



Minutes

Annual General Meeting

Perth Convention Exhibition Centre
Perth

Wednesday, 1 August 2018



Minutes

Annual General Meeting of the Western Australian Local Government Association

held at the
Perth Convention Exhibition Centre
21 Mounts Bay Road, Perth
Riverside Theatre (Level 2)
on
Wednesday 1 August 2018
at 1.30 pm



Table of Contents

Annual General Meeting – Order of Proceedings	3
4. Consideration of Executive and Member Motions	Error! Bookmark not defined.
4.1 Proposal to Amend the Association Constitution.....	4
4.2 Roadside Vegetation - Regulatory Amendments.....	14
4.3 GST Revenue Distribution Share for WA	15
4.4 Rural, Regional and Remote Community State Government Funding Cuts.....	16
4.5 A MATTER OF SPECIAL URGENT BUSINESS: Proposed Amendments to <i>Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015</i>	17
4.5 B Proposed Amendment to <i>Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015</i>	17

Annual General Meeting – 2018

Apologies

- Shire of Denmark
- Shire of Irwin
- Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku
- Shire of Three Springs
- City of Vincent
- Mayor Phil Angers, Town of Cottesloe
- Mr John Giorgi, Town of Cambridge

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Denese Smythe (York)

Seconded: Cr Chris Mitchell (Broome)

That the Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

CARRIED

2.0 Adoption of President's Annual Report

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mayor Tracey Roberts (Wanneroo)

Seconded: President Cr Karen Chappel (Morawa)

That the President's Annual Report for 2017/2018 be received.

CARRIED

3.0 WALGA 2017/2018 Financial Statements

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Kevin Trent (York)

Seconded: Cr Julie Brown (Gosnells)

That the WALGA Financial Statements for 2017/2018 be received.

CARRIED

4.0 Consideration of Executive and Member Motions

As per motions listed.

5.0 There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 4:38pm.

4. Consideration of Executive and Member Motions

4.1 Proposal to Amend the Association Constitution

SPECIAL MAJORITY REQUIRED

MOTION:

Moved: President Cr Karen Chappel (Morawa)

Seconded: Mayor Carol Adams (Kwinana)

1. That Clause 18 and Clause 19 of the Association Constitution be amended as follows:

I. Clause 18, sub-clause (1) be amended with the addition of the underlined words, as follows:

(1) Following determination of the election of the President pursuant to clause 17 of this Constitution, the State Council shall elect a Deputy President from amongst its metropolitan and country representatives, provided the Deputy President represents the alternate constituency to the President elected pursuant to clause 17.

II. Clause 19 be amended with the addition of the underlined words and the deletion of the strikethrough words, as follows:

(1) If the office of the President becomes vacant or if for any other reason the President is unable to take or hold office at a period which exceeds six months from the date of the next scheduled election for that office, then the State Council shall meet to elect from among their number a President who, subject to this Constitution shall hold the office of President for the balance of the term of the President replaced.

(2) Where a vacancy occurs in the office of President at a period which is six months or less from the date of the next scheduled election for that office, the State Council may convene a meeting to elect from among their number a President who, subject to this Constitution, shall hold the office of President for the balance of the term of the President replaced, or the State Council may in its discretion, determine that the vacancy be filled by the Deputy President until the date of the next scheduled election.

~~(3)~~ An election pursuant to sub-clause 19(1) or sub-clause 19(2) shall cause the office of Deputy President to be declared vacant immediately prior to the conduct of the election.

~~(4)~~ Following an election pursuant to sub-clause 19(1) or sub-clause 19(2) an election pursuant to Clause 19(5) will be conducted for the office of Deputy President from amongst representatives of the alternate constituency to that of the President just elected.

~~(3)(5)~~ If the office of Deputy President becomes vacant or if for any other reason the Deputy President is unable to take or hold office, then the State Council

IN BRIEF

- A number of Constitutional amendments proposed by State Council as well as some technical clarifications.
- Proposed amendments endorsed by State Council in May 2018.

shall meet to elect from among their number a Deputy President who shall hold the office for the balance of the term of the Deputy President replaced, provided the Deputy President represents the alternate constituency to that of the President.

~~(4)~~(6) A State Council representative elected to fill a vacancy of President or Deputy President pursuant to clause ~~4~~ 19 shall still be eligible for election to a subsequent two (2) full consecutive terms.

2. That Clause 17A – Rotation of Presidency be added to the Association Constitution, as follows:

17A – Rotation of Presidency

1. At an election for the position of President conducted under sub-clause 17(2), only the incumbent President, subject to complying with sub-clause 17(5), or State Councillors from the alternate constituency to the incumbent President will be eligible to be elected.
2. At an election for the position of President conducted under Clause 19, only State Councillors from the alternate constituency to the incumbent President will be eligible to be elected.

3. That Clause 20 of the Association Constitution be amended with the addition of the underlined words as follows:

A person shall cease or be disqualified from being a representative or deputy representative on the State Council, or from being President or Deputy President of the Association, or from attending State Council in an ex-officio capacity, if that person:

4. That sub-clause 20(j) of the Association Constitution be amended with the addition of the underlined words and the deletion of the strikethrough words as follows:

(j) Is a Councillor that has been suspended by the Minister for Local Government under Part 8 ~~of an Ordinary Member that has been peremptorily suspended under Section 8.15C(2)~~ of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

5. That sub-clause 10(2) of the Association Constitution be amended with the addition of the underlined words as follows:

(2) Each representative on the State Council shall be entitled to exercise one (1) deliberative vote on any matter considered by the State Council provided that this clause shall not apply to any ex-officio members of the State Council. The President shall exercise a casting vote only, in the event of there being an equality of votes in respect of a matter considered by the State Council but excluding an election held in accordance with Clause 16 in which the President is entitled to a deliberative vote only.

6. That sub-clauses 2(1), 5(7)(a), 9(1)(d), and 31(4)(b) be amended as follows:

I. That the following strikethrough words be replaced with the following underlined words in sub-clause 2(1):

~~“Local Government Managers Australia” means the Western Australian Division of the Local Government Managers Australia (LGMA), which body is incorporated under the Victorian Companies Act 1961.~~

“Local Government Professionals Australia WA” means the Western Australian Division of Local Government Professionals Australia.

- II. That sub-clause 5(7)(a) of the Association Constitution relating to Associate Members of WALGA be amended with the words “Local Government Managers Australia (LGMA)” to be replaced with the words “Local Government Professionals Australia WA”.
 - III. That sub-clause 9(1)(a) of the Association Constitution relating to ex-officio members of State Council be amended to replace the words “Local Government Managers Australia (LGMA)” with the words “Local Government Professionals Australia WA”.
 - IV That sub-clause 31(4)(b) of the Association Constitution relating to a dispute resolution panel be amended by replacing the word “LGMA” with the words “Local Government Professionals Australia WA”.
7. That sub-clause 14(4a)(h) be amended with the addition of the underlined words and the deletion of the strike through words as follows:
- (h) Is a Councillor that has been suspended by the Minister for Local Government under part 8 of an Ordinary Member that has been peremptorily suspended under Section 8.15C(2)(e) of the Local Government Act 1995.

CARRIED BY SPECIAL MAJORITY

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

This item proposes a number of amendments to WALGA’s Constitution that have been raised or identified since the last governance review and amendments to WALGA’s Constitution in 2016.

Amendment of the Constitution involves a two-step process, as detailed in Clause 29 of the Constitution, as follows:

The Constitution of the Association may be altered, added to or repealed by:

- (1) *A resolution at any meeting of the State Council on the receipt of a special majority of not less than 75% of representatives as, being entitled to do so, vote in person or by their deputy representatives; and*
- (2) *A resolution at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting passed by a majority of not less than 75% of delegates as, being entitled to do so, vote in person or duly authorize a proxy vote to be exercised on their behalf, provided that:*
 - a. *75% of Ordinary Members who are eligible to vote are present or represented; and,*
 - b. *The Chief Executive Officer has given not less than sixty (60) days notice of any proposal to alter, add or repeal the Constitution to all Ordinary Members.*

The proposed amendments were endorsed by a Special Majority at the 4 May 2018 meeting of State Council. Endorsement by a Special Majority at the Annual General Meeting is required for the amendments to come into effect.

This report considers seven issues put forward for Constitutional Amendment, with each issue corresponding to the numbered recommendations, as follows:

1. President and Deputy President – Metropolitan and Country Representation
2. President and Deputy President – Rotation of Presidency between Metropolitan and Country constituencies
3. State Councillor Eligibility – Ex-officio Members
4. State Councillor Eligibility – Ministerial Suspension of Council or Councillor
5. Election Procedure – Confirmation that the WALGA President is entitled to vote in elections for the positions of President and Deputy President
6. Change of Name – Local Government Professionals Australia WA
7. Zone Delegate Eligibility – Ministerial Suspension of Council or Councillor

Issue 1 – President and Deputy President: Metropolitan and Country Representation

An emerging issue was raised at the March 2018 meeting of State Council in relation to the representation of both the Metropolitan and Non-metropolitan constituencies in the positions of President and Deputy President of WALGA.

Following consideration of this issue, State Council resolved as follows:

That an item for decision be prepared for the May 2018 State Council agenda to provide consideration to proposed amendments to the WALGA Constitution and Corporate Governance Charter to ensure representation from both Metropolitan and Country constituencies for the President and Deputy President positions.

Since the formation of WALGA as the single Local Government association in 2001, there has been a convention that the President and Deputy President would be elected from opposite constituencies. That is, if the President is from the country constituency, the Deputy President would be elected from the metropolitan constituency and vice-versa.

This convention has not been challenged or broken in the 17 years since WALGA's formation, although it is possible that State Council could elect a President and Deputy President from the same constituency.

The argument in favour of this Constitutional amendment is that it would ensure that the Deputy President is drawn from the alternate constituency from that of the President, ensuring representation for both constituencies.

The argument against this Constitutional amendment is that it reduces the decision-making function of State Council to elect the 'best person for the job' and, as the convention has not been broken since WALGA's formation, it may not be an issue that requires regulation via Constitutional amendments.

To effect the change, amendments are required to Clause 18 – Deputy President, and to Clause 19 – Vacancy: President and Deputy President.

The following amendment is proposed to Clause 18 – Deputy President, by adding the underlined text as follows:

- (1) Following determination of the election of the President pursuant to clause 17 of this Constitution, the State Council shall elect a Deputy President from amongst its metropolitan and country representatives, provided the Deputy President represents the alternate constituency to the President elected pursuant to clause 17.
- (2) The Deputy President shall be elected by the State Council at the first Ordinary Meeting of State Council of an even numbered year. The Deputy President's term shall commence from the date of election and shall conclude on the day of the first Ordinary Meeting of State Council of the following even numbered year.
- (3) Prior to expiration of a term of office, a Deputy President may seek re-election for a consecutive term.
- (4) Where a Deputy President seeks and is re-elected for a consecutive term, that person shall not hold office beyond two (2) full consecutive terms.

The proposed amendment above would sufficiently address the issue for regular, end-of-term elections following the election of a new State Council.

However, where a vacancy arises in the office of President, the election of a replacement President would need to ensure that metropolitan and country representation remains in the two positions. Ensuring continued representation of both constituencies in the event of a casual vacancy in the office of President could be addressed in one of two ways, both of which have pros and cons.

Either:

- A. The replacement President must be drawn from same constituency as the current President. That is, if the WALGA President is from the country constituency, election of the replacement President for the balance of the President's term must be drawn from the country constituency.

Or:

- B. The office of Deputy President is declared vacant at the time the election for President is held. This would enable State Council to elect a President from amongst all members with the subsequent election for Deputy President being limited to the alternate constituency.

Option A – Replacement President from the same constituency – limits the options of State Council in electing a President to half of State Council, the half representing the same constituency as the departing President. While this may be appropriate in some circumstances, it does not necessarily provide State Council with the ability to elect the 'best person for the job'. Secondly, the Deputy President may be an appropriate candidate for the position of President, but would be unable to nominate for the position under this scenario unless they resigned from the position of Deputy President.

Option B – Office of Deputy President declared vacant at election of President – addresses the issues with Option A outlined above in that State Council would be able to elect a President from amongst all State Councillors, including the Deputy President who may be suitable. However, it may not be considered appropriate that the Deputy President loses office due to the resignation or inability of the President to continue in the role.

On the basis that electing a President from amongst all State Councillors is considered the most important criteria, amendments in accordance with Option B have been drafted to Clause 19 – Vacancy: President and Deputy President – by adding the underlined text and amending the numbering as follows:

- (1) If the office of the President becomes vacant or if for any other reason the President is unable to take or hold office at a period which exceeds six months from the date of the next scheduled election for that office, then the State Council shall meet to elect from among their number a President who, subject to this Constitution shall hold the office of President for the balance of the term of the President replaced.
- (2) Where a vacancy occurs in the office of President at a period which is six months or less from the date of the next scheduled election for that office, the State Council may convene a meeting to elect from among their number a President who, subject to this Constitution, shall hold the office of President for the balance of the term of the President replaced, or the State Council may in its discretion, determine that the vacancy be filled by the Deputy President until the date of the next scheduled election.
- (3) An election pursuant to sub-clause 19(1) or sub-clause 19(2) shall cause the office of Deputy President to be declared vacant immediately prior to the conduct of the election.
- (4) Following an election pursuant to sub-clause 19(1) or sub-clause 19(2) an election pursuant to Clause 19(5) will be conducted for the office of Deputy President from amongst representatives of the alternate constituency to that of the President just elected.
- ~~(3)~~(5) If the office of Deputy President becomes vacant or if for any other reason the Deputy President is unable to take or hold office, then the State Council shall meet to elect from among their number a Deputy President who shall hold the office for the balance of the term of the Deputy President replaced, provided the Deputy President represents the alternate constituency to that of the President.
- ~~(4)~~(6) A State Council representative elected to fill a vacancy of President or Deputy President pursuant to clause ~~48~~ 19 shall still be eligible for election to a subsequent two (2) full consecutive terms.

Issue 2 – Rotation of Presidency between Metropolitan and Country Constituencies

Similar to issue 1, above, the Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team of State Council considered the issue of the Presidency of the Association being rotated between the Metropolitan and Country constituencies.

Again, this has been managed since WALGA's formation in 2001 by convention. When a President has retired or stepped down from the role, a representative from the other constituency (often the serving Deputy President) has been elected to the Presidency.

The Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team of State Council requested that the issue of rotating the Presidency between the constituencies on a formal basis through Constitutional amendments be considered.

The Policy Team resolved:

That an item for decision be prepared for the May 2018 State Council agenda to provide amendments to the WALGA Constitution and Corporate Governance Charter to cover the following issues:

- *That the position of WALGA President transfers between the two constituencies following the completion of the incumbent's entitlement to be elected for two full consecutive terms.*

Similar to Issue 1, above, implementation of this concept through Constitutional amendment has pros and cons. While, an amendment of this nature would ensure rotating representation of metropolitan and country constituencies in the office of President, it could also limit State Council's prerogative to elect the 'best person for the job'.

This proposal raises a number of scenarios that are not necessarily simple to deal with through Constitutional amendments. For instance, depending on the amendments to the Constitution, issues could arise if a President resigns part way through a term, or even if a President only completes one two-year term.

For example, if a President from the metropolitan constituency resigned after one two-year term, there would be three possible scenarios:

1. The country constituency could then have a claim to the Presidency as it would be the country's turn and only State Councillors from the country constituency would be eligible to be elected;
2. A replacement President could be elected from the metropolitan constituency as the metropolitan constituency had only held the Presidency for two years (the newly elected President may then expect to be re-elected for a second term, lengthening the reign of the metropolitan constituency to six years, thereby causing further issues); or,
3. State Council could elect a President from either constituency, as per current arrangements.

One option could be to only 'force' the rotation of the Presidency once the President has completed two terms, however this could create an issue if a President resigned part way through their second term as the replacement President would then be 'entitled' to two terms before a constitutionally enforceable rotation of the Presidency.

In the interest of simplicity it is suggested that a new Clause 17A be added to the Constitution to ensure rotation of the office of Presidency no matter the length of time served by the President:

17A – Rotation of Presidency

3. At an election for the position of President conducted under sub-clause 17(2), only the incumbent President, subject to complying with sub-clause 17(5), or State Councillors from the alternate constituency to the incumbent President will be eligible to be elected.
4. At an election for the position of President conducted under Clause 19, only State Councillors from the alternate constituency to the incumbent President will be eligible to be elected.

This would mean, at any election for President, only the incumbent President or State Councillors from the alternate constituency would be eligible to nominate. If the President has retired or has completed two full terms (as per sub-clause 17(5)), only State Councillors from the alternate constituency would be eligible to nominate and be elected.

Issue 3 – State Councillor Eligibility: Ex-officio Members

At the July 2017 State Council meeting, an emerging issue was considered in relation to the continuing eligibility of to serve on State Council following a serious breach of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

State Council resolved as follows:

That:

1. *The issue of amending the Constitution relating to State Councillor, ordinary or ex officio, eligibility be considered by the Governance Policy Team;*
2. *The Policy Team to consider the implications of amending the Constitution so that if any State Councillor, ordinary or ex officio, is found guilty of a serious breach of the Local Government Act 1995, as amended, that person will become ineligible to become or continue as a State Councillor, ordinary or ex officio.*

As per State Council's resolution above, the Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team considered this issue at their March 2018 meeting and resolved as follows:

That an item for decision be prepared for the May 2018 State Council agenda to provide amendments to the WALGA Constitution and Corporate Governance Charter to cover the following issues;

- *That if any State Councillor, ordinary or ex officio, is found guilty of a serious breach of the Local Government Act 1995, as amended, that person will become ineligible to become or continue as a State Councillor, ordinary or ex officio.*

Clause 20, sub-clause (e) disqualifies a representative or deputy representative from serving on the State Council if that person is convicted of an offence under the *Local Government Act 1995*.

To give effect to the Policy Team's recommendation, an amendment is required to clarify that Clause 20 of the Constitution also applies to ex-officio members, with the addition of the underlined text, as per below:

A person shall cease or be disqualified from being a representative or deputy representative on the State Council, or from being President or Deputy President of the Association, or from attending State Council in an ex-officio capacity, if that person:

- (a) Dies;
- (b) Ceases to be a Councillor of the Ordinary Member;
- (c) Resigns the position by notice in writing delivered or sent by post to the Chief Executive Officer, and such resignation is accepted;
- (d) Is a member of State or Federal Parliament;
- (e) Is convicted of an offence under the *Local Government Act 1995*;
- (f) Is permanently incapacitated by mental or physical ill-health;
- (g) Is absent from more than 3 consecutive State Council meetings;
- (h) Is a member of a Local Government that ceases to be a member of the Association;
- (i) Is the subject of a resolution passed by the Zone from which that person was originally elected terminating his or her appointment as a representative or deputy representative of that Zone, except where that person is the subject of any resolution consequent upon his or her being elected President of the Association and in pursuance of sub-clause 17(4); or,
- (j) Is a Councillor of an Ordinary Member that has been peremptorily suspended under Section 8.15C(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Issue 4 – State Councillor Eligibility: Ministerial Suspension of Council or Councillor

A further issue relating to State Councillor eligibility relates to the suspension of Councils and the proposed amendment to the *Local Government Act 1995* to enable the Minister for Local Government to stand down an individual Elected Member.

Currently sub-clause 20(j) of the Constitution states that a State Councillor will not be eligible to be elected or to continue on State Council if “a Councillor of an Ordinary Member that has been peremptorily suspended under Section 8.15C(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1995*.”

It is the opinion of the secretariat that sub-clause 20(j) is too specific as Councils can also be suspended under Section 8.19 of the *Local Government Act 1995*. Further, if the *Local Government Amendment (Suspension and Dismissal) Bill 2018* passes the Parliament, as expected, the Minister for Local Government will also have the power to suspend individual Elected Members.

It is therefore recommended that sub-clause 20(j) be amended to clarify that a State Councillor who is suspended or stood down by the Minister using various sections of the *Local Government Act 1995* is not eligible to be elected to, or continue on, State Council, as follows:

A person shall cease or be disqualified from being a representative or deputy representative on the State Council, or from being President or Deputy President of the Association if that person:

- (a) Dies;
- (b) Ceases to be a Councillor of the Ordinary Member;
- (c) Resigns the position by notice in writing delivered or sent by post to the Chief Executive Officer, and such resignation is accepted;
- (d) Is a member of State or Federal Parliament;
- (e) Is convicted of an offence under the Local Government Act 1995;
- (f) Is permanently incapacitated by mental or physical ill-health;
- (g) Is absent from more than 3 consecutive State Council meetings;
- (h) Is a member of a Local Government that ceases to be a member of the Association;
- (i) Is the subject of a resolution passed by the Zone from which that person was originally elected terminating his or her appointment as a representative or deputy representative of that Zone, except where that person is the subject of any resolution consequent upon his or her being elected President of the Association and in pursuance of sub-clause 17(4); or,
- (j) Is a Councillor that has been suspended by the Minister for Local Government under Part 8 of an Ordinary Member that has been peremptorily suspended under Section 8.15C(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1995.

Issue 5 – Election Procedure – Confirmation that the WALGA President is entitled to vote in elections for the positions of President and Deputy President

Another clarification that has arisen is to confirm that the incumbent President is entitled to vote in elections for President and Deputy President of WALGA.

The Constitution is clear that the President does not exercise a deliberative vote on matters before State Council (but does have a casting vote if there is an equality of votes), but the Constitution is silent on whether the President is entitled to vote in elections. It has been standard operating practice that the President has voted in elections for the position of President and Deputy President.

Clause 10 – Proceedings of State Council, sub-clause (2) relates to the President's voting and it is proposed that it be amended with the addition of the underlined words, as follows to make clear that the President may vote for office bearer positions:

- (2) Each representative on the State Council shall be entitled to exercise one (1) deliberative vote on any matter considered by the State Council provided that this clause shall not apply to any ex-officio members of the State Council. The President shall exercise a casting vote only, in the event of there being an equality of votes in respect of a matter considered by the State Council but excluding an election held in accordance with Clause 16 in which the President is entitled to a deliberative vote only.

Issue 6 – Change of Name – Local Government Professionals Australia WA

Following the change of name of the Local Government Managers Australia (LGMA) to Local Government Professionals Australia WA it is proposed that the following sub-clauses be amended to reflect the name change:

- 2(1)
- 5(7)(a)
- 9(1)(d)
- 31(4)(b)

Issue 7 – Zone Delegate Eligibility: Ministerial Suspension of Council or Councillor

Similar to Issue 4 above, this amendment proposes that sub-clause 14(4a)(h) be amended to clarify that a Zone delegate who is suspended or stood down by the Minister using various sections of the *Local Government Act 1995* is not eligible to be elected to, or continue on, the Zone, as follows:

- (4a) The term of a person who is a delegate of a member of a Zone expires when the person:
- (a) dies;
 - (b) ceases to be a Councillor of the Ordinary Member;
 - (c) resigns the position by notice in writing given to the Ordinary Member who elected or appointed the person as its delegate and the resignation is accepted;
 - (d) becomes a member of State or Federal Parliament;
 - (e) is convicted of an offence under the *Local Government Act 1995*;
 - (f) is permanently incapacitated by mental or physical ill-health;
 - (g) is the subject of a resolution passed by the Ordinary Member who appointed the person as its delegate terminating their appointment as the delegate of that Ordinary Member; or
 - (h) Is a Councillor that has been suspended by the Minister for Local Government under part 8 of an Ordinary Member that has been peremptorily suspended under Section 8.15C(2)(e) of the Local Government Act 1995.

4.2 Roadside Vegetation - Regulatory Amendments

MOTION:

Moved: President Cr David Lovelock (Victoria Plains)

Seconded: Cr Pauline Bantock (Victoria Plains)

That the *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004* be amended to permit clearing or reduction of vegetation:

- 1. Within 30m of all farm driveways/gates/entrances; and,**
- 2. On road bends and intersections obstructing 'line of sight', be cleared.**

IN BRIEF

- Motion for regulatory amendments to enable clearing of vegetation close to driveways, road bends and intersections;
- With a view to improving road safety.

CARRIED

MEMBER COMMENT

Drivers in country area face multiple issues on the roads, not the least of which is entry onto Shire controlled roads from property entrances and side roads. The issues exist not just for the driver on the continuing road, but for the driver attempting to enter.

Sight distances are often obscured, and in hilly terrain or where the road being entered does not provide a reasonable merging distance, entry can be problematic. This is made worse where the roads have curves or crests close to the entry point.

The issues are even worse for slow moving traffic joining a road that has a 110km/hr limit, such as school buses and heavy transport, often requiring the continuing vehicles to brake for a vehicle that has joined the continuing traffic when all indications were that it was safe and appropriate to do so.

The *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004* are inadequate.

- Schedule 2 of the Regulations addresses clearing for crossovers from a property, but limits the clearing to what has been previously cleared within the previous 10 years.
- Schedule 3 applies to the maintenance of infrastructure.

The Shire is of the opinion that the proposed change to the Regulations would add significantly to road safety.

4.3 GST Revenue Distribution Share for WA

MOTION:

Moved: President Cr Brian Piesse (Donnybrook-Balingup)

Seconded: Cr Tony Pratico (Bridgetown-Greenbushes)

That WALGA adopts a policy and position as the representative of the WA Local Government section to persistently seek and advocate for an increase of the GST distribution share back to Western Australia.

IN BRIEF

- WA is underrepresented in the amount of GST share received
- Seeking WALGA's support to advocate for an increase to the GST distribution for WA

CARRIED

MEMBER COMMENT

At the Ordinary Meeting on 23 May 2018, the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup Council resolved to support the above motion and present it to the Western Australian Local Government for consideration at the 2018 Annual General Meeting of the Western Australian Local Government Association.

In comparison to other states and territories, Western Australia is underrepresented in the amount of GST revenue share received and remains the only state or territory that receives less than half of the GST it generates. This, in effect, is depriving Western Australia of much needed funds for infrastructure and development.

GST breakdown state by state 2018-19

State	GST share per dollar	GST share %	Total GST distribution \$m
VIC	98c	25.6	\$16,830
WA	47c	4.9	\$3,255
NSW	85c	27.4	\$18,030
SA	\$1.47	10.3	\$6,751
Tas	\$1.77	3.7	\$2,434
ACT	\$1.18	2.0	\$1,298
NT	\$4.26	4.2	\$2,755
Qld	\$1.09	22.0	\$14,447

4.4 Rural, Regional and Remote Community State Government Funding Cuts

MOTION:

Moved: Cr Ken Seymour (Moora)

Seconded: Cr Steven Carter (Dalwallinu)

That WALGA express its deep concern to the W.A State Government regarding the continued attack on rural, regional and remote communities in W.A through reducing funding to critical services and infrastructure programs, cuts that disproportionately discriminate against already disadvantaged communities across W.A.

IN BRIEF

- Concern regarding funding cuts, particularly to education services and infrastructure, affecting rural communities.

CARRIED

MEMBER COMMENT

In December 2017, Shire of Moora was advised by the Department of Education Director General, Sharyn O'Neill that the Moora Residential College would close at the end of the 2018 school year. The State Government of W.A cited reasoning of commitment to budget repair measures to deliver sustainable growth and an operating surplus by 2020/2021.

Notwithstanding the immediate effect on the Moora community and wider region because of the decision to close the Moora Residential College, the Shire of Moora is extremely concerned with the State Governments continued attack on rural, regional and remote W.A. communities, many of which are already at serious disadvantage because of isolation and population decline.

As an example, access to education and health infrastructure and services are important to rural, regional and remote communities and greatly enhances their ability to attract residents, workers and businesses.

Access to the full range of health services (including GP's, acute and high care hospital, allied health, aged care, dental care) and educational services (K-12, Childcare, TAFE) becomes a major decision factor for anyone looking to move to a rural, regional and remote community. In the case of Moora, the existing infrastructure and services, including the current education offered at the Central Midlands Senior High School, has featured prominently in many local resident's decision to move to the area. This resonates across many W.A communities.

Funding reductions to key areas of services and infrastructure such as education, health, transport and sewerage augurs to further erode and put at risk fair and equitable access to the very basics of amenity and lifestyle in rural, regional and remotes areas of W.A many of which are experiencing continued population, service and infrastructure decline.

4.5 A **MATTER OF SPECIAL URGENT BUSINESS: Proposed Amendments to *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015***

MOTION:

Moved: Mayor Penny Taylor (Subiaco)
Seconded: Cr Julie Matheson (Subiaco)

That the members agree that the following item of Special Urgent Business relating to Proposed Amendments to *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015* be considered.

Voting Requirement: ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

4.5 B **Proposed Amendment to *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015***

MOTION:

Moved: Mayor Penny Taylor (Subiaco)
Seconded: Cr Julie Matheson (Subiaco)

That the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) advocate to amend:

- 1. Schedule 2, Part 7, Clause 61 (e) of the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015* to allow Local Governments to remove reference to ‘a single house’ from the exemption of requiring development approval; and**
- 2. The *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015* to permit Local Governments to introduce a requirement into their local planning scheme to require development approval to be issued prior to a development application for demolition of a single house being determined.**

LOST