



KIMBERLEY ZONE & KIMBERLEY REGIONAL GROUP JOINT MEETING

MINUTES

24 AUGUST 2022

Commencing at

1:00PM

**WATTLE ROOM, WALGA
And
MS TEAMS**

**KIMBERLEY ZONE AND
KIMBERLEY REGIONAL GROUP JOINT MEETING
WEDNESDAY 24 AUGUST 2022**

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Chair opened the meeting at 1.03 pm and welcomed delegates and guests.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES

ATTENDANCE:

Cr Chris Mitchell	Shire of Broome (Teams)
Cr Harold Tracey	Shire of Broome (from 1.12pm)
James Watt	Shire of Broome (Teams)
Cr Geoff Haerewa	Shire of Derby West Kimberley
Cr Peter McCumstie	Shire of Derby/West Kimberley (Teams)
Cr David Menzel	Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley
Vernon Lawrence	Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley (Teams)
Nick Kearns	Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley (Teams)
Cr Malcolm Edwards	Shire of Halls Creek
Phillip Cassell	Shire of Halls Creek (Teams)

GUESTS:

Tim Lane, Manager Corporate and Association Governance	WALGA
Chantelle O'Brien, Governance Support Officer	WALGA
Janine Hatch, Executive Officer	RDA Kimberley (Teams)
Kim Brown	RDA Kimberley (Teams)
Greg Hayes, Regional Road Safety Advisor	WALGA RoadWise (Teams)
Tim Bray, Director Regional Development	Kimberley Development Commission (Teams)
Natasha Maher, Chief Executive Officer	Australia's North West Tourism (Teams)
Kristina Dickman, Regional Manager Kimberley	Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
Corrina Musgrave	Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

Alizanne Cheetham, A/Executive Director,
Racing, Gaming and Liquor

Department of Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries

Glauca Hyland, Manager, Strategic
Regulation

Department of Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries

Michael Hadlow, Director and Principal
Consultant

AMCER Consulting Pty Ltd

James McMahon

APOLOGIES:

Sam Mastroleambo

Shire of Broome

Amanda Dexter

Shire of Derby West Kimberley

Cr Tony Chafer

Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley

Cr Chris Loessl

Shire of Halls Creek

Cr Jeanette Young

Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands

Cr Hua (Helen) Liu

Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands

Kelli Small

Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands

Cr Gordon Thomson

Shire of Christmas Island

Cr Kee Heng Foo

Shire of Christmas Island

David Price

Shire of Christmas Island

3. Declarations Of Interest

Nil.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**KIMBERLEY ZONE & KIMBERLEY REGIONAL GROUP RECOMMENDATION:****Moved: Cr Chris Mitchell****Seconded: Cr Geoff Haerewa**

That the Minutes of the Kimberley Regional Group held on 21 June 2022, as published and circulated, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 4/0**5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

Nil.

6. PRESENTATIONS**6.1 North West Defence Alliance**

North West Defence Alliance (NWDA) consultant, Michael Hadlow (AMCER Consulting) and James McMahon presented on the direction and activities of the NWDA.

6.2 Takeaway Alcohol Management System and Banned Drinkers Register – Racing, Gaming and Liquor Division of DLGSC

Alizanne Cheetham, Director Strategic Regulation, Racing, Gaming and Liquor and Glaucia Hyland, Manager, Strategic Regulation, from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries provided an update.

7. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES**7.1 RDA KIMBERLEY**

Janine Hatch, Executive Officer

7.2 AUSTRALIA'S NORTH WEST TOURISM

Natasha Maher, Chief Executive Officer

7.3 WALGA ROADWISE

Greg Hayes, Road Safety Advisor

7.4 KIMBERLEY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Tim Bray, Director Regional Development

7.5 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SPORT AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES

Kristina Dickman, Regional Manager Kimberley

7.6 WALGA

Tim Lane, Manager Association and Corporate Governance

8. REPORTS FROM KIMBERLEY COUNTRY ZONE

8.1 WALGA STATE COUNCIL AGENDA AND PRESIDENT'S REPORT

LOCATION/ADDRESS:	Nil
APPLICANT:	Nil
FILE:	KRG01
AUTHOR:	Zone Executive
CONTRIBUTOR/S:	Nil
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	CEO SHIRE OF WYNDHAM EAST KIMBERLEY
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	Nil

SUMMARY:

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

The full State Council Agenda can be found via link:
<https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/b517f698-7681-40e8-a7ac-c0673a0dbbea/State-Council-Agenda-9-September-2022.pdf>

The Zone is able to provide comment or submit an alternative recommendation that is then presented to the State Council for consideration.

COMMENT

The next WALGA State Council meeting will be held 9 September 2022. The following matters for decision will be considered.

	Matters for Decision	WALGA Recommendation
5.1	2023-24 State Budget Submission	That the 2023-24 State Budget Submission be endorsed.
5.2	Proposed Advocacy Position on Management of Bush Fire	That the following Advocacy Position on Management of Bush Fire Brigades be endorsed. 1. <i>Bush Fire Brigade volunteers play a critical role in helping to protect their local communities. Local knowledge and skills are integral to bushfire management in Western Australia.</i> 2. <i>Future management and funding of volunteer Bush Fire Brigades must:</i> a) <i>Recognise the changing risk environment, including work health and safety requirements, and the increasing intensity and frequency of bushfires;</i> b) <i>Take account of the differing circumstances of Bush Fire Brigade units and regional variations in bush firefighting approaches; and</i> c) <i>Be adequately and equitably resourced through the Emergency Services Levy.</i>

		<p>3. <i>The State Government, through the Consolidated Emergency Services Act and/or other mechanism's must:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>establish a clear framework to enable transfer of Bush Fire Brigades to the State Government if a Local Government decides to do so;</i> b) <i>Consult on the process, timeline, and implications for transfer of responsibility for Bush Fire Brigades in accordance with 3(a) through the establishment of a working group comprising representatives of Local Government, Bush Fire Brigades, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES);</i> c) <i>Provide for mandatory and minimum training requirements and recognition of competency and prior learning for Bush Fire Brigade volunteers, supported by a fit-for-purpose and universally accessible training program, designed in consultation with Bush Fire Brigade representatives, Local Government and LGIS, and managed by DFES; and</i> d) <i>Develop a co-designed suite of relevant management guidelines and materials to assist in the management of Bush Fire Brigades.</i> <p>4. <i>The State Government to consider the most appropriate operational model for State Government management of Bush Fire Brigades, which may include the establishment of an independent Rural Fire Service, as recommended in the 2016 Ferguson Report.</i></p>
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Matters for Noting:

- 6.1 Local Government Homelessness Knowledge Hub
- 6.2 State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement 2023/24
- 6.3 Paid Family and Domestic Violence Leave Entitlements Update
- 6.4 Proposed State Industrial Relations Transition
- 6.6 2023-24 State Budget Submission Approach

Organisational Reports

- 7.1 Policy Team Reports
 - 7.1.1 Environment and Waste Policy Team Report
 - 7.1.2 Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team Report
 - 7.1.3 Infrastructure Policy Team Report
 - 7.1.4 People and Place Policy Team Report
- 7.2 Key Activity Reports
 - 7.2.1 Report on Key Activities, Advocacy Portfolio
 - 7.2.2 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure Portfolio
 - 7.2.3 Report on Key Activities, Member Services Portfolio
 - 7.2.4 Report on Key Activities, Policy Portfolio

7.3 Policy Forum Report

WALGA State President's Report – Attached

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

KIMBERLEY ZONE & KIMBERLEY REGIONAL GROUP REPORT RECOMMENDATION:

Moved: Cr Geoff Haerewa

Seconded: Cr Chris Mitchell

That the Kimberley Regional Group:

- 1. Notes the State Council Agenda Items as circulated.**
- 2. Notes the report from the WALGA President as circulated.**
- 3. Supports the recommendations in the Matters for Decision contained within the State Council Agenda.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 4/0

Attachments

1. WALGA State Council Agenda 6 July 2022 ([link provided](#)).
2. WALGA President's Report July 2022.

8.2 WALGA ZONE STATUS REPORT	
LOCATION/ADDRESS:	Nil
APPLICANT:	Nil
FILE:	KRG01
AUTHOR:	Zone Executive
CONTRIBUTOR/S:	Nil
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	CEO SHIRE OF WYNDHAM EAST KIMBERLEY
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	Nil

SUMMARY:
This Status Report provides an update on the WALGA response to relevant Kimberley Zone Resolutions.

BACKGROUND

<p>19 April 2022 Zone Agenda Item 8.3 Vehicles Being Drive on Unsealed Roads Closed Due to Wet Conditions</p>	<p>That the Kimberley Zone:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acknowledges the request by WALGA for feedback on damage on closed roads 2. Informs WALGA that vehicle damage for roads closed due to saturation and flooding events: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. are not recorded separately; b. is a component of annual damage to road infrastructure; c. damage to unsealed roads servicing remote communities is complex as alternative access to food and fuel supplies during wet season closures may only be through plane or helicopters freight services, at significant expense. 3. Provides feedback to WALGA that vehicle damage from commercial operations is the key issue in the Kimberley. 	<p>The Infrastructure Policy Team resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The key legislative / regulatory requirements appear to be in place; 2. Vehicles being driven on closed roads occurs in other remote Local Government areas, although the situations are different around the State; 3. In the absence of identified technology solutions an initial approach be made by WALGA to ARRB and PATREC to determine if research centres are interested in developing a research project. <p>The Association has been in contact with ARRB, who advised that they were not aware of suitable technology. At the time of writing WALGA is waiting on a formal response from PATREC.</p>	<p>Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031</p>
<p>19 April 2022 Zone Agenda Item 9.7 Underground Power</p>	<p>That the Kimberley Regional Group requests that WALGA enter into discussions with Horizon Power in relation to programs and funding to transition overhead wires to underground power.</p>	<p>It is proposed that the WALGA submission to the 2023/24 State Budget include advocacy for State funding for underground power to be extended to priority areas. Engagement with Horizon Power has not yet occurred.</p>	<p>Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031</p>
<p>2021 20 April Zone Agenda Item 11.1 Disaster Relief and Recovery Funding Arrangements</p>	<p>That the Kimberley Zone:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Express dissatisfaction with current disaster relief and recovery funding arrangements and call for urgent action from the State Government to investigate and address these shortcomings. 2. Seek WALGA advocacy to support the motion. 	<p>The Association has endorsed advocacy positions seeking improvements to disaster relief and recovery funding including assessment periods, eligibility of certain costs and improving resilience of reconstructed infrastructure. Regular meetings with DFES and Main Roads officers are on-going. Detailed evidence of examples where the process is not effective have been collected and continue to be. Timelines for</p>	<p>Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031</p>

		<p>decision-making and an escalation process would seem to be an important addition to the process. Following consideration at the Infrastructure Policy Team a working group is being established to develop recommendations to improve DRFA WA processes. Initial engagement with the DFES Assistant Commissioner, Resilience and Recovery has occurred.</p>	
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VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

KIMBERLEY ZONE & KIMBERLEY REGIONAL GROUP REPORT RECOMMENDATION:

Moved: Cr Geoff Haerewa

Seconded: Cr Malcolm Edwards

That the Kimberley Zone notes the WALGA Zone Status Report August 2022.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 4/0

8.3 CENSUS POPULATION DATA IN WA

LOCATION/ADDRESS:	Nil
APPLICANT:	Nil
FILE:	KRG01
AUTHOR:	Tim Lane
CONTRIBUTOR/S:	Daniel Thomson, Economist, WALGA
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Tim Lane
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	Nil

BACKGROUND

Concerns have been raised by a number of Local Governments, particularly in regional WA with the accuracy of the recently released Census data, particularly with respect to undercounting of population.

WALGA has elevated this issue to a national level via ALGA and has directly contacted the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to raise the sector's concerns.

The ABS recently presented to the ALGA board meeting and in coming months will provide opportunities to brief impacted Local Governments.

COMMENT

The WALGA secretariat is aware that RDA Kimberley have been liaising with the ABS on this issue.

Affected Local Governments are invited to advise WALGA of any issues that will then be forwarded directly to the ABS.

WALGA's contact on this issue is Daniel Thomson, Economist, at dthomson@walga.asn.au.

The ABS has been invited to present at the upcoming State Council Strategic Forum meeting to be held on Friday, 9 September.

WALGA will advise the Local Government sector of any updates from the ABS as the become available.

KIMBERLEY ZONE & KIMBERLEY REGIONAL GROUP REPORT RECOMMENDATION:

Moved: Cr Geof Haerewa

Seconded: Cr Malcolm Edwards

That the Kimberley Zone note the update in relation to Census Population Data and ongoing discussions with the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 4/0

9. REPORTS FROM KIMBERLEY REGIONAL GROUP

Nil.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

Nil.

11. GENERAL BUSINESS**11.1 Future Meetings**

The next regular meeting of the Kimberley Zone / KRG is scheduled for 1:00pm on Monday, 28 November in Kununurra.

There may be an opportunity to hold an in-person meeting in Perth in conjunction with the WALGA Convention in the first week of October.

The schedule for the Convention is available in the [program](#).

Members agreed to aim for a meeting to be held on Wednesday 5 October with further details to be confirmed.

11.2 Government Services in the Kimberley

Cr Peter McCumstie, Shire of Derby West Kimberley

The purpose of this submission to the KRG is to enlist support from the group to present to the WA Government a position in relation to the ongoing issues with Government priorities and decisions in relation to establishment and implementation of government services in the Kimberley.

Previously and currently as we all know the "Hub and Spoke" model is their preferred option and although this may work in other southern regions to some extent it is by nature in my view not successful to any significant degree and in fact has and is proving to be counter productive, not only to the "Spokes", being all except Broome and to some degree I understand Kununurra, but also having negative impacts on the main "Hub", Broome.

While I can understand a lot of the bureaucratic thinking and political decisions are based on cost of delivery, where staffing is less difficult, access to RPT jet travel and a general desire to live in Broome, the recent statement by Minister Simone McGurk, "we are placing the domestic violence hub in Broome because that is where the other services are" is very alarming for all of us including Broome as stated by Cr Harold Tracey, President of the Shire of Broome.

Quite frankly this position is widely reflected by almost all government service providers in the Kimberley and within the middle and senior levels of government.

The past and ongoing decreasing level of service to the wider Kimberley cannot continue and I believe it is up to us to encourage our state government both at a bureaucratic and

political level to meet and work with the KRG to adopt a newer and better model for service delivery in our region.

To do this I suggest that the starting point must be with the Minister for Regional Development and the KDC, who after all are the body who have the responsibility for encouraging and assisting economic and social growth for the entire region.

A review of service delivery (not unlike the EC West Model being rolled out), is urgently required and such a review must be carried out within the shortest possible timeframe whilst still providing government with a "real" picture of the effectiveness of government services in the region across the board.

We all know and are experiencing the negative impacts of sub standard service delivery in our respective shires and we cannot allow this to continue. The lack of consultation by government with us at the local government level is creating a worsening situation whereby much needed funding is being wasted by poor service delivery, location and operation capacity due to the Hub and Spoke requirement for huge travel arrangements, loss of service delivery hours in each place of service delivery and so many in our communities are paying the price and the impost on local government to fill the gaps or cost to continue to have to lobby government constantly to locate services where they can best deliver, rather than being locked up and increasingly put out of reach to our communities.

Members agreed that the development of an advocacy paper, utilising past inquiries, research and reports, highlighting the inadequacy of the centralisation of government services to the Kimberley region, and particularly the impact on the Aboriginal population, would be a priority once the new secretariat service is established.

11.3 Kimberley Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing Steering Committee

Cr Peter McCumstie, Shire of Derby West Kimberley

Cr Peter McCumstie has forwarded correspondence from the Commissioner, Mental Health Commission, Ms Jennifer McGrath, in relation to the Kimberley Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing Steering Committee.

The next Steering Committee meeting will be held in Broome on 28 October 2022 and Cr McCumstie will attend.

The update from the Commissioner is below:

Good Morning All,

I acknowledge some time has passed since the last Kimberley Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing Steering Committee (Steering Committee), and thank you for your contribution and patience navigating the complexities of its development and progression.

Since our last correspondence, representatives from the Aboriginal Regional Governance Group (ARGG) have met with Ministers Sanderson and Buti to express their concerns regarding progress on the Commitment to Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing, and the current structure of the Steering Committee.

Fiona Hunt, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, and I have been liaising with the ARGG to discuss their expectations of the Steering Committee and to establish mechanisms

to provide the leadership required to achieve positive Kimberley Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing outcomes.

Through the discussions, it has been agreed that some changes will be made to the format of the Steering committee including the standardising committee procedures to improve consistency, effectiveness and accountability; and outlining the roles and responsibilities of both State Government agencies and the ARGG. There was a commitment from Ministers to ensure State Government representation on the Steering Group is consistent and at Tier 1 or 2.

It was agreed that the Steering Committee Governance Structure needs to be resolved and, therefore, the Operational Working Group that supported the work of the Steering Committee will be put on hold and restructured as required by the Steering Committee.

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled in Broome on 28 October 2022, 9am to 1pm (venue TBC) and there will also be a pre-briefing via MS Team scheduled prior.

Please advise via email to kaywsc@mhc.wa.gov.au by 26 August 2022 if you are able to attend or, if not possible, indicate your nominated Tier 2 representative.

More information regarding this meeting and supporting invitations to follow prior to the meeting, including agenda papers approximately 3 weeks prior.

Kind regards

Jen

15 August 2022

Noted

11.4 North West Defence Alliance (NWDA) Funding Request

Cr Geoff Haerowa spoke about the request for funding from member local Governments and that the funding would support admin services , travel, website maintenance and that further breakdown will be provided by the Chair and Deputy Chair of the NWDA.

KIMBERLEY ZONE & KIMBERLEY REGIONAL GROUP REPORT RECOMMENDATION:

Moved: Cr David Menzel

Seconded: Cr Chris Mitchell

That the Kimberley Regional Group approves, in principal, a contribution up to \$50,000 from the Kimberley Regional Group surplus for the 2022-23 financial year, towards the lobbying and advocacy efforts of the North West Defence Alliance, subject to the development of a formal budget to be considered by circular resolution, with funding to be acquitted by the Kimberley Regional Group against the approved budget.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 4/0

11.5 WALGA Best Practice Governance Review Principles – AGM Item

BACKGROUND

In March 2022, State Council commissioned the WALGA Best Practice Governance Review (BPGR) with the aim of ensuring WALGA's governance model is contemporary, agile and maximises engagement with members. The BPGR, overseen by a Steering Committee appointed by State Council, is now well underway.

The BPGR Steering Committee have formulated a set of governance principles to guide the development of potential governance models.

At a special meeting on 22 August, State Council endorsed the principles, along with an AGM Agenda item which seeks endorsement of the principles by members at the 2022 Annual General Meeting on 3 October.

The purpose of the AGM item is to gauge member support for progressing the BPGR to the development of potential models.

Following consideration of the principles at the 2022 AGM, an extensive consultation and engagement process will be undertaken with members on these potential governance models. This will occur during October, November and December, with the intention of using the member feedback to inform a final report. This report will then be considered at Zone meetings in February 2023 and subsequently the March 2023 State Council meeting.

Once the final report is endorsed, Constitutional amendments will be prepared for consideration by State Council, followed by the broader membership at the 2023 AGM. As per WALGA's Constitution, amendments to the Constitution require endorsement by a 75 percent majority at both State Council and a general meeting of members.

COMMENT

The AGM Agenda is due to be distributed in late August, ahead of the AGM on Monday, 3 October at Crown Perth.

It is recommended that once the AGM Agenda is distributed, members consider the item and governance principles and inform their registered Voting Delegates on how to vote.

KIMBERLEY ZONE & KIMBERLEY REGIONAL GROUP REPORT RECOMMENDATION:

Moved: Cr Chris Mitchell

Seconded: Cr Geoff Haerewa

That the Kimberley Regional Group note the WALGA Best Practice Governance Overview.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 4/0

12. Matters Behind Closed Doors

12.1 FACILITATION SERVICES – KIMBERLEY ZONE OF WALGA AND KIMBERLEY REGIONAL GROUP

KIMBERLEY ZONE & KIMBERLEY REGIONAL GROUP REPORT RECOMMENDATION:

Moved: Cr Malcolm Edwards

Seconded: Cr Chris Mitchell

That the Kimberley Regional Group support the recommendation in item 12.1.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 4/0

13. Meeting Closure

With no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 4.27 pm.