



# **Avon Regional Organisation of Councils**

**AROC Governance Group Meeting**

**22 July 2024**

Commencement at 11.00 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*

**26 July 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 26 July 2024.



Tabitha Bateman  
**ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

## Confirmation

These minutes of meeting were confirmed at a meeting held on

2nd Sept. 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.**

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## 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
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
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
Ms T Bateman	A/CEO, Shire of Toodyay

## 2. MINUTES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### 2.1 Confirmation of Minutes

#### **RECOMMENDATION/AROC RES. NO.01/07/24**

**MOVED** Cr McKeown                      **SECONDED** Cr Trent

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.

**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 – 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.

Action – EO to forward Corella Project quarterly report (received 22 July 2024) to Governance Group members.

Water sustainability – no recent action.

Road clearing permit -

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 –

A draft AROC-Dandaragan Workforce Housing Study report has been sent to the project team for review; awaiting completion of the project business cases and cost benefit analysis before arranging a presentation to project participants.

A successful application (prepared by Whitney Consulting) to the Federal Housing Support Program (HSP) Stream 1, to fund planning works for a workforce housing project in each of the six local government areas (Victoria Plains, Goomalling, Toodyay, Dandaragan, Moora and West Arthur), has secured \$877,065.

Whitney Consulting has also been contracted to prepare an application to the State Infrastructure Development Fund (stream 3) on behalf of Victoria Plains, Goomalling, Toodyay and Dandaragan.

A further proposal to contract Whitney Consulting to prepare a grant application to the Federal Housing Support Program stream 2 application has been agreed by ten local governments (Toodyay, Goomalling, Victoria Plains, Dandaragan, Moora, West Arthur, Narrogin, Williams, Dumbleyung and Lake Grace).

SF - The federal HSP stream 2 application could illicit as much as \$15m towards site works in the 10 local governments partnering in the application. Victoria Plains is also part of a pilot program with the State government (Minister Don Punch, Regional Development) which may provide up to 85% funding for construction of homes.

CL – Questioned why AROC has not seen the draft AROC-Dandaragan Workforce Housing Investigation report, suggesting that the reference to AROC indicates that all AROC members should be considered project partners.

EO explained that the project team was waiting on finalisation of the business cases and cost benefit analysis prior to a presentation being arranged to project partners; and clarified that AROC as a collective did not contribute funds to the project, only the project participants, Toodyay, Goomalling, Victoria Plains, Dandaragan and the Wheatbelt Development Commission. All members were invited to participate, but some chose not to join due to work that had already been completed or was anticipated to eventuate.

SF – Assured members that there is no intent to withhold the information from any AROC members.

EO – Suggested inviting Northam and York to join the upcoming presentation to the project team.

CL – Agreed to provide an update on the collaboration on a workforce housing project being undertaken by the Shires of York, Northam and Narrogin.

DT – The Avon Community Development Foundation's is active in Northam, plans to build up to 20 key worker units, of which four are under construction.

#### Regional Collaboration on Waste

EO participated in the 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.

DT – Northam is close to determining the life capacity of the old quarry landfill and to determining options for waste management beyond it's use. The timeframe remaining is less than anticipated, approximately 4-6 years. One option being considered is the establishment of a regional council to manage waste operations.

CL – Suggested that if a regional council model is considered for servicing waste, then Council's should consider amalgamation of Shires.

SF – Indicated that Victoria Plains is considering establishing a regional waste facility to service the region and Perth.

CL – AROC needs to get up to speed quickly on what the State government is proposing for new landfill locations and suggested

that there may be an opportunity to swap the proposed location in York with one in Victoria Plains.

## **2.3 Inward / Outward Correspondence**

### **2.3.1 Financial Report**

**RECOMMENDATION/AROC RES. NO.02/07/24**

**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.**

**3.3 Matters raised by individual member local governments for consideration.**

### **3.3.1 Office of the Auditor General (OAG) Audit Fees**

SB – A dramatic increase in audit fees by the Office of the Auditor General has the potential to adversely affect small local governments, which do not have an opportunity to discuss OAG engagement costs prior to being saddled with them. For example, Goomalling had an increase of 63% this year, which had a significant impact on the budget. Much larger and more financial local governments, e.g., South Perth, pay less than small, regional Shires. A review of OAG fees and the scope of audits is required.

Discussion indicated AROC support for advocacy to Parliament to request a review of the OAG fee structure and scope of audits to align with the national standards. The OAG reports directly to Parliament via the Legislative Council's Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations.

**RECOMMENDATION/AROC RES. NO.03/07/24**

**MOVED** Cr Bantock                      **SECONDED** Cr Trent

That AROC writes to the Legislative Council's Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations to request a review of the OAG's performance of audits and increasing audit fees to Local Governments.

**MOTION CARRIED**



### **3.3.2 Regional Telecommunications Independent Review 2024**

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

SF – Victoria Plains has made a submission.

DT – Northam has also made a submission.

### **3.3.3 National General Assembly of Local Government**

SF – provided an overview of insights from the NGA held in Canberra from 2-4 July 2024; ALGA submission for inquiry into LG Sustainability, reiterated it is time to stop competitive funding to local government; WA representation is important, 'you've got to be in it to win it'.

Discussion confirmed support for an AROC delegation to visit Canberra prior to the federal election, to collectively lobby relevant Ministers and Shadow Ministers regarding key matters, collective and individual (to be determined).

The most appropriate Parliament sitting dates were confirmed to be 9-12 September 2024, with the delegation to fly out on the 9<sup>th</sup> and return on the 12<sup>th</sup> September, leaving the 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> for meetings.

It was proposed that contact be made with Melissa Price's office to request assistance with arrangements to meet with Ministers and Shadow Ministers at Parliament House.

#### **RECOMMENDATION/AROC RES. NO.04/07/24**

**MOVED** Cr Bantock

**SECONDED** Cr Mencshelyi

That AROC members seek support of their Council's for the Shire President and CEO to form an AROC delegation to lobby Ministers and Shadow Ministers regarding collective and individual priorities prior to the Federal Election.

**MOTION CARRIED**

***Action** – EO to contact Melissa Price's Office to request assistance with arrangements to meet with Ministers and Shadow Ministers at Parliament House;*

***Action** – Governance Group members to determine priority issues/opportunities to lobby on behalf of AROC and individual Shires.*



### 3.3.4 AROC position on the Live Sheep Export Ban

Members considered a request from the Shire of Northam and agreed to write to the Federal Government to express concerns about the potential economic and other impacts that the Export Control Amendment (Ending Live Sheep Export by Sea) Bill 2024 may have on member communities. The \$101m funding package is grossly insufficient.

#### **RECOMMENDATION/AROC RES. NO.05/07/24**

**MOVED** Cr Bantock

**SECONDED** Cr Trent

That AROC writes to the Minister Watt to express concerns about the impacts of the ban on live sheep export on rural communities, and request the Government repeal the decision.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## 4. CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING

The remaining 2024 meeting schedule is:

2024	Officer's Group (CEO) Meetings	Governance Group (President's) Meetings
	11.00am	11.00am
	Zoom Meetings	Council Chambers
AUG	12/08/2024	
SEPT		2/09/2024
OCT	21/10/2024	
NOV		18/11/2024
DEC	No meeting	No meeting

## 5. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 12.40 pm.



# **AROC Governance Group Meeting**

**Attachments to Minutes – Monday 22 July 2024**

## **Minutes and additional information**

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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**

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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
2.1 Confirmation of Minutes	13/5/2024	That the Unconfirmed Minutes of the Avon Regional Organisation of Councils Governance Group meeting held on 13 May 2024 be accepted as a true and correct record.	22 July 2024	EO	22 July 2024	22.7.24: Minutes to be confirmed and signed at the 22 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	15.4.24: 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	22.7.24: 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; EO to forward quarterly project report to GG.
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	22.7.24: 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	22.7.24: A draft AROC-Dandaragan Workforce Housing Study report has been sent to the project team; waiting on completion of the project business cases and cost benefit analysis before consultants will present project deliverables.  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 (Victoria Plains, Goomalling, Toodyay, Dandaragan, West Arthur & Moora) has secured \$877,065.  Whitney Consulting has been contracted to prepare an application to

Purpose	Meeting Date	Resolution	Target date for completion	Actioned by	Completion Date	Meeting Commentary
						<p>the State Infrastructure Development Fund (stream 3) on behalf of Victoria Plains, Goomalling, Toodyay and Dandaragan.</p> <p>A further proposal to contract Whitney Consulting to prepare a grant application to the Federal Housing Support Program stream 2 application has been agreed by ten local governments (Toodyay, Goomalling, Victoria Plains, Dandaragan, Moora, West Arthur, Narrogin, Williams, Dumbleyung and Lake Grace).</p>
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	<p>22.7.24: 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.</p>

## Administered by Shire of Northam

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