



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
North Metropolitan Zone

MINUTES

31 May 2007

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ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 WALGA Status Report
- Attachment 2 01 February 2007 Minutes

NORTH METROPOLITAN ZONE OF THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

To be held at the City of Wanneroo
23 Dundobar Road, Wanneroo
(Leschenaultia Room)

Thursday, 31 May 2007
Commencing at 6:00pm

AGENDA

1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

(1) ATTENDANCE:

City of Stirling	Cr D (David) Boothman (State Council Member) Cr TW (Trevor) Clarey Cr WM (Bill) Stewart Cr PL (Peter) Rose Mr T (Trevor) Holland, Acting Chief Executive Officer Mr A (Aaron) Bowman, Manager Council Support/Compliance Mr R (Ron) Spragg, Manager Engineering Operations	
City of Wanneroo	Cr F (Frank) Cvitan (State Council Member) (Chairperson) Cr R (Rudi) Steffens Cr T (Tracey) Roberts Cr L (Laura) Gray	
City of Joondalup	Mayor T (Troy) Pickard (State Council Member and Deputy Chair) Cr S (Steve) Magyar Cr T (Tom) McLean Mr G (Garry) Hunt, Chief Executive Officer Mr I (Ian) Cowie, Director Governance and Strategy	(Arrived 6.20pm) (Left 6.29pm)
Secretariat	Mr A (Alan) McGregor, A/Director Governance and Strategy (City of Wanneroo) Mrs R (Robyn) Harkins, A/Coordinator Governance (City of Wanneroo)	
WALGA	Mr W (Wayne) Scheggia – Deputy Chief Executive Officer	

(2) APOLOGIES:

City of Wanneroo	Cr D (Dot) Newton
City of Wanneroo	Mr D (Daniel) Simms, A/Chief Executive Officer
City of Joondalup	Cr R (Richard) Currie (Deputy State Council Member)

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

NIL

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Motion

Cr Bootman / Cr Roberts

That the Minutes of the meeting of the North Metropolitan Zone held on Thursday, 01 February 2007 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

4.1 30 November 2006 Zone Agenda Item 7.1. Rates and Charges (Rebates and Deferments) Act 1992

Correspondence from the Western Australian Local Government Association dated 26 February 2007 was received advising the following:

The Zones proposal to request WALGA to lobby the State Government to include rubbish charges where this is imposed by local government as a separate service fee, so that eligible pensioners are able to receive a discount was discussed at the Associations Governance Policy team meeting held on 07 February 2007.

The Policy team noted that this proposal was submitted to the Deputy Premier/Treasurer in 2005 and received a negative response due to the significant impact that this would have on the States finances.

The Governance policy team resolved "That Councils be encouraged to amalgamate the refuse service charge with the general rate so that pensioners will be eligible for the discount on all rate charges".

Mayor Pickard stated that he would be highlighting this issue at State Council of the importance to identify this as a separate fee and not to be included in the general rate.

5. DEPUTATIONS

NIL

6. MATTERS REFERRED TO WALGA

6.1 Status Report on Matters Referred to WALGA State Council for Action

As a means of increasing communication and providing feedback to the North Metropolitan Zone Committee a schedule has been prepared on matters referred to WALGA State Council for action.

Please refer to **Attachment 1**

Motion

Mayor Pickard / Cr Boothman

That the status report be received.

CARRIED

Mayor Pickard enquired on the progress of the detailed submission he had sent to Greg Cook, Emergency Management Coordinator (WALGA) regarding Whitfords Volunteer Sea Rescue Group.

Mr Scheggia advised that he would follow up this matter.

7. REPORTS FROM MEMBER COUNCILS

7.1 Local Government Achievements in Cleaner Energy

By The City of Joondalup

IN BRIEF

The State Government recently released a report prepared by the Greenhouse and Energy Taskforce entitled "A Cleaner Energy Future".

It is believed that there is an opportunity for WALGA to promote local governments' achievements in the area of cleaner energy through an educational campaign to show the community how well the local government sector is doing in this regard.

BACKGROUND

On 30 May 2005, the Western Australian Environment and Science Minister Judy Edwards announced a high-level taskforce to help Western Australia 'make a substantial leap forward in its approach to managing greenhouse gas emissions'. A Greenhouse and Energy Taskforce was established and chaired by Dr Roy Green AO, FTSE.

On 5 February 2007, the Premier of WA released the Taskforce's report. This makes 14 recommendations on practical and economically feasible ways to manage greenhouse gas emissions which will be incorporated into the State's forthcoming Climate Action Plan. A complete copy of the report is available online at <http://www.dec.wa.gov.au>.

While the report is positive and outlines a way forward for Western Australia through climate change uncertainty, there is some disregard for the work already undertaken by local governments in WA. As a result, WALGA has invited local governments to read the report and provide feedback on its content.

COMMENT

The City of Joondalup is committed to reducing its level of greenhouse emissions and is taking many actions to achieve this outcome, particularly through its participation in the CCP program. The purpose of this program is to reduce corporate and community greenhouse gas emissions through a planned approach that is measured and quantified.

The City of Joondalup's Sustainability Advisory Committee considered the report "A Cleaner Energy Future" following WALGA's request. The committee made 6 specific comments in relation to the report, which Council adopted at its meeting in May. These were:

- (a) Congratulate the State Government on taking the first step towards addressing the greenhouse issue through the Report entitled 'A Cleaner Energy Future for WA';
- (b) Express concern at the lack of regulatory direction in the Report;
- (c) Express a desire for the State Government to provide greater financial support to local government in its initiatives in the area of cleaner energy which have been significant;
- (d) Encourage the Western Australian Local Government Association to promote local governments' achievements in the area of cleaner energy through an educational campaign to show the community how well local government as a sector is doing in this area;
- (e) Express a desire for a greater focus on the production and utilisation of biofuels in the Report;
- (f) Express disappointment that the Report does not provide a greater focus on solar power. Such a focus could include the idea of subsidies or support for the approach taken by Japan to promote solar power.

Item (d) was incorporated as many local governments promote their individual actions in relation to greenhouse gas abatement. However, such promotions will vary between local governments and, with media outlets often covering more than one local government area, the message can become diluted. As a result, an opportunity was identified for WALGA to promote some of local governments' broad successes and advances in the area of cleaner energy and greenhouse gas abatement. With such strong media focus on this issue at the moment, the implementation of a campaign on this subject in the near future represents opportune timing. The campaign could also be linked to other campaigns which have focussed on employment opportunities within the sector.

Mr Hunt left the meeting at 6.10pm and returned at 6.15pm.

Motion

Mayor Pickard / Cr McLean

That the North Metropolitan Zone recommend that WALGA considers the potential of preparing and implementing a broad promotional strategy to demonstrate local governments' successes and achievements in the area of cleaner energy and greenhouse gas abatement.

CARRIED

7.2 December 2006 Amendments To Swimming Pool Legislation

By City of Joondalup

IN BRIEF

Amendments to swimming pool legislation to require additional safety barriers for pools installed prior to 1 July 1992, which came into effect late last year, are significantly increasing the time required to inspect such pools. That is, initial inspections take longer to complete and follow up visits to ensure compliance are becoming standard practice. The administrative aspects of scheduling first and subsequent inspections, record keeping and corresponding with members of the public also adds cost. Without an increase in swimming pool inspection fees, this new legislation effectively represents a cost impost on local government from the State Government. Consequently, it is recommended that WALGA lobby for an increase in the fees that can be charged under Building Regulation 38F.

BACKGROUND

On 17 December 2006, a new legislative provision took effect for pools installed prior to 1 July 1992. The provision requires such pools to have some form of barrier installed between the residence and the pool. A barrier could be a complying pool fence or modified doors and windows, which provide access to the pool. Until December 2006, inspections of properties with this type of pool could be completed in a matter of minutes, as the only requirement was to ensure that perimeter fencing was in place. An inspection could be carried out by visually checking the front access and boundary fences of a property and did not require access to the house.

The new inspection requirements involve considerably more time to complete because access to the inside of the home of the pool owner is necessary to identify whether:

- Doors accessing the pool have been modified
- All windows have opening restrictions or upgraded screening
- Gates have been modified to open outward from the pool
- Alternatively, with respect to all of the above, isolation fencing has been installed and inspected

Based on the findings of recent inspections by the City, it is likely that over 50% of the pools constructed before July 1992 do not comply with the new legislation. The net result will be an increase in the amount of correspondence with householders concerning the matter and the City's inspectors may have to complete as many as four home visits before a pre-1992 pool meets current legislative safety requirements.

Prior to December 2006, City inspectors were approving 10 swimming pools each day. This figure has now dropped to 6, which is creating a backlog of pools requiring inspection.

The current fee of \$55.00 per swimming pool (which has not been amended since the introduction of the GST) generates an income of approximately \$226,000 per annum for the City of Joondalup for this service. However, the cost of carrying out inspections in 2006/2007 was budgeted as \$355,541. On this basis, the City is, in effect, subsidising the costs of implementing Section 245A of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act to the amount of \$129,541 per annum. The impact of the December 2006 legislative change to the City of Joondalup has been significant and is likely to increase the deficit associated with supplying this service considerably.

COMMENT

Despite the logistical difficulties, the City continues to demonstrate its support for swimming pool safety. However, the additional costs imposed by the December 2006 legislative changes are significant for local governments and, in particular, the City of Joondalup. Consequently, as a matter of urgency, the City strongly supports increasing the level of fees chargeable under Building Regulation 38F.

Motion

Cr Clarey / Mayor Pickard

With the consent of the mover and seconder the word in italics were added to the recommendation.

That the North Metropolitan Zone recommends that WALGA lobby for a *substantial* increase in the fees chargeable under Building Regulation 38F *including a provision for an annual review of fee increase*. Without such an increase, the December 2006 legislative change represents a *major* cost impost on local governments.

CARRIED

Cr Boothman requested the following submission to the City of Stirling's Planning & Development Committee of 23 January 2007 concerning Review Private Swimming Pool Inspection Programme be included in the Minutes.

SUBJECT REVIEW PRIVATE SWIMMING POOL INSPECTION PROGRAMME

Report Information

Reporting Officer: Director Planning and Development

Business Unit: Health and Compliance

Ward: City Wide

Council Resolution

Moved Councillor Boothman, seconded Councillor Copley

1. That a risk based APPROACH be taken to the inspection of Private Swimming Pools as outlined in Option 2 of the Report.
2. That risk assessment criteria be DEVELOPED together with a corresponding action/enforcement policy.
3. That an Infringement Notice system be INTRODUCED as an element in the action/enforcement process.
4. That the Risk Assessment criteria and the action/enforcement Policy be REFERRED to a future meeting of the Planning and Development Committee before implementation
5. That the City WRITE to the Minister for Housing and Works and WALGA to lobby for the expeditious completion of the review of the fee structure
6. That CONSIDERATION be given in the development of the 2007/08 Budget for the Pool Inspection Team be INCREASED by a further one F.T.E. and for an additional light sedan be provided.

The motion was put and declared CARRIED.

Moved Councillor Tyzack, seconded Councillor Michael

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL

1. That a risk based APPROACH be taken to the inspection of Private Swimming Pools as outlined in Option 2 of the Report.
2. That risk assessment criteria be DEVELOPED together with a corresponding action/enforcement policy.
3. That an Infringement Notice system be INTRODUCED as an element in the action/enforcement process.
4. That the Risk Assessment criteria and the action/enforcement Policy be REFERRED to a future meeting of the Planning and Development Committee before implementation
5. That the City WRITE to the Minister for Housing and Works and WALGA to lobby for the expeditious completion of the review of the fee structure

6. That CONSIDERATION be given in the development of the 2007/08 Budget for the Pool Inspection Team be INCREASED by a further one F.T.E. and for an additional light sedan be provided.

The motion was put and declared CARRIED.

Recommendation

1. That a risk based APPROACH be taken to the inspection of Private Swimming Pools as outlined in Option 2 of the Report.
2. That risk assessment criteria be DEVELOPED together with a corresponding action/enforcement policy.
3. That an Infringement Notice system be INTRODUCED as an element in the action/enforcement process.
4. That the Risk Assessment criteria and the action/enforcement Policy be REFERRED to a future meeting of the Planning and Development Committee before implementation
5. That the City WRITE to the Minister for Housing and Works and WALGA to lobby for the expeditious completion of the review of the fee structure
6. That CONSIDERATION be given in the development of the 2007/08 Budget for the Pool Inspection Team be INCREASED by a further one F.T.E. and for an additional light sedan be provided.

Report Purpose

To consider alternative approaches to the current programme regarding the inspection of Private Swimming Pool enclosures.

Relevant Documents

Attachments: Nil
Available for viewing at the meeting: Nil
Tax sheet: Nil

Background

Currently the City has 9,202 private swimming pools listed in its Register. There are a further 360 building licences approved annually and approximately 140 pools are removed or demolished each year. The result is a net growth rate of approximately 220 pools annually.

Statutory Obligation

The City has a Statutory Obligation under the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1960 (Section 245A) to inspect all private swimming pool enclosures periodically. A period of not more than four (4) years elapses between inspections. The Act also enables the City to levy an annual charge upon the owners of land on which there is a swimming pool to meet the estimated cost of carrying out the inspection. This charge is fixed by Regulation and is currently \$13.75 per annum or \$55.00 for the whole of the four (4) year cycle.

Current Programme

The current Inspection Programme is undertaken by the Compliance Section, which is within the Health & Compliance Business Unit.

Two (2) full time Pool Inspectors are employed to carry out the inspection task and between them they have one (1) light sedan.

Inspections are generally undertaken on a suburb-by-suburb basis. Where non-compliant fencing or gates are identified, the property owner is provided with a written inspection report detailing any work required. No further follow up inspections are made unless the condition of the enclosure is such that it presents an immediate risk. Other inspections are made where the pool owner wishes to confirm that any work, which has been completed by them as a result of an inspection, meets the required standards.

During the last financial year 2,644 initial pool inspections were made and of these 35-40% of pool enclosures were found to be non-compliant in some way. Changes to the Legislation, which came into effect in December 2006, affects all the pre-1992 pool enclosures and this will result in a greater number of non-compliant pools on our Register.

Review of Legal Position

Council's Lawyers have been asked to review our obligations under the Act and to advise the City if a change of approach is necessary, particularly in respect to the need to undertake follow-up inspections to ensure compliance. The officers' view following this advice is as follows:

- The Legislation does not specifically require follow-up inspections to be made other than in the circumstances specified i.e.: when a pool constitutes 'a danger to the public'
- The City owes a 'Duty of Care' to persons, particularly young children, to ensure that swimming pools do not pose 'a danger to the public'.
- The City's pool inspection process should be improved.
- That a programme be put in place to deal with pools previously assessed as having non-compliances of a minor nature.
- A risk assessment and categorisation approach is suggested as a means of dealing with the large numbers of pools that are non-compliant. Those non-compliant pools falling within higher risk categories would warrant a more proactive response.

In summary, it is suggested that a risk management approach or alternatively a policy of 100% enforcement would seem to be the surest position to take.

Options for Consideration

Option 1:

Continue with our current approach and programme

Comment:

The City would meet its basic Statutory obligations, however this approach could be seen as an avoidance of its 'Duty of Care' in the event that the City were faced with a negligence action.

Option 2:

Introduce a more structured approach to the assessment of risk to determine the nature of follow-up action and inspection of non-compliant pools. For example:

- (1) A non-compliance rated 'High Risk' would trigger a series of enforcement events within a fixed timescale.
- (2) A moderate risk would trigger a longer period in which to comply but would eventually involve enforcement as per the high risk.
- (3) Barriers assessed as 'minor non-compliance' or low risk would be followed up within the next four-year inspection schedule.

It is recommended that the reports of barriers previously listed as non-compliant be reviewed after a risk rating system is developed. The appropriate action can be taken where necessary to ensure a consistent approach to existing and future risk.

Comment:

This approach is sound and defensible but will require the development of risk assessment criteria and be supported by an appropriate Action Policy. A greater level of resources will also be required to accommodate the additional follow-up inspections that will be generated by this approach.

Option 3:

Pursue a policy of 100% compliance regardless of the nature of non-compliance.

Comment:

From a 'Duty of Care' perspective this is the surest approach but will involve a substantial increase in resources to achieve this result within a four-year cycle.

In terms of striking a balance between minimising risk and resource demands, Option 2 is considered to offer the best solution.

Other Local Governments Practices

Other local governments were canvassed to determine the range of enforcement processes used by similar sized local governments. These processes are summarised below:

City of Melville

If a non-compliant barrier is identified, a Work Order is issued giving a specified number of days to comply (depending on the perceived risk) and to inform the City when complete. If no response is received, three letters are sent on consecutive weeks or until a response is received. If no response is received after the third letter they send infringement notices until the pool owner makes an appointment. The City reserves the right to initiate legal action if the non-compliant barrier is deemed to be high risk.

City of Joondalup

If a non-compliant barrier is identified, a work order is issued giving a specified number of days to comply (depending on the perceived risk) and to inform the City when complete. If no response is received within the specified time a letter is sent advising the pool owner of the requirements and requesting a response. If non-response is received after this letter, the inspecting officer returns to the premises. If contact is not made, the officer leaves his card requesting that the occupier contact the City in relation to this matter. Finally if no response is received, a final letter is sent emphasising to the occupier of their responsibility and duty of care. No Infringement Notices are issued at the City of Joondalup. The City reserves the right to initiate legal action if the non-compliant barrier is deemed to be high risk.

City of Swan and City of Wanneroo

The Royal Life Saving Society Australia (RLSSA) Officers conduct the initial inspections under contract to the respective local governments. If a non-compliant barrier is identified a note is made in their diary immediately after the inspection for a follow-up inspection to be conducted. An inspection is conducted on the time and date noted in the diary unless the pool owner makes an appointment. Three further inspections are conducted giving 14 days to comply at Swan and 28 days at Wanneroo. If the barrier is still noncompliant after the third inspection compliance period has ended the RLSSA officer will inform the respective local governments. The local government then sends a letter to the pool owner requiring that the matter be addressed or legal action will be initiated. If still non-compliant, prosecution proceedings are commenced. Neither local governments issue infringement notices.

Proposed Changes for the City of Stirling

The City has a duty to ensure officers are properly trained/skilled. Process of risk assessment linked to an effective enforcement procedure is also required to improve consistency, effectiveness and meet the City's duty of care. To this end it has been suggested that a procedure be developed which identifies:

- (a) the various categories of risk posed by non-compliance (High, Moderate and Low);
- (b) the factors requiring consideration when determining which category of risk to assign to each case of non-compliance; and
- (c) the action to be taken by the City to address each category of risk.

Currently, the action taken in instances where non-compliance of a high-risk nature (determined by the Inspecting Officer) is identified is as follows:

- Notice is served detailing the work required to bring the pool enclosure into compliance
- In the event that compliance is not achieved, the City may carry out the required work (if it is a dangerous situation) and initiate recovery or prosecution proceedings in the Magistrate's Court.

These processes do not follow a fixed timeframe; rather they are determined by circumstances and the judgement of the Officer involved.

The provision for serving infringement notices is described in the Local Government Act as follows:

Part 9 Division 2 of the Local Government Act makes provision for the serving of Infringement Notices for prescribed offences.

Section 9.16(1) of the Local Government Act reads as follows:

"9.16 Giving a Notice

- (1) *An authorised person who has reason to believe that a person has committed a prescribed offence against a regulation or local law made under this Act may, within 28 days after the alleged offence is believed to have been committed, give an infringement notice to the alleged offender.*
- (2) *A local government can only prescribe an offence for the purposes of subsection (1) if a prosecution for the offence could be commenced by the local government or any of its employees and the local government is satisfied that –*

- (a) *commission of the offence would be a relatively minor matter; and*
- (b) *only straight forward issues of law and fact would be involved in determining whether the offence was committed, and the facts in issue would be readily ascertainable."*

Regulation 38H of the Building Regulations 1989 creates the prescribed offence and sets penalties of \$200 where a Notice is served or \$100 where no Notice has been given. The experience of other Local Governments suggests that the use of on-the-spot fines via Infringement Notices is a quick and effective compliance measure. Accordingly the introduction of an Infringement Notice system is recommended as a routine element in the City's pool fencing compliance process.

It is also recommended that the direct prosecution in the Magistrate's Court be reserved for high-risk offences, continuing offences and those where cost recovery is necessary. Further, the risk categories and procedures should be reviewed regularly to determine relevance and effectiveness.

Resource Implications

The results of a recent full compliance inspection trial suggest that one additional pool inspector would be required to implement the revised programme outlined above.

Further demand is being placed on the inspection staff to address changes made to the Legislation, which took effect in November of this year. Approximately 4,500 properties are affected by this change, which has resulted in an increase in site consultations and administrative workload.

Currently the two (2) full time Pool Inspectors have one (1) light sedan between them. This limits the effectiveness of Inspection Staff, particularly in respect of being able to accommodate customer requests for site visits outside of core work time. Accordingly, the purchase of a second vehicle is recommended.

Financial Implications

For the current financial year (2006/07) the operating costs for the swimming pool program are as follows:-

Operating Revenue

Swimming Pool Inspection Fees	\$112,500.00 (60% of expenditure)
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Operating Expenditure

Staff remuneration	\$139,445.00
Other operating expenses	\$ 41,044.00
Corporate overheads charge	\$ 4,930.00
Annual vehicle operating costs	\$ 7,600.00
Total Cost	\$193,019.00

Net cost of operating the programme is: \$80,519.00

The additional costs for one further FTE and an additional vehicle would be as follows:-

Annual operating costs	
Annual staff (including on cost)	\$45,160

<u>Annual operating cost light sedan</u>	<u>\$7,600</u>
Total	\$52,760
One off capital cost	
Approximate purchase cost for one sedan	\$23,000
Total Additional Cost (2007/08)	\$75,760

The 'Private Swimming Pool Inspection Programme' is largely funded by the fees set under the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provision) Act.

The fee is currently set at \$55 including GST for the four-year inspection cycle and is recovered by an annual charge of \$13.75.

The present fee structure is estimated to recover approximately 60% of the Programme cost in 2006/07 and it is estimated that the revised Programme would be approximately 60% cost recoverable.

The fee structure is now under review by the Department of Housing & Works. A review to \$100 for a four-year inspection cycle is anticipated. However, the increase is still to be finalised.

7.3 Cost Escalations in Infrastructure Projects

By City of Joondalup

IN BRIEF

The rapid escalation in the cost of construction projects is placing additional financial pressure on local governments. For instance, the City of Joondalup has received funding from Main Roads WA for two dual carriageway duplication projects to support the extension of the Mitchell Freeway. Construction cost escalations since Metropolitan Regional Road Grant (MRRG) funding was provided for these projects has created a \$2.8 million funding shortfall should the City commence both projects now.

It is recommended that WALGA lobby the State Government to ensure that future MRRG funding makes provision for cost escalations.

BACKGROUND

The two road construction projects and their associated funding problems are summarised in the attached letter from the Chief Executive Officer of the City of Joondalup to the Commissioner for Main Roads WA (Attachment 1).

COMMENT

The City of Joondalup considers it inappropriate for local governments to fund the cost escalation in major road projects which are supported, in the main, by State Government funding under the MRRG Scheme. Instead it is considered appropriate that cost escalations be shared between State and local government funding partners on a basis which is proportionate to the original funding contribution.

Cr Maygar arrived at 6.20pm.

Motion

Cr McLean / Cr Boothman

That the North Metropolitan Zone:

1. NOTES the City of Joondalup's letter to the Commissioner for Main Roads WA in relation to cost escalations and the Metropolitan Regional Road Grant Scheme.
2. RECOMMENDS that WALGA lobby the State Government to ensure that future Metropolitan Regional Road Grants make provision for cost escalations.

CARRIED

7.4 Dog Registration Fee – Review

By City of Joondalup

IN BRIEF

Dog registration fees are set by the State Government through Regulations under the Dog Act 1976.

The last increase in dog registration fees was in September 1996, some ten years ago. Since then the CPI has increased approximately 35.4% to the end of 2006.

It is considered timely that the State is requested to again review the dog registration fees with the view to increasing them to assist in offsetting some of the dog related cost of ranger services and the provision and maintenance of facilities for dogs.

BACKGROUND

In keeping with the Dog Act 1976, local governments have the responsibility for dog control and management within their respective areas. For the most part, local governments employ rangers to deliver this service to the community. Dog pound facilities must be provided, effectively managed and associated administration procedures met. Local governments also set aside parks and reserves as dog exercise areas and for those local governments that have beaches and foreshores, many have dog exercise beaches and provide dog excreta bags and other services.

Dog registration is compulsory under the Dog Act 1976 and registration fees are set by the State Government under Regulations associated with the Dog Act. Revenue received from dog registration helps offset the costs incurred by local governments in control and management of dogs.

Dog registration fees are currently as follows:

	1 Year	1 Year Pensioner	3 Year	3 Year Pensioner
Unsterilised	\$30.00	\$15.00	\$75.00	\$37.50
Sterilised	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$18.00	\$9.00

Dog registrations expire on 31 October of the renewal year.

The above fees were last reviewed in September 1996 when the CPI All Groups was 120.1. The CPI All Groups at 31 December 2006 was 155.5.

COMMENT

A recent enquiry with the Department of Local Government and Regional Development found that there were no current plans to review dog registration fees and that a request through WALGA would be appropriate to initiate a review. Comment was also made that dog registration fees were deliberately kept low at the last review to encourage dog owners to register and sterilise their animals. While these principles should still apply, it is considered appropriate and timely that a review of the dog registration fees is undertaken.

While keeping registration fees low does provide some encouragement for people to register their dogs, it has been found necessary to advertise regularly the benefits of dog registration and undertake door knocks of all residences to achieve and maintain a high level of dog registration.

Consequently, low registration alone does not achieve high registration levels.

It is suggested that a thirty five percent increase across all dog registration fees would be reasonable given the time that has elapsed since the last review. It is also suggested, as a matter of principle, that dog registration fees be review at least every three years to avoid the need for large increases following an extended period where fees remain static.

Motion

Mayor Pickard / Cr Roberts

Mayor Pickard moved the recommendation with the following changes.

That the North Metropolitan Zone recommend that WALGA make representation to the Department of Local Government and Regional Development to review the dog registration fees that are set by Regulations under the Dog Act.

It is recommended that this review increase registration fees by *minimum* 35% as soon as possible and include provision for regular increases *through an annual review*. ~~in the fee level set with reviews at least every three years.~~

CARRIED

7.5 Western Power's Underground Power Requirements

By City of Joondalup – Director Governance & Strategy – Ian Cowie

IN BRIEF

The requirement to place power underground has forced the City of Joondalup to put on hold several road upgrades at Blackspot locations.

The City of Joondalup is seeking the support of the North Metropolitan Zone to lobby for flexibility in underground power requirements when local governments undertake State Blackspot road projects.

BACKGROUND

The City of Joondalup recently received funding for 4 projects under the State Blackspot Program. Each was supported under this Program because of problems at the intersection and the desire to improve safety for all concerned.

Each of these projects can currently only proceed if power at site is placed underground.

The cost for power service relocations, in comparison to likely total project costs, are as follows:

Project	Cost for Service Relocation	Total Project Cost	Service Relocation as % of Total
1.	\$10,000	\$122,858	8.1%
2.	\$217,795	\$341,444	63.7%
3.	\$15,000	\$190,685	7.8%
4.	\$177,815	\$661,859	26.8%
TOTAL:	\$420,610	\$1,316,846	

As the above table shows, for two of these projects, the cost for service relocation is over 25% of the total project cost. In one case, it is well over 50% of the total cost.

The City's total available funds for these projects (including funding through the Blackspot Program) is below the estimated total project cost and each of these 4 projects will now be postponed. Indeed, the City will be forced to give the Blackspot money back to the State Government and leave the intersections as they are for at least another year.

It is noted that if service relocation were not included in the project cost, the City would have enough funds to undertake at least one of the projects.

COMMENT

While it is recognised that the undergrounding of power brings significant benefits to both the community and to Western Power, and is therefore supported in general, undertaking road works to fix intersection blackspots is also a significant benefit for the community. However, if such blackspots cannot be fixed because of the cost of undergrounding power, the opportunity to enhance safety at these locations is postponed.

When undertaking blackspot works, it is suggested that there be flexibility in the requirement for service relocation and undergrounding of power because the benefits achieved in one area (ie. the undergrounding of power) are counter balanced by the cost of not improving the safety aspects at these locations.

Motion

Mayor Pickard / Cr Boothman

Mayor Pickard moved the recommendation with the following change.

That the North Metropolitan Zone SEEK the support of WALGA to lobby the State Government to avoid the need to underground power when undertaking blackspot safety works.

That the North Metropolitan Zone SEEK the support of WALGA to support the provision of a desktop figure to any blackspot safety application.

AMENDED MOTION

Cr Gray / Cr Roberts

That the North Metropolitan Zone SEEK the support of WALGA to lobby the State Government to avoid the need to underground power when undertaking blackspot safety works.

That the North Metropolitan Zone SEEK the support of WALGA to support the provision of a desktop figure to any blackspot safety application.

That the State Government be requested that Western Power be requested to fully fund any required underground power requirements related to blackspot safety works.

CARRIED

Mr Cowie left the meeting at 6.29pm and did not return.

7.6 Roles and Responsibilities in Emergency Management

By Aaron Bowman, Manager Council Support and Compliance, City of Stirling

IN BRIEF

This report has resulted from increasing concern about the level of compliance in Emergency Management and the additional resources required to meet these requirements.

BACKGROUND

The City of Stirling Council made the following recommendation at its meeting of 28 June 2005:-

- "2. That officers PREPARE a detailed report distinguishing the roles and responsibilities of City of Stirling officers in the area of Emergency Management."*

Since the above Council meeting various related matters have occurred:

Representatives from Fire and Emergency Services Association (FESA) have addressed Stirling's executive on what impact the Emergency Management Act 2005 (EM Act) would have on the City. Their advice at the time was that the EM Act 2005 would have minimal impact on the City once the Local Emergency arrangements were reviewed and finalised. They advised that it would basically be as a support agency acting under the direction of Hazard Management Agencies. Administrative duties associated with the City's Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) committee would continue.

The City of Stirling was successful in obtaining a \$50,000 grant to enable it to review and update its Local Emergency Management arrangements. A part time Emergency Management Project officer has since been employed to support this review and to also complete and document the Community Emergency Risk Management Process.

- The Emergency Management Act 2005 was proclaimed in December 2005.
- FESA have issued revised policy statements for review and implementation that reinforce Local Government responsibilities in emergency management.

This report will detail the current roles and responsibilities of the City of Stirling Staff in Emergency Management and make recommendations on future roles for Emergency Management.

COMMENT

Under the Emergency Management Act 2005 Local Governments have the following responsibilities:

- Development and maintenance of effective Local Emergency Management arrangements.
- Establishment and administration of one or more Local Emergency Management Committees and through the committees:
 - Review Emergency Management arrangements
 - Review any post-incident reports and post exercise reports generated since last meeting
 - Progress treatment strategies arising from Community Emergency Risk Management process
 - Schedule and organise annual emergency exercises
 - Prepare annual reports for forwarding to the District Emergency Management Committee
 - Identify Emergency Management projects for possible grant funding

- Prepare and administer any funding applications i.e. AWARE or Local Grant Scheme
 - Advise and assist public authorities and other persons in ensuring the establishment, development, review and testing of the Local Emergency Management arrangements
- Prepare and maintain a local recovery plan
 - Nomination of a recovery co-ordinator
 - Development of the City's own policies for Emergency Management
 - Community Emergency Risk Management programme Working Group
 - Carry out functions as set out in the Local Emergency Management arrangements

Each of the above areas generates operational and administrative tasks that must be undertaken to meet the requirements of the Emergency Management Act 2005.

City of Stirling staff currently manage these tasks as follows:

MANAGER ENGINEERING OPERATIONS

This position is the only position in the City that has Emergency Management as a requirement in the position description.

This position is recognised as the City of Stirling Emergency Services Coordinator for emergency management issues and is the Executive Officer for the Stirling LEMC.

Responsibilities include:

- Following up action items from the LEMC,
- ICD committee reports on emergency,
- Reviewing the Local Emergency Management plans,
- Participating, running and organising emergency exercises,
- Being part of working groups from the LEMC on new initiatives,
- Attending and reporting back from the West Metropolitan Emergency Management Committee meetings,
- Attending and responding to emergencies with follow up meetings,
- Submitting funding applications for the AWARE programme,
- Attending the Metropolitan and North East Recovery Group meetings,
- Administration of the Stirling State Emergency Services (SSES) Unit including funding agreements and applications (Emergency services Levy grants) and ,
- Participation in the Stirling Local Recovery Coordination meetings.
- Facilitator of general information and feedback on new and existing emergency management processes ie comments to WALGA.

The role of Stirling Emergency Services Coordinator has delegated authority to activate Council support according to the City of Stirling Local Emergency Plan. This is outlined in policy B301001 Stirling Voluntary Emergency Service (attachment 1). The position also acts as a conduit for providing specific City of Stirling information/contacts to the Incident Control Group to assist them in dealing with an emergency in the City.

DIRECTOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

This position has been appointed by the LEMC to be the Local Recovery Coordinator.

Responsibilities include:

- Overall co-ordination of recovery of the City of Stirling's both physical and social assets from damage caused by an emergency.
- Acts as the chairperson for the Stirling Local Recovery Coordination Committee.
- Responsible for reviewing the Operational Recovery plan.

- Attendance and participation at LEMC meetings,
- Project co-ordinating the Community Emergency Risk Management programme,
- Providing direction on emergency management for community and Welfare groups,
- Attending and responding to emergencies with follow up meetings,
- Participating in emergency exercises,
- Assisting with working groups from the LEMC in dealing with new initiatives.

MANAGER COMMUNITY SERVICES

This position has taken on responsibility for:

- Managing the impact and recovery from emergencies for susceptible sections of the community.
- Facilitating the development, testing and maintenance of recovery/evacuation plans for aged care facilities,
- Providing updated registry of major evacuation centres,
- Facilitating a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Community Development for the use of these facilities in an emergency.
- Attendance and participation at LEMC meetings,
- Participation in the working group for the Community Emergency Risk Management Programme,
- Assisting with working groups from the LEMC dealing with new initiatives,
- Participating, running and organising emergency exercises,
- Acts as the executive officer for the Stirling Local Recovery Coordination committee.

MANAGER COMPLIANCE AND HEALTH

This position has taken on responsibility for:

- Managing the impact and recovery from emergencies for health matters.
- Attendance and participation at LEMC meetings
- Arranging for emergency management training,
- Assisting with working groups from the LEMC dealing with new initiatives,
- Attending and responding to emergencies including follow up meetings,
- Participation in the Stirling Local Recovery Coordination meetings.
- Participating in emergency exercises,

ADMINISTRATION OFFICER – INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT

This position takes on the role of administering all transactions associated with the funding agreement between the City and the SSES includes acquittals, grant applications for Emergency Services Legislation (ESL), processing of orders/invoices for SSES capital equipment and processing of Emergency Service ESL grant funding as it is received quarterly.

MINUTE CLERK – CORPORATE SERVICES

Takes minutes of LEMC meetings and maintains distribution list of LEMC members, also maintains current Local Emergency Management Plan

It is clear from the tasks described above that Emergency Management is becoming more involved. It is important therefore for Executive and Council to agree on a clear direction in Emergency Management within the City of Stirling.

There is a need for emergency management to be coordinated corporately as there is input required from most directorates and business units as demonstrated from above and in the table below:

Directorate	Business Unit	EM input required
Infrastructure Management	Engineering Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-ordination of Labour, Plant and Equipment for response and recovery from emergencies. • Arrangement for traffic management of affected areas. • Administration of the Stirling SES unit including ESL grants • Maintenance management systems that mitigate emergency risks
	Engineering Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of information on road, drainage and other engineering asset plans • Provision of engineering design consultancy in emergency situations including traffic modelling • Providing designs for infrastructure assets that mitigate against emergency risks in the community.
	Parks and reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-ordination of response and recovery from emergencies affecting the City's natural environment. • Provision of information on Parks and reserves and other environmental assets. • Maintenance management systems that mitigate emergency risks
	Waste and Fleet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrangements for rubbish removal in emergencies • Maintenance and provision of plant, vehicles and equipment during emergencies
Community Development	Community Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision for evacuation, welfare, counselling of residents affected by emergencies including the aged and other susceptible community groups • Provision/support for food supplies for response and recovery (Food services) • Provision of Buses and volunteer drivers
	Community Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile 24/7 resources (security officers and rangers) to assist in door knocking, security, animal care. • Compliance with the Fire and Emergency Services legislation (fire breaks)
	Recreation and Cultural Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of facilities for evacuation, accommodation, control centres. • Management of public events including provision of risk management plans
	Library and Information Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication of information on recovery processes
Planning and Development	Approvals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise on structural integrity of damaged buildings
	Health and compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise on all Health matters associated with emergencies ie water, food, immunisation,

		pollution, quarantines etc
	City Building Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist in management of repair and replacement works of damaged buildings
Corporate Resource Management	Finance Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrange funding, procurement and financial transaction processes for emergencies Assist with insurance issues associated with emergencies
	Information Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up communications links, pc for management of emergencies Security of IT data
	Asset Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records of damaged assets and infrastructure Facilitate overall physical asset reinstatement programme and costs
Office of the CEO Executive Office	Council support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative support for emergency processes and meetings (Local recovery Co-ordination meetings, LEMC)
	Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for providing information to Council, administration, Community and media.
	Human Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitating provision of extra people to assist with operations Oversee Occupational, Health and safety issues

From the above it is difficult to fit total responsibility for emergency management within one directorate or business unit.

Consequently, there is a risk identified with the co-ordination of emergency management and no specific directorate in control of this in the City. Although there has been a lot of work done in this area it has been with a minimum of resources with most input at Business Unit Manager level or higher with no dedicated staff at officer level.

Survey of Other Councils

Twelve Local WA Councils have been researched (in late 2005) to ascertain their involvement in Emergency Management. The results are shown in attachment 1. A summary of these results is:

- Most councils have officers who do the emergency management but not as their core role.
- The area that emergency management was run from the most was Community Safety and ranger services (5 out of 12).
- All councils have LEMC's (except Swan) and emergency plans.
- 7 out of 12 councils are running Community Emergency Risk Management programmes and 5 of these have funding assistance from the AWARE grant scheme.
- Only Two Councils (Joondalup and Wanneroo share) have dedicated personnel working full time on emergency management.

Since the Emergency Management Act 2005 was proclaimed in December 2005 the State Government (through FESA) have been very active in promoting emergency management and ensuring Local Governments get the message that they have responsibilities under this Act. There has been many seminars organised throughout the state, and the demand for training programmes for emergency management in Local Governments have increased, and because Local Governments are responsible for recovery, FESA are beginning to push this requirement. WALGA have also requested feedback from Local Governments on resource issues to cope with these demands.

The City of Stirling LEMC covers 20% of the metropolitan area, and the work load from emergency management is increasing and is unlikely to decrease. It is clear that the City needs a dedicated resource to manage and work to the existing and future workload.

Motion

Cr Stewart / Cr Rose

With the consent of the mover and seconder the word in italics were added by Mayor Pickard.

1. That the North Metropolitan Zone WRITE to the Western Australian Local Government Association expressing concern about the level of compliance in Emergency Management and the additional resources required to meet these requirements.
2. That the North Metropolitan Zone Group (Stirling, Joondalup, Wanneroo) and the City of Bayswater MAKE a deputation *in consultation with* the Minister expressing concerns about the cost shifting involved in order to meet the additional requirements in Emergency Management.
3. *That the North Metropolitan Zone WRITE to the Western Australian Local Government Association seeking support for local government to access the Emergency Services Levy funding to fund emergency services initiatives in local government areas.*

CARRIED

7.7 Update - Regional Approach to the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Partnership Agreement

By the Northern Region Community Safety and Crime Prevention Officer Working Group

IN BRIEF

The Cities of Joondalup, Wanneroo, Bayswater and Stirling have been working together for more than two years on a regional approach to the State Government's community safety and crime prevention partnership agreement.

To date no agreement has been reached between the group and the Office of Crime Prevention (OCP), largely due to the proposal by the group for a regional coordinator to coordinate the partnership agreement and develop a community safety and crime prevention plan.

The Northern Region Community Safety and Crime Prevention Officer Working Group now recommends that any further discussions with the OCP, regarding a regional approach to the partnership agreement, discontinue at this time.

BACKGROUND

The Cities of Joondalup, Wanneroo, Bayswater and Stirling have been working together on a regional approach to the State Government's OCP Community Safety and Crime Prevention Partnership Agreement for a period of more than two years.

The group have identified problems with the OCP partnership model particularly relating to a lack of suitable funds and a shift in costs and responsibilities. The four local governments, who represent a substantial number of ratepayers over two Police districts, have indicated that anti-social behaviour, graffiti vandalism and youth issues are the primary focuses recommended to be included in an agreement. The respective partners represent in excess of 500,000 ratepayers or one third of the metropolitan area. The funding offered for the development of a plan by the OCP is well below the metropolitan average per ratepayer and does not increase to recognise the size of the region.

A number of proposals have been put forward to the OCP with no suitable agreement reached to date.

The main reason that no agreement has been reached is that the OCP will not agree to fund a regional coordinator to develop a community safety and crime prevention plan.

The coordinators role was to:

- Coordinate a regional approach to a community safety and crime prevention partnership with the Cities of Wanneroo, Joondalup, Bayswater and Stirling;
- Develop a community safety and crime prevention plan;
- Undertake community consultation and incorporate into the plans;
- Be a key liaison between local governments, OCP and other stakeholders;
- Coordinate community safety and crime prevention grant applications on behalf of Wanneroo, Joondalup, Bayswater and Stirling;
- Identify alternative grant funding opportunities and applications;
- Monitor and report on the effectiveness of the agreement;
- Liaise with Police to obtain the provision of statistics and information;
- Li' aise with state government to ensure ongoing resources and funding;
- Represent the region with the establishment of service level agreements with the state government; and

- Project management of regional projects and initiatives on an ongoing basis.

The Northern Region Community Safety and Crime Prevention Officer Working Group believe that a coordinator is integral to the success of the partnership and community safety and crime prevention plan.

COMMENT

In a letter to the Acting Director OCP, Mr David Wray, dated 22 November 2006, the regional group proposed a regional partnership model with a period of 5 years, with funding of a coordinator as well as project funding costs (Letter provided as an attachment).

Mr Wray advised that this model was not suitable on the basis that funding grants would not be provided for the engagement of a coordinator given the potential of a precedent with other local government partnerships. Mr Wray subsequently advised that he would examine an "Alternative Partnership Model" utilising one of the OCP's specific funding streams. This model would focus on graffiti, youth and antisocial behaviour issues and run over an 18-month period. It was recommended that funding of a minimum of \$270,000 be provided including:

- \$140,000 for a coordinator;
- \$50,000 for consultancy; and
- \$80,000 for identified projects.

On 8 May 2007, Mr Wray advised that this "Alternative Partnership Model" was declined by the Minister on the basis that the full time employee request for coordination is unacceptable.

From the groups point of view there is little value in continuing to pursue a regional partnership agreement with the OCP if there is no regional coordinator to coordinate the partnership and the plan. The group therefore recommends that the Northern Region Community Safety and Crime Prevention Officer Working Group continues to meet on issues relevant to the region, however at this time discontinues any further discussions with the OCP on entering into a partnership agreement. The respective Local Governments may choose to continue to explore partnership options that are suitable to them.

Motion

Cr Roberts / Cr Steffens

With the consent of the mover and seconder the word in italics were added.

That the North Metropolitan Zone **NOTE** the report from the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Officer Working Group and that following no suitable resolution being met with the OCP on a regional community safety and crime prevention partnership agreement that any further discussions with the OCP **discontinue** at this time.

That the North Metropolitan Zone REQUEST the Officer Working Group request further direction of the group in the northern corridor.

CARRIED

**ATTACHMENT TO ITEM 7.7
OMITTED FROM AGENDA
TABLED AT THE MEETING**

Enquiries: Laurie Crouch - 9345 8535

Your Ref:

22 November 2006

Acting Director
Mr David Wray
Office of Crime Prevention
Department of Premier and Cabinet
5th Floor, 197 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Mr Wray

NORTHERN REGION COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

The purpose of this letter is to outline a proposal for an Office of Crime Prevention (OCP) and a Northern Region Community Safety and Crime Prevention Partnership Agreement.

The Northern Region Community Safety and Crime Prevention Officer Working Group and the Office of Crime Prevention have met on several occasions and prepared a number of draft documents however a suitable agreement has not been reached. The Northern Region Working Group has expressed concern with the agreements essentially being a lack of identified and suitable funding, concerns of cost and responsibility shifting to Local Government and concern with the level of participation by the State Government agencies.

The Northern Region group is keen to develop an agreement that directly benefits its communities and is acceptable to all partners involved. As such it proposes an agreement based on the following points:

- o No cost and responsibility shifting to Local Government.
- o The partnership agreement is to be supported by the West Metropolitan and North West Metropolitan District Police Offices.
- o The Office of Crime Prevention will coordinate State Government agency input and support where required.
- o The agreement proceed on the basis that funding be provided in advance annually by the OCP for the establishment of a Community Safety Regional Coordinator for the life of the agreement. The Coordinator will develop a plan for the region. The funding will also cover:
 - o The Coordinator's salary and associated on-costs;
 - o A vehicle and vehicle running costs (or equivalent mileage costs);
 - o Telephone costs;

Representing an approximate total cost of \$100,000 per annum.

- o Each local government will qualify for the following funding provisions from the OCP;
 - a. On signing of the Agreement \$10,000 will be paid for the development of a plan.
 - b. An annual payment of \$1,200 for administrations costs to support community involvement.

- c. \$20,000 for a priority project identified in the plan.
- d. Ongoing funding by the State Government for identified projects and initiatives.
- o That the proposed agreements life span of up to 5 years with an appropriate out clause that can be actioned by either party at any time.
- o That the OCP accept a regional plan with separate addendums outlining specific issues relating to each separate Local Government area.
- o Any non Local Government issues identified will be highlighted in the plan and forwarded to the responsible agency and the Office of Crime Prevention for detailed planning and actioning.
- o The Northern Region Community Safety and Crime Prevention Officer Working Group will place priority on community safety and crime related issues that fall under the responsibility of Local Governments.

Community consultation will be undertaken in partnership with WA Police, the Office of Crime Prevention and Local Government Authorities. The survey will include the use of websites, surveys at community facilities, 2 weeks advertising in community newspapers across the region and direct mail out to community groups (including Neighbourhood Watch representatives).

If an in principle agreement of the above is supported by the Office of Crime Prevention it is proposed that a draft agreement be presented at the next WALGA North Metropolitan Zone Committee meeting and presented to the respective Councils for endorsement.

The Northern Regional group believes that the above proposal addresses the past concerns and looks forward to working in partnership with the OCP and thanks you for your consideration in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Trevor Holland
DIRECTOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

LATE ITEM Elected Members Maximum Prescribed Attending Fee - Proposed Motion: WALGA AGM

By Aaron Bowman, Manager Council Support and Compliance, City of Stirling

IN BRIEF

- This report relates to a proposal to increase the maximum prescribed attending fee for Councillors has resulted from a request from City of Stirling Councillor Elizabeth Re for presentation to the WALGA AGM on Sunday 5 August 2007.

BACKGROUND

WALGA's Annual General Meeting will be held during the 2007 Local Government Convention on Sunday 5 August 2007. Motions from Member Councils for inclusion in the AGM Agenda are to be submitted in writing to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association by Friday 15 June 2007.

Any motions proposing alterations or amendments to the Constitution of the WA Local Government Association must be received by Wednesday 6 June 2007, in order to satisfy the sixty-day constitutional notification requirements.

A request has been submitted to City of Stirling officers from Councillor Elizabeth Re for a motion to be prepared proposing an amendment to the Local Government Act 1995 and to Regulation 34 of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 to increase the maximum annual remuneration for Councillors from \$7,000 to \$20,000.

COMMENT

Section 5.99 of the Local Government Act 1995 prescribes that a local government may decide (with an absolute majority vote) that instead of paying council members a fee referred to in section 5.98(1) of the Act, it will instead pay all council members who attend council or committee meetings -

- "(a) the prescribed minimum annual fee; or
- (b) where the local government has a set fee within the prescribed range for annual fee, that fee."

The City of Stirling operates in accordance with Section 5.98(1)(b) of the Local Government Act and pays its members (with the exception of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor) the maximum annual meeting fee of \$7,000 as prescribed in section 34(1)(b)(ii) of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996.

Councillor Re is proposing an amendment to the Regulations to increase the annual maximum meeting fee from \$7,000 to \$20,000.

Please refer to the attached report to WALGA for more detailed information pertaining to this proposal.

That the North Metropolitan Zone ENDORSE the following motion for submission to the Western Australian Local Government Association's Annual General Meeting to be held on Sunday 5 August 2007:

"That the Western Australian Local Government Association LOBBY the Minister for Local Government for an increase in the maximum attending fees payable to elected members from \$7,000 to \$20,000 as prescribed in Regulation 34(b)(ii) of the Local Government Act (Administration) Regulations 1996."

LOST
0 / 12

Amendment to Prescribed Annual Fee for Elected Members

City of Stirling Delegate to move:

MOTION

That the Western Australian Local Government Association LOBBY the Minister for Local Government for an increase in the maximum attending fees payable to elected members from \$7,000 to \$20,000 as prescribed in Regulation 34(b)(ii) of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996.

IN BRIEF

- Councillor's workload and commitments have increased considerably in recent years.
- Seeking the Association to support an increase in the maximum attending fees to allow Councils to increase Councillor remuneration should it be appropriate.

MEMBER COMMENT

In 1995 the maximum prescribed attending fee payable to Councillors was \$5,000. In 1999, this was increased to \$6,000 and later amended to the current maximum of \$7,000 in 2005.

The \$2,000 increase in the maximum prescribed attending fee over these 10 years represents an increase of 4% per year.

The workload of Elected Members has significantly increased in recent years, particularly in Metropolitan Councils. The average metropolitan Councillor generally attends a minimum of approximately three meetings per week along with numerous other commitments.

An average week for a Councillor at the City of Stirling generally entails the following:-

Monday	Briefing or other meeting
Tuesday	Council or Standing Committee Meeting
Wednesday	Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday	Advisory Committee Meeting
Friday	Council Dinner or Function
Saturday	Representation of Council at Sporting or Community Events
Sunday	Representation of Council at Sporting or Religious Events.

As well as these commitments, Councillors often also attend meetings with ratepayers, make site visits in relation to development applications, attend citizenship ceremonies and community functions and also represent the Council on various regional committees.

The current annual maximum prescribed fee of \$7,000 represents \$134.60 per week for elected members which seems diminutive when the commitment and time expended on Council duties by elected members is considered.

In comparison to a local government elected member's allowance of \$7,000, a Member of Parliament receives a basic salary of \$113,769 per annum. It could be argued that some larger metropolitan Councils require similar time and commitment from their elected members as that of members of Parliament.

Although a maximum prescribed fee of \$20,000 could seem excessive to those smaller regional councils that do not meet as regularly as larger councils, it should be noted that this amount is the maximum fee, and it is each local government's discretion to set the fee applicable to their authority.

A suitable example of a local government fee structure was presented in the 2007 Annual Review of the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal of New South Wales. This fee structure categorises local governments according to size and economic data including cost of living figures and includes a minimum as well as maximum annual fee. Please refer to the extract of the Annual Review below:-

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

Helen Wright
Dated: 30 April 2007

DETERMINATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 242 OF CATEGORIES OF COUNCILS AND COUNTY COUNCILS EFFECTIVE FROM 1 JULY 2007

Category S1 (1 Council)	Sydney
Category S2 (3 Councils)	Newcastle Parramatta Wollongong
Category S3	County Councils
Category S4	County Councils

(engaged in significant commercial activities)

Category 1A (2 Councils)

Blacktown
Penrith

Category 1. (16 Councils)

Bankstown	Liverpool
Baulkham Hills	North Sydney
Campbelltown	Randwick
Fairfield	Ryde

Gosford
Hornsby
Hurstville
Lake Macquarie

Sutherland
Warringah
Willoughby
Wyong

Category 2. (21 Councils)

Ashfield
Auburn
Botany
Burwood
Camden
Canada Bay
Canterbury
Holroyd
Hunters Hill
Kogarah
Ku ring Gai

Lane Cove
Leichhardt
Manly
Marrickville
Mosman
Pittwater
Rockdale
Strathfield
Waverley
Woollahra

Category 3. (32 Councils)

Albury City
Armidale Dumaresq
Ballina
Bathurst Regional
Bega Valley
Blue Mountains
Broken Hill
Byron
Cessnock
Clarence Valley
Coffs Harbour
Dubbo
Eurobodalla
Gt Lakes
Goulburn Mulwaree
Queanbeyan

Greater Taree
Griffith
Hastings
Hawkesbury
Kempsey
Lismore
Maitland
Orange
Pt Stephens
Shellharbour
Shoalhaven
Tamworth Regional
Tweed Heads
Wagga Wagga
Wingecarribee
Wollondilly

Category 4. (77 Councils)

Balranald
Bellingen
Berrigen
Bland
Blayney

Glen Innes Severn
Gloucester
Greater Hume
Gundagai
Gunnedah

Narromine
Palerang
Parkes
Oberon
Richmond Valley

Bogan	Guyra	Singleton
Bombala	Gwydir	Snowy River
Boorowa	Harden	Temora
Bourke	Hay	Tenterfield
Brewarrina	Inverell	Tumbarumba
Cabonne	Jerilderie	Tumut
Carrathool	Junee	Upper Hunter
Central Darling	Kiama	Upper Lachlan
City of Lithgow	Kyogle	Uralla
Cobar	Lachlan	Urana
Conargo	Leeton	Wakool
Coolamon	Liverpool Plains	Walcha
Cooma-Monaro	Lockhart	Walgett
Coonamble	Mid-Western Regional	Warren
Cootamundra	Moree Plains	Warrumbungle
Corowa	Murray	Weddin
Cowra	Murrumbidgee	Wellington
Deniliquin	Muswellbrook	Wentworth
Dungog	Nambucca	Yass Valley
Forbes	Narrabri	Young
Gilgandra	Narrandera	

TOTAL GENERAL PURPOSE COUNCILS 152

Category S3 (10 Councils)

Castlereagh – Macquarie	Richmond River
Central Murray	Southern Slopes
Far North Coast	Upper Hunter
Hawkesbury River	Upper Macquarie
New England Weeds	

Category S4 (6 Councils)

Central Tablelands	Riverina Water
Goldenfields Water	Rous
MidCoast	

TOTAL COUNTY COUNCILS 14

DETERMINATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 242 OF FEES FOR COUNCILLORS AND MAYORS

Pursuant to s.242 of the Local Government Act 1993, the annual fees to be paid in each of the categories to Councillors, Mayors, members and chairpersons of County Councils effective on and from 1 July 2007 are determined as follows:

	Councillor/Member Annual Fee	
	Minimum	Maximum
Category 4	6,610	8,715
Category 3	6,610	14,540
Category 2	6,610	14,540
Category 1	9,905	18,510
Category 1A	13,215	21,805
S4	1,320	7,270
S3	1,320	4,360
S2	13,215	21,805
S1	19,830	29,080

The entire 2007 review of the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal can be found at <http://www.remtribunals.nsw.gov.au/local/lgrt2007.html>.

Using this example, the City of Stirling would be classed as an S1 category due to its size and therefore the applicable sitting fee would be a minimum of \$19,830 to a maximum of \$29,080.

The above categories also take into account country councils and, as can be seen in the above table, the minimum fee is \$1,320 which is comparable to current West Australian fees for country elected members.

8. WALGA STATE COUNCIL AGENDA – MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

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

Matters of Particular Interest on State Council Agenda

Nil.

9. WALGA STATE COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS

9.1 WALGA State Presidents Report

Mr Wayne Scheggia, Deputy Chief Executive Officer WALGA, provided a brief overview of the WALGA State President's Report, see attachment, and highlighted the fact that the deadline for motions to the WALGA AGM is 15 June 2007.



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

President's Report June 2007

State and Federal Budgets – 2007/2008

The Federal Government has increased its grant funding allocations to Western Australian roads, with the extension of the Roads to Recovery Program, AusLink Strategic Regional program and the growth and renewal of Black-spot funding for another six years.

Financial Assistance Grants were increased by 3.9%, which means they are maintained in real terms as a percentage of Federal tax revenue. Considered against an annual change in average capital city CPI (31 March 2006 to 31 March 2007) of 2.4%, this is a good outcome. However, compared against the Perth CPI of 3.5% and the WA Local Government Cost Index movement of 5.38% for the same period, Councils are unlikely to get any real purchasing advantage.

Linking Local Government's Financial Assistance Grants to a fixed percentage of the Federal tax take – to a growth base – is a critical element in developing a sustainable financial future for Councils.

Unfortunately the Federal Budget did not include the establishment of a "Local Community Infrastructure Renewal Program", but we will temper our disappointment with anticipation of a positive announcement as part of the pending Federal Election.

The State Budget held very little for Local Government beyond those things we have a right to expect. Any benefits for Councils are more likely to be by way of indirect community benefits rather than sector specific outcomes.

It is clear that both State and Federal Governments have kept plenty of capacity in their respective Treasuries to fund substantial election pork barrels as the election cycles of each sphere of government unfold.

Strategic Regional Program

The Federal Government has decided to provide \$250 million in the current financial year for the AusLink Strategic Regional Program. The funding is being offered to Councils that had submitted projects under this program but were not successful in receiving funding in the initial round. Councils must move quickly if they are to take up these offers.

The Federal Government has selected a number of the previously unsuccessful projects and is making offers directly to those councils based on their original submissions. No new submissions are expected to be sought at this time.

The Minister for Transport and Regional Services, Hon Mark Vaile MHR, is making the offers in writing to the Councils that have submitted the selected projects. These Councils will be followed up with phone calls from Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS) officials.

The funds must be transferred to Council bank accounts by 30 June 2007 to fund the physical works in the future. The funding can only be transferred if funding agreements are in place. DOTARS has set 15 June as the closing date for the completion of funding agreements or the offer lapses.

As most projects receiving offers involve some joint funding, Councils will need to consider the offer in the light of their ability to meet the joint funding required. If Councils do not wish to proceed with an offer they should let DOTARS know as soon as possible so that consideration can be made to offering the funds to an alternative project.

Rules of Conduct Regulations

With the passage of the *Local Government (Official Conduct) Amendment Bill 2005* through Parliament, the Department has released Draft 8 of the proposed *Local Government (Rules of Conduct) Regulations 2007* for consideration and comment by the Association and Member Councils.

Members will be aware that the Association has consulted extensively with Local Governments since 2003 in the development of a WALGA position on both the Official Conduct Bill and Rules of Conduct. Agenda items on different iterations of the legislation and regulations were considered by Zones and State Council in December 2003, February 2004, August 2004, April 2005 and October 2005.

The Rules of Conduct Regulations will have a significant impact on Local Governments, with all elected members required to comply with the behavioural standards enshrined within the Rules of Conduct, and complaints of breaches of the Rules to be subject to formal proceedings before the Standards Panel.

A late item on the draft Rules of Conduct Regulations has been distributed to all Councils and is to be considered by State Council at its meeting on 6 June 2007. There are a range of amendments proposed by the Secretariat to improve the operation and effectiveness of the Rules.

WALGA Annual General Meeting

The Association's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on **Sunday 5 August** from 1:00pm to 5:15pm. The notice of the meeting, procedural information and guidelines on the formulation of motions were communicated in writing to Member Councils on 1 April.

Submission of Motions: Motions from Member Councils for inclusion on the AGM Agenda are to be submitted in writing to the WALGA Chief Executive Officer by **Friday 15 June**.

Please note, that motions proposing alterations or amendments to the WALGA Constitution must be received by **Wednesday 6 June** in order to satisfy the sixty (60) day constitutional notification requirements.

Voting Registration: Member Councils seeking to exercise their voting entitlements must ensure that their voting delegates are appropriately registered. Registration details and a *Registration for Voting Delegates* form were posted to all Councils on Friday 11 May. To register delegates, please complete the form and fax back to the Association by **Friday 6 July**.

Systemic Sustainability Study (SSS)

Consultants have been appointed by the SSS Taskforce and Expert Teams established and ready to get stuck in to the hard work ahead.

Murray Jorgensen has been appointed Project Coordinator and will also be Consultant for the **Service Team**, supported by Allison Hailes (WALGA).

John Barrington (Barrington Consultants) has been appointed Consultant for the **Leadership Team** and will be supported by Ricky Burges (WALGA).

Paul Breman (Breman Consultants) has been appointed Consultant for the **Revenue Team** and will be supported by Nick Wood (WALGA).

Ron Back has been appointed Consultant for the **Finance Team** and will be supported by Tony Brown (WALGA).

Tony Cooke (Barrington Consultants) has been appointed Consultant for the **Expertise Team** and will be supported by John Phillips (WALGA).

There are hundreds of elected members and officers that could have been selected for the Expert Teams, however the Taskforce directed that the teams be kept to around six or seven members to be able to achieve their objectives in the very short time frame available (*A full Expert Team membership list is attached*).

However, this should not deter anyone with good ideas or strategies that should be considered by the Teams. Shortly, Councils will be provided with contact details for the Consultants and comments can be directed to them or through to Tony Brown: tbrown@walga.asn.au or Kate Murray: kmurray@walga.asn.au.

Regional Licensing Services

The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure has advised Local Governments that she has approved an increase in commission to be paid to Local Government Licensing Agents of 27%, effective from 1st July.

The Association has requested a copy of the Review of Commissions to determine the basis of the Government's financial review and analysis on which the 27% was determined. In addition, the Association is still waiting for a copy of the Review of the Regional Licensing Services. DPI has written to all Councils involved in licensing seeking confirmation of WALGA's involvement in the negotiation of new agreements. This will commence once the Review documents have been received.

Roads to Recovery – Depreciation as an Excluded Item

The Department of Transport and Regional Services issued updated notes on Administration for the Auslink Roads to Recovery and the Supplementary Auslink Roads to Recovery Program in November 2006. These notes included new items that are to be excluded from the funding arrangements for the Roads to Recovery programs. The inclusion of depreciation to the excluded items under the Auslink Roads to Recovery Program requires Local Governments to calculate new charge out rates for the reporting of the expenditure on the Auslink Roads to Recovery projects.

The Association has been discussing this issue with ALGA in an effort to resolve this issue with DOTARS. ALGA have advised that they have been able to get this issue onto the agenda at the Roundtable meeting with Federal Local Government Minister Jim Lloyd on 24 May 2007 and are currently preparing a discussion paper for the meeting.

Aquatics Legislation

The draft *Aquatics Facilities Regulations and Code of Practice for the Design, Construction, Operation Management and Maintenance of Aquatic Facilities* are intended to replace the *Health (Swimming pools) 1964 Regulations*. There was a Working party convened in 1995, which included WALGA and Local Government representation, to develop the Code of Practice. After consultation with the sector, State Council endorsed the Draft Code in June 2005.

It has been a long process and the Association understands through discussion with the Department of Health that the Code will be proclaimed in July 2007.

Whilst it is agreed that the Code will provide sustainable benefits, some of the apparent impacts were not anticipated by Councils during the consultation process. The Association continues to raise concern with the additional financial and human resource costs associated with implementing the Code.

The Association has written to the Ministers for Health, Sport and Recreation and Local Government to request support to:

- Increase funding to assist Local Government in the maintenance of their public swimming pools.
- Determine the feasibility of developing a dedicated Public Swimming Pool Maintenance Fund.
- Support an increase in the \$3000 pool subsidy to Local Government to ensure the long term viability of these valued community assets.

A response is still pending. Additionally, the Association is developing a cost analysis of the impact of the Code on Local Government and has requested that the Department of Health release a copy of the draft Regulations to assist with this task.

State Graffiti Strategy

The Association understands that the draft State Graffiti Strategy is being finalised by the Office of Crime Prevention for further stakeholder consultation. In January 2007, the Association raised the possibility of working with the State Government to develop a joint Local Government Graffiti Strategy and reiterated the need to ensure appropriate consultation with Local Government. Through the State/Local Government Graffiti Working Group, the Association has provided initial comment on the draft strategy. The next phase in the consultation process is for the State Government to release the draft strategy to Local Government for further consideration and comment.

Disability Access and Inclusion Grants

People with disabilities and their families and carers have the same rights as other people to access services within the community.

The *Disability Services Act (1993)* was amended in 2004 and requires State Government agencies and Local Governments to develop and implement Disability Access and Inclusion Plans (DAIPs) by July 2007.

Last year, the Association was successful in securing and administrating \$350,000 of devolved grants to assist Local Governments in the development of their DAIPs.

The Association has secured an additional \$300,000 from Disability Services Commission to run a second round of DAIP Grants focusing on implementation of the plans. This new round will open in July 2007 and Councils will be advised on how to access the grants through Local Government News and *The Western Australian* newspaper.

Presidential Contacts

During the April - June period, contacts that have occurred or are scheduled to take place prior to the June State Council meeting are as follows:

Federal Government Relations

- ALGA Roundtable with Hon Jim Lloyd MHR, Minister for Local Government
- Environmental Protection & Heritage Council

State Government Relations

- State Advisory & Main Roads / WALGA Liaison Committee
- Office of Crime Prevention Strategic Planning
- Main Roads & Local Government Road Maintenance Alliance
- Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich MLC, Minister for Local Government
- Mr Chris Richardson, Agriculture Protection Board, Mr Rob Delaney, Department Agriculture & Food WA
- Mr Bruce McKay, State Director, Department of Immigration
- Mr Greg Martin, CEO, Department of Planning & Infrastructure

Local Government Relations

- Visit to Shire of Broome, President Graeme Campbell, Mr Ian Bodill, CEO
- SSS Taskforce
- Local Government Grain Infrastructure Group
- Local Government House Trust
- Finance & Services Committee
- Australian Local Government Association Board Meeting
- Gascoyne Regional Road Group
- Pilbara Regional Road Group
- Visit to City of Belmont, Mayor Glenys Godfrey, Mr Shayne Silcox, CEO
- Visit to City of Canning, Mayor Mick Lekias, Mr Dominic Carbone, CEO
- Visit to City of South Perth, Mayor John Collins, Mr Cliff Frewing, CEO
- UK Insurance Underwriters with LGIS
 - ⇒ Lloyd & Partners Ltd – Mr John Lloyd, Mr Joe Andrews, Ms Joanna Locke, Mr Andy Long, Mr Rupert Flury, Mr Steve Bertenshaw
 - ⇒ AIG Europe (UK) Ltd – Mr Anthony Brown, Ms Esther Becker, Mr Graeme McGeachie
 - ⇒ Aegis – Mr Chris Terry
 - ⇒ DA Constable Syndicate 386 – Mr David Constable
 - ⇒ Zurich – Mr Tim Galloway
 - ⇒ Catlin – Mr Ben Teale
 - ⇒ Newline – Mr Martin Hawkins
 - ⇒ CAN – Mr Steve Piper
 - ⇒ Brit Insurance – Mr Andrew Pooley
 - ⇒ Swiss Re – Mr Alistair Henson
 - ⇒ Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance – Mr Mark Iceton
 - ⇒ Munich-American RiskPartners – Mr Ben Kinder, Ms Anna Bennett
 - ⇒ QBE – Mr Martin Boreham, Mr Chris Bell

Conferences / Workshops / Public Relations

- Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council – Brisbane

Zones

- Murchison Country Zone Meeting (Cue Parliament)
- Goldfields Esperance Country Zone
- Northern Country Zone
- South Metropolitan Zone
- South East Metropolitan Zone
- Great Eastern Country Zone

SSS Expert Teams

Leadership

John Barrington – Consultant
Ricky Burges – WALGA

Team Members: 7

Delegate	Council	Position
Russell Lockyer	Mt Magnet	President
Arthur Kyron	Claremont	CEO
Shayne Silcox	Belmont	CEO
Jan Stagbouer	Chittering	President
Ian Mickel	Esperance	President
Andrew Hammond	Albany	CEO
Neil Hartley	Kwinana	CEO

Revenue

Paul Breman – Consultant
Nick Wood – WALGA

Team Members: 7

Delegate	Council	Position
Henry Zelones	South East Metropolitan Zone	State Councillor
Rod Constantine	Tamala Park Regional Council	CEO
Stephen Tindale	Cottesloe	CEO
Mike Archer	Esperance	CEO
Stephen Cain	Cockburn	CEO
Jon Pearson	Derby/West Kimberley	CEO
Ray Tame	Armadale	CEO

Finance

Ron Back – Consultant
Tony Brown – WALGA
Team Members: 7

Delegate	Council	Position
Alan Ferris	East Fremantle	Councillor
Graham Foster	Nedlands	Acting CEO
Mike Kent	South Perth	Director Finance and Information Services
Mark Newman	Mandurah	CEO
Steve Harrison	Augusta Margaret River	President
Michael Littleton	Cockburn	Director Engineering and Works
Les Crichton	Dowerin	CEO

Service

Murray Jorgensen – Consultant
Allison Hailes – WALGA
Team Members: 8

Delegate	Council	Position
Ian Bodill	Broome	CEO
Stephen Goode	WESROC	Consultant
Don Burnett	Kalgoorlie-Boulder	CEO
Carol Adams	South Metropolitan Zone	State Councillor
Ian Hill	Mandurah	Director Community & Economic Development
Ian Cowie	Joondalup	Director Governance & Strategy
Kevin Forbes	Great Southern Country Zone	State Councillor
Mike Foley	Swan	CEO

Expertise

Tony Cooke – Consultant

John Phillips – WALGA

Team Members: 8

Delegate	Council	Position
Pauline O'Connor	Central Metropolitan Zone	Deputy President - WALGA
Jonathon Throssell	Mundaring	CEO
Jan Savage	Gnowangerup	President
Denise Needham	Serpentine- Jarrahdale	President
Michelle Pucci	Wyndham East Kimberley	President
Kylie Johnson	Melville	HR Manager
Daniel Simms	Wanneroo	Director Governance & Strategy
Peter Monagle	Harvey	President

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

10.1 Public Awareness of Local Government Services

Mayor Pickard commented gone are the days of no rates rises and with the imminent rounds of budgets being approved it would be an ideal opportunity for WALGA to promote public awareness of the suite of services local government provide.

Motion

Mayor Pickard / Cr Clarey

That the North Metropolitan Zone ENCOURAGE the Western Australian Local Government Association to engage in a public awareness campaign highlighting the suite of services the local government sector provide to the Western Australian community to assist in their understanding of the financial impost faced by local authorities.

CARRIED

10.2 Swan Catchment Council

Mr Boothman advised that the Swan Catchment Council were hosting a forum to gather local government input and it was important to have a representative at the forum which would be held three times a year, to ensure issues are properly considered.

11. DATE, TIME & PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the North Metropolitan Zone Committee will be held at 6.00pm on 26 July 2007 at the City of Stirling.

12. CLOSURE

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.15pm.



North Metropolitan Zone

**AGENDA
ATTACHMENTS**



North Metropolitan Zone STATUS REPORT May 2007

<i>Zone</i>	<i>Agenda Item</i>	<i>Zone Resolution</i>	<i>WALGA Response</i>	<i>Up-date</i>	<i>WALGA Contact</i>
North M	2007 February 1 Zone Agenda Item 10.2 Whitfords Volunteer Sea Rescue Group – Proposal for Funding & Support	That the WALGA North Zone: 1. AGREES that financial support for the Whitfords Volunteers Sea Rescue Group and <i>Two Rocks Sea Rescue Group</i> is a regional issue; and 2. REQUESTS WALGA to commence negotiations with the State Government on the development of an equitable funding strategy between the State and Local Governments in regard to the provision of volunteer sea rescue groups.	Correspondence has been sent to FESA, the Association is waiting on a response. Updates on future progress on this item will be provided in the Community Key Activity Report within the State Council Agenda.	May 07	Greg Cook Emergency Management Coordinator Ph: 9213 2042 gcook@walga.asn.au
North M	2007 February 1 Zone Agenda Item 10.1 Issues relating to Wildlife washed up on Coastal Beaches	That the North Metropolitan Zone <i>REQUESTS WALGA to approach relevant State Government Agencies to formulate a formal process identifying legislative, environmental and financial responsibilities associated with disposal of deceased marine animals and any associated environmental remediation.</i>	The Association wrote to the Director General of the Department of Conservation and Environment on 17 May 2007, formally seeking to discuss the issue with Departmental representatives.	May 07	Mark Batty Policy Manager Environment Ph: 9213 2078 mbatty@walga.asn.au
North M	2007 February 1 State Council Agenda Item 5.3 Proportional Preferential Voting	That the WALGA North Metropolitan Zone REQUESTS WALGA to amend recommendation 5.3 by adding an additional recommendation 5 and 6 as follows: 5. That North Metropolitan Zone STRONGLY URGE State Council to incorporate into its adopted position on Proportional Preferential Voting a fall back position if the State Government is to proceed with Proportion Preferential Voting, despite strong objection by Local Government throughout the	STATE COUNCIL RESOLUTION February 2007 1. That the progress of the Association's campaign against Proportional Preferential Voting be noted. 2. That the actions of the Secretariat in requesting the Committee to hold regional hearings to facilitate Local Government submissions, and seeking appropriate extensions to its reporting timetable to facilitate regional consultations be endorsed. 3. That the new Minister (Hon John Bowler MLA) be	May 07	Wayne Scheggia Director Policy Ph: 9213 2024 wscheggia@walga.asn.au

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Up-date	WALGA Contact
		<p>State that voting in Local Government elections be made compulsory."</p> <p>6. That the North Metropolitan Zone REQUEST that should Proportional Preferential Voting be introduced by State Government despite strong objection by Local Government throughout the State that the Local Government Act and Regulations be amended to allow a voter's ballot paper to be counted to the extent that the voter's intent can be determined by the returning officer despite not all voter preferential intentions being exhausted."</p>	<p>again advised that Local Government supports the retention of the current voting system (First Past the Post) for Local Government elections.</p> <p>4. That the Minister be requested to consult with the Association on the advice and recommendations which emanate from the report of the <i>Environment and Public Affairs Standing Committee into Local Government Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2006</i>.</p> <p>See June 2007 State Council agenda item</p> <p>Bill has now passed through Parliament, unamended.</p>		
North M	2004 November 25 Zone Agenda item 3.1 Child Health Issues	<p>That WALGA establishes a working group to address the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing formalised lines of communication between Department of Health and LGAs to guide policy decision-making for management of existing and future child health facilities. • Clarification of funding responsibilities between Department of Health and LGAs. • Involvement of LGAs and other key stakeholders in Department of Health's future planning for service delivery direction and policy. • Collaboration with Department of Health and key stakeholders towards the development of best practice service delivery models that meet the needs of the whole community. 	<p>The State and Local Government, the Child Health Facilities Working Group, was convened in July 2005, to bring together stakeholders with an investment in child health services. It is co-chaired by WALGA and the Department of Health. The Working Group comprises representatives from the WALGA, City of Joondalup, City of Swan and the City of Wanneroo the WA Country Health Service, Metropolitan Area Health Services and the Child and Community Health Directorate of the Department of Health.</p> <p>The Child Health MOU was endorsed at the April 2007 meeting of State Council. The Association is drafting correspondence to all Councils advising that the Child Health MOU was endorsed. A hard copy of the MOU will be attached. Electronic copies of the MOU will be available on the WALGA Website http://www.walga.asn.au/policy/community</p> <p>The MOU clarifies the uncertainty around current arrangements. In particular, emphasizes that Local Government's involvement in child health provision is</p>	May 07	<p>Jodie Holbrook Policy Officer Community Ph: 9213 2044 Email: jholbrook@walga.asn.au</p>

<i>Zone</i>	<i>Agenda Item</i>	<i>Zone Resolution</i>	<i>WALGA Response</i>	<i>Up-date</i>	<i>WALGA Contact</i>
			<p>discretionary and based on local community need.</p> <p>The Association continues to raise the issue of sustainable funding and reinstatement of capital funding for child health services with the Department of Health and Department of Local Government. Funding issues will be progressed as part of the MOU.</p> <p>Updates on future progress on this item will be provided in the Community Policy Team Key Activity Report to State Council.</p>		

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
North Metropolitan Zone

MINUTES

1 February 2007

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 WALGA Status Report

Attachment 2 30 November 2006 Minutes

NORTH METROPOLITAN ZONE OF THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the North Metropolitan Zone Committee Meeting held at the
City of Stirling, 6.00pm on Thursday, 01 February 2007

1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

(1) ATTENDANCE:

City of Stirling	Cr D (David) Boothman (State Council Member) Cr WM (Bill) Stewart Mr T (Trevor) Holland, Acting Chief Executive Officer Mr A (Aaron) Bowman, Manager Council Support/Compliance
City of Wanneroo	Cr F (Frank) Cvitan (State Council Member) (Chairperson) Cr T (Tracey) Roberts Cr R (Rudi) Steffens Cr D (Dot) Newton Mr C (Charles) Johnson, Chief Executive Officer (City of Wanneroo)
City of Joondalup	Mayor T (Troy) Pickard (State Council Member and Deputy Chair) Cr R (Richard) Currie (Deputy State Council Member) Cr S (Steve) Magyar Cr T (Tom) McLean Mr G (Garry) Hunt, Chief Executive Officer Mr I (Ian) Cowie, Director Governance and Strategy
Secretariat	Mr D (Daniel) Simms, Director Governance and Strategy (City of Wanneroo) Ms R (Robyn) Harkins, Acting Coordinator Governance (City of Wanneroo)
WALGA	Mr J (John) Phillips – Executive Manager Workplace Solutions Ms R (Ricky) Burges, Chief Executive Officer

(2) APOLOGIES:

City of Stirling	Cr PL (Peter) Rose
City of Stirling	Cr TW (Trevor) Clarey

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

NIL

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Motion

Cr Magyar / Cr Boothman

That the Minutes of the meeting of the North Metropolitan Zone held on Thursday, 30 November 2006 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

4.1 03 August 2006
Zone Agenda Item 10.3. Graffiti Tagging Behaviour and its Forensic Identification

Correspondence from the Office of Crime Prevention was received advising the following:

1. The proposal submitted by Genevieve Rowles has been considered by the Office of Crime Prevention on two occasions and the application was decided not appropriate for funding and was rejected.
2. Representatives from local government and WALGA recently met with the Minister for Police and Community Safety to hear views from various Mayors about the problems associated with graffiti.
3. The Minister expressed his support for working with WALGA and local governments in a joint approach to improve graffiti response.

The Principal Policy/Planning Officer, Michael Coe, suggested that given the discussions from the recent North Zone meeting, the State Graffiti Vandalism Working Group be contacted. This group meets every 2 – 3 months and is made up of several key government agencies. Further information can also be found on www.goodbyegrffiti.wa.gov.au

5. DEPUTATIONS

NIL

6. MATTERS REFERRED TO WALGA

6.1 Status Report on Matters Referred to WALGA State Council for Action

As a means of increasing communication and providing feedback to the North Metropolitan Zone Committee a schedule has been prepared on matters referred to WALGA State Council for action.

Please refer to **Attachment 1**

Motion

Cr Boothman / Cr Newton

That the status report be received.

CARRIED

7. REPORTS FROM MEMBER COUNCILS

7.1 Swimming Pool Inspection Fees

By City of Joondalup – Director Governance & Strategy – Ian Cowie

IN BRIEF

The City of Joondalup is seeking the support of the North Metropolitan Zone to recommend to the State Government that they increase the fee that local governments can charge to undertake swimming pool inspections.

BACKGROUND

The charge permissible under Building Regulation 38F is not adequate to cover the cost of swimming pool inspections by the City of Joondalup. Swimming pool inspections are required by Section 245A of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act. The legislation currently allows local governments to charge up to a maximum of \$55 to undertake this service.

COMMENT

The City of Joondalup is a strong supporter of community safety initiatives, which includes safety around swimming pools. However, in times of government fiscal constraint and concerns about local government financial sustainability, the City is concerned about the net cost of undertaking pool inspections, which is continually increasing. While the State Government's support for pool safety is widely recognised, the State incurs no cost for the implementation of the initiative. This means that there is a direct cost shift from the State to local government as the costs of implementing the inspection program continue to rise.

Three options to address the cost escalation being incurred and the consequent cost shift have been identified:

1. Reduce the frequency of inspection by one year.
Such a change could be viewed as having limited implications. Once a pool fence has been inspected and found to comply with requirements, it is assumed to be acceptable for the following four years. At any stage during this period, compliance could be breached. A one-off re-inspection after four or five years does little to confirm actual compliance on a daily basis.
2. Increase the fee that local governments could charge.
Whilst there are clear arguments that the fee should be increased (for instance, it has remained at this level for several years), increases in fees and charges receive a negative response.
3. The State Government to provide direct financial support to local governments to offset the increasing cost of this initiative.
Here it is acknowledged that the State does not receive fees for inspections and has no management responsibility in relation to implementation. Consequently this option of cost sharing is likely to be the least preferred by the State Government.

It would appear that the most appropriate way to offset the increasing cost to local government of undertaking this function based on the above, would be that the State Government increases the fee that local governments can charge to undertake inspections.

As a consequence, the City of Joondalup approached the State Government in July 2006 to increase the amount that could be charged for swimming pool inspections. The Minister for Housing and Works indicated that this would be considered by the Department of Housing and Works in its review of legislative matters. No timeline was given for this action.

During December 2006 a letter was sent to the Director General of the Department of Housing and Works seeking a timeline for the completion of the review and progress on this matter. A response is yet to be received.

Motion

Mayor Pickard / Cr Currie

That the WALGA North Metropolitan Zone, SUPPORTS the City of Joondalup's recommendation to the State Government that they increase the fee that local governments can charge for swimming pool inspections.

CARRIED

8. WALGA STATE COUNCIL AGENDA – MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

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

Matters of Particular Interest on State Council Agenda

8.1 Item 5.1 Review of Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations

Charles Johnson, CEO of the City of Wanneroo expressed frustration with delays and would like to see the recommendation strengthened.

Motion

Cr Roberts / Cr Newton

That the WALGA North Metropolitan Zone REQUESTS WALGA to amend recommendation 5.1 by adding the words “as a high priority” after the word “undertake” and by adding an additional recommendation as follows:

- “2. Implement measures to ensure that the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) is accountable to reasonable timeframes for processing applications and keep the applicant informed of any delays in the process. Should DEC seek advice from external agencies then it is imperative that time limits are specified for responses, i.e. 28 days maximum.”

CARRIED

8.2 Item 5.3 Proportional Preferential Voting

Mayor Pickard spoke on this item and proposed a further point 5 be added to the State Council recommendation addressing a fall back position.

Motion

Mayor Pickard / Cr McLean

That the WALGA North Metropolitan Zone REQUESTS WALGA to amend recommendation 5.3 by adding an additional recommendation 5 as follows:

- “5. That North Metropolitan Zone STRONGLY URGE State Council to incorporate into its adopted position on Proportional Preferential Voting a fall back position if the State Government is to proceed with Proportion Preferential Voting, despite strong objection by Local Government throughout the State that compulsory voting in Local Government elections be made compulsory.”

CARRIED

8 / 2

Cr Magyar moved that a further point 6 be added to the amended recommendation to address the issue of when to declare a voting paper informal.

AMENDED MOTION

Cr Magyar / Mayor Pickard

That the WALGA North Metropolitan Zone REQUESTS WALGA to amend recommendation 5.3 by adding an additional recommendation 5 *and* 6 as follows:

- “5. That North Metropolitan Zone STRONGLY URGE State Council to incorporate into its adopted position on Proportional Preferential Voting a fall back position if the State Government is to proceed with Proportion Preferential Voting, despite strong objection by Local Government throughout the State that voting in Local Government elections be made compulsory.”
6. That the North Metropolitan Zone REQUEST that should Proportional Preferential Voting be introduced by State Government despite strong objection by Local Government throughout the State that the Local Government Act and Regulations be amended to allow a voter’s ballot paper to be counted to the extent that the voter’s intent can be determined by the returning officer despite not all voter preferential intentions being exhausted.”

CARRIED
10 / 0

Motion

Cr Boothman / Cr Steffens

That the WALGA State Council Agenda be received.

CARRIED

9. WALGA STATE COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS

9.1 WALGA State Presidents Report

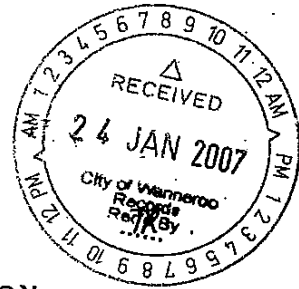
Ms Ricky Burges, Chief Executive Officer WALGA, provided a brief overview of the WALGA State President's Report (detailed below) highlighting the following points:

- The State Budget meeting had been both positive and receptive;
- Encouraged feedback in relation to the Proportional Preferential Voting via submissions with a closing deadline of 23 February 2007;
- The Careers Expos had been very successful in profiling Local Government in Western Australia;
- During Local Government Week the keynote address will be presented by Erin Brockovich;
- An increase in the tender threshold from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Ms Burges also advised that the Association would be taking a lead role in addressing pandemic influenza.



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



President's Report February 2007

STATE BUDGET SUBMISSION

The Association presented its Submission in advance of the 2007/2008 State Budget to the State – Local Government Council meeting on 23 November. In late December 2006, the Treasurer's office contacted the Association seeking a special meeting to discuss priorities within the submission.

In the discussions, the Treasurer's sympathy for the following funding requests was canvassed;

1. Safer Local Roads Program : \$80m
2. Streamlining Regulation and Compliance : \$200,000
3. A combined package for enhanced strategic infrastructure planning and improved asset management : \$2m
4. A combined package for Emergency Management initiatives : \$18.4m
5. Community Safety and Crime Prevention network : \$1.6m

We also discussed the importance of State funding to facilitate the outcomes of the Systemic Sustainability Study.

Whilst no funding assurances were given by the Treasurer, he clearly is supportive of Local Government's major funding bids, many of which resonate with the State Government's own commitments to improving State Infrastructure and underpinning economic growth.

We look forward to a positive State Budget outcome for Local Government.

PROPORTIONAL PREFERENTIAL VOTING – COMMITTEE HEARING

After extensive lobbying by the Association and Local Governments, the **Environment and Public Affairs Standing Committee** of the Legislative Council announced on 23 November 2006 that it would inquire into *Local Government Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2006*. This legislation proposes to replace the current first-past-the-post voting system for Local Government elections with a proportional preferential voting system.



The Association presented to the Committee on 16 January, highlighting the core arguments previously made in our campaign against the Amendment Bill.

A copy of the full submission is available from the Association's website and is included in the State Council agenda for February 2007.

Strong representations were made to the Committee that the consultation deadline should be extended and that regional hearings should be held. This was acknowledged by the Committee, which advised that it had extended the submissions deadline from 2 February to 23 February.

It remains critical to our continuing campaign that all Local Governments make formal written submissions to, and request the right, to appear before the Committee.

FROM COST SHIFTING TO SUSTAINABILITY

Cost shifting continues to be a prominent issue for Member Councils as they continue to come to terms with how they can underpin their financial sustainability.

The Association will be conducting a special forum in April this year to give Local Governments the opportunity to hear some key note presentations on how cost shifting is being addressed and to contribute to discussions on how the Association should continue to take the agenda forward.

In addition, the recommendations of the Systemic Sustainability Study panel will be formally presented and released to the sector as part of the forum.

Registration information will be sent to all Councils in the coming weeks.

CAREERS EXPOS

The attendance by WALGA at the three (3) overseas and one (1) Perth **Careers/Skills Expos**, organised by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA) to recruit for vacant positions in Western Australian Local Governments, has been very successful.

There were over 6,500 applicants who attended all events, and the Association was successful in getting applicants for the eight (8) vacant positions advised by Local Governments, in addition to other occupations which have been placed on the recruitment database.

The participation in the Expos has been successful on two (2) levels. Firstly, it does appear highly probable that a number of new people will be entering the WA Local Government workforce in areas identified as high priority need.



Secondly, Local Governments have been more widely publicised as potential employers both through representation at the Expos and subsequently through access to Members' websites.

The City of Geraldton is one example of success in appointing an employee from overseas (an Environmental Officer). The City has appointed Workplace Solutions to assist with the development of an employment contract and with visa applications in this regard.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEEK 2007

Planning is well underway for this year's Convention, again being staged at the InterContinental Burswood Resort Convention Centre from **Saturday 4 to Monday 6 August 2007**, commencing with the Mayors and Presidents Cocktail Reception to be hosted by the City of Perth on Friday 3 August.

Underpinning the conference program is the theme of "**Connecting Communities**", with the keynote address being presented by **Erin Brockovich**, who had to withdraw last year due to a family tragedy. Ms Brockovich has also agreed to present at a public luncheon event scheduled for **Friday 3 August** at the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre. This event will serve to offset costs associated with bringing Ms Brockovich to Perth, and is expected to attract a large audience from business, the legal fraternity and the general public. The event is a special profile-building event for the Local Government sector which the Association is proud to host.

The WALGA Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, followed by the ever popular Convention Gala Dinner and on Monday, a series of relevant workshops will be available. Integral to the Convention is the associated Trade Exhibition, which is always successful. Several training programs for elected members and officers will be available immediately prior to the Convention.

INCREASING THE TENDER THRESHOLD FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Following extended advocacy by the Association to raise the tender threshold for Local Governments, the Association was invited in December 2006 to comment on the draft *Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations*. I provided the Minister with comments, which incorporated feedback from Total Purchasing Solutions. Further consultation with members was facilitated through the Local Government Purchasing Network.

The regulatory change increases the tender threshold from \$50,000 to \$100,000 and now includes a requirement for Local Governments to adopt a Purchasing Policy. To assist Member Councils in complying with the new requirements, the Total Purchasing Solutions team have prepared and distributed a model **Purchasing Policy** as an addendum to the Local Government Purchasing and Tender Guide. The policy, if applied as intended, will assist to raise the standard of procurement practices within the sector. Positive feedback



has been received by officers who are currently adapting and preparing their purchasing policies for presentation to Council.

WHAT IS TOTAL PURCHASING SOLUTIONS?

The Commercial Services program of the Association has been re-launched under the name of "Total Purchasing Solutions".

The new team will continue to develop and maintain Preferred Supplier Arrangements for Local Governments which aggregate the sector's purchasing power, and also provide new consultancy and tender management facilities through the Tender Bureau Service.

The team has already enhanced its advocacy and representation work, and has prepared innovative new programs to enhance the quality of procurement within the sector. In the coming months, the program will run a training program in the use of Australian Standards for Local Government, and present Local Government Purchasing Officers with membership discounts to the professional body CIPSA (Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply Australia).

PRESIDENTIAL CONTACTS

Local Government Relations

Meetings with:

- AGM, Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund
 - ALGA Meeting (Post National General Assembly)
 - Mr Peter Fairclough, Telstra
 - Country Medical Foundation
- and visits to:
- City of Cockburn, Mayor Stephen Lee, Mr Stephen Cain, CEO
 - Shire of Kalamunda, President Elizabeth Taylor, Mr David Vaughan, CEO
 - City of Armadale, Mayor Linton Reynolds, Mr Ray Tame, CEO
 - Serpentine Jarrahdale Shire, President Denyse Needham, Ms Joanne Abbiss, CEO
 - Town of Bassendean, Mayor Tina Klein, Mr Gary Evershed, CEO
 - City of Bayswater, Mayor Terry Kenyon, Mr Mario Carosella, CEO

Conferences / Workshops / Public Relations

Meetings with:

- Leadership WA Dinner
- Howzat! Exhibition Dinner – Telstra
- Residential Property Outlook Breakfast

Zones

- South Metropolitan Zone Meeting
- Great Eastern Country Zone – teleconference
- Central Country Zone – teleconference

4

Motion

Cr Roberts / Cr Magyar

That the WALGA State President's Report be received.

CARRIED

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

10.1 Issues relating to Wildlife washed up on Coastal Beaches

By Zone Secretariat

IN BRIEF

To petition the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) to develop a universally acceptable methodology in consultation/partnership with relevant State Government Agencies in dealing with deceased marine animals.

BACKGROUND

Recently there have been two instances where deceased marine animals have washed up on City of Wanneroo beaches. On the 26 July 2006 a 6 – 7 metre humpback calf washed up on the beach at Mindarie and under advice from Department of Conservation Marine Division, was buried back from the beach in the dunes by Infrastructure Maintenance staff and contractors. This burial was done in conjunction with Department of Conservation and Environment with an officer on site providing advice regarding the disposal method. The whale in this instance was relatively small in size and posed a relatively minor environmental risk providing it was buried well back from the ocean.

On the 4 December 2006 a deceased female blue whale, 22 metres in length and estimated as weighing between 25 – 40 tonnes was beached on the foreshore reserve adjacent to the Club Capricorn Resort in Yanchep.

Various methods of disposal were discussed in consultation with the Department of Conservation and Environment, Fisheries, Water Source Protection Branch and the City's Health Services including, transportation from site to another location for burial, towing back out to sea for alternative disposal and burial on site to derive the most practical method of disposal. The major concern was the possibility of whale oil, as the whale decomposes, leaching into the ocean from a foreshore burial that may attract sharks and contamination of the immediate environment. To minimise these risks the burial site was located approximately 250 metres from the ocean behind a number of frontal dunes, at a depth of 5.5 metres with a large quantity of lime to accelerate the decomposition process. This method was acceptable but by no means the ideal solution.

The City of Wanneroo acted proactively in both these instances to address the immediate risks by disposal of the carcasses, however, the responsibility for this action needs to be considered to be a shared responsibility that should include a response from State agencies as well.

The City bore the cost of the disposal of the whale at Tamala Park, \$3,705 and is addressing the cost of the recent burial at Yanchep, \$13,239. State agencies involved in these instances have not taken any responsibility for the disposal other than providing educated advice relevant to their fields of expertise at the City's request.

It is apparent that there are no set guidelines or protocols regarding the disposal of whale carcasses. However, in view of increased instances of these incidents occurring, it is of particular importance that a combined approach is derived to ensure all legislative, environmental and financial concerns are met. The whale that beached at Yanchep had been sighted floating in the ocean three days prior to arriving at Yanchep Beach. Department of Fisheries had the shark spotter plane operating in the area in case the carcass attracted any shark activity. It may be considered prudent to have State agencies address the matter before a carcass reaches the beach to prevent sharks being attracted and the possible environmental hazard a beached whale engenders.

COMMENT

There are not any specific laws that create responsibility for any particular agency regarding disposal of a whale carcass. Local Governments have accepted responsibility in the past due to the direct effect on residents and responsibility for ensuring good governance.

Department of Fisheries has expressed an interest in incidents of this nature due to sharks being attracted and their aerial monitoring of suburban beaches for sharks.

It is suggested that incidents of this nature are not the sole responsibility of the relevant Local Government but should be handled in a cooperative manner from a methodology, environmental and financial standpoint.

Motion

Cr Boothman / Cr Roberts

With the consent of the mover and seconder the following amendments were made.

That the North Metropolitan Zone ~~Committee~~ **REQUESTS WALGA** to approach relevant State Government Agencies to formulate a formal process identifying legislative, environmental and financial responsibilities associated with ~~whale carcass~~ *disposal of deceased marine animals and any associated environmental remediation.*

CARRIED
10 / 0

10.2 Whitfords Volunteer Sea Rescue Group – Proposal for Funding & Support

By City of Joondalup – Director Governance & Strategy – Ian Cowie

IN BRIEF

The City of Joondalup is seeking the support of the North Metropolitan Zone to develop an equitable funding strategy to enable the Whitfords Volunteer Sea Rescue Group purchase a third rescue vessel.

BACKGROUND

A proposal has been received from the Whitfords Volunteer Sea Rescue Group (WVSRG) for financial assistance towards the purchase of a new rescue vessel. The proposal requests that the City of Joondalup contributes \$85,000 on a dollar-for-dollar basis to assist in purchasing a new boat which will cost \$170,000.

The WVSRG has provided a rescue service to the regional boating community for over 30 years through the provision of 24-hour, 365 days a year, support and an educational facility for the public. The group is based at the Ocean Reef Marina and services an area that extends from City Beach (Town of Cambridge) in the south to Alkimos (City of Wanneroo) in the north (including the coastal areas of the Cities of Stirling and Joondalup). In excess of 300 rescues are made per year ranging from retrieval of boats which have broken down, to full search and rescue services. The group has a team of 100 active volunteers and 1500 associate members through the Radio Network System, making them the largest volunteer sea rescue operation in Western Australia.

The group was incorporated in 1977 and is registered as a not-for-profit charitable organisation and public benevolent institution.

In 2004, the City of Joondalup provided \$80,000 to the WVSRG to assist with the cost of a replacement for the group's first vessel. The group recently funded the total cost of a second boat that began duty during Christmas 2006. Anticipating the expanding population to the north, and acknowledging the next closest sea rescue post is at Two Rocks, the WVSRG is planning a third rescue vessel that will be permanently located at the Mindarie Marina. The third boat will enable the group to enhance their comprehensive rescue service.

COMMENT

The WVSRG provides a valuable service to regional boating and provides marine educational services for the boating community as a whole. They are registered by the Australian Yachting Association and the Maritime Challenger TAFE as an official accredited learning institution to provide courses for the public in Small Craft Proficiency. They also operate basic navigation and general radio usage courses free of charge to the public.

The WVSRG patrols an area that spans the boundaries of four local government authorities: Cambridge, Stirling, Joondalup and Wanneroo. There are no boat launching facilities in Cambridge or Stirling and a significant proportion of boat owners residing in these areas utilise the boat ramps located in Joondalup. For these reasons it is deemed appropriate that the requested amount for the third WVSRG vessel be jointly funded by the Cities of Stirling, Joondalup and Wanneroo. It should be noted that the Town of Cambridge provides the WVSRG with an annual contribution of \$5,000 towards operational expenses.

This report suggests no funding strategy as other members of the North Metropolitan Zone may have commitments to the group which would affect the strategy. As a result, a detailed funding strategy will be presented to the next meeting following discussions.

It should be noted that the City of Joondalup will be approaching the State Government to seek additional financial support for the WVSRG. Currently they receive a share of \$200,00 along with the Fremantle Volunteer Sea Rescue Group and Cockburn Volunteer Sea Rescue Group through a contract with the State Government and FESA.

Motion

Mayor Pickard / Cr Boothman

Mayor Pickard moved the recommendation with the following changes.

That the WALGA North Zone:

3. AGREES that financial support for the Whifords Volunteers Sea Rescue Group *and Two Rocks Sea Rescue Group* is a regional issue;
4. ~~REQUESTS WALGA North Zone to develop an equitable funding strategy to support the group's purchase of a third vessel;~~
5. ~~NOTES that the City of Joondalup is seeking further State Government financial support for the Whitfords Volunteer Sea Rescue Group.~~
4. REQUESTS WALGA to commence negotiations with the State Government on the development of a equitable funding strategy between the State and local governments in regard to the provision of volunteer sea rescue groups.

CARRIED
10 / 0

11. DATE, TIME & PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Mayor Pickard moved the recommendation with the following change.

Motion

Mayor Pickard / Cr Roberts

The next meeting of the North Metropolitan Zone Committee to be held at 6.00pm on ~~05~~ 04 April 2007 at the City of Joondalup.

CARRIED

12. CLOSURE

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.15 pm.