

Great Eastern Country Zone Minutes

13 June 2024

Hosted by the Shire of Merredin
Merredin Regional Community and
Leisure Centre
Bates Street, Merredin

Meeting commenced at 9.37am

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ATTACHMENTS	4
1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES.....	4
1.1 Opening	4
1.2 Attendance	4
1.3 Apologies	5
2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY	6
3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.....	6
4 ANNOUNCEMENTS	6
5 GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS	7
5.1 Speakers for the June Zone Meeting.....	7
5.1.1 Zone Overview	7
6 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT	7
7 AGENCY REPORTS	7
7.1 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.....	7
7.2 Wheatbelt Development Commission	7
7.3 Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt.....	8
7.4 Main Roads Western Australia	8
7.5 Water Corporation.....	8
8 MINUTES.....	8
8.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on 11 April 2024.....	8
8.2 Business Arising from the Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting held on 11 April 2024	8
8.2.1 Invitations to attend a Zone Meeting.....	8
8.3 Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on 5 June 2024.....	9
8.4 Business Arising from the Great Eastern Country Executive Committee Meeting held on 5 June 2024	9
9 ZONE BUSINESS	9
9.1 Great Eastern Country Zone Conference 2025	9
9.2 Elected Member Training	10
9.3 Straying Livestock on Local Roads.....	10
9.4 Consultation Opportunities	11
10 ZONE REPORTS	12
10.1 Chair Report.....	12
10.2 Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC)	12
10.3 Regional Health Advocacy Group.....	13
10.4 WALGA RoadWise.....	13
11 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION BUSINESS.13	
11.1 State Councillor Report	13
11.2 Status Report.....	14
11.3 State Council Agenda Items – 10 July 2024	16
11.3.1 Matters for Decision.....	16
11.3.2 Policy Team and Committee Reports	17
11.3.3 Matters for Noting.....	17
11.4 WALGA President’s Report	18
12 EMERGING ISSUES	18
13 NEXT MEETING.....	18
14 CLOSURE	18

ZONE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The following items are the Zone's priority issues, as resolved at the February 2024 Zone meeting:

- Regional Health Services to include:
 - Hospitals
 - Aged Care
 - Future of Nurse Practitioner Service
- St John Ambulance Service – Impact on Volunteers and the provision of the service generally.
- Regional Subsidiaries
- Transport – Road Network
- Telecommunications
- Education
- Review of GROH Housing and Regional Housing issues
- Waste Management
- Agricultural Land Use

ATTACHMENTS

The following are provided as attachments to the Minutes

1. Item 5.1.1 WALGA Zone Overview presentation
2. Item 7.3 Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt report

The full [State Council Agenda can be found on the WALGA website](#).

1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

1.1 OPENING

The Chair opened the meeting at 9.37am.

1.2 ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS	2 Voting Delegates from each Member Council
Shire of Bruce Rock	President Cr Ram Rajagopalan
	Cr Stephen Strange (State Council Representative)
	Mr Darren Mollenoyux, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Cunderdin	President Cr Alison Harris
	Deputy President Cr Tony Smith
	Mr Stuart Hopley, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Dowerin	President Cr Robert Trepp
	Deputy President Cr Nadine McMorran
	Mr Aaron Wooldridge, A/ Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Kellerberrin	Deputy President Cr Emily Ryan
	Mr Raymond Griffiths, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Kondinin	President Cr Kent Mouritz
	Deputy President Cr Bev Gangell
	Mr David Burton, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Merredin	President Cr Mark McKenzie
	Mr Craig Watts, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Mount Marshall	President Cr Tony Sachse (Zone Chair)
	Deputy President Cr Nick Gillett
Shire of Narembeen	President Cr Scott Stirrat
	Deputy President Cr Holly Cusack
Shire of Nungarin	President Cr Pippa de Lacy
	Mr David Nayda, A/Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Tammin	Deputy President Cr Tanya Nicholls

Shire of Trayning	President Cr Melanie Brown
	Cr Michelle McHugh
	Ms Leanne Parola, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Westonia	President Cr Mark Crees
	Mr Bill Price, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Wyalkatchem	Deputy President Cr Christy Petchell
Shire of Yilgarn	President Cr Wayne Della Bosca
	Mr Nic Warren, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

GUESTS

Regional Development Australia WA	Mr Josh Pomykala, Director Regional Development
Wheatbelt Development Commission	Ms Susan Hall, Director Regional Development

WALGA

	Mr James McGovern, Manager Governance & Procurement
	Ms Tracey Peacock, Regional Road Safety Advisor
	Ms Meghan Dwyer, Executive Officer Governance

1.3 APOLOGIES

MEMBERS	2 Voting Delegates from each Member Council
Shire of Koorda	President Cr Jannah Stratford
	Deputy President Cr Gary Greaves
	Mr Zac Donovan, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Merredin	Deputy President Cr Renee Manning
Shire of Mukinbudin	President Cr Gary Shadbolt
	Ms Tanika McLennan, A/Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Mount Marshall	Mr Ben McKay, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Narembeen	Ms Rebecca McCall, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Nungarin	Deputy President Cr Gary Coumbe
Shire of Tammin	Cr Nick Caffell
	Ms Joanne Soderlund, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Westonia	Deputy President Cr Ross Della Bosca
Shire of Wyalkatchem	President Cr Owen Garner
	Ms Sabine Taylor, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

Shire of Yilgarn	Deputy President Cr Bryan Close
GUESTS	
CBH Group	Ms Kellie Todman, Manager Government and Industry Relations
Main Roads WA	Mr Mohammad Siddiqui, Regional Manager Wheatbelt
Water Corporation	Ms Rebecca Bowler, Manager Customer & Stakeholder – Goldfields & Agricultural Region
MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT	
	Mr Rick Wilson MP, Member for O'Connor
	Hon Martin Aldridge MLC, Member for Agricultural Region
	Hon Steve Martin MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region
	Hon Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We, the Great Eastern Country Zone of WALGA acknowledge the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to Country, culture and community, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair advised that the Great Eastern Zone Local Governments have received an invitation from the Avon Midland Zone to a one-day Forum on Friday 23 August.

The Forum will discuss issues of concern to the Zone members and to Wheatbelt local governments in general. Topics such as land use planning with a focus on agricultural land, waste management, housing availability, attraction and retention of staff, local government audit processes, availability of reliable power and Bush Fire Brigades were put forward.

The Zone has established a Committee to organise the Forum and finalise the topics to be discussed and appropriate presenters.

Further details will be forwarded once the Forum agenda has been finalised.

5 GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS

All Deputations have a time limit of 20 minutes, which includes questions time.

5.1 SPEAKERS FOR THE JUNE ZONE MEETING

5.1.1 Zone Overview

Mr James McGovern, Executive Officer Great Eastern Country Zone

The presentation covered the role and responsibilities of WALGA, State Council, State Councillors and Zone Delegates.

The presentation is attached (Attachment 1).

NOTED

6 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

No Members of Federal and State Government were in attendance.

7 AGENCY REPORTS

7.1 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SPORT AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES

The DLGSC report was submitted for the Zone with the Agenda.

NOTED

7.2 WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Susan Hall, Director Regional Development

Ms Susan Hall provided the Wheatbelt Development Commission report to the Zone (Attachment 2).

RESOLUTION

Moved: Shire of Kellerberrin

Seconded: Shire of Cunderdin

The Great Eastern Country Zone request that WALGA lobby the State Government to fund the Wheatbelt Development Commission to conduct feasibility studies for programs (including Government Regional Officer Housing) to meet housing needs within the Wheatbelt region (including Great Eastern Country Zone Local Governments).

CARRIED

7.3 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA WHEATBELT

Josh Pomykala, Director Regional Development.

The RDA Wheatbelt report was submitted for the Zone with the Agenda. Mr Pomykala spoke to the report.

NOTED

7.4 MAIN ROADS WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Mohammad Siddiqui, Regional Manager Wheatbelt, was an apology for the meeting.

The Main Roads Western Australia report was submitted for the Zone with the Agenda.

NOTED

7.5 WATER CORPORATION

Rebecca Bowler, Manager Customer and Stakeholder, was an apology for the meeting.

The Zone adjourned for a short break at 11.28am.

The meeting reconvened at 11.41pm.

8 MINUTES

8.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM THE GREAT EASTERN COUNTRY ZONE MEETING HELD ON 11 APRIL 2024

The Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on 11 April 2024 had previously been circulated to Member Councils.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Shire of Trayning

Seconded: Shire of Yilgarn

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Great Eastern Country Zone held on 11 April 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

8.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FROM THE GREAT EASTERN COUNTRY ZONE MEETING HELD ON 11 APRIL 2024

8.2.1 Invitations to attend a Zone Meeting

Background:

At the April Zone meeting, the Zone resolved to invite all State Government Ministers to attend an upcoming Zone meeting.

Comment:

The Executive Officer provide a verbal update:

- Several Zones have requested Ministers be invited to attend Zone meetings.
- It is essential that in requesting Ministers attend Zone meetings that Zones provide details on the topics to be discussed.
- WALGA is working on a strategy to have Minister's attend Zone meetings.
- The Minister for Local Government has been attending several Zone meetings. An invitation will be extended to have her attend an upcoming Zone meeting.

NOTED

8.3 MINUTES OF THE GREAT EASTERN COUNTRY ZONE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5 JUNE 2024

The Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee were provided as an attachment to the Agenda.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Shire of Nungarin
Seconded: Shire of Cunderdin

That the Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on 5 June 2024 be received.

CARRIED

8.4 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE GREAT EASTERN COUNTRY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5 JUNE 2024

Nil

9 ZONE BUSINESS

9.1 GREAT EASTERN COUNTRY ZONE CONFERENCE 2025

Background:

At the February Zone meeting, a Zone Conference Planning Subcommittee was established. Members of the committee are Cr Melanie Brown, Cr Jannah Stratford, Cr Ram Rajagopalan, Cr Gary Shadbolt, Cr Tony Sasche, Cr Stephen Strange and Cr Mark Crees.

Comment:

The Zone Secretariat recently met with WALGA's internal Events team to plan the first meeting of the Subcommittee. The intent going forward is for the Subcommittee to meet to consider making proposals that will be presented to the Zone for consideration.

The initial agenda will encompass matters relating to theme; purpose and target audience; timing; location and logistics; and budget. It is anticipated the first Subcommittee meeting will be held within a fortnight of this Zone meeting.

NOTED

9.2 ELECTED MEMBER TRAINING

Three Zone Local Governments have qualified for the Zone Training Rebate of \$2,000 with remittance being processed by WALGA this week.

It is understood that throughout the Zone, a number of currently serving Council Members were either elected or elected unopposed in October 2023. While newly-elected Council Members are required to undertake mandatory Council Members Essential (CME) training, returning Councillors are exempt under reg. 36 of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations if they undertook training following the 2019 elections.

WALGA has promoted the benefits of training to Council Members that enjoy the exemption, on the basis there have been three significant Local Government Act amendments since the 2019 elections. WALGA's CME training modules have undergone comprehensive review and amendment accordingly, and that provides experienced Council Members with an excellent opportunity to undertake bridging training, so they are up to speed on the current statutory landscape. The availability of the Zone training rebate of \$2,000 creates a favourable learning and development environment and Zone Local Governments are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

Time commitment is regularly reported as a barrier to undertaking training, therefore WALGA has developed CME in both face-to-face and eLearning modes. Local Governments can also group together to undertake modules face-to-face and this is now a common mode of delivery, particularly suitable to the 1 day Meeting Procedures and Conflict of Interest modules.

NOTED

9.3 STRAYING LIVESTOCK ON LOCAL ROADS

Recent incidents of straying stock within the Shire of Koorda has raised awareness that the statutory remedy that ensures the stock owner is held responsible is not clearly appreciated.

The Pastoral Animal Hazard Advisory Group activities is very active in communicating responsibilities to pastoralists, amongst other things reminding them of their responsibilities under the *Highways (Liability for Straying Animals) Act 1983* and the Road Traffic Code 2000 in relation to unattended stock on roads.

Where straying occurs on local roads, regulation 275 of the Road Traffic Code 2000 applies:

Division 4 — Unattended and unauthorised vehicles and stock on roads

[274. Deleted in Gazette 23 Dec 2014 p. 4923.]

275. Unattended stock on roads

- (1) A person in charge of stock shall not —
 - (a) allow it to stray onto a road; or
 - (b) having taken stock onto a road, allow it to remain there unattended, or inadequately attended.

Modified penalty: 1 PU

- (2) It is a defence to a complaint under subregulation (1), of allowing stock to stray onto a road, that all reasonable precautions were taken to prevent the stock from straying onto the road.
- (3) Any stock that is straying on, unattended on or obstructing any portion of, a road, may be seized by a police officer or an officer of the local government of the district and placed in a public pound.

[Regulation 275 amended in Gazette 23 Dec 2014 p. 4929.]

As at 01 Nov 2017 Version 05-f0-00 page 297
Extract from www.slp.wa.gov.au, see that website for further information

The Executive Officer further advised that the Local Government should communicate, in writing, to stock owners on any instances of non compliance. The LGIS Regional Risk Coordinator can assist with communications of a legal nature.

NOTED

9.4 CONSULTATION OPPORTUNITIES

WALGA AGM and Member Motions

WALGA's 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre at 2:30pm on Wednesday, 9 October 2024 during with the Local Government Convention (LGC24). An important feature of the AGM is the opportunity provided for member Local Governments to submit a Member Motion, and to seek the support of the sector in important matters of policy. Guidelines for submitting Member Motions can be found [here](#).

Animal Welfare in Emergencies

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) is seeking feedback on the proposed amendments to the [Draft State Support Plan - Animal Welfare in Emergencies](#).

WALGA is calling all Local Governments to provide a copy of their feedback to inform our submission on the draft Plan. Local Governments are asked to read the draft plan and submit their feedback by emailing WALGA's Emergency Management Team via em@walga.asn.au by Monday, 22 July 2024.

NOTED

10 ZONE REPORTS

10.1 CHAIR REPORT

President Cr Tony Sachse

The Zone Executive met on Wednesday, 5 June 2024. The meeting discussed the 2024/25 Budget, speakers for upcoming Zone meetings and State Council Agenda items the detail of which are in the minutes.

Today's Guest Speaker is James McGovern who will cover the role of a Delegate in relation to the Zone and the Zones input to State Council.

Thank you to our visiting politicians and all the Agency representatives for presenting today.

Thanks also to the Shire of Merredin for hosting us today.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Shire of Yilgarn
Seconded: Shire of Narembeen

That the Zone Chair's report be received.

CARRIED

10.2 WHEATBELT DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (DEMC)

President Cr Tony Sachse

The unconfirmed minutes of the last meeting on 13 March 2024 were submitted for the Zone. Comments from this meeting were made in the previous Wheatbelt DEMC GECZ Report in April 2024.

The Wheatbelt Operational Area Support Group (OASG)/ISG is now meeting on an as needed basis, and has not met over recent months.

A meeting occurred on Wednesday, 12 June 2024. Cr Sachse provided a verbal update:

- Grants from the All West Australians Reducing Emergencies (AWARE) program close on 1 July. Assistance in applying can be sought from DFES.
- The DEMC is seeking additional representation from Wheatbelt Local Governments.
- Shelby Robinson is the new District Emergency Management Advisory for the region.
- No additional funding support to address the mental health impact of the live export ban will be available.
- An update on recent incidents in the region was provided (CBH thefts, Kellerberrin shooting incident and Mogumber fire arm incident)

The minutes of the meeting will be distributed when they become available.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Shire of Westonia
Seconded: Shire of Cunderdin

That the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee Report be received.

CARRIED

10.3 REGIONAL HEALTH ADVOCACY GROUP

Cr Alison Harris

A meeting of the Group has not been held since the last Zone meeting and therefore a report will not be provided.

The next meeting of the Group is scheduled for 26 June, where the final report should be available.

NOTED

10.4 WALGA ROADWISE

Ms Tracey Peacock, Road Safety Advisory

Ms Peacock has recently joined WALGA as a Road Safety Advisor and introduced herself to the Zone.

NOTED

11 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

11.1 STATE COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cr Stephen Strange

Cr Strange provided a verbal report to the meeting:

- At the May Strategic Forum, the Chair of the Economic Regulation Authority provided a presentation. The Zone will seek a presentation for an upcoming Zone meeting.
- Hon Alannah MacTiernan addressed State Council on the Regional Telecommunications Review at the State Council meeting.
- At the Zone Forum, the Mayors of the Cities of Stirling, Wanneroo, and Joondalup provided presentations. Growth and waste management were key issues for the Local Governments.
- WALGA is considering Constitutional Amendments to enable WALGA to apply to become an Employer Organisation.
- State Councillors have participated in a WALGA Strategic Planning workshop.
- WALGA will be undertaking upgrades at ONE70 which will enable better use of technology, particularly in delivering training.
- Upcoming events:
 - WALGA Local Government Convention 2024: October, in Perth
 - 2024 National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress: December, in Margaret River

- Sustainable Economic Growth for Regional Australia (SEGRA); October, in Busselton

RESOLUTION

Moved: Shire of Kondinin
Seconded: Shire of Westonia

That the State Councillor Report be received.

CARRIED

11.2 STATUS REPORT

Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
11 April 2024 Zone Agenda Item 9.1.2 Agricultural Land Use	That the Great Eastern Country Zone recommend that WALGA 1.In considering Agricultural Land Use, establishes and promotes policy templates to guide Local Governments for their individual adoption to protect and prioritise the preservation of agricultural land against its displacement by non-agricultural activities that lead to a net reduction of the State's productive agricultural land. 2.Within the Policy includes such uses but not limited to tree planting for offsets or carbon, renewable energy generation and transmission. 3.Investigates potential impacts to local government rates on rural land, that has approved long term tree planting for different purposes, for example but not limited to planting for carbon offsets, planting for clearing offsets, or planting for renewable fuels; and renewable energy investments. 4.Provides advice to local government on what Policies or Special Area Rates should be considered for the land affected.	WALGA is developing advocacy positions in relation to planning for renewable energy facilities; the need for improvements to the State planning framework to provide sufficient statutory protections for areas that have been identified as High Quality Agricultural Land; and for the State Government to develop a robust and comprehensive framework for engagement with Local Government and communities to manage impacts and realise community benefits from projects. It is intended that the draft positions will be included in the agenda for consideration at the September State Council meeting. WALGA has raised these issues in a meeting with the Minister for the Environment; Energy; Climate Action.	June 2024	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039
11 April 2024 Zone Agenda Item 9.1.1 Enhanced and Alternative Education Opportunities for Regional WA	That the Great Eastern Country Zone: 1. Supports the call to action to reduce regional disadvantage in educational opportunities; 2. Agrees to write to the Minister for Education requesting action; and 3. Requests the WALGA Secretariat to advocate to State Government on this matter.	WALGA notes that the Great Eastern Country Zone supports the call to action raised by the Great Southern Zone to reduce regional disadvantage in educational opportunities and that the Zone will write to the Minister for Education on the matter. WALGA understands that the Great Southern Zone received a	June 2024	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039

		<p>response to their letter to the Minister of Education on this issue on 24 April 2024. The letter references a number of initiatives including a \$7.1 million funding boost for the School of Isolated and Distance Education, a proposed expansion of VET certificates in the coming years, Education and Training Participation Plans, the support provided by the School of Special Educational Needs: Behaviour and Engagement located in Albany, the recently announced federally funded two new Regional University Study Hubs, further financial investment in the attraction and retention payments/packages, and a developing Regional Education Strategy.</p> <p>WALGA is also aware that the Great Southern Zone has raised these issues directly with Department of Education representatives at recent Zone meetings.</p> <p>Of the initiatives raised in the response from the Minister, the development of a Regional Education Strategy could provide a opportunity to engage with and influence State Government policy on regional disadvantage in the Education system. WALGA is seeking to make contact the team leading this work within the Department of Education to discuss potential engagement with regional members.</p> <p>WALGA notes that 2024-25 State Budget included an additional \$10 million for the School of Isolated and Distance Education.</p> <p>WALGA is continuing to advocate broadly on issues that intersect with regional education such as Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH). WALGA has written to the Department of Communities Deputy Director General, Housing and Assets on this matter. Department of Communities officials will present on the GROH program at the July Strategic Forum.</p>		
--	--	--	--	--

NOTED

11.3 STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS – 10 JULY 2024

Background

WALGA State Council meets five times each year and as part of the consultation process with Member Councils circulates the State Council Agenda for input through the Zone structure.

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

The full State Council Agenda can be found on the [WALGA website](#).

11.3.1 Matters for Decision

8.1 CARAVAN PARK AND CAMPING GROUNDS REGULATIONS

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse a new Caravan Park and Camping Grounds Regulations Advocacy Position:

Part 2 of the *Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Regulations 1997* should be amended to allow Local Governments to:

- 1. Consider camping on private property for a period of greater of three months.**
- 2. Establish policy to guide approvals beyond 3 months to ensure that camping is locally appropriate and provide for circumstances where caravans, predominantly in the form of tiny homes on wheels, can be occupied on a more permanent basis.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Tiny Homes on Wheels (THOWs) are an emerging form of housing that offers an alternative and affordable housing option that can assist in addressing the current housing shortage.
- THOWs are classified as caravans under the *Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995* (the Act) and the *Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Regulations 1997* (the Regulations).
- The Regulations restrict the length of occupation of THOWs.
- A new advocacy position proposes that the Regulations be amended to allow THOWs to be occupied for longer periods and for Local Governments to be able to establish policy to guide these longer approvals.
- The Environment Policy Team endorsed the draft advocacy position on 29 May 2024.

8.2 2024 AUDIT EXPERIENCE SURVEY RESULTS AND ADVOCACY POSITION

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council:

1. **Note the Audit Experience Survey Results Summary; and**
2. **Amend Advocacy Position 2.2.2 *Local Government Audit Process* to remove point 7 as it has been achieved.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA, in partnership with Local Government Professionals WA (LG Professionals), has recently conducted a survey of the Local Government sector to seek feedback on the annual audit process.
- The 2024 survey was based on the inaugural audit experience survey conducted last year, allowing for direct comparison of results over time.
- Five key emerging issues were identified following the 2023 survey, and these areas demonstrated varying levels of improvement this year:
 - timeframe and delays;
 - additional workload on Local Government staff;
 - cost;
 - inconsistent advice from contract Auditors and the Office of the Auditor General (OAG); and
 - asset valuation requirements.
- An outcome of advocacy efforts last year was the achievement of a review of the application of Fair Value principles, particularly as applied in audit related asset valuation.
- It is recommended that the WALGA Advocacy Position on Local Government Audit Process (position 2.2.2) be updated to reflect this achievement.
- An initial meeting with the OAG has recently been held to discuss the outcomes from the survey.
- WALGA and LG Professionals will continue to work with the OAG to reform the audit process in line with sector feedback, with a particular focus on those areas of concern identified in the 2024 survey results.
- This item was considered at the Governance Policy Team held on 15 May 2024, where the recommendation was supported.

11.3.2 Policy Team and Committee Reports

- 9.1 Environment Policy Team Report
- 9.2 Governance Policy Team Report
- 9.3 Infrastructure Policy Team Report
- 9.4 People and Place Policy Team Report
- 9.5 Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) Report

11.3.3 Matters for Noting

- 10.1 2024-25 State and Federal Budget Update
- 10.2 Submission to the Commissioner for Children and Young People WA Priority Area Discussion Papers
- 10.3 Perth and Peel Urban Greening Strategy

- 10.4 Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer Update
- 10.5 Flying Minute: Submission on Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan
- 10.6 Flying Minute: State Wage Case Submission
- 10.7 Flying Minute: Submission on the Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability
- 10.8 Flying Minute: Standardised Meeting Procedures Submission

RESOLUTION

Moved: Shire of Cunderdin
Seconded: Shire of Bruce Rock

That the Great Eastern Country Zone:

1. **Supports all Matters for Decision and Policy Team Recommendation listed above in the July 2024 State Council Agenda, and**
2. **Notes all other Policy Team and Committee Reports and Organisational Reports as listed in the July 2024 State Council Agenda.**

CARRIED

11.4 WALGA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The WALGA President's Report was submitted for the Zone with the Agenda.

NOTED

12 EMERGING ISSUES

President Cr Tony Sasche advised he is planning on attending the live sheep export ban inquiry being held in Northam. Anyone planning to attend is required to register.

13 NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on 13 August 2024 commencing at 8.00am, via MTeams.

The next Great Eastern Country Zone meeting will be held on 22 August 2024 commencing at 9.30am. This meeting will be hosted by the Shire of Kellerberrin.

14 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 12.35pm.