

MINUTES

Special Council Meeting

13 August 2025

Shire of Victoria Plains
Council Chambers, Calingiri
AND
via E-Meeting Protocol

Commencing – 11.00am

DISCLAIMER:

The recommendations contained in this document are officers' recommendations only and should not be acted upon until Council has resolved to adopt those recommendations.

The resolutions of Council should be confirmed by perusing the minutes of the Council meeting at which these recommendations were considered. Resolutions are not considered final until the minutes of the meeting are confirmed or advised in writing by the CEO or authorised person.

Members of the public should also note that they act at their own risk if they enact any resolution prior to receiving official written notification of Council's decision.

Recording of Meeting

Members of the public are advised that meetings of Council are audio recorded to assist with ensuring an accurate record of the meeting is provided for the formal minutes of the meeting. In terms of the Privacy Act 1998 this may involve the recording of personal information provided at the meeting. The provision of any information that is recorded is voluntary, however if any person does not wish to be recorded they should not address or request to address the meeting. By remaining in this meeting, you consent to the recording of the meeting.

You are not permitted to record this meeting with any recording device, unless you have the express authorisation of the Council of the Shire of Victoria Plains.

E – Disclaimer

It is the Presiding Member's responsibility to preserve order in the meeting and this can be more difficult in an eMeeting. Therefore, each Council Member must consistently and respectfully follow the Local Government's Meeting Procedures Local Law, any additional eMeeting guidance provided by the Local Government and support the Presiding Member in their conduct of the eMeeting.

The pace of an eMeeting should be slow and orderly. The following practices will help avoid confusion and support effective eMeetings:

Speak clearly and slowly, as connections may be distorted or delayed;

Always state your name to indicate to the Presiding Member that you wish to speak. Restate your name if the Presiding Member has not heard you at first;

In debate, only speak after the Presiding Member has acknowledged you. Then state your name, so that others know who is speaking;

Follow the Presiding Member's directions and rulings;

If you are unclear about what is happening in an eMeeting, immediately state your name to draw the Presiding Member's attention and enable you to then seek clarification from the Presiding Member;

Avoid looking for opportunities to call Points of Order; instead, politely and respectfully gain the Presiding Member's attention and explain any deviation from your Meeting Procedures, the Local Government Act or any other relevant matter.

Commonly-used abbreviations

AAS / AASB	Australian Accounting Standard / Australian Accounting Standards Board
BF Act	Bush Fire Act 1954
BFB	Bush fire brigade
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CDO	Community Development Officer
DBCA	Dept of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
DFES	Dept of Fire and Emergency Services
DPLH	Dept of Planning, Lands and Heritage
DWER	Dept of Water and Environmental Regulation
EHO	Environmental Health Officer
EFT	Electronic Funds Transfer
FAM	Finance and Administration Manager
JSCDL	Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation
LEMA	Local Emergency Management Arrangements
LEMC	Local Emergency Management Committee
LG Act	Local Government Act 1995
LGGC	WA Local Government Grant Commission
LPP	Local Planning Policy
LPS	Local Planning Scheme
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRWA	Main Roads WA
NNTT	National Native Title Tribunal
OAG	Office of Auditor General
OCM	Ordinary Council Meeting
PTA	Public Transport Authority
RRG	Regional Roads Group
RTR	Roads to Recovery
SAT	State Administrative Tribunal
SEMC	State Emergency Management Committee
SGC	Superannuation Guarantee Contribution
SJAA	St John Ambulance Association
SWALSC	South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council
WAEC	WA Electoral Commission
WALGA	WA Local Government Association
WSM	Works and Services Manager
WSFN	Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
HCWA	Heritage Council of Western Australia
WAPC	Western Australian Planning Commission
WDC	Wheatbelt Development Commission

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CONFIRMED PUBLIC SCM MINUTES



MINUTES

Dear President and Councillors

NOTICE is given that a Special Meeting of the Shire of Victoria Plains Council Will be held in the Calingiri Shire Chambers and/or via E-meeting Protocol on **13 August 2025** commencing at **11.00 am**

Sean Fletcher
Chief Executive Officer

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

1.1 Opening

The Meeting was declared open by the Presiding Member at 11.00 AM

1.2 Announcements by Shire President

The Shire President reminded Elected Members that the meeting was being recorded for the purposes of Minute Taking and uploading of the recording to the Shire Website for public viewing and the meeting will be run in accordance with the Shire's Meeting Procedures Law 2018

2. REMOTE ATTENDANCE BY ELECTED MEMBERS

THAT:

- Under regulation 14C (2)(b) of the Admin Regulations, the Shire President can approve Elected Member attendance by electronic means;
- In doing so, under r.14C (5) the Shire President must have regard as to whether the location that the Elected Member intends to attend the meeting, and the equipment intended to be used to attend the meeting, are suitable;
- Electronic means includes, as per r.14CA(2) by telephone or video conference;
- Suitable equipment would include an electronic device that can hold a Teams meeting, and perhaps, the use of headphones;
- In accordance with r.14CA (5) the Elected Member must declare that they are able to maintain confidentiality during the meeting. Under r.14CA(7), the declaration by the Elected Member is recorded in the minutes of the meeting;

- Summarily, according to Departmental guidance, a suitable location is one that is quiet and private e.g. a private room in your house. If there are other people at the location at the time of the meeting, an Elected Member may be required to close a door and wear headphones.

Approval to Attend and Declaration of Confidentiality

THAT:

CR D LOVELOCK and CR R JOHNSON have been **APPROVED** to attend the Special Council Meeting of 13 August 2025 by electronic means as approved by the Shire President and that a declaration has been received regarding confidentiality and other requirements as noted in Section 2 herewith.

3. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Members present	Cr P Bantock – Shire President and Presiding Member Cr D Lovelock – via teleconference Cr R Johnson – via teleconference.
Staff attending	CEO – Mr S Fletcher Council Support Officer – Ms J Klobas – via teleconference
Apologies	Cr S Penn Cr S Woods
Approved leave of absence	Nil
Visitors	Nil
Members of the public	Nil

4. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Refer – Local Government Act, Regulations, Code of Conduct, and Declaration Forms in Councillor folders.

Type	Item	Person / Details
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4.1	Financial	Nil
4.2	Proximity	Nil
4.3	Impartiality	Nil

5 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Refer – Local Government Act, Regulations, Local Law and Submission Form & Guidelines circulated.

5.1 Public Questions with Notice

Nil

5.2 Public Question Without Notice

Nil

6. PRESENTATIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

6.1 Presentations

Nil

6.2 Deputations

Nil

7. APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

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8. REPORTS REQUIRING DECISION

8.1 Submission to PoweringWA re Community Benefits Guideline for Renewable Energy Projects

File Reference	Environment Management/Climate Change/Energy Transition/Community Benefit Contributions
Report Date	28 July 2025
Applicant/Proponent	PoweringWA; WALGA
Officer Disclosure of Interest	Nil
Previous Meeting Reference	Nil
Prepared by	Sean Fletcher – Chief Executive Officer
Senior Officer	Sean Fletcher – Chief Executive Officer
Authorised by	Sean Fletcher – Chief Executive Officer
Attachments	1. PoweringWA Consultation Paper: Draft Guideline on Community Benefits for Renewable Energy Projects {Page 2} 2. WALGA Initial Submission to Local Governments - Draft Guidelines on Community Benefits for Renewable Energy Projects [Page 17] 3. Joint Local Government Submission to WALGA by Country Local Governments Renewables Alliance Page 34 4. WALGA Final Submission to PoweringWA - Draft Guidelines on Renewable Energy Projects Page 47 5. Draft Joint LGA submission – PoweringWA Community Benefits Guideline 7 Aug.docx Final to Council 130825 [Page 66]

PURPOSE

For Council to:

1. Endorse the joint submission by the Country Local Governments Renewables Alliance to WALGA on 25 July 2025.
2. Consider the modified joint submission by the Country Local Governments Renewables Alliance to PoweringWA, due 22 August 2025.

BACKGROUND

The Shire of Victoria Plains was requested by WALGA to provide feedback on its submission to PoweringWA regarding the proposed Community Benefits Guideline for renewable energy projects. In hand with this action, it is also in the Shire's best interests to make a separate submission to PoweringWA.

PoweringWA

PoweringWA was established to coordinate the delivery of the new electricity infrastructure needed to decarbonise our State's main electricity grid - the South West Interconnected System (SWIS). PoweringWA sits within Energy Policy WA an agency within the Department of Energy and Economic Diversification.

On 27 May 2025, PoweringWA released a public notice (Attachment 1) inviting feedback on a proposed Community Benefits Guideline for renewable energy projects to support shared outcomes for regional communities (such as the Shire of Victoria Plains) hosting renewable energy projects.

Once finalised, the Guideline will provide a reference point for Local Government Authorities, communities and industry as they negotiate benefits arrangements, streamlining these discussions and ultimately helping ensure that new renewable energy projects benefit host communities. Submissions close on 22 August 2025.

WALGA

As part of an industry response, WALGA on 26 June 2025 asked local governments to provide feedback to its submission regarding the requested PoweringWA feedback (Attachment 2).

This was in response to the Renewable Energy Ministerial Forum on June 12, Minister Sanderson who announced the release of the *Draft Guideline on Community Benefits for Renewable Energy Project*. This forum was attended by the Shire President, Cr Bantock and the Acting CEO, Mr Ashe. WALGA requested responses to its draft submission by 25 July 2025.

Due to the shortness in time for a response, the author along with 35 other local governments known as the Country Local Governments Renewables Alliance, prepared a joint response (Attachment 3), which was submitted to WALGA by the Shire of Narrogin CEO, Mr Dale Stewart on 25 July 2025.

WALGA issued its final draft for consideration to the Zones (Attachment 4). Members of the Avon Midland Country Zone were asked for comments by 5:00PM, Friday 8 August 2025.

Avon Regional Organisation of Council (AROC)

AROC discussed at its meeting on 7 July 2025, the possibility of making a submission to PoweringWA based on what has now become known as the Country Local Governments Renewables Alliance response. However, AROC will not meet again until 1 September 2025. The author wrote to the AROC Executive Officer on 28 July 2025 suggesting that the CLGRA submission could be put to AROC endorsement at the September meeting. As of 28 July 2025, the Executive Officer advised this is now happening.

All five members through their respective CEOs are signatories to the submission made to WALGA and the final version presented to Council for decision today regarding PoweringWA.

AROC is currently engaging with the Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy, the Hon. Josh Wilson and the Local Member for Bulwinkel, Trish Cook MP, as three of AROC's members are within the seat of Bulwinkel.

Country Local Governments Renewables Alliance (CLGRA)

The Country Local Governments Renewables Alliance (CLGRA) began its life through a meeting held between the Shires of Narrogin, Moora and Victoria Plains during Local Government Week 2025 in Canberra (23 - 27 June 25).

The initial meeting on 26 June 2025 was attended by the following:

- Shire of Narrogin President: Cr Leigh Ballard, Shire CEO: Mr Dale Stewart;
- Shire of Moora: President: Cr Tracy Lefroy was an apology as she was quite ill, Shire CEO: Mr Gavin Robins;
- Shire of Victoria Plains President: Cr Pauline Bantock, Shire CEO: Mr Sean Fletcher.

A further meeting on 27 June 2025 was then held by this group with Mr Jack Archer, consultant who was subsequently engaged to help draft the submission to WALGA in time for its requested date of 25 July 2025 and to help refine a separate submission to PoweringWA by the due date of 22 August 2025. Since that time, the author along with Mr Stewart and Mr Robins have worked tirelessly to produce the draft submission for the CLGRA. As at the writing of this report, the CLGRA has grown to 39 members.

The Energy Transition – The Shire of Victoria Plains Role

The Shire of Victoria Plains, since July 2024, has been heavily engaged in Energy Transition advocacy. This consists of the following:

- President & CEO sit on WALGA Large Scale Renewables Project Group, Lobbies the Minister for Energy (WA), Other Ministers, PoweringWA, Western Power. To date, key work has included the delivery of the WALGA Local Government Community Benefits and Engagement Guideline. This is a resource that local governments can now use to assist it in negotiations around community benefits and regarding engaging with communities on the impact of renewables projects;
 - Member of the Country Local Governments Renewables Alliance. This alliance has been formed to prepare submissions to WALGA and PoweringWA regarding the future implementation of community benefits;
 - Participates as part of the Australian Regional Leaders Summit re the Energy Transition. Both the President and CEO attended the first such summit in Newcastle on 5 – 6 August regarding the use of benchmarking renewables practices in the East, initiatives underway in the West and as a show case regarding who is doing what regarding renewable projects in their district. Topics included:
 - Identifying levers of influence for local government – we do have skin in the game as the planning approval process must be followed. Any developer will not want ongoing negativity regarding their projects;
 - Pre-development opportunities i.e. the process of seeking the community vision before development begins, including economic development opportunities. Put in policy that projects must dedicate 0.7% of the project to their own housing (management will not live at the construction camps);
 - Decommissioning and end of life renewables;
 - Training and workforce matters and how this can be utilised for local communities;
 - Housing - preparing an inhouse DA for construction camps and putting the site out for expressions of interest;
 - First Nations communities locking in legacy outcomes (a key point for all communities);
 - Review of a new Renewable Energy Guide, in hand with the recently released WALGA Guideline for local governments;
-

- A dedicated state based workshop on identifying the roadblocks or challenges and methods to address these.
- Works with AROC to engage the Federal Minister and Assistant Minister and the Shadow Minister for Energy. This is an initiative designed to engage with the Federal Government at a local sub-regional level and ensure that our voice is heard regarding the impact that renewables bring.

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The Energy Transition = 2050 Net Zero

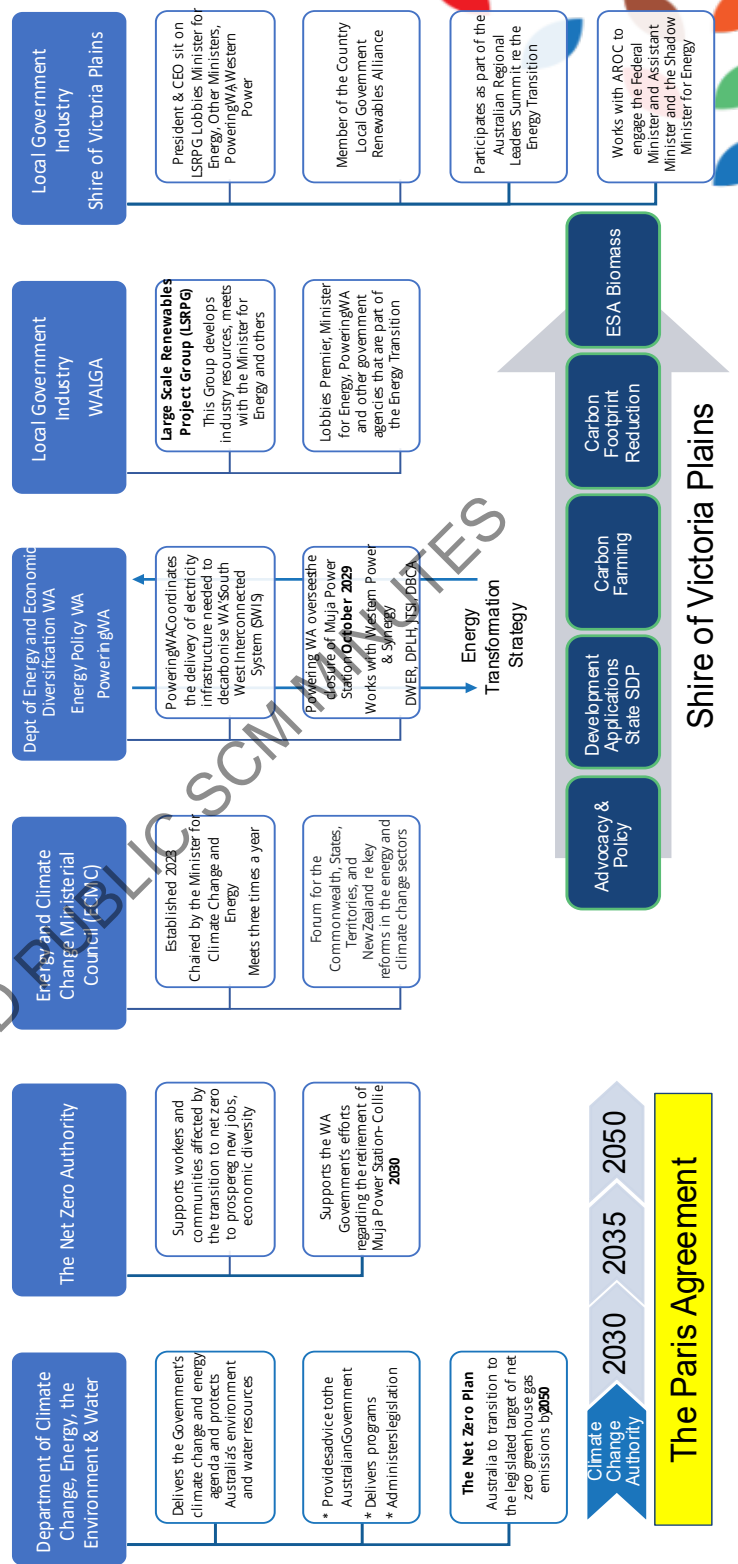


Diagram 1 – Overview of The Energy Transition

COMMENT

The Energy Transition

The Energy Transition has its basis in the [Paris Agreement](#), a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 195 parties at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21), France, on 12 December 2015. The Agreement came into force on 4 November 2016.

The overarching goal of the Agreement is to hold “the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and pursue efforts “to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.” However, in recent years, world leaders have stressed the need to limit global warming to 1.5°C by the end of this century.

To limit global warming to 1.5°C, it was initially stressed that greenhouse gas emissions must peak before 2025 at the latest and decline 43% by 2030.

Under the Agreement, each country is required to outline their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2022, the Australian Government advised that it's [NDC commitment](#) is centred on implementing a substantial and rigorous suite of policies across the economy to drive the transition to net zero.

Australia's 2030 target is based on the modelled impact of these policies, which includes:

- A \$20 billion investment in Australia's electricity grid to unlock greater penetration of renewable energy and accelerate decarbonisation of the grid. – Complemented by an additional \$300 million to deliver community batteries and solar banks across Australia;
- Investment of up to \$3 billion from the new National Reconstruction Fund to support renewables manufacturing and the deployment of low emissions technologies, broadening Australia's industrial base, bolstering regional economic development, and boosting private investment in abatement;
- A Powering the Regions Fund to support the development of new clean energy industries and the decarbonisation priorities of existing industry. The Fund will also prioritise building the workforce skills and capability required for the clean energy transition;
- The introduction of declining emissions baselines for Australia's major emitters, under the existing Safeguard Mechanism;
- Australia's first National Electric Vehicle Strategy, to accelerate the uptake of electric vehicles, through the Driving the Nation Fund, charging and refuelling infrastructure and an electric car tax discount;
- The application of new standardised and internationally-aligned reporting requirements for climate risks and opportunities for large businesses;
- A commitment to reduce the emissions of Commonwealth Government agencies to net zero by 2030 (excluding defence and security agencies).

To assist the Commonwealth meet its NDC obligations, the Western Australian Government introduced the [Energy Transformation Strategy](#). This is the WA Government's work program to transition the energy system to a low carbon future regarding energy storage, wind generation and transmission network upgrades.

In May 2024, the WA Government announced the \$1 billion Strategic Industries Fund to assist establish the making of renewables infrastructure in Western Australia and later that year, established PoweringWA to assist with the SWIS upgrade. With the outcome of the March 2025, the State Government has commenced the roll out of the *Made in WA Plan*. From 1 July, the Department of

Energy and Economic Diversification was established. This Department now houses the Agency - Energy Policy WA and PoweringWA itself.

On 23 July 2025, the State Government announced it has signed a \$584 million deal to expand power transmission infrastructure north of Perth to support its renewable energy transition.

The Clean Energy Link North project will connect wind and solar resources in the Mid West to the SWIS grid by 2027:



Diagram 2 - A map showing the proposed transmission lines: WA Government

At the Local Government Forum on 12 June 2025, Minister Sanderson made it clear that large scale renewable projects such as the wind farms proposed for Victoria Plains are processed under the State Significant Development Pathway (SDP). Although Local Governments will have the opportunity to provide feedback regarding such developments, it has now found itself in the position where it must advocate for mandated community benefits i.e. a means to provide both industry and local communities with certainty and confidence necessary to navigate the Energy Transition.

The Energy Transition is still very much in its infancy, even though renewable energy has been around for some time. Local Governments in the Eastern States have had to deal with wide ranging renewable projects for at least a decade. Western Australia has only had a handful of renewable projects comparatively speaking and have not faced the extensive issues regarding community benefits. However, this is now changing very quickly. WA Local Governments during the last 12 months have had to lobby the WA State Government for a clear position regarding the Energy Transition, while at the same time trying to come to grips with national policy and disgruntled community members (community benefits and noise issues along with amenity and environmental matters).

The Wheatbelt Development Commission has identified 60% (24 and the North Link Transmission Line Upgrade worth over \$25 billion) of the State's renewable energy projects are in the Wheatbelt. Victoria

Plains will be exposed to two of these projects by the same developer. A list of the projects can be found in the July 2025 Edition of the Business News (p22).

There is significant pressure on local governments in the Wheatbelt to help their communities find a viable nexus for them against a backdrop of what is a State issue (i.e. energy matters) under the Constitution – as it is a residual power.

In many respects, the renewable landscape is quite fluid. On Friday, 25 July 2025 the [ABC reported](#) that BP had backed out of the \$55 billion Pilbara green energy hub. The [ABC has reported](#) further that the WA Liberal Party has supported a motion to abandon the 2050 net-zero green house gas emissions target. This will see the Federal Opposition needing to respond.

Regardless of the political landscape, local governments, despite their sovereign capacity, will need to continue delivering the State Government's Energy Transition policy.

Other Matters

The State Government introduced the Climate Change Bill in November 2023 in support of 2050 Net Zero and how this was to be achieved. The Bill lapsed on 17 December 2024. This Bill set the need for emissions targets re 2035 and 2050 and the required reporting to Parliament regarding progress.

Submission to PoweringWA (Attachment 5)

The submission by the CLGRA identifies a series of opportunities to improve the clarity and effectiveness of the Guideline prior to finalisation. These include:

A single recommended contribution value

A single contribution value benchmark (based on the NSW Guidelines) instead of the wide ranges in the Draft Guideline is recommended. This fixed contribution value in the Guide should be indexed to CPI on 30 June each year. This approach will provide better basis for agreement of mutually acceptable terms between LGAs and industry. It will also improve the transparency of the process and reduce the risks to LGAs involved in negotiations on behalf of the community.

WALGA (Attachment 4 – p9) also supports this view re: Wind Farms = \$1,050; Solar Farms = \$850;. However, WALGA has recommended that the rates for wind farms and solar farms are the floor price. Also, WALGA did not stipulate a price for BESS (Battery Storage Projects) but said there should be a price. However, CLGRA has identified that this price should be: \$150.

In terms of whether BESS should attract a price, the Waratah Super Battery in NSW is a good example of why they should. A recent article by the [ABC](#) comments that this battery is capable of powering more than one million NSW homes and in essence will be that state's back up supply. The battery is the size of eight AFL football fields and takes about 30 minutes to walk around at a brisk pace. It is made up of 3,500 containers with batteries inside.

The rates should be mandated (CLGRA, p4).

Allocation of benefits according to the location of nameplate capacity

Many projects are located in multiple LGAs. The Guideline should include a recommendation that benefits are allocated according to the nameplate capacity located in each LGA. This will provide a simple and transparent basis for allocating benefit contributions between communities.

Including Security of benefits arrangements as a key element in the Guideline

Ensuring the security of benefits arrangements is essential for both communities and industry to have certainty over the operating life of these projects. The addition of a Secure principle in the Guideline and an explicit expectation that community benefit contributions will be secured by LGA-developer agreements (and/or network access and planning conditions if future policies allow this to occur).

The future security of contributions is essential for communities who need to make long term planning, financial and other decisions. It also reduces sovereign risk for industry.

LGAs are also engaging with Planning Minister and WPCEO to seek practical changes to planning and network access arrangements that can improve security. We request PoweringWA support in achieving these outcomes.

Focussing on the opportunities community benefits provide

Community benefit arrangements should not be identified as a driver of power prices or project viability by the Guideline and these inferences should be removed. Drawing these links is unnecessarily divisive and not supported by the evidence.

The Guideline should focus on the opportunities community benefit arrangements provide for communities, industry and government which far outweigh the minor additional costs.

Removing inconsistencies in the discussion of local rates

Community benefit arrangements should be consistently recognised as additional and separate from local government rates within the final Guideline. This view is supported by WALGA (pp 6, 9 & 12-13).

Investing in LGA capability

A request for PoweringWA to convene workshops to build LGA negotiating capabilities alongside finalisation of the Guideline.

Providing advice on existing projects

Including clear trigger points for existing renewable energy projects community benefit arrangements to be brought in line with the Guideline in the future. This will avoid confusion about whether there need to be changes to arrangements for projects that are built, in construction or have approvals.

The Case for a Fixed Rate

Within the draft submission, the Country Local Government Renewables Alliance is advocating for a uniform, fixed rate model (\$M/W) for determining community benefit contributions instead of a band. This is for determining community benefit contributions associated with wind energy, solar array, and battery energy storage system (BESS) developments across Western Australia. BESS developments do not have a recommended range in the PoweringWA proposal.

In contrast to a variable or range-based contribution model—where proponents negotiate individual outcomes with host local governments—the fixed-rate model provides clarity, fairness, transparency, and consistency. A **mandated** (WALGA supports this view – pp 6 & 7) contribution rate would significantly reduce the uncertainty and risks inherent in the current approach proposed under the State's draft guidelines.

The proposed range-based model creates a situation where local governments and their representatives are placed under unreasonable and unsustainable sovereign and political risk. This risk arises from the

perception—often shaped during local election cycles or executive reviews—that a council’s mayor, president, CEO, or negotiating officers have either failed to secure a ‘sufficient’ contribution or have been outperformed by other jurisdictions. This dynamic fosters:

- Public mistrust, especially in communities that may compare outcomes across local governments;
- Accusations of incompetence or, worse, corruption, where negotiations fall short of the upper end of the State’s recommended range;
- Undue pressure on elected members and executives, which can erode public confidence and destabilise local governance;
- Political weaponisation of contribution outcomes during biennial local government elections, CEO contract renewals, or changes in council leadership.

This is particularly fraught given that local governments are often negotiating with multinational corporations possessing vastly greater resources, legal capacity, and experience. The expectation that volunteer elected members or even seasoned CEOs can reliably extract top-tier contributions within a range framework is not only unrealistic—it is systemically inequitable and unsustainable.

In contrast, a statewide fixed-rate formula, as already implemented successfully in jurisdictions such as New South Wales, provides a level playing field. It ensures:

- Predictability for proponents, streamlining project feasibility and budgeting;
- Certainty and consistency for local governments, avoiding reputational damage from perceived negotiation shortcomings;
- Transparency and fairness for communities, who are assured of equitable treatment regardless of where they live;
- Reduced risk of conflict or regulatory scrutiny, as contribution expectations are clearly established in policy and uniformly applied.

Unless there are extraordinary or site-specific extenuating circumstances, the use of a fixed rate per MW is a superior model—one that mitigates sovereign and political risk, fosters public trust, and enhances the integrity of renewable energy planning and delivery in WA.

Accordingly, the CLGRA has strongly recommended that the WA State Government adopt a consistent, **mandated** community benefits rate, aligned with the proven New South Wales model, and resist the implementation of loosely defined or negotiable contribution ranges.

Summary Comparison of WALGA (Attachment 4) and CLGRA Submissions (Attachment 5)

1. Overall Alignment

Both submissions are strongly aligned in their core policy positions, with broad agreement on:

Issue	Shared Position
Mandating Community Benefits	Both recommend the guideline be mandated.
Contribution Value	Both reject ranges and propose single, CPI-indexed values aligned with NSW.
Rates vs Community Benefits	Both stress these should be treated separately.
Timing of Benefits	Both propose benefits begin during construction.
Allocation Across LGAs	Both propose allocation based on nameplate capacity.
Governance	Both support flexible governance but prefer local government control.
BESS Inclusion	Both advocate for inclusion of battery storage projects.

Support for Aboriginal Benefits

Both support inclusion of benefits for Aboriginal Western Australians.

2. Key Differences and Nuances in Language

- Tone and Rhetoric: WALGA is diplomatic; Joint LGAs are more assertive and critical.
- Security of Contributions: Joint LGAs call for a new principle ('Secure') and link to network/planning conditions.
- Framing of Benefits and Costs: Joint LGAs critique power price linkage; WALGA notes similar concerns more softly.
- Legal and Planning Mechanisms: Joint LGAs provide specific mechanisms; WALGA does not.
- LGA Capability and Capacity: Joint LGAs request training workshops; WALGA does not.

3. Additional Observations

- Both submissions reflect extensive consultation and reference NSW as a leading model.
- Clarifications may be needed around governance preferences and application to existing projects.
- Neither submission discusses transmission infrastructure in detail.

4. Final Assessment: Level of Alignment

Dimension	Alignment Level	Comments
Core Policy Issues	✓ High	Clear alignment on key recommendations
Tone and Advocacy	⚠ Moderate	WALGA = diplomatic; Joint LGAs = urgent
Implementation Detail	⚠ Moderate	Joint LGAs more detailed
Legal/Structural Mechanisms	⚠ Moderate	Joint LGAs more specific
Nuanced Policy Areas	⚠ Moderate–High	Joint LGAs stronger on security/enforcement

CONSULTATION

Country Local Government renewables Alliance

The Alliance consists of the following signatories:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT	
- Shire of Beverley - Shire of Boddington - Shire of Bruce Rock - Shire of Brookton - Shire of Carnamah - Shire of Chapman Valley - Shire of Chittering - Shire of Coorow - Shire of Corrigin - Shire of Cunderdin - Shire of Cuballing	- Shire of Mount Marshall - Shire of Mukinbudin - Shire of Nannup - Shire of Narrogin - Shire of Northam - Shire of Northampton - Shire of Nungarin - Shire of Pingelly - Shire of Toodyay - Shire of Trayning - Shire of Victoria Plains

• Shire of Dandaragan • Shire of Gingin • Shire of Goomalling • Shire of Kellerberrin • Shire of Katanning • Kondinin • Shire of Kulin • Shire Mingenew • Shire of Moora	• Shire of Wyalkatchem • Shire of West Arthur • Shire of Westonia • Shire of Williams • Shire of Wongan-Ballidu • Shire of Woodanilling • Shire of Yilgarn • Shire of York
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Council

Council met with PoweringWA on 28 May 2025.

CEO has provided regular updates to Council and at Briefing Sessions.

STATUTORY CONTEXT

Nil

CORPORATE CONTEXT

Strategic Business Plan/Corporate Business Plan

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES	WE KNOW WE ARE SUCCEEDING WHEN
2. ECONOMY	
2.1 Support the diverse industry across the Shire	

Strategic Action 2.1.i states: Advocate for power reliability and safety across the Shire.

Delegation

Nil

Policy Implications

Nil

Other Corporate Document

Nil

RISK ANALYSIS

The Shire having input into the development of community benefit guidelines is a key advocacy role on behalf of its communities:

Consequence	Consequence Rating:	Likelihood Rating:	Risk Rating	Risk Acceptance/ Controls	Mitigation and Outcome
Not taking the opportunity to provide feedback and lobby for community benefits	Substantiated, public embarrassment, moderate impact,, moderate news profile. Example State-wide paper, TV News story.	At least once per year	Urgent Attention Required	Risk acceptable with effective controls, managed by senior management / executive and subject to monthly monitoring	Diagram 1 – Overview of The Energy Transition will see the risk transition to Moderate/Low

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost for the consultant is \$16,000 (ex GST). This cost is shared by 17 of the 37 signatories or \$941 each, which is the cost to the Shire of Victoria Plains.

The Shire's contribution of \$941 can either come from the Subscriptions Budget or the Consultant's Budget.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

Officer Recommendation / Council Resolution [2508-01]

Moved: Cr R Johnson

Seconded: Cr D Lovelock

That Council

- ENDORSE** the joint submission by the Country Local Governments Renewables Alliance to WALGA on 25 July 2025 (Attachment 3).
- APPROVES** the modified joint submission by the Country Local Governments Renewables Alliance to PoweringWA, due 22 August 2025 (Attachment 5).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION OF COUNCIL

Voted For: Cr P Bantock, Cr D Lovelock and Cr R Johnson

Voted Against: Nil

9. MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

10. NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE REQUIRING DECISION*Admitted by resolution of Council***11. MEETING CLOSED TO PUBLIC****12. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

There being no further business, the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 11.41 am.

CERTIFICATION

These minutes were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 27 August 2025

Signed


(Presiding member at the meeting which confirmed the minutes)Date 27 August 2025

Council Minutes are unconfirmed until they have been adopted at the following meeting of Council.

CONFIRMED PUBLIC SCM MINUTES