

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
North Metropolitan Zone

MINUTES

Meeting Date: 20 May 2009

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NORTH METROPOLITAN ZONE OF THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE CITY OF WANNEROO, 23 DUNDEBAR ROAD, WANNEROO (LESCHENAULTIA ROOM) ON WEDNESDAY 20 MAY 2009

1. ATTENDANCE

City of Joondalup

Committee Members: Mayor Troy Pickard (Chairperson)
Cr Russ Fishwick
Cr Tom McLean

Officers: Mr Garry Hunt, Chief Executive Officer *Absent from 1906 hrs to 1908 hrs*
Mr Jamie Parry, Director Governance and Strategy

City of Wanneroo

Committee Members: Cr Frank Cvitan (Deputy Chairperson)
Cr Tracey Roberts *from 1819 hrs*
Cr Rudi Steffens *from 1819 hrs*
Cr Maureen Grierson

Officers: Ms Karen Caple, Director Governance & Strategy *Absent from 1905 hrs to 190 hrs*

City of Stirling

Committee Members: Cr David Boothman
Cr Terry Tyzack

Officers: Mr Aaron Bowman, Manager of Governance and Council Support

WALGA Mr John Phillips, Executive Manager Workplace Business Solutions
Ms Jessica Lenney, Community Policy Officer

Secretariat Mrs Janet Foster, Administrative Services Coordinator (City of Joondalup)

DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 1806 hrs.

APOLOGIES:

City of Stirling:

Cr Bill Stewart
Cr Elizabeth Re
Mr Stuart Jardine, Chief Executive Officer

City of Wanneroo

Mr Daniel Simms, Chief Executive Officer

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Pickard gave his apologies, particularly to the City of Stirling, for any inconvenience caused by the alteration of the date for this evening's meeting.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MOVED Cr Fishwick SECONDED Cr Cvitan that the Minutes of the meeting of the North Metropolitan Zone held on Thursday 26 March 2009 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Nil

5. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

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, a schedule has been prepared on matters referred to WALGA State Council for action.

The following comments were made:

Re: 2007 November 29 – Zone Agenda Item 7.3 – Use of Differential Rating to Discourage the Holding of Undeveloped Land

Advice has been received from Mr Tony Brown, WALGA Executive Manager, that this issue has received broad support from the sector but has faced certain challenges over last few months. Mr Brown will progress the matter.

2007 November 29 – Zone Agenda Item 7.4 – Reimbursement of Local Government Costs Incurred in the Administration and Operation of Citizenship Ceremonies

Ms Jessica Lenney advised that the discussion paper is to be released within the next week.

7. REPORTS FROM MEMBER COUNCILS

7.1 RATING REPORT – CITY OF JOONDALUP

Report submitted by City of Joondalup

IN BRIEF

The attached report outlines the current method of rating used by local governments in Western Australia, as prescribed by legislation, and compares this method to others utilised across Australia. Concepts of what constitutes 'equity' and 'fairness' have also been provided to assist in understanding the philosophical bases from which rating systems are developed. The report has been developed within the context of the City of Joondalup, though the concepts discussed have greater applicability.

BACKGROUND

The attached report was originally prepared for the City of Joondalup Council. It discusses local government rating as it applies to the City of Joondalup. Notwithstanding, the subject matter holds broad implications for all Western Australian local governments, and as such, it has been put forward to the North Metropolitan Zone for its consideration.

COMMENT

The attached report examines the rating system used in Western Australia, as prescribed by legislation, and compares it to other methods utilised across Australia. The comprehensive nature of the report may allow it to be used as a tool for other local governments and committees within the region to enhance understanding of rating systems and their implications for local communities.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the North Metropolitan Zone NOTES the City of Joondalup: Rating Report provided as Attachment 1.

MOVED Cr McLean SECONDED Cr Fishwick that the North Metropolitan Zone NOTES the City of Joondalup: Rating Report provided as Attachment 1 and REFERS the report to the State Council for discussion.

Discussion ensued.

During discussion, Crs Roberts and Steffens entered the Room at 1819 hrs.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED

7.2 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM STRATEGIES – CITY OF JOONDALUP UPDATE

Report submitted by City of Joondalup

IN BRIEF

To present status reports in relation to Local Government reform strategies.

BACKGROUND

At the WA Local Government Association (WALGA) North Metropolitan Zone meeting held on 26 March 2009 it was resolved as follows:

“That the Cities of Joondalup, Stirling and Wanneroo be REQUESTED to prepare a status report relating to the Minister’s Local Government Structural Reform Strategy for presentation to the 28 May 2009 meeting of the WALGA North Metropolitan Zone.”

In February 2009, the Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests, Hon John Castrilli, announced the State Government’s package of Local Government reform strategies. These strategies were aimed at achieving greater capacity for local governments to better plan, manage and deliver services to their communities with a focus on social, environmental and economic sustainability.

The principal strategies are voluntary structural reform, with the main objective to reduce the number of local governments across the State, and reduce the total number of elected members to between six and nine.

The Minister established a Steering Committee to coordinate the review. The Steering Committee has issued a set of guidelines to assist local governments through the reform process. These guidelines set out a timetable for local governments to follow in order to meet the Minister’s deadline of August 2009.

COMMENT

Each local government is examining their individual situation in response to the Minister’s request.

All local governments were required to complete and submit a checklist in accordance with State 1 of the Minister’s reform agenda. This checklist was designed to provide local governments with the opportunity to assess their current situation in a number of key areas.

Stages 2 to 4 are to be completed by the end of August 2009. Attached is a series of proposals from the City of Joondalup on how matters outlined in Stages 2 - 4, as outlined below, might be progressed. These proposals will be considered by the Council of the City of Joondalup at its meeting to be held on 19 May 2009.

MOVED Cr McLean SECONDED Cr Grierson that the status report of the City of Joondalup relating to progress of Stages 2 to 4 of the Minister's Local Government Structural Reform Strategy be received.

Discussion ensued.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED

7.3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM STRATEGIES – CITY OF STIRLING UPDATE

Report submitted by City of Stirling

IN BRIEF

To provide an update in relation to the Western Australian State Government's Local Government Reform Strategy.

BACKGROUND

The North Metropolitan Zone at its 26 March 2009 meeting resolved:

"that the Cities of Joondalup, Stirling and Wanneroo be REQUESTED to prepare a status report relating to the Minister's Local Government Structural Reform Strategy for presentation to the 28 May 2009 meeting of the WALGA North Metropolitan Zone".

COMMENT

The City of Stirling submitted its Local Government Reform Checklist to the Local Government Reform Steering Committee on 30 April 2009.

The City of Stirling identified the North Metropolitan Zone corridor as its preferred regional group preference (Checklist Question 11.2).

The City of Stirling's concluding response to "Question 13.1 - After completing the checklist, are you of the view that amalgamation or any other type of structural reform is necessary for your local government" was as follows:

"The City of Stirling's strong financial base, capacity to undertake and manage the implementation of large and complex projects, and its successful provision of a wider range of services than most local governments in Western Australia, to a diverse community makes it a model that other local governments in the State could emulate.

The City of Stirling believes that it provides a wide range of cost-effective and efficient services (149 in total) to its community, and that it is responsive in meeting the demands and needs of its community, with a record 83% overall customer satisfaction rating in 2008.

While it is not readily apparent from the checklist that any potential changes may result in improvement to its already solid track record, the City of Stirling would consider further discussion and assessment of the benefits of

extending its services to, or amalgamation with, one or more of the local governments that share boundaries with the City should they wish to do so.

The City of Stirling does not support any diminution of its ability to continue to provide these services that will result from potential piecemeal changes to its boundaries with adjoining existing local governments as past studies have shown that this produces little benefit to either the City or its neighbours. In addition, this does not achieve the Minister's request to reduce the number of local governments in Western Australia”.

The City of Stirling has to date met with the Cities of Perth, Joondalup, Swan and Bayswater and the Towns of Cambridge and Vincent to discuss their respective progress on local government reform. A meeting is scheduled with the City of Wanneroo on Thursday 14 May 2009.

The City is yet to determine a formal position in respect to amalgamations, boundary adjustments and elected member representation.

The City will shortly be commencing its community consultation, and has scheduled a number of Councillor workshops prior to finalising its submission to the Minister for Local Government in August 2009.

MOVED Cr Tyzack SECONDED Cr Boothman that the North Metropolitan Zone NOTES the City of Stirling update on the Western Australian State Government's Local Government Reform Strategy.

Discussion ensued.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED

7.4 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM STRATEGIES – CITY OF WANNEROO UPDATE

Verbal report to be submitted by City of Wanneroo

IN BRIEF To provide an update in relation to the Western Australian State Government's Local Government Reform Strategy.
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BACKGROUND

The North Metropolitan Zone at its 26 March 2009 meeting resolved:

“that the Cities of Joondalup, Stirling and Wanneroo be REQUESTED to prepare a status report relating to the Minister's Local Government Structural Reform Strategy for presentation to the 28 May 2009 meeting of the WALGA North Metropolitan Zone”.

COMMENT

The City of Wanneroo – Local Government Reform Checklist was tabled – Attachment 1 refers.

Ms Capel, Director Governance and Strategy provided an overview of the document.

MOVED Cr Roberts SECONDED Cr Cvitan that the North Metropolitan Zone NOTES the City of Wanneroo update on the Western Australian State Government's Local Government Reform Strategy forming Attachment 1 to these Minutes.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED

7.5 PROPOSED JOINT COUNCILLOR INDUCTION – CITIES OF STIRLING, JOONDALUP, WANNEROO AND PERTH, AND TOWNS OF CAMBRIDGE, VICTORIA PARK AND VINCENT

Report submitted by City of Stirling

IN BRIEF

On 3 November 2007, the Cities of Stirling, Joondalup and Wanneroo participated in a Joint Councillor Induction following the 2007 Elections coordinated and hosted by the City of Stirling.

The City of Stirling is again proposing to host a Joint Councillor Induction following the 2009 Local Government Elections with the possible inclusion of the City of Perth and the Towns of Cambridge, Victoria Park and Vincent.

BACKGROUND

Further to the Joint Councillor Induction held in 2007, the City of Stirling is proposing to again coordinate and host this event following the 2009 Elections with the cost of the event being split evenly between participating Councils.

A copy of the program from the 2007 Joint Induction is attached for information.

COMMENT

The 2007 Joint Councillor Induction was held for the three Councils of the North Metropolitan Zone at the City of Stirling on 3 November 2007. The Induction included presentations on the following:-

- Planning Presentation (presented by Woodhouse Legal)
- Official Code of Conduct Presentation (presented by Woodhouse Legal)

- A presentation by the Department of Local Government and Regional Development providing an overview of the Department, roles and responsibilities of Councillors, conflict of interest and the Local Government Act.
- A presentation by the Crime and Corruption Commission on managing misconduct risks in local government.
- A presentation by Tamala Park on its operations.
- A presentation by the Mindarie Regional Council on its operations.
- A presentation by the State Records Office on record keeping requirements for Councillors.
- A presentation by the Western Australian Local Government Association.

The induction was followed by a networking sundowner hosted by the Western Australian Local Government Association.

It is proposed that the 2009 Joint Councillor Induction will follow a similar format to the 2007 induction however, due to the presentations provided by the Tamala Park and the Mindarie Regional Councils, it is suggested that the North Metropolitan Zone extend an invitation to the Councils of Perth, Cambridge, Victoria Park and Vincent to participate.

The proposed date for this Joint Councillor Induction is **Saturday, 31 October 2009**. This will allow participating Councils to provide their own induction if they desire in the week (or weekend) prior.

It is also proposed that all costs (aside from in-kind administrative costs provided by the City of Stirling) be divided evenly between participating Councils. The City of Stirling will again approach the Western Australian Local Government Association to seek its support by hosting the networking sundowner following the induction.

Should the North Metropolitan Zone be in support of this proposal, the City of Stirling will commence work to secure speakers for the induction and also issues invitation to the Councils specified within this report. A further report will then be presented to the North Metropolitan Zone advising of the invited Councils' response to the event.

MOVED Cr Boothman SECONDED Cr Roberts that:

- 1 the North Metropolitan Zone SUPPORTS a Joint Councillor Induction to be held on Saturday, 31 October 2009 and coordinated and hosted by the City of Stirling with invitations being extended to the Cities of the North Metropolitan Zone as well as the City of Perth and Towns of Cambridge, Victoria Park and Vincent;**
- 2 the cost of this event be DIVIDED evenly between participating Councils.**

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED

7.6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT RATING OF LAND USED FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES

Report submitted by City of Joondalup

IN BRIEF

To provide the views of the City of Joondalup in relation to Local Government Act Rating Exemptions for Charitable Purposes.

BACKGROUND

At the North Metropolitan Zone meeting held on 26 March 2009, the Zone resolved to defer consideration of the report *Local Government Act Rating Exemptions for Charitable Purposes* to enable views to be provided by Member Councils.

COMMENT

A report in relation to Local Government Rating of Land Used for Charitable Purposes was presented to the City of Joondalup Council meeting to be held on 19 May 2009. A copy of the report is attached.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the City of Joondalup ADVISES the North Metropolitan Zone Committee:

- 1 of its position in relation to the rating of charitable organisations and Section 6.26(2)(g) of the Local Government Act as expressed in its previous resolution CJ215-11/06 of 21 November 2006, as follows:

"That the Minister For Local Government & Regional Development be provided with the following response in relation to the issue of Local Government rating of land used for charitable purposes and a copy be provided to the Western Australian Local Government Association as follows:

- 1 *In relation to the eight proposed strategies the City's responses are as follows -*

(a) Strategy 1

This proposal is not supported in its current form as there is no current definition of "subsidised" which is crucial to considering the impact of this proposal and the phasing in of rating effectively amounts to a retrospective change.

(b) Strategy 2

This proposal is not supported in its current form as a number of facilities will not qualify for these types of subsidies but are still considered to be providing charitable services.

(c) Strategy 3

The proposal is generally supported however there needs to be very clear definitions around the notions of crisis accommodation and housing for people with a disability.

(d) Strategy 4

The request to undertake further work is supported and the key issues in relation to determining any form of exemption are around clear definitions and guidelines on which a local government can make an assessment and clear provisions requiring applicants requesting an exemption to supply information that enables the assessment to be done.

(e) Strategy 5

The strategy as proposed is not supported but an alternative proposal that is supported is that an owner of vacant land be required to declare their intention to use it for a charitable purpose in the future, however pay rates annually on the vacant land until the charitable purpose is established at which point they become entitled to a refund of the rates paid.

(f) Strategy 6

It has already been established that incidental and ancillary non charitable land uses do not jeopardise the overall dominant charitable purpose of a property despite the fact that it is not spelt out in the current legislation. The issue really is not that this type of use should not jeopardise the overall dominant use but the question of the quantum of what constitutes incidental and ancillary. Any proposal that could define the quantum of incidental and ancillary is supported.

(g) Strategy 7

The proposal is supported but while it is acknowledged that in some cases there are non charitable uses there are instances where these are operated as part of the facility with proceeds being fed into the overall operation eg small coffee shops, and not with profits being taken by a commercial operator and this proposal should not enable operations in these circumstances to be rated.

(h) *Strategy 8*

This proposal is strongly supported particularly if the regulations also provide guidelines as to the type of information that is required to be provided. This is an area that causes great difficulty for the City in its current assessments of applications for exemptions from rates. It is not unusual for the City to be challenged as to why information needs to be provided or the type of information that is requested to be provided.

2 *That the Minister be urged to give serious consideration to a whole of State approach to the issue of rating exemptions for land used for charitable purposes, such that individual local governments are not unfairly burdened due to the amount of land within their local government area that is used for charitable purposes. There should be equity and fairness in rating or exemption of these types of facilities in the same way that there is a whole of State approach to the provision of rebates and deferments for pensioners.*

3 *WALGA be advised of this response and in relation to point 2 be urged to advocate to the State Government the need for a whole of state approach to the issue of exemptions for land used for charitable purposes."*

2 that the City of Stirling's proposal to request WALGA to lobby the State Government for change in relation to the rating of charitable organisations and Section 6.26(2)(g) of the Local Government Act is supported so long as that change is in line with the City's position expressed in its previous resolution CJ215-11/06.

MOVED Cr McLean SECONDED Cr Fishwick that the North Metropolitan Zone NOTES the City of Joondalup Report in relation to Local Government Rating of Land used for Charitable Purposes.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED

7.7 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT RATING EXEMPTIONS FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES – SECTION 6.26(2)(G) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1995

Report submitted by City of Stirling

IN BRIEF

To provide the City of Stirling's position on Section 6.26(2)(g) of the Local Government Act 1995 - Rating Exemptions for Charitable Purposes

BACKGROUND

At the North Metropolitan Zone meeting held 26 March 2009, the Zone resolved to defer consideration of the report *Local Government Act Rating Exemptions for Charitable Purposes* to enable views to be provided by Member Councils.

This report is in response to this motion and provides the City of Stirling's position on the matter.

COMMENT

Further to this resolution, a report was presented to the City of Stirling Council on 5 May 2009 seeking Council to adopt a formal position in relation to the charitable rating exemption provision within the Local Government Act 1995 (refer attached report).

The City of Stirling Council resolved as follows in regard to the matter:

"That WALGA North Zone be advised that Council notes the growing number of new organisations seeking rates exemptions under the provisions of Section 6.26(2)(g) of the Local Government Act 1995 and would support a review of the relevant sections of the Act to provide certainty and unambiguous guidance to all parties in this matter."

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the North Metropolitan Zone NOTES the City of Stirling's support for a review of Section 6.26(2)(g) of the Local Government Act 1995 '*Rating Exemptions for Charitable Purposes*' to provide certainty and unambiguous guidance to all parties in the matter.

MOVED Cr Boothman SECONDED Cr Roberts that the North Metropolitan Zone:

- 1 NOTES the City of Stirling's support for a review of Section 6.26(2)(g) of the Local Government Act 1995 '*Rating Exemptions for Charitable Purposes*' to provide certainty and unambiguous guidance to all parties in the matter;**
- 2 REQUESTS the State Council to urgently seek support from the Local Government Minister to initiate this review in conjunction with the local government sector.**

Discussion ensued.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED

7.8 REQUEST FOR PRESENTATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIVE SERVICES

Report submitted by WALGA

IN BRIEF

To seek approval for the Department of Corrective Services to make a presentation to the North Metropolitan Zone meeting to be held on 30 July 2009.

On 6 May, WALGA President Bill Mitchell met with the Commissioner of the Department of Corrective Services and Senior Staff, to discuss opportunities for Local Governments to link into existing Corrective Services programs, such as REPAY WA, to deliver a benefit back to communities.

It was a very positive meeting that focused on creating real opportunities to work together and delivering tangible benefits back to communities, while helping offenders learn and develop skills while working to complete community service orders.

The fulfilment of community service orders is taking place throughout the State all the time, and this type of partnership envisions creating a wider range of projects or work for offenders in the community that tie in with local needs. More than that, it could potentially provide local government with a way of undertaking additional projects or providing additional services that are not currently affordable.

The Department of Corrective Services is keen to begin informing all Local Governments what type of services and programs could be utilized in their communities, what they can offer, how they can work together, how they can link into existing Corrective Services Programs, and how it can benefit each other.

To this end, they would like to begin by making a presentation at Zone meetings, as a way of informing Local Governments and inviting feedback and interest in partnering in the program.

MOVED Cr Cvitan SECONDED Cr Steffens that the North Metropolitan Zone INVITES Mr Ian Johnson APM, Commissioner of the Department of Corrective Services to make a presentation to its next meeting to be held on 30 July 2009.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED

7.9 ALCOHOL AND CRIME MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Report submitted by WALGA

IN BRIEF

To invite Councils of the North Metropolitan Zone to take part in the Local Government Alcohol and Crime Management Pilot Project.

BACKGROUND

A successful grant application to *'The Criminal Confiscation Act 2000 Grants Program'* administered through the Department of the Attorney General has enabled the Association to appoint an Alcohol and Crime Management Project Coordinator for a twelve month period.

The project aim is to pilot a process of supporting Local Government to more effectively address alcohol-related issues within their communities by using the framework and resources contained in the *"Local Government Alcohol Management Package"*.

This project came about as strong emerging evidence suggested that strategies that aim to prevent as well as manage alcohol issues can be extremely effective in reducing alcohol related harm and problems in the community.

Local Government throughout WA is in an ideal position to initiate positive plans and strategies that impact upon community beliefs, attitudes and behaviours about alcohol.

COMMENT

Research

Baseline research was conducted in 2005 to gain information about what Western Australian Local Governments are already doing to address alcohol-related problems in their community and existing internal barriers and supports to working on alcohol-related issues. This information has helped to develop resources and identify areas of support that are relevant to the practical issues faced by Local Governments.

Some of the recommendations from the research included:

- Need to raise awareness of elected officers, senior management and salaried staff about:
 - the nature and extent of drunkenness and related problems affecting Local Governments and their communities and;
 - the benefits to Local Government of evidence based alcohol policy and management plans;

- Support be given to Local Governments to develop a 'whole of organisation' alcohol policy and management plan.

Conclusion

The Association is seeking six Local Governments to take part in a pilot to develop a 'whole of organisation' alcohol policy. The development of a management plan to sit alongside the policy is also recommended to structure the implementation of the policy and ensure effective use of the policy once in place.

Further information is available by contacting:

Marianne Carey
Alcohol and Crime Management Project Coordinator
Planning and Community Development
Western Australian Local Government Association
15 Altona Street | West Perth WA 6872
PO Box 1544 | West Perth WA 6872
Tel: 92132071 | Fax: 93218378
Email: mcarey@walga.asn.au

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Member Councils of the North Metropolitan Zone CONSIDER taking part in the Local Government Alcohol and Crime Management Pilot Project.

MOVED Cr Roberts SECONDED Cr Boothman that the North Metropolitan Zone:

- 1 NOTES the Government Alcohol and Crime Management Pilot Project;**
- 2 REFERS the report to the Chief Executive Officers of member Councils for further consideration and a subsequent report to the North Metropolitan Zone meeting to be held on 30 July 2009.**

Discussion ensued.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED

7.10 USE OF GLASS DRINKING CONTAINERS IN LICENSED PREMISES AND LIQUOR OUTLETS

Report submitted by City of Joondalup

IN BRIEF

To examine strategies for local governments to work with the hospitality industry to better manage glass in both licensed premises and liquor outlets.

BACKGROUND

A report is to be considered by the Council of the City of Joondalup, at its meeting to be held on 19 May 2009, regarding the use of glass drinking containers in licensed premises and liquor outlets.

The City of Joondalup report in relation to Use of Glass Drinking Containers in Licenses Premises and Liquor Outlets was tabled – Attachment 2 refers.

MOVED Cr McLean SECONDED Cr Fishwick that the North Metropolitan Zone REQUESTS WALGA to:

- 1 EXAMINE strategies for local governments to work with the hospitality industry to better manage glass in licensed premises and liquor outlets;**
- 2 PREPARE an application to The Criminal Confiscation Act 2000 Grants Program to fund resources to support this initiative.**

Discussion ensued.

During discussion:

- *Ms Caple, Director Governance and Strategy left the Room at 1905 hrs and returned at 1906 hrs;*
- *Mr Garry Hunt, Chief Executive Officer left the room at 1906 hrs and returned at 1908 hrs.*

The Motion was Put and

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

CHANGE STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 5.1 - BUILDING A BETTER PLANNING SYSTEM.

The following change to the recommendation of Item 5.1 of the June 2009 State Council Agenda was provided by WALGA:

5.1 Building a Better Planning System – Consultation Paper by Department for Planning and Infrastructure (05-036-03-0020 BF) (Appendices Page 101)

By Beryl Foster, Policy Manager Planning and Development

Recommendation

That:

1. the State Council note that an interim submission on the Building a Better Planning system - Consultation Paper has been made to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DPI), which included comments received from local governments regarding the Consultation Paper and endorsed the principles within the Consultation Paper while reserving local governments' position until a greater level of detail is available.
2. WALGA seek to work in partnership with DPI to clarify the detail and progress planning reform in Western Australia.

5.2 CRIMINAL PROSECUTION AND CIVIL LITIGATION OF GRAFFITI OFFENDERS (05-019-02-0016 WP)

MOVED Cr Cvitan **SECONDED** Cr Grierson that the following words be added to the end of Point 4 of the Motion:

“... and increase all associated penalties.”

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED

**5.3 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE WALGA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
STANDING ORDERS (01-003-02-0001 MN)**

MOVED Cr Fishwick **SECONDED** Cr Roberts that an additional recommendation be **ADDED** to read:

“That Clause 13.8 be amended by deleting the words “shall at once” and including the word “may”.”

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED

9. WALGA STATE COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORTS

The WALGA President's Report for June 2009 is provided at Attachment 3.

Mayor Pickard commented on the Landfill Levy.

MOVED Cr Cvitan **SECONDED** Cr Steffens that the WALGA President's Report be **RECEIVED**.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil.

11. DATE, TIME & PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the North Metropolitan Zone will be held at the City of Stirling at 6.00 pm on Thursday 30 July 2009.

12. CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 1931 hrs.



WALGA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

June 2009

STATE BUDGET OUTCOMES

Extra road funding of \$6.3 million is provided to WA Local Governments as the result of adjustments detailed in the State Budget. The increased funding results from an increase in vehicle registration fees combined with an increase in actual registrations from which local road funding receives a proportionate allocation.

Local Governments will be disappointed that no funding was allocated to return grain transport to rail, nor was any new funding provided to meet the anticipated costs of sector reform.

Given Local Government manages the construction and maintenance of 72% of all roads in the State it is encouraging that some effort has been made to ensure that key infrastructure in local roads is not overlooked. This has been largely a product of the State-Local Government Road Funding Agreement, under which Local Government receives 27% of revenue from motor vehicle registrations.

Ensuring that revenue keeps pace with increasing costs is critical to Local Government and the adjustments detailed in the Budget go some way to assisting with that.

The State Budget also allocated \$4 million for the installation of closed circuit television systems as part of the Community Crime Prevention Program.

An announcement was also included that the Landfill Levy (for both putrescibles and inert material) will increase by 300%, this will mean a levy of around \$24/ tonne – and a council rate increase of about \$20 per household.

This decision was completely unexpected and has not included any consultation with the Sector – the Association was expecting an increase to \$8/ tonne (as per the current Regulations). Council Budgets have been set with the amount outlined in the Regulations.

The Association is seeking an urgent meeting with the Minister for Environment to emphasise that:-

- A significant proportion of this additional revenue has to go back to Local Government to support and recycling and resource recovery operations (particularly given the low price for recyclable materials); and
 - The Levy needs to remain hypothecated to Strategic waste management activities - it is not a revenue raising tool for the State Government.
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

The Minister for local Governments request was for Local Governments to consider not only voluntary amalgamations, but also possible boundary changes, opportunities for resource sharing and the potential reduction in number of Elected Members.

Local Governments have already been working over the past 4 years towards a process of voluntary structural reform, and so had, in part, already started considering the Minister's request. The SSS Final Report endorsed by the sector in September last year outlined a number of opportunities for change - which many Councils were already considering and working towards by the time the Minister made his announcement in February.

Currently WALGA staff has been assisting members in their preliminary discussions and consultations.

The Association have been invited to participate in discussions with 12 separate regions, covering 53 Local Governments outside of the metropolitan area, and through two Zone meeting processes, consultation has been held with every Council in the State.

Local Governments have all submitted their sustainability checklists, and are now facing the next stage in the process – the evaluation of alternatives and community consultation.

A number of Local Governments have requested WALGA to facilitate Community Information meetings. Five (5) community meetings have already been conducted and any Local Government wanting assistance in this area is encouraged to contact Executive Manager Governance and Strategy Tony Brown or Regional Cooperation Manager Joanne Burges.

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION; TOURISM AND WOMEN'S INTERESTS

Attended a meeting with the Hon Liz Constable, Minister for Education, Tourism and Women's Interests earlier this month. I presented the Minister with a copy of *The Journey: Sustainability into the Future*, and informed her of the Association's desire to work collaboratively with the State Government on an effective reform approach for Local Government. The Minister indicated that she had an understanding of the issue, having had previous discussions with WALGA CEO, Ricky Burges on the topic.

Joint use facilities between the Department of Education and Local Government were discussed and the relatively ad hoc nature of arrangements which relate to existing joint use. It was requested that the Minister support the establishment of a working group (involving DET and WALGA) to review the current working arrangements, and to work towards more effective arrangements for joint use facilities in the future. The Minister said she had inspected some positive examples in other states which she thought could be related back to WA.

DEPARTMENT CHANGES

Effective from Wednesday, **1 July**, the Department of Local Government and Regional Development will be restructured to become two separate departments, the Department of Local Government and the Department of Regional Development and Lands. The Department of Regional Development and Lands will oversee the *Royalties for Regions* initiative, manage other key projects, and will be responsible for regional development matters, including the state and pastoral lands functions. These lands functions will be transferred from the current Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

A new Department of Transport will also be created by restructuring the Department for Planning and Infrastructure, with the current Department of Planning and Infrastructure being renamed the

Department of Planning. The separation of the transport functions will allow the Department of Planning to focus on its core business of integrated land use and planning, and to take a lead role in ensuring better collaboration between agencies that have a role in planning issues. The Department of Transport will have a focus on strategic transport planning and policy across the range of public and commercial transport systems that service the state, as well as operational transport functions.

ASSET MANAGEMENT FORUM

WALGA, in partnership with the Department of Local Government and Regional Development, Institute of Public Works Engineers (IPWEA) and Local Government Managers Australia (LGMA) held the inaugural WA Local Government Asset Management Forum. There is a keen focus at the Commonwealth and State level for Local Government to demonstrate that we have sound and transparent asset management processes in place - in particular managing the renewal of our assets over time. Over 110 delegates from across WA, including Councillors, CEOs and staff heard a range of speakers, including developments at a State and national level, a suite of Local Government case studies demonstrating good asset management practice and information on the support available from WALGA and our partners to assist Local Government in u asset management. Feedback from the Forum has been extremely positive. Forum presentations are available for download from the WALGA website. Also a DVD of the forum is available on request.

WALGA REGIONAL EVENTS

The Association will be conducting two Regional Events in June 2009.

Join Marketforce Client Services Director Gavin Bain as he provides insights into how to develop and manage your own personal brand. This event would be valuable for any Local Government officer or Elected Member wishing to further their professional career and network with other Local Government Members.

- **City of Bunbury Thursday, 11 June**
- **City of Geraldton Monday, 15 June**

PRESIDENT'S CONTACTS

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

Federal Government Relations

- Environmental Protection & Heritage Council Council - Hobart
- NRM Ministerial Council - Hobart

State Government Relations

Meetings with:

- Hon Dr Liz Constable MLA Minister for Education; Tourism; Women's Interests
 - Hon Grant Woodhams MLA, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
 - Hon Barry House MLC and Hon Bill Marmion MLA
 - Hon Brian Ellis MLC
 - Hon Terry Redman MLA, Minister for Agriculture & Food, Forestry
 - State Advisory & Main Roads/WALGA Liaison
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Local Government Relations

Meetings with:

- Mayor Logan Howlett, City of Cockburn
- Local Government Reform Steering Committee
- Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku - Mr Chris Paget, CEO, Shire President Damian McLean
- Teleconference Mr Simon Millcock, Economic Development Officer, Indian Ocean Territories Attorney-General's Department
- Mr Ian Johnson, Commissioner, Department of Corrective Services
- LGIS Board

Conferences / Workshops / Public Relations

- Speaker/Panel Member CEDA Breakfast
- Sponsor Dinner – Mr John Driscoll, Chairman & CEO, Marketforce
- Launch – Rescuing the Rangelands
- WA Pastoral Board Conference Dinner
- Launch – Women in Local Government
- Presentation at Tasmanian Roads Forum
- Anzac Day Dawn Service Wreath Laying
- Speaker LGMA Local Government & Indigenous Communities Conference
- LGMA Convention Dinner
- Defence Appreciation Dinner
- City of Belmont Community Race Day
- Panel Member: Uranium Mining Conference
- Sponsor Dinner – Mr Leon Lawrence, Director, Mr Peter Hoare, Branch Manager, LGIS

Zone Meetings

- Pilbara Country Zone Meeting
 - South East Metropolitan Zone Meeting
 - South East Metropolitan Zone
 - Peel Country Zone
 - Goldfields Esperance Country Zone
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