



INFORMATION BULLETIN

March 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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Information Bulletin

1. Councillor Calendar

Updated by: PA On: 07 March 2012

Day	Date/s	Event	Comment
Saturday	7 April 2012	Yalgoo Gymkhana	Yalgoo Racecourse
Wednesday	11 April 2012 9:30am	SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING	Yalgoo Council Chambers
Friday	13 April 2012 9:30am to 3:30pm	Regional Roads Group Meeting and Workshop	Geraldton President, Deputy & CEO
Saturday	14 April 2011	Yalgoo Races	Yalgoo Racecourse
Thursday	19 April 2012 11:00am	ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING	Yalgoo Council Chambers
Tuesday	24 April 2012 11:00am	LEMC (Local Emergency Management Committee) Meeting	Railway Complex Yalgoo
Thu-Fri	<i>To be confirmed</i> 26/27 April 2012	<i>Integrated Planning Workshop</i> <i>CEO Performance Appraisal</i>	<i>Margaret Hemsley, Principal Consultant, RiskID</i>
Wednesday	09 May 2012 8:00 am to 5:00pm	Roads tour south	departing from Shire offices (overnight Yalgoo)
Thursday	10 May 2012 8:00 am to 5:00pm	Roads tour north	departing & returning from Shire offices
Friday	11 May 2012	Murchison Country Zone Meeting of WALGA ("Cue Parliament" - President, Deputy & CEO)	Cue Shire Chambers
Thursday	24 May 2012 11.00am	ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING	Paynes Find
Tuesday	5 June 2012 10:00am	Murchison Regional Vermin Council	Council Chambers @ Mt Magnet
Thursday	21 June 2012 11.00am	ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING	Yalgoo Council Chambers
Thursday	19 July 2012 11.00am	ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING	Yalgoo Council Chambers
Wednesday	1 August 2012 9.00am – 12.00pm	Special State & Local Government Forum (invitation only President and CEO)	Perth Convention Centre
Thursday	2 – 4 August 2012	WALGA Annual Conference	Perth Convention Centre
Thursday	23 August 2012 11.00am	ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING	Yalgoo Council Chambers
Thursday	20 September 2012 11.00am	ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING	Paynes Find
Tuesday	25 September 2012 11.00am	LEMC (Local Emergency Management Committee) Meeting	Railway Complex Yalgoo

Day	Date/s	Event	Comment
Thursday	18 October 2012 11.00am	ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING	Yalgoo Council Chambers
TBA	November 2012	Murchison Country Zone Meeting of WALGA - "Cue Parliament"	Shire of Murchison , Cue
Thursday	22 November 2012 11.00am	ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING	Yalgoo Council Chambers
Thursday	12 December 2012 11.00am	ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING	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 March 2012

Prepared by CEO Sharon Daishe

Item	Activity this Month	Planned for Next Month
Roads and Streets	▪	▪ Bitumen patching Gibbons Street
Plant and Equipment	▪	▪ General maintenance
Parks & Gardens	▪ Review and plan irrigation schedules	▪ Prepare caravan park and racetrack ready for gymkhana and races
Health and Safety	▪ JSA concreting ▪ Induction – incident & accident register	▪
Ranger Services	▪ Feral cats trapped & destroyed	▪ General services
Bush Fire Brigade	▪ Training date arranged for Paynes Find (Wed 23 May)	▪
Vandalism & Security	▪ Review requirements for security lighting grant	▪ Engage contractor for security lighting audit (DCEO)
Other	▪ Project Executive Annual leave from 23 April	▪ Project Executive Annual leave due to return 7 Ma

Major Capital Projects

FCWP #	Project	Status/ Comments	Activity this reporting period
BD003	Capital Works Shire Housing	▪ Need to obtain quote for repairs to 16 Shamrock	▪
BD004	Town Sewerage Upgrade	▪ Refer CEO report	▪ Refer CEO report
BD006	Hall Refurbishment	▪ Toilets substantially completed	▪ Final work on toilets
BD008	Staff Housing Gibbons St	▪ Completed	▪ Concrete paths
BD008	Staff Housing Weekes St	▪ Council has approved concept plans	▪ Budget prepared
BD009	Refurbish Parks and Gardens Work Depot	▪	▪ Commence office fitout
BD012	Works Depot: Replace Workshop	▪ To be scoped	▪
CA002	Caravan Park Redevelopment	▪	▪ Camping area & retic
OP001	Payne's Find Airstrip	▪	▪
OP002	Yalgoo Airstrip	▪	▪ Graded

FCWP #	Project	Status/ Comments	Activity this reporting period
OS003	Payne's Find Beautification/Rest Area	▪	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CEO met with artist regarding entrance statement final drawings ▪ Obtained costs for enviro loo and gazebo
OS006	Cemetery: Gazebo, Niche Wall and Gates	▪	▪
RB001	Yalgoo-Morawa Road Seal 4km	▪ Not funded this year	▪
RB002	Yalgoo-Ningham Road Seal 4km	▪ Not funded this year	▪
RB003	Yalgoo-Ningham Road Repair and Seal	▪ Completed	▪ Sealing completed
RB004	Yalgoo-Morawa Road resheet and form 4km	▪ 4km Completed, working on	▪ Works crew forming up
RB005	Yalgoo-Ningham Road resheet and form 4km	▪ Not funded this year	▪
RB008	Blackspot projects: Great Northern Hwy intersections	▪ Completed	▪

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

Environmental Health and Building Services

Environmental Health, Building and Development Report March 2012

Prepared by William Atyeo, Environment Health and Building Officer

Building and Planning Applications Status Report

Date Lodged	Date Issued	License Number	Owner	Builder	Lot	Street	Type - Building	\$ Value
11-Nov-11	Refused by Council 13th December 2012 and subsequent SAP appeal withdrawn	TP04/11	Matzin Capital P/L Paramount46 Coomoorra Rd Ardross WA (Greg Rowe & Ass's	Applicant: Greg Rowe & Ass's Lvl 3 369 Newcastle St Northbridge 6003 (Ben Carter)	135	Piesse	Advertising Sign	50,000

Activity Report

Item	Activity this Month	Planned for Next Month
Environmental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Further discussions were held with the owner of the Yalgoo Hotel in regard to future development he is looking at in regard to Hotel accommodation. Good but slow progress is still happening within the hotel in regard to stopping the deterioration of the stone walls of the hotel, and the painting of such. ▪ Container Deposit System (CDS): Federal Govt looking at introducing such a system and WA introduced a Bill for a CDS for WA towards the end of 2011. Also Draft II of the State Waste Strategy also included a recommendation for a CDS. I have made comments to the positives of such a system being introduced based on a consultation Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) which I have forwarded to the Waste Policy Co-ordinator at WALGA. ▪ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪

Item	Activity this Month	Planned for Next Month
Building Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All stats have been sent to the ABS on a monthly basis as required by law, and to other Departments as required. ▪ The New Building Act takes effect on the 2nd April 2012, along with the new Building Regulations. I attended a workshop in Geraldton on the 16th March at which we were advised of the procedures required, the 22 new forms that are required to be used, and discussed delegations with the Building Commission to come back to us all on a number of matters. ▪ Audit by ABS: ABS have insisted that we supply them with data files on Building Licensed issued for the last 12 years. We don't have the time and resources to comply fully in the format they require and so I have just submitted what we have. Also we do not have electronic capture of data for Yalgoo. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Paramount Outdoor advertising sign. The representatives of Paramount have withdrawn their application for a determination. This appears to be an ongoing matter. The CEO and I looked at other possible sites should the owner of the sign wish to consider a change in location for the proposed sign. An Email was drafted and sent to the relevant person in regard to a possible site. Of course to be approved by Council should the owner agree to a new site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Town Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪

Other Matters:

Corporate Administration

Executive Report CEO March 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"> ▪ Negotiations in progress to determine amount of additional funding required from MMG. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MMG Golden Grove has agreed to pay for \$56,000 of pre-seal pavement repair relating to damage following last year's rain. ▪ Golden Grove have agreed to purchase traffic counters. ▪ Golden Grove have reviewed and commented on the draft road strategy report prepared by Greenfield's Technical solutions.
Morawa Super Town Project – Yalgoo Morawa Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preparing business case for sealing of Yalgoo Morawa Road. ▪ CEO and President to attend next reference group meeting 18 April 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Met with consultant on site ▪ Received and reviewed draft business case ▪ Sought letters of support
Ferrowest Option Deed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Currently finalising details of restrictive covenant to govern the type of construction - to discuss with Ferrowest. This matter is a high priority for completion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Finalising Deed document in consultation with Civic Legal to present to April Council
Human Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Current vacancies: ▪ CYC (Community & Youth Coordinator). ▪ Plant Operators x 2 (will recruit after housing is available and use casuals and contractors in the interim). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resignations - NIL ▪ Advertisements - NIL ▪ Interviews - NIL ▪ Casual Admin, Alisha Hodder. ▪ One probationary review (admin) and one annual review conducted (admin). <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Met with Centacare to finalise CYC agreement
Integrated Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sought quotes for workforce planning component and IP workshop for councillors

Project/ Program	Status/ Comments	Activity this reporting period
Yalgoo Community Hub	<p>Stage 1: Sporting Component</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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) <p>Stage 2: Community and Youth Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need to establish and estimated cost of construction in order to estimate the cost of the architects plans. ▪ No funding identified at this stage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MWIP have recommended business case for approval by RDL ▪ CSRFF confirmed approval of funding with development bonus ▪ Attended forum Functional Facilities and Community Hubs including facilities tour
Town Sewerage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MWDC/ RDL have given in principle support for the project however we need to supply further information before they will consider MWIP funding. ▪ EHO, PE & CEO are working on this project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Follow up re Northern Planning funds so can meet MWIP criteria
Digital TV Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Opted in to transition to VAST (not convert existing rebroadcasting tower from analogue to digital). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪
Mobile Telecommunications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yalgoo has been confirmed as a site that will receive a mobile tower under the Regional Mobile Telecommunications Project. ▪ Council has approved the television rebroadcasting site and Telstra will locate the mobile tower adjacent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪

Use of Common Seal (delegation statement 2.1)

Nil

Use of Delegated Authority not Reported Elsewhere

Nil

General/Other/Meetings

Item	Comment
Appeal to State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) Piesse St Sign TP 04/11	Appeal withdrawn.
Fire Debrief	Held railway sporting complex
Regional Roads Group	Sub group teleconference – Crs Iturbide and Terry re-elected as representatives to Regional Roads Group
Compliance Return	Completed and lodged

Planned for April

Item	Comment
CLGF Individual	Prepare budget etc information and enter into funding agreements (2) for 10-11 and 11-12 funds.
CLGF Regional	Finalise business case for Morawa Road.
Community and Youth Coordinator	Prepare recruitment package.
Council decisions pending	Review and finalise register.
Inductions	Ongoing induction process with new staff.
Probationary and performance review	1 x probationary to be developed
Regional Road Group	Workshop & meeting Geraldton (President, Deputy, CEO)
Sewerage project	Liaise with Northern Planning regarding potential seed funding.
Caravan Park	Research whether we meet criteria to apply for a TQUAL tourism grant of up to \$100,000 for the caravan park. Complex application required and competitive process. Carry out survey at Caravan Park to inform application
Local Emergency Management Committee	24 April
Integrated Strategic Planning	Obtain quotes for long term financial plan and asset management
Budget Review	
UHY Haines Norton	Visit scheduled 2 May 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.
CEO performance review	Prepare self assessment and supporting evidence

Executive Report DCEO March 2012

Prepared by Heather Boyd, Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Status and Activity Report

Project/ Program	Status/ Comments	Activity this reporting period
Heritage – Anglican Church, Railway Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requires funding to carry out stabilisation work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deferred until next year due to workload
Military History Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requires extensive work from staff to collate information provided by heritage consultant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deferred until next year due to workload
Municipal Heritage Inventory Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review is overdue. Project will be carried out when funds and staff resources available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deferred until next year due to workload however Heritage are implementing a project for small local governments to load their heritage register online. This will assist with our review process in due course.
Tourism Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Refer Council Decisions Pending report within

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
Training	Excel	Aust Inst Mgmt	Perth	2 days	▪ Judith Hill
Training	Local Government Act	WALGA	Perth	1 day	▪ Judith Hill ▪ Karen Malloch
Forum	Functional Facilities & Community Hubs	Parks & Leisure Aust	Perth	1.5 days	▪ Sharon Daishe

Funding Applications

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	\$120,000	Northern Planning – Expression of Interest (EOI).	Town Revitalisation planning component (ie: NOT construction) – drainage, sewerage, underground power, community consultation.	EOI lodged – we have been invited to apply for early funding on this to do plans 11/12 financial year.

Lodged	Amount	Funding Program	Purpose	Status
14/12/11	\$421,211 or \$285,908 (depending on CSRRF)	Mid West Investment Plan	Yalgoo Community Hub – sporting component.	Business Case lodged *Provisional approval – MWIP may partner fund IF the CSRRF is also approved and pending final approval by RDL.
14/12/11	\$663,000	Mid West Investment Plan	Town Revitalisation – draining & sewerage component.	Business Case lodged – further information required.

Vandalism Report

Date	Details/ Action Taken
31/3/12	Children pulled up irrigation pipes in community park and smeared faeces in the toilets.

Councillor Information Requests

Received From	Details	Status
Deputy President Len Terry	Loadrite System – suggest that Council purchases scales for batching plant relative to weight of loading for side tippers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This item will be included for consideration in the councillor/staff/ public budget requests for 2012/13

General/Other/Meetings

Item	Comment
UHY Haines Norton	Haines Norton sent two senior staff out to give additional guidance and information to CEO Sharon Daishe and DCEO Heather Boyd with regards to budgeting and accounts. Additional training was given to Payroll/Rates Officer Judith Hill and Accounts Officer Diane Hodder.

Planned for Next Month

Item	Comment
Community Crime and Prevention	Quotes have been sourced for the assessment of security lighting needs in Yalgoo township. Once these are assessed the successful applicant will be contacted to come and provide the service and report.
Budget Review	The budget review has been completed and will be presented to a special Council meeting in April.
Budget	Preparation for the budget for 2012/13 will be started.

4. Decisions of Council Pending



Decisions of Council Pending

The following decisions of Council are in progress or pending action. *Last Updated: CEO 2 April 2012*

Contains decisions pending to August 2011.

Type	Year	Month & Decision No	Summary	Comments	Who/ Due	Closed
C	2010	0137 0139	Memorial to Service Personnel Inclusion on the Memorial	3/3/12: Consultant has provided information and this must be reviewed and collated for decision about what to include (0139) on a memorial in community park (0137) Scheduled for 2013/14.	DCEO	
C	2010	0911	Replacement of Damaged Cricket Pitch	3/3/12: Council approved \$4,000 in September 2010 to replace matting on the cricket pitch however the work was not done due to staff changeover at the time.	PE	
C	2011	0318	Contribution to Monsignor Hawes Heritage Interpretation	Letter was written, unsure if has been paid? Email to DCEO 8/3/12 to follow up.	DCEO	
C	2011	0321	Christmas Savings Fund Staff Facility	Develop governance and internal controls and implement from July 2012	DCEO	
C	2011	0324	Judge's Box at Yalgoo Racetrack	Jockey Club to repay \$6,000 over 3 years (10-11, 11-12, 12-13) and funds to be transferred to Community Amenities Reserve. Invoices have been raised. Will be completed 30 June 2013	DCEO	
C	2011	0418	12.1.1 Strategic Development of Tourism and Tourism Infrastructure in Yalgoo	31/3/12: Actions to date include Our Town television promotion, WALGA advertising feature, appointment of caravan park managers, concept sketches for infrastructure upgrades, allocation of Shire and CLGF funding to commence upgrades, Murchison advertising feature in West Australian and engagement of Russell Goodrick's "Best Country Towns" TV program.	CEO	
C	2011	0708	Local Law – Management of Roads	31/3/12: Investigation of the practicality of a Local Law to control and manage breaches of closed roads is deferred until 2012/13 due to workload and other priorities.	CEO	

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The attached documents are for the information of elected members.

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Extract from Hansard
[COUNCIL — Wednesday, 7 March 2012]
p703b-714a

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich; Hon Robin Chapple; Hon Max Trenorden; Hon Robyn McSweeney; Deputy President

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2011

Second Reading

Resumed from 29 November 2011.

HON LJILJANNA RAVLICH (East Metropolitan) [8.10 pm]: I rise to support the Local Government Amendment Bill 2011 and to make some comments about it. The bill makes a number of changes to the substantive act. The provisions contained within the Local Government Amendment Bill are aimed at strengthening the ability of local governments to deliver better services to their communities, and addressing significant governance and public administration issues. There are eight key areas of reform or amendment, if we like. I do not really want to go through each of them in great detail; however, I want to touch on a few of them.

The first key reform is the new disqualification provisions for council members so that they cease to hold office when elected to Parliament or convicted of a major crime. I do not know how often this situation has arisen historically. I know that this clause specifically —

Hon Robyn McSweeney: A few times.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: A few times. I guess in recent history the latest case was that of the current member for Mount Lawley, Mr Michael Sutherland, who once he was elected to Parliament continued to serve on the City of Perth. I know that there was quite a bit of publicity around that. There were media reports and people wrote letters to the editor about Mr Sutherland double dipping and so on and so forth. There were concerns about if not an actual conflict of interest, certainly a perceived conflict of interest. I guess this may be Mr Sutherland's greatest achievement since he came into the Parliament; that is, having the Local Government Act amended to ensure that other people do not do what he did—namely, serve on a local council after being elected as a member of Parliament. I will quickly read a letter that was in *The Perth Voice* on Saturday, 4 October 2008. It was written by Mr Bill Proude, First Ave, Mt Lawley and states —

I CAN well understand your correspondent Otto Mustard ...

What a burden being deputy lord mayor of Perth and new MP for Mount Lawley. A year ago supporters of Michael Sutherland had high hopes of his becoming next lord mayor. Had he been successful in that contest, would he then have campaigned in the recent WA state election?

The new MP is reportedly concerned about the cost of a city by-election if he quits as deputy lord mayor.

I think that was the excuse that he used, "If I leave now, we'll have to have a by-election. That'll cost the ratepayers a fortune, so isn't it better that I basically continue to serve as a local councillor?" The letter went on to ask how much greater would the cost involved have been if Mr Sutherland had decided to quit as Deputy Lord Mayor and so on and so forth.

Clearly, this is a situation that should have been avoided in the past. I am a bit surprised that Hon Robyn McSweeney advises the house that this in fact has occurred on a number of occasions historically.

Hon Robyn McSweeney: I thought you were talking about people who have had criminal behaviour and still been allowed on council. I was referring to that; I certainly wasn't referring to anything else.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: I was not referring to those who are convicted of a major crime; I was referring to council members who cease to hold office when they are elected to Parliament. Anyway, I think it is good that that is tidied up. Most people would argue that it is probably long overdue and that we want to get rid of any grey areas or uncertainty that might be about these sorts of situations when they arise. That is indeed a positive amendment.

I will spend some time on the second provision contained in the Local Government Amendment Bill. I think this is the one that has been a major sticking point; that is, modifying the current power of the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal to recommend the levels of local government chief executive officer salaries and remuneration and to make a binding determination that must be complied with by local governments. The matter of salary, and who should be paid what, and what is the work value of CEOs is indeed an interesting issue. Having been a Minister for Local Government, I have a very high regard for the work done by local governments and I have a high regard for the work done by CEOs of local governments.

Hon Ken Travers: Hear, hear!

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Thank you.

By and large, they do a very, very good job indeed and there is no doubt in my mind that it is a job that is becoming increasingly complex. Some would argue it is become increasingly complex because that is what local

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councils decide should happen. In any event, I know the Premier has a view that local governments involve themselves in all sorts of matters; for example, declaring themselves a nuclear-free or GM-free zone or whatever. The Premier has argued—I have read this in the media, but I do not have a direct reference here—that too often local governments take it upon themselves to undertake these additional responsibilities, which take up their resources. Perhaps local governments should have a more narrow focus; namely, on roads, rates and rubbish, rather than on these new areas such as night security. Many local government authorities within the metropolitan area have security patrols at night. One may argue that that is best left to the police. One may also counter-argue that the diminishing resources and resource restrictions of the police department mean it is unlikely that the police will be able to serve local communities to the extent that they want to be served in terms of law and order. We have heard the arguments about how much local governments should do and how much a ratepayer is prepared to pay for what they do, and so forth and so on. It is good that local governments increase not only the breadth of their responsibility, but also the services they provide to their ratepayers. Provided there is agreement between ratepayers and local councils about what is a fair rate of return or payment for the services delivered, everything is okay. That is the view I hold. It is not a view that everybody holds.

There are challenges for local governments in community expectations and we have seen some local governments, quite sleepy little hollows, experience enormous changes over a very short time. For example, the Shire of Serpentine–Jarrahdale went from being a sleepy little hollow to an absolute growth council because during the boom in the few years leading up to 2008, and even now, there was a lot of urban development in the area. This little council went from having very few expectations on it and very little demand on its resources to all of a sudden having huge expectations requiring high levels of technical expertise and needing a CEO able to oversee the challenges of a real growth council. This is not an isolated case; these cases are real right throughout the state. Essentially, on the issue of salaries and allowances for CEOs, I think it is probably fair to some extent that the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal should restrict how much can be paid through a band-type model whereby different local government authorities are rated differently depending on the population and certain other criteria. But there is also the counterargument of some of the restrictions that that will impose on councils and communities.

A very interesting and compelling case was put to me recently by representatives of the Western Australian branch of Local Government Managers Australia about some of the challenges that they are facing. In principle, one of their biggest concerns with SAT determining a salary level based on a band model is that they are facing extremely big challenges to keep their CEOs within the local government sphere. In fact, they are facing major challenges from mining companies in particular to keep all sorts of staffing resources within local government. The argument is that during a period of high economic activity—which we have in the north of this state, where, I think, some \$260 billion worth of resource projects either have been approved or are under consideration—there is a major demand for skilled workers. Of course, one of the challenges faced by local governments is that the mining sector sources its workers from all over the place. Within local governments there are top administrators, environmental scientists, clerical people and workers with all sorts of skill sets. Of course, the challenge is for local governments to compete with the mining sector on remuneration and the sorts of salary packages that the mining sector can afford to pay to entice not only CEOs, but also other employees out of local government. The argument is that the conditions of not only CEOs, but also those in other occupations within local government need to be protected to some extent to make sure that local governments remain competitive with the mining sector. If local governments do not remain competitive, they will be vulnerable to losing these employees. Of course, it is very hard to, firstly, backfill workers who have left and, secondly, to train workers within local government to a certain standard and sometimes even to train them to fit a certain type of culture or ethos within the organisation. There are some very, very interesting challenges facing the local government sector.

Local Government Managers Australia expressed concern about the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal process; clearly SAT has not been looking at local government CEO salaries for very long, and I suppose, over time, it will continue to refine the process and maybe make it more accurate than it currently is. It had some complaints about the existing provisions for CEO salaries. One of the issues brought to my attention is that these salary bands, as they stand, will be restrictive on some CEOs who are already outside the band. There is uncertainty about whether this will mean that they will have to renegotiate contracts to come back within the band, and uncertainty as to how that issue is going to be dealt with.

Hon Max Trenorden has proposed an amendment to address a number of the issues that were raised in relation to CEO salaries and, as I understand it, it will provide some comfort—indeed, a lot of comfort—to CEOs. There is agreement between Hon Max Trenorden, the government and certainly the Labor Party, so we are in unanimity on that amendment. Given that we are in agreement on that amendment, I do not think that we now have to explore all the arguments that were put to me in respect of the difficulties that some of the provisions currently contained within the Local Government Amendment Bill 2011 would cause to CEOs and individual local

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government authorities. I do not think there is much point in canvassing the detail of all that, because we now have a solution to those challenges.

It is fair to say, from my discussions with Local Government Managers Australia, that it takes a fairly pragmatic view of things. I do not think it was unreasonable about what it wants to secure. I thought that it was quite reasonable in representing its members and trying to get a flexible remuneration arrangement that would not disadvantage some members at the expense of others, and an arrangement that would be in the long-term interests of local governments generally.

I am quite happy with the first few dot points, but I want to make a point about the fourth dot point in the overview of the bill, which refers to the addition of a new head of power to enable regulations to be made to regulate the types of investments that local governments can make. There is no doubt that local governments collect revenue in the form of rates and from a range of other sources and that the investment of that money needs to be handled with considerable care.

This provision has been born, I suspect, out of the global financial crisis. That became apparent in 2008–09, when it came to light that local governments had been making investments that were problematic. Just as households had been making investments and had suffered substantial losses in many cases, the same applied to local governments. The global financial crisis no doubt had a significant impact on the investments of just about everybody across the board, particularly given that many people had their money tied up in superannuation funds, and superannuation funds took a huge hit during the global financial crises. Those who had investments in the subprime mortgage market probably took an even greater hit. I therefore think that this provision, which is about limiting the exposure of local governments, or better defining where money can be invested by local governments, is not a bad thing. But, having said that, it would have been a miracle if the local government sector had been able to avoid any impact from the global financial crisis. It is almost as though we are setting a different standard for local governments than we are for everybody else.

Although I recognise the need to protect the interests of ratepayers and to ensure that their money is used in an effective way, there needs to be a balance. We need to make sure that it is not so restrictive that local governments cannot take any risks, because at the end of the day we all know that there is an equation between risk and return, and everybody wants to make a good return on their money. We would not want to limit the capacity of local governments to make a good return on their money, particularly when the economic conditions are such that they would be favourable to making a good return on investment.

I want to refer quickly to a report from the Commonwealth of Australia House of Representatives Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, titled “The Global Financial Crisis and Regional Australia”. The report states —

The Committee received evidence indicating that some councils in Western Australia and NSW had exposure to investments which have declined considerably since the onset of the GFC because the investments were linked to the sub-prime mortgage market in the United States. Investments in CDOs, in particular, have been the main cause of the market-to-market book losses of some councils in these states.

I will not go into what CDOs are. I think that the losses incurred by local governments could have been much, much worse. I think that if we take a realistic picture of what happened during the GFC, local governments did not come out of the GFC too badly.

Hon Max Trenorden: In particular when people like Moody’s gave full ratings to companies that vanished days later.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Exactly right. I think local governments did limit their liability and their exposure. Although I accept that perhaps there needs to be a bit more tightening of the controls, which is going to be done through this legislation, there were many sectors that were hit harder than the local government sector. That is because local governments are, by and large, fairly conservative by nature. The other part of that is there are so many small local government authorities. For example, the 40-odd local governments in the wheatbelt do not have a lot of money to throw around or invest. So, if a council does not have a lot to invest, apart from anything else, it will not lose as much because it does not invest as much. That is an interesting issue and I see that it is covered here.

The other issue of concern is the sixth dot point. I quickly want to touch on that. The sixth dot point reads —

the inclusion of a new power to enable the Minister to suspend a council for up to six months and/or require members of council to undertake remedial action where a council has become dysfunctional;

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I have some issue with that because from looking at the legislation, it is quite clear to me that there do not seem to be enough checks and balances for that provision. We do not want to see an abuse of power or councils being sacked by a minister without good cause. We also want to ensure that sufficient due process is followed to provide some confidence to councils and to their members that proper procedure and process will not be abused. I would like to put some questions to the minister when we debate the relevant clause. The other thing we do not want to see is the politicisation, if you like, of councils and councils being sacked because of their political make-up. We know that councils are getting increasingly politicised.

Hon Robyn McSweeney: Unfortunately.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Yes, unfortunately. They always have been, so let us not pretend.

We do not want to see an abuse of this power and councils sacked for political reasons. Questions remain about inquiries being called into underperforming or dysfunctional councils. Who picks up the cost of the inquiry? Historically, we have seen many occasions when ratepayers are billed for the cost of these inquiries. Sometimes they can run into millions of dollars and the poor old ratepayers are stuck to clean up the mess. We do not want to see that. We want to make sure that there are some protections or provisions within the legislation for that.

They are some of the issues that are of interest to our party and certainly to me. I look forward to the committee stage of the bill to explore some of those issues in a bit more detail. It is fair to say that we have worked through the main sticking point of the bill to a satisfactory resolution, and I want to thank Hon Max Trenorden for the work he did on that. Having said that, we will support the second reading.

HON ROBIN CHAPPLE (Mining and Pastoral) [8.40 pm]: We have had briefings from the Western Australian Local Government Association and Local Government Managers Australia. I would like to thank both organisations for having briefed us on the Local Government Amendment Bill 2011. We also received briefings from the minister's advisers. The Local Government Amendment Bill 2011 is interesting. On a very simplistic look, it is about one thing; that is, the State Administrative Tribunal setting CEO pay rises. There are many components to the bill—all of which do different things. It is a bit of an omnibus bill in the sense that there are different positions taken by WALGA and by the LGMA at various points within the bill. It is important to go through the relevant aspects of the bill. I say first off that the Greens (WA) endorse local government as the most important of the three tiers of government in our system of government. It is actually the system of government that is closest to the people and reflective of people's needs. Indeed, it is the grassroots decision maker of the people by the people. Also, members would be well aware that in the federal arena we are trying to assist with the referendum to have local government acknowledged as a formal tier of government within the constitution. As such, that will throw up some interesting dilemmas for state governments in the future. The proposition is that if the referendum goes in the way it is anticipated, there might not be the need for states, at a large level, to fund the administrative procedures of local government. Local government will therefore become far more independent and a genuine tier of government, and will receive funding directly from the commonwealth.

Some of the provisions contained in this bill concern me because, again, the state is trying to impose its will over that important third tier of government. Members might be surprised to hear that some of the areas of the bill we support are not those areas that we are known to support. We also do not support other areas of the bill. Let us run through the various issues. The bill has six main parts—disqualification of councillors; SAT setting CEO pay rates; SAT setting councillors' pay rates through fees and allowances; councils' power to invest; area rates and service charges; and the suspension of councils. We support the introduction of the process that ensures people cannot sit as a councillor and as a state member of Parliament at the same time. That is a very logical provision. It is an unnecessary concentration of power in one person both at a local and a state government level. It could create some massive conflicts of interest.

As far as SAT setting CEO pay rates, we support the provisions for the key reasons of achieving independence in the setting of CEO pay rates to ensure that CEOs, as principal advisers to councils, can do so without fear or favour. I have a grave concern when councils set the pay rates of CEOs. At some level from time to time that pay rate setting is not necessarily done for proper, altruistic reasons. I have some examples, which I will not go into now. We acknowledge that many shires in various electorates are paying above the SAT-recommended band. It is really interesting to look at the bands set by the State Administrative Tribunal, which range from 1 to 9. I looked in particular at the local governments in my electorate. Whilst it is quite interesting to note the argument put forward by Local Government Managers Australia, not many local governments in my electorate actually pay over the band. The Shire of Esperance is set at SAT band 6 and fits within the band; the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder is set at SAT band 8 and sits within the band; the Shire of Broome is set at SAT band 7 and sits within the guidelines; the Shire of Derby-West Kimberley is set at SAT band 6—that is one that pays over the SAT band; the Shire of Roebourne is set at band 7; the Shire of Windham-East Kimberley is set at SAT band 6; and the Town of Port Hedland is set at SAT band 7 and also sits within the band. Where I have a problem is that I do not necessarily think SAT is quite cognisant of some of the issues in rural and remote

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Australia when determining the band levels of local governments. Clearly, those that I have mentioned, such as Port Hedland, are big industrial hubs that SAT has given a high band setting. The Shire of Halls Creek for example, is set at SAT band 4, but it has significant issues to deal with far and above the issues that many other councils have to deal with. Therefore, SAT band 4, in my view, might not be appropriate. The Shire of Sandstone is in my electorate. On some days, people in that municipality are lucky to get fuel, so that a SAT band setting of 1 is probably suitable for that council. Interestingly, the Shire of Sandstone pays only marginally over the SAT band.

It is interesting to note that although there has been quite a lot of talk about the overs and unders of the setting of remuneration, out of the 131 councils we looked at, only 35 actually pay over the SAT band. Members would be surprised to find out which councils they are and the sorts of figures over the SAT band they are paying. The Shire of Chapman Valley is set at SAT band 2 and is paying \$197 000 over the SAT band. The Shire of Katanning is set at SAT band 3 and is paying between \$47 000 and \$82 000 over the SAT band. The other local governments, mainly, are not very much over—by about \$5 000—although there are, as I say, a couple of exceptions. The other reasonably big one is the Shire of Wiluna, which pays \$57 000 over the SAT band and is set at SAT band 2. I think that one of the key problems with the overs is more to do with the setting of the SAT band associated with the work that those councils do, as opposed to the actual amount paid over the band. I find it interesting that the Shire of Wiluna, which has immense logistic problems and is a community that needs a lot of effort put into it, is set at only SAT band 2. I am not sure what the parameters are for setting some of the SAT bands for the managers. I am a former member of the Country Shire Councils Association and the Western Australian Municipal Association, which was the predecessor to WALGA, and also served for seven years as a councillor in Port Hedland. I sometimes wonder whether we went in the right direction in 1995 when managers were appointed to local government. We do not have managers here in the Council; we do not have managers in the other place. We have Clerks—people who administer to the decision makers of the Council. One of the things that has worried me over time is the role that local government managers have taken upon themselves in directing councils as opposed to the elected members. In a broader sense, I am hoping that at one stage one might revisit the full interpretation of what a manager can or cannot do in facilitating the work of councillors and mayors, because they are the people the community elects; they are the people who make the real decisions. However, more and more we are seeing councils acquiesce to the decision-making role of a local government manager. That does not have much to do with the legislation we are dealing with, but it is an overall concern of mine.

We support the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal recommendation for setting the CEO pay rates. Not many shires in my electorate are paying over the SAT level, and it is very minimal for those that are. The minister has indicated that SAT will take submissions from the CEOs and councillors about the rate for each particular council. Therefore, in light of what I have just said, I hope that when the councils go to the minister about the setting of the SAT level, some of the peculiarities of certain councils regarding their needs and their administrative provisions will be taken on board by SAT. The fees and allowances for local councillors, mayors and presidents set by SAT quite clearly support these provisions. I am reminded of a council that tried to remove the stipend to a mayor purely and simply because it did not like the mayor. It was a stipend that had been established by the previous mayor prior to a local government election. The election took place, and the very people who set the new pay rate for the mayor then tried to remove it. Luckily, Hon John Castrilli in the other place took it upon himself to take some action in that matter, so I am thankful to him on those issues. We support making SAT the decision maker about councillors' remuneration and mayors' remuneration. It is exactly the same level of support that we give to that that we give to the fact that SAT should set the CEOs' pay rates also.

The power of councils to invest is a really interesting issue, because in many cases they already do. As we saw from the Lehman Brothers collapse, the horse has already bolted. I do not know whether this will resolve the issue. I hold some concerns about the level of discretion this clause may provide to the minister to simply manage this area entirely by regulation. We would strongly prefer that the issues be reflected in legislation rather than regulation. I have long been a believer, as was a former Clerk of this place, that we should try to do everything in legislation and not by regulation.

I also want local government to have the capacity to invest in social enterprises and transformative industry, such as investment in a low-carbon economy in which there are many localised opportunities, particularly in regional WA. It may be very appropriate for local councils to be involved in the establishment of local infrastructure. The area of rates and service charges clarifies the powers of councils to collect these fees, with concession rates and rebates. We oppose the provision relating to the suspension of councils because we believe that local government is government of the people by the people and it is a bit rich for the state government to have the power to suspend councils. We do not have a problem with councillors—that is quite clearly their role—but when it comes to the minister having the power to intervene in a council without inquiry, without a commission, maybe just on a whim at some stage in the future, we find that is detrimental to the third tier of government. As we have

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already stated, there are three tiers of government in Australia and we consider the third tier of government to be one of the most important and reflective of community.

When we go through the notes provided by Local Government Managers Australia and the position of WALGA, it is interesting to note that there is uniform support for some things and not for others. We will be supporting the legislation but in committee we will be opposing the provision relating to the suspension of councils.

HON MAX TRENORDEN (Agricultural) [8.57 pm]: I will present the National Party's view on the Local Government Amendment Bill 2011. I will do something a little different and quote from a letter I received from Mr Stephen Cole, chief executive officer of Local Government Managers Australia WA. I will read this short letter to put some of our concerns into context, because we agree with a few of these issues. The letter states —

I refer to the recent discussions LGMA representatives have had with you in relation to the above and greatly appreciate your willingness to consider the fundamental objections to the Bill's provisions raised by LGMA (WA). Those concerns, on behalf of members, especially those in the non-metropolitan area relate to Local Government CEOs remuneration and the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Bands.

You will recall that the main objections to the Bill raised by LGMA were:

- that no proper consultation had taken place on the proposal,
- that the proposal overrode the traditional employer/employee relationship,
- that there are issues with one level of Government determining remuneration for an employee of another level of Government,
- that the Local Government sector had not been properly consulted by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal when it set the Bands and determined the “inclusive” and “exclusive” factors and their relative weightings,
- that “capping” the remuneration of Local Government CEOs, effectively “caps” the remuneration of all other Local Government officers, with significant implications at a time when the State is experiencing a boom and attracting and retaining staff is increasingly difficult, especially for rural and remote Local Governments,
- the 48% of Local Government CEOs in remote parts of the State who currently exceed the relevant SAT Band will be forced to accept a reduction in remuneration when their contract is next under consideration.

The Amendments you propose raising to Clause 43 of the Bill effectively add a “grandfather” provision which will allow those Local Government CEOs whose remuneration exceeds the relevant SAT Band to continue to be paid at that level whilst they remain at that Local Government.

Although LGMA (WA) would rather the Local Government Act was maintained in the current form, the sector does recognise the need for a pragmatic approach given the “political” realities.

As such LGMA (WA) supports the Amendments you propose and appreciates the endeavours you have made to address the sector's concerns and issues.

I would be happy for you to quote from this advice, in full or part, ...

When we received a briefing—I thank the minister for supplying that briefing—there was immediate concern in the National Party about the capacity of CEOs. The reality of the world is that the market prevails. If we cannot pay a person who has sufficient capacity to meet our needs, we are in a serious position.

I have some views that have been heard from time to time on the issue of local government, but I will argue that of the 140 or whatever is the number of local bodies in Western Australia, the most viable one is Wiluna because all Wiluna has to do is receive money for roads and spend it and that is the end of the process. How does a shire go broke doing that?

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: The cost of bitumen rises?

Hon MAX TRENORDEN: Yes, but it cannot spend any more than the amount of money that comes in. I have some strong concerns about this but we will not go into that area.

I will run through a couple of issues here. I know we will be a bit squeezed for time and I understand the minister may not be here tomorrow but the house might have to deal with that. I have referred to the points made

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by previous speakers so I do not want to run over them a lot, but there are some issues the National Party wants to bring to the fore, which are listed in the explanatory memorandum. The first dot point is as follows —

- new disqualification provisions for council members so that they cease to hold office when elected to Parliament or when convicted of a major crime;

I have been a member of both the other place and this place for 25 years and I have seen many members come into Parliament who have served in local government. Personally, I think it is a good amendment, and the National Party has no argument about that. The next point reads —

- modifying the current power for the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal to recommend the levels of local government chief executive officer salaries and remuneration to making a binding determination which must be complied with by local governments;

That is where we had our difficulty, and I will come back to that in a moment. The next point reads —

- the inclusion of a new power for the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal to set the levels of fees and allowances paid to council members;

I still have a problem with this. The good people of the Salary and Allowances Tribunal announced the other day that they are now looking at the next round of our salaries, a matter very close to our hearts! But I worry about that good band of people, because it is a tiny band of people. I think there are three in that office—a very small number. I know a commitment has been made to increase the number of people in that office, but I still worry about their capacity to reach out to Wiluna or even Port Hedland and understand the conditions and purposes of those councils. I am not in any way critical of the current SAT operation. I think it has served us, judges and a range of other people very well and has done its job in an independent and resourceful manner. But I still have a concern. The National Party expressed concern during the briefing that we will want to know that SAT has the capacity to really understand what it is like to be a CEO at Wiluna, Cue or wherever it may be. That is yet to be proved but it is a concern to the Nationals. The next point reads in part —

- the addition of a new head of power to enable regulations to be made to regulate the types of investments ...

We congratulate the minister for that effort. We were very concerned for a while about the proposed restrictions on investments, but that worked its way through and has come to a good and logical result. It means that, particularly in some rural communities, as well as in some metropolitan communities, there are some favoured institutions that they wish to deal with. They have relationships with institutions other than the big four banks and it is important that they can keep those relationships going. We congratulate the minister for working through that and coming to a good outcome there. The next point reads —

- clarifying the powers of local government to impose service charges for underground power and the ability for rebates to be paid under the *Rates and Charges (Rebates and Deferments) Act 1992*;

We have no argument with that. The next point reads in part —

- the inclusion of a new power to enable the minister to suspend a council for up to six months ...

We have no argument with that or the remaining couple of dot points on the list. We know from what we hear in our electorates that the local government CEOs' salaries are an issue for ratepayers. The National Party also knows, because it works with and has a relationship with its local governments, that the capacity of the chief executive officer is an important issue to the community. If a local government's capacity to pay for a quality CEO is reduced, then the capacity of the community is reduced. We were not at all happy with that aspect of the bill, and I thank the minister, and the minister representing the minister in this place, for allowing us the opportunity to negotiate on that. I will talk about that during the Committee of the Whole.

I do not want to say any more. We have sort of had a real problem today in that we are breaking out in agreement, which is not a good thing; it may, nevertheless, reduce the hours we spend in this place! I thank Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich for her kind words. She works closely with us in matters of local government, and we appreciate that. She tells us when she is unhappy and she tells us when she is happy. The same could be said of the minister, and the National Party appreciates the efforts of the minister's staff. We also appreciate the opportunity to move the amendment I will be moving a little later, and I will have one small question when I move that amendment. The National Party presumes that its amendment will get up, and it supports the bill.

HON ROBYN McSWEENEY (South West — Minister for Child Protection) [9.07 pm]: — in reply: I would like to thank Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich for her contribution, and her support of the Local Government Amendment Bill 2011, and also that of Hon Robin Chapple; I did not know whether he was going to support the bill, but I found out at the end and I thank him for his support. I also thank Hon Max Trenorden.

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Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich made some disparaging remarks about Michael Sutherland, the member for Mount Lawley.

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: It was not disparaging; it was from the media!

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: No, I thought it was disparaging, so I am going to say so. Her remarks were about being a councillor and a member of Parliament at the same time. So, although it related to the bill, I still think she needs to be chided for talking about Michael Sutherland in that way.

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: Are you saying that he didn't stay on council?

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: I am saying that the way the member spoke about him was very disparaging.

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: He stayed on council; he should not have. I don't agree with the fact that he did—big deal!

Hon Max Trenorden interjected.

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: Give it a rest!

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: I am trying to be serious now, and I am, because Michael Sutherland is, of course, the member for Mount Lawley and a very fine parliamentarian.

Hon Kate Doust: Not for long!

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: If that is the best Hon Kate Doust can come up with!

Several members interjected.

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: The opposition has to put in a has-been and go round twice!

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: So you don't like seniors now?

Hon Nick Goiran: I don't even think they've finished their preselection!

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: I actually think that Bob Kucera is a nice bloke, but the best the Labor Party can come up with is somebody who has been here before, and I just wonder why.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon Michael Mischin): Order, members!

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: Actually, that was quite a fantastic comeback for Hon Kim Hames! What a fantastic comeback! What a great Deputy Premier he is!

Hon Ken Travers: Why are you picking on seniors?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order, members! We have had our fun. Minister.

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: Excuse me; I never mentioned Bob Kucera as a senior.

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: You did!

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: That never entered my head.

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: You said that he was old.

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: I said that he had gone around twice—gone around twice.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Getting back to the debate.

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich certainly gave us a good description of the overview of the bill and said that she had high regard for CEOs of local government, as do most of us. Most local government CEOs put the community first, as do local government councillors. Keeping staff in local government certainly is a challenge. When I was on council many years ago, it was a problem getting grader drivers. People might think that grader drivers are just —

Hon Max Trenorden: It is a major skill.

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: Yes, it is absolutely a major skill, especially on those gravel roads in the country and how they go along the edge of the road; it is a great skill. That is something that I learnt on council. I just thought anybody could be a grader driver, but no, they cannot. If they get a really good one, they keep them. There are many levels of staffing in local government, and a lot of people go off to the mining industry, and it is a challenge to keep good staff in the community.

The agreement we have reached with Hon Max Trenorden with his amendment at clause 33 has been a good compromise. I think we are in agreement with the Labor Party and the Nationals on that. We talked about regulating investments. Sixty million dollars was lost from local government in bad investments, so that is why

Extract from *Hansard*
[COUNCIL — Wednesday, 7 March 2012]
p703b-714a

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich; Hon Robin Chapple; Hon Max Trenorden; Hon Robyn McSweeney; Deputy President

we are going to regulate investments. One small council I know lost \$8 million, which is a lot of money to lose out of a small rate base. So \$60 million overall is quite a loss when we think of some of those smaller councils.

Hon Robin Chapple talked about the proposals and said that in the main he would support the legislation. He was concerned about the SAT bands and said that, even though he supported the bill, he would vote against some clauses. I thank Hon Max Trenorden for his contribution. I know that local government is very close to Hon Max Trenorden's heart, as it is to mine. I think most rural members of this place are very close to their local governments and their CEOs, and know their councillors personally.

I think Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich said something about councils being political. When I was on council for six years most people knew that I was Liberal, but that did not really enter into it when I was in council, because councillors were community people and worked for the community. Whether someone is Labor, Liberal or National, if they sit on council, they still work really hard for the community. I would hate to see it polarised one way or the other.

A couple of members mentioned suspending a council for up to six months. I know that Hon Robin Chapple was not very keen on that clause, but I think a minister should have the right to go in and suspend a council. I have seen councils deadlocked and I have seen very dysfunctional councils.

Hon Robin Chapple: There is a process under which he can still can do that. He doesn't need this.

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: Yes. Having been in local government and having been the shadow Minister for Local Government, I believe this clause is very relevant, especially in relation to some of the councils in the past that I have seen. I thank all members for their contributions. As we go through this legislation clause by clause, I know that some members have some concerns that they are going to raise. Hopefully, we can put those to rest in the committee stage.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

Committee

The Deputy Chair of Committees (Hon Michael Mischin) in the chair; Hon Robyn McSweeney (Minister for Child Protection) in charge of the bill.

Clauses 1 to 21 put and passed.

Clause 22: Part 8 Division 2A inserted —

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: The Greens (WA) take the position of opposing clause 22. It is the position of Local Government Managers Australia and the Western Australian Local Government Association to oppose this clause. We do so because although LGMA and WALGA supported amendments to the legislation to allow temporary suspension of elected members subject to serious complaints, they made it very clear to the minister that they did not support the ability of the minister, in some cases with little or no recourse, to actually suspend a council. WALGA was very concerned about this, as was LGMA; therefore, we oppose this clause.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: The Labor Party also opposes this clause. We do not believe that there are enough checks and balances to provide protections, so Labor will join with the Greens in opposing this clause.

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: Suspending a council would not be undertaken lightly. I will give examples of when this provision may be used. As I said, it can be used when councils are deadlocked and dysfunctional or when councillors are infighting and it is impacting on their ability to make decisions—for example, when they walk out of meetings or there is no quorum. The Western Australian Local Government Association wanted individuals sacked, not councils. Other examples in which a council could be suspended are if councillors sue each other or if there are levels of complaints. The process would be that the minister would take advice from the department. The minister would then issue a show-cause notice. The local government has a minimum of 21 days to provide a written response; the minister can set a longer period if he or she wants. The minister considers the response and decides on an appropriate course of action. The decision sits fully with the minister and there is no right of appeal. The possible decisions include taking no action; requiring one or more, or all, councillors to undertake remedial action—for example, training or remediation; suspending the council for up to six months; or both suspending and requiring remedial action. If the council is suspended, a commissioner is appointed for the duration. The suspension ends when the minister decides the issues appear to have been resolved—that is, the minister reinstates the council before the end of the six months; the minister decides that there are very serious underpinning issues and institutes a panel of inquiry; or the suspension expires in six months and the council is automatically reinstated.

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: Minister, the issue for us is that proposed section 8.15C(1)(b) provides for “such other factors as the minister considers relevant”. The Greens support local government as a third and important

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tier of government elected by the people. If there is a dysfunctional council, which there is from time to time, not only can the minister already intercede, but also it is basically the community that then makes a decision about its elected members at the next election. If we were a dysfunctional house or a dysfunctional government, the electors would make the decision; we would not have somebody else tell us what to do. I respect the values of that third tier of government. As dysfunctional as some local governments may be from time to time, they comprise people who were elected by the community and they, like us, have to learn to work together. Therefore, the ability for the minister to use any “such other factors as the minister considers relevant”, in my view, in the view of the Western Australian Local Government Association and in the view of Local Government Managers Australia is not an acceptable position. If the state wants to run local government, this is one of the first ways that it can start to do that.

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: No minister would undertake this lightly. No minister would go into a community and undertake to dismantle a council lightly. That has been proven through the ages; ministers do not like going into communities and disbanding councils. I can clearly say that whether it was an opposition party minister or one of our ministers, it would not be done lightly.

Clause put and a division taken with the following result —

Ayes (17)

Hon Liz Behjat	Hon Donna Faragher	Hon Robyn McSweeney	Hon Max Trenorden
Hon Jim Chown	Hon Philip Gardiner	Hon Michael Mischin	Hon Ken Baston (<i>Teller</i>)
Hon Peter Collier	Hon Nick Goiran	Hon Norman Moore	
Hon Mia Davies	Hon Alyssa Hayden	Hon Helen Morton	
Hon Wendy Duncan	Hon Col Holt	Hon Simon O'Brien	

Noes (12)

Hon Matt Benson-Lidholm	Hon Kate Doust	Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich	Hon Giz Watson
Hon Helen Bullock	Hon Sue Ellery	Hon Linda Savage	Hon Alison Xamon
Hon Robin Chapple	Hon Lynn MacLaren	Hon Ken Travers	Hon Ed Dermer (<i>Teller</i>)

Pairs

Hon Nigel Hallett	Hon Jon Ford
Hon Brian Ellis	Hon Sally Talbot
Hon Phil Edman	Hon Adele Farina

Clause thus passed.

Clauses 23 to 32 put and passed.

Clause 33: Schedule 9.3 Division 2 inserted —

Hon MAX TRENORDEN: I move —

Page 17, lines 16 to 26 — To delete the lines and insert —

43. Saving provisions for CEOs

(1) In this clause —

preserved CEO, in relation to a local government, means a person who is employed, other than in an acting or temporary capacity, as the CEO of the local government on 19 October 2011.

(2) Section 5.39(7) does not apply in respect of —

(a) a CEO for such time as that person is employed under a contract of employment —

(i) that was entered into or renewed before section 13 of the amending Act came into operation; or

(ii) for a position that was advertised before section 13 of the amending Act came into operation;

or

(b) a preserved CEO of a local government if —

(i) the remuneration paid or provided to the CEO on 19 October 2011 under a contract of employment was more than the amount recommended by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal under the

Extract from *Hansard*
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Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich; Hon Robin Chapple; Hon Max Trenorden; Hon Robyn McSweeney; Deputy President

Salaries and Allowances Act 1975 section 7A to be paid or provided to the CEO at that time; and

- (ii) the CEO continues to be employed as the CEO of that local government.
- (3) Section 5.39(8) does not apply to a local government that is renewing a contract of employment with its preserved CEO in the circumstances set out in subsection (2)(b).
- (4) Before a local government renews a contract with its preserved CEO in circumstances set out in subsection (2)(b), the local government must take into account any determination by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal under the *Salaries and Allowances Act 1975* section 7A as to the remuneration to be paid or provided to a CEO of a local government that is of a comparable size and location.

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: If I may, I will take a bit of licence here. This is the provision that enables SAT to determine the levels. Earlier this evening, I read out some figures provided to me by Local Government Managers Australia and I have received a note to say that I referred to Chapman Valley \$197 000 over the limit. I have been advised by way of a note that the figure is \$19 700. The stat sheet given to me by the LGMA was incorrect. I need to put that on the record, if I may.

However, the Greens will not be supporting Hon Max Trenorden's proposed amendment, again because we think the intent of the bill as presented by the government was the way to go. We believe that local government managers' levels should be set by SAT. Hon Max Trenorden's proposed amendment seeks in some way to water down the government's proposal and therefore does not have our support.

Hon MAX TRENORDEN: I just wish to get the minister's response to this question. I have spoken to a few people today about the words "must take into account" in the second line of proposed subclause (4) of the amendment. I just want to clarify with the minister the interpretation of those words. A strict interpretation of the word "must" means that there is a compulsion. I know that we have had debate after debate about the words "may", "must" and so forth, but I just want it to be clear for those people who will operate under this act in the future. Hopefully, my amendment will be carried, so I will not debate it any further. The question over the words "must take into account" is: is it a compulsion?

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: I can see what the member means. It could have a double meaning. The proposed subclause provides that the local government must take into account any determination, so it must look at any determination. It is compulsory because it provides that a local government is to ensure that it complies with section 5.39(7) in entering into or renewing a contract of employment with a CEO. This amendment gives flexibility, so it is not compulsory.

Hon Max Trenorden: I accept that, minister; thank you.

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: I can see what the member meant very clearly.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clauses 34 to 37 put and passed.

Clause 38: Section 7A replaced —

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: I move —

Page 22, line 10 — To delete "remuneration" and insert —

amount of remuneration, or the minimum and maximum amounts of remuneration,

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clauses 39 to 41 put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Bill reported, with amendments.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

AMENDMENTS AND SCHEDULES

**Supplementary Notice Paper No. 241
Issue No. 2**

WEDNESDAY, 7 MARCH 2012

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2011 [241-1]

When in committee on the *Local Government Amendment Bill 2011*:

Clause 33

Hon Max Trenorden: To move –

1/33 Page 17, lines 16 to 26 — To delete the lines and insert —

43. Saving provisions for CEOs

- (1) In this clause —
preserved CEO, in relation to a local government, means a person who is employed, other than in an acting or temporary capacity, as the CEO of the local government on 19 October 2011.
- (2) Section 5.39(7) does not apply in respect of —
 - (a) a CEO for such time as that person is employed under a contract of employment —
 - (i) that was entered into or renewed before section 13 of the amending Act came into operation; or
 - (ii) for a position that was advertised before section 13 of the amending Act came into operation;or
 - (b) a preserved CEO of a local government if —
 - (i) the remuneration paid or provided to the CEO on 19 October 2011 under a contract of employment was more than the amount recommended by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal under the

Salaries and Allowances Act 1975 section 7A to be paid or provided to the CEO at that time; and

- (ii) the CEO continues to be employed as the CEO of that local government.
- (3) Section 5.39(8) does not apply to a local government that is renewing a contract of employment with its preserved CEO in the circumstances set out in subsection (2)(b).
- (4) Before a local government renews a contract with its preserved CEO in circumstances set out in subsection (2)(b), the local government must take into account any determination by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal under the *Salaries and Allowances Act 1975* section 7A as to the remuneration to be paid or provided to a CEO of a local government that is of a comparable size and location.

Clause 38

Minister for Child Protection representing the Minister for Local Government: To move –

2/38 Page 22, line 10 — To delete “remuneration” and insert —

amount of remuneration, or the minimum and maximum amounts of remuneration,





Parliamentary National Party of Australia (WA)

Our ref: JC120323

Shire of Coorow
Murray Brown
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Email: admin@coorow.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Brown

Local Government Amendment Bill: Chief Executive Officer Remuneration

As you may be aware, on Wednesday March 7 2012 the *Local Government Amendment Bill 2011* successfully completed its passage through Parliament, with the conditional support of the Nationals.

Following the introduction of the bill into Parliament in October 2011, my parliamentary colleagues and I immediately raised concern with Minister Castrilli regarding section 5.39 of the bill. This clause refers the ability for local governments to determine remuneration packages of their Chief Executive Officers (CEO's) to the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal which is based in Perth. We also received considerable amounts of correspondence from local governments and industry groups opposing this clause.

Whilst we were not successful in negotiating to have the clause removed from the bill entirely, we were successful in having an exclusion clause included. The exclusion clause ensures that a person who was employed as the CEO of a local government at the time the bill was read into Parliament on 19 October 2011 and was being paid above the Salary and Allowances Tribunal's recommended salary bandings, will continue to have their remuneration package determined by their local government, not the Tribunal for as long as they continue to be employed in that position.

This amendment will ensure that current local government CEO's being paid above the Tribunal's recommended salary bandings, will not see reductions in their remuneration packages. We have also received confirmation from Minister Castrilli that the Department of Local Government and the Tribunal will continue to liaise in full with all local governments and industry to ensure that their concerns are taken into account when determining CEO remuneration packages into the future.

For your information I attach a copy of the exclusion clause as moved by the Nationals and the Hansard transcripts of the debate on the bill in the Legislative Council. I greatly value and appreciate the hard work that local government CEO's do and hope this clause will go some way to ensuring regional local governments can attract the best people.

If you have any further questions on this matter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vincent Catania".

VINCENT CATANIA MLA
Secretary to the Parliamentary National Party

From: [Communications](#)
 To: [undisclosed-recipients:](#)
 Subject: Councillor Direct Issue # 10 9 March
 Date: Wednesday, 7 March 2012 3:46:32 PM



Issue # 10 7 March

Councillor Direct

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Welcome to WALGA's Councillor Direct Weekly Newsletter for Elected Members for Wednesday, 7 March. 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

- New State Council : 2012— 2014
- Constitutional Recognition
- Municipal Service Delivery To Aboriginal Communities
- State Road Funds To Local Government Advisory Committee
- Launch Of State Waste Strategy

NEW STATE COUNCIL : 2012 – 2014

Today is the first meeting of the new State Council for 2012 -2014. WALGA has nine new State Councillors. At the commencement of each new State Council an Induction Session is held for all State Councillors and Deputy State Councillors. The induction is an information session on the role of a State Councillor and the functions and operations of WALGA. We look forward to a busy and productive next two years with the State Council.

CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION

Planning is continuing for the sector to conduct a national campaign to support Constitutional Recognition for Local Government. The two advertising agencies selected to pitch for the campaign from the six final submissions will make their presentations next week in Sydney. The process is being conducted by the Australian Local Government Association however both WALGA and the LGAQ have representatives assisting with the process. Though the Federal Government is yet to announce if the referendum will be conducted, WALGA is continuing the preliminary process to ensure the sector is well prepared. WALGA's position is that any advertising campaign should be funded either by the Federal Government or through the financial participation of all State Associations.

MUNICIPAL SERVICE DELIVERY TO ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

On Thursday, **8 March** the Association is hosting a Forum for affected Local Governments on the Commonwealth's proposed transfer of responsibilities for delivery of municipal services to aboriginal communities. The forum will enable affected Local Governments to develop a strategic action plan for moving forward with negotiations with the Commonwealth. Association representatives have had a number of discussions with the new Director General, Department of Indigenous Affairs, Mr Cliff Weeks about Local Government's growing concerns over the lack of communications and engagement on the proposed transfer of responsibilities for delivery of municipal services to aboriginal communities and the un-achievable timeframe in which this is to occur. This advocacy has resulted in improved communications and collaboration between the State and Local Governments, a commitment to working in a transparent way with Local Government and a commitment to strong representation of WA Local Governments' position when meeting with senior Commonwealth bureaucrats and Ministers. Mr Weeks will be presenting at the Local Government Forum on his discussions with the Commonwealth about the timeframe, funding requirements and planning activities that must be provided for the transfer to be supported.

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For further information please contact the Chief Executive Officer, Ricky Burges on 9213 2025 or email rburges@walga.asn.au

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STATE ROAD FUNDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee, which comprises members of State Council, representing Local Government, and Main Roads WA Executive Directors, met last week. Major issues progressed include: over coming barriers to timely implementation of Black Spot funded road projects; management of the Supplementary Fund for Flood Damage in light of huge number of claims in the past year; and allocation of additional vehicle licence fee revenue. The Committee agreed to pursue the development of **Roads 2030** Regional Road Strategies, to be used as a basis for identifying and prioritising enhancement, improvement or expansion projects on the local road network. **Roads 2025** strategies were completed in late 2007 and it is intended that the next update be released in late 2012 or early 2013. It was also agreed to progress the review of Operational Responsibility Guidelines between Main Roads and Local Government. Additional funding will be provided to progress these important strategic initiatives.

LAUNCH OF STATE WASTE STRATEGY

The State Waste Strategy, *Creating the Right Environment*, was launched by the Minister for Environment on Tuesday, 6 March. It sets the direction and targets for waste management to 2020 and comprises five key strategic objectives including reducing waste to landfill from commercial operators and increasing recovery rates for municipal waste. Major elements of the Strategy provide direction to Local Government and business on investment and planning, as well as commitments to long-term planning for waste management across the State, and targets for Local Governments include a reduction of recycling of municipal solid waste to 50% in metropolitan areas and 30% in nominated non metropolitan areas by 2015, and also includes commitments to planning for waste management such as ensuring that land will be available for future recycling and waste facilities and the buffers around such land protected. Noting that State Government investment in waste management has been inadequate, the Association continues to advocate for the return of Landfill Levy funds to facilitate strategic waste management activities, and anticipates that the Waste Authority's Business Plan, which will outline the investment of the Levy funds over the next five years, will be released in the coming months. The Strategy can be found at www.zerowaste.wa.gov.au

From: [Communications](#)
 To: [undisclosed-recipients:](#)
 Subject: Councillor Direct Issue # 11 13 March 2012
 Date: Tuesday, 13 March 2012 12:36:09 PM



Issue # 11 13 March

This Week's Headlines

- WALGA President On ABC 720 Morning Program
- Municipal Service Delivery To Aboriginal Communities
- State Road Funds To Local Government
- Container Deposit System Policy Forum—Expression Of Interest
- Meeting Procedures and Debating For Elected Members

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Welcome to WALGA's Councillor Direct Weekly Newsletter for Elected Members for Tuesday, 13 March. A weekly summary of the major business dealings and member benefits as well as links to current publications and items of interest for Councillors.

WALGA PRESIDENT ON ABC 720 MORNING PROGRAM

WALGA President Mayor Troy Pickard will be a guest on the ABC Radio Morning Program this Wednesday (**14 March**) at 9am. Morning Program host Geoff Hutchinson has invited Mayor Pickard to join him to discuss current issues facing the Local Government sector including criticisms from other spheres of government.

In addition to answering questions from the host, Mayor Pickard will also be taking talkback calls to try and put the sector's position and redress any misconceptions in the community.

MUNICIPAL SERVICE DELIVERY TO ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

On Thursday, 8 March, 2012 the Department of Local Government sponsored a full day Forum for Elected Members and CEOs from 22 Councils who will be asked to service remote Aboriginal communities. The Forum was held at the City of Melville and coordinated by WALGA. This was seen as a last ditch effort to develop a shared understanding and a partnership with the State Government. The key outcomes from that Forum are –

1. A Communique to the State Government and the Federal Government was endorsed by the State Council and the Forum which essentially sets out the requirements of Local Government.
2. The fundamental steps required as part of the transition.
3. Clarity around the State's commitment to working with Local Government on this issue with the Federal Government with no cost shift.
4. The deadline for negotiations to be completed to be extended for at least one year.

STATE ROAD FUNDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Advisory Committee that oversees the State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement met recently. As revenue from vehicle licence fees are greater than budgeted at the beginning of the year, an additional \$3.9m will be available for Local Government roads in 2011/12. The majority of this money will be provided for additional Road Project Grants, delivered through the Regional Road Groups. The Committee discussed the results of efforts to improve the timeliness of implementing road projects, particularly those funded under the Black Spot program. High carry-over of funds at the end of the financial year is a risk to the sustainability of this funding. Changes to date seem to have stabilised the situation, and administrative changes this year are expected to see the backlog of funded projects reduce in coming years. The Committee endorsed scoping a project to update the strategic road network plan, ROADS 2025 that was last reviewed in 2007.

CONTAINER DEPOSIT SYSTEM POLICY FORUM – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

A long held policy position of the Association is for the development and implementation of a Best Practice Container Deposit System (CDS) for Western Australia. With the recent release of the State Waste Strategy, the Association President is establishing a Container Deposit System Policy Forum for interested members to discuss and formulate a Local Government advocacy strategy to Government for the introduction of a CDS. Expressions of interest are therefore sought from Elected Members to participate in this Policy Forum.

If you are interested in participating, please send a brief statement outlining your waste management and resource recovery interest and experience to Manager Waste and Recycling, Rebecca Brown via email to rbrown@walga.asn.au by 5pm Friday, **23 March**.

If you are not interested in participating in the Policy Forum, but would like to be kept informed of the development in relation to CDS, please let Rebecca know and we will send updates on the progress of the campaign.

For further information please contact Rebecca on 9213 2063 or via email.

MEETING PROCEDURES AND DEBATING FOR ELECTED MEMBERS

Venue: The Shire of Capel

Date: Monday, **30 April**

Time: 9:00am—4:30pm

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.

To register please contact Alison Evans, Shire of Capel on 9727 0258.

Media Release

Vincent Catania MLA

Member for North West

THE NATIONALS *for Regional WA*



7th March 2012

YALGOO TO SHARE IN CSRFF GRANTS

Today the Member for North West, Vincent Catania MLA announced that the Yalgoo Shire had received \$405,908 in funding for the installation of a “rage cage”, a covering structure, a BMX track and Skate park as well as Tennis court resurfacing.

The grant was one of the 46 community sport and recreation projects State-wide funded through the 2012/13 Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF).

This round’s successful applicants will share in a total of \$15,088,000 in funding.

Mr Catania said that sport and recreation played such a valuable role in all Regional communities.

“I congratulate the Yalgoo Shire and I look forward to seeing this particular grant make a big difference to the people living in the Yalgoo Shire, through both the improvements to the facilities and the benefits that come from increasing participation in sport and recreation,” Mr Catania said.

The CSRFF provides Western Australian Government financial assistance to community groups and local government authorities to develop basic infrastructure for sport and recreation.

Grants of up to \$4million are available on a one-third contribution basis of the total eligible project cost.

For more information on CSRFF grants, contact your local Department of Sport and Recreation office or visit www.dsr.wa.gov.au.

Media Contact: Vincent Catania (08) 99 41 2999



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

Our Ref: 633-10; E1206510

TO ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

CIRCULAR N^o 01-2012

NEW COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESOURCES

I am pleased to announce that new resources are now available on the Integrated Planning and Reporting website to support community engagement by local governments.

Community engagement is integral to the Integrated Planning and Reporting process. It provides an opportunity for the community to have an input into decision making and the future of their communities, particularly in the development of the Strategic Community Plan.

The community engagement tools, available on the Department's Integrated Planning and Reporting website <http://integratedplanning.dlg.wa.gov.au> provide elected members and practitioners with information that will help them undertake a range of activities including:

- Understanding the community engagement process;
- Designing the engagement process; and
- Implementing engagement.

The tools also provide links to additional resources and will be supported by case studies.

The web based community engagement tools are designed to be practically-based rather than prescriptive and have been deliberately shaped by local government engagement practitioners to provide practical material which supports your engagement process.

I would like to thank and recognise the Strategic Planning and Community Engagement Working Group and local government representatives who have contributed to this important resource.

For more information please contact Mr Troy Daniels, the Department's Project Manager on (08) 6552 1446 or email troy.daniels@dlg.wa.gov.au

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Mathews'.

Jennifer Mathews
DIRECTOR GENERAL

Gordon Stephenson House
140 William Street Perth WA 6000
GPO Box R1250 Perth WA 6844
E-mail: info@dlg.wa.gov.au Website: www.dlg.wa.gov.au
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21 March 2012

Tel: (08) 6552 1500 Fax: (08) 6552 1555 Freecall: 1800 620 511 (Country only)
E-mail: info@dlg.wa.gov.au Website: www.dlg.wa.gov.au

Murchison Executive Group

Minutes Thursday 1st March 2012

Shire of Mt Magnet: Shire Chambers

Apologies: Mr Roy McClymont CEO Meekatharra, Mr Peter Money, CEO Cue

Attendees: Mr Neil Warne, CEO Murchison Settlement, Ms Sharon Daishe, CEO Yalgoo, Mr Geoff Brooks, CEO Mt Magnet, Ms Samantha Tarling, CEO Wiluna, Mr Ian Fitzgerald CEO Sandstone, Mr John Read A/CEO Meekatharra, Mr Brendin Flanigan MWDC Murchison Project Manager

Presentations – Kyle Waters and Graham Lantzke

10:00a.m. Morning Tea meet and greet

10:20a.m. Welcome and introduction to MEG from Geoff Brooks, CEO Mt Magnet – Self Introduction by new CEO's to the region interim or otherwise

1. 10:30a.m. Kyle Waters OSH issues and discussion

- Safety Services Program in the Murchison
- Kyle is a resource to the shires and encourages contact – sound relationship with Work Safe
- Federal Government harmonised OSH - New legislation that WA has not taken up yet will affect all, not just LGA's (Adoption of legislation looks likely to occur January 1st 2013)
- 61 Codes of practice
- Duty of Care replaced by: Due Diligence
- Hazard reporting is a key concern for CEO's – a system or process needs to be in place. All tasks require risk assessment
- Regulations are still changing
- Should have no impact on LGA insurance Premiums
- Safety Management Plan for any project \$200k+ and 5 or more people requires Safety Management Plan - Kyle to send generic plan to MEG
- Adopted Corporations Act means Financial Officers are included and can be liable for fines or gaol sentence.
- In regards incident or accident situation CEO's instructed to take as many photos, measurements etc. and must not add or move anything from accident site before W/Safe inspector visits the scene
- No obligation to train staff however \$1500 4-5 day course available + on costs – LGA's can access "Members Experience Account" via LGIS – Kyle to provide each Murchison Shire of amounts available to them in this account
- SWMS – Safe Work Method Statement is a training tool – basically an agreement on "How are we going to do that job?"

- ALL CEO's to send Kyle a list of "High Risk Activities" via e-mail first as priorities and Kyle can visit each shire to follow up and assist in developing appropriate SWMS

2. 11:00 a.m. Mr Graham Lantzke ROMAN2 presentation, feedback and discussion session

- 134/140 Shires have signed up
- Importance of the system as directly linked to MRWA reporting and the grant monies received by Shires – data is utilised for all state and federal funding models
- Statutory requirement to provide information to MrWA (on to State and Treasury) and a reporting requirement for Asset Management System
- Compliance with Valuation Reporting
- New DLG KPI's for Local Governments are linked to Road Values
- Asset Valuation is a key area and very different to old system and far more accurate – wise to alert your auditors and councillors as your Asset values will likely be on the increase and depreciation will be decreasing hence your 2011 numbers will look different to 2012 numbers. Graham requested ALL Shires Auditor contact details so he can arrange to discuss with them
- Graham requested shires to make contact if training required and to highlight the importance, uses and positives of the system once engaged fully. Graham can arrange training.
- Graham offered 1-3 days separate training per year with CEO's, Works Supervisors and Finance Officers – Graham to coordinate a convenient date for training event/s before 30th June with CEOs
- ROMAN will provide a visitation and seminar for CEO's, finance managers, etc focussing on asset valuations
- System is fully operational after 5 years of work to consolidate
- 25% of LGA's fully engaged, 25% are dabbling and remainder not engaged as yet for various reasons. Graham expects that within 3 years as more people are trained and recognise value of system all LGA's will be using the system
- Help Desk 1800 682 241
- ROMAN 1 now turned off
- ROMAN 2 to remain on MEG Agenda
- A customer satisfaction survey will arrive very soon and Graham indicated it was important for shires to complete this and provide feedback as it will benefit your shires
- Flood Damage/Road closures – RAMM software can be used to track and report on this and a Pilot program for this is possible if Shires request it, or Shire can engage external consultant
- Budgets and fees proposed to be at same level for 2012/13

- Graham can deliver one on one to convince naysayers as to value of the system to assist in erasing resistance
- Possible R and D project - Shires are to have a voice at Panel table in Perth and Graham can assist in preparing submissions and can develop final document
- Integrated Management Planning was discussed in regards lack of human resources in this region (and others too). Historical value moving toward "Fair Values". Fair Value is precursor to Asset Management Plan
- Ian F indicated that Michael Keene of Greenfields Services had picked this up early on and recently assisted for Midlands Shires to conduct data pickup which is required every 3-5 years – MOTION; That 3 or more quotes are sought from known Shire consultants such as Greenfields, Brett Howieson, OPUS, Tonkin and Cordeneaux – then shires are to discuss and engage with best option this could also decrease cost to each shire.

3. 12:45p.m. Lunch and continued discussions

Graham attended lunch and answered any queries from CEO's

4. 1:30p.m. Review of Strategic Waste Management Regional Funding Program – CEO Yalgoo S. Daishe to lead discussion

- Collaboration of waste services is difficult in the Murchison – Investigate Regional Facility (not applicable due to vast distances)
- Shire of Yalgoo has registered Murchison as a group
- \$5000 on offer to the group to review the Waste Management Plan
- \$139,000 to Murchison group (regions share of fixed amount) possibly be utilised to employ an FTE to explore opportunities (Mark Wong at City of Greater Geraldton was mentioned as a contact for discussion AND Sandstone offered housing if required)
- First step identified as "Review Plan" (free freight would be integral to any proposal – Meeka currently has a truck available going to Perth empty – no confirmation of how many times a month or how that partnership might develop with Volunteer group in Meeka known as "Meeka goes green")
- In Principal Agreement of CEO's to Review Plan and Yalgoo to enquire regarding the \$5000 and seek access to \$139,000.
- Shire of Yalgoo will forward a copy of the Plan to all other shires

5. 1:30p.m. MEG Port Folios – outline for incoming CEO's – discuss areas of interest or expertise and assign to individuals –

- Ian Fitzgerald to include Asset Management and Integrated Planning to his Port Folio. All folios updated see attached document

- Equal Opportunity – Wiluna shire indicated they conduct training annually for staff and councillors and can recommend Stephen.goodall@eoc.wa.gov.au
- Records – Sandstone indicated Synergy/IT Vision offered Scan record system with an initial cost of \$20k and annual license fee of \$3-4k. Sandstone and Yalgoo to piggyback in regards records to decrease costs – Wiluna indicated that they run IRIS system and now employ 1 x FTE to deal with records alone. Risk mitigation is a major issue for all councils and CEO's and it is recommended to attend a one day training course to find out more about records and the relevant compliance etc. RDL employ an external consultant to review
- Sandstone CEO in regards NAMS and system, which can be via a consultant or do it yourself. Morris and Lowe/Peter Johnston was mentioned Sandstone to seek quote and forward to all shires for them to make a choice – cost \$2k per year membership, training provided in Perth July. CEO's submit data online and they construct the plan. Ian will contact Jenny Mathieson at DLG

6. 2:00p.m. CLGF queries and projects

7. 2:30p.m. General Business – completion of unresolved issues or items – Asset Management Planning – Ian Fitzgerald and Samantha Tarling

- TV services are still an issue as to what system of delivery some remote areas will or can take. Cost is an issue and access is another particularly for travellers in the region. Shire of Wiluna to send email trail of discussions between GVROC
- Fletcher Communications recommended “Opt in’ and then wait and see as opting out again will still remain an option to councils if system does not fit locality
- Only relevant to smaller communities, Meekatharra and Magnet should be ok
- VAST has radio access as well
- Roads to Recovery extra and supplementary funds – General Consensus = NO. This is a 4 year allocation hence balance of allocation indicating more dollars available
- Meekatharra raised the issue that Gascoyne Junction rejuvenation after flood damage should be a federally funded initiative and not detract CLG or other monies from region's shires. Natural Disaster Funding suggested

8. 3:30p.m Afternoon Tea – General Business - meeting continued

- Tim Pearn from DIA entered the meeting to highlight the findings of a specific ECU report regarding Art Centres and Wirnda Barna Magnet centre in particular – DRAFT doc currently, when available in final form all

shires will receive as document will assist in applying for funds or support for Art activities, galleries or studios

- Mt Magnet Shire has received information pertaining to Wild Dogs issue via a constituent and believes this issue requires leadership at the LGA level to drive the process and coordinate activities. Shire has taken sensible approach in maintaining and managing assets and this is a focus of planning in next few months – to look after what assets they already have. Museum Opening April 7th
- Sandstone update - Store has closed, Shire running fuel depot and gas soon, the hotel is providing bread and milk supplies to the town currently
- Murchison Settlement update – New managers at shop Rex and Jeanette Hook providing fuel at Geraldton prices, groceries and ice
- Wiluna update - \$20 million medical service revamp is almost complete proposed opening 1st July. New shop owners and a great change for the town as well stocked. 15 houses built in the town in past 4 years and 10 more to be completed by September 2012. Gwalia Pty Ltd have purchased old school site and should be operating as cottages and caravan park accommodation within the next two years. Council has held first session for strategic ten year plan. Once Asset management has been finalised the proposal to build a Cultural and Heritage centre will be costed and assessed as to viability. Staffing remains an issue for the shire with 4 positions short currently including Works Supervisor and Community Development Manager. Recommended reading “The Speed Of Trust” by Stephen Covey (Trust in an economic sense)
- Yalgoo update – Hope to have DSR sign off on Rage Cage and BMX facility (Notification received 8/3/12 that funding was received – well done). Community Hub via three stages is underway with Variety Club sponsoring a children’s playground. Stage three will include Architectural drawings for Youth Centre/Community Hub. Yalgoo will auspice Kidsport Program via DSR Geraldton allowing Murchison kids to receive funds to participate. With no real club structure throughout the region this is an excellent outcome. Indigenous Community Volunteers (ICV) hosted School Holiday Program in the town and this worked very well for all concerned. ICV also assisted in application for grants and writing of documents. Shire of Yalgoo is seeking funding for the Morawa Rd seal to be completed. Repairing Town Hall. 1st April Caravan Park Manager returns for season 2012. Housing is an issue for the town (and the region).

9. 4:55p.m Close

MEG meeting dates 2012 confirmed. Proposed shift back to previous MEG meeting format – 2x half days with an evening of networking – therefore dates below have altered to;

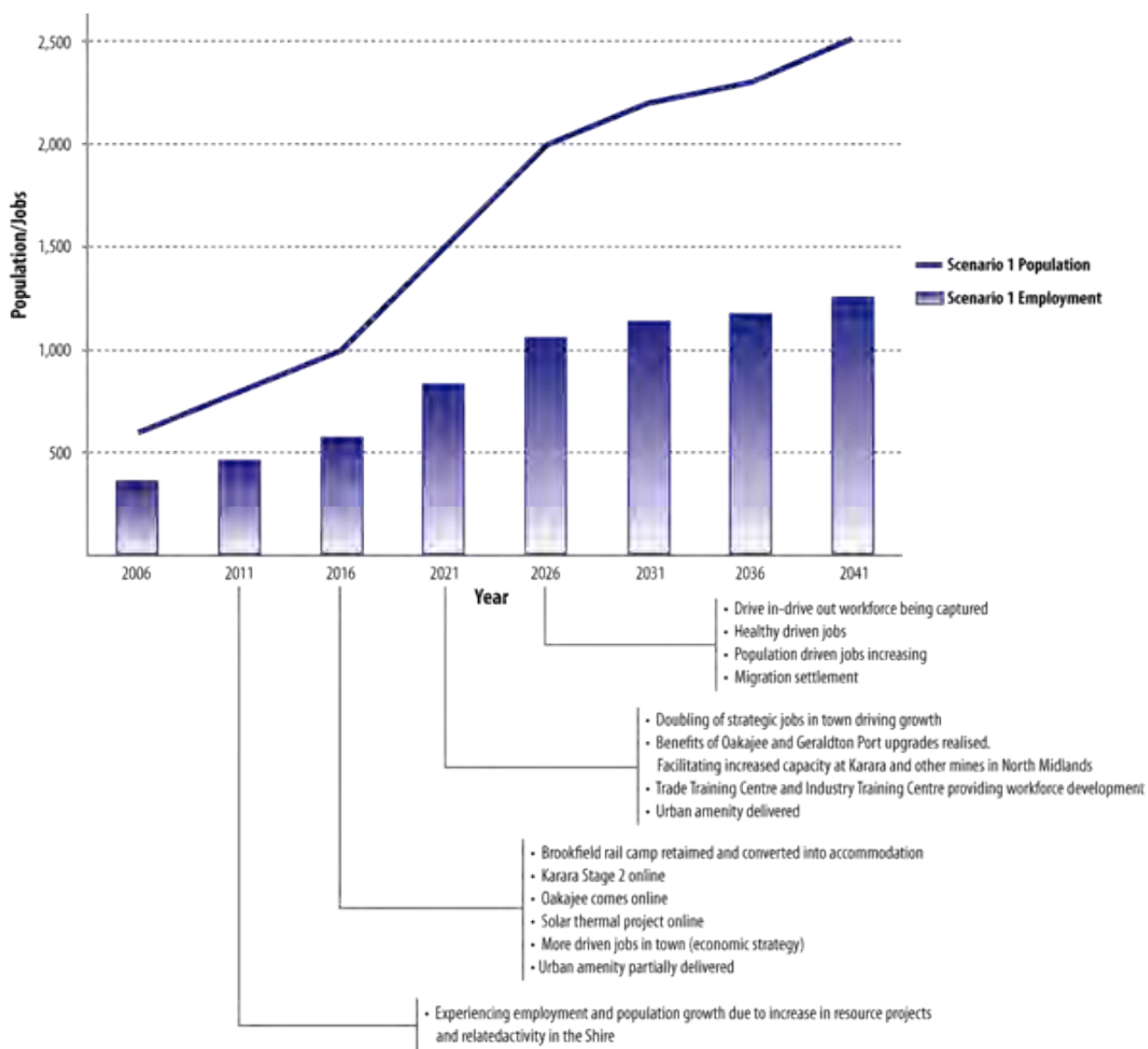
June 7th and 8th Sandstone, Sep 6th and 7th Meekatharra, & Dec 6th and 7th Wooleen Station Murchison.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview

A Growth and Implementation plan has recently been completed for the Shire of Morawa. This plan seeks to cater for population growth over the next thirty years by identifying key projects and strategies to reach the aspirational target of 2,500 people. The key drivers for the Shire have been identified as Agriculture, Mining and Education.

The following graph indicates the known projects that will trigger growth over the next fifteen years. This does not take into consideration the projects that have not yet been committed to and should additional drivers come 'online' additional growth would be likely.



The Shire have been given the opportunity to put forward four business cases that will seek to build on the key drivers and deliver growth to the town. As part of the selection process the Shire utilised a prioritisation tool to determine which projects would be put forward for the initial round of SuperTowns funding. Approximately 100 projects were initially identified. As a result of the prioritisation matrix the top four projects were determined and subsequently endorsed by the Shire of Morawa on 7th February 2012.

The top four projects (in order of priority) are:

1. Interim Industry Training Facility Project
2. Multi Purpose Accommodation Village Project
3. Townsite Revitalisation Project
4. North Midlands Solar Power Project

The Growth Plan and the four priority projects have also been endorsed by the Mid West Development Commission Board on 24th February 2012.

This business case is for the provision of a \$2.4 million Interim Industry Training Facility.

Morawa is seeking to position itself as a centre for excellence in education. This vision is shared by the surrounding communities as a role that could be fulfilled by Morawa.

Through work undertaken by the Morawa Education and Industry Training Alliance (MEITA), an opportunity exists to develop an Industry Training Centre in Morawa in partnership with the Durack Institute.

The Shire of Morawa is therefore seeking \$1.5 million in SuperTown Development Project funding to assist in the startup of industry training services through the Durack Institute in 2013.

It is intended that this initial funding will provide the fit out of an interim site to begin the provision of training courses. There are currently four potential interim locations being investigated by the Durack Institute of Technology. It is intended that the fit-out will provide long term benefits to the Shire by upgrading an existing premises ready for future commercial uses.

An outline of the proposed long term facility is detailed on the following page.

The entire long term permanent facility encompasses the development of a state of the art \$10 million Industry Training Centre in Morawa, Western Australia. The Industry Training Centre will provide increased educational, business development and social opportunities in the Midwest region. The permanent facility will be funded via DET and is forecast to be funded in 2013/14.

The total project includes:-

- An Industry Training Centre designed to provide 2 workshops, laboratory, class room, seminar room and amenities/stores areas. Externally the facility provides covered work and services areas, 40 car parking bays, security lighting and fencing.

The purpose built Industry Training Centre will be:-

- Located on land bound by Prater Street, Waddilove Road, Lloyd Street and the Morawa District High School (i.e. the 'Education' Precinct)
- The vested ownership of the preferred block to be transferred from the Minister for Education to the Minister for Training & Workforce Development to allow the Durack Institute to assume operational responsibility.
- Funding is being sought from the Department of Training in the 2013 round.
- The estimated recurrent overhead costs to be funded by Durack Institute using a combination of public training funds and income from commercial activity.



Above: Location of permanent facilities

An external Business Case has already been prepared in relation to this larger project which highlights the strong viability of the project and its potential benefits to the broader region. A request for the funding of the permanent purpose built facility has been submitted to the Department for Education and Training and has been earmarked for the 2013/14 funding round.

The demand for industry training courses is identified as coming from industry (resource and agricultural sectors in particular), school students, Indigenous groups and individuals and groups within the regional community. Individuals from industry and schools are anticipated to be the key users of this facility.

The provision of tertiary courses for industry has been identified as a high priority project in the Shire of Morawa SuperTown Growth Plan as an important development to attract business growth and develop Morawa as a prominent education hub in the Mid West region.

The initial funding from SuperTowns will ensure that training could begin more than a year prior to the build of the new facility and could run whilst the permanent premises are being constructed. An outline of potential locations for interim training facilities is explored in the table below.

SITE	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
1. Business Incubator Units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Units are owned by the Shire (and currently quarantined by Council for interim training usage) ▪ Units are potentially easily adaptable and available for immediate access / use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This will utilise all existing capacity (i.e. new businesses will not have potential space) ▪ There are no long term advantages to the upgrade of these facilities ▪ Potentially does not meet minimum floor space requirements ▪ Opportunity missed to co-locate commercial in single location and increase vibrancy of town centre
2. Winfield Street Commercial Premises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Located in the main street and will enhance town centre upgrades ▪ Provides an opportunity for future businesses to occupy upgraded facilities (that are tailored to modern uses) ▪ Meets minimum floor space requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Property needs to be purchased (currently on market for \$200k) ▪ Timeline to refurbish may be greater delaying access / use of the site.
3. Solomon Terrace Commercial Premises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provides an opportunity for future businesses to occupy upgraded facilities (that are tailored to modern uses) ▪ Meets minimum floor space requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Located away from future commercial centre (in proposed mixed use residential centre) ▪ Property needs to be purchased (currently on market for \$200k) ▪ Opportunity missed to co-locate commercial in single location and increase vibrancy of town centre ▪ Timeline to refurbish may be greater delaying access / use of the site.
4. Historic Shire Offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provides an opportunity upgrade historical facilities (that are tailored to modern uses) ▪ Building is owned by the Shire ▪ Located closer to 'Education Precinct' of town 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potentially does not meet minimum floor space requirements ▪ Timeline to refurbish may be greater delaying access / use of the site.

The preferred option is to undertake options one, to retrofit the existing business incubator units incorporating the installation of a mining equipment simulator in one of the units.

It is however anticipated that further work with the Durack Institute of Technology will need to be undertaken to finalise the selection of the interim site. It is anticipated that this selection will be finalised by 30th March 2012. Work could then begin on preparing tender documentation for the upgrade of the facilities should the interim facilities project receive funding to proceed.

\$500,000 has been in principally committed by the Mid West Development Commission Board on 24th February 2012 for the development of interim training facilities.

The project is being undertaken as a result of extensive consultations undertaken with key stakeholders throughout the region and a high level Training Needs Analysis conducted for Karara Mining Ltd as a case study of industry demand for training.

Karara Mining Ltd has committed all of their off-site training needs through the Industry Training Centre under a tripartite agreement between the Shire of Morawa and Durack Institute of Technology.

Through the provision of appropriate facilities, training could commence immediately. Whilst permanent facilities are being considered for funding through the Department for Training and Workforce Development, there is an opportunity to begin training in the short term through the provision of interim facilities.

Outcomes

The provision of industry training in Morawa will deliver a range of training and related services to meet the needs of industry and the community of the Murchison and Mid West region. Through the provision of an interim facility, training needs can be met in the immediate term (i.e. training could be provided by early 2013 as opposed to the beginning in 2015 under currently proposed funding).

The establishment of industry related training in Morawa proactively addresses the objectives of a number of regional strategies. Key objectives that will be addressed include:-

- Facilitation of a sub-regional Workforce Development Hub servicing the Mid West region
- Access to information on career and training opportunities, as well as opportunities to continue education and professional development within Morawa

- Assist in attaining the workforce requirements of the region and the need for physical and social infrastructure to support the forecast growth in the mining and infrastructure sectors
- Further development and promotion of an integrated education and training services model for the region
- Facilitate industry and government buy-in to the education sector within Morawa
- Increase employment opportunities in Morawa

The provision of education programs prior to the establishment of the purpose built facility will assist in forging links with Karara in developing training programs and tailoring to the educational needs of the students. It may also assist in tailoring the final design of the purpose built facility by trialing how the training space is best utilised. The early establishment of courses will also see the delivery of an important sub-regional service to surrounding towns which has been highlighted as a priority by surrounding Shires through consultation.

Cost Benefit Analysis

A full business case has been prepared to support the building of permanent training facilities in Morawa to the value of \$10M (see appendix C). The budget estimates provided within the business case identify that the new permanent facility will break even by year five of operation.

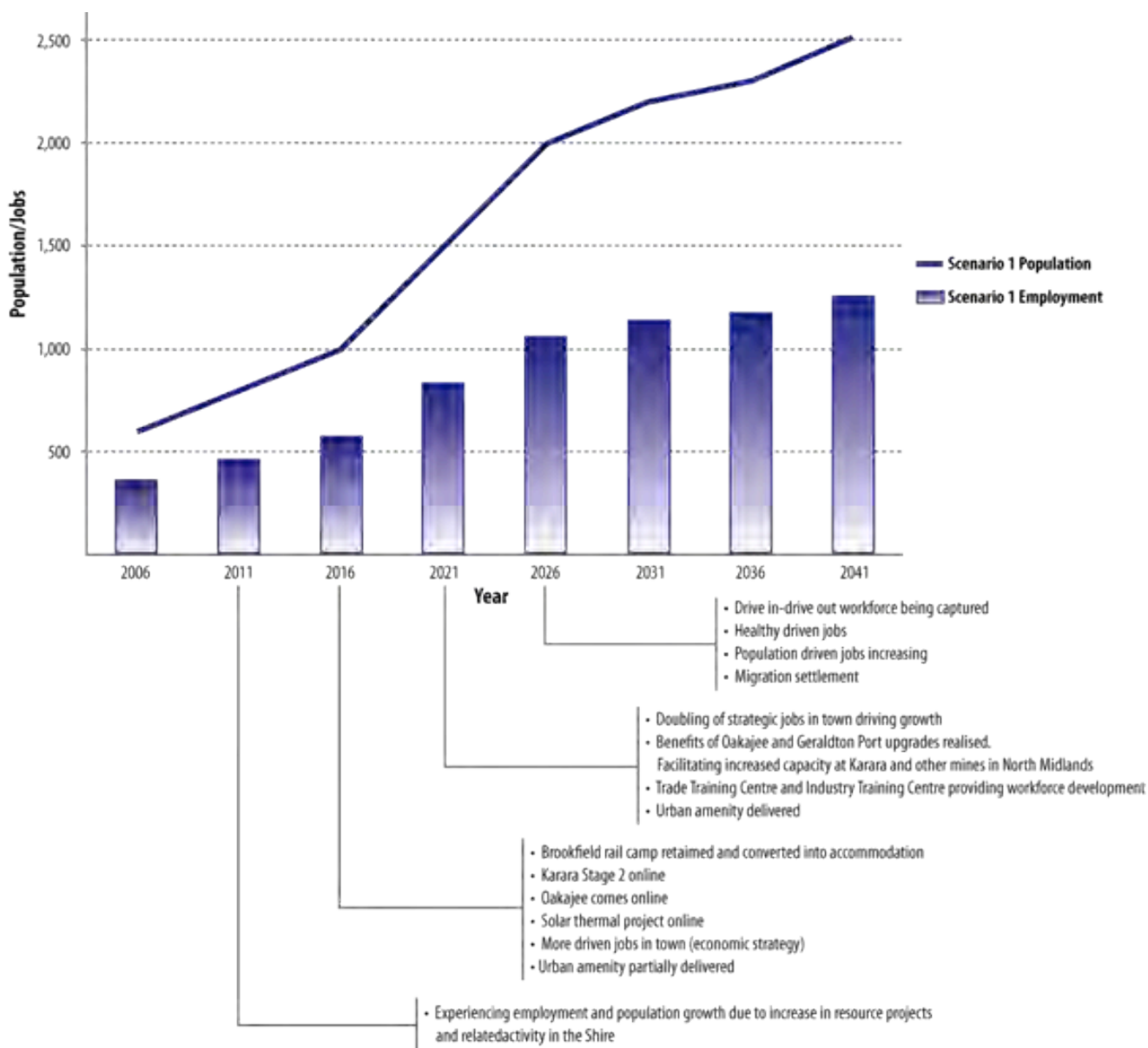
The provision of interim industry training facilities will assist in providing an initial revenue stream that contributes toward the overall project and will assist in reducing the NPV of the overall project.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OVERVIEW

A Growth and Implementation plan has recently been completed for the Shire of Morawa. This plan seeks to cater for population growth over the next thirty years by identifying key projects and strategies to reach the aspirational target of 2,500 people. The key drivers for the Shire have been identified as Agriculture, Mining and Education.

The following graph indicates the known projects that will trigger growth over the next fifteen years. This does not take into consideration the projects that have not yet been committed to and should additional drivers come 'online' additional growth would be likely.



The Shire have been given the opportunity to put forward four business cases that will seek to build on the key drivers and deliver growth to the town. As part of the selection process the Shire utilised a prioritisation tool to determine which projects would be put forward for the initial round of SuperTowns funding. Approximately 100 projects were initially identified. As a result of the prioritisation matrix the top four projects were determined and subsequently endorsed by the Shire of Morawa on 7th February 2012.

The top four projects (in order of priority) are:-

1. Morawa Industry Training Centre Project
2. Mixed Purpose Accommodation Village (known as the Brookfield Camp Project)
3. Morawa Townsite Revitalisation Project
4. North Midlands Solar Thermal Power Project

All four business cases were supported by the Mid West Development Commission Board and the prioritisation endorsed on 24th February 2012.

This business case is for the \$7.6 Million Mixed Purpose Accommodation Village Project.

The proposed project will provide much needed accommodation for key workers (including construction workers), students and tourists which are currently limited in Morawa. There is currently a 200 person workers camp on White Avenue in Morawa that is due to be dismantled in 2012. An opportunity exists for the utilisation of existing in-ground infrastructure that will be left in situ to develop a permanent accommodation village.

The Shire of Morawa is seeking \$3,000,000 in SuperTown Development Project funding to develop the existing Brookfield camp site for key worker, student and short term accommodation. The operation of this site would provide a substantial increase in residential housing choice for short term workforce and students involved with the expanding mining, agriculture, commercial and education sectors. The project is essential to attract further economic growth and development in Morawa and the region.

The existing construction camp currently contains water, power, emergency and other infrastructure/site works valued at \$4,600,000 million. Temporary accommodation located on the site currently accommodates 200 people. The construction camp will be required for a further 6-8 months by Brookfield Rail.

It is proposed that an Expression of Interest (EOI) be undertaken to secure private sector investment to build and operate (BO) a mixed purpose accommodation village on the current White Avenue location.

A map outlining the location of the existing campsite is depicted on the following page.



Above: Location of existing workers camp

It is anticipated that the EOI would require the proponent to consider/include the following elements:-

- Utilisation of existing infrastructure and site works (having a combined value of \$ 4.6 million)
- Connection of the electrical infrastructure on the site to Morawa electrical grid system (note it is currently connected to an onsite generator)
- Construct and locate on the subject land stand alone transportable housing to accommodate worker, tourist and student needs
- The preferred option provides a minimum of 20 beds suitable for the above uses
- Minimum of a five year contract with options to renew
- Requirement to provide additional housing at key trigger points (to be determined)
- Full commercial terms are to be outlined in the EOI documentation
- Provide housing that could transition over time to permanent housing
- Meet design criteria to ensure that the design for the housing provides for a 'normalised' streetscape

The Shire of Morawa has an agreement with Brookfield Rail to obtain the subject land, including infrastructure left in situ, and re-use this infrastructure. The project can be initiated and constructed within 12 months due to the nature of the facility having established services / infrastructure and the requirement only for the construction and placement of transportable short stay accommodation buildings.

There has been private sector interest in building and operating an accommodation facility in Morawa. It is therefore intended that a formal EOI process be undertaken to select an operator. Companies submitting as part of the EOI process would need to demonstrate commercial viability for the project.

There is an opportunity to facilitate a commercial arrangement for the provision of student accommodation for the Industry Training Centre.

The Mixed Purpose Accommodation Village Project will deliver major improvements in short term accommodation, residential housing choice, support services for future growth and development of Morawa and the region. The project is interlinked with the proposed Morawa Industry Training Centre Project, providing student accommodation for local, regional and state wide students enrolled at the proposed education facility.

The mixed purpose accommodation village project has been identified as a high priority in the Shire of Morawa SuperTown Growth Plan and will be required in association with the Morawa Industry Training Centre Project to facilitate economic and population growth within Morawa and the region.

Options and Recommendation

Three options for reuse of the Brookfield Rail Camp site have been assessed. The key elements of each option are outlined below:-

Option 1

- Undertake a tender process to design and construct key worker housing
- Shire to own and operate the resulting development
- Include design requirement
- Provide a mix of accommodation styles including single and family accommodation
- Development to have ability to transition to saleable assets into the future and present a 'normalised' streetscape

Option 2

- Undertake an EOI process to undertake Build and Operate key worker housing site for a minimum of five years with two further options
- Provide a mix of accommodation styles including single and family accommodation
- Private company to build and operate development
- Development to have ability to transition to saleable assets into the future and present a 'normalised' streetscape

Option 2 enables greater private sector involvement in the process with an opportunity for commercial viability for the site. Under this model the Shire would not have the additional responsibilities of managing the premises and utilising already stretched resources. Importantly this process still ensures that there is a 'long term' development outcome for the Shire.

Option 3

- Not to proceed with the project

Option 2 has been assessed as the preferred option as it provides the opportunity for private sector involvement in the development with the responsibility of managing the commercial aspects of the development. It would also require that a caretaker or commercial manager be based in town, therefore attracting an additional business interest in Morawa. Providing additional strategic jobs within the townsite will encourage further growth.

The project has strong linkages and dependency with projects identified under the Morawa SuperTown Growth Plan and more specifically the Morawa SuperTown Industry Training Centre Project, providing essential accommodation services.

Outcomes

The current construction camp will be required for a further 6-8 months by Brookfield Rail and the EOI process (option 2) can be initiated prior to the current site being deconstructed.

Key outcomes identified from the implementation of the project include:-

- The project is a transformative project, in that it will enable many other new projects as a result of assisting in addressing the issue of shortage in accommodation
- It will provide improved quality in housing and lifestyle opportunities within Morawa
- It will assist in achieving the population milestones as a result of providing substantial new accommodation opportunities in town
- Utilisation of existing infrastructure associated with the existing camp
- Connection of the subject land to the electrical grid network and utilisation of the proposed North Midlands Solar Thermal Power Station SuperTown Project
- Provide a variety of housing choices for key worker and student accommodation, which will in turn facilitate economic growth/diversity
- Assisting in the development of the Morawa Industry Training Centre SuperTown Project through provision of accommodation
- Provides housing within short timeframe
- The project will have long term 'post boom' benefits for the town

Cost/Benefit Analysis

The benefit of utilising the existing in ground infrastructure greatly adds to the financial viability of the project. Other benefits to the project include:-

- Provides much needed short term accommodation in Morawa for key workers, students and tourists
- Synergies with other priority projects including the Morawa Industry Training Centre, the North Midlands Solar Power Project and the Town Centre Revitalisation Project

- Potential for private investment and operation
- Potential to provide additional jobs within the community
- It can be implemented in the short term

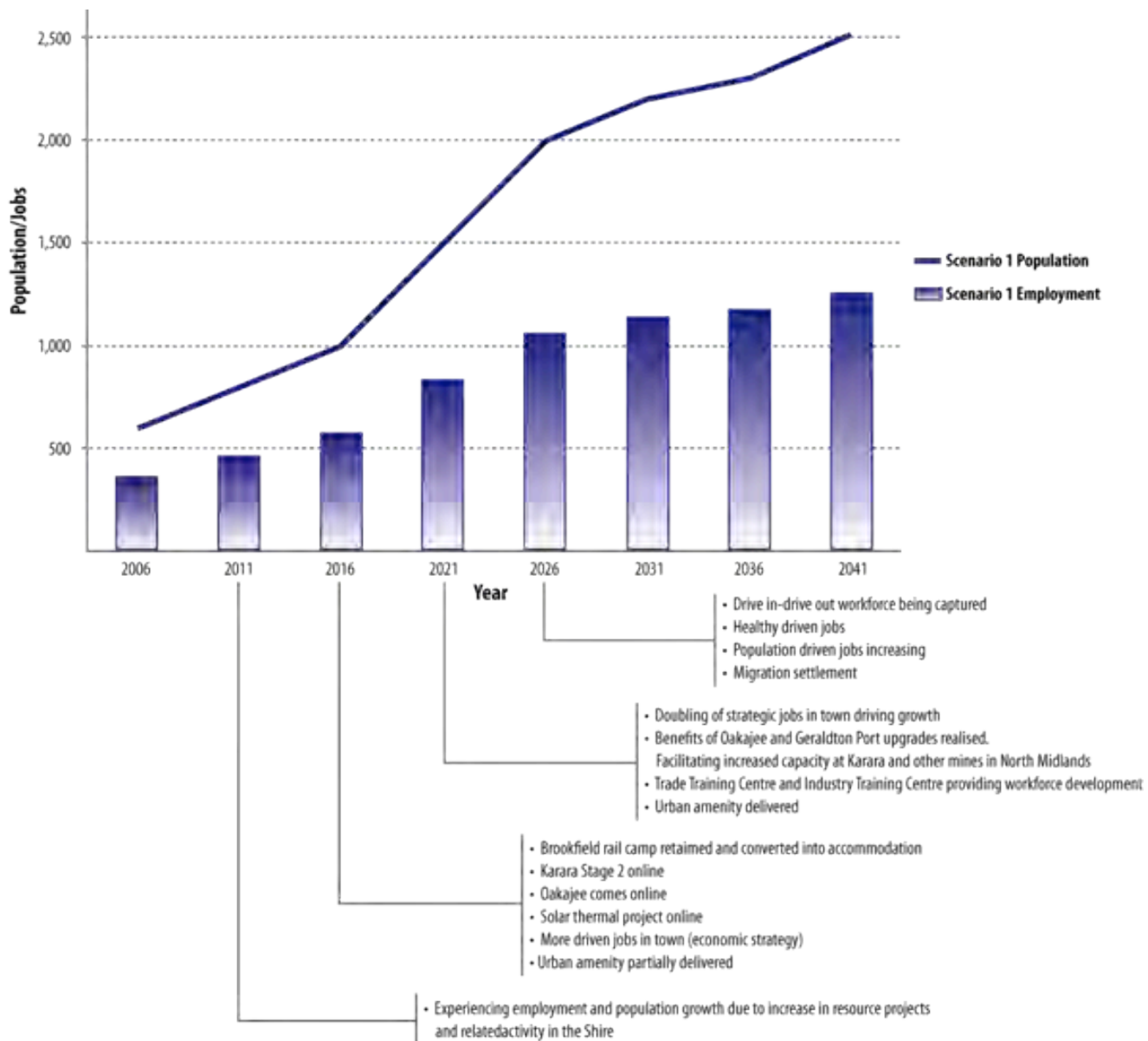
- The project will have long term 'post boom' benefits for the town
- Meets short term housing demand

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview

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The top four projects (in order of priority) are:

1. Industry Training Centre
2. Brookfield Camp Project
3. Townsite Revitalisation Project
4. North Midlands Solar Thermal Power Project

This business case is for the \$20.240 million North Midlands Solar Thermal Power Project.

Power is a critical issue in Morawa. Whilst there is currently capacity to meet existing needs there is a lack of reliability in the service (ie regular blackouts). According to Western Power data, blackouts occur approximately six times per annum lasting an average of 6.4 hours. This has a significant impact on businesses and residents.

In order for Morawa to grow, the capacity of the existing power line will also need to be expanded. It has been suggested that the LandCorp developments currently underway could utilise all existing capacity within the system.

As a solution to these issues, the Shire of Morawa is seeking \$3 million in SuperTown Development Project funding to develop an innovative new renewable energy power project. This innovative solution utilises Australian invented and developed Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) technology with energy storage.

This project is a new advancement in design that incorporates significant changes for increased efficiency, from experience gained during a trial project operated from Lake Cargelligo in NSW. This prototype project has resulted in significant improvements in field design improving the performance and reducing costs for the proposed station. The proposed project represents an international precedent for a commercially viable solar power plant of this type.

It is likely that a number of benefits on local, state, national and international levels could be attributed to the project as it represents the first commercially viable system on this type in Australia and the second on an international scale. It is anticipated that there will be significant interest across the globe in this technology which has the capacity to store solar energy and feed it into the grid when required.

This project could present as a demonstration project as there is the opportunity for the project to be replicated in other edge of grid locations.

This is an opportunity for Western Australia to be at the forefront of this technology. There is interest from universities in utilising the facility to provide practical experience to sustainability students. On a local level it is hoped that the site will provide surety to current and future residents and businesses in relation to power supply and will align with the Shire's aspiration to be a centre for education and research.

The North Midlands Solar Thermal Power Project involves engineering the combination of four systems - heat collection, heat storage and power generation and network connection to improve power reliability in the Morawa region.

The project includes:-

- 3MW steam turbine generator
- 15 modules each comprising of Solar tower with VirtualSolar™ energy storage unit, 96 heliostats (mirrors with sun tracking)
- Air cooled cooling tower, steam circuit, 2 x 200,000 litre rain water tanks
- Transformer, control system and large shed to house turbine and control systems
- 15ha site
- Generate approximately 5800MW hours per year

The project will deliver major improvements in power reliability to the region, and a financial return to the community. By doing so, Morawa's status as a "Super Town" and its ability to develop as a regional hub for essential services will be significantly underpinned, leveraging and enhancing the infrastructure initiatives that the Shire has already achieved.

The North Midlands Solar Thermal Power Project has been identified as a high priority in the Shire of Morawa SuperTown Growth Plan as an important project to produce a reliable electrical supply, provide technologically driven employment opportunities and attract business, residential and industrial growth to Morawa and the Mid West region.

The project has strong linkages to all other major SuperTown projects as a key supplier of electricity to the Morawa Town site, assisting future development, expansion and economic growth.

Options and recommendation

Options that have been investigated as part of the development of the business case include assessment of:-

1. North Midlands Solar Thermal Power Project

2. Establishing a new substation
3. Replacing the existing feeder

Western Power advised that establishment of a new substation and replacement of the existing feeder fall outside of what is considered to be economically feasible by the Economic Regulatory Authority (ERA) under the New Facilities Investment Test. Western Power as such, is not in a position to do more than resolve the problems as they continue to occur.

The North Midlands Solar Thermal Power Project involves the establishment of new power infrastructure that incorporates collaborative funding from the private sector, development of cutting edge technology in a regional centre and the opportunity for employment, training and economic development opportunities as Morawa diversifies its economic base.

Outcomes

The North Eastern Agricultural Region has been adversely impacted by recent drought conditions, highlighting the risks of economic reliance on agriculture. The ability to diversify economic drivers is considered significant for the future viability of these communities. The delivery of this project will be a major contributor to the key strategic outcome of making these communities sustainable and attractive to new workers, residents and small businesses.

The project will facilitate timely expansion of Morawa as the community grows in conjunction with new mining developments. For Morawa to expand, a new reliable electricity source is required to enable new land and housing developments to occur. This is particularly important with Morawa being identified as a Super Town.

A low risk project management model is being developed to ensure the ability to manage the Shire of Morawa interests in relation to this project. Project delivery will be based on lump sum turnkey contract using the Engineering, Procurement and Construction model.

Expected funding sources include:-

- Royalty for Regions SuperTown Development fund
- Country Local Government Fund (CLGF) Regional Component
- Royalty for Regions Mid West Investment Plan
- Private Sector investment
- Shire of Morawa

Further benefits include:-

- Renewable energy supply, reduction in carbon emissions, assists the State to meet renewable energy targets from the regions

- Compliments Shire's achievements in education, health, small business, telecommunications, water supplies & land development
- Positions the community to expand and develop to reach its full potential through jobs and as a local tourist landmark for the area
- Employment, training and economic development opportunities as Morawa diversifies its economic base from one solely reliant on agriculture to one that also includes major new mining investment / opportunities. These opportunities will be available both during the construction and operational phases of the project.
- This project, although not core business of the Shire, will deliver significant community benefit both in terms of improved services and through an investment return from profits generated that will enable funding of future community projects.
- Private sector investment has been confirmed and there is the opportunity to develop a world class facility that will provide essential power services and attract international interest into the region.
- First renewable Fringe of Grid solution for the South West Interconnected System (SWIS) with capacity to act as a pilot for other communities across the Wheatbelt.

Cost Benefit Analysis

The Business Case and cost/benefit analysis confirms that there is a valid basis for the establishment of the North Midlands Solar Thermal Power Project. The project accords with the Morawa Growth Plan, SuperTown Development Fund Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria and Regional strategies.

This is the only power solution that delivers and addresses much needed improvements in the quantity and quality of power to Morawa and surrounding fringe of grid communities, and at the same time return a sustainable dividend to the community. It is also the most cost effective option in terms of State Government investment into improving power supply into these communities. Options 2 and 3 fail consideration as Western Power is unable to access capital funding as both proposals fall outside of existing State Government New Facilities Investment Test (NFIT) commercial tests as required by the ERA.



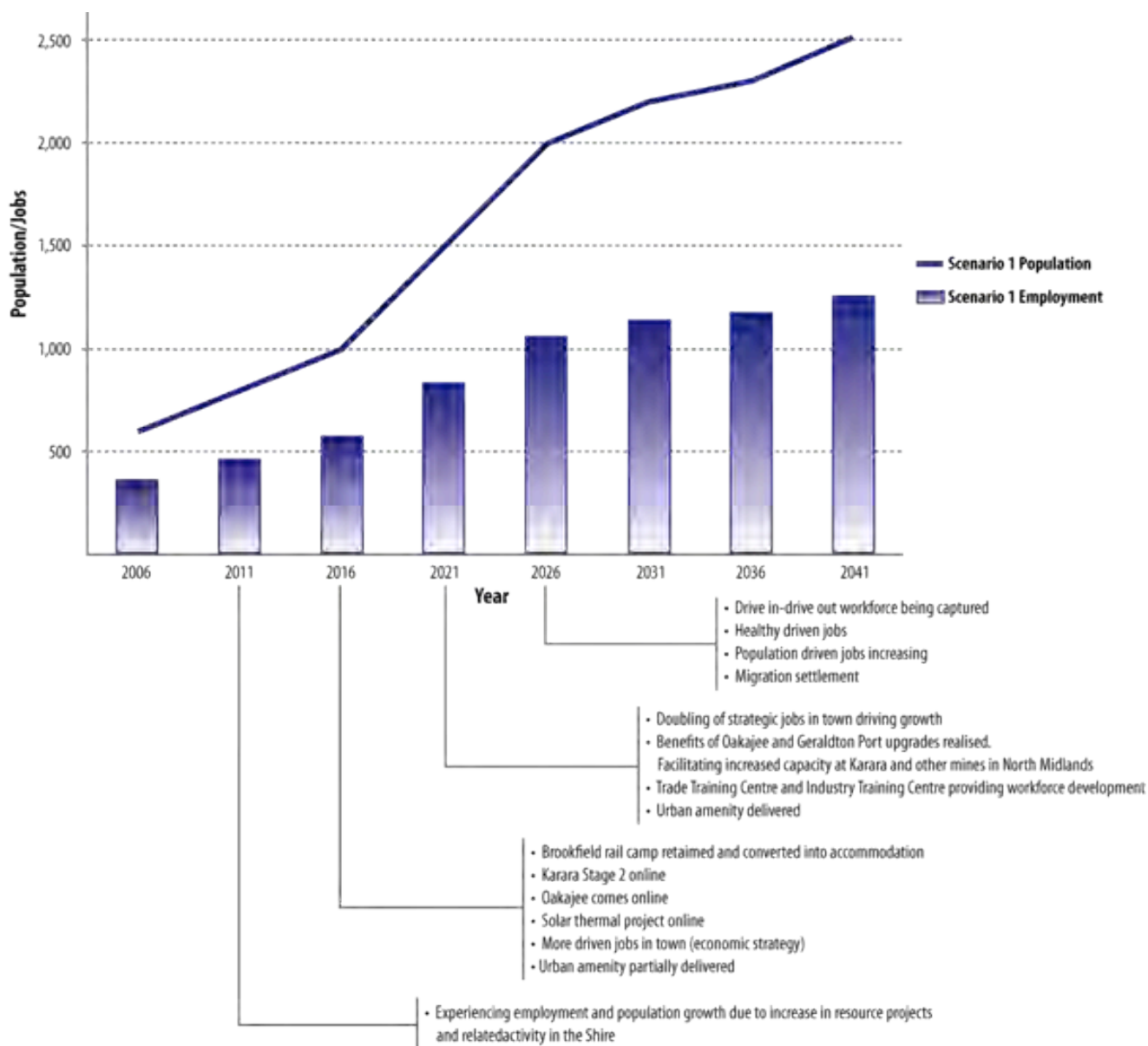
Above: Location of proposed Solar Thermal Power Station

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview

A Growth and Implementation plan has recently been completed for the Shire of Morawa. This plan seeks to cater for population growth over the next thirty years by identifying key projects and strategies to reach the aspirational target of 2000 people. The key drivers for the Shire have been identified as Agriculture, Mining and Education.

The following graph indicates the known projects that will trigger growth over the next fifteen years. This does not take into consideration the projects that have not yet been committed to and should additional drivers come 'online' additional growth would be likely.



The Shire have been given the opportunity to put forward four business cases that will seek to build on the key drivers and deliver growth to the town. As part of the selection process the Shire utilised a prioritisation tool to determine which projects would be put forward for the initial round of SuperTowns funding. Approximately 100 projects were initially identified. As a result of the prioritisation matrix the top four projects were determined and subsequently endorsed by the Shire of Morawa on 7th February 2012.

The top four projects (in order of priority) are:-

1. Morawa Industry Training Centre
2. Brookfield Rail Camp Project
3. Townsite Revitalisation Project
4. North Midlands Solar Thermal Power Project

This business case is for the \$4.2 Million Morawa Townsite Revitalisation Project.

In order to further attract and retain investment and growth to Morawa the Shire are seeking to undertake a revitalisation of the town centre and divert freight traffic from the heart of the townsite.

The project will be a visible improvement to the town which will have flow on benefits to Morawa as a whole with respect to overall amenity and liveability, civic function, attracting business investment, tourists and visitors. Attracting additional investment in Morawa will also have flow on benefits for the region.

The Morawa Revitalisation project will deliver major improvements in the short term to the town, creating an impetus for further investment and development of retail, commercial, office, entertainment and community activities in the town centre.

The Town Revitalisation Project has been identified as a high priority in the Shire of Morawa SuperTown Growth and Implementation Plan (2012) due to the revitalisation of the identity, function and flow on impacts to Morawa and the region. The revitalisation of the town centre is expected to leverage further investment from the private sector including existing and future businesses on the main street and the attraction of new residents and investors to town.

The Shire of Morawa is seeking \$3,000,000 in SuperTown Development Project funding to plan and initiate the development of the Morawa Town Revitalisation Project. The total project is anticipated to include the following five stages:-

1. Creation of the Civic Square and Pedestrian Crossing
2. Construction of the Parallel Freight Alignment
3. Upgrade of Central portion of Winfield Street
4. Upgrade remaining extent of Winfield Street
5. Prater Street Streetscaping Works

It is anticipated that stages one and two will initially be undertaken utilising SuperTowns funding. Additional funding is also being sought via the Mid West Investment Plan to assist in some of the critical infrastructure works associated with this project including drainage and the undergrounding of power. \$1M was committed from the Mid West Development Commission Board on Friday 24th February 2012. Further funding will be requested in future rounds to complete stages three to five.

Options and Recommendation

The recommendations below are the result of extensive detailed assessment and public consultation undertaken by the Morawa SuperTown Growth Team and Reference Group as part of their preparation of the Morawa SuperTown Growth Plan.

The Morawa Townsite Revitalisation Project incorporates a staged approach to implementation of the project, including:-

Stage 1 – Creation of the Civic Square and Pedestrian Crossing

- Detailed design planning, and:-
 - Design and construction of a landmark civic sculptural element
 - Design and construction of art elements
 - Design and construction of terraced seating
 - Design and construction of amphitheatre space
 - Design and completion of landscaped planting (including shade bearing trees) in civic square area
 - Design and construction of children play facilities
 - Design and construction of paving and street furniture within Civic Square area
 - Design and construction of Water feature
 - Design and construction of upgraded pedestrian rail crossing
 - Design and construction of pedestrian rail crossing entry feature
 - Undertake servicing upgrades (underground power, reticulated water services and drainage)

Stage 2 – Construction of the parallel freight alignment

- Detailed design planning and approval of a new dual carriageway freight road
- Detailed design planning and approval of truck parking bays
- Detailed design planning and approval of service infrastructure
- Construction of dual carriageway freight road, truck parking bays and service infrastructure
- Landscaping and signage design and construction

Stage 3 – Upgrade of Central portion of Winfield Street

- Detailed design planning and approval of Winfield Street / Prater Street streetscaping works (Complete area - Stage 3, 4 & 5)
- Construction of reduced width carriageways along Winfield Street (Complete area -Stage 3 & 4)
- Design and completion of landscaped planting (including shade bearing trees)
- Design and construction of pedestrian crossing zone
- Design and completion of streetscape revitalisation (installation of paving and street furniture)
- Undertake servicing upgrades (Underground power, reticulated water services and drainage)

Stage 4 – Upgrade remaining extent of Winfield Street

- Design and completion of landscaped planting (including shade bearing trees)
- Design and completion of streetscape revitalisation (installation of paving and street furniture)
- Undertake servicing upgrades (Underground power, reticulated water services and drainage)

Stage 5 – Prater Street Streetscaping Works

- Construction of road intersection and carriageway modifications along Prater Street
- Design and completion of landscaped planting (including shade bearing trees)
- Design and completion of streetscape revitalisation (installation of paving and street furniture)
- Undertake servicing upgrades (Underground power, reticulated water services and drainage)

The Morawa Townsite Revitalisation project is considered a high priority project for SuperTown funding. It will resolve traffic conflict, with the parallel freight alignment road redirecting heavy vehicles and in turn freeing up Winfield Street to become a more pedestrianised space. The streetscape and landscaping works will renew the Morawa Central area, making it a safe and inviting commercial and community precinct. The amenity of the townsite will be greatly enhanced for residents, businesses and tourists. It is expected that the increased amenity will attract further investment and residents to the town.



Outcomes

Key outcomes identified from the implementation of the project include:-

- The project is a transformative project, in that it will enable many other new projects
- It will assist in achieving the population milestones as a result of providing substantial new opportunities for commercial and community development
- Address safety issues associated with truck, local vehicle and pedestrian movement
- Increase the regional profile of Morawa as a commercial and social hub
- It can be implemented in the short term
- Can be progressively staged as funding becomes available
- Visible improvement to the town
- Flow on benefits to the town as a whole with respect to overall amenity and liveability, civic function, attracting business investment, tourists and visitors
- Attracting additional commercial investment in Morawa
- New civic space and access across the freight rail, will contribute to community building and diversity
- The project will have long term 'post boom' benefits for the town

Cost/Benefit Analysis

The Business Case and cost/benefit analysis confirms that there is a valid basis for the initiation of the Morawa Town Revitalisation Project. The project has been identified as having a very high priority under the Morawa SuperTown Growth Plan. The project conforms to the SuperTown Development Fund Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria.



Mount Gibson Mining Limited

ABN 32 074 575 885

Ground Floor
7 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH 6005
Western Australia

PO Box 82
Perenjori WA 6620
Western Australia

Extension Hill Hematite Operations

18 March 2012

Telephone: 61-8-6314 0215
Facsimile: 61-8-6270-5417
E-mail: eh.admin@mtgibsoniron.com.au

Attn: Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Yalgoo
37 Gibbons Street
YALGOO WA 6635

Dear Sharon

Total Haulage for January 2012

During the Month of January a total of 129,576t of lump ore and 69,689t of fines ore was transported by road train to the Rail Siding via Wanara Road.

Yours sincerely
MOUNT GIBSON MINING LIMITED



George Hewitt
General Manager



Extension Hill Hematite Operations

18 March 2012

Attn: Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Yalgoo
37 Gibbons Street
YALGOO WA 6635

Dear Sharon

Total Haulage for February 2012

During the Month of February a total of 141,106t of lump ore and 95,665t of fines ore was transported by road train to the Rail Siding via Wanara Road.

Yours sincerely
MOUNT GIBSON MINING LIMITED



George Hewitt
General Manager

Mount Gibson Mining Limited

ABN 32 074 575 885

Ground Floor
7 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH 6005
Western Australia

PO Box 82
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Telephone: 61-8-6314 0215
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Vincent Catania MLA

Member for North West

Date received 12/3/12

Council Meeting	File Ref:
CLOSED	SHIRE
PUBLIC	IFC
11.1. 08	11.1. Finance
11.2. 08	11.2. Summary
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEO	TEAPPA
DCEO	
Proj Exec	President
EHO	Councillors

Sharon Daishe
CEO
Shire of Yalgoo
37 Gibbons Street
Yalgoo WA 6635

Dear Sharon

I would like to thank you, your staff and councillors for the hospitality demonstrated during my recent visit to Yalgoo.

Congratulations on the Royalties for Regions projects undertaken by the Shire, I was very impressed with the great progress.

As a result of my visit I will be progressing the following issues on behalf of the community:

- GROW Housing
- Sewage System water quality
- Town centre revitalisation
- Mining camp in town
- Speed limit on the high way to be reduced to 60 kph

I look forward to holding a mobile office in Yalgoo in April and attending the Yalgoo Cup.

In the meantime if you have any further queries or if I can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Vincent Catania MLA
Member for North West
3 March 2012

northwest@mp.wa.gov.au www.vincentcatania.com.au
Shop 14 Carnarvon Central Carnarvon WA 6701 PO Box 1000 Carnarvon WA 6701
ph 08 9941 2999 fax 08 9941 2666 freecall 1800 627 668
Shop 32 Karratha Village Karratha WA 6714 PO Box 1640 Karratha WA 6714
ph 08 9144 4113 fax 08 9144 4115 freecall 1800 199 347



Date received 12/3/12	
Council Meeting	File Ref:
CLOSED	SIDE
PUBLIC	INFO <i>Per</i> ①
11.1. Works	11.3. Finance
11.2. Dev	11.4. Admin
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CEO	EA/PA
DCEO	President
EHO	Councillors

Issue No. 10.12

12 March 2012

Please copy and distribute to interested readers

HEADLINES

- ◀ CONTAINER DEPOSIT SYSTEM POLICY FORUM – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
- ◀ WA TRANSPORT AND ROADS FORUM 2012 – REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN
- ◀ DRAFT RIVER PROTECTION STRATEGY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
- ◀ ADAPTION PLANNING POLICY GUIDELINE – OUT FOR COMMENT
- ◀ COUNCILSONLINE IS GOING LIVE
- ◀ WALGA INTEGRATED BILL PAY SOLUTION

- ◀ STATUS OF COASTAL PLANNING (BIENNIAL AUDIT) – REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
- ◀ CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WELLBEING REPORT RELEASED

MAILBAG

- ◀ INFOPAGE: COUNTRY LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND
- ◀ WA TRANSPORT AND ROADS FORUM REGISTRATION FORM
- ◀ TRAINING SOLUTION – ELECTED MEMBER PROGRAM
- ◀ ARTCRAFT MARCH SPECIALS

ISSUES UPDATE

CONTAINER DEPOSIT SYSTEM POLICY FORUM – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

A long held policy position of the Association is for the development and implementation of a Container Deposit System (CDS) for Western Australia. With the recent release of the State Waste Strategy, the Association President is establishing a Container Deposit System Policy Forum for interested members to discuss and formulate a Local Government advocacy strategy to the State Government for the introduction of a CDS. Expressions of interest are therefore sought from Elected Members to participate in this Policy Forum. If you are interested in participating, please send a brief statement outlining your waste management and resource recovery interest and experience to Manager Waste and Recycling, Rebecca Brown via email to rbrown@walga.asn.au by 5pm Friday, 23 March.

For further information please contact Manager Waste and Recycling, Rebecca Brown on 9213 2063 or email rbrown@walga.asn.au

WA TRANSPORT AND ROADS FORUM 2012 – REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN

The Western Australian Local Government Association, in partnership with Main Roads WA, will be hosting the annual Transport and Roads Forum on Friday, 4 May at the Burswood Entertainment Complex.

The theme for the 2012 forum will be *Smart Investment for the Road Ahead*.

There will be opportunities to hear from and put questions to the Minister for Transport and Shadow Minister for Transport as well as the Managing Director of Main Roads WA and Director General of the Department of Transport. Getting the best possible outcomes from road investments through pavement management systems and sustainable funding for heavy vehicle routes will be explored in presentations and panel sessions.

Elected Councillors and senior officers with responsibilities for roads and transport are strongly encouraged to attend. There is no fee for Local Government representatives but registration is required. Please find the registration form in this week's mailbag; alternatively it is available from the WALGA website www.walga.asn.au

To register for this event please complete the registration form and return to Ulrike Wolter at uwolter@walga.asn.au.

For further information, please contact Policy Manager Transport and Roads, Mark Bondiotti on 9213 2040 or email mbondiotti@walga.asn.au

DRAFT RIVER PROTECTION STRATEGY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The Swan River Trust has recently announced that public comment is being sought on their Draft River Protection Strategy. The Strategy is a blueprint for managing the Swan Canning Riverpark during the next 50 years and describes the responsibilities that more than 20 State Government agencies and 21 Local Governments have to protect the Swan and Canning Rivers. The Association would like to encourage Local Governments to read the Strategy and develop a submission highlighting their general feedback and/or particular concerns. A copy of the Draft Strategy is available at <http://www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au/trust/strategy/Content/Home.aspx>.

Once submissions are completed, the Association would ask that Local Governments send a copy of their submission through to the Association before Friday, 23 March. This will ensure that all comments and feedback from each Local Government can be considered and included within the Association's submission.

For more information, please contact Environment Policy Officer, Caroline Perks on 9213 2049 or email cperks@walga.asn.au

ADAPTATION PLANNING POLICY GUIDELINE – OUT FOR COMMENT

The Western Australian Local Government Association is developing a resource package which aims to assist Elected Members, Local Government planners and other senior officers to access relevant resources, recommendations, policy guidance, template policy frameworks and information in relation to climate change adaptation. The full resource package will be available from the WALGA Climate Change Management Toolkit (www.walgaclimatechange.com.au) shortly, however the Association is running a brief final consultation period on the Adaptation Planning Policy Guideline, developed by WALGA as a joint initiative with Essential Environmental, the Department of Planning and The Department of Environment and Conservation, amongst other relevant stakeholders.

The Association requests feedback on the guideline by Friday, **30 March**. Please find the draft Adaptation Planning Policy Guideline and related information here: <http://www.walgaclimatechange.com.au/AnnouncementRetrieve.aspx?ID=62320>

For more information, please contact Climate Change Coordinator, Melanie Bainbridge on 9213 2039 or email mbainbridge@walga.asn.au

COUNCILSONLINE IS GOING LIVE

After more than two years in development, *CouncilsOnline* will be launched in the next few months.

CouncilsOnline is a centralised and integrated online portal developed to support and streamline Local Government business. It delivers value and efficiency to Local Government customers using an online application and approval system. By providing a single online access point for applicants (24 hours a day, seven days a week), *CouncilsOnline* will significantly improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Local Government approval processes.

The first release will focus on delivering an effective and efficient solution for the electronic preparation, lodgement, processing, tracking and reporting of Planning and Building Applications.

Information about *CouncilsOnline* has been sent out to Members this week. Interested CEOs are invited to attend a demonstration briefing at the City of Vincent on Monday, **26 March**, 11.30am to 1.30pm. Lunch will be provided as part of the briefing.

If you would like to attend the demonstration briefing, please RSVP your attendance to Rachel Hawkins on 9213 2035 or by email at rhawkins@walga.asn.au

If your Local Government is interested in finding out more about CouncilsOnline or would like a demonstration at your Council office, please contact Nick Wood on 9213 2020 or by email at nwood@walga.asn.au

WALGA INTEGRATED BILL PAY SOLUTION

WALGA has finalised a new Bill Payment Preferred Supplier Agreement for Local Governments with an exclusive offer from Australia Post, available for use for the 2012 rates round.

The new contract provides for Internet, IVR, Over the Counter, Direct Debit and Smart Phone transactions through Australia Post at whole of sector aggregated supply rates which provide significant discounts to WALGA Members over previous arrangements.

To facilitate the best value outcome, the offer is complemented by facilitated access to a market preferential merchant services rate from the Commonwealth Bank, and access to the Inbound Call services of Telstra for the operation of a 1300 number through the WALGA Telecommunications Contract for IVR Transactions. The Bill Payment services support SecurePay Internet & Phone transactions for all payment types including rates, infringements, commercial debtors and license fees. An information package has been sent out this week.

The rates negotiated can also be provided under commercial in confidence cover to WALGA Members, accompanied by a Contract Registration form, by contacting Emma Gillespie, Contracts Manager on egillespie@walga.asn.au

STATUS OF COASTAL PLANNING (BIENNIAL AUDIT) – REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The Department of Planning is conducting a biennial audit on behalf of the WA Planning Commission on the status of coastal planning in WA.

Coastal Local Governments have been sent audit spread sheets to complete, to provide an update on the existing plans that exist, as well as any new coastal planning tasks that will be undertaken.

The Department of Planning has advised that the current deadline for comments has been extended to Tuesday, **20 March** to assist Local Governments in returning the audit information.


Further information on the audit can be obtained from Sharon Haseldine at the Department of Planning at sharon.haseldine@planning.wa.gov.au.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WELLBEING REPORT RELEASED

The Commissioner for Children and Young People, Ms Michelle Scott, has tabled two major reports in Parliament. The *State of Western Australia's Children and Young People*, containing information on 33 domains of wellbeing, and *Building Blocks - Best practice programs that improve the wellbeing of children and young people*, which draws together 82 successful programs from around Australia. The reports complete the *Wellbeing Monitoring Framework* and will continue to provide updated annual reports.

The Commissioner continues to promote the need to invest more in early childhood, immunisation and Aboriginal children, in particular, to address gaps in service provision, with the reports providing a valuable resource for State and Local Governments, and other stakeholders around identifying challenges and opportunities to work with successful programs.

A number of information sessions are also scheduled later this month. For further information please visit www.ccyp.wa.gov.au



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11.1. Works	11.3. Finance
11.2. Dev	11.4. Admin
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEO	E/PA
<input type="checkbox"/> DCEO	
Proj Exec	President
EHO	Councillors

Issue No. 11.12

19 March 2012

Please copy and distribute to interested readers

HEADLINES

- ◀ Do YOU SUPPORT THE INTRODUCTION OF A CONTAINER DEPOSIT SYSTEM IN WA?
- ◀ DRAFT WA BICYCLE NETWORK PLAN (2012 – 2021)
- ◀ 2012 BANNERS IN THE TERRACE FINAL REMINDER
- ◀ WALGA INTEGRATED BILL PAY SOLUTION – IMPORTANT UPDATE
- ◀ OFFICER TRAINING
- ◀ STATE UNDERGROUND POWER PROGRAM: CONSULTATION WORKSHOP
- ◀ ALGWA NATIONAL CONFERENCE 8- 10 NOVEMBER

- ◀ MEETING PROCEDURE AND DEBATING FOR ELECTED MEMBERS

MAILBAG

- ◀ INFOPAGE: STREET LIGHT INVOICING
- ◀ INFOPAGE: STATE WASTE STRATEGY
- ◀ INFOPAGE: ROLE AND EXPECTATIONS OF RURAL-REMOTE AND INDIGENOUS LOCAL GOVERNMENT
- ◀ ACTIVE LIVING 101 – INFORMATION SESSION FLYER
- ◀ INFOPAGE: SAFE SYSTEM GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESOURCE

ISSUES UPDATE

DO YOU SUPPORT THE INTRODUCTION OF A CONTAINER DEPOSIT SYSTEM IN WA?

The COAG Standing Council on Environment and Water has released the Packaging Impacts Consultation Regulation Impact Statement, looking at finding a national solution to reducing packaging waste.

The introduction of a Container Deposit System (CDS) is one option under consideration. MWAC, on behalf of WALGA, has developed a draft submission and is interested in receiving feedback from the Local Government sector.

For further information please visit <http://www.wastenet.net.au/issues/Legislation/cds/index.html>. Comments close 5pm Friday, 23 March 2012.

The Association President is also establishing a Container Deposit System Policy Forum for interested Members to discuss and formulate a Local Government advocacy strategy to Government for the introduction of a CDS. Expressions of interest are sought from Elected Members to participate in this Policy Forum.

If you are interested in participating, please send a brief statement outlining your waste management and resource recovery interest and experience to Manager Waste and Recycling, Rebecca Brown via email to rbrown@walga.asn.au by 5pm Friday, 23 March.

For further information, please contact Waste Policy Coordinator, Erin Fuery on 9213 2086 or email efuery@walga.asn.au

DRAFT WA BICYCLE NETWORK PLAN (2012 – 2021)

The draft WA Bicycle Network Plan was released on 13 March and is open for public consultation until Sunday, 17 June.

This is the first major review of the cycling network and associated infrastructure since 1996,

and also includes cycling needs in regional areas. The Plan is available at: <http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/activetransport/25673.asp#25675>.

It is intended that the Association will develop a response to the draft plan based on consultation with Local Governments. Local Governments are encouraged to respond to the Department of Transport during the consultation period and provide the Association with copies of submissions prior to Monday, 28 May.

For further information please contact Executive Manager Infrastructure, Ian Duncan on 9213 2031 or email iduncan@walga.asn.au

2012 BANNERS IN THE TERRACE COMPETITION FINAL REMINDER

This is the Final Call for Entries for the 2012 Banners in the Terrace Competition.

Now is the time to start planning your Local Government's banner by contacting your local schools, art groups and/or community groups to design and paint your banner.

Please note the deadline for reservations is Friday, 30 March, unless all reserved before.

Banners pole sites are strictly limited but WALGA will endeavour to accommodate all entries.

To download the 2012 brochure and registration form, please log into the Members' section of the WALGA website at www.walga.asn.au

For further information please contact Public Relations Assistant, Portia Jones on 9213 2085 or email pjones@walga.asn.au

WALGA INTEGRATED BILL PAY SOLUTION – IMPORTANT UPDATE

Last week, WALGA advised on a new Bill Payment Preferred Supplier Agreement for Local Governments that provides a complete solution

for all bill payment - Internet, Telephone (IVR), Over the Counter, Direct Debit and Smart Phone transactions. The exclusive provider for this new Contract is **Australia Post**, which delivers significant discounts and a wide range of efficiency benefits to WALGA Members over previous bill payment arrangements. This week, we have managed to negotiate a better deal for Local Governments on the merchant fees for IVR and Internet bill payment transactions. The new all-inclusive merchant fee (0.451% including GST) has been negotiated with ANZ Bank. Access to the merchant fee is exclusive to Members that register for the WALGA Bill Payment Contract. The negotiation of this rate, in addition to the negotiated rates with Australia Post, is an outstanding outcome for Local Government and will significantly reduce bill payment costs. An information package was emailed out last week, and an updated version incorporating the new merchant fee is being mailed out to Members today. You can also access information on the new Bill Payment Contract from the products and services section of the WALGA website.

Full details can be obtained under commercial in confidence cover, accompanied by the Contract Registration form, by contacting Contracts Manager, Emma Gillespie on email egillespie@walga.asn.au

OFFICER TRAINING

Introduction to the Local Government Finance

Introduction to Local Government Finance for Officers is designed to improve participants understanding and knowledge of financial instruments, standards and processes undertaken by Local Government. The course will also allow the participants to understand how the roles and responsibilities of the various team members interact.

Date: Tuesday, 3 April

Time: 9:00am – 4:30pm

Venue: WALGA Boardroom

Cost: \$395 (plus GST)

Introduction to the Local Government Act

Introduction to the Local Government Act aims to enhance the ability of participants to effectively contribute their own knowledge and expertise to the Local Government industry. The course will assist Managers and Officers to ensure that they comply with their role as professional advisers under the Local Government Act and familiarises participants with the content of the Local Government Act and its objectives.

Date: Wednesday, 4 April

Time: 9:00am – 4:30pm

Venue: WALGA Boardroom

Cost: \$395 (plus GST)

Course flyers can be downloaded at www.workplacesolutions.asn.au.

For further information please contact the training team at training@walga.asn.au to secure your place

STATE UNDERGROUND POWER PROGRAM: CONSULTATION WORKSHOP

The current round of the State Underground Power Program (Program) is expected to be completed in 2014. To maintain continuity, guidelines for the next

round of Major Residential Projects are expected to be released later this year, along with a call for expressions of interest from Local Governments.

In preparation, the Office of Energy is undertaking a review in order to provide recommendations to the Government on how the Program can be improved.

It is crucial that Local Governments are involved in the development of the guidelines for future rounds of this Program.

A workshop to enable Local Governments Elected Members and officers to consider the draft guidelines and discuss ways of improving the Program is planned.

When: Tuesday, 3 April

- 11:00 – 12:30pm Strategic Framework for the State Underground Power Program
- 1:15 – 3:00pm Streamlining administration and management of the Program

(Lunch will be provided)

Venue: The Boulevard Centre, 99 The Boulevard, Floreat

For further information and to RSVP please contact Jonathan Utting at the Office of Energy on 9420 5751 or jonathan.utting@energy.wa.gov.au

ALGWA NATIONAL CONFERENCE 8-10 NOVEMBER

The City of Ipswich is proud to be hosting the 2012 Australian Local Government Women's Association Biennial Conference from 8 – 10 November and the theme is *The Future of Local Government: Resilience, Resolve and Relationships - New Age 3Rs*.

Ipswich, Queensland's oldest provincial city is an alluring blend of heritage charm, metropolitan sophistication and expansive green spaces.

Ipswich combines rich heritage with the energy of being the hub of today's growth region in South East Queensland.

The Conference Organising Committee is putting together a great program of speakers and events so put the conference dates (8 – 10 November 2012) in your diaries and stay tuned for more updates.

For further information please visit the ALGWA website <http://www.algwa.net.au>

MEETING PROCEDURES AND DEBATING FOR ELECTED MEMBERS

Venue: The Shire of Capel

Date: Monday, 30 April

Time: 9:00am—4:30pm

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.

To register for this training please contact Alison Evans at the Shire of Capel on 9727 0258.



Date received 21/3/12

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

15 March 2012

Our Ref: 01-006-04-0001 JD

Ms Sharon Daishe
 Chief Executive Officer
 Shire of Yalgoo
 (DX 69551) PO Box 40
 YALGOO WA 6635

Dear Sharon

2012 ASSOCIATION HONOURS

Nominations for the 2012 WA Local Government Association Honours program opens today, 15 March 2012 and closes Friday 25 May 2012. Member Local Governments and State Councillors are invited to submit nominations.

The Honours program is a significant public recognition and celebration of the outstanding achievements and lasting contributions made by Elected Members and Officers to their respective Councils, to Local Government as a sector and to the wider community. Awards given as part of the Honours program will be presented to recipients at an awards ceremony held during the 2012 Local Government Convention at the Perth Convention Centre.

WALGA recognises recipients of Awards by celebrating their achievements with their peers at the Local Government Convention in August and in producing a colour brochure which lists the award and achievements of each recipient. The Brochure is distributed widely throughout Local Government in Western Australia. A copy of the 2011 Honours brochure is attached for your reference and as an indication of the type of information required from Local Governments for each candidate nominated.

The five categories of awards within the 2012 Honours program are as follows:

- **Local Government Medal** – recognises outstanding achievement and significant contribution by elected members and officers to the Association and/or to Local Government. *Available for nomination by State Councillors.*
- **Life Membership** – recognises the long and outstanding service of Elected Members and officers to the Association and/or to Local Government. *Available for nomination by State Councillors and Local Governments.*

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 Website: www.walga.asn.au



- **Eminent Service Award** (previously Certificate of Appreciation) – recognises personal commitment, eminent service and contribution to Local Government or the Association. *Available for nomination by State Councillors and Local Government.*
- **Long and Loyal Service Award** – this Honour recognises elected members who have provided long service of a high degree as an executive member of the Association for 8 or more years, or as an elected member for 12 or more years. *Available for nomination by State Councillors and Local Governments.*
- **Merit Award** (previously Distinguished Service Award) – recognises elected members who have provided distinguished service to the community through their Local Government. *Available for nomination by State Councillors and Local Governments.*

Please note:

Nominations by Member Local Governments require the support of the nominator (who must be an Elected Member) plus two other Elected Members and the nomination must be forwarded through the Chief Executive Officer of the Local Government for sign-off prior to submission to the Association.

Enclosed is a **Nominations Pack**, which includes the Policy governing the Honours process and a 2012 nomination form that must be used in making nominations.

Nominations for the 2012 Honours program will close at **5pm on Friday, 25 May 2012**. As in previous years, no late nominations will be accepted.

Additional nomination forms can be obtained by visiting the WALGA Website by using the link <http://www.walga.asn.au> and following the prompts.

Queries should be directed to Janet Done, Executive Officer Governance and Strategy on (08) 9213 2013 or by e-mail at jdone@walga.asn.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ricky Burges'.

Ricky Burges
Chief Executive Officer

Enclosures:

- 2012 Nomination Form
- 2012 Honours Policy and Terms of Reference
- Honours Brochure 2011

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WALGA

Date received 7/3/12	
Council Meeting	File Ref:
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11.1. Works	11.3. Finance
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CEO	From:
DCEO	
Proj Exec	Date:
EHO	Councillors

To: Chief Executive Officer

Organisation: All Councils

Reference:

Subject: TV's and Computers Product Stewardship Scheme –
Potential Impact on Local Government e-Waste Collection

Erin Fuery, Waste Policy Coordinator

01 March 2012

Priority: MEDIUM

IN BRIEF

Operational Area:	CEO, Waste Management
Key Issues:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme has been established and is scheduled to roll out across Australia from 2012. MWAC is proposing to negotiate on behalf of interested Local Government to secure the best outcome for Local Governments who are willing to provide collection services. MWAC is interested in receiving feedback from Local Government.
Action Required:	Comments due by COB Friday 16 March 2012.

TV's and Computer Recycling Scheme Update

The National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme is a co-regulatory Scheme established by the *Product Stewardship (Televisions and Computers) Regulations 2011* (the Regulations). The Regulations were made under the *Product Stewardship Act 2011* (the Act), which commenced on 8 August 2011.

Under the Scheme, householders and small business will be able to drop-off waste televisions, computers, printers and computer products for free at designated access points, which may include permanent collection sites, take-back events or through a mail-back option. Collection services under the Scheme will be progressively rolled out by industry from 2012, expanding across metropolitan, regional and remote areas of Australia by the end of 2013.

The Regulations identify importers of televisions, computers, printers and computer products and domestic manufacturers of televisions, printers and computer products as liable parties. Liability in a given financial year is determined by the number of products imported or manufactured in the previous financial year. The Act requires that all liable parties must join an approved co-regulatory arrangement. A co-regulatory arrangement under the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme is an arrangement that is designed to achieve outcomes, specified in the Regulations, on behalf of the liable parties. The outcomes include providing reasonable access to collection services across Australia by December 2013, meeting annual recycling targets and meeting material recovery targets. Visit <http://www.environment.gov.au/settlements/waste/ewaste/index.html> for further information.

Co-Regulatory Arrangements

Local Governments in WA are providing a range of services in relation to the collection and recycling of TV's and Computers and are therefore well placed to work with an Arrangement (or Arrangements) to assist in the delivery of the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme. MWAC, on behalf of WALGA, is proposing to negotiate with the Arrangements on behalf of interested Local Governments in WA to secure the best outcome for Local Governments who are willing to provide collection services. It is expected that other collection points will be in operation, not just those run by Local Government. Outcomes to be negotiated will include funding assistance for participating Local Governments, for services such as:

- Complete cost of recycling TV's and Computers (including transport costs) from permanent facilities;
- Service fee; and
- Funding for upgrades of facilities.

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Website www.walga.asn.au

For Further information please contact
Erin Fuery, 9213 2086, efuery@walga.asn.au

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MWAC has contacted the proposed Arrangements with a number of questions aimed to ascertain the role Local Government can play in regard to collecting e-waste, and how the costs associated will be reimbursed. At this stage, MWAC has not received feedback from the Arrangements which are due to be accredited in the coming months.

Expression of Interest

MWAC is intent on hearing from Local Governments who may be interested in participating in the Scheme. Participation is not mandatory. In particular, is your Local Government:

- Interested in running temporary collection days for your community?
- Interested in developing and operating permanent collection facilities in the future?
- Currently operating a permanent collection facility?
- Currently collecting TV's and computers (for example, through kerbside collection)?
- Have any concerns about how collections are currently run?

The feedback received will be used to guide negotiation with the Arrangements.

Please send your comments through to Waste Policy Coordinator, Erin Fuery at efuery@walga.asn.au by COB Friday 16 March 2012.

For further information, visit the WasteNet Website (<http://www.wastenet.net.au/issues/materialtype/ewaste/tvandcompu>).

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WALGA

To: **Chief Executive Officer** From: **Ruth Wernham,
Safe System Coordinator**

Organisation: **All Councils** Date: **1 March 2011**

Reference: **06-049-01-0003**

Subject: **Safe System Guiding Principles for Local Government Resource** Priority:

Site received 21/3/12

Council Meeting	Low
CLOSED	SIDE
PUBLIC	INFO
11.1. Works	11.3. Finance
11.2. Dev	11.4. Admin
COPY TO or CIRCULATE:	EAIPA
CEC	DCEO
Proj Exec	President
EHO	Councillors

IN BRIEF

Operational Area:	Community Development, Community and Road Safety, Technical and Engineering Services
Key Issues:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A set of Local Government specific guiding principles have been developed to assist Local Governments in understanding and adopting the Safe System approach to road safety. Representatives from the Local Government sector as well as national and international road safety professionals were involved in developing the principles through a consensus process. The Safe System Guiding Principles for Local Government resource is now available to order.
Action Required:	For noting

Background

As part of the Local Government Safe System Project (LGSSP) a set of guiding principles has been developed to assist the Local Government sector in understanding and adopting the Safe System approach for road safety. The development of the guiding principles involved a consensus process which included the Local Government sector as well as national and international road safety professionals. The evidence-based principles were further validated by the LGSSP Advisory Group.

Why were the Guiding Principles developed?

Across Australia and WA, the need for a more holistic view of road safety was recognised, which led to a shift in thinking in the development of long term road safety strategies. *Towards Zero*, WA's Road Safety Strategy 2008-2020 and the National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020 are based upon the internationally recognised and evidence-based Safe System approach to road safety. The Safe System approach was pioneered internationally by countries such as Sweden and the Netherlands, who lead the world in road safety performance.

Guidance for adopting the Safe System approach among Local Government was identified as a need and as a result a set of guiding principles was developed. The guiding principles are tailored specifically for Local Governments and provide a framework for consideration while formulating Safe System strategies, plans and policies.

How were the guiding principles developed?

The guiding principles were developed using a consensus process which involved representatives from the Local Government sector together with interstate and international road safety professionals. A set of evidence-based principles was validated by this specialist panel as well as members of the LGSSP Advisory Group.

How can the guiding principles help?

The guiding principles provide direction for Local Governments when reviewing road safety policies and practices and are intended to ensure provisions are included to incorporate the Safe System approach. The guiding principles also offer Local Governments a context with which to formulate strategies, plans and activities aiming to improve road safety outcomes. The guiding principles are consistent with international best practice, build on past experience, add value to future activities, and can

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For Further information please contact
Ruth Wernham, Safe System Co-ordinator
9213 2008 or rwernham@walga.asn.au

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provide guidance to organisations in pursuit of innovation and effectiveness in the way they manage road safety.

The Safe System Guiding Principles for Local Government

Overarching principle:

Local Government commits to working towards a future of zero road fatalities and serious injuries.

Local Government:

1. Managers and Elected Members demonstrate leadership by valuing and progressing the safe system approach.
2. Integrates the safe system approach into corporate and strategic plans.
3. Ensures that safe system policies and practices are proactive and evidence based.
4. Builds capacity at all levels of the organisation to effectively implement the safe system approach.
5. Utilises and examines relevant data to monitor and evaluate road safety performance.
6. Fosters shared responsibility, internally and in external partnerships, for the implementation of the safe system approach.

The Safe System Guiding Principles for Local Government resource is available on the Local Government Safe System Project website; www.roadwise.asn.au/safesystemproject or by contacting a Safe System Coordinator on 9213 2008.

Contact details

To find out more about the Local Government Safe System Project, please contact:

Louise Russell-Weisz – ph 9213 2008, email lrussellweisz@walga.asn.au

Ruth Wernham – ph. 9213 2008, email rwernham@walga.asn.au

Ryan Gibson- ph. 9213 2008, email rgibson@walga.asn.au

Or visit: www.roadwise.asn.au/safesystemproject

To find out more about *Towards Zero*, WA's Road Safety Strategy 2008-2020, visit www.ors.wa.gov.au

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WALGA

To: Chief Executive Officer **From:** Jodie Holbrook, Policy Manager Community
Organisation: All Councils **Date:** 13 March 2012
Reference: 05-032-03-0003
Subject: Role and Expectations of Rural-Remote and Indigenous Local Government **Priority:** High

File received 21 / 3 / 12

Council Meeting	File Ref:
<input type="checkbox"/> CLOSED	<input type="checkbox"/> SIDE
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<input type="checkbox"/> EHO	<input type="checkbox"/> Councillors

IN BRIEF

Operational Area:	Community
Key Issues:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The report 'Role and Expectations of Rural-Remote & Indigenous Local Government' has been released by ACELG Feedback by Monday, 2 April 2012
Action Required:	Feedback to ACELG by Monday, 2 April 2012

ACELG has released a new report entitled 'Role and Expectations of Rural-Remote and Indigenous Local Government'. The report, prepared by Alan Morton of Morton Consulting Services, has been prepared as part of ACELG's Rural-Remote and Indigenous Local Government Program. In 2011, the Centre released a Capacity Building Strategy for Rural-Remote and Indigenous Local Government which noted that the current demands and expectations placed on rural-remote and Indigenous local government are unsustainable, especially if they are to grow unchecked. The 'Role and Expectations of Rural-Remote and Indigenous Local Government' report includes:

- A profile of rural-remote and Indigenous councils, highlighting factors that impact on local capacity
- A review of background information to identify federal, state and community expectations and issues from discussions with stakeholders
- Identification of further actions and research.

One of the key conclusions of the report is that identifying service priorities is a matter for each council to determine, rendering it almost impossible to propose a core set of local government services. Section 4.3 of the report notes the importance of ensuring that councils base their decisions about the scope and scale of services they will deliver on a robust community, corporate and strategic planning process that links to long term financial planning. ACELG believes that this is an area ripe for further investigation, as planning capacity is the key to enabling rural-remote and Indigenous councils to shape and meet community expectations of the role they will play and the level and nature of services they will deliver.

As the summary in Appendix B shows, all jurisdictions are now requiring this sort of integrated planning. This leads to a possible action for ACELG to work with jurisdictions, local government associations and rural-remote and Indigenous councils to develop planning tools or frameworks tailored to the needs and circumstances of small, remote and Indigenous councils. This action is contemplated in Section 4.4 of the report. There have been a number of attempts to develop planning or assessment tools for the sustainability of councils, so further work in this area would be able to build on the previous initiatives, but would aim to come up with something practical and specifically tailored to help small and remote

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For further information please contact
Jodie Holbrook, Policy Manager Community
9213 2044 or jholbrook@walga.asn.au

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councils manage the complex task of settling on a service mix that is financially sustainable and meets the competing expectations of constituents and other levels of government.

As councils need to genuinely engage their constituents in the planning process, the tools would incorporate ACELG's complementary work on community engagement, in order to create greater community awareness about the appropriate role of local government (and a council's resources and capacity to deliver), and thereby assist to address the issue raised in section 4.4 about managing community expectations.

The report also notes that the ability for rural-remote and Indigenous councils to choose what services they deliver is limited because of their lack of own source revenue or untied grants. This flags another area for future action arising from the recognition that in order for these councils to exercise genuine choice, negotiation with funding bodies about the council's capacity to deliver certain services is required. Research into the true cost of delivering some significant devolved services would be useful to assess whether the funding bodies really do provide sufficient resources or whether councils are subsidising these services. Such an evidence base would provide substance for councils in their negotiation with government funding bodies. This issue might be able to be addressed in practice through the integrated planning processes referred to above. Perhaps new methodologies/frameworks for these planning processes in rural-remote and Indigenous councils should include a phase where there is full and frank dialogue and negotiation with government funding bodies about the council's capacity and realistic resourcing to deliver the funded services.

Finally, ACELG's Capacity Building Strategy for Rural-remote and Indigenous Local Government identifies the regulatory and administrative burden imposed on local governments and how this constrains councils from what should be their core focus of delivering services that meet constituents' needs and expectations. ACELG's strategy refers to the much-repeated call for legislators to acknowledge that the same level of regulation may not be necessary or appropriate for rural-remote councils as their larger urban counterparts. ACELG could undertake further to identify the most onerous and inappropriate aspects of current local government legislation for small and remote councils, which might assist these in arguments argue for legislative reform.

ACELG is now seeking feedback from stakeholders on the report and these proposed next steps. To provide feedback on the report and the proposed next steps, please contact Melissa Gibbs, Assistant Director by **Monday, 2 April 2012** email: melissa.gibbs@acelg.org.au or by phone on (02) 9514 4890.



WALGA

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Date received 26/03/2012	
Council Meeting	File Ref:
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<input type="checkbox"/> EHO	<input type="checkbox"/> Councillors

To: Chief Executive Officer

From: Tony Brown
Executive Manager
Governance and Strategy

Organisation: All Councils **Date:** 22 March 2012

Subject: Metropolitan Local Government Review **Reference:** 05-01-034-0018

IN BRIEF

Operational Area:	Chief Executive Officer & Council
Key Issues:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metropolitan Local Government Review Panel to release Draft Findings on 13 April 2012 Submissions to the Panel are required by 11 May 2012 Feedback to WALGA is requested by 3 May 2012
Actions:	<p>Feedback to WALGA by 3 May 2012</p> <p>Submission to Panel by 11 May 2012</p>

The Metropolitan Local Government Review Panel has clarified the intended consultation process regarding their Draft Findings.

The Metropolitan Local Government Review Panel is scheduled to release its Draft Findings for public comment on Friday 13 April 2012. A four week consultation period will follow with submissions due on Friday 11 May 2012.

The Panel has advised that the Draft Findings will not contain specific recommendations but the supporting material is likely to demonstrate the Panel's intended direction.

The Association will develop and distribute an indicative response during the week commencing Monday 16 April 2012 based on the Association's standing policy positions and original submission to the Panel.

All Local Governments are encouraged to establish a process for their Council to formally consider the Panel's Draft Findings as well as WALGA's proposed response and provide prompt feedback to the Association. Feedback to WALGA is requested by Thursday 3 May 2012.

Local Government feedback to the Association's response to the Panel's Draft Findings will shape the composition of WALGA's submission to the Panel.

YALGOO INTERAGENCY MEETING MINUTES

Date: Monday 12th March 2012, 1.30pm
 Chairperson: Xanthe White

Venue: Sporting Complex
 Minutes: Xanthe White

Present

Xanthe White (Indigenous Parenting Services Coordinator, Centacare, Yalgoo)
 Brendin Flanigan (Midwest Development Commission)
 Glenise Ullrich (Mens Health)
 Heather Boyd (DCEO Shire of Yalgoo)

Norm Lyon (WACHS Midwest),
 Wayne McDonald (Dept. Indigenous Affairs)
 Renai Gildersleeve (RESET Officer – WA Police)

Apologies

Sgt Gordon Hughes (OIC Yalgoo Police Station), Vanessa Carslake (Midwest MHS)
 Samantha Adams (WALGA/Roadwise)

Minutes

Item	Discussion	Action
Previous minutes	Endorsed by Heather Boyd and Glenise Ullrich	
Next Meeting	TUESDAY 10th April (Owing to Easter PH on Monday 9 th) NB Jockey club not available – venue: meeting room next to Centacare office – 15 Shamrock St (Drive up the main street until you get to the Shire Hall opposite the children’s playground)	<i>Come along! Xanthe may even bake if you do!</i>
Extra-ordinary Business	Centacare proposes inviting Yalgoo community representatives (through MIEEDAC) to attend the IA meetings, may be same/different people each meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important to have voice of the community at the meeting • Essential to engage the community and increase awareness of the services available to Yalgoo 	<i>Meeting endorsed the idea. Xanthe to meet with MIEEDAC this week to discuss</i>
Yalgoo Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Holiday activities planned for week 1 • April Race Day – 14th April • Family Festival for May 19th to celebrate National Families Week has been proposed – services will be invited to participate 	<i>Further details during March and at April mtg</i>
Road Safety	No report received	
Service Updates	Yalgoo Shire: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for “rage cage” has been approved. Funding commences in next financial year. • Hoped to be a precedent setting facility for the Midwest • 1st stage is rage cage, this will ‘kick off’ the community hub/centre development • Indigenous Community Volunteers (ICV) from Canberra and Victoria are being supported by the Shire to provide school holiday activities for one week in the April school holiday period 	

<p>WACHS Midwest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd Nurse into Magnet is proposed – advertised past 6/12, using agency in the interim • An additional 1/7 support to Yalgoo with increase to 2/7 support in future. • Race Day – will need nursing support AND St John until all riders/handlers are accounted for <p>MWDC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No separate funding at the moment <p>DIA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing continues to be a key issue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 32 homes 'in breach' in Midwest – number is actually much higher ○ Housing study of midwest is Geraldton based, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will it provide a reflection of regional issues? • Midwest Aboriginal Anti Violence Action Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wayne is stepping back from many areas to focus on the development of this group ○ Gloria is Yalgoo representative ○ 19 members on steering committee ○ At early stage of development – gaining trust amongst committee and communities ○ Using facebook and DV 'chat' mobiles ○ Intervention processes can be part of CDEP work plans ○ DIA encourages taking parties off the streets and into specific venues to reduce street violence fuelled by alcohol/party tension/large groups ○ Midwest anti violence plans are in development ○ DIA looking to develop positive relationships with WA Police – difficult in context of history, but hopes to use a "good things from bad issues" approach • Employment Forum in October – Date TBC – Potential Centacare/Shire/MEEDAC bus trip to Geraldton 	<p>Ensure staff stay at the event until full closure</p> <p>Brendin will advise re funding and project development</p> <p>Wayne will update IA on research progress</p> <p>Wayne to advise IA about the development of this group and it's progress</p> <p>Wayne to keep IA apprised of forum dates to facilitate collaborative planning for attendance by Yalgoo participants.</p>
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Meeting Closed: 14:45pm
 Next Meeting: 1.30pm At the meeting room next to Centacare Office – 15 Shamrock Street – Opposite children playground (North end of town)

Young Indigenous Australians encouraged to apply for the first National Indigenous Youth Parliament

Updated: 10 February 2012

10 February 2012

Applications are now open for the first National Indigenous Youth Parliament, a new and exciting opportunity for 48 young Indigenous Australians to represent their community and develop skills that will make a difference in their community.

Australian Electoral Commissioner, Ed Killesteyn, said the Youth Parliament would bring potential future Indigenous leaders from around the country to Canberra to talk about issues affecting their communities and country, to learn about how laws are made and to have their voices heard by the people who make the laws.

Six young Indigenous Australians will be selected from each state and territory to participate in the National Indigenous Youth Parliament which will be held over seven days in May in Canberra.

"Any Indigenous Australian aged 16 to 25 is eligible to apply, and you don't require any particular skills or experience apart from wanting to have a say in what's going on in your community and your country," Mr Killesteyn said.

Selection of the participants will be based on applicants' community involvement, their ideas and interest in government and the parliamentary process.

The application pack for the Youth Parliament can be downloaded from the AEC's website at www.aec.gov.au/niyp. **Applications are now open and close on Friday 30 March 2012.**

The six-member team selected from each state and territory will first attend a weekend in their state or territory where they will be guided through the process of writing a legislative Bill that addresses the issues faced by young people and their communities.

They will then travel to Canberra for a seven-day program in which they will debate their bills in the Chambers of the Old Parliament House and present them to the Government. The Canberra program will also provide expert training in how government works, how laws are made, public speaking and dealing with the media. Participants will meet Parliamentarians and watch them work, in Parliament House and in their offices.

The Youth Parliament is being run by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) in partnership with the YMCA to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Indigenous right to vote in federal elections.

"While Indigenous Australians achieved legal equality in electoral participation in 1962, in practice Indigenous Australians are still significantly less likely to enrol to vote, less likely to vote and more likely to vote informally, than other Australians," Mr Killesteyn said.

"The aim of the Youth Parliament is to help close the gap on Indigenous disadvantage in electoral participation, by promoting youth advocacy, active community leadership and a commitment to democratic processes.

More information on the National Indigenous Youth Parliament including how to apply is available at www.aec.gov.au/niyp.

Media contact

Bob Eckhardt
02 6271 4464
0422 001 165
bob.eckhardt@aec.gov.au

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