



Avon Regional Organisation of Councils

AROC Governance Group Meeting

13 November 2023

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.

Suzie Haslehurst
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
AROC Secretariat

8 November 2023

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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

Mr Karl O’Callaghan, CEO, Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management
Ms Jacque Lucas, Corella Management Project Coordinator, WNRM

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 4 September 2023 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;

3.1.1 Introduction of Corella Management Project Coordinator and project update

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

3.2.1 Regional Collaboration in Waste Avoidance, Recovery and Management

Members were asked to review the most recent AROC Strategic Waste Management Plan 2015-2020 and to determine

a process for developing an AROC regional waste avoidance, recovery and management strategy in 2024.

3.2.2 Draft AROC Climate Change Declaration

Members are asked to consider and provide feedback on the draft AROC Climate Change Declaration provided as an attachment to the agenda.

The purpose of the declaration is to demonstrate AROC’s commitment to progressing action on climate change and enhance opportunities for funding at a regional level to support climate change initiatives.

As the inaugural action of the AROC Regional Climate Alliance Working Group, adoption of the declaration indicates AROCs commitment to working collaboratively to progress climate action.

- 3.3 Matters raised by individual member local governments for consideration;**
 - 3.3.1 Key funding opportunities – what is available?**

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	13/02/2024	
MAR		12/03/2024
APR	16/04/2024	
MAY		14/05/2024
JUNE	10/06/2024	

AGENDA – AROC GOVERNANCE GROUP
AVON REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS
13 NOVEMBER 2023

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

Attachments to Agenda – Monday 13 November 2023

Minutes and additional information

- 2.1 Minutes of the Governance Group meeting held on 4 September 2023
- 2.2 Status report
- 2.3 Inward / outward correspondence
 - 2.3.1 Financial report to 31 October 2023

Other business / new business of an urgent nature

- 3.3.1 Draft AROC Climate Change Declaration
 - WALGA Climate Change Action Framework background information
 - Draft AROC Climate Change Declaration



Avon Regional Organisation of Councils

AROC Governance Group Meeting

4 September 2023

MINUTES

To: AROC Members

Here within are the Minutes of the AROC Governance Group (President's & CEO's) meeting, held on the abovementioned date at Create298, Second Floor, 298 Fitzgerald St, Northam.

Suzie Haslehurst
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
AROC Secretariat

6 September 2023

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 2023.


Suzie Haslehurst
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Confirmation

These minutes of meeting were confirmed at a meeting held on
..... 2023.

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 1.09 pm.

1.1. Announcement of Visitors

Ms Rebecca Brown	Manager Waste and Environment, WALGA
Cr Julie Williams	Shire of Northam
Cr Attila Mencshelyi	Shire of Northam

1.2. Record of Attendance and Apologies

Cr R Madacsi	Chair, Shire of Toodyay
Cr P Bantock	Shire of Victoria Plains
Mr S Fletcher	CEO, Shire of Victoria Plains
Mr Chadd Hunt	Acting CEO, Shire of Northam
Cr C Antonio	Shire of Northam
Mr P Bentley	CEO, Shire of Goomalling
Cr B Haywood	Shire of Goomalling
Cr D Smythe	Shire of York
Mr C Linnell	CEO, Shire of York
Mrs K Murray	Executive Officer, AROC

Apologies

Ms S Haslehurst	CEO, Shire of Toodyay
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2. MINUTES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

2.1 Confirmation of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION/AROC RES. NO.01/09/23

MOVED Cr Antonio **SECONDED** Cr Smythe

That the Unconfirmed Minutes of the Avon Regional Organisation of Councils meeting held on 17 July 2023 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

- K Murray advised that a draft policy will be circulated to members for consideration at the November Governance Group meeting.

Corella Management

- K Murray confirmed that a Corella Project Coordinator has been appointed and agreed to contact Karl O’Callaghan to request an update on the project plan/timeline and introduction to the coordinator.

Avon River Health

- No action to report.

Clearing Permits

- Rebecca Brown advised that the motion from the Avon Midland Zone meeting requesting referral to State Council, was considered by the Environment and Waste Policy Team in July; and confirmed that WALGA will continue to advocate, and develop solutions, regarding these issues.
- WALGA continues to meet with DWER regarding the native vegetation clearing policy; and will develop an issues paper within the next six months to outline issues and potential solutions to the impacts on local governments of the clearing permit process.
- Rebecca’s attendance at the AROC GG meeting enabled her to hear directly from members about their concerns, issues and proposed solutions to the native vegetation clearing permit system. These included, significant costs imposed by clearing permit conditions; delays to road projects as a result of appeals; jeopardised road funding due to delays; adverse impacts on Shire budgets and functionality from road project delays including difficulty fulfilling roads program, keeping staff adequately employed and reputational damage.

Housing Shortage

- K Murray advised of plans to meet with Alex MacKenzie, WDC, following availability of a draft housing project scope currently being prepared by consultants. Proposal is to have a collaborative approach with funding from interested members and WDC.

2.3 Inward / Outward Correspondence

2.3.1 Financial Report

RECOMMENDATION/AROC RES. NO.02/09/23

MOVED Cr Antonio **SECONDED** Cr Smythe

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;

3.1.1 Rebecca Brown, Manager Waste and Environment, WALGA

‘Waste - future directions and regional waste collaboration’.

Future Directions

- New Waste Strategy in 2024 is likely to maintain a focus on FOGO in Perth/Peel only, not in regional areas.
- Waste avoidance and resource recovery Levy (WARR Levy) is expected to increase and potentially expand to the Peel region, not to regional areas.
- Export Bans on plastic, tyres, paper & cardboard in 2024.
- Product Stewardship in packaging, tyres, electronic waste.
- DWER Compliance & Regulatory Reform

Regional collaboration on waste

- Identify reasons for collaboration and what AROC members want to gain from the arrangement.
- Consider governance structures e.g., regional councils, regional subsidiaries, ROCs and collaborations / alliances.
- Consider making it difficult for organisations to leave.
- Key shared services include regional waste / recycling / reuse site; collective tenders (ACCC consideration); waste education and behaviour change; and data collection and reporting.

Discussion identified:

- AROC awareness of the limited life of the Northam landfill site and the need to plan and prepare in advance for future waste solutions.
- An interest in responsible stewardship and in technological solutions to current and future waste management.
- A need to be clear on member waste issues/needs and appropriate solutions.
- A need to collect adequate data.

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

3.3 Matters raised by individual member local governments for consideration;

4. CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING

The 2023 meeting schedule is provided:

2023	Officer's Group (CEO) Meetings	Governance Group (President's) Meetings
	11.00 am	11.00 am
	Zoom Meetings	Council Chambers
JAN	No meeting	No meeting
FEB	6/02/2023	
MAR		13/03/2023
APR	3/04/2023	
MAY		8/05/2023
JUNE	19/06/2023	
JULY		17/07/2023
AUG	14/08/2023	
SEPT		4/09/2023
OCT	16/10/2023	
NOV		13/11/2023
DEC	No meeting	No meeting

5. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 2.37 pm.



AROC Governance Group Meeting

Attachments to Minutes – Monday 4 September 2023

Minutes and additional information

2.2 Status report

2.3 Inward / outward correspondence

2.3.1 Financial report to 30 June 2023

Other business / new business of an urgent nature

3.3.1 Rebecca Brown, Manager Waste & Environment, WALGA
'Regional Collaboration' presentation slides

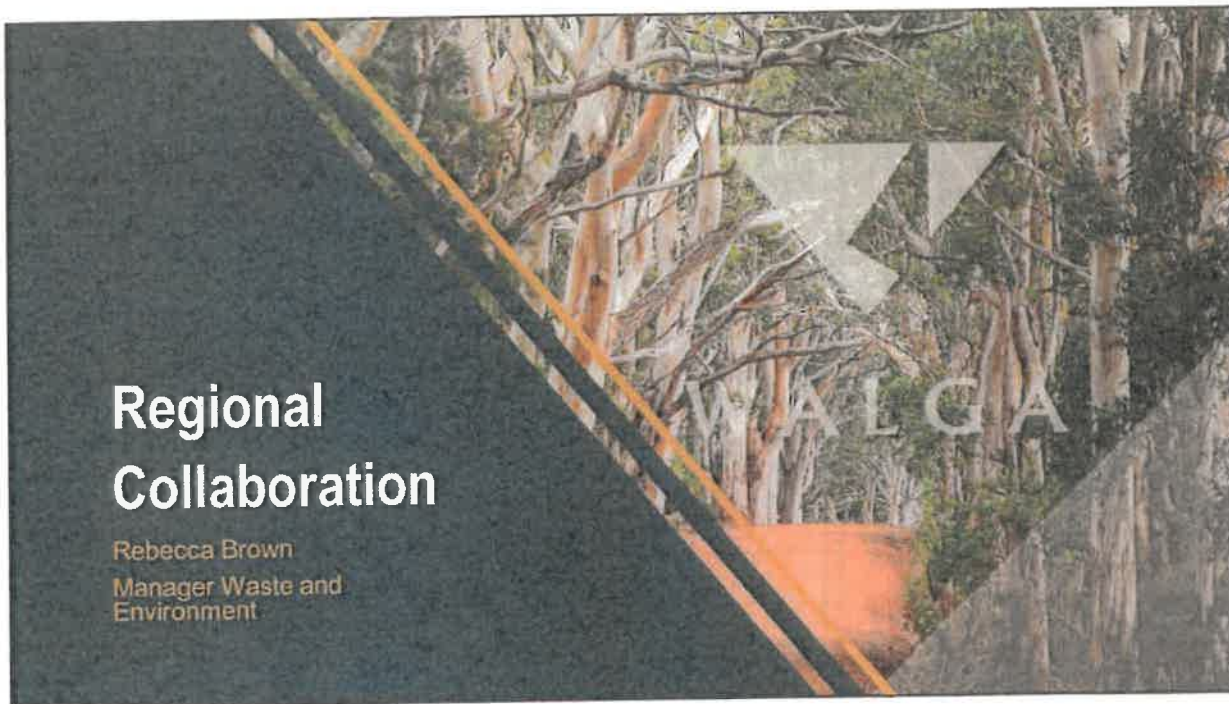
AROC STATUS REPORT

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	17/07/2023	That the Unconfirmed Minutes of the Avon Regional Organisation of Councils Governance Group meeting held on 17 July 2023 be accepted as a true and correct record.	4 September 2023	EO	4 September 2023	30.8.23: Minutes to be confirmed and signed at the September 2023 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	14.8.23: EO provided an overview of WALGA's LG Climate Risk Assessment training to the Officers Group meeting; discussed the merits of AROC adopting a climate change declaration/policy that could be presented to member LGs for endorsement. <i>Action - EO to draft a climate change declaration/policy for consideration by the Governance Group at the November meeting.</i>
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.	Ongoing	ALL	2025	14.8.23: A Corella Project Coordinator has been appointed and is reportedly working on an engagement plan. <i>Action – EO to contact Wheatbelt NRM to request an update from Karl on the project roll out.</i>

Purpose	Meeting Date	Resolution	Target date for completion	Actioned by	Completion Date	Meeting Commentary
Water sustainability	10/05/2021	Avon River health & access to funding.		Northam, Toodyay & York		No recent action.
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	C Linnell Cr Haywood Cr Smythe		4.9.23: Rebecca Brown advised that the motion was considered by the Environment and Waste Policy Team in July; and confirmed that WALGA will continue to advocate; and develop solutions, regarding these issues. Rebecca's attendance at the AROC GG meeting enabled her to hear directly from members about their concerns, issues and proposed solutions to the native vegetation clearing permit system.
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		14.8.23: Contact with RDA Wheatbelt resulted in offer to collate a region wide submission to the Federal Government, involving ROCs and WALGA. <i>Action – EO to develop a scope and funding model for an AROC housing analysis with WDC support.</i> 4.9.23: <i>Waiting on project scope via WDC & planning consultants.</i>




1

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

WALGA acknowledges the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to Country, culture and community. We embrace the vast Aboriginal cultural diversity throughout Western Australia, including Boorloo (Perth), on the land of the Whadjuk Nyoongar People, where WALGA is located and we acknowledge and pay respect to Elders past and present. WALGA is committed to supporting the efforts of WA Local Governments to foster respectful partnerships and strengthen relationships with local Aboriginal communities.

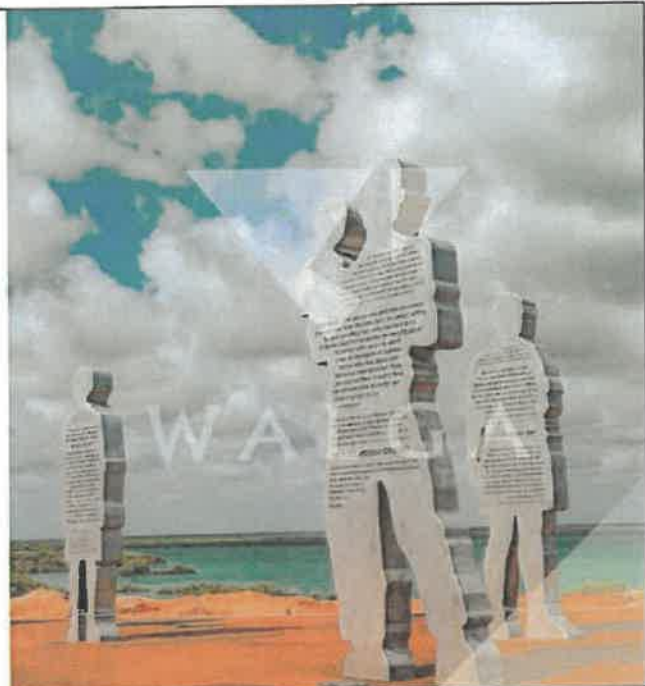
Pictured left, Artwork by Jade Dolman - young Whadjuk/Bajarcong Nyoongar Eastern Arrernte, fish woman from Perth



2

Future Directions for Waste

- New Waste Strategy 2024
 - Likely maintain focus on FOGO (Perth/Peel)
- Waste avoidance and resource recovery Levy (WARR Levy)
 - Definite increase
 - Potential expansion
- Export Bans
 - Plastic, Tyres, Paper & Cardboard (2024)
- Product Stewardship
 - Packaging, Tyres, Electronic waste
- DWER Compliance & Regulatory Reform




3

Why regional collaboration?

What are the reasons AROC are looking at for undertaking regional collaboration regarding waste




4




Governance Structures

- 1 Regional Councils
- 2 Regional Subsidiaries
- 3 Regional Organisations of Councils
- 4 Collaborations / Alliances - e.g. Regional Climate Alliance

Key considerations
How difficult can you make it for an organization to leave?
Who holds the funds?
Who holds long term liability?




5



Key shared services

- 1 Regional waste / recycling / reuse site
- 2 Collective Tenders (AGCC consideration)
- 3 Waste education and behaviour change
- 4 Data collection & reporting

PRESENTATION Footer



6

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	04/09/2023	That the Unconfirmed Minutes of the Avon Regional Organisation of Councils Governance Group meeting held on 4 September 2023 be accepted as a true and correct record.	13 November 2023	EO		8.11.23: Minutes to be confirmed and signed at the November 2023 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	16.10.23: Officer's Group have discussed the merits of AROC adopting a climate change declaration/policy that could be presented to member LGs for endorsement. <i>Action – Governance Group to consider draft climate change declaration/policy and provide feedback to EO.</i>
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	8.11.23: Jacquie Lucas, Corella Project Coordinator and Karl O'Callaghan, CEO WNRM, will attend the November Governance Group meeting to provide an update on the project.
Water sustainability	10/05/2021	Avon River health & access to funding.		Northam, York & Toodyay		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	C Linnell Cr Haywood Cr Smythe		4.9.23: Rebecca Brown advised that the motion was considered by the Environment and Waste Policy Team in July; and confirmed that WALGA will continue to advocate, and develop solutions, regarding these issues. Rebecca's attendance at the AROC GG meeting enabled her to hear directly from members about their concerns, issues and proposed solutions to the native vegetation clearing permit system.
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		30.10.23: WDC has prepared a scope of works for an AROC-Dandaragan Workforce Housing Investigation: Project Ready Solutions. Collaboration between Toodyay, Victoria Plains, Goomalling, Dandaragan and WDC, budget \$52,250 (inc GST). Arranging acceptance of quote for services (three consultants), to be project managed by WDC and AROC EO.

Purpose	Meeting Date	Resolution	Target date for completion	Actioned by	Completion Date	Meeting Commentary
Regional Collaboration on Waste	Officer's Group 16 October 2023	Agreed to add regional waste planning to the status report, to progress the development of an AROC regional waste strategy.	2024	EO		6.9.2023: Members were asked to review the most recent AROC Strategic Waste Management Plan 2015-2020 and consider how to develop an AROC regional waste strategy in 2024.

WALGA Climate Change Action Framework – for information

(Source: <https://walga.asn.au/policy-advice-and-advocacy/environment/climate-change>)

WALGA Climate Change Policy Position

Local Government acknowledges:

- I. *The science is clear: climate change is occurring and greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are the dominant cause.*
- II. *Climate change threatens human societies and the Earth's ecosystems.*
- III. *Urgent action is required to reduce emissions, and to adapt to the impacts from climate change that are now unavoidable.*
- IV. *A failure to adequately address this climate change emergency places an unacceptable burden on future generations.*

Local Government is committed to addressing climate change.

Local Government is calling for:

- I. *Strong climate change action, leadership and coordination at all levels of government.*
- II. *Effective and adequately funded Commonwealth and State Government climate change policies and programs.*

Climate Change Declaration Signatories

Local Governments from across Western Australia have committed to WALGA's Climate Change Declaration that demonstrates their acknowledgment of the impacts of climate change and their commitment to developing locally appropriate mitigation and adaptation strategies to manage climate change.

To date, 53 Local Governments have signed the Climate Change Declaration, representing over 85% of Western Australia's population. WALGA encourages all Local Governments to become signatories of the Declaration, which will further support WALGA to advocate for the appropriate funding and development of legislative mechanisms to support Local Government climate change management.

(Source: <https://walga.asn.au/policy-advice-and-advocacy/environment/climate-change/templates-and-tools.aspx>)

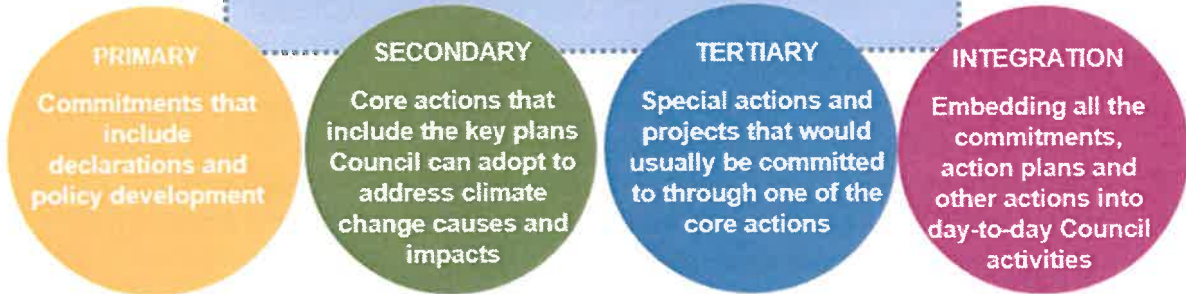
WALGA's Climate Change Action Framework

WALGA's Climate Change Action Framework sets out a logical sequence of steps that Local Governments can follow to respond to climate change. The framework is intended to guide both Local Governments that are commencing their climate change journey, and those that are well progressed and are strengthening their approach.

Local Governments do not have to adopt all the actions and may choose different priorities from the four actions areas.

Action Areas

A Climate Change Action Framework can be separated into the following four action areas:



ACTIONS

- Make a climate change declaration
- Develop an overall Climate Change Policy
- Join Cities Power Partnership
- Make a climate emergency declaration
- Join a national or international climate change organisation

ACTIONS

- CORPORATE**
- Develop a corporate mitigation action plan
 - Develop a corporation adaptation action plan
- CORPORATE & COMMUNITY**
- Coastal Councils only-complete a CHRMAP
- COMMUNITY**
- Develop a community mitigation action plan
 - Develop a community adaptation action plan

ACTIONS

- Develop an urban forest strategy
- Develop a Divestment Strategy
- Adjust corporate risk management strategy
- Set an emissions reduction target
- Form a regional alliance with Local Governments in the area

ACTIONS

- Embed climate change commitments, actions and projects in all Council policies, strategies, plans and activities



WALGA Climate Change Declaration Template





Acknowledgement

The WA Local Government Association (WALGA) acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land and pays respects to Elders past, present and emerging.



Image: Borahup Forest (Source: WALGA)





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Using the Climate Change Declaration Template

This Climate Change Declaration template has been developed to assist Local Government to take action to manage the impacts of climate change (adaptation) and reduce greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation).

The template contains text in **red** that is intended to be edited by Local Governments to reflect their climate actions and commitments.

A Climate Change Declaration may be used as a first step in addressing climate change in Local Government. The Declaration is taken to Councils for endorsement and should connect to priorities in the Local Government's Strategic Community Plan or Corporate Business Plan.

The Declaration provides a clear statement that the Local Government:

- Accepts the science behind climate change;
- Commits to adopting climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies; and
- Identifies a clear objective for signing a Climate Change Declaration.

This template is divided into five sections:

- 1) An acknowledgement and declaration;
- 2) Background;
- 3) Commitments;
- 4) Signatures; and
- 5) A Climate Change Declaration Certificate template.



Figure 1: The Climate Change Declaration process

1. Acknowledgement and Declaration

High level statements are provided that require an acknowledgement that climate change is occurring and a declaration from the Local Government that they support broad and high-level climate action.

2. Background

Background information on climate science is provided and the Local Government is required to identify projected changes to the climate relevant to the Local Government area. Information is also provided on the role of Local Government in addressing climate change and the Local Government is then required to provide a list of existing actions they are taking to respond to climate change.

3. Commitments

The Local Government is required to provide a list of their commitments to take action on climate change. It is recommended that each Local



Government should select their commitments carefully, as there is a clear expectation that these commitments will be followed through.

4. Signatures

A space is provided for the signatures of the Mayor/Shire President of the Local Government and WALGA's President. This demonstrates the commitment of the Councils to the actions outlined in the Declaration and WALGA's endorsement.

5. Climate Change Declaration Certificate

The final section contains a Climate Change Declaration Certificate template. The Certificate is a shortened version of the Local Government's Climate Change Declaration and is intended to be displayed by the Local Government to demonstrate its commitment to climate action.

Local Governments may choose to send a Word document copy of their Climate Change Declaration to WALGA to be formatted and framed as a certificate. It will be formatted into an A3 size certificate with both the Local Government and WALGA logos displayed, framed by WALGA and returned to the Local Government for display.

Local Government signatories to the Climate Change Declaration provide evidence to support WALGA's advocacy for appropriate funding and development of legislative mechanisms to support Local Government climate change adaptation and mitigation actions.

The Climate Change Declaration template begins on the next page.

Local Governments may choose to edit or delete previous pages including:

- *WALGA Climate Change Declaration Template cover page*
- *WALGA Acknowledgement of Country*
- *Using this Climate Change Declaration template instructions.*

Local Governments may also choose to remove WALGA's header and footer and insert their own logo and templates.



Avon Regional Organisation of Councils Climate Change Declaration



Image: Carnarvon Blowholes (Source: WALGA)



Introduction

Climate change is having, and will continue to have, significant effects on the Western Australian environment, society and economy, with impacts felt at the Local Government level. The Avon Regional Organisation of Councils acknowledges that human behaviours, pollution, and consumption patterns have both immediate and future impacts on the climate and environment, and that as Local Governments it is part of our role to mitigate and manage these impacts on our community.

This Declaration establishes our position on climate change, and outlines our commitments to addressing climate change, which will be further expanded upon in our AROC member Corporate Mitigation Action Plans and Adaptation Action Plans, or/ AROC Climate Change Alliance Mitigation and Adaptation Action Plans.

Commented [KAM1]: Individual member plans or shared AROC plans?

The Avon Regional Organisation of Councils supports the environmental, social, and economic benefits of addressing climate change immediately. We see an opportunity for Local Government to demonstrate leadership in climate change management at a community level and support the development of equitable and implementable State and Commonwealth strategies for climate change management.

Declaration

The Avon Regional Organisation of Councils recognises that climate change is occurring, and that climate change will continue to have a significant effect on the Western Australia environment, society, and economy.

We acknowledge the central role of Local Government in driving a successful climate response. Hence, we declare that we are committed to addressing climate change within our Local Government area, through the implementation of mitigation and adaptation strategies to minimise the effects on our community, environment and economy.

Our overall objectives are to demonstrate climate leadership by reducing our corporate and community emissions and build the resilience of our Shires to climate change.



Background

International scientific consensus is that climate change is occurring, and that it is driven by anthropogenic causes, with human activities having a profound impact on the concentration of greenhouse gas emissions since the start of the industrial revolution. Ultimately, these activities, such as the burning of fossil fuels, land clearing and agriculture, have increased greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, leading to changes in the climate system.

For members of the Avon Regional Organisation of Councils, projected changes to our climate in the future include:

- Further increase in temperatures, with more extremely hot days and fewer extremely cool days;
- More heat waves that will be longer and hotter;
- A decrease in cool-season rainfall across southern Australia, including the southwest of WA;
- More frequent, longer and more intense droughts across southern Australia, including the southwest of WA;
- More intense heavy rainfall throughout Australia, particularly for short-duration extreme rainfall events (storms);
- An increase in the number of high fire weather danger days and a longer fire season for southern and eastern Australia;
- Fewer tropical cyclones, but a greater proportion of high-intensity storms, with large variations from year to year; and
- Through a combination of many of these impacts, changes to biodiversity including increased species extinction.

Commented [KAM2]: Replace with specific AROC area changes?

These changes have the potential to impact our environment, assets and infrastructure in our Local Government area, and the health, safety, and wellbeing of our people. We therefore need to plan for, and adapt to, these changes to ensure our **Shires remain** resilient and vibrant areas.

Role of Government

As a signatory to the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Australia has committed to taking action on climate change.

The Paris Agreement recognises the importance of engagement at all levels of government. As such, the management of climate-change risks in Australia is spread across the three tiers of government: Commonwealth, State and Territory, and Local.



The responsibility for Local Governments' to mitigate the impacts of climate change is reflected in the *Local Government Act 1995* (WA):

"In carrying out its functions a Local Government is to use its best endeavours to meet the needs of current and future generations through an integration of environmental protection, social advancement, and economic prosperity. (Section 1.3(3))".

As a Local Government our key responsibilities include administering relevant legislation to promote adaptation, mitigating climate risks and impacts to our community and assets as well as the delivery of our services to our community, collaborating with other Local Governments and with State and Territory Governments to manage regional impacts, and the facilitation of resilience building and adaptative capability in our local community.

Progress to Date

To respond to the impacts of climate change, the **Avon Regional Organisation of Councils** has acted by:

- Forming an Avon Regional Climate Alliance to progress action on climate change and enhance opportunities for funding at a regional level to support climate initiatives.
- Making a Climate Change Declaration on behalf of the Avon Regional Organisation of Councils to encourage members to act.

Commitments

The Avon Regional Organisation of Councils commits from the date of signing to:

[Select from/add to the list below based on the Shire/City/Town's commitments to respond to climate change. Please note that each Local Government should select what their commitments are carefully, as there will be a clear expectation that these commitments will be followed through.]

- Assess the locally specific risks associated with climate change and implications for our services and identify areas where appropriate mitigation and/or adaptation strategies should be developed and implemented.
- Develop and implement a Corporate Mitigation Action Plan.
- Develop and implement a Corporate Adaptation Action Plan.
- Work with key stakeholders within the Shire to ensure achievement of the actions set out in our Climate Change Action Plans.
- Ensure that, at appropriate review intervals, our climate change action plans/policies/strategies are reviewed and amended to incorporate the



latest climate science, and to reflect the climate change management priorities and progress achieved to date.

- Monitor the progress of our adaptation and/or mitigation actions and communicate our achievements to the Councils and Community.
- Set an appropriate emissions reduction target and work towards its achievement.
- Encourage and empower the local community and local businesses to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- Support WALGA to work with State and Federal Government to ensure achievement of greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets as set out in key National and International agreements.
- Support WALGA to work with State and Federal Government to implement key actions and activities for climate change management at a local level.

Signatures

Signed:

Mayor/Shire President - **Shire/City/Town of [insert]**

Date:

Signed:

President - Western Australian Local Government Association

Date:



Climate Change Declaration Certificate

The Climate Change Declaration Certificate is a shortened version of the Local Government's Climate Change Declaration and is intended to be displayed by the Local Government to demonstrate its commitment to climate action.

The Climate Change Declaration Certificate template (below) can be edited and used by Local Governments or emailed to WALGA's Environment Policy team (environment@walga.asn.au) to be formatted into an A3 size certificate. WALGA's Climate Change Declaration certificate will display both the Local Government and WALGA logos and be framed by WALGA for the Local Government to display.

Please ensure that an electronic or scanned copy of the Mayor/Shire President's signature is included in the Word document copy before sending to WALGA. If using the Certificate template within the Local Government only, remove the signature line for WALGA President.

WALGA will cover the cost of producing the framed certificate.

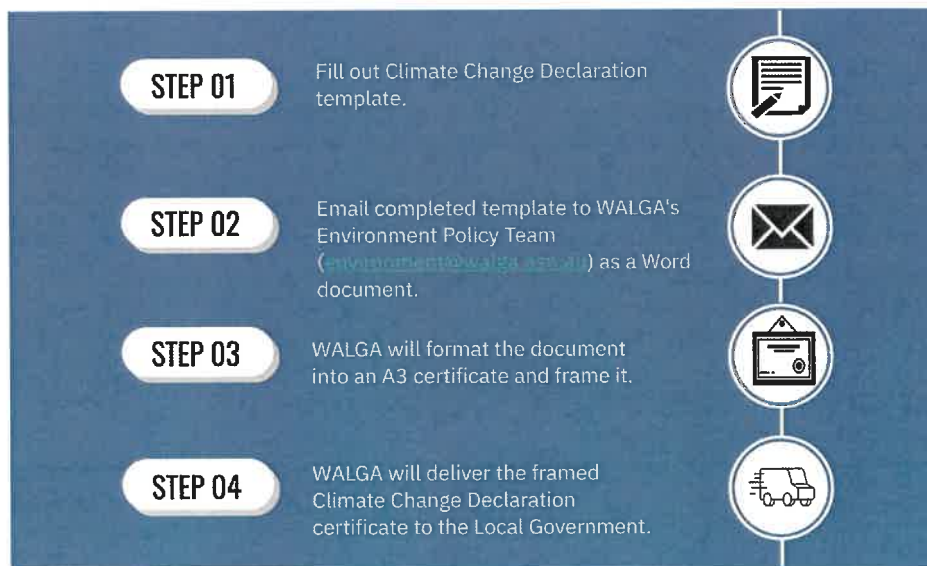


Figure 2: Process for obtaining a Climate Change Declaration Certificate from WALGA.



The Climate Change Declaration Certificate template begins on the next page.

Local Governments may choose to copy and paste the following pages into a new document before sending to WALGA's Environment Policy team to create a Climate Change Declaration Certificate or to use for internal purposes.



Climate Change Declaration

The **Avon Regional Organisation of Councils** acknowledges that:

- Evidence shows that climate change is occurring;
- Climate change will continue to have significant effects on the Western Australian environment, society and economy, and the Local Government sector.
- Human behaviours, pollution and consumption patterns have both immediate and future impacts on the climate and environment.
- As a Local Government, it is part of our role to mitigate and manage the impacts of climate change on our community.

The **Avon Regional Organisation of Councils** supports the:

- Environmental, social and economic benefits of addressing climate change immediately.
- Opportunity for Local Government to demonstrate leadership in climate change management at a community level.
- Development of equitable and implementable State and Commonwealth strategies for climate change management.

The **Avon Regional Organisation of Councils** commits from date of signing to:

(insert from commitments above)

Signed:

AROC Chairperson –

Date:



Signed:

President - Western Australian Local Government Association

Date:

