

I N D E X

Chief Executive Officer's Report

7 FEBRUARY 2005

ITEMS ON REPORT

REVIEW OF REPRESENTATIONAL AND STRUCTURAL EFFECTIVENESS
OF WALGA ZONES 1

COUNCILLORS INFORMATION BULLETIN ISSUE 3/2005 3

ATTACHMENTS

NIL

CITY OF ARMADALE

Chief Executive Officer's Report

**Mayor and Councillors
City of Armadale**

Following is my Report for the period
ended 3 February 2004

***1 REVIEW OF REPRESENTATIONAL AND STRUCTURAL EFFECTIVENESS
OF WALGA ZONES***

WARD All
FILE REF: GOV/51
DATE 3 Feb 2004
REF AWD
RESPONSIBLE MANAGER EDCorps

In Brief:-

- WALGA sought input from Member Councils on a Review being undertaken for grouping Councils into metropolitan and country zones.
- A survey questionnaire was forwarded to Councillors on 6th January 2005 and three responses were received.
- A "consensus response" was then put together for ratification by the three Zone delegates and this was forwarded to WALGA on 28th January 2005 to meet the deadline of 31st January 2005.
- It is recommended that the response to WALGA's questions regarding the Review of Representational and Structural Effectiveness of WALGA Zones as detailed in this report be received.

Officers Interest Declaration

Nil

Strategic Implications

- Maintain strong communication links with politicians, government agencies, industry and commercial groups
 - Maintain effective liaison with other levels of government and regional bodies to ensure coordinated provisions of regional infrastructure
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Legislation Implications

Nil

Council Policy / Local Law Implications

Nil

Budget / Financial Implications

Nil

Budget / Financial Implications

The associated costs are in accordance with the adopted Council Budget.

Consultation

Elected Members
MANEX

BACKGROUND

The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) is reviewing the basis for grouping Councils into metropolitan and country zones and as part of the review, is seeking input from member Councils. A memorandum to this effect was forwarded to Members on 6 January 2005. Included in the memo was an invitation to all elected members to offer a response to five (5) questions which had been set by WALGA to facilitate input from Councils. A 'consensus response' was to be formed from individual Members input and forwarded to reach WALGA by the deadline date of 31 January 2005.

COMMENT

Three (3) elected members responded to the questionnaire and their responses were used to form a 'consensus response' for forwarding to WALGA on behalf of the City. The 'consensus response' follows:

Question 1:

Does Council believe that determining the membership of Zones predominantly on the basis of geographic alignment between Councils remains appropriate?

Response/Comment:

Council believes that the current grouping for the South East Zone does work; however, it is acknowledged that geographic alignment might not necessarily be appropriate for all Local Governments.

Arguably, not to have membership of Zones determined predominantly on a geographical basis may cause fragmentation and loss of the catchment team approach to issues. There is perhaps an argument for ensuring that geographic groupings take into account the unique commonality of interest amongst those Local Governments which are coastal or those that are remote from major activity centres.

Question 2:

Does Council consider there to be sufficient commonality of interests between members of your Zone? If not, is there another Zone to which Council has greater strategic alignment?

Response/Comment

In general terms, Council is of the opinion that there is sufficient commonality of interest between members of our Zone.

Council does not believe there to be another Zone to which we have greater strategic alignment, however, we could work just as well with other Local Governments located on the outer metropolitan fringe.

Question 3:

Is there an alternative model that Council believes will provide the geographic relationships and/or commonality of interest required to accommodate the interests and needs of Member Local Governments?

Response/Comment

Council is not aware of any alternative model/s that would necessarily improve on the current situation. Any reorganizing or regrouping would most likely result in similar partnerships with similar differences.

Question 4:

In terms of the roles and functions presently undertaken by Zones, does Council consider that these are being performed efficiently and effectively?

Response/Comment

Council is of the view that the roles and functions of the Zones are generally being performed effectively and reasonably efficiently. It is considered, however, that efficiency could be improved by reducing the number of Zone representatives. In this regard, it is suggested that representation be simply set at (2) elected members per Local Government.

Question 5:

Has Council identified any particular roles or functions that are not presently undertaken by Zones, but which should otherwise be undertaken?

Response/Comment

Council is unaware of any roles or functions that should be added to those already undertaken.

We would, however, have concerns about Zone delegates being given portfolios (as has been suggested by others). The distribution of portfolios might duplicate and hinder the many activities that WALGA undertakes on behalf of its member councils. It might also place an unreasonable burden and expectation on an elected member.

Additionally, Council would also support the notion that there be a review of the roles and functions undertaken by WALGA with a view to removing matters of little significance to Local Government or the Zones from the Zone agendas. Removal of such unnecessary items would improve the efficiency and assist in making the task of Zones more relevant.

RECOMMEND

The response to the Western Australian Local Government Association's questions regarding the Review of Representation and Structural Effectiveness of WALGA Zones be noted and received.

2. COUNCILLORS' INFORMATION BULLETIN – ISSUE NO. 3/2005

WARD All
FILE REF: CIB
DATE 2 Feb 2004
REF SDS
RESPONSIBLE CEO
MANAGER

In Brief:

- Councillors' Information Bulletin – Councillors are advised to take note of the information submitted in Issue No.3/2005 to be received by Council.

Strategic Implications

Corporate Services

- 2.1 Identify and implement mechanisms to improve communication and achieve common understanding of corporate issues and objectives.
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COMMENT

The following general information and memorandums were circulated in Issue No. 3 on 2 February 2005.

Correspondence & Papers

- **Correspondence**
AK Senior Citizens Association Inc. – Greendale Centre – 15 January 2005
WALGA Info Page – Changes to Local Courts
- **Local Government News**
Issue No.01.05 – 14 January 2005
Issue No.02.05 – 21 January 2005
Issue No.03.05 – 28 January 2005
- **ALGA News**
21 January 2005
28 January 2005
- **Media Releases**
Local Government Provides Long-Term Support – 18 January 2005
Please Explain Minister – 18 January 2005
\$260,000 for Used Oil Recycling Infrastructure – 20 January 2005
Liberal-Coalition Road Funding Commitment Welcomed – 21 January 2005

Information from Human Resources

- Employee Movements

Information from City Strategy

- **Progress Reports & Outstanding Matters**
Progress Report on Replacement of the City's IT Systems
Progress Report on Contingency, Operational & Strategic Projects
Report on Outstanding Matters – City Strategy Committee
- **Financial & Corporate**
Accounting Services Report

Information from Development Services

- Report on Outstanding Matters – Development Services Committee
 - Health Services Manager's Report for December 2004
 - Planning Services Manager's Report for December 2004
 - Town Planning Scheme No.2 – Amendment Action Table
 - PAW Closure Report – Significant Actions during December 2004
 - Subdivision Applications – Recommendation Table (December 2004 / January 2005)
 - Compliance Officer's Report for December 2004
 - Planning Dept Monthly Admin Reports for December 2004
 - Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for WA – Discussion Paper
 - Transit Oriented Development Conference – 5-8 July 2005
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RECOMMEND

That Council acknowledge receipt of Issue No 3/2005 of the Information Bulletin

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R S Tame', with a large, stylized initial 'R'.

R S TAME
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER