



Avon Regional Organisation of Councils

AROC Governance Group Meeting

22 July 2024

Commencing at 11 am

AGENDA

Notice of Meeting.

To: AROC Members

The next AROC Governance Group (President's & CEO's) meeting will be held on the abovementioned date and commencement time, in Council Chambers at the Shire of Toodyay, 15 Fiennes St, Toodyay.

Tabitha Bateman

ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
AROC Secretariat

18 July 2024

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ATTACHMENTS with separate index follows item 5.

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

The AROC in-person meeting will commence at 11.00 am.

1.1. Announcement of Visitors

1.2. Record of Attendance and Apologies

2. MINUTES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

2.1 Confirmation of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

That the Unconfirmed Minutes of the Avon Regional Organisation of Councils meeting held on 13 May 2024 be accepted as a true and correct record.

2.2 Review of Status Report

Review of actions and progress arising from previous meetings and decisions.

2.3 Inward / Outward Correspondence

2.3.1 Financial Report

RECOMMENDATION

That the financial report, as forwarded, be received.

3. OTHER BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE

3.1 Submissions, presentations or representations from third parties;

3.2 Matters referred by the Officer's Group for consideration or decision;

3.3 Matters raised by individual member local governments for consideration;

3.3.1 Office of the Auditor General (OAG) Audit Fees

Sam Bryce, CEO, Shire of Goomalling is concerned that a dramatic increase in audit fees by the Officer of the Auditor General has the potential to adversely impact small local governments, which do not have an opportunity to discuss OAG engagement costs prior to being saddled with them.

Sam will report on a meeting with the director's office for the OAG.

3.3.2 Regional Telecommunications Independent Review 2024

The 2024 Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee wants to hear about communities' experiences in accessing and using telecommunications services in regional, rural and remote Australia.

Written submissions and/or a short survey can be completed by 31 July 2024 via this link <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/have-your-say/2024-regional-telecommunications-review>

What issues would AROC members like to raise?

3.3.3 National General Assembly of Local Government

Sean – CEO, Shire of Victoria Plains has provided a summary of insights from the NGA held in Canberra from 2-4 July 2024. Refer to the email included as an attachment to the agenda.

It is recommended that:

1. AROC determines which matters to advocate for ahead of the federal election.
2. The EO arrange a meeting with Melissa Price, Member for Durack, to advocate on priorities issues (tba).
3. AROC members consider AROC as a collective, visiting Canberra in the next two months to discuss/lobby the relevant ministers and shadow opposition ministers regarding the following topics:
 - Housing
 - Regional Waste
 - Energy Transition and Climate Change
 - Live Sheep Export

3.3.4 AROC position on the Live Sheep Export Ban

On 17 July 2024, the Shire of Northam Council requested that an item on the Live Sheep Export Ban be considered by AROC. Refer to the Council report provided as an attachment to the agenda.

Background

AROC members previously considered a request from NEWROC in July 2023 to write to the federal Minister for Agriculture and to local members to advocate for a continuation of live sheep export.

This did not eventuate as some members considered it necessary for their Council to determine a position, before supporting advocacy by AROC as a collective.

4. CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING

The proposed 2024 meeting schedule is:

2024	Officer's Group (CEO) Meetings	Governance Group (President's) Meetings
	11.00am	11.00am
	Zoom Meetings	Council Chambers
JAN	No meeting	No meeting
FEB	19/02/2024	
MAR		11/03/2024
APR	15/04/2024	
MAY		13/05/2024
JUNE	10/06/2024	
JULY		22/07/2024
AUG	12/08/2024	
SEPT		9/09/2024
OCT	14/10/2024	
NOV		18/11/2024
DEC	No meeting	No meeting

5. CLOSURE OF MEETING



AROC Governance Group Meeting

Agenda Attachments – Monday 22 July 2024

Minutes and additional information

- 2.1 Minutes of the Governance Group meeting held on 13 May 2024
- 2.2 Status report
- 2.3 Inward / outward correspondence
 - 2.3.1 Financial report to 30 June 2024

Other business / new business of an urgent nature

- 3.3.3 National General Assembly of Local Government – email from Sean Fletcher, CEO, Shire of Victoria Plains, dated 9 July 2024
- 3.3.4 AROC position on the Live Sheep Export Ban – Shire of Northam Council report dated 17 July 2024



Avon Regional Organisation of Councils

AROC Governance Group Meeting

13 May 2024

Commencing at 11 am

MINUTES

To: AROC Members

Here within are the minutes of the AROC Governance Group (President's & CEO's) meeting held on the abovementioned date and commencement time, in Council Chambers at the Shire of Toodyay, 15 Fiennes St, Toodyay.

Tabitha Bateman

ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

AROC Secretariat

15 May 2024

Preface

These Minutes will remain "Unconfirmed" until the next AROC Meeting, where the Minutes will be tabled and confirmed subject to any amendments.

The "Confirmed" Minutes are then signed off by the Chairperson.

Attachments that formed part of the Agenda, in addition to those tabled at the Meeting are incorporated into a separate attachment to these Minutes

Distribution

These minutes were approved for distribution on 2024.



Tabitha Bateman
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Confirmation

These minutes of meeting were confirmed at a meeting held on

..... 2024.

Signed:

Note: The Presiding Member at the meeting at which the minutes were confirmed is the person who signs above.

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ATTACHMENTS with separate index follows item 5.

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

The AROC in-person meeting commenced at 11.00 am.

1.1. Announcement of Visitors

Nil

1.2. Record of Attendance and Apologies

Cr M McKeown	Shire of Toodyay
Ms T Bateman	A/CEO, Shire of Toodyay
Cr P Bantock	Shire of Victoria Plains
Mr S Fletcher	CEO, Shire of Victoria Plains
Ms D Terelinck	CEO, Shire of Northam
Cr A Mencshelyi	Shire of Northam
Cr C Poulton	Shire of Northam
Mr S Bryce	CEO, Shire of Goomalling
Cr K Trent	Shire of York
Mr C Linnell	CEO, Shire of York
Mrs K Murray	Executive Officer, AROC

Apologies

Cr C Antonio	Shire of Northam
Cr J Chester	Shire of Goomalling

2. MINUTES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

2.1 Confirmation of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION/AROC RES. NO.01/05/24

MOVED Cr Mencshelyi **SECONDED** Mr Bryce

That the Unconfirmed Minutes of the Avon Regional Organisation of Councils meeting held on 11 March 2024 be accepted as a true and correct record.

MOTION CARRIED

2.2 Review of Status Report

Review of actions and progress arising from previous meetings and decisions.

Points raised as follows:

Climate Change Initiatives – on hold.

Corella Management – Wheatbelt NRM will host a stakeholder meeting in Northam on Wednesday 15 May.

Water sustainability – no recent action.

Road clearing permit –

Rebecca Palumbo, Shire of York, will provide input into the Native Vegetation Policy implementation roadmap Action 4.1: *Establish new arrangements to advise the Minister for Environment on roadside vegetation management, including a new advisory group under section 25 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986.*

Housing shortage –

A draft report for the AROC-Dandaragan Workforce Housing Study is likely to be available by the end of May. A joint application has been submitted to the federal Housing Support Program stream 1 to fund planning works for a housing project in each of the six local government partners. Stream 2 is open for headworks and discussions are underway to confirm a partnership application to be prepared by Whitney Consulting.

SF – Narrogin and Lake Grace have confirmed their interest in joining a partnership application for stream 2, which will increase likely housing development to 140.

Regional Collaboration on Waste

Awaiting waste summit on 30 & 31 May and release of WA Government waste strategy to guide scope of works for an AROC waste management study.

Discussed current waste management arrangements, collection, recycling and e-waste; collectively negotiated agreements with Avon Waste (did not include Goomalling) which expire in June 2025, with an option to renew for a further four years.

2.3 Inward / Outward Correspondence

2.3.1 Financial Report

RECOMMENDATION/AROC RES. NO.02/05/24

MOVED Cr Bantock

SECONDED Cr Trent

That the financial report, as forwarded, be received.

MOTION CARRIED

3. OTHER BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE

3.1 Submissions, presentations or representations from third parties;

3.2 Matters referred by the Officer's Group for consideration or decision;

3.2.1 AROC budget allocation 2024-2025.

The following information is provided to support AROC members to determine a budget for AROC initiatives in the 2024/25 financial year.

The annual membership fee is \$5,000 per annum, which currently covers the cost of employing an Executive Officer to support AROC's activities.

Existing commitments include:

- Executive Officer employment - \$25,000 per annum comprised of:
 - Wages & Superannuation - \$23,200 (400 hours)
 - Mobile phone - \$744 per annum
 - Administration (Zoom & Docusign subscriptions) - \$409 per annum
 - Travel allowance - \$200 per annum
 - Training / events - \$447 per annum
- Corella Management Project - \$50,000 per annum for a three-year term (from 2023/24 to 2025/26), comprised of:
 - \$25,000 from AROC accumulated funds per annum, and
 - \$5,000 from each member per annum.AROC has paid \$25,000 for January-June 2024, and was advised by Wheatbelt NRM at the March Governance Group meeting that there would be no further invoices this financial year. Given that member contributions were not required this year, contributions already paid can be carried over to the next financial year.

New allocations to consider:

- Proposal to allocate funds (\$30,000-\$40,000) to develop an AROC Waste Management Strategy in 2025.

AROC supports collaboration in the planning and operation of waste management infrastructure and services, where mutual benefits can be obtained.

It is recommended that AROC develop a scope of works to develop a strategy to guide planning and investment in waste management infrastructure and services for the region.

The scope of works will be informed by the WA government's waste strategy which is due to be released in the first half of the year.

The Wheatbelt Waste & Environment Summit (30 & 31 May) will also provide opportunities to workshop local waste management issues and opportunities.

Following the preparation of an agreed scope of works and cost estimate, members may determine if the costs will be met using accumulated funds, or if an additional contribution by participating members is required.

- **Proposal to develop an AROC logo (\$1,000)**
AROC currently uses five Shire logos on all correspondence. To develop AROC's identity as a collaboration of member local governments, it is recommended that AROC members approve the design and adoption of a logo which represents the Avon region and AROC's collaboration.

A logo will assist in building recognition of AROC. Examples of other ROC logos, for NEWROC and WEROC, are provided below.



Discussion:

Cr McKeown indicated a preference for the use of all five logos to clearly reflect the identities of each member, and expressed concern that an AROC logo would dilute this identification.

EO indicated that consultants and project partners have requested an AROC logo for use on reports or promotional materials, and that in such cases, an AROC logo is more suitable than use of all five local government logos. The intent is for the logo to reflect the collaboration between members.

After further discussion it was agreed that an AROC logo should, like the NEWROC logo above, use the AROC name and identify the member local governments.

In summary, the proposed budget allocation for 2024/25 is:

Committed	2024/25	2025/26
Executive Officer Role	\$25,000	\$25,000
Corella Management Project*	\$50,000	\$50,000
Proposed		

Waste Management Strategy	\$40,000	
Logo design	\$1,000	
Total	\$116,000	\$75,000

*comprised of \$25,000 accumulated funds and \$25,000 in additional member contributions each year.

The expenditure of accumulated funds will be offset by member annual contributions (\$25,000) and Corella Project contributions (\$25,000) in that year.

RECOMMENDATION/AROC RES. NO.03/05/24

MOVED Cr Trent **SECONDED** Cr Mencshelyi

That AROC approves the budget allocation as provided.

MOTION CARRIED

3.3 Matters raised by individual member local governments for consideration;
3.3.1 Advocacy for improved energy and communications infrastructure in the regions.

See attached Farm Weekly article, ‘Regional councils add up outage costs’. The Wheatbelt Business Network (WBN) is working with NEWROC and WEROC on advocacy regarding the impact of regular power and telecommunications outages. Wheatbelt Business Network CEO, Rik Soderland, was unable to attend this AROC Governance Group meeting to provide further advice about advocacy efforts. However, he said, it was a key topic at the recent Wheatbelt Futures Forum held at the Northam Town Hall at which both Horizon Power and Telstra representatives were speaking. WBN are in regular contact with the State Government as well as Telstra and Horizon Power.

Discussion:

SF – Victoria Plains made a submission to the WA parliamentary inquiry into regional telecommunications and provided a copy to the WBN.

Responses from Western Power and Telstra continue to be underwhelming.

There has been mention of a move to Starlink satellite service as a solution to providing reliable emergency communications during power outages. Questioned whether a move to satellite reduces the likelihood of Telstra maintaining or improving existing infrastructure?

Quantifying the costs of power and communication outages is difficult. However, the impacts can be identified, including inability

to attract investment due to unreliable power and communications infrastructure.

Action – EO to contact NEWROC and WEROC to determine current advocacy efforts.

3.3.2 Containment in Cat Local Laws.

Cr Chester requested AROC consider a proposal from Cr Madacs, Shire of Toodyay (email provided as an attachment) to include a containment clause in Cat Local Laws. The email outlines that cat containment has not been approved for inclusion in local laws because the Cat Act of 2011 does not provide for it. However, the Shire of Northam recently had a local law accepted and gazetted which included a containment clause. Section 82 of the Cat Act 2011 enables provision for adoption from another local law. The proposal is for AROC members to adopt the Northam Cat Local Law in its entirety, or the containment provisions alone, to provide a united front on feral and domestic cat control in the Avon.

Discussion:

Acknowledged that it was surprising that the containment provision in the Northam cat local law had been accepted, given the Cat Act 2011 doesn't provide for it. It is possible that other attempts to include this provision may not be accepted. However, it may be possible to prohibit cats from certain public areas, e.g., nature reserves.

SF – suggested that advocacy be directed through the Avon Midland Zone.

Action – EO to contact WALGA to determine if advocacy to include a containment provision in the Cat Act 2011 is underway.

4. CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING

The proposed 2024 meeting schedule is:

2024	Officer's Group (CEO) Meetings	Governance Group (President's) Meetings
	11.00am	11.00am
	Zoom Meetings	Council Chambers
JAN	No meeting	No meeting
FEB	19/02/2024	
MAR		11/03/2024

MINUTES – AROC GOVERNANCE GROUP
AVON REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

13 MAY 2024

APR	15/04/2024	
MAY		13/05/2024
JUNE	10/06/2024	
JULY		22/07/2024
AUG	12/08/2024	
SEPT		9/09/2024
OCT	14/10/2024	
NOV		18/11/2024
DEC	No meeting	No meeting

5. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 11.44 am



AROC Governance Group Meeting

Attachments to Minutes – Monday 13 May 2024

Minutes and additional information

- 2.2 Status report
- 2.3 Inward / outward correspondence
 - 2.3.1 Financial report to 30 April 2024

Other business / new business of an urgent nature

- 3.3.1 Advocacy for improved energy and communications infrastructure in the regions.
Farm Weekly article, 'Regional councils add up outage costs.'
- 3.3.2 Containment provision in Cat Local Laws
Email from Cr Madacs to Cr Chester.

AROC STATUS REPORT
Avon Regional Organisation of Councils

Secretariat
CEO - Shire of Toodyay

Purpose	Meeting Date	Resolution	Target date for completion	Actioned by	Completion Date	Meeting Commentary
2.1 Confirmation of Minutes	13/11/2023	That the Unconfirmed Minutes of the Avon Regional Organisation of Councils Governance Group meeting held on 11 March 2024 be accepted as a true and correct record.	March 2024	EO	May 2024	15.5.24: Minutes to be confirmed and signed at the July 2024 Governance Group meeting.
Climate Change Initiative	12/07/2021	AROC CEOs to work together to identify a project we could apply for funding on a regional level.	Ongoing	ALL	November 2023	15.5.24: On hold.
Corella Management	13/03/2023	AROC RES. NO.02/03/23: That AROC members individually commit \$5,000 per annum in 2023, 2024 and 2025, and commit \$25,000 pa from AROC funds for three years, towards corella management activities.	2025	ALL	2025	15.5.24: Wheatbelt NRM will host a Corella Stakeholder meeting on 15 May.
Water sustainability	10/05/2021	Avon River health & access to funding.		Northam, York & Toodyay		15.5.24: No recent action.

Purpose	Meeting Date	Resolution	Target date for completion	Actioned by	Completion Date	Meeting Commentary
Road clearing permits and pre-funding for road projects.	08/05/2023	That AROC submit a motion to the WALGA Avon Zone meeting to advocate for specific changes to the native vegetation clearing permit system.	23/06/2023	EO	Ongoing	15.5.24: Rebecca Palumbo, Shire of York, will provide input into the Native Vegetation Policy implementation roadmap Action 4.1: Establish new arrangements to advise the Minister for Environment on roadside vegetation management, including a new advisory group under section 25 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986.
Housing shortage	16/05/2022	AROC to advocate to relevant Ministers and Shadow Ministers (Housing & Local Government) to address a critical shortage of housing in the Avon Region.	Ongoing	EO	May 2024	15.5.24: A draft AROC-Dandaragan Workforce Housing Study report will be available end of May. A joint application has been submitted to the federal Housing Support Program stream 1 to fund planning works for a housing project in each of the six LG partners. Stream 2 (infrastructure) funding opens for applications in May 2024.
Regional Collaboration on Waste	13/11/2023	That AROC submit a motion to the WALGA Avon Zone meeting to advocate for a metropolitan waste levy to fund investment in alternative waste management locations and technologies in regional areas.	2024	EO	Ongoing	15.5.24: Awaiting Wheatbelt Waste & Environment Summit on 30 & 31 May; and release of WA government waste strategy, to guide scope of works for AROC Waste Management Strategy.

AVON REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

Statement of Comprehensive Income

Administered by Shire of Northam

Regional councils add up outage costs



The NEWROC team has been advocating for better power and telecommunications infrastructure for several years, but now it has a report which can quantify what a week-long power outage does to small towns.

By PERRI POLSON

THE North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils (NEWROC) has finalised an economic analysis of the damage caused by a six-day power outage in the Wheatbelt in January.

Economic consulting company, Econisis, estimated there were at least \$11.1 million in financial losses over the seven NEWROC councils (Koorda, Mount Marshall, Mukinbudin, Nungarin, Trayning, Wyalkatchem and Dowerin) during the power outage starting on January 19.

At least \$800,000 of this was lost due to an internet outage which lasted three days.

This figure is the sum of commercial business losses, as well as private and residential losses, however does not include onfarm losses.

It also doesn't include social and community losses, which is difficult to quantify.

The report highlights that \$240 in compensation was given to each affected household, however there was no compensation for businesses.

NEWROC executive officer Caroline Robinson said the figure leaned on the conservative side.

She said the seven councils have listed power and telecommunications as a priority for several years.

Ms Robinson said NEWROC had previously put up two market-led applications to the State government with potential solutions to townsit power, including a microgrid, and a community battery, which were knocked back.

"We commissioned an economic impact report because we felt like we needed the hard data to help us in our discussions with

government and private industry," Ms Robinson said.

"Our argument is that power is a fundamental piece of infrastructure that we need for regional development.

"We have to start arguing it from an economic point of view."

With this data, NEWROC is looking to present the findings to WA Energy Minister Reece Whitby, Regional Development Minister Don Punch, Western Power and former government minister Alannah MacTiernan, who is now the chairwoman of the Federal government's 2024 Regional Telecommunications review.

"We're trying to overcome those barriers to investment and demonstrate our importance," Ms Robinson said.

The report said NEWROC councils produced a total economic output of \$605m last year, agriculture accounting for the largest part of this.

NEWROC councils are on the edge of the South West Interconnected System, better known as SWIS, which is an electricity grid between Kalbarri and Kalgoorlie, managed by Horizon Power.

Ms Robinson said this infrastructure was ageing and outdated.

"You've got long powerlines trying to push a lot of energy, and it's really fragile," she said.

"We need a different solution because you have one break along that line and everyone else after it goes out."

"We need to find a tailored solution."

"We want to work with the government on some solutions but we just cannot get through their criteria," Ms Robinson said.



**FIREWORKS
AT 7PM**

**Williams
Gateway
Expo**

Saturday, April 13, 2024

10am til late at Williams Sportsground

**ENTRY GOLD COIN DONATION
A SMOKE/VAPE FREE EVENT**

EXHIBITIONS INCLUDE:

**Merino & Poll Merino
Ann Rintoul 0407 851 031**

**British & Australasian Breeds
Grant Bingham 0429 851 028**

**Spearwood Wool Expo Shears
Shearing Competition
Gavin Fowler 9885 1037**

**Things with Wheels Show
Robert Rose 0427 352 000**

**Market Stalls
Kirby Dickson 0405 367 664**

MAJOR SPONSORS:



Farm WEEKLY

Newmont. AUSTRALIA

**SPEARWOOD WOOL
WOOL MERCHANTS**

Kelly Anne Murray

From: Cr Chester <cr.chester@goomalling.wa.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 12 May 2024 4:07 PM
To: Toodyay AROC
Subject: [External]-Fwd: Containment in Cat Local Laws

Hi Kelly Anne
FYI

Cr Julie Chester
Shire of Goomalling
0427291223

Begin forwarded message:

From: Councillor Madacsi <cr.madacsi@toodyay.wa.gov.au>
Date: 6 May 2024 at 12:24:47 pm AWST
To: Samuel Bryce <ceo@goomalling.wa.gov.au>, Cr Chester <cr.chester@goomalling.wa.gov.au>
Cc: Records Officer <records@toodyay.wa.gov.au>
Subject: Containment in Cat Local Laws

Good afternoon, Julie and Samuel,

I am following through from my message to Julie today about the successful cat containment clause in the Shire of Northam' Cat Local Law. Cat containment has not been able to be captured before in local laws due to the lack of provision in the Cat Act 2011. Northam successfully circumvented this with the following provision (3.2) which was accepted and gazetted.

PART 3—CONTROL OF CATS

3.1 Cat nuisance

The owner or occupier of premises on which a cat is ordinarily kept must take prevent the cat from creating a nuisance on other premises, to another person to health and/or safety risk.

3.2 Cats in other places

- (1) A cat shall not be in a public place unless the cat is, in the opinion of an effective control.
 - (2) If a cat is at any time in contravention of clause 3.2(1)—
 - (a) the keeper of the cat commits an offence; and
 - (b) an Authorised Person may seize and impound the cat and deal with the Act.
 - (3) A cat shall not be in a place that is not a public place unless—
 - (a) consent to its being there has been given by the occupier, or a person to consent on behalf of the occupier; and
 - (b) it is under effective control.
 - (4) If a cat is at any time, in a place in contravention of the *Shire of Northam Cat Act 2011*
 - (a) The keeper of the cat commits an offence; and
 - (b) In any premises lawfully entered by an Authorised Person, they may seize the cat and deal with the cat pursuant to the Act.

Fortunately, section 82 of the Cat Act 2011 made provision for adoption from another local law.

82. Local laws may adopt codes etc.

- (1) A local law made under this Act may adopt the text of—
 - (a) any model local law, or amendment to it, published under section 83; or
 - (b) a local law of any other local government; or
 - (c) any code, rules, specifications, or standard issued by Standards Australia or by such other body as is specified in the local law.
- (2) The text may be adopted—
 - (a) wholly or in part; or
 - (b) as modified by the local law; or
 - (c) as it exists at a particular date or, except if the text of a model local law is being adopted, as amended from time to time.
- (3) The adoption may be direct, by reference made in the local law, or indirect, by reference made in any text that is itself directly or indirectly adopted.

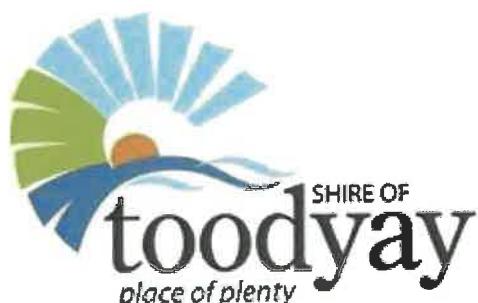
Therefore, I am asking if the Shire of Goomalling would consider adopting the Northam Cat Local Law in its entirety, or the containment provision alone, to provide a united front on feral and domestic cat control in the Avon.

Warm Regards

Rosemary Madacs
COUNCILLOR

Shire of Toodyay
PO Box 96
TOODYAY WA 6566

M: 0448 473 328
E: cr.madacs@toodyay.wa.gov.au



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AROC STATUS REPORT
Avon Regional Organisation of Councils

Secretariat
CEO - Shire of Toodyay

Purpose	Meeting Date	Resolution	Target date for completion	Actioned by	Completion Date	Meeting Commentary
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Climate Change Initiative	12/07/2021	AROC CEOs to work together to identify a project we could apply for funding on a regional level.	Ongoing	ALL	November 2023	15.4.24: On hold.
Corella Management	13/03/2023	AROC RES. NO.02/03/23: That AROC members individually commit \$5,000 per annum in 2023, 2024 and 2025, and commit \$25,000 pa from AROC funds for three years, towards corella management activities.	2026	ALL	2026	18.7.24: EO advised the Project Officer of AROC's priorities for the project; EO unable to meet with Management to discuss lack of deliverables as both Manager and CEO have moved on; Invitation forwarded to interim CEO, Renata Paliskis, to attend the Officer's Group meeting on 12 August; WEROC board is meeting with Renata; quarterly project report is due next week.
Water sustainability	10/05/2021	Avon River health & access to funding.		Northam, York & Toodyay		15.4.24: No recent action.

Purpose	Meeting Date	Resolution	Target date for completion	Actioned by	Completion Date	Meeting Commentary
Road clearing permits and pre-funding for road projects.	08/05/2023	That AROC submit a motion to the WALGA Avon Zone meeting to advocate for specific changes to the native vegetation clearing permit system.	23/06/2023	EO	Ongoing	18.7.24: Rebecca Palumbo, Shire of York, met with DWER staff about the Native Vegetation Policy Implementation Roadmap and specifically the Action 4.1 Roadside Vegetation Advice. Discussed regional gaps and DWER indicated possibility of establishing a state-wide forum for policy related matters. Rebecca advocated for a regionally focussed group to voice regional issues.
Housing shortage	16/05/2022	AROC to advocate to relevant Ministers and Shadow Ministers (Housing & Local Government) to address a critical shortage of housing in the Avon Region.	Ongoing	EO	May 2024	18.7.24: A draft AROC-Dandaragan Workforce Housing Study report has been sent to the project team. Waiting on the completion of project business cases and cost benefit analysis. A successful application to the Federal Housing Support Program Stream 1 to fund planning works for a housing project in each of the six LG partners, has secured \$877,065. Whitney Consulting has been contracted to prepare an application to the State Infrastructure Development Fund (stream 3) on behalf of Victoria Plains, Goomalling, Toodyay and Dandaragan.

Purpose	Meeting Date	Resolution	Target date for completion	Actioned by	Completion Date	Meeting Commentary
						Alex MacKenzie (WDC) recommends submitting a joint application to the HSP Stream 2 funding, for housing construction.
Regional Collaboration on Waste	13/11/2023	That AROC submit a motion to the WALGA Avon Zone meeting to advocate for a metropolitan waste levy to fund investment in alternative waste management locations and technologies in regional areas.	2024	EO	Ongoing	18.7.24: EO participated in Waste Authority online consultation for the draft WA Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 (public comment closes 21 August); EO is following up with the Gascoyne Development Commission, Wheatbelt Development Commission, and the City of Albany regarding approaches to regional collaboration on waste management. Next step is to prepare a scope of works for a regional waste strategy.

AVON REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

Statement of Comprehensive Income

Administered by Shire of Northam

Kelly Anne Murray

From: Sean Fletcher <ceo@victoriaplains.wa.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 9 July 2024 10:48 AM
To: Kelly Anne Murray
Subject: [External]-Update on Matters for the AROC GG Agenda
Attachments: 240709 Media Statement - Housing Support Program - Stream 1.docx; Listening Report - ALGA National Congress 2024.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello Kelly- Anne

I thought I would update you on a number of matters and perhaps for inclusion in the AROC GG's agenda:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEEK

Local Government Week Attendance

The largest local government contingent ever, descended on Canberra this week: 1,200 delegates, with a record turn out from WA of 135. The Government made it clear all week - you need to be in it to win it - we certainly were. Vic Plains, York and Northam were in attendance. I think you would have enjoyed what was a great week.

Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG) - Housing Support Program

On Friday, at the ACLG, we got to hear from the Prime Minister, many Cabinet Ministers, assistant ministers and departmental heads.

The Prime Minister spoke first. Within his speech, he made a key announcement - the successful applicants under the Housing Support Program - Stream 1. I am pleased to say that Victoria Plains (as the lead local government re the key worker housing project) was listed as one of the successful applicants (One of 73 local governments to benefit). This is the perfect example of what it means to be in it to win it. We were there.

The funding of \$877,065 is for planning and designing costs for the housing project across six local governments - Vic Plains, Goomalling, Toodyay, Dandaragan, Moora and West Arthur.

It's also very clear the benefit of submitting a joint application. I have attached a copy of Vic Plains media statement for information. The WDC also announced it here:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/MRKbH7588umF8bss/>

The PM also announced the opening of the next stream of the Housing Support Program. This stream is for housing project development works e.g. roads, footpaths, utilities, green spaces and so on.

The Energy Transition and Disaster Resilience And Recovery

On Tuesday, after attending the Regional Forum, I participated in the Energy Transition listening session. A report has now been produced on the four listening sessions which will be used to help frame government policy in these areas going forward. A copy is attached.

So, with the energy transition both renewable energy and EVs were strongly thrust upon us on the Tuesday, again on the Wednesday at the National Convention and again on Friday at the ACLG by Chris Bowen, Minister for Energy.

Minister Bowen made it very clear, as did the energy policy makers earlier in the week: there is 65 months to 2030. The transitioning is very real, it is happening and do it or face becoming irrelevant to your communities (my words, not his but the message is very clear).

With renewables, all were stressing that there must be community development i.e. a social licence re upskilling locals, providing training and development programs, getting locals involved.

Minister McBain also made it very clear - the Energy Transition is our next "mining boom" and it's happening right now.

The Energy Transition is a key issue that we need to spend a considerable amount of time discussing. It is very clear, regardless of who is in power going forward, we are all going to be spending a lot of my time in the energy space. And yes, just so you know, nuclear power was mentioned by the Opposition.

Pauline attended the Recovery and Resilience session, Northam the Roads session, and I think York attended the housing session.

The Matter of Funding to Local Government

The Opposition on Tuesday made it very clear: it's time for local government stop being so nice and to lobby for all grant funding to be provided on a non-competitive basis. In fact, all of those present took this up and lobbied the Government strongly on this point throughout the week.

The Government also made it very clear it is now seeking an inclusion of social licence objectives re any funding applied for.

The current Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability was also discussed along with a ALGA's research

MEETINGS WITH MELISSA PRICE – MEMBER FOR DURACK

Pauline and I met with Melissa last Wednesday. She is keen to catch up with AROC, as all members are now in her electorate.

I have attached her diary manager's details so that you can discuss with her Melissa meeting AROC in Toodyay or some other location: Correll, Carolyn (M. Price, MP) Carolyn.Correll@aph.gov.au

AROC TO HEAD TO CANBERRA – FOR CONSIDERATION

I did discuss last week with some AROC members the possibility of AROC as a collective, visiting Canberra some time in the next two months (when the pollies are back from the Winter Break) to discuss/lobby both the relevant ministers and shadow opposition ministers re the following topics:

- Housing
- Regional Waste
- Energy Transition and Climate Change
- Live Sheep Export

I think there may have been another topic. However, the bottom line is AROC needs to settle on which matters it needs to lobby on ahead of the election.

As always, happy to discuss further any of the above
Kind Regards,

Sean Fletcher
Chief Executive Officer



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13 OFFICER REPORTS

13.1 CEO'S OFFICE

13.1.1 Live Sheep Export Ban

File Reference:	1.3.3.5
Reporting Officer:	Debbie Terelinck (Chief Executive Officer)
Responsible Officer:	Debbie Terelinck (Chief Executive Officer)
Officer Declaration of Interest:	Nil
Voting Requirement:	Simple Majority
Press release to be issued:	No

BRIEF

The Federal Government has imposed legislation known as the Export Control Amendment (Ending Live Sheep Exports by Sea) Bill 2024 that will prohibit export from Australia of live sheep by sea on or after 1 May 2028.

This legislation has potential economic and other impacts for the community of the Shire of Northam. Council endorsement is sought to express concerns to the Federal Government on the potential impacts to the Shire of Northam community.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Support Live Sheep Exports from WA [13.1.1.1 - 4 pages]

A. BACKGROUND / DETAILS

The Federal Government has introduced the Export Control Amendment (Ending Live Sheep Exports by Sea) Bill 2024 into Parliament that will prohibit export from Australia of live sheep by sea on or after 1 May 2028.

Concern has been expressed by other Local Governments, particularly in the Wheatbelt and Great Southern region about the potential economic and other impacts of this legislation on their communities. A joint position statement developed by the Shire of Pingelly (refer Attachment 13.1.3.1) outlines concerns in relation to the potential economic, population, community and sheep welfare impacts of the legislation. It is considered that the concerns outlined have the potential to impact the Shire's community in a similar manner to other communities that rely on the sheep export industry.

The Shire of Northam was provided the opportunity to be a signatory to the Local Government Joint Position Statement however declined as Council had not considered this matter. Given that this is a topical issue and is likely to remain so for a considerable period of time, the matter is being presented for Council consideration.

B. CONSIDERATIONS

B.1 Strategic Community / Corporate Business Plan

Performance Area: Prosperity.

Outcome 10: An attractive destination for investors, business and visitors; helping to grow the economy and local jobs.

Objective 10.1: Pursue economic growth, innovation and diversification.

Priority Action: Nil.

B.2 Financial / Resource Implications

Nil

B.3 Legislative Compliance

Nil

B.4 Policy Implications

There is no existing Policy that is relevant to this matter.

B.5 Stakeholder Engagement / Consultation

Nil

B.6 Risk Implications

Refer to Risk Matrix [here](#).

Risk Category	Description	Rating (likelihood x consequence)	Mitigation Action
Financial	N/A		
Health & Safety	N/A		
Reputation	The Shire of Northam taking a political stance on a Federal Government matter.	Minor (2) x Possible (3) = Moderate (6)	The Shire is expressing concerns about the impact of legislation on the local community rather than taking a political stance.
Service Interruption	N/A		
Compliance	N/A		

Property	N/A		
Environment	N/A		

B.7 Natural Environment Considerations

Nil

C. OFFICER'S COMMENT

While it is acknowledged that the proposed change is to Federal Government legislation that does not involve Local Government and there has been no community requests to date for the Shire to consider this matter, it is envisaged, based on the attached joint position statement, that there could be adverse economic and other impacts for the Shire of Northam community.

Given this, it is recommended that Council consider writing to the Federal Government expressing concerns about the potential economic and other impacts that the Export Control Amendment (Ending Live Sheep Export by Sea) Bill 2024 may have on the Shire of Northam community.

As this is likely to be an issue that will impact the communities of surrounding Shires, it is also being recommended that the matter be considered at the Avon Regional Organisation of Councils.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. ENDORSES representations being made to the Federal Government expressing concerns in relation to the potential economic and other impacts that the Export Control Amendment (Ending Live Sheep Export by Sea) Bill 2024 may have on the Shire of Northam community; and**
- 2. REQUESTS that this matter be considered at the next meeting of the Avon Regional Organisation of Councils.**

Local Government Joint Position Statement

Support for farmers and live sheep exports from WA

Economic Impact – Live Sheep Export Industry

The hurt caused by this proposal appears to be underestimated as only the direct impacts on the live sheep export are considered. The \$77 million industry to be banned only considers a proportion of the cost to Western Australian rural communities. Based on REMPLAN analysis, a direct decrease in output of \$77 million it is estimated that the demand for intermediate goods and services would fall by \$52.040 million. This represents a Type 1 Output multiplier of 1.676.

These supply-chain effects include multiple rounds of flow-on effects, as servicing sectors decrease their own output and demand for local goods and services in response to the direct change to the economy. The decreases in direct and indirect output would typically correspond to the loss of jobs in the economy. Corresponding to this change in employment would be a decrease in the total of wages and salaries paid to employees. A proportion of these wages and salaries are typically spent on consumption and a proportion of this expenditure is captured in the local economy. The consumption effects under this scenario are estimated at \$24.631 million. Total output, including all direct, supply-chain and consumption effects is estimated to decrease by up to \$153.671 million. This represents a Type 2 Output multiplier of 1.996.

The corresponding loss of direct jobs is estimated at 55 jobs. From this direct contraction in the economy, flow-on supply-chain effects in terms of local purchases of goods and services are anticipated, and it is estimated that these indirect impacts would result in the loss of a further 78 jobs. This represents a Type 1 Employment multiplier of 2.418.

The decrease in direct and indirect output and the corresponding loss of jobs in the economy are expected to result in a decrease in the wages and salaries paid to employees. A proportion of these wages and salaries are typically spent on consumption and a proportion of this expenditure is captured in the local economy. The consumption effects under this scenario are estimated to further reduce employment by 60 jobs. Total employment, including all direct, supply-chain and consumption effects is estimated to decrease by up to 193 jobs. This represents a Type 2 Employment multiplier of 3.509.

The corresponding decrease in direct value-added is estimated at \$27.416 million. From this direct contraction in the economy, flow-on supply-chain effects in terms of local purchases of goods and services are anticipated, and it is estimated that these indirect impacts would result in a further decrease to value-added of \$21.357 million. This represents a Type 1 Value-added multiplier of 1.779.

The decrease in direct and indirect output and the corresponding reduction of jobs in the economy are expected to result in a decrease in the wages and salaries paid to employees. A proportion of these wages and salaries are typically spent on consumption and a proportion of this expenditure is captured in the local economy. The consumption effects under this scenario are expected to further reduce value-added by \$12.967 million. Total value-added, including all direct, supply-chain and consumption effects is estimated to decrease by up to \$61.740 million. This represents a Type 2 Value-added multiplier of 2.252.

Direct and indirect impact of live sheep export industry ban				
	Direct Effect	Supply-Chain Effect	Consumption Effect	Total Effect
Output (\$M)	-\$77	-\$52	-\$24.6	-\$153.6
Employment (Jobs)	-55	-78	-60	-193
Wages and Salaries (\$M)	-\$9.5	-\$9.5	-\$5.2	-\$24.3
Value-added (\$M)	-\$27.4	-\$21.4	-\$12.9	-\$61.7

The REMPLAN analysis demonstrates that the real impact of this ban is an annual contraction of the Western Australian economy by \$153,671,000 and the loss of 193 regional jobs.

Economic Impact – Wool Industry

The ban on the live sheep export industry will have the unintended consequence of significantly impacting the wool industry. The wool industry in Western Australia had a gross value of \$655 million in 2021/22, 49% of the total contribution of the sheep industry.

The live sheep export industry does not exist in isolation. The collapse of the wool reserve price scheme in 1991 led to a shift to a dual purpose flock focussing on meat and wool production rather than being a wool dominant industry. The sheep grown for the live sheep export industry are generally Merino sheep as they are highly suitable as a dual purpose flock. Merino sheep are renowned for producing high quality wool and their meat is preferred by the export markets.

Over 95% of the wool produced in WA is from Merino sheep. As the ban on the live sheep export industry takes effect, dual purpose flocks will no longer be viable. It is anticipated that many farmers will no longer run sheep and those that do will switch to cross breeds which are suitable for packaged meat. These cross breeds lambs generally are sold at 6 months, creating only a limited opportunity for wool growth. This is poorer quality wool. The ban will place the 95% of the Western Australian wool industry at risk. The implications of this have been analysed by REMPLAN are summarised in the below table.

Direct and indirect impact of live sheep export industry ban on the wool industry in WA				
	Direct Effect	Supply-Chain Effect	Consumption Effect	Total Effect
Output (\$M)	-\$622.2	-\$325.8	-\$128	-\$1,076
Employment (Jobs)	-1,179	-636	-314	-2,129
Wages and Salaries (\$M)	-\$43.8	-\$55.5	-\$26.9	-\$126.2
Value-added (\$M)	-\$293.5	-\$134.7	-\$67.4	-\$495.6

The effect of both the loss of the live sheep industry and 95% of the wool industry will be substantial. The total effect will be a loss 2,322 jobs, and a loss of more than \$1.2 billion from the Western Australian economy annually. This loss has started to be priced into the economy gradually, meaning that this proposed bill already had had a chilling impact on the local economy and community.

Population Impact

The sheep producing areas of Western Australia have been impacted by drought over the last 5 years. These droughts significantly impact farmers and the whole of the rural communities. It is anticipated that there will be a greater number, and more severe droughts and severe weather events in the future. During these years, mixed farming has provided the diversity and resilience for small farmers to survive. The live sheep export ban will make these small farms less sustainable during drought years, and it is anticipated that they will be bought by larger holdings. This directly reduces the population of rural areas.

This population impact is in addition to the wider economic impact which also will have a population reduction effect.

Community Impact

Many regional towns are at a tipping point. Banning one of the industries that provides employment for the area will lower this even further, with significant human cost. Even a small loss in economic vitality has an outsized impact within small rural communities. The economic impact and also the population impact both means that families move out of the rural communities. The loss of 2 - 3 jobs in a community, therefore 2 – 3 families in the community, may mean a loss of services, commencing a negative slide for the entire community. For example, a loss of a 3 or 4 students to a school may mean a consequential loss funding for teachers from the school, making the town less attractive to residents. Other examples of services that may be impacted include Services Australia branches, hospitals, banks, IGA, café, service stations etc. This ban risk services being further consolidated to regional centres, Perth or provided online only.

First Nation and CALD People Impact

The sheep industry is labour intense. While figures are unavailable, a large proportion of these labourers are First Nation people and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) people. This proposed ban would undermine the efforts of countless people at all levels to bring justice and equality to our First Nations Peoples and would perpetuate institutional racism in our country.

The Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (RCIADIC) found that the Aboriginal population was grossly over-represented in custody. It noted that:

Aboriginal people are in gross disproportionate numbers, compared with non-Aboriginal people, in both police and prison custody and it is this fact that provides the immediate explanation for the disturbing number of Aboriginal deaths in custody.

The RCIADIC looked at indicators of disadvantage that contributed to this disproportionate representation, including that 'Aboriginal people were dispossessed of their land without benefit of treaty, agreement or compensation.

Other indicators identified by the RCIADIC were the economic position of Aboriginal people, the health situation, their housing requirements, their access or non-access to an economic base including land and employment, their situation in relation to education; the part played by alcohol and other drugs—and its effects.

Over the 26 years since the RCIADIC, multiple resources have been dedicated to remedying the factors identified by the RCIADIC and to reducing the disproportionate incarceration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

However, in 2016, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were 12.5 times more likely to be in prison than non-Indigenous people, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women were 21.2 times more likely to be in prison than non-Indigenous women.

Banning an industry that employs First Nation and CALD people at considerably higher rates than the national average further institutionalises disadvantage and exasperates the existing injustices of First Nation people's non-access to an economic base leading to higher incarceration rates.

It is notable that none of the Federal transition support package has been designated for direct impact of this ban on First Nation and CALD people.

Capital City Impact

The population of Australia's capital cities grew over 500,000 (3%) in the year ending June 2023, the largest annual growth recorded by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Population growth is one of the factors which is causing the current housing crisis. The Federal government and opposition both have proposals to manage this population through limiting immigration.

In Perth the population grew by 81,318 (3.6%). The net migration from other places within Australia to Perth in the year to June 2023 was 10,658 people. This will accelerate if the ban on the live sheep export industry proceeds, fuelling the current housing crisis.

Sheep Welfare Impact

The live sheep export industry is highly regulated, resulting in high standards of welfare for sheep. There has been controversy over these standards and calls to strengthen the regulations to provide for increased welfare for sheep. The industry continues to make significant advances in ensuring the welfare of animals during transportation, including improved vessel design, ventilation systems, feed management and monitoring. Regular inspections and stringent compliance measures have been implemented to ensure the highest standards of animal welfare are upheld.

Banning the live sheep export industry in Australia will mean that the demand will be met from other countries which are unlikely to have these high standards. While the live sheep export industry still exists in Australia, there is opportunity to increase the welfare for sheep. If the ban proceeds, the welfare of the sheep will be significantly reduced.

Conclusion

The removal of an entire industry in banning the live sheep export without providing a replacement industry is hurtful to the farmers, the local community and the whole of Western Australia. This is similar to the withdrawal of support to the car manufacturing industry which, almost 10 years on, still has a lasting impact upon those communities.

Reflecting upon these arguments, it is considered legislation should be informed by those impacted by them. In this case, legislation is being proposed which impacts the livelihood of rural people and communities, by largely people outside these communities. This leads to a mismatch between the legislation and local social values.

The effect of both the loss of the live sheep industry and 95% of the wool industry will be substantial. The total effect will be a loss 2,322 jobs, and a loss of more than \$1.2 billion from the Western Australian economy annually. Many of the people that will lose their jobs will be First Nation and CALD people. This will perpetuate the vicious cycle of disadvantage that they currently experience.

The economic loss has started to be priced into the economy gradually, meaning that this proposed bill already has had a chilling impact on the local economy and community.

Added to the economic impact is the population and services loss within rural communities. This will have a devastating cumulative impact on rural communities already doing it tough.

All of these impacts will achieve nothing as live sheep industry will be replaced by exports from other countries which do not have comparable comprehensive animal welfare standards. This ban will negatively impact on animal welfare and devastate rural communities.