as referenced, there is knowledge that issues have arisen and been seen in Victoria under general purpose leases, with people already pulling out of these leases, so careful consideration and scrutiny of the framework used there should be undertaken and not just picked up and followed.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

The Zones comments are noted and can be considered as further advocacy is progressed on this matter.

GREAT SOUTHERN COUNTRY ZONE

That the Great Southern Country Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.1 as contained in the State Council Agenda, subject to the following change to point 2:

That WALGA advocate to the State Government for:

1. Legislative amendments to enable WA Local Governments to rate large-scale renewable energy facilities using current rating mechanisms (differential rating based on UV, differential rating based on GRV, or GRV alone) with certainty.
2. Priority to be given to uncapped GRV rating mechanism over the differential rating based on UV.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

WALGA's position is to advocate for Local Governments to have the ability to rate large-scale renewable energy facilities. The method of GRV, UV or differential rating will be determined by each Local Government.

COMPOSITE RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Karen Wheatland

Seconded: Eddie Smith

That WALGA advocate to the State Government for:

- 1. Legislative amendments to enable WA Local Governments to rate large-scale renewable energy facilities using current rating mechanisms (differential rating based on UV, differential rating based on GRV, or GRV alone) with certainty; and**
- 2. A commitment to implement a Payment in Lieu of Rates (PiLoR) framework in Western Australia.**

RESOLUTION 049.4/2025

CARRIED

8.2 RATING OF MISCELLANEOUS LICENCES

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA:

1. **Advocate for Local Governments to continue to have the ability to rate miscellaneous licences under the *Mining Act 1978*, and**
2. **Oppose legislative amendments that seek to exempt occupied miscellaneous licence land from rating.**
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.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Under section 6.26 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, all land is rateable unless specifically exempted.
- In a State Administrative Tribunal decision of 2024, it was determined that Crown land the subject of an occupied miscellaneous licence was non-rateable.
- Subsequently, the Shire of Mt Magnet appealed this decision to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court ruled that Crown land subject to a miscellaneous licence and occupied is rateable, overturning the State Administrative Tribunal decision.
- This ruling affirmed the principle that Local Governments may levy rates on such land, recognising the significant infrastructure and occupation associated with these licences.
- On 2 August 2025, the WA State Government announced its intention to legislate amendments to the *Local Government Act 1995* to exempt land under miscellaneous licences from rating.
- WALGA has been advocating for Local Governments to have the ability to rate these licences and a formal advocacy position is required.
- WALGA is seeking support from the WA Parliament for the appropriate committee to review the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under section 6.26 of the Local Government Act 1995.

ATTACHMENT

- Supreme Court decision, [Shire of Mt Magnet v Atlantic Vanadium Pty Ltd \[2025\] WASC 274](#)
- [Ministers media release](#)
- [WALGA's media release](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This item relates to WALGA's Strategic Pillars: Influence, Support and Expertise.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There is no specific advocacy position relating to miscellaneous licences. Endorsement of this item will enable the establishment of a position.

Current advocacy position 2.1.1 relates generally to Rating Exemptions Review:

Position Statement	<i>A broad review be conducted into the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under section 6.26 of the Local Government Act 1995.</i>
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BACKGROUND

Local Governments in Western Australia rely on property rates as a primary source of revenue to fund essential services and infrastructure. Under section 6.26 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, all land is rateable unless specifically exempted. Historically, exemptions have applied to land used for charitable, benevolent, religious, or public purposes, as well as small prospecting leases under 10 hectares and unoccupied miscellaneous licences.

A miscellaneous licence under the *Mining Act 1978* and the Mining Regulations 1981 (WA) sets out the purposes a miscellaneous licence may be granted for:

(a) a road; (b) a tramway; (c) an aerial rope way; (d) a pipeline; (e) a power line; (f) a conveyor system; (g) a tunnel; (h) a bridge; (i) taking water; (ia) a search for groundwater; (i) hydraulic reclamation and transport of tailings; (j) an aerodrome; (k) a meteorological station; (l) a sulphur dioxide monitoring station; (m) a communications facility; (n) a drainage channel; (o) a pump station; (p) a minesite accommodation facility; (q) a bore; (r) a bore field; (s) a water management facility; (t) a power generation and transmission facility; (u) a storage or transportation facility for minerals or mineral concentrate; (v) a minesite administration facility; [2025] (w) a workshop and storage facility; (x) a jetty.

In 2024, the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) determined that land under a miscellaneous licence was exempt regardless of occupation.

On an appeal from the Shire of Mt Magnet, in July 2025 the Supreme Court of Western Australia ruled that Crown land subject to a miscellaneous licence and occupied is rateable, overturning a previous SAT decision. This ruling affirmed the principle that Local Governments may levy rates on such land, recognizing the significant infrastructure and occupation associated with these licences.

However, the State Government has announced its intention to legislate amendments to the *Local Government Act 1995* to exempt land under miscellaneous licences from rating, citing the need to protect jobs and provide certainty to the mining sector.

WALGA has been advocating strongly for Local Governments to have the ability to rate these licences, however it is appropriate for State Council to endorse a formal position, aligning with existing advocacy position 2.1.1.

KEY ISSUES

- **Equity and Fairness:** Miscellaneous licences often support substantial infrastructure (e.g. roads, pipelines, bore fields, accommodation) that places demands on local services. Exempting such land from rates shifts the financial burden to residents and small businesses.
- **Legal Precedent:** The Supreme Court decision provides a clear legal interpretation that supports Local Governments' ability to rate occupied land under miscellaneous licences.

- Community Impact: Local Governments maintain infrastructure and services that benefit mining operations. Rates are a fair mechanism for mining companies to contribute to the communities they operate in.
- State Government Proposal: The proposed legislative change undermines the Supreme Court's decision and WALGA's advocacy for financial sustainability and fairness in rating practices.

COMMENT

WALGA strongly supports the Supreme Court's interpretation and opposes the State Government's proposed amendments. The Association maintains that:

- Occupied land under miscellaneous licences should be rateable.
- Mining companies should contribute to local communities through rates, just as other property owners do.
- Legislative changes should not override judicial decisions that promote equity and sustainability.

WALGA has advocated strongly on this issue following the State Governments announcement to legislate for a rating exemption for miscellaneous licences.

The following is a summary of WALGA's recent advocacy on this issue:

Thursday, 10 July 2025

- WALGA media statement – [Supreme Court decision supports critical role of Local Government](#)
- ABC Drive, [interview with Geraldine Mellet](#)

Saturday, 2 August 2025

- WALGA media statement - [WALGA condemns State Government move to legislate against Supreme Court decision](#)
- The West Australian, Rebecca Le May - [WA Local Government Association hits back as State Government shields miners from land rates](#)

Sunday, 3 August 2025

- The Sunday Times (pg. 5), Rebecca Le May – "Councils' fury over mining land rates'

Monday, 4 August

- ABC News online, Chloe Henville - ["Move to exempt miners from paying rates on miscellaneous licenses 'concerning"](#)
- ABC Mornings with Nadia Mitsopoulos – ["WALGA president Karen Chappel and AMEC CEO Warren Pearce discuss the State Government plan to prevent councils levying rates on miscellaneous licences"](#)
- 7 Regional News, Brandon Demura - ["State Government accused of re-writing rulebook for WA Councils"](#)
- ABC News Perth, Blake Kagi - ["Local Governments condemn State Government move"](#)

It is recommended that WALGA advocate for Local Governments to continue to have the ability to rate miscellaneous licences under the *Mining Act 1978*, and to oppose legislative amendments that seek to exempt occupied miscellaneous licence land from rating. In addition, continue to advocate that a broad review be conducted into the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under section 6.26 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

ZONE CONSIDERATION

Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Central Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Central Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Gascoyne Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Goldfields Esperance Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Great Eastern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Great Southern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Kimberley Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Murchison Country Zone	No meeting held.
North Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Northern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Peel Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Pilbara Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
South East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
South Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.

SOUTH WEST COUNTRY ZONE

That the South West Country Zone:

1. supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.2 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above, and
2. asks WALGA to write to all non-Government members of the Legislative Council outlining WALGA's position and concerns in relation to these legislative changes.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

WALGA will be undertaking political engagement should this item be endorsed.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Laurene Bonza

Seconded: Terresa Lynes

That WALGA:

1. **Advocate for Local Governments to continue to have the ability to rate miscellaneous licences under the *Mining Act 1978*, and**
2. **Oppose legislative amendments that seek to exempt occupied miscellaneous licence land from rating.**
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.**

RESOLUTION 050.4/2025

CARRIED

8.3 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY SPORTING AND RECREATION FACILITIES FUND ADVOCACY POSITIONS

By Rebecca Hicks, Policy Advisor Community

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA:

1. Replace Advocacy Position 3.71 Community Infrastructure with the following:

Local Governments own, lease, and maintain vital community infrastructure across Western Australia that delivers essential benefits to local communities. Local Governments face significant funding pressures to ensure this infrastructure is effectively planned, developed, maintained, and enhanced to meet evolving community needs and population growth.

1. *WALGA calls on the Australian Government to provide \$500 million per annum for community infrastructure through a national formula based, targeted Local Government funding program.*
2. *WALGA calls on the State Government to:*
 - a. *Provide \$30 million per annum for the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund,*
 - b. *Provide \$30 million per annum for community arts and cultural infrastructure,*
 - c. *Provide funding for retrofitting accessible design features to community infrastructure,*
 - d. *Align all community infrastructure funding with existing State co-contribution of at least two-thirds.*

2. Retire Advocacy Position 3.72 Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Following a review of WALGA's Investing in Communities advocacy positions it is proposed that Advocacy Position 3.71 Community Infrastructure be updated, and that Advocacy Position 3.72 Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund be retired.
- The proposed revisions intend to align the positions with current advocacy approaches and combine them into one position.
- The proposed changes were noted by the Infrastructure Policy Team and endorsed by the People and Place Policy Team in July 2025.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Endorsing the advocacy position updates and retirement aligns with the WALGA 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, in particular:

- Influence – Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government.
- Influence – Empower the Local Government sector to build communities equipped for the future.
- Support – Anticipate, understand and respond to Member needs.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- The replacement of Advocacy Position 3.7.1 Community Infrastructure with an updated position.
- The retirement of Advocacy Position 3.7.2 Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund.

BACKGROUND

Local Governments own, lease, maintain and are major stakeholders in community infrastructure across Western Australia. This includes 233 public libraries, as well as cultural centres, performance spaces, galleries, recreation centres and playgrounds. Community infrastructure provides essential community benefits but requires significant capital and ongoing maintenance to upkeep the investment.

Advocacy Position 3.7.1 defines community infrastructure as including, but not limited to, community pools, sport and recreation facilities, community resource centres, visitor servicing centres, child health centres, community centres, parks, playgrounds, skate parks, public libraries, arts and cultural centres, and shared facilities that Local Governments operate.

The State Government Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF) was established in 1974 to provide financial support to Local Governments and community groups to develop sport and recreation infrastructure. The fund is well utilised by Local Governments and has been oversubscribed in recent years. The State Government's annual contribution to CSRFF was halved in the 2025-24 State Budget to \$12 million. Sector feedback indicates that rising construction costs have rendered current State CSRFF contributions insufficient to guarantee project viability. The Cook Government 2025 election commitments, confirmed in the 25-26 State Budget, provide funding for several new location-specific infrastructure investments.

The current CSRFF advocacy position includes a request for two million dollars per annum, quarantined for female representation. The 2025-26 State Budget included \$6 million to establish a 'Boosting Women and Girls Participation in Sport' grant program and \$23.9 million to support Local Governments and community sporting organisations to upgrade facilities for women at targeted locations.

There is no equivalent ongoing funding for community arts and culture infrastructure. Advocacy calling for this ongoing funding was included in [The West at its Best](#) as an identified priority need for the sector.

[WALGA's Federal election priorities](#) includes the call for \$500 million per year for community infrastructure through formula based targeted Local Government funding. This funding ask is not currently captured in the WALGA Advocacy Manual.

There are no current funding programs specifically for retrofitting accessible design features to community infrastructure. However, the importance of ensuring universal access to community infrastructure aligns with several State Government strategic documents, including the [State Infrastructure Strategy Recommendation 88](#) and [A Western Australia for Everyone: State Disability Strategy 2020-2030](#).

This advocacy position review was discussed by the Infrastructure Policy Team and endorsed by the People and Place Policy Team in July 2025.

3.71 Community Infrastructure

It is proposed that WALGA's **current** advocacy position:

The Association continues to advocate for better planning and support for community infrastructure and investment by the State, Australian and private partners.

be **replaced** with:

Local Governments own, lease, and maintain vital community infrastructure across Western Australia that delivers essential benefits to local communities. Local Governments face significant funding pressures to ensure this infrastructure is effectively planned, developed, maintained, and enhanced to meet evolving community need and population growth.

1. *WALGA calls on the Australian Government to provide \$500 million per annum for community infrastructure through a national formula based, targeted Local Government funding program.*
2. *WALGA calls on the State Government to:*
 - a. *provide \$30 million per annum for the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund*
 - b. *provide \$30 million per annum for community arts and cultural infrastructure,*
 - c. *provide funding for retrofitting accessible design features to community infrastructure*
 - d. *align all community infrastructure funding with existing State co-contribution of at least two-thirds.*

3.7.2 Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund

It is proposed that WALGA's **current** position be **retired**:

The Local Government sector advocates for the State Government to:

1. *increase the CSRFF funding pool to at least \$25 million per annum and revert the contribution ratio to 50% split to enable more community programs and infrastructure to be delivered; and*
2. *increase the \$1 million per annum quarantined for female representation to at least \$2 million per annum.*

COMMENT

The proposed revisions provide a broad statement for ongoing investment in community infrastructure, reflecting the significant financial cost of upkeep, including costs associated with retrofitting accessible design features to existing infrastructure. Providing State and Australian Government funding through ongoing open grant programs provides a more equitable and sustainable funding source.

Combining the community infrastructure advocacy positions aims to streamline WALGA advocacy with specific points that reflect WALGA priorities as set out in the [2023-24 State Budget submission](#), [The West at its Best](#) and the [Federal Election Priorities](#), focused on sustainable stewardship of community infrastructure, including:

- Arts and culture
- Sports and recreation
- Accessible design features

The shift from a fifty per cent to a two-thirds State funding contribution reflects a strategic alignment of community infrastructure advocacy with prevailing funding frameworks in the broader infrastructure sector. This ensures consistency and reinforces the case for equitable investment across all infrastructure categories.

ZONE CONSIDERATION

Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Central Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Central Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Gascoyne Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Goldfields Esperance Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Great Eastern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Great Southern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Kimberley Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Murchison Country Zone	No meeting held.
Northern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Pilbara Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
South Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
South West Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.

NORTH METROPOLITAN ZONE

That the North Metropolitan Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.3 as contained in the State Council Agenda with the following amendment:

1. Replace Advocacy Position 3.71 Community Infrastructure with the following:

Local Governments own, lease, and maintain vital community infrastructure across Western Australia that delivers essential benefits to local communities. Local Governments face significant funding pressures to ensure this infrastructure is effectively planned, developed, maintained, and enhanced to meet evolving community needs and population growth.

1. *WALGA calls on the Australian Government to provide \$500 million per annum for community infrastructure through a national formula based, targeted Local Government funding program.*
2. *WALGA calls on the State Government to:*
 - a. *Provide \$30 million per annum for the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund, in addition to the PlayOn WA 2030 initiative continuing.*
 - b. *Provide \$30 million per annum for community arts and cultural infrastructure,*
 - c. *Provide funding for retrofitting accessible design features to community infrastructure,*

- d. *Align all community infrastructure funding with existing State co-contribution of at least two-thirds.*

2. Retire Advocacy Position 3.7.2 Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

WALGA has recently met with the Department of Cultural Industries, Tourism and Sport to discuss [PlayOn WA](#). The initiative has been created by the Cook Government to track and promote State Government spending on community sport and recreation infrastructure across the State. This includes projects delivered through the CSRFF. Neither infrastructure planning nor funding decisions intended to be driven through PlayOn WA.

PEEL COUNTRY ZONE

That the Peel Country Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.3 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above, noting that they recognise greater funding is needed.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

WALGA acknowledges that the funding required to meet Local Government community infrastructure needs as set out in point 2 of the revised advocacy position are likely to exceed \$30 million.

The \$30million figure was supported, reflective of:

- The WALGA 2023-24 State Budget Submission that called for a \$5 million increase to the CSRFF from \$25 million to \$30 million
- CSRFF funding for 2024-25 and 2025-26 being halved to \$12 million per annum
- Alignment to WALGAs ongoing State level advocacy platform the [West at its Best](#).
- Equity across the three funding streams, with a combined funding ask of \$90 million.

There is currently not sufficient data to support an increased funding figure. WALGA's ongoing advocacy will include sourcing additional evidence and sector case studies which may support a revision to the funding figure in the future, subject to State Council endorsement.

SOUTH EAST METROPOLITAN ZONE

That the South East Metropolitan Zone supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.3 as contained in the State Council Agenda, and as amended below.

2. *WALGA calls on the State Government to:*

- a. *Provide \$60 million per annum for the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund,*
- b. *Provide \$60 million per annum for community arts and cultural infrastructure*

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

WALGA acknowledges that the funding required to meet Local Government community infrastructure needs as set out in point 2 of the revised advocacy position are likely to exceed \$30 million.

The \$30million figure was supported, reflective of:

- The WALGA 2023-24 State Budget Submission that called for a \$5 million increase to the CSRFF from \$25 million to \$30 million

- CSRFF funding for 2024-25 and 2025-26 being halved to \$12 million per annum
- Alignment to WALGAs ongoing State level advocacy platform the [West at its Best](#).
- Equity across the three funding streams, with a combined funding ask of \$90 million.

This was endorsed by the People and Place Policy team.

There is currently not sufficient data to support an increased funding figure of \$60 million. WALGA's ongoing advocacy will include sourcing additional evidence and sector case studies which may support a revision to the funding figure in the future, subject to State Council endorsement.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA:

1. Replace Advocacy Position 3.71 Community Infrastructure with the following:

Local Governments own, lease, and maintain vital community infrastructure across Western Australia that delivers essential benefits to local communities. Local Governments face significant funding pressures to ensure this infrastructure is effectively planned, developed, maintained, and enhanced to meet evolving community needs and population growth.

1. *WALGA calls on the Australian Government to provide \$500 million per annum for community infrastructure through a national formula based, targeted Local Government funding program.*
2. *WALGA calls on the State Government to:*
 - a. *Provide \$30 million per annum for the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund,*
 - b. *Provide \$30 million per annum for community arts and cultural infrastructure,*
 - c. *Provide funding for retrofitting accessible design features to community infrastructure,*
 - d. *Align all community infrastructure funding with existing State co-contribution of at least two-thirds.*

2. Retire Advocacy Position 3.72 Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund.

ALTERNATE MOTION

Moved: Terresa Lynes

Seconded: Patrick Hall

That WALGA:

1. Replace Advocacy Position 3.71 Community Infrastructure with the following:

Local Governments own, lease, and maintain vital community infrastructure across Western Australia that delivers essential benefits to local communities. Local Governments face significant funding pressures to ensure this infrastructure is effectively planned, developed, maintained, and enhanced to meet evolving community needs and population growth.

1. *WALGA calls on the Australian Government to provide \$500 million per annum for community infrastructure through a national formula based, targeted Local Government funding program.*
2. *WALGA calls on the State Government to:*
 - a. *Provide \$60 million per annum for the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund,*
 - b. *Provide \$60 million per annum for community arts and cultural infrastructure,*

- c. Provide funding for retrofitting accessible design features to community infrastructure,*
- d. Align all community infrastructure funding with existing State co-contribution of at least two-thirds.*

2. Retire Advocacy Position 3.7.2 Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund.

AMENDMENT

Moved: Michael Dudek

Seconded: Lewis Hutton

To amend point 2a. as follows:

- a. Provide \$60 million per annum for the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund, separate to the PlayOn WA 2030 Funding commitments.*

RESOLUTION 051.4/2025

CARRIED

THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION AS AMENDED WAS PUT

That WALGA:

1. Replace Advocacy Position 3.7.1 Community Infrastructure with the following:

Local Governments own, lease, and maintain vital community infrastructure across Western Australia that delivers essential benefits to local communities. Local Governments face significant funding pressures to ensure this infrastructure is effectively planned, developed, maintained, and enhanced to meet evolving community needs and population growth.

- 1. WALGA calls on the Australian Government to provide \$500 million per annum for community infrastructure through a national formula based, targeted Local Government funding program.*
- 2. WALGA calls on the State Government to:*
 - a. Provide \$60 million per annum for the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund, separate to the PlayOn WA 2030 Funding commitments.*
 - b. Provide \$60 million per annum for community arts and cultural infrastructure,*
 - c. Provide funding for retrofitting accessible design features to community infrastructure,*
 - d. Align all community infrastructure funding with existing State co-contribution of at least two-thirds.*

2. Retire Advocacy Position 3.7.2 Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund.

RESOLUTION 052.4/2025

CARRIED

8.4 RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH SERVICES ADVOCACY POSITION

By Hannah Godsave, Policy Manager Community

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA replace Advocacy Position 3.2.2 Regional Health Services with the following:

The Western Australian and Australian Governments are responsible for ensuring that all West Australians have equitable access to primary healthcare services, regardless of their location. Local Governments should not have to step in to support the provision of these services for their communities.

- 1. WALGA calls on the Western Australian and Australian Governments to address the systemic failures in the provision of rural and remote primary healthcare services, including through:**
 - a. the development and implementation of adequate, appropriate and sustainable funding models**
 - b. incentivising rural and remote healthcare workforce recruitment and retention.**
- 2. Local Governments should be reimbursed for costs incurred to support the provision of primary healthcare services until sustainable funding and workforce models are in place.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The provision of healthcare services is both an Australian and State responsibility.
- The WALGA Local Government Primary Healthcare Services Survey provides a comprehensive dataset of the cost, nature and geographical location of Local Government support predominantly focused on General Practice services.
- The recommended revisions update the Advocacy Position to align with the data and recommendations of the Survey Report and provide a framework for further advocacy.
- The People and Place Policy Team considered and endorsed the proposed changes at its meeting on 9 July.

ATTACHMENT

- [Local Government Primary Healthcare Services Survey](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Revising Advocacy Position 3.2.2 aligns to the WALGA 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, in particular:

- Influence – Lead advocacy on issues 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 replacement and renaming of Advocacy Position 3.2.2 Regional Health Services with an updated position titled Rural and Remote Health Services.

BACKGROUND

In 2023, WALGA commissioned Rural Health West (RHW) to survey WA Local Governments to ascertain the extent to which Local Governments were providing financial or in-kind support to secure primary healthcare services. The Survey Report provides a comprehensive dataset on the cost, nature, and geographical location of Local Government support, as well as evidence that Local Government support was predominantly focused on General Practice services.

This issue has been identified as a priority for the sector at a number of forums, including the October 2024 Band 4 Local Governments meeting, the May 2025 Zones meetings, priority responses and member advocacy being undertaken by the [Local Government Rural Health Funding Alliance](#).

WALGA has begun a renewed advocacy campaign, with targeted asks of the Australian and State Governments to improve access to primary health services in rural and remote areas, to remove the need for Local Government intervention.

The People and Place Policy Team considered and endorsed the proposed advocacy position changes at its meeting on 9 July.

It is proposed that WALGA's **current** Advocacy Position 3.2.2 Regional Health:

The Association supports continuing to work with affected Local Governments and key stakeholders to identify and develop collaborative strategies. The Association supports continuing to advocate to the State Government to prioritise regional health and the regional health workforce. The Association supports developing a policy connection with the Australian Local Government Association as a pathway for advocating for stronger specialised regional health workforces.

Be **replaced** with:

3.2.2 Rural and Remote Healthcare Services

The Western Australian and Australian Governments are responsible for ensuring that all West Australians have equitable access to primary healthcare services, regardless of their location. Local Governments should not have to step in to support the provision of these services for their communities.

1. *WALGA calls on the Western Australian and Australian Governments to address the systemic failures in the provision of rural and remote primary healthcare services, including through:*
 - a. *the development and implementation of adequate, appropriate and sustainable funding models.*
 - b. *incentivising rural and remote healthcare workforce recruitment and retention.*
2. *Local Governments should be reimbursed for costs incurred to support the provision of primary healthcare services until sustainable funding and workforce models are in place.*

COMMENT

Access to primary health is a critical issue for a large proportion of WALGA members. Local Government support of primary healthcare services creates a financial impost and diverts funding from other Local Government services and functions.

The proposed revisions provide a stronger position on the responsibility of the Australian and State Governments for primary healthcare provision and addressing the cost impost on Local Government, compelled to intervene where the current health system is failing.

The revised position aligns with the wider healthcare reform platform to enable advocacy partnerships and to provide a level of flexibility for the advocacy campaign in response to Government announcements. Terminology changes from regional health to rural and remote, aligns with the language used across healthcare advocacy and reflects that Local Government support for healthcare services is concentrated in areas of smaller populations. Framing the position around financial reimbursement enables sector diversity in response to community need and avoids implying an ongoing funding role for Local Government.

ZONE CONSIDERATION

Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Central Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Central Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Gascoyne Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Great Eastern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Great Southern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Kimberley Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Murchison Country Zone	No meeting held.
North Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Northern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Peel Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Pilbara Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
South East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
South Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
South West Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.

GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE COUNTRY ZONE

That the GVROC support the WALGA advocacy position change to the 3.2.2 Regional Health Services and also request WALGA consideration to further strengthen the position change as per its comments listed.

In relation to 3.2.2 Rural and Remote Healthcare Services the GVROC is aware that several of the Federal and State Health Ministers have been questioned over the years on the issue of Local Governments having to fund GPs and health services in their towns and the usual response is that both Governments do not fund Local Governments for appointment of GPs or provision of medical services as they see that as private business compared to the provision of public health services. This is fine if you have a hospital or public medical clinic within the town and thus it receives funding from Governments to ensure provision of healthcare services, but not all regional towns have these facilities.

The GVROC would like to see if WALGA can strengthen its advocacy position in 3.2.2 to ensure that even those Rural and remote towns that do not have public health facilities in

place, that they receive adequate funding through the LGAs to ensure that their communities also receive the equitable access to healthcare services.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

The draft revised advocacy calls for equitable access to primary healthcare across the State. Primary healthcare refers to health services that can be accessed directly by patients without referral from other sources including General Practice, physiotherapy and mental health services. This definition provides the flexibility to be applicable to the wider range of support Local Governments are providing regardless of proximity to public hospitals, which are classified as secondary healthcare.

The draft revision calls for reimbursement for Local Government supporting primary healthcare services as well as systematic reforms to the current health system funding mechanisms and rural and remote workforce incentivisation.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Phil Blight
Seconded: Eddie Smith

That WALGA replace Advocacy Position 3.2.2 Regional Health Services with the following:

The Western Australian and Australian Governments are responsible for ensuring that all West Australians have equitable access to primary healthcare services, regardless of their location. Local Governments should not have to step in to support the provision of these services for their communities.

- 1. WALGA calls on the Western Australian and Australian Governments to address the systemic failures in the provision of rural and remote primary healthcare services, including through:**
 - a. the development and implementation of adequate, appropriate and sustainable funding models**
 - b. incentivising rural and remote healthcare workforce recruitment and retention.**
- 2. Local Governments should be reimbursed for costs incurred to support the provision of primary healthcare services until sustainable funding and workforce models are in place.**

RESOLUTION 053.4/2025

CARRIED

8.5 HEALTH ADVOCACY POSITION

By Hannah Godsave, Policy Manager Community

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA retire Advocacy Position 3.2 Health.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Advocacy Position 3.2 relates to public health and predates the *Public Health Act 2016* and the commencement of Stage 5 of the Act in June 2024.
- The position is superseded by Advocacy Position 3.2.1 *Local Public Health Plans*, which was revised in September 2024 to align to the 2016 Act and specifically the implementation of Local Public Health Plans.
- The People and Place Policy Team considered and endorsed the retirement of Advocacy Position 3.2 Health at its meeting on 9 July.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Retiring Advocacy Position 3.2 aligns to the WALGA 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, in particular:

- Influence – Lead policy development for the Local Government sector.
- Expertise – Optimise organisational capability to service members' needs.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The retirement of Advocacy Position 3.2.1 Health.

BACKGROUND

Advocacy position 3.2.1 Health, endorsed in 2005, states:

The Association supports improving health outcomes for Western Australians through the investment in and provision of infrastructure and delivery of services in partnership with health professionals.

This position was last cited in a 2022 WALGA submission to the Department of Health relating to the Statutory Review of the *Food Act 2008*.

The position predates the commencement of the *Public Health Act 2016* and Stage 5 of the Act in 2024, which requires all Local Governments to develop and publish a Local Public Health Plan.

This position is superseded by advocacy position 3.2.1 relating to public health planning and specifically the implementation of Local Public Health Plans:

3.2.1 Local Public Health Plans

WALGA supports the objects and principles of the Public Health Act 2016.

The State Government must ensure that:

1. *Guidance, tools and resources are developed to support the development of Local Public Health Plans; and*
2. *Funding is provided for:*

- a. *smaller rural and regional councils to support the development of Local Public Health Plans; and*
- b. *the implementation of actions under Local Public Health Plans.*

The People and Place Policy Team endorsed the revisions to this position in September 2024.

COMMENT

Given changes in State public health legislation and the recent revisions to advocacy position 3.2.1 that cover the aspects of public health alluded to in advocacy position 3.2, this position is no longer required and should be retired.

The People and Place Policy Team considered and endorsed that Advocacy Position 3.2 Health be retired at its meeting on 9 July.

ZONE CONSIDERATION

Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Central Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Central Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Gascoyne Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Goldfields Esperance Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Great Eastern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Great Southern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Kimberley Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Murchison Country Zone	No meeting held.
North Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Northern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Peel Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Pilbara Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
South East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
South Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
South West Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Phil Blight
Seconded: Chris Antonio

That WALGA retire Advocacy Position 3.2 Health.

RESOLUTION 054.4/2025

CARRIED

8.6 ADVOCACY POSITIONS FOR ACTIVE TRANSPORT AND MICROMOBILITY

By Negar Nili, Policy Officer Transport and Roads

Helen Sadler declared an impartiality interest.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA endorse the proposed advocacy positions on Active Transport and micromobility.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Six new advocacy positions are proposed, with the aim of providing a clear and unified framework to support Local Governments in planning, delivering, and advocating for walking, cycling, and other forms of Active Transport (AT).
- The new advocacy positions are intended to strengthen WALGA's voice in state and national forums, guide responses to legislative or policy changes, and ensure the sector is well-represented in cross-government initiatives related to AT.
- These positions reflect the growing role of AT in addressing key policy areas including health, sustainability, road safety, and urban liveability. The policy statements cover six key areas:
 - Active Transport Vision and Strategy
 - Funding
 - Safety
 - Education, Encouragement, and Community Engagement
 - eRideables
 - Active Travel to School
- The Infrastructure Policy Team considered and recommended the proposed AT advocacy positions for endorsement by State Council at its meeting on 4 August.

ATTACHMENT

- [Summary of Issues, Challenges for Active Transport in WA](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

The new advocacy positions align to the WALGA 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, in particular:

- Influence – Lead policy development for the Local Government sector.
- Support – Provide practical sector-wide solutions based on research and evidence.
- Expertise – Promote a dynamic, agile, high-performance culture.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The new advocacy positions will complement existing [Advocacy Positions](#):

- 5.2.5 The Role of Local Government in the Future Management of Warden Controlled Children's Crossings
- 5.2.7 Driving Change - Road Safety Strategy 2020-2030
- 5.3.3 Cycling on Footpaths
- 5.3.4 Licencing cyclists and registering bicycles
- 5.3.5 Active Travel to Schools
- 5.3.6 Pedestrian Crossings

BACKGROUND

In March 2024, State Council, through the Infrastructure Policy Team requested that WALGA organise a policy forum to better understand issues relating to Active Transport (AT) and develop an integrated policy and advocacy platform. This enhanced focus on AT formed the basis for extensive consultation with Local Governments over the last 18 months. The consultation process was primarily directed at identifying gaps in AT policy and AT infrastructure needs and involved extensive consultation with Local Government AT officers as well as workshops with Elected Members and senior stakeholders from relevant State agencies.

The WALGA Transport and Roads team met with over 30 Local Government officers and held two workshops with diverse stakeholders to support the development and refinement of a discussion paper that examines AT and micromobility in the Western Australian, Local Government context. The consultation process with Local Governments highlighted a range of issues, challenges, and gaps facing AT initiatives in WA, offering valuable insights into Local Governments unique needs and perspectives as they work to enhance AT infrastructure and promote sustainable mobility. The information gathered was summarised into ten key challenges experienced across jurisdictions:

Strategic Issues	Challenges
1. Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speeding and inappropriate travel speed• Driver attitude towards vulnerable road users• Lack of safe crossing points and limited space
2. Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited (no) funding for amenities
3. Network Gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funding
4. Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funding limits are a key challenge and focus of solutions
5. Integration in Plans and Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low community uptake and behaviour change
6. Incentives and Disincentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Car dependency and low awareness of active transport benefits
7. Public Transport Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bikes not permitted on public transport during peak hours
8. Education and Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No dedicated lead• Fragmented efforts across multiple parties
9. E-Rideables	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• - Unclear regulation and enforcement
10. Travel to Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poor planning for AT in school areas• Limited school staff capacity to manage funding• Inaccessible or inadequate grant funding

These challenges have been addressed in six proposed advocacy positions:

- Active Transport Vision and Strategy
- Funding
- Active Transport Safety
- Education/Encouragement/Community Engagement
- eRideables
- Active Travel to School

ADVOCACY POSITIONS

Active Transport Vision and Strategy	
Position Statement	<p><i>Local Governments recognise the public health, environmental, community, economic and transport benefits offered by active transport and calls on all levels of government to work toward increasing active transport.</i></p> <p><i>WALGA calls on the State and Federal Governments to work with the Local Government sector to develop and implement an Active Transport vision, strategy and actions with measurable goals to increase mode share of active transport. The Active Transport Strategy should include allocation of responsibilities to agencies and identification of sustainable funding.</i></p> <p><i>The relationships to other strategic plans should be defined to align a whole-of-government approach.</i></p>
Background	<p>Active Transport mode share in Western Australia is low compared with many global cities. Increasing the share of trips by active modes provides many benefits including reduced traffic congestion, less atmospheric pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions, improved health through incidental physical activity and opportunities for enhanced community interaction.</p> <p>Integrating an Active Transport Vision and Strategy with other strategic plans will encourage considerations for active travel to be embedded across all planning, design and operational processes.</p>
Priority Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage Local Governments to embed measures to enable Active Transport in all Local Government operations, policies, and programs. • Call on the State Government to embed the provision of active transport infrastructure in State planning regulations and guidelines • Invest in stakeholders planning with clearly defined, shared outcomes. • Adopt a cross-government approach, with common performance measures across relevant departments to measure progress. • Promote a greater understanding of Active Transport user needs within all stages of planning and project delivery. • Normalise Active Transport in all infrastructure and policy discussions so that it becomes business as usual. • Better integrate active and public transport through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Advocating that the PTA provide appropriate end of trip facilities at public transport nodes including secure parking and storage.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Calling on the PTA to provide for the carriage of bicycles and eRideables on all train services. ○ Call on the PTA to explore opportunities to accommodate bicycles on buses. ● Invest in data collection, management and analysis to inform investment in active transport infrastructure and programs including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establishing a comprehensive, standardised data-sharing framework and platform for active transport information. ○ Adopting video and AI-driven solutions to enhance the quality and efficiency of data collection, analysis and reporting. ○ Develop a platform dedicated for comprehensive collection and analysis of Active Transport incident data, providing insights to improve safety, infrastructure design and strategic planning. ● Require that design guidance for the public realm provides safe and attractive environment for active transport. ● Provide safety through convenient priority road and rail crossing points for pedestrians and other active transport users and appropriate amenity including quality paths, drinking water at suitable intervals, shade and seating.
Key Challenges Addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Closing network gaps - Travel to Schools - Safety

Funding	
Position Statement	<i>WALGA calls on Federal and State Governments to provide a step change in funding for Active Transport by providing consistent, long-term investment to support Local Governments in planning, delivering, and maintaining AT infrastructure, programs, and supporting initiatives.</i>
Background	Active Transport is vital to creating healthier, more connected, and sustainable communities. Despite this, funding to support AT—across infrastructure, programs, planning, and maintenance—remains limited, inconsistent, and often short-term. This restricts Local Governments' ability to deliver integrated, accessible AT options that meet community needs. Sustained and coordinated funding is essential to increase uptake, improve safety, and ensure the long-term success of active travel initiatives.
Priority Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Committing to a ten-year allocated funding program to deliver the Long-Term Cycle Network, based on a co-founded model of up to one-third contribution from Local Government.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing non-competitive cost indexed grants based on the extent of the defined active transport network for renewal / maintenance to support appropriate levels of service and asset longevity. • Establish a new Local Destination Program to fund the development of safe and accessible routes to key community destinations, including schools, train stations, and activity centres. • Significantly increase overall investment in Active Transport to reflect its role in health, sustainability, and transport outcomes, and bring funding levels closer to international benchmarks.
Key Challenges Addressed	- Funding

Active Transport Safety	
Position Statement	<i>WALGA calls on the State Government for the provision of safe, pedestrian/bicycle-priority crossing points; safer speeds on local roads and around community hubs, schools, and public transport nodes; and road diet treatments to support safer environments for all users of the road network.</i>
Background	High traffic volumes and vehicle speeds contribute significantly to unsafe conditions for people walking, cycling, and using other forms of Active Transport. Creating safer streets requires a combination of infrastructure improvements, speed management, and environmental design strategies that prioritise the most vulnerable users.
Priority Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve safety for active transport users at existing roundabouts and intersections. • Seek reforms to Main Roads WA's speed zoning policies and processes to enhance Local Governments' influence in setting speed limits on local streets and distributor roads. • Support road design changes such as tree planting, lane narrowing, and other physical measures that promote slower, safer streets. • Reduce through-traffic volumes on all roads except Primary Distributors, especially in residential and mixed-use areas. • Target safety improvements in high-risk locations, including school precincts and public transport hubs. • Support complementary education initiatives to raise awareness of active transport user safety and responsible road use.
Key Challenges Addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safety - Travel to schools

Education/Encouragement/Community Engagement	
Position Statement	<i>When coupled with investment in infrastructure, education and encouragement programs effectively support the uptake of active transport modes and a cultural shift in attitudes toward active transport. WALGA calls on key stakeholders to form a coalition to advance mode shift to active transport initiatives, support infrastructure implementation, and realise a coordinated, multi-channel approach.</i>
Background	<p>Education, encouragement, and community engagement are essential to increasing the uptake of Active Transport. Beyond infrastructure, shifting travel behaviour relies on building public understanding of the benefits, availability, and safe use of Active Transport options. Raising awareness among both the community and key stakeholders helps normalise Active Transport, promote safety, and support long-term behavioural change.</p> <p>Public education campaigns can highlight the benefits of walking, cycling, and micromobility, while also addressing knowledge gaps around safe practices and existing networks. Targeted engagement with schools, local communities, and service providers—such as transport operators and enforcement agencies—can foster a more supportive environment for AT use across all settings.</p>
Priority Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call on the State Government to develop guidance and materials (e.g. toolkits) that support travel behaviour change and promote safe, responsible use of Active Transport and Micromobility. • Adopt a cross-government approach to deliver targeted training for relevant stakeholders on how to safely and respectfully interact with active transport users. • Support behaviour changes programs through incentives such as parking cash-out schemes, and other supportive measures. • Encourage Local Governments to provide a platform to raise public awareness of existing active transport facilities and the benefits of using them.
Key Challenges Addressed	- Education and community engagement

eRideables	
Position Statement	<i>WALGA calls on the State Government to develop and implement a comprehensive regulatory framework to address the safety, sale, and use of escooters and other eRideables in Western Australia. The State Government should consult with</i>

	<i>stakeholders, including Local Governments, to ensure that the framework is practical, enforceable, and responsive to on-the-ground challenges.</i>
Background	The use of eRideables—such as e-scooters and similar micromobility devices—is rapidly growing across Western Australia. While these devices offer affordable, low-emission transport options, the current regulatory framework has not kept pace with their adoption. Issues such as the sale of non-compliant devices, inconsistent enforcement, and public safety concerns—particularly in high pedestrian activity areas—are placing pressure on Local Governments and other stakeholders. There is a clear need for a coordinated, state-led response that balances innovation with safety, enforcement, and community wellbeing.
Priority Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing clear rules and enforcement to prevent the importation and sale of non-compliant or illegal eRideable devices. • Strengthen enforcement mechanisms and apply appropriate penalties to ensure compliance with existing laws. • Introduce and utilise equipment to verify compliance with legal performance limits. • Empower Local Governments to regulate the use of eRideables in high pedestrian activity areas, particularly on inner-city footpaths and shared spaces. • Develop a State-led eRideable Safety Action Plan in collaboration with key stakeholders. • Ensure that Local Governments are meaningfully engaged in this process, with WALGA providing formal representation. • Deliver targeted education and awareness initiatives for school-aged children and their parents to promote informed purchasing decisions, understanding of relevant rules, rider courtesy, and safe riding behaviour.
Key Challenges Addressed	- eRideables

Active Travel to School	
Position Statement	<i>WALGA recognises that enabling and encouraging active transport to and from schools delivers wide-ranging benefits – including improved public health, reduced traffic congestion, environmental sustainability, and stronger community wellbeing. Despite these benefits, barriers such as safety concerns, limited school resources, and lack of</i>

	<i>supportive infrastructure prevent the widespread uptake of active travel among students. WALGA supports a coordinated, long-term approach to embed active transport into the school environment, supported by targeted investment, planning, and program delivery.</i>
Background	Supporting children to walk, cycle, or scoot to school contributes to broader goals in public health, transport efficiency, environmental sustainability, and community safety. However, achieving these outcomes requires more than just physical infrastructure. Success depends on a collaborative approach involving schools, Local and State Government, parents, and community organisations. Active travel needs to be embedded as a normal, supported, and safe part of daily life for families. Addressing the existing barriers will require long-term coordination, consistent funding, and stronger alignment between education, transport, and planning systems.
Priority Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing sustained investment in school and community-based active travel programs. • Ensure funding is accessible through clear grant processes and supported by dedicated officers to assist schools with limited staff capacity. • Increase incentives for Traffic Wardens at Children's Crossings. • Encourage car-free zones around schools, where appropriate, to improve safety. • Guidance for schools and local governments to undertake connectivity studies and prioritise low-cost, high-impact improvements. • Integrate active transport education into the school curriculum and culture. • Plan and deliver infrastructure that ensures children can travel safely and independently to school.
Key Challenges Addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Closing Network Gaps - Travel to Schools - Education and community engagement - Funding

COMMENT

The proposed policy positions collectively address critical areas needed to advance AT across Western Australia. Each position strengthens WALGA's advocacy platform and supports Local Governments in addressing current and emerging challenges.

Active Transport Vision and Strategy

A clear, coordinated strategy is essential to embed AT across planning, infrastructure, and service delivery. Currently, efforts are fragmented and lack measurable goals or alignment between agencies. A shared vision and defined responsibilities will support integrated planning and prioritisation of resources at all levels of government.

Funding

Inconsistent, short-term funding limits Local Governments' ability to deliver and maintain Active Transport infrastructure and programs. A long-term, sustainable funding framework aligned with national and international benchmarks is critical to achieving health, environmental, and transport outcomes.

Active Transport Safety

High traffic speeds and unsafe infrastructure are key barriers to AT uptake. A safe, low-speed environment supported by appropriate design and policy measures is necessary to protect vulnerable road users and improve community confidence in walking, cycling, and other forms of active mobility.

Education, Encouragement, and Community Engagement

Behaviour change requires more than infrastructure. Effective education and engagement build public understanding, increase awareness, and help normalise Active Transport. A coordinated approach involving communities and relevant stakeholders is vital for shifting attitudes and increasing uptake.

eRideables

The rapid uptake of eRideables has outpaced the current regulatory framework, creating enforcement, safety, and infrastructure challenges. A comprehensive, State-led framework, developed with Local Government input is needed to address compliance, regulation, and safety in a rapidly evolving mobility landscape.

Active Travel to School

Despite its wide-ranging benefits, Active Travel to School remains low due to safety concerns, infrastructure gaps, and limited school resources. A more coordinated, long-term approach is needed, one that integrates planning, education, and investment to support safe, independent travel for students.

The proposed advocacy positions were endorsed by the Infrastructure Policy Team on 4 August.

ZONE CONSIDERATION

Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Central Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Central Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Gascoyne Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Great Eastern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Great Southern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Kimberley Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Murchison Country Zone	No meeting held.
North Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Northern Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Peel Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
Pilbara Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
South Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.
South West Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported.

GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE COUNTRY ZONE

That the GVROC support the WALGA's recommendation to the proposed advocacy positions on Active Transport and micromobility, noting the GVROC comments listed also be considered by WALGA State Council:

GVROC congratulate WALGA on the development of this detailed advocacy position and request consideration be given to also look at:

1. Further advocacy and work around enforcing the safety requirements around eRideables on our local streets; and
2. Provision of appropriate funding from State Government to ensure more safe crossings are provided on our roads.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

1. The WALGA eRideables policy position states that "*State Government should consult with stakeholders, including **Local Governments**, to ensure that the framework is practical, enforceable, and responsive to on-the-ground challenges.*" As part of the priority actions, it further calls for:
 - "*Empower Local Governments to regulate the use of eRideables in high pedestrian activity areas, particularly on inner-city footpaths and shared spaces.*"
 - "*Develop a State-led eRideable Safety Action Plan in collaboration with key stakeholders.*"
 - "*Ensure that Local Governments are meaningfully engaged in this process, with WALGA providing formal representation.*"

WALGA will ensure that Local Governments are meaningfully engaged in this process, with WALGA providing formal representation, directly addressing the Zone's request for further advocacy on safety and enforcement requirements.

2. The Zone's request for funding safe crossings is noted. WALGA's positions address this through:
 - The Local Destination Program under the Funding position, which seeks funding for safe, accessible routes to schools, train stations, and activity centres.

- The Active Transport Vision and Strategy, which includes priority road and rail crossings, along with supporting amenities such as quality paths, shade, and seating.
- The Active Transport Safety position, which calls for safe pedestrian and bicycle-priority crossings, safer speeds near schools, community hubs and public transport nodes, and road diet treatments.
- The Active Travel to School position, which advocates for increased incentives for Traffic Wardens at children's crossings.
- WALGA's existing Pedestrian Crossings policy, which provides comprehensive guidance on planning, prioritising, and implementing pedestrian-priority crossings, effectively supporting and covering the Zone's request for safe crossings.

WALGA's 2024–25 State Budget submission included a proposal for specific funding to upgrade approximately 30 Children's Crossings to signalised pedestrian crossings on high-speed, high-volume roads. This proposal was addressed via a State Election Commitment to upgrade 23 crossings to pedestrian signalised crossings. WALGA will continue to advocate for further investment to improve crossing safety across the network.

The recommendation has been amended to address point 2.

SOUTH EAST METROPOLITAN ZONE

That the South East Metropolitan Zone

1. Supports the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.6 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above; and
2. Requests State Council notes the comment below:

That the South East Metropolitan Zone notes that subsidies and contributions provided by State and Federal Governments for active transport and micromobility are not equivalent to those provided for road infrastructure, which systemically discourages Local Governments from investing in these areas.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

WALGA's funding position advocates for increased and dedicated investment in active transport and micromobility. While the specific level of funding is yet to be confirmed, this position directly addresses the Zone's concern regarding the disparity in subsidies and contributions compared with road infrastructure.

COMPOSITE RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA endorse the proposed advocacy positions on Active Transport and micromobility subject to the inclusion of:

1. The following item added to the Priority Actions of the Funding Position Statement:

Allocate dedicated funding to deliver safe, pedestrian- and bicycle-priority crossing points on local and distributor roads, particularly around schools, community hubs, and public transport nodes, to support safe and accessible active transport journeys.

ALTERNATE MOTION

Moved: Helen Sadler
Seconded: Laurene Bonza

That WALGA endorse the proposed advocacy positions on Active Transport and micromobility subject to:

1. The following item added to the Priority Actions of the Funding Position Statement:

Allocate dedicated funding to deliver safe, pedestrian- and bicycle-priority crossing points on local and distributor roads, particularly around schools, community hubs, and public transport nodes, to support safe and accessible active transport journeys.

2. Request the CEO to prepare an Active Transport Advocacy Plan for WALGA including, but not limited to, funding models to achieve the advocacy positions.
3. That the Plan be brought back to the Infrastructure Policy Team for discussion.

RESOLUTION 055.4/2025

CARRIED

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY STATE COUNCILLORS (UNDER SEPARATE COVER)

8.7 STATE COUNCIL CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CHARTER AND STANDING ORDERS REVIEW AND UPDATE

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services and Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance

WALGA RECOMMENDATION 1

Moved: Chris Mitchell
Seconded: Helen Sadler

That State Council endorse the updated:

1. Corporate Governance Charter; and
2. Code of Conduct.

AMENDMENT

Moved: Terresa Lynes
Seconded: Haeden Miles

Amend section 4.9 of the Corporate Governance Charter to include:

State Councillors are entitled to undertake two WALGA training courses per term. Additional training may be approved where a skills gap is identified.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

Moved: Patrick Hall
Seconded: Paige McNeil

That the item be deferred (Debate be adjourned).

RESOLUTION 056.4/2025

CARRIED

WALGA RECOMMENDATION 2

That State Council endorse the updated State Council Standing Orders.

SPECIAL MAJORITY REQUIRED

WALGA RECOMMENDATION 3

That State Council endorse the updated AGM Standing Orders.

8.8 FINANCE AND SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES - 20 AUGUST 2025

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Chris Antonio

Seconded: Chris Mitchell

That State Council endorse the Minutes of the Finance and Services Committee meeting held on 20 August 2025.

RESOLUTION 057.4/2025

CARRIED

ATTACHMENTS – CONFIDENTIAL

- Finance and Services Committee Minutes – 20 August 2025.
- Attachments to Minutes:
 - 6.1 WALGA Finance Report Board Pack - 30 June 2025
 - 6.2 Audit Closing Report - 30 June 2025
 - 6.2 WALGA Financial Report - 30 June 2025

COMMENT

The Finance and Services Committee (Committee) met on 20 August.

The Minutes of the meeting, together with the attachments, have been distributed to members of State Council under separate cover.

The Committee met with the Auditors separately from WALGA employees.

Finance and Services Committee members will be in attendance at the State Council meeting to respond to questions and provide any further explanation that may be sought.

8.9 LOCAL GOVERNMENT HOUSE TRUST BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MINUTES – 20 AUGUST 2025

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Phil Blight

Seconded: Chris Antonio

That State Council note the Minutes of the Local Government House Trust Board of Management meeting held on 20 August 2025.

RESOLUTION 058.4/2025

CARRIED

ATTACHMENTS – CONFIDENTIAL

- Local Government House Trust Board of Management Minutes – 20 August 2025
- Attachments to Minutes:
 - 6.1 LGHT Finance Report - 30 June 2025
 - 6.2 LGHT Budget 2025-26

COMMENT

The Local Government House Trust (LGHT) Board of Management (Board) met on 20 August 2025.

The Minutes of the meeting, together with attachments, have been distributed to members of State Council under separate cover.

The Board considered the following matters:

- Management Financials
- Budget for 2025-26 Financial Year
- Use of the LGHT Common Seal

LGHT members will be in attendance at the State Council meeting to respond to questions and provide any further explanation that may be sought.

8.10 SELECTION COMMITTEE – 19 AUGUST 2025 CONFIDENTIAL

By Chantelle O'Brien, Zones Governance Officer

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Paul Kelly
Seconded: Chris Mitchell

That State Council:

- 1. Notes the resolutions contained in the 19 August 2025 Selection Committee Minutes.**
- 2. Endorse the Selection Committee's recommendation contained in the 19 August 2025 Selection Committee Minutes.**

RESOLUTION 059.4/2025

CARRIED

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Selection Committee recently met for their scheduled ordinary meeting on 19 August 2025.
- At that meeting, the Committee considered nominees for the following vacancies:
 - Local Health Authorities Analytical Committee
 - Library Board of Western Australia

ATTACHMENT

- Selection Committee Minutes – 19 August 2025 – CONFIDENTIAL

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to the resolution of State Council in February 2002, the WALGA Selection Committee was established to oversee the selection process for Local Government vacancies on boards and committees.

The Selection Committee conducts a merit-based and transparent assessment process encompassing the principle of "best person for the job". Upon completion of the assessment of nominations for vacancies, the Selection Committee either endorses preferred candidates for appointment (under delegated authority) or makes advisory recommendations to State Council for ratification of preferred candidates.

COMMENT

There were two vacancies for the Selection Committee's consideration:

- WA Environmental Health Professional Review Board
- Local Health Analytical Authorities Committee

Nominations opened in early July and closed on 8 August.

Local Health Authorities Analytical Committee (LHAAC)

LHAAC was a readvertised vacancy due to no nominations received in the last round for June. The vacancy was for nominations from Metropolitan Local Government Officers and/or Elected Members. Following the close of the advertising period, two nominations

were received. Both were considered suitable. The Selection Committee resolved to recommend both (in order of preference) to the Director General for appointment.

Library Board of Western Australia

Minister McGurk requested nominations be submitted for consideration of appointment to the Library Board of WA to represent Local Governments in the Metropolitan area. The incumbent's term is due to expire. Nominees were also requested to demonstrate specific skills in their nominations by the Minister. A panel of names is required to be submitted for the Minister's consideration. Two nominations were received, and both were considered suitable by the Selection Committee. Nominations to the Library Board of Western Australia require State Council determination. The Selection Committee recommends to State Council that both nominations be put forward (in order of preference).

8.11 LGISWA INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT PANEL REPORT – CONFIDENTIAL

By Sam McLeod, Manager Commercial Services

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Chris Antonio

Seconded: Helen Sadler

That Ms Sarah Van Gent be appointed to the LGISWA Board as Independent Director for a three-year term, commencing on 1 January 2026.

RESOLUTION 060.4/2025

CARRIED

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Clause 5(i) of the LGISWA Corporate Governance Charter provides for a Recruitment Panel to undertake recruitment of potential appointees to the LGISWA Board for the consideration of State Council.
- Nominations have been sought to fill the vacancy arising with the expiration of the term of the current Board Chair, Mr Peter Forbes.
- From the thirty-five nominations received, the Panel shortlisted the top four candidates for interview based on their written nominations.
- Following a comparative assessment of the strengths and attributes of the four candidates, the Panel resolved unanimously to recommend Ms Sarah Van Gent for appointment given her extensive demonstrated skills and experience, particularly in relation to insurance, mutual schemes, audit, and board governance.

BACKGROUND

A vacancy on the LGISWA Board will arise on 1 January 2026 with the retirement of the current Chair, Peter Forbes. Mr Forbes is a very highly experienced and widely respected Board Chair, with extensive professional experience in mutuals, insurance, accounting, and board governance. To provide for a smooth transition, WALGA initiated the recruitment process in May.

It is convention for each Independent Board Director to serve as Chair on one of the LGISWA Board's Subcommittees (either the Finance and Audit or the Risk and Compliance Committee). It is also typical practice for one of the Board's Independent Directors to serve as Board Chair. For these reasons, the selection process aimed to specifically identify relevant, industry-specific skills, expertise, and leadership qualities.

To attract the widest possible set of candidates, the secretariat advertised the vacancy widely on Seek, LinkedIn, and through the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Nominations were received from thirty-five applicants. The Panel endorsed a short-list of four candidates for interview, based on an evaluation of their responses to the selection criteria. The Panel shortlisted nominees with specific consideration of applicants' knowledge of insurance or mutual schemes, and demonstrated experience as a Board or Committee Chair.

Pursuant to the LGISWA Corporate Governance Charter, the Panel members were:

- WALGA President, President Cr Karen Chappel
- WALGA Chief Executive Officer, Mr Nick Sloan
- LGISWA Chief Executive Officer, Mr James Sheridan

COMMENT

All four shortlisted candidates were assessed as being generally suitable for the position based on their written applications. Interviews of the shortlisted candidates were conducted on Wednesday, 30 July 2025.

The Panel unanimously agreed that Ms Van Gent was the most compelling interviewee for the following reasons.

- Ms Van Gent provided highly relevant and insightful responses to each question. For example, in discussion on Board roles Ms Van Gent provided highly relevant examples of her work in resolving complex strategic decisions at a Board level - both as a Board Director and professional. Accordingly, the Panel was highly confident that Ms Van Gent would make an effective contribution as a Board Director soon after appointment.
- Ms Van Gent demonstrated both extremely strong financial literacy, and the ability to present complex financial concepts and issues to a diverse range of stakeholders. The Panel considered that this ability would be particularly beneficial for engagement with LGISWA members, liaison with Scheme Management, and in supporting future Board Directors engage in strategic commercial issues.
- Ms Van Gent indicated an exemplary personal interest in the role, and a very strong commitment to Board Professional Development and networking. The Panel considered that this would be of value in supporting to Board performance and member engagement.
- Ms Van Gent asked highly relevant and engaging questions, including in relation to capital adequacy and the LGISWA Scheme's current and potential future regulatory and reporting contexts, which reflected strong knowledge and familiarity of issues facing mutual schemes.

Ms Van Gent provided professional and board references. When contacted, both referees were very positive and strongly endorsed her for appointment.

The Panel noted the extremely high calibre of all the shortlisted candidates, and the high standard of the full set of nominations received. The Panel acknowledged that each of the shortlisted candidates presented significant skills and experience relevant to the LGISWA Board, and would be suitable for appointment. However, the Panel considered that the skills, experience, and commitment demonstrated by Ms Van Gent made her the most suitable applicant to fill the vacancy arising from Mr Forbes' retirement.

For the reasons outlined above, the Panel unanimously recommends Ms Sarah Van Gent to State Council for appointment for the position of Independent Member on the LGISWA Board.

8.12 LGISWA BOARD MINUTES (11 JULY 2025) - CONFIDENTIAL

By Sam McLeod, Manager Commercial Services

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Phil Blight

Seconded: Chris Mitchell

That State Council note the Minutes of the LGISWA Board meeting held on 11 July 2025.

RESOLUTION 061.4/2025

CARRIED

9 POLICY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY TEAM REPORT

Presented by Policy Team Member, Laurene Bonza

NOTED

This Report provides an update on matters considered, since the last State Council meeting, by the Infrastructure Policy Team at its meetings held on 2 July and 4 August 2025.

1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION

Proposed policy positions in relation to active transport are included in the Agenda for decision (see [State Council Agenda item 8.6](#)).

2. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING

The Policy Team discussed and provided recommendations in relation to the following matters:

- Telecommunications policy and advocacy
 - Matters referred from Zones regarding mobile and broadband capacity, reliability and coverage.
 - Negotiations with Telstra, InfraCo, and the Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development regarding deploying generators to telecommunications sites with automatic transfer units (ATUs).
- Draft Community Infrastructure Advocacy Position.
- Parliamentary Inquiry into the Safety Regulation and penalties associated with the use of eRideables.
- Advocacy in response to Western Power delays in new connections and work on the electricity distribution network.
- Advocacy for accelerating the underground power and LED streetlight programs.

9.2 PEOPLE AND PLACE POLICY TEAM REPORT

Presented by Policy Team Chair, Phillip Blight

NOTED

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 9 July.

1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION

Advocacy Position Review

The Policy Team recommends that Health Advocacy Position 3.2 be rescinded ([State Council Agenda item 8.5](#)). This position has been superseded by recent revisions to Advocacy Position 3.2.1 regarding public health. Advocacy Positions can be viewed in the [WALGA Advocacy Position Manual](#).

The People and Place Policy Team also endorsed the proposed updates:

- Replace advocacy positions 3.7.2 Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund and 3.7.1 Community Infrastructure with a combined Community Infrastructure position ([State Council Agenda item 8.3](#)).
- Replace Advocacy Position 3.2.2 Regional Health Services with an updated Rural and Remote Health Services position ([State Council Agenda item 8.4](#)).

2. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING

The Policy Team noted the following items for noting in the July State Council Agenda, including:

Item 8.3	Public Library Agreement
Item 9.2	People and Place Policy Team Report
Item 10.4	WALGA Bushfire Management Roundtable
Item 11.1.4	Report on Key Activities, Policy Portfolio

3. PEOPLE AND PLACE POLICY TEAM MATTERS

Presentation by the Commissioner for Children and Young People

Commissioner for Children and Young People, Ms Jacqueline McGowan-Jones, attended the People and Place Policy Team meeting and provided an overview of the Commission's work and discussed matters relating to the Gacoyne Zone's resolution.

Gascoyne Zone Resolution – Indigenous Land Use Agreements for Towns/Cities

The Policy Team considered and considered the Gascoyne Zone resolution on Indigenous Land Use Agreements and agreed that WALGA will:

1. *Request to participate in the Review of Native Title and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Processes in WA.*
2. *Engage with the new Native Future Acts Unit once established within the Department of Premier and Cabinet.*
3. *Continue to raise the concerns of the sector in relation to challenges navigating native title and Aboriginal party engagement through ongoing advocacy.*

Gascoyne and Murchison Zone Resolutions on Youth Disengagement and Social Cohesion

The Policy Team considered Gascoyne and Murchison Zones' resolution regarding youth disengagement and social cohesion and agreed that WALGA will:

1. *Initially, raise these issues with the Hon Matthew Swinbourne MLA, Minister for Community Services, and the Hon Hannah Beazley BA MLA, Minister for Local Government, Youth and Gascoyne.*
2. *Assist Zones to facilitate meetings with relevant State Government regional ministers.*

Team Updates

The People and Place Policy Team received updates on the:

- actions out of the Emergency Management CEO Roundtable.
- WALGA Local Government Emergency Management Forum ([Sector Update available here](#)).

The Community team also provided the Policy Team with an update on key State Budget announcements including:

- \$104 million to expand the Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH) program;
- \$101 million (to 2029-30) from the Housing Enabling Infrastructure Fund to provide water, wastewater and power infrastructure for the development of new residential land and housing (allocated for 18 water projects and three power projects);
- no long-term commitment to increase the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF) or arts and cultural infrastructure;
- \$828.9 million over 2024-25 and 2025-26 on hospital services, including \$60.5 million to expand the WA Virtual ED (WAVED) initiative; and
- no changes to public library funding.

9.3 GOVERNANCE POLICY TEAM REPORT

Presented by Policy Team Chair, Patrick Hall

NOTED

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 have not had a meeting since the last State Council meeting in July 2025.

The Policy Team met on Monday, 11 August to consider WALGA's submission to the Department Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety on their consultation process on draft regulations and a draft Ministerial order to give effect to Communications Agreements. The submission was then circulated to State Councillors for endorsement via Flying Agenda/Minute.

9.4 ENVIRONMENT POLICY TEAM REPORT

Presented by Policy Team Chair, Les Price

NOTED

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.

The Environment Policy Team have not had a meeting since the last State Council meeting in July 2025.

9.5 MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL (MWAC) REPORT

Presented by Chair, Karen Wheatland

NOTED

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 9 July.

1. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL DECISION

Nil.

2. MATTERS FOR STATE COUNCIL NOTING

Nil.

3. MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MATTERS

MWAC considered:

- Proposed actions for the Waste Strategy Road Map: feedback was requested from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation on some of the actions in the Draft Roadmap.
- How to encourage closed loop use of FOGO derived organic material. The focus of the discussion was on key advocacy priorities including:
 - ensuring the acceptable levels of PFAS are identified;
 - testing requirements for FOGO derived products; and
 - consistent and concise list of FOGO accepted materials.
- Polyphagous shot-hole borer and the waste management considerations relating to long term management.

MWAC received updates on:

- Review of policy statements and better practice documents
- Household Hazardous Waste Program
- Household Hazardous Waste Battery Campaign
- Launch of the Better Practice Waste Management for Public Events Guideline
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Authorised Officer Training
- Emergency waste management plan template
- Discussion regarding Local Government waste fees and charges.

MOTION

Moved: Michael Dudek

Seconded: Haeden Miles

That State Council note:

1. all Policy Team and Committee Reports; and
2. that Policy Team and Committee Agendas be distributed with sufficient time for Members to consider the information.

LOST

RESOLUTION

Moved: Helen Sadler

Seconded: Phil Blight

That all Policy Team and Committee Reports be noted.

RESOLUTION 062.4/2025

CARRIED

10 MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

10.1 POLYPHAGOUS SHOT-HOLE BORER (PSHB): TRANSITION TO MANAGEMENT

By Rebecca Brown, Policy Manager Environment and Waste

NOTED

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- On 18 June 2025, the State Government [announced](#) the National Management Group's (NMG) decision that it was no longer technically feasible to eradicate Polyphagous Shot-hole borer (PSHB) from Western Australia and the PSHB would transition to long-term management.
- The Transition to Management (T2M) phase commenced on 1 July, and the long-term management phase will commence on 1 January 2027.
- A national T2M Plan will be in place by 1 September and workshops with Local Government, industry and community will follow.
- Costs for the T2M phase will be shared between the Australian Government and all States and Territories.
- The T2M phase aims to slow the spread of PSHB and allow time to build management knowledge through research, as well as develop a long-term management approach in collaboration with Local Government, industry and the community.
- The T2M phase will result in changes in the approach to the management of infested trees. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's (DPIRD) priority is to remove amplifier trees in Zone B and outside the Quarantine Area (QA), with a decrease in treatment activities and surveillance in Zone A.
- The State Government provisioned \$26.5 million for PSHB response in the 2025-26 State Budget. DPIRD has indicated \$2.5 million will be provided to Local Governments in the inner QA for tree management during the T2M period, with details to be determined in consultation with the sector.
- \$2.17 million has been allocated to fund three PSHB research projects through the WA Agricultural Research Collaboration, focused on early detection, treatment and management options.
- WALGA will continue to reiterate to Government that the expectation of Local Government is that the intent of the T2M and Management phase is that the spread of PSHB will be stopped and there will be sufficient and sustained research and funding to manage this pest long term.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This item relates to the following [advocacy positions](#):

4.4 Post Border Biosecurity

Western Australia's economy, environment and the community are facing increasing challenges posed by already established and new pests, weeds and diseases. Local Government has a significant role in biosecurity management, as land managers and regulators, and therefore has an interest in ensuring that Western Australia's biosecurity system, including control of declared pests, is effective and appropriately resourced.

WALGA considers significant changes to the operation of the State's biosecurity system, including the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007, are required to ensure these risks can be managed now and into the future.

To be effective the Western Australian biosecurity system must:

- 1. Take a transparent approach to the notion of 'shared responsibility' by ensuring that:*
 - a. The respective roles and responsibilities of Commonwealth, State and Local Government, industry, landholders, community groups and individuals are agreed and clearly articulated; and*
 - b. There is improved pest management on State Government managed land and a formalised structure for State Government agencies with responsibilities for biosecurity management to work together and coordinate their activities.*
- 2. Be underpinned by a strategic framework, developed in collaboration with stakeholders, that:*
 - a. Establishes priorities for biosecurity threats in geographically defined regions, sets measurable targets and guides investment in biosecurity activities; and*
 - b. Is regularly evaluated and reported on.*
- 3. Have a greater focus on environmental biosecurity, through the increased recognition and management of pest species that have significant ecological impacts.*
- 4. Be adequately, sustainably and equitably funded:*
 - a. The appropriateness and effectiveness of the Declared Pest Rate (DPR) and Recognised Biosecurity Group (RBG) model as key mechanisms for the management of widespread and established declared pests should be reviewed and alternate mechanisms considered;*
 - b. Increased and more equitable distribution of funding for every step in the biosecurity continuum and adequate resourcing for all stakeholders, including Local Government; and*
 - c. The provision of funding for declared pest management in metropolitan areas.*
- 5. Ensure that the criteria and process for listing of declared pests is evidence-based, timely and transparent.*
- 6. Have an increased emphasis on compliance through education and enforcement activity, to ensure land managers are aware of their legislative responsibilities and are supported to implement biosecurity actions.*
- 7. Facilitate the use of new technologies, strategic monitoring, and the establishment of data management systems to inform biosecurity investment decisions and support adaptive management.*
- 8. Improve the community's understanding, awareness and action in relation to biosecurity to assist with threat surveillance and timely response to incursions.*

4.7 Polyphagous shot-hole borer

The Local Government sector:

- 1. Recognises the significant threat the Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB) represents to the growth and retention of urban forests;*
- 2. Recognises the importance of shared surveillance by government, industry and community to assist with eradication efforts; and*
- 3. Advocates for State Government funding for trees lost due to PSHB and to ameliorate the long term urban canopy impact.*

BACKGROUND

PSHB was first detected in East Fremantle in September 2021. Since then, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) has been leading a nationally funded and coordinated biosecurity response focused on eradication. On 19 June 2025, the [State Government announced](#) that the National Management Group had determined that the eradication of PSHB was no longer technically feasible and that the decision had been made to transition to long-term management.

The PSHB Transition to Management (T2M) phase commenced on 1 July 2025, and a national T2M Plan will be in place by 1 September 2025. Costs for the T2M phase will be shared between the Australian Government and all States and Territories under the national cost sharing arrangement. The T2M phase aims to slow the spread of PSHB and allow time to build management knowledge through research, as well as develop a long-term management approach in collaboration with Local Government, industry and the community. During the T2M PSHB Quarantine Area (QA), restrictions will remain in place. The T2M phase will result in changes in the approach to the management of infested trees. DPIRD's priority is to remove amplifier trees in Zone B and outside the Quarantine Area (QA), with a decrease in treatment activities and surveillance in Zone A. There will be a continued focus on slowing the spread of PSHB outside the (QA) through continued surveillance and high-risk tree management in Zone B (the outer zone).

The overall quantum of funding for the T2M under the national cost sharing arrangement has not been made public. The State Government provisioned \$26.5 million for PSHB response in the 2025-26 State Budget. DPIRD has indicated \$2.5 million will be provided to Local Governments in the inner QA for tree management during the transition to management period, with details to be determined in consultation with the sector. \$2.17 million has been provided through the WA Agricultural Research Collaboration for three PSHB research projects being led by Curtin University, Murdoch University and the University of Western Australia, focused on early detection, treatment and management options.

Long-term PSHB management will commence on 1 January 2027. At the conclusion of the transition to management period, the national cost sharing arrangement will end. Under current policy settings, responsibility for long term PSHB management will then fall to the State Government, and it is likely that Local Governments and private landholders will be responsible for management of PSHB trees on their land.

COMMENT

The failure of the eradication response and move to long-term management will have significant implications for Local Governments and the community. As indicated in WALGA's [media statement](#), effective long-term PSHB management will require a significant, sustained investment from the State Government, including for Local Government.

WALGA continues to reiterate Local Government's expectation that it will be included in the development of the T2M arrangements and long-term management plan. WALGA met with the Hon Jackie Jarvis, Minister for Agriculture and Food, on 29 July 2025 to express the concerns of the sector, in particular:

- That the objective of T2M and long-term management must be to prevent the spread of PSHB beyond the QA.
- There must be further government investment into research to develop effective long-term control (and potentially eradication) measures.

- That the issues identified with the eradication response, including funding, transparency and data sharing, delays in tree removal, a lack of public awareness, the inability to undertake research and support for Local Government must be addressed going forward.
- The need for reform of the State's biosecurity system, noting the Government is yet to respond to the recommendations of the independent review of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (which have not been released publicly).
- The need for reform of national arrangements to better manage biosecurity threats such as PSHB that cannot be eradicated but pose a significant national threat to biodiversity and industry without a long-term management response.

WALGA is actively engaging with the sector, DPIRD and other stakeholders to ensure the T2M meets the needs of Local Government. On 9 July 2025 WALGA hosted a webinar with DPIRD Chief Plant Biosecurity Officer, Dr Vincent Lanoiselet attended by over 100 Local Government officers and Elected Members. WALGA is also undertaking targeted engagement with Local Government in and around the QA to gain their insights and requirements for the T2M and beyond.

WALGA is also a member of the WA Tree Recovery Advisory Group, which last met on 4 July to discuss the funding to Local Governments impacted by PSHB through round 1 of the Local Government Grant Program, which provides \$7.2 million over four years for replanting initiatives and closed on 7 July 2025. Applicants will be advised on the outcome of their applications in September 2025. The WA Government also launched the WA Tree Recovery [Residential Rebate Program](#) and [Treebate Program](#) on 26 July 2025.

10.2 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SURVEY

By Sam Kennedy, Senior Policy Advisor – Emergency Management

NOTED

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA conducts a biennial Emergency Management Survey of Local Governments to better understand the priorities and challenges faced by the sector, and to seek feedback on key issues to inform WALGA policy development and advocacy.
- Previous emergency management surveys were conducted in 2019, 2021 and, most recently, in 2023.
- The 2025 Emergency Management Survey is anticipated to open in September.
- The Survey will be sent directly to all Local Governments and will remain open for 4–6 weeks.
- Anticipated focus areas for the 2025 Survey include:
 - Local Government Bushfire Brigade Management;
 - transitioning from response-focused to holistic emergency management;
 - cultural heritage considerations in emergency management; and
 - reform of the Local Government Grants Scheme (LGGS).
- The 2025 Survey findings will be presented to State Council and shared with the sector and key stakeholders.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This submission is relevant to the suite of [WALGA's emergency management advocacy positions, 8.1 – 8.11](#), and is aligned to the Influence and Support pillars of WALGA's 2025-2029 Strategic Plan.

BACKGROUND

102 Local Governments completed the 2023 survey (a 75% response rate). The 2023 Survey generated valuable insights that shaped WALGA's Election Priorities and key submissions, including on the revised State Hazard Plan Fire, the State Recovery Framework, and the Commonwealth Review of Natural Disaster Funding. WALGA is collaborating with key stakeholders to refine focus areas for 2025, including through the WALGA Local Government Emergency Management Advisory Group.

COMMENT

The WALGA biennial Emergency Management Survey is an important opportunity to identify and quantify emergency management challenges across the Local Government sector. It is the only survey of its kind undertaken by a Local Government Association in Australia.

The 2025 Survey results will be used to inform WALGA's emergency management advocacy and submissions and to elevate the profile of Local Government emergency management activities and responsibilities.

10.3 WALGA 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FORUM

By Sam Kennedy, Senior Policy Advisor - Emergency Management

NOTED

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The WALGA 2025 Local Government Emergency Management Forum was held on 17 June 2025 at the City of Stirling.
- With the theme *Local Government Future Proof: Preparing today for tomorrow's challenges*, the Forum provided an opportunity for participants to enhance capabilities, build insights, and share strategies for emergency management.
- 148 people attended the Forum, with representation from 41 Local Governments, alongside key stakeholders from State and Federal Government, industry and not-for-profit organisations.
- A Sector Update on the Forum has been circulated to WALGA members, attached.

ATTACHMENT

[Sector Update - WALGA 2025 Local Government Emergency Management Forum](#)

BACKGROUND

The 2025 Local Government Emergency Management Forum was hosted by WALGA on 17 June 2025 at the City of Stirling. WALGA had not hosted an emergency management focused forum in many years. The decision to host the 2025 Forum reflects the critical role that Local Governments have in emergency management, and the importance of sharing leading information and contemporary challenges to continue to strengthen emergency management capabilities and partnerships.

COMMENT

Following the Forum, participants were invited to complete a post-event survey. Participants rated the forum's content as highly informative and engaging, with over 90 per cent of respondents expressing their intention to attend future WALGA events. Additionally, respondents highlighted the forum's networking value, rating it highly for facilitating new connections and strengthening existing relationships in emergency management. Participants have also provided suggestions for future forum topics, including: strategies to maximise the effectiveness of Local Emergency Management Committees; discussions on change management and volunteer management/engagement; and sharing lessons learned from recovery funding processes.

WALGA intends that the Forum will become a regular event.

11 ORGANISATION REPORTS

11.1 KEY ACTIVITY REPORTS

11.1.1 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, ADVOCACY PORTFOLIO

By Rachel Horton, Executive Manager Advocacy

NOTED

The Advocacy Portfolio comprises the following work units:

- *Marketing*
- *Communications*
- *Media*
- *Events*

The following outlines the activities of the Advocacy Portfolio since the July 2025 State Council meeting.

1. MARKETING

Local Government Election Campaign

Planning is well underway for the Local Government Election Campaign with the creative approach and media strategy endorsed by LGIRS. A statewide campaign has been designed to launch in August, with all creative directing to a bespoke microsite. The objectives are twofold, to both encourage diversity of candidate nominations and voter participation.

Event marketing

In addition to digital marketing to promote WALGA events, numerous print, animation and signage assets have been developed to support functions throughout June and July.

The Emergency Management Forum marketing campaign delivered strong results, with targeted eDMs and sector newsletters driving 40% of the campaign traffic to the event page and resulting in registrations exceeding target.

A segmented approach was taken for the Transport and Roads forum with three different messages sent to three audience segments, with tailored content to each group's interest. This had a direct positive effect with one eDM reaching a 16% click rate, far surpassing the usual benchmark of 4%.

Sophisticated assets were produced for the Local Government Awards including premium certificates, custom animated digital slides and a high-quality Honours commemorative booklet.

Ongoing Battery Waste Disposal Campaign

Following positive engagement, WALGA and DWER have agreed to extend the Battery Waste Disposal campaign for another two months. The campaign has already reached 1.28 million Meta accounts and led close to 10,000 Western Australians to use the tool to find their nearest drop-off point.

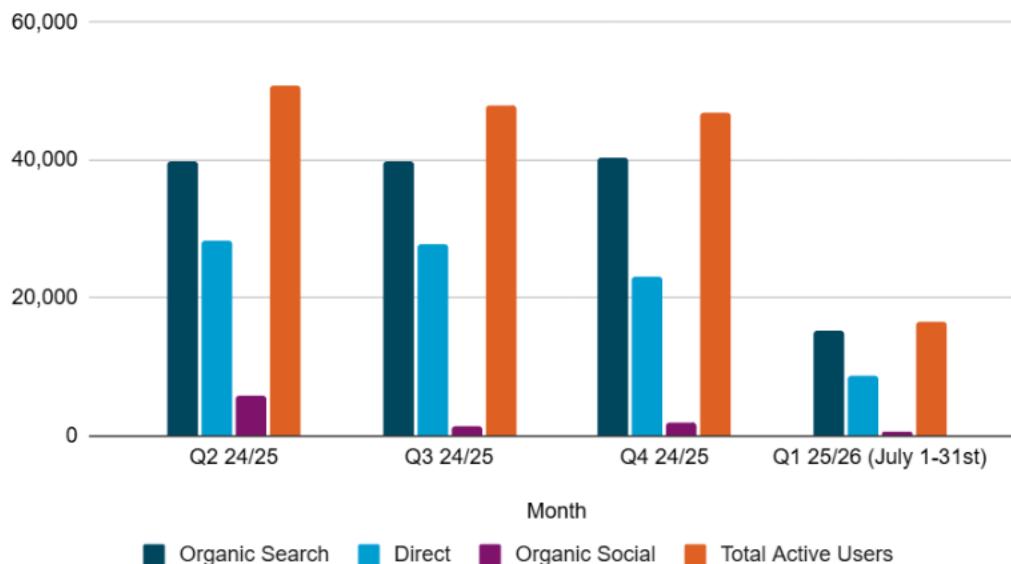
Website

NB: Partial Period: 1–31 July 2025

With one month of Q1 2025/26 complete, early indicators suggest the website performance is on track to achieve results similar to Q1 24/25, where Organic Search reached 53,000 sessions and Total Active Users were approximately 45,000. This equates to an average of 15,000 unique visitors a month to the WALGA website.

Organic Search remains the strongest contributor which is a testament to the relevant content on the WALGA site. (Google naturally ranking WALGA content above other sites.) Direct traffic is performing steadily and we anticipate further uplift as planned marketing activities roll out.

Quarterly Web Traffic by Source



Member Portal

The Member Portal project is in the scoping phase with three WALGA workshops held by the external partner, WP Consulting, and one with the sector. The next phase is for the supplier to develop a scope of work along with a quote for the design and build.

2. COMMUNICATIONS

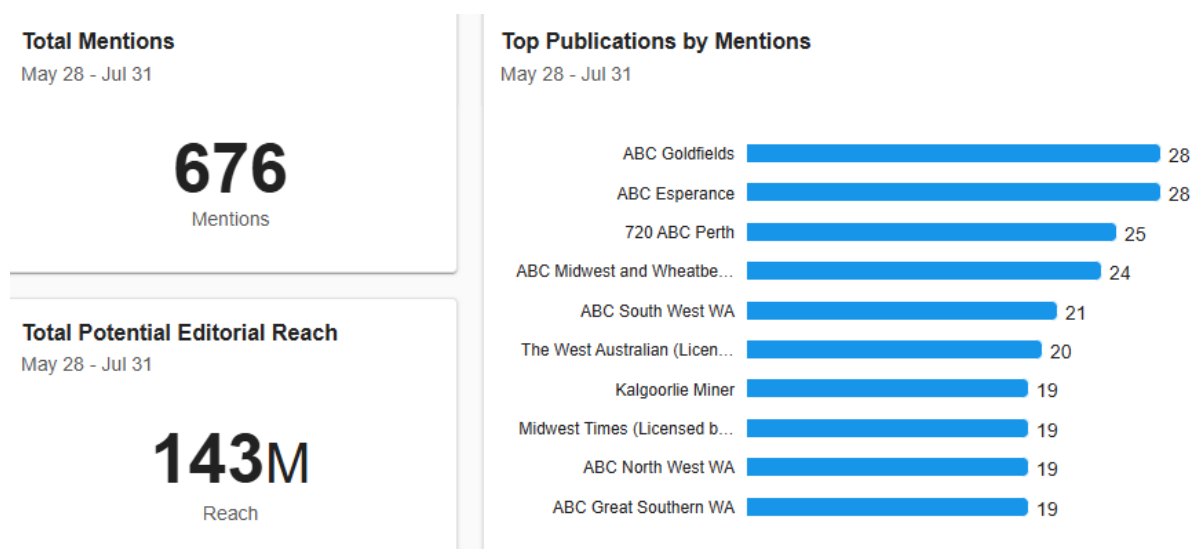
Multiple internal and external communications were prepared throughout the reporting period.

- 10 LG Direct weekly newsletters distributed to over 2,000 Elected Members and senior staff
- Development of WALGA's Western Councillor Magazine
- WALGA's Quarterly Economic Briefing
- State Budget Analysis 2025-26.

3. MEDIA

Following proactive and responsive PR there were 676 mentions of WALGA and President Karen Chappel AM JP between Wednesday, 28 May – Thursday, 31 July 2025. This is an increase from 5 mentions a day in the previous reporting period to 9 mentions a day.

The majority of mentions were from ABC Goldfields, closely followed by ABC Esperance and ABC Perth Radio.



Earned Media

WALGA has received 43 requests for comment across print, radio, television and online media, which is double the number of queries from the last period. Queries varied greatly across policy areas and legislation from Tree recovery funding to PetsWA. rates, DAPs and SAR ruling on LPP.

All of these opportunities highlight WALGA's position as a recognised and trusted voice on Local Government matters.

Top Advocacy mainstream media mentions by reach:

- Library advocacy – 16.8m
- PetsWA – 14.7m
- Renewable Energy – 1m

Media Releases:

WALGA released nine proactive media statements regarding Governance, Renewable Energy, Planning, Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer, coastal erosion and the Local Government Awards.

- [WALGA responds to commentary regarding Auditor General's Report on Local Government Management of Purchasing Cards](#) – 5 June 2025
- [WALGA welcomes Draft Guideline on Community Benefits for Renewable Energy Projects and continues to advocate for Local Government involvement](#) – 12 June 2025

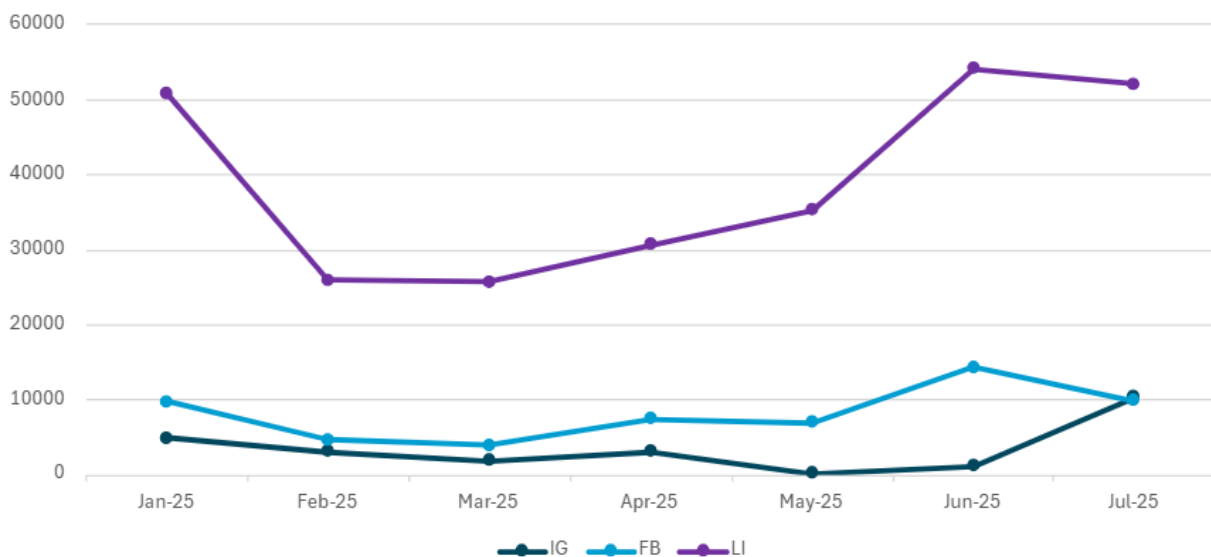
- [WALGA response to State Budget 2025-26](#) – 19 June 2025
- [WALGA welcomes State Government's R-Code Review](#) – 19 June 2025
- [WALGA disappointed as Polyphagous Shot-hole Borer response transitions to management phase](#) – 19 June 2025
- [WALGA releases Renewable Energy Community Benefits and Engagement Guide](#) – 8 July 2025
- [Supreme Court decision supports critical role of Local Government](#) – 10 July 2025
- [A celebration of excellence at WALGA's 2025 Local Government Awards](#) – 20 July 2025
- [WALGA welcomes CoastWA grants and calls on State Government to take greater action to address coastal hazards](#) – 23 July 2025

Social Media

Meta is no longer tracking overall engagement hence the Advocacy portfolio is now utilising post impressions as a key performance indicator for social media until Meta releases new metrics. Engagement is preferable as it indicates the level of interaction followers are making with content, however due to the rise in video content and reels Meta is shifting its metrics towards reach and conversions to measure success.

It is clear to see throughout the year that LinkedIn far outperforms Facebook and Instagram in terms of impressions, however this is not surprising given the purpose of the platform. Sponsored content on Facebook and Instagram would address impressions however reduces credibility with the audience.

Social Media Post Impressions



4. EVENTS

A significant number of events were delivered throughout June and July 2025 including:

- Renewable Energy Forum – 12 June
- Elected Member Alumni Sundowner (Inaugural) – 12 June
- Emergency Management Forum (Inaugural) – 17 June
- ALGA NGA Booth & Sundowner – 23 June
- Local Government Awards – 19 July
- People and Culture Seminar – 25 July
- Certificate III Virtual Graduation – 29 July

Emergency Management Forum

The inaugural Local Government Emergency Management Forum was a great success with over 140 registrations. Delegates provided overwhelmingly positive feedback, particularly highlighting keynote speakers Dr Jill Charker (NEMA) and James Ashley (BoM) for their insight and relevance. Strong interest was expressed in attending similar forums in the future, indicating demand for this type of focused, sector-specific event.

Local Government Awards

The Local Government Awards was a sold-out event with 240 guests in attendance.

The event provided an opportunity to formally recognise outstanding individuals and teams, with winners celebrating their achievements alongside colleagues, family and friends. Attended by the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Hannah Beazley MLA and Director General Lanie Chopping, the event also gained media attention.

Feedback continued to support the decision to host the Awards as a stand-alone event, allowing adequate time to appropriately acknowledge award recipients.

Planning is now underway for the following upcoming events:

- Transport & Roads Forums (14 August)
- Local Government Convention (22-24 September)
- Showcase in Pixels (year-end)
- WALGA Wrap (year-end).

11.1.2 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE PORTFOLIO

By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure

NOTED

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 last State Council meeting.

1. ROADS

Transport and Roads Forum

Finalising arrangements for the 2025 Transport and Roads Forum held in August was a key activity during the reporting period. Events such as this provide an opportunity for Local Government leaders to engage with government policy makers and key stakeholders to influence future directions.

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

Work progressed on two new projects: an investigation into technologies for best practice road condition assessments and data collection; and the development of a road safety rating tool for intersections.

Condition Assessment of Roads of Regional Significance

Field work for the road condition survey in the Kimberley region was completed. The final report remains outstanding. When received, this will mark completion of condition assessments of all Local Government Roads of Regional Significance in WA, outside of the metropolitan region.

Road Rail Interface Agreements

A model pro forma agreement between Local Governments and Arc Infrastructure has been drafted and agreed. A memorandum outlining what has changed between the old and new agreements, the main issues of contention, their resolution, and other key updates was provided to all Local Governments hosting Arc Infrastructure operated rail in July 2025. Arc Infrastructure has commenced providing proposed agreements to Local Governments.

Rail Interface Agreements have been required since 2010 with the details now set out under the *Rail Safety National Law (WA) 2024*.

2. ROAD FUNDING

Multi-Criteria Assessment (MCA) Model Revisions

The WALGA Infrastructure Team is working with the Regional Road Groups to harmonise the MCA models used by Regional Road Groups to prioritise projects for Road Project Grant funding. The proposed changes to the MCA models reflect the new focus areas of the State Roads Funds to Local Governments Agreement, while still allowing for flexibility to recognise the significant differences between regions. All the Regional Road Groups have commenced the MCA revision process, with the process in the Gascoyne, Great Southern, and SW region now complete. Significant progress has been made in each of the other regions.

3. TRANSPORT

Active Transport and Micromobility-Discussion Paper

Building on the outcomes of the two stakeholder workshops and the associated discussion paper, WALGA has developed a series of proposed policy positions to support Active Transport initiatives across the Local Government sector. These draft positions reflect the key insights and priorities identified through engagement and will form the basis for WALGA's ongoing policy development and advocacy in this area.

Aviation and Airports

The Association met with officers from the Department of Transport to discuss the budget outcomes for State investment in regional Local Government airports through the Regional Airports Development Scheme (RADS) and other programs. The Department is committed to regular pavement condition monitoring to inform long term planning and State investment priorities. Local Government managed airports including Eucla, Onslow, Kununurra Carnarvon and Fitzroy Crossing were identified for funding in the 2025-26 budget.

4. ASSET MANAGEMENT

Road Assets and Expenditure Report Project

A project to identify options to improve data collection, interpretation and presentation of information concerning Local Government road assets and expenditure progressed. A study detailing the current processes used to develop the Road Asset and Expenditure Report was completed and work is ongoing to prepare tender materials and commence the project to deliver a new, contemporary process. This phase will include the development of a database, reporting interface, and dashboard.

Review of the WALGA Road Visual Condition Assessment Manual

The WALGA Road Visual Condition Manual was published in 2016. Significant technology advances and stakeholder feedback have triggered the need for a review and update. Consultants, CivilSE, have been appointed to undertake the review, which will include comprehensive consultation with users, and preparing a second edition. This manual provides important support to Local Government road managers and provides the framework for being able to understand the condition of the road network statewide.

5. UTILITIES

Western Power

The Association focussed on engaging with the senior management and Distribution Connection Services teams at Western Power, seeking reduced delivery times for projects that require work to be undertaken by the electricity distributor. Long wait times for designs, quotes and construction are delaying a wide range of road projects and other developments.

A Local Government officers forum was strongly supported and provided information about ways to use the Western Power portal to monitor projects and communicate with Western Power. A commitment was made to re-introduce the option for Local Governments to directly engage consultants and contractors to do a trial of thirty streetlighting projects from September, with the view to potentially expanding this if successful. Western Power have engaged additional consultant and contractor resources to improve turnaround times. However, no targets for particular types of work were agreed.

Streetlighting

An initial meeting between the Economic Regulation Authority, Synergy and Western Power was held to discuss high level changes to the streetlight services structure that could be considered for the next Western Power regulatory Access Arrangement (AA6) commencing in 2028.

The Association has been advised that engagement with Local Governments regarding the next tranche of the Proactive Streetlight Replacement Program and revision of the Streetlight Asset Management Plan cannot proceed until a public announcement of the program by the Minister for Energy. This timing is unknown.

Telecommunications

Discussions continue with Department Primary Industry and Regional Development, Telstra and InfraCo concerning the processes and agreements to deploy back-up power generators to telecommunications facilities equipped with automatic transfer units (ATU). Defining practical arrangements and assigning risk are key considerations.

Association staff met with advisers to the Federal Minister for Communications, Hon Anika Wells MP, to follow up submissions made to the 2024 Regional Telecommunications Review, current Government programs and the commitments made during the Federal election campaign.

6. ROAD SAFETY

Road Safety Council

The Road Safety Council met on 14 March and 13 June 2025. The Council's Communiques can viewed at [Road Safety Council Meeting Communiques](#)

RoadWise Recognised

Seventy-five Local Governments are registered RoadWise Councils. The RoadWise Recognised Advisory Committee met in May and August 2025. Points, which signify road safety actions undertaken, were considered for 72 (95%) of RoadWise Councils who together recorded more than 200 activities each quarter. The Points that were allocated reflected actions delivered across the different areas of the [RoadWise Framework](#). The spread of activity demonstrates how holistic the approach to road safety across

governance, management, and operations has been and is acknowledged with the awarding of RoadWise Recognised Ribbons, up to a maximum of five. In this way, the allocation of Points and Ribbons is designed to encourage local road safety toward better and ultimately best practice.

At the 2025 WALGA Local Government Awards on 19 July, 10 RoadWise Councils; the shires of Broome, Capel, Dowerin, Dundas, Exmouth, Jerramungup, Quairading, along with the Town of Claremont and Cities of Greater Geraldton and Karratha were acknowledged for achieving the largest increase in level of activity recorded for their regional road group and the Shire of Dowerin received the WA RoadWise Council perpetual trophy for achieving the largest increase in level of activity recorded across all RoadWise Councils. The 2025 Ribbon Status for all RoadWise Councils was revealed with five RoadWise Councils, the Shire of Harvey, Shire of Manjimup, City of Rockingham, City of South Perth and Shire of Wyalkatchem receiving a Five-Ribbon status. A full breakdown of the 2025 Ribbons can be viewed [here](#).

11.1.3 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, MEMBER SERVICES PORTFOLIO

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services

NOTED

The Member Services Portfolio comprises the following work units:

- *Association and Corporate Governance*
- *Commercial Services*
- *Commercial Development and Management (Preferred Supplier Program)*
- *Employee Relations*
- *Governance and Procurement*
- *Training*

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

1. ASSOCIATION AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

2025 WALGA Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The 2025 WALGA AGM will be held on Tuesday, 23 September at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre as part of the Local Government Convention. Attendance at the AGM is free for all Local Government Elected Members and officers, however registration is essential.

Each Member Local Government is entitled to be represented by two Voting Delegates at the AGM. Local Government CEOs have been sent a link to register their delegates. For further information, please visit the [WALGA website](#).

2. COMMERCIAL

Following completion of a new round of PSP tenders, approximately 120 new Preferred Suppliers have been added to the WALGA supplier lists. Details are maintained as current on the [Preferred Supplier Directory](#).

PSP development work is being undertaken to enhance the scope of the Professional Services Panel.

A project to tender to Aboriginal Business and enhance the PSP supplier options on the WALGA program is being advanced.

A project to support the procurement of ERP and Council Business Systems through the WALGA PSP is near completion. Significant new resources to support the scoping, quotation and contracting processes will be available.

The Energy Project is exploring a new Demand Side Management opportunity and also enhancing reporting capabilities.

A legal review to update the Member Contract Conditions for the PSP contract templates has commenced.

ARENA/EV Projects

The ARENA project continues to progress through a reporting and knowledge-sharing phase. There are no significant matters to update.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Project

The Sector AI Readiness Assessment is now nearing completion.

The Strategy Group and Cygence have delivered several detailed draft reports, set to be reviewed over coming weeks.

The initial findings illustrate significant variation across the sector, with some Local Governments on the leading edge of developing software integrating new use cases for AI. Some findings for the sector and WALGA's internal readiness indicate common strengths and areas for capability-building.

Following review and finalisation, WALGA will report findings back to the sector.

3. EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

WALGA ER continues to represent the sector in a number of applications in the WA Industrial Relations Commission (WAIRC) including:

Applications CICS 5, 8 and 9 of 2023 - Union demarcation dispute

Application IAC 2 of 2025 - Industrial Appeal Court appeal

These applications relate to a dispute over coverage of Local Government employees between three unions, the Western Australian Municipal, Administrative, Clerical and Services Union of Employees (WASU), Local Government, Racing and Cemeteries Employees Union (LGRCEU) and the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union of Workers (CFMEUW).

The matter has had 20 hearing days to date in July and October 2024. WASU, LGRCEU and WALGA completed their cases with the exception of one WALGA witness (unavailable during that time). The CFMEUW evidence is still to be completed. A further five weeks has been listed from late October 2025.

During the hearing in October 2024 the CFMEUW made a number of applications:

- The first application was to dismiss the matter, which the Commission rejected and dismissed.
- The second application was for discovery of documents from WALGA and the WASU, which the Commission ordered and WALGA and WASU complied with. WALGA and WASU have claimed privilege over these documents (**Privilege Claim**).
- A further application for discovery of documents from WALGA, WASU and the LGRCEU. In response the WASU, LGRCEU and WALGA applied to dismiss the CFMEUW's second application for production of documents. This was dismissed by the CICS on 26 March 2025 (**Dismissal Decision**).

The CFMEUW have lodged an appeal to the Industrial Appeal Court (**IAC**) against the Dismissal Decision (IAC 2/2025). Programming orders have been issued but a hearing date

has not been set and is unlikely to be before November 2025. The IAC is comprised of three WA Supreme Judges.

The Privilege Claim was heard by the CICS as an interlocutory matter on 28 May 2025. The CICS issued a decision on 11 July 2025, upholding the claims of legal professional privilege and accordingly no orders for production of these documents will occur.

The various applications for production of documents by the CFMEUW and to dismiss the matter have caused significant delays to the substantive matter in this case and result in continued uncertainty in the Local Government sector generally as to the CFMEUW's coverage and role.

Application APPL 164 of 2024

An application was made by the WASU through s80BH of the *Industrial Relations Act 1979* (WA) (IR Act) to be named to the Local Government Industrial Award – Industrial Agreement (LGIA-IA) which is an instrument that transitioned to the State Industrial Relations system. If WASU is named to the LGIA-IA it is then able to take action to enforce the instrument, but more importantly the WASU could 'retire' it under s. 41(7) of the IR Act and the state awards would then apply.

Sixty Local Governments were named to APPL 164 of 2024 and WALGA directly represented the Shire of Dundas (lead Local Government) as their industrial agent in this matter and assisted other named Local Governments.

The matter was heard on 13 May 2025. The Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS) on behalf of the Minister for Industrial Relations applied and was granted leave to intervene in the hearing of this matter. The position put forward by the Minister was consistent with WALGA's position.

The decision was delivered on 23 June 2025, finding that:

- Each Local Government has its own separate industrial agreement with the same terms as the LGIA.
- WASU's application was misconceived, as no single multi-employer agreement exists.
- To be named as a party, WASU must apply individually in respect of each LGIA-NSI.

On 26 June 2025, the Commission dismissed WASU's application. This decision provides important clarity on the structure of industrial instruments post-transition, reinforcing the enterprise-level focus of the WA industrial relations framework.

4. GOVERNANCE AND PROCUREMENT

Communications Agreements

The Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS) is inviting feedback on draft regulations and orders that would require Local Governments to establish a Communications Agreement.

WALGA provided a Discussion Paper and sought feedback from Members to assist develop a sector-wide submission. WALGA's consultation closed on 28 July.

The Governance Policy Team will meet in early August to consider WALGA's draft submission, prior to it being considered by State Council as a Flying Minute.

The LGIRS consultation closes on 22 August and Local Governments are encouraged to provide submissions direct.

Local Government Elections

Working Group:

WALGA continues to represent Members' interests in an Elections Working Group convened by LGIRS), and which includes the WA Electoral Commission. The Working Group supports the planning and conduct of elections.

Public Notice Program:

WALGA is once again coordinating the Public Notices Program for the 2025 Local Government Elections. This Program is designed to support Local Governments who have not declared the WA Electoral Commission responsible for the conduct of their election in meeting public notice requirements for the upcoming elections. This program supports 10 Class 3 and Local Governments.

Candidate briefings:

WALGA, together with LGIRS and the WA Electoral Commission, will host a Statewide Elections Candidate Information Webinar on Monday, 18 August from 6:00pm, ahead of the opening of nominations for the 2025 Local Government Elections. For details and registration, please visit the [WALGA website](#).

In addition to the webinar, WALGA is delivering local candidate briefing presentations. As of 31 July, one session has been held in Mount Magnet. A further 12 presentations are scheduled or pending confirmation throughout August, covering both metropolitan and regional locations.

Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees – EOI

WALGA is seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced persons to be included in a Pool from which Local Governments may select persons for appointment to their Local Government's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee in the roles of:

- Independent Presiding Member
- Independent Deputy of the Presiding Member
- Independent Deputy Presiding Member (optional)

The Pool will be available to all Local Governments, enabling the Local Government to identify potential candidates, evaluate credentials, and determine to appoint independent Committee members at their own discretion.

For details and the EOI Invitation and Respondent Forum, please visit the [WALGA website](#).

Procurement Network Forum

Approximately 65 Local Government officers attended the WALGA Procurement Network Forum (PNF) hosted by the City of Mandurah on 22 July. The focus of the PNF was Contract Management. A number of presentations were provided:

- The City of Mandurah presented on their new Contract Management Framework with its focus on productivity, role clarity and cost effectiveness.
- The City of Vincent presented on their Contract Management journey, with a focus on their Contracts Register.

Planning is currently underway for a PNF in conjunction with the WALGA Convention on *Managing Procurement Risk in an Uncertain World* (24 September 2025).

Office of the Auditor General Liaison

WALGA met with the Officer of the Auditor General (OAG) to discuss the Local Government Management of Purchasing Cards audit. WALGA guides and templates regarding purchasing cards are being revised to reflect the findings and recommendations for best practice.

The OAG has accepted an invitation to speak at the next Procurement Network Forum on this matter.

5. TRAINING

With the upcoming Local Government elections in October 2025, WALGA Training is preparing for a busy season ahead.

The new Diploma of Local Government (Planning) starts off on 31 July and 1 August, with a two-day workshop at WALGA. We have received seven registrations and are excited to see this first group start their Diploma journey.

The Jacqui Dodd Scholarship is now open and will close on 15 August. The four scholarships will be awarded at the AGM, together with the graduation ceremony for our Diploma of Local Government - Elected Member students. The next intake of the Diploma of Local Government – Elected Member program has already received lots of interest, and we are working for a full class in November 2025.

WALGA's Training Team contributed to the People and Culture Seminar on 25 July with a session on "Why invest in upskilling your workforce". Guylaine Thibodeau, People and Culture Officer at the Town of Mosman Park shared with the audience the remarkable story on how the town has invested into a successful strategy, training new employees with a vision to improve retention, fostering diversity and inclusion, supporting youth employment, and expanding their talent pipeline. Sienna Smith shared her story as a Trainee/Student, studying the Certificate III in Local Government and how she has blossomed during the past nine months.

11.1.4 REPORT ON KEY ACTIVITIES, POLICY PORTFOLIO

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager, Policy

NOTED

The Policy Portfolio comprises the following work units:

- *Economics*
- *Environment and Waste*
- *Planning and Building*
- *Emergency Management*
- *Community*

The following outlines the activities of the Policy Portfolio since the July 2025 State Council meeting.

1. ECONOMICS

Renewable Energy Submission

The State Government released a draft Guideline on Community Benefits Consultation Paper for comment on 12 June 2025. WALGA prepared a draft submission aligned to WALGA's renewable energy advocacy for Members. Local Governments were provided 4 weeks to provide feedback on the draft WALGA submission, from 26 June to 25 July 2025. 48 Local Governments provided feedback, including a joint submission on the Consultation Paper from 36 regional Local Governments. All Local Governments were also encouraged to provide their own submissions to the State Government. The draft submission was provided to State Council for endorsement by Flying Minute ahead of the State Government's deadline of 18 August 2025.

State Budget

Treasurer Hon Rita Saffioti MLA delivered the 2025-26 State Budget on 19 June 2025. WALGA participated in the State Budget lockup, conducting a comprehensive review of the budget papers to evaluate their impact on Western Australian Local Governments. A summary of key announcements and detailed analysis was shared with all members on Budget night.

WALGA advocated for Local Government priorities through The West at its Best platform and was pleased to see funding provided in areas of importance to the sector, including:

- \$250 million for the Regional Road Safety Program
- An additional \$18.5 million over the forward estimates to increase the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme fuel subsidy rate from \$0.26 per kilometre to \$0.40 per kilometre
- \$8.5 million over 2025-26 and 2026-27 to install signalised pedestrian crossings at high-risk locations across the State
- \$3.5 million over 2025-26 to 2028-29 to expand the existing Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) Program by six Local Government employed CESMs
- An additional \$62.6 million over 2024-25 to 2027-28 on biosecurity incident and emergency management response activities

- A further \$5 million over 2025-26 to 2028-29 to support the establishment of the Office of the Local Government Inspector, bringing total funding to \$10.5 million over five years.

Further analysis is available on the [WALGA website](#).

Economic Briefing

WALGA released its latest Economic Briefing in June, focusing on the increasing global trade tensions and their potential impact on the Australian economy. Also under the spotlight was the June 19 State Budget and the forecasts for economic growth in the coming years. The Economic Briefing is available on the [WALGA website](#).

2. ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE

H5 Bird Flu

WALGA continues to engage with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and other agencies on the development of the WA Response Plan for H5 Bird Flu. WALGA held a webinar on 8 July 2025, attended by 116 representatives from Local Governments across WA. WALGA's cross-organisational H5 Bird Flu Team is making progress to ensure the right tools, processes, and mechanisms are in place for the organisation and Local Government. This has included identifying potential preferred suppliers to assist with clean-up surge capacity.

All Local Governments have been requested to provide WALGA with a H5 Bird Flu contact to allow WALGA to quickly and effectively communicate on this emerging issue. To date, responses have been received from 24 Local Governments.

Native Vegetation

Advocacy and capacity building activities in relation to Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations are continuing, including WALGA hosting a Native Vegetation Regulations Masterclass on 30 July 2025 and a [webinar series](#) on each element of the process in September / October.

Cat Containment

WALGA, working with the Feral Cat Working Group, hosted a webinar on 12 June 2025, with nearly 200 attendees from across Local Government. This work is building on the AGM Motion and is a cross-organisational effort between the Policy and Member Services Portfolio. WALGA hosted a further engagement session on 5 August, allowing for more detailed discussions. In addition, WALGA has written again to the Local Government Minister, highlighting the AGM motion and the need for action.

3. PLANNING AND BUILDING

Tree Retention on Private Land

In the recent decision *Zorzi and Town of Cambridge [2025] WASAT 77*, the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) held that the removal of a single existing tree constitutes development and therefore requires development approval. This marks the first instance where SAT has classified the removal of a single tree in an urban context as development. The decision underscores the importance of a clear local planning framework, such as the WALGA Tree Retention Model LPP, in outlining when approval is necessary for tree removal.

The LPP has been adopted by six Local Governments to date, with a further three advertising the policy for adoption. The data collected from the adopting Local Governments shows that of the 37 development applications for tree removal, 89% have been approved. Across these sites, 60 regulated trees were retained and 59 removed. Data collected will inform a scheduled review of the LPP.

Performance Monitoring Project and Dashboard Updates

The ninth iteration of the WALGA Local Government Planning and Building Performance Monitoring Project has commenced, with approximately 50 participating Local Governments for the 2024-25 financial year. The 2023-24 data is available on the [Performance Monitoring Dashboard](#). The [Development Assessment Panel Dashboard](#) has been updated to include all decisions up to 30 June 2025. Further improvements to the dashboards will be made in the coming months, including the addition of a new State Significant Development Pathway page.

Amendment Regulations for the Review of Planning Instruments and draft Planning Manuals

The [Planning and Development Regulations Amendment \(Review of Planning Instruments\) Regulations 2025 \(Amendment Regulations\)](#) and supporting Draft Chapters of the WA Planning Manual - Local Planning Schemes and the Local Planning Policy (readvertised) have been released by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) for comment until the 3 October 2025. WALGA hosted an Information Session on the consultation with the DPLH on 7 August 2025. WALGA will be providing a submission to the Amendment Regulations and draft chapters that will be considered by State Council via the flying minutes in September.

4. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency Management Representation

WALGA CEO Nick Sloan represented the Sector at the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) Meeting on 8 May 2025. The communique from the meeting is available [here](#). WALGA was also represented at the [Interagency Bushfire Operations Committee \(IBOC\)](#) on 28 May, the [Bushfire Operations Committee \(BOC\)](#) on 27 June and the State Bushfire Advisory Committee (SBAC) meeting on 8 July.

State Budget Overview

The 2025–26 State Budget handed down on 19 June allocated \$80.6 million to enhance fire and emergency response capabilities across Western Australia. This included funding for six new Local Government Community Emergency Services Managers and several emergency management facilities in Wanneroo, Donnybrook Balingup, Fitzroy Crossing, and Northampton. Significant investments are also being made in state-level infrastructure, including new fire stations, a bushfire mitigation branch, and an emergency management training centre. Additional funding will support the Grain Harvest Program and upgrades to the Western Australian Emergency Service Radio Network. Further information is available [here](#).

Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement Pilot

In May, WALGA and DFES provided an update on the LEMA Improvement Program to the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC). WALGA's LEMA pilot project, launched in February 2025, is progressing with five Local Governments: the Shires of Manjimup, Shark Bay, Chittering, Gingin, and the City of Kwinana. The pilot is testing and refining LEMA templates and resources and gathering input to inform future guidance and tools. DFES is

also developing an online Statement of Policy, a LEMA Development Framework, and trialling a new methodology for local emergency risk profiling. Despite some delays in Pilot Local Governments, due to resource constraints and sequencing challenges, the pilot is generating valuable insights to support ongoing reform.

5. COMMUNITY

State Budget Overview

The 2025–26 State Budget confirmed the Cook election commitments of:

- \$104 million to expand the Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH) program (to double the Government Regional Officer Housing construction program).
- \$101 million (to 2029-30) from the Housing Enabling Infrastructure Fund to provide water, wastewater and power infrastructure for the development of new residential land and housing (allocated for 18 water projects and three power projects).
- \$828.9 million over 2024-25 and 2025-26 on hospital services, including \$60.5 million to expand the WA Virtual ED (WAVED) initiative.

The budget did not provide any increases to public library funding or long-term commitments to increase the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF) or arts and cultural infrastructure funding.

Public Health Planning Webinar Series

WALGA has developed a webinar series to support Local Governments with the development of their Local Public Health Plans (due by 4 June 2026). The program will include a minimum of six sessions; each one bringing together public health experts and Local Government champions to discuss key stages of the planning process and share examples of successful projects and initiatives.

The first webinar took place on 29 July and 56 people attended, including officers from metropolitan and country Local Governments across WA and State Government representatives. Recordings of the webinars will be published on the [WALGA website](#) for members to use on demand.

Ombudsman Reportable Conduct Scheme Investigations Workshop

On Thursday, 3 July, the Office of the Ombudsman delivered an in-person Reportable Conduct Scheme Investigations Workshop to Local Government Executives and Child Safeguarding staff. This workshop provided those already familiar with the Reportable Conduct Scheme information on how to undertake investigations into allegations of reportable conduct by Local Governments.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Karen Wheatland
Seconded: Chris Mitchell

That Items 11.1.1 to 11.1.4, Key Activities Reports, be noted.

RESOLUTION 063.4/2025

CARRIED

11.2 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the President's Report for September 2025 be received.

11.3 CEO'S REPORT

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That the CEO's Report for September 2025 be received.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Chris Mitchell

Seconded: Paige McNeil

That the President's Report and CEO's Report for September 2025 be received.

RESOLUTION 064.4/2025

CARRIED

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Les Price
Seconded: Chris Antonio

That the additional Zone Resolutions from the August 2025 round of Zones meetings as follows be referred to the appropriate portfolio for consideration and appropriate action.

RESOLUTION 065.4/2025

CARRIED

CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE (MEMBER SERVICES PORTFOLIO)

To Address Anomalies Arising from Changes to the Audit Function of Local Government in Western Australia

That the Central Country Zone request WALGA to support a representation to the State Government to remove the Office of Auditor General (OAG) as the sole auditor of Local Government in Western Australia.

CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE (MEMBER SERVICES PORTFOLIO)

To Rationalise the Audit Function for Local Government in Western Australia

That the Zone request WALGA to advocate for the choice of an auditor of Local Governments in Western Australia be opened to individuals who are Registered Company Auditors with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) as well as the Office of Auditor General OAG).

EAST METROPOLITAN ZONE (POLICY PORTFOLIO)

Advocacy for Improved Action and Communication from State Government Agencies

That the East Metropolitan Zone requests that WALGA prioritise their advocacy to the State Government for the following:

1. A joint review by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) and the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) into the first year of operation of the Short-Term Rental Accommodation (STRA) regulatory framework, including:
 - a. The number of properties operating under the 90-day exemption for hosted and unhosted STRA under the Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015;
 - b. The impact of exempt STRA on long-term rental housing supply, particularly in the context of the current housing availability crisis;
 - c. The compliance and enforcement burden placed on local governments due to the exemption, including the resourcing and the absence of management controls for exempt STRA; and
 - d. The limitations of the current DMIRS registration system under the Short-Term Rental Accommodation Act 2024, with particular regard to:
 - i. The reactive nature of the system, which relies on local governments to identify and prove breaches and issue formal notices, rather than preventing non-compliant listings through automated or upfront checks.
 - ii. The absence of upfront checks for development approval on registration;

- iii. The ability for operators to continue accepting bookings beyond the exemption period, even when no development approval has been obtained; and
 - iv. The misuse of the “hosted” STRA exemption category.
- 2. Advocate for reforms to the STRA framework to:
 - a. Place greater onus on operators to demonstrate valid development approval (or valid exemption) at the point of registration, including automated cross-checking where possible;
 - b. Automatically suspend properties from the register when the exemption threshold is exceeded, unless evidence of development approval is provided;
 - c. Strengthen verification of hosted STRA to ensure bona fide use.
 - d. Shift the registration system from a reactive model to a preventative one, by requiring system-led validation steps and reducing the burden on local governments to initiate compliance actions.
- 3. Advocate for removal or reduction of the 90-day exemption under the Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015 to reduce the compliance burden on local governments and to support long-term housing supply.

GREAT EASTERN COUNTRY ZONE (MEMBER SERVICES PORTFOLIO)

Local Government Elections – Four Year Terms, Two Yearly Election Cycle

That the Great Eastern Country Zone request that WALGA continues to advocate to the State Government to retain the current system of four-year terms with a two-year spill for Local Government elections.

GREAT SOUTHERN COUNTRY ZONE (MEMBER SERVICES PORTFOLIO)

WA Electoral Commission Returning Officer Service Levels

That the Great Southern Zone:

- 1. EXPRESSES its concern to State Council regarding the WAEC’s decision to not allow Returning Officers to attend Candidate Information Sessions and reduction in service levels without commensurate reduction in fees charged to Local Governments to conduct the upcoming Local Government elections in October 2025.
- 2. REQUESTS that WALGA make representation to the Minister for Electoral Affairs, Hon. David Michael MLA, to ensure that the smooth and efficient running of the 2025 Local Government elections.

PILBARA COUNTRY ZONE (MEMBER SERVICES PORTFOLIO)

Gross Rental Value Rating of Mining Tenements

That the Pilbara Country Zone requests WALGA to approach the Department of Local Government to:

- 1. Reaffirm Policy: The Department of Local Government should reaffirm the 2011 policy and clarify that it applies to all tenement types, including Miscellaneous Licences.
- 2. Legislative Amendments: The Department of Local Government be requested to make legislative changes to Section 6.26 of the *Local Government Act*, to remove current ambiguity.
- 3. Stakeholder Engagement: Engage with local governments, mining companies, and other stakeholders to discuss the implications of the Supreme Court decision and ensure a collaborative approach to any policy changes; and
- 4. Suggest: That the Department of Local Government instruct local governments to not immediately commence Unimproved Value (UV) rating of Miscellaneous Licences until 1 to 3 above have been completed.

SOUTH EAST METROPOLITAN ZONE (MEMBER SERVICES PORTFOLIO)

Mandatory Training for Mayors on Leadership and Governance

That the South East Metropolitan Zone:

1. requests WALGA to advocate to the Minister for Local Government for an amendment to the *Local Government Act 1995* and/or associated regulations to require all directly elected or Council-elected Mayors and Presidents to undertake mandatory training upon election, in addition to the current mandatory Elected Member training, specifically addressing:
 - a. Leadership and team dynamics;
 - b. Chairing meetings and procedural fairness;
 - c. Collaborative governance and relationship-building;
 - d. Strategic oversight and performance of the CEO.
2. notes the importance of equipping Mayors and Presidents with the skills necessary to lead their councils effectively, foster a high-functioning and respectful culture, and manage the unique responsibilities of civic leadership.
3. requests WALGA to consider the development or endorsement of such a training module, in consultation with Local Governments and subject matter experts.
4. requests WALGA advocate to the Minister for Local Government for an amendment to the Local Government (Elections) Regulations to require candidates for the role of directly elected Mayor or President to have completed an additional induction course specific to the role of Mayor / President.

SOUTH METROPOLITAN ZONE (MEMBER SERVICES PORTFOLIO)

Advocacy for Four-Year Local Government Election Cycle in Western Australia

That the South Metropolitan Zone:

1. Supports the advocacy position that Local Government elections in Western Australia be held every four years, replacing the current biennial (two-year) cycle; and;
2. Requests WALGA to examine the case for legislative reform to implement a four-year Local Government election cycle in Western Australia, bringing it into alignment with other Australian States and Territories and New Zealand.

SOUTH METROPOLITAN ZONE (POLICY PORTFOLIO)

Request for WALGA Advocacy to State Government on WA Planning System

That the South Metropolitan Zone:

1. Notes the City of Melville's concerns regarding the discretion under the WA Planning System; and
2. Refers the matter to WALGA Secretariat for advice on alignment with existing advocacy positions, with a report back to the Zone.

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary meeting of the WALGA State Council will be held in the Boardroom at WALGA, ONE70, LV3, 170 Railway Parade, West Leederville on Wednesday, 3 December commencing at 4:15pm.

14 CLOSURE

President Karen Chappel thanked Laurene Bonza and the Shire of Dundas for hosting State Council for the Regional meeting. Karen also thanked all State Councillors for their service over the past two years and wished those up for election in October the best of luck.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 1:06pm

STATUS REPORT ON STATE COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
2 July 2025 Item 8.1 Suspension and Disqualification for Offences Advocacy Position	That WALGA defers consideration of this matter for further work, including: 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. RESOLUTION 037.3/2025	Work has commenced on defining appropriately serious offences for intervention. Consideration of how the Office of the Inspector affects this position is awaiting the release of regulations pertaining to the office.	Ongoing	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
2 July 2025 Item 8.2 State Development Applications and Decision Making Advocacy Position	That WALGA: 1. Replace Advocacy Position 6.4 Development Assessment Panels with the following: <i>WALGA calls on the State Government to:</i> 1. <i>Ensure that decision making on development applications (DAs) is:</i> a. <i>consistent and accountable</i> b. <i>accessible to local communities</i> c. <i>respectful of, and appropriately applies, local planning frameworks in line with their statutory weight, as informed by objective, professional planning reports.</i> 2. <i>Reform the Development Assessment Panel (DAP) system to:</i> a. <i>raise the DAP threshold from the current \$2 million to \$5 million and mandate periodic reviews of the threshold</i> b. <i>modify the composition of DAPs to provide equal representation of</i>	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.	July 2025	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	<p><i>Specialist Members and Local Government Members</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>c. review DAP processes to ensure proponents provide necessary information in a timely manner</i> <i>d. provide clear procedural guidance on the roles and functions of Local Government officers and Council, including clarification on the ability for the Administration to provide advice to Council Members</i> <i>e. allow access to the State Referral Coordination Unit for DAP applications to ensure timely and adequate referral responses from State Government agencies are provided to Local Governments</i> <i>f. where appropriate, require meetings to be held within the relevant Local Government</i> <i>g. reinstate the ability for Council to consider and provide a recommendation for a Responsible Authority Report.</i> <p><i>3. Abolish the state significant development assessment pathway (Part 11B of the Planning and Development Act 2005).</i></p> <p><i>4. If the significant development assessment pathway is retained, implement the following reforms:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. raise the cost threshold to \$50 million and mandate periodic reviews of the threshold</i> 			

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. align statutory timeframes with DAP and Local Government determined DAs c. ensure all developments are consistent with applicable local planning instruments and provide comprehensive guidelines for discretionary decision making, including applying extraordinary discretion d. delete references to 'mandatory significant development' to ensure the pathway remains entirely opt-in e. undertake periodic reviews of its operation and effectiveness. <p>5. Include in any planning report to a decision making:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the value of any direct financial benefit received by the applicant associated with the granting of development bonuses through a performance-based assessment. b. the value of any community benefit proposed in exchange for consideration of development bonus. <p>2. Notes the Development Assessment Panel 2011 – 2024 Review and State Development Pathway 2020 – 2025 Review reports.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 039.3/2025</p>			
2 July 2025 Item 8.3 Public Library Agreement	That State Council endorse the <i>State and Local Level Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia</i> . RESOLUTION 040.3/2025	This has been actioned.	July 2025	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
2 July 2025 Item 8.4 Finance and Services Committee Minutes – 18 June 2025 CONFIDENTIAL	That State Council: 1. Endorse the Minutes of the Finance and Services Committee meeting held on 18 June 2025. 2. Endorse the WALGA Budget 2025-26, being for the full year ending 30 June 2026 as recommended by the Finance and Services Committee. RESOLUTION 041.3/2025 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY	Budget has been implemented.	July 2025	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
2 July 2025 Item 8.5 Appointment to Finance and Services Committee	That State Council appoint President Cr Elizabeth Sudlow, the State Council representative from the Northern Country Zone to the Finance and Services Committee. RESOLUTION 042.3/2025	This has been actioned.	July 2025	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
2 July 2025 Item 8.6 Selection Committee Minutes – 17 June 2025 – CONFIDENTIAL	That State Council: 1. Notes the resolution contained in the 17 June 2025 Selection Committee Minutes. 2. Endorse the Selection Committee recommendations contained in the 17 June 2025 Selection Committee Minutes. RESOLUTION 043.3/2025	This has been actioned.	July 2025	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
2 July 2025 Item 8.7 LGISWA Board Minutes including Annual Adjustments to Scheme Manager Remuneration and Trustee Fees – CONFIDENTIAL	That State Council: 1. Note the minutes of the LGISWA Board meeting held on 23 May 2025; 2. Notes the 2025-26 LGISWA Scheme Budget; 3. REDACTED 4. REDACTED 5. Notes the special request in relation to WorkCare is being considered further by WALGA as a contract management matter; and 6. Notes the establishment of a LGISWA Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) and related matters. RESOLUTION 044.3/2025	This has been actioned	July 2025	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
2 July 2025 Item 8.9 Use of the Association's Common Seal	That State Council notes and endorses the use of Common Seal being affixed to the Perth and Peel Urban Greening Strategy Financial Assistance Agreement for 2025 between the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) and WALGA. RESOLUTION 045.3/2025	This has been actioned	July 2025	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
5 March 2025 Item 9.1 Infrastructure Policy Team Report	That State Council: 1. Note the report from the Infrastructure Policy Team for the 5 March 2025 meeting. 2. Determine to: 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. RESOLUTION 013.1/2025	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated. 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.	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure
6 December 2024 Item 8.1 2024 Annual General Meeting Resolutions	That: 1. the item 7.1 Amendments to <i>Cat Act 2011</i> - Allow Local Governments to Make Local Laws to Contain Cats to the Owner's Property be endorsed. ... 3. the following resolutions from the 2024 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the Governance Policy Team for further work to be undertaken: 7.2 Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land-Banking 7.3 Advocacy for Expansion of Differential Rating to Include Long Term Unoccupied Commercial Buildings (Property Activation Levy). RESOLUTION 089.5/2024	The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated. Correspondence has been sent to the Minister for Local Government requesting the <i>Cat Act 2011</i> be reviewed to provide Local Governments with the ability to contain cats on an owner's property. In addition, work has commenced on developing a template Cat Local Law to assist Local Government to make local	Ongoing	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
		<p>laws to the extent of the current local law-making powers.</p> <p>WALGA is continuing to support Local Governments to consider how they would implement cat containment in practice, including hosting a webinar and in person event</p> <p>Work on items 7.2 and Item 7.3 is continuing.</p> <p>A legal consultant has been contracted to review the legislation and suggest ways to address these recommendations.</p> <p>A combined meeting of the Governance and Environment Policy teams has been scheduled for 12 September with a view to prepare a State Council Agenda item for the December 2025 meeting.</p>		
6 December 2024 Item 8.1 2024 Annual General Meeting Resolutions	That: ... 2. the following resolutions from the 2024 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the Environment Policy Team for further work to be undertaken: 7.2 Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land-Banking 7.4 Action on Asbestos for Western Australia 7.6 Advocacy for Accessibility.	Resolution 7.2 (regarding the planning related items within this resolution): The demolition of single houses is generally a form of development exempt from requiring development approval, and only a demolition permit is required for the complete or partial demolition, dismantling or removal of a building or an	Ongoing	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
	... RESOLUTION 089.5/2024	<p>incidental structure. The current planning and building legislation do not allow the conditioning of approval or refusal of a building permit in a manner proposed by the AGM resolution.</p> <p>A joint meeting of the Environment and Governance Policy Teams has been scheduled for 12 September to consider this item.</p> <p>Resolution 7.4: WALGA is engaging at the State and National level on this issue, including through membership of the WA Interagency Asbestos Group and nationally the Asbestos Safety Eradication Agency reference group and has raised the issues impacting Local Governments in relation to safe removal and disposal, including ensuring statewide options.</p> <p>WALGA continues to progress asbestos advocacy and will undertake a survey of Local Governments to determine key needs in the coming months.</p> <p>Resolution 7.6: Liveable Housing Design Standard as part of the National Construction Code</p>		

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
		<p>(NCC) provides a set of technical provisions that if complied with enable dwellings to better meet the needs of the community, including older people and people with mobility limitations. The code specifies seven minimum standards to ensure all new homes are accessible with modifications including step-free entrances and showers and wider doors and corridors that can accommodate wheelchairs and walking aids.</p> <p>All states enact the NCC through state legislation and regulation. A range of states are taking different approaches in terms of adopting the liveable housing requirements, but at time of writing all states except NSW and Western Australia have adopted the liveable housing provisions.</p> <p>The NCC 2022 only became operational in WA on 1 May. The appointment of a new Commerce Minister following the 2025 State Election provides an opportunity to engage on this matter.</p> <p>WALGA raised the prospects of WA adopting the standard at its</p>		

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
		meeting with the Minister in July 2025.		
6 December 2024 Item 8.2 Local Government Elections Advocacy Positions	<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"> <i>Councillors serve four-year terms with elections every two years and half of the Council positions spilled at each election.</i> <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> <i>First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system for internal Council elections.</i> <i>Councils holding elections by means of in-person, postal and/or electronic voting.</i> <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>The Advocacy Positions Manual has been updated.</p> <p>Preparation of a report on implications of compulsory and voluntary participation in Local Government elections is in progress.</p> <p>Correspondence has been sent to the Minister for Local Government advising on the five advocacy positions endorsed.</p>	Scheduled to be completed by December 2025	Tony Brown Executive Director Member Services
6 December 2024 Item 8.6	<p>That State Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provides in principle support for the proposed Bus Stop Infrastructure Partnership Agreement between 	Following conclusions of discussions with the PTA, a revised agreement incorporating,	June 2025	Ian Duncan

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	COMPLETION DATE	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE
Bus Stop Infrastructure Agreement	<p>WALGA and the Public Transport Authority 2024/25 to 2028/29.</p> <p>2. Request the WALGA Secretariat negotiate with the Public Transport Authority seeking:</p> <p>a. Deletion of the word “typically” from Clauses 6.2, 8.1 (ii) and 8.6 (i)</p> <p>b. Indexation of funding provided under the Bus Shelter Subsidy Program (BSSP) and Bus Shelter Maintenance Assistance Scheme (BSMAS) during or at the end of the Agreement</p> <p>3. Authorise the WALGA President to sign the Bus Stop Infrastructure Partnership Agreement, on the completion of best endeavours to negotiate with the Public Transport Authority.</p> <p>4. Refer the request for WALGA develop an advocacy position that Commonwealth Disability Standards have a provision for minimum standards of public transport shelter to the Infrastructure Policy Team.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 095.5/2024</p>	<p>to the extent possible the matters raised by State Council, was presented to the WALGA President and CEO for consideration.</p> <p>The agreement has now been signed and provided to all Local Government with PTA bus services. A copy of the final agreement is available from the WALGA website here.</p>		Executive Manager Infrastructure

Ordinary Council Meeting 20 October 2025

Attachment 1- 12.2a Minutes of WALGA Annual General Meeting, 23 September 2025.

Item 12.2- Minutes of WALGA 2025 Annual General Meeting

WALGA

Annual General Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, 23 September 2025

Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre
21 Mounts Bay Road, Perth WA

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1 OPENING

The Chair declared the meeting open at 3:01pm.

2 RECORD OF APOLOGIES

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| • Shire of Denmark | • Shire of Pingelly |
| • Shire of Kojonup | • Shire of Sandstone |
| • Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku | • Shire of Trayning |
| • Shire of Peppermint Grove | • Shire of Westonia |

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nil.

4 ADOPTION OF AGM STANDING ORDERS

The Annual General Meeting Standing Orders were contained within the Agenda.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Paul Kelly, Town of Claremont

Seconded: President Paige McNeil, Shire of Mundaring

That the WALGA Annual General Meeting Standing Orders be adopted with the exception of section 12.5 to allow for the use of mobile phones during the meeting.

CARRIED

5 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of the 2024 WALGA Annual General Meeting were contained within the Agenda, along with a report on the action taken on the 2024 AGM resolutions.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Paul Kelly, Town of Claremont

Seconded: President Chris Antonio, Shire of Northam

That the Minutes of the 2024 WALGA Annual General Meeting be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

CARRIED

6 ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT

The 2024-2025 Annual Report, including the 2024-2025 Audited Financial Statements, was distributed to Members separately.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Karen Wheatland, City of Melville

Seconded: President Chris Antonio, Shire of Northam

That the 2024-2025 Annual Report, including the 2024-2025 Audited Financial Statements, be received.

CARRIED

7 CONSIDERATION OF EXECUTIVE AND MEMBER MOTIONS

7.1 PROVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES IN REMOTE AND VERY REMOTE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Shire of Lake Grace

MOTION

Moved: President Cr Len Armstrong, Shire of Lake Grace

Seconded: Cr Peter Callaghan, Shire of Gnowangerup

That WALGA calls on the Western Australian Government and WA Grants Commission to:

- 1. increase the Medical Facilities Cost Adjuster component of the Financial Assistance Grants to Local Governments; and**
- 2. recalculate distributions to those Local Governments in remote and very remote locations that are providing block cash payments to attract and retain general practitioners to allow affected Councils to redirect ratepayer funds to Local Government responsibilities.**

AMENDMENT

Moved: Cr Darren King, Shire of Boyup Brook

Seconded: President Cr Les Price, Shire of Cue

To amend point 2 as follows:

- 2. recalculate distributions to those Local Governments ~~in remote and very remote locations~~ that are providing block cash payments to attract and retain general practitioners to allow affected Council to redirect ratepayer funds to Local Government responsibilities.**

THE AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND CARRIED

AMENDMENT

Moved: President Cr Kristy D'Aprile, Shire of Katanning

Seconded: Cr Scott Crosby, Shire of Kent

To amend point 1 as follow:

- 1. increase the total funding and then the Medical Facilities Cost Adjuster component of the Financial Assistance Grants to Local Governments; and**
- 2. 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.**

THE AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND CARRIED

THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION AS AMENDED WAS PUT

That WALGA calls on the Western Australian Government and WA Grants Commission to:

- 1. increase the total funding and then the Medical Facilities Cost Adjuster component of the Financial Assistance Grants to Local Governments; and**
- 2. 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.**

CARRIED

MEMBER COMMENT

The Shire of Lake Grace is the lead Shire in the “Local Government Rural Health Funding Alliance” which also consists of the Shires of Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Ravensthorpe, Narembeen, Jerramungup and Kojonup.

The Shire of Lake Grace, on behalf of the Alliance successfully presented a motion at the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly, calling on the Australian Government to increase Financial Assistance Grants and recalibrate their distribution to better support rural councils funding general practitioner (GP) services. The motion was carried unanimously.

Remote and very remote Local Governments are filling a critical gap in primary healthcare. Local Governments are the third sphere of government yet are delivering on behalf of the State and Commonwealth. These Local Governments are stepping into primary healthcare provision due to insufficient Commonwealth and State financial support to GPs and specific incentives for remote and very remote communities. This is not their legislated responsibility, yet these six Local Governments are contributing over \$1.475 million annually in cash, plus housing, vehicles, and surgeries to attract and retain GPs where there is geographical isolation, small populations and diverse health needs.

The Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor under the Financial Assistance Grants in WA is calculated and distributed by the WA Grants Commission. It recognizes only 82% of a 3-year rolling average, capped at \$85,000–\$100,000. It does not reflect actual costs, which often exceed \$200,000–\$300,000 per GP per community. It then leaves a significant funding gap (e.g. Shire of Kojonup received \$0 despite spending \$250,000 as it was provided to a third party local not-for-profit to engage the GP and Practice).

The Shire of Lake Grace is requesting block funding and a recalculation criterion to remote and very remote local governments, distributed via the Financial Assistance Grants (Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor). This would reduce the unsustainable burden on ratepayer funds, ensure continuity of care and return ratepayer funds to core local government services.

These Local Governments are not creating the problem — rather they are solving it. They are collaborating regionally, implementing multi-site rural generalist models that requires economies of scale as a group, and ensuring reasonable travel distances for locals to GPs. Without their intervention, communities would face worsening health outcomes and risks to their economic viability.

This motion aligns with the top four priorities identified by band 4 WALGA member Local Governments as requiring solutions in 2025.

The comparative Government health spend between major city residents and rural and remote Australia is \$848 per person less in the regions (NRHA). People in the bush are 2.9 times more likely to be hospitalized; 2.8 times more likely to be hospitalized for reasons that are potentially preventable and 2.7 times more likely to die from potentially avoidable causes.¹

Life expectancy in remote areas, compared with major cities is 13 years less for males and 7 years for females.² Telehealth is not a viable substitute for resident GPs — it risks deskilling local clinicians and eroding continuity of care.

The Alliance of Councils has prepared a position paper to raise awareness and suggest a solution to attract and retain GPs in their rural and remote communities, where current Commonwealth and State government policy settings are inadequate.

Reference Document

- [January 2025 Position Paper – Provision of Remote GP Services](#)

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

Access to primary healthcare is the responsibility of the Australian and State Governments. In some rural and remote areas, the current health system does not provide equitable service. Access to primary health is a critical issue for a large proportion of WALGA members. Local Government support of primary healthcare services creates a financial impost and diverts funding from other Local Government services and functions.

In 2023, WALGA commissioned Rural Health West (RHW) to survey WA Local Governments to ascertain the extent to which Local Governments were providing financial or in-kind support to secure primary healthcare services. The [Survey Report](#) provides a comprehensive dataset on the cost, nature, and geographical location of Local Government support, as well as evidence that Local Government support was predominantly focused on General Practice services.

This issue has also been identified as a priority for the sector at a number of forums, including the October 2024 Band 4 Local Governments meeting and the May 2025 Zone meetings. WALGA has also been working with the Local Government Rural Health Alliance in the development of their advocacy.

WALGA has begun a renewed advocacy campaign, with targeted asks of the Australian and State Governments to improve access to primary health services in rural and remote areas, to remove the need for Local Government intervention.

A revised [Rural and Remote Health Advocacy Position](#) aligned to the finding and recommendations of the Survey Report is tabled for the September 2025 State Council. The proposed revisions provide a stronger position on the responsibility of the Australian and

¹ Royal Flying Doctors Service, 2023

² Royal Flying Doctors Service, 2023

State Governments for primary healthcare provision and addressing the cost impost on Local Government, compelled to intervene where the current health system is failing.

The revised position aligns with the wider healthcare reform platform to enable advocacy partnerships and to provide a level of flexibility for the advocacy campaign in response to Government announcements.

The Lake Grace motion and WALGAs ongoing advocacy align on the need for financial reimbursement for Local Government support for essential primary health care services. WALGA's approach, does not specifying how reimbursement to Local Governments should be undertaken, or which Local Governments should be eligible. This approach aims to provide flexibility to achieve the same outcome, such as utilising the upcoming renewal of the National Health Reform Agreement.

7.2 HOMELESSNESS – SHORT-TERM ACCOMMODATION SOLUTIONS

City of Kalgoorlie Boulder

MOTION

Moved: Mayor Glenn Wilson, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder

Seconded: President Ron Chambers, Shire of Esperance

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 regional centres across Western Australia.

AMENDMENT

Moved: Cr Barry Winmar, City of Kwinana

Seconded: Cr Chontelle Stone, City of Cockburn

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.

THE AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND CARRIED

THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION AS AMENDED WAS PUT

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.

CARRIED

MEMBER COMMENT

Shelter WA's Policy Position on Ending Homelessness in WA highlights the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in homelessness services and calls for short-stay options and self-determination in service delivery. The motion reinforces the importance of Housing First principles and the need for coordinated responses; specifically, that all governments ensure people with lived experience of homelessness are central to the design and delivery of homelessness services.

The motion highlights a growing disconnect between the practical realities faced by Local Government in the requirement for short-term accommodation for First Nations people in their communities. WALGA's advocacy position on homelessness acknowledges that Local Governments can support responses to homelessness through planning, health, and community development functions, it does not consider them as lead agencies. Local Governments are increasingly forced to lead this space due to the lack of a coordinated state-wide response and support.

Historically, many regional centres and cities have been meeting places for different Aboriginal communities with these areas offering a place where individuals can meet to conduct cultural business, socialise with family and friends, shop, and attend medical and other appointments. While some stay with family and friends, in many cases in overcrowded conditions, others are street present. Additional risks are posed for those with a limited experience of living in larger regional cities.

Homelessness data is typically captured through the Australian Census which does not accurately capture short-term or seasonal homelessness. Discussions with other WA regional Local Governments has identified that significant numbers of remote Aboriginal community members travel to regional centres and cities especially during the summer period. These Local Governments and their stakeholders are ill-equipped to support their needs ranging from temporary culturally appropriate and safe accommodation to food provision.

Typically, when Local Governments step up in this area, state-funded systems often pull back, particularly in regional cities. This is an understandable consequence of under-resourced and failing systems but does not advance efforts to solve street presence or seasonal homelessness.

While Local Governments interact closely with people experiencing homelessness and have valuable local knowledge, they do not have the resources, funding, or specialist workforce to lead homelessness responses especially in regional areas when street present people increase during particular times of the year. In the All Paths Leads to Home, State Government acknowledges this and views Local Governments as key partners in coordinating local, place-based efforts and facilitating referrals to appropriate services.

The State Government, primarily through the Department of Communities, is responsible for leading and funding homelessness responses, including the provision of social and affordable housing and specialist services. It coordinates with other State agencies across justice, health, mental health, and education to address the systemic causes of homelessness – functions that are beyond the capacity and remit of local governments. However, homelessness is not included in this remit as, by definition, the Department provides homes in remote communities.

The State Government recognises that effective responses require partnerships. It seeks to leverage the local knowledge, planning tools, and community connections of Local Governments, while retaining responsibility for funding, policy, and service coordination which does not include short-term accommodation for visiting Aboriginal community members across regional WA.

In 2021, the Australian Local Government Association co-signed a landmark national agreement to close the gap, setting targets in education, employment, health, justice, safety, housing, land and waters, and Indigenous language preservation. The agreement includes a target to increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) housing to 88%.

The 2021 Census showed there were 122,000 people in Australia experiencing homelessness on Census night – 48 people per 10,000. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were disproportionately homeless – 307 out of 10,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were experiencing homelessness.

However, neither the Closing the Gap agreement, the Closing the Gap 2024 Annual Report and Commonwealth 2025 Implementation Plan, nor the 2024 National Housing and Homeless Plan Summary Report include any consideration for addressing transitional homelessness – only overcrowding issues.

The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder recently completed a collaborative, landmark national study on Anti-social Behaviour and Transitional Aboriginal Homelessness. The research project included engagement with local and state government agencies and key providers in over eight locations in Western Australia, the Northern Territory, and South Australia, to assess existing strategies, pinpoint gaps, and explore potential solutions that enhance local government efforts in this regard.

A Housing and Homelessness motion was raised by the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder at the 2025 Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly in Canberra in July and was approved for submission to the Federal Government for consideration.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

Aboriginal Short Stay Accommodation (Short Stays) are designed to provide safe, culturally appropriate and affordable short-term accommodation for Aboriginal people who travel to regional centres to access services, or for business, cultural or family reasons.

There are three existing Aboriginal Short Stays operating in regional Western Australia: Broome, Derby and Kalgoorlie. The State Government acknowledges that these Short Stays are in high demand. Planning is underway by the Department of Housing and Works to develop an additional three new Short Stays in Geraldton, Kununurra and Perth.

Short Stays are a response to homelessness. WALGA does not currently have an advocacy position on short-stay accommodation, but does have a [Homelessness Advocacy Position](#). WALGA is currently reviewing the Homelessness Advocacy Position as part of a regular advocacy position review process. To inform the review, WALGA is currently surveying all Local Governments to gather information on the extent of Local Government engagement with homelessness and the extent of services, including accommodation options, available within their Local Government areas.

7.3 REVISION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ADMINISTRATION) REGULATIONS 1996 IN RELATION TO THE HOLDING OF AND ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS BY ELECTRONIC MEANS

Shire of Dardanup

MOTION

Moved: President Cr Tyrrell Gardiner, Shire of Dardanup

Seconded: Cr Ellen Lilly, Shire of Dardanup

That WALGA advocates for a change to the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 in relation to the holding of and attendance at meetings by electronic means to allow elected members to attend more than 50% of meetings remotely, only if each instance more than 50% in the rolling year is justified and approved by the Mayor/President or Deputy Mayor/Deputy President.

AMENDMENT

Moved: Cr Lewis Hutton, City of Joondalup

Seconded: President Cr Rossco Foulkes-Taylor, Shire of Murchison

That WALGA advocates for a change to the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 in relation to the holding of and attendance at meetings by electronic means to allow the Local Government to determine the number of meetings that can be attended electronically.

LOST

PROCEDURAL MOTION

Moved: Cr Karen Wheatland, City of Kwinana

Seconded: President Ron Chambers, Shire of Esperance

That the question be now put.

CARRIED

THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION WAS PUT

That WALGA advocates for a change to the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 in relation to the holding of and attendance at meetings by electronic means to allow elected members to attend more than 50% of meetings remotely, only if each instance more than 50% in the rolling year is justified and approved by the Mayor/President or Deputy Mayor/Deputy President.

LOST

MEMBER COMMENT

The Local Government Administration Regulations 1996 provides as follows:

14C. Attendance at meetings by electronic means may be authorised (Act s. 5.25(1)(ba))

(3) The mayor, president or council cannot authorise a member to attend a meeting (the proposed meeting) under subregulation (2)(b) if the member's attendance at the proposed meeting under that authorisation would result in the member attending more than half of the meetings (including the proposed meeting) of the council or committee, in the relevant period, under an authorisation under subregulation (2)(b)

Additionally, the regulations also set out:

14D. Meetings held by electronic means (Act s. 5.25(1)(ba))

(2A) The council cannot authorise a meeting (the proposed meeting) to be held under subregulation (2)(c) if holding the proposed meeting under that authorization would result in more than half of the meetings (including the proposed meeting) of the council or committee, in the relevant period, being held under an authorization under subregulation (2)(c).

(Emphasis added)

Therefore, under the current regulations neither a Council nor a Councillor can hold or attend more than 50% of the meetings electronically.

This motion is proposed in response to the unique circumstances within the Shire of Dardanup, and potentially other local governments, who due to their professional commitments, such as FIFO (Fly In Fly Out), or other circumstances, may be required to work away from the local area for extended period - sometimes up to 50% of their time.

The motion seeks to address the challenges faced by Councillors when taking leave or managing personal, family or work commitments. It aims to ensure that these circumstances do not hinder their ability to effectively represent and serve the community. By supporting this motion, the Council can implement measures that provide flexibility in these situations, ultimately allowing Councillors to fulfil their duties without unnecessary disruption.

The intent of the motion is to ensure that the work of the Council continues to operate effectively and efficiently during periods when individual Councillors may be temporarily unavailable (in person) i.e. having a Councillor/s who works away from time to time or even 50% of the time. This motion will also assist with when Councillors who already work away go on leave or have other family commitments.

By implementing greater flexibility, such as expanding access to remote and electronic Council and Committee meeting participation, the Council can support ongoing engagement, reduce disruption to Council operations, and ensure inclusive representation from a broader demographic of elected members.

The demographic of elected and potential elected members to Shire Councils has changed and is evolving. If we want to encourage participation, we need to adapt to the way we engage and allow engagement.

Financial, physical, employment and locational restrictions need to be taken into account for the engagement ability of elected members to advocate for their rate payer base.

The current percentage provision of remote / electronic meeting ability available, while acceptable for the majority of elected members, is insufficient for the minority of elected members who are engaged, though restriction to contribute through logistical or bureaucratic barriers.

Key considerations should be given to workforce realities i.e. FIFO or workers with demanding employment schedules; diverse demographics, equity in participation and encouraging engagement.

This demographic change includes new mothers and parents of young children, FIFO workers, Shift workers & Disabled or Mobility impaired. All of these groups can and do provide diverse opinions and experience to the overall group of elected members.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

Regulations 14C and 14D of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* were introduced in 2022 to provide flexibility for the sector but reflect an expectation that Local Governments should prioritise in person meetings and in person Council Member attendance. Under regulation 14C a Council or Committee Member may attend a meeting by electronic means only if authorised by the Mayor / President or Council. Electronic attendance cannot be authorised if it would exceed the 50% cap.

It is important that Council Meetings remain accessible for members of the community to attend and participate. In many cases, in person meetings may best achieve this outcome. However, the introduction of livestreaming requirements for Class 1 and 2 Local Governments, and widespread adoption by many smaller Local Governments, has changed the way the community accesses and engages with Council Meetings. In addition, Local Government experience to date indicates that Council Members are able to effectively participate in meetings when attending electronically.

Removing the 50% cap on electronic attendance could enable Councils to make a policy decision regarding the balance of electronic and in person attendance that best meets the expectations of their community and the needs of Council Members. This could support greater diversity in candidates and Council Members and may also assist Local Governments seeking independent persons as members of their Audit Risk and Improvement Committees. Council, and the Mayor or President as the decision maker, would be accountable to the community for the decision to authorise additional electronic attendance.

7.4 RATING EXEMPTION ADVOCACY MOTION

City of Bunbury

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Karen Steele, City of Bunbury

Seconded: President Cr Tony Dean, Shire of Nannup

That WALGA, in addition to its current advocacy positions 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 relating to rating exemptions, advocate to the WA Government for the introduction of a reimbursement model, whereby the WA Government repays Local Government the greater of:

- 1. 75% of the value of rates lost in applying the charitable purposes exemption; or**
- 2. 1% of the total rate revenue of the Local Government.**

CARRIED

MEMBER COMMENT

The City of Bunbury faces significant financial impacts from rate exemptions granted under Section 6.26(2) of the *Local Government Act*, with 443 properties currently exempt due to charitable or religious purposes. This represents a substantial annual revenue loss of \$1.67 million (3.4% of total rates), affecting the City's capacity to deliver community services and facilities.

WALGA has established advocacy positions calling for reform, particularly focusing on the need to review rating exemption categories and address the expanding scope of charitable purpose definitions. Of particular concern is that exemptions have extended beyond their original intention, now encompassing non-charitable commercial activities of charitable organizations.

This matter requires urgent attention as the current system creates an inequitable burden on other ratepayers and impacts the financial sustainability of Local Governments in delivering essential community services.

The City of Bunbury currently has 443 properties with 85 organisations that have a rate exemption under Section 6.26(2) of the *Local Government Act* due to properties being used for charitable or religious purposes. This equates to a loss of rate revenue of \$1,667,522 in 2024/25, or 3.4% of rates which has a significant impact on the City to fund services and facilities for the Bunbury community. Of these properties, 407 (\$1,227,021) are used for charitable purposes.

The following is a comparison with other known Local Governments (as at October 2024).

Council	Number of Rate Exempt Properties	Total Number of Properties	Percentage of Rate Exempt Properties	Loss of Revenue from Rate Exemptions	Total Rate Revenue	Percentage of Loss Revenue
City of Bunbury	443	17,194	2.6%	\$1,667,522	\$49,690,996	3.4%
City of Busselton	171	25,327	0.7%	\$1,296,212	\$64,960,318	2.0%
City of Geraldton	158	19,487	0.8%	\$1,700,000	\$54,080,426	3.1%
Shire of Harvey	44	13,245	0.3%	\$99,000	\$29,482,269	0.3%
City of Wanneroo	374	88,589	0.4%	Not Provided		

WALGA already has four documented Advocacy Positions relating to this matter, the two most applicable being:

2.1.1 Rating Exemptions Review

A broad review be conducted into the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under Section 6.26 of the Local Government Act 1995; and

2.1.2 Rating Exemptions Charitable Purposes

1. *Amend the Local Government Act 1995 to clarify that Independent Living Units should only be exempt from rates where they qualify under the Commonwealth Aged Care Act 1997;*
2. *Either:*
 - a. *amend the charitable organisations section of the Local Government Act 1995 to eliminate exemptions for commercial (non-charitable) business activities of charitable organisations; or*
 - b. *establish a compensatory fund for Local Governments, similar to the pensioner discount provisions, if the State Government believes charitable organisations remain exempt from payment of Local Government rates.*
3. *Request that a broad review be conducted into the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under Section 6.26 of the Local Government Act 1995.*

Exemptions under this section of the Act have extended beyond the original intention and now provide rating exemptions for non-charitable purposes, which increase the rate burden to other ratepayers. It is considered that in the absence of amendments to better define 'charitable purposes', that the WA Government considers reimbursement to local governments once exemptions exceed a defined threshold, which could be set based on Local Government band levels.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

In addition to the WALGA Advocacy Positions 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 as mentioned in the Member comment for this item, WALGA also has the following relevant positions on rating exemptions:

2.1.3 Rating Exemptions – Department of Housing: Leasing to Charitable Organisations

Position Statement	That WALGA advocate to the Minister for Housing to include in the lease agreements with charitable institutions that they must pay Local Government rates on behalf of the Department of Housing recognising the services Local Government provides to its tenants.
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2.1.4 Rating Exemptions – Rate Equivalency Payments

Position Statement	Legislation should be amended so rate equivalency payments made by LandCorp and other Government Trading Entities are made to the relevant Local Governments instead of the State Government.
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2.1.5 Rating Restrictions – State Agreement Acts

Position Statement	Resource projects covered by State Agreement Acts should be liable for Local Government rates.
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7.5 RATEABILITY OF MISCELLANEOUS LICENSES

Shire of Mount Magnet

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr James McGorman, Shire of Mount Magnet

Seconded: President Cr Rossco Foulkes-Taylor, Shire of Murchison

That WALGA:

1. **Formally oppose any move by the Local Government Minister to introduce amendments to the *Local Government Act* to restrict the application of rates on Miscellaneous Licenses.**
2. **Develop an advocacy position on sector consultation prior to any amendment to the *Local Government Act*.**
3. **Undertake a financial analysis of the cost to the Mining Industry of the rating of Miscellaneous Licenses compared to the benefit to the Local Government sector.**

CARRIED

MEMBER COMMENT

The *Local Government Act 1995* s 6.26 (1) sets out the intent that all occupied land utilized for purposes other than charitable, benevolent, or other purposes of the Crown is rateable.

Subsequent to the enactment of the *Local Government Act 1995*, significant amendments were made to the terms of a Miscellaneous License in the *Mining Act 1978* through the *Mining Amendment Act 1998*.

Miscellaneous Licenses are one of a number of tenement types granted in respect to mineral resource recovery by the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS). The defined purposes for the grant of a Miscellaneous License is set out in the Mining Regulations 1981 r 42B, of which constitute significant infrastructure and construction necessary for the operations necessary to a mining enterprise.

The *Mining Amendment Act 1998* amended the term of the Miscellaneous license from a 5-year term with further two 5-year possible extensions; to a 21-year term with two possible further 21-year term extensions.

This amendment was made to explicitly facilitate the construction of permanent infrastructure – an evolution that clearly signals a shift in their functional and economic significance.

The introduction of the Fringe Benefits Tax in 1986 had a devastating impact on regional communities across Australia as Fly in Fly out work took hold, and unrated remote work camps replaced local workers, while often increasing traffic on Local Government owned assets such as airports and short stay accommodation intended for tourists, but used to house overflow crews.

Justice Solomon stated in his deliberations that:

"It is also noteworthy that the local government has a substantive role to play in the grant of a miscellaneous licence over any land (including Crown land). Given that a miscellaneous licence is often used for the development of significant infrastructure, the need for the involvement of local government is self-evident. Even a cursory perusal of the items listed in reg 42B indicates that it refers to facilities and infrastructure that would ordinarily be of direct concern to a local government.

It is noteworthy that the role of local government in the granting of other mining tenements is more limited. That feature of the Mining Act 1978 suggests that local government is likely to be more concerned or directly engaged with the activity on a miscellaneous licence than on other mining tenements."

Road Agreements

The Local Government in which a Miscellaneous License is held for the purpose of road construction, will often enter an agreement for maintenance of that road. The agreement is voluntary in basis, however, the cost of drafting and regulating compliance with the agreement is reported by many Local Governments to be both financially and resource hungry.

There have been reports made by Local Governments of agreements taking years to be completed, of costs to take legal action to enforce compliance, and the regular inspections to ensure undertaking are met.

These costs are outside the scope of road agreements and borne by the Local Government.

Much of the resource fields of Western Australia are located in Band 4 Local Governments, in very remote areas. While the Mining Company has access to legal and corporate resources, Local Governments are under-resourced and unequal in the negotiations.

Mining Camps

Significant environmental health services are provided to remote Mining Camps by Local Government, including commercial kitchen licensing, inspection and regulation; sewerage/wastewater treatment systems and monitoring, inspection and compliance; swimming pool inspections including water monitoring; all other services offered to a town-based business, with the cost of distance to travel and the complication of many more residents.

During an epidemic or outbreak of communicable disease, the Local Government in remote areas holds the statutory responsibility for incident control.

This service is increasingly difficult to resource with qualified officers choosing not to live and work remotely.

Mining Camps situated on a Miscellaneous License or Mining Lease have on occasion been approved by the Minister as rateable under the GRV methodology, upon application by the Local Government. This area of land is excised from the tenement for the purpose of the valuation.

The process for this to occur is protracted, requires the Mining Camp to have been operational for 12 months already and is at the discretion of the Minister. The Mining Company is required to provide input to the decision in the interest of fairness.

These already GRV-rated camps would be exempt from any rating of miscellaneous licenses as they have already been excised from the tenement.

Pipelines, powerlines, conveyor systems, tunnel, bridge, aerodrome, communications facilities, power generation and transmission facilities, storage or transportation facility for minerals or mineral concentrates, and pump stations

Each of the above purposes conveys a restricted access to the land on which they are constructed by tourists, small prospectors and local Traditional Owners. In many cases they are constructed on an underlying pastoral property which also pays rates on the same parcel.

Borefield, bore

These purposes require less restriction of access, but are also valued at a lower rate under the *Valuation of Land Act* than other purposes.

On this one piece of land, for each of the purposes above, the pastoral activity is curtailed despite the cost of the pastoral lease remitted to the State Treasury, and the rates to the Local Government.

The rateable value of a Miscellaneous License under the *Valuation of Land Act* is five times the rent on the tenement which is set out in the Mining Regulations 1981. Currently the rent on a Miscellaneous License is \$27 per ha, with the exception of a license granted for the search of ground water which is valued at \$112 per ha.

Rent payable on an underlying exploration license is \$1.55 per ha.

Tenement holder remits to -

- **Treasury** – rent on the exploration license, for the Miscellaneous License, (in addition to royalty applicable on the principle Mining Tenement activity).
- **Local Government** – rates on the exploration license only.

The Pastoralist remits to –

- **Treasury** – rent on the pastoral lease
- **Local Government** – rates on the pastoral lease.

On occasion the Mining Company will provide extra funds through a Community Benefit scheme to a community through philanthropic gifting which is spent in accordance with the ideological values of the board, land access purposes, and often to charities or causes that are outside of the regions in which the minerals are extracted through ESG programs. These donations do not correlate to rigorous statutory Integrated Planning and Reporting process undertaken by the Local Government.

The Local Government is increasingly constrained financially and further burdened by compliance with regulations – particularly in the regions where the minerals are extracted. Service provision that falls within the statutory scope of the State Government is being devolved to Local Government, including housing for State employees, medical services, security to community, provision of agency services such as Transport, Health, Human Services. These are by and large unfunded and under resourced by the State Government.

Planning options are significantly constrained through land banking of Mining Companies with tenements in townsites and on town commons.

Conversely, the GDP provided by the Mining Industry in Australia for quarter 1 of 2025 alone reached \$84.1B.

This inequity of wealth distribution has been evidenced through recent actions taken by Councils to increase rates to adequately fund the deficiency in their budget in accordance with the *Local Government Act* requirements. At that time, the Minister for Local Government publicly stated that the proposal "did not meet the values of consistency, equity and fairness".

In handing down his decision, Justice Solomon concluded with

"It is plain from the terms of the provisions referred to above [s6.26] that the object of imposing rates is to raise revenue for local government to undertake its activities. Specifically, the imposition of rates allows a local government to make up any budget deficiency. The Act thus reflects a direct link between the imposition of rates and the local government's ability to undertake its activities. As noted above, the local government plays a direct role and function in the grant of a miscellaneous licence. Plainly, the more significant the infrastructure proposed to occupy the miscellaneous licence, the greater will be the role played and the activity undertaken by the local government. In my view, a construction that exempts land from rates which is the subject of a miscellaneous licence and is occupied by significant infrastructure, sits most uncomfortably with the plain object of the statutory provisions concerning the local government's power to impose rates.

The second factor stems from the wording of s 6.26(2) itself. The exemptions in s 6.26(2)(a) - (k) relate overwhelmingly to charitable, benevolent, religious and public or civic purposes. That sits harmoniously with the theme of s 6.26(2)(a)(i). A construction that would exempt from rating, land that may be occupied by critical infrastructure facilitating the creation of profits for private interests, runs counter to the charitable and civic theme of s 6.26(2).

In my view, the Shire's construction provides greater harmony with the relevant object of the rating provisions of the LGA. "

The judiciary—our independent and impartial arbiter of legislative intent—has clearly affirmed the rateability of Miscellaneous Licenses, not only through statutory interpretation but also through a reasoned understanding of their practical implications.

To disregard this position through swift legislative action, without sector wide consultation is to undermine the very principles of legal clarity and administrative fairness upon which our governance is built.

The AGM is requested to support the actions taken by the Shire of Mount Magnet to rate Miscellaneous Licenses in accordance with the judgement recently handed down by the Supreme Court, and further request WALGA to undertake a full financial analysis of the cost to the mining industry of this action, and the financial benefit to Local Government in Western Australia.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

At the time of the distribution of this Agenda, State Council has not considered an item relating to Miscellaneous Licences.

However, item 8.2 in the September 2025 State Council Agenda relates to rating of Miscellaneous Licences. The recommendation in that report is that WALGA:

1. Advocate for Local Governments to continue to have the ability to rate miscellaneous licences under the *Mining Act 1978*, and
2. Oppose legislative amendments that seek to exempt occupied miscellaneous licence land from rating.
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*.

This item will be considered by State Council at the meeting on 5 September.

In relation to point 2 of the motion –

As a matter of course WALGA always advocates for consultation on legislative and regulatory amendments, however formalising this position has merit.

In relation to point 3 of the motion –

WALGA would need to determine the scope and cost of this analysis before considering in the context of WALGA's existing budget.

8 CLOSURE

Upon the completion of business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 4:11pm.

Attachment 1: AGM Standing Orders

WALGA Annual General Meeting Standing Orders

1. INTERPRETATIONS

For the purposes of these Standing Orders, if not inconsistent with the context, the following words shall have the following meanings:

- 1.1 **"Absolute Majority"** means:
a majority of delegates of the Association whether present and voting or not.
- 1.2 **"Association"** means:
all or any part of the Western Australian Local Government Association.
- 1.3 **"Delegate or Deputy Delegate"** means:
those persons duly nominated, from time to time, to represent a Member Local Government at a meeting of the Association.
- 1.4 **"Deputy President"** means:
the Deputy President for the time being of the Association.
- 1.5 **"Meeting"** means:
an Annual or Special General Meeting of the Association.
- 1.6 **"Member Local Government"** means:
a Local Government admitted to ordinary membership of the Association in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.
- 1.7 **"President"** means:
the President for the time being of the Association.
- 1.8 **"Simple Majority"** means:
a majority of the delegates from the Association that are present and voting.

2. CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

The proceedings and business of meetings of the Association shall be conducted according to these Standing Orders.

3. NOTICE OF MEETING

3.1 Annual General Meeting

The Chief Executive Officer of the Association shall give at least ninety (90) days notice of an Annual General Meeting to all Member Local Governments, advising of the closing date for submission of motions for inclusion on the agenda.

3.2 Special General Meeting

A Special General Meeting of the Association is to be held if a request is received by the Association President, in accordance with the requirements of the Association's Constitution. No business shall be transacted at a Special General Meeting other than that for which the Special General Meeting was called.

3.3 Notice shall be given at the destinations appearing in the records of the Association.

Notice will be deemed to have been delivered immediately if transmitted electronically or on the second working day after posting.

4. QUORUM

4.1 The Association shall not conduct business at a meeting unless a quorum is present.

4.2 At any meeting of the Association greater than one half of the delegates who are eligible to vote must be present to form a quorum.

4.3 The Association is not to transact business at a meeting unless a quorum is present.

4.4 If a quorum has not been established within the 30 minutes after a meeting is due to begin then the Association can be adjourned –

- (a) by the President or if the President is not present at the meeting, by the Deputy President;
- (b) if neither the President nor Deputy President is present at the meeting, by a majority of delegates present;
- (c) if only one delegate is present, by that delegate; or
- (d) if no delegate is present, by the Chief Executive Officer or a person authorised by the Chief Executive Officer.

4.5 If at any time during a meeting a quorum is not present, the President shall thereupon suspend the proceedings of the meeting for a period of five (5) minutes and if a quorum is not present at the expiration of that period, the meeting shall be deemed to have been adjourned and the person presiding is to reschedule it for some future time.

4.6 Notice of a meeting adjourned because of absence of a quorum is to be given to all Member Local Governments.

5. MEETINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The business of the Association shall be open to the public except upon such occasions as the Association may by resolution otherwise decide.

6. ORDER OF BUSINESS

Unless the Association should decide otherwise, the order of business at meetings of the Association, with the exception of special meetings or an adjourned meeting, shall be as follows:

- (a) Record of attendance and apologies;
- (b) Announcements;
- (c) Confirmation of minutes of previous meetings;
- (d) President's report;
- (e) Financial report for the financial year; and
- (f) Consideration of Executive and Member Motions.

7. VOTING ENTITLEMENTS

- 7.1** Each Member Local Government shall be entitled to be represented at any meeting of the Association.
- 7.2** Only eligible and registered delegates may vote.
- 7.3** A delegate shall be entitled to exercise one vote on each matter to be decided. Votes are to be exercised in person.
- 7.4** A delegate unable to attend any meeting of the Association shall be entitled to cast a vote by proxy.
- 7.5** A proxy shall be in writing and shall nominate the person in whose favour the proxy is given, which person need not be a delegate. Proxy authorisations shall be delivered to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association before the commencement of the meeting at which the proxy is to be exercised and shall be signed by the delegate or by the Chief Executive Officer of the Member Local Government that nominated the delegate.

8. SPECIAL URGENT BUSINESS

At any time during a meeting a delegate may, with the approval of an absolute majority, introduce a motion relating to special urgent business that calls for an expression of opinion from the meeting.

In presenting an item of special urgent business, a delegate shall have sufficient copies of the motion in writing for distribution to all delegates present at the

meeting and, where practicable, give prior notice to the President of such intention.

9. PRESIDENT

In the construction of these Standing Orders unless the context requires otherwise, the word "*President*" shall in the absence of the President include the Deputy President or the delegate chosen by resolution to preside at any meeting of the Association.

10. DELEGATE AND DEPUTY DELEGATE

10.1 In the construction of these Standing Orders unless the context requires otherwise, the word "delegate" shall in the absence of the delegate include the deputy delegate.

10.2 A deputy delegate acting in the capacity of a delegate unable to attend a meeting of the Association shall exercise all rights of that delegate.

11. PRESIDENT TO PRESIDE

11.1 The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association, but in absence of the President, the Deputy President shall preside.

11.2 In the absence of the President and the Deputy President, the delegates shall choose by resolution, a delegate present to preside at the meeting.

12. SPEAKING PROTOCOL

12.1 Only registered delegates and members of the Association's State Council shall be entitled to speak at meetings of the Association.

12.2 The first person that is entitled to speak at a meeting who attracts the attention of the person presiding shall have precedence in speaking.

12.3 Speakers are to use the microphones supplied.

12.4 When addressing a meeting, speakers are to:

- (a) rise and remain standing unless unable to do so by reason of sickness or disability;
- (b) address the meeting through the person presiding;
- (c) state their name and Local Government before otherwise speaking;

- (d) refrain from reading comment printed in the agenda paper in support of a motion, but may identify key points or make additional comment; and
 - (e) refrain from using provoking or discourteous expressions that are calculated to disturb the peaceful current of debate.
- 12.5** Mobile phones shall not be switched on while the meeting is in session.
- 13. DEBATE PROCEDURES**
- 13.1** A delegate moving a substantive motion may speak for –
- (a) 5 minutes in his or her opening address; and
 - (b) 3 minutes in exercising the right of reply.
- 13.2** Other speeches for or against motions are to be limited to 3 minutes unless consent of the meeting is obtained which shall be signified without debate.
- 13.3** No delegate, except the mover of a motion in reply, is to speak more than once on the same motion except by way of personal explanation.
- 13.4** As soon as the right of reply has been exercised, the motion is to be forthwith put to the vote without further comment.
- 13.5** No discussion shall take place on any motion unless it is moved and seconded. Only one amendment on any one motion shall be received at a time, and such amendment shall be disposed of before any further amendment can be received. Any number of amendments may be proposed.
- 13.6** The provisions of these Standing Orders applicable to motions apply mutatis mutandis to amendments, except that the mover of an amendment shall have no right of reply.
- 13.7** When a motion has been moved and seconded, the person presiding shall at once proceed to take a vote thereon unless a delegate opposes it or an amendment is proposed.
- 13.8** No more than two delegates shall speak in succession on one side, either for or against the question before the meeting, and if at the conclusion of the second speaker's remarks, no delegate speaks on the other side, the motion or amendment may be put to the vote.

- 13.9** Notwithstanding clause 13.7, where a composite motion is moved which embodies the core aspects of subsequent motions listed on the agenda, a delegate whose motion has been superseded shall have the opportunity to speak on the question of the composite motion before it is put.

Once a composite motion has been carried, no further debate shall be permitted in respect of the superseded motions.

- 13.10** At any time during a debate, but after the conclusion of a delegate's comments, a delegate who has not spoken during the debate may move, without discussion, "that the question be now put". If that motion is seconded and carried by a majority, the question shall be submitted at once to the meeting, after the mover has replied.

14. QUESTIONS

Any delegate seeking to ask a question at any meeting of the Association shall direct the question to the President.

15. POINT OF ORDER

A delegate who is addressing the President shall not be interrupted except on a point of order, in which event the delegate shall wait until the delegate raising the point of order has been heard and the question of order has been disposed of, whereupon the delegate so interrupted may, if permitted, continue.

16. MOTION - SUBSTANCE TO BE STATED

A delegate seeking to propose an original motion or amendment shall state its substance before addressing the meeting thereon and, if so required by the President, shall put the motion or amendment in writing.

17. PRIORITY OF SPEAKERS

If two or more delegates wish to speak at the same time, the President shall decide who is entitled to priority.

18. PRESIDENT TO BE HEARD

Whenever the President signifies a desire to speak during a debate, any delegate speaking or offering to speak is to be silent, so that the President may be heard without interruption.

19. WITHDRAWAL OF MOTION

A motion or amendment may be withdrawn by the mover with the consent of the meeting, which shall be signified without debate, and it shall not be competent for any delegate to speak upon it after the mover has asked permission for its withdrawal, unless such permission has been refused.

20. PRESIDENT MAY CALL TO ORDER

The President shall preserve order, and may call any delegate to order when holding an opinion that there shall be cause for so doing.

21. RULING BY PRESIDENT

The President shall decide all questions of order or practice. The decision shall be final and be accepted by the meeting without argument or comment unless in any particular case the meeting resolves that a different ruling shall be substituted for the ruling given by the President. Discussions shall be permitted on any such motion.

22. RESOLUTIONS

22.1 Except as otherwise provided in the Association Constitution and these Standing Orders, all motions concerning the affairs of the Association shall be passed by a simple majority.

22.2 Any matter considered by the Association at a Special Meeting shall not be passed unless having received an absolute majority.

23. NO DISCUSSION

Where there is no discussion on a motion, the President may deem the motion to be passed unless the meeting resolves otherwise.

24. PERMISSIBLE MOTIONS DURING DEBATE

24.1 When a motion is under debate, no further motion shall be moved except the following:

- (a) that the motion be amended;
- (b) that the meeting be adjourned;
- (c) that the debate be adjourned;
- (d) that the question be now put;
- (e) that the meeting proceed with the next item of business; or
- (f) that the meeting sits behind closed doors.

24.2 Any delegate who has not already spoken on the subject of a motion at the close of the speech of any other delegate, may move without notice any one of the motions listed in clause 24.1 (b)-(f) and, if the motion is seconded, it shall be put forthwith.

24.3 When a debate is adjourned, the delegate who moves the adjournment shall be the first to speak on the motion when the debate is resumed unless the delegate advises of no desire to speak on the motion. Where this occurs, the President shall then call for further speakers, with the exception of those delegates who have previously spoken (unless the meeting otherwise agrees).

25. RESCISSION OF RESOLUTION

25.1 At the same meeting

Unless a greater majority is required for a particular kind of decision under the Standing Orders (in which event that shall be the majority required), the Association may, by simple majority at the same meeting at which it is passed, rescind or alter a resolution if all delegates who were present at the time when the original resolution was passed are present.

25.2 At a Future Meeting

Unless a greater majority is required for a particular kind of decision under the Standing Orders (in which event that shall be the majority required), the Association may rescind or alter a resolution made at an earlier meeting:

- (a) by simple majority, where the delegate intending to move the motion has, through the Chief Executive Officer, given written notice of the intended motion to each delegate at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting; or
- (b) by absolute majority, in any other case.

26. METHOD OF TAKING VOTES

The President shall, in taking a vote on any motion or amendment, put the question first in the affirmative, and then in the negative and may do so as often as is necessary to enable formation and declaration of an opinion as to whether the affirmative or the negative has the majority on the voices or by a show of hands or by an electronic key pad voting system.

- 27. DIVISION**
The result of voting openly is determined on the count of official voting cards and, immediately upon a vote being taken, a delegate may call for a division.
- 28. ALL DELEGATES TO VOTE**
- 28.1** At meetings of the Association, a delegate present at the meeting when a question is put shall vote on the question.
- 28.2** Each delegate shall be entitled to exercise one deliberative vote on any matter considered.
- 29. PRESIDENT'S RIGHT TO VOTE**
The President shall have a casting vote only.
- 30. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**
- 30.1** In cases of urgent necessity or whilst the Association is sitting behind closed doors, any of these Standing Orders may be suspended on a motion duly made and seconded, but that motion shall not be declared carried unless a simple majority of the delegates voting on the question have voted in favour of the motion.
- 30.2** Any delegates moving the suspension of a Standing Order shall state the object of the motion, but discussion shall not otherwise take place.
- 31. NO ADVERSE REFLECTION ON ASSOCIATION**
A delegate shall not reflect adversely upon a resolution of the Association, except on a motion that the resolution be rescinded.
- 32. NO ADVERSE REFLECTION ON DELEGATE**
A delegate of the Association shall not reflect adversely upon the character or actions of another delegate nor impute any motive to a delegate unless the Association resolves, without debate, that the question then before the Association cannot otherwise be adequately considered.
- 33. MINUTES**
- 33.1** The Chief Executive Officer of the Association is to cause minutes of the meeting to be kept and preserved.
- 33.2** The minutes of a meeting are to be submitted to the next Annual or Special General Meeting for confirmation.
- 33.3** Copies of the minutes will be supplied to all delegates prior to the meeting.

WALGA

Annual General Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday, 9 October 2024

Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre
21 Mounts Bay Road, Perth WA

1 OPENING

The Chair declared the meeting open at 2:58pm.

2 RECORD OF APOLOGIES

- Shire of Dowerin
- Shire of Carnarvon
- Shire of Merredin
- Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nil

4 ADOPTION OF AGM ASSOCIATION STANDING ORDERS

The Annual General Meeting Association Standing Orders were contained within the Agenda.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Chris Mitchell JP, Shire of Broome

Seconded: President Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

That the Annual General Meeting Association Standing Orders be adopted.

CARRIED

5 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of the 2023 WALGA Annual General Meeting were contained within the Agenda, along with a report on the action taken on the 2023 AGM resolutions.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Karen Wheatland, City of Melville

Seconded: President Chris Antonio, Shire of Northam

That the 2023 WALGA Annual General Meeting be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

CARRIED

6 ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT

The 2023-2024 Annual Report, including the 2023-2024 Audited Financial Statements, was distributed to Members separately.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Paige McNeil, Shire of Mundaring

Seconded: President Chris Antonio, Shire of Northam

That the 2023-2024 Annual Report, including the 2023-2024 Audited Financial Statements, be received.

CARRIED

7 CONSIDERATION OF EXECUTIVE AND MEMBER MOTIONS

7.1 AMENDMENTS TO THE CAT ACT 2011 - ALLOW LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO MAKE LOCAL LAWS TO CONTAIN CATS TO THE OWNER'S PROPERTY

Shire of Esperance and Shire of Dardanup

ALTERNATE MOTION

Moved: President Cr Tyrell Gardiner, Shire of Dardanup

Seconded: President Cr Ronald Chambers, Shire of Esperance

That WALGA:

1. Advocate to the State Government to make changes to the *Cat Act 2011* to permit local laws to be made to the following effect:
 - a. Cats are to be confined to the cat owner's residence premises;
 - b. Cats within public places are to be under effective control and not to create a nuisance;
 - c. Cats are not allowed on other private properties where the cat does not have the expressed permission of the occupier of that premises, and are not to create a nuisance;
 - d. Cats are prohibited from ecologically sensitive areas designated as Cat Prohibited Areas by Absolute majority of Council, and clearly demarcated as such on a sign displayed at the area, without the need to modify the local law.
2. Develop a model Cat Local Law in consultation with and agreement with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, The Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation, and the WA Feral Cat Working Group that provides for the following:
 - Cats are to be confined to the cat owner's residence premises, unless under effective control;
 - Cats within public places are to be under effective control and not to create a nuisance at all times;
 - Cats are not allowed on other private properties where the cat does not have the expressed permission of the occupier of that premises, and are not to create a nuisance; and
 - Cats are prohibited from ecologically sensitive areas designated as Cat Prohibited Areas by Absolute Majority of Council, and clearly demarcated as such on a sign displayed at the area, without the need to modify the local law.

AMENDMENT

Moved: Cr Karen Wheatland, City of Melville

Seconded: Cr Chontelle Stone, City of Cockburn

Insert the words "Subject to Part 1", at the start of Part 2.

THE AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND CARRIED

THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION AS AMENDED WAS PUT

That WALGA:

- 1. Advocate to the State Government to make changes to the *Cat Act 2011* to permit local laws to be made to the following effect:**
 - a. Cats are to be confined to the cat owner's residence premises;**
 - b. Cats within public places are to be under effective control and not to create a nuisance;**
 - c. Cats are not allowed on other private properties where the cat does not have the expressed permission of the occupier of that premises, and are not to create a nuisance;**
 - d. Cats are prohibited from ecologically sensitive areas designated as Cat Prohibited Areas by Absolute majority of Council, and clearly demarcated as such on a sign displayed at the area, without the need to modify the local law.**
- 2. Subject to Part 1, Develop a model Cat Local Law in consultation with and agreement with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, The Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation, and the WA Feral Cat Working Group that provides for the following:**
 - a. Cats are to be confined to the cat owner's residence premises, unless under effective control;**
 - b. Cats within public places are to be under effective control and not to create a nuisance at all times;**
 - c. Cats are not allowed on other private properties where the cat does not have the expressed permission of the occupier of that premises, and are not to create a nuisance; and**
 - d. Cats are prohibited from ecologically sensitive areas designated as Cat Prohibited Areas by Absolute Majority of Council, and clearly demarcated as such on a sign displayed at the area, without the need to modify the local law.**

CARRIED

Two Local Governments submitted items on this matter. In accordance with WALGA's criteria for motions, when motions of a similar objective are received, they are to be consolidated.

CONSOLIDATED MOTION

That WALGA advocate to the State Government to make changes to the *Cat Act 2011* to permit local laws to be made to the following effect:

- 1. Cats are to be confined to the cat owner's residence premises;**
- 2. Cats within public places are to be under effective control and not to create a nuisance;**
- 3. Cats are not allowed on other private properties where the cat does not have the expressed permission of the occupier of that premises, and are not to create a nuisance;**
- 4. Cats are prohibited from ecologically sensitive areas designated as Cat Prohibited Areas by Absolute majority of Council, and clearly demarcated as such on a sign displayed at the area, without the need to modify the local law.**

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE SUBMISSION:

MOTION

That WALGA request the State Government make changes to the *Cat Act 2011* to allow Local Governments to make local laws to contain cats to the owner's property.

MEMBER COMMENT

The Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation has advised the Shire of its reasons why a Local Government cannot create a local law to deal with wandering cats or cats that are creating a nuisance.

Local Governments are therefore unable to enact local laws to effectively deal with cats to meet the expectations of the community due to inconsistencies with the *Cat Act 2011*.

Amendments therefore need to be made to the *Cat Act 2011* to allow the effective management of cats.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

The Motion generally aligns with current [WALGA advocacy](#) in relation to a review of the *Cat Act 2011*.

That the Local Government sector advocates for a commitment from the State Government...to prioritise reforms to the Cat Act 2011, in accordance with the Statutory Review undertaken and tabled in the State Parliament on 27 November 2019.

The 2019 Review included proposals that penalties should be incurred when cats wander/trespass on property without consent or cats should be confined to their property.

SHIRE OF DARDANUP SUBMISSION:

MOTION

That WALGA develop a model Cat Local Law in consultation and agreement with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation and the WA Cat Feral Working Group that provides for the following:

1. Cats are to be confined to the cat owner's residence premises, unless under effective control;
2. Cats within public places are to be under effective control and not to create a nuisance at all times;
3. Cats are not allowed on other private properties where the cat does not have the expressed permission of the occupier of that premises, and are not to create a nuisance;
4. Cats are prohibited from ecologically sensitive areas designated as Cat Prohibited Areas by Absolute Majority of Council, and clearly demarcated as such on a sign displayed at the area, without the need to modify the local law.

MEMBER COMMENT

The Shire of Dardanup in 2022 attempted to bring its local law in line with that of other Local Governments where provisions have been included that expressly require cat owners to have effective control of their cats, and that makes it an offence for a cat to be in other places, where the occupier of that place has not given approval.

At its meeting of 25th of January 2023, the Shire of Dardanup resolved [09-23] as follows:

THAT Council:

1. *In accordance with Section 3.12 of the Local Government Act 1995 approves the advertising of the proposed 'Shire of Dardanup Cats Local Law 2023' [Appendix ORD: 12.4.2C] in order to seek community comment.*
2. *Provides a copy of the proposed Local Law and public notice to the Minister for Local Government; and*
3. *After the close of the public consultation period, requests the Chief Executive Officer to submit a report on any submissions received on the proposed Local Law to enable Council to consider the submissions made and to determine whether to make the Local Law in accordance with section 3.12(4).*

The Local Law was advertised, and no public submissions were received. A Submission from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries were received and considered by Council in November 2023. Council resolved [273-23] as follows:

THAT Council:

1. *Receives the submission received from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries in respect of the Shire of Dardanup Cats Local Law 2023.*
2. *Notes that there were no public submissions received in respect of the Shire of Dardanup Cats Local Law 2023.*
3. *By Absolute Majority decision, adopts the Shire of Dardanup Cats Local Law 2023 [Appendix ORD: 12.4.1D] inclusive of the following minor amendments:*
 - *Clause 1.1: Citation changed to italics;*
 - *Clause 1.4: Changed both the citation title and "Government Gazette" to italics.;*
 - *Clause 1.5: In the definition of Act, changed the citation to italics;*
 - *The words ", in the opinion of an authorised person," deleted from Clause 2.1(1); Clause 2.2(1)(b) and Clause 2.4(2).*
 - *Clause 3.1(1) Amended to give clarity that the Shire acknowledges the local law process in the designation of cat prohibited areas by adding the words "after following the process for amending a local law pursuant to the Local Government Act." after the words 'Schedule 3';*
 - *Clause 4.8 Conditions – amend subclause (1)(a) to read: (a) each cat kept on the premises to be kept so as not to create a nuisance; and*
 - *Clause 4.8 Conditions – deletes subclause (1)(b) that read "(b) that the premises must be adequately fenced (and premises will be taken not to be adequately fenced if there is more than one escape of a cat from the premises);" ; and renumber the following subclauses accordingly.*
4. *Publishes a copy of the adopted local law in the Government Gazette.*
5. *Gives a copy of the adopted gazette ready Local Law to the Minister for Local Government.*

6. *After the local law has been published in the Gazette, gives local public notice as per section 1.7 of the Local Government Act 1995 advising:*
 - *The title of the local law;*
 - *Summarizing the purpose and effect of the local law;*
 - *Specifying the day on which the local law comes into operation; and*
 - *Advising the location of copies of where the local law may be inspected or obtained.*
7. *Supplies copies of the local law, Explanatory Memorandum, Statutory Procedures Checklist and other supporting material in accordance with Ministerial Directions, to the WA Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation within 10 working days of the gazettal publication date of the local law.*

The Joint Standing Committee in Delegated Legislation (the Committee) considered the Shire of Dardanup Cats Local Law 2023 at its meeting held 13th of March 2024 and outlined that the Committee believed the proposed local law is contrary to the *Cat Act 2011*. The Committee therefore requires that Council agree to undertaking amendments to the Local Law at its meeting on 27th of March 2024 and by 3rd of April 2024.

The Committee requests the following undertakings:

1. *Within 6 months:*
 - *delete the definition of **effective control** in clause 1.5*
 - *delete clause 2.2*
 - *amend clause 4.4(f) to ensure it is not inconsistent with the Cat Act 2011*
 - *correct the typographical error in the clause reference beneath the heading to Schedule 3.*
2. *All consequential amendments arising from undertaking 1 will be made.*
3. *Clauses 2.2 and 4.4(f) will not be enforced in a manner contrary to undertaking 1.*
4. *Where the local law is made publicly available by the Shire, whether in hard copy or electronic form, ensure that it is accompanied by a copy of the undertaking.*

Whilst Council in March resolved to undertake the changes required by the Committee, Council in July 2024 when presented with the amendment local law, did not initiate the making of the amendment local law.

Officers have written to the Committee, providing it with the outcome of the Council decision. At the time of writing this report the Committee's response had not yet been received.

There are no direct legal implications of seeking WALGA form a position on the local law, however, should the motion be successful and WALGA is able to convince the State Government of the merits, then the motion may lead to possible changes to State Government Policy and Legislation.

Cat Act 2011

The authority for a Local Government to create a local law under the *Cat Act 2011* is provided in section 79 of the *Cat Act 2011*. The *Cat Act 2011* sets out the requirements inter alia for registration and sterilisation of cats, as well as the requirements for cat management

facilities. The Cat Regulations 2012 set out the requirements for cats to be microchipped and registered, as well as the approval requirements for cat breeders.

In the paragraphs that follow, the Shire of Dardanup will not name any of these Local Governments that have Cat local laws in place, so as to not do these Local Governments in with the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation (the Committee). The Shire understands that the Committee may require those Local Governments that have local laws with such provisions, to amend these local laws in future, in order to ensure it is in line with the Committee's direction as given to the Shire of Dardanup. For that reason, this report will refer more broadly to other Local Governments within Western Australia that have such local laws.

Within Western Australia there are a number of Local Governments that have Cat Local Laws that require cats to be under effective control when in a public place. Some of these Cat Local Laws also make it an offence for a cat to be in a place, other than a public place, without the express permission of the occupier of that place. These local laws also require cats not to create a nuisance in either a public place, or other places. There are also Property and Public Places Local Laws, that allow Council's to make designations of areas, by absolute majority and to erect a sign to give effect to such designations.

These provisions seem sensible and require that a cat cannot simply go onto someone else's private property without their permission, that cats are under effective control in public places and are prohibited from entering areas of sensitive ecological values. [The WA Feral Cat Working Group provided the Shire of Dardanup with an information sheet with reference to existing Cat Local Laws \(names of Local Governments redacted\), and a legal opinion received from Castledine Gregory in relation to this. This also includes reference to the WA Labor Party's party Platform for 2023.](#)

WALGA's support for the development of a model Cat Local Law that incorporates these provisions as standard provisions are sought so as to ensure this is accepted in advance by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation. By doing this, it will save a lot of frustration for Local Governments having to go through a local law development and/or review process and will also ensure that adequate provisions to control cats are included in the local law. This will assist greatly in dealing with complaints from residents in relation to the nuisances caused by cats and will also assist greatly in enforcement efforts by Local Government rangers.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

Many Local Governments have made Cat Local Laws prohibiting cats from being on land under the care, control and management of the Local Government, as currently provided for under the *Cat Act 2011*.

It is established through numerous disallowance motions by Parliament's Delegated Legislation Committee that the *Cat Act 2011* does not provide the requisite heads of power for a Local Government to make Cat Local Laws requiring cats to be confined to the owner's residence or being prevented from roaming in any public place throughout the district.

Although not currently achievable, the intent of this Motion can be considered upon successful advocacy for a review of the *Cat Act 2011* and provision of the necessary heads of power that allow Cat Local Laws to prevent cats from wandering.

7.2 ADVOCACY FOR LEGISLATIVE REFORMS TO COUNTER LAND-BANKING

Town of Bassendean

RESOLUTION

Moved: Mayor Kath Hamilton, Town of Bassendean

Seconded: Cr Jennie Carter, Town of Bassendean

That WALGA:

- 1. In line with its 2020-2025 Strategic Plan to provide a Sector Vision that enables Local Governments to be agile enhancing community wellbeing and economic prosperity, develops a draft Advocacy Position for Legislative Reforms to address Land-Banking practices including, but not limited to consideration of the following:**
 - a. Prohibiting demolition of habitable housing until a Development Application (DA) has been approved;**
 - b. development applications that result in the demolition of existing habitable housing be time limited so that reasonable time periods for project commencement and project completion are conditions of the development application.**
 - c. provide Local Authorities with the ability to apply a “penalty fee” over and above any differential rating on vacant land, where the time conditions on the development application in (b) have not been met.**
 - d. Development of a mandatory register of unoccupied residential properties, with the ability of Local Governments to apply rates or levies on long term unoccupied residential properties, which could increase incrementally over time.**
- 2. Distributes the draft “WALGA Advocacy Position for Legislative Reforms to counter Land-Banking” to all West Australian Local Authorities for comment, and that a subsequent report be provided for consideration by WALGA Zones.**

CARRIED

MEMBER COMMENT

The Victorian Government recently introduced the ability to tax long term unoccupied residential properties (i.e. a residential property left vacant for six months or more in a year). Victorian Councils welcomed these changes to “Vacant Residential Land Tax” (VRLT) emphasising that it is a significant step forward in addressing longstanding land-banking issues that plague many municipalities.

Tighter controls that prevent the demolition of viable housing stock prior to Development Approvals (DA) assists in closing a loophole, that has to date, increased the numbers of long term unsightly vacant blocks negatively affecting the amenity of suburbs and towns. The introduction of a levy on long term unoccupied residential homes is designed to encourage occupation or rental of those homes. In turn DA approvals that subsequently require the demolition of viable housing stock should require commencement and completion of the new development within reasonable timelines.

This will alleviate the strain on the housing market by avoiding premature demolition with the intention to retain viable housing for occupancy for as long as possible, leading to a positive impact on rental availability and affordability. All of this can be accomplished without negatively affecting the development potential of a site.

Reference Documents

Link to media "New legislation to boost housing supply and combat land-banking" by Shire of Maribyrnong: <https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/News/New-legislation-to-boost-housing-supply-and-combat-land-banking>.

Link to media "How the world is tackling issue of empty homes" by The Guardian: <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/aug/02/how-the-world-is-tackling-issue-of-empty-homes>.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

Part 1a and 1b

Under Schedule 2 Clause 61 (1) of the Planning and Development (Local Planning Scheme) Regulations 2015 (LPS Regulations) the demolition of a single house, and any associated structure, are exempt from requiring development approval, unless the proposal is located in a heritage-protected place. Further demolition works are regulated by the *Building Act 2011* and the Building Regulations 2012, and thus the removal of a dwelling would require the issuance of a building permit before demolition is undertaken. Local Governments as permit authorities are required to issue building permits within statutory timeframes. There are limited reasons why a Local Government can refuse to issue a building permit, including where the necessary development approval has not been issued. The proposal outlined in the Town of Bassendean's motion would require amendments to both the planning and building regulatory frameworks.

It should also be noted that under the LPS Regulations and State Planning Policy 3.1 Residential Design Codes (SPP3.1) most proposals for single houses are also exempt from requiring development approval. Most proposals for grouped and multiple dwellings do require development approval.

Local Governments are able to limit the validity period of a development approval and a building permit, with substantial commencement being required before the expiry date to ensure the ongoing validity of the approval. Common lengths of approval are 24 and 48 months.

Part 1c

The LPS Regulations Schedule.2, cl.71 provides that an approved development must be substantially commenced...if no period is specified in the approval, within the period of two years commencing on the date the determination is made or the period specified or as approved, with the approval lapsing if development is not substantially commenced within the determined period.

Part (c) of the proposal, appears to seek a modified penalty to be prescribed in Planning and Development Regulation 42, enabling an infringement notice to be issued, where residential development is not substantially commenced before expiry of the approval period.

It should be noted that if the time period for commencement of development expires, the approval expires and the development application process would need to restart if the developer so chooses to proceed. Applying a penalty to an expired application would likely require amendments to the LPS Regulations and potentially the *Planning and Development Act 2005*. The modified penalty under the planning framework is currently set at \$500.

Part 1d

Proposal for mandatory register of unoccupied residential properties

Implementing the proposed register would require legislative amendment and regulatory provisions to enable collection of evidence that a habitable residential property is unoccupied continually for a prescribed period, to inform entry of a property into the register.

Proposal for application of a differential rate to residential improved and long-term unoccupied properties

- Local Government Act section 6.33(1)(b) already enables a differential rate to be levied for a purpose for which the land is held or used as determined by the Local Government e.g. Some Local Governments currently levy a differential rate for “residential improved and vacant” property.
- It is unclear if section 6.33 provisions can be interpreted as enabling Local Government to levy scaled differential rates applicable to specified timeframes that an improved residential property has been unoccupied. This may require confirmation from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries subject to advice from the State Solicitor’s Office. If section 6.33 cannot be interpreted to enable this, then a legislative amendment would be required.

Proposal for a “levy” to be applied to long term unoccupied residential properties.

Local Government Act section 6.16 limits Local Government imposition of fees and charges to goods or services provided the Local Government.

This proposal intends a penalty for long-term unoccupied residential property, which under written law would require legislative amendment to create an offence and prescribe a modified penalty / court proceedings.

7.3 ADVOCACY FOR EXPANSION OF DIFFERENTIAL RATING TO INCLUDE LONG TERM UNOCCUPIED COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS (PROPERTY ACTIVATION LEVY)

Town of Bassendean

RESOLUTION

Moved: Mayor Kath Hamilton, Town of Bassendean

Seconded: Cr Dakota Krispyn, Shire of Harvey

That WALGA:

1. Explores expanding Item 2.1.8 Differential Rates of its Advocacy Position Statement to consider inclusion of the following:
 - a. Advocating for Local Authorities to have the ability to apply a differential rate to long term unoccupied commercial buildings; and
 - b. Developing legislation that requires commercial property owners to demonstrate that in order to avoid the imposition of a differential rate on unoccupied commercial property the property;
 - i. is commercially habitable with annual investment in maintenance
 - ii. remains connected to essential services
 - iii. is undergoing periodic compliance checks and,
 - iv. has a plan in place to redevelop or make operational.
 - c. Develop legislation that enables Local Government to provide exemptions to the above differential rating based on an approved periodic activation program for the vacant commercial property by the Local Government.
2. Distributes the draft expanded WALGA Advocacy Position for Differential Rates to counter long term unoccupied commercial buildings to all West Australian Local Authorities for comment, and that a subsequent report be made available for consideration by WALGA Zones.

CARRIED

MEMBER COMMENT

The Northern Territory Government enabled Darwin to apply a "*Property Activation Levy*" to address long term vacant land or unoccupied commercial buildings, endeavouring to activate or beautify properties that generally have a negative impact the overall amenity and vibrancy of streetscapes. The Property Activation Levy incorporates the following:

- Owners of unoccupied commercial property are provided a reasonable grace period to activate their property without incurring the levy.
- Any property meeting the minimum number of listed activation options does not incur the surcharge levy applicable only to long term unoccupied commercial buildings.
- Revenue raised from the Property Activation Levy, is used on revitalisation projects of public places and land.

The purpose of the property activation levy is to encourage owners of unoccupied commercial buildings to activate and maintain their properties to improve commercial precincts with a focus on the following objectives:

- To improve the amenity of commercial precincts for residents, workers and visitors / tourists.
- Support adjoining business operators by encouraging activation of all commercial premises within precincts.
- Improve the liveability, attractiveness, safety and cultural activity of these precincts.
- Encourage the commercial precincts to thrive.

Some of the suggested activation (that must include ongoing maintenance) for unoccupied commercial premises are listed below, noting this list is not exhaustive:

- Inset graphics, art displays or other visual installations on ground level external windows and walls.
- Repaint or retile and improve ground level frontage and associated awnings over the footpath.
- Include rotating shop displays (for example Christmas, Easter, local events) or community spaces, such as for group activities, classes or study areas.
- Where setback from the road reserve exists, undertake improved landscaping.

Reference Documents:

Link to the "*Property Activation Levy*" document is below, and outlines a diverse number of suggested options for the activation and beautification of vacant land or unoccupied mixed use premises:

https://treasury.nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/901495/derelict-vacant-property-levy.pdf

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

WALGA's Advocacy Position 2.1.8 Differential Rates is below:

Position Statement	Section 6.33 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> should be reviewed in contemplation of time-based differential rating, to encourage development of land.
Background	Concern at the amount of vacant land remaining in an undeveloped state for an extensive period of time and holding up development opportunities.

Local Government Act section 6.33(1)(b) already enables a differential rate to be levied for a purpose for which the land is held or used as determined by the Local Government e.g. Some Local Governments currently levy a differential rate for "residential improved and vacant" property. This can be extended to "commercial improved" and "commercial undeveloped".

7.4 ACTION ON ASBESTOS FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Shire of Dundas

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

Seconded: Cr Erin Sergeant, City of Kwinana

That WALGA advocates for the state and federal governments to take urgent action to assist Local Governments and their communities in safely removing asbestos, including providing targeting funding programs.

CARRIED

MEMBER COMMENT

The Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (ASEA) [2024-2030 Strategic Plan](#) identifies, more than in previous plans, the risk posed by the increasing degradation of asbestos and the need for action. State governments are currently considering the plan, but any adoption of the plan must be supported by additional funding and support from Local Governments and their communities.

There are a range of ways that asbestos management impacts Local Governments. In [WALGA's Submission](#) on the ASEA Strategic Plan, it was identified:

Asbestos management is an ongoing and increasing challenge for Local Government, particularly asbestos management during and following emergency events, illegal disposal of asbestos into the environment through Local Government services, and the regulation of the asbestos removal industry.

Local Governments in regional and remote areas face additional significant and complex challenges, including the limited availability and cost of suitably qualified contractors, large areas of asbestos contaminated land requiring remediation and limited ability to fund asbestos removal and communities where property with asbestos is under, or not, insured.

A whole government package of support and funding is needed to address this issue and ensure that communities are not impacted and that asbestos is removed and not just managed through legislation.

The Asbestos National Strategic Plan (ANSP) for the 2024-2030 consultation aims to address the pressing issue of asbestos-related diseases in Australia. However, the current focus of the consultation is primarily on compliance rather than actively pursuing the funding and comprehensive removal of asbestos, which is crucial for safeguarding public health.

Australia grapples with one of the highest rates of mesothelioma globally, primarily caused by asbestos exposure. Western Australia faces a higher incidence rate of mesothelioma compared to other regions, emphasising the urgency of effective asbestos management.

The ANSP endeavours to enhance asbestos awareness and promote its safe management, removal, and disposal nationwide; it is all compliance-based. It aims to eliminate asbestos-related diseases through collaboration between the Australian government, states, and territories. The plan's key objectives include eradicating asbestos-related diseases, supporting affected individuals, and advocating for a global ban on asbestos production and trade.

To implement the ANSP for 2024-2030, the Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency (ASSEA) seeks endorsement from states and territories, including Western Australia. Should Western Australia endorse the plan, a jurisdictional action plan aligned with the ANSP would be devised to address state-specific priorities and challenges.

However, the current consultation lacks a strong emphasis on funding and actively pursuing asbestos removal to improve the ANSP and ensure a more comprehensive approach; it's imperative to advocate for increased funding and prioritise the active removal and safe disposal of asbestos across affected areas of Western Australia.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

The ASEA Strategic Plan has identified an increasing need to take action on asbestos. As the material degrades over time there is an increasing human health risk and costs associated with removal escalate. As identified in the AGM item, WALGA's recent [Submission](#) on the ASEA Strategic Plan noted that Asbestos management is an ongoing and increasing challenge for Local Governments, particularly in regional areas, and additional focus is needed. The approach of providing targeted funding and support would assist regional Local Government to address issues such as limited availability and cost of suitably qualified contractors and ability to fund asbestos removal.

7.5 ADDRESSING THE IMPRACTICALITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FUNDING DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES AND GOVERNMENT REGIONAL OFFICER HOUSING

Shire of Dundas

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

Seconded: President Cr Kirrilee Warr, Shire of Chapman Valley

That WALGA advocates to the State Government for the State Government to fully fund construction and maintenance of Department of Communities (Social) and Government Regional Officer Housing.

CARRIED

MEMBER COMMENT

All remote and regional Local Governments face challenges in attracting and retaining staff which is also true of State Govt Depts, such as Police and the Education Dept. The provision of good housing is critical in attracting staff to these areas. Any Local Governments that are exposed to the boom-bust cycle of mining, face significant challenges related to the funding and provision of the Department of Community and Government Regional Officers' Housing (GROH). The volatile boom and bust cycles of the mining industry creates an even more financially risky environment for Local Governments to invest in housing. Most remote and regional Local Government areas are smaller and have the least capacity to raise funding through rates due their smaller population bases. Budgets are already stretched to provide community infrastructure for these communities.

- Boom and bust cycles in resource-dependent communities: The mining industry is inherently volatile, with periods of rapid growth (booms) followed by significant downturns (busts). This cycle profoundly affects local economies and property values. When Local Governments invest in housing during a boom, they face the risk of property values plummeting during a bust. Currently, the nickel crisis is an example of how quickly and severely property values can decline, leaving Local Governments with significant financial losses and underutilized assets.
- Impractical Investment: Local Governments are not in a position to absorb the financial risks associated with building houses with a long-term, 'lease back' agreement to recover their investment. Housing investments should be stable and predictable, (which is not the case in resource-dependent communities). If smaller Local Governments are seeking to borrow funds for these builds, they are then denied an opportunity to borrow for other community infrastructure projects that may be more of a local priority.
- State Responsibility: The function to supply and maintain Department of Communities and GROH housing in remote communities is a State Govt responsibility and should be funded through state taxes and royalties.

All remote and regional Local Governments urge WALGA to advocate for the State government to fully fund construction and maintenance of Department of Communities and GROH housing. Local Governments should not bear the financial risks associated with the provision of social and State agency housing. Funding of this housing by Local Governments impacts their sustainability and ability to fund their core responsibilities for their communities such as, asset management, staff retention, and roads.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

The GROH Program provides housing for public sector employees providing essential services in regional and remote locations to attract and retain staff. The Department of Communities uses partnerships to increase supply of GROH housing in addition to its own capital investment and refurbishment programs. Partnerships include build to lease agreements, which Local Governments are eligible to apply to. The Department of Communities also provides subsidised rental accommodation to eligible low-income households across Western Australia commonly referred to as public or social housing. Public housing is owned and managed directly by the Department of Communities. Social housing can be owned and or maintained by a third party, typically Community Housing Providers.

In a 2024 WALGA survey, 100 percent of respondents viewed housing as a major challenge in their Local Government area and 64 percent stating that the lack of Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH) housing is “very challenging” or “extremely challenging”.

Housing supply continues to be a priority issue for both the Australian and State Government. The Australian Government's 2024-2 budget included an additional \$1 billion to states and territories to deliver new housing including for connecting essential services such as water, power, sewerage and roads. This investment underpins the Federal Government commitment to increasing housing supply through the National Housing Accord, Housing Australia Future Fund and Social Housing Accelerator initiatives. The WA Government committed an additional \$43.8 million to the GROH program in the 2024-25 State Budget. The State budget also included \$400 million to expand the Social and Affordable Housing Investment Fund and \$179 million for maintenance of existing social and GROH housing.

WALGA is advocating for the State Government to work with the Local Government sector on the delivery of these investments, including ensuring member views are considered in relation to critical housing need. WALGA's 2025 State Election platform calls for State Government to create a comprehensive long-term strategy to address the entrenched shortage of social, affordable and key worker housing and to undertake a review of the GROH program to improve coordination and responsiveness to regional housing needs and provide Local Government's with greater scope to invest in GROH housing.

7.6 ADVOCACY FOR ACCESSIBILITY

Town of Victoria Park

RESOLUTION

Moved: Mayor Karen Vernon, Town of Victoria Park

Seconded: Cr Jordan Wright, City of Wanneroo

That WALGA develops an Advocacy Position calling for the WA Government to adopt the Liveable Housing Design Standards for accessibility as part of the National Construction Code, consistent with WALGA's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan Sector Vision to enable inclusive Local Governments enhancing community wellbeing and economic prosperity.

CARRIED

MEMBER COMMENT

Advocacy for adoption of National Construction Code minimum accessibility standards:

- Several years ago, at the direction of Commonwealth and State Ministers, the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) undertook a rigorous consultation process with experts and stakeholders to develop minimum accessibility requirements for Class 1a buildings (houses) and Class 2 sole-occupancy units (apartments) in the National Construction Code (NCC). The objective was to ensure that housing is designed to meet the needs of the community, including those with disability and older Australians.
- In 2021, minimum accessibility provisions were introduced for residential housing and apartments into the NCC based on Liveable Housing Design Guidelines (LHDG) silver standards.
- The NCC 2022 has seven minimum standards ensuring all new homes are accessible, with modifications including step-free entrances and showers, and wider doors and corridors that can accommodate wheelchairs and walking aids.
- The 2023 Disability Royal Commission Report recommended that all states and territories should adopt the minimum LHDG standards as soon as possible.
- In 2024, the ABCB has estimated that the additional cost to implement the minimum accessible design standards is between \$2,900 and \$4,400 per home, depending on the type of dwelling. The features covered by the LHDG standards are not a big ask and our communities will end up with better quality housing that is future-proof.
- To date, the WA Government, along with NSW, are the only states who have not adopted the NCC minimum LHDG silver standards.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

The National Construction Code (NCC) is a uniform set of technical provisions for the design and construction of buildings and other structures, and plumbing and drainage systems throughout Australia.

The NCC is produced and maintained by the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) on behalf of the Commonwealth and all State and Territory government and is given legal effect through legislation at the state and territory level. The NCC is reviewed every 3 years, based on required regulatory practices, industry research, public feedback and policy directions.

The goal of the NCC is to enable the achievement of nationally consistent, minimum necessary standards of relevant safety (including structural safety and safety from fire), health, amenity and sustainability objectives efficiently. The NCC has traditionally included a part focused on access for people with a disability, setting out deemed-to-comply solutions and general building requirements for buildings based on their classification, for class 2-9 buildings. For the 2022 edition of the NCC new requirements titled the 'livable housing design' requirements, based on the Livable Housing Design Guidelines (silver level), were incorporated into both volumes of the NCC.

These requirements apply to all dwelling types, including new Class 1a (single house) buildings. The purpose of these changes was to help increase the stock of housing that is adaptable and better able to meet the needs of older people and people with mobility limitations. The Deemed-to-Comply provision of the new requirements, called the [ABCB Livable Housing Design Standard](#), covers:

- Providing step-free access to the home.
- Making doorways and hallways easier to use for people with reduced mobility.
- Providing extra space in the bathroom and toilet.
- Wall reinforcing in the bathroom and toilet, to make it easier to install grabrails if needed in the future.

The NCC is implemented into Western Australia's building regulatory system through amendments to the Building Regulations 2012, with the NCC 2022 commencing operation in WA on 1 May 2023, following a 12-month transition period. In announcing the implementation of the NCC 2022, the State Government indicated that it had considered the current challenges facing the building and construction industry and as a result decided that some provisions, including energy efficiency, would have a longer transitional period and that the mandatory liveable (accessible) housing provisions would not be applied in Western Australia. In making this determination the Government indicated it would continue to monitor the situation in the building industry and the housing market. New South Wales and South Australia also determined to not support the new requirements. There is no indication, at time of writing, that the State Government has progressed in its consideration of the livable housing design requirements.

WALGA's Building Act and Regulations Advocacy Position

Assessments of the effectiveness of building control systems across Australia have recognised that there is diminishing public confidence in the building and construction industry, and that change is required to ensure buildings are safe and perform to expected standards. Now more than ever the focus is on Local Government building departments to deliver good governance, local leadership and sustainable services that meet the needs of their communities whilst supporting local jobs and economic growth.

The Association has the following endorsed positions:

1. Support the retention of Local Government as the primary permit authority in Western Australia for decisions made under the *Building Act 2011*.
2. Supports mandatory inspections for all classes of buildings, however, Local Government should not be solely responsible for all mandatory inspections.

3. Advocate for the State Government to urgently prioritise legislative reform that addresses systemic failures in the current building control model and to provide clarification on the role of Local Government in building control to ensure building legislation supports the following objectives:
 - a. Quality buildings that are cost efficient.
 - b. Functional, safe and environmentally friendly buildings.
 - c. Good decision making in all aspects of building.
 - d. Efficiency and effectiveness in building management, administration and regulation.
 - e. Openness and accountability with respect to all building matters.
 - f. Recognition of the rights and responsibilities of all parties in building matters in an equitable manner.
4. Existing and proposed building control related fees and charges to be cost recovery for Local Government.
5. WALGA will work with members, state agencies and industry groups to develop training opportunities and to promote the Local Government building surveying profession to ensure sustainability of Local Government building control services.
6. WALGA supports the Australian Building Codes Boards Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings by supporting Local Governments to meet community strategic objectives of a net zero carbon future by 2050 through work with members, state agencies and industry groups.

8 CLOSURE

Upon the completion of business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 3:51pm.

Attachment 3: Action Taken on Resolutions of the 2024 Annual General Meeting

Resolution	Comment/Update
<p>7.1 Amendments to the <i>Cat Act 2011</i> – Allow Local Governments to make Local Laws to contain cats to the owner's property</p> <p>That WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advocate to the State Government to make changes to the <i>Cat Act 2011</i> to permit local laws to be made to the following effect: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Cats are to be confined to the cat owner's residence premises; b. Cats within public places are to be under effective control and not to create a nuisance; c. Cats are not allowed on other private properties where the cat does not have the expressed permission of the occupier of that premises, and are not to create a nuisance; d. Cats are prohibited from ecologically sensitive areas designated as Cat Prohibited Areas by Absolute majority of Council, and clearly demarcated as such on a sign displayed at the area, without the need to modify the local law. 2. Subject to Part 1, Develop a model Cat Local Law in consultation with and agreement with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, The Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation, and the WA Feral Cat Working Group that provides for the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Cats are to be confined to the cat owner's residence premises, unless under effective control; 	<p>State Council endorsed this item in December 2024.</p> <p>WALGA's relevant Advocacy Position (position 2.12.1 Review of the <i>Cat Act 2011</i> and <i>Dog Act 1976</i>) has been updated.</p> <p>Correspondence has been sent to the Minister for Local Government requesting the CAT Act be reviewed to provide Local Governments with the ability to contain cats on an owner's property.</p> <p>In addition, work has commenced on developing a template Cat Local Law to assist Local Government to make local laws to the extent of the current local law-making powers.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Cats within public places are to be under effective control and not to create a nuisance at all times; c. Cats are not allowed on other private properties where the cat does not have the expressed permission of the occupier of that premises, and are not to create a nuisance; and d. Cats are prohibited from ecologically sensitive areas designated as Cat Prohibited Areas by Absolute Majority of Council, and clearly demarcated as such on a sign displayed at the area, without the need to modify the local law. 	
<p>7.2 Advocacy for Legislative Reforms to Counter Land-Banking</p> <p>That WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In line with its 2020-2025 Strategic Plan to provide a Sector Vision that enables Local Governments to be agile enhancing community wellbeing and economic prosperity, develops a draft Advocacy Position for Legislative Reforms to address Land-Banking practices including, but not limited to consideration of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Prohibiting demolition of habitable housing until a Development Application (DA) has been approved; b. development applications that result in the demolition of existing habitable housing be time limited so that reasonable time periods for project commencement and project completion are conditions of the development application. c. provide Local Authorities with the ability to apply a “penalty fee” over and above any differential rating on vacant 	<p>This item was referred by State Council to the Environment Policy Team and the Governance Policy Team for further work in December 2024.</p> <p>Regarding the planning related items within this resolution: The demolition of single houses is generally a form of development exempt from requiring development approval, and only a demolition permit is required for the complete or partial demolition, dismantling or removal of a building or an incidental structure. The current planning and building legislation do not allow the conditioning of approval or refusal of a building permit in a manner proposed by the AGM resolution.</p> <p>In respect to items 1. c and d and item 2, a legal consultant has been contracted to review the legislation and suggest ways to address these recommendations.</p> <p>A combined meeting of the Governance and Environment Policy teams has been scheduled for 12 September 2025 with a view to prepare a State Council Agenda item for the December 2025 meeting.</p>

<p>land, where the time conditions on the development application in (b) have not been met.</p> <p>d. Development of a mandatory register of unoccupied residential properties, with the ability of Local Governments to apply rates or levies on long term unoccupied residential properties, which could increase incrementally over time.</p> <p>2. Distributes the draft “WALGA Advocacy Position for Legislative Reforms to counter Land-Banking” to all West Australian Local Authorities for comment, and that a subsequent report be provided for consideration by WALGA Zones.</p>	
<p>7.3 Advocacy for Expansion of Differential Rating to include Long Term Unoccupied Commercial Buildings (Property Activation Levy)</p> <p>That WALGA:</p> <p>1. Explores expanding Item 2.1.8 Differential Rates of its Advocacy Position Statement to consider inclusion of the following:</p> <p>a. Advocating for Local Authorities to have the ability to apply a differential rate to long term unoccupied commercial buildings; and</p> <p>b. Developing legislation that requires commercial property owners to demonstrate that in order to avoid the imposition of a differential rate on unoccupied commercial property the property;</p> <p>i. is commercially habitable with annual investment in maintenance</p> <p>ii. remains connected to essential services</p>	<p>This item was referred by State Council to the Governance Policy Team for further work in December 2024.</p> <p>A legal consultant has been contracted to review the legislation and suggest ways to address these recommendations.</p> <p>A combined meeting of the Governance and Environment Policy teams has been scheduled for 12 September 2025 with a view to prepare a State Council Agenda item for the December 2025 meeting.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. is undergoing periodic compliance checks and, iv. has a plan in place to redevelop or make operational. c. Develop legislation that enables Local Government to provide exemptions to the above differential rating based on an approved periodic activation program for the vacant commercial property by the Local Government. <p>2. Distributes the draft expanded WALGA Advocacy Position for Differential Rates to counter long term unoccupied commercial buildings to all West Australian Local Authorities for comment, and that a subsequent report be made available for consideration by WALGA Zones.</p>	
<p>7.4 Action on Asbestos for Western Australia</p> <p>That WALGA advocates for the state and federal governments to take urgent action to assist Local Governments and their communities in safely removing asbestos, including providing targeting funding programs.</p>	<p>This item was referred by State Council to the Environment Policy Team for further work in December 2024.</p> <p>WALGA is engaging at the State and National level on this issue, including through membership of the WA Interagency Asbestos Group and nationally the Asbestos Safety Eradication Agency reference group and has raised the issues impacting Local Governments in relation to safe removal and disposal, including ensuring statewide options.</p>
<p>7.5 Addressing the Impracticality of Local Governments Funding Department of Communities and Government Regional Officer Housing</p> <p>That WALGA advocates to the State Government for the State Government to fully fund construction and maintenance of Department of Communities (Social) and Government Regional Officer Housing.</p>	<p>This item was referred by State Council to the People and Place Policy Team for further work in December 2024.</p> <p>The People and Place Policy Team considered this item in March and resolved to address the item as part of WALGA's advocacy approach on this issue.</p>

<p>7.6 Advocacy for Accessibility</p> <p>That WALGA develops an Advocacy Position calling for the WA Government to adopt the Liveable Housing Design Standards for accessibility as part of the National Construction Code, consistent with WALGA's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan Sector Vision to enable inclusive Local Governments enhancing community wellbeing and economic prosperity.</p>	<p>This item was referred by State Council to the Environment Policy Team for further work in December 2024.</p> <p>Liveable Housing Design Standard as part of the National Construction Code provides a set of technical provisions that if complied with enable dwellings to better meet the needs of the community, including older people and people with mobility limitations. The code specifies seven minimum standards to ensure all new homes are accessible with modifications including step-free entrances and showers and wider doors and corridors that can accommodate wheelchairs and walking aids.</p> <p>All states enact the NCC through state legislation and regulation. A range of states are taking different approaches in terms of adopting the liveable housing requirements, but at time of writing all states except NSW and Western Australia have adopted the liveable housing provisions.</p> <p>The NCC 2022 only became operational in WA on 1 May 2025. With the appointment of a new Commerce Minister following the 2025 State Election, WALGA again raised the prospects of WA adopting the standard at its meeting with the Minister in July 2025.</p>
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