



Avon Regional Organisation of Councils

AROC Governance Group Meeting

25 July 2022

Minutes

To: AROC Members

Here within are the Minutes of the AROC Governance Group (President's & CEO's) Meeting, held on the abovementioned date in Council Chambers at the Shire of Toodyay.

Suzie Haslehurst

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

AROC Secretariat

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 1 August 2022.



Suzie Haslehurst
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Confirmation

These minutes of meeting were confirmed at a meeting held on
12/9/2022

Signed: R. Modjeski

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

CONTENTS

1.	Declaration of Opening.....	1
1.1.	Announcement of Visitors – Nil.....	1
1.2.	Record of Attendance and Apologies.....	1
2.	MINUTES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.....	1
2.1	Confirmation of Minutes	1
2.2	Review of Status Report	2
2.3	Inward / Outward Correspondence	2
3.	OTHER BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE.....	3
3.1	Submissions, presentations or representations from third parties;.....	3
3.2	Matters referred by the Officer’s Group for consideration or decision;.....	5
3.3	Matters raised by individual member local governments for consideration;.....	5
4.	CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING	5
5.	CLOSURE OF MEETING	6

ATTACHMENTS with separate index follows Item 5.

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

The AROC meeting commenced at 9.30 am.

1.1. Announcement of Visitors –

Rebecca Brown	Manager, Environment, Waste and Recycling, WALGA
Renata Zelinova	Policy Officer, Biodiversity and Natural Area Management, WALGA
Sinead McGuire	Executive Manager of Infrastructure and Development Services, Shire of York
Karl O’Callaghan	CEO, Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management (arrived 9.39 am)

1.2. Record of Attendance, Observers and Apologies

Cr R Madacsi	Chair, Shire of Toodyay
Ms S Haslehurst	CEO, Shire of Toodyay
Cr D Smythe	Shire of York
Mr C Linnell	CEO, Shire of York
Cr J Chester	Shire of Goomalling
Mr P Bentley	CEO, Shire of Goomalling
Cr P Bantock	Shire of Victoria Plains (via Zoom)
Mr Sean Fletcher	CEO (Interim), Shire of Victoria Plains (via Zoom)
Mr J Whiteaker	CEO, Shire of Northam (arrived 9.35 am)
Mrs K Murray	Executive Officer, AROC

Observers

Cr B Ruthven	Shire of Toodyay (via Zoom)
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Apologies

Cr C Antonio	Shire of Northam
Ian Duncan	Executive Manager Infrastructure, WALGA

2. MINUTES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

2.1 Confirmation of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION/AROC RES. NO.01/07/22

MOVED Cr Smythe

That the Unconfirmed Minutes of the Avon Regional Organisation of Councils meeting held on 16 May 2022 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:

- Executive Officer appointment - completed.
- Corella Management – current actions completed; noted AROC approval of up to \$30,000 to be expended on the report noting to date only \$3,000 has been paid; J Whiteaker to contact Karl O’Callaghan to discuss circulation of the report outside of AROC membership.
- Water sustainability – members to dot point description of priority local water issues, proposed solution/project proposal and timeframe for action, to inform water workshop discussion at the September Governance Group meeting.
- Road clearing permits – presentations held; contact made with DWER Native Vegetation Policy Implementation project officer.
- Housing – Executive Officer to prepare a report on housing demand and options to address shortages for consideration at the September meeting; J Whiteaker to circulate Development WA locality scan for Shire of Northam, York and Toodyay.

2.3 Inward / Outward Correspondence

2.3.1 Financial Report (to 30 June 2022)

Executive Officer advised that expenses relating to the appointment will be included in the next financial report.

RECOMMENDATION/AROC RES.NO.02/07/22

MOVED Cr Madacsi

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;

Presentation 1 (9.35 am) - Rebecca Brown and Renata Zelinova:
Approvals to clear roadside vegetation – challenges and opportunities.

Refer to attachments for presentation slides. Points raised as follows:

- Regional challenges include poor road safety performance, increasing demands on road network and community concerns over loss of vegetation within road reserves.
- Securing approvals is a key reason grant funded local government road projects are not acquitted in line with budgets.
- WALGA focus areas – influencing decision makers; facilitating collaboration; creating platforms to inspire progressive policy solutions; undertaking research and advocacy.
- Local Government Roadside Clearing Working Group objectives and priorities.
- Pilot new approach to clearing permits – Shire of Cuballing Strategic Clearing Permit; single permit covering 11 project areas.

Discussion/questions:

- Cr Madacsi – When did the Shire of Cuballing process to seek a single clearing permit for multiple projects begin?
- R Zelinova responded, in 2018/19; acknowledged cost savings and potential for higher survey costs associated with a bulk permit.
- C Linnell – commented that the cost of fees to lodge an appeal against a clearing permit application is too low and should be increased.

Presentation 2 (10.05 am) - Karl O'Callaghan, CEO Wheatbelt NRM
– Corella Management.

Points raised as follows:

- K O'Callaghan referred to the previously distributed report, 'Research and Management Priorities for Corellas in the Shires of Goomalling, Northam, Toodyay, Victoria Plains and York'.
- Acknowledged that the report identifies a range of short-term mitigation strategies and long-term solutions which take time

and resources; and that some strategies require the approval of government agencies.

- Highlighted the need for Wheatbelt wide coordination to reduce the negative impacts of corellas in the long term.
- Reported that CBH is interested in a coalition with Wheatbelt local governments.
- Proposal is to appoint a Corella Coordinator for three years to work with stakeholders to assist in the development and evaluation of management strategies; to be managed by Wheatbelt NRM and guided by a steering committee.
- Costs to be shared between participating organisations; approximately \$190K pa or \$600K over three years.

Refer to attachments for the proposal 'Tackling the Corella Problem in the Wheatbelt' which was distributed at the end of the presentation.

Discussion/questions:

- Cr Smythe advised of the need to involve stakeholders from areas outside of the Wheatbelt, from wherever corellas are coming from.
- R Brown referred to an invitation extended to WALGA to attend a meeting on 3 August, hosted by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), to commence work on the development of a WA Strategy for pest parrots and cockatoos; recommended WALGAs preferred supplier program for corella management activities; and encouraged members to feedback to the Biosecurity & Agriculture Management Act currently under review.
- Karl O'Callaghan expressed an interest in attending the meeting with DPIRD.

Presentation 3 (10.30 am) - Sinead McGuire, Executive Manager Infrastructure & Development Services, Shire of York – The Local Government Roadside Clearing Regulation Working Group

Points raised as follows:

- Sinead has recently joined the steering group to provide a perspective from the region.
- The key priorities of the working group are to:
 - Update and improve clearing regulations guidance material

- Improve access by Local Governments to relevant data
- Identify opportunities to streamline assessment of low impact clearing
- Encourage Strategic Purpose Permit approach
- Identify options for developing a strategic approach to roadside clearing in the Wheatbelt and Swan Coastal Plain
- Develop a roadside vegetation conservation education program.
- York has a vocal community seeking to protect flora; data collection has been a challenge.
- Opportunity for AROC members to raise clearing issues and feedback via the steering group.

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

3.3 Matters raised by individual member local governments for consideration;

3.3.1 Validity of Census 2021 data

Cr Smythe raised concerns about the validity of Census 2021 data noting it showed a decline in population which is contrary to local knowledge of population changes. Cr Smythe reported knowledge of residents not receiving Census forms; questioned the validity of the results and reported concerns about the impacts of an apparent decline in population on securing external funding.

Cr Smythe has contacted Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development at RDA Wheatbelt, to raise concerns and identify what action can be taken to address concerns.

4. CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING

The 2022 schedule provided below. Note change of dates.

2022	Officer's Group (CEO) Meetings	Governance Group (President's) Meetings
	9.30am	9.30am
	Zoom Meetings	Council Chambers

AUG	15/08/2022 at Shire of Goomalling	
SEPT		12/09/2022
OCT	10/10/2022	
NOV		21/11/2022

5. CLOSURE OF MEETING

Cr Madacsi closed the meeting at 11.15 am.



AROC Governance Group Meeting

Attachments to Minutes – Monday 25 July 2022

Minutes and additional information

2.2 Status report

2.3 Inward / outward correspondence
Financial report to 30 June 2022

Other business / new business of an urgent nature

3.1 Submissions, presentations or representations from third parties;

WALGA presentation slides from Rebecca Brown and Renata Zelinova –
'Approvals to clear roadside vegetation – challenges and opportunities'.

Proposal – 'Tackling the Corella Problem in the Wheatbelt' from Karl
O'Callaghan, CEO Wheatbelt NRM

AROC STATUS REPORT
Avon Regional Organisation of Councils

Secretariat
CEO - Shire of Toodyay

Meeting Date	Purpose	Resolution	Target date for completion	Actioned by	Completion Date	Meeting Commentary
16/05/2022	2.1 Confirmation of Minutes	That the Unconfirmed Minutes of the Avon Regional Organisation of Councils meeting held on 16 May 2022 be accepted as a true and correct record.	31/07/2022	EO		Not applicable
12/07/2021	Climate Change Initiative & Water Sustainability	AROC CEOs to work together to identify a project we could apply for funding on a regional level.	ASAP	ALL		16.05.22: See reference to Water Sustainability below.
10/05/2021	Corella Management	That AROC authorise the CEO Officer Group to expend up to \$30,000 from AROC Funds to have Wheatbelt NRM undertake field work on behalf of the member shires to develop strategies for Corella management.	ASAP	J Whiteaker, CEO, Northam Shire		25.07.22: Members to consider Wheatbelt NRM proposal to appoint a Wheatbelt Coordinator for Corella Management. J. Whiteaker to contact Karl O'Callaghan to discuss circulation of report outside of AROC membership.
10/05/2021	Water Sustainability	Workshop on water issues is required to identify local/regional project priorities and opportunities for local/regional funding.	30/06/2022	EO	tba	25.07.22: Members to forward dot point description of priority local water issue, proposed solution/project proposal and timeframe for action, to inform water workshop discussion September GG meeting.

AROC STATUS REPORT
Avon Regional Organisation of Councils

Secretariat
CEO - Shire of Toodyay

Meeting Date	Purpose	Resolution	Target date for completion	Actioned by	Completion Date	Meeting Commentary
16/05/2022	Road clearing permits and pre-funding for road projects.	AROC to write to the relevant Ministers and Director Generals to outline and address issues associated with road clearing permits and funding for road projects.	30/06/2022	EO	tba	25.07.22: Presentations by WALGA and Roadside Clearing Regulations Working Group held; contact made with DEWR Native Vegetation Policy implementation project to determine avenues for advocacy on clearing permits.
16/05/2022	Housing shortage	AROC to advocate to relevant Ministers and Shadow Ministers (Housing & Local Government) to address a critical shortage of housing in the Avon Region.	30/06/2022	EO	tba	25.07.22: CEO Northam to forward Development WA data on housing demand in the Avon Valley. EO to prepare report on housing demand and options to address shortages for consideration at the September GG meeting.

AVON REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

Statement of Comprehensive Income

Administered by Shire of Northam

	01.07.2021							
	30.06.2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Brought Forward	161,314	189,822	165,490	139,323	118,752	95,655	101,543	134,108
Revenue								
Member Contributions	25,000	25,000	30,000	30,000	49,625	30,000	30,000	30,000
Fees & Charges							5,391	2,459
Interest Earnings	247	630	1,832	3,667	-	-	1,914	2,299
Other Revenue					7,900		-	-
Total Revenue	25,247	25,630	31,832	33,667	57,525	30,000	37,305	34,759
Expenses								
Insurance							846	1,158
Recreation Plan					5,000			
Equipment Expenditure							5,897	3,081
Shire of Toodyay Administration			7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Corella Population Management	3,000							
WB Infrastructure Conway Highbury								12,000
WB Infrastructure refund to WDC								17,273
Localise Aged Friendly Audit								26,312
Strategic Waste Management Plan							28,950	
Training					7,900			
Capacity and capability assessment	5,500	22,500						
Other Expenditure Exit Dowerin		31,637			16,554			
Total Expenditure	8,500	54,137	7,500	7,500	36,954	7,500	43,193	67,324
Net Result	16,747	(28,507)	24,332	26,167	20,571	22,500	(5,888)	(32,565)
Accumulated Funds on hand	178,061	161,314	189,822	165,490	139,323	118,752	95,655	101,543
30.06.2022								
Represented by Bankwest Muni Account	178,061							

Presentation Overview

- Context: the regional challenges
- WALGA's Strategic Plan and focus areas
- Opportunities

Approvals to clear roadside vegetation - challenges and opportunities

25 July 2022

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

WALGA's work regularly takes us across the State and as such we would like to acknowledge the many traditional owners of the land on which we work throughout Western Australia.

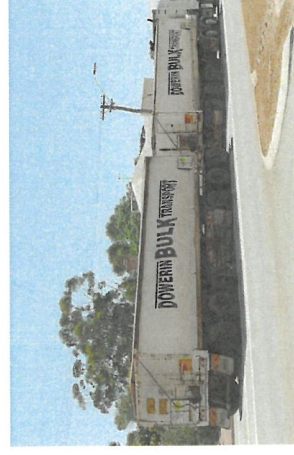
We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.

Pictured right: Artwork by Jade Dolman, a young Whadjuk/Ballardong Nyooongar, Eastern Arrernte, Insh woman from Perth

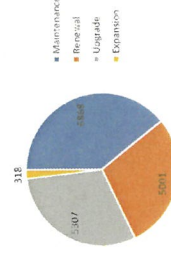


Challenges

- Road safety performance is relatively poor
- Demands on the road network are increasing



AROC Combined Road Investment 2020/21 (\$'000)

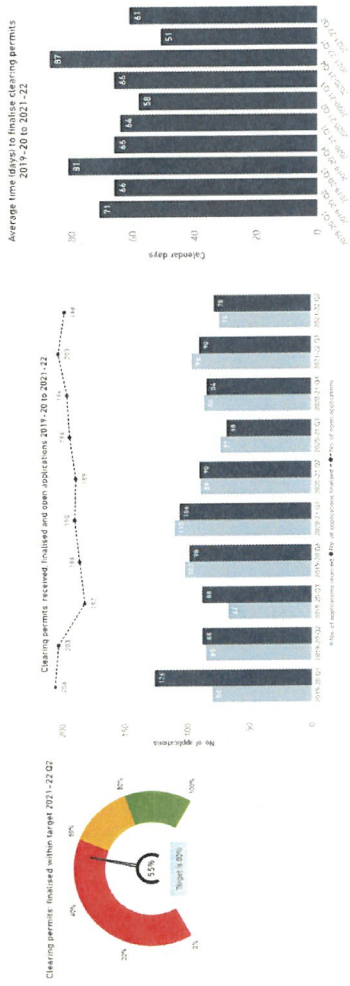


Challenges

- On-going community concerns over loss of native vegetation within road reserves



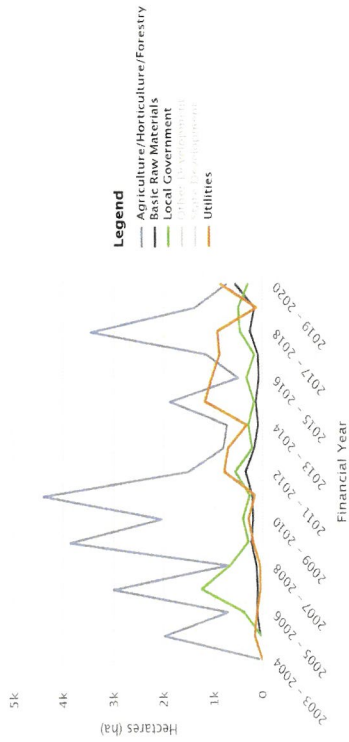
Delays with securing environmental approvals are a key reason grant funded Local Government road projects not acquitted in line with budget in the Wheatbelt



Source: https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2022-05/DWER_Regulatory_performance_report_2021-22_Q2.pdf

Challenges

Area granted by Industry Group



Areas approved for clearing under Part V of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 by industry group

Strategic Plan 2021-2025

Focus Areas:

- Influencing decision makers** - Review of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, WA Native Vegetation policy & State Budget Submissions
- Facilitating collaboration** - Local Government Roadside Clearing Regulations Working group
- Creating platforms to inspire innovative and progressive policy solutions** - Capacity building/support
- Undertaking research** – support for WALGA advocacy

Influencing decision makers

[WALGA submission on the State's Native Vegetation Issues Paper \(2020\)](#)

- ❌ **Clear guidance** on regulatory requirements
- ❓ **Set clear outcome based objectives** for Native Vegetation
- ✅ **Expand the scope** of the State's policy beyond regulatory processes
- ❓ **Improve consideration** of native vegetation in subdivision approvals under the *Planning and Development Act 2005*
- ❌ **Introduction** of 'State of the Environment Reporting'

Influencing decision makers

- ✅ **Better Information**
- ✅ **Involvement of WALGA** in developing Environment Online
- ✅ **Investment in better quality data**, specifically the mapping of Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Influencing decision makers

- State Native Vegetation Policy
- ❌ **Outcome based objectives** to address ecological thresholds
- ❓ **Inclusion of region specific objectives** for key issues affecting native vegetation
- ✅ **Integration of the State's Native Vegetation Policy** with other State agency policies
- ❓ **Inclusion of a collaborative governance framework, adequately resourced** and provide for Local Government
- ❌ **Provision of resources** for on-going management of native vegetation by Local Government, including roadside vegetation and more strategic implementation of offsets

Influencing decision makers

Better Regulation

- ❌ **The need for effective, efficient and equitable regulatory regime**
- ✅ **Dedicated resource within DWER** for Local Government clearing permit applications
- ❓ **Include a mechanism for the reoccurring appeals matters to be addressed**
- ✅ **Change clearing permit requirements for trivial clearing**
- ❌ **More DWER focus** on unauthorised clearing

Influencing decision makers

Bioregional approach

- ❓ Supported with Wheatbelt and Swan Coastal Plain as highest priority
- ✅ Investment in better data to support priority setting in bioregional approaches
- ❓ Meaningful Local Government involvement in bioregional approaches.

Facilitating collaboration

Local Government Roadside Clearing Regulations Working Group
Chaired by DWER – includes 3 Local Governments and WALGA

Objectives:

- Identify and communicate methods to manage, avoid and minimise roadside clearing of native vegetation by Local Government
- Build capacity in Local Government in the key legislation (State and Commonwealth)
- Identify difficulties and constraints experienced by Local Governments in complying with the clearing provisions of the EP Act
- In highly cleared landscapes, identify opportunities for offsets and other strategic approaches to offset management
- Develop a strategic and risk-based approach to managing clearing permit applications for roadside clearing by Local Governments

Influencing decision makers

1. WALGA comments on the Environmental Offsets Framework Review Report (2019)
2. [Submission to the EPBC Act Review Secretariat on the independent review of the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Discussion Paper \(April 2020\)](#)
3. WALGA comments on the Draft Operational manual for environmental offsets metric inputs (January 2022)
4. [Infrastructure WA \(2021\)](#)
5. [Submission to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation on the Draft Guideline: Native Vegetation referral \(August 2021\)](#)
6. [Submission to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation on Implementing Cost Recovery for Part IV Environmental Protection Act 1986 \(October 2021\)](#)
7. [Submission to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation on the Draft Native Vegetation Policy for Western Australia \(October 2021\)](#)
8. [Department of Water and Environmental Regulation on Modernising the Environmental Protection Act 1986. Submission to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation on its draft Compliance and Enforcement Policy \(2021\)](#)
9. [State Budget submission 2020-21 \(\\$4 million to support native vegetation management in local road reserves\) \(2022\)](#)

Facilitating collaboration

Working Group Strategy Priorities (2019 – 2021)

1. Review DWER guidance material and recommend improvements and/or additional guidance materials
2. Improved access for Local Governments to relevant and current quality data
3. Identify opportunities to streamline assessment of low impact clearing
4. Continue development and encourage further trialling of Strategic Purpose Permit approach
5. Identify options for developing a strategic approach to roadside clearing in the Wheatbelt and Swan Coastal Plain
6. Develop a roadside conservation education program (to incorporate guidance material in line with Priority 1 and 3)

Facilitating collaboration

Progress

- Introduction of the referral process (October 2021)
- Introduction of 'Pathway 1 Assessment Tool' and streamlining of assessments within DWER
- Identified priorities for DWER guidelines, fact sheets updates
- Case studies of effective clearing permit applications developed
- Increase in targeted DWER outreach
- Draft training module on roadside vegetation management being progressed
- Published **WA Native Vegetation Policy Implementation Roadmap** reflects several of the Working Group priorities

Facilitating collaboration

- Key themes from Local Government comments
 - Better Guidance on process and FAQs needed
 - Better Data and access to data
 - Ability to understand site specific issues – including DWER undertaking site visits.

Facilitating collaboration

- Local Government Survey Results (December 2021) – priority areas for DWER document updates
 - Factsheet: How to apply for a Clearing Permit
 - Factsheet: Clearing for Fire Protection
 - Factsheet: Native Vegetation Legislation
 - Guideline: Exemptions and Regulations relating to Native Vegetation Clearing
 - Guideline: For preparing Revegetation Plans
 - Guideline: Assessment of Applications for Native Vegetation Clearing.

Creating platforms to inspire innovative and progressive policy solutions

- Environmental Events series
- Piloting new approaches to clearing permits – Shire of Cuballing Strategic Clearing Permit
- Investigations into opportunities for strategic offsets for Local Government projects
- WALGA funding application – State NRM Program
- WALGA Training modules

Shire of Cuballing Strategic Purpose Permit Summary

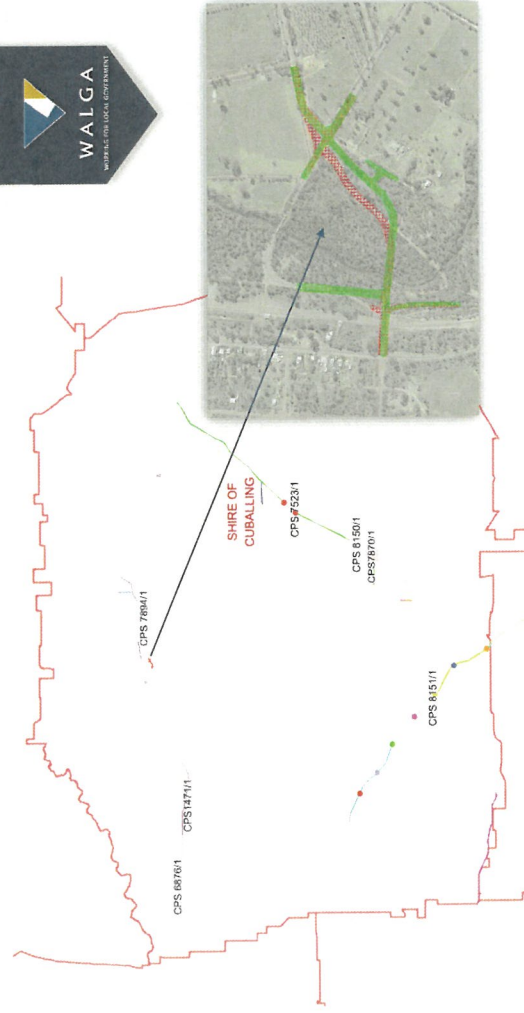
WALGA
WORKING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Authorized to clear between 14 August 2020 – 14 August 2030 (Permit duration till 14 August 2035)
- 11 distinct project areas across the Shire, totaling 16.805ha of clearing footprint
- Offset: 41.68ha within two Shire managed reserves
- Management conditions:
 - Dieback & weed control
 - Fauna management – Black cockatoos and red-tailed phascogales
 - Flora – demarcate and avoid priority flora
 - Threatened and priority flora
 - Vegetative material and topsoil retention, revegetation & rehabilitation (1.57ha)
- Annual Reporting (on or before 30 June each year)

Is it worth the additional up-front effort?

- Increased certainty around timing of project delivery
 - A single permit covering road projects and gravel requirements to accommodate these
 - Simplified administration – one permit vs multiple permits for individual projects
 - Significant cost saving on clearing permit fees
- Lessons learnt – shared via WALGA events and training modules

Project	Area to be cleared (ha)	Purpose Permit in ILUZ Fee for a single permit covering 11 projects	Fee per project
1	1.428		\$2,600
2	2.358		\$2,600
3	0.797		\$2,400
4	4.24		\$2,600
5	1.315		\$2,600
6	2.37		\$2,600
7	1.4		\$2,600
8	0.54		\$2,400
9	1.77		\$2,600
10	0.121		\$2,400
11	0.466		\$2,400
Total	16.805	\$4,000	\$27,900



Opportunities

- Clearing referrals
- Environment Online
- WA Native Vegetation Policy Implementation Roadmap
- Build staff capacity to effectively participate in the regulatory system
- Community engagement in road project planning and design (before submitting a clearing application)
- Investigations of a strategic offsets plan for the Wheatbelt

WALGA
WORKING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

WALGA
WORKING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

WALGA
WORKING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

WALGA
WORKING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Q&A



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wheatbelt
natural resource
management

Proposal

Tackling the Corella Problem in the Wheatbelt

Tackling the Corella problem in the Wheatbelt	
Document Version:	V2.0
Date of Preparation:	23 June 2022
Prepared by	Karl O'Callaghan

INTRODUCTION

In 2021 Wheatbelt NRM was contracted by the AROC group of Councils to have a look at the issue of Corellas in the member Councils and to recommend a way forward.

An investigation by researchers from ECU were contracted to investigate and developed a report on "Research and Management Priorities for Corellas".

The report recommended that:

"Managing corellas in the relevant LGAs requires a strategic approach that involves four basic activities: (1) Define the problem; (2) Develop a management strategy and plan; (3) Implement the strategy and plan; and (4) Monitor and evaluate the results."

The message was that coordinated effort by a range of stakeholders was required to reduce the impact Corellas are having on community infrastructure and lifestyles.

Wheatbelt NRM has considered the outcomes of the Report and offer a proposal for Phase 2 for consideration by interested stakeholders.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

One group of native species that have greatly increased in range and abundance in the Wheatbelt over the last 100 years are two species of corellas (*Cacatua* spp.).

Western Corellas (*Cacatua pastinator*) were originally native to the north-western wheatbelt from Moora north to Geraldton and westwards to the coast and have expanded their range south and east since the 1920s (Saunders et al. 1986).

Little Corellas (*Cacatua sanguinea*) were originally native to the Murchison River valley well north of the wheatbelt and expanded their range south since the 1920s or 1930s (Saunders et al. 1986). Both species have greatly benefitted from the clearing of the original vegetation that has created the open grasslands that mimic the low grassy valley bottoms and riparian plains that these species originally inhabited (Higgins 1999).

Populations of both species in the wheatbelt have increased significantly and large numbers are now present in the central and northern wheatbelt year round but numbers of both species increase in summer and autumn when they also form large flocks, as juveniles join with adults, and are more conspicuous.

Over the past decade many Wheatbelt local governments have received an increasing number of complaints from shire residents that relate to corellas. These complaints primarily relate to damage to grain and grain tarpaulins around grain terminals, damage to playing surfaces, roofs, television aerials and light fittings in urban areas, damage to roost trees causing long-term declines in tree health and noise from roosting flocks disturbing residents' sleep patterns.

These increases in complaints, combined with the increasing abundance of corellas (indicating that problems will likely only increase in the future), have lead shires to search for solutions. However, previous and current management methods, including netting and sacrificial sites have had only limited success and the issues persist.

Discussion

Wheatbelt NRM has continued to have conversations with a range of local governments in the Wheatbelt as well as CBH who are impacted by Corellas congregating at bin sites and casing damage to covered grain stores.

These conversations have revealed that many stakeholders are trying to tackle the problem in isolation and reactively.

Most stakeholders try a variety of control methods but there is little evaluation of effectiveness.

There is no quick fix to the issue and a long-term reduction in Corella impacts will not be attainable if we rely on uncoordinated, short-term management actions. Instead, coordinated multifaceted management approaches, undertaken by a number of stakeholders, are required to manage the impacts of corellas.

Wheatbelt NRM considers that a way forward would be for the establishment of a coordinated Corella program across multiple local government areas in the Wheatbelt.

A Corella Coordinator is recommended that could work across all stakeholder areas, working with individual Shires and CBH, to evaluate current control methods, investigate novel control methods and develop management strategies for individual stakeholder areas.

A coordinator could implement a comprehensive community engagement campaign that not only provides better information to the community about the complexity of the issue but seeks and provides assistance to build community capacity to manage impacts.

The ECU report recommends that a management strategy needs to be embedded in the following principles:

- 1) Acknowledge that human have modified the landscapes to create perfect habitat for corellas, with abundant food and water, trees for roosts and expansive areas of short grass to provide good visibility of predators. Hence, changes to landscapes, including native revegetation, town planning and agricultural practices, as well as community education, will be required to achieve long-term reductions in human-Corella conflict.
- 2) Long-term solutions to reduce the impacts of corellas requires effective long-term partnerships between stakeholders. This entails identifying, communicating, collaborating and sharing responsibilities across all stakeholder groups, such as local and state government agencies, industry, land managers, landowners and community groups in a regional working group model with coordination across multiple shires.
- 3) As far as practicable, the responsibility, both financial and logistical, of proactive actions to support long-term solutions to reduce Corella impacts will shared across all stakeholders. Actions need to be focused on solutions that benefit all stakeholders and, while acknowledging that some short-term actions to control issues currently occurring may be borne by individual landholders, responsibility for long-term solutions needs to be shared.
- 4) Effective management of corellas will involve using best practices methods that have been develop elsewhere based on evidence. However, we need to acknowledge that methods developed elsewhere will not necessarily be effective in the Wheatbelt and so any management plan needs to operate within an adaptive management framework that is continuously updated to maximise efficacy.
- 5) Managing corellas needs to focus on reducing or eliminating the damage caused by corellas rather than on the reduction of corellas themselves. While acknowledging that reducing

corellas in the short-term will likely be required in localized cases, the primary land use in the shires, agriculture, creates a landscape that benefits corellas to the extent that broadly reducing Corella populations will require continuous intensive management that is both economically and logistically unrealistic.

Proposal

Local Governments and CBH support a coordinated Corella Management Program to be managed by Wheatbelt NRM.

The three year program will see the employment of a Corella Coordinator who works with individual local government and CBH to develop specific management strategies and assist local governments with monitoring and evaluation and ongoing continuous improvement of management actions based on results.

Ongoing technical advice from the ECU researchers would assist in developing management strategies based on best practice and the current science.

Stakeholders would be responsible for implementation of actions, however the coordinator would provide ongoing support.

Costs would need to be shared by all participating organisations and an equitable costing sharing model would need to be developed in conjunction with all parties.

A Steering Committee, with members to be determined, would oversee the implementation of this program on behalf of all stakeholders.

A Coordinator would be located and managed by Wheatbelt NRM with work planning guided by the Steering Committee.

Appendix A is a Program Logic outlining outcomes and activity.

SCOPE OF WORK

Activity	Completion
Project initiation	September 2022
Develop monitoring framework	October 2022
Monitoring program – Citizen Science	November 2022 to March 2023
Analysis to determine options for action	March 2023
Local Corella Strategies developed	July 2023
Strategy implementation	July 2023 – March 2024
Evaluate impact, refine plan	October 2023 – March 2024
Annual action plan	July 2024
Ongoing monitoring/ evaluation and improvement. Recursive feedback loop	October 2024 -March 2025
Final Evaluation	June 2025

Budget

A draft budget has been prepared based on employing a Coordinator at 0.8 FTE at a Project Manager level.

Additional costs include a vehicle and an allocation for ongoing technical advice and input. A small allocation for accommodation and events.

Annual Costs

2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
\$194,274	\$198,333	\$202,392

* Adjusted based on actual start/ completion dates

Next Steps

This proposal is based on an “opt-in” arrangement. Individual local governments and/or ROCs need to consider the proposal and signal their intention to participate.

CBH will need to consider the scope of their involvement and negotiate costs.

For work to commence this summer a project scope and project stakeholders would need to be locked in by September 2022.

Please do not hesitate to contact Karl on 0429 993 370 or kocallaghan@wheatbeltnrm.org.au.



Karl O'Callaghan
CEO
Wheatbelt NRM Inc
23 June 2022

Tackling the Corella Problem

Version 1.0

Long Term Aspirational Goal

What is the change we will see?

A coordinated approach to the Corella problem in the Wheatbelt

Assumption: Many Shires and CBH have issues with the Corellas and have an interest in taking action

Longer Term Outcomes

5-10 Years

The impact of corellas on infrastructure is reduced

Local Govt and CBH have strategies they can use

Annual management plans are implemented

IMMEDIATE PROJECT OUTCOMES

Direct Project Outcomes 2023-2026

20 Local Governments and CBH, across the Wheatbelt have local strategies to assist them managing corellas

A range of management actions are identified and assessed

Local Governments and CBH are working together on the problem

Central coordinator is anchoring strategic approach to the Issue

Community change
Changes in asset

OUTPUTS

Monitoring framework

Citizen science program

Strategies at local scale

Research into options for action

Implementation of actions

Monitor and review

Strategies and annual plans for participating Shires/ CBH

Action

Develop monitoring framework

Oversee monitoring program at local scale

Develop citizen science monitoring program

Situation analysis for each location

Engage researchers to identify opportunities for management

Develop strategies for the local scale

Assist in implementation (Shire/ CBH to lead)

Assess impact

Revise plan

Ongoing plan of Monitor: Action: Review: Refine

Engagement

Project Communications Plan

Awareness raising activity

Knowledge building activity

Events and Extension

Resources and publications

Contract Management

Project Management

Reporting

Team Management

Financial Management

Monitoring & Evaluation

MERl Final Plan

Data Plan

Annual Evaluation

Final Evaluation

Means of verification