



Avon Regional Organisation of Councils

AROC Governance Group Meeting

13 November 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, in Council Chambers at the Shire of Toodyay, 15 Fiennes St, Toodyay.

Suzie Haslehurst
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
AROC Secretariat

22 November 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 21/11/2023 2023.


Suzie Haslehurst
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Confirmation

These minutes of meeting were confirmed at a meeting held on

..... 11/3/2024 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 11.00 am.

Cr Antonio acknowledged the Ballardong Noongar people, the traditional custodians of the land where we meet today and the Yued and Whadjuk people, who are traditional custodians of respective lands within the wider Shire of Toodyay. Cr Antonio paid his respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging.

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

Cr M McKeown	Shire of Toodyay (via Zoom)
Cr S Dival	Shire of Toodyay (Deputy)
Ms S Haslehurst	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 C Antonio	Shire of Northam (Guest Chairperson)
Mr P Bentley	CEO, Shire of Goomalling
Cr B Haywood	Shire of Goomalling
Cr J Chester	Shire of Goomalling (Deputy)
Cr K Trent	Shire of York
Mr C Linnell	CEO, Shire of York
Mrs K Murray	Executive Officer, AROC

Apologies

2. MINUTES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

2.1 Confirmation of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION/AROC RES. NO.01/11/23

MOVED Cr Haywood

SECONDED Cr Bantock

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.

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

- Deferred for discussion under 3.2.2.

Corella Management

- No further discussion.

Water sustainability

- No recent action.

Road clearing permits

- Members discussed the importance of continuing to advocate for improvements to permit approval processes and associated conditions.

Action – EO to request an update from WALGA on advocacy on the matter for the March 2024 Governance Group meeting.

Housing shortage

- EO advised that a letter of contract is currently being signed by the project partners, Wheatbelt Development Commission, Shires of Toodyay, Goomalling and Victoria Plains and the Shire of Dandaragan, and project consultants.

Regional Collaboration on Waste

- Deferred for discussion under 3.2.1.

2.3 Inward / Outward Correspondence

2.3.1 Financial Report

RECOMMENDATION/AROC RES. NO.02/11/23	
MOVED Cr Bantock	SECONDED Cr Haywood
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 Introduction of Corella Management Coordinator and project update

Karl O’Callaghan provided an overview of past discussions with DPIRD (including formation of the Pest Parrot & Cockatoo Strategy Steering Committee), Wheatbelt Local Governments and ROCs,

CBH, and the report commissioned by AROC, which preceded a collaboration with Wheatbelt NRM to appoint a Corella Coordinator to develop a corella management program for the Wheatbelt.

Karl introduced Jacquie and summarised her experience with Wheatbelt NRM and related projects. Jacquie requested that members complete and share the survey link to collect data on corella impacts with local communities and businesses.

Karl reiterated the need for economic impact data to demonstrate costs to local government to build the case for investment of government funds to address corella management issues, and a need to access grant funds to support this work.

Members discussed:

- The requirement for chemical treatments to target corellas and not harm other bird species.
- How to measure environmental damage?
- Jacquie encouraged members to record damage in the survey. Karl referred to further work being undertaken by a university to determine environmental costs.
- PB indicated that there appeared to be a repeat of the work already undertaken by the AROC report. Jacquie indicated that the inclusion of new partners WEROC and CBH required further data collection via the survey.
- SH advised that the report had been commissioned by AROC and paid for via the Shire of Northam, as the treasurer for AROC.
- Cr McKeown suggested that the survey would need to be open for a full season, not part thereof.
- CL advised that tangible actions are required now and asked what action will be taken?
- Karl indicated the need to bring the community along with any actions and reiterated the need for good communications; WNRM to help project partners with corella project communications; actions will be trialled in conjunction with LGs for which government permissions will be required.
- Cr Haywood – called for poisoning, as is done with foxes and rabbits, in a way that won't harm other species.
- Karl advised that use of a chemical agent requires approval, and that WNRM will work with the relevant agencies to secure approvals to trial such actions in the project partner locations.
 - PB – shared a local example of netting corellas which was neither effective (80-100 birds at a time) or cost effective (~\$2,000).

- Karl offered to attend Council and/or communities to discuss the Corella Management Project.

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.

Discussion points included:

- Cr Antonio asked if grant funding was available to support waste management actions?
- Cr Haywood suggested that AROC should advocate to the State Government via the Avon Midland Zone meeting, for a potential levy on metropolitan waste to fund alternative waste management locations and technologies in regional areas.
- CL emphasised the importance of growth capacity; conversion of waste to energy; and the need for investment in infrastructure in regional communities.

RECOMMENDATION/AROC RES. NO.03/11/23

MOVED Cr Haywood **SECONDED** Cr Trent

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.

MOTION CARRIED

3.2.2 Draft AROC Climate Change Declaration

Members are to 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.

Discussion points included:

- Cr Bantock indicated support for the collective nature of the declaration.

- SF agreed that the alliance should be embraced and that the templates look good.
- SH reported that feedback on AROC’s unsuccessful application to the Regional Climate Alliance program indicated the need for stronger demonstration of partnerships. An AROC RCA and climate change declaration would demonstrate this commitment.
- CL advised a need to put the declaration to Council before supporting an AROC declaration.
- DT referred to WALGA’s Climate Change Action Framework which identifies four action areas, primary, secondary, tertiary and integration actions; and queried which member actions will inform the proposed AROC declaration commitments? Will the declaration details AROC actions or individual member actions?
- EO confirmed that the draft declaration currently contains ‘Commitments’ that have been selected from a list of possible actions undertaken by local governments, not specific by AROC as a collective. Members will need to consider what actions their local governments are able to undertake given staff resourcing and budget capacities. Previously, AROC has discussed establishing a baseline emissions profile with or without the assistance of an external resource/consultant such as the East Metropolitan Regional Council.
- EO reiterated that the intention is to best position AROC to apply for future Regional Climate Alliance or like funding to contract a shared climate resource to enable members to further actions.

RECOMMENDATION/AROC RES. NO.04/11/23	
MOVED Cr Bantock	SECONDED Cr Haywood
That members provide feedback on the draft AROC Climate Change Declaration and advise which climate action commitments may be included in the AROC Climate Change Declaration, to be further considered at the March 2024 Governance Group meeting.	
MOTION CARRIED	

3.3 Matters raised by individual member local governments for consideration;

3.3.1 Key funding opportunities – what is available?

- SF – Encouraged members to share information about potential projects which could utilise government funding available for infrastructure development. For example, the WA Government’s Infrastructure Development Fund – Unlocking Regional Worker Accommodation; and the federal Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program. See links below via

Grant Guru, the Regional Development Australia WA’s Funding & Grants Hub. This site is a comprehensive list of grant and funding opportunities, and members are encouraged to register to receive email alerts for new grants.

<https://grantguru.com/au/grant/infrastructure-development-fund-unlocking-regional-worker-accommodation-opportunities>

<https://grantguru.com/au/grant/regional-precincts-and-partnerships-program-stream-1-precinct-development-and-planning>

<https://grantguru.com/au/grant/regional-precincts-and-partnerships-program-stream-2-precinct-delivery>

4. CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING

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	12/02/2024	
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

The meeting closed at 12:17pm.



AROC Governance Group Meeting

Attachments to Minutes – Monday 13 November 2023

Minutes and additional information

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

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	13 November 2023	8.11.23: Minutes to be confirmed and signed at the 13 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 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 provide feedback on draft climate change declaration and advise of climate action commitments to be included in the AROC declaration.</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	13.11.23: Jacquie Lucas, Corella Project Coordinator and Karl O'Callaghan, CEO WNRM, attended the November Governance Group meeting to provide an update on the project; Survey to be distributed.

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, York & Toodyay		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	EO	Ongoing	<i>Action – EO to request an update from WALGA on the progress of advocacy for the March 2024 meeting.</i>
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	13.11.2023: EO advised that a letter of contract is currently being signed by the project partners: WDC, AROC Shires of Toodyay, Goomalling, Victoria Plains and the Shire of Dandaragan, for an AROC-Dandaragan Workforce Housing Investigation: Project Ready Solutions.
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	13.11.2023: Members supported a motion to the WALGA Avon Zone meeting to advocate for a waste levy.

