

**WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
North Metropolitan Zone**

MINUTES

27 September 2007

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 WALGA Status Report

Attachment 2 31 May 2007 Minutes

NORTH METROPOLITAN ZONE OF THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Held at the City of Joondalup
Boas Avenue, Joondalup
(Conference Room 1)

Thursday, 27 September 2007
Commencing at 6:00pm

MINUTES

1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

(1) ATTENDANCE:

City of Stirling	Cr WM (Bill) Stewart Mr A (Aaron) Bowman, Manager Council Support/Compliance
City of Wanneroo	Cr F (Frank) Cvitan (State Council Member and Chairperson) Cr R (Rudi) Steffens Cr T (Tracey) Roberts Cr D (Dot) Newton Ms F (Fiona) Bentley, Acting Chief Executive Officer
City of Joondalup	Mayor T (Troy) Pickard (State Council Member and Deputy Chair) (from 6.15pm) Cr R (Richard) Currie (Deputy State Council Member) Cr S (Steve) Magyar (from 6.15pm) Cr T (Tom) McLean (from 6.20pm) Cr R (Russ) Fishwick (from 6.15pm) Mr G (Gary) Hunt, Chief Executive Officer (from 6.25pm) Mr I (Ian) Cowie, Director Governance and Strategy
Secretariat	Mr J (John) Love, Acting Director Governance & Strategy Mrs N (Nicky) Barker, Coordinator Governance (City of Wanneroo) Mrs L (Lee-Anne) Burt, Council Support Officer (City of Wanneroo)
WALGA	Mr N (Nick) Wood, Executive Manager Corporate Services Mr D (Darren) Turner, Manager Services

(2) APOLOGIES:

City of Wanneroo	Cr L (Laura) Gray Mr D (Daniel) Simms, Acting Chief Executive Officer
City of Stirling	Cr D (David) Boothman (State Council Member) Cr TW (Trevor) Clarey Cr PL (Peter) Rose Mr S (Stuart) Jardine, Chief Executive Officer

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

NIL

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Motion

Cr Roberts / Cr Steffens

That the Minutes of the meeting of the North Metropolitan Zone held on Thursday, 31 May 2007 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

NIL

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 Stewart / Cr Steffens

That the status report be received.

CARRIED

7. REPORTS FROM MEMBER COUNCILS

7.1 Zone Office Bearer Elections

By WALGA

IN BRIEF

Providing a revised schedule for election of Zone delegates and State Council representatives and deputy representatives.

BACKGROUND

With the change in date for the biennial Local Government elections from May to October, the WALGA Constitution has been amended to vary the commencement and expiry dates for representatives and deputy representatives elected to the WALGA State Council.

Under the new amendments, the terms of representatives and deputy representatives will remain as two (2) years, however terms will commence and conclude in April rather than August. The term of the current State Council will conclude in April 2008.

COMMENT

As a consequence of these changes, all Zones will be holding elections at their January/February 2008 meetings to elect their representatives and deputy representatives to the WALGA State Council. A chronological overview of the process is detailed below:

- Biennial Local Government elections to occur on **20 October 2007**.
- WALGA will request Member Councils to elect/appoint their Zone delegates and to advise WALGA by **31 December 2007**.
- At the first meeting of each Zone in 2008, elections will be held for the positions of representative and deputy representative to State Council. Elections may also be held for the offices of Zone Chairman and Deputy Chairman if the terms for these office holders have expired.
- Following the completion of all Zone elections, WALGA will run a formal nominations process with newly elected State Councillors for the offices of WALGA President and Deputy President.
- New State Council will take office at the first Ordinary Meeting of State Council on **2 April 2008**. The first item of business for State Council will be to conduct an election for the offices of WALGA President and Deputy President.

In relation to the nominations and election process to be followed in electing representatives and deputy representatives to the WALGA State Council, the below process has been instituted by State Council:

1. *WALGA to write to all Member Councils no later than 2 months prior to the Zone meeting at which the election is to be held calling for nominations from Zone delegates the positions of representative and deputy representative to State Council. The correspondence is to state that all nominations are to be made in writing to the WALGA CEO, and only elected members who are a nominated Zone delegates are eligible to nominate. The time period for the receipt of nominations is to be two (2) weeks prior to the Zone meeting at which the election will be held.*
2. *WALGA CEO to receive written nominations from Zone delegates for the positions of representative and deputy representative to State Council and then provide written confirmation to Member Councils of the nominations received.*

3. *Elections are to be held at the January or February Zone meeting as the first item of business. Where there is more than one nomination for each vacant position, an election will be conducted using a secret ballot, with a representative of the WALGA CEO to act as the returning officer for the election. Prior to the ballot, nominees for each position are to be extended the opportunity to provide a 2 – 3 minute election bid to delegates.*
4. *All voting delegates to the Zone are entitled to cast one (1) vote in the ballot process.*

If you have any questions or require further information in relation to the abovementioned process, please contact Nick Wood, Executive Manager Corporate Services, on 9213 2020 or by e-mail at nwood@walga.asn.au

MOTION

Cr Roberts / Cr Newton

That the North Metropolitan Zone Committee note the information concerning the 2008 Zone elections.

CARRIED

7.2 New Five Star Plus Codes

By City of Joondalup

It was agreed by general consensus to postpone discussion of this item pending the attendance of Cr Magyar.

7.3 WALGA Climate Change and Local Government Being aware and being prepared: a draft discussion paper

By City of Joondalup

It was agreed by general consensus to postpone discussion of this item pending the attendance of Cr Magyar.

Mayor Pickard, Councillor Magyar and Councillor Fishwick attended the meeting at 6.15pm.

Councillor McLean attended the meeting at 6.20pm

Mr G Hunt attended the meeting at 6.25pm.

7.4 Beach Health Study Highlights Dangers of Storm Water

By City of Stirling

IN BRIEF

- Department of Water findings relating to nine regions.
- Wanneroo; Joondalup; Cambridge; Cottesloe; Stirling; Scarborough; Rockingham; Shoalwater; and Safety Bay

BACKGROUND

In June 2005 the Department of Water issued a Press Release relating to microbes and heavy metals contaminate stormwater that flows onto some of Perth's popular beaches.

The findings were the result of a study by the Department that looked at 65 stormwater drains discharging onto beaches from Wanneroo to Rockingham.

The author of the Report, Principal Environmental Officer with the Department of Water, Frances D'Souza, made serious findings relating to heavy metals in particular high concentrations in the City of Joondalup, City of Stirling and Town of Cottesloe with some levels exceeding environmental guidelines by 21 fold.

The swash zone, an area where swimming is most likely, exceeded the guidelines at least six-fold.

COMMENT

The statement by the Department of Water placed the responsibility on local government without any reference to the actions of the State via its Authorities.

Stormwater management is not an exclusive responsibility of local government.

Stormwater run off is predominantly under the responsibility of State authorities. Although local government does have a role to play in partnership with relevant State authorities.

Mayor Pickard raised concerns with respect to the wording of the report, in particular the reference to "...heavy metals in particular high concentrations in the City of Joondalup..." Mayor Pickard advised that this wording was incorrect and misleading. He wished the record to show that the findings for the City of Joondalup related to one reading only, which recorded relatively small amounts of heavy metals.

MOTION

Cr Stewart / Cr Roberts

That the North Metropolitan Zone recommend that:

- 1. WALGA requests that the State Government give consideration to the formation of a task force composed of State and Local Officers on options to address the problem.**
- 2. WALGA give consideration to seeking an urgent meeting with the appropriate Minister/s to discuss concerns regarding the State addressing its responsibilities regarding stormwater discharge under its control that does not comply with relevant health standards.**
- 3. Officers representing the various local authorities of the North Metro Zone form an informal working group to address the issue and exchange information.**

CARRIED

7.2 New Five Star Plus Codes

By City of Joondalup

Discussion of this item was previously postponed pending the attendance of Cr Magyar.

IN BRIEF

The State Government recently announced the introduction of new energy and water efficiency codes known as Five Star Plus.

The new Five Star Plus codes set a new standard for sustainable housing in Western Australia. However, these codes apply to new homes only; they do not apply to existing homes.

It is believed that there is an opportunity for WALGA to lobby the State Government to offer incentives for the retro fitting of existing buildings to match the Five Star Plus codes.

BACKGROUND

In May 2007 the Minister for Housing and Works, Michelle Roberts announced that new energy and water codes known as Five Star Plus would apply to all new houses approved for construction after 1 September 2007.

Five Star Plus is a new standard for sustainable housing in Western Australia that will improve water and energy efficiency in homes. It is based around two new codes: the Water Use in Houses Code and the Energy Use in Houses Code (see attachments 1 to 3).

The first stage of Five Star Plus will see new requirements for low-greenhouse hot water systems and a range of water efficiency measures including;

- Solar, five star rated gas or heat pump hot water systems
- Water efficient shower heads
- Water efficient tap fittings in all kitchen sinks, bathroom vanities and basins
- Water efficient dual flush toilets
- Pool blankets for all new swimming pools.

The second stage of Five Star Plus will be introduced in 2008 and will require house designs that provide for the later addition of water supplies and grey water diversion systems.

Existing home owners do not need to comply with Five Star Plus, however householders can use the codes to improve the energy efficiency in their home through their choice of appliances such as solar hot water systems, 5 star rated gas hot water systems and water saving shower heads.

COMMENT

The City of Joondalup is committed to reducing the energy and water consumption of its own operations and that of the Joondalup community through participation in ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection Program and the Water Campaign.

The majority of the urban area within Joondalup, and much of the North Metropolitan Zone is existing housing. New housing development is principally limited to areas within the City of Wanneroo. Thus the impact of the new Five Star Plus codes would be significantly enhanced if they included existing housing as well as new housing.

The City of Joondalup's Sustainability Advisory Committee considered the new Five Star Plus codes and made the following recommendation, which Council adopted at its meeting of the 28 August 2007:

"That Council LOBBIES the State Government to offer incentives for the retro fitting of existing buildings to match the Five Star Plus Codes."

MOTION

Mayor Pickard / Cr McLean

That the North Metropolitan Zone recommend that WALGA considers lobbying the State Government to offer incentives for the retro fitting of existing buildings to match the Five Star Plus Codes.

CARRIED



5 Star Plus

Energy Use in Houses Code
Water Use in Houses Code



Working together to play our part in building better communities for Western Australia

Introduction

00031

In May 2006, Western Australia adopted the minimum 5 Star energy efficiency provisions of the Building Code of Australia for all new homes. Now the Government has gone further and introduced 5 Star Plus – that builds on the energy efficiencies from 5 Star with the added benefits of water reduction measures for all homes right across the State.

5 Star Plus is based around two new Codes:

The Energy Use in Houses Code - confirms the existing 5 Star provisions for house design and construction and adds requirements for energy efficient water heating.

The Water Use in Houses Code - aims to reduce the consumption of water in residential homes by requiring water efficient fittings, minimising the wastage of water and facilitating the appropriate use of alternative sources of water such as grey water and rain water.

5 Star Plus will be applicable to new homes approved for construction after 1 September 2007, however, existing home owners can also use these Codes to improve energy and water efficiency in their homes. During 2008, the Government will investigate measures to apply the 5 Star Plus provisions to existing homes.

The Energy Use in Houses Code and Water Use in Houses Code are written to supplement the Building Code of Australia (BCA) and adopt BCA definitions and format for consistency. The Codes are published together for the convenience of builders, plumbers and certifiers who may need a convenient reference on site.

The Codes are available online at www.5starplus.wa.gov.au

Energy Use in Houses Code

Application

This Code applies to all new buildings classified as Class 1 and 10 buildings by the Building Code of Australia.

Interpretation

"The Building Code of Australia" means the latest edition of the Building Code of Australia published from time to time by, or on behalf of, the Australian Building Codes Board, but not including explanatory information published with that Code.

Objective

The objective of this Code is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Functional Statement

In order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, a building, including its services, is to be capable of efficiently using appropriate sources of energy.

Compliance With This Code

A building will comply with this Code if its construction satisfies all the Performance Requirements. Compliance with the Performance Requirements can be shown by:

- (a) Complying with the Deemed-to-Satisfy provisions as listed in the Acceptable Construction Practice; or
- (b) Formulating an alternative solution that is shown to be equivalent to the Deemed-to-Satisfy provisions; or
- (c) Formulating an alternative solution that is verified using an acceptable verification method; or
- (d) Formulating an alternative solution that is based on expert judgement or supported by suitable evidence in accordance with clause 1.2.2 of the Building Code of Australia; or
- (e) Any combination of the above.

Energy Use in Houses Code

00032

Performance Requirements

PR1 – Building

A building must comply with the Building Code of Australia Performance Requirement P2.6.1.

PR2 – Services

A building's domestic services including any associated distribution system and components must have features that comply with the Building Code of Australia, Performance Requirement P2.6.2.

PR3 – Hot Water Systems

A building's hot water systems including any associated components must have features that produce low levels of greenhouse gases when heating water.

Acceptable Construction Practice

- (a) Compliance with all of the Deemed-to-Satisfy provisions of DTS1 satisfy the Performance Requirement PR1 for a building;
- (b) Compliance with all of the Deemed-to-Satisfy provisions of DTS2 satisfy the Performance Requirement PR2 for a building;
- (c) Compliance with all of the Deemed-to-Satisfy provisions of DTS3 satisfy the Performance Requirement PR3 for a building.

Explanatory Notes:

1. BCA Performance Requirement P2.6.1

A building must have, to the degree necessary, a level of thermal performance to facilitate the efficient use of energy for artificial heating and cooling appropriate to –

- (a) the function and use of the building; and
- (b) the internal environment; and
- (c) the geographic location of the building; and
- (d) the effects of nearby permanent features such as topography, structures and buildings; and
- (e) solar radiation being—
 - (i) utilised for heating; and
 - (ii) controlled to minimise energy for cooling; and
- (f) the sealing of the building envelope against air leakage; and
- (g) the utilisation of air movement to assist cooling.

Deemed to Satisfy Provisions

DTS 1 – Thermal Comfort

The building must comply with the provisions of Part 3.12 of the Building Code of Australia for Building Fabric, External Glazing, Building Sealing and Air Movement.

DTS 2 – Services

The building must comply with the provisions of Part 3.12 of the Building Code of Australia for Services.

DTS 3 – Hot Water Systems

A hot water system must be either:

- (i) a solar hot water system, complying with AS 2712-2002, that has been tested in accordance with AS 4234-1994, and achieves a minimum energy saving of 60% for a hot water demand level of 38MJ per day for climate zone 3; or
- (ii) a gas hot water system, complying with AS 4552-2005 that achieves a minimum energy rating of "5 stars"; or
- (iii) a heat pump hot water system, complying with AS 2712-2002 that has been tested in accordance with AS 4234-1994, and achieves a minimum energy saving of 60% for a hot water demand level of 38MJ per day for climate zone 3.

2. BCA Performance Requirement P2.6.2 – Services

A building's domestic services including any associated distribution system and components must have features that, to the degree necessary, facilitate the efficient use of energy appropriate to –

- (a) the domestic services and its usage; and
- (b) the geographic location of the building; and
- (c) the location of the domestic services; and
- (d) the energy source.

3. AS 2712-2002 details the design and construction of solar and heat pump water heaters.

4. AS 4234-1994 sets out the method of testing and calculation of energy consumption for domestic solar water heaters and heat pumps.

5. AS 4552-2005 details the design of gas forced water heaters for hot water supply and/or central heating.

Water Use in Houses Code

00033

Application

This Code applies to all new buildings classified as Class 1 and 10 buildings by the Building Code of Australia.

Interpretation

"The Building Code of Australia" means the latest edition of the Building Code of Australia published from time to time by, or on behalf of, the Australian Building Codes Board, but not including explanatory information published with that Code.

"Alternative Internal Water Supply" refers to a water supply such as collection of rainwater on site, external third pipe non-potable water source, on-site bores or the like, other than potable water supplied by a licensed water service provider, and approved for use inside a dwelling.

"Alternative External Water Supply" refers to a water supply such as collection of rainwater on site, external third pipe non-potable water source, re-cycled grey water, on-site bores or the like, other than potable water supplied by a licensed water service provider, and approved for use outside a dwelling.

"Potable Water" refers to water intended for human consumption supplied by a licensed water service provider.

Objective

The objective of this Code is to reduce water demand by efficiently using water, and minimising the wasting of water, and facilitating the appropriate use of alternative sources of water.

Functional Statement

To reduce potable water demand a building must:

- (a) enable the efficient use of potable water; and
- (b) prevent excessive loss of potable water; and
- (c) have the capacity to connect to alternative sources of water supply; and
- (d) use alternative sources in situations of high water demand or restricted availability of potable water.

Compliance With This Code

A building will comply with this Code if its construction satisfies all the Performance Requirements. Compliance with the Performance Requirements can be shown by:

- (a) complying with the Deemed-to-Satisfy provisions as listed in the Acceptable Construction Practice; or
- (b) formulating an alternative solution that is shown to be equivalent to the Deemed-to-Satisfy provisions; or
- (c) formulating an alternative solution that is verified using an acceptable verification method; or
- (d) formulating an alternative solution that is based on expert judgement or supported by suitable evidence in accordance with clause 1.2.2 of the Building Code of Australia; or
- (e) any combination of the above.

Explanatory Notes:

Stage 1 of the Code will be prescribed in the Building Regulations to apply from 1 September 2007.

Stage 2 of the Code will be prescribed in the Building Regulations to apply from date to be determined. Implementation of Stage 2 of the Code is dependent on further consultation and research to determine areas of application and on amendments to plumbing regulations and processes as well as ensuring compliance with health regulations and policies.

Stage 1 - To apply from 1 September 2007

Performance Requirements

PR1 – Water Use Efficiency

A building must have features that, to the degree necessary, facilitate the efficient use of potable water appropriate to:

- (a) the geographic location of the building; and
- (b) the available potable water supply for the building; and
- (c) the function and use of the building.

PR2 – Water Loss Prevention

A building, including any water holding structures, must have features that, to the degree necessary, prevent the excessive loss of potable water appropriate to:

- (a) the geographic location of the building; and
- (b) the available potable water supply for the building; and
- (c) the function and use of the building; and
- (d) the effects of permanent features such as topography, structures and buildings.

PR3 – Hot Water Use Efficiency

A building must have features that, to the degree necessary, facilitate the efficient use of hot water appropriate to:

- (a) the geographic location of the building; and
- (b) the available hot water supply for the building; and
- (c) the function and use of the building.

Acceptable Construction Practice

- (a) Compliance with all of the Deemed-to-Satisfy provisions of DTS1 satisfies the Performance Requirement PR1 for a building.
- (b) Compliance with all of the Deemed-to-Satisfy provisions of DTS2 satisfies the Performance Requirement PR2 for a building.
- (c) Compliance with all of the Deemed-to-Satisfy provisions of DTS3 satisfies the Performance Requirement PR3 for a building.

Deemed to Satisfy Provisions

DTS 1 – Water Use Efficiency

- (a) all tap fittings other than bath outlets and garden taps must be minimum 4 stars WELS rated.
- (b) all showerheads must be minimum 3 stars WELS rated.
- (c) all sanitary flushing systems must be a minimum 4 stars WELS rated dual flush.

DTS 2 – Swimming Pool Covers and Blankets

An outdoor private swimming pool or spa associated with a Class 1 building must be supplied with a cover, blanket or the like that:

- (a) is designed to reduce water evaporation; and
- (b) is listed on the Smart Approved Watermark Scheme.

DTS 3 – Hot Water Use Efficiency

All internal hot water outlets (taps, showers, washing machine water supplies) must be connected to a hot water system or a recirculating hot water system with pipes installed and insulated in accordance with AS/NZS 3500:2003, Plumbing and Drainage, Part 4 Heated Water Services. The pipe from the hot water system or recirculating hot water system to the furthest hot water outlet must not exceed 20 metres in length or 2 litres of internal volume.

Explanatory Notes:

The Smart Approved Watermark Scheme is implemented through the National Water Commission as a simple identification label about water efficient products. Further information can be obtained from www.nwc.gov.au

Stage 2 - To apply from (date to be determined)

Performance Requirements

PR4 – Alternative Water Supply Use Capacity

A building, including any associated plumbing, must have features that, to the degree necessary, facilitate the future use of alternative water supplies appropriate to:

- (a) the geographic location of the building; and
- (b) the function and use of the building; and
- (c) the soil type and ground condition; and
- (d) the available alternative sources of water; and
- (e) the size and type of external landscaping.

PR5 – Grey Water Use Capacity

A building including any associated plumbing, located on a lot of a size and in a location suitable for recycling of grey water, must have features that, to the degree necessary, facilitate the future use of grey water recycling appropriate to:

- (a) the geographic location of the building; and
- (b) the available potable water supply for landscaping; and
- (c) the function and use of the building; and
- (d) the soil type and ground condition; and
- (e) the available alternative sources of water; and
- (f) the size and type of external landscaping.

Acceptable Construction Practice

- (a) Compliance with all of the Deemed-to-Satisfy provisions of DTS4 satisfies the Performance Requirement PR4 for a building.
- (b) Compliance with all of the Deemed-to-Satisfy provisions of DTS5 satisfies the Performance Requirement PR5 for a building.

Deemed to Satisfy Provisions

DTS 4 – Alternative Water Supply Use Capacity

All sanitary flushing systems and washing machines must be able to be connected at a later date, to an appropriate alternative water supply without the need to break, or cut into the fabric of the building to run new pipes.

DTS 5 – Grey Water Use Capacity

All shower, bath, laundry trough and washing machine drains must be able to be connected at a later date to an appropriate grey water diversion system without the need to break, or cut into the fabric of the building to run new pipes.

Explanatory Notes:

1. Health regulations apply to the use of alternative water supplies and will, amongst other things, limit the alternative water sources suitable for various uses.
2. The DTS 4 provisions do not require rainwater tanks. They require buildings to be able to be connected to such alternative water supplies relatively easily at a later date (i.e. the buildings are to be alternative supply 'ready'). Subject to health regulations and policies, alternative water supplies could also include bore water, third pipes, and the like.
3. All plumbing work associated with these requirements must be carried out by licensed plumbers and in accordance with all relevant plumbing regulations.

Water Use in Houses Code

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Performance Requirements

PR6 – Alternative Internal Water Supply

A building with more than two showers or two WC facilities must use alternative internal water supplies for internal uses appropriate to:

- (a) the geographic location of the building; and
- (b) the available potable water supply for the building; and
- (c) the function and use of the building; and
- (d) the available alternative sources of water.

PR7 – Alternative External Water Supply

A building located on a lot of a size and in a location likely to use significant potable water for landscaping use must use alternative internal or external water supplies appropriate to:

- (a) the geographic location of the building; and
- (b) the available potable water supply for the building; and
- (c) the function and use of the building; and
- (d) the soil type and ground condition; and
- (e) the available alternative sources of water; and
- (f) the size and type of external landscaping.

Acceptable Construction Practice

- (a) Compliance with all of the Deemed-to-Satisfy provisions of DTS6 satisfies the Performance Requirement PR6 for a building.
- (b) Compliance with all of the Deemed-to-Satisfy provisions of DTS6 or DTS7 satisfies the Performance Requirement PR7 for a building.

Explanatory Notes:

1. Houses required to be "grey water ready" under PR5 are those on large enough lots to allow drains carrying appropriate water to be run outside the house before connection to other waste pipes, and where there is likely to be enough landscaped area to adequately dilute the grey water.
2. Lots where houses are required to comply with PR7 will be identified through regulations. Further research is needed with relevant stakeholders to resolve which lots will be subject to this requirement.
3. Health regulations apply to the use of alternative water supplies and will, amongst other things, limit the alternative water sources suitable for internal or external use in different localities. For example most private bore water, whilst it may be suitable for garden use, may be inappropriate for use internally.
4. Alternative water supplies can include but is not limited to, rainwater tanks, bore water, third pipes, and the like.
5. Subject to health regulations an acceptable alternative internal water supply is an appropriately sized rainwater tank harvesting the rainwater runoff from the roof.
6. Subject to health regulations an acceptable alternative external water supply is a domestic bore.
7. All plumbing work associated with alternative water supplies must be carried out by licensed plumbers and in accordance with all relevant plumbing regulations.
8. The Water Use in Houses Code is implemented in two stages to allow amendment of plumbing regulations and training of licensed plumbers to ensure alternative water supplies are appropriate and safe, and that there is no risk of cross contamination with potable water supplies.

Deemed to Satisfy Provisions

DTS 6 – Alternative Internal Water Supply

All sanitary flushing systems and clothes washing facilities must be connected to an alternative internal cold water supply.

DTS 7 – Alternative External Water Supply

- (a) All external garden taps and irrigation systems must be connected to an alternative external water supply; or
- (b) all shower, bath, laundry trough and washing machine drains must be connected to an approved grey water diversion and recycling system.

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Further information

These Codes are intended to supplement the Building Code of Australia and will be called up by the Building Regulations 1989.

For further information about
5 Star Plus please visit our website
at www.5starplus.wa.gov.au

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on 100% recycled paper.**

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5 STAR PLUS

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is 5 Star?

A. 5 Star is the standard for energy efficiency in houses required under the Building Code of Australia.

Q. What is 5 Star Plus?

A. 5 Star Plus is a new standard for sustainable housing in Western Australia that will improve water and energy efficiency in homes. It is based around two new codes: the Water Use in Houses Code and the Energy Use in Houses Code.

Q. How does it affect me?

A. If you are planning to build a new home after 1 September, 2007 you will need to comply with the new 5 Star Plus provisions. This means that you will need to ensure that you and your builder adopt the provisions of the new Codes as outlined in this brochure in the design of your home.

If you are an existing homeowner you do not need to comply with 5 Star Plus, however you can use the Codes to improve energy and water efficiency within your home through your choice of appliances such as solar hot water systems, 5 star rated gas hot water systems and water saving shower heads.

Q. Will it cost me more to build a house?

A. Most progressive builders are already incorporating most of the 5 Star Plus measures into the homes they design and build such as water efficient taps, shower heads and toilets and even solar hot water systems. 5 Star Plus now locks in these measures as the minimum standard for housing.

Q. Will 5 Star Plus result in more 'red tape'?

A. Definitely not. One of the key advantages of 5 Star Plus is that it can be quickly and easily implemented into the existing building regulations and approvals processes.

Q. What are the benefits of 5 Star Plus to me?

A. Implementing 5 Star Plus in your home will result in lower water and energy bills to the householder. For example, by switching from an electric hot water system to a solar hot water system, and using an efficiently controlled booster, you can reduce your hot water bills by up to 75% in Perth per annum. This can add up to thousands of dollars saved over the lifetime of the system.

Q. What are the other benefits?

A. Not only will you have lower water and energy bills but you will also be helping the environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and conserving our precious water resources.

For example by installing a water efficient dual flush toilet you can save up to 30,000 litres of water per annum. By using a cover on your swimming pool, you can save more than the entire volume of water in your pool that is lost through evaporation in a year.

May 2007



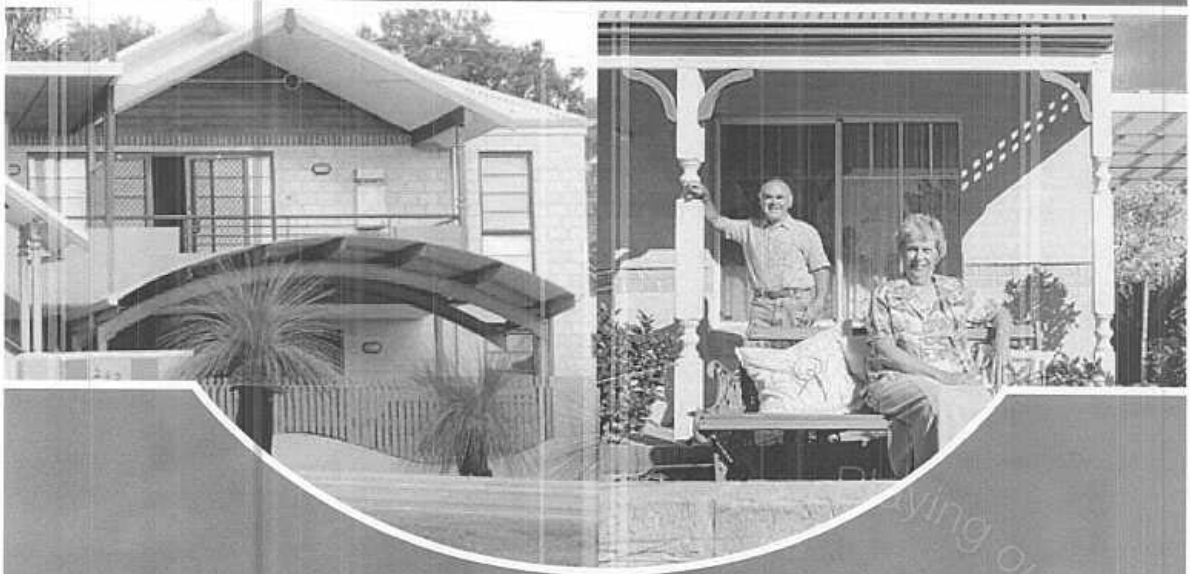
Department of Housing and Works
Government of Western Australia

ATTACHMENT
--- 3 ---

APPENDIX
--- 2 ---

00639

Build a better future with a 5 Star house



Working together to build a better future for Western Australia by playing our part in building better communities

About 5 Star

00040



What is 5 Star?

The Building Code of Australia (BCA) sets nationally consistent building standards that include energy efficient standards for buildings. The Code sets mandatory performance targets that can be met by a variety of building solutions that have to be verified before a building license is issued. The Code also contains "deemed to satisfy" building solutions that need no further verification.

The 5 Star standard

From 1 May 2006 the BCA increased the energy efficiency requirements for all new houses (Class1 buildings).

A building solution that meets these standards can be verified by obtaining a 5 Star rating using commercially available software such as AccuRate or FirstRate. The 5 Star standard refers to any house that meets the performance level, either by using the rating system or the "deemed to satisfy" solutions.

Why a 5 Star house is better for you

A five-star house is more comfortable to live in, has environmental benefits with reduced energy consumption, and will save you money in heating and cooling your home.

Why a 5 Star house is better for WA

With the introduction of 5 Star, greenhouse emissions could be reduced by 100,000 tonnes — the equivalent of taking 23,000 cars off the road or planting 330,000 trees.

Homes that require less heating and cooling will also help to reduce the demand and pressure on Western Australia's power generation during high-use periods.

Will the 5 Star standard increase building costs?

In most parts of Western Australia, good design and orientation will let you achieve 5 Star with little or no increase in cost. Overall the cost of introducing 5 Star is less than 1% of the cost of the house, but it provides ongoing savings in energy bills for the life of the house.

Who will assess my house design?

Building surveyors in your local government will check that the 5 Star standard is being met. Your designer, architect or builder will state how it is being achieved and can provide evidence or clarification to your local government when required.

Accredited assessors can also provide advice on achieving the required 5 Star energy rating using AccuRate and FirstRate. A list of accredited assessors is available through the Association of Building Sustainability Assessors (ABSA) at www.absa.net.au.

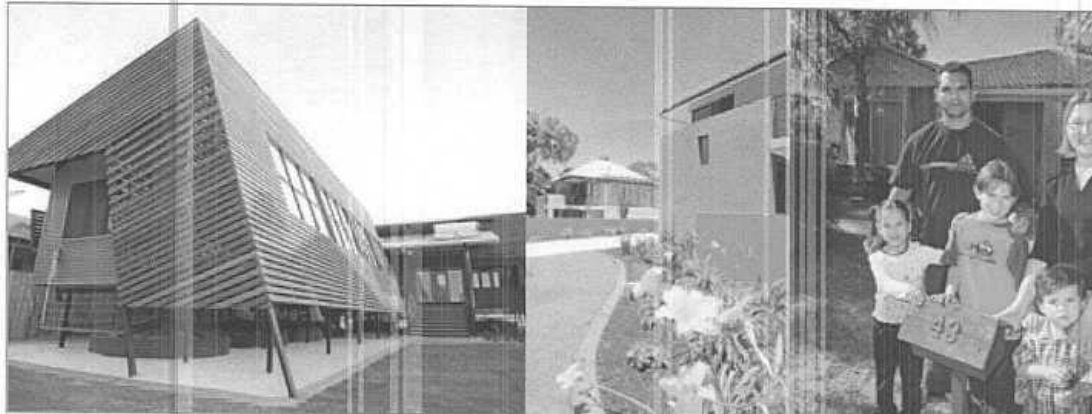
Who can I contact for more information?

For more general information on the 5 Star standards please visit the Department of Housing and Works website at www.dhw.wa.gov.au

For more specific information in relation to a building issue, please contact your local government building surveyor, your builder or designer.

Getting the most out of 5 Star

50041



Choosing a better building site

Building a 5 Star house is made easier by choosing the right block of land, particularly if it has sufficient access to sunlight. What you need to look for is:

- Blocks that allow you to design a house with the main living areas facing North, to take advantage of the sunlight.
- Blocks that allow you to build your house in open sun, not shaded by buildings to the North.
- Blocks that slope down to the North.
- Blocks that run North-South or East-West which face onto open space to the North, such as a street, backyard or park land.

Building sites that might provide a few more challenges for building an energy-efficient house are:

- Small, irregular blocks.
- Narrow blocks that slope steeply to the South.
- Blocks with tall buildings located on the North side of your house. These may stop sunlight entering the house in winter.
- Long, narrow blocks with a long boundary, that don't face North.
- Blocks located at right angles to North.

For sites that are overshadowed by an existing building, there are design considerations which will improve the energy efficiency of a house. These include:

- Raising overshadowed windows to eliminate the most shaded lower portion of the glass.
- For two-storey houses, locating living areas with North facing windows on the upper floors where overshadowing is less.

Better design

The internal design layout of your home can impact on its energy efficiency. Room layout and window location can influence how much energy the house will use in summer.

Free summer cooling

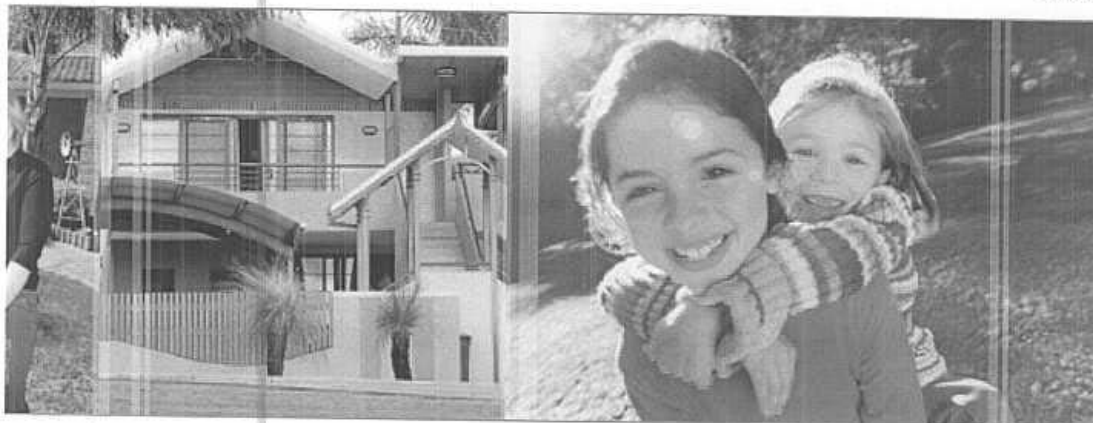
Locate windows opposite one another so that there is a clear pathway for cool breezes to pass through the house and flush out hot air in summer.

Northerly aspect for daytime areas

Because North facing rooms get more sun in winter and can be easily protected in summer, try to ensure your main daytime living areas are on the North side of the house.

Minimise stairwells and high ceilings

Hot air rises, which means high ceilings and large stairwells can increase your heating requirements by more than 40%.



Better windows

Windows provide views and let in both natural light and fresh air. But they also allow heat to enter and leave your home quickly. How your windows are oriented, the size of the windows, and the type of windows you use can have a major impact on the energy efficiency and comfort of your home.

North facing windows

- Your 5 Star house is best positioned so the main living areas face North and benefit from access to the light and warmth provided by the winter sun.
- North facing windows may need to be shaded in summer by eaves, verandahs or blinds to help keep the house cool.

East and West facing windows

- Receive little sun in winter, autumn or spring, but excessive sun in summer.
- Windows should be kept reasonably small to minimise their effect on the overall interior temperature, and should be shaded in summer.

South facing windows

- Receive no winter sun.
- Windows should also be kept reasonably small.

Roof windows and skylights

- Should be kept as small as possible.
- They should be double-glazed or have a ceiling diffuser fitted.
- Covering should be provided to keep out summer heat and keep in winter warmth.

Better heating and cooling

After the windows, the main ways heat can enter and leave your house is by going straight through the ceiling and walls, and by creeping through cracks and under the doors. So to keep your home warm in winter and cool in summer, you need good insulation and you need to control draughts.

Better insulation

Insulation is the single most important way to improve a home's energy efficiency. Make sure that you have adequate insulation in walls, ceilings and exposed floors to reduce heat losses in winter and heat gains in summer. Due to their thermal mass double brick walls perform reasonably well in climates such as Perth.

Better draught control

Draughts aren't just uncomfortable they waste valuable energy. To control the temperature in your home, doors and windows and all other sources of air leakage should be well sealed, however ensure adequate permanent ventilation is provided when using gas heaters.



Message from the Minister for Housing and Works

New energy efficiency standards for new houses are a significant step towards delivering a better future for all Western Australians.

These standards, better known as '5 Star', were included in the Building Code of Australia (BCA) in May 2006 and provide an opportunity to reduce the impact on the environment through better building practices and to save on household energy bills.

Homes built to a 5 Star standard are better quality and more comfortable places to live, with ambient temperatures up to five degrees warmer in winter and ten degrees cooler in summer.

Energy efficient features range from better house orientation, internal design, building materials, shading of windows, insulation and glazing so as to provide substantial benefit for the environment and savings for the household budget.

5 Star can be easily achieved through a number of options and the standard can apply to any type of home. As the BCA is performance based, rather than prescriptive, designers, builders and homeowners have choice and flexibility when designing and constructing a 5 Star home.

With our State's energy and water resources under increasing pressure, 5 Star homes will ensure a better future now and for future Western Australians.

Hon Michelle Roberts MLA
Minister for Housing and Works

Making the most of your 5 Star house

BBC44

Once your 5 Star house has been designed and built, the extent of energy savings depends on you. Here are some tips to help you get the most out of your 5 Star home:

In winter

- Keep warm air in your house by drawing curtains on cold cloudy days and at night.
- Close windows and doors to avoid heat loss. Heating your home with a window open can increase your heating bills by as much as 25%.
- Reduce the area to be heated by closing doors to rooms, which don't require heating.
- If you have central heating or reverse cycle air-conditioning in your house you may be able to close off some vents. Check your manufacturer's instructions to see whether you can cut your heating and cooling costs this way.
- Every degree higher you set your heating thermostat adds 10% to your heating bill. Keep your heating thermostat to 21°C or lower.

In summer

- On hot days keep hot air out of your house by closing windows and drawing curtains.
- Unless you have deep eaves above your windows, use external blinds to stop the sun from hitting East, North and West facing windows.
- When first cooling the house set the air-conditioning thermostat to 24°C or higher.

When choosing a new heater or air conditioner

- Select the product with the highest energy efficiency star rating.
- 5 Star houses need smaller capacity heaters or air conditioners. Make sure that your supplier sizes your appliance to take into account the fact that you are living in a 5 Star house.

It's up to you!

5 Star covers those parts or aspects of a building that are not easily changed after construction. Consumer choice items, such as electrical appliances and water fittings, are not regulated under 5 Star but can deliver further benefits by choosing wisely.

To maximise your benefits follow these handy hints:

- Choose light fittings that take high efficiency power saving globes.
- Use solar or gas boosted hot water systems.
- Fit water saving shower and tap fittings.
- Buy appliances with high energy and water ratings.
- Ensure proper ventilation for fridges and freezers.
- Install water wise gardens and rainwater tanks.

Many of these choices are supported by Western Australian Government subsidies or rebates. In addition the savings you make on your energy bills will very quickly pay for any initial outlay.

Check out these websites for further details:

Water Corporation: www.watercorporation.com.au

Sustainable Energy Development Office:

www.sedo.wa.gov.au

ABSA: www.absa.net.au

For more information on designing a five star house contact your architect, building designer or builder.

* This brochure is intended as a guide only and should not replace the provisions of the Building Code of Australia.

* This information has been obtained with help from the Building Commission of Victoria.



7.3 WALGA Climate Change and Local Government Being aware and being prepared: a draft discussion paper

By City of Joondalup

Discussion of this item was previously postponed pending the attendance of Cr Magyar.

IN BRIEF

The Western Australian Local Government Association recently released a draft discussion paper 'Being Aware and Being Prepared' for comment.

The paper aims to assess the needs of the Local Government sector in relation to climate change adaptation and to inform the development of a Climate Change Toolkit for the sector, complete with model policies, educational materials, scientific information and links to relevant programs and policies held in all Departments across the state and the nation.

It is proposed that the North Metropolitan Zone provide supportive comment to WALGA for this initiative.

BACKGROUND

Climate change is an issue that Local Governments in Western Australia have recently begun to express concern about. From regionally specific concerns relating to sea level rise and planning implications, to wide ranging environmental concerns such as biodiversity loss and effects on tourism, Local Governments are indicating the need for the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) and the State and Federal Governments to take the lead on this issue and provide adequate tools with which Local Government can assess their vulnerability and adapt to climate change.

Adaptation initiatives, regionally specific vulnerability data and tools particular to Local Government's needs are not yet readily available in Western Australia. Further, the liability concerns that Local Governments have raised indicate that the sector is anxious to begin planning around climate change adaptation and management.

COMMENT

WALGA released a draft discussion paper on climate change in June 2007 (Attachment 1) with 31 August given as the closing date for submissions. While the submission period has closed, climate change is an issue affecting all Local Government and so it is being raised at the North Zone.

The Cities of Joondalup, Wanneroo and Stirling are all committed to reducing their level of greenhouse gas emissions through participation in the Cities for Climate Protection Program (CCP).

The CCP program is such an initiative which focuses on greenhouse gas reduction and which goes some way to reducing the impact of climate change. The three cities are all at the advanced stage of the CCP program and are implementing strategies for the continued reduction of greenhouse gases both within the corporate and community sectors of the region.

The City of Joondalup has recently reviewed its Greenhouse Action Plan (GAP). A revised GAP 2007 – 2010 has been prepared which provides specific direction for reducing the City's greenhouse gas emissions and includes actions for both the corporate and community sectors. However, addressing the City's vulnerability to climate change and identifying actions it can take to adapt to these new conditions and risks is not a focus for the plan.

The development of a Climate Change Toolkit for the sector which focuses on adaptation, will assist all Local Governments in this regard.

MOTION

Cr Magyar / Cr Currie

That the North Metropolitan Zone indicates its support, both for WALGA's initiative to develop the draft discussion paper and for the development of a climate change toolkit relating to adaptation.

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 5.3 Review of the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002

Fiona Bentley, Acting CEO of the City of Wanneroo, advised that the City had some concerns with respect to the emphasis being placed on targets for provision of bus stop infrastructure, with little consideration being given to the costs involved in meeting these targets. The City of Wanneroo would certainly be unable to meet the proposed targets for 2007, and would probably have some difficulty in doing so in future years.

It was also felt that too much emphasis was being placed on bus stops, with not enough thought being given to the actual transport service itself. Accessibility of the service (ie, location of bus routes and stops) needed review in order to provide a meaningful option for people with special needs.

The City of Wanneroo felt that a response was required with respect to the nature of the targets and the provision of appropriate services throughout the area, and sought support from the North Metropolitan Zone in this regard.

It was agreed that it would be appropriate for WALGA to lobby the State Government with respect to the provision of adequate public transport infrastructure within the City of Wanneroo, as current infrastructure does not meet the criteria set down by the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport.

8.2 Item 5.4 State Graffiti Vandalism Reduction Strategy 2007-2010

Concern was expressed by all parties present that this Strategy had been prepared without any consultation with Local Government.

Nick Wood advised that WALGA approached the Minister in relation to this issue prior to the formulation of the Strategy, at which time it was advised that consultation would be undertaken with the Local Government sector during the Strategy's preparation. Unfortunately it was apparent that this had not occurred, but the Minister had subsequently confirmed that it is his intention to work with Local Government in relation to this issue.

WALGA encouraged all Local Governments to make submissions on the Strategy not only to WALGA, but also direct to the Department. Fifteen submissions had been received to date, with common issues relating to the time frame for implementation, and lack of service level agreements, removal of graffiti by Local Government from State Government assets, and the legal issues associated with Local Government accessing public infrastructure for this purpose.

A State Graffiti Steering Committee has been established to meet at the end of September 2007. The Committee will comprise of representatives from WALGA, the Department of Local Government and Regional Development, the Department of Corrective Services and the Office of Crime Prevention.

Councillor Roberts advised that the City of Wanneroo had a pilot programme in place known as People Against Vandalism which was going from strength to strength. This group was currently active in coastal areas, with consideration being given to expanding the programme to the eastern sector of the City. The Cities of Rockingham and Armadale had also expressed an interest in the programme.

Councillor Stewart queried whether this initiative was different to that in place under the previous State Government. It was confirmed that the previous programme was disbanded when the present administration came into office. The programmes were similar, with one new aspect being the introduction of service level agreements.

Mayor Pickard stated that some areas of the strategy were very good. However, a major portion of the funding was being committed to the provision of CCTV networks, when previous experience has shown that these are only effective in instances where the offenders can be identified and subsequently located. These funds would be better spent by allocating them to those agencies actually dealing directly with the problem.

Fiona Bentley noted that Stirling, Wanneroo, Joondalup and Bayswater have not signed partnership agreements with the State Government because they are already spending a great deal of funds on fighting graffiti. Therefore this Strategy will only offer opportunities to these Local Governments if they work through a third party such as People Against Vandalism.

Motion

Cr Stewart / Mayor Pickard

That the WALGA State Council Agenda be received.

CARRIED

9. WALGA STATE COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS

9.1 WALGA State President's Report

The WALGA State President's Report, as attached, was forwarded to all members prior to the meeting.

Mayor Pickard advised that some of the initiatives contained within the Systemic Sustainability Study were very exciting and realistic. The report will be an action plan for Local Government to drive sustainability principals and ensure the long term viability of the sector in its current form. WALGA and Ricky Burges have done a superb job in keeping the organisation focussed on this matter.

Mayor Pickard also advised that State Council will also give consideration to the WALGA building, and long term options for that asset.



WALGA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

September / October 2007

“SYMPOSIUM ON THE FUTURE”

The LGMA recently conducted its symposium at Observation City. I am particularly eager to assure Local Governments that the document which was prepared to evoke discussion at this symposium is not a representative industry document. The LGMA itself has not endorsed the document.

From the outset I want to assure you that WALGA in **NO WAY** supports the report's recommendation that our 142 Local Governments be reduced to 30 (17 in the country, 13 in the metropolitan area). Effectively this option cuts the number of Councillors to represent community interests to just 210 for the entire State and puts 80% of current CEOs out of work, as well as placing at risk the employment of senior managers. Fortunately the Local Government Minister the Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich has also rejected the report, describing it as unrealistic, extreme and insulting to people who live in the bush.

I believe that the recommendation of wholesale amalgamations is ill advised and unworkable.

The Association would prefer debate to be focussed on delivering genuine options for Local Government to build a future that embraces economic and social responsibilities. To this end can I again take the opportunity to encourage you to participate in WALGA's consultative and research-based Systemic Sustainability Study which will result in a 10 Year Plan – Sustainability: Local Government into the Future.

SYSTEMIC SUSTAINABILITY STUDY

Speaking of the SSS, the work of the Expert teams is progressing well, with all groups reporting to the Task Force last week that they are nearing completion of their first report drafts.

Work will soon commence on aggregating these into the first draft of the 10 year industry plan, which should be consider ready for editing in early November, with a view to an industry launch of the Plan and associated resources and products in February of the new year.

Whilst this is a slightly longer time frame than originally anticipated, it will ensure proper completion of the process and delivery of the final product in a climate unencumbered by end of year activities, Christmas / New Year celebrations, holidays and Council "hybernations".

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The Systemic Sustainability Study process identified that one of the main problems in reviewing Local Government Financial Information is consistency of data. One of the main tasks of the SSS Finance Expert Team is to address this issue.

They believe the issue goes back to the basics of where income and expenditure are allocated, and to overcome these issues is seeking to develop;

- A Finance/Accounting Manual
- Standard Financial Reports

The Department has already commenced developing a form of this Accounting Manual utilising advice and information from accounting firm Haines Norton. The development of the DLG&RD manual was to be carried out over the next 12 months, as part of its “Plan for the Future” project.

The Association has approached the DLG&RD with a view to coordinating the development and release of the proposed new Accounting Manual with the work of the SSS Expert Team to ensure standardized and consistent best practice information in this key area.

The Minister has supported this approach and we are awaiting a final commitment from the DLG&RD to enable this cooperative process to commence.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

A couple of disappointments have arisen as a result of the intransigence of the WA Electoral Commission in rolling out this year’s Local Government elections process.

Firstly there was their inability to concede that a delay in distributing postal voting packs would facilitate a better informed electorate by enabling candidates to prepare “How To Vote” cards that could be mailed simultaneously with the packs. The current arrangements meant only one working day was available for candidates to finalise and print their cards to accord with WAEC and Australia post requirements.

Secondly, the WAEC has refused to partner with the Association in the publication of electoral advertising, which has resulted in two separate advertising processes, one for postal elections and one for in person elections. Apart from the duplication in a significant amount of text and the obvious waste of money, there is likely to be confusion amongst the public as they attempt to decipher the results.

None of this reflects the intent or spirit of the State / Local Government Partnership Agreement, and will be raised with the Partnership Council at its next meeting.

STATE BUDGET SUBMISSION

The WALGA State Budget Submission is currently being finalised for submission to the treasurer by the end of September, in accordance with the protocols established under the State-Local Government Partnership Agreement.

The 2008/9 submission will build on the 2007/8 document, focussing on the key sustainability and funding priority areas of **Libraries, Asset Management, Infrastructure, Emergency Management and Compliance Review**. All of these issues were enthusiastically received by the Treasurer last year, without funding success. In addition, the contemporary issues of **Land Availability and Housing Affordability** will also be explored this year.

We have worked closely with relevant Departments and Agencies to ensure there is a consistent approach to our budget bids from within those entities, which will be echoed in their own budget submissions.

Further details will be available from the Association website on completion and lodgement of the submission, together with information and resources to assist councils in advocating the submission to their local politicians.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The next Amendment bill is currently being prepared by the DLG&RD, with Association Governance staff meeting with the Department and the LGMA on September 20th to discuss content.

The key items in the Departments proposed amendments are as follows:

- Graffiti – “Powers of Entry – Section 3.28 – 3.36 & Schedule 2

It is proposed that the Act be amended to include wider powers for local governments to have access to private property for the removal of graffiti from private land where it can be seen from a public place.

- Appointment of Deputies to Regional Councils and Local Government Committees – Section 3.64 & 5.10

Amendments are required to clarify that there is power to approve deputies.

- Taking of Gravel and other building materials – Section 3.27 & Schedule 3.2

Local Governments have requested a widening of the circumstances in which they can gain access to land for the taking of gravel and other building materials. Section 3.27 currently restricts local governments from taking materials where the land is under any form of ‘cultivation’. It is proposed that they be given access where the land is held for grazing purposes or non-intensive agricultural purposes (planting of pasture for grazing).

- Disqualification to determine qualification to retain membership of Council – Section 2.27

It is proposed to amend section 2.25 to provide for a two-month period whereby absence at a third meeting within that period would not disqualify a council member. This is an outstanding matter from the *Local Government Amendment Act 2004*.

- Proximity interests & disclosure of proximity interests – Sections 5.60B & 5.68

The section of the Act setting out the requirement for council members to declare financial interests at meetings needs to be improved as follows. Section 5.60B relates to proximity interests and these include works on roads that have a common boundary with a person's land. This has created issues for councils undertaking works on long stretches of road that run past councillors' properties. To assist local governments, it is proposed to amend the Act to enable regulations to be made that will prescribe classes of roadworks that do not need to be disclosed.

More specific detail on all of the proposed amendments will be disclosed in an Information Page to be circulated in the coming week.

Staff are also negotiating for the capacity to introduce further amendments which flow from the completion of the SSS process.

FEDERAL ELECTION

As at the date of writing the Federal Election date remains unannounced. However, the undeclared campaigning is well underway and the Association is working through the ALGA on influencing the policy positions and funding decisions of the major parties.

The ALGA election strategy is defined in its "10 Point Plan", recently distributed to all Local Governments.

Your support for the ALGA campaign by reinforcing the Plan to your local Federal candidates would be appreciated.

MARKETING AWARD

The Australian Marketing Institute has recognised the success of the recent Local Government advertising campaign, built around increasing community awareness of the sector and promoting Local Government as an employer of choice.

Our campaign won the "Consumer Insight" award for WA, and is now a finalist for the national awards in October.

TELEVISION ADVERTISING TO PROMOTE COUNCIL ELECTIONS

New television commercials to encourage voter turnout for the October 20 Local Government elections will commence screening on metropolitan and regional television from Sunday, 23 September and will be broadcast up until the polling day.

The advertisements are also available to view on the WALGA website www.walga.asn.au

PRESIDENT'S CONTACTS

During the August – October period, contacts that have occurred or are scheduled to take place prior to the October State Council meeting are as follows:

Federal Government Relations

- ALGA Board Meeting
- Regional Development Council, Cairns

State Government Relations

Meetings with:

- Ms Jo Harrison-Ward, CEO, FESA and other senior executives
- Mr Gary Snook, MLA, Shadow Minister for Local Government
- State Advisory Council/Main Roads WA/WALGA Liaison Committee
- Western Australia Radio Astronomy Committee
- Dry Seasons Advisory Committee
- Mr Jeremy Dawkins, Chairman, WA Planning Commission
- Hon L Ravlich MLC, Minister for Local Government

Local Government Relations

Meetings with:

- Mr John Giorgi, CEO, Town of Vincent
- LGIS Projects Committee
- WALGA/JLT Joint Venture Management Committee
- CMF Full Board Planning Meeting
- Local Government House Trust Meeting
- SSS Taskforce Meeting
- LGIS Board Meeting

Conferences / Workshops / Public Relations

Meetings with:

- Official Opening City of Bayswater Administration Centre
- Leadership Training with Jason Clarke
- City of Bayswater Mayoral Dinner
- City of Melville Annual Civic Dinner
- LGMA Symposium Dinner
- 500Club Networking Function
- Waste & Recycling Conference – Panel Session Leader
- Regional Centres Policy Forum Teleconference
- National Parks & Reserves Convention - Speaker

Zone

- Avon-Midland Country Zone meeting
- South East Metropolitan Zone Meeting
- Peel Country Zone Meeting
- Northern Country Zone Teleconference
- Pilbara Regional Road Group Teleconference
- South Metropolitan Zone Meeting

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

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

Mayor Pickard expressed appreciation, on behalf of the City and the Zone, to WALGA for the manner in which this matter had been progressed.

10.2 2007 Local Government Electoral Process

Councillor Stewart expressed concerns with respect to the handling of the 2007 Local Government elections by the WA Electoral Commission, and queried whether there was any way to bring about a more disciplined approach.

Councillor Magyar suggested that the best option would be for WALGA to set a closing date for nominations, with the Commission then leaving a “gap” of two to three weeks before sending the ballot papers out, and having a shorter period than currently exists between the ballot papers being issued and the count.

Aaron Bowman advised that four weeks was probably the minimum period that could be allowed between delivery and counting, in order to allow sufficient time for rural areas with infrequent mail deliveries.

A commitment had been given by the State Government that the process would be dissected following this year's elections.

11. DATE, TIME & PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the North Metropolitan Zone Committee will be held at 6.00pm on 29 November 2007 at the City of Wanneroo.

12. CLOSURE

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.07pm.



North Metropolitan Zone

AGENDA ATTACHMENTS



North Metropolitan Zone STATUS REPORT May 2007

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Up-date	WALGA Contact
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 REQUESTS WALGA to approach relevant State Government Agencies to formulate a formal process identifying legislative, environmental and financial responsibilities associated with disposal of <i>deceased marine animals</i> and any associated <i>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
		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.”	again advised that Local Government supports the retention of the current voting system (First Past the Post) for Local Government elections. 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</i> (No. 2) 2006. See June 2007 State Council agenda item Bill has now passed through Parliament, unamended.		
North M	2004 November 25 Zone Agenda item 3.1 Child Health Issues	That WALGA establishes a working group to address the following issues: • 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.	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. 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 The MOU clarifies the uncertainty around current arrangements. In particular, emphasizes that Local Government's involvement in child health provision is	May 07	Jodie Holbrook Policy Officer Community Ph: 9213 2044 Email: jholbrook@walga.asn.au

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Up-date	WALGA Contact
			discretionary and based on local community need. 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. Updates on future progress on this item will be provided in the Community Policy Team Key Activity Report to State Council.		

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.goodbyegraffiti.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

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 WWSRG. 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 Whifords 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.