



# INFORMATION BULLETIN

JUNE 2012

**Note: the Shire of Yalgoo Information Bulletin is posted the week before the Council Agenda**

*Refer Council Resolution C2011-0316*

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### WHITE PAGES

Information Bulletin

## 1. Councillor Calendar

Updated by: PA On: 12 June 2012

Day	Date/s	Event	Comment
Thursday	<b>21 June 2012</b> 11.00am	<b>ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING</b>	Yalgoo Council Chambers
Thursday	<b>19 July 2012</b> 11.00am	<b>ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING</b>	Yalgoo Council Chambers
Wednesday	<b>1 August 2012</b> 9.00am – 12.00pm	Special State & Local Government Forum (invitation only President and CEO)	Perth Convention Centre
Wednesday	<b>1 August 2012</b> 1.30pm	WALGA AGM	Perth Convention Centre
Thursday	<b>2 – 4 August 2012</b>	WALGA Annual Conference	Perth Convention Centre
Tuesday	<b>7 August 2012</b>	<b>SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING</b>	For the purpose of considering the Draft Budget Yalgoo Council Chambers
Thursday	<b>9 August 2012</b>	<b>SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING</b>	For the purpose of considering the Final Budget Yalgoo Council Chambers
Thursday	<b>23 August 2012</b> 11.00am	<b>ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING</b>	Yalgoo Council Chambers
Thursday	<b>20 September 2012</b> 11.00am	<b>ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING</b>	Paynes Find
Tuesday	<b>25 September 2012</b> 11.00am	LEMC (Local Emergency Management Committee) Meeting	Railway Complex Yalgoo
Thursday	<b>18 October 2012</b> 11.00am	<b>ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING</b>	Yalgoo Council Chambers
TBA	<b>November 2012</b>	Murchison Country Zone Meeting of WALGA - “Cue Parliament”	Shire of Murchison , Cue
Thursday	<b>22 November 2012</b> 11.00am	<b>ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING</b>	Yalgoo Council Chambers
Thursday	<b>12 December 2012</b> 11.00am	<b>ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING</b>	Yalgoo Council Chambers

## 2. Introduction

### **Information Bulletin** *(NB: refer white pages for index and documents)*

The Shire receives an extremely high volume of information every month.

This document contains information that is of relevance or interest to elected members but will not generally be presented for a council decision.

Local Governments are routinely invited to comment on state level legislative and policy matters. Given our small size and limited staff resources, the CEO will not always prepare a response and will base this decision on:

- Expertise – does the Shire have staff with relevant expertise on the matter?
- Time & quality – do staff have time to prepare a properly researched agenda paper and recommendation?
- Relevance – how relevant is the outcome of the matter to Shire operations?
- Impact – what is the likelihood that the time and effort required to prepare a submission will be rewarded by real impact on the decision making process?

If an elected member wishes Council to consider making a decision on a particular matter, the elected member should bring the matter to the attention of the CEO or President via a Councillor Information Request to enable the CEO to prepare an agenda item and recommendation for Council to consider.

Alternatively, the elected member may choose to raise the matter by giving notice of motion.

*You will find the Information Bulletin index and documents in the white page section.*

### **Executive Activity Reports**

Executive activity reports are prepared to inform elected members of progress on Council projects and activities.

Whilst operational matters should not be discussed at Council meetings, Councillors may wish to ask questions of clarification.

Councillors are encouraged to contact the CEO or relevant staff member to resolve queries before the Council meeting.

## Excerpts from Local Government Act - Roles of Elected Members and Staff

*Excerpts downloaded February 2011*

### 2.8. Role of mayor or president

- (1) The mayor or president —
  - (a) presides at meetings in accordance with this Act;
  - (b) provides leadership and guidance to the community in the district;
  - (c) carries out civic and ceremonial duties on behalf of the local government;
  - (d) speaks on behalf of the local government;
  - (e) performs such other functions as are given to the mayor or president by this Act or any other written law; and
  - (f) liaises with the CEO on the local government's affairs and the performance of its functions.

### 2.10. Role of councillors

- A councillor —
  - (a) represents the interests of electors, ratepayers and residents of the district;
  - (b) provides leadership and guidance to the community in the district;
  - (c) facilitates communication between the community and the council;
  - (d) participates in the local government's decision making processes at council and committee meetings; and
  - (e) performs such other functions as are given to a councillor by this Act or any other written law.

### 5.41. Functions of CEO

- The CEO's functions are to —
  - (a) advise the council in relation to the functions of a local government under this Act and other written laws;
  - (b) ensure that advice and information is available to the council so that informed decisions can be made;
  - (c) cause council decisions to be implemented;
  - (d) manage the day to day operations of the local government;
  - (e) liaise with the mayor or president on the local government's affairs and the performance of the local government's functions;
  - (f) speak on behalf of the local government if the mayor or president agrees;
  - (g) be responsible for the employment, management supervision, direction and dismissal of other employees (subject to section \*5.37(2) in relation to senior employees);
  - (h) ensure that records and documents of the local government are properly kept for the purposes of this Act and any other written law; and
  - (i) perform any other function specified or delegated by the local government or imposed under this Act or any other written law as a function to be performed by the CEO.

*\* 5.37 (2) requires the CEO to inform the Council of each proposal to employ or dismiss an employee filling a position that the Council has designated under 5.37 (1), currently DCEO, EHO and Works Foreman. This does not apply to a person acting in the position for less than a year, or employed in the position for less than 3 months in any 2 year period.*

### 3. Reports

#### Works and Services

##### Works and Services Report May-June 2012

Prepared by Ron Adams, Project Executive

Item	Activity this Month	Planned for Next Month
Roads and Streets	▪ Litter Cleaning	▪
Plant and Equipment	▪	▪
Parks & Gardens	▪ Routine Maintenance	▪
Waste Management	▪	▪
Infrastructure (minor)	▪	▪
Health and Safety	▪	▪ OHS Training & Policy Development
Ranger Services	▪	▪
Bush Fire Brigade	▪ Paynes Find AGM	▪ Yalgoo AGM
Vandalism & Security	▪	▪
Other	▪	▪

##### Major Capital Projects

FCWP #	Project	Status/ Comments	Activity this reporting period
BD003	Capital Works Shire Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued Works on 16 Shamrock</li> <li>Driveway &amp; Carport Stanley Street</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install Kitchen &amp; Bathroom, 16 Shamrock</li> <li>Install Kitchen &amp; Bathrooms, 1 Stanley</li> </ul>
BD004	Town Sewerage Upgrade	▪ Feature Survey Completed	▪ Preparation of Quoting
BD006	Hall Refurbishment	▪ Toilets Operational	▪
BD008	Staff Housing Gibbons St	▪	▪
BD008	Staff Housing Weekes St	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commence digging Septic</li> <li>Signed off Plans</li> </ul>	▪ Prepare Quotes from Plans
BD009	Refurbish Parks and Gardens Work Depot	▪	▪
BD012	Works Depot: Replace Workshop	▪	▪
CA002	Caravan Park Redevelopment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Septics Hole Dug</li> <li>Signed off Plans</li> </ul>	▪ Prepare Quotes from Plans
OP001	Payne's Find Airstrip	▪	▪
OP002	Yalgoo Airstrip	▪	▪

FCWP #	Project	Status/ Comments	Activity this reporting period
OS003	Payne's Find Beautification/Rest Area	▪	▪
OS006	Cemetery: Gazebo, Niche Wall and Gates	▪	▪
RB001	Yalgoo-Morawa Road Seal 4km	▪	▪
RB002	Yalgoo-Ninghan Road Seal 4km	▪	▪
RB003	Yalgoo-Ninghan Road Repair and Seal	▪ Preparation of Tenders for 2012-13	▪
RB004	Yalgoo-Morawa Road resheet and form 4km	▪	▪
RB005	Yalgoo-Ninghan Road resheet and form 4km	▪	▪
RB008	Blackspot projects: Great Northern Hwy intersections	▪ Commence Additional BS on PF Thundelarra Rd	▪ Complete BS

### Use of Authority Delegated to Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Delegation Number	Details	Use in Reporting Period
3.1 Alteration to Restricted and Prohibited Burning Periods <i>Bush Fire Control Act 1954 s.17 (7) – 11)</i>	Joint Delegation to CBFCO and President	

### Other Matters

#### Yalgoo Ninghan Road

- Completed maintenance grade through to Great Northern Highway

#### Ninghan Station

- Graded station access road

#### Yalgoo Morawa Road

- Commence maintenance grade

#### Yalgoo North Road

- Installation of road furniture

#### Paynes Find

- General clean up of Community Centre Grounds
- Inspection and testing of lights
- Inspection and running of generator
- Bush Fire Fighting Training

## Environmental Health and Building Services

### Environmental Health, Building and Development Report May 2012

Prepared by William Atyeo, Environment Health and Building Officer

#### Activity Report

Item	Activity this Month	Planned for Next Month
Environmental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(I was off-site when handling this) Sewerage overflow and defective sewerage unit at teacher's accommodation. I received complaint regarding sewerage overflow and was advised that this problem had been ongoing for some time with little to no response from Education Dept and Ministry of Housing. I emailed appropriate "higher" up people and results were forthcoming otherwise I was in the process of issuing a health Notice on the appropriate Ministers for Housing and Education.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I will continue to monitor this situation.</li> </ul>
Building Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All stats have been sent to the ABS on a monthly basis as required by law, and to other Departments as required.</li> <li>Have spent a considerable amount of time trying to keep abreast of the many changes, and it is correct to say that all facets of the industry are feeling the effects. There is also a huge amount of legal opinion being circulated, and so Officers will need to "watch their step" for some time to come, or at least until all the wrinkles have been ironed out of the legislation.</li> <li>I have put together a folder with all the information and documents for applicants for licenses in regard to building or demolition. It will take some time to get the flow of these under the new Act, but we will get there.</li> <li>Many of the Building Surveyors have raised many concerns with WALGA and the Building Commission since the introduction of the new Act. As a result, WALGA has compiled our concerns and will now meet with the Building Commission with a list of issues that a metered response from them is required, and possible action taken in order to address our concerns. (list of our concerns is attached for your information)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
Town Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Last month under Health Section above I reported that I had sent a letter to owners of the Mining Lease to West of Townsite in regard to the occupation of the bus. This trip I met with co-owners and we discussed the issues raised in my letter to them. The discussions were positive and the owners undertook to move the bus from its current site on the lease and write to Council with their concerns.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow-up on this issue as required</li> </ul>

## Other Matters:

New Building Act 2011 – Issues WALGA will raise with the Building Commission

Issue
<p><b>Use of the application forms – any difficulties, concerns or suggested changes?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– the application for building approval certificate has no area for the estimated value of the completed works to be noted. This makes it difficult to calculate fees payable for the application</li> <li>– Where is the Building Order form?</li> <li>– Different fonts on the word documents off the Commission's website</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ownership details</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– for the above, builders are experiencing frustration with some councils giving adjoining owners details to them, and others refusing – wanting a stat dec.</li> <li>– Definition of "owner" – relating to land sold without title &amp; application for permit being lodged. LGA's are taking different attitudes on accepting an offer/acceptance agreement.</li> <li>– The need for the Commission to clarify by definition what an "agent" is. Many builders seem to think/want to be able to sign an application as an "agent". This issue needs to be clarified</li> </ul>
<p><b>Work affecting other land</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– BA20 (ties in with work affecting other land): From a builders perspective with the BA20 forms. It is frustrating that the legislation is open to interpretation, and if being enforced differently from council to council. They have some LG's asking for the BA20 forms for ANYTHING built on the boundary (limestone or panel and post retaining / zero lot walls etc) – where others are only interested if they plan on encroaching. The main problem they have had, and foresee having in the future, is with neighbours refusing to sign the BA20 simply because they do not want a zero lot wall on their boundary. They are explaining to people that they are not asking for their consent on the wall itself – but rather the construction and excavation along the boundary. It seems tough that a design can pass through Planning – only to be knocked back at Building because the neighbour doesn't like the look of zero lot walls. This is HUGE – The impact to builders with a discrepancy of 2 legislative pieces – Planning and Building. The other issue they have experienced is neighbours using their consent as leverage for things like; avoiding sharing fencing costs, or requests to have zero lot walls rendered / painted to their choice of colour. The Commissions recent "Permit Authority Advice" still doesn't adequately cover it.</li> <li>– The guide from BC (Page 4) states <b>what is not</b> "work affecting other land". Noise. That's it, noise. From site radios or power tools. Suggest that the BC seek independent advice from professionals, get the SSO to vet if necessary, and then release the advice. This may solve around 80% of the cases where both builders and LG's are either confused or at loggerheads. Whilst seemingly simple on the surface it is overly onerous, ambiguous and unwieldy when you put it in to practice. The scope of affectation is just too potentially wide. Among other things for example, drainage flows are particularly hard to determine, especially sub-soil flows, that depend on where sand, clay and rock layers start and finish. Not to mention the Pandora's box of tree affectation nuttiness going on in NSW. I notice that the affectation is on, land, so are going to go down the path of someone not being able to build on their land because there are neighbours trees on either side boundary that have roots extending into the property 6.0 metres on either side and any work could affect the health of the trees? With the exception of major excavation/retaining where support of land is required to prevent collapse of adjoining land, this needs to be left to common law and/or there needs to be some specific dimensions, such as depth of excavation, or distance from boundary with advice to the applicant that even though they may be outside those distances this does not absolve them of their responsibilities. In addition, leaving it to common law or Building Permit Conditions of approval, means the Builder and Engineer can check things such as sub-soil drainage during excavation and take the appropriate action, otherwise every job will require full site testing for things that are generally unnecessary, such as hydrology reports before being approved.</li> </ul>
<p><b>BA017 Certificate of Construction compliance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– liability issues for LG's in signing off this form</li> <li>– Transitional arrangements have been messy- builders having to pay for Certificate of Construction Compliance /certifier which is an uncoded item</li> <li>– There is a bit of confusion of when for builders to submit the notice of completion. Do they hand it in to councils when they submit the form for certificate of construction compliance or do they submit it with the certificate of construction compliance when applying for an occupancy permit? This is because (from the builders end) sometimes the Building Surveyor comes with a list of things they want changed in order to get the Certificate of Construction Compliance so technically the builder has not completed the building until they get the Certificate of Construction Compliance.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lists of Plans on the Certificate of Design Compliance.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could this please be changed in the Regulations/Standard Certificate of Design Form?</li> <li>• While it seems like it is a good idea to list every plan, specification and technical document, in practice it is not</li> </ul>



Issue
<p>practical, is very likely to lead to errors and serves no real practical purpose. This was the experience in NSW. The reason it is not practical is that quite often plans or standard specifications have no plan numbers, so what do you list? You can list the date they were received but that does not particularly identify the plans. Also architects commonly do not alter or update the plan numbers when modifying or amending plans for approval. Listing these numbers on the CDC results in people, (particularly contractors), relying on the plan numbers listed on the CDC which can often be the previous unamended plans that they were given earlier for quotation, resulting in errors during construction. Errors are also likely to occur in transcription of plan numbers as the person drafting the approval reads them from the plans and types them onto the certificate, especially when large numbers of plans and specifications are involved on large expensive projects, where the CDC and Permit are more likely to be challenged. This can result in a legally invalid CDC and legally invalid Building Permit, whether challenged or not. Listing the plan numbers serves no real practical purpose. i.e. If a builder or architect produces a plan with the same date and number, through accident or on purpose, does this then mean it is the new approved plan?, How do you tell which is which? To circumvent these issues, all that is needed on the CDC is a reference to an approval number and stamp that is placed on the plans. Then is there is no room for error, the stamped plans are the approved certified plans. This is used by the ABSA Energy Efficiency certifiers for this reason.</p>
<p><b>Specification of Applicable Building Standards that relate to the approval.</b> Is this really necessary, since these should be listed on the copies of the plans or approvals that are part of or submitted with the CDC? This again can lead to errors and legal challenge or validity, because of a typo or inadvertently not listing something in this section.</p>
<p><b>The lack of information on the amended plans process prior to the issue of a building permit.</b> There is information on the process after a building permit is issued, but not prior to a permit being issued.</p>
<p>Changes to the uncertified application process, allowing concurrent assessments to occur</p>
<p>R-Codes variations, having to send the application back through planning for approval is adding to the time taken to assess an application.</p>
<p>LG's and potential conflict with giving "advice" to private certifiers</p>
<p>Under Part 8 of the Building Regulations 2012 Part 8 Division 2- Private Swimming Pools I have spoken to a few colleagues in Perth and they had not realised...where is the provision to infringe in relation to the inspection of the enclosure of a private swimming pool? Seems to have been left out. The only option is to prosecute for a maximum penalty of \$5000....NOT practical at all, especially out here in the country Shires!! Those colleagues have contacted members within the Building Commission, apparently this has been an oversight and is to be rectified, and the provision is to be included within the next couple of months</p>
<p>Can we get the Act altered so that local authorities can certify their own dunny blocks etc!!! Apparently this is an oversight and will be rectified. Just a few words in the appropriate clause exempting LA's from certifying buildings on land owned by them...simple</p>
<p>The proposed "avoidance of doubt provisions" the Commission is citing will come about via the urgent bill and amendments. Will industry actually be invited to comment? Perhaps this panel will be able to.</p>
<p><u>Finish of Walls</u> This really should be dealt with at Planning Approval stage, why do we need another level of assessment for this? Also, what is "not reasonably practicable to build a fence" with respect to a <i>Close Wall</i>? This is also ambiguous and just needs a dimension that can be used that covers most situations. Surely if a wall is going to be of concern it will be picked up by the R-codes or require Planning Approval where it can be assessed and negotiated, or will be under Dividing Fence legislation.</p>
<p><u>Terms Used</u> Could we get these put into the main dictionary, it makes it very hard and time consuming to filter through each section in the terms used to find definitions</p>
<p>Building permit pre-application checklists – useful addition to the process?</p>

The next few months will be very interesting for all concerned.

## Corporate Administration

### Executive Report CEO April/May 2012

Prepared by Sharon Daishe, Chief Executive Officer

#### Status and Activity Report – Priority Matters

Project/ Program	Status/ Comments	Activity this reporting period
MMG Golden Grove – Yalgoo Ninghan Road negotiations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negotiations in progress to determine amount of additional funding required from MMG.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MMG Golden Grove has been invoiced for \$56,000 of pre-seal pavement repair relating to damage following last year's rain.</li> <li>Golden Grove has been invoiced for three traffic counters.</li> <li>Greenfield's Technical solutions have updated the Road Network Strategy document following Golden Grove's comments.</li> </ul>
Morawa Super Town Project – Yalgoo Morawa Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business case submitted to RDL for approval to expend CLGF Regional 2011-12 on sealing</li> <li>President and CEO attended Morawa Supertown reference group meeting 18 April</li> </ul>
Ferrowest Option Deed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negotiations almost complete</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft Option Deed presented to May Council meeting</li> <li>Option Deed represented to May Council meeting following presentation by Brett Manning</li> <li>Council resolved at May meeting intention to dispose of land by way of Option Deed</li> <li>Advertised in accordance with legislation</li> </ul>
Human Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current vacancies:</li> <li>CYC (Community &amp; Youth Coordinator).</li> <li>Plant Operators x 2 (will recruit after housing is available and use casuals and contractors in the interim).</li> <li>Supervisor Parks, Gardens and General Maintenance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resignations – Supervisor Parks Gardens &amp; General Maintenance</li> <li>Advertisements – As above</li> <li>Interviews - NIL</li> <li>One probationary review (admin)</li> </ul>

Project/ Program	Status/ Comments	Activity this reporting period
Integrated Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Plan – consultant engaged &amp; project commenced</li> <li>Corporate Plan – consultant engaged (will occur post community plan)</li> <li>Asset Management – CEO seeking quotes</li> <li>Long Term Financial Plan – CEO seeking quotes</li> <li>Workforce Plan – consultant engaged &amp; project commenced</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Councillor workshop held</li> <li>Commenced preparation of workforce plan with consultant Marg Hemsley</li> <li>Applied for funding for youth friendly communities grant to consult with youth</li> </ul>
Yalgoo Community Hub	<p>Stage 1: Sporting Component</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ready to commence as soon as Financial Assistance Agreements are completed and signed by both parties (note this process can take up to 12 weeks and there are 3 to negotiate – CSRFF, CLGF and MWIP. MWIP cannot occur until final approval from RDL)</li> </ul> <p>Stage 2: Community and Youth Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to establish and estimated cost of construction in order to estimate the cost of the architects plans.</li> <li>No funding identified at this stage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSRFF funding agreement finalised</li> <li>Draft CLGF 2011-12 funding agreement provided to RDL</li> <li>Asked MWDC when MWIP funding agreement will be available – they replied that they do not know as the application is out of their hands awaiting final approval by cabinet</li> </ul>
Town Sewerage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MWDC/ RDL have given in principle support for the project pending full planning process</li> <li>Consultant engaged, planning element commenced</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Successfully applied for planning funds</li> <li>Engaged planning consultant (Porter Engineering)</li> </ul>
Digital TV Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opted in to transition to VAST (not convert existing rebroadcasting tower from analogue to digital).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
Mobile Telecommunications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yalgoo has been confirmed as a site that will receive a mobile tower under the Regional Mobile Telecommunications Project.</li> <li>Council has approved the television rebroadcasting site and Telstra will locate the mobile tower adjacent.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>

#### Use of Common Seal (delegation statement 2.1)

Date Affixed	By Authority	Document
1 May 2012	Council resolution Dec 2011	Country Local Government Fund 2010-11 Individual - Financial Assistance Agreement
28 May 2012	Council resolution C2011-0903	Country Local Government Fund 2011-12 Regional - Application

## Funding Applications (D)

Following is a list of funding applications that have been submitted. Items are removed from the list after the Shire has been advised whether the application was successful or unsuccessful.

This list does not include the Shire's recurrent government funding.

Note that where funding has been approved, it does not necessarily mean that the Shire has received the money. After the application has been approved, the Shire must enter into a Funding Agreement with the grant provider. Some programs remit funds when the agreement is signed but others do not remit until the Shire has completed the project, paid all the bills, prepared a claim, had an auditor audit the claim and then submitted the audited claim (the "acquittal") with an invoice to the grant provider.

Lodged	Amount	Funding Program	Purpose	Status
31/10/11	\$270,606 (or \$405,908) ex GST  Estimated total project cost is \$811,817 ex GST  Variety WA confirmed \$58,290 for playground infrastructure	*CSRFF – provides for funding of 1/3rd of project cost however Shire has also applied for development bonus which if approved, will give ½ of project cost.	Sporting components of Yalgoo Community Hub including Rage Cage, BMX track, Skate Park, refurbishment of tennis court and open sided cover.	Approved including development bonus \$405,908
06/02/11	\$50,000	Northern Planning – Expression of Interest (EOI).	Town site infrastructure plan – (underpins the Town Revitalisation project for drainage, sewerage, underground power)	Approved and funding agreement signed
14/12/11	\$421,211 or \$285,908 (depending on CSRRF)	Mid West Investment Plan	Yalgoo Community Hub – sporting component.	Business Case lodged - pending final approval by RDL.
14/12/11	\$663,000	Mid West Investment Plan	Town Revitalisation – draining & sewerage component.	Business Case lodged – will not be considered until planning process is complete
18/5/12	\$10,000	Youth Friendly communities Grant	To engage the youth of Yalgoo as part of the Community Strategic Plan	Submitted
12/5/12	\$100,000	T-Qual	Caravan Park	Submitted
May 2012	\$75,000	Mid West Community Foundation	Architectural design and detail drawings for Yalgoo Community Hub: Community & Youth Centre	Submitted

**General/Other/Meetings**

Item	Comment
UHY Haines Norton	Met with Mandy Wynne and Paul Breman – presentation of new financial report, staff mentoring and assistance DCEO and rates/payroll. Set up rate modelling for 2012/13.
Regional Road Group	Workshop & meeting Geraldton (President, Deputy, CEO)
Budget	Preparation of individual elements in accordance with Council policy
Interim Audit	
CLGF Individual	Prepared budget etc information for funding agreements (2) for 10-11 (finalised) and 11-12 (draft submitted to RDL for review) funds.
CLGF Regional	Lodged business case for Morawa Road.
WALGA Zone Meeting	Cue – President, Deputy President, CEO
Fire Control Officers Training	2 days Mt Magnet

**Planned for June 2012**

Item	Comment
Meet with Minister for Indigenous Affairs	President and CEO to discuss Yalgoo issues and needs
Emergency Management Forum	President and CEO WALGA state forum
Integrated Strategic Planning	Obtain quotes for long term financial plan and asset management
Budget	Forward Capital Works
Election 1 Sep 2012	Call for enrolment on electoral roll
Recruitment	Advertise for vacancies x 2
Workforce Plan	Meet with consultant
Bullying & Harassment Training	Consultant to provide training to all staff on site
Murchison Executive Group	Meeting Sandston

**Executive Report DCEO May 2012**

Prepared by Heather Boyd, Deputy Chief Executive Officer

**Status and Activity Report**

Project/ Program	Status/ Comments	Activity this reporting period
Community Crime and Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Application for extension requested to 31/12/12</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial survey of the lighting of public amenities has been conducted by Amlec House.</li> </ul>

**Capacity Building – Staff and Elected Members**

Policy Schedule 3.2(b), Councillors, requires the CEO to advise Council when the Shire funds councillors to attend any conference or training. This item further informs Council of courses, conferences, training, workshops and other professional development that staff and elected members have undertaken during the reporting period to build capacity to achieve the Council's goals and responsibilities.

Type	Description	Provider	Location	Duration	Participants
Conference	Emergency Management	WALGA	Perth	1 day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Terry Iturbide</li> <li>Sharon Daishe</li> </ul>
Training	Fire Control Officer	FESA	Mt Magnet	2 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sharon Daishe</li> <li>Heather Boyd</li> </ul>
Training	Vehicle Licensing	Dept of Planning	Geraldton	3 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diane Hodder</li> <li>Elisha Hodder</li> </ul>

**Vandalism Report**

Date	Details/ Action Taken
	NIL

**Councillor Information Requests**

Received From	Details	Status
Cnr L Terry	Budget item – for a weighing system for batching plant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This was included in the draft budget items presented to Council at the March meeting.</li> </ul>

**General/Other/Meetings**

Item	Comment

**Planned for Next Month**

Item	Comment
Budget	Continue with preparation of the 2012/13 budget.
End of Financial Year	Prepare accounts for end of financial year
Extra-ordinary-Election	Start preparation for the local government by-election

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# Barry Haase

Federal Member for Durack

## MEDIA RELEASE

27 May 2012

Mr Barry Haase, Federal Member for Durack, welcomed the news the decision to host the world's most powerful radio telescope had ended.

The project will be shared by Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

The Square Kilometre Array, or SKA, is a next-generation radio telescope and will be the largest and most capable radio telescope ever constructed.

Although Mr Haase believed Australia was the best site for the SKA project with the focus on the Murchison, he conceded it was perhaps a combination of political and financial viability that had resulted in the tie.

Mr Haase said "The development of the SKA in our Murchison region will be great for science and the Murchison. With a 50 plus year lifetime, the SKA will increase our understanding of the universe and will drive technological development worldwide. The construction and ongoing maintenance will see a boom in employment in the remote Murchison."

"Currently, the Murchison Shire is famous for being perhaps the only Shire in Australia with no gazetted townsite, instead home to 29 stations and a population of only around 160 people. With the approval of the Murchison site for part of the SKA project, the name Murchison will become synonymous world wide with science, technology and the answers to questions that have been unanswered since the beginning of time as we know it", said Mr Haase.

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# ASKAP Update

CSIRO Astronomy and Space Science

April 2012

The ASKAP Update is a regular series dedicated to conveying the latest news about the Australian SKA Pathfinder (ASKAP) project to international science and engineering communities. It is available online at [www.atnf.csiro.au/projects/askap](http://www.atnf.csiro.au/projects/askap).

## Infrastructure Construction Approaches Completion

Significant progress continues at the Murchison Radio-astronomy Observatory (MRO), home of ASKAP, with infrastructure construction approaching completion.

With 34 ASKAP antennas also now on site (the final two are due by early May 2012), the MRO has been a constant hive of activity.

High-speed internet connections now link the MRO Support Facility (MSF) in Geraldton with the MRO and iVEC's Pawsey Centre in Perth.

The optical fibre connection between Geraldton and the MRO (370 km) was installed by CSIRO as an integral part of MRO development, and the Geraldton–Perth (450 km) link is part of the National Broadband Network.

The link currently operates at 1 Gb/s, but will progressively increase during 2012 to 40 Gb/s.

Support infrastructure works at the MRO are approaching the final phases of commissioning and testing, and include the construction of 36 kilometres of access roads and tracks, power and data infrastructure, as well as a central Control Building and antenna foundations.

The Control Building houses the complex digital systems of ASKAP and other international projects at the MRO within two layers of welded steel shielding. This including the ASKAP beamformers and correlator, as well as termination points for approximately 7600 fibre links coming in from the ASKAP antennas, the Murchison Widefield Array and the link to Geraldton.

The Control Building will also act as a base for MRO support staff and visitors with office space, laboratories (electronics repair), an operations control room, a small mechanical workshop, stores and general amenities.

Designed to stringent requirements, the Control Building requires innovative energy efficiency solutions and building techniques to preserve the pristine radio-quiet environment of the MRO.

Final phases of the Control Building construction are now underway, and formal testing of various facility characteristics are required over the coming weeks before the official handover to CSIRO can take place.

**The 31st and 32nd sets of ASKAP antenna components arrive on road trains at the Murchison Radio-astronomy Observatory in Western Australia. The Control Building can be seen toward the upper middle of the photo.**

**Credit: Barry Turner, CSIRO.**



## The Path to ASKAP Commissioning

The substantial commissioning required to prepare BETA, and ultimately ASKAP, for scientific observation can be broken down into three partially overlapping phases:

1. **Engineering, Integration and Functionality:** the engineering and integration plan executed by the System Commissioning Team, SCOM-1, and driven by ASKAP's Systems Engineering, Integration and Commissioning (SEIC) project team.
2. **Science and User Readiness:** when BETA is capable of producing useful observations, commissioning will be executed by SCOM-2, the Science Commissioning Team, driven by ASKAP's Science and User Policy (SUP) team.
3. **SST-Specific Readiness:** once BETA is able to provide scientifically useful data, the ASKAP team will work closely with the ten ASKAP Survey Science Teams (SSTs) to test and debug BETA for science survey readiness.

## End-to-end Systems Tests with the First ASKAP PAF

The ASKAP Systems Commissioning and Computing teams have developed a software correlator able to process signals from multiple ASKAP antenna receivers in real-time.

This allows end-to-end system tests onsite with the first Phased Array Feed (PAF) receiver installed on an ASKAP antenna at the MRO.

The system uses 'raw data capture' from memory on beamformer cards, capable of handling data from 16 bands, each 1 MHz, spanning 300 MHz bandwidth to produce measurement sets just like a full correlator.

The interim measure is a vital diagnostic verification tool for full system implementation.

The first on-sky commissioning session in December 2011 achieved first fringes of Virgo A using an ASKAP PAF and a high performance L-band single pixel feed (SPF) receiver installed on ASKAP antennas at the MRO.

Using an RF-over-fibre (RFoF) link the team was able to capture baseband data from the two antennas simultaneously through the same beamformer, then able to verify fringes with the software correlator.

The test process was conceptually similar to that used at the Parkes Testbed Facility late last year – with

interferometry between the first full-sized PAF prototype installed on the 12-m testbed and the central horn of the multibeam receiver on CSIRO's Parkes 64-m 'Dish' telescope.

Now in 2012, the next step will be to install two additional PAFs forming a real-time three-baseline system.

The software correlator is crucial for the end-to-end system testing in this configuration.

Once PAFs are installed on six ASKAP antennas, the Commissioning Teams will use this engineering testbed known as BETA (Boolardy Engineering Test Array) to prepare for the full fit-out of the 36 antenna ASKAP radio telescope.

## New Commissioning Taskforce Guides SCOM-2

In parallel to Systems Engineering Commissioning, preparation for Science Commissioning activities (SCOM-2) is underway in 2012, driven by the ASKAP Science team with input from the Systems Commissioning and ASKAP Computing teams.

In March, a detailed Science Commissioning Plan was presented to an ASKAP Commissioning Taskforce, a team of senior CASS staff with decades of experience gained from commissioning CSIRO's Australia Telescope Compact Array as well as many other international facilities.

ASKAP's SCOM-2 team will draw on the deep experience within this Taskforce to guide ASKAP science commissioning activities and maximise the strategy for BETA science verification planning.

The eventual goal of the science commissioning team is to run full end-to-end tests of BETA as a software telescope in preparation for science observations.

To ensure that the scientific requirements of the instrument are met, the team will observe astronomical objects with available pre-existing data to make direct quantitative comparisons for all aspects of the data cubes.

Both Galactic and Extragalactic objects will be considered, to test instrument requirements including (among others) field of view sensitivity and stability, frequency response, imaging fidelity, calibration accuracy and dynamic range.

ASKAP antenna fibres prior to installation.

Credit: Department of Innovation, Industry, Science, Research and Tertiary Education.





Towards the end of the second phase, when BETA is at a point at which it is ready to perform scientifically useful observations on a 'shared risk' basis, the ASKAP team will work closely with the Survey Science Teams (SSTs) to ensure a science and user ready BETA instrument capable of accomplishing the Survey Science Projects themselves.

Planning is underway for 'Busy Weeks' in which SCOM-1, SCOM-2 and ASKAP Engineers (including the software and computing group) will work with the SSTs to test and debug BETA for science survey readiness.

These sessions will allow experience gathered during engineering verification activities to propagate through to the science commissioning phase.

## Next Six Configuration Proposed

Beyond BETA, an important science commissioning step is to determine a twelve-antenna configuration. Two possible configurations for the first 12 antennas have been proposed, based on various requirements of the SSTs.

The locations of the 36 actual antenna are of course already fixed at this point – the current configuration discussion focuses on the selection of which antennas will be fitted with the second set of six PAFs.

A configuration for BETA plus these additional six antennas offers some 600,000 possible options. Simulation tools have been developed to study the synthesised beam of an observation with any specified configuration, allowing investigations of sidelobe levels and exploration of how the beam changes with declinations, frequencies and observation time.

Though the configuration is not yet finalised, a distribution with the most uniform uv coverage has been proposed.

The Science team will work closely with the SSTs over the coming months to refine the configuration and to ensure the best possible science can be achieved with the 12 PAF array, while the remaining PAF systems are then installed.

## Data Challenge to Simulate BETA Data Flow

Having been accepted as 'early adopters' of the iVEC Pawsey Centre 'Epic' supercomputer, the Pawsey Centre 1A machine, ASKAP's Computing team have been using the system since July 2011 to test the processing pipeline software.

The team was granted one million CPU hours on Epic in the second half of 2011, and eight million CPU hours in the first half of 2012.

In preparation for BETA observations, the computing group is instituting a 'Data Challenge', a simulated BETA observation to test science processing code and simulate the flow of data from the BETA instrument (at the MRO) to the MRO Support Facility (Geraldton) and then to iVEC's Pawsey Centre (Perth) where it will pass through calibration, imaging and source finding software.

The Data Challenge aims to construct a data reduction pipeline capable of processing data from BETA.

It produces measurement sets and a sky model (derived from a model sky based on that used for the large science simulations generated in 2011).

It then runs the calibration and imaging pipeline, and performs source finding and quality measurements.

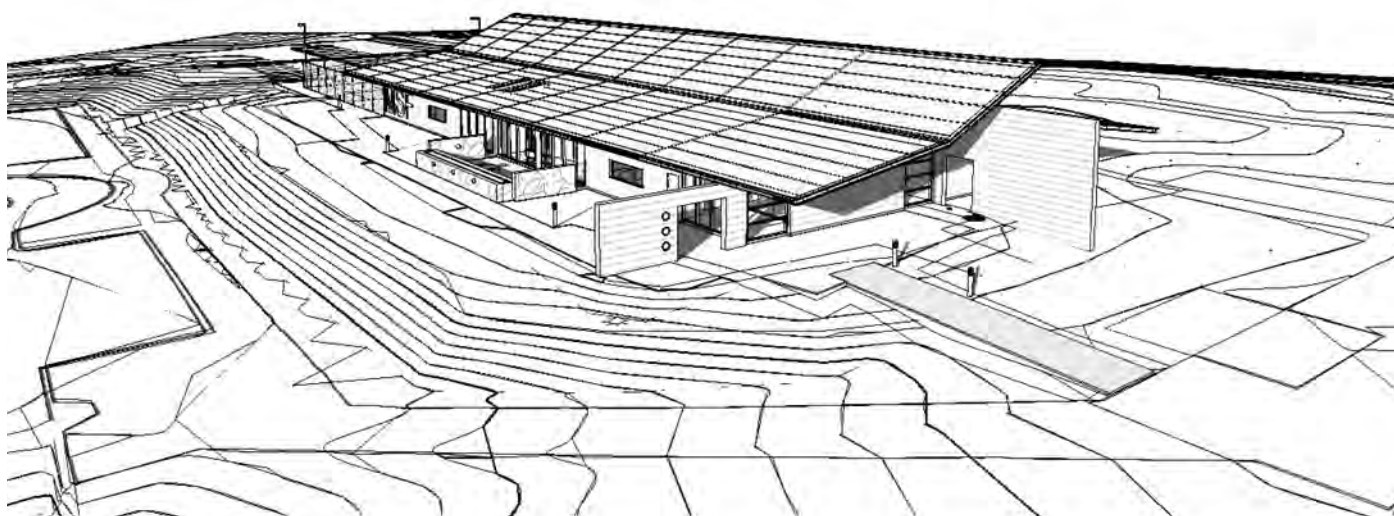
It will be used to drive improvements in the imaging software, in particular to test reliability, robustness and track performance improvements as they are introduced.

Ultimately, when BETA is ready for observing, the experience and developments from the Data Challenge will allow a smooth switch-over to the processing of real BETA data.



**ASKAP Antenna 3 was the first to be installed with a Phased Array Feed (PAF) receiver.**

**Credit: Barry Turner, CSIRO.**



## NORTH-NORTH WEST VIEW

SCALE

Construction of the MRO Support Facility (MSF) began earlier in 2012. The MSF will be located within the Geraldton University Centre in Geraldton and provide remote operations services for CSIRO's ASKAP telescope and other projects under construction at the MRO.

It will also feature a dedicated room for Geraldton-based researchers who have been awarded computing time on iVEC's Pawsey Centre supercomputers. Completion of the Support Facility is expected before year's end.

Credit: (Photos) Priscilla Clayton and Gemma Whiting, CSIRO. (Building Diagram) CSIRO.

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### For further information

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7 May 2012

Shire President  
Cr Terry Iturbide  
Yalgoo Shire Council  
P O BOX 40  
YALGOO WA 6635

Dear Cr Iturbide,

**RE: April 2012 Update – Activities at the Murchison Radio-astronomy Observatory (MRO)**

**Developments at the MRO**

**Cyclone Lua**

Considerable effort was made to ensure objects at the MRO were secured and or safely stowed away in preparation for Cyclone Lua. Although some strong winds were experienced, there was only light rainfall at the MRO and no damage was sustained.

**ASKAP Antennas**

All 36 antennas are now on site at the MRO either assembled or in assembly. This is a major milestone for the project. All 36 antennas are scheduled for completion by mid 2012.

More recently, we have been fitting the ASKAP antennas with numbers for easy identification. It is CSIRO's intention to have most of the infrastructure at the MRO given local names. The numbers are an interim measure to ensure easy identification.



*(Photo Credit: Ross Forsyth CSIRO)*



**Fibre-Optic Connection**

Construction of the Geraldton to MRO optic-fibre is now complete and a temporary agreement between AARNet and Nextgen is providing further network access from Geraldton to Perth. The optic-fibre link also includes provision of access to high-bandwidth for the City of Greater Geraldton's facilities in Mullewa and the Geraldton Airport. Once the permanent agreement between AARNet, Nextgen and a number of other agencies has been finalised, work can proceed on the provision of high-bandwidth capacity (NBN) between Geraldton and Perth that will carry ASKAP (and Murchison Widefield Array - MWA) science data. This increased high-bandwidth capacity is expected to be up and running in August 2012.

The Geraldton – Perth fibre link enables fast connection to the MRO from anywhere with high speed net access. It is interesting to note that the ASKAP antennas at the MRO can now be fully controlled and monitored from Marsfield.



*Zebra finches watch the activity at the MRO.  
Photo Credit: Ross Forsyth (CSIRO)*

**MRO Central Control Building**

Construction of the MRO infrastructure is now practically complete and McConnell Dowell (contractor) is in the process of demobilising their accommodation precinct and site offices. The final phase is the commissioning, testing and handover, which is progressing well.



*Photo of the new MRO Control Building taken  
March 2012.  
(Photo Credit: Barry Turner CSIRO)*

**Murchison Radioastronomy Observatory Support Facility (MSF) Geraldton**

Building of the MSF is progressing well. The MSF is located at the Geraldton Universities Centre, Onslow Street Geraldton. The building will be 800sqm, consisting of 12-15 offices for CSIRO staff and visitors. In addition the MSF will house the operations control room, an electronics repair laboratory and small mechanical workshop. The MSF building is sited at the termination point for the optic fibre link from the MRO to Geraldton and the NBN connection to the Pawsey Centre in Perth. Occupancy of the MSF is expected in December 2012.

**Murchison Shire Council Meeting – Thursday 15 March 2012**

Barry Turner (MRO Site Manager) and I attended the Murchison Shire Council meeting on 15 March 2012 to provide an update on ASKAP and discuss issues of interests to both groups.

**Murchison Astrofest 2012**

Priscilla Clayton and members of the Murchison Astrofest Committee met on 04/04/2012 at the Murchison Shire Offices to discuss the Astrofest. Since then, the group has decided to hold the event bi-annually. As such there will not be a Murchison Astrofest this year, instead it will be held in 2013.

**Visitors at the MRO – April 2012**

We have had several important visitors at MRO with the most recent being a high ranking Chinese delegation.

**SKA Site Bid****SKA Members meet to decide Site Selection (04/04/2012)**

<http://www.skatelescope.org/news/ska-members-meet-discuss-site-selection/>

**ANZSKA Newsletter**

The latest anzSKA Newsletter can be found at:

[http://www.ska.gov.au/media/newsletter/Documents/anzSKA\\_34\\_lr.pdf](http://www.ska.gov.au/media/newsletter/Documents/anzSKA_34_lr.pdf)

Please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 9372-4101 or [Antony.schinckel@csiro.au](mailto:Antony.schinckel@csiro.au), Priscilla Clayton (08) 9923-7755 or Barry Turner on (08) 9923-7750 or 0400 192 519 in Geraldton if you have any questions.

Yours Sincerely



Ant Schinckel  
ASKAP Theme Leader and Director  
CSIRO Astronomy & Space Science



14 May 2012

## ASX Announcement **DRILLING PROGRAMME COMPLETE**

The Company is pleased to advise that the current round of haematite exploration drilling was completed on the weekend. A total of 2,629m of drilling was undertaken across 48 holes. The first two thirds of the samples have already been dispatched to the laboratory for assaying and the balance of the samples should be processed and lodged for testing by the end of the week.

Recently appointed Chairman of Ferrowest Limited, Mr Bryan Hughes got the opportunity to tour Yogi during the haematite exploration drilling. He was joined by TFA International's new General Manager, Mr Robert Sun, who was also visiting Yogi for the first time.



Haematite RC sample splitting at Yogi



Discussing diamond core drilling previously completed at Yogi



L to R: FWL Chairman Bryan Hughes, FWL MD Brett Manning, TFA General Manager Robert Sun, FWL Environment Manager, Renee Zuks

For further information please contact: Brett Manning – Managing Director +61 8 9277 2600

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28 May, 2012

# ASX Announcement

## GENERAL UPDATE

### Investment Agreement with the Taifeng Group

The Chinese Government approval process for the Investment Agreement with TFA International Pty Ltd ("Taifeng"), the Australian subsidiary of the Sichuan Taifeng Group of China, is reaching its final stages and the Company has been providing some further information requested by the Chinese Commerce Department.

Once granted, Taifeng will subscribe for the second tranche of equity (a further \$2M at 20 cents per share) and will provide the first of the \$20M in project funding.

### Final Magnetite Drilling Results from the SAM In-fill Drilling Programme

The last of the assays, for hole YORC-137 has been received from the 12 RC SAM In-fill Programme conducted in February and March 2012. All the results are generally consistent with the current Inferred Resource block model at SAM. The average grade at Yogi is 27.5%Fe and YORC-137 exceeds this expectation. The average values of the major drilling intercepts are provided below.

Hole	Intersections Grade +23%Fe			% Fe	% SiO <sub>2</sub>	% Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	% P	% LOI <sub>100</sub>
	From	To	Length					
YORC 137	113	119	6					
(479461mE)	120	130	10					
(6878183mN)	150	171	21					
	188	290	102					
			<u>139m</u>	28.23	48.68	4.59	0.06	-0.86

### Ferrowest Sponsors Educational Programme in the Murchison

Ferrowest has joined forces with Crosslands Resources, Oakajee Port and Rail, Sinosteel Midwest Corporation and Padbury Mining to sponsor an important educational initiative in the Mid West Region in support of the Murchison cluster of schools including:

Yalgoo Primary School                      Sandstone Primary School                      Meekatharra District School  
 Mount Magnet District High School                      Mullewa District High School                      Cue Primary School  
 Pia Wajarri Remote Community                      Yulga Jinna Remote Community



The sponsorship will support two important initiatives, being:

- Protective Behaviours instruction for the children of the Murchison Schools; and
- Special training for the Principals of the Murchison Schools to support and train teachers across the Murchison, many of whom are at an early stage in their teaching careers.

By combining the resources of the participating companies, a material contribution could be made to this very worthy cause.



Ferrowest Managing Director, Brett Manning providing the sponsorship to Cue School Principal, Liz Tuckey (as representative of the Murchison cluster of Schools) during a recent visit



**Cabinet Secretary**  
**Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency**  
**Parliamentary Secretary for Industry and Innovation**

Ms Sharon Daishe  
 Chief Executive Officer  
 Shire of Yalgoo  
 PO Box 40  
 YALGOO WA 6635

Date received 16/5/2012

Council Meeting	File Ref: Environment new - carbon Pricing
CLOSED	SIDE
PUBLIC	INFO 16/5/12
11.1. Works	11.3. Finance
11.2. Dev	11.4. Admin
COPY TO or CIRCULATE:	
✓ CEO	EA/PA
DC/EO	
Pres Exec	President
Pres	Councillors

Dear Ms Daishe

I am writing to update you on what the Australian Government is doing to help local councils take advantage of opportunities in the Clean Energy Future Plan and prepare for the implementation of the carbon pricing mechanism.

Over the past few months I have led an engagement effort with representatives from the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency to inform councils about the carbon price and opportunities available through the Clean Energy Future Plan. We have held roundtable sessions with councillors, mayors and local council staff in state capitals or regional centres in Western Australia, Queensland, Tasmania, New South Wales, Victoria and the Northern Territory. A roundtable session is planned for South Australia soon.

The Australian Government will continue to provide support to local governments including outreach and information activities, and guidance about compliance obligations, particularly in regard to landfill.

The Clean Energy Regulator (CER), established on 2 April 2012, will administer the carbon pricing mechanism. The CER has also been delivering a number of general information sessions in capital cities around Australia attended by local councils and have provided detailed information about landfill waste issues. The CER will be running further technical workshops on waste as part of its program of training and outreach for local governments that may have carbon price obligations.

Reporting under the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting System (NGERS) is the basis for carbon price liability under the carbon pricing mechanism. Local governments with a liability will report their emissions under NGERS. Some local governments are familiar with NGERS as they have already chosen to report.

Some local councils will be unsure of whether they have a carbon price liability. As a general rule of thumb, councils that service population centres with 20,000 people or more and operate landfill facilities should consider whether they will be liable for emissions from landfill waste under the carbon pricing mechanism. Landfill facilities will be liable if they emit 25,000 tonnes or more of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>-e) greenhouse gas emissions each year from waste deposited after 1 July 2012.

If your council operates such a landfill facility and believes that it would be liable, or if you want to find out more about whether the carbon pricing mechanism applies to your council or

how to report through NGERs, you can contact the Clean Energy Regulator on 1300 553 542 or email at [enquiries@cleanenergyregulator.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@cleanenergyregulator.gov.au). If you have further questions or wish to register for training or workshops please contact Stephen Bygrave on (02) 6159 3677.

From my discussions with local council representatives and letters and emails I have received, I understand that there is broad support for the principle of reducing carbon pollution but that there is also some concern about the possible financial impacts of achieving this through the carbon pricing mechanism, particularly relating to landfill facilities and energy costs.

The Government has listened to these concerns and taken a number of steps to help local councils understand their obligations, the opportunities available to them and how they can manage the transition to a clean energy future. I want to take this opportunity to explain some of the key elements of the carbon pricing mechanism and, in doing so, clear up some of the misconceptions that may have arisen.

### *Landfill facilities*

Only landfills with more than 25,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-e emissions will be covered. There will be no carbon price liability for landfill facilities with emissions of less than 25,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-e of carbon pollution a year for at least the first three years of the carbon price.

There are a range of activities that could substantially reduce landfill emissions, including capturing landfill gas to flare or generate electricity and diverting waste from landfill to recycling and composting facilities. In many cases these activities can reduce landfill emissions below 25,000 tonnes.

The Government does not believe it is fair to ask ratepayers to pay for emissions from waste deposited over previous decades (known as legacy waste). For this reason, coverage of landfill emissions will be limited to emissions from new waste that is deposited on or after 1 July 2012.

### *Price setting to meet carbon pricing liabilities*

I am concerned to hear about some of the higher prices being suggested in the market at the moment. To arrive at these prices, a landfill operator would need to be making assumptions about emissions reduction opportunities and risks of future carbon price increases that many commentators would regard as unrealistic.

Such estimates may not account for opportunities under the carbon price mechanism to buy credits at the time the waste is deposited and acquit these immediately or bank them for later use. This would remove the risk of future price increases. Further, such estimates do not appear to account for opportunities to capture and flare landfill gas.

I encourage local councils to question whether such assumptions are reasonable. I also urge landfill operators to ensure that their price setting processes are robust and that any claims they make about pricing are not misleading. I'd also encourage their customers to challenge proposed prices that seem too high or which appear to be based on assumptions which don't seem realistic.

If local councils have concerns about the claims being made about prices or that they are being forced to accept terms which are unconscionable, then they can raise these concerns

### *Opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions*

Local councils and landfill operators have opportunities to reduce their landfill emissions through the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI). The CFI provides an opportunity for landfill facilities to generate credits by reducing legacy waste emissions beyond regulatory requirements. CFI credits can be sold to companies with a carbon price liability or used by a landfill facility to offset its own carbon price obligations. Councils and landfill operators can participate in the CFI whether or not the landfill will be liable under the carbon pricing mechanism.

Landfill facilities will be able to use CFI credits to meet 100 per cent of their carbon price obligations. The waste sector could generate enough CFI credits to meet the sector's entire carbon price liability in the period to 2020.

### *Electricity costs*

Some local councils have expressed concern about the pass through impact of the carbon price on their electricity costs.

Across Australia, the carbon price is expected to increase household electricity prices by 10 per cent in 2012-13, or around \$3.30 per week on average. The Government is providing households with assistance of \$10.10 a week, on average. Nine out of 10 households will receive assistance through the tax welfare system. Simple energy efficiency measures will also leave more money in householders' pockets.

To encourage local governments to take up energy efficiency opportunities, the Australian Government has established the \$200 million Community Energy Efficiency Program (CEEP) to work with council and community organisations to implement energy efficiency measures across diverse local communities. Local councils and community organisations can access grants of up to \$5 million to support the implementation of energy efficiency upgrades and retrofits to council and community-use buildings, facilities and lighting.

Applications for round one of CEEP are currently being assessed and I hope to announce successful grant recipients soon. Information about future funding rounds will be made available on the Department's website at [www.climatechange.gov.au/ceep](http://www.climatechange.gov.au/ceep).

### *Construction and fuel costs*

The Government recognises that many local councils play a major role in the construction and maintenance of roads and other infrastructure. The impact of the carbon price on construction and fuel costs is projected to be modest.

Treasury modelling shows that the impact of the carbon price on the construction sector as a whole will be less than 1 per cent in the first year. Most infrastructure construction inputs will not be impacted by a carbon price. Labour, sand and equipment depreciation will face no direct cost.

Other inputs used in road and rail construction (cement, asphalt and steel) are emissions-intensive and trade-exposed. The Government's Jobs and Competitiveness Program provides trade-exposed industries with free permits to meet their carbon price obligations. Assistance rates are 94.5 per cent for the most emissions-intensive, trade-exposed activities and 66 per cent for the remainder. This means that there should be only very minimal pass through of carbon price impacts on these construction inputs.

The carbon price will not apply to fuel used by light vehicles. Heavy on-road transport will not be covered until 1 July 2014. An effective carbon price will apply to off-road fuel use from 1 July 2012 through a reduction in fuel tax credits (6.21 cents per litre for diesel). However, the combined effect of other planned changes to fuel tax credits and the effective carbon price means that the fuel tax rate for off-road diesel use (for road construction and maintenance) will fall by around 13 cents per litre on 1 July 2012.

The Australian Government will also continue to provide ongoing financial support to local governments through Financial Assistance Grants. These grants include automatic indexation, so any increased costs that flow from the introduction of a carbon price will be captured in the indexation of funding for local governments.

I have asked the Department to provide local councils with ongoing assistance and information regarding the carbon pricing mechanism, the CFI and related initiatives.

If you have any questions about the carbon pricing mechanism and opportunities available through the CFI or other Government climate change measures, please contact Anthony Bennie by phone on (02) 6159 7906 or email [Anthony.Bennie@climatechange.gov.au](mailto:Anthony.Bennie@climatechange.gov.au).

I look forward to working with you as the Clean Energy Future plan takes effect.

Yours sincerely



**MARK DREYFUS QC M**



Australian Government

**cleanenergyfuture**

## FACT SHEET

# Carbon price opportunities and obligations for landfill managers

Under the Government's Clean Energy Future plan, a number of landfill facilities may have obligations under the carbon pricing mechanism from 1 July 2012, creating an incentive and opportunities for them to reduce emissions from landfill. This fact sheet provides information to local councils and landfill operators on the steps they should take to:

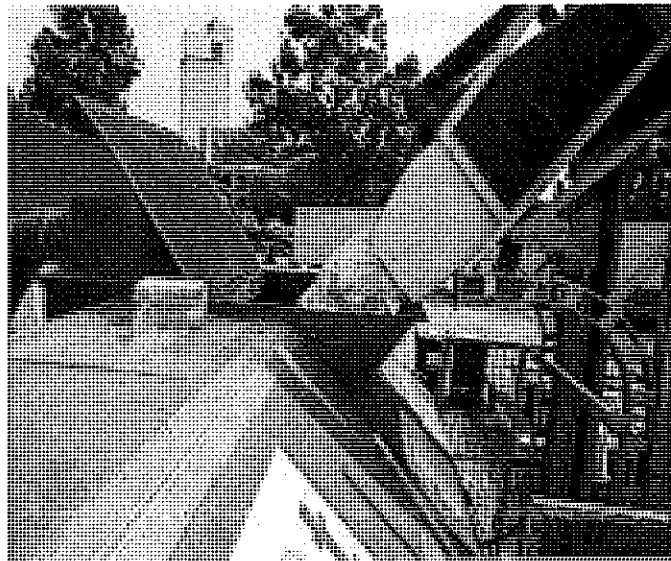
- determine whether they are liable under the carbon pricing mechanism
- explore options for reducing or avoiding liability through activities that reduce emissions
- estimate the true cost impacts of a carbon price on waste charges.

### Step 1: Determine whether your landfill could be liable under the carbon price

Landfill facilities that emit 25,000 tonnes or more of carbon dioxide equivalent greenhouse gas emissions each year are liable under the scheme.

The carbon price will not apply to emissions from waste deposited prior to 1 July 2012 (known as legacy waste emissions), but legacy waste emissions do count towards determining whether a facility meets the participation threshold.

As a rule of thumb, a tonne of mixed waste deposited in landfill will emit approximately one tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent over many decades, peaking within the first few years after being deposited. However, there are opportunities to substantially reduce emissions from landfill.



### How high are your emissions?

Does my landfill facility emit 25,000 tonnes or more of carbon dioxide equivalent greenhouse gas emissions each year?

- Councils that serve population centres with 20,000 people or more and operate landfill facilities should consider whether they will be liable for emissions from landfill waste under the carbon pricing mechanism.
- However, for any given population, actual emissions will vary greatly based on a range of factors, such as the volume of waste deposited, the organic content of that waste and its rate of decay. For these reasons, many landfills serving population centres with more than 20,000 people will not be liable under the scheme.



## How much waste is received each year?

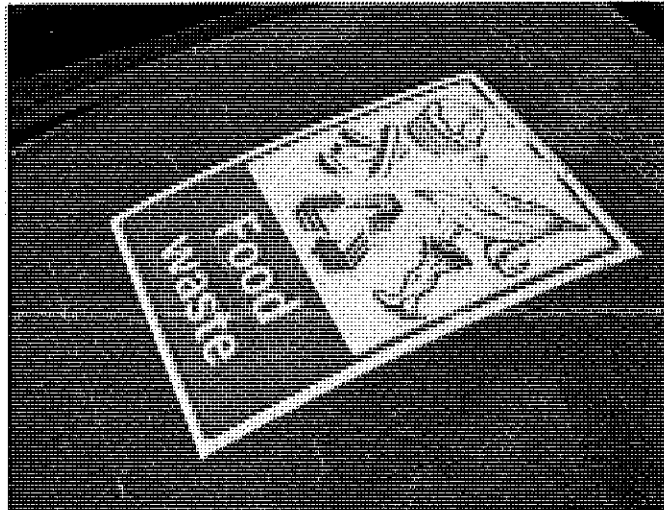
Waste is received from a variety of sources, including households, commercial and industrial sites. Rates of recycling and waste diversion differ greatly among councils.

- Recycling efforts and waste diversion to composting and other alternative waste treatment facilities can significantly reduce emissions at landfill, in many cases by 30 per cent or more.

## How much landfill gas is captured and removed from the site?

Landfill gas capture is commonplace at major landfill sites across Australia, and is becoming increasingly economic at smaller sites. In many cases, the captured landfill gas is used as a resource to generate electricity.

- Landfill gas capture can reduce emissions substantially, with average capture rates around 50 per cent and best practice around 75 per cent.



## Where is your landfill located?

Is the landfill facility located in a dry, cold area?

- Organic materials decay more slowly in cold and dry climates. In the early years, your emissions could be significantly lower than those from landfills of equal size but located in hotter, wetter climates.

## Follow the rules for measuring and reporting emissions from waste

The National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting System (NGERS) sets out the rules – known as a Measurement Determination – for calculating your waste emissions. The solid waste calculator provided on the Clean Energy Regulator's website, uses these rules to help landfill operators calculate their waste emissions and assess their carbon price liability. Under these rules, there are no reportable emissions in the year the waste is deposited. If your facility is above the threshold, you will only begin paying the carbon price on waste deposited in 2012-13 from June 2014.

Further information about carbon price liability for landfill facilities and the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting System is available from the Clean Energy Regulator.

## Step 2: If your landfill is liable, explore options to reduce or avoid cost impacts

There are a range of things you should consider when assessing the impacts of the carbon price on a landfill facility. It would be prudent to seek independent expert advice, rather than simply relying on estimates provided by suppliers, contractors and others.

Consider your options for reducing the extent of your liability before calculating your actual cost impacts. You may be able to reduce some or even all of your carbon price liability, including by taking advantage of Government incentives to support Australia's transition to a Clean Energy Future.

## Reducing your carbon liability directly

Do you currently have, or could you put in place, systems to reduce carbon emissions by capturing landfill gas to generate electricity, flaring methane, waste diversion, recycling and composting?

- By reducing emissions, you can significantly reduce any carbon price liability you may have, and may even be able to bring a medium-size landfill below the 25,000 tonne threshold, eliminating the carbon price liability altogether.



## Offsetting your carbon liability using carbon credits

You can offset your liability by reducing emissions from waste that has already been deposited (legacy waste) or through other land sector emissions abatement activities. Using the Australian Government's Carbon Farming Initiative, it may be possible to generate enough credits to offset your carbon price liabilities for many years to come. Carbon credits can also be sold to other entities wanting to offset their emissions, generating income for councils.

## Generating Renewable Energy Certificates through the Renewable Energy Target (RET) scheme

Landfill operators could capture methane and use it to produce electricity, which is eligible for tradeable renewable energy certificates.

To find out more, see our fact sheets on [Emissions from landfill facilities](#) and [CFI Handbook](#). Information about the CFI and RET is also available from the [Clean Energy Regulator](#).

## Step 3: Estimate the true cost impacts of a carbon price on waste charges

Having explored all options for reducing your liability under the carbon price, there are a number of key factors to consider in estimating your remaining liability under the carbon price and deciding on how much of this and at what point in time you might pass this onto customers.

## You have options when meeting your carbon price liability

The carbon pricing mechanism has been designed to provide liable entities with flexibility, so they can meet their obligations at the lowest possible cost.

You can use carbon units issued under the carbon pricing mechanism or Carbon Farming Initiative carbon credits, also known as Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs), or certain eligible international emissions units to meet carbon price liabilities.

- You can acquire carbon units in the relevant compliance year to meet carbon price liabilities during the fixed price period (1 July 2012 to 30 June 2015). These units cannot be banked for future use.
- You can acquire ACCUs and international units now. The Government will also auction carbon units under the carbon price mechanism before the start of the flexible price period (from 1 July 2015). None of these units have a 'use by' date – they can be banked.

## You should take care when estimating future carbon price liabilities

Having estimated the lifetime carbon liability associated with a tonne of waste, you could charge for this up front, invest the money and then purchase credits in future, as your liabilities fall due.

If you choose to do this you should consider the following:

- It can be difficult to predict the price of carbon units into the future. If there are changes in the carbon price, you may find that you have charged more than necessary and set aside too much, or that you have not set enough aside to cover your future carbon liabilities. In either case, you may need to revise your future waste charges.
- If you decide to charge up front to cover long-term liabilities, you should account for the expected returns you will receive from investing this money when determining how much to charge customers.
- You should take into account the likelihood that gas capture equipment is or will be cost-effective for your landfill facility at the projected carbon price, if you are considering charging up front for all carbon price liabilities.

Alternatively, you could purchase carbon credits immediately and bank them for later use. This removes the risk of changes in the expected future carbon price.

You could also choose to adjust waste levies over time to cover the cost of carbon liabilities as they fall due. If you choose to do this, you should consider how you would manage future liabilities once the facility closes and you can no longer collect gate fees.

Any pricing strategy should take account of the opportunities to reduce emissions and offset carbon costs outlined above.

### **Consider your legal obligations when talking about carbon price impacts**

The Australian Government does not prescribe the price landfills and councils charge their customers. However, the Australian Consumer Law protects customers from false, misleading and deceptive representations that may be made in the course of business. This means that claims of price increases attributed to the carbon price must be truthful and accurate.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has developed [a guide to help businesses](#) understand their responsibilities when making claims about the impact of a carbon price. It focuses on prohibitions against misleading, deceptive or false claims under the [Australian Consumer Law](#).

### **Further information**

For further information on the carbon pricing mechanism, NGERS, the CFI and the RET:  
visit [www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au](http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au) or [www.climatechange.gov.au/cfi](http://www.climatechange.gov.au/cfi)  
call 1300 553 542 or email [enquiries@cleanenergyregulator.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@cleanenergyregulator.gov.au)

For further information about Australia's Clean Energy Future:  
visit [www.cleanenergyfuture.gov.au](http://www.cleanenergyfuture.gov.au) or call 1800 057 590

### **Note**

This fact sheet is provided for general guidance only and reflects laws current at the time of publication. It is not a substitute for independent advice reflecting the particular circumstances of a landfill facility. In publishing this fact sheet the Australian Government is not providing legal or financial advice, and it expressly disclaims liability for any person's loss arising directly or indirectly from the use of, inferences drawn, deductions made, or acts purported to have been done in reliance on, this fact sheet.



Issue # 18 02 April

# Councillor Direct

[WALGA Website](#)
[Events](#)
[President's Column](#)
[Training](#)
[Media Releases](#)

Welcome to WALGA's Councillor Direct Weekly Newsletter for Elected Members for Wednesday, 02 May. A weekly summary of the major business dealings and member benefits as well as links to current publications and items of interest for Councillors.

## This Week's Headlines

- Local Government Finance Regulations—Reduction in Interest Rates
- Crime Grants Applications Open
- Professional Development Opportunities

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE REGULATIONS - REDUCTION IN INTEREST RATES

WALGA has been strongly advocating for a review of the recent amendment to the Financial Management Regulations relating to reducing the interest rate for late payments and the instalment rate.

WALGA President Troy Pickard together with Senior Staff recently met with the Minister for Local Government and presented evidence on the financial impact that the recent amendments will have on Local Governments. An analysis of the sector has demonstrated a significant cash flow impact for Councils.

WALGA has requested the previous interest rates to be re-instated.

The Minister received the information and advised that he would consider our request and respond in the near future.

For further information please contact Executive Manager Governance and Strategy, Tony Brown on 9213 2051 or email [tbrown@walga.asn.au](mailto:tbrown@walga.asn.au)

## CRIME GRANTS APPLICATIONS OPEN

Attorney General Christian Porter today launched the latest round of the Confiscation Grants program, which allows Local Governments and non-profit community groups to apply for grants of up to \$200,000.

Mr Porter said the program, administered by the Department of the Attorney General, allocated the grants from a pool of funds seized under the State's tough proceeds of crime laws.

The Attorney General said the grants would fund projects designed to prevent or reduce drug-related crime and drug abuse, support crime victims or to aid law enforcement.

"The grants are released to the successful applicants once they have met certain pre-conditions, including contributing in-kind support to the project they are going to run," he said.

Criminals' money and property can be seized by the WA Police and the Director of Public Prosecutions under the Criminal Property Confiscation Act 2000.

A total of \$2million has been made available in this latest round of the program. The closing date for applications is Friday, **29 June** at 5pm. All applicants are encouraged to discuss their proposed project with the department's grants administrator on 9264 1206 (country callers 1800 994 400)

Further information about the program, including guidelines and an application form, is available at <http://www.dotag.wa.gov.au>

View the current  
Issues Online

## LG News

### Western Councillor

For further information please contact Acting Chief Executive Officer, Wayne Scheggia on 9213 2000 or email [wscheggia@walga.asn.au](mailto:wscheggia@walga.asn.au)

To Unsubscribe to the Councillor Direct Weekly Newsletter please [click here](#).

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### Change Management – Tuesday, 15 May

Change Management includes planning for and initiating organisational change. It stresses the leadership role of the Council in sponsoring change and recognises that there is a need for the Council and the CEO to work together to achieve significant change.

The Council must introduce change using its legislated role and act within jurisdiction at all times. Relevant sections of the *Local Government Act 1995* are explained so that Elected Members have a sound basis to choose the right option for guiding the organisation and the community through change.

These options range from a formalised Change Plan, adoption of policies, using committees, choosing resourcing options and/or setting objectives using provisions in the CEO's employment contract.

### Policy Development – Wednesday, 16 May

Policy Development outlines the process for effective policy development needed by Elected Members to perform their role in Local Government.

Being in public life places obligations on Elected Members to understand the wider issues associated with their role so that they meet community expectations whilst operating within legislative and regulatory constraints.

Major issues impacting on policy are analysed and interpreted and integrated through the development phase.

To access a full course flyer just click the 'training' tab at the top of this flyer or contact [training@walga.asn.au](mailto:training@walga.asn.au)



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Local Government**

Our Ref: 323-10#02 E1214469

TO ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

CIRCULAR N<sup>o</sup> 12-2012

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT ACT 2012 – STAGE 2**

As you would be aware, the *Local Government Amendment Act 2012* ("Amendment Act") is to be phased in over three stages. Stage 1 came into operation on 21 April 2012, as outlined in Departmental Circular 07-2012, which is available on the Department's website [www.dlg.wa.gov.au](http://www.dlg.wa.gov.au).

The following Stage 2 provisions of the Amendment Act have been proclaimed to come into effect on 1 July 2012:

**Chief Executive Officer remuneration to be in compliance with Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Determinations**

Stage 2 will now bring into effect section 13 of the Amendment Act which provides that Chief Executive Officer (CEO) remuneration must comply with determinations set by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal ("Tribunal").

As part of Stage 1, section 38 of the Amendment Act came into effect to provide the *Salaries and Allowances Act 1975* with the power to make binding determinations on local government CEO remuneration. It is expected that the Tribunal will publish its first report on this new responsibility in June 2012.

Transitional provisions have been included within the Amendment Act to cater for existing and advertised CEO contracts of employment. In particular, transitional provisions provide that from 1 July 2012:

- (i) CEOs with existing contracts of employment entered into prior to 19 October 2011 which have a remuneration currently over the recommended remuneration bands set by the Tribunal will not be required to comply with the new requirements for the length of their employment with their current employer;
- (ii) all other existing CEO contracts of employment (including those entered into after 19 October 2011 and acting arrangements) will be able to be fulfilled before having to comply with the new requirements. After this point the entering into or renewing of a contract of employment (including acting contracts) will need to comply with the new requirements; and

- (iii) the new provisions will not apply where a CEO position to which the contract relates has already been advertised prior to the new sections coming into operation. In these circumstances the position may be filled at the advertised remuneration, however once that contract is fulfilled the entering into or renewing of a new contract of employment will need to comply with the Tribunal's determinations.

**Rebates for underground power charges to be available to pensioners and eligible seniors**

Part 3 of the Amendment Act provides for consequential amendments to the *Rates and Charges (Rebates and Deferments) Act 1992* to allow pensioners and eligible seniors to receive rebates on underground electricity service charges made under section 6.38 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

The commencement of Part 3 will come into effect on 1 July 2012, the same day as the annual amendments to rebate limits in the *Rates and Charges (Rebates and Deferments) Regulations 1992*.



Jennifer Mathews  
DIRECTOR GENERAL

6 June 2012



## **Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests**

Our Ref: 6-12 E1212472

TO ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

CIRCULAR N<sup>o</sup> 02-2012

### **UPDATE ON THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2012**

The *Local Government (Financial Management) Amendment Regulations 2012* enables local governments to impose interest rates and administration charges in the following areas:

- when ratepayers choose to pay rates by instalments; and
- where rates or other service charge and fees are overdue.

The interest rates payable by ratepayers on instalment payments and on overdue rates and service charges has remained unchanged since 1999 when the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) cash rate was five per cent.

The RBA cash rate in May 2012 is 3.75 per cent and is implied to fall to three per cent by December 2012.

I considered the current interest rate charge too high and moved to reduce the limits to from 5.5 per cent to two per cent and from 11 per cent to seven per cent respectively.

That decision was met with concerns from the sector with potential impact on cash flow and a general view many would increase rates to counter that reduction.

The Regulation providing for administration charges is quite specific in that the charge must be based on cost recovery not as a revenue raising exercise.

A sample of 25 local governments selected by my Department of Local Government indicates these charges range from \$9 to \$54 per annum.

The range in the sample of metropolitan local governments was \$15 to \$54; several were in the \$30 - \$36 range.



- 2 -

In recent discussions with the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) and Local Government Managers Australia (WA Division) (LGMA), I was asked to review my decision to reduce interest rates, which I agreed to, subject to two actions occurring with support of the peak bodies. These are:

- a sector wide focus on administrative charges being based on cost recovery as clearly stipulated in the Regulations; and
- A sector wide focus on proactively assisting ratepayers experiencing financial difficulty in making rate payments.

I have asked WALGA and the LGMA to work with the sector in adopting the City of Armadale's service named 'A Smarter Way to Pay' or a similar service.

Under this service, ratepayers can make application to the City to put in place arrangements whereby the rates for that particular year are paid regularly, mainly by direct debit, without administration fees and without an interest rate penalty.

I commend the City of Armadale for this initiative and sincerely hope others follow this lead.

My Department will review administration charges imposed for 2012/13 and report to me the extent of cost recovery for these charges and the uptake of a proactive service that assists ratepayers experiencing financial difficulty without further adding to their financial burden.

I will then determine if any further action needs to be taken to ensure a more reasonable outcome for ratepayers.

As each local government considers the 2012/13 budget, I urge all local government elected members and senior management to closely review areas of expenditure to ensure communities receive reasonable levels of service at a reasonable cost.



G M (John) Castrilli MLA  
**MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT; HERITAGE;  
CITIZENSHIP AND MULTICULTURAL INTERESTS**

15 MAY 2012

To: Chief Executive Officer From: Acting CEO  
Organisation: All Councils Date: 15<sup>th</sup> May 2012  
Reference:  
Subject: Interest Rate Adjustment Priority: Medium

*IN BRIEF*

Operational Area:	Finance / Rates
Key Issues:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Government moved recently to cut penalty and instalment interest rates</li><li>• The Association lobbied for reinstatement of these rates due to adverse impacts</li><li>• Minister has agreed to reinstate, but the advisory circular is confusing</li></ul>
Action Required:	Noting

WALGA has been lobbying for reinstatement of the penalty and instalment interest % rates, following the surprise reduction in these rates in the latest round of amendments to the Local Government (*Financial Management*) Regulation (1996).

Whilst the Minister has agreed to this request, unfortunately the Minister's Circular (see link: <http://publications.dlg.wa.gov.au/MinisterialCircular2-2012.pdf>), doesn't specifically articulate the reinstatement of the interest rate.

WALGA has clarified with the DLG that the **interest rates of 11% and 5.5% will be reinstated** and that the DLG will clarify this in further advice to all local governments tomorrow.





# ECONOMIC BRIEFING

## STATE BUDGET

The 2012/13 State Budget was released on 17 May. The Budget includes significant re-timing of projects and expenditure, resulting in a small (\$196 million) operating surplus in 2012/13. The broad economic aggregates and household impacts of the budget have been widely reported. This Briefing focusses on issues related to the Local Government sector.

### Country Local Government Fund

\$51 million has been allocated to individual country Local Governments for implementing their forward capital works plans. \$27 million will be made available to groups of country Local Governments to invest in regionally significant infrastructure projects, developed with the support of Regional Development Commissions. **These figures include commitments from previous years.** Compared with the 2011/12 Budget, new funding in 2012/13 for the Country Local Government Fund has fallen \$60.7 million.

The Budget includes a reduction in funding for projects delivered by Regional Groupings of Local Governments in 2012/13 and 2013/14. The final out-year of the Budget (2015/16) shows a reduction in funding at the local level, partially offset by an increase in funding for regional projects.

\$ million	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Estimate	2012/13 Budget	2013/14 Forecast	2014/15 Forecast	2015/16 Forecast
Local Infrastructure Asset Renewal & New Assets	22.9	50.0	50.7	49.6	45.1	19.4
Regional Grouping of Local Govts	7.1	34.0	27.4	28.1	42.8	63.7
Admin of Funds	0.4	0.8	8.1	8.1	5.6	5.6
Facilitation Support to Regional Groups of Local Govts		1.4				
Regional Governance Services & Asset Management Tools	8.6	8.0	2.0	2.4	4.7	4.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39.5</b>	<b>96.1</b>	<b>90.0</b>	<b>90.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>95.0</b>

The \$2 million in 2012/13 provided to the Department of Local Government is for volunteer amalgamation support. \$5 million is provided for SuperTowns planning.

### Regional Centres Development Plan (SuperTowns)

Future funding, beyond the \$86 million previously allocated to prepare growth plans, for the nine regional towns in the southern half of the State identified with significant growth potential (SuperTowns) will come from core Royalties for Regions schemes such as through the Regional Development Council (Regional Strategic Projects) and the Country Local Government Fund (where \$5 million has been taken for 2012/13).

### Regional Grants Scheme

An additional \$1 million per year in each of 2012/13 and 2013/14 has been provided to each Regional Development Commission for the Regional Grants Scheme which is open to eligible individuals and organisations to improve economic and community infrastructure and services in the regions.

### Roads

Under the State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement, 27% of Vehicle Licence Fees are directed to fund work on local roads.

Motor Vehicle Licence Fees (for a typical sedan) will be increased 2.65% on the 2011/12 level (this is the first increase since 2007/08). This, coupled with an increase in the number of registered vehicles, is forecast to result in

## MAY 2012 STATE BUDGET EDITION

an 8.1% increase in revenue from Vehicle Licence Fees compared with the estimated revenue in 2011/12.

This will flow through to an increase in funding to Local Governments via the agreement with the State Government. The base funding provided under this agreement is forecast as follows:

	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Estimate	2012/13 Budget	2013/14 Forecast	2014/15 Forecast	2015/16 Forecast
\$million	141.0	149.1	161.1	170.2	178.6	188.6

The budget shows the following State Road Funds applied to local roads.

	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Estimate	2012/13 Budget	2013/14 Forecast	2014/15 Forecast	2015/16 Forecast
\$million	127.6	186.3	172.0	196.7	189.5	199.5

The State funding applied to Local Government roads is forecast to be higher than the share of vehicle licence fee revenue in 2011/12 and subsequent years as a result of additional funding from the WA Natural Disaster Recovery and Relief Arrangements for work on flood damaged roads, and carry-forward of project expenditure not delivered in earlier years.

From the **Road Trauma Trust Account**, \$14.3 million of recurrent expenditure and \$7 million of capital expenditure has been allocated in 2012/13 to improve road safety at metropolitan intersections. This money will be used to treat intersections identified on a priority basis by various options such as creating roundabouts and right turn signals. Also funded from the Road Trauma Trust Account is a Regional and Remote Road Improvement Program. In 2012/13, \$13 million in recurrent funding and \$7 million in capital expenditure is provided. It is understood that these initiatives will cover both local and State roads. The program of projects to be funded has not yet been finalised and so the quantum of funds available for work on Local Government roads is not yet known.

### Electricity and Street Lighting

The electricity tariffs included in the State Budget do not include the impact of the Carbon Tax which is effective from 1 July 2012. For reference, the budget includes an increase of 3.5% in residential electricity tariffs. The Carbon Tax is expected to add a further 9.5% to this increase.

The tariffs of most relevance to Local Governments and their increases (excluding Carbon Tax) are set out below.

	% Increase in 2012/13 (Excluding Carbon Tax)
Small Business (L1/L2)	3.5
Medium Business (L3/L4)	6.4
Street Lighting (Z)	-5.0

The increase in these tariffs due to the Carbon Price is yet to be announced. Although indicative only, the budget shows modest (7 – 9%pa) increases in street lighting tariffs in the following two years, followed by a 19% increase in 2015/16.

### State Underground Power Program

The Public Utilities Office (formerly Office of Energy) has included \$9.8 million in 2012/13 and \$4.8 million in 2013/14 for the State's contribution to the Underground Power Program. In its capital budget, Western Power has provided \$40 million in 2012/13 and \$20 million in 2013/14 for the Underground Power Program. There is no provision in 2014/15 or 2015/16 for the Underground Power Program. The Government has indicated that it wishes to consider this matter as part of the Western Power Access Arrangements and undertake further work on the design of

a new program round, taking into consideration the Report by the Economic Regulation Authority and work undertaken by the Public Utilities Unit. Continuity in project delivery is important if capability and capacity in the industry is to be sustained and new projects for 2013/14 and 2014/15 delivery will need to be identified prior to the next budget in May 2013. This matter will need to be considered in the Mid – year review if this is to be achieved.

### Infill Sewerage Program

The Water Corporation has budgeted \$25 million in each of 2012/13 and 2013/14 to continue the Infill Sewerage Program in the Metropolitan and regional areas. This compares with an estimated \$30 million expenditure in this program in 2011/12. Funding of \$15 million per annum is continued through the out-years of the budget.

### Local Government

The State Budget indicates a change in emphasis in resourcing at the Department of Local Government. Compared with the estimated outcome in 2011/12 the budget anticipates a 60% reduction in funding for "Building Strategic Capability of the Local Government Sector" and a 42% increase in "Strengthen Good Governance and Provide Effective Regulation." This partly reflects conclusion of several Local Government reform initiatives.

Expense	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Estimate	2012/13 Budget	2013/14 Forecast
Build the Strategic Capability of the Local Government Sector	16,659	17,164	10,281	10,203
Strengthen Good Governance in the Local Government Sector and Provide Effective Regulation	6,964	6,480	9,227	7,121

### Cat Act

A total of \$3.24 million over two years (\$2.76 million in 2012/13) is provided for the implementation of the Cat Act (2011). This will provide assistance to Local Governments with set-up costs, and to low income earners in meeting new legislative requirements for cat ownership.

### Bushfire

The 2012/13 Budget includes a number of global provisions to FESA and DEC to enable them to implement responses to the Perth Hills and Margaret River bushfire reviews. FESA has received an additional \$10 million per annum to:

- establish and Office of Bushfire Risk Management;
- improve response measures in the South West Cape region;
- increase the State's commitment to train and support volunteers;
- resource the State Emergency Management Committee to assist in its formal assessment of preparedness for large-scale emergencies; and
- improve community information and awareness, incident intelligence, change management, governance and structural reform.

### Public Libraries

Funding for public library materials is included in the State Budget. In accordance with the current agreement, \$9.23 million will be provided in 2012/13, increasing to \$9.64 million in 2014/15. Significant projects for the State Library noted in the Budget include a review of the public library exchange system, implementation of a new regional model and maximising the use of technology in public libraries.

### Salaries and Allowances Tribunal

An additional \$1 million over four years has been provided to expand the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal's role in determining elected members'

fees and allowances and the remuneration of Local Government Chief Executive Officers.

### Community Sport and Recreation Fund

An additional \$4 million has been included in the 2013/14 forecast to develop basic infrastructure for sport and recreation.

### Bicycle Paths Network

As previously announced, the Budget includes \$10 million in each of 2012/13 and 2013/14 for Principal Shared Path cycling projects.

### Public Transport

A total of \$3.5 million over two years is provided for planning and design for light rail. The extension of the Joondalup rail line to Butler (\$93 m) and re-sleepering of grain rail lines (\$81 m) as previously announced are included in the budget. The Budget also includes \$5 million over two years for new Central Area Transit ('CAT') buses, which will enable the development of a service from Leederville train station to the Esplanade bus station. Purchase of additional buses and three car train-sets are included in the capital budget. However, other major initiatives outlined in the Draft Public Transport Plan are not reflected in the budget.

### Police

The commencement of the Western Suburbs hub has been deferred for two years. \$8 million will be spent over three years to install electronic school zone signs in a number of locations.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT COST INDEX

The Local Government Cost Index increased 3.3% in the year to March 2012, the highest rate of increase since September 2009 when the financial crisis triggered a marked fall in non-residential construction costs. The major factors affecting the increase were strong increases in Road and Bridge Construction Costs (up 6.3% over the year) and Wages, up 4.5% in the year to March. Offsetting these rises was a further fall in non-residential construction costs and a slight fall in machinery and equipment costs.



Quarterly and annual change in Local Government Cost Index.

Source: ABS Cat No 6401.0 Consumer Price Index Aust Mar 2012  
ABS Cat No 6427.0 Producer Price Indexes, Aust Mar 2012  
ABS Cat No 6345.0 Labour Price Index, Aust Mar 2012

The Consumer Price Index increased just 1.9% in the year to March 2012. The WA employment market continues to be strong. There was 4% growth in the number of people employed in Western Australia over the past 12 months. 70% of new jobs created in Australia in the past 12 months have been created in WA. Strong jobs growth and effectively full employment continues to put upward pressure on wages. The Wage Price Index increased 4.5% in the year to March 2012 and is expected to increase at the same rate in the coming year.

For further information or to comment please contact A/Economist Ian Duncan on 9213 2031 or email [iduncan@walga.asn.au](mailto:iduncan@walga.asn.au). Current and previous editions of *Economic Briefing* are available at <http://walga.asn.au/NewsPublications/Publications/EconomicBriefing.aspx>

# Press Release

## GOLD EXPLORATION AT YOGI

### OFF TO A GOOD START

**31 May 2012:** ASX Listed, Perth based, Ferrowest Limited today announced that it had received promising early results in a search for gold and base metals on its Yogi deposit located in the Yalgoo Greenstone belt, 14 Km east of Yalgoo in the Mid West Region of Western Australia.

The Yogi deposit is the centre piece of the Yogi Mine Project, a plan to mine and concentrate magnetite iron ore on site to produce 4.5 million tonnes per annum of concentrate at 67%Fe for more than 25 years. Ferrowest has a 572 million tonne inferred resource for magnetite at Yogi but the prospects for gold in the current uncertain financial times has caused Ferrowest and its Chinese partners, TFA International Pty Ltd ("Tai Feng") to undertake their first systematic exploration for gold and base metals at Yogi.

*"Ferrowest and Tai Feng are keen to add further value to the Yogi tenement package. This is an area which hosts multiple historic gold workings," said Ferrowest Managing Director, Mr Brett Manning. "The town was declared a separate goldfield to Mt Magnet and Cue in 1895 and the current Minjar Gold Mine and Minmetals Resources' Golden Grove base and precious metals mines are both in the region."*

Recent exploration has highlighted a number of anomalous gold values at Dan's Knob in the south of the Yogi tenement package.

In March this year, Ferrowest initiated a desktop study of the Dan's Knob tenement to evaluate the gold prospectivity. This was followed by soil and rock chip samples that confirmed the presence of three distinct overlapping arsenic and gold anomalies.

As a follow up, an area to the south-west of the most southerly anomaly was visited and several rock chip samples taken with values of up to 1.68 grams per tonne of gold.

While very preliminary, the Board of Ferrowest believes these results are highly encouraging and is already planning the next stage of gold and base metals exploration at Dan's Knob.

*"While the iron Resources of the Yogi Mine Project underpin the prospects of Ferrowest for the future, potential for gold or base metals adds a great upside in a market where many commentators are saying gold prices have potential to grow significantly in the long term," Brett Manning said.*

**For further information please contact: Brett Manning – Managing Director +61 8 9277 2600**



### **The Yogi Mine Project - Outline**

The Yogi Mine Project proposes the development of a magnetite mining and concentration operation coupled with exploration of potential direct shipping ore ("DSO") grade haematite at the Yogi iron deposit near Yalgoo in the mid west region of Western Australia. Proposed production of magnetite concentrate will target 4,500,000 tonnes per annum ("tpa") at 67%Fe. 3,000,000tpa would be exported through the new proposed Port of Oakajee with the other 1,500,000tpa planned to supply the Eradu MPI Project (detailed below).

Exploration of potential haematite DSO targets will be a high priority for the Yogi Mine Project with the current concept, subject to satisfactory exploration, study results and government approvals, envisaging conceptual mine production of around 1.5Mtpa. The DSO would be transported by road train to Geraldton for export to China.

The current magnetite Inferred Resource estimate at Yogi classified and reported in accordance with the JORC Code is 572.5 million tonnes at 27.5%Fe.

The target magnetite potential<sup>#</sup> at Yogi estimated at between 0.8 and 1.2 billion tonnes at an average grade of between 25.5%Fe to 29.5%Fe.

Mineral Resource Estimate	Million Tonnes (Mt)	Fe%	SiO <sub>2</sub> %	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> %	P%	LOI%
Inferred (Fresh)	500.0	27.68	48.19	5.40	0.06	0.08
Inferred (Transitional)*	72.5	26.28	45.38	5.59	0.05	1.39
<b>Inferred Total</b>	<b>572.5</b>	<b>27.51</b>	<b>47.84</b>	<b>5.42</b>	<b>0.06</b>	<b>0.25</b>

*Notes: Tonnages rounded to nearest 10,000 tonnes. Cut-off Grade 23.0% total Fe. Surficial oxide material is not reported as part of the mineral resource estimate. \*Transitional material is partially oxidised but magnetite-bearing. # The target potential is conceptual in nature as insufficient data exists to define a Mineral Resource and it is uncertain if further exploration will result in further Mineral Resource. The target potential is based upon calculations prepared by Ferrowest Limited with reference to current experience at Yogi and available data.*

### **The Eradu MPI Project - Outline**

Ferrowest Limited is developing the Eradu MPI Project aimed at producing seaborne traded merchant pig iron ("MPI") at 96%Fe using magnetite concentrate from the Yogi magnetite deposit near Yalgoo in the mid west region of Western Australia. Proposed initial production is 1,000,000 tonnes per annum. The plan to process the magnetite concentrate to pig iron at Eradu, 60Km east of Geraldton, is premised on the ITmk3<sup>®</sup> technology and excellent existing infrastructure servicing the project area. The resulting value added merchant pig iron product will be a relatively high margin, high quality, low volume product for export to quality electric arc furnace steel making plants worldwide.

*The information in this report that relates to Exploration Results and general geological commentary is compiled by Graeme Johnston, a Fellow of the Geological Society of London. Information in this report that relates to Mineral Resources or Ore Reserves is based on information compiled by Graeme Johnston and Malcolm Titley, a Member of the Australasian Institute of Mining & Metallurgy.,*

*Graeme Johnston is a Director of the Company and a geological consultant to it through Corad Pty Ltd. Graeme Johnston has sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity which he is undertaking to qualify as a 'Competent Person' as defined in the 2004 Edition of the 'Australian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves'. Graeme Johnston consents to the inclusion in this report of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears.*

*Malcolm Titley (MAusIMM) is a Director and Principal Consultant of CSA Global and is responsible for the estimation of the Mineral Resource for the Yogi deposit. Malcolm Titley has sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity which he is undertaking to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2004 Edition of the Australian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves. Malcolm Titley consents to the inclusion in this report of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears.*





YALGOO - featured  
in ICV annual  
appeal letter  
nationally

Mrs sample  
21 Sample Street  
Sample Suburb  
Sample 2000



**All children deserve the same chance to be the best they can be. To grow up in a safe, healthy community. Where they are happy and nurtured, with a bright future ahead.**

Dear <Preferred name>,

I'd like to share a story with you because I know how much you believe in giving all Australians the same opportunities in life. It's a story which shows you how together we are making a real difference to the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Yalgoo, in the Murchison region of WA, is a special place. Not just because it is surrounded by breathtaking scenery which forms part of Yamatji country, but because this predominantly Aboriginal community has joined together to overcome disadvantage and create a brighter future.

Like many remote communities in Australia, in Yalgoo, boredom and lack of facilities has led to low self-esteem and lack of motivation - particularly among children. And if this isn't addressed now, it could lead to greater problems in adolescence and adulthood.

**The community's top priority is to provide a safe, healthy and inspiring environment for children.** Keeping children busy and engaged, and providing purpose-built facilities for physical recreation and socialising, will bring both immediate and lasting positive impacts.

The dedication and resourcefulness of the people of Yalgoo is paying off. They now have a shared vision for their own future, and they know what they need to make it happen. When they came to ICV for assistance, we jumped at the opportunity to help make their dreams come true.

ICV volunteers Allan and Ros generously gave their time and skills to help turn Yalgoo's vision in to an achievable plan. Next they wrote grant applications to securing vital funding - and to much success! Yalgoo will soon have state of the art recreational facilities that the community had a hand in designing.

Yalgoo is a special place, but it's not unique. **That's why I'm asking you to please help more communities like Yalgoo with a tax deductible donation before 30 June 2012.** There is an ever increasing demand for ICV's services from

Please turn over

**DREAMING**  
Of a bright future.



Indigenous communities around Australia, and we have a growing pool of skilled and eager volunteers ready to lend a hand. So we urgently need your support to match one to the other and help communities like Yalgoo build a brighter future.

There are many communities around Australia facing similar issues and hardship, and with a similar inspired vision for their own futures. At ICV we connect skilled and dedicated volunteers to these communities to help dreams come true. **But this is only possible with your support.**

In some Aboriginal communities, access to basic services and facilities for health, education, recreation and employment are well below the standard that most of us take for granted in cities and big towns.

In Yalgoo, a lack of structured activities and a safe recreational environment for children has led to boredom and low self-esteem. Children seek out their own fun and cause mischief, which can be a burden to this caring and close-knit community.

Yet **when children are active and entertained, things improve greatly.** When the community invited ICV to partner with local community groups and help run school holiday activities in Yalgoo, ICV Volunteers Greg, Shelly, Michelle and Scott were first in line.

**The impact of ICV's work with Indigenous communities goes far beyond the expected.** ICV is reconciliation in action, and experiences in the field can have a life-changing effect on volunteers and communities. Michelle wanted to tell you about the experience herself, so I've included her story for you to read.

I was also touched to hear about a 13 year old girl who, like many youths in Yalgoo, had been getting in trouble out of sheer boredom. The school holiday program allowed her to express herself in a creative, helpful way. She became an unofficial "Volunteer Assistant" and helped organise and supervise activities, embracing the opportunity to be a part of something positive for her community.

Yalgoo Shire's CEO, Sharon Daishe, summed it up when she told me, *"We want to be a community where people feel a strong and obvious sense of pride in where they live, and are optimistic about their own futures. We are thrilled with the support ICV is giving us to help our journey towards a vibrant, healthy community of happy people."*

At ICV we know that **when a project is community-owned and driven, it dramatically increases its chances of success.** That's why we only work at the invitation of communities, and we look, listen and learn about their needs.

There is an ever increasing demand for ICV's services, and we are fortunate to have a growing pool of dedicated and skilled volunteers ready to donate their time. But as a registered charity we can't match one to the other without the financial help of our generous supporters. **Your tax deductible donation will help make dreams come true for communities like Yalgoo.**

Thank you for your continued support.

Stephanie Harvey, CEO

P.S. I'm truly inspired by the motivation and enthusiasm of Yalgoo community members, and how they have embraced their challenges and want to be an active part of positive, permanent change. Helping communities like Yalgoo is only possible with your support. **Please make your tax deductible donation by 30 June 2012.**



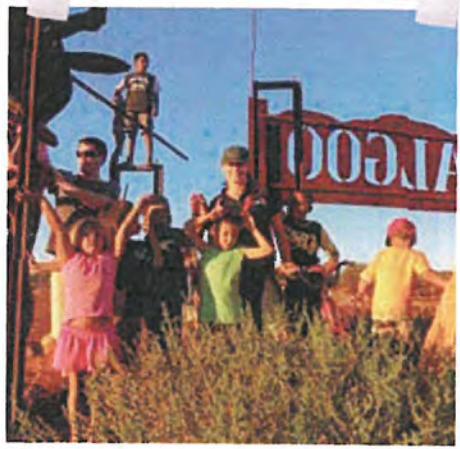


Hi, my name is Michelle.

I'm an Indigenous Community Volunteer and have just had an amazing experience with the children of Yalgoo which I'd like to share with you. It changed my life!

But first I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for believing that change is possible through your support of Indigenous Community Volunteers. Because it's only with help from people like you that volunteers like me can respond to Indigenous community needs, and help them overcome disadvantage.

So back to Yalgoo. I've always wanted to volunteer with an organisation doing meaningful and productive community development work with Indigenous communities.



This is me with the children doing a craft workshop



But I don't really consider myself to be particularly skilled in anything that might be useful, like a trade or a profession. So when I read about Yalgoo's school holiday program, and the call for volunteers to help run activities for children, I was delighted and thought, "that's something I can do!"

I think anything that keeps children entertained and out of mischief is an achievement for any community. Children are the same everywhere you go, they just want to be free to be themselves and learn new skills while having fun.



Many children struggle with boredom during the school holidays. Without any structured programs available to them, the children of Yalgoo often found themselves at a loose end. Even in just one week of running the activities I saw changes in some of the children. The shy ones gained a bit more confidence, and the



The school holiday program is so much fun. Everyone - even the volunteers - enjoy the activities!



"too cool for school" kids even joined in. Soon they'll be getting purpose built recreational facilities including a BMX track and a skate park. They are so excited about it. My fellow ICV volunteers Allen and Ros made that possible by applying for and winning a state Government grant for Yalgoo.

Going into this project in Yalgoo I wasn't quite sure what to expect, so I went in with an open mind and a willingness to give anything a go. I was really impressed with how eager the children were to show us around town, even teaching us about local bush tucker and medicine. The experience taught me plenty about myself too. I learned more about my own strengths and weaknesses, and how I handle new challenges. I found it very easy to be around children full time, and realised how passionate I am about children's rights.



The children learn basic cooking skills...



...enjoy team sports...



...and organised fun!

There are a few moments that stick out for me. A day at the beach watching all the children happy and free, and walking around each morning rounding everyone up for the day's activities - seeing their smiling faces and eagerness to have fun.

ICV's unique approach to community development - by community invitation only - works so well for many reasons. But mainly because communities like Yalgoo know what their own strengths and weaknesses are. They don't need to be told what needs fixing, they just need a bit of help to make it happen. Helping communities like Yalgoo is only possible with your support.

So I really hope you can give what you can so ICV and volunteers like me can continue to create happy, healthy environments for children and communities like Yalgoo.

Thank you, Michelle





**Minutes of Meeting**

<b>Subject</b>	Project Update and Environmental Discussion
<b>Venue</b>	Mount Gibson Mining Extension Hill Village
<b>Date</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2012
<b>Time</b>	1200 - 1500 hrs
<b>Participants</b>	<p>Luke Bayley (LB) –Bush Heritage Australia (BHA)</p> <p>Don Bell (DB) – Pindiddy Aboriginal Corporation (PAC)</p> <p>Leah Bell (LB) – Pindiddy Aboriginal Corporation</p> <p>Simon Blane (SB) – Mount Gibson Mining Limited (MGM)</p> <p>Peter Crispin (PC) – Shire of Dalwallinu (SoD)</p> <p>Daniel Farnsworth (DF) – Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC)</p> <p>Gerald Glasgow (GG) – Mount Gibson Mining Limited</p> <p>Richard Hamilton (RH) – Wanarra Station (WS)</p> <p>George Hewitt (GH) - Mount Gibson Mining Limited</p> <p>Eve Jani (EJ) –Bush Heritage Australia (BHA)</p> <p>Ben McLernon (BM) – Extension Hill Pty Ltd (EHPL)</p> <p>Robert Nixon (RN) – Shire of Dalwallinu</p> <p>David Rose (DR) – Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC)</p> <p>Jess Sackmann (JS) – Mount Gibson Mining Limited</p> <p>Stan Scott (SS) – Shire of Perenjori (SoP)</p> <p>Nigel Sercombe (NS) – Department of Environment and Conservation</p> <p>Lisa Spence-Bailey (LS) – Australian Wildlife Conservancy</p>
<b>Apologies</b>	<p>Shire of Yalgoo</p> <p>North Central Malleefowl Preservation Group</p>

JS	Introductions and welcome. Outlined meeting objectives and agenda.
GH	<p><b>Hematite Project Update</b></p> <p>Provided update on the current status of the hematite operation and future expansion.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>LB – How much ore is currently transported down haul road?</p> <p>GH – Haulage has decreased to ~6,000t/day due to the short term rail closure. Previously ~8,000t/day was hauled.</p>
BM	<p><b>Magnetite Project Update</b></p> <p>Provided update on the current schedule for the magnetite project. Construction planned to be underway by late 2012 to meet the proposed shipping date of late 2014.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Will EHPL hold a similar liaison meeting to keep stakeholders informed?</p> <p>BM – EHPL will assess this as they move forward.</p> <p>JS – Previously we have treated this as a joint forum, and EHPL are always invited to</p>

	<p>conduct a presentation. EHPL have additional commitments and stakeholders due to the services corridor component of their project so whilst the mine site liaison group is the same, they would need a separate meeting for the services corridor group.</p> <p>DB – Did EHPL buy the Mt Gibson gold mine borefield and will they be using it?</p> <p>BM – EHPL did purchase these tenements and will assess the potential to use this borefield.</p>
GG	<p><b>Fire Management</b></p> <p>Provided an update on current site practices in relation to fire management and emergency response. The site water carts are quicker to fill and have greater capacity than the site fire truck. The fire truck is to be replaced with a 'Fast Attack' light vehicle with a water tank on the back. The site emergency response team train regularly. The site also recently purchased a new ambulance.</p> <p>LS – The administration phone number was previously given to neighbours as an emergency contact number - is it manned after hours?</p> <p>GH – MGM will provide AWC with a radio for emergency contact as our radio channel is a licensed internal channel. In the interim we will pass on the kitchen phone number as this is manned for long periods after hours.</p>
SB	<p><b>Weed Management</b></p> <p>Provided an update on current site practices in relation to weed management. The site washdown bay is operational; however vehicles and equipment are required to be cleaned prior to arriving and are inspected as part of the workshop inspection. Private vehicles are segregated in visitor's car parks and mine site vehicles are excluded from these car parks to prevent cross contamination. The importance of reporting sightings is discussed with all personnel and they are issued with report forms.</p> <p>Two weed species have been identified on site to date. These were either manually removed (the preferred method) or sprayed immediately.</p>
JS	<p><b>Malleefowl Management</b></p> <p>Provided a summary of Malleefowl management procedures. Restricted access areas are in place around known active mounds. Personnel are educated through inductions and other media, including photographs. Malleefowl sightings are reported to the HSEC Department. Site wide messages are sent or radio call ups made to alert everyone if Malleefowl are sighted regularly in areas with high vehicle traffic.</p> <p>The annual Malleefowl mound monitoring survey recorded 14 active mounds in Nov/Dec 2012, compared to 12 (2010/2011 season), 10 (2010/2009 season), 5 (2009/2008 season) and 15 (2005/2004 season) recorded in previous seasons. No impact as a result of mining activities has been identified.</p> <p>DR – Have we conducted any radio tracking of Malleefowl or do we intend to?</p> <p>JS – At this stage we do not and have no immediate plans to. We conduct our Malleefowl monitoring in accordance with the National Manual for the Malleefowl Monitoring System.</p> <p>BM – A nearby mine site has recently radio tracked an adult Malleefowl that moved 20km.</p> <p>RN – There is a relationship identified between Malleefowl and Acacia – the Malleefowl in this area feed on a particular Acacia species. Fire then effects Malleefowl by affecting their food source.</p>
JS	<p><b>Introduced Species Management</b></p> <p>Discussed current issues in relation to introduced species management and the status of current procedures. Reporting protocol exists for all site personnel if they see introduced species. Current records indicate an abundance of mice, rabbits and some cat sightings. Goats, foxes and 'wild dogs' have also been previously recorded in this area.</p> <p>Further information is required on the relationships between these species in this area in order to design an effective long term control plan. An ecosystem level approach must be taken to manage introduced species impact on both native flora and fauna species. MGM are currently planning introduced species surveys, which may include stomach contents analysis of cats, to obtain additional data for managing introduced species to provide the best environmental outcome.</p> <p>Currently groups are undertaking different forms of introduced species control. MGM attended a meeting hosted by AWC in Sept 2011 to discuss this issue and work towards a consolidated approach.</p> <p>LS – spoke about AWC's survey work and feral free enclosure for Stick Nest Rats. They are planning a larger 6,000ha enclosure around the existing 5ha enclosure.</p> <p>LB – Ninghan station are currently baiting for dogs regularly but are concerned that their</p>

	<p>impact will be restricted if surrounding stations don't participate.</p> <p>NS – Advised that the Meekatharra Rangelands Biosecurity Association conduct regular dog/dingo baiting and may be able to participate or advise.</p> <p>SS – Advised that recent studies are showing dingo reintroduction to be effective in managing introduced species.</p> <p>JS – Has read similar studies which found that baiting dingoes had a detrimental impact on the environment.</p> <p>DB – Sent DNA from 3 'wild dogs' shot on Ninghan station for analysis. They were found to be 100% dingo.</p>
JS	<p><b>Closure planning</b></p> <p>Discussed MGM's proposed post mining land use. Identified and described MGM's proposed closure objectives.</p>
	<b>Other issues</b>
SS	<p>Requested clarification regarding responsibilities for Wanarra Road repair – what is covered by the construction contractors and what will the Shire be contracted to repair.</p> <p>GH – Will follow up.</p>
LB	<p>What is the status of the Regional Conservation Group and how does that fit with this meeting?</p> <p>JS – The RCA covers a wider area and is a separate group.</p> <p>SS – There have previously been two meetings held by the RCA.</p> <p>GH – There is a workshop/conference that was proposed by the RCA but is has been temporarily stalled due to personnel changeovers.</p>
LS	<p>Doggers that are currently working on Mt Gibson Station have reported vehicles travelling at speed along the back tracks and cutting baits from the fence.</p> <p>JS – The only mining personnel permitted on the Emu Proof Fence Road are the environmental team, once a month to change dust deposition monitor bottles. They do not speed or tamper with baits and only travel on a small northern section of the road adjacent to Extension Hill.</p> <p>DB – It is more likely to be shooters.</p>
LS	<p>Which metal recycling company does the mine site use, as AWC is trying to get a large amount of waste material removed?</p> <p>PC – Dalwallinu uses Sims Metals.</p> <p>JS – The mine site uses Bradkens but we have to pay the freight costs to get the skip bins from Welshpool to site and back.</p>

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## MINUTES

### ORDINARY MEETING 11<sup>th</sup> MAY 2012

Shire of Cue

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# MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE

of the WALocal Government Association

## AGENDA

Ordinary Meeting, Shire of Cue Council Chambers

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2012, commencing 9.30 am

### 1. OPENING

The Chair will call the meeting to order.

### 2. ATTENDANCE

#### 2.1 Delegates

Cr Beth Walton  
Mr Ian Fitzgerald  
Cr Tom Hutchinson  
Mr Roy McClymont  
Cr Rosco Foulkes Taylor  
Cr Mark Halleen  
Cr Ashley Dowden  
Cr Terry Iterbide  
Cr Len Terry  
Cr Roger LeMaitre  
Cr Martin King

Zone President  
Shire of Sandstone  
Shire of Meekatharra  
CEO Shire of Meekatharra  
Shire of Murchison  
Shire of Murchison  
Shire of Mount Magnet  
Shire of Yalgoo  
Shire of Yalgoo  
Shire of Cue  
Shire of Cue

#### 2.2 Observers

Mayor Troy Pickard  
Ms Joanne Burges  
Mr Neil Warne  
Mr Peter Money  
Ms Sharon Daishe  
Mr Murray Brown  
Mr John Read

President of WALGA  
WALGA Regional Cooperation Manager  
Murchison Shire – A/CEO  
Shire of Cue - CEO  
Shire of Yalgoo - CEO  
Executive Officer – Murchison Zone  
Shire of Cue

### **2.3 Visitors**

**Presentations from visitors will be at various times during the meeting, as directed by the Chair.**

Hon Wendy Duncan MLC	Agricultural Region Parliamentary Secretary to Minister Regional Development, Lands
Hon Max Trenorden MLC	Agricultural Region
Mr Barry Haase MP	Member for Durack
Mr Jamie Falls	
Ms Tammy Corby	PA to Barry Haase MP
Mr Tex McPherson	FESA
Mr Jim McNamara	CFM Pastoral FESA
Mr Brendin Flanagan	Midwest Development Commission
Ms Priscilla Clayton	Regional Manager CSIRO
Mr Jim Netterfield	OPR
Ms Lauren Winter	OPR
Ms Linda Crook	Chamber of Minerals and Energy
Ms Katherine Flower	EO Midwest Region CME
Mr Keiran Murphy	Crosslands
Ms Kathryn Green	PR Coordinator Crosslands
Mr Steve Abbott	GIOA
Ms Danielle Van Kampen	GIOA
Mr Brett Manning	GIOA
Mr Gary Stokes	GIOA
Mr Craig Ferrier	GIOA
Mr Rob Jefferies	CEO – GIOA
Mr Richard Malacari	Regional Manager – DSR
Mr Mitchell	WACHS
Ms Rae Peel	GRAMS
Mr Chris Neretlis	Water Corporation
Mr Norm Lyon	
Mr Andrew Borrett	Department of Local Government

### **2.4 Apologies**

Hon CJ Barnett MEc MLA	Premier of Western Australia
Mr Ian Blayney MLA	Member for Geraldton
Hon Grant Woodhams MLA	Member for Moore
Hon John Ford MLC	Member for Mining & Pastoral
Hon Robin Chapple MLC	Member for Mining & Pastoral
Hon Ken Baston MLC	Member for Mining & Pastoral
Hon Ron Johnson MLA	Minister for Police
Hon Simon O'Brien MLC	Minister for Finance, Commerce, Small Business
Hon Peter Collier MLC	Minister for Energy, Training, Indigenous Affairs
Hon Robin Mc Sweeney MLC	Minister for Community Services, Child Protection, Womens Interests and Youth
Hon Liz Constable MLA	Minister for Education
Hon Bill Marmion MLA	Minister for Environment, Water
Hon Terry Waldron MLA	Minister for Sport & Recreation
Hon Helen Morton MLC	Minister for Mental Health & Disability Services
Hon John Castrilli MLA	Minister for Local Government

Hon Troy Buswell MLA	Minister for Transport & Housing
Hon John Day MLA	Minister for Planning
Hon Brendin Grylls MLA	Minister for Regional Development, Lands
Hon Christian Porter MLA	Treasurer
Hon Terry Redman MLA	Minister for Agriculture & Food, Forestry & Corrective Services
Hon Dr Kim Hames MLA	Minister for Health, Tourism
Hon Mia Davies	Member for Agricultural Region
Mr Vince Catania MLA	Member for North West
Mr Tony McCann	Department of Transport
Cr Will Scott	Shire of Mount Magnet
Cr Bridget Seaman	Shire of Murchison
Mr Geoff Brooks	CEO Shire of Mount Magnet
Cr Simon Broad	Shire of Murchison

### 3. OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

Hon Wendy Duncan MLC has attended representing the Minister for Local Government Hon John Castrilli MLA. In opening this conference read the Minister's address, which included advice that works relating to the sealing of the Meekatharra to Wiluna road will commence in the 2012/13 State Budget.

### 4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

#### 4.1 Confirmation of Minutes – Ordinary Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> November 2011

##### Comment

Minutes of the Meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> November 2011 have been circulated to Member Shires.

#### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> November 2011 be confirmed.**

#### RESOLUTION

**Moved: Cr Iterbide**

**Seconded: Cr Dowden**

**That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> November 2011 be confirmed.**

**Carried**



## **5. WA LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**

### **5.1 WALGA President, or representative**

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**MAY 2012**

##### **STATE COUNCIL ON THE ROAD**

Every year, as part of our commitment to closer engagement with the membership, we take the State council meeting out to a non-metropolitan location and meet with councils from the local zone. This year it is a pleasure to be visiting the Peel Zone and I look forward to an interesting and informative exchange.

##### **SETTING THE TONE**

I move around the sector extensively and regularly visit and meet with Local Governments across the State. I am acutely aware of the tension in the sector about reform; certainly in terms of boundaries, but also in relation to processes, functions and accountability.

I want to assure you that WALGA has the Sector's interests on these issues covered.

As we approach a new financial year and budget process, I want to place a renewed emphasis on "representation" – on giving you a voice and support on the things that you need.

Whilst this has always been a critical aspect of WALGA's policy and service delivery, sometimes this can receive less of the limelight as we strive to expand services, create new systems and offer leadership to the sector on emerging issues.

This year I think we need to consolidate and embed our service offerings and focus our policy direction – less breadth and more depth – so that you get the quality, reliability and stability you want from your Association during what will undoubtedly be a time of significant change in the Local Government environment.

As WALGA gives increased focus to sector representation, it will be important that you pick up the leadership agenda at the local level and drive the change that is necessary for sector improvement within your own organisations and communities.

##### **COUNCIL OR BOARD?**

There is a lot of discussion in the Local Government reform debate about the idea that Councils should operate like Boards and Elected Members should behave more like board members. This is a classic case of a good concept being overtaken by a bad idea.

What is really being suggested in this debate is the proposition that Elected Members should be strategically focussed and not get dragged into operational issues in conflict with the Local Government's administration. This is often referred to as "board like behaviour" – the doctrine of "nose in; fingers out".

Local Governments are complex political and service delivery bodies. The citizens they serve are not as one dimensional as shareholders or as transactional as customers. In my opinion a board is not an appropriate structure for managing the representation of citizens' interests.

However, Elected members can benefit from observing board-like behaviour, and I encourage all of you to have regard to the strategic aspects of your elected member role.

## **CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION**

The national campaign is continuing to gather momentum, with the ALGA Board meeting recently with Minister Crean to press for a final commitment to the referendum process.

ALGA is currently moving forward with development of advertising and marketing strategies so that these can be costed for budgeting purposes. WALGA is still hoping to be able to manage any WA contribution to a national campaign from within our existing resources without seeking contributions from WA local governments.

At the WA State level letters have been written to the Leaders of the National Party and the Labor Party formally seeking their Party position on Constitutional Recognition.

I have met with the Opposition Leader Mark McGowan who has formally advised of Shadow Cabinet's support for the Local Government position for constitutional recognition.

## **STRUCTURAL REFORM**

Criticism of Local Government by the Premier has increased over recent weeks with WALGA monitoring and retorting negative comments as appropriate. This may well be a calculated strategy to support the anticipated call for structural reform that will result from the pending findings of the Metropolitan Governance Review Panel, due for final report to the Minister in June.

The release of the Draft Findings, originally scheduled for Friday, 13 April, has been delayed. Consequently, the scheduled process to develop an Association response will have to be amended. Advice will be provided to Local Governments regarding WALGA's intended process as information becomes available from the Panel regarding the new release and submission dates. The Panel has assured us that a full four week consultation period will remain in place for commenting on the Draft Findings. I encourage all Local Governments to look closely at the draft findings because there will be sector – wide implications.

## **SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN REGIONAL COUNCIL**

The Department of Environment and Conservation announced on March 30 that the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council has been given 10 weeks to shut down its waste treatment operations at the Regional Resource Recovery Centre in Canning Vale.

A new licence issued by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) gives the facility two weeks to find an alternative site for its waste and a further eight weeks to complete existing composting operations. The SMRC are appealing this decision.

Of major concern is that even if the Councils owning the facility undertook additional works required to meet any future licence, there could be no guarantee from the Department that it would be permitted to recommence operations.

The facility is already carrying more than \$30m of debt and the four Councils involved should not be expected to invest further in the facility without having a guaranteed outcome and clear support from the State Government, which itself had recognised the need to play a greater role in municipal waste management and had suggested funds gathered from the current landfill levy could be dedicated to facilitating investment in waste management practices and facilities.

The closure of this facility will have a significant impact on our rate of recycling; without the SMRC facility, the recycling rate in Perth will drop from 36% to about 30%. There are also potential ramifications for the waste treatment industry in this State as a whole, particular in relation to the investment in new infrastructure. To date I have met with both the Chairman and CEO of the SMRC and with the Chair of Waste Authority, and will continue working to broker a

suitable and equitable outcome for the SMRC and our participating members with the State Government.

What the Local Governments involved, and the broader Local Government sector now need to see, is a leadership role being played by the State Government on the issue in terms of increased funding, State investment in alternative waste treatments and achievement of the targets established in the recently released State Waste Strategy.

## **PRESIDENT'S CONTACTS**

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

### **State Government Relations**

#### **Meetings with:**

- Hon John Castrilli MLA; Minister for Local Government – Joint WALGA / LGMA
- Hon Mark McGowan MLA, Leader of the Opposition; Shadow Minister for Regional Development; Economic Reform; Public Sector Management
- Hon Troy Buswell MLA, Minister for Transport; Housing; Emergency Management
- Ms Janine Freeman, MLA, Member for Nollamara
- Hon Dr Sally Talbot MLC, Shadow Minister for the Environment; Lands; Climate Change; Youth; Peel
- Mr Peter Tinley, MLA, Shadow Minister for Planning; Housing; Local Jobs
- Ministerial RoundTable on Affordable Housing
- Mr Mark Burgess, Managing Director, Public Transport Authority
- Mr Warwick Gately, WA Electoral Commissioner

### **Local Government Relations**

#### **Meetings with:**

- Metropolitan Local Government Review Panel Meeting
- Visit to City of Swan – Mayor Charlie Zannino, Mr Mike Foley, CEO
- Visit to Shire of Mundaring – Shire President Helen Dullard, Mr Jonathan Throssell, CEO
- Mayor Max Hipkins, City of Nedlands
- ALGA Board Meeting
- LGIS Board Meeting
- LGIS Investment Committee
- President's Advisory Group (PAG) x 2
- Finance & Services Committee
- MWAC Meeting

### **Conferences / Workshops / Public Relations**

- IPWEA Annual State Conference
- Blessing of the Roads Ceremony

### **Zone Meetings**

- Pilbara/Kimberley Joint Forum
- South Metropolitan Zone
- Peel Country Zone
- South West Country Zone

Mayor Pickard also commented on:-

- 1 Local Government Convention 1 -3 August 2012.
- 2 Will meet with SAT – They will also determine Elected members sitting fees and reimbursements.
- 3 Financial regulations – Change in Interest Rate.

## **5.2 Zone Representative to State Council**

Cr Ilerbide read out the report prepared by Cr Broad.

Cr Broad commented on the following:-

1. New Local Government House – Called “170”
2. Metropolitan Boundary Review.
3. Review of Royalties for Regions – CLGF
4. WALGA Preferred Supplier Contracts.
5. WALGA Staffing Issues.
6. Zone Flying Minutes

## **6. UPDATES FROM SHIRES**

As resolved at the May 2006 Meeting, an opportunity is provided for Shires to give a verbal or written update of activities, concerns, projects, requests etc for their Shire.

### **6.1 Shire of Cue**



#### **TOURIST PARK**

The Cue shire Tourist Park Redevelopment project has been completed. The official opening was on April 20<sup>th</sup> and I thank Vince Catania MLA for carrying out the official opening of the redeveloped park.

This is a major achievement for Cue and the completion of a project that has been on Council plans for many years. I invite attendees of this Meeting to visit the Park and inspect the buildings and design of the Park.

It is a major achievement with a specifically designed building, and a complete renewal of the underground services and the construction of new bays. Each and every part of the redevelopment is carefully designed for easy maintenance, environmental sustainability, visually pleasing, ease of entrance and egress and increased visitor capacity.

## COUNCIL ELECTION

Commissioner Omodei's term of ceased on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012 on the swearing in of the new Council.

There was a 69% turn out of voters for the election which resulted in the election of seven Councillors none of whom has been a Councillor before. This can be construed as a clear message from the community that they want a clean slate and are seeking a period of stability without the uncertainties of the past.

This is a challenging time for the new Council being new to local government and this being a time of unprecedented growth and activity in and around the Cue shire.

## COMMISSIONER TERM ACHIEVEMENTS

The Commissioner was pleased with the activities within the shire and with the excellent working relationship with the administration. He has highlighted some of the projected completed during his term of office and these are listed below:

- Cue Tourist Park/Ablutions
- Silhouettes
- Cue Beringarra Road-Train Agreement with Crosslands
- Country local Government Fund (CLGF) Royalties for Regions (R4R) Funding Application with Mt Magnet and Sandstone for 2 new houses for Cue.
- Opening of the new Cue Community Resource Centre (CRC)
- New playground equipment
- Upgrade Town Hall Air Conditioning
- New Community Bus
- Purchase of Traxcavator to maintain the Rubbish Dump
- Location of the 250 man Mining Camp in town by Silverlake Resources
- Provision of Industrial and Residential Blocks
- Reparation of Flood Damage
- Letting of Tenders for New Airport Building and Airport Road Upgrade
- Cue 'Entry Statements'

I take this opportunity to thank Commissioner for his support to myself and to the organisation as a whole. His input and experience was extremely valuable and I believe he made a number of good friends during his time with the Cue shire.

With excellent relationships, clear decision making and allowing the administration to "get on with the job" we achieved much during his term of office.

Peter Money  
CEO  
11<sup>th</sup> May 2012

## **6.2 Shire of Meekatharra**



### **Activities and issues - Shire of Meekatharra**

#### **Current Issues**

Upgrade and sealing of the Goldfields Highway, Wiluna to Meeka Section – awaiting State Budget release with great anticipation!

Meekatharra District Hospital replacement now considered urgent.

#### **Human Resources**

All positions currently filled.

Submission being prepared for a band increase of the CEO's salary level to the Salaries

And Allowances Tribunal in an effort to ensure sustainability of Council's existing organisational wage structure and ongoing ability to attract and retain CEO's and other employees.

#### **Land/Buildings**

Doray Minerals lease of shire freehold land in town to create a ~150 man camp – lease commences 1/7/12. Charitable Trust Deed also drafted for management of funds for community projects.

#### **Road Construction & Equipment**

Natural Disaster remedial works completed on Mt Clere Road and Wiluna North Road. Works in progress on Ashburton Downs Road. Further claims being made for recent events.

Seal preparation on 5.7 kms of Landor Road complete (Country Local government Fund) upgrade and sealing of further 7.6 kms complete (Roads to Recovery).

25 kilometres of Landor Road now upgraded and sealed. Anticipate further 11 kilometres will be completed next financial year. One third of the Meeka to Carnarvon route has now been sealed by the Local Governments.

Airport Road realignment complete. Airport boundary fence currently being replaced – half funded by Regional Aviation Access Program.

Prime mover, loader and multi tyred roller replaced.

#### **Promotions/Events**

Preparations for this year's Meeka Festival/Race/Rodeo weekend are well advanced – Queens Birthday long weekend - 29, 30 Sep and 1 October 2012.



“Jammin in Meeka” – a new event of music and educational workshops followed by a community concert and open mic jam session will be held this year on 25 August 2012.

### **Governance/Admin/Finance**

Management Budget will be considered at the May 19<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Council meeting.

Consultants are progressing our Integrated Planning processes.

## **6.3 Shire of Mt Magnet**

### **Official Opening of the Mount Magnet Mining and Pastoral Museum**

The Mount Magnet Mining and Pastoral Museum was opened by the Member for North West Vincent Catania MLA on the Easter Saturday, 7 April 2012. Over 400 guests attended. The opening was held in conjunction with a “Back to Magnet” weekend attended by past residents, many of whom were involved in the gold mining industry.

The building also accommodates the Mount Magnet Tourist Information Centre which is located at the entrance to the Museum. Works at the Museum cost \$1.6M of which \$1.0M was funded under the Royalties for Regions Program, with the balance coming from the Shire.

### **Upgrade of the Mount Magnet Memorial Swimming Pool**

The Mount Magnet Memorial Pool was opened in 1965 and the existing amenities and kiosk are showing their age. On the basis of input from the community, design work has commenced on the replacement of the existing pool building with new amenities and a kiosk. A fitness centre will also be included in the design. Tenders for construction will be advertised in May and the project is expected to be completed in early 2013.

The estimated cost of the project is \$850,000 with the bulk of the funding being provided under the Royalties for Regions program. The use of Royalties for Regions funding to replace existing infrastructure is a major benefit to the Mount Magnet community.

### **Mount Magnet Health Services**

Following a number of letters to the Minister for Health, numerous community meetings and very successful representations made by the Member for North West, Vincent Catania MLA, advice has been received from the WA Country Health Service that the second nurse position at the Nursing Post is to be reinstated. Those who attended the Cue Parliament last November will understand what great news this is for Mount Magnet! It is very disappointing that health officials continually refused to recognise the impossibility of a single

nurse providing twenty four hour, seven days per week accident and emergency coverage.

Advice has also been received that funding is available through the Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service for the employment of a full time doctor to be based in Mount Magnet. This is a great result for all residents in Mount Magnet and also the region, as the doctor is expected to provide services to Sandstone, Cue and Yalgoo.



**Shire of Murchison**

# Shire of Murchison

"The Shire without a Town"

7<sup>th</sup> May 2012

## Staff

The position of CEO has been vacant since the end of 2011. The best efforts of Council, assisted by WALGA's Workplace Solutions have, to date, not resulted in the appointment of a CEO.

Neil Warne was appointed Acting CEO from 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2012.

Late in 2011 new appointments of both Senior Finance Officer and Administration Officer were made.

After a difficult couple of years the staff is working hard to return the records and accounts and other services provided by the Shire Office back to the high standard of former times. The Shire library is fully operational once again.

## Launch of the Wadjarri Dictionary

After nearly 25 years in the making the Wadjarri Dictionary was launched in the Murchison Settlement on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March. This was a most successful day with over 200 people in attendance.

Commenced by the Bundiyarra-Wangga Language Programme the book has over 2,500 entries compiled by more than 100 elders, linguists and community members. There are still strong speakers of the language and one of the reasons for producing the dictionary was to capture as much language as possible and put it in written form for this and future generations.

For sales of the dictionary – Irra Wangga Language Programme – 9920 7950.

## Murchison Oasis Road House

This Shire owned/leased out facility is operating well and providing a

good service to the local people and tourists.

### **Flood Damage Road Repairs and Rebuild**

The last stage of flood damage road repairs and rebuild resulting from the late 2010 and early 2011 floods is currently being undertaken by contractors. This should be completed within a few weeks.

### **Anzac Day**

A most successful Anzac Day service followed by a family fun day and a community dinner in the evening was held in the Murchison Settlement on 25<sup>th</sup> April

### **Landcare**

A well attended and most informative Carbon Workshop was held in Murchison on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May. Carbon farming initiative: What it is, what is isn't and everything in between.

## **6.5 Shire of Sandstone**



### **Activity Report**

**May 2012**

### **Human Resources**

The Shire welcomed new Chief Executive Officer Ian Fitzgerald who commenced at the end of January 2012 after a period of short term and relieving CEO's.

There have been a number of other changes or changes about to occur with a new leading hand appointed as well as a caravan park manager and a horticulturist/gardener. The Works Supervisor finished up in April 2012 to take on a position at the Shire of Ravensthorpe and the Manager of Finance & Administration and the finance officer will be finishing up shortly.

An appointment of a finance officer has just been made and council will be using a contract accountant for a range of higher level services. Rating services are being out sourced to IT Vision and is working well.

In the short term the CEO will be supervising the outside crew whilst a staff/structural review is undertaken.

## **Planning**

Council is working with Halsall and Associates on a review of its town planning scheme and appears to have been successful in obtaining grant funding to assist with this project.

## **Integrated Planning Project**

Council has appointed Peter Johnson from Morrison Low to assist in the preparation of an Asset Management Plan which will be incorporated into the long term financial plan and corporate business plan once prepared.

The community strategic plan will be prepared mainly in-house with some external assistance in putting together the final document.

## **Water Playground**

The Sandstone water playground has been completed and opened in November 2011. The playground has received all the required Health Department approvals and is proving to be a very welcome addition to the recreational facilities in town.

## **Road Works and Equipment**

The road program is progressing well and it is anticipated the program will be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup>. The crew is currently upgrading the next 5km of the sandstone – Payne's Find Road and then will be moving to upgrade a section of the Menzies road.

Council has recently taken delivery of a new Komatsu grader which is performing well as our new maintenance grader.

## **Buildings**

Council has completed some upgrading works at the sandstone caravan park and plans to complete a major upgrade/extension using R4R funds when they are received. The park is proving to be very busy already with many long and short term visitors. The visitors Centre has re-opened for the season and was well frequented over the Easter weekend.

We continue to find it difficult to attract tradespeople to the town to complete work but have been fortunate to have handymen staying at the caravan park who have carried out some maintenance work on shire buildings.

Council has commenced planning for a new administration/civic building and hopes to be in a position to commence construction during 2012/13.

As a part of the new building the concept of a small conference/convention centre is being investigated as a means of adding to our tourist growth by marketing Sandstone as the "Oasis of the Murchison" and a great alternative for small conferences/business meetings etc. watch this space for a potentially new and exciting addition to the Murchison.

Council is working with the Shires of Cue and Mt Magnet on a housing project using R4R regional funds and Mid West Investment Plan funds that will see a new house constructed in Sandstone. One of our older houses is in the process of being sold to a shire employee.

### **Local Shopping**

Unfortunately the local shop closed their doors in mid-February and now only operates the post office agency on a limited basis.

We are very fortunate in that the local hotel has set up a small grocery outlet in one of the rooms at the hotel and locals and visitors are able to get basic groceries including fresh fruit and vegetables, milk, bread, meat and dry goods.

Council has taken on the provision of fuel to the community after entering into a lease for the existing fuel outlet. Whilst this is proving a challenge staffing wise it is an essential service without we would not be able to retain our local residents and staff or attract visitors to the area. Council is also in the process of taking on the Kleenheat Gas agency in Sandstone.

### **Promotional Activities**

Council is currently sourcing a range of items that will be on sale at our visitor centre including a new range of t-shirts and coasters. Along this theme a new corporate polo shirt complete with the new shire logo is being made and will be worn by staff, and possibly Councillors, to help promote Sandstone.

Ian Fitzgerald  
CEO  
18<sup>th</sup> April 2012

**Shire of Yalgoo**

**Presentation** to Shire of Cue was made by Mr Chris Neretlis of Water Corporation on the wise use of water in Cue!!

### **Progress Report OPR**

Mr Jim Netterfield from OP and R provided an update on this project.

### **Interest Rate on Rates**

Mayor Pickard advised that he just received advice that the Interest rates on Rates will be re instated by the Minister.

### **Progress Report – Crossland Resources**

Mr Keiran Murphy from Crosslands Resources provided an update on their project.

### **Other**

Mr Barry Haase thanked the meeting for inviting him to this meeting.

## **7. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **7.1 Financial Statements**

Proposed by      Executive Officer

Attachments      Income & Expenditure- 29<sup>th</sup> February 2012

#### **Comment –**

Refer Financial Statements on next pages.

Reconciled balances of accounts as at 29<sup>th</sup> February 2012

-	Cheque	\$ 12,155.54	Westpac Bank, Kalamunda
-	Investment	\$ 5,065.09	Westpac Bank, Kalamunda
		<b>\$ 17,220.63</b>	

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Financial Statements to the 29<sup>th</sup> February 2012 be received.**

**RESOLUTION –      Moved: Mr Fitzgerald      Seconded: Cr Dowden**

**Carried**



## Murchison Country Zone

**Balance 01/07/11**

Account 229492	8,675.84
Account 231605	5,007.66
	<hr/>
	\$13,683.50
	<hr/>

**Income 2011/12**

Subs	\$8 400.00	
GIOA		
INT 231605	\$57.43	
INT 229492	\$24.70	
		<hr/>
		8,482.13

**Payments 2011/12**

Catering	\$1,300.00	
Secretarial	\$3,645.00	
Hons		
		<hr/>
		\$4,945.00

**Bank Balance 29/02/12**

Account 22942	\$ 12,155.54
Account 231605	\$5,065.09
	<hr/>
	\$17,220.63

**7.2 Zone Draft Budget 2012/13**

Proposed by Executive Officer

Draft Income & Expenditure Statements for the 2011-12 year are shown on the following page.

The 2011 – 12 Budget was adopted at the May 2011 meeting. The Zone usually considers the subscriptions for the new financial year in May, in preparation for member Shires own budgets.

Based on the present arrangements, the Zone budget for 2012/13 will result in a small surplus. It is suggested that Member Shire subscriptions remain at \$2,100.00 each, excl GST for 2012-13.

The honorariums approved for 2011/12, which are now due and are included in the list of accounts for payment, to be paid are:

- Zone President
- Zone Deputy President
- Zone Representative to WALGA

Honorariums were last increased in 2007 are at a modest level.

**RECOMMENDATION -**

**That the Draft Budget for 2012-13 be adopted, incorporating –**

- a) Member Shire Subscriptions of \$2,100.00 per Shire, excluding GST, and**
- b) Honorariums to remain the same –**
  - **Zone President**
  - **Zone Deputy President**
  - **Zone Representative to WALGA**

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**RESOLUTION –            Moved: Cr Hutchinson            Seconded: Cr Foulkes Taylor**

**Carried.**

## Draft Budget INCOME AND EXPENDITURE July 2012 – June 2013

		Estimated	Budget 2012/13
<b>Income</b>	21 - Zone Income		
	2101 - General Subscriptions	\$8,400.00	\$12,600.00
	2107 - Interest earned	\$100.00	\$100.00
	2190 - Reimbursement income	\$1,750.00	\$0.00
		<u>\$10,250.00</u>	<u>\$12,700.00</u>
	Total Income	<b>\$10 250.00</b>	<b>\$12 700.00</b>
<b>Expense</b>	31 - Zone Expenses		
	3101 - Ordinary Meetings	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
	3102 - Telephone conferences	\$0.00	\$500.00
	3103 - Special Meetings & Workshops	\$0.00	\$350.00
	3107 - Bank fees & Charges	20.00	\$20.00
	3190 - Reimbursements expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
	3199 - Unclassified expenses		<u>\$0.00</u>
	Total 31 - Zone	<u>\$4,020.00</u>	<u>\$4,870.00</u>
	32 - Zone		
	3201 – Honoraria	<u>\$1,410.00</u>	<u>\$1, 410.00</u>
	Total 32 - Zone	<u>\$1,410.00</u>	<u>\$1,410.00</u>
	33 - Executive		
	3301 - Professional Services	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00
	3302 – Travel	\$1,290.00	\$1,750.00
	3303 - Phone and fax	\$300.00	\$300.00
	3304 – Other	<u>\$200.00</u>	<u>\$300.00</u>
	Total 33 – Executive	<u>\$7,290.00</u>	<u>\$7,850.00</u>
	Total Expense	<u>\$12,720.00</u>	<u>\$14,130.00</u>
	Net Income	<u>-\$2,470.00</u>	<u>-\$1,430.00</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	Balance at 30/06/12	\$10,500.00	
	Add Income To	<u>\$12,700.00</u>	
	Sub Total	\$23,200.00	
	Less Expenditure	<u>\$14,130.00</u>	
	Sub Total	<u>\$9,070.00Cr</u>	

## Reports from Visitors

Hon Max Trenorden MLC commented on the Local Government Salary Banding and other issues relating to amalgamation of Local Governments etc.

## Geraldton Iron Ore Alliance

Mr Rob Jefferies briefly introduced members of the GIOA who gave a very brief overview of the current status of their operations.

Golden West Resources  
Padbury Mining  
Fero West  
Weld Range

Mr Craig Ferrier  
Mr Gary Stokes  
Mr Brett Manning  
Ms Dannielle Van Kampen

## Midwest Development Commission

Mr Brendin Flanigan from MWDC advised that the region's Housing Project to be part funded by CLGF has been put on hold!!

## 7.3 Accounts To Be Paid

Proposed by      Executive Officer

Attachments      nil

### Comment –

20070	11 May 2012	Murray Brown	Executive Officer Services	\$3,645.00
20071	11 May 2012	Queen of Murchison	Catering 53 x \$35	\$1,855.00
20072	11 May 2012	Cr Beth Walton	Honorarium	\$545.00
20073	11 May 2012	Cr Simon Broad	Honorarium	\$485.00
20074	11 May 2012	CANCELLED	CANCELLED	
	11 May 2012	Murchison Club Hotel	Morning Tea 30 X \$15	\$450.00
			TOTAL	<b>\$6,980.00</b>
GST – MCZ of WALGA is no longer registered for GST				NIL

## RECOMMENDATION

**That the accounts to be paid for the period to 11<sup>th</sup> May 2012 (Cheques 200070 to 200075) be approved.**

**That the accounts to be paid for the period to 11<sup>th</sup> May 2012 (Cheques 200070 to 200075) be approved.**

**RESOLUTION –                      Moved: Cr Terry                      Seconded: Cr Halleen**

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**Carried**

#### **7.4 Correspondence Items**

Proposed by            Executive Officer

Attachments            Please see attached summary of inward correspondence received on the three major issues that were raised at the last Zone meeting:

- A) Setting of CEO Salaries by the State Administrative Tribunal
- B) Health Issues – Nurses working alone
- C) Sealing of the Meekatharra – Wiluna section of the Goldfields Highway

#### **A) Setting of CEO Salaries by State Administrative Tribunal**

As previously advised to all member Councils by email on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012, letters on this matter were sent to all State Members of Parliament. Replies were received from some 26 members and these replies can be summarised in three categories:-

- 1. Noting the Zones Concerns
- 2. Supporting the Government Proposal
- 3. Referring it to Opposition Local Government Spokesman from whom I have not had a response yet>

Extracts from the Premiers reply on this matter include the following comments:-

*“ The Tribunal has long experience in determining appropriate levels for salaries. The Minister for Local Government has assured me that the Tribunal is fully aware of local governments concerns regarding this proposal and the recruitment environment of this sector. Given the current rate of 39% non compliance with its recommendations, the tribunal has indicated that it will undertake research to ensure that its future determinations on CEO Remuneration are informed with detailed information.*

*I believe that the Tribunal’s enhanced research resources will mean that its determinations will not prove an impediment as it will provide greater accountability and transparency to ratepayers.”*

*The National Party did ensure that a “Grand Father clause was included in this Bill which protects the contracts of existing CEO’S.*

#### **B) Health Issues**

On December 20<sup>th</sup> 2011 the Deputy premier and Minister for Health advised:-

*“The issue of a second nurse at WACHS Health Centres currently run by a sole nurse is being reviewed by the WACHS Nurse Directors Forum and the Department of Health’s Office of the Chief Nurse.”*

**C) Sealing of the Meekatharra-Wiluna section of the Goldfields Highway**

On 16<sup>th</sup> January 2012 the Acting Premier advised:-

*“The current road network development strategy is to continue to upgrade and seal the existing Goldfields Highway between Wiluna and Meekatharra as funding is available. MRD have recently reviewed the estimated cost to construct and seal the existing road to a suitable standard which is now estimated at \$250 Million.*

*The importance of this road is acknowledged and it will be considered for funding as part of the next budget development process”.*

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Correspondence Items be received.**

**That the Correspondence Items be received.**

**RESOLUTION –      Moved: Mr McClymont      Seconded: Cr Dowden**

---

**Carried**

### **7.5 Flying Minutes – Shire of Murchison**

From time to time Councils find it necessary to make decisions between meetings. Council believes it is appropriate that a mechanism exists that allows decisions to be made by the use of flying minutes in the same way as this is used by WALGA. Such a mechanism is considered particularly useful in regional and remote areas where convening meetings for the purpose of making urgent decisions is both time consuming (especially for elected personnel) and costly. The proposal is not intended to usurp the proper decision making process of properly convened meetings but for use when urgent decisions are required. To this end it is expected that rules would need to be made as to when 'flying minutes' could be used and who would be given authority to decide when the use of a 'flying minute' was appropriate.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That it be recommended to State Council that WALGA support an amendment to the Local Government Act which would allow 'flying minutes' to be used by Local Government Councils to enable decisions to be reached in certain circumstances between meetings (without necessity to convene a meeting) and that WALGA progress this matter through the Minister's Office or the L.G.Department as appropriate.**

**RESOLUTION – That the Recommendation be put to the meeting:**

**Moved: Cr Foulkes Taylor Seconded: Cr Halleen**

---

#### **Amendment**

**That it be recommended that WALGA investigate the ramifications of an amendment to the Local Government Act which would allow "flying Minutes" to be used by local government Councils to enable decisions to be reached in certain circumstances between meetings (without necessity to convene a meeting) and report back to the Zone for consideration.**

**The above Amendment was Moved Cr Dowden Seconded Cr Itebide was put to the meeting carried.**



## Bushfires

Mr Jim McNamara CFM Pastoral FESA Reported on the various bushfires in the Murchison Region over the last few months and thanked everyone for their efforts.

**Luncheon Adjournment 12.30pm to 1.45pm.**

## 7.6 Country Local Fund REVIEW

(The assistance of Bill Atkinson CEO Shire of Carnamah is acknowledged in preparation of this item)

### Summary

This report recommends that this Zone's position on the Country Local Government Fund (CLGF) Review be as follows:

- The Zone supports recommendation 5. It is essential that revised guidelines are communicated to the sector early to enable CLG's to plan ahead and be aware of the purpose and priorities of the CLGF and the conditions that apply.
- The principal purpose of the CLGF is to address infrastructure needs and Council concurs with the Trust that *allocations should be independent of any reform agenda that the State Government might have for local government.* To have it otherwise, is to politicise a process which should be free of any government structural reform agenda's.
- The CLGF should be allocated on a basis of 50% for individual allocations and 50% for group allocations.
- Non growth Councils still have infrastructure needs, especially in the areas of road infrastructure (particularly where mining is occurring) and in housing which is a readily achievable and proven way of capacity building.
- Approval and reporting processes need to be streamlined.
- Audit requirements should be simplified as far as possible in the interests of expediency and cost effectiveness.

## Background

The Minister for Regional Development; Lands referred a review of the CLGF to the *Western Australian Regional Development Trust* to conduct an independent, evidence based review of the CLGF.

### Comment

*Western Australian Regional Development Trust* has submitted a copy of it 335 page review which contains 26 recommendations.

Currently the CLGF allocations are split on a 50/50 individual local government/regional group split.

An excerpt from the report (pages 202/3) reads:

*As discussed in earlier chapters, the Department of Local Government submission argued for 100% of the CLGF to be invested in CLGs that in their words had “embraced reform”. These number 63 of the 109 CLG’s. The Trust has made in clear that it does not support this approach. The remaining 46 of the 109 CLG’s cover a vast area of the State and that their infrastructure needs have to be addressed.*

*Trust is advised that the Minister has announced a more radical intent. The Trust is advised that it is the intention that 2012-13 remain at a 50/50 split and that from 2013-14 no funding will be to individual CLG’s and all funding will be directed to Groups.*

*Trust does not support this approach either. The Trust recommends there should continue to be an individual CLG CLGF component and a Groups CLGF component.*

It would seem that there are a few agendas at play including using the CLGF as a mechanism to influence the Local Government Reform agenda and that of focusing on regional, rather than local infrastructure priorities.

Trust appears to have applied democratic and sound logic in responding to these agenda’s.

WA Local Government Association will be preparing a submission to the review.

Councils will have access to the review document submitted by the *Western Australian Regional Development Trust*, this has not been copied and circulated as an attachment to this report. It may be accessed however from the DLG website <http://www.rdl.wa.gov.au>

## RECOMMENDATION

*That this Zone’s position on the Country Local Government Fund (CLGF) Review be as follows:*

- *The Zone supports recommendation 5. It is essential that revised guidelines are communicated to the sector early to enable CLG’s to plan ahead and be aware of the purpose and priorities of the CLGF and the conditions that apply.*
- *The principal purpose of the CLGF is to address infrastructure needs and Council concurs with the Trust that allocations should be independent of any reform agenda that the State Government might have for local government. To have it otherwise, is to politicise a process which should be free of any government structural reform agenda’s.*
- *The CLGF should be allocated on a basis of 50% for individual allocations and 50% for group allocations.*
- *Non growth Councils still have infrastructure needs, especially in the areas of road infrastructure (particularly where mining is occurring) and in housing which is a readily achievable and proven way of capacity building.*
- *Approval and reporting processes need to be streamlined.*

- *Audit requirements should be simplified as far as possible in the interests of expediency and cost effectiveness.*

**Moved Cr Dowden Seconded Cr Terry**  
**That the above recommendation be adopted.**

**Carried**

**Address by Ms Katherine Flower and Ms Linda Crook from the Chamber of Minerals and Energy.**

**Mining issues:-**

**Carbon Tax from 1/07/12**

**6 Cents Diesel Fuel rebate for Mining will be abolished.**

**Mr Haase will provide advice on the Diesel Fuel Rebate on Mining.**

**Health**

**Short addresses were made to the meeting by Ms Rae Peel of GRAMS and a representative from WACHS**

**9. EMERGING ISSUES as notified / permitted by the President**

Nil

**10. NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Murchison Country Zone of WALGA will be held in Cue on Friday, 9<sup>nd</sup> November 2012.

Parliamentary sitting dates for 2012 around that time are:-

6<sup>th</sup> to 8th November 2012

13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012

WALGA State Council Meetings for the remainder of 2012 are:

Wednesday 2 May 2012

Wednesday 4 July 2012

Wednesday 5 September 2012

Wednesday 5 December 2012

The Zone President thanked everyone for their attendance

**12. CLOSURE:- 2.20pm**

**Monday 4 June 2012**

## **OPR ANNOUNCES GOOD Heart DEVELOPMENT GRANTS**

Oakajee Port and Rail (OPR) will expand its successful Good Heart Mid-West Aboriginal Art initiative, with the creation of a new development scholarship for two participating artists.

In its fifth year, the annual Good Heart exhibition showcases traditional and contemporary works by approximately 60 of the region's Indigenous artists to a metropolitan audience. Last year about 5,000 people viewed the week-long exhibition in Perth's CBD.

The Good Heart Development Grant aims to secure the exhibition's long-term future, by encouraging the talents of emerging artists.

This year's recipients – to be announced at the exhibition's opening night, on Monday 18 June – will receive:

- A week's intensive tuition at the Kidogo Art Institute in Fremantle;
- Accommodation and airfares between Perth and Geraldton; and
- Art supplies.

"Kidogo has a reputation for working well with Aboriginal artists," OPR General Manager, Community and Government Relations, Kim Pervan said.

"The training will focus on areas particularly relevant to mid-west artists, as well as developing their understanding of how to function within the art business."

The artists will also have the opportunity to take part in classes toward a Certificate 3 in Art and Design.

"The scholarship program marks the beginning of the next phase in the development of Good Heart."

"With long-term partners expanding their support this year through a range of initiatives, our vision is to contribute to a self-sustaining model – where the annual exhibition provides an anchor for a host of other activities."

The main exhibition will be staged in the foyer of the QV1 Building from **18-22 June**. Entry is free.

It will be opened by the Governor of Western Australia, His Excellency Malcolm McCusker AC CVO QC and WA Premier, The Hon. Colin Barnett MLA.

# Media Statement



The Mid West Development Commission (MWDC) continues to lead the development of plans to raise the profile of the region's Indigenous arts community. OPR works closely with the MWDC and is guided by its vision.

To realise the full potential of the local arts industry requires appropriate support to artists through strong and viable arts centres including Yamaji Art Gallery in Geraldton, Wirnda Barna Artists Incorporated in Mt Magnet and the Tjukurba Art Gallery in Wiluna.

Good Heart 2012 is proudly supported by OPR's partners – AECOM, ANZ, Gilbert + Tobin, BMT JFA Consultants, Crosslands Resources, DLA Piper, Geraldton Newspapers, Geraldton Port Authority, Market Creations, Mid West Development Commission, Oceanica Consulting, WorleyParsons Services and MYR Consulting.

OPR acknowledges the assistance of Northampton Old School – Women's Textile Team, Wirnda Barna Artists Inc, Mt Magnet, Yamaji Art Geraldton, City of Geraldton-Greenough, Gryphon Management Australia, Jacksons Drawing Supplies and Mullewa Indigenous Women's Group

*Oakajee Port and Rail's (OPR) vision is to deliver an integrated bulk iron ore supply chain for the mid-west – through the construction of a deepwater port 24km north of Geraldton, and a 570km railway, servicing the region's emerging mining operations.*

**ENDS**

## Rob Newton

Public Relations Manager

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e [rnewton@opandr.com](mailto:rnewton@opandr.com)



### Opening Mid-West's Good Heart to the City

One hundred and fifty works selected for this year's OPR Good Heart Mid-West Aboriginal Art Exhibition are now being carefully packed and prepared for their journey south, ahead of next week's exhibition in Perth's CBD.

The stunning traditional and contemporary pieces have been created by just under 40 Indigenous artists – hailing from communities across the region, including Wiluna, Mullewa, Northampton, Meekatharra, Mt Magnet, Cue, Yalgoo, Morawa and Morawa Bondini Aboriginal Reserve.

"This year Good Heart features work from both established artists and some emerging mid-west talents," OPR General Manager Community and Government Relations Kim Pervan explained.

"It's a great opportunity to expose these artists and their creations to a metropolitan audience. Looking at the quality of work, I'd expect interest to once again be strong."

The exhibition will be staged in the foyer of the QV1 Building from 18-22 June. Entry is free.

The full catalogue of works is now available at [www.opandr.com](http://www.opandr.com).



[Download Full Media Statement - Opening Mid-West's Good Heart to the City](#)

To unsubscribe to future updates, please [click here](#)



**Tuesday 12 June 2012**

## **PREPARING TO OPEN MID-WEST'S GOOD HEART TO THE CITY**

One hundred and fifty works selected for this year's OPR Good Heart Mid-West Aboriginal Art Exhibition are now being carefully packed and prepared for their journey south, ahead of next week's exhibition in Perth's CBD.

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The exhibition will be staged in the foyer of the QV1 Building from 18-22 June. Entry is free.

The full catalogue of works is now available at [www.opandr.com](http://www.opandr.com).

Since Good Heart's debut in 2008, almost \$350,000 has been generated in sales income for participating artists. This year, it's hoped this figure will pass half a million dollars.

For the past two years a preview, organised by the Geraldton Newspapers Group, has been staged in Geraldton. This year, new initiatives include:

- Announcement of the Good Heart Development Grants Program, where at least one participating artist will receive a scholarship for tuition at the Kidogo Art Institute in Fremantle;
- Production of a coffee table booklet promoting mid-west Indigenous artists and culture, by long-time supporter, Geraldton-based Market Creations; and
- Law firm DLA Piper incorporating mid-west artists and their works into promotion of its Reconciliation Action Plan.

"With long-term partners expanding their support this year through a range of initiatives, our vision is to help in creating a self-sustaining model, under the guidance of the Mid West Development Commission (MWDC)," Ms Pervan said.

"This will see the annual exhibition provide an anchor for a host of other activities. We've come a long way in the past five years - it's an exciting time for the program."



# Media Statement



The exhibition will be launched by Governor of Western Australia, His Excellency Malcolm McCusker.

The MWDC continues to lead the development of plans to raise the profile of the region's Indigenous arts community. OPR works closely with the MWDC and is guided by its vision.

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**ENDS**

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Government of Western Australia  
Department of Culture and the Arts  
State Records Office of Western Australia

## INFORMATION SHEET

# State Records Office of Western Australia

## Local Government Elected Members' Records: Which records to capture?

The State Records Commission policy regarding the records of local government elected members requires the creation and retention of records of the:

*"...communications and transactions of elected members which constitute evidence affecting the accountability of the Council and the discharge of its business."*

This policy applies regardless of a record's format or where it was received.

Elected members **must** create and keep records of communications or transactions, which convey information relating to **local government business or functions**. These records should be forwarded to the local government administration for **capture into the official recordkeeping system**.

### Which records should be captured?

YES – forward to your local government administration	NO – do not need to be forwarded to your local government
<b>Communications from ratepayers</b> , such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• complaints &amp; compliments;</li> <li>• correspondence concerning corporate matters;</li> <li>• submissions, petitions &amp; lobbying;</li> <li>• information for Council's interest relating to local government business activity &amp; functions.</li> </ul>	<b>Duplicate copies</b> – of Council meeting agenda, minutes & papers.
<b>Telephone, meetings &amp; other verbal conversations</b> – between an elected member and another party, regarding local government projects or business activities.	<b>Draft documents or working papers</b> – which are already captured at the local government.
<b>Work diaries</b> – containing information that may be significant to the conduct of the elected member on behalf of the local government.	<b>Publications</b> – such as newsletters, circulars and journals.
<b>Presentations and speeches</b> – delivered as part of an elected member's official duties.	<b>Invitations</b> – to community events where an elected member is <b>not</b> representing Council or the local government.
	<b>Telephone, meetings &amp; other verbal conversations</b> which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• convey routine information only; <b>or</b></li> <li>• do not relate to local government business or functions.</li> </ul>
	<b>Electioneering</b> – or party political information.
	<b>Personal records</b> – not related to an elected member's official duties.

**Destruction of records:** return all records to the local government for authorized and legal destruction.

**More information:** contact your local government administration or  
**State Records Office of Western Australia**  
 Tel: 9427 3360 or Email: [sro@sro.wa.gov.au](mailto:sro@sro.wa.gov.au)

## **What is a Record?**

All corporate information should be registered relating to the business of Council.

To assist with determining if a document/email/request should be registered, ask yourself the following questions. If the answer is 'YES', then the information should be registered.

A record should be registered if: -

- It concerns Council's Core business, including legal advice;
- It details a policy change or development;
- It approves or authorises action or expenditure;
- Council is required to respond to the record;
- It involves a decision made by an employee on Council's behalf;
- It involves a complaint that requires investigation;
- It involves attending a formal meeting;
- It concerns a safety issue;
- It adds to Councils knowledge base.

A record is not required to be registered if it is: -

- A transitory or short term item such as a phone message, notes, compliment slips, delivery slips etc;
- Distributed to staff for information only;
- A personal message unrelated to official business;
- Rough working papers and/or calculations created in the preparation of official records;
- Published material which does not form an integral part of a Council record;
- Advertising material or 'junk' mail;
- Duplicate copies of material used for reference purposes.



Council Meeting	File Ref:
CLOSED	SIDE
PUBLIC	INFO then (F)
11.1. Works	11.3. Finance
11.2. Dev	11.4. Admin
COPY TO or CIRCULATE:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEO	EA/PA
DCEO	
Proj Exec	President
EHO	Councillors

CLG  
(main  
file  
not  
sub file)

24 May 2012

Our Ref: 05-055-03-0005

Ms Sharon Daishe  
Chief Executive Officer  
Shire of Yalgoo  
PO Box 40  
Yalgoo WA 6635

Dear Sharon

### Review of the Royalties for Regions Country Local Government Fund

Thank you for providing input into WALGA's Submission to the *Review of the Royalties for Regions Country Local Government Fund*. We sought to develop a submission to the Review from a strategic, sector-wide perspective.

There are a number of recommendations in the Trust's report that were not supported in our Submission. We sought to offer constructive suggestions to improve the Country Local Government Fund rather than bluntly oppose the Trust's recommendations.

The Submission was provided to the Department of Regional Development and Lands on an 'interim' basis subject to State Council endorsement at their 4 July 2012 meeting. Accordingly, the Submission will be an item at the upcoming round of Zone meetings.

A copy of the Submission is attached for your reference.

For enquiries please contact me on (08) 9213 2051 or [tbrown@walga.asn.au](mailto:tbrown@walga.asn.au).

Yours sincerely

Tony Brown  
Executive Manager Governance and Strategy

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Website: [www.walga.asn.au](http://www.walga.asn.au)



**Western Australian Local Government Association**

## **SUBMISSION**

**Western Australian Regional Development Trust**

***Review of the Royalties for Regions  
Country Local Government Fund***

***May 2012***

Review of the Royalties for Regions Country Local Government Fund

**Submission to:**

Western Australian Regional Development Trust

**On the report:**

*Review of the Royalties for Regions  
Country Local Government Fund*

January 2012

**Prepared by:**

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## Review of the Royalties for Regions Country Local Government Fund

### Executive Summary

Local Governments are a key component of the Australian Federation and provide a range of services to communities all over Western Australia. Rural and regional Local Governments face considerable challenges, not least of which is dealing with a significant infrastructure backlog.

Consequently, since its inception, the Country Local Government Fund (CLGF) has made a significant and tangible difference to country Local Governments and country communities. The Association strongly supports the continuation of the Fund at its current, or an increased, level.

The focus of the CLGF should continue to be primarily on infrastructure and secondarily on Local Government capacity building.

The Association supports the use of a proportion of the capacity building component of the CLGF for the exploration and implementation of voluntary Local Government amalgamations. It is not appropriate, however, for the CLGF to be used as a tool to coerce amalgamations. Further, capacity building initiatives should be available to *all* Local Governments.

The Western Australian Regional Development Trust has recommended investigation of spending the CLGF on infrastructure in Aboriginal Communities. This is not supported: infrastructure in Aboriginal Communities must be upgraded prior to handover to Local Government with separate State and Commonwealth funding. Following handover to Local Government, Councils may decide to invest CLGF monies in infrastructure in Aboriginal Communities.

The Association supports the introduction of a contestable component of the Country Local Government Fund on the condition that the contestable component is a minority of the Fund and is to be put towards significant regional projects.

The Trust has recommended the introduction of a 'rating' system to be applied to Local Governments in the areas of capability, capacity, prospects and risk. The application of a 'rating' system of Local Governments is not supported. Further, the Trust is proposing exclusion from the CLGF as an outcome of the 'rating' system. The Association suggests that increased support is a more appropriate outcome than exclusion.

An important outcome of this Review is clarification of the role of Regional Development Commissions (RDC) in the Country Local Government Fund. The decision-making role rightly belongs to democratically elected Councils. RDCs should assist Local



## WALGA Submission -- May 2012

Governments by facilitating the selection of regional projects, providing administrative assistance and helping Local Governments pursue other sources of funding.

The Trust has suggested a number of options to streamline the CLGF administrative and reporting processes. The Association strongly supports any reforms that assist Local Governments by reducing the administrative and compliance burden.

## Review of the Royalties for Regions Country Local Government Fund

## Background & Context

### **About WALGA**

The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA or “The Association”) is the united voice of Local Government in Western Australia. The Association is an independent, membership-based organisation representing and supporting the work and interests of all 140 Local Governments in Western Australia.

The Association provides an essential voice for approximately 1,250 elected members and over 14,500 employees of the Local Governments in Western Australia and Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Island Councils. The Association also provides professional advice and offers services that deliver financial benefits to Local Governments and the communities they serve.

### **About Local Government<sup>1</sup>**

Local Governments play a key role in Australia’s system of government and provide a range of services to their respective communities which span the length and breadth of Western Australia.

Local Governments, in one form or another, have existed in Western Australia since the arrival of settlers from Britain in the nineteenth century. The first piece of legislation to weave the fabric of today’s Local Government sector was the *Towns Improvement Act of 1838*.<sup>2</sup> Today, Local Government is constituted and primarily regulated by the *Local Government Act 1995* but there are many other legislative instruments which impact the way Local Governments operate in their diverse array of activities.

Local Governments are a key democratic institution in Western Australia’s local communities and Councils have well-established relationships with the communities they serve and represent, local businesses and organisations as well as other spheres of government.<sup>3</sup>

Services provided by Local Governments in Western Australia include the traditional roads and waste collection but also now extend to recreation, medical services and other human services.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> WALGA 2011, p6

<sup>2</sup> WALGA 2012

<sup>3</sup> Aulich *et al*, 2011 Volume 2, p13

<sup>4</sup> PricewaterhouseCoopers 2006

In a State as socially, geographically and economically diverse as Western Australia, the scale and scope of Local Governments, the services they provide and their service delivery capacity are almost as diverse as Western Australia itself. The challenge for policy-makers is to develop and administer a system of Local Government which provides sufficient flexibility and capacity for all Local Governments to best serve their communities in governance, democratic representation, service delivery and the provision of infrastructure.

All Local Governments throughout Western Australia continually strive to provide the highest quality services within the constraints of Local Government revenue streams, Australia's vertical fiscal imbalance and ongoing cost-shifting from other spheres of Government, all of which are well documented by the 2003 Hawker Report<sup>5</sup> and many reports on Local Government finances before and since.<sup>6</sup>

### **Context<sup>7</sup>**

Beyond systemic funding pressures faced by Local Governments, there are a number of challenges faced by rural and remote Local Governments:<sup>8</sup>

- Difficulty securing key staff;
- Increasing community expectations;
- Funding pressures;
- Local Government as the service provider of last resort.

As the service provider of last resort, the financial constraints of Local Governments in rural areas are significantly restricted when Councils fill the void left by other spheres of government to fund medical and other human services which are expected by the community.

There are also geographic factors which impact Local Governments' capacity to fund service delivery and infrastructure upgrades and maintenance. Western Australia, which accounts for approximately one third of the continent of Australia, is sparsely populated and highly urbanised. Approximately 75 percent of the State's 2.2 million people live in the Perth metropolitan region.<sup>9</sup> The geographic reality of a sparsely populated land mass increases the financial viability challenges that confront Western Australia's 109 country Local Governments.

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<sup>5</sup> House of Representatives Standing Committee on Economics, Finance and Public Administration 2003

<sup>6</sup> See also Aulich *et al* 2011 Volume 1

<sup>7</sup> WALGA 2011, p7

<sup>8</sup> Morris, Callaghan and Walker 2010

<sup>9</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006

## Review of the Royalties for Regions Country Local Government Fund

Coupled with geographic factors are the demographic challenges confronting country Local Governments within the context of Australia's ageing population. Many Local Governments in agricultural areas face a trend of population decline, leaving a shrinking rate base to fund renewal and maintenance of ageing infrastructure. Other Local Governments, in 'sea-change' or resource-rich locations, face problems associated with rapid growth: development of new facilities and infrastructure ahead of the community's capacity to pay.

In this context, the Country Local Government Fund has provided country Local Governments with opportunities to address the infrastructure backlog, build organisational capacity and undertake projects of regional significance, all of which provide real and demonstrable benefits to country communities and country Western Australians.

### **About the Review**

The Western Australian Regional Development Trust (WARDT or the "Trust") have undertaken a detailed and thorough Review of the Royalties for Regions Country Local Government Fund.

WALGA commends the Trust for their engagement process while undertaking the Review and for the detail and care evident in their report.

The Trust's engagement process commenced with the distribution of an Issues Paper with an invitation for submissions.

The Issues Paper outlined the issues for consideration in the Review:

*Overall, whether there is a continuing need for the CLGF, and if so, in what form, with what budget parameters, and with what purpose.*

*1. The extent to which the stated aims of the CLGF are being met, in particular, have the objectives of the CLGF been materially achieved:*

- how the CLGF is addressing local governments' infrastructure backlogs and enhancing local governments' capacity building*
- how the financial sustainability of country local governments is being improved through improved asset management*
- the effectiveness of funds directed to voluntary amalgamation*
- how CLGF is assisting groups of country local governments to fund larger scale infrastructure projects*
- the effect or impact of funds allocated under the CLGF*

## WALGA Submission -- May 2012

2. *Whether country local government or the Department of Regional Development and Lands has experienced difficulties in applications and approvals, executing, acquitting, reporting, or managing projects under the CLGF.*
3. *The efficacy of the current formula in allocating funds to individual and groups of local governments, including whether this approach should be retained, reformed or replaced*
4. *The appropriate proportional allocation of funding between individual, group and regional components over time*
5. *The scope of initiatives that should be funded and in particular, whether the existing focus on infrastructure and capacity building should be retained, narrowed, broadened or otherwise changed*
6. *Matters that would improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Fund's implementation including the existing processes for forward capital works development, and business plan development.*
7. *Any other relevant matters.*

Many Local Governments submitted to the Trust on the Issues Paper, as did WALGA.

### ***WALGA's Submission on the Issues Paper***

The Association's submission on the Issues Paper addressed the issues listed above from a strategic, sector-wide perspective. Many Local Governments made individual submissions to the Review to offer a local and regional perspective.

WALGA's submission on the Issues Paper, including its nine recommendations, was endorsed by the WALGA State Council at their 7 December 2011 meeting.

### **Recommendations**

The nine recommendations from WALGA's Submission on the Issues Paper are listed below.<sup>10</sup>

1. That the Country Local Government Fund continue as a grant program direct to Local Government
2. That the Country Local Government Fund continues to focus on infrastructure and the infrastructure backlog with capacity building as a secondary objective

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<sup>10</sup> WALGA 2011, p24

#### Review of the Royalties for Regions Country Local Government Fund

3. That the establishment of a reserve fund which could be used to supplement the Country Local Government Fund in years in which State Royalty receipts are lower than forecast be considered to enable certainty of funding
4. That decision-making regarding the Country Local Government Fund be undertaken by Local Governments with Regional Development Commissions assisting with facilitation if required
5. A minimum of 50 percent of the total pool of the Country Local Government Fund be allocated to individual Local Governments. In areas where regional projects are determined by the Local Governments to be of a higher priority, timely and meet strategic objectives, then up to 100 percent of the Country Local Government Fund may be allocated to regional projects.
6. That the formula used to determine funding allocations for the Country Local Government Fund match the purpose of the Fund
7. That the capacity building funding associated with voluntary amalgamations be broadened to be available to all Local Governments
8. That clear funding guidelines for the Country Local Government Fund be released well in advance of the year of funding
9. That the Country Local Government Fund acquittal process be simplified and that the process utilised by the Roads to Recovery program be investigated as a potential model

#### ***WALGA's Submission on the Trust's Report***

While the Trust ought to be commended for their work, the Trust's report makes a number of recommendations which the Association does not support. The Association acknowledges the benefits the Country Local Government Fund delivers to country Local Governments and the communities they serve and represent.

In this context, the Association is seeking to offer constructive feedback to the Trust to enhance the Country Local Government Fund.

In Chapter 12 of the report, the Trust structure their recommendations around eight key issues:

1. What is the purpose of the Country Local Government Fund?
2. What should be funded?
3. How much money is needed?
4. Who should be funded?
5. How should they be funded?

## WALGA Submission – May 2012

6. Who makes decisions on what basis?
7. What will deliver the best outcomes?
8. Capacity building.

WALGA will follow the same structure in responding to the issues and recommendations put forward by the Trust.

Due to the limited timeframe for submissions on the Trust's report, this submission has not been formally endorsed by the WALGA State Council. Accordingly, this submission is presented to the Trust on an interim basis, subject to State Council consideration at their 5 July 2012 meeting.

## Review of the Royalties for Regions Country Local Government Fund

### Comments on the Review

The Association reiterates its appreciation to the Trust for the manner in which the Review has been undertaken. The Review has involved thorough engagement with Local Governments and the Association. For this, the Trust ought to be commended.

The Association strongly supports the continuation of the Country Local Government Fund; the CLGF is an important and highly valued fund to country Local Governments and country communities. The importance of the CLGF is likely to increase into the medium term as Western Australia's population continues to grow as a result of increasing private sector investment and as people relocate to regional areas for lifestyle reasons.

There are a number of conclusions and recommendations in the Trust's report with which the Association does not agree. WALGA has sought to offer constructive alternatives in a number of cases, rather than blunt opposition.

In this context, the Association supports recommendation 1 of the Trust's report but requests Local Government engagement in the consideration of the progress reports referred to in the recommendation. At the very least, the Association requests that progress reports are made available to key stakeholders including country Local Governments and WALGA.

This will enable the Local Government sector to assist the Department of Regional Development and Lands in achieving the best outcomes from the investment in country Western Australia.

#### ***Recommendation 1***

*The Trust recommends that RDL provide both the Minister and the Trust with a detailed report of progress made with respect to the recommendations of the CLGF Review by 31 December 2012, and with a further update by 1 July 2013.*

The Association supports the Trust's conclusion that the program should continue uninterrupted until July 2013. This will provide the Local Government sector the opportunity to prepare for any substantial changes to the CLGF that eventuate from this Review.

The Association acknowledges that the Country Local Government Fund is subject to significant scrutiny and that there is a need for it to be robust in terms of its outcomes and its accountability. For this reason, WALGA and the Local Government sector have



welcomed this review and welcomed the opportunity to meaningfully contribute to this review.

### ***What is the purpose of the fund?***

The Association recommended in its submission to the Issues Paper, “that the Country Local Government Fund continues to focus on infrastructure and the infrastructure backlog with capacity building as a secondary objective”.<sup>11</sup>

This recommendation is still valid. The Association argues that, while the CLGF has assisted Local Governments address their infrastructure backlog to an extent, there is still a significant need for infrastructure funding in non-metropolitan Western Australia.

In line with the Association’s submission to the Issues Paper, recommendation 2 is supported.

#### ***Recommendation 2***

*The Trust recommends that the Minister accept that:*

- 1. The purpose of the CLGF is to satisfy the intent of sections 4 and 9(1)(a) of the Act, principally by addressing the infrastructure requirements of country local government either through individual CLGs or contiguous groups of CLGs;*
- 2. That being said, CLGF spending on infrastructure that addresses other section 9(1) requirements by providing services, or that develops and broadens the economic base, or that creates jobs or improves career opportunities, is to be preferred over infrastructure spending that does not; and*
- 3. To enable the purpose of the CLGF to be realised it is necessary to also invest in CLG capacity building, both physical capacity and human capacity, and CLG capability, provided that investment will assist in producing optimal future CLG infrastructure investment decisions, and help improve the overall financial viability of CLGs, particularly through improved asset management.*

The Trust’s recommendation 3 is strongly supported.

#### ***Recommendation 3***

*The Trust recommends that the Minister:*

- 1. Continue the CLGF at least at the current level of budget allocation;*

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<sup>11</sup> WALGA 2011, p24

## Review of the Royalties for Regions Country Local Government Fund

2. *Build into his considerations that while it is vital to focus on strategic outcomes, there is still a need to continue to address relevant smaller local infrastructure requirements that are valued by CLG communities;*
3. *Taking into account the evidence to the Review and the Trust's findings, consider increasing the CLGF budget allocation; and*
4. *Appropriate CLGF funds for allocation to categories of individual CLGs and groups of CLGs selected and appropriated against defined criteria.*

The Association agrees that the Country Local Government Fund should continue at current or increased levels. In some ways, the many successes of the Country Local Government Fund to date have highlighted the need for the CLGF to continue. A significant infrastructure backlog still exists and there is a lot more the CLGF can achieve in country Western Australia.

The Association strongly supports point 2 of Recommendation 3. There is a continuing need to support individual Local Governments in the provision of infrastructure in their communities.

As the Association argued in its submission to the Issues Paper, "given the extent of the [infrastructure] backlog and the revenue constraints of Local Governments, addressing the infrastructure backlog to restore infrastructure to an appropriate level and to ensure intergenerational equity is a long-term process."<sup>12</sup>

In reference to point 4 of recommendation 3, the Association anticipates that the Local Government sector will be consulted in the determination of criteria for the allocation of funding.

Recommendation 4 is supported.

***Recommendation 4***

*The Trust recommends that no material change in CLGF allocation systems (unless generally welcomed by the sector) occur earlier than 1 July 2013, to allow present CLG budgets plans and projects to be realised.*

In some cases, making significant changes to the Fund in time for July 2013 may be difficult if the Department of Regional Development and Lands does not have sufficient resources.

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<sup>12</sup> WALGA 2011, p9

### ***What should be funded?***

The Association agrees with the Trust's conclusions that infrastructure should be the focus of the Country Local Government Fund, with Local Government capacity building as a secondary objective.

The Association supports the Trust's conclusion that project management and administration costs should be included in the CLGF in the future.<sup>13</sup>

The Association agrees that capital equipment, such as road patching trucks and graders, should be eligible for funding.<sup>14</sup> This should also be extended to other forms of capital equipment such as compactors, mulchers or wood chippers for use at landfill sites or transfer stations. Investment of equipment of this nature would reduce waste to landfill, increase the life of the landfill and reduce potential liabilities under a carbon pricing mechanism.

#### ***Recommendation 5***

*The Trust recommends that by no later than 31 December 2012 in order to be operational by 1 July 2013, in consultation with the CLG sector and taking into account evidence to this Review and the findings of the Trust, RDL settle revised guidelines for both individual CLGs and groups of CLGs, making clear the purpose and priorities of the CLGF, what will be funded, the outcomes that are sought and the conditions that apply.*

The Association and the Local Government sector strongly support Recommendation 5. Delays in the release of the guidelines are a major frustration for the sector but it is acknowledged that these types of issues can arise in a significant, recently established grants program like the CLGF.

The Association anticipates that capital equipment, project management and administration costs will be included in future guidelines. It is important that engagement with the sector in the development of the CLGF guidelines continues.

#### **Local Government Amalgamations**

The Association conditionally supports recommendation 6.

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<sup>13</sup> WARDT 2012, p196

<sup>14</sup> WARDT 2012, p196

## Review of the Royalties for Regions Country Local Government Fund

**Recommendation 6**

*The Trust recommends that, by no later than 31 December 2012 in order to be operational by 1 July 2013, and taking into account evidence to this Review and the findings of the Trust, RDL after consultation with DLG and WALGA, review the basis on which CLGF funding will be provided for the amalgamation of selected CLGs, to improve the likelihood of amalgamation occurring.*

The Association supports the concept that funding should be available for Local Governments to explore and implement amalgamations. Local Government amalgamations are expensive: systems, processes, policies and workplace cultures from two or more distinct organisations have to be combined. It is appropriate that funding is available for Local Governments who decide, with the backing of their communities, to voluntarily amalgamate.

It is not appropriate, however, for the Country Local Government Fund to be used as a tool to coerce Local Governments to enter into an amalgamation. Decisions regarding amalgamation should not be a determinant for withholding CLGF funding.

The Association fundamentally rejects the Minister for Local Government's position that Local Governments that have not "embraced reform" should not receive CLGF funding.<sup>15</sup> The Association supports the Trust's rejection of the Minister for Local Government's position.

The purpose of the CLGF should not be to support the Department of Local Government's reform program. WALGA is supportive of some capacity building funding being used to assist with voluntary amalgamations; however, capacity building initiatives should be available to *all* Local Governments.

***How much money is needed?***

The Association supports the Trust's conclusion that the CLGF should continue at least at its current budget allocation.

There is still a significant infrastructure backlog in Western Australia. The Association's Systemic Sustainability Study (SSS) suggested the infrastructure backlog in Western Australia was approximately \$1.75 billion in 2005.<sup>16</sup> The Trust concludes that the infrastructure backlog in Western Australia may prove to be considerably larger than estimated.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> WARDT 2012, p197

<sup>16</sup> WALGA 2006, p32

<sup>17</sup> WARDT 2012, p199

The Association acknowledges that the estimated backlog of \$1.75 billion may prove to be conservative. The Association argued in its submission to the Issues Paper that improved asset management practices may reveal a greater backlog than previously estimated.<sup>18</sup>

The Association supports recommendation 7.

***Recommendation 7***

*The Trust recommends that:*

- 1. RDL analyse all FCWPs by 31 December 2012 in order to be operational by 1 July 2013, to ascertain the actual infrastructure status, needs and priorities of each CLG on an asset class basis to help determine CLGF desired outcomes by categories of CLGs; and*
- 2. That RDL develop and publish improved data on the infrastructure backlog in the CLG sector.*

It should be noted that, while Forward Capital Works Plans (FCWP) will provide a picture of Local Government infrastructure priorities, FCWPs will not provide information about Local Government's infrastructure status and needs. This information will be ascertainable from asset management plans.

Further, there needs to be acknowledgement that Local Government's FCWPs are flexible, 'living' documents that may need to be updated and adjusted regularly. Consequently, matching projects to FCWPs should be flexibly applied.

The Association supports recommendation 8.

***Recommendation 8***

*The Trust recommends that RDL in conjunction with RDCo the RDCs and the CLG sector, develop methods for improving CLG leveraging ability.*

Leveraging funding for significant projects is important for Local Governments. While not in the control of the Department of Regional Development and Lands, Country Local Government Funding monies should be able to be utilised to attract further State and Commonwealth Government investment via other grant programs. Efforts by the Regional Development Council or RDL to advocate for changes to Government grants programs to this effect would be well received by the sector.

The Association would be willing to assist in this advocacy effort if appropriate.

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<sup>18</sup> WALGA 2011, p11

Review of the Royalties for Regions Country Local Government Fund

### ***Who should be funded?***

The Association supports the Trust's conclusion that Local Governments are the legitimate entities to make decisions about local infrastructure in their communities.<sup>19</sup>

Recommendation 9 is strongly supported.

#### ***Recommendation 9***

*The Trust recommends:*

- 1. That the CLGF continue to have an individual CLG component and a Group CLG sub-regional and regional component; and,*
- 2. Recommends against the current intention of moving the CLGF to 100% Group CLG funding in 2013-14.*

The Association supports the Trust's conclusion that it is inappropriate for the CLGF to be allocated entirely to groups of Local Governments. Moving away from an arbitrary percentage allocation to a focus on outcomes is supported.

WALGA's formal position is that a minimum of 50 percent of the CLGF allocations should go direct to individual Local Governments.<sup>20</sup>

Recommendation 10 is partially supported.

#### ***Recommendation 10***

*The Trust recommends:*

- 1. That in the interests of regional development the CLGF support targeted capability and capacity-building funding for the CLG sector, with the intention of improving the financial sustainability and operating capacity of those targeted;*
- 2. That such assistance should include supporting the amalgamation of weakly resourced and structured local governments, particularly those rated after assessment as financially unsustainable; and,*
- 3. That RDL in consultation with DLG should report annually on progress and outcomes.*

Point 1 of recommendation 10 is supported. Capability and capacity-building funding to build the financial sustainability and operating capacity of the Local Government sector is extremely important and is supported. Capacity-building programs should be available to all Local Governments.

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<sup>19</sup> WARDT 2012, p201

<sup>20</sup> WALGA 2011, p18



In relation to point 2 of recommendation 10, the Association supports funding for the exploration and implementation of voluntary amalgamations. The Association does not support the CLGF being used to pressure Local Governments to amalgamate based on a rating system.

The decision to enter into an amalgamation should be made by the Local Government concerned, in consultation with their community, following a thorough cost-benefit analysis.

CLGF funding should not be contingent on a Local Government entering into an amalgamation determined to be a good idea by a State Government department.

Given that part 2 of recommendation 10 is not supported, part 3 is not supported.

### **Aboriginal Communities**

The Association has concerns with recommendation 11.

#### ***Recommendation 11***

*The Trust recommends that the Minister, noting the ongoing Commonwealth–State negotiations on the matter of adequate funding for the provision of local government services in remote Aboriginal communities and CLG concerns thereto, request advice from the State’s Aboriginal Affairs Coordination Committee on consequential infrastructure capability and capacity matters affecting CLGs, that might need to be taken into account in future CLGF policy.*

While it may be appropriate for the Minister to request information from the Aboriginal Affairs Coordination Committee, it is not appropriate for the CLGF to be used to bring Local Government infrastructure up to standard prior to handover to Local Government. Infrastructure in Aboriginal Communities must be upgraded to an appropriate standard with State and Commonwealth funding prior to handover to Local Government.

Once the infrastructure is at an appropriate standard, and under Local Government control, a Council would be able to decide to allocate CLGF funding to infrastructure in Aboriginal Communities.

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***How should they be funded?***

The Association supports the Trust's view that there ought to be greater certainty of funding for Local Governments.<sup>21</sup> The Association also agrees with the Trust's argument that the CLGF process should be streamlined.<sup>22</sup>

Recommendation 12 is partially supported.

***Recommendation 12***

*The Trust recommends:*

- 1. That by 31 December 2012 in order to be operational by 1 July 2013, the CLGF be distributed through two funding pools, one of which is allocated to qualifying grantees who will be rated prior to allocation as entitled to receive funding; and one of which is a contestable grants pool to which applications may be made by potential grantees rated as eligible;*
- 2. That the CLGF funding quantum determined by the Minister and Cabinet be informed by the evidence to the Review and the findings of the Trust, and in particular by the sum of the recommendations in the Review;*
- 3. That by 31 December 2012 in order to be operational by 1 July 2013, that all CLGs should be able to be rated on prospects, capability, capacity and risk, which rating shall identify those qualifying or not qualifying for the various categories of the two CLGF funding pools; and, that rating should be done on a publicly defensible professional basis; and*
- 4. That taking into account evidence to the Review and the findings of the Trust, the required CLG rating systems are to be agreed by a committee which shall take professional input and advice as required; and, the committee should be chaired by RDCo and include but not necessarily be limited to representatives of RDL, DLG, WAPC/DoP and WALGA.*

The Association supports the addition of a contestable component to the Country Local Government Fund. The Association contends that the majority of the CLGF (approximately 70-80 percent) should be non-contestable. The remaining contestable component should be allocated primarily to significant regional projects assessed on a project-by-project basis.

The Association argues that *all* country Local Governments should be entitled to apply to receive funding through the contestable component of the CLGF. Contestable grants should be assessed on a project-by-project basis. It may be appropriate for Local Government capacity, capability and risk to be included in the assessment process, but

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<sup>21</sup> WARDT 2012, p208

<sup>22</sup> WARDT 2012, p208

projects should not be excluded from receiving contestable funding before an assessment on the *project* is undertaken. The principle of project-by-project assessment is particularly relevant if an application is received for a significant regional project from a consortium of Local Governments.

In relation to point 3 of recommendation 12, the Association has serious concerns with Local Government prospects, capability, capacity and risk being rated by a State Government department.

The Association does not support the proposed outcome of the rating system. Point 3 of Recommendation 12 suggests that an unacceptable rating should lead to exclusion from the CLGF. The Association argues that a low rating should lead to additional support, not exclusion from the Fund. Exclusion from the CLGF is likely to reduce the funding available to Local Governments most in need of funding and support. While this may make administration of the CLGF simpler, it will not lead to beneficial outcomes on a state-wide basis.

The Association does not support the Department of Local Government undertaking the role of assessing Local Governments. Given the Minister for Local Government's stated policy position of reducing the number of Local Governments in Western Australia, the DLG would be inherently conflicted if asked to undertake this task.

If the Government persists with the development of a rating system, it is appropriate for WALGA and the Local Government sector to be involved in the design of the rating methodology.

The Association strongly supports recommendation 13.

***Recommendation 13***

*The Trust recommends:*

- 1. That RDL investigate the feasibility of CLGF funding from 1 July 2013 not being on a budget-year basis but on a project-time basis, so that such issues as the northern wet season affecting project delivery, or trying to force longer time-scale projects into a financial year framework, fall away; and*
- 2. That, subject to the feasibility study being positive and the Minister agreeing to RDL's proposals, that the CLGF operate on this funding system from 1 July 2013.*

Review of the Royalties for Regions Country Local Government Fund

### ***Who makes decisions on what basis?***

The Association supports the Trust's view that Councils, as the democratically elected representatives of the community, are the legitimate entity to make decisions regarding Local Government infrastructure.

The principle of 'subsidiarity' should be supported and embraced whenever and wherever possible. The Association supports the Trust in this conclusion.

### **Role of the Regional Development Commissions**

During the life of the Country Local Government Fund, there has been confusion regarding the role and involvement of Regional Development Commissions (RDC).

The Association supports the Trust's view that the role of RDCs and the Regional Development Council needs clarification. Consequently, recommendation 14 is supported.

#### ***Recommendation 14***

*The Trust recommends that RDL and RDCo assess the relevant evidence and findings of this Review, and determine for the Minister's approval by no later than 31 December 2012 in order to be operational by 1 July 2013, the manner in which the RDCs role in the CLGF can be adjusted to facilitate and maximise CLGF outcomes.*

There may be a role for the RDCs in the administration of the Country Local Government Fund, but the involvement of the RDCs should be subject to clear parameters.

In line with the Association's submission to the Issues Paper, Regional Development Commissions should not have any decision-making role in the CLGF. Their role should be limited to:

- Facilitation of regional project selection
- Assistance with guidelines, acquittals and the CLGF process, and
- Help with utilisation of the CLGF to leverage other funding sources.

The Association argued, in its 2010 submission to the Review of the Regional Development Commissions, that RDCs should break down State Government silos, ensure a whole-of-government approach to regional development and hold Government departments and agencies accountable for their decisions.<sup>23</sup> These functions would

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<sup>23</sup> WALGA 2010, p5

assist Local Governments, either individually or in contiguous groups, in optimising CLGF outcomes.

### **Risk Rating**

Recommendation 15, relating to rating Local Governments in terms of risk, is not supported.

#### ***Recommendation 15***

*The Trust recommends that by no later than 31 December 2012 in order to be operational by no later than 1 July 2013, RDL introduce a CLG risk rating system for its CLGF grantees, so that:*

- 1. Higher risk grantees might be assessed and thereafter a judgement made as to whether they should be excluded from the CLGF, so helping protect the integrity of the Fund; and*
- 2. Reduced governance requirements and compliance costs for both RDL and the grantees can thereafter be applied for those rated lower risk.*

There may be some merit in the development of a risk rating system for CLGF grantees. For example, a risk rating system as a part of a capacity building program that aims to build the risk management capacity of Local Governments would be supported.

The conclusion, encapsulated in point 1 of Recommendation 15, that Local Governments may be excluded from the fund as a result of a high risk rating is rejected. Such a system would most likely exclude Local Governments from the CLGF most in need of funding and capacity building support.

The conclusion from the risk rating system should be that Local Governments rated as higher risk receive additional support to build their internal risk management capacity.

Should a risk rating system be implemented, the Trust suggests that WALGA or the Department of Local Government would be best placed to undertake the risk rating assessments.<sup>24</sup> The Association argues that risk assessments should be undertaken by an independent body, possibly from the private sector, in consultation with WALGA.

The Department of Local Government should not be involved in the risk assessment process due to a significant inherent conflict of interest. As the Trust outlined in its report, the policy position of the Minister for Local Government is that the CLGF should be used as a tool to coerce Local Governments into amalgamations.<sup>25</sup> There would be

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<sup>24</sup> WARDT 2012, p215

<sup>25</sup> WARDT 2012, p66, 79-80, 159 and 197

## Review of the Royalties for Regions Country Local Government Fund

little credibility or acceptance of risk ratings undertaken by the DLG. There would be an overwhelming perception that the risk ratings were manipulated to pursue the Minister for Local Government's policy objective of fewer Local Governments.

### Prospects Rating

The Association does not support recommendation 16 in its current form.

#### **Recommendation 16**

*The Trust recommends that by no later than 31 December 2012 in order to be operational by no later than 1 July 2013, RDL take into account the CLG prospects-assessment for its CLGF grantees, in order that the quantum and destination of CLGF grants can be better directed for optimal regional development outcomes.*

While it may be appropriate for regional development prospects to be a factor in the distribution of contestable CLGF funding, prospects should be considered on a project-by-project basis.

A sophisticated methodology would need to be developed for regional development prospects to play a significant role in the determination of CLGF allocations. The methodology would need to include current and projected population, employment, including transient workforces, economic growth and a range of other factors.

In regions where regional development prospects are relatively low, it may be appropriate for the CLGF to focus on replacement and renewal of existing infrastructure. In regions where regional development prospects are relatively high, due to high levels of mining investment or other factors, a focus on new infrastructure may be more appropriate.

### **What will deliver the best outcomes?**

The Association strongly supports recommendation 17.

#### **Recommendation 17**

*The Trust recommends that taking into account the evidence and findings of the Review, that RDL reassess the outcomes sought, and the resourcing, administrative structure, and operational systems of the CLGF, including greater engagement with CLGs by administrators and decision-makers on the ground; and report its recommendations to the Minister for approval by no later than 30 June 2012.*

The Association supports the Trust's view that more on-the-ground engagement with Local Governments in the administration of the CLGF would be beneficial.<sup>26</sup> The Association has been advocating for administration of the CLGF to include 'case-manager' roles. WALGA would be in a position to assist with the administration of the CLGF in this way on behalf of RDL should funding be made available for this purpose.

The Association supports recommendation 18.

**Recommendation 18**

*The Trust recommends*

1. *That to facilitate CLGF investment that is strategic and prioritised, and to fulfil the purposes of the Act, from not later than 31 December 2012 in order to be operational by 1 July 2013, CLGF spending should be outcomes-based;*
2. *That taking into account the findings of the EAC, evidence to the Review, and the findings of the Trust, RDL must establish the principles methodology and operational systems for making CLGF projects and programs outcomes-based; and,*
3. *That from no later than 1 July 2013, the Minister require as a condition of grant that CLGF grantees comply with relevant outcomes required by the Act, expanded where applicable by specific outcomes expressed in the CLGF guidelines, and where applicable specific outcomes by program or project or in the FAA; and that wherever practicable and relevant the outcomes achieved shall be measured and reported.*

The Association supports the Trust's view that the CLGF should be focussed primarily on outcomes. Given significant amounts of public money are being spent, outcomes need to be demonstrated at a local, regional and state-wide level. Local communities should be entitled to expect the CLGF to deliver tangible benefits at the community level. Likewise, the State Government should expect to see demonstrable benefits across Western Australia.

The Association supports recommendation 19.

**Recommendation 19**

*The Trust recommends that by no later than 31 December 2012 in order to be operational by 1 July 2013, RDL in consultation with DLG and the CLG sector and taking into account evidence to this Review and the findings of the Trust, develop a practical means for collecting and reporting the necessary data while*

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<sup>26</sup> WARDT 2012, p229-231



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*minimising compliance costs, so that benchmarks for CLGF infrastructure and capacity-building can be set, against which the results of CLGF investment can be measured.*

It is crucial that the sector is thoroughly engaged in the development of benchmarks.

Recommendation 20 is strongly supported.

**Recommendation 20**

*The Trust recommends that RDL, taking into account evidence to the Review and the Trust's findings, further consult with local government to identify opportunities to refine streamline and simplify current CLGF reporting processes on a preferred 'report once' basis wherever possible, but which ensures relevant information can still be captured and reported, and that necessary accountability is not compromised.*

A key concern of the sector, in relation to the CLGF, has been a tendency for the program to be 'over-governed'. Efforts to streamline and simplify the CLGF administrative and reporting processes are strongly supported by the Local Government sector and the Association.

Recommendation 21 is supported.

**Recommendation 21**

*The Trust recommends that in the context of evidence to the CLGF Review and the Trust's findings, RDL review the outcomes sought and the resources needed for a better information flow to and from the CLGF with respect to three issues: communication by RDL to stakeholders; a response protocol or system to issues raised by stakeholders; and an automatic web-based information system.*

The Association supports recommendation 22.

**Recommendation 22**

*The Trust recommends that RDL, taking into account evidence to the Review and the Trust's findings, assess the Commonwealth Roads to Recovery website and administrative system with a view to using desirable features of that system to improve the CLGF, but without compromising the administrative outcomes required for the CLGF.*

The Roads to Recovery systems were put forward by the Local Government sector as a model that could be used to improve the CLGF in submissions to the Issues Paper.

## **Capacity Building**

The Association supports recommendation 23.

### **Recommendation 23**

*The Trust recommends that the Minister, in the interests of CLG capacity-building:*

- 1. Require RDL to have discussions with DLG and WALGA and whomever else thought appropriate, on the matter of standardising accounting systems for local government, with a view to determining if such a project should proceed, with what timelines, and on what basis; and*
- 2. If a decision to proceed is made, to agree on the funding and methodology for a scoping and consultation exercise, including consideration of the suitability of the Local Government Accounting Manual, software, hardware, network connectivity and workforce upskilling; and subsequently, if standardisation is found feasible and desirable, for the implementation of a standard system for the local government sector.*

The principle of standard accounting systems for the Local Government sector is supported. The Association contends that it is the entity best placed to develop and implement a standardised accounting system on behalf of Local Governments if capacity building funding is available for this purpose. The successful implementation of ROMAN II, the primary Local Government asset management system, demonstrates the ability of WALGA to develop and implement a wide-scale software package.

Recommendation 24 is supported.

### **Recommendation 24**

*The Trust recommends that the Minister, in the interests of CLG capacity-building:*

- 1. Taking into account evidence to the Review and the Trust's findings, examine whether additional CLGF investment in housing and amenity for particular CLG permanent staff is warranted, particularly in locations remote from regional or metropolitan centres; and,*
- 2. Task the RforR Directors General Reference Group, taking into account evidence to this Review and the Trust's findings, to explore options for staff attraction and retention across the CLG sector, particularly as they relate to the more remote areas of the State, including but not limited to housing, amenity, family and social requirements, professional development, special allowances and incentives.*

The Association contends that WALGA, the LGMA and the Local Government sector should be consulted in relation to this issue.

Review of the Royalties for Regions Country Local Government Fund

Recommendation 25 is supported.

**Recommendation 25**

*The Trust recommends that the Minister require RDL to engage with DLG and WALGA to ensure that CLG asset management, depreciation systems, and forward capital works plans are integrated or harmonised as systems in the most practical, efficient and useable manner.*

The Association supports recommendation 26.

**Recommendation 26**

*The Trust recommends:*

- 1. That the Minister for Local Government review the Local Government Act 1995 to determine whether the provisions governing the auditing of local government could or should be enhanced; and*
- 2. That until the DLG review of the audit provisions of the Local Government Act 1995 is completed, RDL work with DLG to examine options for and a process for increasing the consistency and general alignment of local government audit practices and grantee audit requirements with the existing audit provisions of the Local Government Act 1995.*

Changes to the audit provisions in the *Local Government Act 1995* should focus on increasing efficiency, not increasing compliance. The Local Government sector and WALGA should be consulted in relation to changes to the audit provisions.

## Conclusion

The Association appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the thorough and consultative Review of the Royalties for Regions Country Local Government Fund undertaken by the Western Australian Regional Development Trust.

The Association supports continuation of the CLGF at current or increased levels. The Association agrees with the Trust that Local Governments are the appropriate decision-makers for determining infrastructure spending priorities in their communities.

The primary focus of the CLGF should be Local Government infrastructure. Capacity building in the Local Government sector should be a secondary objective.

A significant infrastructure backlog still exists in rural Western Australia. There is still a requirement for local infrastructure to be funded as part of the Country Local Government Fund.

The Association does not support the use of the Country Local Government Fund as a tool to coerce Local Governments into an amalgamation process. The decision to enter into an amalgamation should be made by each respective Council in consultation with their community. Withholding CLGF monies from Local Governments who decide not to enter into an amalgamation is not appropriate and is not supported. Funding for Local Governments to explore and then implement a voluntary amalgamation process is supported.

Diversion of the Country Local Government Fund to upgrade infrastructure in Aboriginal Communities prior to handover to Local Governments is not supported. The infrastructure in Aboriginal Communities should be upgraded by the State and Commonwealth Governments prior to handover to Local Governments.

A system that ascribes a rating to Local Governments in relation to capability, capacity, risk and prospects is not supported. Further, if a rating system is established, the outcome of the rating system should be targeted capacity building support, not exclusion from the CLGF. Exclusion, in the manner proposed, would most likely reduce funding to Local Governments most in need.

The Association supports greater clarification of the role of Regional Development Commissions in the CLGF process. The role of RDCs should be limited to facilitation of regional project selection, assistance with the process and help in leveraging other funding sources.

#### Review of the Royalties for Regions Country Local Government Fund

The Association supports the Trust's recommendations to streamline the CLGF process and the recommendation for the Department of Regional Development and Lands to undertake on-the-ground engagement with Local Governments.

## Reference List

- Aulich, C., Gibbs, M., Gooding, A., McKinlay, P., Pillora, S. & Sansom, G., (2011) *Consolidation in Local Government: A Fresh Look, Volume 1: Report and Volume 2: Background Papers*, Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government: Sydney
- Australian Bureau of Statistics (2006) *Perth: A Social Atlas*, catalogue 2030.5, Australian Bureau of Statistics: Canberra
- House of Representatives Standing Committee on Economics, Finance and Public Administration, (2003), *Rates and Taxes: A Fair Share for Responsible Local Government*, Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia: Canberra
- Morris, R., Callaghan, R. and Walker, B. (2010) *Rural-Remote and Indigenous Local Government: Western Australian Scoping Study Report*, Edith Cowan University: Joondalup.
- PricewaterhouseCoopers (2006) *National Financial Sustainability Study of Local Government*, PricewaterhouseCoopers: Sydney
- WALGA (2012) *The Western Australian Local Government Directory*, Western Australian Local Government Association: Perth
- WALGA (2011) *Submission to Western Australian Regional Development Trust: Review of the Royalties for Regions Country Local Government Fund*, Western Australian Local Government Association: Perth
- WALGA (2010) *Western Australian Local Government Association Submission: Review of Functions and Responsibilities of Regional Development Commissions*, Western Australian Local Government Association: Perth
- WALGA (2006) *In Your Hands: Shaping the Future of Local Government in Western Australia – Final Report*, Western Australian Local Government Association, Perth
- WARDT (2012) *Review of the Royalties for Regions Country Local Government Fund*, Western Australian Regional Development Trust: Perth

WALGA

# Meeting Procedures and Debating for Elected Members

## Program Overview:

*Meeting Procedures and Debating* is specifically designed for both experienced and newly elected members who wish to enhance their meeting skills. Concentrating on knowledge of meeting procedures and high level debating techniques, this course is a practical tool kit for those who attend council and committee meetings as members or presiding members.

## Content:

Participants are encouraged to use debating techniques that ensure they can readily contribute to robust debate. Practical examples of good chairmanship assist presiding members to run meetings in a fair and equitable way that increases the productivity of the meeting. The course covers the role of council, elected members and the officers who attend the meeting in an advisory capacity and underpinning knowledge about the legislative framework within which local government meetings are held. An opportunity to experience the proper use of Standing Orders and how this contributes to successful meetings is also provided.

## Learning Outcomes:

- How to critically read the Agenda and evaluate officer reports
- Contribute confidently to council and committee meetings using debating techniques
- Use knowledge of meeting procedures to move, second or foreshadow motions, use correct amendment rules where appropriate and take the right of reply
- Correct use of procedural motions and how to effectively raise 'points of order'
- Demonstrate chairmanship skills within legal and ethical requirements, and
- Know the importance of checking and confirming the minutes.

**Time:** 9.00am – 4.30pm

**Cost:** \$395.00 (plus GST)

**Venue:** WALGA Boardroom

**Dates:** 25 June, 1 August, 25 September, 13 November 2012

Contact WALGA on 9213 2098 or email [training@walga.asn.au](mailto:training@walga.asn.au) to secure a place.

## THE VOICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT





Course Registration Details (Not Diploma Qualification):		
Course Name:		
Course Date:		
Purchase Order Number:		<b><u>Must be Provided to Enable Registration</u></b>
Local Government Office:		
Booking Contact Name:		
Booking Contact Number:		
Booking Contact Email:		

Participant Details:	
Name:	
Date of Birth:	
Position:	
Contact Number:	
Contact Email:	
Special Requirements:	

Additional Participant Details (Same Course):	
Name:	
Date of Birth:	
Position:	
Contact Number:	
Contact Email:	
Special Requirements:	

Additional Participant Details (Same Course):	
Name:	
Date of Birth:	
Position:	
Contact Number:	
Contact Email:	
Special Requirements:	

Once completed please forward to [training@walga.asn.au](mailto:training@walga.asn.au) or fax on (08) 9486 9100

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:			
Date Entered into JobReady:	20/02/2012	Entered By:	Click here to enter text.
Special Requirements Actions:	Click here to enter text.		

  
WALGA

# Financial Reports and Budgets

## Program Overview:

*Financial Reports and Budgets* uses existing legislation as its basis to explore the way in which local governments are required to plan for the future, develop an annual budget and monitor, review and interpret financial reports. The course outlines the linkage between Strategic Planning, Asset Management Planning and Long Term Financial planning so participants gain an understanding of the benefits of undertaking financial forecasting and the impacts key decision may have on the organisation's financial bottom line.

## Content:

Topics covered within the course include the legislative requirements for Local Government accounting, understanding budget documents, familiarisation with budget processes and discussing accounting terms and financial reports.

## Learning Outcomes:

As a result of attending this program, participants should be able to understand:

- basic accounting principles and concepts
- the roles and responsibilities of Council, Councillors and the CEO
- financial management and the strategic linkages
- annual budgets, and
- financial management and reporting.

**Time:** 9:00am - 4:30pm

**Cost:** \$395.00 (GST exempt)

**Venue:** WALGA Boardroom

**Dates:** 24 April, 28 June, 10 October 2012



*This course can be linked to the Diploma of Local Government (Elected Member)*

# THE VOICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT



### **Call for JUNE Courses**

#### **Strategic Planning for Elected Members**

WALGA'S *Strategic Planning* course uses existing legislation as its basis to explore the way in which local governments are required to plan for the future. Legislation establishes links between planning objectives, funding and reporting. Many local governments adopt processes for their long term planning that go beyond the requirements of legislation. Topics covered within the course include putting strategic planning in perspective, the **integrated planning and reporting framework**, the analysis and consultation process, and formulation and implementation of a strategic plan.

Date: 28 June  
Time: 9.00am – 4.30pm  
Cost: \$395.00  
Location: WALGA, 15 Altona Street, West Perth

#### **Financial Reports and Budgets for Elected Members**

WALGA's *Financial Reports and Budgets* uses existing legislation as its basis to explore the way in which local governments are required to plan for the future, develop an annual budget and monitor, review and interpret financial reports. Topics covered within the course include the legislative requirements for Local Government accounting, understanding budget documents, familiarisation with budget processes and discussing accounting terms and financial reports.

Date: 29 June  
Time: 9.00am – 4.30pm  
Cost: \$395.00  
Location: WALGA, 15 Altona Street, West Perth

Attached are flyers and a registration form for your information.

The logo for WALGA, featuring a stylized blue and yellow graphic above the word "WALGA" in blue capital letters.

# Strategic Planning

## Program Overview:

*Strategic Planning* uses existing legislation as its basis to explore the way in which local governments are required to plan for the future. Legislation establishes links between planning objectives, funding and reporting. Many local governments adopt processes for their long term planning that go beyond the requirements of legislation. Links are explored between land use planning, policy development and major strategy documents such as asset management and infrastructure plans.

## Content:

Topics covered within the course include putting strategic planning in perspective, the integrated planning and reporting framework, the analysis and consultation process, and formulation and implementation of a strategic plan.

## Learning Outcomes:

As a result of attending this course, participants should be able to understand:

- the strategic planning process
- integrated planning and reporting
- analysis and consultation; and
- formulation and implementation of a strategic plan.

**Time:** 9:00am - 4:30pm

**Cost:** \$395.00 (GST exempt)

**Venue:** WALGA Boardroom

**Dates:** 23 April, 28 June, 9 October 2012



*This course can be linked to the Diploma of Local Government (Elected Member)*

# THE VOICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT



# INFOPAGE



Date received 7/6/12

Council Meeting	File Ref:
CLOSED	SIDE
PUBLIC	INFO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (P)
11.1. Works	11.3. Finance
11.2. Dev	11.4. Admin
COPY TO or CIRCULATE:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EA/PA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DCEO	<b>From:</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proj Exec	President
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EHO	Councillors

**To:** Chief Executive Officer

**Organisation:** All Councils

**Reference:** 05-022-01-0002

**Subject:** Cat Act 2011 – Implementation

**Tony Brown**  
Executive Manager  
Governance & Strategy

**Date:** 1 June 2012

**Priority:** Medium

## IN BRIEF

<b>Operational Area:</b>	Ranger Services
<b>Key Issues:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulations to the support the <i>Cat Act 2011</i> are being developed</li> <li>The Association will be members of a soon-to-be-established Cat Act Implementation Committee</li> <li>Local Governments are invited to put forward implementation issues to assist the Association's advocacy</li> </ul>
<b>Action Required:</b>	Noting

The *Cat Act 2011* is now in force however the commencement date for the main provisions of the Act is 1 November 2013. From 1 November 2013 cat owners will be required to ensure cats are registered, microchipped and sterilised. From 1 November 2013 Local Governments will be responsible for keeping a register of cats and administering and enforcing the *Cat Act 2011*.

## Regulations

Regulations to complement the Act are currently being developed by a working group convened by the Department of Local Government. The Local Government sector, and WALGA, is represented on the working group.

Registration fees will be set by the Regulations. The Department of Local Government has indicated that they will be contacting a number of Local Governments to determine an appropriate registration fee.

## Local Laws

Following the development of the Regulations, the Association will update its draft model local in accordance with the local law making power contained in the Act.

## Implementation

Many Local Governments are now planning for November 2013 when key aspects of the Act will come into force. The Minister for Local Government recently announced funding (\$3.2 million) to assist individuals and Local Governments. Details of the allocation methodology for this funding have yet to be provided.

The Association will be represented on a Cat Act Implementation Committee, which will be established by the Department of Local Government following the completion of the Regulations.

Local Governments are invited to put forward questions or implementation issues to inform the Association's advocacy.



Date received 14/5/12

Council Meeting	File Ref.
CLOSED	SIDE
PUBLIC	INFORMATION (D)
11.1. Works	11.3. Finance
11.2. Dev	11.4. Admin
COPY TO or CIRCULATE:	
ICEO	EA/PA
ICEO	
Proj Exec	President
EHO	Councillors

# Issue No. 19.12

14 May 2012

Please copy and distribute to interested readers

## HEADLINES

- ✦ PHYSICAL ACTIVITY TASK FORCE
- ✦ POST – AMALGAMATION NUMBER PLATES
- ✦ WALGA BREAKFAST SERIES: LOCAL GOVERNMENT – CLEAR THINKING ON CARBON
- ✦ LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONVENTION 2012
- ✦ ACCARNSI – NATIONAL WORKSHOP TO DEVELOP DECISION SUPPORT GUIDE
- ✦ EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS' WORKSHOP – BOOKING JUNE WORKSHOP NOW
- ✦ ALGWA NETWORKING BREAKFAST

- ✦ 2012 CONSTABLE CARE CHILD SAFETY AWARDS
- ✦ GRAFFITI NETWORKING FORUM – REGISTRATIONS OPEN

## MAILBAG

- ✦ ACTIVE LIVING FOR ALL: A FRAMEWORK FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA 2012-2016
- ✦ REGISTRATION FORM: WALGA BUSINESS BREAKFAST – CLEAR THINKING ON CARBON

## ISSUES UPDATE

### PHYSICAL ACTIVITY TASK FORCE

The Physical Activity Task Force (PATF) is being disbanded as a result of State Government Budget cuts.

There have been some important programs and research delivered under the auspices of the Task Force, in particular the Local Activity Grants Program that has injected valuable funds into local communities through Local Governments.

Opportunities for future collaboration across the organisations and agencies that engaged in the PATF will be explored in due course.

For further information please contact Acting Chief Executive Officer, Wayne Scheggia on 9213 2024 or email [wscheggia@walga.asn.au](mailto:wscheggia@walga.asn.au)

### POST- AMALGAMATION NUMBER PLATES

The Department of Transport (DoT) recently provided reassurance that the practice of issuing new number plates with the prefixes of former Local Government districts (i.e. following amalgamations) will continue.

WALGA pursued this issue in response to Local Government concerns that voluntary amalgamations would result in the end of local vehicle number plates of former districts.

DoT has amended its departmental policy to allow continuation of district number plates and in so doing will permit a district number plate series to be issued for a former Local Government district at the request of the Chief Executive Officer of the new Local Government.

When considering the application, the number of district number plate series currently on issue for the respective Local Government will be taken into account, and the Director General of DoT reserves the right to refuse any application.

For further information on Post-Amalgamation Number Plates contact Manager Governance, James McGovern on 9213 2093 or email [jmcgovern@walga.asn.au](mailto:jmcgovern@walga.asn.au)

### WALGA BREAKFAST SERIES: LOCAL GOVERNMENT – CLEAR THINKING ON CARBON

On the eve of the new Carbon Tax it is now time for Local Government to act. This breakfast will explore practical strategies and initiatives to support energy management and sustainability.

**Date:** Thursday, 28 June

**Time:** 7:30am to 9:00am

**Venue:** University Club of WA  
Hackett Drive, Crawley

**Cost:** \$77.00 (incl. GST)

**RSVP:** Friday, 22 June

The registration form is included in this week's mail bag and can also be downloaded from the WALGA website – [www.walga.asn.au](http://www.walga.asn.au)

For further information or to register please contact Marketing and Events Support Officer, Ulla Wolter on 9213 2043 or email [uwolter@walga.asn.au](mailto:uwolter@walga.asn.au).

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONVENTION 2012

The 2012 annual Local Government Convention and Trade Exhibition will return to the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre - commencing on Wednesday, 1 August – Friday, 3 August - with the closing event being the very popular Convention Gala Dinner.

Copies of the Information and Registration brochure were sent to all Councils last week and registrations are to be made online at - [www.secureregistrations.com/lgc12/](http://www.secureregistrations.com/lgc12/)

The Registration brochure is also available in electronic format and can be downloaded from the WALGA website – [www.walga.asn.au](http://www.walga.asn.au).

For further information or to register please contact Marketing and Events Support Officer, Ulla Wolter on 9213 2043 or email [uwolter@walga.asn.au](mailto:uwolter@walga.asn.au).



## ACCARNSI - NATIONAL WORKSHOP TO DEVELOP DECISION SUPPORT GUIDE

Australian Climate Change Adaptation Research Network: Science and Infrastructure (ACCARNSI) would like to invite you to a workshop to develop the National Decision Support Guide on Monday, **21 May** at the City of Perth.

ACCARNSI is one of eight Adaptation Research Networks hosted by the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) from Griffith University which aims to initiate and develop effective strategies to respond to climate change through mitigation, adaptation and implementation.

Philip Booth and Ron Cox will facilitate a two hour workshop to summarise key findings and outputs from the Stage 1 Case Studies Report and accompanying Case Studies and State-wide Synopses, the Stage 2 National Survey report on Climate Change Adaptation Tools used by 115 Local Governments and Regional Organisations of Councils (ROCs), and the Stage 3 Synthesis Report culminating in a Decision Support Guide.

For more information on the Stage 1 & 2 Reports please visit the ACCARNSI website, [www.nccarf.edu.au/settlements-infrastructure/](http://www.nccarf.edu.au/settlements-infrastructure/).

The workshop will be held at 2pm on Monday, **21 May** at Council House, 27-29 St Georges Terrace, Perth, please RSVP as there are limited places available.

Feedback from workshop participants to improve the draft Decision Support Guide will be encouraged. ACCARNSI is also looking for three or so councils who may be interested to road test the Decision Support Guide in upcoming adaptation projects and provide further practical feedback to improve its utility.

For further information and to RSVP, please contact Environment Policy Officer, Caroline Perks on (08) 9213 2049 or email [cperks@walga.asn.au](mailto:cperks@walga.asn.au).

## EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS' WORKSHOP – BOOKING JUNE WORKSHOP NOW

The *Executive Assistants' Workshop* is designed to assist Executive Assistants in their relationship with their Managers, Elected Members, colleagues and customers with a view to improving organisational skills and management.

The workshop will explore the individual's learning capabilities with the aim to enable participants to actively engage in knowledge and skill development.

Participants will have the opportunity to investigate coaching and mentoring techniques whilst developing an understanding of the importance of an Executive Assistant in a professional context.

The workshop includes a panel session which incorporates representative Mayors, CEOs and EAs.

**Date:** Thursday, 7 – Friday, 8 June

**Time:** 9:00am – 4:30pm

**Venue:** WALGA Boardroom

**Cost:** \$790 (+ GST)

Course flyers can be downloaded at [www.workplacesolutions.asn.au](http://www.workplacesolutions.asn.au).

Contact the training team at [training@walga.asn.au](mailto:training@walga.asn.au) to secure your place.

## ALGWA NETWORKING BREAKFAST

WA delegates to the National General Assembly are invited to register for the Australian Local Government Women's Association Networking Breakfast, featuring speaker Andrew O'Keefe discussing the prevention of men's violence against women by changing attitudes and behaviours.

**Date:** Monday, 18 June

**Time:** 7:15am – 8:30am

**Venue:** The Murray Room, National Convention Centre  
27-31 Constitution Avenue, Canberra

**Cost:** \$70 from [www.whiteribbon.org.au/events/algwa](http://www.whiteribbon.org.au/events/algwa)

For further enquiries please contact Helen Harris on (03) 9897 1312 or visit [www.algwa.net.au](http://www.algwa.net.au)

## 2012 CONSTABLE CARE CHILD SAFETY AWARDS

The Constable Care Child Safety Awards is an independent awards program specifically created to acknowledge remarkable Western Australians, who through their endeavours improve the well-being of children, protect children from harm, and create safer environments and communities for children living in WA.

Nominations for these awards are now open in the following categories: Individual, Individual/Groups, Community & Corporate and Government, including the Western Australian Local Government Child Safety Award.

The award nomination period closes on Friday, **25 May** 2012.

For further information please contact Event Coordinator, Ashleigh Dewar on 9272 0000 or email [ashleigh@constablecare.org.au](mailto:ashleigh@constablecare.org.au) or visit the Constable Care website: [www.constablecare.org.au](http://www.constablecare.org.au)

## GRAFFITI NETWORKING FORUM-REGISTRATIONS OPEN

WA Police Graffiti Team are inviting Local Governments to participate in a half day (morning) Forum around graffiti management, to be held at the City of Melville on Thursday, **12 July**.

The Forum is anticipated to be repeated on a six monthly basis, to provide valuable networking opportunities with other Local Governments, major infrastructure owners, and WA Police.

The Forum will include presentations around innovative Local Government graffiti strategies, progress on the WA Tough on Graffiti Strategy 2011-2015 and a showcase of new products used for graffiti management.

For further information or to register, please contact Graffiti Taskforce Coordinator, Lorraine Jarrett on 9222 1735 or email [Lorraine.jarrett@police.wa.gov.au](mailto:Lorraine.jarrett@police.wa.gov.au)

## MEDIA RELEASES

4 May	Diversity in Achieving Road Safety
8 May	Recycling Facility Reopening Welcomed





Date received 22/05/2012

Council Meeting	File Ref:
CLOSED	INSIDE
PUBLIC	INFO (len)
11.1. Works	11.3. Finance
11.2. Dev	11.4. Admin
COPY TO or CIRCULATE:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEO	<input type="checkbox"/> EA/PA
<input type="checkbox"/> DCEO	
<input type="checkbox"/> Prof Exec	<input type="checkbox"/> President
<input type="checkbox"/> EHO	<input type="checkbox"/> Councillors

# Issue No. 20.12

21 May 2012

Please copy and distribute to interested readers

## HEADLINES

- ✦ LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE REGULATIONS – REDUCTION IN INTEREST RATES
- ✦ ASSOCIATION HONOURS 2012
- ✦ WALGA BREAKFAST SERIES: LOCAL GOVERNMENT – CLEAR THINKING ON CARBON
- ✦ LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONVENTION 2012
- ✦ ROAD SAFETY WORKSHOP – MAKING A RIGHT TURN INTO SAFE SYSTEM: RESOURCES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

- ✦ AWARD INTERPRETATION FOR PAYROLL OFFICERS
- ✦ RESILIENT AUSTRALIA AWARDS NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN
- ✦ COMMUNITY SAFETY MONTH ACTION KIT NOW AVAILABLE

## ISSUES UPDATE

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE REGULATIONS - REDUCTION IN INTEREST RATES

The Local Government sector has been successful in demonstrating to the Minister for Local Government that reducing the penalty and instalment interest rate, that was recently a component of the Financial Management Regulation amendments, would have had a negative impact for families and Councils. As a result the Minister has approved the reinstatement of 11% and 5.5% in regulations 68, 70 and 19a for the 2012/13 financial year. The proposed changes were estimated to have created a six million dollar shortfall which would have had to be recovered through rate increases which would actually result in most ratepayers having to pay more. A number of Local Governments estimated that they would have to increase rates for all ratepayers by about half a per cent to redress the impact of the interest rate reduction. The discussions that led to the Minister reversing his decision had also uncovered best practice initiatives on redressing hardship cases that could be applied across the sector. For example the City of Armadale's "Smart Way to Pay" initiative gives ratepayers the opportunity to pay their rates in weekly, fortnightly or monthly instalments over the course of the year with no interest rate penalty or instalment fees. The objective of all Councils is to provide as much as possible for their communities for the lowest cost and this decision by the Minister to reinstate the penalty interest rates supports that endeavour.

For further information please contact Executive Manager Governance & Strategy, Tony Brown on 9213 2051 or email [tbrown@walga.asn.au](mailto:tbrown@walga.asn.au)

### ASSOCIATION HONOURS 2012 –

#### Last chance to submit your nominations

There are five categories of awards where Councillors can be recognised for their commitment to both their respective Councils, as well as to Local Government as a sector and the

wider community. Senior Officers can also be nominated for the Eminent Service Award, Life Membership and the Local Government Medal. Nominations close at 5:00pm on Friday, 25 May, and Awards will be presented to recipients at the 2012 Local Government Convention and Trade Exhibition. Nomination packs including details on the five award categories have been distributed to all Councils and State Councillors. No late nominations will be accepted. Additional nomination packs are available at <http://www.walga.asn.au>

For further information please contact Executive Officer Governance and Strategy, Janet Done on 9213 2013 or email [jdane@walga.asn.au](mailto:jdane@walga.asn.au)

### WALGA BREAKFAST SERIES: LOCAL GOVERNMENT – CLEAR THINKING ON CARBON

On the eve of the new Carbon Tax it is now time for Local Government to act. This breakfast will explore practical strategies and initiatives to support energy management and sustainability.

**Date:** Thursday, 28 June

**Time:** 7:30am to 9:00am

**Venue:** University Club of WA  
Hackett Drive, Crawley

**Cost:** \$77.00 (incl. GST)

**RSVP:** Friday, 22 June

The registration form can be downloaded from the WALGA website – [www.walga.asn.au](http://www.walga.asn.au)

For further information or to register please contact Marketing and Events Support Officer, Ulla Wolter on 9213 2043 or email [uwolter@walga.asn.au](mailto:uwolter@walga.asn.au)

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONVENTION 2012

The 2012 annual Local Government Convention and Trade Exhibition will return to the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre - commencing on Wednesday, 1 August – Friday, 3 August 2012 with the closing event being the very popular Convention Gala Dinner. The Registration

brochure is available in electronic format and can be downloaded from the WALGA website – [www.walga.asn.au](http://www.walga.asn.au). Registrations are to be made online – [www.secureregistrations.com/lgc12/](http://www.secureregistrations.com/lgc12/)

*For further information and registration enquiries, please contact Ulla Wolter on 9213 2043 or email [uwolter@walga.asn.au](mailto:uwolter@walga.asn.au)*

#### **WORKSHOP FOR DRAFT WA BICYCLE NETWORK PLAN 2012-2021**

The draft WA Bicycle Network Plan was released on Tuesday, 13 March and is open for public comment until Sunday, **17 June**. The Plan is available at: <http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/activetransport/25720.asp> WALGA will be holding a workshop with Local Governments to develop a sector response to the plan. The workshop will be held on Friday, **8 June** from 9:30am until 12:30pm at the M E Wood Room, St Catherine's College, The University of Western Australia, 2 Park Road, Nedlands. A Local Government Issues Paper will be distributed to participants prior to the workshop.

*For further information and to confirm your attendance please contact Policy Officer Transport and Roads, Marissa MacDonald on 9213 2050 or email [mmacdonald@walga.asn.au](mailto:mmacdonald@walga.asn.au)*

#### **ROAD SAFETY WORKSHOP - MAKING A RIGHT TURN INTO SAFE SYSTEM: RESOURCES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

A road safety workshop for has been created for Local Governments officers and Elected Members and will include information on the safe system approach to road safety and Local Governments' role in road safety, as well as the introduction of a number of new safe system resources developed specifically for Local Governments. An interactive discussion will also take place on the opportunities and challenges facing Local Governments, in order to build skills and knowledge throughout the sector, to successfully implement the safe system approach to road safety. The evening workshop will take place at the City of Bayswater on Wednesday, **30 May**, registration from 5:30pm for a 6:00pm start and finishing at 8:00pm with a light supper provided. Please RSVP by Monday, **28 May**. Workshops in other regions will take place in the future.

*For further information or to register, please contact Safe System Coordinator, Ruth Wernham on 9213 2008 or email [rwernham@walga.asn.au](mailto:rwernham@walga.asn.au)*

#### **AWARD INTERPRETATION FOR PAYROLL OFFICERS – BOOKING JUNE WORKSHOP NOW**

Award Interpretation for Payroll Officers has been designed to provide an understanding, and assistance in the interpretation of employee and entitlements and conditions contained in the National Local Government Industry Award 2010. On completion of this training participants will be able to understand: the key components of awards, agreements, contracts and the Fair Work Act 2009; the differences between categories of employees what employees should be paid for ordinary hours, overtime and weekend work; the position classification structure; how employee entitlements to annual leave, personal leave, sick

leave, long service leave, community service leave and public holidays are calculated; how the provisions of the parental leave clauses are applied; how rates are calculated for employees who are performing higher duties; and how employee entitlements are calculated upon termination of employment.

**Date:** Tuesday, **22 June**

**Time:** 9:00am – 4:30pm

**Venue:** WALGA Boardroom

**Cost:** \$395 (+ GST)

*Course flyers can be downloaded at [www.workplacesolutions.asn.au](http://www.workplacesolutions.asn.au).*

*Contact the training team at [training@walga.asn.au](mailto:training@walga.asn.au) to secure your place.*

#### **RESILIENT AUSTRALIA AWARDS NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN**

Nominations for the 2012 Resilient Australia Awards (formerly the Australian Safer Community Awards) are now open. Every year, Australian communities face devastating losses caused by disasters. The Awards recognise projects conducted by Local Governments and other organisations which have made communities more disaster resilient. The awards cover aspects such as risk assessment, research, education, IT and recovery. State winners are included in judging for National Awards. The awards are sponsored by the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department, in conjunction with the states and territories, and coordinated by the Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA). Entries close Friday, **8 June**.

For further information please visit <http://www.fesa.wa.gov.au/newsandmedia/awards/Pages/resilientaustraliaawards.aspx>

#### **COMMUNITY SAFETY MONTH ACTION KIT AVAILABLE NOW**

The Injury Control Council of WA (ICCWA) is again coordinating Community Safety Month in October, and have released a Community Action Kit to show how your Local Government can be involved in raising safety awareness. Community safety events will also be held, covering a range of safety areas including; road safety, personal safety, suicide awareness, online safety, water safety, emergency management, safety in public spaces and safe work practices—among other areas. This year ICCWA will be focusing on safety issues resulting from alcohol misuse and community violence in particular, as well as a priority for regional areas.

*There are also a number of sponsorship and in-kind support opportunities available, so please contact Elecia Wheat, Community Engagement Coordinator at the Injury Control Council of WA for more information on 9420 7212 or email [ewheat@iccwa.org.au](mailto:ewheat@iccwa.org.au) or visit <http://www.iccwa.org.au/community-safety-month>*

#### **MEDIA RELEASES**

15 May

Ratepayer Costs Averted as Minister Responds to sector



Council Meeting	File Ref:
CLOSED	SIDE
PUBLIC	INFO
11.1. Works	11.3. Finance
11.2. Dev	11.4. Admin
COPY TO or CIRCULATE:	
WALGA	EAJPA
CEO	
Prog Exec	President
EHO	Councillors

Issue No. 21.12

28 May 2012

Please copy and distribute to interested readers

## HEADLINES

- ◀ METROPOLITAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW – MEETING OF METROPOLITAN MAYORS/PRESIDENTS
- ◀ ROAD SAFETY WORKSHOP – MAKING A RIGHT TURN INTO SAFE SYSTEM: RESOURCES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
- ◀ WALGA BREAKFAST SERIES: LOCAL GOVERNMENT – CLEAR THINKING ON CARBON
- ◀ LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONVENTION 2012
- ◀ MWAC INFORMATION BULLETIN

- ◀ WORKSHOP FOR DRAFT BICYCLE NETWORK PLAN 2012-2021
- ◀ OFFICER TRAINING
- ◀ REGISTRATIONS OPEN FOR YOUTH FAIRGROUND CONFERENCE 2012
- ◀ LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS PROGRAMS – PERTH AND REGIONAL BICYCLE NETWORK

## MAILBAG

- ◀ MWAC INFORMATION BULLETIN
- ◀ INFOPAGE: AFAC CONFERENCE 2012

## ISSUES UPDATE

### METROPOLITAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW – MEETING OF METROPOLITAN MAYORS/PRESIDENTS

The Association convened a meeting of Metropolitan Mayors/Presidents on Tuesday, 22 May, to consider WALGA's response to the Metropolitan Local Government Review Panel's Draft Findings. The meeting had representation from 29 of the 30 metropolitan Local Governments. The meeting contained much discussion and robust debate, and although there were significant differences of opinion on a range of issues, there were also a number of key issues upon which consensus was achieved.

The resolutions of the group will form the basis for WALGA's submission was put forward to the Metropolitan Local Government Reform Review panel on Friday, 25 May. The meeting did not support the Review Panel's suggested options for final numbers of metropolitan Local Governments, instead supporting a governance model for the metropolitan region consisting of approximately 15-20 Local Governments. The meeting resolved to work towards achieving this objective based on sustainability principles, with reference to *Directions 2031*, using existing Local Government boundaries as a starting point.

In the event that Local Government reform proceeds, the meeting expressed that any transition process must include the articulation of clear objectives and parameters by the State Government, with metropolitan Local Governments being empowered to achieve these objectives within a 24 month time frame. Concerns were expressed at maintaining community representation during any eventual reform process, and it is considered vital that transitional arrangements be managed by serving Elected Members rather than appointed commissioners.

Resourcing any reform process will incur significant costs – the meeting was unanimous in its call that any change to the Structure and Governance of Local Governments, whether

forced or voluntary, be funded by the State Government. The Association's submission will be an interim submission pending endorsement from State Council at their next meeting to be held on Wednesday, 4 July.

For further information, please contact Executive Manager Governance & Strategy, Tony Brown on 9213 2051 or email [tbrown@walga.asn.au](mailto:tbrown@walga.asn.au)

### ROAD SAFETY WORKSHOP - MAKING A RIGHT TURN INTO SAFE SYSTEM: RESOURCES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

A road safety workshop has been created for Local Governments officers and Elected Members and includes information on the safe system approach to road safety and Local Governments' role in road safety, as well as the introduction of a number of new safe system resources developed specifically for Local Governments. The workshop also includes an interactive discussion on the opportunities and challenges facing Local Governments, in order to build skills and knowledge throughout the sector, to successfully implement the safe system approach to road safety. The evening workshop will take place at the City of Bayswater on Wednesday, 30 May, registration from 5:30pm for a 6:00pm start and finishing at 8:00pm with a light supper provided. Please RSVP by Monday, 28 May. Workshops in other regions will take place in the future.

For further information or to register, please contact Safe System Coordinator, Ruth Wernham on 9213 2008 or email [rwernham@walga.asn.au](mailto:rwernham@walga.asn.au)

### WALGA BREAKFAST SERIES: LOCAL GOVERNMENT – CLEAR THINKING ON CARBON

On the eve of the new Carbon Tax it is now time for Local Government to act. This breakfast will explore practical strategies and initiatives to support energy management and sustainability.

**Date:** Thursday, 28 June

**Time:** 7:30am to 9:00am

**Venue:** University Club of WA

Hackett Drive, Crawley

**Cost:** \$77.00 (incl. GST)

**RSVP:** Friday, 22 June

The registration form can be downloaded from the WALGA website – [www.walga.asn.au](http://www.walga.asn.au)

For further information or to register please contact Marketing and Events Support Officer, Ulla Wolter on 9213 2043 or email [uwolter@walga.asn.au](mailto:uwolter@walga.asn.au).

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONVENTION 2012

The 2012 annual Local Government Convention and Trade Exhibition will return to the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre - commencing on Wednesday, 1 August – Friday, 3 August 2012 with the closing event being the very popular Convention Gala Dinner. The Registration brochure is available in electronic format and can be downloaded from the WALGA website – [www.walga.asn.au](http://www.walga.asn.au). Registrations are to be made online - [www.secureregistrations.com/lgc12/](http://www.secureregistrations.com/lgc12/)

For further information and registration enquiries, please contact Ulla Wolter on 9213 2043 or email [uwolter@walga.asn.au](mailto:uwolter@walga.asn.au)

#### MWAC INFORMATION BULLETIN

The May edition of the MWAC Information Bulletin is now available. Highlights for this month include:

- Waste Authority Chairman to move on;
- Re-opening of the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council's RRR;C;
- Submission on the Metropolitan Local Government Review Panel's Draft Findings;
- Australian Packaging Covenant announces a General Funding Round for Projects; and
- Clean Up Australia campaigns for a Container Refund Scheme.

To subscribe to the MWAC Information Bulletin email notification list, please contact Waste Management Officer, Heather Squire on 9213 2069 or email [hsquire@walga.asn.au](mailto:hsquire@walga.asn.au).

#### WORKSHOP FOR DRAFT WA BICYCLE NETWORK PLAN 2012-2021

The draft WA Bicycle Network Plan was released on Tuesday, 13 March and is open for public comment until Sunday, 17 June. The Plan is available at: <http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/activetransport/25720.asp>. WALGA will be holding a workshop with Local Governments to develop a sector response to the plan. The workshop will be held on Friday, 8 June from 9:30am until 12:30pm at the M E Wood Room, St Catherine's College, 2 Park Road, Nedlands. A Local Government Issues Paper will be distributed to participants prior to the workshop.

For further information and to confirm your attendance please contact Policy Officer Transport and Roads, Marissa MacDonald on 9213 2050 or email [mmacdonald@walga.asn.au](mailto:mmacdonald@walga.asn.au)

#### OFFICER TRAINING

Customer Service and Complaints Handling

*Customer Service and Complaints Handling* outlines the competencies required when providing customer service in a Local Government environment, including identification of customer needs and the use of effective communication skills. It requires the ability to understand and work with a diverse range of customer groups and is appropriate for all areas of Council.

**Date:** Wednesday, 30 May

**Time:** 9:00am – 4:30pm

**Venue:** WALGA Boardroom

**Cost:** \$395 (plus GST)

#### Award Interpretation for Payroll Officers

*Award Interpretation for Payroll Officers* has been designed to provide an understanding, and assistance in the interpretation of employee and entitlements and conditions contained in the National Local Government Industry Award 2010.

**Date:** Friday, 22 June

**Time:** 9:00am – 4:30pm

**Venue:** WALGA Boardroom

**Cost:** \$395 (+ GST)

Course flyers can be downloaded at [www.workplacesolutions.asn.au](http://www.workplacesolutions.asn.au).

Contact the training team at [training@walga.asn.au](mailto:training@walga.asn.au) to secure your place.

#### REGISTRATIONS OPEN FOR YOUTH FAIRGROUND CONFERENCE 2012

The Youth Advisory Council of WA's Fairground conference takes place every two years as an opportunity for the youth sector to network, develop new skills, and share ideas and common experiences whilst focusing on state-wide issues of importance to young people and the sector. This year this major event will be held at the Grand Ballroom, Burswood Entertainment Complex Thursday, 19 July – Friday, 20 July. Early bird registrations are now available, along with various package options. Please note that there are bursary opportunities for regional and rural attendees.

For further information or to register please visit [www.yacwa.org.au/fairground2012](http://www.yacwa.org.au/fairground2012)

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS PROGRAMS – PERTH & REGIONAL BICYCLE NETWORK

On Sunday, 6 May, the State Government announced additional funding for the Local Government Grants Programs for the Perth Bicycle Network and the Regional Bicycle Network for 2013/14. The Perth Bicycle Network grants will increase from \$1 million to \$2 million and the Regional Bicycle Network grants will increase from \$750,000 to \$2 million. Both of the grants programs are scheduled to be open for applications between August and October 2012. In February 2013, an announcement of the draft programs will be advised.

For further information please contact Department of Transport Cycling Infrastructure Grants Officer, Daniel Storey at the on 6551 6164 or email [Daniel.Storey@transport.wa.gov.au](mailto:Daniel.Storey@transport.wa.gov.au)

**From:** Kate Murray [<mailto:KMurray@walga.asn.au>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 7 June 2012 8:46 AM  
**To:** Kate Murray  
**Subject:** WALGA Media Release - Dangerous Dogs in Councils' Sights

7 June 2012

## **Dangerous Dogs in Councils' Sights**

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Local Governments are going to be asked to have their say on pushing for tougher restrictions on dangerous dog breeds including banning and sterilisation.

The WA Local Government Association will be seeking feedback from Councils over the coming months with a view to developing a range of ideas to discuss with the State Government to deal with the serious problem of vicious dog attacks.

WALGA President Mayor Troy Pickard welcomed the recent State Government announcement to introduce a Dog Amendment Bill to the coming session of Parliament, however any new legislation would need to reflect current community expectations.

"The recent spate of vicious dog attacks is appalling and our sympathy goes out to the families affected," Mayor Pickard said.

"It highlights to most that dog control laws that have not been changed for more than 35 years are clearly out of date and out of step with current community expectations."

Most recently Local Government and WALGA had responded to State Government reviews of the Dog Act in 2004 and again in 2007 only for the process to stall at the Parliamentary stage.

Mayor Pickard said it was critical that this time the State Government followed through on ensuring the community was protected from dangerous breeds and irresponsible owners.

"I welcome the announcement by the Minister that he intends to introduce a Dog Amendment Bill to the coming session of Parliament," he said.

"It is encouraging that his proposed amendments will consider prohibiting the availability, breeding and sale of dangerous breeds and sterilisation of dangerous breeds along with increased penalties for irresponsible owners and powers for local rangers.

"Revisions to the Dog Act to deal more effectively with vicious dogs have been on the agenda of State Governments for years and it is time to do something about it, before another innocent person or family pet is seriously mauled or killed."

*Ends*

FOR COMMENT PLEASE CONTACT

Mayor Troy Pickard, WALGA President 0409 209 649

Kate Murray, Marketing and Communications Advisor 0448 896 435



26 April 2012

Our Ref: 05-01-01-0018  
Your Ref:

Cr Terry Iturbide  
President  
Shire of Yalgoo  
PO Box 40  
Yalgoo WA 6635

Dear Cr Iturbide

**Metropolitan Local Government Review – WALGA Support for Poll Provisions**

Thank you for your letter regarding the poll provisions contained in Schedule 2.1 of the *Local Government Act 1995* in the context of the Metropolitan Local Government Review.

As you are aware, WALGA provided a comprehensive submission to the Metropolitan Local Government Review Panel following a full round of Zone meetings and subsequent State Council consideration and endorsement. The Association's Submission represents a specific response to the Review Panel's *Issues Paper* and Terms of Reference, neither of which made reference to the poll provisions contained in Schedule 2.1 of the Act.

WALGA strongly supports the poll provisions contained in Schedule 2.1 of the Act. This issue was formally considered by State Council in October 2010 in response to the Local Government Reform Steering Committee's Final Report, which was tabled in Parliament by the Minister for Local Government in September 2010.

An *InfoPage* regarding the poll provisions was distributed to all Local Government Mayors, Presidents and Chief Executive Officers earlier this year and a copy is included for your reference.

Please feel free to contact me on 0409 209 649 or [troy.pickard@joondalup.wa.gov.au](mailto:troy.pickard@joondalup.wa.gov.au) regarding this matter. Alternatively, contact Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance and Strategy, on (08) 9213 2051 or [tbrown@walga.asn.au](mailto:tbrown@walga.asn.au).

Yours sincerely

**Mayor Troy Pickard**  
President

Local Government House  
15 Altona Street  
West Perth WA 6005  
PO Box 1544  
West Perth WA 6872  
Telephone: (08) 9213 2000  
Facsimile: (08) 9322 2611  
Email: [info@walga.asn.au](mailto:info@walga.asn.au)  
Website: [www.walga.asn.au](http://www.walga.asn.au)



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**Minister for Local Government; Heritage;  
Citizenship and Multicultural Interests**

Our Ref: 38-11970/54

Cr Terry Iturbide  
President  
Shire of Yalgoo  
PO Box 40  
YALGOO WA 6635

Dear Cr Iturbide

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM AGENDA – POLL PROVISIONS**

Thank you for your letter dated 09 April 2012 regarding the poll provisions of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Please be advised that the State Government has no current plans to remove or amend the poll provisions of the Act.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Castrilli'.

G M (John) Castrilli MLA  
**MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT; HERITAGE;  
CITIZENSHIP AND MULTICULTURAL INTERESTS**

24 APR 2012





## Premier of Western Australia

Our Ref: 24-115259/AE

Cr Terry Iturbide  
Shire President  
Shire of Yalgoo  
PO Box 40  
YALGOO WA 6635

Dear Cr Iturbide

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM AGENDA

Thank you for your correspondence dated 9th April 2012 regarding the local government reform program.

I recognise that the poll provisions of the Local Government Act 1995 provide the local community with a direct opportunity to express its views with respect to any proposed amalgamations, and thus reflect the principles of participatory local democracy and self-determination which underpin the Act.

Any change to these provisions would require legislation to be passed by both Houses of State Parliament, and I can assure you that the Government has no current plans to remove or diminish these provisions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Col Barnett'.

Colin Barnett MLA  
**PREMIER**  
7 MAY 2012

# Regional Road Group Report

MARCH—APRIL 2012

## ASSET MANAGEMENT AND LOCAL ROAD FUNDING

### Local Government Transport and Roads Forum 2012

Around 150 Local Government Elected Members and Officers attended the Transport and Roads Forum on 4 May. Highlights from the program included a presentation from Gerrie van Zyl who shared his experiences in using road asset management systems with extensive rural road networks in South Africa and Namibia. Road agencies and Local Governments have found them a powerful tool to both argue for appropriate funding and to support priority decision-making at the operational level.

Measuring the cost of heavy vehicle traffic on the local road network, and developing a financially sustainable approach for delivering a safe, efficient heavy vehicle network was the subject of an excellent presentation by Bob Peters (ARRB Group) and a panel discussion chaired by Greg Martin (National Transport Commission).

The recently initiated Main Roads WA policy to charge large Concessional Mass Permit holders for the costs of additional road wear was discussed along with the experiences of Local Governments negotiating specific arrangements with project proponents with a large road freight task.

Limitations to the current approaches were highlighted including lack of awareness of upcoming freight tasks that can have a major impact on roads in a short period of time.

A presentation from Sue McCarrey, Acting Director General of Transport provided an insight into the projected growth in the freight task throughout Western Australia and the potential investment in rail and road links that will be required to meet this demand.

It is hoped that copies of all presentations will be available on the WALGA website shortly, subject to agreement from the presenters.

### Commodity Route Fund

The State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement 2011/12-2015/16 provides \$2.5 million per year from 2012/13 for a Commodity Route Fund. Commodity Routes are defined as roads with a significant, high priority commodity transport task. The Fund will be applied to projects to eligible or not prioritised for Road Project Grant Funding.

Thirty nine project funding applications were received from Regional Road Groups. These projects were assessed by a Technical Assessment Committee. However, due to concerns regarding the interpretation of clauses within the State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement, the program funding decision has not yet been made by the Strategic Advisory Committee. This is now expected to occur in early June.

### HIGHLIGHTS

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Car Restraints Fitting Courses .....	8

### WALGA State Road Funds to Local Government Strategic Advisory Committee (SAC) Representatives

Mayor Troy Pickard  
Cr Karen Chappel  
Cr Julie Brown  
Cr Mick Wainwright  
Ms Ricky Burges

### Regional Road Group (RRG) Members' Induction Pack

An information pack for RRG delegates on the roles and functions of the RRGs is available for download from our website under [Regional Road Groups](#)

## ASSET MANAGEMENT AND LOCAL ROAD FUNDING (cont.)

### ROMAN II

ROMAN is the Road Asset Management software and support system utilised by 134 of the 140 Western Australian Local Governments. It is a service delivered by ARRB Group on behalf of the Western Australian Local Government Association.

After 11 months of operation activity in the replacement ROMAN software continues to grow slowly but steadily. Various Local Governments are at different stages of accepting the recent change of software with many now actively using the software, and many yet to use it. Current activity exceeds usage of the old system but is still less than project targets.

Recent project activity includes:

- Customer satisfaction survey completed (results to be published May 2012);
- Budget and fees for 2012/13 financial year published;
- Draft strategic plan for 2012 to 2017 released for comment;
- Implementation, research and development project guidelines released for comment;
- Implementation, research and development funding submissions called for; and
- Main Roads WA to commence updating Grant Commission data and state records using the new system.

### Panel of Suppliers of Road Building Materials and Related Services

Technical support is being provided for the development of a WALGA panel contract for the supply of road construction contractors and material suppliers.

The contract will deliver the following categories of goods, services and works:

- Recycled road-base construction and demolition materials
- Road waste
- Road-base and sub-base
- Asphalt
- Bitumen
- Kerbing, paving and associated construction
- Road building supplies
- Drainage
- Road building
- Traffic signals

Contractors were invited to submit an expression of interest in January 2012. The expressions of interest have been reviewed and contractors have been selected to submit formal tenders. The contract is scheduled for commencement in June 2012.

WALGA will be complementing its new Preferred Supply Panel with the development of further contracts for traffic management services and for engineering consulting services.

## ASSET MANAGEMENT AND LOCAL ROAD FUNDING (cont.)

### Changes to Western Power's Vegetation Management Program

In March this year, Western Power contacted WALGA regarding changes to its Vegetation Management Program designed to enable a quick response to dangerous trees in High or Extreme fire risk areas.

Notices will be issued for planted or cultivated trees on Local Government land to be cut back within 30 days. If trees remain too close to power lines, Western Power contractors will complete the work and local governments may be invoiced for the cost. The minimum cost for this work will be \$419.00.

At WALGA's insistence Western Power has included information in their documentation that local government's responsibility is for planted or cultivated trees only. The changes will come into effect from 1 July 2012. WALGA is approaching Western Power to further negotiate the content of the proposed process.

### Code of Practice for Vegetation Control Work Near Live Power Lines

WALGA and other stakeholders have been involved in the preparation of the Code of Practice for Vegetation Control Work near Live Power Lines developed by Energy Safety. The final draft was distributed to the Sector in January 2012 for comment. The Guidelines for the Management of Local Government Authorities Vegetation Near Power Lines is being developed by Western Power and the Sector will be consulted for feedback when it is finalised.

### Western Australia Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements

Emergency Management WA (FESA) initiated a brief review of the Western Australia Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (WANDRRA). This review included:

- Assessing the intent, timeliness of the activation process and awareness of WANDRRA in its current form;
- Defining and exploring the application and boundaries of WANDRRA's current eligibility measures as relief and recovery assistance;
- Examining the link between WANDRRA and NDRRA to determine the boundaries of both; and
- Examining the rules, guidelines and monetary limits for the WANDRRA's Personal Hardship and Distress payments, and re-examining indexing of these payments.

A sample of Local Governments completed a detailed survey and the Association also provided input to this review based on information gathered from the Sector. A preliminary draft final report for the WANDRRA Review has not yet been released. Decisions made about progressing this will be made after the Federal Auditor General's Review is completed in August 2012.

The issue of day labour cost recovery was raised at the March 2012 Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) board meeting and all State Associations provided support for policy change in this area. It was determined this issue would be addressed at the Federal level by ALGA.

## ASSET MANAGEMENT AND LOCAL ROAD FUNDING (cont.)

### Road Reserve Asset Management Plan Project

The Road Reserve Asset Management Plan (RRAMP) project is developing strategies for balancing road infrastructure-related activities with native vegetation conservation. RRAMPs will assist local government in asset planning and management at a local and regional scale and attempt to resolve conflict between native vegetation conservation and management and infrastructure requirements.

The project is managed by WALGA and commenced in August 2010. It is funded through the State Government natural resource management (NRM) Community and Regional grants program. It is the aim of the RRAMP project to develop an easy to use process that allows Local Government to address their regional infrastructure and ecological differences whilst maintaining a consistency of approach across the state for asset management.

The project is now complete. Outcomes include a final report, a template for Local Governments to use when contracting consultants to conduct flora and fauna surveys and an excel-based toolkit to assist with the practical management of roadside vegetation. All of these are available on WALGA's website at <http://www.walga.asn.au/memberresources/environmentwastemanagement/rrampprojectoutcomes.aspx>

### Clearing of Native Vegetation Legislation Review

The Minister for Environment, the Hon Bill Marmion, committed to consult with local government in late 2011 on proposed legislative changes arising from the Middle Committee Review on native vegetation clearing. To date, no consultation has been undertaken. WALGA President, Troy Pickard wrote to the Minister in late April 2012 requesting an update on the government's proposals to improve the practical operation and effectiveness of the legislation.

### Western Australian Bicycle Network Plan

The State Government released the long awaited draft *Bicycle Network Plan* in March. WALGA has commenced analysis of the draft plan and its implications from a Local Government perspective and will be working with Local Government Councillors and Officers to prepare a response prior to the closing date for submissions in June 2012. A Local Government workshop is scheduled for Friday, 8 June at St Catherine's College, University of Western Australia, 2 Park Road, Nedlands. Contact Marissa MacDonald at [mmacdonald@walga.asn.au](mailto:mmacdonald@walga.asn.au) for more information.

### Public Bus Stop Infrastructure

In January 2012 WALGA distributed an Info Page to Local Governments with bus stop infrastructure, requesting feedback to determine a policy position regarding the responsibility and funding of bus stop infrastructure (shelters, seats and bins). WALGA reviewed the feedback received and a meeting with the Public Transport Authority (PTA) Managing Director was held in April to discuss the results.

It was agreed that the preferred option by Local Governments is to progress a partnership agreement with the PTA for the responsibility and funding of bus stop infrastructure based on agreed criteria (such as patronage). WALGA will be working with the relevant stakeholders and endeavours to achieve the outcomes sought by the Sector.

### State Gravel Supply Strategy

WALGA together with Main Roads WA, Department of Planning, Department of Environment and Conservation, Department of Mines and Petroleum, and the WA Farmers Federation are members of the State Gravel Supply Strategy management group. The purpose of the committee is to review projects initiated by the group following the State Government's 1998 State Gravel Supply Strategy. The group has recently compiled a presentation on the current status of its projects which was presented to the Conservation Commission in February 2012.

## FREIGHT MANAGEMENT

### Local Government Capacity Building – Planning for Freight Transport

WALGA, with the Freight and Logistics Council WA, Department of Transport, Department of Planning and Fremantle Ports, has completed a project that sought to identify barriers to effective consideration of freight needs in Local Government land-use planning. The study also proposes potential solutions to the issues identified both within the current planning system and those that would require changes to the planning system.

The final report is available for download at <http://walga.asn.au/MemberResources/Infrastructure/FreightManagementandHeavyVehicle/LocalGovernmentCapacityBuilding.aspx>. It is anticipated that this study will be considered by the WA Planning Commission, Infrastructure Coordinating Committee in June.

### Western Australian Regional Freight Network Plan

The draft Regional Freight Network Plan is nearing completion. It is anticipated that this will be submitted to Government shortly. While it is hoped that there will be a period of consultation provided on the draft plan, this is a matter for a State Government decision. Planning priorities include regional intermodal terminals, rail access to strategic industrial estates, inbound freight facilities and laydown areas and the protection of strategic corridors. WALGA is a member of the Steering Committee for this project.

### Freight and Intermodal Plan for the Perth – Peel Region

This critically important study aims to project the freight task to and through the Perth – Peel Region to 2050 and identify the infrastructure and corridors that will be required to enable this to efficiently occur. Detailed work and modeling is being carried out by the consultants, SKM. WALGA is seeking to ensure that all Local Governments are effectively engaged in the consultation process and have the opportunity to influence the plan.

### WA Grain Freight Network

The Local Government Grain Infrastructure Group met in April and received a presentation from CBH regarding grain freight over the 2011/12 harvest. There is still a record tonnages of grain held in country storage facilities. The rail operator (QR National) has been unable to adequately staff trains and road transport has been used to supplement the rail capacity. CBH anticipates that rail freight capacity will increase later in 2012 as the new rail operator Watco takes delivery of rolling stock and locomotives.

### Road and Rail Interface Agreements

The *Rail Safety Act 2010* became law in February 2011 and requires all rail managers and road managers enter into Interface Agreements for every rail/road crossing in Western Australia by February 2014. The purpose of an Interface Agreement is to record the risks to safety at a rail/road crossings and the measures to manage those risks.

WALGA continues to represent Local Government on a Working Group, chaired by Main Roads WA, to develop necessary plans and templates to meet the requirements of the *Act*. WALGA continues to consult with Local Governments as the work of the Working Party progresses; and negotiate with relevant rail owners and the Office of Rail Safety to assist the Local Government sector meet their obligations under the *Rail Safety Act 2010*.



## ROAD SAFETY

### **Business Cases for Run-off Road Regional and Remote Crashes, and Urban Intersection Crashes**

In October 2011, WALGA and Main Roads WA submitted to the Road Safety Council joint business cases and project plans for (1) Run-off Road Regional and Remote Crashes on the Local Road Network; and (2) Urban Intersection Crashes. The submissions are to obtain funding from the Road Trauma Trust Account and, if successful, will provide Local Governments with access to funds for Safe System improvements to the local road network.

The business cases were endorsed by the Road Safety Council and will proceed for consideration by the Ministerial Road Safety Council, Economic Audit Committee and State Cabinet.

### **A Role for Local Government in Speed Enforcement**

On 5 October 2011 WALGA State Council resolved that negotiations be held with the WA Police to secure their support to develop a voluntary partnership model to formally provide monthly vehicle travel speed data to inform road policing strategies.

In February 2012 the WA Police informed WALGA they were willing to research and develop the proposed model. Negotiations are currently underway with the WA Police and select Local Governments to determine the format and methodology of providing vehicle travel speed data that meets the needs of both parties.

### **Local Government Involvement in Speed Limit Setting**

WALGA is currently undertaking a project relating to the involvement of Local Governments in setting speed limits on local roads. The project will determine what role Local Governments want to have in setting speed limits on local roads in the future; and determine their attitude to the current Main Roads WA *Application and Approval Guidelines – Speed Zoning* process.

Local Governments are currently being consulted to progress this project; and in early April 2012 Local Governments were invited via the LG News to provide input into this project based on experiences in applying to Main Roads WA to have speed limits amended.

### **Fencing Road Reserves in Pastoral Regions for Straying Stock**

WALGA represented the Local Government sector on the Fencing Road Reserves in Pastoral Regions Working Group. The Working Group, chaired by MRWA, reviewed current road reserve fencing responsibilities, legislative requirements, policies and management practices aimed at improving road safety in pastoral regions.

A report with recommendations was endorsed by Main Roads WA and forwarded to the Hon Minister for Transport for consideration in February 2012.

### **Road Crash Data**

WALGA continues to liaise with Main Roads WA to provide specific road crash statistics for Local Governments desirous of undertaking the Local Government Safe System Improvement Program. The requirements of the Program will be used to develop a road crash data report prototype for the Local Government sector.

Select Local Governments will be provided with the prototype as part of the Program to obtain feedback on the relevance and application of the prototype. The feedback will be used to develop an annual road crash statistical report for Local Government regions for a five year period.



## ROAD SAFETY (cont.)

### Road Safety Council Update

The Road Safety Council (RSC) meets on a regular basis to oversee and monitor road safety progress in WA. The following routine matters were considered by the RSC in February 2012: the 2011 road crash data shows fatalities trending downwards though WA continues to record higher rates of road trauma than all other Australian states, progress was reported on a number of legislative amendments, and the draft recommendations of the cycling safety forums were presented.

In addition, two major decisions were taken. In light of all available evidence, including recent research, the RSC will not recommend the introduction of power to weight ratio restrictions for novice drivers in WA rather priority will be given to more effective measures aimed at the underlying behaviours and causes of novice driver crashes. One area of particular concern is novice driver safety in regional areas. The RSC will establish a working group, to be chaired by WALGA, to develop a new inter-agency campaign specifically designed to increase supervised driving hours in various conditions, the uptake of vehicles (including 4WDs) fitted with active safety features such as electronic stability control and ongoing education and enforcement activities to address risky behaviours.

A regular communiqué is produced following each RSC meeting and is available at

<http://www.ors.wa.gov.au/Road-Safety-Council/Communique.aspx>.

### Local Government Safe System Project

WALGA's RoadWise Program hosted a booth at the recent IPWEA (WA Division) State conference to feature information about the Local Government Safe System Project (LGSSP). A Safe System Coordinator also presented an update of the project at the conference as part of the road safety stream. The presentation introduced some new resources specifically developed for WA Local Governments, including the Declaration for road safety, Local Government Safe System Improvement Program, and Safe System Guiding Principles for Local Government.

During phase one it was recognised by the Local Government sector that enhanced skills and knowledge are required to implement a safe system. In order to provide relevant resources and training to Local Governments the LGSSP have commenced a second series of workshops. These workshops introduce the current resources available, as well as providing an opportunity to discuss skills and knowledge building throughout Local Governments for the implementation of the safe system approach to road safety. The first workshop was held at the City of Rockingham with 15 attendees. A number of workshops in other regions will take place in the future. For further information contact a Safe System Coordinator on 9213 2008.

### Community Road Safety Grants Program

The Community Road Safety Grants Program provides funds for community-based road safety projects aligned to *Towards Zero*, WA's Road Safety Strategy. Four types of grants are available which include Project Grants, Speed Display Trailer Grants, Workforce Development Grants and Sponsorship. Community road safety grants are awarded monthly and those granted in the April 2012 round were:

#### **Sponsorship Grants**

- Wickepin Community Resource Centre, Masquerade Ball - \$350.00
- Mukinbudin Planning & Development Group (Inc.), The Mukinbudin 2012 Spring Festival - \$1,000.00
- Mullewa Muster & Rodeo Committee, Mullewa Muster & Rodeo 2012 - \$1,000.00

Information about the Community Road Safety Grants Program is contained available on the website at [http://www.roadwise.asn.au/road\\_safety\\_grants](http://www.roadwise.asn.au/road_safety_grants)

## ROAD SAFETY (cont.)

### RoadWise Community Road Safety Network

Regional Road Safety Officers will report on their regions at the Regional Road Group meetings.

### Child Car Restraints Fitting Service

Since the start of 2012 five accredited Child Car Restraint Type I Fitting Courses have been conducted. Courses were run in the Gascoyne, South West, Kimberley, Wheatbelt North and Metropolitan South regions, all from Road Trauma Trust Account funding. As the course is nationally accredited, the course and all associated materials are routinely reviewed, and then submitted for approval to the Office of Road Safety.

### Road Safety Round-Up

The April 2012 edition of *Road Safety Round-Up* is available from <http://www.roadwise.asn.au/news/RRup> and is distributed to over 3000 members of the community road safety network state-wide.

***Safer cars save lives.***

## WALGA INFRASTRUCTURE CONTACTS

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