



Western Australian  
**Regional Capitals Alliance**

## **Western Australian Regional Capitals Alliance Meeting**

# **Minutes**

The meeting of the WARCA Alliance Members was held on Monday,  
August 1 2016 at 12 noon  
at the Department of Local Government and Communities, 140  
William Street, Perth, WA.

# AGENDA

## 1. OFFICIAL OPENING

The meeting opened at 12.02pm. Chair Peter Long welcomed all Members present. The Chair and the Members extended their good wishes to Alliance Member Mayor Dennis Wellington on a speedy recovery.

## 2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / ABSENCE

### Members:

Peter Long	Mayor City of Karratha (Chair)
Chris Adams	CEO City of Karratha
Shane van Styn	Mayor City of Greater Geraldton
Ken Diehm	CEO City of Greater Geraldton
Andrew Brien	CEO City of Bunbury
Gary Brennan	Mayor City of Bunbury ( <b>Teleconference</b> )
Kelly Howlett	Town of Port Hedland
Chris Linnell	A/CEO Town of Port Hedland
Ron Johnston	Mayor Shire of Broome
Kenn Donohoe	CEO Shire of Broome
Greg Stocks	Dep Mayor City of Albany (for Mayor Dennis Wellington)
Andrew Sharpe	CEO City of Albany

### Invitees:

Fiona Haslam-McKenzie	UWA
Paul Plummer	UWA
Sally Haslam	Secretariat

### Invited Guests:

3pm – 4pm	Hon Minister Tony Simpson MLA, Jenny Matthews (DG)
12 noon – 12.40	Jonathan Seth, Howard King, James Sheridan and Jordan Reid (LGISWA)

### Apologies:

Dennis Wellington	Mayor City of Albany
John Bowler	Mayor City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
John Walker	CEO City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder

<b>Item</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Presenter/s</b>
1.	12.15 – 12.40	LGIS WA Presentation	Jonathan Seth (CEO) Jordan Reid
2.	12.40 – 1.10	State Election Platform Workshop	Chris Adams
3.	1.10 – 1.30	UWA Presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research Resilience Papers</li> <li>• SEGRA Conference Preparation</li> </ul>	Prof Paul Plummer Prof Fiona Haslam McKenzie
4.	1.30 – 1.50	Report from RCA	Rachael Sweeney (via teleconference) Mayor Shane van Styn
5.	1.50 – 2.50	LG Act/DLGC Concerns	Andrew Brien
		WARCA Membership	Ken Diehm
		UWA Agreement	Ken Diehm
		Contentious and Emerging Issues	Chris Adams
		Strategic Directions Update	
		Finance Report	Ken Diehm
		Growth Plans	Members
6.	2.50 – 3.00	Preparation for Minister Tony Simpson	Chair
6.	3.00 – 4.00	Minister Tony Simpson	

## **Notes from the presentation from LGISWA.**

Representing LGISWA:

- Howard King, Board Chair
- Jonathan Seth, Chief Executive Officer
- James Sheridan, Manager Organisational Risk Services
- Jordan Reid, Manager Strategic Development

Howard King outlined the emergence of LGISWA and the growth of the Scheme. The Scheme came into being based on the risks in the north. Modelling has been done on catastrophic events. Adequacy of reserves – need to be careful on buying limits of cover and handling of reserves.

Distributions have begun with members receiving \$27m overall.

The appearance of cheaper models and brokers has emerged. Howard King is concerned about the sustainability of lower priced brokers. LGISWA are competitive with build in cover unique to Local Government. Some of the surplus is used to price down the premiums.

Members would like to see products based on collective needs – eg Workers Compensation. LGISWA wary of pursuing collective agreements however there are grounds for a WARCA product.

LGISWA happy to do work on comparative analysis from other brokers/schemes if Members request it.

### **Motion:**

**CEO Working Group to be set up to investigate potential collaboration with LGISWA.**

**Moved: Andrew Sharpe**

**Seconded: Ken Diehm**

**CARRIED**

## **WARCA State Election Platform Workshop**

Chris Adams facilitated this workshop. The question was asked of the Members: What commitments do we want the issues to be?

The following issues were raised and then prioritised (highest priority from the top):

- Commitment to R4R/Substitution
  - Land tenure/LG autonomy/Review of LG Act
  - Ce-centralisation of government services
  - RCDP's - \$\$\$ for implementation (Development Plans)
  - Rating review
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- Tourism WA (Regional Tourism Strategy)
  - Remote communities
  - Economic diversification
  - Health/Mental Health
  - Law and Order
  - Recognition of WARCA
  - Funding outcomes for Growth Plans
  - Youth and crime services
  - Indigenous
  - N/W logistics – access into Asia
  - FIFO/Work camp policy
  - Tertiary education
  - EVO cities/WARCA city growth
  - Innovation and technology
  - Infrastructure and development
  - Heavy freight on roads

**Motion:**

**CEO's to hold a meeting to determine Working Group tasks to develop the one pager for the State Election platform.**

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

### **3. UWA PRESENTATION – PROFESSOR PAUL PLUMMER**

Presentation attached.

#### **4. RCA UPDATE – MAYOR SHANE VAN STYN (RACHAEL SWEENEY)**

Mayor Shane van Styn presented a PP which outlined the role of RCA and the outcomes it has achieved so far. Rachael Sweeney (EO of RCA and via Teleconference) thanked the WARCA for their continued support. Rachael also informed the Members of the current level of membership from the other states:

- WA – 7
- Vic – 10
- Qld – 6
- NT – 1
- Tas – 1
- NSW – 7
- SA - 0

(Presentation attached.)

## WARCA Meeting Agenda Items:

### 5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT/DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES CONCERNS - REVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1995

<b>Date of Report:</b>	<b>27 July 2016</b>
<b>Report Author:</b>	<b>Andrew Brien and John Walker</b>
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	<b>NIL</b>
<b>Attachment(s)</b>	<b>Modernising Local Government – NSW 'How to' of the new Local Government Act – QLD Local Government Act Review - VIC</b>

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#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the report is twofold, firstly to outline the position of WARCA in relation to the review of the Local Government Act 1995 and secondly to outline a policy position which could be adopted in terms of the election platform. Whilst legislative reform is considered to be whole of industry, the priority areas have been identified for consideration should a complete review of the Act not be undertaken.

Whilst WARCA should not be duplicating the work of WALGA, there is an opportunity to assist in the review process and WALGA have welcomed input from WARCA on this matter.

#### **Background**

WALGA has the following position in relation to the Local Government Act 1995 –

*The Local Government Act 1995 was drafted over 20 years ago and while most aspects of governance and administration of the sector remain consistent, there have been dramatic changes in technology since 1995 and some parts of the Act are now outdated. Further, there have been many amendments to the Act since its inception, some of which have added layers of complexity to the original legislative intent.*

*Reviewing the Local Government Act would provide the opportunity for the Local Government Act to be contextually relevant to 21st Century technology. Further, there would be opportunities for Local Government compliance costs to be reduced resulting in greater efficiencies, the benefits of which would be realised by residents and ratepayers.*

The intent of WARCA is not to duplicate the work or position that WALGA has however there are a number of priority areas that have been identified within the Act that should be addressed as a priority. To date the following matters have been raised through WARCA meetings and are on the emerging/contentious issues register:

6.	Exemption of Rates by Charitable Organisations	The Local Government Act S6.26 2g provides rates exemptions for land held for charitable purposes. The definition of charitable purposes applied by the State Administrative Tribunal is broad and includes residential developments which have the characteristics of commercial	Advocacy on behalf of regional local governments with the Minister for Local Government.
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		development. This provision should be modified to allow the local government to self-determine its policy with respect to rates exemptions for charitable purposes.	
7.	Exemption of Rates - CBH	CBH is the only organisation specifically listed in the Local Government Act as being exempt from paying rates. Whilst the organisation is a cooperative it is also one of the most profitable businesses in Australia and does not pay any Federal Tax. This provision should be removed from the Act.	Advocacy on behalf of regional local governments with the Minister for Local Government.
9.	Rating Methodology	The current rating methodology is inflexible, unnecessarily complicated and restricts innovative practice such as rates averaging, rates capping and other tools available to Councils in the eastern states.	Advocacy on behalf of regional local governments with the Minister for Local Government.
10	Restrictive and outdated provisions within the LG Act	The current Act provisions are overly prescriptive when it comes to implementation of some commercial negotiations, disposal of assets, rating and reporting.	Advocacy on behalf of regional local governments with the Minister for Local Government.

### **Link to Strategic Directions**

### **Budget Implications**

Involvement of WARCA in any review or prioritisation would be in terms of officer time and not a direct cost to WARCA.

### **Options**

Based on the position taken by WARCA there are a number of options which range from a simple advocacy role through to active involvement through to the development of a detailed discussion paper identifying the priority areas for reform.

There have been a significant number of papers written in recent times outlining the status of local government legislation across Australia with one of the most recent being a paper by Graham Sansom Pty Ltd in relation to the Local Government Act Review in Victoria which outlines the experience and ideas from other jurisdictions. This paper provides a good summary of the issues across each of the State and the current situation.

There are two other documents attached to the report which are:

- 1) A copy of a presentation by King and Company Solicitors in relation to the introduction of the Local Government Act 2009 in Queensland; and
- 2) Modernising Local Government which was prepared by the Local Government and Shires Association of NSW.

Both of these papers along with the paper prepared by Graham Sansom would provide sufficient detail to prepare a more comprehensive position by WARCA.

### **Conclusion**

In supporting a new or heavily amended Act WARCA should write in an overview of what we are trying to achieve as a basis for a terms of reference.

This should include :

- Developing an enabling, principle based Act that is more streamlined than currently and simplifies the regulatory aspects
- Rather than a rewrite create one that refocuses and is less prescriptive than currently-
- An Act that strengthens the importance of IP and R which will in turn bring more accountability through what in essence would be a contract with the community. This will also lead to more autonomy for the Council, a lesser role for the State and its DLG
- A closer and more formal link between State , Regional and Council Strategic plans

### **Recommendation**

**That WARCA:**

- 1) Incorporate a review/rewrite of the Local Government Act 1995 as one of the matters for WARCA Election Platform;**
- 2) Support the development of a comprehensive discussion paper and position statement in relation to the review of the Local Government Act 1995.**

**Moved: Kelly Howlett**

**Seconded: Ken Diehm**

**CARRIED**

## 6. WARCA MEMBERSHIP

<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>WARCA Membership</b>
<b>Report Author:</b>	<b>K Diehm, Treasurer</b>
<b>Date of Report:</b>	<b>26 July 2016</b>
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	<b>Nil</b>
<b>Attachment(s)</b>	<b>One</b>

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The membership of WARCA is currently comprised of the following Councils:

- Albany
- Bunbury
- Greater Geraldton
- Kalgoorlie
- Karratha
- Broome
- Port Hedland

At the last WARCA Board meeting, discussion was had in relation to admitting further local governments to align WARCA's membership with the State Planning Strategy 2050's definition of Regional Centres, which includes the following local governments:

- Kununurra
- Carnarvon
- Mandurah
- Busselton

While there seems to be merit in aligning WARCA's membership with the Regional Centres defined in the State Planning Strategy, there does not appear to be any clear rational or evaluation criteria used to determine what is, or isn't, a Regional Centre.

In 2014 the University of Western Australia's School of Earth and Environment published a paper, at the request of WARCA, titled "Regional Capitals in the Western Australian Settlement Hierarchy Identifying Regional Capitals". This paper (attached) identified:

- A Regional Capital is a territorial unit located within a regionally defined boundary that is considered to be both large enough to constitute a viable urban settlement and have significant growth potential.
- Regional Capitals are functional economic regions as opposed to Administrative/Political regions.
- Functional economic regions are made up of nodes and other territorial units to which they are connected. Functional economic regions are characterised by commuting patterns which are delineated in relation to urban centres and capture local interplay between the supply of labour and demand for labour.
- Functional economic regions are defined using hierarchical aggregation techniques that have been employed by the Centre for Full Employment and Equity (CofFEE).
- The following local governments meet the criteria to be classified as Regional Capitals because they are functional economic regions with viable urban centres in terms of their

populations size and persons employed, and because they have the highest growth potential relative to overall patterns of population and employment growth across Western Australia:

- Albany
- Bunbury
- Greater Geraldton
- Kalgoorlie
- Karratha
- Broome
- Port Hedland
- **Northam**
- **Busselton**
- **Esperance**
- The evidence suggests that there is a distinct and widening gap between Regional Capitals and the remainder of regional Western Australia.

Extending the membership of WARCA to align with the State Planning Strategy may provide political benefit, but it could also be detrimental by shifting WARCA's focus into areas that are not demonstrating (or likely to demonstrate) strong growth, or are not distinct functional economic regions in their own right.

Interestingly, while the University of Western Australia's research identifies Northam and Esperance as Regional Capitals, they are not identified in the State Planning Strategy as Regional Centres.

Should the Board extend membership the issue of fees for these new members would need to be resolved. Presently members are paying fee contributions of \$44,934 as follows:

Member Contribution	Amount
UWA Research Contribution	\$ 28,377
RCA Membership	\$ 8,000
WARCA Expenses less interest earnings	\$ 8,557
<b>Total 2015/16 Contribution</b>	<b>\$ 44,934</b>

As can be seen from the above table, a large proportion of this fee relates to the UWA research contribution. This contribution was a result of an agreement between UWA and the original members of WARCA, and for this reason it would be inappropriate to pass the fee on to new members. Accordingly, it is proposed that fees for new members be as follows:

Member Contribution	Amount
RCA Membership	\$ 8,000
WARCA Expenses less interest earnings	\$ 8,557
<b>Total 2015/16 Contribution</b>	<b>\$ 16,557</b>

Alternately, the Board may wish to provide an introductory discount, or not require membership of Regional Capitals Australia (RCA).

**Recommendation**

That the Board receive and consider the Treasurer's report dated 26<sup>th</sup> July 2016 in relation to WARCA membership and resolve to:

1. Confirm WARCA's potential membership base to include the following local governments, as per the findings of the University of Western Australia's School of Earth and Environment 2014 published paper titled "Regional Capitals in the Western Australian Settlement Hierarchy : Identifying Regional Capitals":
  - Albany
  - Bunbury
  - Greater Geraldton
  - Kalgoorlie
  - Karratha
  - Broome
  - Port Hedland
  - Northam
  - Busselton
  - Esperance
2. Direct the Chair of WARCA to formally invite the local governments of Northam, Busselton and Esperance to become members of WARCA.
3. Set the membership fee for new members at \$16,557.

**Motion:**

**That a formal letter be written to potential new members by the Chair.**

Moved: Mayor Ron Johnson

Seconded: Mayor Shane van Styn

CARRIED

**UWA Agreement**

Discussion held 'in camera'.

## 7. UWA RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION AND AGREEMENT

<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>UWA Research Contribution</b>
<b>Report Author:</b>	<b>K Diehm, Treasurer</b>
<b>Date of Report:</b>	<b>27 July 2016</b>
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	<b>Nil</b>
<b>Attachment(s)</b>	<b>One</b>

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Please find attached a copy of the 2011 Cooperation Agreement between the University of Western Australia and the members of WARCA, namely the City of Albany, the Shire of Broome, the City of Bunbury, the City of Greater Geraldton, the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, the Town of Port Hedland and the City of Karratha.

The key outcomes and deliverables of the agreement include:

The Partnership would aim to achieve:

An increase in research activity on the needs and future development of Western Australia's regional cities;

Strategic guidance and advice to Alliance Members; and

An increase in Undergraduate and Postgraduate students engaged in research on Western Australia's regional cities.

The Partnership would deliver:

A minimum of two (2) short *Regional City Bulletins* per year. These would be a short (ca 10 page) briefing paper on various aspects of the research programme (as agreed by the Research Management Committee);

One (1) major report per year that incorporates all member cities (on a topic agreed to by the Research Management Committee);

Two (2) presentations per year to the Alliance updating the research progress;

A minimum of one (1) ARC Linkage research funding bid biannually that incorporates all member cities (negotiated through the Research Management Committee);

A minimum of two (2) papers submitted to refereed journals per year; and

A minimum of four (4) PhD students working on topics related to the regional cities within three (3) years.

The total cost of the agreement is as follows:

	<b>UWA</b>	<b>Alliance</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	149,074	138,320	287,394
<b>Year 2</b>	161,359	169,365	287,394
<b>Year 3</b>	170,932	185,334	356,266
<b>Year 4</b>	180,293	198,639	378,932
<b>Year 5</b>	177,001	147,001	324,002
<b>Total</b>	838,659	838,659	1,633,988

The agreement is currently in its fourth year with a contribution of \$198, 639 to be paid in this current financial year and a final payment of \$147,001 next financial year.

The agreement provides specific deliverables in the form of reports, meetings and ongoing research and key areas of focus are detailed in appendix 1. To date there has been no formal review of the progress of the research or the applicability of ongoing research.

Recent concerns raised by WARCA members in relation to UWA research include:

1. The nature of the reports are too academic for WARCA members to comprehend;
2. The reports, while academically sound, do not help WARCA members form economic development strategies based on the findings; and
3. The state governments RCDP2 process is

Given the above concerns and the significant investment of WARCA, it would be an appropriate time to review the agreement, with a view to bringing it to an end or negotiating a change of research focus.

**Recommendation**

**That the Board receive and consider the Treasurer's report dated 27<sup>th</sup> July 2016 in relation to the Cooperation Agreement with the University of Western Australia and resolve:**

- 1. To form a working group comprised to review the Cooperation Agreement with the University of Western Australia and negotiate either a change in scope or an early termination of the agreement.**

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

**CARRIED**



No		Issue	Description	Potential WARCA Involvement	Raised By	WARCA Agreed
1		Retention and expansion of government services	In Kalgoorlie the local office of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs has closed at a time when it is needed the most. Water Corp and Western Power regional managers for the Goldfields are based outside the region and others such as the Dept of Transport has downgraded the level of its local manager	Advocacy to the Premier. Depending on the response then seek commitment from opposition leader.	City of Kalgoorlie Boulder	CEO's to collect evidence for closure/reduction of Government services. City/Town/Shire/FRM forward to WARCA in six weeks. This comments should be submitted by April. Secretariat will collect material. A letter prepared for Minister who will also be in next WARCA meeting to advise.
2		Royalties for Regions	Seek written assurances from the two major parties that the integrity and level of funding of R4R will be maintained. In particular that the Labor Party will set out just how much of R4R will go to Black Spot road funding and that existing road funding will not be reduced.	Liberal and Labor state presidents and party leaders documented assurances in lead up to March 2017 election.	City of Kalgoorlie Boulder	A letter is to be sent to the two parties before the election asking them to reply explaining their position on the future of Royalties for Regions funding. CEO's/Ministers queries/issues to be discussed at Albany meeting with draft will be agreed and to be sent in December. The first few months will be publicised and discussed at responses.
3.		Airline Ticket Prices	Airline ticket prices to WARCA cities are extremely high when compared to	Potential advocacy to Min for Regional Development and Min for	City of Karratha	Regional Express Airlines have started a service

No		Issue	Description	Potential WARCA Involvement	Raised By	WARCA Agreed
			interstate, international and intrastate flights in other Australian states. While some advocacy has occurred on this matter, limited traction has been gained.	Transport on this issue seeking government intervention.		Kalgoorlie. They u prop aircraft which but prices are half Qantas. Mayor Joh and John Walker, Kalgoorlie-Boulder the extension of s other regional cap REx and report to meeting.
4.		Waste Management Facilities	There is a growing trend for Dept of Environment to approve new Waste Facilities within close proximity to existing facilities (particularly at mine sites). This creates inefficient use of waste infrastructure and reduces the ability grow economies of scale in relation to waste management.	Advocacy to Minister For Environment for policy/legislative change on this matter to create fewer, larger regional waste centers.	City of Karratha	A letter to be writ Minister for the E on the Waste Mar issues. The Minis invited to the next meeting.
5.		Decentralising decision making	With some notable exceptions, there has been a growing trend of centralizing State Government planning, administration and decision making within the Perth metro area.	Seek confirmation/ comment from major political parties re their commitment to regionalisation vs centralization of government services.	City of Karratha	To be incorporate

No		Issue	Description	Potential WARCA Involvement	Raised By	WARCA Agreeo
6.		Exemption of Rates by Charitable Organisations	The Local Government Act S6.26 2g provides rates exemptions for land held for charitable purposes. The definition of charitable purposes applied by the State Administrative Tribunal is broad and includes residential developments which have the characteristics of commercial development. This provision should be modified to allow the local government to self determine its policy with respect to rates exemptions for charitable purposes.	Advocacy on behalf of regional local governments with the Minister for Local Government.	City of Greater Geraldton	
7.		Exemption of Rates - CBH	CBH is the only organisation specifically listed in the Local Government Act as being exempt from paying rates. Whilst the organisation is a cooperative it is also one of the most profitable businesses in Australia and does not pay any Federal Tax. This provision should be removed from the Act.	Advocacy on behalf of regional local governments with the Minister for Local Government.	City of Greater Geraldton	
8.		Use of on-line Census/Census collection	The City of Greater Geraldton has been told it will be a "mail out" location for the census. This means households will be required to go online to complete the census. We believe this could undercount Aboriginal and senior populations.		City of Greater Geraldton	

No		Issue	Description	Potential WARCA Involvement	Raised By	WARCA Agreed
9.		Rating Methodology	The current rating methodology is inflexible, unnecessarily complicated and restricts innovative practice such as rates averaging, rates capping and other tools available to Councils in the eastern states.	Advocacy on behalf of regional local governments with the Minister for Local Government.	City of Greater Geraldton	
10.		Rate exemptions for charitable organisations	Rate exemptions for charitable organisations needs to be defined clearly through changes to the legislation.	?	Shire of Broome	

**Moved:**

**Contentious Issues Table to be replaced by the outcomes from the working group on State Election platform points.**

**Moved: Mayor Kelly Howlett**

**Seconded: Andrew Brien**

**CARRIED**

## 9. Strategic Directions Update

### Attachment: WARCA STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS 2016 – June 2016

Item	Comments	Status
<b>Advocacy and Policy Influence</b>		
Relevant State Minister and/or Director General (DG's) to attend each WARCA meeting	Met with Premier on 2/3/16 Meeting with Min Redman 1/6/16 Met with Min Simpson 1/8/16	On Track
Subsequent to meetings with Ministers/ DG's, WARCA will seek to send a delegation to meet with the opposition spokesperson on the relevant issue.	Met with Opposition Leader 2/3/16 Scheduling meeting with David Templeman	On Track
WARCA will make submission and/or delegations regarding State policies and/or legislative reforms that potentially impact on WA Regional Cities.	CEO working group meeting held 11/8/16.	On Track
A WARCA specific submission to be made to political parties prior to the 2017 State Government Election.	Top 5 issues allocated at CEO teleconference (held Thursday 11/8/16). Agreed one page paper to be prepared and circulated for group feedback by Friday 23 September 2016	On Track
WARCA will actively participate in RCA lobbying and advocacy positions particularly relating to regional cities policy development, the Federal budget and other relevant matters if/when they arise.	RCA Update included on WARCA Agenda. RCA updated via teleconference to the meeting. Mayor Shane van Styn presented RCA update at August meeting.	On Track
<b>Research</b>		
Implementation of the agreed UWA/WARCA research program.	Invited Speaker, Plenary Panel Session, "National Conversation on Regional Policy" <i>Sustainable Economic Growth for Regional Australia (SEGRA)</i> conference, Albany, Western Australia, 26-28 October, 2016. (Prof Paul Plummer)  Invited Speaker "Food for Thought: Economic Development" <i>Committee for Perth Chairman's Lunch</i> , Perth, Western Australia, 19 <sup>th</sup> October, 2016. (Prof Paul Plummer)  Invited Speaker, "The Evolution of Regional Economies Across Western Australia: The Strategic Significance of Regional Capitals" <i>Department of Human Geography, University of Hull</i> , 16 <sup>th</sup> June, 2016. (Prof Paul Plummer)	On Track

	Invited Speaker, "The Evolution of Regional Economies Across Western Australia: The Strategic Significant of Regional Capitals" <i>Department of Human Geography, University of Tokyo, 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2016.</i> (Prof Paul Plummer)	
UWA research findings and implications to be presented to each member Council throughout 2016.	Prof Paul Plummer presented to the Mayor and CEO of City of Albany re the research findings.  Prof Fiona Haslam-McKenzie presented to Mayor Kelly Howlett and Kenn Donohoe of the Shire of Broome.	On Track
<b>Promotion</b>		
WARCA (or its partners) will present at a minimum of two (2) State or National conferences in 2016 on relevant WARCA issues	UWA and WARCA rep have applied to speak at SEGRA. UWA presentations to be reported on at next meeting.	On Track
Press releases will be distributed on WARCA's activities through local, statewide and/or national media when relevant and appropriate.	Press releases have been written however have not been printed in the media.	On Track
Profile of WARCA activities/agenda in journals or industry publications when relevant and appropriate.	Plummer, P., Haslam-McKenzie, F., Tonts, M "Understanding the Evolution of Regional Economies in Western Australia" Department of Regional Development, Government of Western Australia December 2015.  M. Tonts, F. Haslam McKenzie & P. Plummer (2016) The resource 'super-cycle' and Australia's remote cities. <i>Built Environment</i> 42(1) 166-180.  V. Paul & F. Haslam McKenzie (2015) "About time the regions were recognised": Interpreting region-building in Western Australia. <i>Australian Geographer</i> 46(3) 363-388.  F. Haslam McKenzie (under review) Socio-economic impacts of long distance commuting on source communities (Busselton, Geraldton	On Track

	and Broome) submitted to Rural Society (journal).	
A 'one pager' to be developed on "What is WARCA?"	Karratha to work on this document	On Track
A 'one pager' to be developed on "Why is WARCA necessary?"	Developed however a further document to be developed highlighting accomplishments (Karratha)	On Track
Secretariat to prepare a database of email contacts and dissemination of information to occur as appropriate.	Database completed however a fluid document with changes to contacts etc.	In progress
Regular updates on website by UWA/Secretariat	Website being updated regularly with Reports, Minutes, Contacts, etc. Need to confirm the Minutes being attached.	Completed
<b>Information Sharing</b>		
Regional Cities Contentious and Emerging issues list will be developed and discussed at WARCA Meetings.	Contentious issues list prepared and discussed at each meeting.	On Track
Development status, challenges and opportunities pertaining to the State Government Growth Plan process will be discussed at WARCA meetings	On the Agenda for August Meeting	On Track
At least one meeting per year to be held at a regional capital with a field visit to be arranged to a local organisation which showcases innovation	Meeting in Albany scheduled for Oct 2016	On Track

## 10. FINANCE REPORT

<b>Report Title:</b>	Treasurers Report – June 2016
<b>Report Author:</b>	K Diehm, Treasurer
<b>Date of Report:</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> July 2016
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	Nil
<b>Attachment(s)</b>	Two

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*Please find attached the following financial reports for the consideration of the Board:*

1. *Balance Sheet as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016*
2. *Budgeted Profit and Loss for the period ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016*

*The following notes are provided as an explanation to significant variances in the Budgeted Profit and Loss Statement:*

1. **Memberships** – *The surplus membership income relates to the late 2014/15 payment from the Town of Port Hedland.*
2. **UWA – Media Relations** – *The invoice received from the UWA Secretariat has not been broken down into the respective cost allocations. This will be corrected in next year’s Budget report.*
3. **UWA – Secretariat** – *The invoice received from the UWA Secretariat has not been broken down into the respective cost allocations. This will be corrected in next year’s Budget report.*
4. **UWA – Website Development** – *The invoice received from the UWA Secretariat has not been broken down into the respective cost allocations. This will be corrected in next year’s Budget report.*

*The following notes are provided as an explanation to certain balances in the Balance Sheet:*

1. **Prepayments** – *This balance relates to secretariat services billed but not yet earned by the University of Western Australia*
2. **Income in Advance** – *This is the residual balance of funds held on behalf of the City Greater Geraldton for advance payments.*

### **Recommendation**

*That the Board receive and note the Treasurer’s Report, and accompanying financial statements, for the period ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016.*

Ken Diehm

RCA Treasurer  
Date: 27<sup>th</sup> July 2016

2:52 PM  
22/07/16  
Accrual Basis

**WARCA**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of June 30, 2016

	<u>Jun 30, 16</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Chequing/Savings	
Cash at Bank	59,519.41
<b>Total Chequing/Savings</b>	59,519.41
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
Prepayments	17,333.33
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	17,333.33
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	76,852.74
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><b>76,852.74</b></u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
Income In advance	60,309.00
Tax Payable	13,997.68
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	74,306.68
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	74,306.68
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<u><b>74,306.68</b></u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u><b>2,546.06</b></u>
<b>EQUITY</b>	
Opening Bal Equity	136,570.00
Retained Earnings	-157,101.00
Net Income	23,077.06
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<u><b>2,546.06</b></u>

3:11 PM  
22/07/16  
Accrual Basis

**WARCA**  
**Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual**  
July 2015 through June 2016

	Jul 15 - Jun 16	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
Interest received	336.81	400.00	-63.19	84.2%
Memberships 2015/16	320,470.56	307,684.00	12,786.56	104.2%
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>320,807.37</u>	<u>308,084.00</u>	<u>12,723.37</u>	<u>104.1%</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	320,807.37	308,084.00	12,723.37	104.1%
<b>Expense</b>				
Accountancy fees	1,500.00	2,500.00	-1,000.00	60.0%
Meetings & Functions	1,979.64	2,000.00	-20.36	99.0%
RCA Memberships 2015/16	56,000.00	56,000.00	0.00	100.0%
Secretariat	11,160.00	11,160.00	0.00	100.0%
Strategic Planning	7,080.00	7,080.00	0.00	100.0%
Travelling expenses	0.00	4,000.00	-4,000.00	0.0%
UWA - Media Relations	0.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00	0.0%
UWA - Secretariat	34,666.67	27,000.00	7,666.67	128.4%
UWA - Website Development	0.00	8,000.00	-8,000.00	0.0%
UWA Research Contribution	185,344.00	185,344.00	0.00	100.0%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>297,730.31</u>	<u>308,084.00</u>	<u>-10,353.69</u>	<u>96.6%</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<u>23,077.06</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>23,077.06</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><u>23,077.06</u></u>	<u><u>0.00</u></u>	<u><u>23,077.06</u></u>	<u><u>100.0%</u></u>

**Report Title:** Treasurers Report – July 2016  
**Report Author:** K Diehm, Treasurer  
**Date of Report:** 27<sup>th</sup> July 2016  
**Disclosure of Interest:** Nil  
**Attachment(s)** Two

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Please find attached the following financial reports for the consideration of the Board:

3. Balance Sheet as at 26<sup>th</sup> July 2016
4. Budgeted Profit and Loss for the period ending 26<sup>th</sup> July 2016
5. Accounts Receivable Ageing Summary as at 26<sup>th</sup> July 2016

The following notes are provided as an explanation to significant variances in the Budgeted Profit and Loss Statement:

5. **UWA Expenses** – These expenses have been accrued from payments made last year.

The following notes are provided as an explanation to certain balances in the Balance Sheet:

3. **Trade Receivables** – This balance relates to outstanding debtor invoices for membership fees as detailed in the Accounts Receivable Ageing Summary; and
4. **Income in Advance** – This is the residual balance of funds held on behalf of the City Greater Geraldton for advance payments.

***Recommendation***

That the Board receive and note the Treasurer’s Report, and accompanying financial statements, for the period ending 26<sup>th</sup> July 2016.

*Ken Diehm  
RCA Treasurer  
Date: 27<sup>th</sup> July 2016*

11:43 AM  
26/07/16  
Accrual Basis

**WARCA**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of July 26, 2016

	<u>Jul 26, 16</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Chequing/Savings	
Cash at Bank	59,519.41
<b>Total Chequing/Savings</b>	59,519.41
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	
Trade receivables	345,991.80
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	345,991.80
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	405,511.21
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>405,511.21</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Other Current Liabilities	
Income in advance	60,309.00
Tax Payable	45,451.48
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	105,760.48
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	105,760.48
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>105,760.48</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>299,750.73</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>	
Opening Bal Equity	136,570.00
Retained Earnings	-134,023.94
Net Income	297,204.67
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>299,750.73</b>

11:09 AM  
 27/07/16  
 Accrual Basis

**WARCA**  
**Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual**  
 July 2016 through June 2017

	Jul 16 - Jun 17	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
Interest received	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
Memberships 2016/2017	314,538.00	314,539.00	-1.00	100.0%
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>314,538.00</u>	<u>314,639.00</u>	<u>-101.00</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	314,538.00	314,639.00	-101.00	100.0%
<b>Expense</b>				
Accountancy fees	0.00	2,000.00	-2,000.00	0.0%
Meetings & Functions	0.00	2,000.00	-2,000.00	0.0%
RCA Memberships 2016/2017	0.00	56,000.00	-56,000.00	0.0%
Travelling expenses	0.00	4,000.00	-4,000.00	0.0%
UWA - Media Relations	1,666.67	5,000.00	-3,333.33	33.3%
UWA - Secretariat	13,000.00	39,000.00	-26,000.00	33.3%
UWA - Website Development	2,666.66	8,000.00	-5,333.34	33.3%
UWA Research Contribution	0.00	198,639.00	-198,639.00	0.0%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>17,333.33</u>	<u>314,639.00</u>	<u>-297,305.67</u>	<u>5.5%</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	297,204.67	0.00	297,204.67	100.0%
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><u>297,204.67</u></u>	<u><u>0.00</u></u>	<u><u>297,204.67</u></u>	<u><u>100.0%</u></u>

11:51 AM  
26/07/16

WARCA  
A/R Ageing Summary  
As of July 26, 2016

	<u>Current</u>	<u>1 - 30</u>	<u>31 - 60</u>	<u>61 - 90</u>	<u>&gt; 90</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
City of Albany	0.00	49,427.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	49,427.40
City of Bunbury	0.00	49,427.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	49,427.40
City of Greater Geraldton	0.00	49,427.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	49,427.40
City of Kalgoorlie	0.00	49,427.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	49,427.40
City of Karratha	0.00	49,427.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	49,427.40
Shire of Broome	0.00	49,427.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	49,427.40
Town of Port Hedland	0.00	49,427.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	49,427.40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>345,991.80</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>345,991.80</b>

## 11. GROWTH PLANS

Review of the status of the Growth Plans around the table:

- City of Greater Geraldton are on target:
  - Focussing on the CBD revitalisation
  - Formation of the “Progress Mid West” to stop duplication of plans from other agencies
  - Looking at the idea of the focal point for investment queries
  - Focussing on three clusters:
    - Agriculture/food/horticulture
    - Marine servicing
    - Tourism
- City of Bunbury:
  - Seven clusters of focus identified
  - On target
- City of Albany:
  - Concerns around the importance of Round 2 funding

Mayor Shane van Styn and Ken Diehm left the meeting at 2.45pm.

Professor Paul Plummer left the meeting at 2.50pm.

## 12. MEETING WITH MINISTER TONY SIMPSON

Notes from meeting with Minister Tony Simpson:

Some points raised by Members with Minister response:

- Recognition of WARCA as a key stakeholder in Govt/Department discussions
- Is there an appetite for the possibility of giving a rating of the LG's across the state?  
Compliance through the LG Act?
  - Acknowledges a small LG would find it difficult to comply with the current LG Act which is written for larger LG's
- Rates exemptions (Kenn Donohoe highlighted that in Broome alone there are 700 rate exempt properties):
  - Minister is concerned with current status. He is trying to get the balance right between the NFP's and Churches. He would like to take it to a COAG meeting through ALGA.
  - Minister will take the issue on board stating that the NFP's positions need to be clarified.
- Concerns with the Department of Housing
  - Minister said this needs to be looked at from a national perspective.
- The LG Act is ageing – the Act is more prescriptive than the Eastern States equivalents.  
What is the appetite for review?
  - Minister is reluctant to review because he has a thin majority. The review of the entire Act would be a huge job and it would struggle to get some parts through. There may be consideration taken if they were to focus on different sections of the Act and drive through the changes.
  - The Minister called for WARCA to drive the process. Bring the sector on board and open up the discussion. Identify the sections for change. Minister may be able to make additions which bring the Act up to date.
- WALGA somewhat compromised on various issues. UWA research reflects the significant impact on the WA economy.
  - Minister suggested to pick the fights you can win.
- Rating – requirements to get approval
- Autonomy for LG's
- Bigger LG's have the capacity to do these rating reviews
  - The Government will always make the law for the lowest common denominator.
- Seeks guidance on collaborative arrangements with neighbours. How can the Department work with the RC's and form trust?
  - The reform process is 'dead and buried'
- Members would like to see models of collaboration – regional subsidiaries
- WARCA will prepare some submission papers. Will be available in October.

The Minister left the meeting at 3.45pm

**Meeting Round up:**

WARCA members agreed with the Minister not to call for a complete re-write of the LG Act but to identify what areas to identify and set as a priority review.

Concerns with gaining legal advice on this process.

WARCA is a lobby group and not to get legal advice. All participants need to be on board.

Working group to be formed to review this point.

The Chair Peter Long thanked Mayor Kelly Howlett for her contribution to the Alliance and wished her well for her future.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 3.49pm.

**Attachments:**

1. UWA presentation
2. RCA presentation