



# Regional Capitals Alliance

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## Regional Capitals Alliance Western Australian Meeting

# Minutes

## 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023

9am – 12noon

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89069818699?pwd=N3prMWlxWFNY  
SjNUZSt0OGR5OTFzQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89069818699?pwd=N3prMWlxWFNY<br/>SjNUZSt0OGR5OTFzQT09)

Meeting ID: 890 6981 8699

Passcode: 897205

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# 1 OFFICIAL OPENING

**MEETING OPENED AT 9:02AM**

## RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

### Attendees:

Attendee	Position	Method
Dennis Wellington	Mayor City of Albany (Chair)	Zoom
Andrew Sharpe	CEO City of Albany (Secretary)	Zoom
Desiree Male	Shire President of Broome	Zoom
James Watt	A/CEO Shire of Broome	Zoom
Malcolm Osborne	CEO City of Bunbury (Treasurer)	Zoom
Grant Henley	Mayor City of Busselton	Zoom
Tony Nottle	CEO City of Busselton	Zoom
Ian Mickel	Shire President of Esperance	Zoom
Ron Chambers	Deputy President of Esperance	Zoom
Shane Burge	CEO Shire of Esperance	Zoom
Shane Van Styn	Mayor City of Greater Geraldton	Zoom
Ross McKim	CEO City of Greater Geraldton	Zoom
John Bowler	Mayor City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder	Zoom
Alex Wiese	A/CEO City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder	Zoom
Peter Long	Mayor City of Karratha	Zoom
Virginia Miltrup	CEO City of Karratha	Zoom
Jason Whiteaker	CEO Shire of Northam	Zoom
Peter Carter	Mayor Town of Port Hedland	Zoom
Carl Watts	A/ CEO Town of Port Hedland	Zoom
Paul Rosair	Executive Officer, RCAWA	Zoom
Jane Lewis	Executive Assistant, RCAWA	Zoom

### Visitors:

Attendee	Position	Method
Duncan Ord	Greensted Consulting	Zoom
Bronte Macmillan	BMac Consulting	Zoom
Paul Kelly	WALGA Deputy President	Zoom
Greg Cash	Elysian Consulting	Zoom

### Apologies:

Name	Position
Sam Mastrolembo	CEO Shire of Broome
Jaysen de San Miguel	Mayor City of Bunbury
Andrew Brien	CEO City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Chris Antonio	Shire President of Northam
Carl Askew	CEO Town of Port Hedland
Karen Chappel	President WALGA
Nic Sloan	CEO WALGA

## 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

## 3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Attachment:           1. Outstanding Business Arising Items and Actions Sheet  
                              2. Watching Brief Table

Link to Strategic Directions:		Budget Implications	
Partnership and collaboration		Nil	
Resolution(s)		Action(s)	
That the Minutes of the Regional Capitals Alliance Western Australian Meeting held on 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2023, be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.		See Attachment 1 – Outstanding Business Arising Items and Actions	
<b>Moved:</b>	Malcolm Osborne	<b>Responsible:</b>	See Attachment
<b>Seconded:</b>	Andrew Sharpe	<b>Due date:</b>	As appropriate

**Attachment 1: Outstanding Business Arising Items and Actions Sheet**

Actionable				
Date	Item and Resolution / Action	Status	Priority:	Comments *= will be archived
ADMINISTRATION				
20/04/23	Item 12 – Other Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Letter to the Premier, Minister and Attorney General to be drafted by the Executive Officer in consultation with the CEO Broome, and Mayor of Kalgoorlie Boulder – advising of the issues</li> </ul>	In progress	High	See Item 12
19/8/22	Item 7 – Executive Officer Bi-Monthly Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EO to contact the Federal Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories Office to invite them to a future RCAWA meeting.</li> </ul>	In Progress	Medium	Executive Office met with Minister Punch on 27/04/2023. Invites to meetings were extended and later emailed. Declined.
REGIONAL PERFORMING ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT CENTRES REVIEW				
20/04/23	Item 8 - Performing Arts and Entertainment Centres Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greensted Consulting to convene a meeting of the steering group.</li> <li>Executive Officer and Greensted Services to seek to meet the Minister for Regional Development and the Minister for Culture and Arts.</li> <li>Bunbury to join the working group</li> </ul>	In Progress	Medium	Greensted Consulting convened a meeting of the steering group. See Item 8  Executive Officer met the Minister for Regional Development 27/04/2023
RCAWA HOUSING SOLUTIONS AND ACTION PLAN				
20/04/23	Item 9 RCAWA Housing Solutions and Action Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Alliance endorse the engagement of Elysian Consulting. The CEO working group, in conjunction with Elysian to develop and action orientated plan, and work in a staged approach, with the first stage to be a high-level framework.</li> </ul>	In progress	Medium	EO met with Greg Cash on 15-5 Letter of engagement signed.  Alliance members to appoint contacts for the consultant to liaise with regarding the project and to gain relevant background documentation.

Actionable				
Date	Item and Resolution / Action	Status	Priority:	Comments *= will be archived
MACWA				
15/12/22	Item 4 Correspondence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EO / EA to contact Christine Smart, Manager Office of Disability in the new year regarding Departmental support of MACWA</li> </ul>	In Progress	Low	EO and EA met with Christine Smart and George Cherian - DoC, Alina Hobson – WALGA and Melissa Northcott on 11/05/23. to form an action plan for awards. Subsequent meetings with George Cherian, Anna Davis and Melissa Northcott. See General Business.
BENCHMARKING				
24/02/23	Item 10 – RCAWA Benchmarking Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That the Draft Corporate Benchmarking Report 2021-2022 be received and</li> <li>The reporting of financial ratios is to be included in the final version of the Benchmarking Report</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Low	In discussion with the Secretariat, it was decided that the financial ratios would not be included after all this year, but would be considered for next year. Final report separately attached
BUSINESS SERVICE REVIEWS				
20/04/23	Item 12 – Other Business Business Service Reviews to be implemented	In progress	Medium	See Item 12
STRATEGIC PLANNING				
20/04/23	Item 10 – Strategic Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That the final Strategic Plan be received</li> <li>That the members provide feedback on the draft Action Plan 2023-2024 and Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2023-2024 by 12 May 2023</li> <li>That the Executive team proceed with printing of 100 copies of the Strategic Plan</li> </ul>	Complete	Low	Strategic report printed and copies sent to all members care of the CEOs. Final Action Plan and communications and stakeholder engagement attached. See General Business

**Attachment 2: Watching Brief Table**

<b>Watching brief</b>				
<b>Date</b>	<b>Item and Resolution / Action</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Priority:</b>	<b>Comments * = will be archived</b>
<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM</b>				
20/10/22	Follow up on reform status	On Going	Medium	Darelle Merritt attended 20 October meeting. Watching brief.
<b>ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE BILL</b>				
16/6/22	<p>Item 10 - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department will maintain contact with RCAWA and have agreed to attend a future meeting of the Alliance to discuss the draft regulations and management code.</li> <li>• Members of the Alliance are encouraged to send officers to the consultation workshops.</li> <li>• The Executive Officer will continue to review guidance material and draft regulations as they become available.</li> </ul>	In Progress	Medium	<p>EO met with Anthony Kannis Director General DPLH 31/10/2022 and discussed status of the Bill's progress.</p> <p>Update Item 11</p>

## 4 CORRESPONDENCE

<b>Date of Report:</b>	<b>23rd June 2023</b>
<b>Report Author:</b>	<b>Executive Officer – Paul Rosair</b>
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	<b>Nil</b>
<b>Attachment(s)</b>	<b>3. Correspondence In: BMac Consulting</b> <b>4. Correspondence In: Lyzz Street, Appointment Secretary Office of the Hon. Don Punch MLA</b> <b>5. Correspondence Out: BMac Consulting</b> <b>6. Correspondence Out: Elysian Consulting</b> <b>7. Correspondence Out: Greensted Services</b>

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Note, there has been numerous email correspondence between the Executive Officer, Executive Assistant and Ministerial offices, departmental staff and industry bodies which do not form part of this formal correspondence item as they are considered administrative in nature.

### **Correspondence In:**

**Date:** 23/3/23  
**From:** BMac Consulting  
**Subject:** Proposal – Quote No 13

**Date:** 13/6/2023  
**From:** Lyzz Street Appointments Secretary, Office of the Hon. Don Punch MLA  
**Subject:** RCAWA meeting invitation

### **Correspondence Out:**

**Date:** 6/6/23  
**To:** BMac Consulting  
**Subject:** Letter of Engagement

**Date:** 6/6/23  
**To:** Elysian Consulting  
**Subject:** Letter of Engagement

**Date:** 6/6/23  
**To:** Greensted Services  
**Subject:** Letter of Engagement



Link to Strategic Directions:		Budget Implications	
Advocacy and policy Influence Partnership and collaboration Representation		Nil	
Resolution(s)		Action(s)	
Nil		Executive Officer to write a letter to Premier Cook requesting a meeting at Parliament House, to be signed by all members and a copy to be forwarded by each member to their local Member of Parliament.	
<b>Moved:</b>	Grant Henley	<b>Responsible:</b>	Executive Officer
<b>Seconded:</b>	Peter Long	<b>Due date:</b>	As soon as possible

Attachment 3: Correspondence In: BMac Proposal




# PROPOSAL

Quote Number: 013  
Quote Date: 23 March 2023

**TO:**  
Paul Rosair  
Executive Officer – Regional Capitals Alliance

**FROM:**  
Bronte Macmillan T/As BMac Consulting  
[bronte@bmacconsulting.com.au](mailto:bronte@bmacconsulting.com.au)  
0417 926 993  
ABN: 99 452 168 611

DESCRIPTION	HOURS	RATE	AMOUNT
<b>REGIONAL CAPITAL ALLIANCE WA SERVICE DELIVERY REVIEW</b>			
Support alliance members in developing and implementing meaningful review documents to improve service delivery, as well as potentially develop useful data to enhance benchmarking tools through the following scope of works:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Coordinate Formation of Advisory Group</b> Coordinate the formation of an advisory group with a representative from each Local Government.</li> <li><b>2. Assessment of Current Service Delivery Data Tools</b> Once the advisory group is formed, the next phase will involve assessing the current service delivery data tools used by each Local Government, where applicable.</li> <li><b>3. Collation of Gathered Information and Creation of Revised Template/Tool</b> Based on the assessment findings, the gathered information from each Local Government will be collated. This information will serve as a foundation for creating a revised template/tool that aims to streamline and improve the service delivery data collection and reporting process.</li> <li><b>4. Presentation of Template to Advisory Group and Alliance</b> The template/tool will be presented to the Service Delivery Review Advisory Group and the Alliance. The presentation will highlight the key improvements and benefits of adopting the template/tool. Feedback from the Advisory Group and Alliance members will be gathered to refine the template/tool further.</li> <li><b>5. Project Support</b> Throughout the SDR process, provide advice, assistance, mentoring, and support to the Advisory Group. This includes guidance in implementing the template/tool, deliver training sessions to enhance understanding and utilisation, and address any queries or challenges faced by the Advisory Group members.</li> <li><b>6. Additional Benchmarking Data</b> If additional benchmarking data becomes available throughout the SDR process, this will be collated and implemented into the current Alliance benchmarking tool, in consultation with the Executive Officer.</li> <li><b>7. Presentation to the Alliance</b> The final findings of the SDR will be presented to the Alliance. This presentation will aim to showcase the progress made, the benefits achieved, and the potential for broader implementation and collaboration within the Alliance.</li> </ol>	170	\$120	\$20,400.00
			SUBTOTAL \$20,400.00
			TOTAL GST (10%) \$2,040.00
			<b>TOTAL \$22,440.00</b>

\*Hours based on 6.5 hours per week over 6 months.

## Attachment 4: Correspondence In: Lyzz Street Appointments Secretary, Office of the Hon. Don Punch MLA

A

Appointments.Punch

to me, Paul, Admin.Punch ▾

Tue, 13 Jun, 10:39 (5 days ago)



Office Reference: 77-08782

Good morning Jane,

Thank you for your invitation to the Office of the Hon Don Punch MLA, Minister for Regional Development; Disability Services; Fisheries; Seniors and Ageing; Volunteering to the upcoming RCAWA meetings taking place in 2023.

Unfortunately, the Minister will not be able to attend any of the offered dates due to conflicting engagements throughout the regions and his Electorate. He would like to extend his appreciation for the invitation and sends his sincerest apologies.

Kind regards



**Lyzz Street** Appointments Secretary  
*Pronouns: she / her*

Office of the **Hon. Don Punch MLA**  
Minister for Regional Development; Disability Services; Fisheries; Seniors and Ageing; Volunteering.  
Member for Bunbury

9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Dumas House  
2 Havelock Street  
WEST PERTH WA 6005 Australia  
[appointments.punch@dpc.wa.gov.au](mailto:appointments.punch@dpc.wa.gov.au)  
Ph: 0447 839 430

*I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which I work and live, and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community.  
I pay respect to all members of the Aboriginal community, their cultures and to their Elders past and present.*



**Attachment 5: Correspondence Out: BMac Letter of Engagement**



Our Ref: BMac Consulting Letter of Engagement  
Enquiries: Paul Rosair:  
Executive Officer RCAWA  
0419930467

**To Bronte Macmillan  
BMac Consulting**

6 June 2023

Dear Bronte,

Following on from our earlier conversations, I am pleased to advise that the RCAWA would like to engage your services to assist with supporting Alliance members in developing and implementing meaningful review documents to improve service delivery, as well as potentially develop useful data to enhance benchmarking tools. In accordance with your proposal the RCAWA agree to payment of services at a rate of \$120/Hr, to a maximum of \$20,400, commencing immediately and continuing for a period of 6 months or until funds have been exhausted or agreed works completed.

**Scope of Works - to be overseen by the Executive Officer:**

**1. Coordinate Formation of Advisory Group**

Coordinate the formation of an advisory group with a representative from each Local Government.

**2. Assessment of Current Service Delivery Data Tools**

Once the advisory group is formed, the next phase will involve assessing the current service delivery data tools used by each Local Government, where applicable.

**3. Collation of Gathered Information and Creation of Revised Template/Tool**

Based on the assessment findings, the gathered information from each Local Government will be collated. This information will serve as a foundation for creating a revised template/tool that aims to streamline and improve the service delivery data collection and reporting process.

**4. Presentation of Template to Advisory Group and Alliance**

The template/tool will be presented to the Service Delivery Review Advisory Group and the Alliance. The presentation will highlight the key improvements and benefits of adopting the template/tool. Feedback from the Advisory Group and Alliance members will be gathered to refine the template/tool further.

**5. Project Support**

Throughout the SDR process, provide advice, assistance, mentoring, and support to the Advisory Group. This includes guidance in implementing the template/tool, deliver training sessions to enhance understanding and utilisation, and address any queries or challenges faced by the Advisory Group members.



**6. Additional Benchmarking Data**

If additional benchmarking data becomes available throughout the SDR process, this will be collated and implemented into the current Alliance benchmarking tool, in consultation with the Executive Officer.

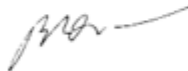
**7. Presentation to the Alliance**

The final findings of the SDR will be presented to the Alliance. This presentation will aim to showcase the progress made, the benefits achieved, and the potential for broader implementation and collaboration within the Alliance.

We welcome you on board and look forward to working with you to assist the Alliance develop this exciting initiative to the benefit all our members state-wide.

I have attached AS 4122-2010 General Conditions of Contract for Consultants which outlines the Alliance Standard conditions for engagement. Please sign this letter and return at your earliest convenience.

Kind regards,



Paul Rosair  
Executive Officer  
Regional Capitals Alliance WA (RCAWA)  
[paul@naja.com.au](mailto:paul@naja.com.au)

Bronte Macmillan  
BMac Consulting

[bronte@bmacconsulting.com.au](mailto:bronte@bmacconsulting.com.au)

## Attachment 6: Correspondence Out: Elysian Letter of Engagement



Our Ref: Elysian Consulting Letter of Engagement  
Enquiries: Paul Rosair:  
Executive Officer RCAWA  
0419930467

**To Greg Cash  
Managing Director  
Elysian Consulting**

6 June 2023

Dear Greg,

Following on from our earlier conversations, I am pleased to advise that the RCAWA would like to engage your services to identify Regional Land and Housing Investment and Supply Opportunities and Encourage Investment in light of your previous work in developing a Housing Solutions and Action plan for the RCAWA (In accordance with your attached proposal). As discussed, these services will be at a rate of \$140/Hr, to a maximum of \$48,700 as per your proposal, commencing immediately and continuing in a staged approach until funds have been exhausted or agreed works completed.

**Scope of Works - to be overseen by an RCAWA CEO Sub Committee (also subject to change after project actions and priorities are workshopped:**

To support RCAWA's efforts to implement actions under the "Housing Solutions and Action Plan" the Alliance is seeking consultancy services to help Alliance members increase Land and Housing Investment and Supply in Regional WA through delivery of the following services:

### **Part 1: Opportunity Identification**

**Works Required:** Engagement with key staff of Alliance Members to identify critical Land and Housing Supply Opportunities within their Local Government boundaries that have the potential to meaningfully increase land and housing supply in their communities. This should include identification of:

1. Priority DevelopmentWA or Department of Communities project opportunities;
2. Underutilised State Government or Local Government controlled land suitable for residential development;
3. Private Sector projects in need of support and assistance.
4. Strategic Urban Renewal Project opportunities focused on revitalisation of State Social Housing stock for diversified needs including GROH, Key worker and /or affordable housing.
5. Priority projects which minimise the impacts of GROH on the local private rental market
6. Regional Capitals Staff Housing project opportunities.
7. Priority Regional Infrastructure requirements to enable developments to progress



**Deliverable:**

A final report that details the critical land and housing supply opportunities identified for each of the ten RCAWA Alliance members local government boundaries. The report should include opportunities identified in each of the areas outlined in the Scope of Works. I will supervise the contract, on behalf of the RCAWA and provide part time access to an office (If required), internet and job-related printing facilities as part of this engagement.

**Part 2: Encouraging investment**

**Works Required:** Strategic Advice, support and guidance in the development of mechanisms and approaches to encourage increased investment in land and housing supply in Regional Capitals. This should include:

**1. State Government Engagement**

1.1. Developing collective advocacy proposals and providing strategic advice and support to assist the Alliance in its efforts to advocate for: a. DevelopmentWA to give consideration to projects that focus on market failure;

b. Reduce the impact of the Department of Communities GROH program on local rental markets;

c. inclusion of identified underutilized land in future Housing Pipeline Proposals; and

d. State and Federal Government Major projects funding to give consideration to social impact assessments and associated strategies to de-risk projects and support local economies where the project workforce is to be located.

1.2. Developing a collective proposal for investment in land development projects under the Regional Development Assistance Program;

1.3. Developing a Government Regional Officers Housing/WA Country Health Service Housing Business Case Template for use by Alliance Members seeking to invest in housing for Government employees.

2.1. Designing and Facilitating a Housing Partnerships Expression of Interest for Alliance Members looking to partner with the Community Housing Sector, local Indigenous Organisations or other providers to deliver affordable or key worker housing within their communities.

Strategic advice and support to assist the Alliance in its efforts to encourage State Government increased investment in regional housing by:

**2. Engagement with Non-Government Housing Providers**

**Deliverables:**

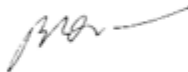
- Collective proposals as per Part 2, item 1.1 and 1.2 in the Scope of Works
- A Government Regional Officers Housing/WA Country Health Service Business Case Template
- Expression of Interest as per Part 2 item 2 in the Scope of Works



We welcome you on board and look forward to working with you to assist the Alliance develop this exciting initiative to the benefit all our members state-wide.

I have attached AS 4122-2010 General Conditions of Contract for Consultants which outlines the Alliance Standard conditions for engagement. Please sign this letter and return at your earliest convenience.

Kind regards,



Paul Rosair  
Executive Officer  
Regional Capitals Alliance WA (RCAWA)  
[paul@naja.com.au](mailto:paul@naja.com.au)

Greg Cash  
Managing Director  
Elysian Consulting  
[greg@elysianconsulting.com.au](mailto:greg@elysianconsulting.com.au)



**Attachment 7: Correspondence Out: Greensted Services Letter of Engagement**



Our Ref: Greensted Letter of Engagement  
Enquiries: Paul Rosair:  
Executive Officer RCAWA  
0419930467

**To The Greensted Consulting Team:  
Duncan Ord**

Date: 6 June 2023

Dear Duncan,

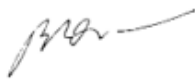
**Letter of Engagement:  
Regional Capital Alliance WA – Performing Arts and Entertainment Centres (PAEC) Review –  
Stage 2: Implementation**

On behalf of the Regional Capitals Alliance WA, as Executive Officer, I would formally like to engage your services in facilitating and assisting the Regional Performing Arts and Entertainment Centres Steering Committee to implement prioritised actions from the Review.

This will be paid on an hourly rate basis of \$140 per hour plus GST up to an initial budget of \$10,000 plus GST. The General Conditions of Contract will be in accordance with Standards Australia AS4122 (attached). Payment schedules and other finer details will also be discussed with you upon commencement of the work. I will be your main point of contact on for this engagement.

The Alliance members are looking forward to working with you on this implementation phase and look forward to receiving updates on the work carried out by yourself and the Steering Committee. Please sign this letter and return at your earliest convenience.

Kind Regards,



Paul Rosair  
Executive Officer  
Regional Capitals Alliance WA (RCAWA)  
[paul@naja.com.au](mailto:paul@naja.com.au)

Duncan Ord  
Managing Director  
Greensted Services  
[duncan@greensted.com.au](mailto:duncan@greensted.com.au)

# 5 TREASURER'S REPORT MAY 23

<b>Date of Report:</b>	23rd June 2023
<b>Author</b>	Treasurer, CEO City of Bunbury
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	Nil
<b>Attachments:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. RCAWA May Profit and Loss Statement</li> <li>9. RCAWA May Balance Sheet</li> <li>10. RCAWA May Accounts Payable</li> </ul>

**Purpose:**

To inform the Alliance members of the RCAWA financial situation.

**Discussion:**

Banking authorisation has proven to be difficult over the last few months, making it imperative that we have back up members who are willing to go through the process to be authorised to make payments to creditors.

Link to Strategic Directions:		Budget Implications	
Partnership and collaboration		Nil	
Resolution(s)		Action(s)	
<p><b>That the members receive and note the Treasurer's Report for the period ending 31st May 2023 and the accompanying financial documents.</b></p> <p><b>That members delegate 3-4 CEOs to approve payments when required by the Treasurer.</b></p>		<p>Mal Osborne and Executive Officer to assist / coordinate the delegated CEOs with getting approval status for payments with the CSB.</p> <p>CEO signatories will be Mal Osborne, Tony Nottle, Andrew Sharpe, Virginia Miltrup</p>	
<b>Moved:</b>	Mal Osborne	<b>Responsible:</b>	Mal Osborne
<b>Seconded:</b>	Shane Van Styn	<b>Due date:</b>	As appropriate

Attachment 8: RCAWA May Profit and Loss Statement

2:40 PM

17/06/23

Accrual Basis

**WA Regional Capitals Alliance Inc**  
**Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual**  
July 2022 through May 2023

	<u>Jul 22 - May 23</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>
<b>Income</b>			
Interest Received	349.22	50.00	299.22
Membership Fee 2022/23	150,000.00	150,000.00	0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>150,349.22</u>	<u>150,050.00</u>	<u>299.22</u>
<b>Expense</b>			
Accountancy Fees	1,100.00	1,100.00	0.00
Audit Fees	0.00	1,100.00	-1,100.00
Bank Charges	126.13	150.00	-23.87
Donations	954.55	1,000.00	-45.45
Executive Support	81,818.17	100,000.00	-18,181.83
Meetings and Functions	4,136.70	2,200.00	1,936.70
Projects	54,753.12	47,100.00	7,653.12
Rent	2,979.13	3,500.00	-520.87
Travelling Expenses	809.30	3,000.00	-2,190.70
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>146,677.10</u>	<u>159,150.00</u>	<u>-12,472.90</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><u>3,672.12</u></u>	<u><u>-9,100.00</u></u>	<u><u>12,772.12</u></u>

**Attachment 9: May Balance Sheet**

2:41 PM  
17/06/23  
Accrual Basis

**WA Regional Capitals Alliance Inc  
Balance Sheet  
As of May 31, 2023**

	<u>May 31, 23</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Chequing/Savings	
WARCA Cheque Account	59,917.52
WARCA Savings Account	47,927.10
Total Chequing/Savings	<u>107,844.62</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>107,844.62</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>107,844.62</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Trade Creditors	214.44
Total Accounts Payable	<u>214.44</u>
Other Current Liabilities	
Tax Payable	-3,473.59
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>-3,473.59</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>-3,259.15</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b><u>-3,259.15</u></b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>111,103.77</u></b>
<b>EQUITY</b>	
Opening Bal Equity	136,570.00
Retained Earnings	-29,138.35
Net Income	3,672.12
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b><u>111,103.77</u></b>

**Attachment 10: May Accounts Payable**

2:42 PM  
17/06/23

**WA Regional Capitals Alliance Inc  
A/P Ageing Summary  
As of May 31, 2023**

	<u>Current</u>	<u>1 - 30</u>	<u>31 - 60</u>	<u>61 - 90</u>	<u>&gt; 90</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
NAJA Business Consulting Services	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.06
Pam Weston's Bookkeeping	214.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	214.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>214.50</u></b>	<b><u>-0.06</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>	<b><u>214.44</u></b>

## 6 RCA UPDATE

**Date of Report:** 23 June 2023  
**Report Author:** Grant Henley, Mayor City of Busselton  
**Disclosure of Interest:** Nil  
**Attachment(s)** 11. Regional Capitals Australia Federal Budget Report 2023/24

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### Purpose:

To provide an overview of items and issues from RCA which pertain to RCAWA business and to canvass Alliance members as to matters which they believe are warranted to raise with RCA.

### Discussion:

Rachael Sweeney, RCA Executive Officer unavailable to attend this meeting. Attachment provided.

Link to Strategic Directions:	Budget Implications
Partnership and collaboration Representation	Nil
Resolution(s)	Action(s)
For information only	

# Regional Capitals Australia

## Federal Budget Report

### 2023/24

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## Purpose

This document has been prepared to report on the key 2023-24 Federal Budget measures announced that relate to Regional Capitals Australia (RCA) interest areas, RCA members and Regional Australia generally. This is not an exhaustive listing of all budget measures.

## Regional Policy

### Regional Investment Framework

- **Amount:** No amount.
- **Aim:** To establish a regional development forum for Australian Government agencies to better inform government decisions across 4 key areas: investing in services, people, places and industry.

### Growing Regions Program

- **Amount:** \$600 million.
- **Aim:** Announced in the 2022-23 Budget – Round 1 will begin in July 2023 and support regional development projects.
- **Details:** Programs are eligible for parts, not all, of the peri urban communities.

## Urban Policy: Better Cities, more Liveable Suburbs

### National Urban Policy

- **Amount:** No amount.
- **Aim:** To address urgent challenges facing our major cities – from equitable access to jobs, homes and services, to climate impacts and decarbonisation.

### Thriving Suburbs Program

- **Amount:** \$211.7 million.
- **Aim:** The Thriving Suburbs Program will provide investment in community and economic infrastructure that enhances liveability and prosperity in suburban communities.

### Urban Precincts and Partnerships Program

- **Amount:** \$159.7 million.
- **Aim:** The Urban Precincts and Partnerships Program will help transform our cities and suburbs in partnership with state and local governments, community organisations and universities.



## Cities and Suburbs Unit

- **Amount:** \$11.0 million over 4 years from 2023–24.
- **Aim:** to establish the Cities and Suburbs Unit within the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts to deliver the National Urban Policy and the regular State of Cities report.

Further information:

[Budget Paper No. 2: Budget Measures](#) – page 176.

## Infrastructure

### Roads

#### Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program

- **Amount:** Phase 4 will see an additional \$750 million worth of investment in roads and community projects, building on the \$2.5 billion investment through Phases 1, 2 and 3.
- **Aim:** Support local councils to maintain and deliver social infrastructure, improve road safety, and bolster the resilience of our local road network. The funding will allow councils to further engage local businesses and workforces to deliver priority projects and support economic recovery.
- **Details:** Phase 4 will be prioritised towards rural, regional, and remote Local Government Areas through a new allocation methodology and guidelines that acknowledge the additional challenges often faced by councils in these areas.

#### Roads to Recovery Program

- **Amount:** \$500 million per year ongoing.
- **Aim:** to support the maintenance of the nation's local road infrastructure asset, facilitating greater accessibility and improved safety, economic and social outcomes for Australians. The Program provides funding to all local government authorities, and states and territories in areas where there are no councils (unincorporated areas).
- **Details** The Australian Government committed a total of \$6.2 billion to the Program from 2013-14 to 2023-24, with an on-going commitment of \$500 million each year following. Approximately \$500 million is expected to be paid to funding recipients in 2023-24. Funding recipients have a set program allocation for each five-year program, and choose the projects on which they will spend their funding based on local priorities.

Further information:

[Budget Paper No. 2: Budget Measures](#) - page 172.

#### National Road Network Maintenance

- **Amount:** \$1.1 billion in 2032–33. to continue existing road maintenance and safety programs.

- **Aim:** To maintain the national road network.
- **Details:**
  - \$500.0 million for the Roads to Recovery Program;
  - \$350.0 million for national road network maintenance;
  - \$110.0 million for the Black Spot Program; and
  - \$85.0 million for the Bridges Renewal Program.

Further information:

[Budget Paper No. 2: Budget Measures](#) - page 172.

### **Bridges Renewal Program**

- **Amount:** An additional \$85.0 million for the Bridges Renewal Program.
- **Aim:** The program supports the upgrading of bridges across the nation to deliver improvements in productivity and community access.
- **Details:** \$900 million through the Bridges Renewal Program (BRP) from 2015-16 to 2025-26. This brings the annual commitment from 2023-24 to 2025-26 to \$95 million, with an ongoing commitment of \$85 million from 2026-27. Since 2015, more than 85 per cent of funding under the BRP has gone to projects located in rural and regional areas.

Further information:

[Budget Paper No. 2: Budget Measures](#) - page 172.

## **Cost of Living**

### **Electricity Bill Relief**

- **Amount:** \$3 billion.
- **Aim:** To deliver up to \$500 in electricity bill relief for eligible households, and to deliver and up to \$650 for eligible small businesses.

## **Housing**

### **Housing Supply Incentives**

- **Amount:** \$358.5 million
- **Aim:** To offer new incentives to encourage the supply of housing.
- **Details:** New incentives include reducing the withholding tax rate for eligible fund payments from managed investment trusts attributed to newly constructed build-to-rent developments from 30 to 15 per cent, and increasing the capital works tax deduction (depreciation) rate from 2.5 per cent to 4 per cent per year, increasing the after-tax returns for newly constructed build-to-rent developments.

### **Regional First Home Buyer Guarantee**

- **Amount:** No amount.
- **Aim:** Expanding the Regional First Home Buyer Guarantee to any two eligible borrowers such as friends and siblings and making it available to non-first home buyers if they

haven't owned a property in Australia in the last 10 years.

Further information:

[Budget 2023-24: Supporting a strong, secure and sustainable regional Australia.](#)

## Resilience and Skills

### Boosting Skilled Migration

- **Amount:** No amount/
- **Aim:** To ensure the migration system delivers the skilled migrants we need, by allocating around 70 per cent of places in the 2023-24 permanent Migration Program to skilled migrants, bringing long-term fiscal and economic benefits and addressing persistent skill shortages.
- **Details:** The program will add an extra 2 years of post-study work rights to Temporary Graduate visa holders with select degrees, to improve the pipeline of skilled labour in key sectors. It will also provide additional training places for Pacific Australia Labour Mobility scheme workers in priority sectors for the Pacific and Timor-Leste and where there are job shortages in Australia.

### Boosting Employment Services

- **Amount:** \$26.3 million over 5 years from 2022–23.
- **Aim:** The Government will provide a boost to employment services for young Australians in the care economy, continue pre-employment services for First Nations people who are incarcerated, trial a new regional employment service approach and support workers and communities through enhancements to the Local Jobs Program.

Further information:

[Budget Paper No. 2: Budget Measures](#) – page 105.

### Tax Clinics

- **Amount:** \$9.0 million over 4 years from 2023–24 (and \$1.4 million per year ongoing) for 5 new tax clinics from 1 January 2025.
- **Aim:** To improve access to tax advice and assistance for 2.3 million small businesses.
- **Details:** Eligibility for funding will be extended to TAFE institutions to improve access to tax clinic services in regional areas.

Further information:

[Budget Paper No. 2: Budget Measures](#) – page 210.

## Disaster Support

### The Disaster Ready Fund

- **Amount:** \$200 million in 2023-24.
- **Aim:** To provide increased support for projects like levee upgrades, seawalls, and

bushfire risk reduction projects.

- **Details:** The fund includes \$236 million over 10 years to improve flood forecasting and warnings; and the creation of a new National Messaging Service to provide real-time information to mobile phones during an emergency.

Further information:

[Budget 2023-24: Supporting a strong, secure and sustainable regional Australia.](#)

## Energy

### **Powering the Regions Fund**

- **Amount:** \$1.9 billion.
- **Aim:** The Powering the Regions Fund (the Fund) establishes \$1.9 billion from 2022-23 to support industry, regional Australia and communities with the transformation to net zero emissions by 2050.
- **Detail:** The Fund's four key priorities are to support industry, including facilities covered by the Safeguard Mechanism, to decarbonise; to develop new clean energy industries; to support workforce development; and enable the continued government purchase of Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs).
- Funding of \$89.0 million has also been provided through the Powering the Regions Fund to support energy transition investments important to regional Australia, including the 2023–24 Budget measures titled Capacity Investment Scheme and Ensuring the Supply of Reliable, Secure and Affordable Energy.

For further information:

[Budget Paper No. 2: Budget Measures](#) – page 79.

### **Net Zero Authority (the Authority)**

- **Amount:** \$83.2 million over 4 years from 2023–24.
- **Aim:** To establish a national Net Zero Authority (the Authority) to promote orderly and positive economic transformation associated with decarbonisation and energy system change in regional areas, including support for impacted workers.

Further information:

[Budget Paper No. 2: Budget Measures](#) – page 192.

### **Industrial Transformation Stream**

- **Amount:** \$400.0 million over 4 years from 2023–24.
- **Aim:** To establish the Industrial Transformation Stream to support reduction of direct and indirect emissions at existing industrial facilities, or clean energy development, in regional Australia.

Further Information

[Budget Paper No. 2: Budget Measures](#) – page 78.

## Health

### **Regional Pharmacy Maintenance Allowance**

- **Amount:** \$79.5 million over 4 years.
- **Aim:** to support regional and remote pharmacies by investing to double the Regional Pharmacy Maintenance Allowance. This funding supports the continued operation of around 1,093 community pharmacies in regional and rural Australia.

### **Medicare Urgent Care Clinics**

- **Amount:** \$358.5 million.
- **Aim:** The additional funds will create 8 new clinics on top of the \$235 million committed in the October Budget.

Further information:

[Budget 2023-24: Supporting a strong, secure and sustainable regional Australia.](#)

## Arts

### **Regional Arts and Culture Fund**

- **Amount:** \$8.5 million over 4 years from 2023–24 (and \$2.2 million per year ongoing)
- **Aim:** To increase funding for the Regional Arts Fund to support cultural development in regional and remote communities.
- **Detail:** Funding for a mix of quick response grants and project grants for arts projects, professional development for artists and arts workers, and community capacity building projects. The program also funds high priority strategic projects.

Further information:

[Budget Paper No. 2: Budget Measures](#) – page 182.

### **Pilot Long-Term Loans: National Gallery of Australia**

- **Amount:** \$11.8 million over 4 years from 2023–24.
- **Aim:** to pilot long-term loans of National Gallery of Australia works to regional and suburban cultural institutions across Australia.

Further information:

[Budget Paper No. 2: Budget Measures](#) – page 181.

## First Nations Voice

### Indigenous Voice – Local and Regional Voice Implementation

- **Amount:** An additional \$20.0 million (\$38.1 million last year).
- **Aim:** To commence establishment of 35 Local and Regional Voice bodies across Australia.
- **Detail:** The Government will extend the 2022–23 March Budget measure titled Indigenous Voice – Local and Regional Voice Implementation until 30 June 2025, to enable the investment of \$20.0 million to progress Regional Voice arrangements.

Further information:

[Budget Paper No. 2: Budget Measures](#) – page 85.

### National Water Grid Fund

- **Amount:** \$150.0 million over 4 years from 2022–23.
- **Aim:** To improve water security for regional and remote First Nations communities by investing in First Nations water infrastructure projects through the National Water Grid Fund.

Further information:

[Budget Paper No. 2: Budget Measures](#) – page 190.

## Central Australia

### 3.1.1.1 Better, Safer Future for Central Australia Plan

- **Amount:** \$250 million package (\$155.9 million over 5 years from 2022–23)
- **Aim:** To support communities in Alice Springs and Central Australia.
- **Details:** As part of a \$250 million investment, the Government will provide funding of \$155.9 million over 5 years from 2022–23 to support the *Better, Safer Future for Central Australia Plan*. Funding coming online in 2023-24 includes:
  - \$50.0 million over 4 years from 2023–24 under the *Infrastructure Investment Program* for infrastructure projects in Central Australia;
  - \$40.4 million over two years from 2023-24 to schools in Central Australia to improve school attendance and education outcomes. This measure will prioritise community engagement and locally driven responses in partnership with local community organisations;
  - \$10.0 million over 4 years from 2023–24 for justice reinvestment initiatives in Central Australia to reduce crime, contact with the criminal justice system and recidivism through the Confiscated Assets Account;
  - \$10.0 million over 3 years from 2023–24 for broadband and mobile services upgrades to support digital connectivity needs for First Nations people in Central Australia through the *Regional Connectivity Program*;

- o \$9.2 million over 3 years from 2023–24 to address community safety and early intervention and crime prevention projects for First Nations people in Central Australia;
- o \$7.5 million over two years from 2023–24 for coordination, governance activities and capacity building in community-controlled organisations; and
- o \$3.9 million over 3 years from 2023–24 for the development of a Youth Services Action Plan for Central Australia.

Further information:

[Budget Paper No. 2: Budget Measures](#) - pages 83-84.

### **3.1.1.2 Community Safety in Alice Springs and Central Australia**

- **Amount:** \$48.8 million package.
- **Aim:** To improve community safety in Alice Springs and Central Australia,
- **Details:** The Package was first announced by the Prime Minister on 24 January 2023. Funding includes:
  - o \$25.0 million in 2023–24 to extend funding for safety and community services in Alice Springs;
  - o \$14.2 million in 2022–23 to improve community safety in Alice Springs and surrounds;
  - o \$2.0 million for CCTV, lighting and safety measures in Alice Springs;
  - o \$5.6 million in 2023–24 for additional emergency accommodation and safe places in Alice Springs; and
  - o \$2.0 million over two years from 2022–23 to boost domestic violence services through the Tangentyere Council.

Further information:

[Budget Paper No. 2: Budget Measures](#) - page 84.

### **For More Information**

Rachael Sweeney  
Regional Capitals  
Australia Secretariat

E:

[rsweeney@collectiveposition.com](mailto:rsweeney@collectiveposition.com)

M: 0422 067 858

# 7 EXECUTIVE OFFICER BI-MONTHLY REPORT (APRIL 2023 – MAY 2023)

**Date of Report:** 23rd June 2023  
**Report Author:** Executive Officer – Paul Rosair  
**Disclosure of Interest:** Nil  
**Attachment(s):** 12. Executive Officer Bi-Monthly Report – April 2023 – May 2023

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**Purpose:**

To update RCAWA on the Executive Officer services provided for the period April 2023 – May 2023 inclusive.

**Background:**

The attached report provides information about the services provided, activities undertaken and time allocation over the past two months.

**Discussion:**

As required.

Link to Strategic Directions:	Budget Implications
Advocacy and policy Influence Partnership and collaboration Representation	As per 2022/23 approved RCAWA budget.
Resolution/s	Action(s)
<b>For information only</b>	As per Outstanding Actions



**Attachment 12: Executive Officer Bi-Monthly Report – April 2023 – May 2023**

## Overview

Following the extension of the Executive Officer’s contract, and the subsequent review of agenda formatting, a decision has been made to streamline this report in order to avoid information duplication: 1. All project work / activity to be listed and referenced to the appropriate Item number; 2. Stakeholders to be listed; 3. Time allocation to be tabled.

### 1. Project Work / Activity

<b>Project / Activity</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Item</b>
Performing Arts and Entertainment Centres Review	Greenstead Services re-engaged. First workshop held 25/5/2023	Item 8
Housing Solutions and Action Plan	Elysian Consultants engaged. Attending meeting 23/06/2023	Item 9
Service Delivery Reviews	Consultations with Andrew Sharpe, Sam Mastrolembo and engagement of BMAC	Item 10
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act	Update on Act Enactment	Item 11
Office of the Auditor General	Updated information	Item 12
State and Federal Budget Summary	Information Collated	Item 13
Benchmarking	Final Report tabled 23/06/2023	Other Business
Communication and Action Plan	Tabled 23/06/2023	Item 10
RCAWA April Meeting	Conducted April 2023, RCAWA Bi- Monthly meeting	Previous Minutes

## 2. Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholders	Date	Purpose
Bronte McMillan, BMAC Consulting	5/4/2023	Housing, Benchmarking Updates and planning
Jo Swan, Jo Swan Consulting	12/4/2023	Housing Project – Scoping work
CEOs RCAWA	14/4/2023	CEO Ring Around
Peter Carter RCAWA member	14/4/2023	RCAWA Housing Matters
Jo Swan Jo Swan Consulting	14/4/2023	Housing Project – Scoping work
Josh Turner NAJA Consulting	17/4/2023	Benchmarking – Report preparation
Alliance Members RCAWA	19-21/4/2023	April Meeting - Port Hedland
Hon. Don Punch Minister Regional Development	27/4/2023	MACWA, PAEC, Headworks Fund and Housing
Dennis Wellington Chair RCAWA	28/4/2023	General Matters
Stacey Hutt EO – Inner City Councils	8/5/2023	Collaboration and arranging 24th Aug Meeting
Bronte McMillan BMAC Consulting	10/5/2023	Service Delivery Review – Defining Project
Christine Smart, George Cherian, Anna Davis Department of Communities Alina Hobson, WALGA and Melissa Northcott, MCWA ambassador	11/5/2023	MACWA Planning
Greg Cash Elysian Consulting	15/5/2023	Housing Project – Scoping Exercise

Stakeholders	Date	Purpose
Duncan Ord Greenstead Consulting	15/5/2023	PAEC Review Implementation
Christina Colegate Assistant Director, Premier & Cabinet	17/5/2023	Aboriginal Engagement
Julia Southall EA LGIS	18/5/2023	General Insurance Matters
Andrew Sharpe Secretary RCAWA	22/5/2023	General matters and Actions
James Sheridan CEO LGIS	24/5/2023	General Insurance and Benchmarking System
Duncan Ord PAEC Implementation Team	25/5/2023	PAEC Team Meeting

### 3. Time Allocation

#### Historic Contract: May 2018 – April 2022

Name	Billed Hrs.	Actual Hrs.
Paul Rosair	1,600	1,630
Jane Lewis	660	660.25

#### Current Contract: May 2022 – April 2024

	Paul Rosair		Jane Lewis		Josh Turner	
	Contract	Actual	Contract	Actual	Contract	Actual
May 22	35	40	30	23	12	1
June 22	35	34.5	30	31.5	12	30
July 22	35	32	30	51.5	12	2
Aug 22	35	55	30	33.5	12	2
Sept 22	35	12.5	30	22.5	12	2
Oct 22	35	48.5	30	56	12	15
Nov 22	35	19	30	20	12	6
Dec 22	25	29.5	15	18.5	10	32.5
Jan 23	25	23	15	17	10	45
Feb 23	35	28	30	29	12	10
Mar 23	35	20	30	21	12	0
Apr 23	35	37.5	30	35.5	12	0
May 23	35	20.5	30	18	12	0
June 23	35		30		12	
July 23	35		30		12	
Aug 23	35		30		12	
Sept 23	35		30		12	
Oct 23	35		30		12	
Nov 23	35		30		12	
Dec 23	25		15		10	
Jan 24	25		15		10	
Feb 24	35		30		12	
Mar 24	35		30		12	
Apr 24	35		30		12	
<b>TOTALs</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>145.5</b>
Overall	Contract 947 Actual: 922.5					

## 8 FORMAL PRESENTATIONS

**Date of Report:** 23rd June 2023  
**Report Author:** Executive Officer, Paul Rosair  
**Disclosure of Interest:** Nil  
**Attachment(s)** Nil

### Purpose:

The Alliance receives presentations from key stakeholders.

### Background:

Leading up to this meeting, Alliance members were canvassed about issues pertinent to the portfolios of the presenters: a consolidated list is provided in the discussion and has been forwarded to the relevant presenters as appropriate.

### Discussion:

Time	Name	Position	Topics for discussion
9:30 - 9:45	Duncan Ord	Greensted Consulting	RPEAC
9:45 – 10:00	Bronte McMillan	BMac Consulting	Business Service Reviews
10:00 – 10:30	Karen Chappel Nic Sloan	President WALGA CEO WLAGA	WALGA update
11:00 – 11:20	Greg Cash	Elysian Consulting	Housing Project

Link to Strategic Directions:	Budget Implications
Advocacy and policy Influence Partnership and collaboration Representation	Nil
Resolution(s)	Action(s)
<b>For information only</b>	

# 8 REGIONAL PERFORMING ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE REVIEW (RPAEC)

<b>Date of Report:</b>	<b>23rd June 2023</b>
<b>Report Author:</b>	<b>Paul Rosair, Executive Officer, Greensted Services</b>
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	<b>Nil</b>
<b>Attachment(s)</b>	<b>13. RPAEC recommendations Impact Assessment (Separately Attached)</b>

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## **Purpose:**

To update the Alliance on the implementation of the findings from the Regional Arts and Entertainment Centres review.

## **Background:**

The regional cities performing arts and entertainment centres play a critical role in supporting the vibrancy of the community, those who live within the city and those for whom the city is a services centre. Longstanding inequities in State and commonwealth funding support and the COVID 19 pandemic has significantly impacted the performance and viability of the centres placing increasing financial burden on local government.

The Alliance appointed Greensted Services to undertake a review of the operating model of these centres and to make recommendations to assist COVID impact recovery, identify potential operational improvements and options for potential negotiations with the State Government for increased financial support as part of ongoing Regional Arts funding arrangements.

## **Status of implementation of the review findings**

The implementation steering group has been established with RCAWA nominated members being Sharon Custers (Venue Manager Busselton Performing Arts and Convention Centre), Josephine Bianchi (Director Community Services Town of Port Hedland) Andrew Sharpe CEO and Nathan Watson (Executive Director Community Services City of Albany), Fiona de Garis CEO of Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre (Inc) (BREC) and Paul Rosair Executive Officer RCAWA. The Steering group met on the 25<sup>th</sup> May to discuss prioritisation of the recommendations and agreed these should be assessed against a range of feasibility, cost, time and impact criteria. There was consensus that inequities in capital and recurrent funding and grants between metropolitan and regional venues and local Governments should be the primary focus.

The consultants applied NAJA impact assessment tools to the recommendations and 17 recommendations have been prioritised by the steering group for immediate implementation. Many of the recommendations relate to the programs and operations of Circuit West.

Circuit West is a State funded Not for Profit organisation that supports both metropolitan and regional arts centres and facilitates and promotes touring. The Chair is Fiona de Garis the CEO of BREC and a member of the Steering Group. It has been agreed that Fiona will seek Circuit West endorsement of the recommendations and active participation in presenting these to Government and where applicable to include actioning the recommendations in their own operational planning.

The report made recommendations related to the potential of new arts centres in Port Hedland and Broome and as these are long term capital projects, they are not included in the priority recommendations. The consultant will offer to meet with the respective CEO's to discuss if these projects should be raised in the engagement with Ministers of the State Government and the officials of DLGSC.

Specific recommendations were made in relation to the Bilya Koort Boodja cultural centre in Northam, the consultant will offer to meet with the CEO Shire of Northam to discuss if these recommendations should be raised in engagement with the Ministers and officials of DLGSC.

Funding for WA Arts organisations was increased in the State budget by 30% over the forward estimates. Touring companies have been asked to prepare proposals for regional touring initiatives indicating a policy response to the RCAWA review is being progressed by DLGSC as indicated in earlier engagement.

### Next Steps

- Duncan Ord (Greensted Services) is now undertaking stakeholder engagement with respondents to the recommendations inclusive of the board of ACT WA, CEO of WALGA, Executive Director Arts DLGSC, CEO of Circuit West, CEO of Regional Arts WA, WA manager of Creative Partnerships Australia, WA Board Directors of the Australia Council, CEO of Lottery West.
- A draft MOU will be prepared to facilitate the recommendation relating to enhanced cooperation between RCAWA member venues.
- RCAWA executive Paul Rosair and Duncan Ord will seek to meet with the Minister for Regional Development Don Punch and Minister for Culture and Arts David Templeman and their advisors to progress the strategic policy recommendations and facilitate direct engagement with the RCAWA Board.

Link to Strategic Directions:		Budget Implications	
Advocacy and Policy Influence Partnership and collaboration		Initial budget of up to \$10k. Consideration for future budget allocation to be discussed	
Resolution(s)		Action(s)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>That the RCAWA notes the proposed implementation of the Regional performing arts and entertainment centres review.</b></li> <li>• <b>Members to nominate a representative staff member to join the working group.</b></li> <li>• <b>Standing item of the prioritised 17 recommendations to be tabled with updated status to be included in future agendas</b></li> </ul>		<p>Greensted Services to continue stakeholder engagement and invite appropriate people to the next meeting.</p> <p>Members to nominate a representative staff to join the working group</p>	
<b>Moved:</b>	Malcolm Osborne	<b>Responsible:</b>	Executive Officer and Greensted Services
<b>Seconded:</b>	Desiree Male	<b>Due date:</b>	As appropriate

## 9 RCAWA HOUSING SOLUTIONS AND ACTION PLAN

**Date of Report:** 23rd June 2023  
**Report Author:** Executive Officer, Paul Rosair  
**Disclosure of Interest:** Nil  
**Attachment(s)**

---

### **Purpose:**

To determine a way forward with progressing key initial activities aimed at increasing housing investment and supply consistent with the Housing Solutions and Action Plan.

### **Background:**

During 2021, the Alliance commissioned the development of a Housing Solutions and Action Plan to identify options and actions that could be taken by Regional Capitals Alliance members to address housing availability issues across regional WA.

The Plan identified a practical approach to how the Alliance could work with Governments and others to implement short- and longer-term actions to improve housing availability in regional WA. The Plan was endorsed by the Alliance in late 2021.

In addition, the Alliance committed funds to progress initial actions, to create momentum and to commence implementation of the Plan during 2022. A scope of works was developed and an Expression of Interest (EOI) approved for release in February 2023 to engage a contractor to undertake key initial activities to progress the RCAWA Housing Solutions and Action Plan.

Three consultants were invited to quote on the EOI, namely Elysian Consulting, Urbis and Element WA. Elysian Consulting was the only submission received by the closing date, Friday 24 March 2023. ElementWA advised the indicative project budget “wasn’t sufficient to do the project justice” and no response was received from Urbis.

The consultants were requested to submit a quote for each of three separable components:

- Part 1: Opportunity Identification
- Part 2: Encouraging Investment
- Part 3: Regional Housing Market Engagement Activities

Despite only receiving one submission, to ensure due diligence, Elysian’s proposal was assessed against the EOI evaluation criteria by the sub-committee representative, Sam Mastrolembo, the Executive Officer, Paul Rosair, and Project Support Consultant Jo Swan. The assessment rated Elysian’s proposal as satisfactory and determined that it was also value for money.

At the April meeting questions regarding the planned actions were raised and a resolution was carried to engage Elysian Consulting, but that a CEO working group would work in conjunction with Elysian to develop an action-orientated plan and work in a staged approach.



## Next Steps

Emails have been circulated out of session and a discussion was held at the RCAWA CEO Ringaround on 16 June 2023 regarding the formation of a CEO working group. The aim is to have an initial workshop to clarify the scope of works and prioritise actions. Depending on the agreed scope, and as per the EOI document, Alliance members will then be required to provide relevant background documentation and contacts to the appointed Consultant to assist undertaking the required works.

Link to Strategic Directions:		Budget Implications	
Advocacy and policy Influence Partnership and collaboration Representation		Elysian Consulting Costing is \$48,700 (Excl. GST. Plus travel and accommodation allowances if required)	
Resolution(s)		Action(s)	
<p><b>The Alliance endorse a CEO working group (all members to be invited and express their availability by 30 June 2023) to oversee Elysian Consulting in implementing agreed actions and provide an update at the August meeting.</b></p>		<p>Executive Officer to invite all CEOs to join the CEO Working Group by 30 June 2023.</p> <p>The EO and Elysian Consulting to organise a workshop to be attended by the CEO working group and will send out appropriate documentation beforehand.</p> <p>Results of the workshop (actions, priorities and requirements of the members) will be sent out of session for feedback and approval by the Alliance.</p>	
<b>Moved:</b>	John Bowler	<b>Responsible:</b>	Executive Officer, CEO working group and Elysian Consulting
<b>Seconded:</b>	Alex Wiese	<b>Due date:</b>	As appropriate

# 10 SERVICE DELIVERY REVIEWS

<b>Date of Report:</b>	<b>23rd June 2023</b>
<b>Report Author:</b>	<b>Executive Officer and Bronte Macmillan</b>
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	<b>Nil</b>
<b>Attachment(s)</b>	<b>NIL</b>

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## **Purpose:**

To provide the Alliance with an update on the Service Delivery Review project scope of works.

## **Background:**

The Alliance has previously agreed to engage the services of Bronte Macmillan (who has undertaken Service Delivery Reviews in the capacity of her role with the Shire of Broome) to support Alliance members in developing and implementing meaningful review documents to improve service delivery, as well as potentially develop useful data to enhance benchmarking tools.

Furthermore, after discussions with the CEO of LGIS, some of the improvements in business performance may lead to better synergies with LGIS reporting.

RCAWA has an opportunity to share learnings from the Shire of Broome's work (templates, methodology, opportunities) and in doing so, create a repository of business improvement for their Local Governments. Through some adjustments to the template, this process could be used to gather information to enhance the RCAWA benchmarking tool in areas relating to service delivery. This potentially could be expanded to also include external services that may be delivered by contractors (childcare, aged care etc.).

A discussion was also held around the CEO of the Shire of Broome, City of Karratha and City of Albany being project sponsors for this initiative.

## **Discussion**

A scope of works has been developed as follows:

### **1. Coordinate Formation of Advisory Group**

The first step of the Service Delivery Review (SDR) process will involve coordinating the formation of an advisory group with a representative from each Local Government. An email has been sent to the CEOs of the respective Local Governments, inviting them to nominate a representative for the group.

### **2. Assessment of Current Service Delivery Data Tools**

Once the advisory group is formed, the next phase will involve assessing the current service delivery data tools used by each Local Government, where applicable.

### **3. Collation of Gathered Information and Creation of Revised Template/Tool**

Based on the assessment findings, the gathered information from each Local Government will be collated. This information will serve as a foundation for creating a revised template/tool that aims to streamline and improve the service delivery data collection and reporting process.

**4. Presentation of Template to Advisory Group and Alliance**

The template/tool will be presented to the Service Delivery Review Advisory Group and the Alliance. The presentation will highlight the key improvements and benefits of adopting the template/tool. Feedback from the Advisory Group and Alliance members will be gathered to refine the template/tool further.

**5. Project Support**

Throughout the SDR process, Bronte (under the guidance and direction of the Executive Officer) will be available to provide advice, assistance, mentoring, and support to the Advisory Group. Bronte will offer guidance in implementing the template/tool, deliver training sessions to enhance understanding and utilisation, and address any queries or challenges faced by the Advisory Group members.

**6. Additional Benchmarking Data**

If additional benchmarking data becomes available throughout the SDR process, this will be collated and implemented into the current Alliance benchmarking tool, in consultation with the Executive Officer.

**7. Presentation to the Alliance**

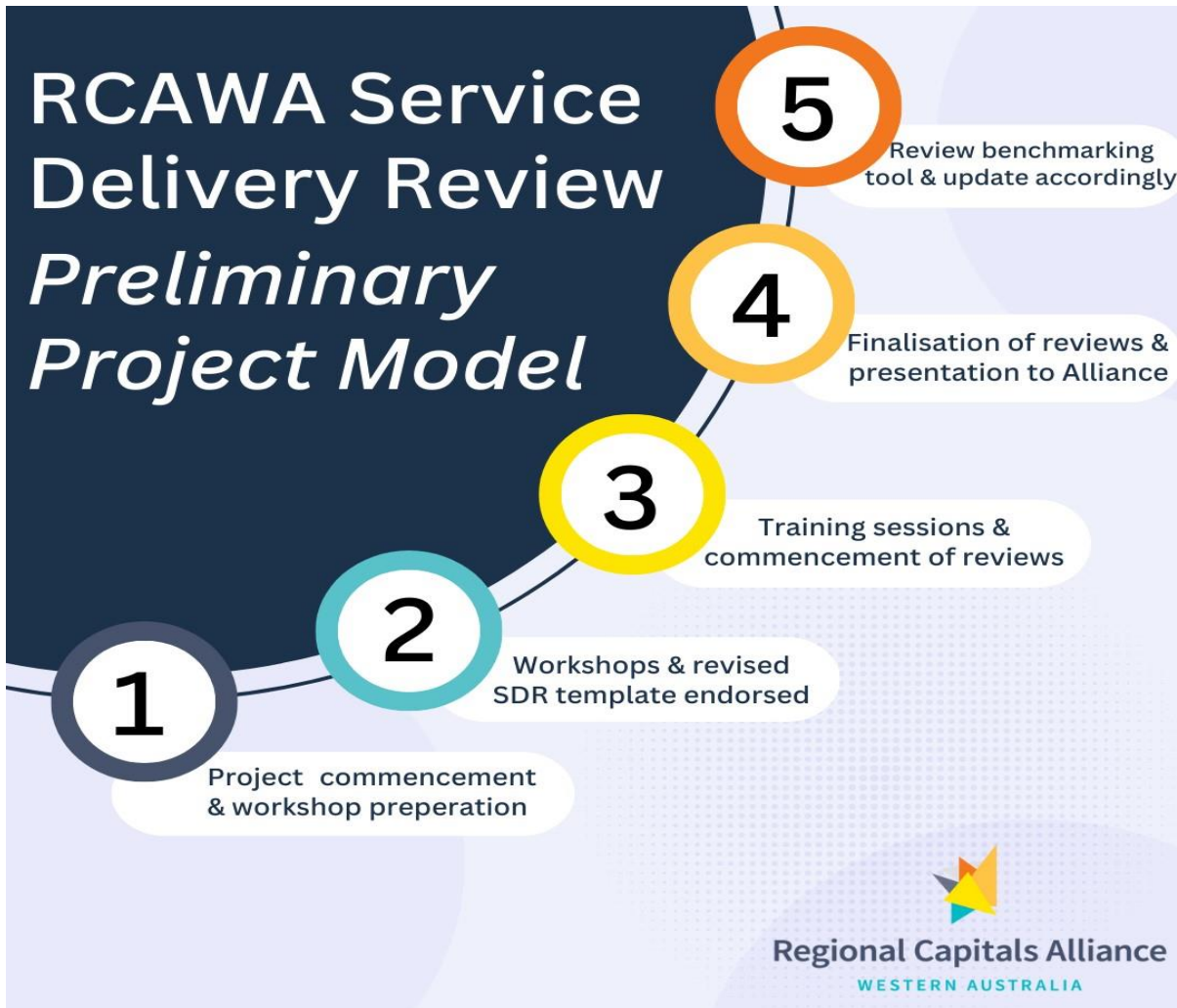
The final findings of the SDR will be presented to the Alliance. This presentation will aim to showcase the progress made, the benefits achieved, and the potential for broader implementation and collaboration within the Alliance.

Points to consider when nominating Advisory Group representatives:

Each Local Government will determine their level of representation on the advisory group. Representation may change over the course of the project, as each Local Government's needs and involvement mature.

Ideally the representative will be someone who works well across the organisation, as they will be the point of contact for many teams across the Local Government. They should have good communication and collaboration skills in order to provide guidance and assistance to each team participating in the SDR's.

The other consideration is where would the function best sit, moving forward in future years. Governance (if applicable) is a good area to consider, as they already have a broad knowledge of the organisation and future reviews could be tied to governance framework/corporate calendars etc.



Link to Strategic Directions:		Budget Implications	
Partnership and collaboration		\$120 per hour up to \$20,280 for a 6-month contract. Provision is also made for \$4,500 for the Executive Officer for supervision if time cannot be covered under contractual hours.	
Resolution(s)		Action(s)	
That the Alliance supports this scope of works and nominate their Corporate Service Directors as the first preference representative for the Advisory Group.		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CEO's confirm representation for their Local Government.</li> <li>2. Executive Officer and Ms Macmillan commence project and convene advisory committee meeting.</li> <li>3. CEOs to be invited to an appropriate meeting</li> </ol>	
<b>Moved:</b>	Desiree Male	<b>Responsible:</b>	Executive Officer and BMAC Consulting
<b>Seconded:</b>	Peter Long	<b>Due date:</b>	As required

# 11 ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE BILL 2021

**Date of Report:** 7th April 2022  
**Report Author:** Paul Rosair, Executive Officer  
**Disclosure of Interest:** Nil

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## **Purpose:**

To update the Alliance on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 and the statutory guidelines which come into effect on 1 July 2023.

## **Background:**

The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 (ACHA), passed by Parliament in December 2021, replaced the existing Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (AHA). At the December 2021 Alliance meeting it was agreed to engage Duncan Ord, to prepare a briefing paper on the new legislation and the potential consequences of the act on the Regional Cities. The resultant Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 Briefing paper was attached for consideration by Alliance members at the February 2022 meeting.

The RCAWA EO subsequently met with WALGA CEO and staff to discuss how best to work together on a coordinated response to the Department to ensure a streamlined implementation of the Act, via regulation, is achieved with as little additional cost and red tape as possible.

Informal discussions with the Department indicated that the Government was still open to consider further exemptions from the approvals process for activities undertaken consistent with the Planning and Development Act. Resolutions from the February meeting were:

- That RCAWA seek to be engaged by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) as a key stakeholder in the consultation phase of the development of the regulations and other documentation that gives effect to the Act.
- That RCAWA advocate for Regulations to allow for a single Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Plan to be applied to all land areas and activities within a city or shire boundary.
- That RCAWA request DPLH to provide any cost modelling undertaken on consultation fees, permit fees and impact compensation, that might apply to Local Government activities, to assist with strategic budgeting as required under the Local Government Act.
- That RCAWA requests priority be given to the establishment of the Local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services (LACHS) in Regional Capitals jurisdictions.
- That RCAWA authorise the EO to write to the Acting Director General of DPLH seeking ongoing engagement during implementation of the Act.

The RCAWA EO met with Anthony Kannis, Director General of DPLH on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022 who subsequently attended the RCAWA meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022. A briefing paper was presented to the Department. On 3 June 2022 Paul Rosair and Duncan Ord met with Mr Ben Harvey; Director of Aboriginal Heritage and Mr Cesar Rodriguez; Manager Heritage Projects to discuss the paper and potential response.

The Department acknowledged receipt of the RCAWA briefing paper and confirmed that the issues raised by the paper were valid and would need to be addressed through the consultation phase for the development of the regulations. Ben and Cesar confirmed they were leading the implementation team and welcomed the offer of cooperation with the RCAWA secretariat.

The Department advised that the ACHA had been modelled on the Victorian legislation enacted in 2006 and that the Victorian legislation had no unintended consequences on Local Government or the community. It was indicated that due to the Victorian experience no cost modelling had been undertaken in WA on the regulatory impact of the ACHA. In response we noted that WA has significantly greater land mass and intact landscape and that the provisions of the ACHA were likely to have greater impact on Local Government in WA than in Victoria.

The Department outlined the timeframe for the development and tabling of the regulations and that they were required to have the ACHA fully implemented by July 1, 2023. The Department confirmed they would consult directly with local Government through a series of workshops and that RCAWA would be invited to attend, as would each individual LGA. These workshops would be completed by November and a schedule will be sent to the Alliance Executive Officer for information as soon as possible. The Department indicated they had yet to develop a response to the specific issues in the briefing paper but would do so for inclusion in the consultation process.

The Department also confirmed that there would be no regulations that imposed any obligation on Local Government to do ACHA due diligence on third party development approvals. It would be expected a proponent would tick a box confirming they had completed this themselves. Local Government will only be bound by the ACHA for its own activities. Further Local Government planning processes would not be an activity under the act. There would be no consequential amendments under the Local Government or Planning acts.

In relation to the inclusion of Landscape values in the ACHA the Department considers these were provided for under Part 5 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act and hence the new definitions were clarification rather than a new area of heritage protection. They did acknowledge that significant landscape features such as the Darling escarpment posed complexity over site definition and cultural authority.

The Department acknowledged that the establishment of the Local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage services would take a long time and that it was likely the Native Title representative bodies would continue to facilitate heritage impact assessment services in the interim. They also indicated current work was focused on the management code and underlying “activity” guidance documents.

The practical application of the activity guidelines to residential blocks above 1100m<sup>2</sup>, rural residential and farms was discussed and the Department acknowledged a reasonableness test would be required in undertaking due diligence. Defences under the act would be enshrined in the regulations to protect those who undertake due diligence in good faith but later are found to have impacted heritage values.

Members of the Alliance were encouraged to send officers to the consultation workshops. The Executive Officer continued to review guidance material and draft regulations as they became available.



## Discussion:

On 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023, WALGA and DPLH co-hosted an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Education Session for the Local Government sector attended by the EO and EA. The session was attended by 80 Local Government representatives.

The presentation can be found via the following link

[https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/Policy-Advocacy/Our-Policy-Areas/People-and-Place/Aboriginal-Communities/Aboriginal-Cultural-Heritage-Act/Presentation\\_ACH-Workshop-10-May-\(ID-586999\)-\(ID-587653\).pdf?lang=en-AU](https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/Policy-Advocacy/Our-Policy-Areas/People-and-Place/Aboriginal-Communities/Aboriginal-Cultural-Heritage-Act/Presentation_ACH-Workshop-10-May-(ID-586999)-(ID-587653).pdf?lang=en-AU)

A recording of the workshop can be found via the following link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0kfG1-lbWVU>

Major points raised are:

- The Act will come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023, as will a range of Regulations. Limited functions of the 1972 Act associated with limited sections 18 applications will remain in place for a period of six months.
- New portal - ACHKnowledge
- Penalties for breaching the Act can now be up to \$10m or potential for imprisonment, and stature of limitation period has increased to 6 years
- Key components of ACH Act:
  - Aboriginal people empowered to determine what ACH is protected (Part 1) –existing registered sites and lodged places transition to new Directory
  - ACH Council (Part 2) –
    - two Aboriginal co-chairs (M&F); up to nine additional members; majority Aboriginal
    - designates LACHS, approves permits & agreed plans, recommendations to Minister
  - LACHS (Part 2) –active role for Aboriginal people in heritage management
    - one-stop shop for proponents; role in negotiating ACHMPs
    - funding for capacity building; able to charge fee for service for ACHMPs
  - Aboriginal ancestral remains and secret and sacred objects (SSO) (Part 3)
    - ancestral remains must be returned to rightful custodians
    - SSO reported to Council; government must return; can't be sold/removed from WA
  - Protected Areas for ACH of Outstanding Significance (Part 4)
    - existing 78 Protected Areas transition under new Act
    - exclusive vesting with Minister removed to allow Aboriginal groups to manage
- There are some areas where LACHS have not been established – will be more difficult to find the correct knowledge holder

## Land Use Approvals (Part 6)

Tier Category	Description	Approval Pathway
<b>Exempt Activity</b>  <i>Activities specified in the ACH Act</i>	'Small Scale Residential' 'Emergency Services', 'Recreational Activities' 'Like for Like or less'	<b>Does not require Approval</b>  <i>Proponents encouraged to avoid ACH</i>
<b>Tier 1</b>  <i>Activities will be specified in the Regulations</i>	Minimal Ground Disturbance Activities	<b>Does not require Approval</b>  <i>Proponents takes all reasonable steps possible to avoid or minimise risk of harm ACH</i>
<b>Tier 2</b>  <i>Activities will be specified in the Regulations</i>	Low Ground Disturbance Activities	<b>Requires issue of <u>ACH Permit</u> by ACH Council</b>  <i>Proponents takes all reasonable steps possible to avoid or minimise risk of harm ACH</i>
<b>Tier 3</b>  <i>Activities will be specified in the Regulations</i>	Moderate to High Ground Disturbance Activities	<b>Where Aboriginal Party and Proponent reach agreement ACH Council approves <u>ACH Management Plan.</u></b>  <b>Where Aboriginal Party and Proponent are unable to reach agreement it is <i>the decision of the Minister whether or not to authorise an ACH Management Plan</i></b>

- The guidelines include draft regulations on the activity categories – these will be reproduced as a table for ease of use
- Exempt activities: Development on Lots less than 1,100m<sup>2</sup> “ **under the current act there are no exemptions, if you are doing anything – cutting dead grass under the current act, you need an approval. So what we have tried to do in the new Act is be realistic and recognise that we do need to allow for some level of exemptions.**”<sup>1</sup>
- Flowcharts are provided for activity due diligence assessment – see DPLH / WALGA presentation
- Consultation guidelines differentiate between whether LACHS are present and outline minimum requirements including 3 meetings (although this can be negotiated).
- Knowledge holder guidelines: 1. Search the directory (which will be online by the 1<sup>st</sup> July), 2. seek advice from the Department, 3. give public notice requesting knowledge holders
- LACHS fee for service guidelines range from \$80 per hour up to \$300 per hour for other expert service providers – these are largely for Tier 3 activities.
- A section18 consent will expire within 10 years if, following proclamation, they have failed to establish that the activity has been substantially commenced.
- There is no obligation for Local Governments to verify that due diligence has been undertaken by developers. Development applications will be based on own Local Government criteria, not on Heritage. WALGA to request that this is put in writing.
- There are, as yet, no standardised forms for Local Governments to use to document due diligence activities when they are doing their own developments – however these may be developed as part of a due diligence module.
- Due diligence on a parcel of land will not be recorded spatially, so it would need to be done again if future development is considered

<sup>1</sup> Ben Harvey, DPLH presentation



- Ground disturbance does not cover water or air – extraction of water is therefore not considered to be a ground disturbance activity (hence tier 1) but some of the activities surrounding that extraction may be tier 2 or 3.
- Scheme planning etcetera is not affected because it is not a ground disturbance activity
- Whoever is doing the ground disturbance work (the proponent) is responsible for doing the due diligence process, including leaseholders
- Anyone already holding a subdivision approval will be subject to these new laws from the 1<sup>st</sup> July when the Act is put in place
- DPLH are “decentralising” 5 directors to the regions and another 2 officers.
- Karratha looking at options such as packaging up 5 year management plans
- The WALGA President wrote to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs on 1 June 2023 to call for support for Local Governments through the provision of a dedicated Local Government ACH Act Facilitator, training, guidance materials, additional DPLH regional officers and an extension of grant funding project timeframes.
- Exemptions which will assist Local Governments are:
  - Maintaining existing infrastructure that does not involve disturbance to ground beyond that which was disturbed during the construction;
  - Maintenance of waterways and coastlines to rectify accretion and erosion of natural material; and
  - An emergency management activity intended to prevent imminent loss of life, prejudice to the safety, or harm to the health, of persons or animals.
- The State Government has announced \$77million investment into the ACH system which will further support the successful implementation of the ACH Act.

Link to Strategic Directions:		Budget Implications	
Advocacy and policy Influence Partnership and collaboration Representation		Nil	
Resolution(s)		Action(s)	
<b>That the RCAWA members decided to continue to engage with State Government in acertaining the impacts of the ACH Act legislation on local governments.</b>		Executive Officer to work with Greensted Services to continue to engage with State Government in acertaining the impacts of the ACH Act legislation on local governments.	
Moved:	Peter Long	Responsible:	Executive Officer
Seconded:	Grant Henley	Due date:	Ongoing

## 12 OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

<b>Date of Report:</b>	<b>23rd June 2023</b>
<b>Report Author:</b>	<b>Executive Officer, Paul Rosair</b>
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	<b>Nil</b>
<b>Attachment(s)</b>	<b>14: Audit Survey Analysis (Advice to Sector Final)</b>

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### **Purpose:**

To update the Alliance members on the current information surrounding issues with audits conducted by the Office of the Auditor General.

### **Background:**

On 28 October 2017, the [Local Government Amendment \(Auditing\) Act 2017](#) was proclaimed, giving the Auditor General the mandate to audit Western Australia's 139 local governments and nine regional councils. The Act allows the Auditor General to conduct performance audits straight away while financial audits transitioned to the Auditor General over four years, as local government's existing audit contracts expired. The 2020-21 financial year audit was the first all 148 local government entities were audited by the OAG. There are no regulations under the Act of schedule of fees and charges for the cost of audit.

The OAG advises in its Local Government Audit Fee Setting Information Fact Sheet (May 2020)<sup>2</sup> that they charge financial audit fees for State and LG entities on a cost recovery basis, that is, they do not make a profit. Also, that they endeavour to keep additional fees to a minimum across the State and local government sector and regularly absorb small excesses, as do their contract firms.

They advise that they and their contract audit firms are becoming more acquainted with the size differences, regional particularities and other complexities across the local government sector. For example, they are seeking to allocate a region to 1 or 2 audit firms to reduce travel costs, as auditors can visit several local governments in one trip. They advised that this should also promote consistent financial management advice and build local expertise and skills across a region.

Key issues raised by Councils include the cost of audit and the lack of transparency of the cost of the audit. The Shire of Broome have advised that they pay more for an audit than some large metropolitan Councils. Broome were recently advised that the OAG have agreed to review their cost, but that they would not provide a breakdown of their costs to the Shire.

### **Discussion:**

In April 2023, Local Government Professionals WA partnered with WALGA to conduct a survey of the sector to ascertain current issues and attitudes associated with the annual local government audit process. 91 responses were received, and these helped form the basis of an item and recommendation to the WALGA State Council in June 2023.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://audit.wa.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Local-government-audit-fee-setting-information-sheet.pdf>.

WALGA's analysis of the survey responses highlighted five key emerging issues in the audit process:

1. Timeframe and delays

Over 50% of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed that "*the audit was completed in the scheduled timeframe*".<sup>3</sup> Comments from respondents suggested disruptions to the timeframe were caused by consecutive periods of leave taken by the Auditors and OAG staff, difficulties with asset valuations and collection of information. One respondent noted that the Auditors continually asked for more information from Local Government staff but refused to acknowledge the delays these requests were causing or allowing for any flexibility in the times allocated.

2. Additional workload on Local Government staff

Similar to the comments above, 60% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that "*there was additional workload placed on Local Government staff during the conduct of the audit, beyond the tasks anticipated in the pre-audit preparation advice*". Only 15% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement. Respondents noted that the tasks expected of Local Government staff "far exceeded" what was anticipated, and this led to a "very high workload" for staff and a strain on resources. Unclear instructions, poor communication and being asked to answer the same question multiple times were cited by respondents as causes for the additional workload.

3. Cost

Almost half of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement that "*the estimated audit costs were reasonable, given the Audit Brief and the comparative cost of previous audits*".<sup>4</sup> Comments from some respondents reported that the costs were more than twice that incurred prior to the OAG assuming responsibility for Local Government auditing. There was also feedback about a lack of transparency from the OAG in its failure to provide a cost breakdown.

In terms of the actual cost of the audit, only two respondents indicated that the final cost was less than the estimated cost, with a significant amount of respondents indicating the actual cost was higher than the estimated. The average difference between the estimated and actual was an increase of around \$12,000, with the biggest difference being \$40,000.

4. Inconsistent advice from contract Auditors and OAG

Whilst a majority of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that "*consistent advice was received from both contract Auditors and the OAG*",<sup>5</sup> several comments indicated that when inconsistent advice was received it led to confusion, delays and frustration. One respondent suggested that requiring the Local Government to only communicate with the contract Auditors, and not also the OAG, would avoid these outcomes.

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<sup>3</sup> Question 9, *The Audit was completed in the scheduled*

<sup>4</sup> Question 4, *The estimated audit costs were reasonable, given the Audit Brief and the comparative cost of previous audits*

<sup>5</sup> Question 11, *Consistent advice was received from both contract auditors and the OAG*

In this scenario, it would be up to the contract Auditors and the OAG to be on the same page in terms of the advice given, and this in turn would reduce “inconsistent advice or information from both parties”.

#### 5. Asset Valuation Requirements

There were a number of comments throughout the survey raising the need for simplification and clarification on the Fair Value asset valuation requirements. In response to question 11 about the consistency of advice from the contract Auditors and the OAG, one respondent noted that the advice received was good “apart from the issue of the valuation of assets”.

A similar comment appears in question 14 where a respondent has sought clarification and guidance about “the timing of infrastructure revaluation and what mechanisms, beside management judgement, [are] in place to show how we have made the decision”. Feedback on the handling of the asset valuation process can also be seen in a comment in question 8 which suggests that “more thought needs to be given between the LG Sector and the OAG.”

Drawing on the above key issues, WALGA will be working with the OAG to achieve the following improvements to the audit process and have included the following in their State Council Agenda recommendations (3.1.1.2.1.1):

**WALGA advocate to the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) to reform the audit process for Local Governments by seeking:**

- a. Audits of Local Governments are completed and reported on in a timely manner and that the processes, procedures and scope of audits are consistently applied.**
- b. That the OAG review the requirements for pre-audit information with a view to reducing the need for additional information where possible;**
- c. That the OAG review their costing formulae for Local Government audits and show constraint in audit cost increases;**
- d. That the OAG provide a breakdown on the cost of the audit and justification for any variance to the estimate to the Local Government as part of the final billing process;**
- e. That auditors be required to improve their communication and information management and avoid repeated requests for information that has already been provided;**
- f. That Local Governments only be required to communicate with contract Auditors (*unless the OAG is directly auditing the Local Government*) and the onus be placed on the contract Auditors to confirm their advice with the OAG before instructing the Local Government; and**
- g. In-conjunction with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, review the application of Fair Value principles in the context of the audit.**

Given that the survey highlights similar issues to those experienced by Alliance members, and that WALGA are preparing to advocate for improvements to the audit process that align with those issues, there is an opportunity for the Alliance to either:

- offer support and/or assistance to WALGA going forward and/or
- pursue independent advocacy with the Office of the Auditor General

WALGA have been advised that this matter will be discussed during the meeting, and members are asked to have questions that will assist them form a decision on the way forward.

Link to Strategic Directions:		Budget Implications	
Advocacy and policy Influence Partnership and collaboration Representation		Nil	
Resolution(s)		Action(s)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>That the RCAWA write to the Office of Auditor General and WALGA, endorsing WALGA's State Council position.</b></li> <li>• <b>Invite the Auditor General to RCAWA meeting</b></li> </ul>		<p>The Executive Officer to write to the the Office of Auditor General and WALGA, endorsing WALGA's State Council position.</p> <p>The Executive Officer to invite the Auditor General to RCAWA meeting.</p>	
Moved:	Peter Long	Responsible:	Executive Officer
Seconded:	Malcolm Osborne	Due date:	As soon as possible

**Attachment 14: Audit Survey Analysis (Advice to Sector Final)**



# **AUDIT SURVEY ANALYSIS**

A summary of the sector's response to the local government audit process

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## AUDIT SURVEY ANALYSIS

### Introduction

Responsibility for financial auditing of Western Australia's local governments transitioned from the Department of Local Government, Sport, and Cultural Industries to the Office of the Auditor General with the proclamation of the *Local Government Amendment (Auditing) Act 2017*.

Since this time there has been a range of comments and criticisms of the audit that needed to be corralled and formalised in discussions with the OAG in order to get clarity and better understand how to improve the audit performance and outcomes for local governments.

Local Government Professionals WA partnered with WALGA during April to conduct a survey of the sector to ascertain current issues and attitudes associated with the annual local government audit process.

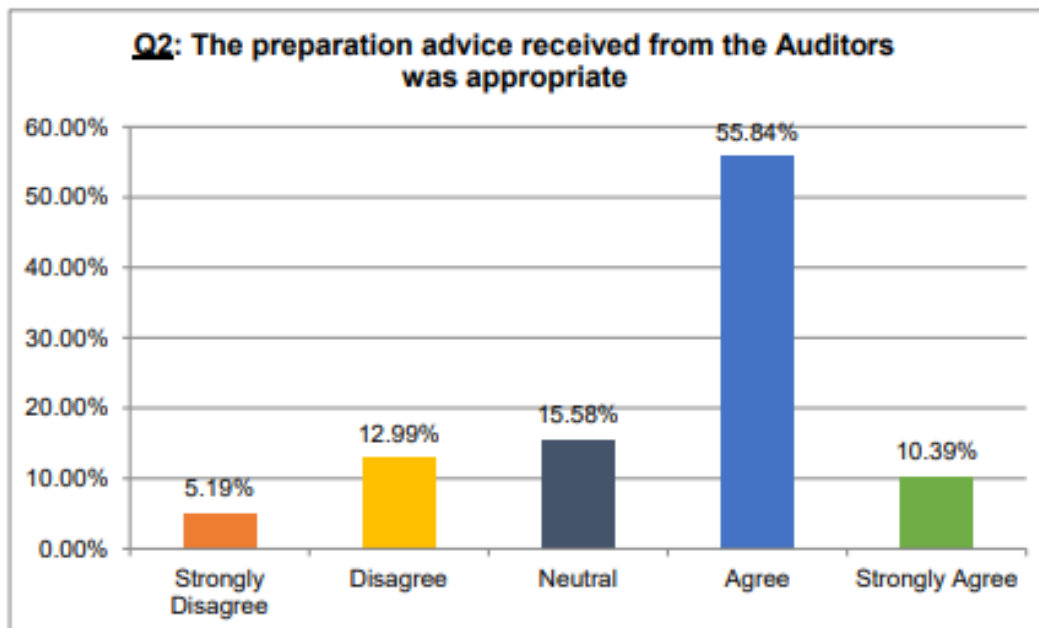
The survey was jointly designed to enable the Associations to provide consistent and constructive advice to the Office of the Auditor General. The OAG is supportive of the process and welcomes this contribution from the peak bodies to inform their continued improvement.

Data and quotations from the survey are provided so as to maintain the anonymity of the 91 local governments referenced as contributors at Q1. This level of response provides us with a high level of confidence that the results are strongly indicative of the sector perspectives on the questions asked.

Responses are presented in chart form, demonstrating the percentage of respondents indicating support for the available choices, followed by an indicative summary of the written comments that relate to each question.

The Key Emerging Issues are identified at the end of the report, together with an outline of the advocacy that Local Government Professionals WA proposes to take in response to the survey outcomes. It is anticipated that WALGA will develop its own advocacy to address the findings and we encourage all local governments to participate in that process.

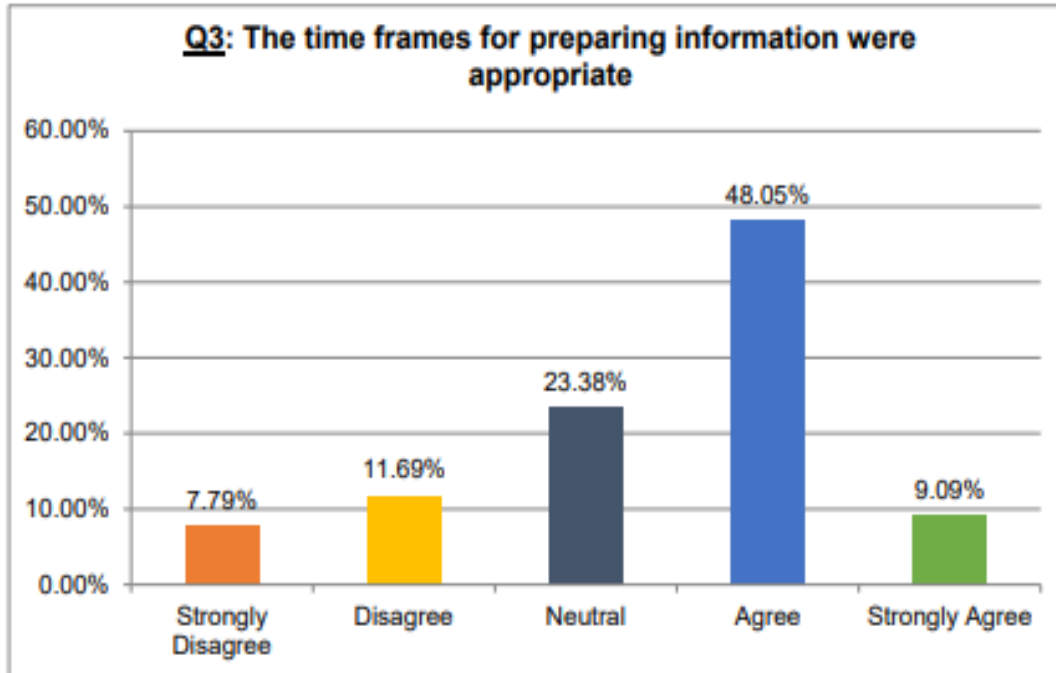
### Survey Responses



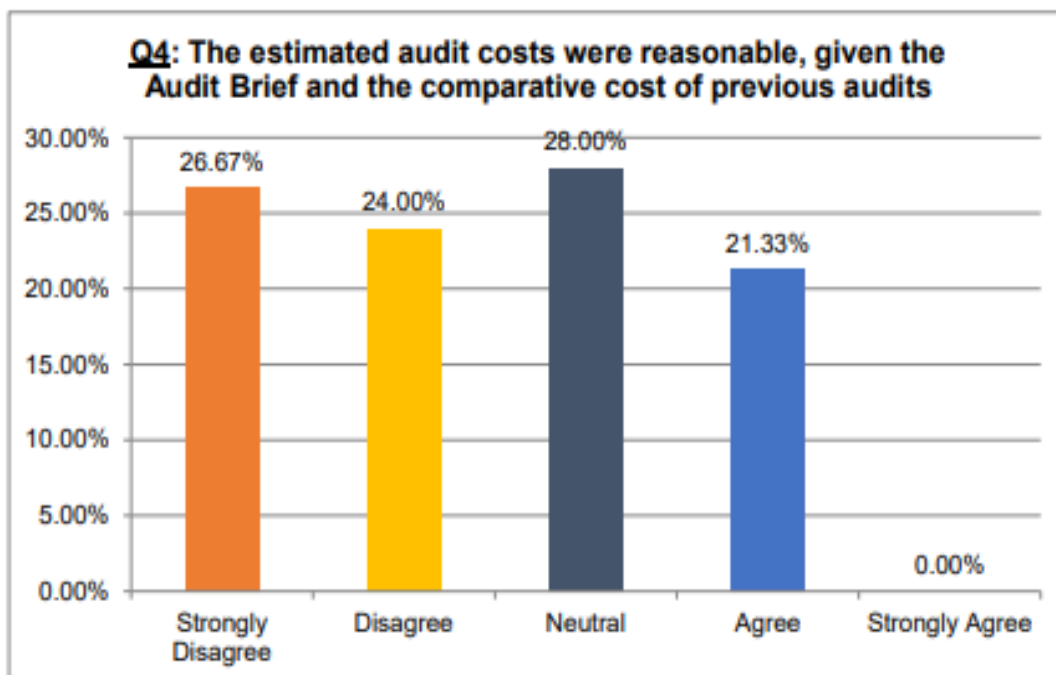
**81.8%** of respondents were happy with, or neutral to, the Auditors preparation advice.

Criticisms were essentially based on specific situational experiences, such as the withdrawal of the audit firm initially appointed to the process, late appointment of a contract auditor, or difficulty with the auditor's technology platform.

Some comments highlighted the vagueness of preparation requirements and the need for clarity, as well as the need for better appreciation by the auditors for the time involved in responding to their requests.



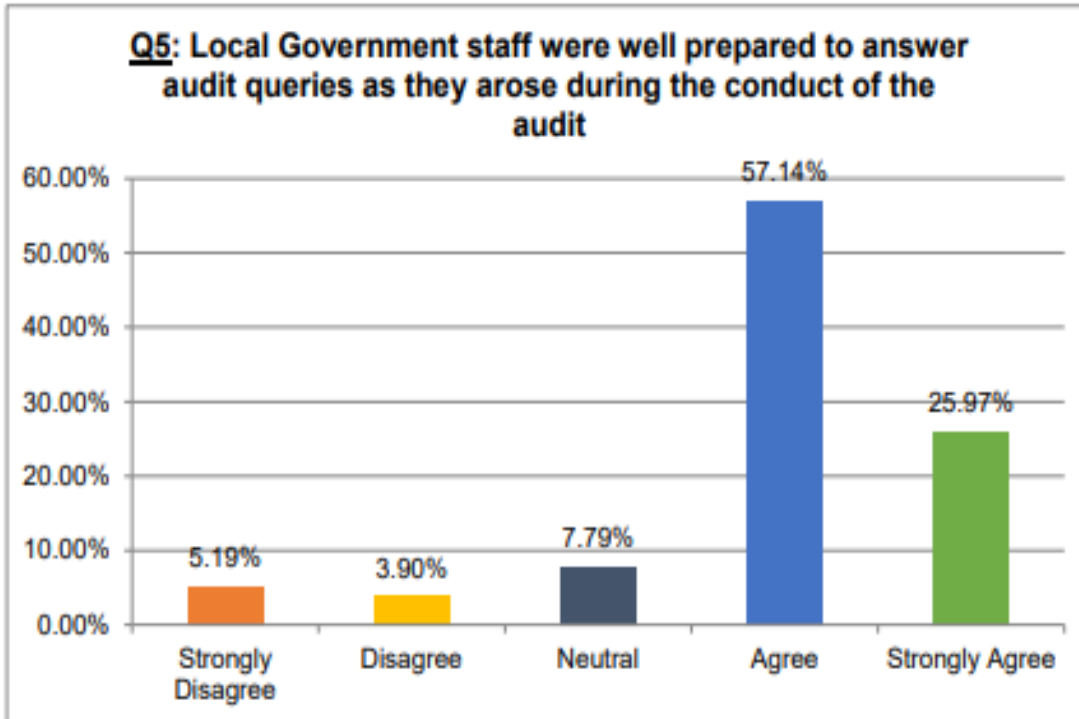
**80.5%** of respondents were happy with, or neutrally impacted by, the Auditor's preparation time frames. Comments were mixed, ranging from "we were ready" to highlighting timing inflexibility and volume of work.



This question was a 50/50 proposition, with **49.3%** of respondents either neutral or believing the estimated audit costs were reasonable.

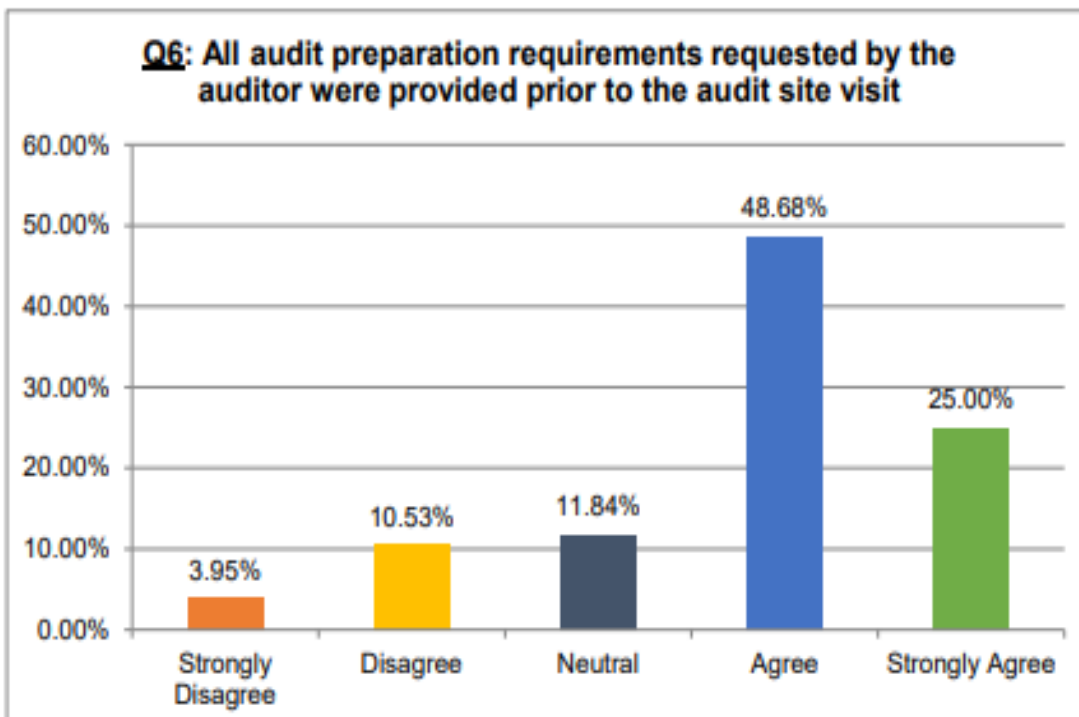
Comments ranged from "2.5 times more expensive than prior to the OAG for substantively the same audit outcome" and concerns about the value-for-money of the audit, to concerns about the lack of transparency from the OAG about how the costs are determined.





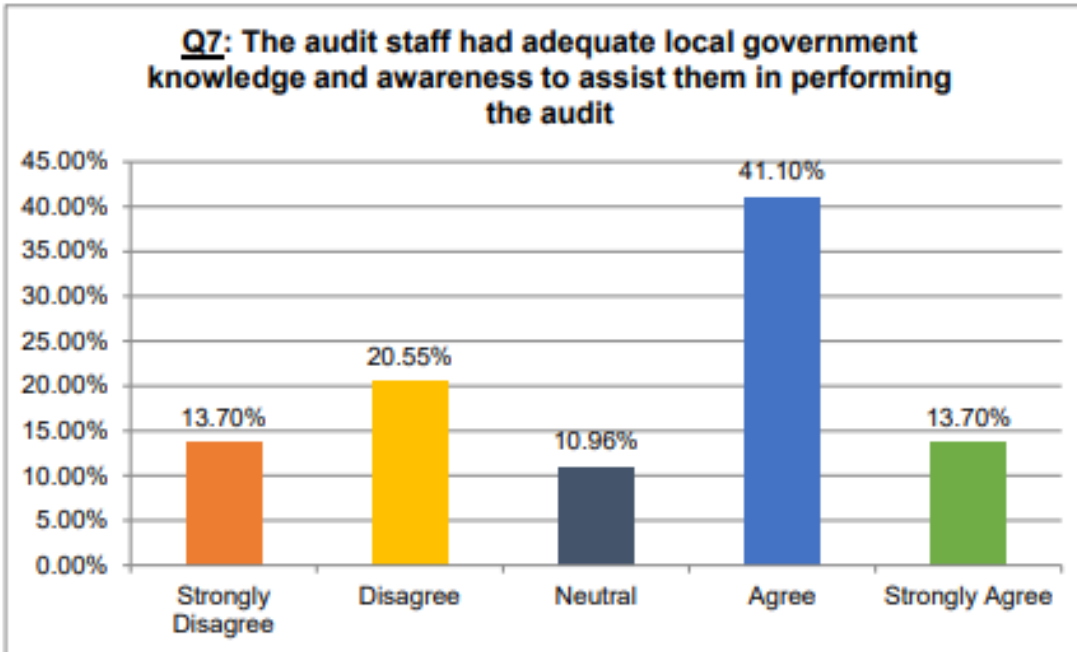
**90.9%** of respondents were happy or neutral with their response preparation.

Comments highlighted issues such as a lack of audit staff knowledge, to acknowledgement of some delays at the local government end - but not to the extent that would impact the timing or cost variances claimed.



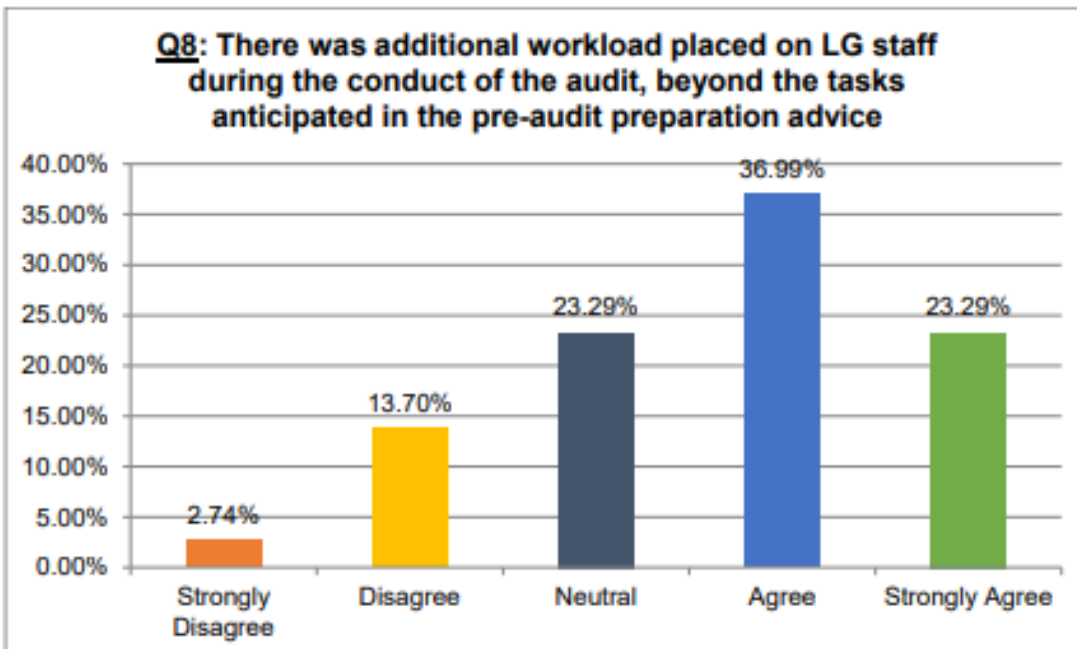
**85.5%** of respondents either strongly agreed, agreed or were neutral in their response to the proposition.

Comments essentially claimed compliance with the requirement or acknowledged some minor omissions or delays.



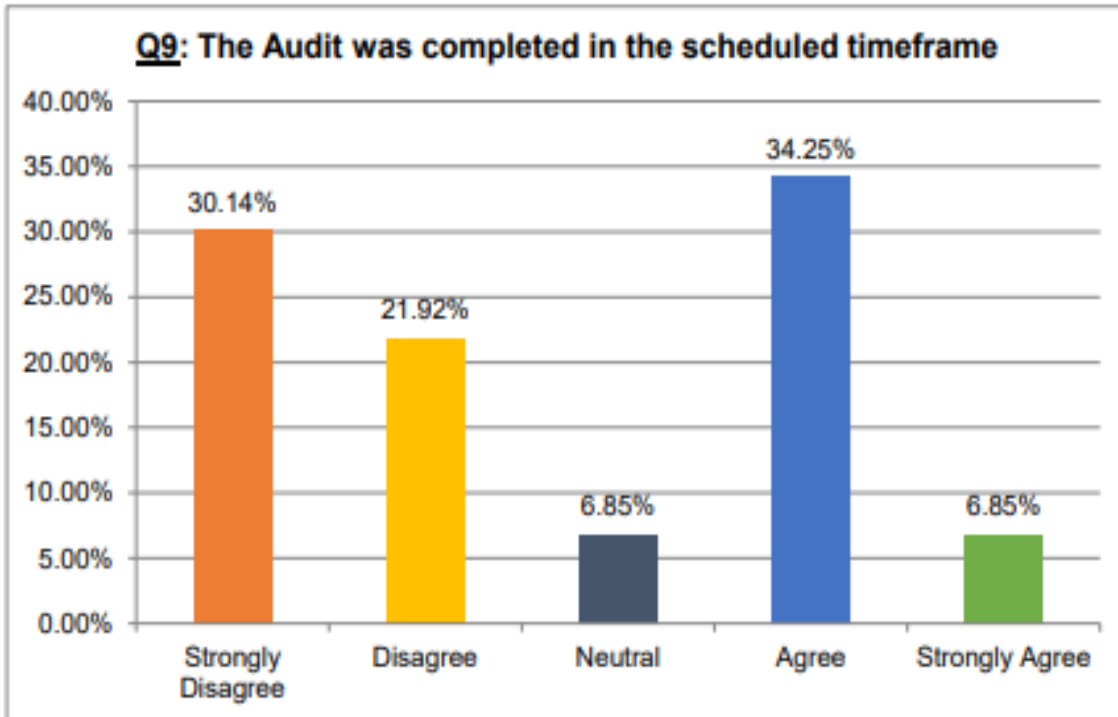
**65.8%** of respondents were either neutral or supported the statement, indicating that approximately one third of local governments experienced lower than expected levels of local government knowledge and awareness by their auditors.

Comments highlighted this lack of operational knowledge, although some acknowledged that there had been an improvement over last year.



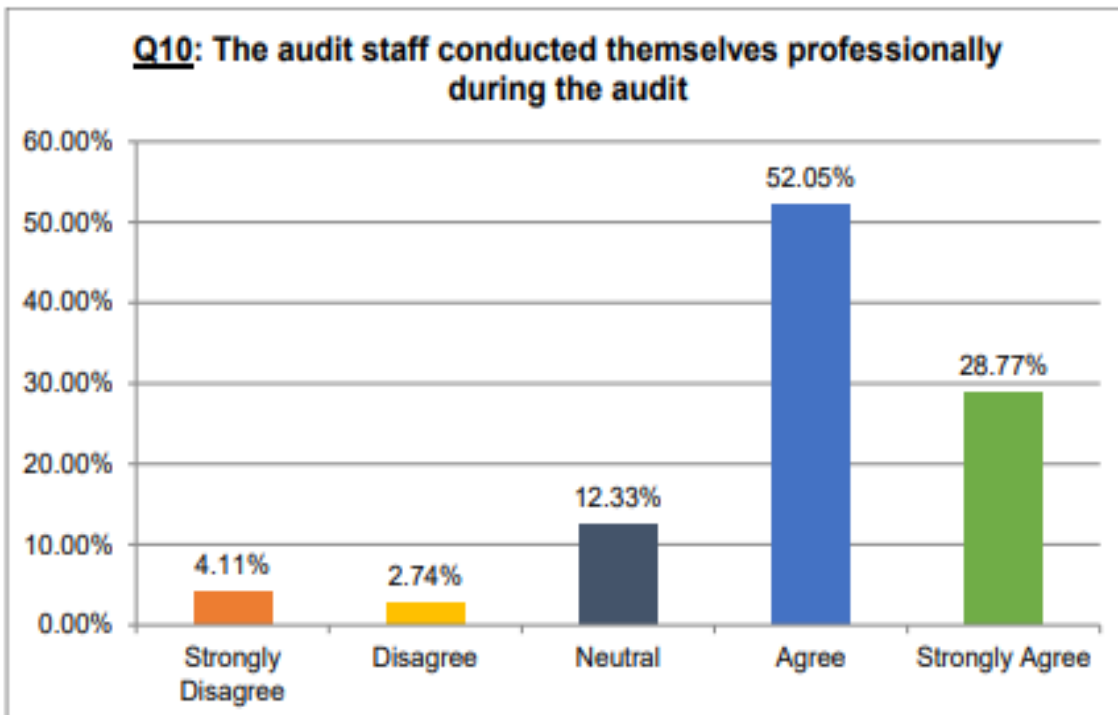
**81.6%** of respondents were neutral or agreed that they had experienced an abnormal workload, in addition to normal expectations.

Comments emphasised difficulties created by the high number of detailed sampling requests, additional information requests, and repeated requests because the auditor had lost the previous response.

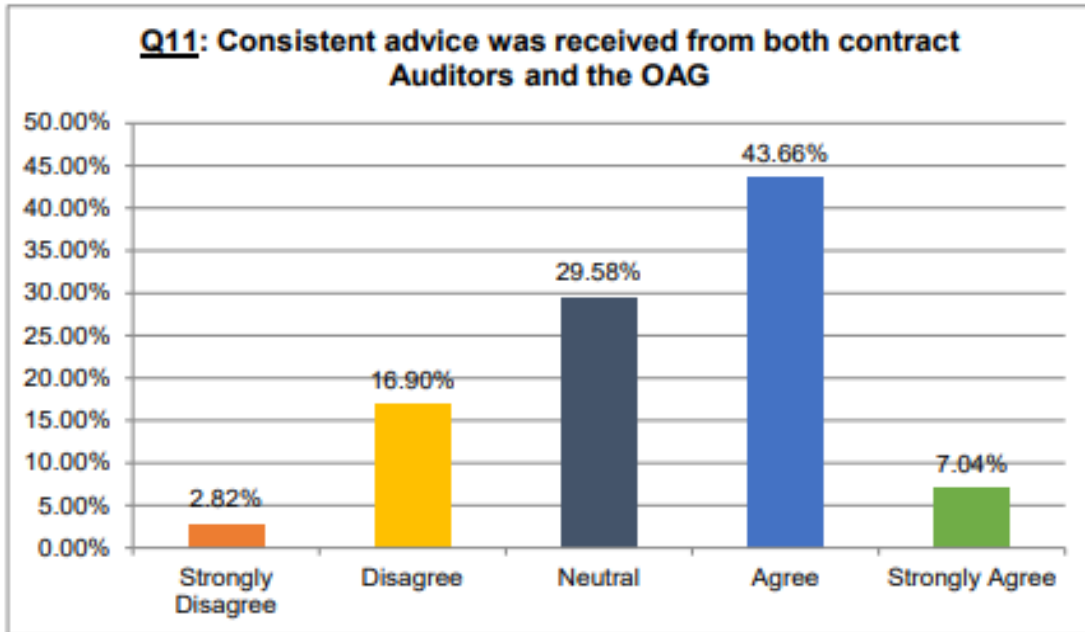


Another 50/50 proposition, where **48%** were neutral or agreed and **52%** disagreed.

When asked to indicate why delays were experienced, the common responses referenced differences between the contract auditors and the OAG and disputes over asset valuation (Fair Value).



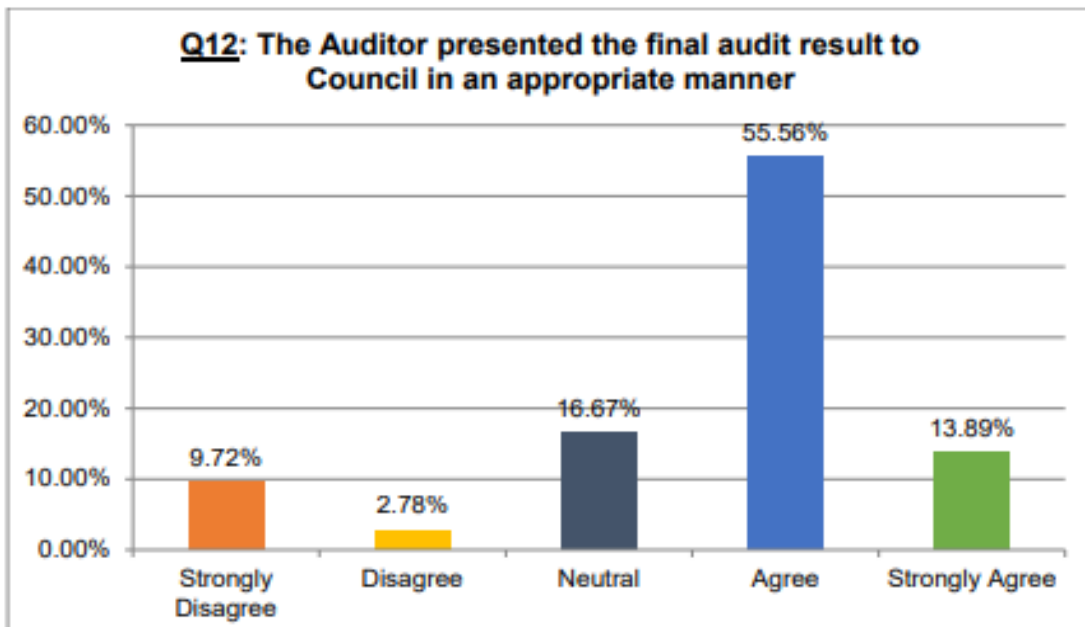
**93.1%** of respondents supported the statement or were neutral, indicating a very high level of respect and appreciation for the audit staff. Beyond this, the lack of local government experience of some audit staff was referenced.



19.7% of respondents experienced conflicting advice from different audit sources.

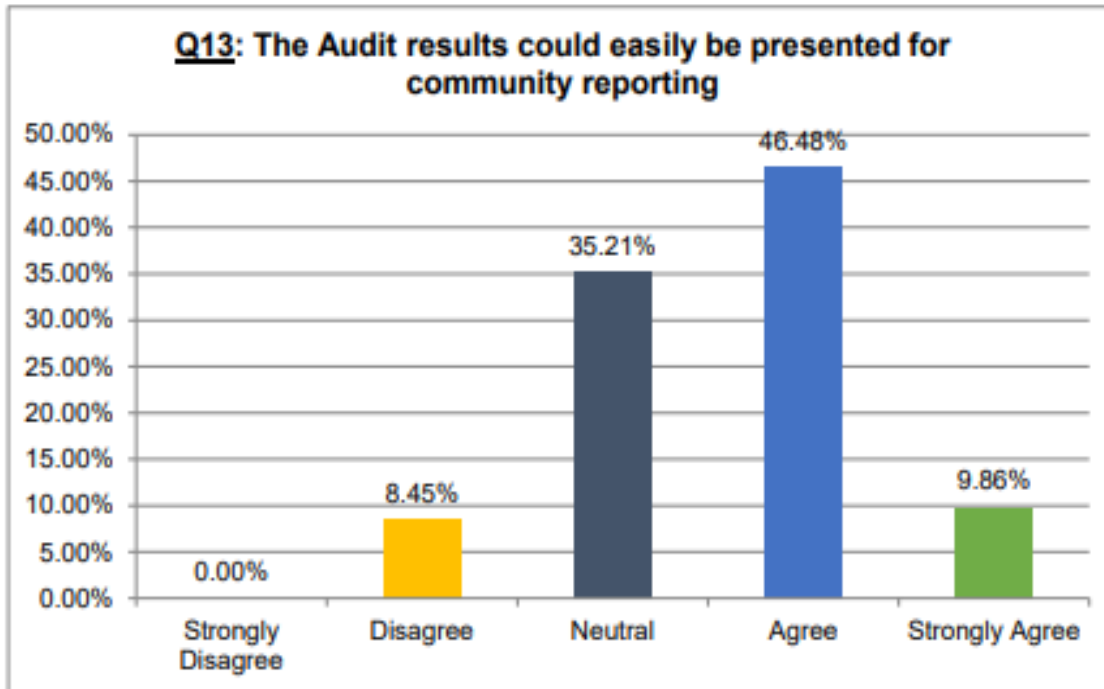
Commentators observed that:

- a lack of knowledge could trigger contradiction of one auditor over the other and referral by contract auditors to the OAG, resulting in considerable delays.
- There was a lack of clarity around asset valuations, creating conflict and inconsistency.



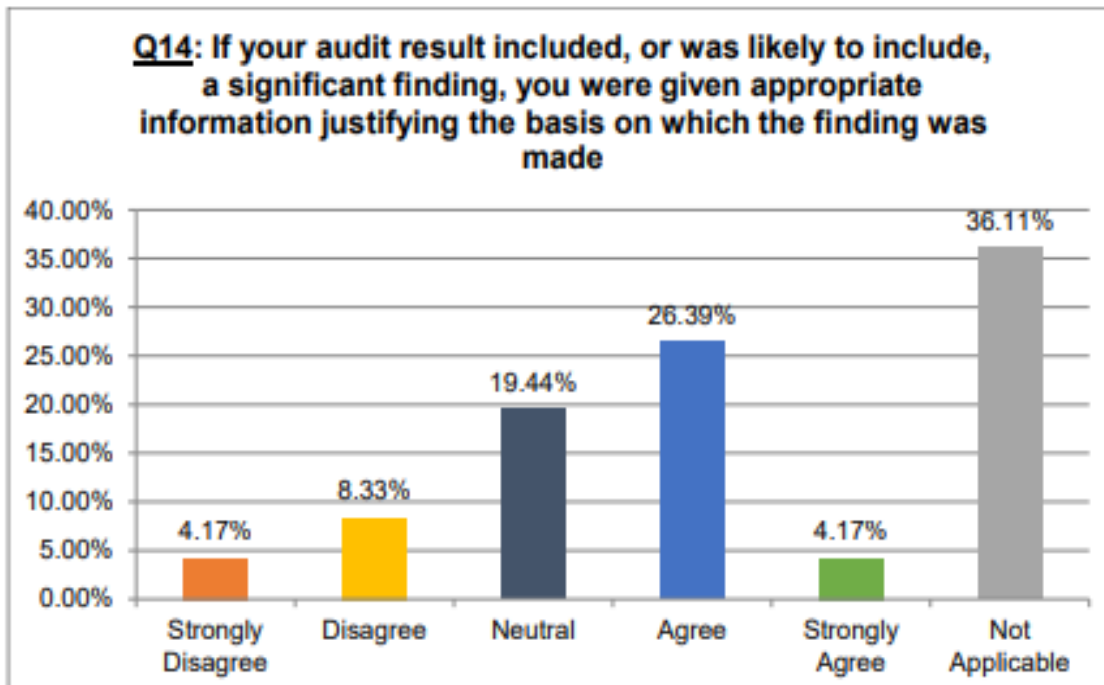
86.1% of responses were neutral or supported the statement, indicating satisfaction with the presentation skills of the audit staff.

Most comments related to the time taken to complete the audit process. The perception of duplication between the exit interview with the Audit Committee and the sign-off with the Council was highlighted.



91.5% of respondents agreed with the statement or were neutral.

An interesting suggestion was that the auditor's report could be more positively framed to also highlight what is being done well.



12.5% of respondents disagreed with the statement.

Comments indicated that concern was being created by; a lack of clarity on asset valuation; conflict between Contract Auditors and the OAG over the definition of a significant finding, and; late, or lack of, communication to individual local governments over expectations.



**Q15 - Please indicate initial estimated audit cost versus actual final audit cost.**

The lowest **actual cost** indicated was \$22,000 and the highest was \$138,873.

There was an equal amount of responses indicating that the estimated and actual audit costs were the same, as responses indicating that the actual cost was higher than the estimated cost.

The biggest difference between the estimated and actual cost of an audit was \$40,000, with the average difference being approximately \$12,000.

Only two responses indicated that the actual cost was less than the estimated cost.

Respondents were asked: *What were the reasons given for any variance?* Typical responses indicated -

- *"Additional time taken to source information."*
- *"We are still waiting for the justification!"*
- *"No variance. Delivered on time with no delays or additional information required. Happy days."*
- *"We estimated based on previous year and it had gone up again."*

**Q16 - Compared to the 2020/21 audit, did you observe any improvement to the 2021/22 audit process that was worth noting?**

There were mixed responses to this question, typified by:

- *"No, it was worse, and 20/21 was horrible."*
- *"Yes, 2021/22 audit completed in December 2022 in contrast to 2020/21 audit which was completed in February 2022."*
- *"Yes - our 2021/22 Audit was managed much better from a timing perspective and the OAG stuck to the agreed timeline. This occurred following significant feedback from us following the 20/21 Audit, which included our President meeting with the Director General of the OAG."*
- *"No, in fact the 21/22 audit process was more difficult, took more time due to additional requests and queries from the auditors, and was delayed further due to the inflexibility of timing from audit staff."*

**Q17 - Do you have any other comments you would like to make in relation to your 2021/22 audit experience?**

The comments could be summarised as seeking:

- Better communication between auditors and the OAG.
- Improved familiarity by audit staff with local government.
- Streamlined processes between local governments, contract auditors and the OAG.

**KEY EMERGING ISSUES**

The results and comments from the survey highlight five key areas to address in the annual audit process.

**Timeframe and delays**

Over 50% of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed that *"the audit was completed in the scheduled timeframe"*. Comments from respondents suggested disruptions to the timeframe were caused by things like; consecutive periods of leave taken by the Auditors and OAG staff; difficulties with asset valuations, and; collection of information. One respondent noted that the Auditors continually asked for more information from Local Government staff but refused to acknowledge the delays these requests were causing or allowing for any flexibility in the times allocated.

# 13 2023 STATE AND FEDERAL BUDGETS

<b>Date of Report:</b>	<b>23rd June 2023</b>
<b>Report Author:</b>	<b>Executive Officer, Paul Rosair</b>
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	<b>Nil</b>
<b>Attachment(s)</b>	<b>Nil</b>

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## **Background:**

The State and Federal Budgets were handed down in May 2023. The following information has been provided to members as a summary of initiatives which may impact the regions. Information has been collated from reports from ALGA, WALGA and from the budget papers and media releases.

## **Discussion:**

### **Federal Budget 2023 - 2024**

The Federal Budget 2023/24, Stronger foundations for a better future, was handed down in May 2023. The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) welcomed the Federal Budget as a solid investment in local government, with councils receiving \$3.1 billion in Financial Assistance Grants over the next 12 months. However, ALGA stated that it is disappointing that another Federal Budget has passed without the Government delivering on their pre-election promise of 'fair increases' to these grants.

ALGA commented that Councils would miss the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program, which was not extended in the Budget<sup>6</sup>. ALGA noted that the LRCI Program will be partially offset by two new urban funding programs – a \$200 million Thriving Suburbs Program and a \$150 million Urban Precincts and Partnerships Program, alongside the Growing Regions and Regional Precinct Funds.

WALGA stated that, *"It is disappointing the Government did not deliver on its commitment to a fair and reasonable increase in Financial Assistance Grants. This year, \$3.1 billion has been provided for Financial Assistance Grants funding, with WA to receive \$376.9 million. Financial Assistance Grants now represent 0.5% of total Commonwealth Tax revenue, down from 0.52% in 2022-23."*

The information presented below outlines budget highlights for regional WA<sup>7</sup>. These initiatives include funding over the forward estimates.

- Establish a Regional Investment Framework (People; Places; Services and Industry) and restore the 'State of the Regions' reporting.
- \$600m Growing Regions Program for community and economic infrastructure projects.
- \$200m Disaster Ready Fund continues.
- \$23m over 10 years to remediate flood warning infrastructure.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://alga.com.au/solid-budget-for-local-government-council-funding-tops-3-billion/>

<sup>7</sup> This is taken from the Regional Ministerial Budget Statement 2023–24 Working Together To Build Strong And Sustainable Regions, A Statement by The Hon Catherine King MP Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government and The Hon Kristy McBain MP Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023

- \$10m National Waste Education Campaign.
- \$1.7m to update 'Our North, Our Future: White Paper on Developing Northern Australia.
- \$43.6m to establish the National Road Safety Action Grants Program.
- \$8.5m to increase funding for the Regional Arts Fund.
- \$13.5m for an additional round of the Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program.
- \$83.2m over 4 years to establish a national Net Zero Authority
- \$1b to strengthen Australia's biosecurity system.
- \$5.6m to phase out of live sheep exports.
- \$5m to develop a renewed Australian Animal Welfare Strategy
- \$199.8m to address entrenched community disadvantage, which includes \$100m to establish a social impact investment Outcomes Fund.
- \$15b National Reconstruction Fund
- \$392.4m Industry Growth Program
- \$286m National Cultural Policy *Revive*: a place for every story, a story for every place.
- \$86.5m to establish a National Anti-Scam Centre.

### Housing

- reducing the withholding tax rate for eligible fund payments from managed investment trusts attributed to newly constructed build-to-rent developments from 30 to 15%
- increasing the capital works tax deduction (depreciation) rate from 2.5 % to 4 % year, increasing the after-tax returns for newly constructed build-to-rent developments
- National Housing Accord ambition to boost supply and build 1m new homes 2024
- \$2b increase to NHFIC Government-guaranteed liability cap (now \$7.5b) to enable more low-cost loans to Community Housing Providers
- Amending NHFIC's Investment mandate to allocate a minimum of 1,200 homes to be in each state and territory.
- Home guarantee Scheme: Eligibility for the First Home Guarantee and Regional First Home Guarantee will be expanded to any 2 eligible borrowers beyond married and de facto couples, and non-first home buyers who have not owned a property in Australia in the preceding 10 years. Australian Permanent Residents, in addition to Australian citizens, will be eligible for the Home Guarantee Scheme.<sup>8</sup>
- \$2.7b to increase the maximum rates of the Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) allowances by 15 per cent.

### Power

- \$1.3b Household Energy Upgrades Fund to improve energy performance.
- \$300m energy performance upgrades in 60,000 social housing properties.
- \$36.7m to modernise and expand energy efficiency standards, includes expanding Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme
- \$500 in electricity bill relief for eligible households and up to \$650 for eligible small businesses.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://budget.gov.au/content/01-col-relief.htm#m7>



## Childcare

- Cheaper childcare for 1.2m families from July 2023
- \$72.4m to build and support the skills of the early childhood education and care workforce.
- From 1 July this year, Parental Leave Pay and Dad and Partner Pay will combine into a single 20-week payment. A new family income test of \$350,000 per annum will see nearly 3,000 additional parents become eligible for the entitlement each year.

## Health

- \$3.5b over 5 years in bulk billing incentives
- 300 Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme medicines to be dispensed in greater amounts
- \$79.5m over 4 years to double the Regional Pharmacy Maintenance Allowance
- \$114.1 million over 4 years for pharmacists to deliver vaccines

## WA Government Budget 2023 / 24

The WA 2023-24 Budget, handed down in May 2023, aims to deliver cost of living support for all Western Australians. It provides further investment in health, housing supply, and WA's transition to clean energy<sup>9</sup>. Budget papers indicate;

- A \$3.3b net operating surplus forecast for 2023-24 as a result of strong increase in royalty income, Commonwealth Grants, and property tax revenues. Surpluses in excess of \$2b are expected to be maintained across the forward estimates.
- Net Debt \$27.9b at 30 June 2023.
- An ongoing funding commitment to the State Road Funds to Local Government.

The information below is taken from the budget papers, WA government media releases<sup>10</sup> and WALGA's budget analysis<sup>11</sup>.

## General interest

- \$1.25m Urban Greening Grants in partnership with WALGA.
- \$40m to accelerate critical minerals discoveries.
- \$7.3m New Industries Fund.
- \$3b to decarbonise electricity production.
- \$2.75m Aboriginal Tourism Fund.
- \$3.6m to assist with mid-tier transport planning.
- \$5.5m to DPLH to integrate climate adaptation into policy and planning frameworks.
- Additional \$15m to the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund.
- Additional \$1.1m to Department of Fire and Emergency for a new Emergency Services Act.
- \$81.7m to upgrade and maintain the State's emergency radio network.
- \$24.4m to appoint 29 dedicated disaster recovery officers.
- Additional \$52.5m for Family and Domestic Violence services.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.ourstatebudget.wa.gov.au/2023-24/budget-papers/2023-24-wa-state-budget-overview.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2023/05/McGowan-Government-delivering-strong-future-for-the-Kimberley.aspx#:~:text=%22Our%20significant%20regional%20investment%20continues,improve%20lives%20across%20the%20State.%22>.

<sup>11</sup> <https://walga.asn.au/policy-advocacy/our-advocacy-positions/state-and-federal-budgets/state-budget-2023-24-highlights/state-budget-analysis>.

- \$24.4m to implement initiatives in Planning Reform Phase Two. This includes the establishment of a determination pathway for State and regionally significant developments.
- \$77m to manage and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage including support for new Local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services.
- \$20m Regional Economic Development (RED) Grants Scheme
- \$27.4m Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund

### **Regional – generic**

- \$2.7b to subsidise the cost of water and electricity to regional residents.
- \$20.7m boost for Regional Airfare Zone Cap.
- \$29.9m for regional ports upgrades.
- \$11.2b in regional infrastructure spend overall – half for roads (Bunbury Outer Ring Road allocated another \$100m and the Albany Ring Road increased by \$40m)
- \$6.5m to Implement the Aquaculture Development Plan for WA
- Additional \$12m for the Regional Development Assistance Program for residential, industrial, commercial and tourism-related land and infrastructure projects.
- \$3.13m Rural Water Planning Program.
- \$2.2m EV Smart Charger and Vehicle-to-Grid trial through Horizon Power.
- \$2m from the New Industries Fund to support regional entrepreneurs in the innovation sector.
- \$2.5m to increase the travel accommodation allowance for regional TAFE students.
- \$2.9m weekly allowance for regional students studying a Diploma of Nursing.

### **Regional health and mental health**

- Over \$2.2b p.a. on regional health and mental health services.
- \$28.5m for initiatives to attract and retain key health and mental health professionals, primarily to work in regional WA, with priority given to hard-to-staff sites.
- \$24.4m to extend the 24/7 Mental Health Emergency Telehealth Service.
- \$6.3m to extend regional cancer services.
- Additional \$6.7m towards Regional Renal Support Teams.
- \$277.9m – Bunbury Regional Hospital redevelopment
- \$11.7m – expand Target 120 youth early intervention program, including in Northam, Bunbury, Albany, Kalgoorlie

### **Housing**

- \$48m in training initiatives to expand the residential construction workforce.
- Additional \$61.6m for Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH).
- \$49m to partner with community housing providers to provide 100 social homes across regional WA in a supported landlord model for rough sleepers.
- \$450m into the Social Housing Investment Fund.

### **Roads, ports and airports**

- Additional \$407m on regional road projects and initiatives.
- \$175m boost to the Commonwealth-State funded Regional Road Safety Program.

Link to Strategic Directions:	Budget Implications
Advocacy and policy Influence	Nil
Resolution(s)	Action(s)
For information only	

# 14 AROUND-THE-GROUNDS

**Date of Report:** 23rd June 2023  
**Report Author:** Executive Officer, Paul Rosair  
**Disclosure of Interest:** Nil  
**Attachment(s)** Nil

**Purpose:**

For Alliance members to share information that may have an impact on other regional capitals either in the form of a collaborative opportunity, a win or a warning.

**Background:**

At the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021, Alliance members showed an interest in incorporating an around-the-grounds item into future meetings. A Recommendation was passed at the April meeting that the format of the around-the-grounds item will be 2-3 minutes per capital per meeting for a maximum total of 30 minutes. If members wish to pursue a topic in more detail, they can pursue it out of session or raise it as an agenda item for the next meeting.

**Discussion:**

As required.

Link to Strategic Directions:	Budget Implications
Partnership and collaboration	Nil
Resolution(s)	Action(s)
<b>For information only</b>	Nil

## 15 OTHER BUSINESS

ITEM	INFORMATION	ACTIONS REQUIRED
<b>Communication and Action Plans</b>	Final Plans as tabled at the April meeting as no feedback was received. Available in the Shared Dropbox.	Nil
<b>Benchmarking</b>	Final report as tabled at the February meeting. Available in the Shared Dropbox.	Nil
<b>Rate Comparison</b>	Andrew Sharpe. See attachment 15.	For discussion
<b>Workplace grievances and investigation</b>	Potential CEO's support group	To be taken out of session
<b>MACWA</b>	Latest meeting held 21/06/2023	Executive Team to continue working with DoC
<b>August 2023 Meeting</b>	Discussion regarding program	Executive Team to organise

### Attachment 15: Regional Capitals Comparison Rate Table

Local Government	Proposed Rates Increase	Comments
Albany	4.95%	Still in discussions with Council
Broome	5% + 1.88% for GRV Commercial Properties	In line with LTFP, however the struggle to balance our budget is real. The additional 1.88% for GRV commercial related to a desire to fund a contribution towards the Intra-regional flight network from those ratepayers, rather than all ratepayers
Bunbury	7.0%	LTFP passed 6/5 at Council, so not sure where it will end at budget adoption time. the LTFP being 7%, 6.5%, then 5.5% for the following 10 years.

Local Government	Proposed Rates Increase	Comments
Busselton	3.9%	Was 3.5% as per LTFP
Esperance	6.0%	Per LTFP. With a more favourable forecast of LGCI at 4.5% for the March quarter it will be a challenging conversation, but we're already sliding backwards on our programs, so need to close the gap.
Geraldton	Between 2.7% & 3.3%, not including growth	Starting per LTFP. in the midst of our EBA negotiations and the union wants 8% per annum for 3 years. As it is a Mayoral election year, I can't see us getting above 4.5%. Likely to again run a deficit budget and then try and bring it in to a balanced position via better returns on investments and savings in salaries as we have lots of vacancies.
Kalgoorlie Boulder	6.0%	As per LTFP. For each subsequent year the rates increase is set at 3.5%
Karratha	4.3%	LTFP estimate for FY23/24
Northam	5.0%	Can not see us going any higher. challenging with cost pressures. Most significant driver is around salaries and wages, where we will be looking at 4% - 5% increases just to remain competitive in the market.
Port Hedland	3.5%	Per LTFP. Our Industrial Agreement has 4% for 23/24. Doubt the 3.5% will change.

AGREED 2023 MEETING DATES	LOCATION	NOTES
Friday 18 August 9-9.30am	Zoom	CEO Ringaround
Thursday 24 August 1-5pm (and Dinner)	Perth	RCAWA meeting
Tuesday 26 September 9-9.30am	Zoom	CEO Ringaround
Tuesday 3 October 1-5	TBD	TBD (WALGA AGM date changed to 18 <sup>th</sup> September)
Friday 8 December 9-9.30 am	Zoom	CEO Ringaround
15 December 9-12 am	Zoom	RCAWA meeting

**MEETING CLOSED AT 11:58AM**