

MINUTES OF THE ZONE MEETING

held at the Orchard Glory Farm Resort, 41 Mooliabeenee Road, Bindoon
Friday 2 May 2014 commencing at 10.00 am

1 OPENING & WELCOME

The Zone Deputy President welcomed delegates and observers and advised that Cr Court (Zone President) had recently undergone surgery and was still in hospital and that he would be Chairing today's meeting. He introduced Cr Robert Hawes, President of the Shire of Chittering. Cr Hawes welcomed delegates and guests to Chittering and commented on –

- The Shire's population is about 4,500 and is forecast to double by 2026. Annual growth in population has been 4-5% for the last decade. After Northam the Shire has the highest population of youth in the Zone.
- Property prices (average):
 - Bindoon - \$450,000
 - Muchea - \$630,000
 - Lower Chittering - \$650,000.
- Currently there are 23 separate developments on the go:
 - 5 subdivisions are nearly complete.
 - 3 subdivisions in the rezoning process.
 - 15 are at various stages.6-7 years ago a moratorium has granted for two years on developments; working through the backlog.
- Progress well advanced for the \$2.8m Multipurpose Health Centre in Bindoon. Tenders for construction of the Centre close in a couple of weeks.
- Town Hall restoration works are due to start in the middle of May. Construction period set for 14 weeks. Anticipated that Hall will be available for the Chittering Wildflower Festival in September.
- Rating strategy – converting from Unimproved Values to Gross Rental Values.
- A Waste Management Strategy has recently been completed.

Cr R Madasci, Cr P Greenway and Ms Rebecca Kelly entered the meeting at 10.05 am.

- Expressions of Interest invited for development of 80 independent living units in Bindoon.
- Muchea Employment Node – The first stage of development of 41 lots is currently going through the Town Planning Scheme amendment process. The Employment Node is a 1,100 ha site at the corner of Great Northern and Brand Highways proposed to be developed into a light industrial estate.
- Council is looking to redevelop the Bindoon shopping precinct.

2 ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

2.1 Attendance

Chairman –

Cr Steven Pollard

Shire of Northam (Deputy President)

Delegates -

Cr Robert Hawes

Shire of Chittering

Cr Robert Nixon

Shire of Dalwallinu

Cr Lawrie Short

Shire of Dandaragan

Cr Val Ammon

Shire of Gingin

Cr Doug Sewell

Shire of Goomalling

Cr Merrel Pond

Shire of Moora

Cr Julie Williams

Shire of Northam

Cr David Dow

Shire of Toodyay

Cr David Lovelock

Shire of Victoria Plains

Cr Pat Hooper

Shire of York

Observers –

Cr Michelle Rossouw	Shire of Chittering
Cr Kaye McGlew	Shire of Dandaragan
Mr Jeremy Edwards	Shire of Gingin
Mr Clem Kerp	Shire of Goomalling
Mr David Trevaskis	Shire of Moora
Mr Jason Whiteaker	Shire of Northam
Cr Paula Greenway	Shire of Toodyay (from 10.05 am)
Cr Rosemary Madacsi	Shire of Toodyay (from 10.05 am)
Mr Harry Hawkins	Shire of Victoria Plains
Cr Matthew Reid	Shire of York
Mr Michael Keeble	Shire of York
Mr Shane Love MLA	Member for Moore (from 10.21 am)
Mr Gary Angel	Indigenous Communities Policy Officer, Department of Local Government & Communities
Ms Vanessa Jackson	Policy Manager Planning, Reform & Improvement, WA Local Government Association
Ms Caroline Perks	Climate Change Coordinator, WA Local Government Association (from 10.39 am)
Ms Cliff Simpson	Wheatbelt North Road Safety Advisor, WA Local Government Association
Ms Rebecca Kelly	Senior Regional Officer Central Midlands, Wheatbelt Development Commission (from 10.05 am)
Robert Dew	Zone Executive Officer

2.2 Apologies

Mr Gary Tuffin	Shire of Chittering
Cr Wayne Gibson	Shire of Dandaragan
Mr Tony Nottle	Shire of Dandaragan
Mr Peter Crispin	Shire of Dalwallinu
Cr Jan Court	Shire of Gingin (President)
Cr Colin Gardiner	Shire of Moora
Mr Alan Leeson	Shire of Moora
Cr Peter Macnamara	Shire of Wongan-Ballidu
Mr Stuart Taylor	Shire of Wongan-Ballidu
Hon Marty Aldridge MLC	Member for Agricultural Region
Hon Rick Mazza	Member for Agricultural Region
Hon Darren West MLC	Member for Agricultural Region

The Chair asked attendees to introduce themselves.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest. Cr S Pollard readvised that he was the Secretary of the Wheatbelt GP Network.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

5 MINUTES

5.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Zone Meeting held 21 February 2014 at York. Copies of these Minutes have been circulated to all member Councils.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held on 21 February 2014, as printed and circulated, be confirmed.

RESOLUTION

Cr L Short moved and Cr P Hooper seconded –

That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held on 21 February 2014, as printed and circulated, be confirmed. **CARRIED**

5.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

(a) Zone Meetings by Video Conference (Item 6.2 (b))

The November 2013 meeting requested that research be undertaken into some Zone meetings being held by video conference based on the use of laptop/desktop computers. At the recent Wheatbelt Conference in York a presentation was given by Redback Conferencing on their web conference service. A number of Zone delegates attended the workshop and may care to comment.

In discussion with Redback Conferencing following the Wheatbelt Conference they provided the following comments -

- 16-20 participants or groups of participants (2-3 persons using the one computer) showing on screen at any one time is optimal.
- The use of web cams is not a pre-requisite and is optional for each participant (ie a combination of web cam and voice only can be used).
- They can provide training in use of the system.
- The system requirements for their web conferencing service is a desktop computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone with -
 - Browser
 - Microsoft Internet Explorer 8.0 and up
 - Firefox 1.x and up
 - Google Chrome 8.x and up
 - Opera 7.11 and up
 - Safari 5.05 and up
 - AOL 9 (*AOL 9 web browser is not supported in their event registration)
 - Operating System
 - Windows 7 and up
 - MAC OS X 10.4 and up
 - Linux (application sharing is not available)
 - Android 2.2
 - IOS (for iPhone 4 and up - iPad)
 - Plug-in
 - Adobe Flash Player 10.2 and up (latest version preferred)
 - Internet Connection
 - Web Conference: 256kbps Upload / 256kbps Download (without video)
 - Web Conference: 350kbps Upload / 350kbps Download (with webcam video)
 - Hardware
 - Keyboard and Mouse or compatible pointing device
 - Speakers or USB Headset
 - Microphone (if using Voice)
 - Web Cam (if using Live Video)

Recommendation

For discussion

The meeting requested that a trial web conference be undertaken before the next Zone meeting to test the feasibility of the use of system.

(b) Grain Freight (Item 6.2 (c))

The November 2013 meeting requested advice from CBH as to why there are no rail outloading facilities at the new Dowerin receival site and why the Konnongorring receival site is frequently by road rather than rail. This matter is being followed up.

NOTED

Cr D Sewell requested that the Goomalling receival site be included in the request to CBH.

(c) Presentation on Metropolitan Waste to Landfill (Item 7.1)

Last meeting requested that representatives of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council be invited to speak to the Zone on the issue of metropolitan waste to landfill. Arrangements have been made for Rebecca Brown, WALGA Manager Waste and Recycling, to address the Zone's June 2014 meeting.

NOTED

Cr L Short queried whether there was sufficient strength in Local Governments' Town Planning Schemes to regulate the development of landfill sites.

(d) Guide to the Use of Towed Agricultural Implements in WA (Item 7.1)

Last meeting requested that the WA Local Government Association follow up the release of the revised "Guide to the Use of Towed Agricultural Implements in WA" to ensure that it was available before the 2014 seeding season. The Guide was released in March 2014 and a number of information sessions have been held throughout the Wheatbelt. A copy of the Guide is available from the Department of Transport's website.

NOTED

(e) Other

There were no other matters brought forward.

6 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

6.1 WALGA State Council Agenda

Review of the Agenda for the State Council meeting to be held Friday 9 May 2014. The Agenda has been circulated by the WA Local Government Association to member Councils for distribution to delegates. The Zone is able to provide comment or submit alternate recommendations to State Council for consideration.

Mr Shane Love MLA entered the meeting at 10.21 am

Matters for Decision

5.1 Interim Submission to the Inquiry into the Management of WA's Freight Rail Network

Cr R Nixon reported that the draft interim submission had been considered by the Local Government Grain Freight Group at its last meeting; he considered the submission to be very good. The Group had resolved to support the submission.

RESOLUTION

**Cr R Nixon moved and Cr D Sewell seconded –
That the Zone supports the recommendation.**

CARRIED

5.2 Zone Tax Offset Reform

Cr R Nixon reported on discussions he had had with Mr Paul Schollum, WALGA Policy Manager Economics as to what would the rebates be if they had been indexed in accordance with CPI from the year they had been introduced (approximate figures) –

Zone A (introduced in 1945)	\$2,652
Zone B (introduced in 1945)	\$1,326
Special Area (introduced in 1981/82)	\$2,525

RESOLUTION

**Cr R Nixon moved and Cr P Hooper seconded –
That the Zone supports the recommendation provided the zone tax offsets are indexed from the year in which they had been introduced.**

CARRIED

5.3 Interim Submission to the Productivity Commission's Draft Report on Public Infrastructure

RESOLUTION

**Cr P Hooper moved and Cr L Short seconded –
That the Zone supports the recommendation.**

CARRIED

5.4 Senate Economics References Committee: Inquiry into Affordable Housing in Australia –
WALGA Submission

RESOLUTION

**Cr L Short moved and Cr M Pond seconded –
That the Zone supports the recommendation.**

CARRIED

Cr L Short drew attention to the Local Government and Affordable Housing Forum to be held in Perth on 19 May 2014.

5.5 Review of the Australian Citizenship Ceremonies Code 2009

RESOLUTION

**Cr D Sewell moved and Cr P Hooper seconded –
That the Zone supports the recommendation.**

CARRIED

The meeting noted comments from delegates that it would be beneficial for a reduction in the explanatory comments which are required to be made when conducting an Australian Citizenship Ceremony.

5.6 WA Police and WALGA Memorandum of Understanding for the Provision of Crime Statistics

RESOLUTION

**Cr P Hooper moved and Cr L Short seconded –
That the Zone supports the recommendation.**

CARRIED

5.7 Local Government & Provision of Facilities for Child Health Centres

RESOLUTION

**Cr M Pond moved and Cr J Williams seconded –
That the Zone supports the recommendation.**

CARRIED

5.8 Review of the State/Local Government Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services

Cr K McGlew advised that she was a member of the Library Board of WA and commented on the social advantages of libraries.

RESOLUTION

**Cr P Hooper moved and Cr L Short seconded –
That the Zone supports the recommendation.**

CARRIED

Ms Caroline Perks entered the meeting at 10.39 am

5.9 Interim Submission to the Department of the Environment's Emission Reduction Fund – Green Paper

RESOLUTION

**Cr R Hawes moved and Cr L Short seconded –
That the Zone supports the recommendation.**

CARRIED

Ms C Perks advised that a workshop had been organised about the Emission Reduction Fund – White Paper.

RECOMMENDATION

That the above recommendations and comments be endorsed.

RESOLUTION

Cr P Hooper moved and Cr M Pond seconded –

That the above recommendations and comments be endorsed.

CARRIED

Matters for Noting/information

6.1 Local Government Reform and Poll Provisions

The meeting reiterated to members from the Zone on the Country Reform Policy Forum that the Zone supports the retention of the poll provisions.

6.2 Review of 2013 Local Government Elections – Member Feedback

RECOMMENDATION

That the above matters for noting/information be noted.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Sewell moved and Cr R Nixon seconded –

That the above matters for noting/information be noted and comments endorsed. CARRIED

Organisational Reports

- 7.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Environment and Waste Unit
- 7.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Governance and Strategy
- 7.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure
- 7.1.4 Report on Key Activities, Planning and Community Development
- 7.2.1 Metropolitan Reform Implementation Policy Forum
- 7.2.2 Country Reform Policy Forum
- 7.2.3 Mining Community Policy Forum
- 7.2.4 Container Deposit Legislation Policy Forum
- 7.2.5 Metropolitan Mayors Policy Forum

RECOMMENDATION

That the above organisational reports be noted.

RESOLUTION

Cr R Nixon moved and Cr R Hawes seconded –

That the above organisational reports be noted.

CARRIED

6.2 WALGA President's Report

Presentation of the WALGA President's Report (attached to Agenda)

RECOMMENDATION

That the WALGA President's Report be received.

RESOLUTION

Cr L Short moved and Cr D Dow seconded –

That the WALGA President's Report be received.

CARRIED

6.3 State Councillor's Report

Report by State Councillor Cr L Short on State Council meeting held 4 March 2014 (attached to Agenda).

RECOMMENDATION

That the State Councillor's Report be received.

RESOLUTION

Cr M Pond moved and Cr R Nixon seconded –

That the State Councillor's Report be received.

CARRIED

6.4 Zone Status Report

Report by WA Local Government Association on status of Zone resolutions for action by the Association – April 2014 (attached to Agenda).

RECOMMENDATION

That the April 2014 Status Report be received.

RESOLUTION

Cr J Williams moved and Cr L Short seconded –
That the April 2014 Status Report be received.

CARRIED

7 REPORTS

7.1 Country Reform Policy Forum

The Zone's November 2013 meeting noted that Cr L Short and Cr P Hooper had been appointed members of the Country Reform Policy Forum. Cr Short has provided copy of the notes of the inaugural meeting of the Policy Forum held on 17 February 2014 (attached to Agenda). See also the WALGA President's report for his comments on the Forum.

Policy Forum members have been encouraged to share information with their Councils and Zones on Policy Forum issues and report on the progress of the group, as well as gather input to feedback into future Policy Forum meetings. The next meeting of the Policy Forum is 7 May 2014.

Cr Short and Cr Hooper may care to report.

Member Councils may wish to provide comments to those representatives involved in the Policy Forum.

The matter is submitted for consideration by the Zone.

General discussion ensued.

7.2 Local Government Grain Freight Group

A meeting of the Local Government Grain Freight Group was held on 14 April 2014. Matters from the meeting included -

- The meeting was attended by Cr R Nixon and Cr R Madasci.
- A presentation was given by Mr Paul Hamersley, General Manager Commercial Brookfield Rail (copy attached to agenda).
- Messages from the presentation are:
 - The operation of Tier 3 grain freight rail lines will cease on 30 June 2014.
 - There has been no progress on a long term solution to ensure the Tier 3 rail lines continue to operate.
 - Brookfield Rail is implementing the decision of the State Government resulting from the Strategic Grain Network Review report.
 - Without substantial investment, the Tier 3 rail lines cannot continue to operate safely beyond 30 June 2014.
 - The decision on Tier 3 rail lines is consistent with information provided by Brookfield Rail to CBH and the State government over several years.
- In response to questions from delegates Mr Hamersley commented:
 - Brookfield Rail does not wish to relinquish any lines as they form part of the network corridor and they wish to retain the rights to the corridor for the future.
 - The Toodyay-Miling Line requires resleepering and replacement of some rail. Discussions commenced with CBH but no progress until the current regulatory issues are resolved.
 - If Government investment was approved for the Tier 3 rail lines it would take up to 18 months, depending on the lines, for the lines to be reopened.
 - Will be meeting with local governments affected by the Tier 3 rail line closures late April/ May.
- Consideration of the draft interim submission by the WA Local Government Association to the WA Parliament's Economics and Industry Standing Committee inquiry into the current lease

arrangements and management of the WA's freight rail network. A number of comments were made and the Group resolved to support the submission.

The next meeting of the Group is scheduled for 7 July 2014.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Government Grain Freight Group Report be received.

RESOLUTION

Cr R Nixon moved and Cr P Hooper seconded –

That the Local Government Grain Freight Group Report be received.

CARRIED

7.3 Wheatbelt Health MOU

(a) Minutes of the Wheatbelt Health MOU Group

Minutes of the Wheatbelt Health MOU Group meeting held 4 February 2014 (attached to Agenda).

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Wheatbelt Health MOU Group meeting held 4 February 2014, as circulated, be received.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Dow moved and Cr L Short seconded –

That the minutes of the Wheatbelt Health MOU Group meeting held 4 February 2014, as circulated, be received.

CARRIED

(b) Reports

Report by delegates – Cr L Short and Cr D Dow (attached to Agenda). Cr J Court was unable to attend.

The next meeting of the Group is scheduled for Tuesday 3 June 2014.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Wheatbelt Health MOU Group Report be received.

Cr D Dow drew attention to the WA Parliament's Standing Committee on Public Administration's inquiry into the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme. He pointed out that submissions close 16 May 2014.

RESOLUTION

Cr M Pond moved and Cr L Short seconded –

That the Wheatbelt Health MOU Group Report be received.

CARRIED

7.4 Department of Local Government and Communities

Presentation of report by the Director General (attached to Agenda).

The Department has also requested that it's April 2014 Governance Bulletin be circulated (attached to Agenda). The Bulletin covers information relating to the acceptance of gifts, calling special meetings, what to disclose when declaring an interest, control of dogs and a Local Government Standards Panel Case Study.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Director General's Report be received.

Mr G Angel presented the report and commented on –

- Appointment of Director General
- Department's Strategic Plan
- Metropolitan local government reform
- Community Development Roundtable
- April 2014 Governance Bulletin.

Ms Glenice Batchelor entered the meeting at 11.29 am.

RESOLUTION

**Cr M Pond moved and Cr L Short seconded –
That the Director General's Report be received.**

CARRIED

7.5 Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt

Presentation of report by Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt (attached to Agenda).

RECOMMENDATION

That the Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt's Report be received.

RESOLUTION

**Cr P Hooper moved and Cr M Pond seconded –
That the Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt's Report be received.**

CARRIED

Ms Glenice Batchelor, RDA Wheatbelt Regional Development Officer for Regional Children's Services Plan, gave an update on the work being undertaken by RDA Wheatbelt to develop and begin implementation of a Regional Children's Services Plan for the Wheatbelt. As part of the preliminary data collection and research RDA have conducted a survey of the current needs, challenges and opportunities for Early Childhood Education and Care Services in the Wheatbelt. To date there have been 231 respondents, 19 of whom have indicated that they represented local government. Main concerns identified are –

- Staffing
- National Quality Framework; and
- Operating costs.

Ms Batchelor tabled copies of the Wheatbelt Family & Children's Services & Support Directory. Copies of the project information flyer and summary of survey responses from local government representatives were circulated to members and delegates prior to the meeting.

Ms Batchelor indicated that to allow for further input from local governments in the Zone the closing date for the survey on Early Childhood Education and Care Services in the Wheatbelt would be extended to the end of May.

The Chair thanked Ms Batchelor for the update and information on the work being undertaken by RDA Wheatbelt on the Regional Children's Services Plan.

Ms Batchelor withdrew from the meeting at 11.44 am.

7.6 Wheatbelt Development Commission

Ms Rebecca Kelly presented the Wheatbelt Development Commission report and commented on –

- Wheatbelt Regional Investment Blueprint – Blueprint Roadshows to facilitate public comment will be held at Northam (26 May 2014), Gingin (5 June 2014) and Moora (6 June 2014). Input on the Blueprint due by mid-June 2014.
- Wheatbelt Integrated Aged Support and Care project.
- AvonLink Project
- Sounds of the Wheatbelt.

RESOLUTION

**Cr L Short moved and Cr D Dow seconded –
That the Wheatbelt Development Commission's Report be received.**

CARRIED

8 FINANCE

8.1 Financial Reports

Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss report for the period ending 31 March 2014 are attached.

RECOMMENDATION

That the financial reports for the period ending 31 March 2014, as attached, be received.

RESOLUTION

Cr D Sewell moved and Cr J Williams seconded –

That the financial reports for the period ending 31 March 2014, as attached, be received.

CARRIED

8.2 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts are submitted for payment -

<u>Payee</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Great Eastern Country Zone	Executive Support Services Health MOU Group - 1/10/2012 to 30/6/2013	\$4,382.16
Great Eastern Country Zone	Contribution to Health MOU Group - 1/1/2014 to 30/6/2014	\$1,386.00
R W & L A Dew	Secretarial Services to Zone - June 2014 Quarter	\$3,646.50
R W & L A Dew	LG Grain Freight Secretarial Support – 8/8/2013 to 14/4/2014	\$2,955.62
	TOTAL (including GST)	<u>\$12,370.28</u>

RECOMMENDATION

That the accounts as listed totalling \$12,370.28 be approved for payment.

RESOLUTION

Cr P Hooper moved and Cr R Hawes seconded –

That the accounts as listed totalling \$12,370.28 be approved for payment.

CARRIED

9 ZONE BUSINESS

9.1 Day Care Facilities

FROM: Cr Pat Hooper, Shire of York

COMMENT

From visits to Councils throughout the Wheatbelt and general conversations it is apparent that the issue of "Day Care" is a very vexed one. Councils who are providing support to their communities are struggling to maintain an adequate service due mainly to what appears to be an "overkill" of legislation in this area.

Councils are finding it difficult enough to provide trained and experienced personnel let alone provide backup staff when there are staff illnesses etc.

It would be my intent, with support, to ask WALGA to survey Councils providing this service as to issues, problems and hopefully answers to Councils being able to support their communities. It is a service which Councils have increasingly been forced to adopt to ensure the community workforce is able to function.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That the Avon-Midland Country Zone seek assistance from the WA Local Government Association in ascertaining the issues of providing "day-care" facilities within rural Councils, and in particular the Wheatbelt region of WA.
- 2) Further that the Avon-Midland Country Zone seek discussions with both the Wheatbelt RDA and Wheatbelt Development Commission in regards the same issue.

RESOLUTION

Cr P Hooper moved and Cr M Pond seconded –

- 1) **That the Avon-Midland Country Zone seek assistance from the WA Local Government Association in ascertaining the issues of providing "day-care" facilities within rural Councils, and in particular the Wheatbelt region of WA.**
- 2) **Further that the Avon-Midland Country Zone seek discussions with both the Wheatbelt RDA and Wheatbelt Development Commission in regards the same issue.**

CARRIED

9.2 2014 Wheatbelt Conference

FROM: Executive Officer

BACKGROUND:

The 2014 Wheatbelt Conference with the theme *local community//global connect* was held in York on Thursday 3 and Friday 4 April 2014.

COMMENT:

The 2014 Wheatbelt Conference was held on Thursday 3 and Friday 4 April 2014 at the York Recreation and Convention Centre. Total registrations across the two days was 110 delegates, including presenters and was a diverse mix from across the Wheatbelt, with around 35% of all delegates from organisations outside of local government.

The Avon-Midland Country Zone and the Shire of York hosted this event with the organising committee including the Executive Officers of the Avon-Midland, Central and Great Eastern Country Zones, and staff from the RDA Wheatbelt and Wheatbelt Development Commission.

Sponsorship was provided by RDA Wheatbelt, Shire of York, Avon-Midland, Central and Great Eastern Country Zones, Localise, BHW Consulting, Wheatbelt Development Commission, Komatsu and Telstra. The 2014 Conference also saw the introduction of Expo Sponsors – which provided the opportunity for sponsors to promote their services. Expo Sponsors were TR Homes, Lotterywest, Cardno, CY O'Connor Institute, Bendigo Bank (York Branch), Heartlands and Avon Tourism Inc. Through the Telstra sponsorship a free Wi-Fi was set up for the conference at the York Recreation and Convention Centre.

Just to recap.

The three keynote speakers were social researcher Mark McCrindle, together with 2013 ICT Woman of the Year Yvette Adams and mobile technologist Simon Waller, both of whom focussed on specifics of digital technology and how they are being applied to business needs.

Friday's speakers included Sven Bluemmel, Information Commissioner, Tony Carmichael, Area General Manager Telstra and Peter Gurney, Community Account Manager WA, NBN Co, followed by workshops that focussed on practical solutions for using technology.

The Conference was attended by a number of Members of Parliament. Hon Martin Aldridge MLC attended the whole Conference, Mr Shane Love MLA was able to attend the dinner and the Friday session and Hon Mia Davies MLA was able to attend the Conference dinner as a guest of the conference.

Nearly 50 delegates completed the evaluation form and an analysis provided the following outcomes:

Session	Number of Responses	Outcome (out of 5)
Mark McCrindle	47	4.15
Yvette Adams	47	4.38
Simon Waller	48	4.31
Making the online world work	43	3.69
Concurrent Session – Yvette Adams	17	4.65
Concurrent Session – Simon Waller	12	4.67
Concurrent Session – Drury Forbes	14	3.46
Optional Tour	12	4.58
MC	45	4.60
Conference Venue	45	4.09
Conference Catering	43	4.02
Zone Challenge	19	4.24
Dinner Venue	36	4.51
Dinner Catering	37	4.26
Dinner Entertainment	37	4.41
Overall Conference Rating	44	4.39

The following comments were also provided (summarised where necessary):

- Well done!
- Great conference!
- Excellent conference. Suggest this conference is held every second year, suspect it will get more participants. Good couple of days.
- Great content and very (?) exciting. However, there should be a section on how to actually make sure we can use it in our businesses, Shires etc. Simon Waller = AMAZING!!!
- Excellent key note speakers. Veal - odd choice for mass catering! Lack of healthy snacks during breaks - no fruit etc.
- Great conference!
- Found the Twitter board not a good promotion for twitter - rather facile. Distraction more than informative - did not provide any great insights.
- Thank you for a great conference interesting and knowledgeable presenters.
- Starting on time all the time would be more appropriate
- Dinner catering meal was great beer was 'warm'
- Projector screen could have been higher. Very well run. Congratulations.
- Dinner catering - meal a bit cold. Dinner Entertainment - More background music. Concurrent workshops, sound from the other room a problem.
- Entertainment - look out for sounds of the Wheatbelt artists to be revealed at the launch of Album of Dowerin Field Day.
- Good relevant information for local government heading into the future. Well done.
- Size of names and organisations on name badges way too small. With focus on digital technology, sometimes tech use by the organising company was less than competent, eg Drury Forbes web session. Good that you engage very high quality speakers.
(Executive Officer comment: Whilst acknowledging the delegate's comments it should be noted that the telephone provided by the Centre's staff had not been tested prior to the conference and an instruction manual was not provided. As a consequence, the start to the session was less than perfect but once underway clearly highlighted the benefits that such technology has to offer the Wheatbelt).
- Great theme, always great to interact with like-minded people from across the region. Dinner was superb and the entertainment was magical - very talented local musician.
- Screen needs to be higher. Larger venue.
- Found it difficult to choose which concurrent speaker to listen to would like to have gone to a few.
- Great. Should have at least every second year in York... if not every year ...strategic location and great accommodation. Content of conference very appropriate. Thank you.
- More time for Fridays workshops. Better table setup for conference.
- An interesting and well planned conference. I am glad that I made the trip from Perth to attend. Good networks and great, passionate people. Great stuff.

- Tony Carmichael has no clue of the situation in the Wheatbelt. Talking in terms of city connectivity we in the Wheatbelt have to get by on 90's infrastructure. Cut the sales pitch please and know your audience!
- Would like to have even more relevance to local government and the Wheatbelt especially on the first day.

One point that was made to the Executive Officer after the conference was that the speakers provided practical solutions to technology issues rather than, at what occurs at some conferences, the more theoretical or academic presentations.

As the accounts have not been finalised a financial statement for the Conference has not been prepared.

This leads to the question as to whether the Zone will support a future Conference.

The Executive Officers for the three Zones have had a brief discussion on the future conduct of the Wheatbelt Conference. It is felt that the Conference has a role in bringing together a wide range of people from local government, State Government and the private sector but the question arises as to whether given the significant work involved and cost in bringing the Conference together it can be run on an annual basis. The first two conferences (ie York 2012 and Merredin 2013) were "heavily" subsidised through a grant from Royalties for Regions which was not available for the 2014 Conference. The registration fee was able to be held due to some carryover from the 2013 Conference which will not be available for a future Conference.

From a conference organisation viewpoint the three Executive Officers, RDA Wheatbelt and Wheatbelt Development Commission put considerable time into organising the Conference over and above for what they were paid. This was similar for the first two Conferences.

Although the 2014 Conference received sponsorship there was no major sponsor. It is felt that any future conference needs to be underpinned by a major sponsor. Without sponsorship registrations may need to be increased significantly and the capacity to engage speakers of the calibre of Bernard Salt and Simon Waller will be diminished.

Whilst the past three conferences show there is considerable value in the conference concept being delivered it is felt that to encourage a major sponsor to commit will require a considerable amount of work and time which may not allow adequate time to properly plan for a conference in 2015. Ideally a sponsorship of more than one year would be desirable.

The sponsorship process together with the considerable time required to organise the event makes its impractical to hold a conference in 2015. It would also seem from some of the 2014 Conference feedback that some people would prefer a conference every two years.

Recognising that a conference may only be held every two years it is suggested that in the intervening year the three Zones arrange a combined workshop that may include providing discussion on contemporary local government issues as well as offering practical "hands on" session(s). These could be provided at a lesser cost and would be held across a single day.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Avon-Midland Country Zone -

- 1) Note the Report on the 2014 Wheatbelt Conference;
- 2) Support the holding of a Wheatbelt Conference every two years, with the next Conference being in 2016;
- 3) Offer its support to a combined Zone workshop with the Central Country Zone and Great Eastern Country Zone to be held during 2015; and
- 4) Following consideration of the proposal by the Central and Great Eastern Country Zones, a further report relating to the workshop be presented to the next meeting of the Avon-Midland Country Zone in June 2014.

RESOLUTION

Cr P Hooper moved and Cr L Short seconded –

That the Avon-Midland Country Zone -

- 1) Note the Report on the 2014 Wheatbelt Conference;**
- 2) Support the holding of a Wheatbelt Conference every two years, with the next Conference being in 2016;**
- 3) Offer its support to a combined Zone workshop with the Central Country Zone and Great Eastern Country Zone to be held during 2015; and**
- 4) Following consideration of the proposal by the Central and Great Eastern Country Zones, a further report relating to the workshop be presented to the next meeting of the Avon-Midland Country Zone in June 2014.**

CARRIED

9.3 Central Coast Sub-Regional Economic Strategy

FROM: Wheatbelt Development Commission

COMMENT:

The Wheatbelt Development Commission working with RPS Consulting has developed the Central Coast Sub-Regional Economic Strategy. The Central Coast Sub-Region for the purposes of the Strategy comprises the Shires of Gingin, Dandaragan, Coorow, Moora and Chittering. The Strategy was launched in February 2014.

The Strategy is one of a series that will cover the entire Wheatbelt and will assist in investment and decision making in the Wheatbelt's sub-regions by –

- Providing an overall strategy for economic activities;
- Informing sub-regional and regional land use and strategic planning activities;
- Providing an evidence base for investment prospectuses and funding business cases;
- Providing content for marketing and branding material for the sub-region; and
- Informing and guiding all levels of government in major investment and expenditure decisions.

Copies of the Strategy are available from the Wheatbelt Development Commission's website – <http://wheatbelt.wa.gov.au/projects/working-parties>

The matter is submitted for the Zone's information.

Ms R Kelly advised –

- This is one of five sub-regional economic strategies being developed for the Wheatbelt.
- The Avon Sub-Regional Economic Strategy was completed in February 2013.
- The Central Midlands will be the next Strategy to be undertaken.
- The Strategies feed into the Wheatbelt Regional Investment Blueprint as the over-arching document.
- Data and information collected for the Strategies is available to local governments in assist in developing projects etc.

Cr R Madasci queried why there was no specific comment on waste management in the Strategies. Cr S Pollard replied that the Strategies look at the overall economic drivers and waste management is a single component within those drivers. Ms R Kelly replied that the Strategies provide an overview which can be used to support the arguments for specific projects. Mr S Love MLA advised that the WA Planning Commission's Wheatbelt Regional Planning and Infrastructure Framework is currently out for public comment (until 5 June 2014) and includes reference to waste management.

10 URGENT BUSINESS (as permitted by the Presiding Member)

10.1 Members of Parliament

The Zone President invited Mr Shane Love MLA to briefly address the meeting.

Mr Love commented on –

- The State Budget will be delivered next week.
- Hopefully the Budget will include support for infrastructure through the Regional Investment Blueprints. To date the Wheatbelt has missed out on funding for infrastructure development.
- The Wheatbelt Regional Investment Blueprint represents a good opportunity for local governments to engage with each other and the Wheatbelt Development Commission to progress investment in projects in the region. He urged local government to look at the Blueprint as the entry into future funding for regionally significant projects.

In response to a question from Cr D Sewell, Mr Love confirmed that funding from Royalties for Regions had been provided in last year's budget for the swimming pool subsidy to be increased to \$30,000.

11 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The Zone's next meeting is scheduled for Friday 20 June 2014 and to be hosted by the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu.

Future meetings of the Zone are scheduled for –

20 June 2014	Shire of Wongan-Ballidu
22 August 2014	Shire of Moora
21 November 2014	Shire of Goomalling

RECOMMENDATION

That the next ordinary meeting of the Zone be held Friday 20 June 2014 and be hosted by the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu.

RESOLUTION

Cr P Hooper moved and Cr D Lovelock seconded –

That the next ordinary meeting of the Zone be held Friday 20 June 2014 and be hosted by the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu. **CARRIED**

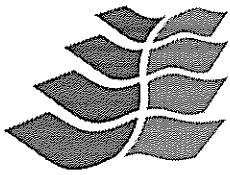
12 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 12.21 pm.

CERTIFICATION

These Minutes were confirmed by the meeting held on

Signed:
(Chairman of meeting at which the Minutes were confirmed)



Wheatbelt Development Commission

ZONE REPORT MAY 2014

Wheatbelt Regional Investment Blueprint

A draft Blueprint will be out for public comment late May for a four week period. To facilitate this process, the Commission will be conducting a Blueprint Road Show.

Wheatbelt Regional Investment Blueprint Road Show:

23 May	Avon	Bridgeley Community Centre Northam 2.30pm - 4.30pm
28 May	Central East	Merredin Community Leisure Centre 10.30am -12.30pm
29 May	Wheatbelt South	John Higgins Pavilion, Narrogin Leisure Centre 9.30am -11.30 am
5 June	Central Coast	Granville Civic Centre, Gingin 1.30pm - 3.30pm
6 June	Central Midlands	Moora Tennis Club 11.30am -1pm

To attend a session, please RSVP to Anita Swift, Administration Assistant E: anita.swift@wheatbelt.wa.gov.au or P: (08) 9622 7222

Background: All nine Development Commissions have been chartered with the development of Regional Blueprints. The Blueprint is intended to be THE planning document for each of the nine regions, bringing together local, regional, state planning activity. The Wheatbelt Blueprint states a vision for the future of the region, analyses global drivers and Wheatbelt comparative advantages, and identifies how they can be utilised to maximise growth opportunities. The Wheatbelt Blueprint process is underpinned by:

- The Wheatbelt Strategic Framework developed with regional stakeholders in 2011;
- Infrastructure planning undertaken with local governments through the Country Local Government Regional Infrastructure Planning process;
- Sub regional economic planning in each of the five sub regions, which involved extensive stakeholder engagement;
- Aged Care planning across the Wheatbelt, which involved extensive community engagement processes; and
- Regional Centre Growth Planning.

Any enquiries to Pip Kirby Regional Manager Central East P: (08) 9041 1445, phillipa.kirby@wheatbelt.wa.gov.au

Sub Regional Economic Planning and Growth Planning for Regional Centres

The initial draft of the Central Midlands Sub - Regional Economic Strategy has been received from RPS and reviewed internally. Local Government consultation in early April will be considered before finalising the document.

WDC has met with Mark Wallace from RPS to discuss time frames for the remaining strategies for Wheatbelt South and Central East. The initial draft of the Wheatbelt South and Central East is expected in mid- late May.

Precinct Planning workshops have now been held with Local Government in all regional centres. Relevant maps are being drafted by LandCorp. Local government, non local government stakeholders (including government departments and agency representatives) and reference group members' input will be sought in April- May before they are finalised for inclusion in the plan.

Any enquiries to Elise Woods, Research and Project Officer P: (08) 9622 7222, elise.woods@wheatbelt.wa.gov.au

Wheatbelt Integrated Aged Support and Care Project

The "Creating Age-Friendly Communities in Small Towns Project 2013/2014" was successful in being allocated over \$2.5 million that aims to improve age-friendly infrastructure and services across the Wheatbelt. Elements of the project include:

- An audit report of the individual communities which will identify specific age-friendly infrastructure and service gaps/priorities and allow Local Governments to monitor key deliverables of the project;
- A plan to assist local governments to achieve an age-friendly community;
- Funding in the form of a small grants scheme to act as a catalyst for the implementation of infrastructure projects identified in the age-friendly community planning process; and
- An integrated transport plan that will identify innovative ways to provide improved transport options for the community.

It is anticipated that this project will commence in the new financial year (July 2014). Currently the MOU with the Department of Regional Development is being finalised. The WDC would like to thank you for the support you provided toward the business case development.

Following Local Government endorsement of the WASCS Report, the WDC will work with Local Governments to develop a formal implementation plan.

The WDC is working with the Shires of Cunderdin and Pingelly and WACHS/SIHI to develop a process to pilot the age friendly cluster housing model. The core focus of the Group is to:

- Establish and manage the division of responsibility, including land assembly, design and aged care service delivery; and
- Enhance partnerships between project stakeholders, cementing a legacy of transparency and good governance.

Any enquiries to Lauren Clarke, Research and Project Officer P: (08) 9881 5888, lauren.clarke@wheatbelt.wa.gov.au

Avon Link Project

The business case for an improved Avon Link service has been presented to the Department of Regional Development by TransWA. The success of this will be known when the 2014 State Budget is announced.

If this is successful the new services will commence in July 2014 with three return services between Northam and Perth on weekdays (except Wednesday when the Merredin link will run). There will be weekend services trialled and some special events services.

As per WDC Zone Report in February 2014: Work with TransWA will continue post the completion of the Avon Link business case to develop a whole of Wheatbelt Public Transport Plan. With regards to the Northam-Mukinbudin bus route the WDC encourages Local Government to contact the Grant Arthur, Director of Regional Services WDC to discuss the impact of the closed route (details below).

Any enquiries to Grant Arthur, Director of Regional Services, P: (08) 9622 7222, Grant.Arthur@wheatbelt.wa.gov.au

Sounds of the Wheatbelt

The "Sounds of" projects delivered by the Western Australian Music Industry Association (WAM) aim to provide an avenue of recording skills development to remote and regional areas. Ten Wheatbelt acts were chosen from an impressive pool of forty-six applications. Two artists were selected from each of the five sub-regions to represent the talent in the Wheatbelt. Recording of an album of original Wheatbelt music was completed at a farm house near Wongan Hills. This album will be launched at the 2014 Dowerin Field Days.

Any enquiries to Grant Arthur, Director of Regional Services, P: (08) 9622 7222, Grant.Arthur@wheatbelt.wa.gov.au